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The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley



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Relaciones creativas  
Creative Relationships

Por/By Dr. Tomas Núñez

Pg. 10

## MVCC networking Breakfast at Spark Fitness at Riverwalk!



Wow, what a morning and an amazing way to start the day at the Merrimack Valley Chamber Networking Breakfast at Spark Fitness at Riverwalk!

Attendees had a fantastic time making new business connections while enjoying a delicious homemade breakfast and refreshing smoothies from ULicious.

(See page 3 for more pictures.)

## Salvando vidas, una noche a la vez: el protocolo de invierno de Lazarus House Ministries sigue marcando la diferencia



Evelyn Cheney, trabajadora de extensión de recursos comunitarios, se prepara para recibir a los huéspedes.

Community Resources Outreach Worker Evelyn Cheney prepares to receive guests.  
(Read it in English on page 3)

A medida que las temperaturas caen a mínimos peligrosos este invierno, Lazarus House Ministries se compromete a garantizar que nadie se quede afuera en el frío. Es nuestra responsabilidad compartida unirnos por nuestra comunidad. Nuestro programa Winter Protocol, un refugio de emergencia de 20 camas, abre en las noches más frías del año para brindar calidez, atención y seguridad esenciales a las personas sin hogar.

Fundado hace más de 10 años en respuesta a la trágica falta de recursos locales disponibles, el programa Winter Protocol continúa honrando su misión al ofrecer comidas calientes, catres cómodos, espacios con calefacción, mantas cálidas y acceso a duchas y artículos de cuidado personal.

La directora ejecutiva Carmen H. Vega enfatizó la importancia de esta iniciativa: "Esto es una iniciativa emergente. Cuando las temperaturas son gélidas y nuestra comunidad nos necesita, abrimos nuestras puertas con mantas cálidas, comida y refugio. Nunca queremos escuchar que alguien falleció por el frío".

Este programa que salva vidas es posible gracias a la dedicación de nuestros

donantes, voluntarios y socios comunitarios. Su apoyo nos permite continuar con este trabajo y garantizar que todos los que cruzan nuestras puertas se encuentren con amor, esperanza y servicio.

Nuestro Ministerio está dedicado a servir a personas y familias que experimentan falta de vivienda, inseguridad alimentaria y necesidades de vestimenta. Atendemos a más de 30,000 Huéspedes el año pasado brindándoles acceso a servicios vitales como alimentos complementarios, ropa, artículos de cuidado personal y refugio si es necesario. Más allá de estas necesidades esenciales, brindamos apoyo y conectamos a nuestros Huéspedes con recursos que pueden marcar una diferencia duradera. Sobre todo, tratamos a todos con dignidad y respeto, empoderando a aquellos a quienes servimos para que tomen medidas para seguir adelante con esperanza.

Durante más de 41 años, hemos tenido la suerte de contar con donantes leales, socios y voluntarios como ustedes, que nos permiten servir a todos los que cruzan nuestras puertas. No podemos hacer esto sin ustedes. Gracias.

Para obtener más información, visite <https://lazarushouse.org/>

"La forma más baja de cultura popular (falta de información, desinformación, mala información y desprecio por la verdad o la realidad de la vida de la mayoría de las personas) ha invadido el periodismo real. Hoy en día, los estadounidenses comunes y corrientes están siendo atiborrados de basura".

"The lowest form of popular culture (lack of information, misinformation, disinformation, and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people's lives) has overrun real journalism. Today, ordinary Americans are being stuffed with garbage."

Carl Bernstein



Essex County Habitat for Humanity ha construido más de 100 viviendas asequibles para familias en Lawrence y Merrimack Valley. ¡Habitat ReStore ayuda a financiarlos!



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Por/By Dalia Diaz  
[rumbonews.com/blogs](http://rumbonews.com/blogs)

Desde Mi Esquina

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From My Corner

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Committee to select  
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# Selección del jefe de policía permanente

## El alcalde DePeña anuncia los miembros del comité de búsqueda para el puesto

Proceso exhaustivo y transparente para garantizar el liderazgo del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence para la primavera de 2025

Para abordar con éxito los desafíos de seguridad pública de Lawrence, incluido el tráfico de drogas, el tráfico sexual, la violencia de pandillas y las preocupaciones relacionadas con las personas sin hogar, el Alcalde Brian A. DePeña anunció hoy los siete miembros del comité de búsqueda encargado de seleccionar al próximo Jefe de Policía para este Departamento en la Ciudad de Lawrence.

"Nuestros residentes de Lawrence merecen un líder fuerte y eficaz para su departamento de policía", dijo el Alcalde DePeña. "El comité de búsqueda garantizará un proceso justo y participativo, que dará como resultado un jefe de policía permanente que garantizará la seguridad de los residentes de Lawrence y podrá unificar y restaurar la credibilidad dentro del departamento".

En julio de 2024, la ciudad contrató a MGT Consulting Group para que liderara las fases iniciales del proceso de reclutamiento y postulación y anunció que en agosto se

formaría un comité de búsqueda de siete miembros. El puesto se publicó oficialmente el 8 de noviembre, con una fecha límite para la presentación de solicitudes el 27 de diciembre. De un grupo inicial de 41 postulantes, MGT identificó a 15 candidatos altamente calificados. El comité de búsqueda evaluará ahora a estos candidatos, realizará entrevistas a los finalistas y proporcionará al alcalde una lista clasificada de recomendaciones. Después de estas entrevistas, el alcalde seleccionará un candidato final para presentarlo al ayuntamiento para su aprobación.

Los miembros del comité de búsqueda anunciados hoy son:

Nombramientos del alcalde:

1. Daniel Guzmán
2. Milagros Grullón
3. Frankie Caraballo
4. Michael Laird
5. Dalia Diaz

6. Avellana Ferreira

Nombramiento del Concejo Municipal:

7. Concejal Stefany Infante

Además del comité de siete miembros, Susan Almonó actuará como suplente en caso de conflictos de programación individuales.

Encontrar y examinar a un jefe de policía permanente es de suma importancia para el Alcalde DePeña, más aún después de la investigación interna en curso en el LPD de los últimos años. Después de un informe independiente, realizado por Investigaciones y Consultoría Integral (CIC), relacionado con violaciones de pólizas. Esta investigación mostró preocupación por la posibilidad de que la investigación tuviera fallas, lo que llevó a una segunda investigación, después de que se descubrieran mensajes de textos, y correos electrónicos que "parecían ser motivo de gran preocupación y justificaban

un examen más profundo".

La segunda investigación, realizada por Maverick Investigative Services y RCB & Associates (Maverick), afirmó la integridad del informe de CIC, pero también identificó "errores de procedimiento significativos, fallas de comunicación y falta de conocimiento de procedimiento" tanto en la investigación de CIC como en el LPD. Ambos informes destacan la necesidad de mejorar la comunicación, la estabilidad y la rendición de cuentas en el departamento de policía. Subrayan además la importancia de seleccionar un jefe de policía permanente a través de un proceso claro y participativo.

La Ciudad de Lawrence se compromete a garantizar que esta búsqueda dé como resultado un líder que encarne los valores fundamentales del Departamento de Policía, al mismo tiempo que mejore la eficacia y la comunicación y aporte estabilidad al departamento. El alcalde confía que el ayuntamiento apruebe un nuevo jefe a principios de la primavera.

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## Selection of a Permanent Police Chief

### Mayor DePeña Announces Search Committee Members for a Thorough and Transparent Process to Ensure Leadership for the Lawrence Police Department by Spring 2025

To successfully tackle Lawrence's public safety challenges, including drug trafficking, sex trafficking, gang violence, and concerns related to homelessness, Mayor Brian A. DePeña today announced the seven members of the search committee charged with selecting the next Chief of Police for the Lawrence Police Department.

"The people of Lawrence deserve a strong, effective leader for their police department," said Mayor DePeña. "The search committee will ensure a fair and participatory process, resulting in a permanent police chief who will ensure the safety of Lawrence residents and be able to unify and restore credibility within the department."

In July 2024, the city enlisted MGT Consulting Group to lead the initial phases of the recruitment and application process and announced that a seven-member search committee would be formed in August. The position was officially posted on November 8, with a December 27 deadline for submissions. From an initial pool of 41 applicants, MGT identified 15 highly qualified candidates. The search committee will now evaluate these candidates, conduct finalist interviews, and provide the Mayor with a ranked list of recommendations. Following these interviews, the Mayor will select a final candidate to present to the City Council for approval.

The search committee members announced today are:

Mayor's Appointments:

1. Daniel Guzman
2. Milagros Grullon
3. Frankie Caraballo
4. Michael Laird
5. Dalia Diaz
6. Filbert Ferreira

City Council Appointment:

7. Councilor Stefany Infante

In addition to the seven-member committee, Susan Almonó will serve as an alternate in the event of individual scheduling conflicts.

Finding and vetting a permanent police chief is of the utmost importance to Mayor DePeña after the ongoing internal LPD turmoil over the past years. After an independent report – conducted by Comprehensive Investigations and Consulting (CIC) – relates to policy violations. This investigation showed concern that the investigation was flawed, leading to a second investigation, after text messages, and emails were discovered that "appeared to be of significant concern and warranted further examination."

The second investigation – conducted by Maverick Investigative Services and RCB & Associates (Maverick) – affirmed the integrity of the CIC report but also identified "Significant Procedural Missteps, Communication Breakdowns and Lack of Procedural Knowledge" in both the CIC investigation and the LPD. Both reports highlight the need for improved communication, stability, and accountability in the Lawrence Police Department. They further underscore the importance of selecting a permanent police chief through a clear and participatory process.

The City of Lawrence is committed to ensuring that this search results in a leader who embodies the LPD's core values, while also enhancing effectiveness, communication, and brings stability within the department. The Mayor aims to have a new chief approved by the City Council by early spring.



# Rumbo

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DIRECTOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Dalia Diaz

daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

SALES & CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Alberto M. Suris

albertosuris@rumbonews.com

Publicación de SUDA, Inc.

315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843-3206

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# Saving lives, one night at a time: Lazarus House Ministries' winter protocol continues to make a difference

As temperatures drop to dangerous lows this winter, Lazarus House Ministries is committed to ensuring no one is left out in the cold. It is our shared responsibility to come together for our community. Our Winter Protocol program, a 20-bed emergency shelter, opens on the coldest nights of the year to provide essential warmth, care, and safety to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Founded over 10 years ago in response to the tragic lack of local resources available, the Winter Protocol program continues to honor its mission by offering hot meals, comfortable cots, heated spaces, warm blankets and access to showers and personal care items.

Executive Director Carmen H. Vega emphasized the importance of this initiative: "This is a pop-up. When the temperatures are freezing and our community needs us, we open our doors with warm blankets, food, and shelter. We never want to hear that someone passed because of the cold."

