

Johnson's layup with 3.8 seconds left second Knights to fourth straight Region 21/East District Championship



The Knights fourth straight NJCAA Region 21 Championship ties the Region 21 and New England record for consecutive men's basketball championships. Read the details on NECC Sports page 17.



Read the story about the book signing on page 7.

Lea la historia del anuncio de su libro en la página 8.

*¿Sabe
quién
cumplió
100 años
el sábado?*

Vea la página 2.



Lane Glenn, the President of Northern Essex Community College has been selected as the recipient of Division 8's 2026 Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship Award. The Fenton Award will be presented at Division 8's 56th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon on Friday, March 13, 2026, at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA at Noon. **Pg. 5**

Biografía de Doña Inés Cruz Martínez

100 Años de Amor, Fe y Resiliencia

Este sábado 28 de febrero celebramos un siglo de vida de una mujer extraordinaria: Doña Inés Cruz Martínez. Cien años que no solo marcan el paso del tiempo, sino también el legado profundo de amor, sacrificio y fortaleza que han sembrado en cada generación.

Madre de ocho hijos: Iris, Daisy, Aleida, Papo, Yolyi (†1990), Rubén, Wilfredo y Nandy; abuela de 30 nietos, bisabuela de 39 y tatarabuela de 2. Su descendencia es un testimonio vivo de una vida dedicada a la familia.

Quienes la conocen saben que su personalidad siempre fue firme y definida: fuerte, alegre en muchas ocasiones, estricta cuando era necesario, pero, sobre todo, profundamente amorosa. Una mujer luchadora, de carácter decidido, cuya frase resonaba con energía y determinación: “¡Dale, qué te dio!”

En el barrio Guayabal, donde llegó a mediados de los años 60, fue reconocida como buena vecina y mujer solidaria. Allí cultivó amistades inolvidables, como la de su querida vecina Doña Flory (†), dejando huellas de cariño y respeto en su comunidad.

Como madre trabajadora y emprendedora, buscaba siempre la manera de aportar al hogar. Vendía limbers, dulces, sándwiches, pasteles y los famosos dulces de coco, ganándose su “pesito extra” con dignidad y esfuerzo. Su cocina no solo alimentaba cuerpos, sino también corazones.

En el año 2004 se mudó a los Estados Unidos, estableciéndose en Massachusetts junto a sus hijos, cuando uno de ellos decidió trasladarse en busca de una mejor calidad de vida para su hija enferma. Desde entonces, ha permanecido en este país, acompañada del amor y cuidado constantes de su familia.

La vida también la probó con profundas pérdidas: el fallecimiento de sus padres, de su hijo Félix Jorge Dávila Cruz (†1990), de su nieta Andreina Lee (†2012), y posteriormente el de su amado esposo “Guelin”, con quien compartió 68 años de convivencia. Debido a su demencia, no pudo despedirse conscientemente de él, pero el amor sembrado durante casi siete décadas permanece imborrable en la historia familiar.

Su fortaleza quedó aún más marcada cuando sobrevivió a dos derrames cerebrales el 8 de abril de 2017 y otros tres el 8 de abril de 2018 —fechas que quedaron grabadas en la memoria de sus hijos como días de angustia, pero también de milagro. Con el apoyo incondicional de sus hijos y de su querida nuera Madeline, logró superar esas pruebas, aunque su salud se fue debilitando con el tiempo.

En el 2011 fue homenajeada junto a su esposo en la ciudad de New York, en una actividad organizada por su nieta mayor, Sandra, en la que toda la familia se unió para reconocer su trayectoria de vida y su legado.



En esta gráfica vemos a Doña Estela con tres de sus hijos, Rubén, Wilfredo y Arnaldo José, en el centro.

Hoy, aunque su condición no le permita reconocer a todos sus hijos, ellos permanecen fieles y le brindan la mejor calidad de vida posible, porque el amor que ella sembró durante décadas hoy regresa multiplicado.

Para nuestra familia, llegar a los 100 años es el mejor regalo que nuestro Padre Celestial, Jehová Dios, nos ha permitido. Nos llena de orgullo, fortalece nuestra fe y nos recuerda que la resiliencia es posible cuando el amor

guía cada paso. Celebrar a Doña Inés Cruz Martínez es celebrar un siglo de historia, de lucha silenciosa, de sacrificio maternal, de valores firmes y de un legado que seguirá vivo en cada generación que lleva su sangre.

Hoy le rendimos homenaje de pie. Porque 100 años no se cumplen todos los días... y una madre como ella, tampoco nace todos los días.



La delegación de Lawrence no podía faltar a una celebración tan importante. Aquí aparecen nuestros representantes estatales Francisco Paulino, Estela Reyes y Frank Moran, así como el senador Pavel Payano, con proclamas estatales en este notable centenario.

Desde Mi Esquina

POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

Anoten sus calendarios. Reserven el jueves, 14 de mayo para un evento genial y ¡están invitados! Más detalles en unas semanas.

Hay buenas y felices noticias por todas partes

Últimamente están pasando tantas cosas en el mundo que me han distraído de lo que ocurre en Lawrence. Bueno, es un poco exagerado, porque intento estar al tanto de lo que me rodea. Puede que Rumbo solo se ocupe de asuntos locales, pero aun así me importa. Mi atención se dirige a tantas direcciones que algún día mis gatos se declararán en huelga.

Hablando de animales, acabo de descubrir una forma muy inusual de ayudar a los perros. No todos pueden hacerlo, pero quiero que el público sepa si se encuentran en esa situación y desean hacerlo.

Lo que descubrí es que cualquier persona con un marcapasos puede (y debe) dejar constancia en su testamento de que, al fallecer, su marcapasos se entregue a una clínica veterinaria específica para ayudar a un perro con problemas cardíacos. Los marcapasos no se pueden donar a otras personas, pero sí se pueden donar a perros con problemas cardíacos que dependen de ellos para sobrevivir.

Sí, los perros también los necesitan. A menudo, la pobre mascota muere porque el costo es prohibitivo, y estos artefactos simplemente se desechan porque la gente desconoce su capacidad para hacerlo. Me emocioné al descubrir esa posibilidad. Después de todo, mi día llegará, y la necesidad de un animal en espera seguirá existiendo.

A veces puede marcar la diferencia entre poder pagar un tratamiento que salve vidas o no.

¿Realmente necesitamos más viviendas?

Esa controversia continúa, y si puedo aportar mi granito de arena, eso será un error. No solo aumentaría la demanda de servicios en todos los departamentos de la ciudad, sino especialmente el tráfico, que ya es terrible.

Hace un par de semanas, los departamentos de policía y bomberos dieron una conferencia de prensa en el puente central del lado sur. Normalmente, tardo cinco minutos en llegar por las calles laterales, pero estaba programada para las 5 p. m. Considerando el tráfico entre las 3 y las 6 en Lawrence, salí de casa a las 4:30. Bueno, tardé media hora, y ni siquiera tuve que cruzar el río.

La gobernadora Maura Healey está ayudando a muchas ciudades con fondos para construir más viviendas. Quizás en los suburbios, donde hay más espacio para construir, pero Lawrence tiene 6.7 millas cuadradas y 90,000 habitantes.

Basta con mirar el desastre causado por las tormentas de nieve de las últimas dos semanas. La ciudad emitió 2,918 infracciones por un total de \$271,350, pero no ha podido limpiar las calles laterales. Los residentes de esas calles se quejan porque el tráfico apenas puede pasar sin raspar otros autos estacionados a ambos lados de la calle. Según el alcalde Brian DePeña, "No hay terrenos baldíos donde puedan tirar la nieve, y no podemos tirarla al río".

¡Pero están construyendo más apartamentos!

Ana Levy renunció al Comité Demócrata

La vicepresidenta del Concejo Municipal, Ana Levy, renunció a su cargo de secretaria del Comité Demócrata de Lawrence, con efecto a partir del 14 de febrero de 2026. Me tomó por sorpresa, ya que ocupó ese puesto durante bastante tiempo y se enorgullecía de su trabajo.

Su carta dice: "Si bien fue una decisión muy difícil, es la mejor opción en este momento. Agradezco la oportunidad de trabajar con el Comité Demócrata de Lawrence y valoro la experiencia y los conocimientos adquiridos durante mi tiempo aquí".

Ana fue elegida para el cargo actual en el concejo en enero y sabe que, además, conlleva muchas más obligaciones y exigencias. Me comentó por teléfono que planea postularse para representante estatal este año.

Ana Levy ha luchado por esta ciudad y ha cosechado éxitos a lo largo de los años. Le deseo todo lo mejor.

From My Corner

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

Mark your calendars. Reserve Thursday, May 14 for a nice event and you are invited! More details in a few weeks.

Good, happy news are everywhere

There is so much going on in the world lately that it has taken me away from paying attention to what's going on in Lawrence! Well, that's a bit of an exaggeration because I try to keep abreast of what surrounds me. Rumbo may be only about local issues, but I still care. My attention goes in so many directions that someday my cats are going to go on strike.

