

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) arrives at San Diego



Photo by U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eric Stanton USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)

Lt. David Palencia, from Malden, Massachusetts, uses a telescopic alidade to gather positional data from the pilot house of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), as it pulls into Naval Air Station North Island, California, July 23.

As an integral part of U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet operates naval forces

in the Indo-Pacific in addition to providing realistic and relevant training necessary to flawlessly execute our Navy's timeless roles of sea control and power projection.

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Senate Passes Health Care Reform Bill

"I am proud that the Health Equity Advocate amendment I filed was adopted into the Health Care reform legislation that passed the Senate," said Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). "This bill represents a significant step towards addressing systemic disparities and promoting fair access to health care for all residents. Including health equity advocates on the Health Policy Commission oversight board ensures that our most vulnerable populations have a voice in the decision-making process, fostering greater accountability and transparency in our healthcare system. Massachusetts continues to lead by example, and this amendment solidifies our commitment to placing health equity at the forefront of our policies."



Senator Pavel Payano

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Rep. Morán's 8th Annual Youth Basketball Tournament



The 8th Annual State Representative Frank A. Moran and Lawrence Police Department Youth Basketball Tournament took place on Saturday, July 27, at O'Neill Park.

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El octavo torneo anual de baloncesto juvenil del representante estatal Frank A. Morán y el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence se llevó a cabo el sábado, 27 de julio en el parque O'Neill.

Vea la historia en la página 2 y más fotos en la página 3.

MVCC's luncheon with State Reps



Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon at Salvatore's with the area's state representatives. House Ways and Means Chairman Michlewitz joined by State Reps Hamilton Nguyen, Paulino, Ramos, Shand and Vargas coordinated by Rep. Moran.

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Por/By Della Diaz
rumbonews.com/blog

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El representante estatal Frank A. Morán organiza el octavo torneo anual de baloncesto juvenil en asociación con el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence

El octavo torneo anual de baloncesto juvenil del representante estatal Frank A. Morán y el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence se llevó a cabo el sábado, 27 de julio en el parque O'Neill.

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El representante Morán y el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence dieron la bienvenida a cientos de atletas jóvenes de entre 7 y 18 años para participar en el torneo de este año, donde también se les proporcionó comida gratis, regalos de la rifa, música en vivo y otras actividades familiares.

Esta tradición anual fue iniciada por el representante Morán hace ocho años en respuesta a la conversación en curso de la nación en torno a la aplicación de la ley para reunir a los jóvenes en riesgo de Lawrence con los funcionarios de seguridad pública que sirven a nuestra ciudad, a su vez, ayudando a desarrollar el respeto mutuo y la comprensión de los demás.

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

"El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence siempre está encantado de participar en este increíble evento comunitario", dijo el teniente Joseph Cerullo. Nuestros oficiales han experimentado el impacto positivo que este torneo ha tenido en nuestra ciudad y siempre agradecemos la oportunidad de interactuar con nuestros jóvenes a través de actividades efectivas como esta".

"He sido un orgulloso patrocinador de este maravilloso evento desde su inicio hace ocho años y fue un honor haber tenido la oportunidad de hablar con los participantes

de este año sobre la importancia de la comunidad", dijo Sal Lupoli, director ejecutivo y fundador de Lupoli Companies/Sal's Pizza. "El representante Morán ha hecho un trabajo sobresaliente apoyando a los jóvenes del Valle de Merrimack y espero participar en esta tradición en los próximos años".

"Este evento se ha convertido en mucho más que un simple torneo de baloncesto", dijo Martha Vélez, directora del Departamento de Servicios Humanos de la ciudad de Lawrence. "Este evento se ha convertido en una celebración anual de nuestra comunidad y de la efusión de dedicación que todos tenemos para ayudar a nuestros jóvenes y asegurarnos de que tengan todas las oportunidades para triunfar en la vida".

"Estoy muy agradecida con el Representante Morán y el Departamento de Policía de Lawrence por dedicar una parte del torneo de este año a los jóvenes atletas de todas las capacidades y para aumentar la inclusión en nuestra ciudad", dijo Raquel Quezada, directora ejecutiva de la Fundación CEMDPCD. "Los jóvenes de nuestro programa se lo pasaron increíble y no podemos agradecerle lo suficiente al Representante Morán por todo lo que hace por los jóvenes de Lawrence y del Valle de Merrimack en su conjunto".

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

El torneo de este año fue posible gracias a la generosidad de docenas de voluntarios de la comunidad y patrocinadores locales:

El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence, Sueños Basketball, Commonwealth Motors, Lupoli Companies, New Balance, el Departamento de Recreación de Lawrence, Gemline, Shaw's, Almanzar Insurance Services, Lawrence Vietnam Memorial, Syramad Properties, Fundación CEMDPCD, Rumbo, Bonanza Supermarket, Union Supermarket and Restaurant y DJ Dnero.



State Rep. Frank A. Moran Holds 8th Annual Youth Basketball Tournament in Partnership with the Lawrence Police Department

The 8th Annual State Representative Frank A. Moran and Lawrence Police Department Youth Basketball Tournament took place on Saturday, July 27, at O'Neill Park.

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

This annual tradition was started by Representative Moran eight years ago in response to the nation's ongoing conversation surrounding law enforcement to bring at-risk youth from Lawrence together with the public safety officials who serve our city – in turn, helping to develop mutual respect and understanding of one another.

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

"The Lawrence Police Department is always thrilled to participate in this amazing community event," said Lieutenant Joseph Cerullo. Our officers have experienced the positive impact that this tournament has had within our city, and we always welcome the opportunity to engage with our young people through effective activities such as this."

"I have been a proud sponsor of this wonderful event since its inception eight years ago and was honored to have had the opportunity to speak with this year's participants about the importance of community," said Sal Lupoli, CEO and Founder of Lupoli Companies/Sal's Pizza. "Representative Moran has done an outstanding job supporting the young people of the Merrimack Valley, and I look forward to taking part in this tradition in the years to come."

"This event has grown to be so much more than just a basketball tournament," said Martha Velez, Director of the Department of Human Services for the



City of Lawrence. "This event has become an annual celebration of our community and the outpouring of dedication that we all have to uplift our young people and ensure that they are given every opportunity to succeed in life."

"I am greatly appreciative to Representative Moran and the Lawrence Police Department for dedicating a portion of this year's tournament to young athletes of all abilities and to increase inclusivity within our city," said Raquel Quezada, Executive Director of Fundación CEMDPCD. "The young people of our program had an incredible time, and we cannot thank Representative Moran enough for all that he does for the youth of Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley as a whole."

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

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

The Lawrence Police Department, Sueños Basketball, Commonwealth Motors, Lupoli Companies, New Balance, the Lawrence Recreation Department, Gemline, Shaw's, Almanzar Insurance Services, the Lawrence Vietnam Memorial, Syramad Properties, Fundación CEMDPCD, Rumbo, Bonanza Supermarket, Union Supermarket and Restaurant, and DJ Dnero.

Rumbo

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8th Annual Youth Basketball Tournament in Partnership with the Lawrence Police Department



POR DALIA DÍAZ
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■ READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16



Desde Mi Esquina

CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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

Avanzando y subiendo

Carlos Matos ha dejado la ciudad como director de la Oficina de Planificación y Desarrollo para ocupar un puesto en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence.

Renuncia de Dan Rivera a Mass Development

Desde que Dan Rivera renunció a su trabajo en el Commonwealth, se han publicado algunos artículos periodísticos que no son muy halagadores de él ni de su permanencia allí.

Pude leer artículos en State House News Service (4/29/24) y Contrarian Boston (4/5/24) que describen algunos detalles. Sin embargo, el Boston Business Journal publicó un artículo con más información sobre el motivo de su partida. Según BBJ, Mass Development necesita dinero desesperadamente, los proyectos están paralizados, las contrataciones están congeladas y habrá despidos.

Después de la contratación de Rivera, el saldo de efectivo cayó de \$114 millones a mediados de 2021 a una proyección de \$28,9 millones a fines de junio.

Como informó primero Contrarian Boston, "Rivera, que ganaba \$235,000 al año, presentó una carta de renuncia el viernes pasado." Con la renuncia de Dan el 26 de abril, la subdirectora Theresa Park y Tania Hartford, vicepresidenta ejecutiva de bienes raíces, fueron despedidas de MassDevelopment el lunes, dijeron fuentes a la publicación Contrarian

Boston. Park y Hartford trabajaron estrechamente con Rivera desde que se unió a la agencia. Dan se ha desempeñado como director ejecutivo de la autoridad gubernamental cuasi independiente desde que el gobernador Charlie Baker lo nombró en 2020.

Rivera y la junta de MassDevelopment, que incluye a varios desarrolladores destacados, también lucharon por el grado de autonomía que debería tener el ex alcalde de Lawrence.

Dan O'Connell, miembro de la junta de MassDevelopment y ex secretario de vivienda y desarrollo económico del gobernador Deval Patrick, asumirá el cargo de director ejecutivo interino mientras la junta busca un nuevo líder.

El dilema de la Federación

La confusión creada por muchos cambios y retrasos en las subvenciones aprobadas, que se están reteniendo para muchas empresas, sigue siendo oscura. La ciudad había reservado \$400,000 para ese proyecto para distribuirlos como subvenciones o préstamos. La Federación esperaba recibir el dinero y distribuir los cheques entre los adjudicatarios, pero todo cambió.

Sara Pérez, presidenta de la Federación de Comerciantes, ha comparecido a menudo ante el ayuntamiento defendiendo a los miembros de la Federación que han solicitado estas subvenciones mientras que otros optaron por los préstamos. Luego, la ciudad decidió cambiarlo a subvenciones,

y aquellos que solicitaron préstamos tendrían que solicitar nuevamente las subvenciones.

El abogado de la ciudad recomendó comenzar de nuevo para permitir que otras empresas participen. Este proceso aún no está terminado.

Se ha agregado un segundo proyecto, con \$500,000 transferidos de la cuenta del cementerio, que no se utilizaron el año pasado. La ciudad de Lawrence anunció el nuevo programa, que da una oportunidad a las empresas privadas que no son organizaciones sin fines de lucro. La fecha límite para aplicar es el 8 de agosto por un máximo de \$20,000.

Esa es una explicación simplista, pero no es evidente. Tanto es así que hace un par de semanas, Carlos Matos, director de la Oficina de Desarrollo Comunitario, compareció en el programa de radio de

Carmen Chalas tratando de explicarlo, solo para revelar que también estaba confundido. Incluso la presentadora tuvo dificultad para seguir su explicación y le pidió a Sara Pérez que llamara al programa.

Sara estaba enojada porque el Sr. Matos hizo que pareciera que estaban trabajando juntos en la planificación y distribución de ese dinero cuando nunca habían tenido una reunión o una conversación sobre ese hecho. Ella lo corrigió en varias cosas que él dijo que tergiversaban su papel, ya que ella no estaba involucrada en absoluto.

Traté de llamar al Sr. Matos y a Frank Surillo para obtener sus respuestas sobre la situación actual de este proyecto, pero mis mensajes fueron ignorados.

Con suerte, la ciudad lo resolverá en las próximas semanas.

LA CIUDAD DE LAWRENCE

y

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO Y NEGOCIOS

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La Ciudad de Lawrence y el Departamento de Economía y Negocios se complacen en presentar la Ayuda Empresarial Prosperando Lawrence. ¡Esta subvención ayudará a dar a las empresas un impulso para seguir prosperando en nuestra comunidad!

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ORGANIZACIONES SIN FINES DE LUCRO EXCLUIDAS

El Ministerio de Cultura y el Consulado de la República Dominicana en Nueva Inglaterra se complacen en invitarle a la inauguración de la

Dirección de Cultura Dominicana en el Exterior
Sede Lawrence

Martes 6 de agosto del 2024
11:00 AM

15 Union Street - Suite 175 Lawrence, MA 01840

Inauguración de la oficina de Cultura en Boston y Lawrence del Ministerio de Cultura de República Dominicana.