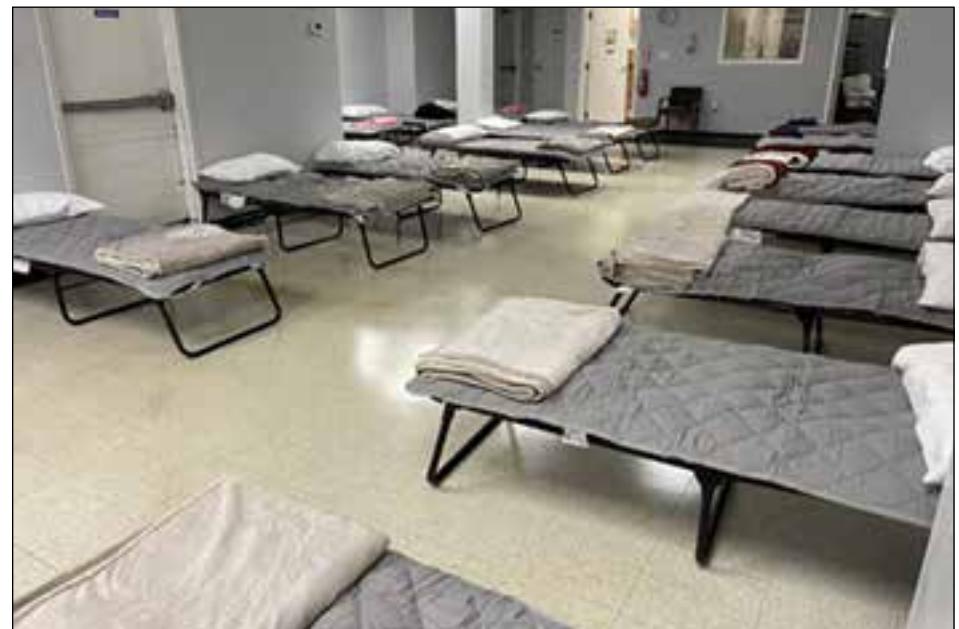
This lifesaving program is made possible through the dedication of our

donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your support allows us to continue this work and ensure everyone who walks through our doors is met with love, hope and service.

Our Ministry is dedicated to serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and clothing needs. We served over 30,000 Guests this past year by providing them access to vital services like supplemental groceries, clothing, personal care items, and shelter if need be. Beyond these essential needs, we provide advocacy and connect our Guest to resources that can make a lasting difference. Above all, we treat everyone with dignity and respect, empowering those we serve to take steps to move forward with hope.

For over 41 years, we have been blessed with loyal donors, partnerships and volunteers like yourselves who enable us to serve everyone who walks through our doors. We cannot do this without you. Thank You.

For more information, please visit <https://lazarushouse.org/>



Our Winter Protocol program, a 20-bed emergency shelter, opens on the coldest nights of the year to provide essential warmth, care, and safety to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Nuestro programa de Protocolo de Invierno, un refugio de emergencia con 20 camas, abre en las noches más frías del año para brindar calidez, atención y seguridad esenciales a las personas sin hogar.



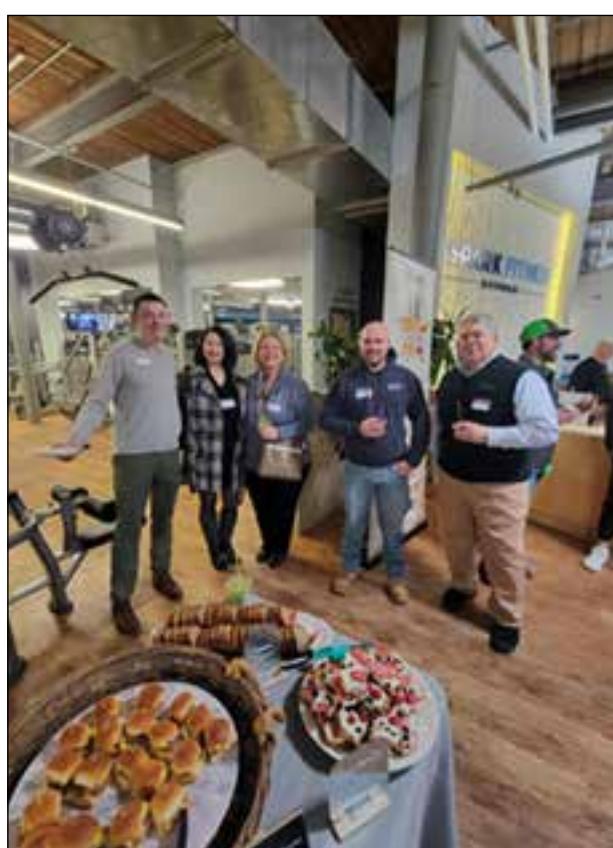
Warm soup and healthy fruit ready for our guests.

Sopa caliente y fruta sana lista para nuestros huéspedes.



Wow, what a morning and an amazing way to start the day at the Merrimack Valley Chamber Networking Breakfast at Spark Fitness at Riverwalk!

Attendees had a fantastic time making new



business connections while enjoying a delicious homemade breakfast and refreshing smoothies from ULicious.



## Merrimack Valley Chamber Networking Breakfast at Spark Fitness at Riverwalk!

**POR DALIA DÍAZ**  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

# Desde Mi Esquina

## Nueva directora interina de personal

El 21 de enero de 2025, el alcalde Brian DePeña nombró a Caryl García, quien ha sido asistente del abogado municipal en el ayuntamiento, como directora interina de personal. Investigué un poco para averiguar quién es y sus calificaciones, y todo lo que encontré fueron más controversias.

Tiene una oficina en el 60 de Island St., Lawrence. Hay diez reseñas y, a excepción de una que afirma que "me ayudó con la compra de mi casa", el resto solo hace referencia a que es una "persona muy agradable", que "me explicó todo con mucho cuidado", etc. Nadie hizo ninguna referencia al tipo de derecho que ejerce.

Más tarde, me enteré de que la oficina del fiscal de la ciudad la había contratado para manejar los próximos asuntos legales relacionados con la vivienda.

Cuando se les preguntó a las autoridades por qué no se publicó la posición de la directora de personal en el sitio web de la ciudad, la respuesta fue que el problema con el exdirector Michael Owens no se había resuelto y por lo pronto no pueden anunciarlo. ¿Eso significa que podemos tener una directora de personal "interina" durante bastante tiempo? Pensé que Owens se había ido.

La abogada García ya se presentó ante el concejo municipal esta semana. No dijo mucho porque es muy nueva en ese puesto, pero tampoco escuché a ningún concejal quejarse de que su contrato como "interina" lo firmó solo el alcalde, lo que lo convierte en un contrato ilegal porque el abogado de la ciudad no lo firmó, como afirmaron con William Castro.

Eso me lleva al ex alcalde Dan Rivera cuando firmó el contrato de Roy Vasque como jefe de policía "interino" sin la firma del abogado de la ciudad. Nadie dijo que fuera ilegal.

No escuché quejas cuando el alcalde DePeña nombró a William Castro como jefe de policía "provisional" el 12 de enero de 2024. Esa carta fue firmada solo por el alcalde.

O, más recientemente, Melix Bonilla como jefe de policía "interino".

La semana pasada, me referí a las personas que no pueden leer porque leen palabras, pero carecen de comprensión de lectura. Lea lo anterior con atención y se dará cuenta de que no estoy excusando al alcalde DePeña ni favoreciendo a William Castro. Esto es simplemente una exposición de la hipocresía y la ignorancia que nos impiden abordar lo que importa.

Ante todo, esto garantiza que seleccionemos a personas inteligentes para que sean candidatos a las elecciones. Es posible que puedan hacer preguntas (escritas para que las repitan como un loto) durante una reunión. Pero ¿son lo suficientemente inteligentes como para que se confie en su toma de decisiones que afectan a esta comunidad?

## Lista de ciudadanos para entrevistar a candidatos a jefe de policía

Sí, me ofrecí como voluntaria hace mucho tiempo para estar en la lista. Ahora,



**CARTAS AL EDITOR**  
**RUMBO**  
315 Mt. Vernon St.  
Lawrence MA 01843  
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

Al igual que Jonathan Guzmán, como miembros del Comité Escolar, hacen mucho ruido en Facebook pero, aparentemente, no desean compartir su batalla con nadie más. Jonathan envía avisos de reuniones, pero nunca tiene información para compartir con el público a través de los medios de comunicación – o al menos, Rumbo.

Hace aproximadamente un año, fui a la oficina del alcalde, y cuando la recepcionista le dije que estaba allí, me pidió que entrara.

Estaba reunido con los miembros de los capellanes federales de Estados Unidos y me los presentó. Mencioné mi deseo de entrevistarlos sobre el trabajo que realizan en esta ciudad cuando Lenin Roa saltó y me dijo que me contactaría para planificarlo. Nunca más supe de él.

Rumbo fue creado hace casi 29 años para informar, defender y educar a nuestra comunidad. ¿Qué podría ser mejor que usarnos para promover el buen trabajo que hacen? ¡Estamos de su lado! Estamos luchando por las mismas cosas: "transparencia y rendición de cuentas al usar los recursos de nuestra comunidad".

No se preocupe por mí; no le robaré su crédito.

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

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

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**STAR**  
BRAK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Advocates**  
Caring Partners. Creative Solutions. Better Lives.

**Feria de Recursos**

**Ama a tu comunidad!**

**Febrero 12th**

**4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**En el Gimnasio de la Escuela Oliver**

**301 Haverhill St. Lawrence - Entrada por White St**

**Proveedores Locales**  
• Rifas  
• Comida  
• Recursos de la Comunidad  
• Ideal para familias

**Presentado Por:**

**JEANNE GEIGER CRISIS CENTER**

**CHILDREN'S FRIEND & FAMILY SERVICES**  
A Division of AAFS

**Northeast Family Services**  
NHL 5-HA-HD-BI-01

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## Políticos locales

Si va a mi página de Facebook, verá muchos chistes y animales porque son mejores que la mayoría de las personas, junto con anuncios comunitarios y cosas para beneficiar a nuestras comunidades circundantes.

Siento un gran desagrado por las redes sociales porque están pobladas en gran parte por personas mal intencionadas y mayormente desinformadas, lo que hace

# CGDC Announces Groundbreaking Ceremony at Dracut's New Affordable Senior Housing

In celebration of Dracut's commitment to affordable housing, Common Ground Development Corporation, the affordable housing development arm of Community Teamwork, will hold a Groundbreaking ceremony at the new Greenmont Senior Housing location at 1530 Bridge Street, Dracut, on Tuesday, February 4th, 2025, at 10:30am. (In the event of inclement weather, the event will take place at the same time on Friday, February 7th).

Greenmont Senior Housing consists of a 3-story building with fifty-six 1-bedroom rental units. It will provide safe, affordable, and accessible housing for seniors and persons with disabilities. The main entrance includes a management office, mailroom located near the entrance, and a large lobby/waiting area. In addition to residential units, the building provides community rooms, shared laundry on each floor and tenant storage. The site also includes outdoor seating areas, walkways, and a fenced-in pet area. The property provides seventy-seven parking spaces for residents and guests. All fifty-six units will be affordable and available to tenants with incomes under 60% of the area wide median income therefore qualifying under the provisions of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (IRC, Section 42).

Common Ground Development Corporation is also committed to providing additional tenant services which will provide Residents the ability to age in place. Services will be available from Peabody Properties, AgeSpan (formerly Merrimack Valley Elder Services), Community Teamwork Inc., and the Dracut Council on Aging, and will include a Residential Service Coordinator to assist Residents with access to medical, transportation and other service needs.

"We are excited to be working with all of our partners, and especially the Town of Dracut, to bring much needed and long-awaited affordable housing for seniors living in Dracut.", said Rachelle Bartolotta, Director of Common Ground Development Corporation.

Funding for this project is being provided by Boston Financial, Citizens Bank, MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Community Economic Development and Assistance

Corporation, Massachusetts Housing Partnership and the Town of Dracut. Common Ground is working with BWA Architects and Consigli Construction on the project. All involved are committed to building green and complying with Energy Star Homes Program and LEED Status.