Speaking of animals, I just discovered a very unusual way to help dogs. Not everyone can do it, but I want to let the public know if you are in that situation and want to arrange to get it done.

What I found out is that anyone with a pacemaker can (and should) write on their will that, upon death, their pacemaker be delivered to a specific veterinary clinic to help a dog with heart problems. Pacemakers cannot be donated to other humans but you can donate to dogs with cardiac issues who depend on them to stay alive.

Yes, dogs need them, too. Very often, the poor pet dies because the cost is prohibitive, and these artifacts are simply discarded because people don't know they can do this. I was thrilled when I found out about that possibility. After all, my day will come, and the need for a waiting animal will still be there.

Sometimes it can mean the difference between being able to afford lifesaving treatment and not.

Do we really need more housing?

That controversy continues, and if I can have my two cents' worth, it will be a mistake. It would not only increase demand for services across all city departments, but particularly for traffic, which is already horrendous.

A couple of weeks ago, the police and fire departments held a press conference at the central bridge on the south side. Normally, it takes me five minutes to get there through the side streets, but it was scheduled for 5 pm. Considering the traffic between 3 and 6 in Lawrence, I left home at 4:30. Well, it took me one half-hour, and I didn't even have to cross the river for that.

Governor Maura Healey is helping many cities with funding to build more housing. Perhaps in the suburbs, where there's more room to build, but Lawrence is 6.7 square miles and has 90,000 residents.

Just look at the disaster caused by the snowstorms in the past two weeks. The city issued 2918 violations totaling \$271,350, yet has not been able to clean the side streets. Residents of those streets are complaining because traffic can barely go by without scraping other cars parked on both sides of the street. According to Mayor Brian DePeña, "There are no empty lots where they can dump the snow, and we cannot throw it in the river."

But they are building more apartments!

Ana Levy resigned from the Democratic Committee

City Council Vice President Ana Levy has resigned from her position as secretary of the Lawrence Democratic Committee, effective February 14, 2026. It took me by surprise because she held that position for quite a while, and she took pride in her work.

Her letter states, "While it was a very difficult decision to make, it is the best course of action for me at this time. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the Lawrence Democratic Committee and appreciate the experience and knowledge gained during my time here".

Ana was elected to the current position on the city council in January, and she realizes that, along with that, come many more obligations and demands on her time. She told me over the phone that she is planning to run for state representative this year.

Ana Levy has been a fighter for this city and has achieved successes through the years. I wish her all the best.

Auditor DiZoglio's Office Files Emergency Motion in Response to Attorney General's Motion to Strike

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's Office filed an Emergency Motion in response to the Attorney General's Motion to Strike the Auditor's lawsuit seeking outside counsel to defend the voter-mandated legislative audit.

Attorney General Andrea Campbell has a duty under the law to represent the public interest – including the roughly 2.3 million Massachusetts residents who voted in favor of an audit of the State Legislature in 2024.

Not only has the Attorney General not represented the interests of the 72% of voters who overwhelmingly approved this audit, but she has actively fought against enforcing this law. Now the Attorney General's Motion to Strike on behalf of Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka clearly shows she is an adversary not only to my office but, most disappointingly, an adversary to the public interest her office is statutorily obligated to represent.

The Attorney General cannot continue to claim that she is representing the Auditor's legal interests while simultaneously conflicting herself out by taking an adversarial legal posture in court, against the Auditor, and for the Legislature. The AG's actions, in choosing a side, necessitate intervention by the court with respect to



the appointment of a Special Assistant Attorney General.

"Attorney General Campbell has abdicated her duty to defend the public interest," said Auditor DiZoglio. "Democracy is under attack and the people deserve an answer from the courts. AG Campbell claims I am a 'dissenting state official' and that she is the 'gatekeeper' to the courts, but those gates were never meant to be locked to the people. Gatekeeping justice isn't leadership. It's obstruction. The courts belong to the people, not the politicians, so yes – I dissent."

La Oficina de la Auditora DiZoglio presenta una Moción de Emergencia en Respuesta a la Moción de la Fiscal General

La Oficina de la Auditora Estatal Diana DiZoglio presentó una Moción de Emergencia en respuesta a la Moción de la Fiscal General para Desestimar la demanda de la Auditora, en la que buscaba asesoría legal externa para defender la auditoría legislativa ordenada por los votantes.

La Fiscal General Andrea Campbell tiene el deber legal de representar el interés público, incluyendo a los aproximadamente 2.3 millones de residentes de Massachusetts que votaron a favor de una auditoría de la Legislatura Estatal en 2024.

La Fiscal General no solo no ha representado los intereses del 72% de los votantes que aprobaron abrumadoramente esta auditoría, sino que también ha luchado activamente contra la aplicación de esta ley. Ahora, la Moción de la Fiscal General para Desestimar, en nombre del Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes Ron Mariano y la Presidenta del Senado Karen Spilka, demuestra claramente que ella es una adversaria no solo de mi oficina, sino, lo que es más

decepcionante, una adversaria del interés público que su oficina está obligada a representar por ley.

La Fiscal General no puede seguir alegando que representa los intereses legales de la Auditora y, al mismo tiempo, se contradice a sí misma al adoptar una postura legal adversaria en los tribunales, contra la Auditora y a favor de la Legislatura. Las acciones de la Fiscal General, al tomar partido, requieren la intervención del tribunal con respecto al nombramiento de un Fiscal General Adjunto Especial.

"La Fiscal General Campbell ha abdicado de su deber de defender el interés público", declaró la Auditora DiZoglio. "La democracia está bajo ataque y el pueblo merece una respuesta de los tribunales. La Fiscal General Campbell afirma que soy una 'funcionaria estatal disidente' y que ella es la 'guardiana' de los tribunales, pero esas puertas nunca debieron estar cerradas al pueblo. Controlar la justicia no es liderazgo. Es obstrucción. Los tribunales pertenecen al pueblo, no a los políticos, así que sí, disiento".

In Honor of Black History Month Ziegler: A Beacon of Black Excellence

"The 27th day of Black History Month, I am deeply humbled to be acknowledged as a beacon of Black Excellence, a testament to the transformative power of resilience and determination. With immense gratitude, I accept this honor, embracing my multifaceted identity as a Haitian-American woman, mother, wife, daughter, community leader and more.

"This recognition is a celebration not just of my own journey, but also of the unwavering love and support of my family, the trust of my community and the guiding light of my ancestors, whose legacy continues to empower me.



Eunice Delice Ziegler is with her husband Jake Ziegler.

Brensley Files Supreme Court Brief Arguing MBTA Communities Act Is a \$4 Billion Unfunded Mandate

Only amicus filer supporting Marshfield's challenge before the Supreme Judicial Court

Anne Brensley, attorney and candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, has filed an amicus brief with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court arguing that the MBTA Communities Act violates the Local Mandate Law and imposes more than \$4 billion in unfunded costs on cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

The Court will hear arguments on March 4 in a case brought by the Town of Marshfield, which is challenging whether the law constitutes an unfunded mandate. Brensley is the only amicus filer supporting Marshfield's position.

"State law cannot be optional for the State," said Brensley. "If Beacon Hill imposes a mandate requiring zoning for more than 300,000 residential units, it must also acknowledge and fund the direct costs that come with it. Forcing towns to prove those costs without allowing the case to proceed defies common sense."

In her filing, Brensley argues that the Plymouth Superior Court misapplied prior case law when it dismissed Marshfield's complaint before the town had the opportunity to present evidence of projected costs. Attached to her brief is a detailed Cost Impact Report estimating that the MBTA Communities Act could impose more than \$4 billion in collective costs statewide. The report relies on the Commonwealth's own Cost Estimating Manual and designer fee formulas used for residential pre-development planning.

"The lower court should have allowed Marshfield and the other municipalities to present their evidence," Brensley said. "Had they been given that opportunity, they would have demonstrated that the financial burden is not incidental. It is substantial and measurable."

Governor Maura Healey has encouraged Attorney General Andrea



Campbell to enforce the law against non-compliant communities and has supported withholding state grants from municipalities that resist. Brensley criticized that approach as coercive.

"Massachusetts needs more housing," she said. "But we cannot solve one crisis by creating another. Partnership with towns is the answer, not punishment."

Brensley also noted that the two regions facing the most significant housing shortages, Boston and the Springfield area, are largely untouched by the mandate's zoning requirements. "At some point, state leadership must address housing needs where they are most severe," she said. "Towns deserve fairness, transparency, and respect for local governance."

As Lieutenant Governor, Brensley said she would work to reform the law and ensure that municipalities are not subjected to unfunded mandates or financial retaliation.