Miércoles 06 de Agosto

<p>Boston 9:00 AM 891 CENTRE ST. JAMAICA PLAIN, MA. 02130</p>	<p>Lawrence 11:30 AM 15 UNION ST. LAWRENCE, MA. 01840</p>
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INVITAN

Enrique García
Cónsul General en Boston, Massachusetts

Milagros Germán
Ministra de Cultura

Elevemos la Edad: Un Cambio Necesario en Nuestro Sistema de Justicia

Los jóvenes infractores merecen mejores oportunidades para su futuro

Por Senador Estatal Pavel Payano

Mary es una joven inscrita en los programas de UTEC, una organización sin fines de lucro en mi distrito que trabaja con adultos jóvenes en situación de riesgo. Mary creció en un vecindario difícil, enfrentando más desafíos en su corta vida de los que muchos de nosotros podríamos comprender. A los 18 años fue encarcelada y acusada como adulta. En lugar de recibir la orientación y rehabilitación que sus compañeros de 17 años en la misma situación recibirían, Mary fue lanzada a un entorno que se centra más en el castigo. Perdió el acceso a oportunidades educativas, laborales y la red de apoyo que desesperadamente necesitaba. Afortunadamente, con el apoyo de UTEC, ha tenido la oportunidad de cambiar su vida y convertirse en una defensora de jóvenes como ella. La historia de Mary resalta una falla fundamental en nuestro sistema de justicia: el procesamiento automático de los jóvenes de 18 años como adultos.

El senador Brendan P. Crighton presentó el proyecto de ley "Raise the Age", que recientemente fue aprobado en el Senado como parte del proyecto de ley de Desarrollo Económico. Esta crucial reforma eleva la edad de la jurisdicción del tribunal de menores para incluir a los jóvenes de 18 años. Intenta abordar las profundas inconsistencias en cómo tratamos a los jóvenes adultos ante la ley. En un último año de escuela secundaria, a menudo se puede encontrar a un joven de 17 y 18 años en la misma clase, donde uno es enviado al Departamento de Servicios Juveniles (DYS) y el otro a la cárcel del condado, a veces por el mismo delito.

Este sistema no considera las diferencias de desarrollo entre adolescentes y adultos. Priva a jóvenes como Mary de los servicios de rehabilitación que necesitan, en su lugar, los encamina hacia una senda de reincidencia y potencial perdido. Los estudios han demostrado que el sistema criminal para adultos produce peores resultados en términos de seguridad pública, con una tasa de reincidencia más del doble que la de adolescentes similares en el sistema juvenil.

La campaña Raise the Age busca trasladar a los jóvenes de 18 años al sistema de justicia juvenil, donde pueden recibir programación terapéutica y apoyo adaptado a sus necesidades de desarrollo, reduciendo en última instancia la reincidencia. Este sistema se enfoca en el desarrollo positivo de los jóvenes, asegurando que sean responsables de sus acciones mientras se abordan las causas subyacentes de su comportamiento.

Mi defensa de esta enmienda está profundamente arraigada en mis experiencias personales. En el Senado, compartí una conmovedora historia de mi tiempo como maestro en el Departamento de Servicios Juveniles (DYS) y en el sistema de correcciones para adultos. En DYS fui testigo del impacto positivo de los servicios integrales, incluyendo atención médica, educación vocacional y clases especializadas, que equipaban a los jóvenes con las herramientas necesarias para salir del sistema y asumir roles productivos en la comunidad. Desafortunadamente, en el sistema para adultos, la disponibilidad de servicios de apoyo a menudo depende

del establecimiento. En DYS, los jóvenes tienen garantizada la educación, a diferencia de la alternativa que puede describirse como 'justicia por geografía'.

Una historia que ilustra el potencial transformador del sistema de justicia juvenil involucra a un joven en DYS que, como parte de su rehabilitación, tuvo que reconciliarse con un antiguo rival de pandilla. Esta reconciliación no solo le ayudó a desarrollar la valiosa habilidad de convertirse en barbero, sino que también fomentó una relación positiva que prevendría conflictos futuros. Estas historias subrayan la importancia de la educación, la programación terapéutica y el desarrollo positivo de los jóvenes para reducir la reincidencia y promover la seguridad pública.

El proyecto de ley de Desarrollo Económico, que incluye la enmienda Raise the Age, es una inversión en nuestra juventud y en el futuro de nuestras comunidades. Disminuirá las tasas de criminalidad, reducirá el gasto estatal en el sistema legal y abordará la escasez de mano de obra permitiendo que más jóvenes participen en la fuerza laboral. Además, esta reforma ayudará a cerrar la brecha de riqueza racial, ya que el sistema actual afecta desproporcionadamente a los jóvenes de color de comunidades de bajos ingresos. Aunque elevar la edad de la jurisdicción del tribunal criminal para incluir a los jóvenes de 18 años es un paso



significativo, debemos seguir abogando por extender la edad a 21 años, asegurando que aún más jóvenes puedan acceder a la rehabilitación que necesitan.

Al invertir en nuestra juventud, no solo fomentamos el crecimiento individual, sino que también mejoramos el bienestar económico y social general de Massachusetts. Esta reforma es un testimonio del poder de la política sensata y compasiva y su potencial para crear un

cambio positivo duradero.

Un enorme agradecimiento a la presidenta del Senado, Karen Spilka, al presidente del Comité de Medios y Arbitrios del Senado, Michael Rodriguez, y al senador Brendan P. Crighton por su liderazgo y dedicación a esta causa. Sus esfuerzos han sido fundamentales para impulsar esta crucial legislación y asegurar un futuro más brillante para nuestros jóvenes.

Raise The Age Op-Ed

Young offenders deserve better opportunities for their future

By State Senator Pavel Payano

Mary is a young adult enrolled in programming at UTEC, a nonprofit in my district that works with risk-proven young adults. Mary grew up in a tough neighborhood, facing more challenges in her short life than many of us could comprehend. At the age of 18, she was incarcerated and charged as an adult. Instead of receiving the guidance and rehabilitation that her 17-year-old peers would be in the same position, Mary was thrust into an environment that focused much more on punishment. She lost access to educational opportunities, job prospects, and the supportive network she desperately needed. Fortunately, with support from UTEC, she has had an opportunity to turn things around and become an advocate for others like her. But Mary's story highlights a fundamental flaw in our justice system: the automatic prosecution of 18-year-olds as adults.

Senator Brendan P. Crighton filed the "Raise the Age" bill, which recently passed in the Senate as part of the Economic Development bill. This crucial reform raises the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 18-year-olds. It attempts to address the profound inconsistencies in how we treat young adults in the eyes of the law. Within a high school's senior grade, you can often find a 17 and 18-year-old in the same classroom where one is being sent to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and the other county jail, sometimes for the same exact offense.

This system fails to consider the developmental differences between adolescents and adults. It deprives young people like Mary of the rehabilitative services they need, instead steering them

towards a path of recidivism and lost potential. Studies have shown that the adult criminal system produces worse public safety outcomes, with a recidivism rate more than twice that of similar teens in the juvenile system.

The Raise the Age campaign aims to shift 18-year-olds into the juvenile justice system, where they can receive therapeutic programming and support tailored to their developmental needs, ultimately reducing recidivism. This system focuses on positive youth development, ensuring that young people are held accountable for their actions while addressing the underlying causes of their behavior.

My advocacy for this amendment is deeply rooted in my personal experiences. On the Senate floor, I shared a poignant story from my time as a teacher in the Department of Youth Services (DYS) as well as teaching in the adult corrections system. At DYS, I witnessed firsthand the positive impact of comprehensive services, including healthcare, vocational education, and specialized classrooms, which equipped young individuals with the tools they needed to transition out of the system and into productive roles within the community. Unfortunately, in the adult system, the availability of support services often depends on the facility. In DYS, juveniles are guaranteed education, as opposed to the alternative, which can be described as 'justice by geography.'

A story that illustrates the transformative potential of the juvenile justice system involves a young man in DYS who, as part of his rehabilitation, had to reconcile with a former gang rival. This reconciliation not only helped him develop the valuable skill

of becoming a barber but also fostered a positive relationship that would prevent future conflict. Such stories underscore the importance of education, therapeutic programming, and positive youth development in reducing recidivism and promoting public safety.

The Economic Development bill, which includes the Raise the Age amendment, is an investment in our youth and the future of our communities. It will decrease crime rates, lower state spending on the legal system, and address the labor shortage by enabling more young people to participate in the workforce. Moreover, this reform will help close the racial wealth gap, as the current system disproportionately affects young men of color from low-income communities. While raising the age of criminal court jurisdiction to include 18-year-olds is a significant step forward, we must continue to advocate for extending this age to 21, ensuring that even more young individuals can access the rehabilitation they need.

By investing in our youth, we are not only fostering individual growth but also enhancing the overall economic and social well-being of Massachusetts. This reform is a testament to the power of thoughtful, compassionate policymaking and its potential to create lasting positive change.

A huge thank you to Senate President Karen Spilka, Chair of Senate Ways and Means Michael Rodriguez, and Senator Brendan P. Crighton, for their leadership and dedication to this cause. Their efforts have been instrumental in pushing this crucial legislation forward and ensuring a brighter future for our young people.

¡La universidad comunitaria gratuita llegó!

Haverhill, MA (29 de julio de 2024) – Al firmar hoy el presupuesto estatal de Massachusetts para el año fiscal 2025, la gobernadora Maura Healey hizo otra inversión histórica en la educación superior. La universidad comunitaria ahora es gratuita para los residentes de Massachusetts que no tienen una licenciatura en virtud del programa MassEducate, creado recientemente.

“Estamos encantados de apoyar el programa MassEducate. Esto se basa en años de trabajo de los líderes de todo Massachusetts para hacer que la educación superior sea más asequible y más equitativa”, dice Lane Glenn, presidente de Northern Essex Community College. “Los estudiantes ahora pueden cursar programas de grado y certificado sin el temor de que los obstáculos financieros frenen su progreso. Los beneficios se sentirán en todo el estado y especialmente aquí en Merrimack Valley a medida que estos estudiantes ocupen puestos de trabajo críticos y en demanda en nuestra fuerza laboral”.

Para ser elegibles, los estudiantes deben completar la solicitud gratuita de ayuda federal para estudiantes (FAFSA). Los estudiantes también deben haber obtenido un diploma de escuela secundaria o su equivalente, inscribirse en un mínimo de

seis créditos por semestre y haber residido físicamente en Massachusetts durante al menos un año, a partir del inicio del primer período de inscripción. Puede encontrar más requisitos de elegibilidad y preguntas frecuentes en la página web.

MassEducate se basa en el éxito del programa MassReconnect del año pasado. MassReconnect ofrece educación universitaria gratuita para adultos mayores de 25 años que no tienen un título. El programa se atribuye un aumento del 8% en la inscripción en las 15 escuelas universitarias comunitarias del estado, incluido un aumento del 45% en la inscripción de estudiantes mayores de 25 años.

Aún hay tiempo para inscribirse y acceder a la educación universitaria gratuita este otoño. No hay fecha límite para presentar la solicitud y Northern Essex ofrece programas con siete horarios de inicio diferentes durante todo el año.

MassEducate y MassReconnect coexistirán. Ambos brindan subvenciones de ayuda financiera de último dólar que se aplican a la cuenta de un estudiante después de que se hayan aplicado todas las demás ayudas financieras y subvenciones estatales y federales.



Free Community College is Here!

Haverhill, MA (July 29, 2024) – In signing the Massachusetts FY25 State Budget today, Governor Maura Healey made another historic investment in higher education. Community college is now tuition and fee-free for Massachusetts residents who don't have a bachelor's degree under the newly created MassEducate program.