## About Common Ground Development Corporation

With the entire region facing a severe crisis in housing supply, Common Ground Development Corporation (CGDC) was created as a non-profit subsidiary of Community Teamwork to produce more housing for home-buyers and tenants, and to preserve existing apartments at affordable rent levels. Common Ground's mandate is to work cooperatively with the cities and towns throughout the Merrimack Valley and North Shore to address this acute need. New units are being created through rehabilitation of distressed buildings and through new construction. Existing apartments are being preserved at affordable rent levels through the acquisition and maintenance program. Common Ground Development - Community Teamwork

## About Community Teamwork

Established in 1965, Community Teamwork is a non-profit Community Action Agency (CAA) serving more than 55,000 individuals and families in the City of Lowell and the seven surrounding towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro, and Westford. Community Teamwork also serves as a Community Development Corporation and as the Regional Housing Agency for the Merrimack Valley and the rest of the Northeastern Massachusetts, including 72 cities and towns inclusive of the North Shore and Cape Ann. Community Teamwork is a catalyst for social change. We strengthen communities and reduce poverty by delivering vital services and collaborating with key stakeholders to create housing, education and economic opportunities. Our vision is a community whose institutions, systems, and people support everyone's opportunity to thrive. Community Teamwork | Greater Lowell's Community Action Agency

## Women Working Wonders Awards \$10,000 in Mini Grants for 2025

Lowell, MA – The Women Working Wonders Fund, a permanently endowed fund of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, is pleased to announce the awarding of \$10,000 in mini grants to deserving nonprofits impacting the lives of women and girls in Greater Lowell.

Through these mini grants, as well as our annual summer grant cycle, Women Working Wonders fulfills our mission to empower women and girls by providing vital funding to the frontline organizations breaking down barriers and lifting up the women and girls we serve," said Marcia Cassidy, Women Working Wonders Fund board president. "Now more than ever, our philanthropy and commitment are needed in the Greater Lowell community."

The 2025 mini grants, each for \$2,000, were awarded to:

- Alternative House (Lowell): Addressing Food Insecurities with Victims of Domestic

### Violence

- Angkor Dance Troupe (Lowell): Leadership Development through Costuming Workshop
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell: "Making Proud Choices!" Program
- Project Kompass (North Chelmsford): Back to Basics Home Economics Workshops
- The Wish Project (North Chelmsford): Mother's Day Gift Bags for Low-Income Women

Women Working Wonders provides annual grants in three key areas: assisting women in transition, providing leadership development for women and girls, and contributing to the beautification of the environment to benefit women and girls. Founded in 2004, the fund has



**Greenmont Senior Housing**

**Project Background**

**Greenmont Senior Housing** consists of 56 one-bedroom, one-bath rental units for persons aged 62 and older and non-elderly disabled. All 56 units will be affordable and available to households earning 60% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI). This three-story building includes an outdoor seating area, walkways, fenced-in pet area, exercise room, community room, shared laundry on each floor, on-site management, extra storage space, and a large lobby area. Furthermore, Greenmont Senior Housing offers a robust service plan to address the needs of the elderly population provided by Peabody Resident Services.



**Developer:** Common Ground Development Corp. 

**Management Agent:** Peabody Properties



2025 Women Working Wonders mini grant recipient, Angkor Dance Troupe received funding for Leadership Development through Costuming Workshop. An Angkor Dance Troupe dancer performs at GLCF's 2023 Celebrate Giving event.

awarded more than \$524,000 in grants to organizations supporting women and girls in the Greater Lowell area. Learn more at [www.womenworkingwondersfund.com](http://www.womenworkingwondersfund.com).

### About the 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 \$70 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.

# Capacitación de capacitadores: los instructores de la Academia de Policía de NECC están equipados con un plan de estudios de respuesta de "estándar de oro"

Es una situación que nadie espera enfrentar: un atacante está apuntando a un grupo de personas o está entre ellas. Y, sin embargo, es una realidad para miles de personas cada año.

Si se produce una situación de ataque activo, los oficiales que se capacitan en la Academia de Policía NECC estarán equipados con el último método de respuesta llamado ALERRT. El FBI ha considerado a ALERRT, que significa Capacitación avanzada de respuesta rápida para la aplicación de la ley, como el estándar de oro en el plan de estudios de respuesta. El curso está diseñado para mejorar la seguridad y la capacidad de supervivencia de las víctimas de ataques activos/tiradores y aumentar la efectividad, la coordinación y la integración de recursos entre la aplicación de la ley, los bomberos, las telecomunicaciones y los servicios médicos de emergencia.

“La capacitación en respuesta a tiradores activos y eventos hostiles es fundamental para garantizar que los primeros intervinientes estén preparados para actuar de manera decisiva y colaborativa durante emergencias que amenazan la vida”, dijo John J. Mazza, director estatal de respuesta a tiradores activos y eventos hostiles del Comité de capacitación de la policía municipal. “El reciente programa de capacitación de capacitadores de ALERRT es imperativo para implementar el plan de estudios más actualizado y contribuir a la misión de la Commonwealth de promover la preparación de múltiples agencias y la resiliencia comunitaria”.

El Comité de capacitación de la policía municipal (MPTC) llevó a cabo el curso intensivo de capacitación de capacitadores de cuatro días para los instructores de la Academia de políticas de NECC a principios de este mes. El programa incluyó tiempo en el aula durante el día y simulacros de tiroteos extensos por las tardes. El pasillo del primer piso del edificio E en el campus de Haverhill se transformó cuando los oficiales se pusieron equipo de protección y se armaron con pistolas de entrenamiento que disparan balas de fogueo.

En un escenario, los oficiales respondieron a un informe de un robo a mano armada. Al ver a la policía, el atacante disparó a una víctima y luego huyó a una habitación llena de gente. Los oficiales tuvieron que identificar y desarmar al tirador rápidamente, asegurar la habitación y clasificar a la víctima. Otra simulación involucró a un tirador que intentó mezclarse con los transeúntes que huían y un oficial vestido de civil que resultó herido. Los oficiales que respondieron usaron su entrenamiento para comunicarse rápida y claramente para identificar quién era la



amenaza.

Los oficiales estudiantes de la 5ta Clase de Oficiales Reclutas de la Academia de Policía MPTC-NECC (ROC-05) que se graduaron en la primavera de 2024 fueron los primeros en recibir la capacitación ALERRT. El evento Train the Trainer de este mes garantiza que la academia tenga un grupo profundo de instructores ALERRT para las clases actuales y futuras. Los capacitadores en el evento fueron agentes del orden público de ciudades, pueblos y condados locales. El grupo también incluía a varios agentes del FBI.

ALERRT se creó en 2002 como una asociación entre la Universidad Estatal de Texas y las fuerzas del orden estatales y locales de Texas. ALERRT tiene un departamento de investigación de justicia penal que trabaja continuamente para evaluar y mejorar la comprensión general de los eventos de tiradores activos y ayudar a mejorar las mejores prácticas de las fuerzas del orden. En 2013, ALERRT en Texas State fue nombrado el Estándar Nacional en Capacitación de Respuesta a Tiradores Activos por el FBI. Desde entonces, se ha implementado a nivel nacional y el plan de estudios de ALERRT ha sido adoptado por numerosos estados y agencias. Todos los oficiales estudiantes que asistan a una Academia de Policía de MPTC en Massachusetts recibirán capacitación de ALERRT.

La Academia de Policía MPTC-NECC ofrece a los oficiales estudiantes más de 800 horas de capacitación intensiva para prepararlos para servir como oficiales de tiempo completo en municipios y agencias policiales en todo el estado. Además de la capacitación ALERRT, el plan de estudios del Curso de Oficiales Reclutas (ROC) de MPTC incluye capacitación en

desescalada basada en nuevas políticas y regulaciones de uso de la fuerza. Los oficiales estudiantes también reciben capacitación uniforme basada en las mejores prácticas relacionadas con las necesidades esenciales de la policía moderna, incluidas habilidades de comunicación efectivas,

respuesta a incidentes centrada en las víctimas e informada sobre el trauma, investigaciones de personas desaparecidas y trata de personas, respuesta a emergencias relacionadas con la salud mental, deberes de patrullaje y seguridad y bienestar de los oficiales.

## Training the Trainers: NECC Police Academy Instructors Equipped with "Gold Standard" Response Curriculum

It's a situation no one hopes to face: an attacker is targeting or among a group of people. And yet, it's a reality for thousands of people each year.

Should an active attacker situation happen, officers who train at the NECC Police Academy will be equipped with the latest response method called ALERRT. The FBI has deemed ALERRT—which stands for Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training—the gold standard in response curriculum. The course is designed to improve the safety and survivability of victims of active attack/shooter events and increase the effectiveness, coordination, and resource integration between law enforcement, fire, telecommunication, and EMS.

“Active Shooter and Hostile Event Response training is critical to ensuring first responders are prepared to act decisively and collaboratively during life-threatening emergencies,” said Municipal Police Training Committee Statewide Director of Active Shooter Hostile Event Response John J. Mazza. “The recent ALERRT train-the-trainer program is imperative in rolling out the most up-to-date curriculum and contributing to the Commonwealth’s mission to advance multi-agency preparedness and community resilience.”

The Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) held the four-day intensive Train the Trainer course for NECC Policy Academy instructors earlier this month. The program included classroom time during the day and extensive simulated shooting drills in the evenings. The hallway of the first floor of the E Building on the Haverhill Campus transformed as officers donned protective gear and armed themselves with training guns that shoot blanks.

In one scenario, officers responded to a report of an armed robbery. Upon seeing the police, the attacker shot one victim and then fled into a crowded room. Officers had to identify and disarm the shooter quickly, secure the room, and triage the victim. Another simulation involved a shooter who attempted to blend in with fleeing bystanders and a plain-clothed officer who was injured. Responding officers used their training to communicate quickly and clearly to identify who was the threat.

Student officers of the MPTC-NECC Police Academy 5th Recruit Officer Class (ROC-05) who graduated in the spring of 2024 were the first to receive the ALERRT training. This month's Train the Trainer



event ensures the academy has a deep pool of ALERRT instructors for current and future classes. Trainers at the event were law enforcement officers from local cities, towns, and counties. The group also included several FBI agents.

ALERRT was created in 2002 as a partnership between Texas State University and Texas state and local law enforcement. ALERRT has a criminal justice research department that works continuously to evaluate and enhance the overall understanding of active shooter events and assist in improving law enforcement best practices. In 2013, ALERRT at Texas State was named the National Standard in Active Shooter Response Training by the FBI. Since then, it has been rolled out nationally, and the ALERRT curriculum has been adopted by numerous states and agencies. All student officers who attend an MPTC Police Academy in Massachusetts will receive ALERRT training.

The MPTC-NECC Police Academy provides student officers with over 800 hours of intensive training to prepare them to serve as full-time officers in municipalities and police agencies across the state. In addition to the ALERRT training, the MPTC Recruit Officer Course (ROC) curriculum includes de-escalation training based on new use-of-force policies and regulations. Student officers also receive uniform training based on best practices related to essential modern-day policing needs, including effective communication skills, victim-centered and trauma-informed incident response, missing persons and human trafficking investigations, mental health-related emergency response, patrol duties, and officer safety and wellness.