For more information about Anne Brensley's campaign, please visit www.anne2026.com



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

"155 Years of Dedication to Religion, Heritage, Charity and Community"

Irish Heritage Month March 2026
Lawrence, Massachusetts
Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Division 8 AOH Lawrence Announces 2026 Award Recipients

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians has announced the names of their 2026 Award Recipients. Dan Halloran, the SSIU Program Director of the Lawrence Family Development Inc Lawrence Prospera has been selected as the 2026 recipient of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, and John J. Sipsy of Methuen, a 40 plus year member of Division 8 AOH, has been selected as Division 8's 2026 Irishman of the Year. Both of these awards will be presented at the 154th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Banquet and Dance on Saturday evening, March 7, 2026, at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street in Lawrence. Anyone interested in attending this Dinner Dance and award presentations on March 7, should contact Dinner Dance Chairman Bill Sullivan @ 978 376 4356.

Lane Glenn, the President of Northern Essex Community College has been selected as the recipient of Division 8's 2026 Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship Award. The Fenton Award will be presented at Division 8's 56th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon on Friday, March 13, 2026, at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA at Noon. Anyone interested in attending this event should contact the Luncheon Chairman Jack Lahey at 603 560 8192.

The Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, which is named after the late Catholic Irish prelate who died in November 1970, was first presented in 1974 to the Honorable John F. McCormack of Massachusetts, then Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington, DC. This award is awarded to an Irish Catholic of high moral character who exemplifies the characteristics of the late Richard Cardinal Cushing. The individual may be a man or woman, who through their life endeavors demonstrates in their daily lives the qualities of what an exemplary Irish Catholic should be.

The Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship Award was established in 1975 to honor the late Judge John E. Fenton who passed in August 1974. Judge Fenton, who was a member of Division 8, went on to serve two terms as National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This award is awarded to a man, woman, or organization, without regard to their religious, or ethnic background, who has contributed in an outstanding manner to betterment of the Greater Lawrence and Merrimack Valley area. The Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award was first awarded to the late Irving E. Rogers, then publisher and owner of the Lawrence Eagle Tribune.

The Irishman of the Year Award, which is the highest award the Division can bestow on a member, was established in 1964 and is presented annually to a member of Division 8 AOH for his outstanding service, dedication, and contributions to Hibernianism and Division.8. The first recipient of this award was the late Patrick Scanlon of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight AOH in Lawrence, Massachusetts was founded on November 5, 1871, and for the past 154 years has helped preserve Irish culture, history, and traditions in a multifaceted way. The talents of its members have been recognized beyond the borders of the Lawrence area. The Men's Division has produced two National Presidents, and the Ladies Division one. In addition to these three National Presidents, three members have served as National Directors of the Order. Several members have gone on to serve in elected and appointed positions on the National, State and County Boards. At the present time, one member of Division 8 serves on the AOH National Board, four on the Massachusetts AOH State Board and three on the AOH Essex County Board.

Irish Heritage Month March 2026 Lawrence, Massachusetts Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Sunday, March 1, 2026 – WHITE FUND EVENT “AN AFTERNOON OF IRISH MUSIC WITH BRIAN CORCORAN” at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm. Sponsored by the White Fund (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Monday, March 2, 2026 - IRISH FLAG RAISING Across from City Hall – Common St. @11 a.m.

Saturday, March 7, 2026 – 154th SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA. Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner by Simply Elegant Catering with dancing to the Celtic Crew Irish Show Band from 6 pm – 11 pm – Awarding of the Richard Cardinal Cushing and Irishman & Irishwoman of the Year Awards. For more information contact Bill Sullivan @ 978 376 4356. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 8, 2025 - OPENING of the EXHIBIT - "THE PEMBERTON MILL: THE WORST INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT IN MASSACHUSETTS HISTORY” – at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA. Sponsored by The Lawrence Public Library and Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 8 ,2026 – WHITE FUND LECTURE BY LOUISE SANDBERG ON THE COLLAPSE OF THE PEMBERTON MILL at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm. Sponsored by the White Fund (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 - AOH NATIONAL HUNGER MONTH FOOD DRIVE: Please consider donating canned goods and non-perishable food items. All food items received will be donated to a local food pantry. TIME: 6 pm – 7:00 pm at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence MA. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Friday, March 13, 2026 – 55th ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner by Simply Elegant Catering with entertainment by the Celtic Crew Irish Show Band at NOON. Awarding the Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award - For more information contact Jack Lahey 603 560 8192. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 15 ,2026 – WHITE FUND LECTURE – WITH LOCAL AUTHOR, JAMES DOWD, – who will discuss his book, “THE WHITE FUND”- at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Sponsored by the White Fund (FREE) -Handicap Accessible

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY! – Enjoy this grand day with family and friends listening to Irish Music, stories, and laughter with family and friends.

Saturday, March 21, 2026 – SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION at Saint Patick Parish Center, David Burke Way, Lawrence, MA @ 5 pm. Featuring a variety of ethnic foods. For tickets and more information please call 978 683 – 9416. Sponsored by St Patrick's Parish -Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - JOIN PIANIST TERRI KELLEY AND VOCALIST BILL DONELAN FOR AN ALL-NEW PROGRAM OF CELTIC MELODIES - FROM ANCIENT GAELIC AIRES TO CURRENT SONGS - at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Presented by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 28, 2026 - IRISH FILM FESTIVAL at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence MA @ 10 am. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Monday, March 30, 2026 - EXHIBIT CLOSES " THE PEMBERTON MILL” at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

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

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



Irish Heritage Month 2026 is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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

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

Rosalynn Carter

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Make It Haverhill abre inscripciones para el Programa Gratuito de Capacitación en Certificación mpTIA A+

Make It Haverhill (MIH), un programa de desarrollo laboral y acceso digital de Community Action, Inc., ha abierto las inscripciones para su Programa de Certificación CompTIA A+, el estándar de la industria para iniciar una carrera en Informática.

El programa prepara a los residentes de Massachusetts (18+ años) que están desempleados o subempleados para carreras de nivel inicial en Informática, incluyendo puestos como Asistente Técnico, Especialista en Soporte de Informática, y Técnico de Campo.

Las clases se ofrecerán en inglés, de manera presencial, los lunes, miércoles y viernes de 5:00 p.m. a 7:00 p.m. El programa abarca hardware, redes, sistemas operativos y

ciberseguridad.

Cada participante recibirá una computadora portátil para apoyar su aprendizaje y una beca de 100 dólares al pasar ambos exámenes de certificación. El programa también incluye talleres de preparación para el empleo y apoyo para la búsqueda de trabajo.

Los cupos son limitados y el plazo de inscripción finaliza el 23 de marzo. Los solicitantes deben ser residentes en Massachusetts, estar autorizados para trabajar en los Estados Unidos y poder comprometerse a seguir un proceso de entrenamiento de un año de duración.

Para inscribirse, envíe un correo electrónico a info@makeithaverhill.com o llame al (978) 891-4074.

Make It Haverhill Opens Enrollment for Free CompTIA A+ Certification Training Program

Make It Haverhill (MIH), a workforce and digital access program of Community Action, Inc., has officially opened enrollment for its CompTIA A+ Certification Training Program, the industry standard for launching a career in Information Technology.

The program prepares Massachusetts residents (18+) who are unemployed or underemployed for entry-level careers in Information Technology, including roles such as Help Desk Technician, IT Support Specialist, and Field Technician.

Classes will be held in person on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Coursework covers hardware, networking, operating systems, and cybersecurity.

Each participant will receive a laptop to support their learning and a \$100 stipend upon passing both certification exams. The program also includes job readiness workshops and employment placement support.

Enrollment is limited and closes March 23. Applicants must be Massachusetts residents, authorized to work in the U.S., and able to commit to a one-year training process.

To begin enrollment, email info@makeithaverhill.com or call (978) 891-4074.

Wanda Santos anuncia la salida de su libro “Discovering Brady”



Aquí vemos a Wanda Santos rodeada de sus familiares, incluyendo a Davian Martinez (Lil D) quien deleitó al público presente.

Por Dalia Díaz

El Restaurante Sal’s fue el escenario de una gran velada para presentar "Descubriendo a Brady", que no es solo un libro infantil, sino una guía para adultos en la vida de los niños bellamente escrito e ilustrado por Antim Marius (www.deveostudio.com).

Wanda Santos es la autora de "Descubriendo a Brady", una serie de libros infantiles con enfoque en el trauma que aborda temas como el acoso escolar, la salud mental, la presión social, el aislamiento y los desafíos reales que enfrentan los niños hoy en día. A través de la narración, Wanda crea espacios donde las familias pueden tener conversaciones significativas y los niños se sienten vistos, comprendidos y empoderados.

Agradece a las personas que la rodean por estar ahí en su búsqueda de armonía y comprensión para estos niños, y agradece enormemente a los patrocinadores de este magnífico evento.

que organiza caminatas de bienestar, talleres, eventos de participación cívica y programas enfocados en el trauma en toda la región.

Sobre todo, Wanda cree en el poder de la comunidad, la educación y la autoinversión. Ya sea dando charlas en talleres, organizando eventos, lanzando un podcast o abogando en la Cámara de Representantes, su misión es clara: crear sistemas más sólidos fortaleciendo a las personas que los conforman.