“We are thrilled to support the MassEducate program. This builds upon years of work by leaders across Massachusetts to make higher education more affordable and more equitable,” says Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn. “Students can now pursue degree and certificate programs without the fear that financial hurdles will slow their progress. The benefits will be felt throughout the Commonwealth and especially here in the Merrimack Valley as these students go on to fill critical, in-demand jobs in our workforce.”

To be eligible, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students must also have earned a high school diploma or the equivalent,

enroll in a minimum of six credits per semester, and have physically resided in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the first enrolled term. More eligibility requirements and FAQs can be found on the webpage.

MassEducate builds on the success of last year's MassReconnect program. MassReconnect provides free community college for adults over the age of 25 who do not have a degree. The program is credited with an 8% enrollment increase across the state's 15 community colleges, including a 45% increase in enrollment of students over the age of 25.

There is still time to enroll and access free community college this fall. There is no deadline to apply and Northern Essex offers programs with seven different start times throughout the year.

MassEducate and MassReconnect will exist side-by-side. Both provide last-dollar financial aid grant awards that are applied to a student's account after all other state and federal financial aid and grants are applied.

Reject Violence- Pledge to Vote!

Through our votes, we wield the pen that can rewrite the scripts of violence into narratives of justice and equality. We build bridges over the chasms of hatred and extend hands of solidarity where there were once only clenched fists. To vote is to honor the dreams of those who fought before us, to stand in resistance against the forces that tear us apart, and to affirm our belief in a nation where peace is not a distant hope but a tangible possibility.

So let us not squander this precious right, for in every ballot cast, there lies the power to heal, to transform, and to rise above the shadows of our fractured history. Our votes are our voices, our cries for justice echoing through the halls of power. They are the seeds of a new beginning, the quiet revolution that charts a course away from the violence of the past and towards a future forged in the spirit of unity and hope.

Reject
violence -
make
a
pledge
to
vote

Rechace la violencia: ¡Comprométase a votar!

Con nuestros votos, empuñamos la pluma que puede reescribir los guiones de la violencia y convertirlos en relatos de justicia e igualdad. Construimos puentes sobre los abismos del odio y tendemos manos solidarias donde antes sólo había puños cerrados. Votar es honrar los sueños de quienes lucharon antes que nosotros, oponer resistencia a las fuerzas que nos separan y afirmar nuestra creencia en una nación en la que la paz no es una esperanza lejana, sino una posibilidad tangible.

Así pues, no desperdiciemos este precioso derecho, porque en cada voto emitido reside el poder de sanar, de transformar y de elevarnos por encima de las sombras de nuestra fracturada historia. Nuestros votos son nuestras voces, nuestros gritos de justicia que resuenan en los pasillos del poder. Son las semillas de un nuevo comienzo, la revolución silenciosa que traza un rumbo lejos de la violencia del pasado y hacia un futuro forjado en el espíritu de la unidad y la esperanza.

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

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

- Theodore Roosevelt

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La Ciudadanía Versus el Gobierno: Libertades Civiles, Independencia Religiosa y Ejercicio del Poder Político



Por Tomi Michel

"Siendo ciudadano de un estado libre y miembro de su cuerpo soberano, el mero derecho al voto me impone el deber de instruirme en los asuntos públicos, por muy poco que mi voz pueda influir en ellos."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, El Contrato Social

"No podemos ver las ondas de radio que emiten nuestros celulares para mantenernos en comunicación. No podemos ver los campos magnéticos de los imanes, pero podemos verlos empujando y atrayendo metales con fuerza. No podemos ver las células de nuestros cuerpos sin un microscopio, pero entendemos que son las unidades biológicas más pequeñas que forman nuestros brazos y piernas. No podemos ver la fuerza de la gravedad, pero sabemos que está ahí, manteniéndonos de salir flotando al espacio exterior. No podemos ver el espectro completo de la luz visible, pero cuando se difracta, podemos ver que está compuesto de siete colores."

Este es un extracto de un sermón que escribí para predicar en el ministerio de MANNA en la Catedral de San Pablo, titulado "Los Diferentes Matices de la Fe." Fue mi segunda vez predicando para este grupo y mi segunda vez predicando en general. Últimamente he sentido una necesidad total de comunicarme con grandes audiencias, aunque no estoy del todo seguro de por qué. Sin embargo, como Nicholas Christakis y James Fowler discuten en Connected, "Los economistas dicen que los mercados están impulsados por la oferta y la demanda, pero ¿de dónde viene la demanda? En parte, proviene del valor inherente de un objeto." Este valor inherente, al igual que las fuerzas invisibles que existen a nuestro alrededor, se percibe a través de sus efectos y significancia. ¿Cuál es la fuerza invisible que me impulsa? ¿Hay una necesidad? ¿Qué valor está aportando a la comunidad? Me pregunto.

El ministerio ofrece servicios todos los lunes dentro de la iglesia que dirige el distrito episcopal de Massachusetts, concluyendo con un breve servicio de misa y una ceremonia de Santa Eucaristía. "Oye Tomi, ten en cuenta que somos un grupo diverso. Muchos de nosotros aquí fuimos criados con diferentes fes y denominaciones.

Respetamos eso. El proselitismo no es algo que hacemos. Y mantente simple." Estas fueron las palabras de la reverenda a cargo de la operación mientras intentaba guiarme para hacer un buen trabajo. No me sorprendió escuchar tal advertencia de ella después de escucharla decir constantemente cada lunes, "...En este espacio, respetamos la dignidad de todos..." promoviendo, reforzando e influyendo una cultura de integridad individual en una manada de humanos. No pude evitar pensar: así es como se siente la garantía de la libertad religiosa; como si "mantener la protección de la privacidad y la libertad personal es fundamental para el éxito de cualquier sociedad," como escribiría Alex Pentland en Social Physics.

Desde el comienzo de la historia documentada, ha sido endémico de la naturaleza humana que un grupo de personas busque afirmar la dominación sobre otro. Ya sea por autoconservación o supervivencia, incluso a expensas de otros. Buscando acceder a un territorio beneficioso o recursos alimenticios. A veces con objetivos más estratégicos y a largo plazo, como el crecimiento y la expansión de un dominio. Se han utilizado muchas herramientas y enfoques para lograr tales misiones, que van desde la violencia abierta en civilizaciones más "primitivas" hasta obtener el consenso de la mayoría dentro de un grupo. Algo similar a la convocatoria necesaria en un distrito para ser elegido en un cargo público. Por lo tanto, "los recursos en red que no posees, pero a los que tienes acceso a través de tus amigos y conocidos, se llaman 'capital social'," como comenta Charles Kadushin en Understanding Social Networks. Así que, los esfuerzos mencionados requieren un esfuerzo coordinado para tener éxito. La implicación subyacente es entonces en la naturaleza de la relación que un individuo tiene con la sociedad; la conexión que la unidad humana tiene con su red humana.

La política se ha definido tradicionalmente como el arte de gobernar, pero estoy en desacuerdo con eso. Creo que es una definición más apropiada para el campo de la administración pública y los asuntos que el gobierno tiene en la administración de los gobernados. He redefinido la política como la búsqueda del poder que surge al lograr el consenso. Por lo tanto, el poder político proviene de la capacidad de utilizar la fuerza de los números para influir en los resultados en nuestra realidad. La capacidad que surge como resultado de tener la buena voluntad de un grupo de personas. Por ende, el poder político da fuerza, y su fuente es el apoyo de una masa. Pero el poder político es solo uno de muchos. El poder no tiene una sola fuente; puede accederse a través de varias.

A medida que continúo desarrollando mi vida espiritual y mi fe, me he dado cuenta de que, al estar de pie en el podio de una iglesia, ya sea para leer el evangelio o predicar un sermón a una congregación, el poder político de uno aumenta como resultado de esta acción. Cuanto más se dirige uno a una audiencia de feligreses, más es conocido por otros, y cuanto más es visto por otros y escuchado por otros, más aumenta su visibilidad, crea nuevas conexiones humanas y, por lo tanto, acumula más influencia que puede ser utilizada de manera utilitaria hacia objetivos. A medida que uno se dedica a comunicar mensajes que buscan confortar o sostener a otros en una

congregación, este acto de servicio aumenta la buena voluntad de los demás hacia uno mismo. Esta fuerza puede ser manejada como una espada.

Lo que es interesante acerca de ser un líder que usa el consenso que proviene de los círculos religiosos para lograr objetivos es que tal no se encuentra en el logos, un concepto también conocido como lógica, razonamiento, ciencia, investigación o hechos y verdades verificables. Más bien, se basa en el concepto de pathos y su origen visceral. "Creo con certeza y convicción inquebrantable, incluso si no puedo verlo; hasta el punto de que me muevo y actúo con ello como algo dado; poniéndolo en acción, a pesar de que mi lógica me falle... con fe, tengo la certeza de que Él está aquí conmigo. Tengo fe en que Dios está aquí con nosotros —guiando nuestras vidas hacia tiempos y cosas mejores." Así cerré mi sermón. Mi audiencia, que necesitaba apoyo espiritual, lo encontró convincente.

Sin embargo, pensé en cómo la espiritualidad ha sido utilizada para aplicar presión psicológica en lugar de sanación. Violencia y manipulación para la creación de sistemas con diferentes componentes, procedimientos y agentes. La religión y la espiritualidad estructural han sido herramientas que han demostrado a lo largo de la civilización ser más potentes y convenientes, especialmente en un mundo donde la violencia física se ha vuelto mal vista, para controlar cuerpos. La religión ha llegado a participar como una herramienta

que crea una filosofía que controla la mente que manda dichos cuerpos. "¡Dios me lo dijo!" Cruzadas, Inquisición Española, la venta de indulgencias...

La libertad religiosa a la que disfruta la gente de los Estados Unidos en la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución es, por lo tanto, hermana de la separación entre iglesia y estado. Ningún órgano gubernamental en su naturaleza de institución pública debe alinear sus operaciones con ninguna fe particular.

Sí, Martin Luther King Jr. utilizó el poder político, alcanzado a partir del consenso, en su plataforma religiosa como reverendo para influir en la ley con el movimiento de derechos civiles. Mahatma Gandhi lideró el movimiento de independencia de la India contra el dominio colonial británico. Pero ninguno de ellos era funcionario electo; ninguno era un hombre del estado. Sin embargo, los monarcas británicos son tanto la cabeza de la iglesia como del estado. Hay una razón por la cual el sistema estadounidense es repugnante a el británico y muchos de sus conceptos. Hay una irracionalidad inherente que proviene de las religiones que puede ser utilizada como arma hacia objetivos contra la humanidad. Y ese fervor puede traer destrucción a las vidas de los inocentes.

Tomi Michel es columnista de Rumbo. Puede contactarlo en tomi@michelpublicrelations.com.

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The Citizenry Versus The Government: Civil Liberties, Freedom of Religion & Wielding Political Power



By Tomi Michel

"Born as I was the citizen of a free state, and a member of its sovereign body, the very right to vote imposes on me the duty to instruct myself in public affairs, however little influence my voice may have in them."
— Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

"We cannot see the radio waves that our cell phones emit to keep us in communication with one another. We cannot see the magnetic fields of magnets, yet we can see them pushing and pulling metals around with force. We cannot see the cells

of our bodies without a microscope, but we understand them to be the smallest biological units that form our arms and legs. We cannot see the force of gravity, yet we know it's there, keeping us from floating away into outer space. We cannot see the full spectrum of visible light, but when it is diffracted, we can see it made out of seven colors."

The above excerpts from a sermon I wrote to preach at MANNA's ministry at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, titled "The Different Shades of Faith." It was my second time preaching for this group and my second time preaching ever. Lately, I have felt an utter need to communicate with large audiences, though I am unsure why. Yet, as Nicholas Christakis and James Fowler discuss in *Connected*, "Economists say markets are driven by supply and demand, but where does demand come from? In part, it comes from the inherent value of an object." Much like the unseen forces around us, this inherent value is perceived through its effects and significance. What is the unseen force pushing me? Is there a need? What value is it bringing to the community? I wonder.

