



### Boston native serves aboard USS Sampson



Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Colin Gearin, from Boston, Massachusetts, relays information during a damage control drill aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Sampson (DDG 102) in the Pacific Ocean, Jan. 29, 2025. Sampson is underway in U.S. 3rd Fleet conducting routine operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Timothy Meyer)

### Alcalde DePeña hace tercera rendición de cuentas de la ciudad



### Mayor DePeña delivers the Third State of the City Address

(Léalo en español en la pagina 2. Read it in English on page 3)

### Honran a NECC's Lane Glenn

Campus Compact se complace en anunciar que Lane A. Glenn, Ph.D., presidente de Northern Essex Community College (NECC), ha sido galardonado con el Premio Eduardo J. Padrón por Liderazgo Presidencial de Campus Compact. El premio reconoce a los presidentes y rectores de colegios comunitarios que han ejemplificado un compromiso profundo y sostenido con la participación cívica y comunitaria a lo largo de sus carreras.

El Premio Eduardo J. Padrón al Liderazgo Presidencial se otorga como parte de los Premios de Impacto de Campus Compact, que reconocen ejemplos destacados de trabajo cívico y comunitario significativo e impactante en la educación superior. Pg. 9



Campus Compact is pleased to announce that Lane A. Glenn, Ph.D., president of Northern Essex Community College (NECC), has been awarded Campus Compact's Eduardo J. Padrón Award for Presidential Leadership. The award recognizes presidents and chancellors from community colleges who have exemplified a deep and sustained commitment to civic

and community engagement throughout their careers.

The Eduardo J. Padrón Award for Presidential Leadership is presented as part of Campus Compact's Impact Awards, which recognize shining examples of meaningful, impactful higher education civic and community engagement work. Pg. 9

### Abha Agrawal, MD, Elected to the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association Board of Trustees

(Read about it in English on page 6 / Léalo en español en la página 7)

### MVCC celebrates Butcher Boy Markets 70th Anniversary



The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Michael Bevilacqua, President/CEO hosted a special Recognition Ceremony celebrating Butcher Boy Markets 70th Anniversary with family members Donna Yameen, William Yameen, Christopher Yameen and Pamela Yameen; State Senator Barry Finegold; representatives of Sen. Bruce Tarr and Rep. Tram Nguyen; N. Andover Selectboard Chair Brian Roache, and NA SelectBoard members Janice Phillips and Rosemary Smedile.

### Velas, cocina y precaución: consejos de seguridad contra incendios para que su día de San Valentín sea seguro

Pg. 13

### Candles, Cooking, and Caution: Fire safety tips to keep your Valentine's Day safe

# Alcalde Brian A. DePeña hace tercera rendición de cuentas de la ciudad

## Una ciudad prometedora en ascenso

El Alcalde Brian A. DePeña pronunció su tercer discurso sobre el estado de la ciudad, en el que reflexionó sobre los logros de su administración y describió una visión para el crecimiento y la modernización continuos de Lawrence. Al hablar ante los concejales de la ciudad, los jefes de departamento, los líderes comunitarios y los residentes, el alcalde reafirmó su compromiso con la responsabilidad fiscal, las mejoras de infraestructura, la seguridad pública y el desarrollo económico.

### Fortalecimiento de las finanzas de la ciudad

El Alcalde DePeña destacó la sólida situación financiera de Lawrence y señaló que una auditoría independiente confirmó mejoras en la gestión fiscal. Entre los logros clave se incluyen:

- Reducir el déficit de la ciudad de \$27,4 millones en 2010 a \$8,5 millones.
- Obtención de la certificación del free cash del estado por \$15,7 millones.
- Mantener una capacidad de recaudación fiscal excedente de 13 millones de dólares.
- Aumentar los fondos de reserva a 57,8 millones de dólares, incluidas reservas de estabilización para dos nuevas escuelas y una nueva comisaría de policía.

Además, la ciudad ha obtenido \$27,2 millones en subvenciones estatales y federales (casi un aumento del 50% en la financiación desde que el alcalde asumió el cargo) para apoyar iniciativas de infraestructura, seguridad pública, vivienda y desarrollo comunitario.

### Invertir en seguridad pública

La seguridad pública sigue siendo una prioridad máxima, con más de 4 millones de dólares asignados a la dotación de personal policial, la prevención del delito, el tratamiento de opioides y los programas de seguridad contra incendios. La administración también ha iniciado la búsqueda de un nuevo jefe de policía, garantizando un proceso de selección transparente que priorice la rendición de cuentas y la participación de la comunidad.

En un importante reconocimiento a los socorristas de la ciudad, tres bomberos (el teniente Murphy, el bombero Sweeney y el bombero Fraval) fueron honrados con la Medalla al Valor del Gobernador por sus heroicos esfuerzos de rescate. El departamento de bomberos también recibió un nuevo camión de bomberos Ladder-4 para mejorar las capacidades de respuesta ante emergencias.

### Modernización de la infraestructura y los servicios públicos

El alcalde DePeña destacó la inversión de su administración en infraestructura, con casi \$5 millones dedicados a reparar más de 60 calles e intersecciones, modernizar 107 farolas y mejorar parques como Julia Silverio Park y Donovan Park. El Departamento de Obras Públicas también ha introducido tecnología avanzada para la gestión de activos, la vigilancia con drones y la identificación de sistemas de agua y alcantarillado mediante inteligencia artificial.

Además, Lawrence se ha unido



al programa de asociación Mass Save Community First, garantizando que 7.000 hogares reciban servicios de climatización y electrificación sin costo y al mismo tiempo protegiendo a los inquilinos del desplazamiento.

### Mejorar la accesibilidad y los servicios comunitarios

La administración ha restablecido la Comisión de Discapacidad y, en colaboración con el coordinador de la Ley para Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), Richard Rodríguez, ha conseguido financiación para mejoras de accesibilidad fundamentales en el Ayuntamiento, entre ellas, mejoras para el acceso en silla de ruedas, anunciadores de voz en ascensores, señalización en Braille y puertas automáticas.

La ciudad también ha priorizado los servicios para personas mayores, ampliando los programas del Centro para Personas Mayores para dar cabida al creciente número de visitantes. Solo en 2024, la ciudad atendió a más de 8195 personas mayores y entregó 78 000 comidas a residentes confinados en sus hogares.

### Impulsando el crecimiento económico y el desarrollo

El alcalde DePeña destacó el impulso económico de Lawrence, que atrae a nuevas industrias, empresarios y desarrolladores. Entre los logros recientes se incluyen:

- 2 millones de dólares invertidos en el desarrollo de viviendas asequibles.
- Se asignan \$1,2 millones para asistencia

de emergencia para alquiler.

- Se aseguraron 40 millones de dólares para importantes proyectos de transporte, incluida la remodelación de intersecciones clave y el Lawrence Rail Trail.

350 nuevas viviendas y siete nuevos restaurantes contribuyen a la vitalidad económica de la ciudad.

El Alcalde también anunció el lanzamiento de la Subvención para Pequeñas Empresas Prospering Lawrence, una iniciativa de \$500,000 que ha proporcionado financiamiento directo a 74 empresas locales.

### Educación y gobernanza local

Ahora que las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence están en vías de pasar a estar bajo control local después de más de una década bajo la administración estatal, el alcalde dio la bienvenida al superintendente Ralph Carrero, oriundo de Lawrence con tres décadas de experiencia en liderazgo educativo. La ciudad también ha supervisado la construcción de cuatro escuelas nuevas, entre ellas Lawrence Catholic Academy y Esperanza Academy, lo que garantiza que las generaciones futuras tengan acceso a una educación de alta calidad.

Al finalizar, el Alcalde DePeña reafirmó su compromiso de construir una Lawrence próspera, inclusiva y con visión de futuro. "El futuro de nuestra ciudad no es algo que esperamos, es algo que creamos", afirmó. "Juntos, haremos de Lawrence una ciudad de oportunidades, crecimiento y resiliencia para las generaciones futuras".

Ateneo Dominicano de Nueva Inglaterra

## Lanzamiento de la Bandera Nacional Dominicana

al celebrarse el 181 aniversario de la Independencia Nacional Dominicana

Jueves 13 de febrero 2025

2:00 PM

Frente al City Hall  
200 Common Street,  
Lawrence MA

WWW.ATENEODOMINICANO.ORG Teléfono: (978) 996-2525 Instagram: @ateneodominicanousa

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

## Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

DIRECTOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Dalia Díaz

daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

SALES & CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

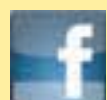
Alberto M. Surís

albertosuris@rumbonews.com

Publicación de SUDA, Inc.

315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843-3206

Tel: (978) 794-5360 | [www.rumbonews.com](http://www.rumbonews.com)



facebook.com/rumbonews  
twitter.com/rumbonews

Published on the 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of Every Month

# Mayor Brian A. DePeña Delivers Third State of the City Address A Promising City on the Rise

Mayor Brian A. DePeña delivered his third State of the City address, reflecting on his administration's accomplishments while outlining a vision for continued growth and modernization in Lawrence. Speaking before City Councilors, department heads, community leaders, and residents, the Mayor reaffirmed his commitment to fiscal responsibility, infrastructure improvements, public safety, and economic development.

## Strengthening City Finances

Mayor DePeña emphasized Lawrence's strong financial standing, noting that an independent audit confirmed improvements in fiscal management. Key achievements include:

- Reducing the city's deficit from \$27.4 million in 2010 to \$8.5 million.
- Securing Free Cash certification from the state for \$15.7 million.
- Maintaining an excess tax levy capacity of \$13 million.
- Growing reserve funds to \$57.8 million, including stabilization reserves for two new schools and a new police station.

In addition, the city has secured \$27.2 million in state and federal grants—nearly a 50% increase in funding since the Mayor took office—to support infrastructure, public safety, housing, and community development initiatives.

## Investing in Public Safety

Public safety remains a top priority, with over \$4 million allocated to police staffing, crime prevention, opioid treatment, and fire safety programs. The administration has also initiated the search for a new Chief of Police, ensuring a transparent selection process that prioritizes accountability and community engagement.

In a significant recognition of the city's first responders, three firefighters—Lieutenant Murphy, Firefighter Sweeney, and Firefighter Fraval—were honored with the Governor's Medal of Valor for their heroic rescue efforts. The fire department has also received a new Ladder-4 fire truck to enhance emergency response capabilities.