Wanda Santos es una líder comunitaria dedicada, defensora de la discapacidad y profesional enfocada en el trauma, comprometida con priorizar a las personas. Con más de dos décadas en el campo de los Servicios Humanos, Wanda comenzó su trayectoria con tan solo 16 años y desde entonces ha forjado una carrera centrada en la defensa, la inclusión y la sanación.

El Restaurante Salvatore’s en Lawrence ofreció una maravillosa recepción con una comida fantástica.

El DJ Lus de Changetheplay mantuvo al público bailando y tocando buena música toda la noche. Incluso tuvimos un espectáculo sorpresa con Davian Martinez (Lil D) Youth Performance. Quienes no conocían a este talento local quedaron maravillados.

Y, para añadir a la diversión, AL Pereira, de Advanced Photobooth Services & Photography, regaló a todos hermosas fotos que marcaron el momento como un evento histórico para siempre.

Tiene un título de Asociado en Servicios Humanos y es Coach y Practicante Certificada de Trauma Integrativo, especializada en Somática Fundamental, Respiración Biodinámica, Atención Plena y Meditación.

Su trabajo se basa en su experiencia profesional y personal, incluyendo la gestión del agotamiento de los cuidadores, el apoyo a personas en situaciones de inestabilidad habitacional y la defensa de niños y familias afectados por discapacidades y experiencias traumáticas.

Actualmente se desempeña como Vicepresidenta de la Comisión de Discapacidad de la Ciudad de Methuen, Wanda continúa promoviendo la participación inclusiva, especialmente dentro de las comunidades latinas e inmigrantes que no siempre buscan apoyo.

“Actualmente nos preparamos para el lanzamiento del libro en República Dominicana y Los Ángeles, California”, nos comentó.

Más sobre Wanda Santos

Es la fundadora de Rosas de Renovación, una comunidad en crecimiento dedicada a la sanación, el empoderamiento y la conexión. Lo que comenzó como una simple conversación sobre la creación de espacios seguros para las mujeres se ha convertido en un próspero movimiento mixto

"Descubriendo a Brady" se lanzó el 7 de febrero de 2026 y está disponible para su compra en Amazon y Barnes & Noble: <https://a.co/d/00zVoF7M>

"Honor al soldado y al marino de todas partes que defienden con valentía la causa de su país. Honor, también, al ciudadano que se preocupa por su hermano en el campo de batalla y sirve, como mejor puede, a la misma causa".

"Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause."

Abraham Lincoln

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Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm

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Wanda Santos’ book signing of Discovering Brady

By Dalia Díaz

Sal’s Restaurant was the setting for a great evening introducing Discovering Brady. This is not just a children’s book but a guide for adults in the child’s life, beautifully written and illustrated by Antim Marius (www.deveostudio.com)

Wanda Santos is the author of Discovering Brady, a trauma-informed children’s book series addressing topics like bullying, mental health, peer pressure, isolation, and the real-life challenges children face today. Through storytelling, Wanda creates spaces where families can have meaningful conversations and children feel seen, understood, and empowered.

She’s thankful to the people around her for being there in her quest for harmony and understanding for these children, offering a huge thanks to the sponsors of this magnificent event.

Salvatore’s Restaurant in Lawrence offered a wonderful reception with a fantastic meal.

DJ Lus from Changetheplay kept the audience dancing and playing great music all night. We even had a surprise show with Davian Martinez (Lil D) Youth Performance. Those who didn’t know this local talent were amazed by him.

And, adding to the fun, AL Pereira from Advanced Photobooth Services & Photography gave everyone beautiful photos marking the moment as a historical event forever.

More about Wanda Santos

She is the founder of Roses of Renewal, a growing community dedicated to healing, empowerment, and connection. What began as a simple conversation about creating safe space for women has expanded into a thriving, co-ed movement hosting wellness walks, workshops, civic engagement events,

and trauma-informed programming across the region.

Above all, Wanda believes in the power of community, education, and self-investment. Whether she is speaking at a workshop, organizing events, launching a podcast, or advocating at the State House, her mission remains clear: build stronger systems by strengthening the people within them.

Wanda Santos is a dedicated community leader, disability advocate, and trauma-informed practitioner committed to putting people first. With over two decades in the Human Services field, Wanda began her journey at just 16 years old and has since built a career rooted in advocacy, inclusion, and healing.

She holds an Associate’s degree in Human Services and is a Certified Integrative Trauma Coach and Practitioner specializing in Foundational Somatics, Biodynamic Breathwork, Mindfulness, and Meditation.

Her work is deeply informed by both professional expertise and lived experience — including navigating caregiver burnout, supporting people through housing instability, and advocating for children and families impacted by disability and traumatic experiences.

Currently serving as Vice Chair of the Commission on Disability for the City of Methuen, Wanda continues to champion inclusive participation, especially within Latino and immigrant communities who may not always seek support.

“We are now preparing for a book launch in Dominican Republic and Los Angeles, California”, Wanda told us.

Discovering Brady was launch on February 7th 2026 and it is available for purchase in Amazon and Barnes &



Davian Martinez (Lil D)



Wanda’s nephew Jakobe, who was her inspiration for the book.



Jonathan Guzmán, School Committee vice president could not miss it.



Methuen City Councilor John Drew also came to support Wanda’s first effort..



Northern Essex Comm. College announces the selection of Dr. Naydeen González-De Jesús as Vice President of Lawrence Campus and Community Relations.



Carmen García-King from Haverhill.



Good friends Lissy Rivas and Methuen City Councilor Patricia Valley also came to share the night.

Solicitud de Asistencia – Preocupaciones por Transparencia y Responsabilidad Fiscal en Lawrence, MA

Estimado Sr. Craney y equipo de Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance,

Gracias por su labor en defensa de la responsabilidad fiscal y la rendición de cuentas gubernamental en todo el Commonwealth. Me dirijo a ustedes para poner en su conocimiento preocupaciones serias y continuas en la Ciudad de Lawrence relacionadas con la transparencia, el acceso a los registros públicos y la administración responsable de los fondos de los contribuyentes.

Me comunico no solo como una residente preocupada, sino como alguien que ha dedicado una cantidad significativa de tiempo intentando—sin éxito—obtener información pública básica de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Durante un período prolongado, he presentado solicitudes formales de registros públicos relacionadas con el gasto municipal, procesos de contratación, asignaciones vinculadas a fondos ARPA y procedimientos internos de toma de decisiones. Estas solicitudes fueron presentadas en pleno cumplimiento con la Ley de Registros Públicos de Massachusetts.

A pesar de ello, el acceso a la información ha sido retrasado, obstruido, ignorado o entregado de manera incompleta. En varias ocasiones, presenté apelaciones ante el Supervisor de Registros Públicos a nivel estatal. Incluso entonces, no se produjo un cumplimiento ni una ejecución significativa. Cuando el mecanismo estatutario de supervisión no logra producir resultados, surgen serias preocupaciones sobre una falla más amplia en la aplicación de las normas de transparencia.

Esto no es un desacuerdo de política pública. Es un asunto fundamental de gobernanza.

La información pública no es discrecional. No es política. Pertenece a los contribuyentes que financian las operaciones de la ciudad. A los contribuyentes de Lawrence se les está negando el acceso oportuno a registros que legalmente tienen derecho a revisar. La responsabilidad fiscal no puede existir en ausencia de documentación y supervisión.

Además de la falta de transparencia, el tono del liderazgo se ha vuelto cada vez más preocupante. En lugar de fomentar la rendición de cuentas, parece existir un patrón recurrente de ataques personales dirigidos a residentes, críticos y denunciantes que plantean preguntas legítimas sobre la gobernanza y el gasto público. Los funcionarios públicos deben dar la bienvenida al escrutinio. Los intentos de intimidar o desacreditar a residentes

preocupados socavan la confianza, debilitan la participación cívica y crean un efecto disuasorio en el compromiso público.

Estas preocupaciones se agravan por la percepción de inestabilidad y falta de enfoque a nivel ejecutivo. Cuando el liderazgo parece estar frecuentemente ausente mientras persisten preguntas fiscales y administrativas sin resolver, aumenta la frustración pública y se erosiona la confianza en la gestión municipal.

Mi preocupación no es partidista. Es estructural. Lawrence merece:

- Cumplimiento oportuno y legal de las solicitudes de registros públicos
- Informes transparentes y accesibles sobre los gastos municipales
- Conducta profesional por parte del liderazgo electo
- Protección para los residentes que plantean inquietudes de buena fe

Sin transparencia, los contribuyentes no pueden evaluar el gasto, analizar prioridades ni exigir rendición de cuentas.

Estoy preparada para proporcionar documentación completa de mis solicitudes de registros públicos, las respuestas recibidas, las determinaciones de apelación y los obstáculos procesales encontrados. Considero que esta situación amerita una revisión seria.