The ministry provides services every Monday inside the church that leads the Episcopalian district of Massachusetts, concluding with a short Mass service and a Holy Eucharist ceremony. "Hey Tomi, be mindful that we are a diverse group. Many of us here were brought up with different faiths and denominations. We respect that.

Proselytism is not something that we do. And keep it simple." These were the words of the reverend in charge of the operation while she tried to guide me to do a good job. I was not surprised to hear such a warning from her after hearing her constantly say every Monday, "...In this space, we respect everybody's dignity..." enforcing, promoting, and influencing a culture of individual integrity into a flock of humans. I could not help but think — that is how the guarantee of freedom of religion feels, as if "maintaining protection of personal privacy and freedom is critical to the success of any society," as Alex Pentland would write in *Social Physics*.

Since the beginning of documented history, it has been endemic to human nature for one group to seek to assert dominance over another. Whether out of self-preservation or survival, even at someone else's expense. Wanting to gain access to a beneficial territory or food resources. Sometimes, with more strategic and long-term objectives, such as the growth and expansion of a domain. Many tools and approaches have been utilized to accomplish such missions, ranging from outright violence in more "primitive civilizations" to gaining the consensus of the majority within a group. Similar to the convening needed in a district to get elected to a public seat in the government. Hence, "networked resources that you do not own, but which you have access through your friends and acquaintances, are called 'social capital,'" as Charles Kadushin comments in *Understanding Social Networks*. Hence, the endeavors above require a coordinated effort to be successful. The underlying implication is the nature of an individual's relationship with society and the connection the human unit has with its web.

Politics has traditionally been defined as the art of governing, but I outright disagree. It is a more appropriate definition for public administration and the government's affairs in administering the governed. I have redefined politics as pursuing the power that arises from achieving consensus. Therefore, political power comes from the ability to wield the force of the numbers to influence outcomes in our reality. The capacity that comes as a result of having the goodwill of a group of people. Hence, political power gives one strength, and its source is the support of the many. But political power is just one kind of many. Power does not have a single source; it can be accessed through several.

As I continue to develop my spiritual life and faith, I have realized that as one stands at a church's podium, whether to read the gospel or preach a sermon to a congregation, one's political power increases due to this action. The more one addresses an audience of parishioners, others know the more one, and the more one is seen by others, and listened to by others, the more one increases one's visibility, creates new human connections,

and therefore amasses more influence that can be utilitarianly used towards goals. As one communicates messages that seek to comfort or uphold others in a congregation, this act of service increases the goodwill of others for oneself. This force can be wielded as a sword.

What is interesting about being a leader who wields the consensus that comes from religious circles to achieve goals is that such is not found in logos, a concept known as logic, reasoning, science, research, or verifiable facts and truth. Instead, it is more based on the concept of pathos and its visceral origin. "I believe with certainty and unwavering conviction, even if I am unable to see it; to the point that I move and walk and have it as a given; putting it into action, despite my logic failing me... with faith, I have the assurance—that he is here with me. I have faith that God is here with us—guiding our lives to better things and better times." That was how I closed my sermon. My audience, who needed spiritual support, found it compelling.

Yet, I thought about how spirituality has been used to apply psychological pressure rather than healing. Violence and manipulation create systems with different components, procedures, and agents. Religion and structural spirituality have been tools that have proven throughout civilization to be more potent and convenient, especially in a world where physical violence has become frowned upon to control bodies. Religion has come to participate as a tool that creates a philosophy that controls the mind that commands such bodies. "God told me so!" Crusades, Spanish Inquisition, the selling of indulgences.

The entitlement of Religious freedom the people of the United States enjoy in the Constitution First Amendment is, therefore, the sister of the separation of church and state. No government body should be siding its operations with any faith in its nature of being a public institution.

Yes, Martin Luther King Jr. wielded political power, attained from consensus, in his religious platform as a reverend to influence the law with the civil rights movement. Mahatma Gandhi led the Indian independent movement against the British Colonial rule. Neither was an elected official; They were not men of the state. Yet the British monarchs are both the head of church and state. There is a reason why the American system is repugnant to the British and many of its concepts. There is an inherent irrationality that comes from religions that can be weaponized toward goals against humanity. That enthusiasm and conviction can bring destruction to the lives of the innocent if misused on a significant scale.

Tomi Michel is a Rumbo Columnist. He can be reached at tomi@michelpublicrelations.com.

"Un líder lleva a las personas a donde quieren ir. Un gran líder lleva a las personas a donde no necesariamente quieren ir, pero deberían ir".

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."

Rosalynn Carter

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Cuando la sexualidad era celebrada en la Iglesia



Por Tomás Núñez, ThD

Es idea común que la moral católica en lo tocante a la sexualidad es rigorista y con prejuicios. Eso se debe en gran parte a la influencia de San Agustín que interpretaba la transmisión del pecado original, que mancha toda la existencia humana, a través de la relación sexual. Todos los que nacen de esa relación son portadores de ese pecado. A causa de esta interpretación que se volvió doctrina dominante, se estableció una relación negativa y llena de prejuicios entre sexo y pecado.

Sin embargo, no siempre fue así. Dentro de la misma Iglesia hay tradiciones y doctrinas que ven en el placer y en la sexualidad una manifestación de la creación buena de Dios, una centella de lo Divino y la participación en la naturaleza misma de Dios. Esta línea se liga a la tradición bíblica que ve con naturalidad y hasta con regocijo el amor entre un hombre y una mujer. Con fuerte carga erótica, el libro del Cantar de los Cantares celebra el juego del amor, la belleza de los cuerpos de los amantes, de los pechos, de los labios y de los besos. Curiosamente en este libro bíblico nunca aparece el nombre de Dios. Aunque no nombre a Dios, este libro fue recogido en el Canon de los libros tenidos como inspirados. No necesitaba referirse a Dios, pues San Juan nos revela que la verdadera naturaleza de Dios es amor (1Jn 4,16). Dios estaba anónimamente ahí.

La base teológica para esta visión positiva radica en la fe en la encarnación del Hijo de Dios. Él asumió todo lo que es humano, por lo tanto, también la sexualidad, la libido, el imaginario ligado a ella y el amor. De ahí que se diga que ya no existe nada de profano en sí. Todo fue tocado y transfigurado por la realidad divina, hecha humana. Por la encarnación, la sexualidad forma parte del Hijo de Dios. La sexualidad aquí no debe ser reducida a la genitalidad, significa toda la implicación afectiva y los intercambios amorosos, con las características propias de lo femenino y lo masculino respectivamente.

Tal visión trajo a la sexualidad humana una dimensión sagrada. Después de la encarnación de Dios, ella ya no puede ser un tabú, una pesadilla o un medio que transmite la desgracia del pecado original. Es una dimensión privilegiada en la cual el ser humano experimenta la fuerza volcánica del deseo, la ternura, el amor y el placer. Todo esto puede fundamentar una experiencia placentera de Dios. El propio Dios se revela en las vidas de los seres humanos diferentes

y deseantes. De este encuentro nace el mayor fruto de la cosmogénesis, que es la vida humana.

Para ilustrar esta tradición, cabe referir aquí una manifestación que perduró en la Iglesia romano-católica durante más de mil años, conocida con el nombre de “risus paschalis”, la “risa pascual”. Ella significaba la simbolización del placer genital-sexual en el espacio sagrado, en la celebración de la mayor fiesta cristiana, la Pascua.

Se trata del siguiente hecho, estudiado con gran erudición por una teóloga italiana Maria Caterina Jacobelli (Il risus paschalis e il fondamento teologico del piacere sessuale, Brescia 2004): Para resaltar la explosión de alegría de la Pascua en contraposición a la tristeza de la Cuaresma, el sacerdote en la misa de la mañana de Pascua debía suscitar la risa en el pueblo. Y lo hacía por todos los medios, sobre todo recurriendo a la simbólica sexual. Contaba chistes picantes, usaba expresiones eróticas y hacía gestos que sugerían relaciones sexuales. Y el pueblo ríe que te ríe. Traducía de esta manera el carácter inocente y decente de la alegría pascual.

Esta costumbre está atestiguada por fuentes históricas ya en 852 en Reims (Francia) y se extendió por todo el Norte de Europa, por Italia y España, hasta 1911 cerca de Frankfurt en Alemania. El celebrante asumía la cultura de los fieles en su forma popular y a nosotros que hemos perdido la naturalidad del sexo nos parece hasta obscena. El propio teólogo Joseph Ratzinger, después Papa, en uno de sus escritos se refiere, aunque críticamente, al risus paschalis para expresar la vida nueva inaugurada por la Resurrección. Afirmaba además que solamente a partir de la creencia en la Resurrección volvió verdaderamente la sonrisa a la humanidad y no solo la risa. La sonrisa franca y libre, manifestada en la “risa pascual” sexual expresaría la alegría que la resurrección trajo al mundo.

Podemos discutir el método poco adecuado para suscitar tal risa, pero revela otra postura en la Iglesia, positiva y no condenatoria de la sexualidad. Plantear tales hechos no significa querer escandalizar a los fieles o cuestionar la doctrina de la Iglesia. Pero ella nos obliga a relativizar la rigidez oficial frente a la sexualidad, acentuada de modo especial en los últimos Papas, pero superada en el documento del Papa Francisco Amoris laetitia cuyo título lo dice todo: “La alegría del amor”. En el fondo se trata de devolver sentido y alegría a la vida humana, llamada a más vida y no sólo a la renuncia y al sacrificio. ¿Y por qué no expresarla en el lenguaje de la sexualidad creada y querida por Dios?

Hay que reconocer que esta visión más natural predomina en la vida concreta de los cristianos. Estos obedecen más a la lógica de los reclamos profundos de la existencia humana sexuada y atravesada por el deseo que a las doctrinas frías de la moral y de la ética cristianas de cariz rigorista. La alegría de la vida que triunfa definitivamente por la resurrección encontró en el risus paschalis una expresión de la sexualidad redimida, inocente, placentera y sagrada. ¿Por qué no recordarla gozosamente?

Tomás Núñez es Doctor en teología pedagógica, Master en psicología de la educación, Master en teología fundamental, y Master en filosofía del pensamiento cristiano.

When sexuality was celebrated in the Church

By Tomás Núñez, ThD

It is a common idea that Catholic morality regarding sexuality is rigorous and prejudiced. This is mainly due to the influence of St. Augustine, who interpreted the transmission of original sin, which stains all human existence, through sexual relations. All those born from that relationship are carriers of that sin. Because of this interpretation, which became the dominant doctrine, a negative and discriminatory relationship was established between sex and sin.

However, it was not always like this. Within the Church itself, there are traditions and doctrines that see pleasure and sexuality as a manifestation of God's good creation, a spark of the Divine, and participation in the very nature of God. This line is linked to the biblical tradition that sees love between a man and a woman as natural and even joyful. With a strong erotic charge, the Song of Songs celebrates the game of love and the beauty of the lovers' bodies, breasts, lips, and kisses. Curiously, the name of God never appears in this biblical book. Although it does not name God, this book was included in the Canon of books considered to be inspired. It did not need to refer to God, since St. John reveals to us that the true nature of God is love (1 Jn 4:16). God was anonymously there.

The theological basis for this positive vision lies in faith in the incarnation of the Son of God. He assumed everything that is human, therefore, also sexuality, libido, the imagination linked to it, and love. Hence it is said that there is no longer anything profane. Everything was touched and transfigured by divine reality, made human. Through the incarnation, sexuality is part of the Son of God. Sexuality here should not be reduced to genitality; it means all affective involvement and loving exchanges with the characteristics of the feminine and the masculine, respectively.