## The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

The former Asian Center at 439 South Union St., building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843 is enrolling students for an intensive ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

The classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays either from 9 AM to 11:30 AM or 6 PM to 8:30 PM.

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

# IRS y socios nacionales lanzan Día de Concienciación del EITC en 50 aniversario del Crédito tributario por ingreso del trabajo

## El EITC ha ayudado a familias trabajadoras de Estados Unidos desde 1975

**WASHINGTON**—El Servicio de Impuestos Internos y socios de todo el país celebraron hoy el 50 aniversario del Crédito tributario por ingreso del trabajo (EITC, por sus siglas en inglés) (en inglés) con el lanzamiento de la campaña del Día de Concienciación del EITC de este año.

La campaña anual, ahora en su 19no año, ayuda a aumentar la conciencia entre los millones de estadounidenses trabajadores con ingresos bajos a moderados que son elegibles para el EITC. El IRS estima que aproximadamente uno de cada cinco contribuyentes elegibles no reclama este valioso crédito.

El EITC se firmó en ley el 29 de marzo de 1975. A través de numerosos cambios legislativos, esta ayuda tributaria ha ayudado a fomentar el trabajo y a sacar a muchas familias con dificultades financieras de la pobreza.

A partir de diciembre de 2024, aproximadamente 23 millones de trabajadores y familias habían recibido alrededor de \$64 mil millones en total del EITC, según estadísticas del IRS (en inglés). En promedio, los contribuyentes recibieron \$2,743 del crédito en el año tributario 2023.

Durante los últimos 19 años, el IRS ha invitado a organizaciones comunitarias, funcionarios electos, gobiernos estatales y locales, escuelas, empleadores y otras partes interesadas a unirse a este esfuerzo nacional para ayudar a alcanzar a los trabajadores elegibles para el crédito. El IRS ofrece un conjunto de herramientas de redes sociales (en inglés) en línea con muestras de texto y gráficos descargables para ayudar a correr la voz del EITC.

### ¿Quién es elegible para reclamar el EITC?

Los trabajadores pueden usar el Asistente EITC, una herramienta en línea, para verificar su elegibilidad, la cual puede verse afectada por cambios en el estado civil, parental o financiero. Los trabajadores también pueden visitar la página de Comparación de beneficios tributarios relacionados con hijos (en inglés) para aprender más acerca de las reglas básicas de elegibilidad para el EITC y varios otros créditos tributarios.

### Los trabajadores también deben:

- Ser ciudadanos de EE. UU. o extranjeros residentes todo el año.
- Presentar una declaración de impuestos, incluso si su nivel de ingresos no suele requerir que presenten impuestos.
- Tener un número de Seguro Social (SSN) válido para sí mismos, así como para sus cónyuges, si presentan una declaración conjunta, y para cada dependiente elegible reclamado para el EITC.

Existen reglas especiales para el personal militar, el clero y los ministros (en inglés), así como para los contribuyentes con ciertos tipos de ingresos por discapacidad (en inglés) o un hijo con discapacidad.

Los trabajadores elegibles entre las edades de 25 y 64 años que no tienen dependientes pueden recibir hasta \$632 al reclamar el EITC, mientras que los cónyuges casados pero separados que no presentan una declaración conjunta pueden

calificar para el EITC si cumplen con ciertos requisitos.

Aquellos con hijos calificadores pueden recibir un máximo de \$7,830 al reclamar el EITC para el año tributario 2024, un aumento a los \$7,430 del año tributario 2023.

### Cómo reclamar el EITC

Para obtener el EITC, los trabajadores deben presentar una declaración de impuestos y reclamar el crédito en esa declaración. Pueden presentar de diversas maneras que incluyen el uso de:

- Free File del IRS en IRS.gov. Los contribuyentes elegibles pueden preparar y presentar sus declaraciones de impuestos federales en línea de manera gratuita a través de un software de preparación de impuestos guiado. Free File del IRS también proporciona formularios interactivos gratis en línea para el uso de cualquier contribuyente, independientemente de sus ingresos, que se sienta cómodo preparando su propia declaración.
- Direct File. Una opción para personas elegibles en estados participantes para preparar y presentar su declaración de impuestos federal en línea de forma gratuita, directamente y de manera segura con el IRS. Los contribuyentes tienen acceso a apoyo de chat en vivo del personal del IRS. Aunque Direct File no prepara declaraciones estatales, si alguien vive en un estado participante, Direct File guía a los contribuyentes a una herramienta respaldada por el estado para preparar y presentar su declaración de impuestos estatal de forma gratuita.
- Un profesional de impuestos de buena reputación (en inglés). Para ayudar a los contribuyentes a evitar “preparadores fantasma” sin escrúpulos, el IRS ofrece consejos para elegir a un preparador de declaraciones confiable, ya sea un contador público certificado, un agente inscrito o una persona de confianza sin credenciales profesionales. Los contribuyentes pueden verificar si alguien tiene credenciales a través del Directorio de Preparadores de Declaraciones de Impuestos Federales (en inglés), y encontrar información sobre grupos nacionales de profesionales de impuestos (en inglés) en IRS.gov.

- Asistencia gratuita para la preparación de impuestos (en inglés). Hay miles de sitios de Ayuda voluntaria a los contribuyentes (VITA, por sus siglas en inglés) y el programa de Asesoramiento tributario para ancianos (TCE, por sus siglas en inglés) en todo el país disponibles para ayudar a los trabajadores elegibles para reclamar el EITC. Los contribuyentes pueden encontrar un sitio VITA o TCE mediante la herramienta de Localización VITA/TCE (en inglés), a través de la aplicación para teléfono inteligente IRS2Go o llamando al 800-906-9887.

Como recordatorio, la manera más rápida para que los contribuyentes reciban su reembolso es presentando electrónicamente una declaración precisa y elegir recibir ese reembolso mediante depósito directo.

**El EITC es para los trabajadores cuyos ingresos no excedieron los siguientes límites en 2024:**

No. de dependientes	Límite de ingresos para declarantes solteros	Límite de ingresos para casados que presentan en conjunto
<b>Sin hijos</b>	<b>\$18,591</b>	<b>\$25,511</b>
<b>1 niño</b>	<b>\$49,084</b>	<b>\$56,004</b>
<b>2 niños</b>	<b>\$55,768</b>	<b>\$62,688</b>
<b>3 niños o más</b>	<b>\$59,899</b>	<b>\$66,819</b>

\*Límite de ingresos por inversiones: \$11,600

### Nuevo este año: Dependientes duplicados

A partir de esta temporada de presentación, el IRS aceptará una declaración presentada electrónicamente incluso si un dependiente ya ha sido reclamado en una declaración separada previamente presentada, siempre y cuando el contribuyente principal en la segunda declaración incluya un número de identificación personal de protección de identidad (IP PIN, por sus siglas en inglés) válido.

Este cambio reducirá el tiempo que le toma a la agencia recibir la declaración de impuestos y acelerará la emisión de reembolsos tributarios para aquellos con declaraciones con dependientes duplicados. En años anteriores, la segunda declaración de impuestos tenía que presentarse en papel. Mientras tanto, los contribuyentes que no tengan IP PIN serán rechazados si alguna de sus declaraciones electrónicas incluye un dependiente que ya ha sido reclamado por otro contribuyente.

Tenga en cuenta que el uso de un IP PIN no exime a los contribuyentes de recibir notificaciones que cuestionen su derecho a reclamar ciertos dependientes.

### Reclamar otros créditos tributarios valiosos

Independientemente de si califican para el EITC, los contribuyentes pueden ser elegibles para otros créditos tributarios valiosos (en inglés), como el Crédito tributario por hijos (CTC), el Crédito adicional por hijos (ACTC) o el Crédito por otros dependientes (ODC). El Asistente tributario interactivo (en inglés) es una herramienta útil para que los contribuyentes verifiquen su elegibilidad para esos créditos.

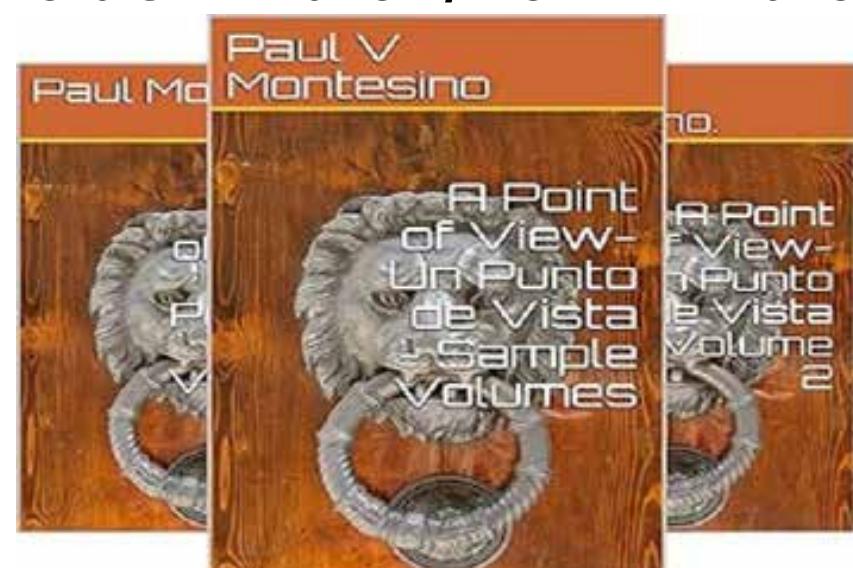
### Cuándo esperar reembolsos del EITC

La herramienta ¿Dónde está mi reembolso? que permite a los contribuyentes monitorizar el estado de sus reembolsos, se actualizará con las fechas de depósito proyectadas para la mayoría de los contribuyentes que presenten reembolsos anticipados del EITC/ACTC antes del 22 de febrero. La mayoría de los reembolsos relacionados con el EITC o ACTC deberían estar disponibles en cuentas bancarias o en tarjetas de débito para el 3 de marzo, si no hay problemas con la declaración del contribuyente y eligen recibir su reembolso mediante depósito directo.

#### Recursos adicionales

- Celebrando 50 años del Crédito por ingresos del trabajo (en inglés)
- EITC Central (en inglés)
- Informes y estadísticas del EITC (en inglés), incluyendo tasas de participación por estado (en inglés).
- Publicación 596, Crédito por Ingreso del Trabajo, ofrece una vista detallada del EITC, reglas de elegibilidad e instrucciones acerca de cómo reclamar el crédito.
- Herramienta de créditos reembolsables adicionales (en inglés)
- @IRSnews y @IRSEnEspañol, las cuentas de X de noticias del IRS, proporcionan las últimas noticias e información de impuestos federales para contribuyentes en inglés y español.
- Videos del IRS disponibles en YouTube que brindan información acerca de créditos, deducciones y cambios en la legislación tributaria.
- Obtenga un número de identificación personal de protección de identidad (IP PIN)

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# U.S. Department of Education Takes Action to Eliminate DEI

(This was a lengthy press release so only the first two paragraphs are published here because it explains sufficiently their motive.)

(Léalo en español en la página página 7)

**January 23, 2025**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Education has taken action to eliminate harmful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, including references to them in public-facing communication channels and its associated workforce. These actions are in line with President Trump's ongoing commitment to end illegal discrimination and wasteful spending across the federal government. They are the first step in reorienting the agency toward prioritizing meaningful learning ahead of divisive ideology in our schools.