Pregunto directamente:

- ¿Cómo puede Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance ayudar a abordar el incumplimiento municipal de la Ley de Registros Públicos?
- ¿Estaría su equipo dispuesto a revisar la documentación y evaluar posibles próximos pasos?
- ¿Considerarían destacar a Lawrence como un estudio de caso de fallas en la transparencia municipal?
- ¿Existen reformas legislativas o mecanismos de cumplimiento que estén impulsando para fortalecer la rendición de cuentas en situaciones como esta?

Si su organización está comprometida a garantizar que los contribuyentes en todo el Commonwealth tengan voz, Lawrence representa un ejemplo claro y urgente donde esa voz está siendo restringida.

Espero conocer cómo su organización puede contribuir a restaurar la transparencia, la rendición de cuentas y la responsabilidad fiscal en Lawrence.

Atentamente,
Sarah Perez
Lawrence, Massachusetts

Request for Assistance – Transparency, Fiscal Accountability Concerns in Lawrence, MA

Dear Mr. Craney and the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance Team,

Thank you for your work advocating for fiscal responsibility and government accountability across the Commonwealth. I am writing to bring to your attention serious and ongoing concerns in the City of Lawrence regarding transparency, access to public records, and the responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds.

I am reaching out not simply as a concerned resident, but as someone who has spent a significant amount of time attempting—without success—to obtain basic public information from the City of Lawrence. For an extended period, I have submitted formal public records requests related to municipal spending, procurement processes, ARPA-related allocations, and internal decision-making procedures. These requests were filed in full compliance with Massachusetts Public Records Law.

Despite this, access to information has been delayed, obstructed, left unanswered, or provided in incomplete form. In several instances, I pursued appeals through the Supervisor of Public Records at the state level. Even then, meaningful enforcement and compliance did not follow. When the statutory oversight mechanism fails to produce results, it raises serious concerns about a broader breakdown in transparency enforcement.

This is not a disagreement over policy. It is a fundamental governance issue.

Public information is not discretionary. It is not political. It belongs to the taxpayers who fund the operations of the city. Taxpayers in Lawrence are being denied timely access to records they are legally entitled to review. Fiscal responsibility cannot exist in the absence of documentation and oversight.

In addition to the lack of transparency, the tone of leadership has become increasingly troubling. Rather than fostering accountability, there appears to be a recurring pattern of personal attacks directed at residents, critics, and whistleblowers who raise legitimate questions about governance and spending. Public officials should welcome scrutiny. Attempts to intimidate or discredit concerned residents undermine trust,

weaken civic participation, and create a chilling effect on public engagement.

Further compounding these concerns is the perception of instability and lack of focus at the executive level. When leadership appears frequently absent while serious fiscal and administrative questions remain unresolved, public frustration deepens and confidence in municipal management erodes.

My concern is not partisan. It is structural. Lawrence deserves:

- Timely and lawful compliance with public records requests
- Transparent and accessible reporting of municipal expenditures
- Professional conduct from elected leadership
- Protection of residents who raise good-faith concerns

Without transparency, taxpayers cannot evaluate spending, assess priorities, or hold officials accountable.

I am prepared to provide full documentation of my public records requests, the responses received, appeal determinations, and the procedural obstacles encountered. I believe this situation warrants serious review.

I am asking directly:

- How can Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance assist in addressing municipal non-compliance with public records law?
- Would your team be willing to review the documentation and assess potential next steps?
- Would you consider highlighting Lawrence as a case study of municipal transparency failure?
- Are there legislative reforms or enforcement mechanisms you are advancing that could strengthen accountability in circumstances like this?

If your organization is committed to ensuring that taxpayers across the Commonwealth have a voice, Lawrence presents a clear and pressing example where that voice is being restricted.

I look forward to understanding how your organization can help restore transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in Lawrence.

Respectfully,
Sarah Perez
Lawrence, Massachusetts

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com
<http://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>



¡Separa la fecha!



Esencia Cubana

Esta Noche Cubana

SABADO 16 DE MAYO 2026
ELK'S LODGE 652 ANDOVER ST. LAWRENCE MA 01843
6PM-12AM

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



Reemplazo del puente PFC Ralph T. Basiliere

¿Lo que está sucediendo?
MassDOT organizará una reunión informativa pública presencial en vivo para brindar a los miembros de la comunidad la oportunidad de familiarizarse completamente con la fase de construcción del reemplazo del Puente Soldado de Primera Clase Ralph T. Basiliere, que lleva la Ruta Estatal 125, la calle Bridge sobre el río Merrimack y el Bradford Rail Trail entre el centro de Haverhill y el vecindario de Bradford. En la reunión, MassDOT presentará el cronograma y las fases de construcción, las medidas para que el proyecto sea un buen vecino y los avances en la apariencia del puente que se han logrado durante el proceso de diseño y construcción. La apariencia general del puente sigue reflejando lo que se desarrolló a través de un sólido proceso público con la comunidad de Haverhill, incluyendo arcos, un mirador central con balizas iluminadas y la reutilización de los techos de las torres del puente existente en el Parque Bradford Rail Trail. Sin embargo, el material estructural principal será acero, en lugar de concreto, lo que proporciona mayor facilidad de construcción y líneas de visión más abiertas.

¿Cómo te afectará esto?
El proyecto propuesto incluye la sustitución completa del Puente Basiliere. Se utilizará una construcción por etapas para mantener, en general, un carril de circulación hacia Bradford y otro hacia el centro de Haverhill, así como una acera. Es posible que sea necesario cerrar el puente con desvíos durante la noche y los fines de semana para garantizar la seguridad pública. MassDOT invita a todos los miembros de la comunidad interesados a asistir y obtener más información sobre este proyecto.

Cuando
JUEVES 6 DE MARZO DE 2026
6:00 PM

Dónde
PINÁCULO EN HARBOR PLACE
2 CALLE MERRIMACK, PISO TRES
HAVERHILL, MA 01830





Para garantizar la accesibilidad de sus reuniones, MassDOT ofrece, dentro de lo razonable, servicios de traducción, interpretación, modificaciones, adaptaciones, formatos alternativos y recursos y servicios auxiliares. Para solicitar estos servicios, comuníquese con el Director de Diversidad y Derechos Civiles de MassDOT al 857-368-8580 o a MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Para procesar su solicitud con suficiente tiempo, hágala lo antes posible, idealmente entre 10 y 15 días antes del evento.

Las consultas sobre el proyecto también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us. Por favor, envíe cualquier declaración escrita sobre el proyecto propuesto a: Carrie A. Lavallee, Ingeniero Civil, Ingeniera Jefe, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02114, Atención: SECCIÓN DEL PUENTE, ARCHIVO DEL PROYECTO No. 605364

Printing Revolution: Museum hosts lecture on Freedom of the Press

MARCH

CELEBRATIONS OF AMERICA'S 250TH IN HAVERHILL

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

Museum of Printing : Printing Revolution Presentation Lecture

Time: 1 pm
Location: 15 Thornton Ave. Haverhill MA

Program is free with Museum admission
• \$15 regular adult • Discounted Seniors, Veterans • Free with Haverhill Public Library, NARM

*Registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/printing-revolution-lecture-with-andy-volpe-tickets-3779677313101>

LOOK FORWARD TO...

- Patriot's Day Weekend Celebration
- History Trivia Night in May
- Month of Museums with the Haverhill Cultural Treasures in mid-June/July

more details to follow!

ARE YOU HOSTING A 250TH EVENT?
For your programming to be considered in the citywide calendar, please submit this form by the 15th of the month prior to your event: <https://forms.gle/z31RFMx4DsjDW7vJA>

THANK YOU TO OUR 250TH PARTNERS

The Museum of Printing kicks off the 250th programming with a world class Benjamin Franklin exhibit - and a lecture on press freedom and colonial resistance before Independence. Andy Volpe's "Printing Revolution" presentation on March 28 at 1pm takes a look not only at the printing press and technology being considered "revolutionary" but also at the idea of Freedom of the Press, laws and acts passed to control the press, and the rebellious printing done against those laws, with an emphasis in the American Colonies leading up to the Declaration of Independence.

Community groups are invited to get involved in this year-round programming. Whether you represent a historic property, nonprofit, service club, youth group, or school organization, you're encouraged to submit your events for consideration in the official 250th Anniversary calendar. This is a wonderful opportunity to share stories and create programming that celebrates Haverhill's role in American history. Consider organizing a public reading of the Declaration of Independence with your school or club!

Save the dates for upcoming 250th programming this Spring featuring a Patriot's Day celebration on April 18th and a History Trivia night on May 14th. June-July will highlight a "Month of Museums," in which each Cultural Treasure will host events throughout the month. More details to follow.