Such a vision brought a sacred dimension to human sexuality. After the incarnation of God, it can no longer be a taboo, a nightmare, or a means of transmitting the misfortune of original sin. It is a privileged dimension in which the human being experiences the volcanic force of desire, tenderness, love, and pleasure. All of this can form the basis for a pleasurable experience of God. God himself reveals himself in the lives of different and desiring human beings. From this encounter is born the most significant fruit of cosmogenesis, which is human life.

To illustrate this tradition, it is worth mentioning here a manifestation that lasted in the Roman Catholic Church for more than a thousand years, known as “risus paschalis,” the “Easter laughter.” She was the symbol of genital-sexual pleasure in the sacred space in the celebration of the most fabulous Christian feast, Easter.

The following fact was studied with

great erudition by the Italian theologian Maria Caterina Jacobelli (Il risus paschalis e il fondamento teologico del piacere sessuale, Brescia 2004): To highlight the explosion of the joy of Easter in contrast to the sadness of Lent, the priest at the Easter morning mass had to arouse laughter in the people. And he did so by all means, especially by resorting to sexual symbolism. He told dirty jokes, used erotic expressions, and made gestures suggesting sexual relations. And the people laughed and laughed. In this way, he translated Easter Joy's innocent and decent character.

This custom is attested by historical sources as early as 852 in Reims (France) and spread throughout Northern Europe, Italy, and Spain until 1911 near Frankfurt in Germany. The celebrant assumed the culture of the faithful in its popular form, and to us who have lost the naturalness of sex, it seems even obscene. The theologian Joseph Ratzinger himself, later Pope, refers in one of his writings, albeit critically, to the risus paschalis to express the new life inaugurated by the Resurrection. He also affirmed that only from the belief in the Resurrection did the smile indeed return to humanity and not just laughter. The frank and free smile manifested in the sexual “Easter laughter,” would express the joy that the resurrection brought to the world.

We can discuss the inappropriate method of provoking such laughter, but it reveals another attitude in the Church, positive and not condemnatory of sexuality. Raising such facts does not mean wanting to scandalize the faithful or question the doctrine of the Church. But it forces us to relativize the official rigidity in the face of sexuality, which has been particularly accentuated in recent Popes, but overcome in Pope Francis' document Amoris Laetitia, whose title says it all: “The joy of love.” In essence, it is about restoring meaning and joy to human life, called to more life and not only to renunciation and sacrifice. And why not express it in the language of sexuality created and willed by God?

It must be recognized that this more natural vision predominates in Christians' concrete lives. They obey more the logic of the deep demands of human existence sexualized and crossed by desire than the cold doctrines of Christian morality and ethics of a rigorous nature. The joy of life that triumphs definitively through the resurrection found in the risus paschalis is an expression of redeemed, innocent, pleasurable, and sacred sexuality. Why not remember it joyfully?

Tomás Núñez has a PhD in pedagogical theology, a Master's degree in psychosocioanthropology of education, a Master's degree in fundamental theology, and a Master's degree in the philosophy of Christian thought.

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

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

CICERO

Senate Passes Health Care Reform Boosting Safeguards Against For-Profit Entities

Bill strengthens healthcare market oversight and imposes guardrails on private equity investments

The Massachusetts Senate passed urgent reforms to the Commonwealth's health care system to boost market oversight and transparency and improve patient access to prescribed medication and treatment.

Following debate, the Senate approved the legislation by a vote of 38-2.

The reforms in S.2871 come as Massachusetts continues to manage challenges related to private equity's mismanagement in healthcare, which has created uncertainties for patients receiving care and the communities that the healthcare facilities serve. The legislation passed by the Senate would create strong systemic safeguards around private equity in healthcare, a significant step towards preempting future mismanagement.

"I am proud that the Health Equity Advocate amendment I filed was adopted into the Health Care reform legislation that passed the Senate," said Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). "This bill represents a significant step towards addressing systemic disparities and promoting fair access to health care for all residents. Including health equity advocates on the Health Policy Commission oversight board ensures that our most vulnerable populations have a voice in the decision-making process, fostering greater accountability and transparency in our healthcare system. Massachusetts continues to lead by example, and this amendment solidifies our commitment to placing health equity at the forefront of our policies."

Provisions of An Act enhancing the healthcare market review process include:

Expanding oversight of Private Equity. Leading nationwide efforts, the bill expands oversight of private equity firms, real estate investment trusts (REITs), and management services organizations (MSOs) involved with Massachusetts health care providers and provider organizations. In conjunction with the Senate's efforts to rein in the costs of prescription drugs through the PACT Act, the bill expands oversight of pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and creates a licensing structure for PBMs.

In addition to PBMs, the bill establishes licensing structures for certain healthcare providers currently not licensed and, therefore not subject to Department of Public Health (DPH) oversight, including office-based surgical centers, urgent care centers, and healthcare practices.

Improving Access to Primary Care. Access to primary care is proven to reduce health care costs, yet there is an extreme shortage of primary care providers in Massachusetts and nationwide. To understand how to best build a sustainable primary care system, the bill establishes a task force to study and make recommendations to stabilize the system and workforce, increase financial investment in primary care, and improve patient access to primary care.

The bill moves state health planning to the Health Policy Commission (HPC) and the health care resources inventory to the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) to better align with the work of these agencies. In developing the state health plan, HPC is directed to consider health equity goals. The bill also directs HPC and CHIA to set and measure health care affordability goals for the Commonwealth.

Keeping Health Insurance Affordable. The bill establishes a health insurance bureau within the Division of Insurance (DOI) to conduct rate reviews of premium rates for health benefit plans, oversee the small group and individual health insurance market and affordable health plans—including coverage for young adults—and disseminate information to consumers about health insurance coverage.

Cutting Red Tape for Prescription Access. In response to an increased number of consumer reports of delays accessing medications due to the need for prior authorizations, the bill requires a new insurance carrier to honor any prior authorizations approved by a previous carrier for at least 90 days following a patient's enrollment in the new health plan. The bill also requires that a prior authorization approval for medication and treatment prescribed for chronic disease management must be valid for the length of the prescription, up to 12 months.

Strengthening the Health Policy Commission (HPC). To strengthen the HPC's work to advance a transparent and equitable health system, the bill adds members with expertise in hospital administration and in the development and pricing of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, or medical devices to its Board of Commissioners.

The bill adjusts the HPC's setting of the health care cost growth benchmark—the limit of how much the HPC believes health care costs should grow over time—from one year to two years, to better account for irregularities in costs.

Boosting Transparency at the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA). To increase transparency, the bill authorizes CHIA to collect information from additional healthcare entities, such as pharmaceutical companies and pharmacy benefit managers. The bill strengthens HPC's and CHIA's ability to ensure compliance with data reporting requirements by healthcare entities by enhancing the penalties for non-compliance.

Protecting Practitioner Autonomy. This bill prevents businesses, such as MSOs and corporate employers of health care practitioners, from encroaching on the clinical autonomy of practitioners. While MSOs were created to provide practices with administrative and business support, in recent years, private equity firms and other corporations have started using MSOs to increase profits by controlling practices, and by extension, the practitioners who work in them. Patients deserve safe and appropriate

care that is based on a practitioner's best professional judgment without the influence of business interests.

Managing Costs and Improving Quality of Care. The bill updates several programs aimed at constraining health care costs and improving care quality, including the Determination of Need (DoN), Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), and Material Change Notice (MCN), and programs.

Determination of Need. This bill increases coordination between state agencies involved in health care market review by clarifying that DPH should not act on a DoN application until HPC, CHIA, the Attorney General, or other relevant agencies have been given a reasonable opportunity to supply the required information. This change will ensure that DPH has all the information it needs to assess a proposal's potential impact on the provision of health care in the Commonwealth more fully.

Performance Improvement Plan. The PIP is a process by which HPC can require entities that have exceeded the cost growth benchmark to reduce their spending. The bill provides more flexibility for CHIA to

refer health care entities with excessive spending to HPC, which can require the referred entity to file and implement a PIP. In addition, the HPC is given new authority to assess a civil penalty instead of requiring a PIP.

Material Change Notice. A MCN requires providers and provider organizations to notify HPC of a proposed change to their operations or governance structure at least 60 days before the change is to go into effect. The bill adds new types of transactions that require a MCN, including significant new for-profit investment and acquisitions by for-profit entities, such as large for-profit physician organizations and private equity firms, as well as the sale of assets for a lease-back arrangement.

Crucially, the bill gives HPC new authority to require providers to address concerns that their proposed change will significantly increase consumer costs, reduce the quality of care, or reduce access to services.

A previous version of this bill had passed the House of Representatives. The two branches will now reconcile the differences between the bills before sending it to the Governor's desk.

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Declaración de Trahan sobre el cierre del Nashoba Valley Medical Center por parte de Steward

LOWELL, MA – Hoy, la congresista Lori Trahan (MA-03), miembro del Subcomité de Salud del Comité de Energía y Comercio de la Cámara de Representantes, emitió la siguiente declaración después de que Steward Health Care anunciara su plan de cerrar dos hospitales de Massachusetts, incluido el Nashoba Valley Medical Center en Ayer:

"Los ejecutivos de Steward deberían estar avergonzados de lo que le han hecho a los pacientes y proveedores aquí en Massachusetts y en todo nuestro país.

Su modelo de negocio de capital privado depredador se centró en extraer hasta el último centavo de las ganancias mientras ignoraban sus obligaciones con su personal trabajador y las familias a las que sirven. Ahora, los pacientes de Ayer y de todo el valle de Nashoba se ven obligados a pagar el precio de la negligencia grave de Steward. Ralph de la Torre y sus co-conspiradores deben rendir cuentas por causar esta crisis, y solicitaré que los agentes federales, incluido el Departamento de Justicia, investiguen de inmediato las acciones de Steward".

Trahan Statement on Steward Closing Nashoba Valley Medical Center

LOWELL, MA – Today, Congresswoman Lori Trahan (MA-03), a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, issued the following statement after Steward Health Care announced its plan to close two Massachusetts hospitals, including Nashoba Valley Medical Center in Ayer:

"Steward executives should be ashamed of what they've done to patients and providers here in Massachusetts and across our country. Their predatory private equity

business model focused on extracting every last penny of profits while ignoring their obligations to their hardworking staff and the families they serve. Now, patients in Ayer and across the Nashoba Valley are being forced to pay the price for Steward's gross negligence. Ralph de la Torre and his co-conspirators must be held accountable for causing this crisis, and I will be requesting that federal enforcers, including the Department of Justice, immediately investigate Steward's actions."

Stratton Lloyd named new leader of Essex County Community Foundation

Wenham resident and longtime ECCF team member officially took the helm on July 1



Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF), a \$130 million grantmaking organization that inspires philanthropy across Essex County, is pleased to announce that Wenham resident Stratton Lloyd has been named its new president and CEO.

“As we celebrate the foundation’s landmark 25th anniversary and continue our work toward building a stronger and more resilient region, we are thrilled to have found ECCF’s next leader right here at home in Essex County,” said ECCF Board Chair Dick Sumberg. “All of the qualities and talents that Stratton brings to the role will help steer ECCF boldly into the future.”

A thorough national search for ECCF’s next leader, which included community input and expert guidance, began shortly after current President and CEO Beth Francis announced her retirement from the organization last fall. Lloyd, who has been an integral member of the ECCF team for six years, was chosen because of his experience, leadership skills and deep knowledge of ECCF’s work and of Essex County.

“I am humbled and honored to have been selected as ECCF’s next leader,” he said. “What happens in Essex County matters to me, and I am thrilled for this opportunity to build on the foundation’s 25-year history of collaborative work to create a vibrant and thriving region. The ECCF team comes to work every day ready to roll up their sleeves for our communities. It’s an incredible privilege to work alongside them and ECCF’s family of passionate fund advisors and donors, our many diverse partners and the larger community so together we can continue to build a sense of belonging and opportunity for every person who calls Essex County home.”