## Modernizing Infrastructure and Public Services

Mayor DePeña underscored his administration's investment in infrastructure, with nearly \$5 million dedicated to repairing over 60 streets and intersections, upgrading 107 streetlights, and enhancing parks such as Julia Silverio Park and Donovan Park. The Department of Public Works has also introduced advanced technology for asset management, drone surveillance, and AI-driven water and sewer system identification.

Further, Lawrence has joined the Mass Save Community First Partnership Program, ensuring 7,000 households receive no-cost weatherization and electrification services while protecting renters from displacement.



## Enhancing Accessibility and Community Services

The administration has reinstated the Commission on Disability and, in collaboration with ADA Coordinator Richard Rodriguez, secured funding for critical accessibility improvements at City Hall. These include wheelchair access upgrades, voice annunciators in elevators, Braille signage, and automatic door openers.

The city has also prioritized senior services, expanding programs at the Senior Center to accommodate the growing number of visitors. In 2024 alone, the city served over 8,195 seniors and delivered 78,000 meals to homebound residents.

## Driving Economic Growth and Development

Mayor DePeña highlighted Lawrence's economic momentum, with the city attracting new industries, entrepreneurs, and developers. Recent achievements include:

- \$2 million invested in affordable housing development.
- \$1.2 million allocated for emergency rental assistance.
- \$40 million secured for major transportation projects, including redeveloping key intersections and the Lawrence Rail Trail.

350 new housing units and seven new restaurants contributing to the city's economic vitality.

The Mayor also announced the launch of the Prospering Lawrence Small Business Grant, a \$500,000 initiative that has provided direct funding to 74 local businesses.

## Education and Local Governance

With Lawrence Public Schools on the path to local control after over a decade under state receivership, the Mayor welcomed Superintendent Ralph Carrero, a Lawrence native with three decades of educational leadership experience. The city

has also overseen the construction of four new schools, including Lawrence Catholic Academy and Esperanza Academy, ensuring future generations have access to high-quality education.

In closing, Mayor DePeña reaffirmed

his commitment to building a prosperous, inclusive, and forward-thinking Lawrence. "The future of our city is not something we wait for—it is something we create," he stated. "Together, we will make Lawrence a city of opportunity, growth, and resilience for future generations."

**READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE [RUMBONEWS.COM](http://RUMBONEWS.COM)**

## Looking to Buy Your First Home?

*You Won't Want to Miss This!*

**First-Time/Affordable Homebuyer Loan\***

**6.000% INTEREST RATE | 6.023% APR\***

**30-YEAR FIXED RATE RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE**  
NO POINTS! • LLPA FEES WAIVED!

- As little as 5% down\*
- First-time homebuyers or no homeownership for prior three years\*
- No mortgage insurance requirement for LTV of 90% or less\*

Call us at 978-358-8890 to learn more.



**INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS**

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1820.

[institutionforsavings.com](http://institutionforsavings.com)



\*APR denotes Annual Percentage Rate as of 2/6/25 and is based on a \$550,000 purchase loan with minimum credit score of 680 and maximum loan-to-value (LTV) of 95%. Unit cost per \$1,000 borrowed is \$6.00. Minimum loan amount is \$100,000, maximum loan amount is \$550,000 with a maximum purchase price of \$687,500. Owner-occupied condominiums or single-family primary residences in Essex County only. Offer subject to credit approval. Property insurance required. Flood insurance required if the property is located in a FEMA Special Hazard Flood Zone. Monthly payment examples do not include escrow amounts for real estate taxes, private mortgage insurance (PMI) and/or insurance, if applicable. This may increase payment amount. Other terms and conditions may apply. Rate is subject to change without notice. To qualify for this program, applicant must be a first-time homebuyer (FTHB) or have not owned a home for prior three years and must attend a first-time homebuyer course. Applicants must have an income no greater than 120% of the area median income (AMI) and a debt-to-income (DTI) ratio no greater than 38%. A minimum down payment of 5% is also required with a 2% gifted cap and a \$200,000 liquid/stock asset cap. The asset cap does not include retirement accounts. The minimum down payment requirement does not include down payment assistance (DPA) programs for low and moderate income (LMI) borrowers. PMI is waived for loans at 90% LTV or less. Applicants who qualify for this program and who have attended a Citizens' Housing & Planning Association (CHAPA) certified FTHB course are eligible for a \$1,500 closing cost credit. Member FDIC • Member DIF • NMLS ID. #2478201

POR DALIA DÍAZ  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

## Desde Mi Esquina

### Siga de cerca las actividades de la LRA

Parece haber una reacción a lo que escribí la semana pasada sobre las propuestas de Oneida Aquino y Máximo Guerrero. Pensé que había favoritismo porque, mientras que la Sra. Aquino presentó la documentación requerida, como se le indicó, la del Sr. Guerrero estaba incompleta y obtuvo unos puntos menos que ella.

La junta de la Autoridad de Reurbanización de Lawrence (LRA) votó a favor de la propuesta de MACE, que va en contra de TODAS las reglas de equidad, justicia y decencia común. La Sra. Aquino fue sometida a un trato irrespetuoso, arrogante y despectivo por parte de la junta cada vez que se reunían.

Hubo algo extraño cuando el abogado D'Agostino y Oneida Aquino confrontaron al abogado Corrigan en una reunión informal el 2 de diciembre de 2024, tras lo cual exigieron la descalificación de MACE. Octavien Spanner y Corrigan les dijeron a quemarropa que MACE **no sería descalificado**. La LRA anunció una reunión especial para el viernes, 7 de febrero a las 10:00 a.m. para discutir la propuesta de MACE. Media hora antes se canceló la reunión. Luego, se programó otra para las 4:00 p.m. en esa fecha que también se canceló justo antes de que comenzara. MACE había retirado su propuesta.

Uno pensaría que el proyecto de Oneida estaba listo para ser aprobado. ¡Oh, no! Esto es personal. Octavien quiere reabrir el proceso de RFP. Simplemente no quieren a Oneida.

No tengo palabras para describir lo que está haciendo la LRA. Esa junta está actuando de manera injusta e ilegal. No tengo que sugerirle al abogado D'Agostino que tome acciones legales, al menos que lo lleve a la atención de la Oficina del Inspector General (IGO).

¿Es así como se hacen los negocios en Lawrence? ¿Es así como la gente adquiere propiedades? ¿Qué más hay detrás de esa decisión? Durante muchos años, hemos estado escuchando comentarios sobre como políticos y "los bien conectados" adquieren propiedades de la ciudad. Esta vez, porque alguien se ha tomado el tiempo de investigar a esta organización, estamos viendo claramente la corrupción que está ocurriendo.

Yo le echo la culpa a la junta directiva. Observe cualquiera de sus reuniones y verá que no hay discusiones ni argumentos que valga la pena escuchar; normalmente votan por unanimidad. Todos son culpables de esta injusticia; son parte de la corrupción. ¿Qué hay en esto para ellos?

El Informe de Gestión de finales de

noviembre del señor Cintrón es un insulto a esta ciudad y a los contribuyentes. La LRA gastó \$822,000; los únicos gastos justificados son los salarios; todo lo demás tiene fecha, número de cheque, proveedor y monto pagado. Hay una larga lista de pagos a Amazon y Home Depot sin explicar qué se compró.

Lo que me hizo darme cuenta fue que Spanner está abusando de la tarjeta de crédito de la LRA fueron las veces que cargó \$3 en Dunkin, como si fuera una tarjeta personal. ¿No me cree? Solicite los registros.

### Con cualquier otro nombre, sigue siendo secuestro

Si pensaba que lo anterior era un escándalo, quédese quieto porque la siguiente historia es criminal.

Este caso se trata de un residente que me llamó pidiendo ayuda porque había apelado a muchas personas y no había obtenido nada. Su nombre es Leo González y su esposa es Mayra Gonell. Leo trabaja como intérprete para varias empresas.

En noviembre de 2023, la hija de Mayra, Grechy Rosario (no estoy segura si esa es la ortografía correcta de su nombre), llevó a Mayra a su casa para cuidarla, pero cada vez que Leo le pedía pasar un rato con Mayra, Grechy no lo permitía.

Grechy le quitó el teléfono a su madre, cambió el número para que nadie pudiera comunicarse con ella y no se lo devolvió, para que no pudiera hacer llamadas. Leo no tuvo noticias de su esposa durante mucho tiempo y fue a ver al alcalde Brian DePeña, quien le dijo que lo denunciara a la policía. El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence abrió una investigación y fue a la casa de Grechy en 19 Lea St. en Lawrence, pero Mayra no estaba allí.

Más tarde descubrieron que Grechy tenía otra casa en Methuen, e incluso la policía de Methuen intervino. Hicieron una verificación de bienestar, pero les dijeron que Mayra no estaba allí y que estaba en Lawrence.

Ante la insistencia de Leo, la policía de Lawrence, con Linette Pérez, directora de servicios policiales que maneja casos que involucran problemas familiares y abuso, los acompañó y pudieron ver a Mayra y hablar con ella. Linette dijo que Mayra les dijo que estaba bien y bien cuidada por su hija.

Ignoraron por completo la difícil situación de su esposo, Leo, y su presencia allí en contra de su voluntad.

Mayra estaba recibiendo servicios del Programa de Vida Independiente del Noreste, y Grechy la cambió a otra agencia.



### 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.

Fueron a la corte en julio del año pasado y, según Leo, Grechy estaba pidiendo la custodia legal de su madre. También solicitó el divorcio de su madre y Leo.

El tribunal asignó al abogado Peter Mansur para representar los intereses de Mayra, mientras que Leo contrató al abogado Marcos Scott para investigar este increíble episodio. El abogado Mansour nunca responde su teléfono ni devuelve los mensajes. Sin embargo, me envió una respuesta desagradable diciendo: *"Debido al privilegio de abogado-cliente de Mayra, no tengo la libertad de hablar en nombre de Mayra. Pasé su información. Mayra está bien y feliz y es una mujer muy dulce"*.

Fue una experiencia diferente cuando hablé con el abogado Scott. Él confirmó todo lo que había aprendido hasta ahora y dijo que tendremos que esperar hasta la próxima audiencia judicial en marzo. No sé si será sobre la concesión de la custodia o el divorcio.