Following President Trump's recent

Executive Orders and initial guidance from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Department removed or archived hundreds of guidance documents, reports, and training materials that include mentions of DEI from its outward facing communication channels. The Department also put employees charged with leading DEI initiatives on paid administrative leave. These review efforts will continue as the Department works to end discrimination based on race and the use of harmful race stereotypes, both within the agency and throughout America's education system.

**By Connor Boyack**

It's fascinating, isn't it?

After decades of failing American children, the US Department of Education has suddenly decided it's time to "reorient" itself toward "meaningful learning."

Wait, so what were they oriented to doing before?

I wonder what prompted this sudden introspection and resolution?

Could it have anything to do with Donald Trump's campaign promise to eliminate the Department of Education, and his recent delivery on so many of his other promises?

Someone at the DoE just realized that

they're on shaky ground.

But it's even shakier than they likely understand. Five years ago, when I was talking about ending the Department of Education, even a lot of liberty-minded people thought that was maybe a little too much.

Now, it's a winning campaign promise. Good.

American parents are realizing that they don't need federal bureaucrats making decisions for their kids.

For decades, the DoE has overseen plummeting test scores, skyrocketing mental health crises, and the removal of parents from critical decisions about their children's education. And now, when faced with potential elimination, they're trying to convince us that they're ready to do a good job? Sorry, but we're not buying it.

It's too little, too late.

The truth is, parents have always been the most qualified to decide what's right for their kids. Not some bureaucrat in D.C.

Millions of parents have, in one way or another, begun taking back the education of their children. Whether homeschooling, using co-ops, enrolling in charter schools, or just supplementing what they're learning in the public school classroom, parents aren't just settling for what the state is offering.

The early success of our Tuttle Twins Academy is a perfect example of what's possible when parents take the reins.

The Academy gives kids an engaging, real-world education that focuses on things like the principles of liberty, free market economics, and how to think critically—topics public schools ignore or paint a skewed picture of. Couple the Academy with our Economics and History curriculum, and you have a robust toolkit to homeschool your kids or supplement what they're learning elsewhere.

It's time to move beyond the mess the Department of Education has created.

I'm hopeful we'll see it abolished. But even if it isn't, I'm encouraged by the shift in the way parents engage with the education of their kids. Things have changed, and I don't think they'll ever go back to the way they were before.

And that's something to celebrate.

A rising generation of children are being offered a future where education is tailored to their needs, not dictated by a one-size-fits-all government agency.

It's beautiful to behold!

Thanks for letting us be a part of it.

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# El Departamento de Educación de los EE. UU. toma medidas para eliminar la DEI

(Este fue un comunicado de prensa extenso, por lo que solo se publican aquí los dos primeros párrafos porque explican suficientemente su motivo).

**23 de enero de 2025**

WASHINGTON – El Departamento de Educación de los EE. UU. ha tomado medidas para eliminar las iniciativas perjudiciales de Diversidad, Equidad e Inclusión (DEI), incluidas las referencias a ellas en los canales de comunicación públicos y en su fuerza laboral asociada. Estas acciones están en línea con el compromiso continuo del presidente Trump de poner fin a la discriminación ilegal y al gasto innecesario en todo el gobierno federal. Son el primer paso para reorientar la agencia hacia la priorización del aprendizaje significativo por encima de la ideología divisiva en nuestras escuelas.

Tras las recientes órdenes ejecutivas

del presidente Trump y la orientación inicial de la Oficina de Gestión de Personal (OPM), el Departamento eliminó o archivó cientos de documentos de orientación, informes y materiales de capacitación que incluyen menciones a la DEI de sus canales de comunicación externos. El Departamento también puso a los empleados encargados de liderar iniciativas de DEI en licencia administrativa paga. Estos esfuerzos de revisión continuarán mientras el Departamento trabaja para poner fin a la discriminación basada en la raza y al uso de estereotipos raciales dañinos, tanto dentro de la agencia como en todo el sistema educativo de Estados Unidos.

Pero es incluso más inestable de lo que probablemente entienden. Hace cinco años, cuando hablaba de terminar con el Departamento de Educación, incluso muchas personas con mentalidad de libertad pensaron que tal vez era demasiado.

Ahora, es una promesa de campaña ganadora.

Bien.

Los padres estadounidenses se están dando cuenta de que no necesitan que los burócratas federales tomen decisiones por sus hijos.

Durante décadas, el Departamento de Educación ha supervisado la caída de los resultados de las pruebas, las crisis de salud mental que se han disparado y la eliminación de los padres de las decisiones críticas sobre la educación de sus hijos. Y ahora, cuando se enfrentan a una posible eliminación, ¿están

tratando de convencernos de que están listos para hacer un buen trabajo? Lo sentimos, pero no nos lo creemos.

Es demasiado poco y demasiado tarde.

La verdad es que los padres siempre han sido los más calificados para decidir lo que es mejor para sus hijos. No algún burócrata en D.C.

Millones de padres han comenzado, de una forma u otra, a recuperar la educación de sus hijos. Ya sea mediante la educación en el hogar, utilizando cooperativas, inscribiéndose en escuelas autónomas o simplemente complementando lo que están aprendiendo en el aula de la escuela pública, los padres no se conforman con lo que ofrece el estado.

El éxito temprano de nuestra Tuttle Twins Academy es un ejemplo perfecto de lo que es posible cuando los padres toman las riendas.

La Academia ofrece a los niños una educación atractiva y práctica que se centra en cuestiones como los principios de la libertad, la economía de libre mercado y cómo pensar de manera crítica, temas que

las escuelas públicas ignoran o presentan una imagen distorsionada de ellos. Si combinamos la Academia con nuestro plan de estudios de Economía e Historia, tendremos un conjunto de herramientas sólido para educar a nuestros hijos en casa o complementar lo que están aprendiendo en otro lugar.

Es hora de dejar atrás el caos que ha creado el Departamento de Educación.

Tengo la esperanza de que lo aboliremos. Pero incluso si no es así, me alienta el cambio en la forma en que los padres se involucran en la educación de sus hijos. Las cosas han cambiado y no creo que vuelvan a ser como antes.

Y eso es algo para celebrar.

A una nueva generación de niños se les ofrece un futuro en el que la educación se adapta a sus necesidades, no está dictada por una agencia gubernamental que se adapta a todos.

¡Es hermoso contemplarlo!

Gracias por permitirnos ser parte de esto.

## Por Connor Boyack

Es fascinante, ¿no?

Después de décadas de fallarles a los niños estadounidenses, el Departamento de Educación de Estados Unidos decidió de repente que era hora de “reorientarse” hacia el “aprendizaje significativo”.

Un momento, ¿a qué se orientaban antes?

Me pregunto qué provocó esta repentina introspección y resolución.

¿Podría tener algo que ver con la promesa de campaña de Donald Trump de eliminar el Departamento de Educación y su reciente cumplimiento de tantas otras de sus promesas?

Alguien en el Departamento de Educación acaba de darse cuenta de que están en terreno inestable.

## Education Secretary Tutwiler's Statement on Title IX Announcement

The Healey-Driscoll Administration issued the following statement today in response to the U.S. Department of Education's "Dear Colleague" letter to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education advising educators and administrators that the department's Office for Civil Rights will enforce the Trump Administration's 2020 Title IX Rule.

### Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler:

"It is incumbent on schools and school

administrators to create a culture in which all students feel safe, supported, and fully included, including in athletics. While today's announcement is a disappointment, I am proud that in Massachusetts our state constitution has strong, comprehensive protections for LGBTQ+ students who deserve to live and learn as their full, authentic self. We remain committed to protecting students against discrimination on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

## Declaración del Secretario de Educación Tutwiler sobre el anuncio del Título IX

La Administración Healey-Driscoll emitió hoy la siguiente declaración en respuesta a la carta "Estimado colega" del Departamento de Educación de los EE. UU. a las escuelas primarias y secundarias y a las instituciones de educación superior en la que se informa a los educadores y administradores que la Oficina de Derechos Civiles del departamento hará cumplir la Norma del Título IX de 2020 de la Administración Trump.

### El Secretario de Educación Dr. Patrick Tutwiler:

"Es responsabilidad de las escuelas y

de los administradores escolares crear una cultura en la que todos los estudiantes se sientan seguros, apoyados y plenamente incluidos, incluso en los deportes. Si bien el anuncio de hoy es una decepción, estoy orgulloso de que en Massachusetts nuestra constitución estatal tenga protecciones sólidas e integrales para los estudiantes LGBTQ+ que merecen vivir y aprender como su yo completo y auténtico. Seguimos comprometidos con la protección de los estudiantes contra la discriminación por motivos de raza, color, sexo, identidad de género, religión, origen nacional u orientación sexual".

HAVERHILL – City Clerk, Kaitlin M. Wright, announced the fourth annual "Top Dog" contest. Residents who license or renew their dogs may participate for a chance to have their loyal companion named Haverhill's "2025 Top Dog."

The 1st place winner will receive 2025 dog license #1, their dog's picture will be displayed in the City Clerk's Office and posted on the website, and for the first time ever, will receive a trophy for their victory. The 2nd and 3rd place winners will get license #2 and #3 and have their photos displayed and posted, as well. Participants must submit a photo of their dog when they apply for their license. Photos should be of high detail and contain only one dog. Licensing may be done in person at the

Clerk's Office- 4 Summer St (temporarily in the basement level of the building – follow the pink signs) or online via this link - <https://haverhillma.portal.opengov.com/categories/1074/record-types/6355> .

The contest ends on February 28, 2025 and the winners will be decided on Monday, March 3, 2025. For residents that own more than one dog, they may enter each of them. A copy of a valid rabies certificate is required for licensing.

For more information on the contest and the registration process please contact the Haverhill City Clerk's Office at (978) 374-2312, e-mail at [cityclerk@haverhillma.gov](mailto:cityclerk@haverhillma.gov), or check the website at [www.cityofhaverhill.com/government/city\\_clerk/dogs/index.php](http://www.cityofhaverhill.com/government/city_clerk/dogs/index.php).

**Haverhill's Top Dog Contest**

**How to enter:**

- License your dog between 02/01 - 02/28/2025
- Submit a photo of your dog to [cityclerk@haverhillma.gov](mailto:cityclerk@haverhillma.gov)

**Prizes:**

- 1st place receives dog tag #1, trophy, & their photo posted in the Clerk's Office & website
- 2nd & 3rd place receives dog tag #2 & #3

**Winners will be announced March 3, 2025.**

# Relaciones creativas



Por Tomás Núñez, ThD

La creatividad es la dinámica del propio universo. Su estado natural no es la estabilidad sino el cambio creativo. Todo es fruto de la creación natural o humana. La Tierra es fruto de una Energía creadora, misteriosa y cargada de propósito. Un día, un pez primitivo "decidió", en un acto creador, dejar el agua y explorar la tierra firme. De ese acto creativo, vinieron los anfibios, luego los reptiles, después los dinosaurios, y finalmente los mamíferos y nosotros.

Si no fuéramos creativos, nunca habríamos llegado hasta aquí. Detengámonos, por un momento, en la relación hombre-mujer, punto central en las discusiones actuales de la Iglesia. Sabemos que hace diez mil años, la historia fue marcada por el patriarcado. Este ha supuesto un viacrucis de sufrimiento para todas las mujeres. Pero lo que ha sido construido históricamente puede ser también históricamente deconstruido. Esta es la esperanza que subyace en las luchas de las mujeres oprimidas y de sus aliados entre los hombres, la esperanza de un nuevo estadio de civilización ya nunca estigmatizado por la dominación de género.