Relationship building has been a critical part of ECCF’s success over the course of its 25-year history – from working with donors as they seek to elevate their philanthropy to building new systems of support as we rise to meet our most pressing challenges. Lloyd has played a significant role in leveraging relationships to build a shared commitment to a sustainable and resilient region.

“It’s clear that the role of our community foundation is to act as an anchor organization in the community, a place where we can come together across difference and create

change together,” said Lloyd. “I look forward to strengthening the partnerships we’ve built and creating new relationships that can expand our collective work and impact. That’s how we’ll continue to move forward as a region.”

Since joining ECCF, Lloyd has played a key role in ECCF’s growth and success. His work and accomplishments as the organization’s executive vice president and COO include:

- Acting as chief architect of ECCF’s ‘Systems Philanthropy’ approach, which is data-driven, community-focused and establishes the foundation as an engaged and strategic community partner.
- Leading ECCF’s community leadership efforts, which include the foundation’s Advancing Digital Equity and Creative County initiatives, among many others.
- Collaboratively deploying \$49 million to ECCF’s innovative systems approach, positively impacting thousands of nonprofits and more than 200,000 residents over the last six years.
- Leading the foundation’s activities related to budgeting, investment oversight and financial and general operations.
- Guiding two strategic plans with deep community engagement from more than 1,000 residents.

Prior to joining ECCF, Lloyd served as executive vice president of product management, business development and customer operations at EBSCO Information Services in Ipswich (2004-2018) and as senior product line manager at Siebel Systems Inc., in Seattle, WA (2000-2004). He is also the founder of First Look Inc. (today, known as Youthserve), a global youth service-education company. Lloyd graduated from Yale University and from the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration.

Essex County Community Foundation is home to 330 charitable funds and is a place for donors to explore their philanthropic interests and potential for community impact. It is a thriving hub of collaboration, systems change and innovation.

“We are confident that under Stratton’s guidance, ECCF will continue to be the leader Essex County looks to when facing our region’s greatest social challenges,” said Sumberg. “We are hopeful and optimistic about ECCF’s future – and the unlimited potential of Essex County – as we enter into this new era of leadership.”

The mission of Essex County Community Foundation is to inspire philanthropy that strengthens the communities of Essex County. We do this by managing charitable assets, strengthening and supporting nonprofits and engaging in strategic community leadership. In 25 years, ECCF and its growing family of 330 charitable funds have granted \$169 million to nonprofits, schools and students in Essex County and beyond. Our ultimate goal is to have 34 thriving cities and towns in Essex County and to improve the quality of life for the region’s 800,000+ residents. Learn more at eccf.org.

Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Haverhill Honors Haverhill Bank’s Cronin

Haverhill Bank’s Elizabeth “Liz” Cronin was recently named Exchangeite of the Year by the Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Haverhill, recognizing her sensitivity to community needs and service to fulfill the club’s mission.

Cronin, vice president of compliance for Haverhill Bank, was unanimously selected by a committee of past award recipients and is the club’s only award. Immediate Past President Diane Galvin said Cronin became a standout early on, accepting the position as treasurer when the post became vacant.

“The president of the club asked if she could do the job and without hesitation she said, ‘Yes I will, whatever you need.’ That is Liz’s attitude about everything we do. If there is a need, she will fill it without hesitation. Liz is not a person who looks for recognition or who seeks out awards. She is a member because she cares about people in need, and she wants to do whatever she can to help us fulfill our mission. She is there for the right reasons,” Galvin said.

Cronin, who also serves on the board of the Breakfast Exchange Club, also takes on other volunteer tasks. She recently took a trip to Moldova to help Ukrainian refugees, Galvin cited as another example. “If Liz believes in a cause, she will go to any lengths to help out. She believes in taking action, rather than talking about things. She strives to make a difference in this world, and the Breakfast Exchange Club is lucky to



have her as a member and board member,” Galvin added.

Cronin joined Haverhill Bank three years ago. She delivers more than 30 years of management experience and began her banking career in 2007. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Gordon College.

A depositor-owned institution, Haverhill Bank was founded in 1877 and is the oldest cooperative bank in Massachusetts. The bank’s Main Office is at 180 Merrimack St. in Haverhill. Haverhill Bank also maintains offices at 163 South Main St., 1094 Main St., 6 West Main St., Merrimac, 281 Main St., West Newbury, and 396 Main St., Salem, N.H.

El Breakfast Exchange Club de Greater Haverhill honra a Cronin de Haverhill Bank

Elizabeth “Liz” Cronin de Haverhill Bank fue nombrada recientemente Exchangeite del año por el Breakfast Exchange Club de Greater Haverhill, en reconocimiento a su sensibilidad hacia las necesidades de la comunidad y su servicio para cumplir con la misión del club.

Cronin, vicepresidenta de cumplimiento de Haverhill Bank, fue seleccionada por unanimidad por un comité de ganadores de premios anteriores y es el único premio del club. La expresidenta inmediata Diane Galvin dijo que Cronin se destacó desde el principio, aceptando el puesto de tesorera cuando el puesto quedó vacante.

“La presidenta del club le preguntó si podía hacer el trabajo y sin dudarlo dijo: ‘Sí, lo haré, lo que necesites’. Esa es la actitud de Liz sobre todo lo que hacemos. Si hay una necesidad, la cubrirá sin dudarlo. Liz no es una persona que busque reconocimiento ni premios. Ella es miembro porque se preocupa por las personas necesitadas y quiere hacer todo lo que pueda para ayudarnos a cumplir nuestra misión. Ella está allí por las razones correctas”, dijo Galvin.

Cronin, quien también es miembro de la

junta directiva del Breakfast Exchange Club, también asume otras tareas voluntarias. Recientemente realizó un viaje a Moldavia para ayudar a los refugiados ucranianos, citó Galvin como otro ejemplo. “Si Liz cree en una causa, hará lo que sea para ayudar. Cree en tomar acción, en lugar de hablar de las cosas. Se esfuerza por marcar una diferencia en este mundo, y el Breakfast Exchange Club tiene suerte de tenerla como miembro y miembro de la junta directiva”, agregó Galvin.

Cronin se unió a Haverhill Bank hace tres años. Aporta más de 30 años de experiencia en gestión y comenzó su carrera bancaria en 2007. Tiene una licenciatura de Gordon College.

Haverhill Bank, una institución propiedad de los depositantes, fue fundada en 1877 y es el banco cooperativo más antiguo de Massachusetts. La oficina principal del banco se encuentra en 180 Merrimack St. en Haverhill. Haverhill Bank también tiene oficinas en 163 South Main St., 1094 Main St., 6 West Main St., Merrimac, 281 Main St., West Newbury y 396 Main St., Salem, N.H.

Four New Members Named to NECC Foundation Board



John Burcke



Tobit García



Gregory Shaw



Steven Smalley

The Northern Essex Community College Foundation Board is pleased to welcome four new members.

John Burcke of Portsmouth, NH is the President and Chief Lending Officer at Newburyport Bank. He has partnered professionally with the college, saying that the bank has worked with NECC's Career Services to hire students and graduates for open roles. The bank was also instrumental in supporting the college's new Seacoast Promise Program which launched this past spring.

Burcke is the board chair for the local breast cancer charity Ink4Pink and has previously served on the advancement committees at Wentworth Douglass Hospital and Exeter Hospital.

Tobit Garcia is a senior tax manager and partner at JBS Tax Corp in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Garcia took several classes at Northern Essex and has family members who are alumni. He says he's also familiar with the college through partnerships with JBS. Garcia attended Fordham University and earned a certificate in financial accounting through Harvard Business School Online.

Garcia is a Lawrence YMCA Board Member; Lawrence Partnership Network Committee Member; Leads Fellow and Network Member; Community Inroads: Cultural Inclusion Fellow; and Advocate for Esperanza Academy. He currently lives in Haverhill.

Gregory Shaw is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Haverhill Bank. The Manchester, NH resident says he learned a lot about Northern

Essex from his time coordinating workforce training for a previous employer- and that he found the program to be very beneficial. Shaw is also a board member of Penacook Place and Family Services of the Merrimack Valley. He holds a degree in Economics from the University of Vermont.

Steven Smalley is a Government Affairs Manager for National Grid. As a resident of Georgetown, he is familiar with Northern Essex from partnerships across the Merrimack Valley. Smalley holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Northeastern University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Providence College.

Smalley is a former member of the Salem, MA Zoning Board of Appeals.

The NECC Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that supports the college and its students. Incorporated in 1972, the Foundation assists NECC by connecting with the business community, foundations, and other potential revenue sources. It additionally hosts fundraisers and special events.

Funds raised are used for student scholarships, equipment purchases, program revitalization efforts, faculty and staff development, and other needs as they arise and as approved by the Foundation Board of Directors. Board members are appointed to multi-year terms.

For more information about the NECC Foundation, Inc. or giving to NECC, contact Allison Dolan-Wilson, vice president of institutional advancement and executive director of NECC Foundation, Inc., at 978-556-3624 or adolanwilson@necc.mass.edu.

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Haverhill Summer Concert Series

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Kick back and relax with some evening tunes on the HPL lawn. You're welcome to bring your own lawn chairs or picnic blankets to enjoy the show.

- 8/8 The Jazz Disciples 6-8pm (danceable jazz and pop hits)
- 8/15 Windham Swing Band 6-8pm (swing, big band and jazz standards)
- 8/22 Joe Leary 6-7pm (classic acoustic music from the '60s & '70s)

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The Dolan and Regan Family Legacies Pay It Forward for Local Students

Lowell, MA – Since 2007, the Dolan and Regan Families have been involved with the Lowell High School Scholarship Program with The Alice Dolan Murphy Scholarship Fund and The Joseph M. Regan Memorial Scholarship Fund. Collectively they have given out over \$13,000 in scholarships to 26 students through the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF).

The scholarship program is made possible by a partnership between Lowell High School and the Greater Lowell Community Foundation. Scholarships are provided through the generous contributions of donors, many of whom are Lowell High School graduates themselves, families honoring a loved one, or local business leaders supporting their community.

The Dolan Family has presented their scholarship since 2007, and the Regan family has presented their scholarship since 2017. Joe and Kathy Regan have also served with GLCF as scholarship application reviewers for the Lowell High Scholarship program for eight years.

The Alice Dolan Murphy Scholarship was established for a nursing student at a four-year college. Wanting to meaningfully honor their mother's life and career as a nurse, the Dolan Family—eight siblings and their spouses—came together to create her lasting tribute in 2007.

Daughter Mary Dolan Regan '77, said her 'Mother would be happy to be honored in this way. She would be grateful that someone was getting a chance to get an education and this scholarship is helpful.'

Committed to her community through family, faith, friends and work and a lifelong resident of Lowell's Centralville neighborhood, Alice, was a graduate of Lowell High (1940) and the St. John's Nursing School (1943.) She spent her career as a Registered Nurse at the Beaconsfield Chronic Hospital in Lowell alongside dear friend and nurse Claire Murphy. Claire and Dan Murphy and Alice and her husband James were inseparable friends. After James died in 1962 and Claire's passing in 1989, Alice and Dan found companionship, love and marriage with each other later in life.

'My mother was all about putting the needs of others first. Being there for her family and friends no matter what,' said son Jack Dolan, who worked as the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer at Lowell High when then Head of School Bill Samaras was 'coordinating' the nascent LHS scholarship program of \$75,000 now valued at \$7 million.

The Joseph M. Regan Memorial Scholarship Fund is designed for students pursuing STEM-related studies in science,

math and/or technology. Joe graduated in 1939 from Lowell High and earned his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Boston College in 1942. He was a U.S. Navy World War II veteran serving four years in the South Pacific. He started teaching Math and Latin at Keith Academy (1946-1952), followed by a 30-year career at Lowell High School as a mentor, math teacher, Floor Master and Dean of Faculty from 1952 to 1981, when his life was cut short by lung cancer.