Mientras tanto, hablé con Linette para obtener detalles de la situación, y ella dijo que el caso estaba cerrado ya que visitó la casa de Grechy y encontró que su madre estaba bien cuidada. Ella ofreció enviarme una copia del informe, pero nunca llegó. Lo único que me envió fue el expediente # 24PO8443GD. Interpreté eso como "búscalo tú misma".

Al comunicarme con el alcalde DePeña, me enteré de que conocía el caso y me aconsejó que me comunicara con el jefe de

policía Melix Bonilla. Dijo que le pediría a Linette que me enviara el informe, pero no lo recibí.

En el camino, hablando con muchas personas, me comuniqué con Angela Echavarría Gonell, prima de Mayra. Está furiosa porque lleva meses intentando verla y Grechy no se lo permite.

Escuché que la falta de atención se debe a que Leo no había denunciado a su esposa ante la policía. Intentó hacerlo y los policías se negaron a tomar su denuncia.

Entonces llamé una vez más y hablé con el capitán Maurice Aguiler, que también es abogado. Él no podía entender esa negativa y que lo investigaría. También dijo que me enviaría los informes que buscaba, pero nunca llegaron. Hablamos varias veces, pero era un callejón sin salida y sin respuestas.

Hace tres domingos, Leo me contó que Mayra le rogó a su nieta que le permitiera usar su teléfono y que pudo llamarlo. Ella dijo que estaba bien y que Grechy la cuidaba bien, pero que quería estar en su casa y estar con él. Afortunadamente para ambos, había un testigo y él grabó su llamada.

Estos son dos ejemplos de lo perdida que está esta ciudad. Creo firmemente que la terrible experiencia del jefe William Castro es solo una distracción, espejos humeantes, porque hay demasiadas personas en Lawrence haciendo las cosas mal, y si alguien intenta echar un vistazo, será como si se derrumbara una casa de naipes.

**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:  
CHILDREN'S FRIEND & FAMILY SERVICES  
A SERVICE OF STAR

JEANNE GEIGER  
CRISIS CENTER

Northeast Family Services  
WE'LL HELP YOU HELP

Made with PosterMyWall.com





# ESTRENAR A VIVIR

*En Lujo y Estilo*



RIVERWALK  
LOFTS



- Las Mascotas son Bienvenidas
- Estacionamiento Disponible
- Gimnasio Abierto Las 24 Horas
- Acceso Controlado

- Loft En El Segundo Piso En Todas Las Unidades (ascensor opcional)
- Comedor y Cocina Comunitarios
- Espacios De Trabajo Privados y Sala De Juegos
- Pasos Para El Tren De Cercanías a Boston

**LLAMAR PARA UN RECORRIDO**

**978.645.6302**

250 MERRIMACK STREET  
LAWRENCE, MA 01843



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



# Lawrence General and Holy Family Hospital President and CEO Abha Agrawal, MD, Elected to the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association Board of Trustees

LAWRENCE, MA, FEB. 5, 2025—Lawrence General and Holy Family Hospital President and CEO Abha Agrawal, MD, FACP, FACHE, was elected to the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Board of Trustees on Jan. 30, 2025. MHA serves as the united voice for the Commonwealth's hospitals, health systems, and health care providers.

“Dr. Agrawal has already made an immeasurable impact on her community just one year into her time at Lawrence General, and we know she will bring the same changemaking spirit to our Board’s mission,” said MHA President and CEO Steve Walsh. “She understands the needs of underrepresented populations, the unique dynamics of community hospitals, and how to create positive change for patients and their caregivers. She is an important voice for MHA and our members as we think big and build a better system of the future.”

It is an exciting time for Dr. Agrawal and Lawrence General Hospital, which acquired Holy Family Hospital’s Methuen and Haverhill’s locations from Steward Health Care in October 2024 following Steward’s declaration of bankruptcy.

“Our mission when we set out to create a regional health system is a simple one: We want to be big enough to serve you, small enough to know you and close enough to love you,” Agrawal said. “Our goal now is to deliver on that promise.”

As part of the MHA Board, Dr. Agrawal will help support the recovery of local hospitals and health systems, all of which have absorbed a relentless series of pressures dating back to the beginning of the pandemic. The Board will advocate with a united front to ease the capacity pressures, workforce shortages, and administrative burdens that are now challenging timely patient care across the Commonwealth, and to restore financial stability to the state’s most important sector.

In the coming year, MHA and its Board will also build upon Massachusetts’ world-renowned legacy for healthcare innovation. Its priorities will include advancing state-of-the-art care outside the hospital, reimagining what an empowered healthcare profession looks like, and closing patient care disparities in new and creative ways.

“I am honored to be part of this exceptional organization and am looking forward to bringing the voices of our providers and communities to the Board and the important work of the MHA,” Agrawal said.

## About Lawrence General Hospital

As a not-for-profit hospital serving

the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire, Lawrence General Hospital provides access to high-quality care and a growing network of local providers, including primary care and many specialties. A designated Level III Trauma Center, Lawrence General has one of the busiest Emergency Departments in Massachusetts. Lawrence General offers a broad range of services and specialty surgeries in its Santagati Center for surgery and leads the region in cardiac care with Massachusetts’ most highly accredited cardiovascular center. With more than 11,000 inpatient discharges per year, 1,400 births, and a dedicated team of nearly 2,000 employees, Lawrence General has proudly served the region since 1875 and is a major acute care provider of emergency, surgical, medical, maternity, and newborn care for the Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. For more information, visit [www.LawrenceGeneral.org](http://www.LawrenceGeneral.org).

## About Holy Family Hospital

A 310-bed full service, acute care hospital with two campuses located in Methuen and Haverhill, Massachusetts, Holy Family Hospital provides expert care in the areas of orthopedics, wound care, women’s health, cardiovascular care, stroke care and behavioral health care to patients in the Merrimack Valley. Holy Family Hospital features comprehensive inpatient medical/surgical units and 24/7 emergency services at both locations, outpatient services, a Level II Special Care Nursery, and Adult and Geriatric Psychiatry. Our Methuen campus offers a state-of-the-art catheterization suite, a Joint Commission certified Advanced Total Hip and Knee Center of Excellence and stroke care that has earned American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Target: Type 2 Diabetes. For more information, visit [HolyFamilyHospital.org](http://HolyFamilyHospital.org).

## About Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association

The Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) serves as the unified voice for Massachusetts hospitals and healthcare providers. Founded in 1936, MHA represents over 100 hospitals, healthcare partners, and patients across the state. Through advocacy, education, and collaboration, MHA’s mission is to improve the overall health of the commonwealth and support providers’ efforts to offer high-quality, affordable, and accessible care. For further information about MHA, please visit <https://www.mhalink.org/> or contact [communications@mhalink.org](mailto:communications@mhalink.org).



## Dr. Agrawal’s biography

Dr. Abha Agrawal is the president and CEO of Lawrence General Hospital (Lawrence, MA) and Holy Family Hospital (Methuen, MA and Haverhill, MA). She serves on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine, the American College of Medical Quality, and the Indian American Medical Association Charitable Foundation in Illinois.

She is a Fulbright scholar and recipient of numerous awards for her transformational work in healthcare including quality and safety, health informatics, transformational leadership, and health equity. She is also the founder of A4 Clinics, a chain of tech-

enabled neurorehabilitation centers to address the burden of preventable disability in India.

She is the editor of several books on patient safety and health IT, and the author of a personal memoir, “13 Gifts for My Son: Lessons for a Meaningful Life.”

She received her medical education in India, served a residency in Internal Medicine at the State University of New York in Brooklyn, and was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship in Medical Informatics at Yale School of Medicine. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Clinical Informatics.

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

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

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

CICERO

**Atención Correcta, Lugar Correcto.**

**SALA DE EMERGENCIAS**

- Dolor de pecho o dificultad para respirar
- Quemaduras, cortes o laceraciones graves
- Huesos rotos o articulaciones dislocadas
- Desmayo, cambios en el estado mental o hablar arrastrando las palabras
- Lesiones en la cabeza o los ojos
- Debilidad y/o entumecimiento en un lado del cuerpo

# La Dra. Abha Agrawal, presidenta y directora ejecutiva del Lawrence General and Holy Family Hospital, fue elegida para la Junta Directiva de la Asociación de Salud y Hospitales de Massachusetts

LAWRENCE, MA, 5 DE FEBRERO DE 2025 – La Dra. Abha Agrawal, presidenta y directora ejecutiva del Lawrence General and Holy Family Hospital, fue elegida para la Junta Directiva de la Asociación de Salud y Hospitales de Massachusetts (MHA) el 30 de enero de 2025. La MHA es la voz unida de los hospitales, sistemas de salud y proveedores de atención médica de la Commonwealth.

“La Dra. Agrawal ya ha tenido un impacto inmensurable en su comunidad apenas un año después de haber estado en el Lawrence General, y sabemos que aportará el mismo espíritu de cambio a la misión de nuestra Junta”, afirmó Steve Walsh, presidente y director ejecutivo de la MHA. “Ella comprende las necesidades de las poblaciones subrepresentadas, la dinámica única de los hospitales comunitarios y cómo generar un cambio positivo para los pacientes y sus cuidadores. Ella es una voz importante para MHA y nuestros miembros mientras pensamos en grande y construimos un mejor sistema para el futuro”.

Es un momento emocionante para la Dra. Agrawal y el Hospital General Lawrence, que adquirió las instalaciones de Methuen y Haverhill del Holy Family Hospital de Steward Health Care en octubre de 2024 luego de la declaración de quiebra de Steward. “Nuestra misión cuando nos propusimos crear un sistema de salud regional es simple: queremos ser lo suficientemente grandes para servirlos, lo suficientemente pequeños para conocerlos y lo suficientemente cercanos para amarlos”, dijo Agrawal. “Nuestro objetivo ahora es cumplir esa promesa”.

Como parte de la Junta de MHA, la Dra. Agrawal ayudará a respaldar la recuperación de los hospitales y sistemas de

salud locales, todos los cuales han absorbido una serie incesante de presiones que se remontan al comienzo de la pandemia. La Junta abogará con un frente unido para aliviar las presiones de capacidad, la escasez de fuerza laboral y las cargas administrativas que ahora están desafiando la atención oportuna al paciente en todo el Commonwealth, y para restablecer la estabilidad financiera del sector más importante del estado. El año que viene, la MHA y su Junta también se basarán en el legado de Massachusetts, reconocido mundialmente, de innovación en el cuidado de la salud. Sus prioridades incluirán promover la atención de vanguardia fuera del hospital, reimaginar cómo se ve una profesión de atención médica empoderada y cerrar las disparidades en la atención al paciente de formas nuevas y creativas.