For your programming to be considered in the citywide calendar, please submit this form by the 15th of the month prior to your event: <https://forms.gle/z31RFMx4DsjDW7vJA>

For inquiries regarding volunteering, sponsorship, or participating, please contact Hailey Pearson at hpearson@haverhillma.gov



PFC Ralph T. Basiliere Bridge Replacement

What is happening?
MassDOT will host a live, in-person public information meeting to provide community members with an opportunity to become fully acquainted with the construction phase of the replacement of the Private First Class Ralph T. Basiliere Bridge which carries State Route 125, locally Bridge Street over the Merrimack River and the Bradford Rail Trail between downtown Haverhill and the Bradford neighborhood. At the meeting, MassDOT will present construction timing and phasing, measures to help the project be a good neighbor, and developments to the bridge's appearance that have come through the design-build process. The bridge's overall look continues to reflect what was developed through a robust public process with the Haverhill community including arches, a central overlook with lighted beacons, and the reuse of the existing bridge's tower roots in the Bradford Rail Trail Park; however, the main structural material will be steel, instead of concrete, providing greater constructability and more open sight lines.

How will this affect you?
The proposed project includes the full replacement of the Basiliere Bridge. Staged construction will be used to generally maintain one travel lane going towards Bradford and one lane going towards downtown Haverhill as well as one sidewalk. Night and weekend closures of the bridge with detours may be needed at times to ensure public safety. MassDOT encourages all interested members of the community to attend and learn more about this project.

When
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026
6:00PM

Where
PINNACLE AT HARBOR PLACE
2 MERRIMACK STREET, 3RD FLOOR
HAVERHILL, MA 01830





To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. To request such services, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-368-8580 or MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. For adequate time to process such request, please make them as early as possible, ideally 10-15 days prior to the event.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us. Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02114, Attention: BRIDGE SECTION PROJECT FILE NO. 605364

Phyllis C. Tyler

December 16, 1936 - February 26, 2026



Phyllis Tyler, a true and dedicated daughter of Lawrence, passed away on February 26, 2026 surrounded by friends and family. Born December 16, 1936 to the late Anthony Tyler & Filomena (Fascione) Tyler. She was a proud Italian-American, raised with a commitment to her Catholic faith that was matched only by her commitment to serving her neighbors and community.

As a young woman, Phyllis attended Fisher College, Northern Essex, Merrimack College, graduating with a degree in Business Administration. She worked at Arlington Trust, which was a highlight of her business career. Her attention to detail and love for numbers led her down the path of entrepreneurship, from which she became renowned as a bookkeeper to many. Soft spoken, and with uncompromising morals and ethics, Phyllis would lend her expertise to countless businesses, individuals, elected officials, and non-profit organizations throughout the Greater Lawrence area.

So renowned were her skills that she embraced the nickname affectionately bestowed upon her: "The Money Lady". It was a nickname earned in her various roles, formerly serving as Treasurer to nearly countless elected officials and candidates, Treasurer of the Lawrence Democratic City Committee, and Deputy Treasurer of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee.

A staunch, lunch-bucket Democrat, Phyllis believed in the good that government could do, and more so believed in the good of her neighbors. So strong was her faith in those seeking to do good that she was an easy recruit in helping develop systems and support missions which would lead to a better, stronger community. She was the longtime Treasurer of the Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association, formerly served as President and Treasurer of the Bread and Roses Heritage Committee, and chair of Lawrence's Bicentennial Commission. She worked closely with Jericho Road to help foster the next generation of local non-profits, mentoring and guiding

community organizations to build sound record keeping systems. Phyllis, with a love for her community's culture and history, understood that its preservation depended on the nurturing of its future.

Her passion and love for her city drove Phyllis to be a founding member of the Immigrant City Archives, a member of the Lawrence History Center, Greater Lawrence Choral Society, Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, a founding member of the Robert Frost Foundation, and a founder and tireless lifetime supporter of the Friends of the Lawrence Public Library. Phyllis was never an idle participant. When she joined a group, she did so with purpose. All the while employing sharp wit, respect, kindness, intelligence, and an unyielding class. In 2007, the Lawrence Democratic City Committee recognized her as Lawrence Democrat of the Year. In 2015, she was recognized with the Bread and Roses Hall of Fame award.

She leaves behind many, many dear friends, so many of whom continue to carry on the mantle of community service, with hopes to live up to the standard Phyllis so graciously set. Phyllis, who was known affectionately as "Cousin" by her large network of relatives, was particularly embraced by her cousin, Dottie Peters as well as Dottie's children: Laura Lee Loftus (Jack), George A. Peters, Jr (JoAnne), Susanne Valliere (Bill), and all of their children and grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are invited to call on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 122 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA. Her funeral mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Saint Augustine Chapel, 128 Ames Street, Lawrence, MA. Burial will follow in the Bellevue Cemetery in Lawrence, MA. Donations may be made to a Charity of One's Choice. For online condolences and other information please visit us at <https://www.breenfuneralhome.com>.

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026

THE PREMIER SPRING BUSINESS EXPO, TRADE SHOW, HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR!

Michael's Function Hall
12 Alpha Street, Off Rte 110
Haverhill, MA
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Premier, Most Effective Business Marketing and Networking Opportunity This Year AND Most Affordable With Our "Early Bird" Pricing!

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXHIBIT YOUR PRODUCT(S) AND SERVICES TO THE MANY WHO WILL ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE

DON'T DELAY REGISTER TODAY!

ACT NOW & SAVE \$5

Exhibitors Will Benefit By:

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- EXTENSIVE MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN
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- COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST WITH VIP SPEAKER!
- FREE COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS DURING SET-UP FOR EXHIBITORS
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www.merrimackvalleychamber.com

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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
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Boost the blood supply: Red Cross offers free A1C testing as 1 in 5 donors have levels in prediabetic or diabetic range

Successful donations will receive free testing in March, \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email for coming to give March 1-31

News Summary:

- New American Red Cross data reveals that 1 in 5 blood donors have elevated A1C levels — a sign that prediabetes and diabetes are prevalent among adults in generally good health.
- Early detection isn't just good for long-term health — it's also a warning for people's wallets.
- As the nation's largest blood supplier, the Red Cross is uniquely positioned to provide donors with health insights that can help bridge preventative care gaps, such as undiagnosed diabetes and hypertension.
- Visit RedCrossBlood.org now to book a time to give blood or platelets. In March, the Red Cross will provide free A1C testing on successful blood, platelet and plasma donations. Those who come to give March 1-31 will also get a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/March.

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\$1.8M BOOSTS SMALL BUSINESSES

Awards from MassDevelopment’s Biz-M-Power Grant Program Will Help 48 Small Businesses Invest in a New or Renovated Facility, Equipment, or Another Capital Expense

BOSTON – MassDevelopment announced \$1,849,795.10 in grants from the Biz-M-Power Grant Program to help 48 small businesses in Massachusetts strengthen and grow. Ranging from \$6,720 to \$50,000, the grants will empower businesses to (1) buy, expand, improve, or lease a facility, (2) buy or lease equipment, or (3) meet other capital needs of the business.

“Small businesses drive our economy by creating jobs, producing valued goods and services, and contributing to vibrant communities across the state,” said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley, who serves as chair of MassDevelopment’s Board of Directors. “We are glad to see these grants supporting a variety of small businesses in every region of Massachusetts, from farms to restaurants to bakeries and beyond.”

“MassDevelopment is pleased to deliver funding from the Biz-M-Power Grant Program to help 48 small businesses succeed and grow in our state,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Navjeet Bal. “Small businesses are the economic heartbeat of communities across Massachusetts. By investing in a new or renovated facility, equipment, or another capital need, these small businesses are a step closer to achieving their business goals, strengthening their bottom line, expanding their workforce, and flourishing.”

Administered by MassDevelopment on behalf of the Commonwealth, the Biz-M-Power Grant Program provides grants to help small businesses strengthen and grow. Today’s grants were awarded through the fifth round of the program, which opened for applications in March 2024. Eligible applicants include small businesses and microbusinesses with fewer than 20 employees and up to \$2.5 million in annual revenues at the time of application. Applicants are required to contribute a minimum of 20% of the project costs. Today’s grants will leverage more than \$370,082 in private investment and support the creation of 77 full-time jobs and 66 part-time jobs.

Examples of awarded projects include:

- \$43,067.10 to Pine Hill Orchards in Colrain, which will use funds to buy a new bottling machine to bottle and cap its homemade apple cider. This upgraded equipment will modernize the bottling process to meet food safety standards, improve efficiency, and increase apple cider production.
- \$14,583.34 to Door Prize, LLC in North Adams, which will use funds to add wooden slats to the ceiling of its



Photo of Nancy Zhou, owner of Silver Whisk Bake Shop, a small business in Waltham receiving a \$50,000 Biz-M-Power grant. Photo courtesy of Lena Mirisola Photography.

restaurant space. This will improve acoustics and provide a better dining experience for guests.