'My dad was very humble, open-minded, and eschewed fanfare. When it came to his students, he would go the extra mile to support and encourage them through their challenges with the caveat that they had to show up for class,' said daughter Kathy Regan '76.

Kathy noted her dad would be humbled by this scholarship and would advise awardees to – 'Use it wisely. Put it to good use.'

Dottie Naruszewicz Flanagan '59, an officer of the Math Club, had Mr. Regan as an advisor as well as a teacher. 'What a super, wonderful guy. Gentle and kind. He had the interest of the kids at heart.'

'Keeping the memory of our father alive by this scholarship is rewarding to see all the bright, promising recipients on LHS Scholarship Night. It really renews our faith in the community and the world!' said son Joe Regan '74 and husband of Mary Dolan Regan.

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) provides opportunities to create a fund to establish your own charitable legacy. To learn more about funds at GLCF, contact Jay Linnehan or to learn more about creating your own LHS Legacy Scholarship contact Barbara Dunsford at 978-970-1600 or info@glcfoundation.org.

About Greater Lowell Community Foundation

Established in 1997, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF) is a philanthropic organization comprised of more than 450 funds dedicated to improving the quality of life in 21 neighboring cities and towns. With financial assets of nearly \$65 million, GLCF annually awards grants and scholarships to hundreds of worthy nonprofits and students. It is powered by the winning combination of donor-directed giving, personal attention from Foundation staff, and an in-depth understanding of local needs. The generosity of our donors has enabled the Community Foundation to award more than \$40 million to the Greater Lowell community.



Photo of Alice Dolan Murphy, RN. The Alice Dolan Murphy Scholarship was established through GLCF for a Lowell High School student pursuing a nursing degree at a four-year college.



Photo of Kathleen and Joseph Regan from the LHS Girl Officers Ball. The Joseph M. Regan Memorial Scholarship Fund is designed for students pursuing STEM-related studies in science, math and/or technology.

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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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Lowell Housing Authority

No proposals were received on May 7, 2024, therefore, the Lowell Housing Authority re-invites proposals from non-profit organizations and others wishing to purchase this vacant property located at 67 W. Fourth Street. The estimated appraised total value is \$443,000.00. The full scope and property listing are available within the RFP documents.

RFP 2024-3A Scattered Site Property Sale is available to download at www.lhma.org/bids on July 31, 2024. Proposals will be accepted at the Lowell Housing Authority Dept. of Finance & Procurement, 350 Moody Street Lowell, MA 01854 until September 4, 2024, at 11:00 AM. All proposals submitted in response to this Request for Proposals will be evaluated and awarded in accordance with the provisions established under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B. Vendors will be required to abide by the guidelines established under this statute.

Anyone wishing to visit the property should call the Chief Procurement Officer to schedule an appointment.

The LHA reserves the right to amend or cancel this RFP, accept or reject any and all proposals and waive minor informalities.

By: Rita V. Brousseau
Chief Procurement Officer (978) 364-5341

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Stuart's Automotive, Inc. 97 Tanner Street, Lowell, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after August 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. 2013 Ford Fiesta VIN 3FADP4AJ6DM129509
2. 2008 Saturn Aura VIN 1G8ZV57798F140494
3. 2013 Ford Focus VIN 1FADP3F24DL320312
4. 2016 Kia Optima VIN KNAGM4AD8G5095249
5. 2010 Acura TSX VIN JH4CU2F6XAC010638
6. 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee VIN 1C4RJFCG7EC265181
7. 2007 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM56317A220205
8. 2013 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFB2F59DH591113
9. 2009 Dodge Journey VIN 3D4GG57V19T507128
10. 2015 BMW 328i VIN WBA3B3G58FNT68736

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

Signed
Kevin Stuart
Stuart's Automotive
7/22, 8/1, 8/8

“¡Qué poco saben mis compatriotas de las preciosas bendiciones que poseen y que ningún otro pueblo en la tierra disfruta!”

“How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!”

- THOMAS JEFFERSON

Rumbo

“The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley”

WWW.rumbonews.COM

LAWRENCE TEENS NEED YOUR HELP!

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR ADULTS ASSISTING YOUTH

YOU WILL LEARN:

- ➔ How to distinguish between crisis and non-crisis mental health situations
- ➔ Risk factors and warning signs for common mental health challenges affecting young people
- ➔ Ways to connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care

Provided by Family Services of the Merrimack Valley



FREE

<p>Youth Mental Health First Aid</p> <p>This is a 7-hour training in which participants will learn about youth mental health and how to talk with youth about how they're feeling and how to get help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ 2 hours of online, self-paced pre-work ➔ 5 hours of in-person training 	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Tuesday, September 17 9:00 am - 2:30 pm</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>430 N Canal St. Lawrence, MA</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p>Chance to win \$100! <small>*Upon completion of course and follow-up surveys</small></p> </div>	<p>To Register:</p> <p>Email the Training Coordinator at kpfeiffer@fsmv.org</p> <p>Space is limited. Must be 18+ to attend.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> </div>
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BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Moving on and up

Carlos Matos has left the city as director of the Office of Planning and Development to take a position in the Lawrence Public Schools.

Resignation of Dan Rivera from Mass Development

Since Dan Rivera resigned from his Commonwealth job, a few newspaper articles have been published that are not very flattering of him and his tenure there.

I could read articles in State House News Service (4/29/24) and Contrarian Boston (5/4/24) describing some details. Still, the Boston Business Journal had a piece with more information about his reason for departure. According to BBJ, Mass Development is in desperate need of cash, projects are held back, hiring is frozen, and there will be layoffs.

After Rivera's hiring, cash balance fell from \$114 million in mid-2021 to a

projected \$28.9 million at the end of June.

As Contrarian Boston first reported, Rivera, who earned \$235,000 a year, submitted a letter of resignation last Friday. With Dan's resignation on April 26, Deputy Director Theresa Park and Tania Hartford, executive vice president of real estate, were let go from MassDevelopment on Monday, sources told the publication Contrarian Boston. Park and Hartford both worked closely with Rivera since joining the agency.

Dan has served as CEO of the quasi-independent government authority since Gov. Charlie Baker appointed him in 2020.

Rivera and the MassDevelopment board, which includes several prominent developers, also fought over the degree of autonomy the former Lawrence mayor should have.

Dan O'Connell, a MassDevelopment board member and former secretary of housing and economic development under Gov. Deval Patrick, will step in as interim CEO while the board searches for a new leader.

Federation Dilemma

The confusion created by many changes and delays on the approved grants, which are being held back for many businesses, remains dark. The city had set aside \$400,000 for that project to be distributed as grants or loans. The Federation expected to receive the money and distribute the checks among the awardees, but everything changed.

Sara Perez, president of the Federación de Comerciantes, has often appeared before the city council advocating for the Federation membership that has applied for these grants while others chose loans. Then, the city decided to change it to all grants, and those who applied for loans would have to apply again for the grants.

The city attorney recommended starting over again to allow other businesses to participate. This process is still unfinished.

A second project has been added, with \$500,000 transferred from the cemetery account, which went unused last year. The City of Lawrence advertised the new program, which gives a chance to private

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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

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

companies that are not non-profits. The deadline to apply is August 8th for a maximum of \$20,000.

That's a simplistic explanation, but it isn't apparent. So much so, a couple of weeks ago, Carlos Matos, director of the Office of Community Development, appeared on Carmen Chalas' radio show trying to explain it, only to reveal that he was also confused. Even the host had difficulty following his explanation and asked Sara Perez, to call into the show.

Sara was angry because Mr. Matos made it sound like they were working together on planning and distributing that money when they had never had a meeting or a conversation about that fact. She corrected him on several things he said that misrepresented her role since she was not involved at all.

I tried calling Mr. Matos and Frank Surillo to get their responses about where this project stands now but my messages were ignored.

Hopefully, the city will resolve it in the next few weeks.

HC Media Appoints Matthew Belfiore as Executive Director

Hello folks,

So much has been going on lately here at HC Media that I don't even know where to begin. I'll start with the Annual Members' Meeting that took place in June. It was a great success and a matt-240x300 image splendid time was had by all. At least, I think a splendid time was had by all...if you were there and didn't have a splendid time, please let me know and I will issue a retraction.

In all seriousness, it was wonderful to see so many of you. We had a larger turnout this year than we've seen in a long time, showing that not only is HC Media still a vibrant and dynamic organization, but we are continuing to thrive in this modern media landscape. This would not be the case if it were not for the members, and I personally thank you for all that you do.

What else is going on? If you've visited the Elm Street location during a recent rainstorm, you may have noticed something, or lack thereof. That's right, it only rains outside of the building now! Indoors, it's delightfully dry! A new roof has finally been put in place for the first time in 30+ years at this location. This would not have happened without the hard work of the Finance Committee's Pam Carr and Ken Paquette, Board President Stephanie Guyotte, and the incredibly hard work of board member Paul Malone, who coordinated this mammoth task. I can't thank these people enough. If I sound like a broken record singing their praises, cut me a little slack. It's just nice not needing to wear a raincoat at my desk.

What's in store for the upcoming future? A lot of activity happening at both locations. An initiative to replace the Elm Street studio technology is slated for early 2025. The current studio equipment (studio cameras, control room switchers, audio, character generators, etc) will all be replaced with new, state-of-the-art technology that will allow us to expand our services provided exponentially. I won't get too deep into the



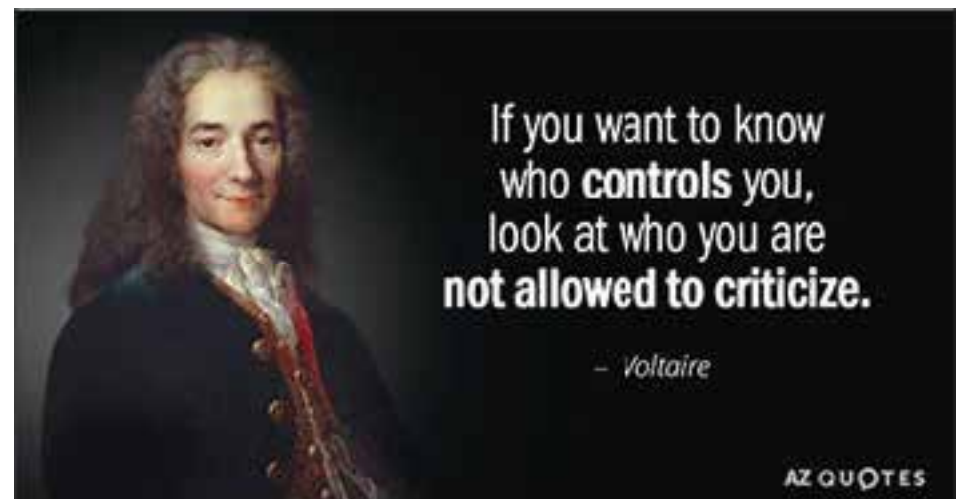
technical mumbo-jumbo, but it will be the dawning of a new and more productive way of working here at good old HC Media. The current studio equipment is at least six years past its expected lifetime, so this upgrade is overdue.

What else can you expect to see in the coming months? I think you'll be seeing more activity with the schools, new initiatives designed to engage students at the Haverhill Public Schools and NECC, and more educational programming in general.

So as summer begins to give way to fall, our busiest season, we'll be looking for lots of help from our amazing, stalwart volunteers - that's all of you! So if you have time and are willing to help on shoots, please let us know. All-day live coverage of Team Haverhill's River Ruckus is right around the corner in September...hint, hint.

That's all for now. Thanks for listening to me ramble and as always, thanks for being part of HC Media Life. You are all great. Keep being that way!

HC Media





THE CITY OF LAWRENCE
and
THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Mayor
Brian A. DePeña

PROSPERING LAWRENCE BUSINESS GRANT

NOTICE NEW DATE!!!

Form Release:
July 9, 2024

Due Date:
August 8, 2024
at 3:00 PM

The City of Lawrence and the Business and Economy Department are excited to introduce the Prospering Lawrence Business Grant. This grant will help give businesses a boost to continue to thrive in our community!

- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENTS
- OUTDOOR DINING
- AND MORE!

DOWNLOAD FROM CITY OF LAWRENCE WEBSITE BY SCANNING THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR CELLPHONE:



YOU MUST REGISTER

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS EXCLUDED

For more Info contact the Office of Planning and Development

Tel: (978) 620-3500 - (978) 620-3511
- (978) 620-3517 - (978) 620-3520

Lawrence Communityworks and 8 community partners awarded \$5 million by Atrius Health Equity Foundation to improve health and longevity in Lawrence

Funding will expand youth-driven community health initiatives

July 24, 2024 – Lawrence CommunityWorks and eight community partners are the recipients of a \$5 million grant by the Atrius Health Equity Foundation to expand youth-led community health solutions in Lawrence that seek to ensure all residents have the opportunity to thrive. Lawrence is one of eight Massachusetts cities selected to receive funding.

LCW worked closely with community partners Lawrence General Hospital (LGH), Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC), Youth Development Organization (YDO), ACT Lawrence, SquashBusters Lawrence (SBL), Groundwork Lawrence (GWL), Elevated Thought (ET), Top Notch Scholars (TNS), and the Boston College School of Social Work (BC), as well as a “design team” of local youth and parents to create the winning initiative. The Lawrence project will focus on the vital need for mental health and wellness, social connection, health career pathways, and healthy neighborhoods for Lawrence families. Together, this partnership will give rise to a “youth hub” in Lawrence’s historic North Canal Mill District, which has burgeoned into a new neighborhood in the City over the past decade.

This award is part of the Youth as Health Care Change Agents grant program, a new initiative that funds community organizations in Eastern Massachusetts to support youth in their full potential as health educators, health navigators, future health care professionals, and community health advocates.

In Lawrence, health is shaped by social and economic factors such as housing security, employment, educational opportunities, community safety, access to healthy foods, access to medical and behavioral health services, and access to recreation and open space. LCW has been actively working in the community for the past 30 years as a nonprofit community development corporation driven by a fierce belief in the people and potential of Lawrence. LCW’s mission is the sustained revitalization of Lawrence through

coordinated investments in the people, places, and systems of the city. LCW dedicates substantial resources to community organizing and social capital creation among both residents and institutions locally; operates programs in family asset building, workforce development, and youth development; and practices neighborhood-based planning and real estate development (both residential and commercial) to promote equity, affordability, and progress in the city.

In partnership with the Atrius Health Equity Foundation, LCW and its partners conducted a community design session that engaged 13 youth and 7 adults who interviewed 93 of their peers to inform program needs. The sessions highlighted the need for open conversations about mental health, and the invaluable role of youth in serving as community leaders to address enduring stigmas and challenges around mental health. Community members affirmed collaborative approaches to demystify and educate about mental health, amplify access to mental health resources, and provide leadership opportunities for youth to inspire them to consider careers within this area of work. The data clearly outlined the needs of the community and provided the partner organizations with the following program guidelines:

- Generate an Ecosystem that supports Youth Mental Health and Family Wellness
- Foster Youth Social Connectedness, Empowerment, and Leadership Development
- Create Economic Mobility and Health Employer Efficacy through Youth Career and Workforce Development
- Build a Healthy Family Neighborhood through Targeted Intervention and Place-Making

“This partnership draws on 15 years of work together that have built a strong

culture of collaboration, trust, and joint progress towards common goals,” said LCW Executive Director Jessica Andors. “We have come together as partners and neighbors with a strong interest in deeply impacting equity and social determinants of health for families in this central, densely populated, emerging neighborhood. With this grant, we’re eager to continue centering youth voices and perspectives in building local health solutions that respond to our community’s needs and produce equitable health outcomes for all.”

One Design Team parent member said, “This generation of youth are going to make changes that in my own wildest dreams I couldn’t have imagined—and it starts with groups like this. Having these intergenerational sessions can educate parents and transform our children.”

Established in 2022 as an independent organization, the Atrius Health Equity Foundation carries forward Atrius Health’s historic focus on improving health outcomes for all. The Atrius Health Equity Foundation aims to close life expectancy gaps across Eastern Massachusetts by offering funding responsive to community priorities and that centers community leadership and collaboration.

“The Atrius Health Equity Foundation heard directly from community leaders in 2023 that economic mobility, educational opportunity, and youth as a population of focus are important to close the life expectancy gap. As a result of this community engagement and the Foundation’s belief that we must all come together to ensure

everyone in Eastern Massachusetts lives a longer, healthier life, we created the Youth as Health Care Change Agents grant program,” said Dr. Ann Hwang, President of the Atrius Health Equity Foundation. “These efforts recognize organizations for their deep roots in the communities served and collaborative approach, and drive forward our vision for youth as powerful agents of change.”

Lawrence CommunityWorks is among eight awardees selected through a highly competitive and rigorous selection process shaped by community input. View the full list of awardees and learn more about Youth Change Agents at <https://www.atriusfoundation.org/youthchange>. More information about the work underway at Lawrence CommunityWorks can be found at <https://www.lawrencecommunityworks.org/>.

About the Atrius Health Equity Foundation

Established in 2022 as an independent organization, the Atrius Health Equity Foundation carries forward Atrius Health’s historic focus on improving health outcomes for all. The Foundation’s grantmaking emphasizes collaboration and community leadership and seeks to achieve lasting impact by transforming systems to promote health equity, with the ultimate goal of creating a future where everyone in Eastern Massachusetts lives a longer, healthier life. More information about the Foundation’s work can be found at www.atriusfoundation.org.



House of Mercy focuses on the physical, mental, and most importantly, spiritual rehabilitation of every person that comes seeking help in our organization. We are a place of rest for souls feeling lost and rejected today. Our mission is to reestablish and to raise lives according to the commands and principles of The Bible, and the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

House of Mercy is in need of underwares for men and women. If you are interested in making a donation, Rumbo recommends ordering from Bags in Bulk.

Check out their webpage for selections where you can buy assorted sizes in bundles of 50 for a very low price.

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Tel: (978) 655-8141 / Fax: (978) 655-5391
<https://www.houseofmercylawrence.com/give-help>



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YOU ARE INVITED TO

Tres Sueños Morados Foundation
1st Annual Fundraiser

“Community building community”

SATURDAY
AUGUST 10 AT 3PM - 7PM

THE VAULT FUNCTION HALL, 238 ESSEX ST,
LAWRENCE, MA 01840

RAFFLE
TO BE DRAWN AT THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

HER WELLNESS STUDIO Location: Lawrence, MA	KRATOS STUDIOS Location: Salem, NH
USCROUS SMOOTHIE & JUICE BAR Location: Lawrence, MA	LA GREEKA CAFE & ART Location: Lawrence, MA

\$25 ADMISSION FEE. PURCHASE TICKETS AT bit.ly/1tsevent

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Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's luncheon with State Representatives



Chamber President Joe Bevilacqua presents House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz with Certificate of appreciation for speaking at Chamber luncheon

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Business Networking Mixer at Pica's Deli & Ice Cream!



Monday, August 5th, 2024
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Location: Pica's Deli & Ice Cream
18 Ayers Village Rd
Methuen, MA 01844



Attend a MVCC Mixer and Enjoy:



- ★ Business Connections and Networking!
- ★ Complimentary Appetizers and Wine!
- ★ Business Card Drawing for Door Prizes!
- ★ Bring a Prize for the Door Prize Raffle!

Pre-register and bring a Potential New Member for FREE!
When they join, you get a Free \$50 Restaurant Card courtesy of the MVCC!
Contact the MVCC for Sponsorship Opportunities of this Event!

Merrimack Valley Chamber NEXT GENERATION LEADERS



NGL NETWORKING MIXER

Young People in Business

Monday, August 12th, 2024

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

LOBBY BAR COURTYARD

Outdoor Patio at the DoubleTree by Hilton

123 Old River Road -- Andover, MA 01810

Featuring Complimentary Food and Cash bar

Thank You to Program Sponsor: TD Bank

WHY: Join other Young People in Business throughout the Merrimack Valley for an Evening of Networking. Enjoy a great evening on the patio, while enjoying Food, making New Contacts, Having Fun and Growing Your Business!

LIKE us on Facebook Join MVCC LinkedIn Follow us on X Instagram

MVCC Members \$10.00 DoubleTree 8/12/24 Future Members \$20.00

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Presents NETWORKING AT NOON LUNCHEON AT CHINA BLOSSOM!

Open to ALL Chamber Members!



Tuesday, August 13th, 2024

12 Noon -1:15 PM

China Blossom Restaurant & Lounge
946 Osgood St. (Rte. 125)
North Andover, MA 01845

Includes China Blossom Luncheon Buffet, Soft Drinks and Cash Bar!

Have your staff luncheon with MVCC @ China Blossom!

Thank you to our Sponsor: A.P. Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.

LIKE us on Facebook Join MVCC LinkedIn Follow us on Twitter Instagram

MVCC Members ONLY \$29.00 China Blossom 8/13/24 Future Members \$39.00

Mayor Brian A. DePeña

Invites the community to
National Night Out
Tuesday, August 6, 2024
Starting at 5:00PM

This annual community-building campaign promotes law enforcement-community partnership.
COME UNITE AND GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY!

MAYOR'S MOTORCADE WILL LEAVE CITY HALL AT 5 PM AND WILL STOP AT

- 01** 168 Newbury St, Lawrence, MA 01841
District A & B
- 02** Reservoir Park 349 Ames St, Lawrence, MA 01841
District C & D
- 03** 29 Durso Ave, Lawrence, MA 01843
District F
- 04** Mt Vernon Park, Lawrence, MA 01843
District E

Foster MA

Cada padre hace una diferencia

dcf MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF Children & Families

Foster MA

Cada padre crea una diferencia

Sea la diferencia en la vida de un niño

Un hogar estable y cariñoso es importante para todos los niños, especialmente los que podrían haber enfrentado la negligencia o el trauma. En cualquier momento, hay entre 5,000 y 9,000 niños en el cuidado de crianza en Massachusetts, que representan todas las edades, grupos étnicos y niveles económicos. Los padres de crianza en todo Massachusetts brindan hogares seguros y cariñosos en un momento crítico en la vida de los niños.

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

dcf MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF Children & Families
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Año escolar **24-25**

K-8 WALK-INS SUMMER REGISTRATION

inscripción sin cita **DE VERANO**

Lawrence High School (70-71 N. Parish Road)
Escuela Superior de Lawrence (70-71 N. Parish Rd)

Enrollment complete before August 15 will have the chance to participate in the draw of a \$100 gift card
La inscripción completa antes del 15 de agosto tendrá la oportunidad de participar en el sorteo de una tarjeta de regalo de \$100.

TUESDAYS MARTES	July 30 30 de Julio	August 6, 13, 20 6, 12, 20 de Agosto	9 AM - 3 PM
THURSDAY JUEVES	August 1, 8, 15, 22 1, 8, 15, 22 de Agosto		12 PM - 7 PM

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by appointment only at FRC / 237 Essex St, 4FL, Lawrence, MA
Lunes, Miércoles, y Viernes con cita solamente en el FRC / 237 Calle Essex, 4 piso, Lawrence, MA

GREENWAY 5K RUN/WALK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

MANCHESTER ST. PARK

9:00 AM

SCHEDULE
REGISTRATION 7:30-8:30 AM
5K RUN/WALK 9:00-10:30 AM

COURSE
BEGINS AT MANCHESTER ST. PARK LAWRENCE
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FINISH

Los periódicos son para el cuerpo político lo que las arterias son para el cuerpo humano, siendo su función llevar sangre, sustento y reparación a cada parte del cuerpo."

"Newspapers are to the body politic what arteries are to the human body, their function being to carry blood and sustenance and repair to every part of the body."

Henry Ward Beecher