“Me siento honrada de ser parte de esta organización excepcional y espero llevar las voces de nuestros proveedores y comunidades a la Junta y al importante trabajo de la MHA”, dijo Agrawal.

## Acerca del Lawrence General Hospital

Como hospital sin fines de lucro que presta servicios en el Valle de Merrimack y el sur de New Hampshire, el Lawrence General Hospital brinda acceso a atención de alta calidad y una red creciente de proveedores locales, que incluyen atención primaria y muchas especialidades. Lawrence General, un centro de trauma de nivel III designado, tiene uno de los departamentos de emergencia más activos de Massachusetts. Lawrence General ofrece una amplia gama de servicios y cirugías especializadas en su Centro Santagati para cirugía y lidera la región en atención

cardíaca con el centro cardiovascular más acreditado de Massachusetts. Con más de 11,000 altas de pacientes hospitalizados por año, 1400 nacimientos y un equipo dedicado de casi 2000 empleados, Lawrence General ha prestado servicios con orgullo a la región desde 1875 y es un importante proveedor de atención aguda de urgencias, cirugías, atención médica, maternidad y atención neonatal para el valle de Merrimack y el sur de New Hampshire. Para obtener más información, visite [www.LawrenceGeneral.org](http://www.LawrenceGeneral.org).

## Acerca de Holy Family Hospital

Holy Family Hospital, un hospital de atención aguda de servicio completo con 310 camas y dos campus ubicados en Methuen y Haverhill, Massachusetts, brinda atención experta en las áreas de ortopedia, cuidado de heridas, salud de la mujer, atención cardiovascular, atención de accidentes cerebrovasculares y atención de salud conductual a pacientes en el valle de Merrimack. Holy Family Hospital cuenta con unidades médicas y quirúrgicas integrales para pacientes hospitalizados y servicios de urgencias las 24 horas, los 7 días de la semana en ambas ubicaciones, servicios para pacientes ambulatorios, una guardería de cuidados especiales de nivel

II y psiquiatría para adultos y geriátrica. Nuestro campus de Methuen ofrece una sala de cateterismo de última generación, un Centro de excelencia avanzado de cadera y rodilla certificado por la Joint Commission y atención para accidentes cerebrovasculares que ha obtenido el premio Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Target: Type 2 Diabetes de la American Heart Association. Para obtener más información, visite [HolyFamilyHospital.org](http://HolyFamilyHospital.org).

## Acerca de la Asociación de Salud y Hospitales de Massachusetts

La Asociación de Salud y Hospitales de Massachusetts (MHA) es la voz unificada de los hospitales y proveedores de atención médica de Massachusetts. Fundada en 1936, la MHA representa a más de 100 hospitales, socios de atención médica y pacientes en todo el estado. A través de la defensa, la educación y la colaboración, la misión de la MHA es mejorar la salud general del estado y apoyar los esfuerzos de los proveedores para ofrecer atención de alta calidad, asequible y accesible. Para obtener más información sobre la MHA, visite <https://www.mhalink.org/> o comuníquese con [communications@mhalink.org](mailto:communications@mhalink.org).

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

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

Dalai Lama



de tus vecinos ayudaron

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



647 Andover Street, Lawrence | [ecrestore.org](http://ecrestore.org) | 978-686-3323  
Horas: martes - sábado, 10am-5pm

# Good Business - MeVa Transit's Fare-Free Program Overwhelming Success and Economic Booster for the Merrimack Valley

MeVa Transit is proud to announce the findings of the recent comprehensive business case report completed by Stantec under the guidance of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC). The MeVa Fare-Free Evaluation and Business Case demonstrates how MeVa's Fare-Free Program, launched in March of 2022 to foster accessibility and improve the overall transit experience, has surpassed expectations in delivering a range of operational, environmental, economic, and social benefits.

While anecdotally, the fare-free program has been well-received by riders, drivers, and service providers alike, MVPC, the regional planning commission for the

Merrimack Valley, sought to do a deep dive on the regional impacts of MeVa's fare-free program. MVPC engaged Stantec Consulting to capture these stories and dig into the data and determine – is fare-free worth it? According to Stantec's report, the answer is a resounding yes!

MVPC Executive Director Jerrard Whitten commented, "while riders and municipal officials alike generally supported MeVa's fare free policy, the Board of the Merrimack Valley's Metropolitan Planning Organization questioned if the policy's bundle of benefits balanced out its costs. The resulting study indicates that the policy's widespread support is warranted. The study shows that MeVa has been able to add service

and gain ridership despite lost fare revenue, reducing per capita operating costs. The bus is also helping facilitate increased access to key destinations, such as health centers and grocers. Perhaps most importantly, the policy helps its riders—40% of whom make less than \$25,000 per year—save on mobility, a basic human need."

Liza Cohen, the project lead for the study at Stantec, noted that: "MeVa has been a pioneer in not only going fare-free, but in listening to passengers and being nimble enough to make modifications to routes and service that meet the ever-changing needs of the community." The study identified several remarkable outcomes of MeVa's fare-free program, including a notable

increase in ridership (and corresponding reduction in emissions). Additionally, drivers reported fewer conflicts, riders reported better access to healthcare, and data showed more people patronizing more businesses in the area. MeVa was able to absorb the increased ridership with limited impact on travel time and people can now get on the bus much faster without having to hunt for their payment. Finally, the analysis showed that MeVa is saving staff time and money that it used to spend on collecting the fares. These positive results demonstrate that the value of the program far exceeds the costs of lost fare revenue, providing a compelling business case for continuing and expanding fare-free transit options."

"MeVa has been fare-free for three years now and, as this report so well demonstrates, the benefits are unassailable and far-reaching," said MeVa Transit Administrator, Noah Berger. "When we first launched our free fare program, there was some uncertainty as to whether it would be successful. While sceptics raised doubts, those doubts were based on speculation, not actual experience. Now we have the receipts! The data shines a bright light on the breadth of the positive impact the program has had both on our ability to operate high-quality bus service without having to divert time and attention to the logistics of collecting fares, which has nothing to do with operating buses, as well as our ability to benefit our community. Simply put, free-fare transit is freedom—freedom to access opportunity. Having demystified the logistics of free-fare operations, the business case is compelling, not just for MeVa but for transit operations everywhere. We are proud that we have demonstrated the merits of fare-free transit and are grateful to the support we've received from decision makers who have been inspired by our example."

## Key Findings from the Business Case Report

### Increased Ridership & Accessibility:

- The fare-free program has driven a significant increase in ridership, which now exceeds pre-pandemic totals by nearly 60%.
- 62% of MeVa riders have only walking or rolling as an alternative.
- 29% of MeVa's riders have never paid a fare.
- More passengers are now utilizing transit for essential trips, including visits to healthcare facilities, recreational destinations, and educational institutions.
- Riders report that the removal of fare barriers has made transit more accessible, especially for students, people with limited access to alternative transportation options, and people with disabilities.
- Riders are taking new trips for shopping and leisure (38%), but also to go to work or school (32%), access healthcare (13%), and to run errands (13%).
- 44% of people indicated they would not have taken their most recent trip if they had to pay a fare.

**¡INSCRÍBASE HOY!**

## LOWELL COMMUNITY CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

LCCPS es una escuela pública concertada gratuita que atiende a 815 estudiantes de preescolar a octavo grado en el corazón del centro de Lowell, MA.

**Fecha límite de solicitud**  
28 de febrero de 2025

**Sesiones informativas**  
7 de enero de 2025  
6 de febrero de 2025

**Fecha de la lotería**  
5 de marzo de 2025 5:30 PM

**Contáctenos**  
(978) 323 - 0800

**Es LCCPS para su hijo?**

- Apoyo para ELL y necesidades especiales
- Programas de Día prolongado
- Programas de atletismo competitivo
- Artes unificadas
- Programa para superdotados y talentosos
- Y mucho más.

**98.7%** FAMILIAS DICEN QUE LA LCCPS PREPARA A SUS HIJOS PARA UN FUTURO EXITOSO

LIDERAZGO | EXCELENCIA | ÉXITO | DIVERSIDAD  
206 Jackson Street | Lowell | www.lccps.org

**LCCPS** LOWELL COMMUNITY CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

(Cont. on page 10)



# Dr. Lane A. Glenn Receives Eduardo J. Padrón Award for Presidential Leadership

Campus Compact recognizes Northern Essex Community College president for commitment to civic and community engagement

Campus Compact is pleased to announce that Lane A. Glenn, Ph.D., president of Northern Essex Community College (NECC), has been awarded Campus Compact's Eduardo J. Padrón Award for Presidential Leadership. The award recognizes presidents and chancellors from community colleges who have exemplified a deep and sustained commitment to civic and community engagement throughout their careers.

Glenn is recognized as Massachusetts' longest-serving community college president, where his leadership and dedication to equity have made an indelible mark, not just on the communities NECC serves, but across Massachusetts and its educational institutions.

"President Glenn is a strong advocate for colleges and universities as engines of economic and workforce development—particularly in Massachusetts Gateway Cities," said Allison M. Dolan-Wilson, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at NECC in a letter nominating Glenn for the award. "Northern Essex Community College is now in year three of Success for All, its current strategic plan. The plan seeks to remove structural barriers, and create a more equitable, more diverse, and inclusive college that reflects the cultures and identities of all people who are part of the NECC community. This work would not be possible without the strong foundation laid by President Glenn."

"President Glenn's longtime leadership at Northern Essex Community College clearly demonstrates the unique and vital contributions that civically engaged community college leaders can make toward community development and wellbeing," said Bobbie Laur, president of Campus Compact. "We are honored to recognize his many years of dedicated leadership in higher education civic and community engagement work with this award."

The Eduardo J. Padrón Award for Presidential Leadership is presented as part of Campus Compact's Impact Awards, which recognize shining examples of meaningful, impactful higher education civic and community engagement work.