- \$50,000 to Lasercare Cosmetic LLC in Reading, which will use funds to buy new laser equipment to incorporate laser tattoo removal into its existing practice. This new laser equipment will also be able to remove the appearance of freckles and age spots.
- \$50,000 to Silver Whisk Bake Shop, LLC in Waltham, which will use funds to buy new kitchen equipment to expand production of its chocolate bars, which come in classic as well as Asian-inspired flavors, into wholesale.
- \$50,000 to American Vinegar Works LLC in Worcester, which will use funds to automate two important parts of its bottle processing: automatic capping and automatic application of bottle labels. This new technology will allow American Vinegar Works to pursue additional large wholesale accounts.

“This grant allows Silver Whisk to reach a whole new level,” said Nancy Zhou, Owner of Silver Whisk Bake Shop. “It allows us to invest in equipment that will increase our production capacity while maintaining the artisanal quality we deeply care about. This means we can expand our wholesale partnerships for our gourmet chocolates, offer more variety in our retail shop, and grow our catering services for desserts and gifting. We’re so grateful for this opportunity and thrilled to share more butter, sugar, and chocolate with fellow dessert lovers!”

Full list of awarded projects:

• Kismet Foods, Inc (Agawam) –	\$50,000
• The Saucy Mama LLC (Agawam) –	\$21,768.34
• Little Kids Academy, LLC (Arlington) –	\$35,569.58
• Keankruta LLC (Boston) –	\$49,440
• Lemar and Sons, Inc. (Boston) –	\$50,000
• Perio Studio Associates PC (Boston) –	\$42,113.35
• The Young Dream Family Company Inc (Boston) –	\$ 9,791.71
• Zenarose Inc. (Boston) –	\$50,000
• 333 Services LLC (Brockton) –	\$50,000
• Cidade Velha Inc. (Brockton) –	\$27,435
• Leonor Pires Centeio Financial Services LLC (Brockton) –	\$50,000
• Dado Tea, LLP (Cambridge) –	\$37,455.83
• Zuzu's Petals (Cambridge) –	\$48,775
• Fruit Life Inc (Chicopee) –	\$50,000
• Pine Hill Orchards (Colrain) –	\$43,067.10
• Sound Health Bodyworks (Deerfield) –	\$27,987.50
• Crooked Stick Pops, LLC (Easthampton) –	\$40,521.82
• Heather Beck Designs (Easthampton) –	\$15,886.05
• Oake Knoll Farms LLC (Foxborough) –	\$50,000
• Roundabout Books, Inc. (Greenfield) –	\$49,583
• Olympus Training Lab LLC (Hopedale) –	\$49,888.95
• Kalon Farm, Inc (Lancaster) –	\$50,000
• Sweet Grace Heavenly Cakes LLC (Lawrence) –	\$50,000
• Bri's Sweet Treats, LLC (Leicester) –	\$15,548.46
• Malis Nails Boutique, LLC (Lowell) –	\$22,367.88
• One Urban Tribe (Lowell) –	\$9,653.28
• Simply Khmer Food Corp (Lowell) –	\$6,720.43
• Spicy Water Distillers LLC (Millbury) –	\$34,631.46
• Diemand Egg Farm, Inc. (Montague) –	\$21,583
• Element Brewing Company LLC (Montague) –	\$49,227.78
• YMJ Inc (Natick) –	\$50,000
• Rose Advanced Skin Care (Newton) –	\$50,000
• Door Prize, LLC (North Adams) –	\$14,583.34
• Wedding Invitations Corp. (Peabody) –	\$50,000
• Casba Food and Pastries (Quincy) –	\$50,000
• Lamour by Design, Inc (Randolph) –	\$50,000
• Lasercare Cosmetic LLC (Reading) –	\$50,000
• Vu CPA, P.C. (Salem) –	\$34,862.50
• Melissa & Peter Martin DBA Dandelion Hill Farm (Sheffield) –	\$8,246.67
• Pizza King Italian Kitchen LLC (Somerville) –	\$27,411.50
• Thai J&J LLC (Somerville) –	\$50,000
• Good Eats to Go (Southampton) –	\$14,558.99
• Las Kangris Food Truck Inc (Springfield) –	\$50,000
• Silver Whisk Bake Shop, LLC (Waltham) –	\$50,000
• Shear Envy (Westminster) –	\$50,000
• Fieldcrest Brewing Company LLC (Wilbraham) –	\$41,116.58
• American Graphics Institute, LLC (Woburn) –	\$50,000
• American Vinegar Works LLC (Worcester) –	\$50,000

MassDevelopment, the state’s development finance agency and land bank, delivers financing solutions, real estate expertise, and other assistance to strengthen and grow the Massachusetts economy. We partner with businesses, nonprofits, developers, banks, and municipalities, providing resources to help create jobs, build housing, and foster vibrant communities across the state. During FY2025, MassDevelopment financed or managed 409 projects generating investment of more than \$4.65 billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are estimated to create or support 25,246 jobs and build or preserve 2,867 housing units.

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Try something new this Spring!



For horse lovers at heart – Windrush, a therapy horse farm in North Andover, has many opportunities for volunteers to enjoy spending time with their favorite animals while making a difference in the lives of those with disabilities.

Many people grew up with horses, but now have less opportunities to spend at a horse farm! That is not the case at Windrush, where people with horse experience are welcome as horse handlers to lead the horses in the therapeutic riding classes. Windrush offers training to become a horse handler and this is a fabulous way to stay fit! “It is such a joy to see the clients progress and know that I am contributing to this progress”, says Camilla Rich, a long-time volunteer. “I have fun being with the horses and the riders, I get my exercise and a great feeling of satisfaction, and I enjoy being on a horse farm!”

Windrush also needs side walkers who walk beside the horses and assist the clients with their riding exercises. This is a perfect opportunity for people who would like to spend time with horses, but do not have horse experience. Windrush also offers ground programs (unmounted) for clients with dementia or for those struggling with anxiety and/or depression and volunteers can assist the clients in these heart-warming classes.

A relatively new program called Readers and Riders serves disadvantaged youth from Lawrence,

ponies provide the motivation to improve reading skills. Windrush is looking for someone with teaching skills to help in the reading part of this program, which takes place on Wednesday afternoons.

People who do not have time for a weekly volunteering commitment would be very welcome to help with grounds work, gardening or even cleaning tack on ad hoc basis! Yes, there are some wonderful people who enjoy doing these things!! In addition, every year Windrush Farm holds its annual fundraising Gala in the Fall and would appreciate volunteers to help secure sponsorships.

Volunteers make it possible for Windrush Farm to serve up to 150 clients a week! Windrush would like to thank all its current volunteers and looks forward to welcoming new ones!

Spring is a perfect time to start a new activity – please visit Windrushfarm.org or send an email to volunteer@windrushfarm.org for more information.

About Windrush Farm:

Founded in 1964, Windrush Farm is located on the North Andover/Boxford line. Windrush offers high-quality equine-assisted services to children and adults facing physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. Windrush is one of the oldest, and largest therapy horse farms in the United States.

For more information about Windrush Farm, please visit windrushfarm.org

The Veterans Directed Care (VDC) Program

A Privilege to Serve Those Who Served

Through our Veteran Directed Care program, NILP is honored to support local veterans who want to remain at home as they age – with dignity, choice, and the care they deserve. The program allows eligible veterans to direct their own care, including hiring caregivers they trust (often a spouse or family member) and using flexible funds to meet needs not always covered through traditional services. For many veterans, this support arrives at a critical moment, helping fill gaps so they can stay safe and comfortable in their own homes.

VDC Program Coordinator, Wendy Garcia, currently works with more than two dozen veterans across the region, most in their 80s, 90s, and beyond – including a 105-year-old World War II veteran. Wendy serves as a steady guide through what can be a complex process, helping veterans and their families navigate paperwork, budgets, and care decisions while ensuring everything runs smoothly month to month. As needs change, she remains closely connected, advocating quietly but persistently to keep care in place.

For Wendy, the most meaningful part of the work is helping veterans remain at home with dignity and choice. Many of the veterans she serves



Wendy Garcia, VDC Program Coordinator

are at the end of life, and this program allows them to fulfill a deeply personal wish: to remain at home, surrounded by family, rather than in an institution. “It’s a privilege,” she says, “to help make that possible.” Through Veteran Directed Care, NILP is proud to honor those who have served – not just with services, but with compassion, respect, and independence until the very end.

Programa de Atención Dirigida por Veteranos (VDC)

Un Privilegio para Servir a Quienes Sirvieron

A través de nuestro programa de Atención Dirigida por Veteranos, NILP se enorgullece de apoyar a los veteranos locales que desean permanecer en casa a medida que envejecen, con dignidad, opciones y la atención que merecen. El programa permite a los veteranos elegibles dirigir su propio cuidado, lo que incluye contratar cuidadores de confianza (a menudo, su cónyuge o familiar) y utilizar fondos flexibles para cubrir necesidades que no siempre cubren los servicios tradicionales. Para muchos veteranos, este apoyo llega en un momento crítico, ayudando a cubrir necesidades para que puedan permanecer seguros y cómodos en sus propios hogares.