Los hombres y las mujeres son definidos cada vez más no a partir de su sexo biológico o factor cultural, sino a partir del hecho de ser personas. Entendemos aquí por persona todo aquel o aquella que se siente dueño de sí y que ejerce la libertad para plasmar su propia vida. La capacidad de autoproducción en libertad (autopoiesis) es la suprema dignidad del ser humano que no debe ser negada a nadie.

Tras el reconocimiento de la persona como persona, son decisivos los valores de la cooperación y de la democracia como valor universal, en el sentido de participación en la vida social, de la cual las mujeres históricamente fueron privadas.

Su ausencia ayudó a instaurar la dominación y la subordinación histórica de las mujeres. Hoy, mediante la cooperación de ambos, dentro de una ética de la solidaridad y de cuidado mutuos, es cuando se construirán relaciones inclusivas e igualitarias.

La cooperación supone confianza y respeto mutuo en una atmósfera donde la coexistencia se funda en el amor, en la proximidad, en el diálogo abierto, como ha insistido y mostrado el Papa Francisco.

Bien resaltaba el gran biólogo chileno Humberto Maturana: la permanencia del patriarcalismo representa el intento de regresión a un estadio pre-humano que

nos remite al nivel de los chimpancés, societarios pero dominadores.

Por eso la lucha por la superación del patriarcalismo es una lucha por el rescate de nuestra verdadera humanidad. Las mujeres por ser mujeres reciben menos salario haciendo el mismo trabajo. Y ellas componen más de la mitad de la humanidad.

La democracia participativa y sin fin, fundamentalmente, quiere decir participación, sentido del derecho y del deber y sentido de corresponsabilidad. Antes que una forma de organización del Estado, la democracia es un valor a ser vivido siempre y en todo lugar donde los seres humanos se encuentran. Esta democracia no se restringe solo a los humanos, sino que se abre a los demás seres vivos de la comunidad biótica, pues reconoce en ellos derechos y dignidad. La democracia integral posee, pues, una característica socio-cómica.

La superación de la ancestral guerra de los sexos y de las políticas opresivas y represivas contra la mujer se da en la misma proporción en que se introduce y se practica la democracia real y cotidiana. En nombre de esta bandera, la gran escritora y feminista Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) podía proclamar: "Como mujer no tengo patria, como mujer no quiero patria, como mujer mi patria es el mundo".

La lucha contra el patriarcado supone un regeneración del hombre. En esa tarea el hombre seguramente no conseguiría dar el salto por sí mismo. De ahí la importancia de la mujer a su lado. Ella podrá evocar en los hombres lo femenino escondido bajo cenizas seculares y podrá ser co-partera de una nueva relación humanizadora.

Lo primero que hay que hacer es privilegiar los lazos de interacción mutua y la cooperación igualitaria entre hombre y mujer. Aquí se impone un proceso pedagógico en la línea de Paulo Freire: nadie libera a nadie, pero juntos, hombres y mujeres, se liberarán en un proceso compartido de libertad creadora.

En este nuevo contexto se deben recuperar aquellos valores considerados antiguos y propios de la socialización femenina, pero que ahora deben ser gritados a los oídos de los hombres y junto con las mujeres procurar vivirlos. Se trata de un ideal humanitario para ambos. Me permito rescatar algunos:

- Las personas son más importantes que las cosas. Cada persona debe ser tratada humanamente y con respeto.
- La violencia nunca es un camino aceptable para la solución de los problemas.
- Es mejor ayudar que explotar a las personas, dedicando especial atención a los pobres, a los excluidos y a los niños.
- La cooperación, la asociación y el compartir son preferibles a la competencia, la autoafirmación y el conflicto.
- En las decisiones que afectan a todos cada persona tiene derecho a decir su palabra y ayudar en la decisión colectiva.
- Estar profundamente convencido de que lo cierto está del lado de la justicia, de la solidaridad y del amor, y de que la dominación, la explotación y la opresión están del lado equivocado.

Tales valores, tenidos en otro tiempo por femeninos, fueron manipulados por la mentalidad patriarcal para mantener a las mujeres subordinadas y dóciles. Hoy, al cambiar el cuadro del mundo y de la sociedad, tales valores son los que nos pueden salvar. Es la razón por la que los hombres y mujeres deben ser creativos en sus relaciones, pues así se humanizan.

# Creative Relationships

By Tomás Núñez, ThD

Creativity is the dynamic of the universe itself. Its natural state is not stability but creative change. Everything is the fruit of natural or human creation. The Earth is the fruit of creative Energy, mysterious and charged with purpose. One day, a primitive fish "decided," in a creative act, to leave the water and explore dry land. Amphibians, reptiles, dinosaurs, mammals, and we came from that creative act.

We would never have gotten to this point if we were not creative. Let us pause for a moment on the man-woman relationship, a central point in the current discussions of the Church. We know that ten thousand years ago, history was marked by patriarchy. This has been a via crucis of suffering for all women. However, what has been historically constructed can also be historically deconstructed. This hope underlies the struggles of oppressed women and their allies among men, the hope for a new stage of civilization no longer stigmatized by gender domination.

Men and women are increasingly defined not by their biological sex or cultural factors but by their factors of being persons. Here, we understand a person to be anyone who feels they are masters of themselves and who exercises the freedom to shape their own life. The capacity for self-production in freedom (autopoiesis) is the supreme dignity of the human being that must not be denied to anyone.

After recognizing the person as a person, the values of cooperation and democracy as universal values are decisive in the sense of participation in social life, of which women were historically deprived.

Their absence helped to establish historical domination and subordination of women. Today, inclusive and egalitarian relationships will be built through cooperation within an ethic of solidarity and mutual care.

Cooperation implies trust and mutual respect in an atmosphere where coexistence is based on love, proximity, and open dialogue, as Pope Francis has insisted and shown.

The great Chilean biologist Humberto Maturana rightly pointed out that patriarchy's permanence represents an attempt to regress to a pre-human state, bringing us back to the level of chimpanzees, societal but dominating.

That is why the struggle to overcome patriarchy is a struggle to rescue our true humanity. Women, because they are women, receive less pay for doing the same work. And they make up more than half of humanity.

Participatory and endless democracy, fundamentally, means participation, a sense of right and duty, and a sense of co-

responsibility. Before being a form of state organization, democracy was a value that always lived in every place where human beings are found. This democracy is not restricted to humans but is open to other living beings in the biotic community, as it recognizes their rights and dignity. Integral democracy, therefore, has a socio-cosmic characteristic.

The overcoming of the ancestral war of the sexes and of the oppressive and repressive policies against women occurs in the same proportion as real and everyday democracy is introduced and practiced. In the name of this banner, the great writer and feminist Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) could proclaim: "As a woman I have no country, as a woman I do not want a country, as a woman my country is the world."

The fight against patriarchy supposes a re-generation of man. In this task, man would surely be unable to leap by himself. Hence the importance of women at his side. She will be able to evoke in men the feminine hidden under secular ashes and will be able to be a co-partner in a new humanizing relationship.

The first step is to privilege the bonds of mutual interaction and equal cooperation between men and women. Here, a pedagogical process is required along the lines of Paulo Freire: no one frees anyone, but together, men and women will free themselves in a shared process of creative freedom.

In this new context, those values considered old and proper to female socialization must be recovered, but they must now be shouted into the ears of men and, together with women, try to live them. This is a humanitarian ideal for both. I allow myself to highlight some:

- People are more important than things. Each person must be treated humanely and with respect.
- Violence is never an acceptable way to solve problems.
- It is better to help than to exploit people, paying special attention to the poor, the excluded and children.
- Cooperation, association, and sharing are preferable to competition, self-affirmation, and conflict.
- In the decisions - Being deeply convinced that what is right is on the side of justice, solidarity and love, and that domination, exploitation and oppression are on the wrong side.

Such values, once considered feminine, were manipulated by the patriarchal mentality to keep women subordinate and docile. Today, as the world and society are changing, such values are what can save us. This is why men and women must be creative in their relationships; in this way, they become more human.

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"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

# Lappin Foundation

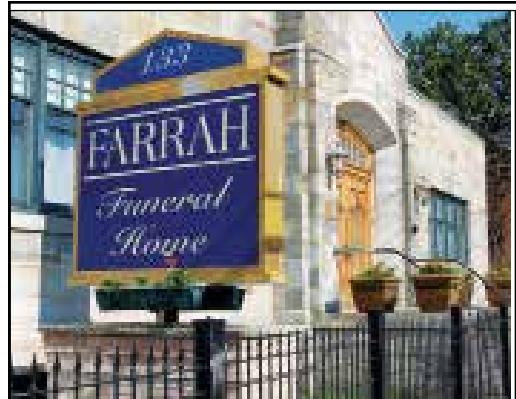
## Enhancing Jewish Identity Across Generations

### Israel Update

Lappin Foundation invites the community to an Israel Update with Ido Aharoni Aronoff, Israeli diplomat, advisor to global companies and international relations professor, who will share his keen insights about Israel's war with Hamas, regional dynamics, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for Israel. Ido Aharoni Aronoff currently serves as Global Distinguished Professor of Business at Touro University.

The free program will take place on Thursday, February 20, 2025, 7:30 p.m. ET on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Registration for the Zoom link is required at [LappinFoundation.org](http://LappinFoundation.org).

This program is made possible with a grant from the Dr. David M. Milch Foundation. For more information, please contact Sharon Wyner at 978-565-4450 or email [swyner@lappinfoundation.org](mailto:swyner@lappinfoundation.org).



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## Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

### Strong defensive performance pushes #8 Knights past CCRI

Haverhill, MA (January 26, 2025) – The #8 nationally ranked Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team used their strongest defensive effort of the season to propel them past Community College of Rhode Island by a 77-70 final. The Knights, winners of 16 in a row improve to 18-2 on the season, 13-1 in conference play and secured their 43rd straight home win.

NECC picked up a season high 22 steals in the game, led by seven each from Crisitan Moscat (Lawrence) and Yuno Matsuda (Tokyo, JP) as part of 31 turnovers in the

game by CCRI.

Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) was the lone Knight in double figures as he recorded a double-double of 19 points and 13 rebounds to go along with two assists and a steal.

For the game, both teams shot 37 percent, while the Knights dominated in the paint out scoring CCRI by a 46-26 margin.

The Knights will now hit the road for a pair of road games starting on Thursday when they travel to Brockton to take on Massasoit. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30.

### Women's basketball falls to nationally ranked CCRI

Haverhill, MA (January 26, 2025) – The Northern Essex women's basketball team dropped an 83-51 decision over the weekend to ninth ranked Community College of Rhode Island and fell to 7-8 on the season and 5-4 in conference play.

Rhaelyn Gutierrez (Methuen), currently the nation's leading scorer led the Knights with a game high 28 points, just shy of her national best average of 30.5 points per game.

Mirelys Morales (Dracut) contributed a double-double effort with 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Rebeccah Heathman (Billerica) also picked up 10 rebounds in the losing effort.

CCRI outshot the Knights by a 44 to 28 percent total for the game.

The Knights will return to the court on Thursday when they travel to Massasoit for a 5:30pm conference matchup.

### #8 Knights shoot past MassBay for 18th straight win

Newton, MA (February 2, 2024) – The #8 nationally ranked Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team shot their way past MassBay on Saturday afternoon by a 104-79 final to pick up their 18th straight and improve to 20-2 overall on the season and 15-1 in conference play.