The recipients of these awards will be recognized at Compact25, Campus Compact's annual conference, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from March 31st - April 2nd, 2025.

### About Campus Compact:

Campus Compact is a national coalition of colleges and universities committed to the public purposes of higher education. Campus Compact supports institutions in fulfilling their public purposes by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. As the largest national higher education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic engagement, it provides professional development to

administrators and faculty to enable them to engage effectively, facilitate national partnerships connecting campuses with key issues in their local communities, build pilot programs to test and refine promising models in engaged teaching and

scholarship, celebrate and cultivate student civic leadership, and convene higher education institutions and partners beyond higher education to share knowledge and develop collective capacity. For more information, visit [compact.org](http://compact.org).



# El Dr. Lane A. Glenn Recibe el Premio Eduardo J. Padrón Por Liderazgo Presidencial

Campus Compact reconoce al presidente de Northern Essex Community College por su compromiso con la participación cívica y comunitaria



Campus Compact se complace en anunciar que Lane A. Glenn, Ph.D., presidente de Northern Essex Community College (NECC), ha sido galardonado con el Premio Eduardo J. Padrón por

Liderazgo Presidencial de Campus Compact. El premio reconoce a los presidentes y rectores de colegios comunitarios que han ejemplificado un compromiso profundo y sostenido con la participación cívica y comunitaria a lo largo de sus carreras.

Glenn es reconocido como el presidente de colegio comunitario con más años de servicio en Massachusetts, donde su liderazgo y dedicación a la equidad han dejado una marca indeleble, no solo en las comunidades a las que NECC presta servicios, sino en todo Massachusetts y sus instituciones educativas.

"El presidente Glenn es un firme defensor de los colegios y universidades como motores del desarrollo económico y de la fuerza laboral, en particular en las ciudades de acceso a Massachusetts", dijo Allison M. Dolan-Wilson, vicepresidenta de desarrollo institucional en NECC, en una carta en la que nominaba a Glenn para el premio. "Northern Essex Community

College se encuentra ahora en el tercer año de Success for All, su plan estratégico actual. El plan busca eliminar las barreras estructurales y crear un colegio más equitativo, más diverso e inclusivo que refleje las culturas e identidades de todas las personas que forman parte de la comunidad de NECC. Este trabajo no sería posible sin la sólida base establecida por el presidente Glenn".

"El liderazgo de larga data del presidente Glenn en Northern Essex Community College demuestra claramente las contribuciones únicas y vitales que los líderes de colegios comunitarios comprometidos cívicamente pueden hacer al desarrollo y el bienestar de la comunidad", dijo Bobbie Laur, presidenta de Campus Compact. "Nos sentimos honrados de reconocer sus muchos años de liderazgo dedicado en el trabajo de compromiso cívico y comunitario de la educación superior con este premio".

El Premio Eduardo J. Padrón al Liderazgo Presidencial se otorga como parte de los Premios de Impacto de Campus Compact, que reconocen ejemplos destacados de trabajo cívico y comunitario significativo e impactante en la educación superior.

Los ganadores de estos premios serán reconocidos en Compact25, la conferencia anual de Campus Compact,

que se llevará a cabo en Atlanta, Georgia, del 31 de marzo al 2 de abril de 2025.

### ACERCA DE CAMPUS COMPACT:

Campus Compact es una coalición nacional de colegios y universidades comprometidos con los propósitos públicos de la educación superior. Campus Compact apoya a las instituciones en el cumplimiento de sus propósitos públicos al profundizar su capacidad para mejorar la vida comunitaria y educar a los estudiantes para la responsabilidad cívica y social. Como la mayor asociación nacional de educación superior dedicada exclusivamente a la participación cívica en los campus, ofrece desarrollo profesional a administradores y profesores para permitirles participar de manera efectiva, facilitar asociaciones nacionales que conecten a los campus con cuestiones clave en sus comunidades locales, crear programas piloto para probar y refinar modelos prometedores de enseñanza y becas comprometidas, celebrar y cultivar el liderazgo cívico estudiantil y convocar a instituciones de educación superior y socios más allá de la educación superior para compartir conocimientos y desarrollar capacidad colectiva. Para obtener más información, visite [compact.org](http://compact.org).



# Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

## #8 Knights cruise past Holyoke, 122-65

Haverhill, MA (February 8, 2025) – All seventeen players in uniform for the #8 nationally ranked Northern Essex Community College men’s basketball recorded at least three points or more as the Knights jumped on the Cougars from the opening tip and never looked back to improve their record to 21-2 overall and 16-1 in conference play.

NECC jumped out to a quick 17-2 lead before taking a 35-point halftime lead into the locker room at halftime 66-31.

Four Knights shared the team high in points as Karl Wolfgang, Christian Sanders (Boston), Xavier Rivera (Lowell) and Alp Gyuler (Istanbul, TR) each finished with 12.

Strong defensive pressure forced 22 turnovers in the Knights favor.

NECC will return to the court on Tuesday evening for a matchup of nationally ranked teams as Quincy College will travel to the Sport and Fitness Center for a 6:00pm tip-off.

## Women’s basketball takes down Holyoke, 88-45

Haverhill, MA (November 8, 2025) – The Northern Essex Community College women’s basketball team defeated Holyoke Community College by a 88-45 final score on Saturday afternoon to improve their record 8-10 overall and 6-5 in conference play.

The Knights jumped out early on the Cougars leading 22-11 after the first quarter and expanded on the lead taking a 15-point advantage to the locker room at halftime 41-26, and gradually continued to pull away in the second half.

A quartet of Knights all scored in double

figures led by Rhaelyn Gutierrez (Methuen) who had a game high 28 points and she was closely followed Mirelys Morlaes (Dracut) with 24 points.

Shanely Henriquez (Haverhill) and Rebecca Heathman (Billerica) both had season high totals of 15 and 12 respectively, while Heathman pulled down 14 rebounds for her 13th double digit rebounding performance of the season.

The Knights will return to the court next Saturday when they play host to UConn Avery Point next Saturday at 12:00pm.

## MeVa Transit’s Fare-Free Program...

(Cont. from page 8)

### Operational & Community Benefits:

- MeVa Transit’s fare-free program has also been instrumental in enhancing the rider experience.

- 86% of MeVa riders were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with their bus routes, and 58% were extremely satisfied, which exceeds typical levels at transit agencies.

- Rider complaints decreased by nearly half in the year the fare-free program was enacted and have since remained low, even as ridership almost tripled.

- Dwell time per passenger decreased by half, making service quicker and more efficient.

- Thousands of new trips have been made to key social, recreational, and educational destinations, including the Lawrence Senior Center, Salisbury Beach, Andover/North Andover YMCA, and local schools such as Lawrence High and RISE Academy. Paratransit riders, in particular, have been able to access community spaces more frequently, improving their overall well-being.

- Around two-third of riders indicated that they would be logistically impacted and nearly a third would be very impacted.

- In the first year of the fare-free program, more riders began using MeVa buses to access hospitals and medical centers; this generated over 500 additional trips to these locations per month.

### Environmental Impact:

- The fare-free program is inducing mode shift, resulting in fewer trips by private vehicle and rideshare. Nearly 20% of all trips on MeVa buses would have occurred by vehicle if the bus was not free.

- The environmental benefits of the program are also notable. By providing an alternative to rideshare services and personal vehicle use, MeVa’s fare-free transit system has led to significant reductions in emissions. These improvements further support MeVa Transit’s commitment to sustainability and its role in addressing climate change.

- From June 2023 to May 2024, the fare-free program cut 176 tons of CO2 per year

from drive alone and carpool trips, equal to the emissions of 51 vehicles in a year, and another 369 tons of CO2 per year from rideshare trips, equal to the emissions of 106 cars, for a total of 545 tons of CO2 per year, or the emissions of 157 cars.

### Economic Value:

- The Stantec report outlines that the economic benefit associated with the fare-free program exceeds \$1.7 million, with overall program savings and fare collection costs totaling over \$2 million in net benefit.

- A return to collecting fares for MeVa would require a capital investment of over \$1.4 million to cover new equipment, which is in addition to regular staff time that would need to be devoted to fare collection activities.

- In real dollars for our community members, the fare-free program is saving the average MeVa rider \$230 per year. Two-thirds (65%) of riders indicated that they would experience financial hardship if fares were to return, with over a third (34%) of respondents indicating they would be “very impacted” financially.

### About MVPC

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission is a regional planning agency created in 1959 with a goal of consistently planning, developing, and promoting not only the sustainable development of the Merrimack Valley through responsible and efficient use of regional resources, but to also rally and unify the communities to perpetuate the region’s vision. A 16-member Board of Commissioners governs the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, which serves 15 member communities across the Merrimack Valley. Learn more at mvpc.org.

### About MeVa

MeVa is the regional transit authority providing fare-free public bus transportation to sixteen cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley. The bulk of MeVa’s fixed route service is based in the three Gateway City communities of Lawrence, Methuen, and Haverhill, with service stretching into surrounding rural and coastal towns. MeVa carries over 3.5 million riders per year on its family of local bus, intercity, and paratransit services. For the majority of the region, MeVa serves as the primary source of public transportation. Learn more at mevatransit.com.

"The test of success is not what you do when you are on top. Success is how high you bounce when you hit the bottom."

George S. Patton

**LOWER TOWER HILL PUBLIC SPACE PLAN**

**FAVORITE PLACES SURVEY**

Take this survey in less than 5 minutes!  
Tell us about your favorite places in the City of Lawrence and help us build a vision for the future of the Lower Tower Hill Neighborhood.

survey.mvpc.org/LawrenceFavoritePlaces

More information at mvpc.org/lowertowerhill

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  
Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm

shop donate volunteer



## UN PUNTO DE VISTA ©1996

Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

El Dr. Montesino, totalmente responsable por este artículo, es el Editor de LatinoWorldOnline.com

### Volviendo a lo Básico

Hace unos meses, escribí un artículo sobre el comportamiento humano que tocó una fibra sensible. Se trataba de la descripción de una interacción afectiva frecuente y popular entre dos personas que no les llegaba físicamente porque se limitaba a un beso al aire seguido de la expresión verbal "Moa" que también las aislaba. Hoy quiero reintroducir una vieja necesidad humana básica más antigua: el "abrazo". "Moa" recibió un ascenso.

Afortunadamente, nuestras expresiones básicas de amor y necesidad mutua no han cesado. Un abrazo sigue siendo un abrazo y una oportunidad real para compartir y disfrutar la existencia de otros. Nacimos con la práctica de los abrazos. Si mira a los bebés, ve a sus madres y padres estirándose hacia ellos en la cuna para abrazarlos. Los bebés aprenden temprano a alcanzar con un abrazo a quienes les dieron la vida. Y usted y yo sabemos que es un abrazo amoroso de consecuencias entre mamá y papá lo que creó a ese bebé. Contrariamente al folclore, las cigüeñas no dan a luz a los bebés. En uno de mis viajes europeos, en Portugal, vi cigüeñas sentadas encima de las coronas de las chimeneas tratando de mantenerse calientes.

Pero la práctica va más allá de ese primer momento. Observe a los jugadores de hockey en el hielo después de que golpean con éxito el disco de hockey en la red para anotar y los otros jugadores lo alcanzan para abrazarlo. Lo cual es más gratificante que los jugadores de hockey se tiren de las camisas y se golpeen entre sí porque uno se sintió ofendido por el otro. Lo mismo sucede con los jugadores de balompié, baloncesto, béisbol y fútbol americano.

No solo queremos ganar partidos, eso en sí mismo es una recompensa, también queremos abrazar y ser abrazados. Denme un partido sin abrazos y le daré un partido sin anotar.

¿Debo recordarles a mis lectores que nos abrazamos en los aeropuertos, en las bodas, en las fiestas y en los ejercicios de graduación, incluso en los funerales? No empezamos a practicarlo. Estaba en nuestro territorio y venía en nuestro paquete de ADN evolutivo. Los monos se abrazan entre sí y los chimpancés incluso nos abrazan a nosotros.

A estas alturas ya se estarán preguntando por qué escribí este artículo que suena tan obvio. La razón es simple: necesitamos más abrazos. No tienen que ser físicos todo el tiempo, también pueden ser virtuales e intangibles. Todo lo que necesitamos es desear lo mejor a los demás y un abrazo virtual está en el aire.

En realidad, lo que quería hacer es pedir a mis lectores que no gasten un valioso tiempo romántico en este día de San Valentín el 14 de febrero que se nos acerca esta semana lanzándose besos MOA. San Valentín fue removido del Calendario General Romano de la Iglesia Católica en 1969 por falta de información creíble (Fuente-El Internet), pero usted no peca si continúa abrazando. Opte por lo real. Glorifique nuestra humanidad y satisfaga nuestras necesidades instintivas. ¿Por qué cree que empezamos a practicarlo cuando éramos bebés, a menos que lo íbamos a necesitar como adultos?

Y ese es mi punto de vista de abrazo hoy. Feliz día de San Valentín. Agur.



## A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

### Going Back to Basics

A few months ago, I authored an article about human behavior that struck a chord. It was a description of a frequent and popular affectional interaction between two people who did not reach them physically because it was limited to a kiss in the air followed by the verbal expression "Moa" that isolated them as well. Today I want to reintroduce an older basic human need: a hug. "Moa" is being promoted.

Fortunately, our basic expressions of love and need for each other have not ceased. A hug is still a hug and a real opportunity to share and enjoy each other's existence. Practice hugging is born. If you look at babies you see their mothers and fathers reaching for them in the crib to hug them. Babies learn early how to reach for the ones who gave them life with a hug. And you and I know that it is a loving hug of consequence between mom and dad that created that baby. Contrary to folklore, storks don't deliver babies. In one of my European trips, in Portugal, I saw storks lying on top of chimney crowns trying to keep warm.

But the practice goes beyond that early moment. Watch hockey players on ice after they hit the hockey puck successfully into the net to score and the other players reach that player to hug him or her. Which is more rewarding than hockey players pulling their sweatshirts and hair hitting each other because one felt tricked by the other. The same happens with soccer, basketball,

baseball, and football players. We not only want to win games, that in itself is a reward, we also want to hug and be hugged. Give me a game without hugs and I will give you a scoreless game.

Shall I remind my readers that we hug at airports, at weddings, at parties and graduation commencement exercises, even at funerals? We didn't start practicing it. It was in our territory and came with our evolutionary DNA package. Monkeys hug each other's and chimpanzees even hug us.

By now you are asking yourselves why I wrote this piece that sounds so obvious. The reason is simple: we need more hugs. They don't have to be physical all the time, they may be virtual and intangible as well. All we need is wish well to others and a virtual hug is in the air.

In reality, what I wanted to do is ask my readers not to spend valuable romantic time this coming week on the Saint Valentine's February 14 day approaching us blowing MOA kisses to each other. Saint Valentine was removed from the General Roman Calendar of the Catholic Church in 1969 for lack of reliable information (Source-the Internet), but you are not sinful if you continue to hug. Go for the real thing. It glorifies our humanity and satisfies our instinctual needs. Why do you think we started practicing it as babies unless we were going to need it as adults?

And that's my Hugging Point of View today. Happy Saint Valentine's Day. So long.

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE **RUMBONEWS.COM**

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

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

Rosalynn Carter

### Ahora en Amazon / Now in Amazon



A Point of View-Un Punto de Vista: Volume Seven-Volumen Siete. (A Point of View-Un Punto de Vista Bilingual books) (Spanish Edition) Spanish Edition | Related to: A Point of View-Un Punto de Vista Bilingual books | by Dr. Paul Victor Montesino.

## MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER

## HUMAN RESOURCE LUNCHEON

### SPEAKERS

**Stephanie Sewade**  
Exec. VP & Partner  
LukeJackson Benefit  
& HR Solutions

**Jack Myers**  
Founder & President  
LukeJackson Benefit  
& HR Solutions

Tuesday, February 25th, 2025

12 Noon - 1:15 PM

Jade Restaurant

24 High St, North Andover, MA 01845

Innovations in Employee Benefits  
and Essentials in Your Employee Handbooks!

- New and Upcoming Benefits
- Details on Non-Traditional Benefits
- up and coming areas that need to be included in your handbook
- Q & A and More to be Discussed

\$29.00 Members
\$39.00 Future Members

Thank you to our Title Sponsor: Schwartz Hannum PC

To register or become a sponsor

www.merrimackvalleychamber.com;  
office@merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900

## Desafío de la nueva cosmología a las religiones. Ha cambiado la imagen de la naturaleza



Por Tomás Núñez, ThD

En primer lugar, la ciencia actual nos advierte que ha declarado obsoleto el concepto tradicional de "materia" como algo petrificado, estéril, pasivo.... La ganga de la realidad. Esa materia no existe. La materia real es otra cosa.

La materia es energía. Y materia y energía son convertibles. La materia no existe, es energía, en uno de sus estados. La materia es energía sutilísima, que tiende espontáneamente a la complejidad, a la autoorganización, a la sensibilidad, a la conciencia, al espíritu. Solamente necesita que se den las condiciones necesarias...- No estamos por tanto montados en una roca volante, errante por el espacio... Ni este mundo es una colección de «cosas», ni las cosas materiales son las rei extensa de Descartes...

La naturaleza es más bien una realidad sistémica, un sistema de sistemas, el todo relacionado con todo en todas sus partes. - Ya no nos es posible aceptar la existencia de un «segundo piso» superior, o sobrenatural, en el que morarían los dioses y las fuerzas que gobiernan este mundo... ni un piso «inferior» en el que estarían confinados los espíritus del mal... o al que incluso iríamos nosotros tras la muerte para pagar por nuestros pecados. Lo que nuestros ancestros quisieron expresar con aquellos

símbolos no puede ser algo diferente, ni estar separado, ni estar localizado en un segundo piso superior, sino «en este mismo único piso» de la realidad. No hay «metafísica ontológica» (la ciencia nos ha llevado a una cultura post-metafísica), aunque tampoco necesitamos caer en la crasa visión materialista reduccionista.- No resulta ya aceptable una calificación religiosa a priori negativa de la materia (como «pecaminosa») y de todo lo que con ella se relaciona (carne, instinto, sexo, placer, cuerpo, mundo, mundanidad...).- Ya no podemos aceptar aquel supuesto mitológico de un «pecado original» primigenio que habría contaminado ancestralmente a toda la humanidad y aun a toda la realidad cósmica... En el origen de todo no puede haber un pecado original, sino una gracia original.

Esta vida no puede ser sólo una ilusión pasajera, una simple «prueba moral» en función de otra vida, la verdadera y definitiva, la de más allá de la muerte, a la que un Creador nos habría destinado bajo la condición de pasar primero una prueba moral en esta vida temporal... El esquema de este «gran relato explicativo salvífico» nos resulta admirable, por su genialidad, pero a la vez, increíble, insostenible en sí mismo. Las religiones de «salvación eterna» necesitan con urgencia dar nuevamente razón de sí mismas en el contexto de la visión actual, o tal vez reinventarse.- A la luz de lo que nos dice la ciencia, hoy ya no podemos pensarla naturaleza (la Tierra y el Cosmos todo) como un mero «escenario para la historia humana», como nos dijeron las religiones: Dios habría creado todo esto simplemente para construir un escenario en el que se pudiera desarrollar el drama de la historia de la salvación (humana), que sería lo único importante que estaría sucediendo en el planeta y aun en el cosmos...La visión científica actual ya no nos da pie para que podamos pensar que somos la razón de ser del cosmos, ni que el drama histórico humano sea lo que supuestamente motivó a Dios a «crear el mundo», ni que lo humano sea «la medida de todas las cosas», humanas y divinas. Hoy día, a la luz de la visión amplia que la ciencia actual nos posibilita, nuestro natural y espontáneo y casi inevitable «antropocentrismo» nos ruboriza...: ha de ser superado y erradicado, porque no solo es falso, sino que además nos hace daño a nosotros y al planeta.

## The new cosmology challenged religions. It has changed the image of nature.

By Tomás Núñez, ThD

First of all, current science warns us that it has declared obsolete the traditional concept of "matter" as something petrified, sterile, passive... The scum of reality. That matter does not exist. Real matter is something else.

Matter is energy. And matter and energy are convertible. Matter does not exist, it is energy, in one of its states. Matter is very subtle energy, which spontaneously tends to complexity, to self-organization, to sensitivity, to consciousness, to spirit. It only needs the necessary conditions to be met... - We are not therefore mounted on a flying rock, wandering through space... Neither is this world a collection of "things", nor are material things the extensive rei of Descartes...