The Knights jumped out to an early advantage and never looked back as they took a 22-point advantage into the locker room at halftime leading 55-33.

Javien Kirmil (Lowell) recorded his second straight performance of 20 plus points as he dropped a game high 23 points to go along with five assists and four steals.

NECC received a strong effort off the bench

as both Alex Johnson (Worcester) and Jeremy Valdez (Haverhill) chipped in with 10 points apiece.

Xavier Rivera (Lowell) also pulled down a game high 10 rebounds off the bench to go along with six points.

As a team the Knights shot 55.3 percent from the floor compared to 49 percent for MassBay and outrebounded the Buccaneers by a 41-25 margin.

The Knights will return home for a pair of games this week starting on Thursday evening when they play host to Bunker Hill at 7:30 and look to extend their 43 game home winning streak.

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## Men's Volleyball Earns First Victory of 2025 with Win Over AIC



SPRINGFIELD, MA- The Merrimack men's volleyball team earned their first victory of 2025 over the AIC Yellow Jackets in three straight sets on the evening of January 25th.

### Rapid Recap

Score: Merrimack 3, AIC 0

Records: Merrimack 1-3, AIC 1-4

### How it Happened

The Warriors got off to a hot start, commanding the first set. Kills from Kai Vogel, Kasen Owens, and Nick Tidik would propel the blue and gold to a solid advantage. Their biggest lead in the first set was 16-8. The Warriors would use their momentum to win the first set 25-18.

The second set was an onslaught from the Warriors. They took their biggest lead of the set halfway through the frame, 14-1. Service aces from Reece Lindstrom and kills from Kai Vogel helped the blue and gold get out in front early. Dallas Birkenbeuel and Davis McCurdy would make kills late in the set to help the Warriors clinch the second set

and win it 25-11.

The third set saw more domination from the Warriors. Isaiah Vogel and Chris U'Glay would get the Warriors out in front early with kills of their own. The surge would continue courtesy of John Clinton and Dallas Birkenbeuel. Nathan Knapp and Nick Tidik would get involved late to push the Warriors to a third set win and a match victory.

### Notes and Numbers

Kai Vogel had the most kills with 10

Kyle Standage and Anthony Clapp recorded the same amount of digs with 5

Nick Tidik had 6 blocks (which was the team high) and 6 kills

### Up Next

The men's volleyball team heads down to Fairfield, CT on Saturday, February 1st to play the Sacred Heart Pioneers. Game time is set for 7PM.

## Women's basketball falls to nationally ranked CCRI

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CCRI outshot the Knights by a 44 to 28 percent total for the game.

The Knights will return to the court on Thursday when they travel to Massasoit for a 5:30pm conference matchup.

## Workplace English Classes Forming at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

Registrations are now being taken for Workplace English classes at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. These classes are free to Lawrence residents but students must have a high beginner level of English.

Anyone interested in signing up for morning or evening classes should call MVIEC, The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center at 978-683-7316. Check out the MVIEC's website at [www.mviec.org](http://www.mviec.org) for directions and more details.

## The International Institute of New England Hires Alexa Drolette as its Senior Director of Principal and Major Gifts



The International Institute of New England (IINE), one of the region's longest-established nonprofits serving refugees and immigrants, announces Alexa Drolette as its new senior director, principal and major gifts.

An accomplished fundraiser, Alexa will elevate IINE's individual and major giving portfolio and oversee the individual giving team. She will partner with IINE senior leadership to provide individual donors and prospects with opportunities to deepen their relationships with IINE, growing their knowledge and support of its critical work supporting refugee and immigrant communities.

"I am thrilled to welcome Alexa to our team," said Xan Weber, senior vice president and chief advancement officer. "Recent years have shown us that we cannot rely on government funding to safeguard our organization's long-term stability. Alexa's development expertise and passion for protecting human rights will be critical to engaging individual donors, ensuring we have the resources, infrastructure, and resilience to deliver another century of life-changing services to some of our most vulnerable community members."

Alexa most recently worked as the director of development and communications at Lowell Community Charter Public School, where she served as the lead fundraiser and communications specialist with a focus on their ongoing capital campaign. Prior to this role, she was the senior director of development at Project Bread, where she worked since 2014, holding several development positions throughout her tenure and leading the strategy and management of individual giving, corporate, and peer-to-peer event fundraising. At Project Bread, Alexa raised more than \$5M annually and successfully grew individual

giving from \$1.8M in 2020 to \$4M by prioritizing the retention of COVID emergency donors.

"Over its 100+-year history, IINE has helped thousands of newcomers put down roots in New England, learn English, secure jobs, and become citizens. I am proud to be joining an organization doing such critical work, especially at a time when immigrant protections are under threat," said Drolette. "I am excited to work with the IINE team and our dedicated community to deepen our ability to welcome, support, and defend the rights of our newest neighbors, colleagues, classmates, and friends."

### About The International Institute of New England

The International Institute of New England (IINE) creates opportunities for refugees and immigrants to succeed through resettlement, education, career advancement and pathways to citizenship. With locations in Boston and Lowell, Massachusetts and Manchester, New Hampshire, IINE serves more than 20,000 individuals annually, including people displaced by political instability, violence, and climate crises, child and adult survivors of human trafficking, and unaccompanied children joining family members in New England. IINE offers a comprehensive range of programs and services to help newcomers feel welcome; achieve stability and security; access resources in their new communities; advance their education and employment goals; and integrate into their communities. IINE's expertise builds on more than a century of service and accomplishes its mission in partnership with community groups, stakeholders, and supporters throughout New England. For more information visit [www.iine.org](http://www.iine.org).

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

— Helen Thomas

# CLASIFICADOS | CLASSIFIEDS

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed proposals for the Meaders Lane Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements Project – Phase III will be received at the Town of Salisbury Town Hall, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA. 01952, until 12 pm Noon on February 25, 2025, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud:

Sealed proposals sent by mail shall be mailed to: Town of Salisbury Planning Department, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA. 01952. Proposals sent through the mail shall be marked “Meaders Lane Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements Project - Phase III Bid Proposal”.

In general, the work of this project involves drainage improvements and cement concrete sidewalk / granite curbing installation along Short Lane and a portion of Sandy Lane (Total - 600 LF +/-). Work under this contract includes tree removal; drainage installation; raising to grade of new and existing structures; cement concrete sidewalk and granite curb installation; drainage outlet installation ; landscape restoration; driveway repairs to meet new grades; and safety controls for traffic and pedestrian management. Scheduling of work will require coordination with the Salisbury DPW to address work by others within the project. Construction for this project is anticipated to begin on or about April 1, 2025.

The bidding for and award of the contract for this project are to be in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30 § 39M. Bidders are on notice that this project is funded in part through a grant from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Program using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Funds and Chapter 90 funding. This project is subject to the schedule of federal and state prevailing wage rates.

MassDOT pre-qualification of contractors with a work class as Highway Construction is required for this project with an estimated value of \$354,740. All bidders must be MassDOT pre-qualified in order to take out “Official” bid documents. Contractors seeking “Informational Only” bid documents are not required to be MassDOT pre-qualified.

The Proposal Guaranty shall be in the form of either cash, bid bond, certified check, bank treasurer’s check, or bank cashier’s check, made payable to the Town of Salisbury in the amount of 5% of the value of the Bid. A performance bond and a payment bond, each in the amount of 100 percent of the contract price, will be required in the form described in the Information for Bidders

Bid documents can be acquired from the Salisbury Planning Department, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA 01952 starting on January 29, 2025. Contract Documents are also available for viewing at the Salisbury Planning Department at the address stated above.

An optional pre-bid meeting for all bidders will be held on February 11, 2025, at 10:00 am, 2nd floor meeting room, Town Hall, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA.

Digital copies are available, if a paper copy is requested the price for a complete set of bid documents to Official and Informational parties is \$75.00, which amount shall be refundable to all Official bidders following the opening of bids if the documents are returned within 30 days and in good condition. Bid documents can be obtained from the Salisbury Planning Department via mail at an additional cost of \$40.00. A separate remittance should be submitted for each set of bid documents requested in money order, certified check, bank treasurer’s check, or bank cashier’s check, made payable to the Town of Salisbury, MA.

The Owner may waive any informality or reject any and all bids.

By: Board of Selectmen, Town of Salisbury

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¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

## 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 or junk the following vehicle on or after February 2, 2025 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2006 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTPW14556KB52538

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

Signed  
Kevin Stuart  
Stuart's Automotive  
1/15, 1/22, 2/1

## LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Stuart's Automotive, Inc. 97 Tanner Street, Lowell, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicle on or after February 16, 2025 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2015 BMW 335i VIN WBA3B9G51FNR93708

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

Signed  
Kevin Stuart  
Stuart's Automotive  
1/22, 2/1, 2/8

## LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Trombly Bros., Inc. of 141-153 Sutton Street North Andover, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after February 24, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Trombly Bros., Inc.

1. 2012 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 VIN 1GCRKSE7XCZ303564
2. 2019 Subaru Impreza VIN 4S3GTAA69K3732479

Signed,  
Mark Trombly  
Trombly Bro., Inc.  
2/1, 2/8, 2/15

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

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

— John F. Kennedy



Selling and accepting donations of new and gently used furniture, housewares, cabinets, appliances and building materials

 ReStore  
Essex County Habitat for Humanity  
the store that builds homes

647 Andover Street | Lawrence, MA | 978-686-3323 | [www.ecrestore.org](http://www.ecrestore.org)  
Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm

shop

donate

volunteer



## IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesdays | 4 p.m.

January 8 | February 5 | March 5

*Light refreshments will be served.*

Caring for a loved one with dementia can bring stress, frustration, guilt and uncertainty. Find peace and comfort by connecting with other caregivers who understand your challenges, and exchange tips for your caregiving journey.

You're welcome to bring your loved one with memory loss to enjoy an activity with our life enrichment team while you attend the support group.

Kindly contact Senior Advisor Susan to RSVP.

stourillotte@bridgesbyepoch.com

## HONORED TO FLY THE PURPLE FLAG™

Purple Flag for Dementia Care™ accreditation illustrates our ongoing commitment to excellence with adherence to 60 best practices, extensive team member training, and a collaborative approach.



**BridgesbyEPOCH.com**  
978.289.4100  
254 Lowell Street  
Andover, MA 01810



[WWW.RUMBONEWS.COM](http://WWW.RUMBONEWS.COM)



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.

HOUSE OF MERCY  
85 Bay State Rd., Lawrence, MA 01843

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

**BAGS IN BULK**  
[Bagsinbulk.com](http://Bagsinbulk.com)

## Our walls are smiling! Join us next Saturday for the Opening Reception of Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine



Essex Art Center is thrilled to open its 2025 exhibition program with Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine, a dynamic two-person show of work by Jai Hart and Timothy Kadish.