Nature is rather a systemic reality, a system of systems, the whole related to everything in all its parts. - We can no longer accept the existence of a higher, supernatural "second floor" where the gods and the forces that govern this world would reside... nor a "lower" floor where the spirits of evil would be confined... or where we would even go after death to pay for our sins. What our ancestors wanted to express with those symbols cannot be something different, nor separate, nor located on a higher second floor, but "on this same single floor" of reality. There is no «ontological metaphysics» (science has led us to a post-metaphysical culture), although we do not need to fall into the crass reductionist materialist vision. - A negative a priori religious qualification of matter (as «sinful») and of everything related to it (flesh, instinct, sex, pleasure, body, worldliness...) is no longer acceptable. - We can no longer accept that mythological

assumption of a primordial «original sin» that would have ancestrally contaminated all humanity and even all cosmic reality... At the origin of everything there cannot be an original sin, but an original grace.

This life cannot be just a passing illusion, a simple "moral test" in relation to another life, the true and definitive one, the one beyond death, to which a Creator would have destined us on the condition of first passing a moral test in this temporal life... The scheme of this "great explanatory saving story" seems admirable to us, for its genius, but at the same time, incredible, unsustainable in itself. The religions of "eternal salvation" urgently need to give an account of themselves again in the context of the current vision, or perhaps reinvent themselves. - In the light of what science tells us, today we can no longer think of nature (the Earth and the entire Cosmos) as a mere "stage for human history", as religions told us: God would have created all this simply to build a stage in which the drama of the history of salvation (human) could unfold, which would be the only important thing that would be happening on the planet and even in the cosmos... The current scientific vision no longer gives us reason to think that we are the reason for the existence of the cosmos, or that the human historical drama is what supposedly motivated God to "create the world", or that humans are "the measure of all things", human and divine. Today, in light of the broad vision that current science makes possible for us, our natural, spontaneous and almost inevitable "anthropocentrism" makes us blush...: it must be overcome and eradicated, because it is not only false, but it also harms us and the planet.

It's easy finding **Rumbo**  
(978) 794-5360



137 Lawrence Street  
Lawrence, MA 01841

(978)682.4060

Somos expertos en precios módicos y servicio de alta calidad.

La Primera Funeraria hispana sirviendo con esmero y satisfacción a la comunidad latinoamericana.

Brindamos servicio de asistencia social y enviamos el cuerpo a cualquier lugar incluyendo a Puerto Rico, la República Dominicana, Centro y Suramérica. También ofrecemos planes pagados con anticipación y estampas de recordatorios.

## 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).

### Bang! The Bert Berns Story

Lappin Foundation invites the community to a panel discussion to learn about the life of Bert Berns, the most important songwriter and record producer from the sixties that you never heard of. Berns helped to launch the careers of Van Morrison and Neil Diamond, and he produced some of the greatest soul music ever made.

Panelists include filmmaker Brett Berns, who brings his late father's story to the screen through interviews and rare performance footage, and Ido Aharoni Aronoff, who will facilitate a Q&A with Brett Berns.

The program will take place on Thursday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. ET on Zoom. The event is free, and everyone is welcome. Please register at [LappinFoundation.org](http://LappinFoundation.org) to receive the link to view the film *Bang! The Bert Berns Story* before the panel discussion. For more information contact Sharon Wyner at 978-565-4450 or email [swyner@lappinfoundation.org](mailto:swyner@lappinfoundation.org).

# Candles, Cooking, and Caution: Fire safety tips to keep your Valentine's Day safe

This Valentine's Day, make sure your romantic gestures stay memorable for the right reasons. When lighting candles and cooking a special meal, the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) says to closely monitor food cooking on the stove or in the oven, and to use candles with caution.

"If you're celebrating Valentine's Day at home this year, your plans likely include a special meal and candles," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "Our goal is to help ensure that everyone enjoys the holiday with fire safety in mind."

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries year-round. Unattended cooking is a factor in over one-quarter (29 percent) of reported home cooking fires and half of the associated deaths.

Simple cooking safety tips include the following:

- Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Have a "kid and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove.
- Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Candles are also a leading cause of home fires and must be used with caution and supervision. NFPA data shows that half of all candle fires started when a flammable object – such as furniture, bedding, curtains, home décor, or clothing – was too close to a lit candle. In 21 percent of home candle fires, the candle was either left unattended, discarded, or otherwise misused. More than one-third of candle fires (36 percent) started in the bedroom.

Consider using batter-operated flameless candles, which proved a similar look and feel to real candles while eliminating the risk of fire.

If you do plan to use real candles, NFPA recommends the following:

- Don't use lit candles in bedrooms, bathrooms, and sleeping areas.
- Use stable candle holders and place candles where they can't be easily knocked over.
- Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn.
- Keep hair and loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down --- put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Store matches and lighters up high, out of children's reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.

For more information about cooking and candle safety, visit our cooking safety and candle safety pages.

In addition, NFPA encourages the public to make sure they have working smoke alarms and develop and practice a home escape plan.

## About the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach, and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org). All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at [nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://nfpa.org/freeaccess).

# Velas, cocina y precaución: consejos de seguridad contra incendios para que su día de San Valentín sea seguro

Este día de San Valentín, asegúrese de que sus gestos románticos sean memorables por las razones correctas. Al encender velas y cocinar una comida especial, la Asociación Nacional de Protección contra Incendios® (NFPA®) recomienda vigilar de cerca la cocción de los alimentos en la estufa o en el horno y usar las velas con precaución.

"Si está celebrando el día de San Valentín en casa este año, es probable que sus planes incluyan una comida especial y velas", dijo Lorraine Carli, vicepresidenta de Difusión y Defensa de la NFPA. "Nuestro objetivo es ayudar a garantizar que todos disfruten de la festividad teniendo en cuenta la seguridad contra incendios".

Según la NFPA, cocinar es la principal causa de incendios domésticos y lesiones por incendios domésticos durante todo el año. La cocina sin supervisión es un factor en más de una cuarta parte (29 por ciento) de los incendios domésticos informados y la mitad de las muertes asociadas.

Algunos consejos sencillos de seguridad para cocinar incluyen los siguientes:

- Permanezca en la cocina cuando fría, cocine a la parrilla o ase alimentos.
- Tenga una "zona libre de niños y mascotas" de al menos 3 pies (1 metro) alrededor de la estufa.
- Mantenga una tapa cerca cuando cocine. Si se inicia un pequeño incendio de grasa, deslice la tapa sobre la sartén y apague el quemador.
- Configure un temporizador para recordarle que está cocinando.

Las velas también son una de las principales causas de incendios domésticos y deben usarse con precaución y supervisión. Los datos de la NFPA muestran que la mitad de todos los incendios de velas comenzaron cuando un objeto inflamable, como muebles, ropa de cama, cortinas, decoración del hogar o ropa, estaba demasiado cerca de una vela encendida. En el 21 por ciento de los incendios de velas en el hogar, la vela se dejó desatendida, se descartó o se usó incorrectamente de alguna otra manera. Más de un tercio de los incendios de velas (36 por ciento) comenzaron en el dormitorio.

Considere usar velas sin llama que funcionen a batería, que tienen un aspecto y una sensación similares a las velas reales y eliminan el riesgo de incendio.

Si planea usar velas reales, la NFPA recomienda lo siguiente:

- No use velas encendidas en dormitorios,

baños y áreas para dormir.

- Use candelabros estables y coloque las velas donde no se puedan tirar fácilmente.
- Mantenga las velas al menos a un pie de distancia de cualquier cosa que pueda arder.
- Mantenga el cabello y la ropa suelta lejos de la llama.
- No queme una vela por completo: apáguela antes de que se acerque demasiado al soporte o recipiente.
- Guarde los fósforos y encendedores en un lugar alto, fuera del alcance de los niños, preferiblemente en un gabinete cerrado con llave.
- Nunca deje una vela encendida sin supervisión.
- Apague las velas cuando salga de la habitación o se vaya a dormir.

Para obtener más información sobre la seguridad en la cocina y el uso de velas, visite nuestras páginas sobre seguridad en la cocina y el uso de velas.

Además, la NFPA alienta al público a asegurarse de tener detectores de humo que funcionen y a desarrollar y practicar un plan de escape del hogar.

Para este comunicado y otros anuncios sobre las iniciativas, la investigación y los recursos de la NFPA, visite la sala de prensa de la NFPA.

## Acerca de la Asociación Nacional de Protección contra Incendios® (NFPA®)

Fundada en 1896, la NFPA® es una organización mundial sin fines de lucro autofinanciada dedicada a eliminar las muertes, las lesiones, la propiedad y las pérdidas económicas debido a incendios, peligros eléctricos y otros peligros relacionados. La asociación ofrece información y conocimiento a través de más de 300 códigos y normas de consenso, investigación, capacitación, educación, divulgación y defensa; y mediante la asociación con otros que comparten el interés de promover la misión de la NFPA. Para obtener más información, visite [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org). Todos los códigos y normas de la NFPA se pueden consultar en línea de forma gratuita en [nfpa.org/freeaccess](http://nfpa.org/freeaccess).

**Find us in / Búsquenos en Facebook/Rumbo**



**WWW.RUMBONEWS.COM**

## 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 M to 8:30 PM.

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

# **ME MERRIMACK ATHLETICS**

## **Men's Volleyball Swarms Yellow Jackets in First Home Match of 2025**



NORTH ANDOVER, MA- The Merrimack men's volleyball team beat the AIC Yellow Jackets in three straight sets in their 2025 home opener on February 7th.

### **Rapid Recap**

Score: Merrimack 3, AIC 0  
Records: Merrimack 3-3, AIC 2-7

### **How it Happened**

The first set got off to a hot start for the Warriors, going up 6-2 quickly. Kills from Ephraim Abhulime, Kai Vogel, and Nick Tidik would help cement the lead for the blue and gold. Halfway through the set, a slew of blocks and attack errors from the Yellow Jackets would put the Warriors up 17-11. Merrimack's momentum would force AIC to call a timeout. The roof would come into play a lot, as the Yellow Jackets fell victim to a number of points going the Warriors way due to the low ceiling. Logan Whitaker would have a key block at the end of the set which would propel the Warriors to take set 1 by a score of 25-14.

The second set saw the Warriors taking control again, going up 5-1 early. Kills from Dallas Birkenbeuel, Chris U'Glay, and Kasen Owens would be instrumental to the Warrior's success. Kai Vogel would provide a spark and contribute three kills on three straight touches halfway through the set. The blue and gold would put the cherry on top of the second frame with a kill from Ephraim Abhulime to solidify the set victory, 25-14.

The third set saw Merrimack take off with another hot start, going up 6-1 and forcing the Yellow Jackets to use another timeout. Kills from Isaiah Vogel and Natha

Knapp would fuel the Warrior's firepower. Davis McCurdy and Blake Taschner would get kills and service aces and provide the Warriors with some points. John Clinton would also make the score sheet with a kill. It would be a service ace from Nathan Knapp that would clinch the third set win 25-15 and the match victory for the Warriors.

### **Notes and Numbers**

- Kai Vogel led in three categories: kills with 8, points with 11.5, and service aces with 3
- Blake Taschner had the most assists with 12
- Andrew Haber had 8 assists
- Reese Lindstrom and Blake Taschner
- Nathan Knapp had 6 kills
- The Liberos had a good showing to-night in the digs category. Kyle Standage had 4 and Anthony Clapp had 3.

### **Up Next**

The Warriors return home on Saturday, February 22nd when they play the Wentworth Cougars in Hammel Court. The time is set for 7PM. Watch the game online on the Merrimack Sports Network. Link to watch is on the Merrimack men's volleyball schedule.

For continuing coverage of Merrimack Athletics and Merrimack men's volleyball, visit [merrimackathletics.com](http://merrimackathletics.com) . Follow Merrimack men's volleyball on instagram @merrimackmvb



**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](mailto: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**



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.houseofmercy.lawrence.com/give-help>



[Bagsinbulk.com](http://Bagsinbulk.com)

## **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.

# 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

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is Hereby given by Sheehan’s Towing L.L.C. of 26 Lawrence St Methuen, MA, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. CH. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after March 1, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper’s lien for towing, storage, and lien fees. Vehicles are being stored at Sheehan’s Towing and may be viewed by appointment only

1. 2014 Honda CR-V VIN 2HKRM4H72EH612182
2. 2015 Jeep Cherokee VIN 1C4PJMCS6FW513520
3. 2023 Honda Civic VIN 19XFL2H50PE025284

Robert Sheehan  
Owner, Sheehan’s Towing L.L.C.  
2/8, 2/15, 2/22

## 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

## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Coady’s Towing Service 139 Marston Street, Lawrence, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after March 1, 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. 2010 Toyota Camry VIN 4T4BF3EK7AR010605
2. 2011 Honda CR-V VIN 5J6RE3H37BL043982
3. 2009 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCP26389A177622

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

Signed  
Frank Coady  
Coady’s Towing Service  
2/8, 2/15, 2/22

## Find us in / Búsquenos en Facebook/Rumbo

**¡La Fundación Big Brother Big Sister necesita tu ayuda!**



Si tienes ropa usada y pequeños artículos del hogar que ya no usas, dónalos para quienes si los necesitan. Llegaremos a tu puerta para recibir lo que puedas entregar.

Para programar una cita, llama al 1.800.483.5503 o visítanos en nuestra página web en internet: [www.bbbsfoundation.org](http://www.bbbsfoundation.org).

Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

# Rumbo

“The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley”

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

BY DALIA DÍAZ  
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

## From My Corner



### Follow the LRA's activities carefully

There seems to be a reaction to what I wrote last week about the proposals from Oneida Aquino and Máximo Guerrero. I thought that there was favoritism because, while Ms. Aquino presented the required documentation – as instructed, Mr. Guerrero's was incomplete and scored a few points lower than her.

Lawrence Redevelopment Authority's (LRA) board voted in favor of Mace's proposal, which goes against ALL rules of fairness, justice, and common decency. Ms. Aquino was subjected to disrespectful, arrogant, and dismissive treatment from the board every time they met.

There was something awry when Attorney D'Agostino and Oneida Aquino confronted Attorney Corrigan at an informal meeting on December 2, 2024, whereupon they demanded MACE's disqualification. Octavien Spanner and Corrigan told them point-blank that MACE **would not be** disqualified.

The LRA announced a special meeting for Friday, February 7th, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss MACE's proposal. One-half hour before the meeting was cancelled. Then, another one was scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on that date which was also cancelled just before it began. MACE had withdrawn his proposal.

You would think that Oneida's project was all set to be approved. Oh, no! This is personal. Octavien wants to reopen the RFP process. They just don't want Oneida.

I have no words left to describe what the LRA is doing. That board is acting unfairly and illegally. I don't have to suggest to Attorney D'Agostino that they take legal action, at least bringing it to the attention of the Inspector General's Office (IGO).

Is this the way business is done in Lawrence? Is this the way people acquire properties? What else is behind that decision? For many years, we have been hearing comments about such things as politicians and "the well-connected" acquiring city properties. This time, because someone has taken the time to investigate this organization, we are seeing clearly the corruption that is taking place.

And I blame the board of directors. Watch any of their meetings, and you'll find there are no discussions and no arguments worth hearing; they usually vote unanimously. They are all guilty of this injustice; they are part of the corruption. What's in it for them?

The Management Report at the end of November by Mr. Cintrón is an insult to this city and taxpayers. The LRA spent \$822,000; the only justified expenses are the salaries; everything else has a date, check number, vendor, and amount paid. There's a long list of payments to Amazon and Home Depot without explaining what was purchased.

What tipped me off to the fact that Spanner is abusing the LRA credit card was the times he charged \$3 at Dunkin, like a personal card. Don't believe me? Request the records.

### By any other name, it's still kidnapping

If you thought the above was a scandal, sit tight because the following story is criminal.

This case concerns a resident who called me looking for help because he had appealed to many people and got nowhere. His name is Leo Gonzalez, and his wife is Mayra Gonell. Leo works as interpreter for various companies.

In November of 2023, Mayra's daughter, Grechy Rosario (I'm not sure if that is the correct spelling of her name), took Mayra to her home to take care of her, but every time Leo asked to spend some time with Mayra, Grechy wouldn't allow it.

Grechy took her mother's telephone away, changed the number so no one could contact Mayra, and didn't give it back, so she could not make calls. Leo did not hear from his wife for a long time and went to see Mayor Brian DePeña, who told him to report it to the police.

Lawrence Police Department opened an investigation and went to Grechy's house at 19 Lea St. in Lawrence, but Mayra was not there.

They later found out that Grechy had another house in Methuen, and even the Methuen police got involved. They made a wellness check but were told that Mayra was not there and that she was in Lawrence.

At Leo's insistence, Lawrence Police, with Linette Perez, director of police services who handles cases involving family issues and abuse, accompanied them and they were able to see Mayra and talk to her. Linette said that Mayra told them, she was fine and well cared for by her daughter.

They totally ignored her husband's plight, Leo, and her being there against her will.

Mayra was receiving services from the Northeast Independent Living Program, and Grechy changed her to another agency.

They went to court in July of last year, and, according to Leo, Grechy was asking for legal custody of her mother. She also applied for her mother's divorce from Leo.

The court assigned Attorney Peter Mansur to represent Mayra's interests, while Leo hired Attorney Marcos Scott to look into this incredible episode.

Attorney Mansour never answers his telephone or returns messages. However, he sent me a nasty response saying, "*Due to Mayra's attorney client privilege I am not a liberty to speak for Mayra. I passed your information on. Mayra is well and happy and a very sweet lady.*"

It was a different experience when I spoke to Attorney Scott. He confirmed everything I had learned thus far and said we'll have to wait until the next court hearing in March. I don't know if it will be regarding the custody award or the divorce.

Meanwhile, I spoke to Linette to get details of the situation, and she said that the case was closed since she visited Grechy's house and found that her mother was well cared for. She offered to send me a copy of the report, but it never came. The only thing

she sent me was the Docket #24PO8443GD. I interpreted that to mean "look it up yourself."

Upon contacting Mayor DePeña, I learned he knew the case and advised me to contact Police Chief Melix Bonilla. He said he would ask Linette to send me the report, but I didn't get it.

Along the way, talking to many people, I contacted Angela Echavarría Gonell, Mayra's cousin. She is furious because, for months, she has been trying to see her, and Grechy wouldn't allow it.

I heard that the lack of attention was because Leo had not reported his wife as kidnapped to the police. He tried to do that, and the police officers refused to take his complaint.

Then, I called one more time and spoke to Captain Maurice Aguiler, who is also an attorney. He could not understand

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

315 Mt. Vernon St.  
Lawrence MA 01843  
Email: [Rumbo@rumbonews.com](mailto: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 refusal and would look into it. He also said he would send me the reports I was looking for, but it never came. We spoke several times, but it was a dead end with no answers.

Three Sundays ago, Leo told me that Mayra begged her granddaughter to allow her to use her telephone and she was able to call him. She said that she was okay and that Grechy takes good care of her, but she wanted to be in her home and be with him. Fortunately for both, there was a witness, and he recorded her call.

These are two examples of how screwed up this city is. I firmly believe that Chief William Castro's ordeal is only a distraction, smoking mirrors, because there are too many people in Lawrence doing the wrong things, and if anyone tries to take a peek, it will be like a house of cards coming down.

**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.**

HAVERHILL – City Clerk, Kaitlin M. Wright, announced the fourth annual "Top Dog" contest. Residents who license or relicense 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).



Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

# 1ST ANNUAL WINTER GOLF Classic

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

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025** X-GOLF METHUEN  
90 Pleasant Valley St  
Unit 105  
Methuen, MA 01844

**SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE**

- Title Sponsor \$995
- Tee Off Sponsor \$295
- Drive Sponsor \$295
- Drink Sponsor \$295

All Sponsorships include logo on flyer. Recognition at event: 1 Get! Ticket!

Register Now  
www.merrimackvalleychamber.com 978-886-0000 office@merrimackvalleychamber.com

**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, teams with lowest score Wins!
- 7-Foot Gimmies
- Men from White Tees/Women from Red Tees

X-GOLF METHUEN

## Mitch's Place Individual Overnight Shelter

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

“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

**READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE [RUMBONEWS.COM](http://RUMBONEWS.COM)**

# 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-5081 mass.gov/dcf