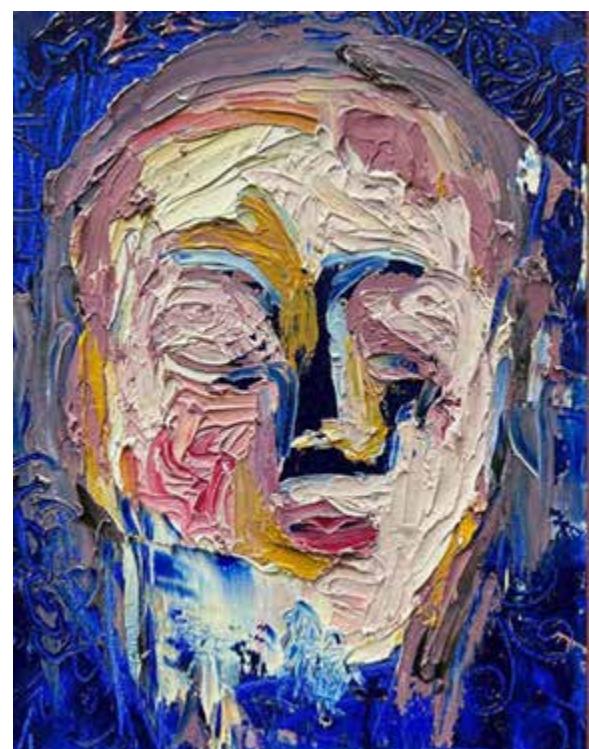
**ON VIEW**  
**January 18 — March 15, 2025**  
**OPENING RECEPTION**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2025**  
**12:00-2:00 PM**

Guided by the desire to create a playful and joy-filled experience, Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine brings together a diverse assortment of Harts' painted and stuffed canvases and Kadish's bold, geometric paintings. Hart and Kadish's works, installed in a creative and intuitive fashion, fill Essex Art Center's Sidell and Beland Galleries and spill into an adjacent studio and corridor.

Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine is curated by Essex Art Center's Executive Director, Monica Lynn Manoski, who said, "Working with Timothy and Jai has been so much fun. The artists have really responded to each other's work and are even working on a collaborative piece. There will also be an accompanying printed piece that viewers can take with them, which includes poems I wrote in response to Jai and Timothy's works. The show is an exuberant promise of spring. Please come see it!"

There are ample opportunities to engage with the artists during the exhibition's 8-week runtime. Hart and Kadish will share remarks during the Opening Reception on Saturday, January 25, at 12:30 PM, and they are hosting a collaborative artmaking experience together on Wednesday, February 12, at 6:00 PM. A Closing Celebration, with performances by Greater Lawrence Fellowship of the Arts, will take place at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 13.

On view on Essex Art Center's Community Art Wall is DUALITY an exhibition by Exposed Brick Literary Magazine, organized by founders Milly Joseph and Wangeci Gitau, that highlights their sixth edition. Featuring prose, mixed media, visual arts, and more to explore and challenge what DUALITY looks like to you. Opening reception of DUALITY and launch of Issue Six will be on January 25th, 2025, from 6:00-9:00 PM. There will be live performances, a zine-making workshop, light refreshments, and networking opportunities featuring our #Bricklitfam.



  
Merrimack Valley  
Chamber of Commerce

# 1ST ANNUAL WINTER GOLF Classic

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025**

**SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

- Title Sponsor \$295
- Tee Off Sponsor \$295
- Drive Sponsor \$295
- Drink Sponsor \$295

All Sponsorships include logo on flyer; Recognition at event; 1 Golf Ticket!

**AGENDA**

- 3:00 - 3:30 PM Golf Registration & Hot Dogs
- 3:30 - 7:30 PM Shotgun Start
- 7:30 - 8:00 PM Awards Presentation

**DETAILS**

- 18 Holes
- Teams of 3, team with lowest score Wins!
- 7-Foot Gimmes
- Men from White Tees/Women from Red Tees

**X-GOLF METHUEN**  
90 Pleasant Valley St  
Unit 105  
Methuen, MA 01844

**Register Now**  
[www.merrimackvalleychamber.com](http://www.merrimackvalleychamber.com) 978-686-0900 [office@merrimackvalleychamber.com](mailto:office@merrimackvalleychamber.com)

**\$65 EACH OR  
\$185 FOR TEAM OF 3!**

**Mitch's Place Individual Overnight Shelter**



**Emmaus**

Mitch's Place is a 40-bed, year-round emergency overnight shelter for single men and women. Mitch's Place offers temporary overnight shelter to homeless individuals. Guests receive a bed, meals, housing search assistance, employment assistance, and case management support to secure permanent housing as well as referrals to health and social services.

**Individuals in need of shelter should call (978) 241-3430 between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. for bed availability.**

If you do not have a phone, you could go to one of the two community centers listed below to call:

Community Drop-In Center  
16 Ashland Street Haverhill MA  
Phone: 978-241-9621  
Monday through Friday 8a-12noon

Common Ground Café  
194 Winter Street Haverhill MA  
Phone: 978-372-3336  
Monday through Friday 12noon – 4:30pm, Saturday & Sunday 7a-4pm

If Mitch's is fully occupied, you may also call other shelters listed below.

**Day Break**  
19 Winter Street Lawrence MA  
978-375-4547

**Lowell Transitional Living Center**  
196 Middlesex Street Lowell MA  
978-458-9888

For More Information [www.emmausinc.org](http://www.emmausinc.org)

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

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

— Helen Thomas



**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 6,000 y 9,000 niños en el cuidado de crianza en Massachusetts, que representan todas las edades, grupos étnicos y niveles económicos. Los padres de crianza en todo Massachusetts brindan hogares seguros y cariñosos en un momento crítico en la vida de los niños.

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

**dcf** MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF Children & Families

1-800-KIDS-500 | mass.gov/dcf



**BY DALIA DÍAZ**  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4



# From My Corner

## New Acting Personnel Director

On January 21, 2025, Mayor Brian DePeña appointed Caryl García, who has been assistant city attorney at city hall, as “acting” director of personnel. I did a bit of research to find out who she is and her qualifications, and all I found were more controversies.

She has an office at 60 Island St., Lawrence. There are ten reviews and, except for one claiming that she “helped me with the purchase of my home,” the rest of them only referenced that she is a “very nice person,” that “she explained everything very carefully,” etc. No one made any reference to the type of Law she practices.

Later, I found out that the city attorney’s office had hired her to handle the upcoming legalities involving housing.

When the authorities were questioned as to why the Director of Personnel was not posted on the city’s website, the response was that the issue with former director Michael Owens had not been completed and cannot be posted at this time. Does that mean we may have an “acting” personnel director for quite a while? I thought Owens was gone.

Attorney García has already appeared before the City Council this week. She didn’t say much because she’s so new in that position, but I also didn’t hear any councilor complaining that her contract as “acting” was signed by only the mayor thus making it an illegal contract because the city attorney did not sign it, as they claimed in William Castro’s case.

That brings me to former mayor Dan Rivera when he signed Roy Vasque’s contract as “acting” police chief without the city attorney’s signature. No one said it was illegal.

I did not hear complaints when Mayor DePeña appointed William Castro as “Provisional” police chief on January 12, 2024. That letter was signed only by the mayor.

Or, more recently, Melix Bonilla as “acting” police chief.

Last week, I referred to people who can’t read because they read words but lack reading comprehension. Read the above carefully, and you will realize that I’m not excusing Mayor DePeña or favoring William Castro. This is just an exposé of hypocrisy and ignorance impeding us from dealing with what matters.

Most of all, this ensures we select intelligent people to run for office. They may be able to ask questions (written for them to repeat like a parrot) during a meeting. But are they smart enough to be trusted in their decision-making affecting this community?

**“La prensa es el mejor instrumento para ilustrar la mente del hombre y mejorarlo como ser racional, moral y social.”**

**“The press is the best instrument for enlightening the mind of man and improving him as a rational, moral, and social being.”**

Thomas Jefferson

## Citizens’ list to interview police chief candidates

Yes, I volunteered a long time ago to be on the list. Now, I’m not so sure after all the things that are happening. You can find the list on page 2. I don’t want to be a token or a seal of approval, but this city’s citizens’ opinions are being played with. My time is valuable, and I want it to be respected.

During the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority (LRA) meeting last Wednesday, Attorney Richard D’Agostino represented Oneida Aquino, one of the presenters, when the LRA requested proposals to build on properties they don’t own.

This is the only case where two presenters were going for the same property, the other being MACE Construction, represented by Maximo Guerrero.

The instructions for filing a proposal were very clear by the LRA. There is a long list of items, such as a detailed development plan that includes land use, architectural design, landscape design, and sustainability features. Financial Capability: Evidence of financial stability and capability to undertake the project; proposed funding sources and financial plan, including project budget, funding sources, and pro forma financial statements. Many other details were missing from MACE’s proposal.

According to Ms. Aquino, the irregularities began from the onset, starting with NOT following the open meeting Law and attempting to open the proposals prior to completing the required number of days. This was brought to light by former City Councilor Richard Russell’s protest. In this case, they heeded the warning and postponed opening/accepting the bids to a later date.

The citizens’ committee that had been established scored her presentation a few points higher than MACE’s. But besides getting a lower average score and so much information missing from his proposal (which should have rendered him “disqualified”), he was chosen.

Clear case of “looking the other way” to see if they could get away with it.

Ms. Aquino hired a good Lawyer, Richard Mr. D’Agostino, and presented her case before the LRA board. Once he left, Mr. John Carras, a consultant working with the LRA, explained that the committee scores are just to give the board an idea of who they should select.

Something that has not come up is that Attorney Brian Corrigan is also Maximo Guerrero’s attorney, which creates an enormous conflict of interest.

The LRA used those people that with their good intention offered their time to be a part of that committee and I fear that the

police chief selection committee will be equally a farse.

## Local politicians

If you go to my Facebook page, you’ll see lots of jokes and animals because they are better than most people, along with community announcements and things to benefit our surrounding communities.

I have great distaste for social media because it’s largely populated by ill-intentioned, chiefly uninformed people, which causes society to fall into disrespect and denigration.

Today, politicians run their entire campaigns on the internet without realizing that they are reaching only a poorly informed segment of the voting population. If it works for them, let it be.

Recently, a friend sent me a posting from Lenin Roa saying the following:

“I don’t care if I lose people as friends but I’m done.”

Message in Spanglish for my community:

As a community we must rise to the occasion and assume our role to defend ourselves against all these politicians, and a system that only serves a few and not the collective interests of our people.

We have an opportunity to call to the attention of these people who are supposed to look out for our interests,

## 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.

that we deserve a government that looks out for the common interest and that there is more transparency and accountability when using the resources of our community.”

Just like Jonathan Guzmán, as members of the School Committee, they make a lot of noise on Facebook but, apparently, do not wish to share their battle with anyone else. Jonathan sends out meeting notices but never has any information to share with the public through the media – or at least, Rumbo.

About a year ago, I went to the mayor’s office, and when the receptionist told him I was there, he asked me to come in.

He was meeting with the members of the US Federal Chaplains and introduced me to them. I mentioned my desire to interview them and the work they perform in this city when Lenin Roa jumped up and told me he would contact me to plan it. I never heard from him again.

Rumbo was created almost 29 years ago to inform, defend, and educate our community. What could be better than using us to promote the good work they do? We’re on your side! We are fighting for the same things: “transparency and accountability when using the resources of our community.”

Don’t worry about me; I won’t steal your credit.

[www.rumbonews.com](http://www.rumbonews.com)

**Valentine's Paint Night**

Join us for a night of  
**PAINT - MUSIC - LOVE - REFRESHMENTS**

DATE: February 7th, 2025  
TIME: 6:00PM -8:30 PM  
168 Newbury ST, Lawrence MA

INDIVIDUAL: \$30  
COUPLE: \$50

All proceeds will go to Katherine's Closet in order to continue our ongoing support for the men in our community.

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
KKLOSET@LAWRENCECOMMUNITYWORKS.ORG