La Coordinadora del Programa VDC, Wendy García, trabaja actualmente con más de dos docenas de veteranos en toda la región, la mayoría de ellos de 80, 90 y más años, incluyendo a un veterano de la Segunda Guerra Mundial de 105 años. Wendy sirve como guía constante en lo que puede ser un proceso complejo,

ayudando a los veteranos y a sus familias a gestionar el papeleo, los presupuestos y las decisiones sobre su cuidado, a la vez que garantiza que todo transcurra sin problemas mes a mes. A medida que las necesidades cambian, se mantiene estrechamente conectada, abogando discreta pero persistentemente por mantener la atención.

Para Wendy, la parte más significativa de su trabajo es ayudar a los veteranos a permanecer en casa con dignidad y libertad de elección. Muchos de los veteranos a los que atiende se encuentran al final de su vida, y este programa les permite cumplir un deseo profundamente personal: permanecer en casa, rodeados de su familia, en lugar de estar en una institución. “Es un privilegio”, dice, “ayudar a hacerlo posible”. A través de la Atención Dirigida para Veteranos, NILP se enorgullece de honrar a quienes han servido, no solo con servicios, sino con compasión, respeto e independencia hasta el final.

“¿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

FREEDOM TRAIL® AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS® TOURS RETURN FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Freedom Trail® Foundation’s acclaimed African American Patriots® Tours celebrate the African American patriots that played a vital role in the start of the American Revolution in Boston and in the formation of our country. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, tour-goers can view history through the eyes of these courageous men and women throughout Black History Month in February.

African American Patriots® Tours return on Sunday, February 1 and are held on select Saturdays and Sundays in February departing at 10:45 a.m. from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center. Revolutionary figures such as Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Prince Hall, Peter Salem, and others come to life during these 90-minute walking tours while zigzagging through the Freedom Trail – Boston’s iconic 2.5-mile brick trail leading to 16 nationally significant historic sites. African American Patriots Tours invite visitors and residents alike to discover the immense contributions of Black Bostonians during the American Revolution and beyond, as the stories

unfold along Boston’s historic red-lined path. Hear about the sacrifices these patriots made, the battles they fought, and the legacies they left behind, as well as the stories of significant abolitionists and civil rights activists in Boston’s history.

The tours are ideal for groups, schools, residents and those visiting the city. Public tour tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center at \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$8 for children under 12 years old. Tickets may also be purchased online at TheFreedomTrail.org. The African American Patriots® Tours are also available on June 19, select Saturdays in July and August, and year-round for groups as private tours.

Other events and programs celebrating Black History Month are held at official Freedom Trail sites. For information regarding Freedom Trail events and programs, tickets, reservations, group rates or questions, please call (617) 357-8300 or visit TheFreedomTrail.org.

Celebrate Women’s History Month on the Freedom Trail® Revolutionary Women Tours Step Off in March

This March, the Freedom Trail® Foundation will honor Women’s History Month with the return of the Revolutionary Women Tours. The tours will help residents and visitors discover the indomitable women who took part in the American Revolution, and the generations of women that followed, inaugurating their own struggles for freedom and equality.

The Freedom Trail Revolutionary Women Tours invites people of all ages to walk the Freedom Trail and explore four centuries of revolutionary women who changed history. These 90-minute tours feature tales of the early religious rebellions of Anne Hutchinson and Mary Dyer, abolitionist movements of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, landmark achievements of Black pioneers Phillis Wheatley and Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, prolific writings of Abigail Adams and Louisa May Alcott, dynamic speeches of Margaret Sanger and Susan B. Anthony, and more. Walk the paths these influential women treaded, while visiting the places where their voices were heard, works published, and were laid to rest.

The tours also feature official Freedom Trail historic sites from the site of the Great Elm on Boston Common, where women paid the ultimate price for refusing to conform to puritanical values, to the Granary Burying Ground, where those who fought fiercely

for independence are remembered alongside their revolutionary male counterparts, the Old Corner Bookstore and Old South Meeting House, where women made change through the power of literature and the spoken word. Revolutionary Women Tours culminate at Faneuil Hall, the Cradle of Liberty, which played a prominent role in both the abolitionist and women’s suffrage movements.

Revolutionary Women Tours depart from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center on Saturdays and Sundays starting Saturday, March 7 at 10:45 a.m.; the tours will also be available on select Saturdays in July and August. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation’s walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children, and include a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation’s Preservation Fund. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center or online at TheFreedomTrail.org.

All walking tours and specialty tours, including the Revolutionary Women Tours, are available as private tours year-round by appointment and are perfect for families, company outings, corporate activities and team building, tourist groups, and more.

For additional information please visit TheFreedomTrail.org or call (617) 357-8300.

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BrightBridge Credit Union Partners with Methuen High School to Bring Real-World Financial Lessons to Life

On Friday, Feb. 13, BrightBridge Credit Union (BrightBridge) and Methuen High School came together to host the annual Credit for Life Fair, an immersive financial literacy experience designed to prepare graduating seniors for life beyond high school.

Held in the Klimas Field House at Methuen High School, the two-hour simulation challenged students to step into their future by selecting a career aligned with their post-graduation goals and receiving a projected salary. From there, students moved through a series of interactive stations where they made realistic financial decisions they may soon face, including choices around higher education, housing, transportation and everyday living expenses.

“The Credit for Life Fair remains a cornerstone of Methuen High School’s commitment to preparing students for postsecondary success,” said Methuen High School Associate Principal Glenda Javier. “By experiencing firsthand the financial impact of their decisions, students left the event with strengthened financial literacy skills and increased confidence in their ability to make informed choices about their futures.”

Throughout the fair, students

explored how lifestyle decisions—such as dining out, joining a gym or owning a pet—can impact their monthly budget. They were also met with unexpected scenarios at “The Wheel of Misfortune,” where chance events tested their financial flexibility by introducing surprises that could either strain their budget or provide a financial boost.

The experience concluded at the credit counseling station, where volunteers reviewed each student’s financial choices and helped connect the dots between income, expenses and long-term planning. These one-on-one conversations reinforced the importance of budgeting and informed decision-making.

Since its launch in 2018, the Credit for Life Fair has grown into a meaningful collaboration between BrightBridge and Methuen High School. The event is supported by dozens of volunteers from BrightBridge, the Methuen school district and local professional and community organizations, all of whom bring real-world insight and guidance to the students.

“Hosting the Credit for Life Fair at the high school level is one of the most impactful ways we can prepare students



BrightBridge team members helped students understand the impacts of higher education and how student loans will affect their financial goals. From left: Teller Carol Casado, VP of Member Support Zobeida Duarte, Operations Specialist Heather Rabs, Communications Specialist Kristin Cole and Methuen Branch Manager Lina Quijano.

for the realities of adulthood,” says BrightBridge Marketing Specialist and Credit for Life Coordinator Olivia Pink. “By giving them a hands-on opportunity to create a budget, manage expenses and make real-world financial decisions, we’re equipping them with skills that extend far beyond the classroom.”

For the volunteers, the event was equally impactful as it provided opportunities to connect with local students about their post-college plans. “It was so exciting to volunteer at this year’s Credit for Life Fair and support

students in the very community where I both live and work,” said BrightBridge’s Methuen Branch Manager Lina Quijano. “Having candid conversations with graduating seniors about their goals and financial futures and guiding them through real-life scenarios makes this event especially rewarding. With a daughter of my own, it’s a powerful reminder of how important it is to invest in the next generation.”

To learn more about BrightBridge Credit Union’s community initiatives, visit www.brightbridge.com/news.

Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

Gutierrez scores 1,000th career point as Knights cruise into Region 21 semi-finals

Haverhill, MA (February 26, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College women’s basketball team seeded third in the Region 21 outscored sixth seeded Quinsigamond 60-17 over the games final three quarters and advanced to Friday nights semi-finals with a 74-34 victory. The Knights will travel to second seeded Holyoke on Friday evening at 6:00pm with the winner advancing to Sunday’s championship game.

Rhaelyn Gutierrez (Methuen) scored a game high 23 points and in the

process scored the 1,000th point of her two year career at NECC.

She was joined in double figures by a trio of teammates as Shaneley Henriquez (Haverhill) scored 16 while Serena Rechdan (Byblos, Lebanon) and Rebecca Heathman (Billerica) each scored 10. Heathman also grabbed a game high 13 rebounds.

The Knights will be playing into the semi-final round for the third straight season and will look to advance to their second championship game in three last three years.

Five score in double figures as top seeded Knights advance to semi-finals

Haverhill, MA (February 26, 2026) – The top seeded and #2 nationally ranked Northern Essex men’s basketball team saw five players score in double figures in a 94-67 victory over eighth seeded Bristol on Thursday evening as they advance to the semi-finals for a fifth straight season.

The games opening minutes were played close before NECC meticulously began to pull away and took a 50-28 lead into the locker room at halftime, and further pulled away on the second half outscoring the Bayhawks 44-39 in the second half.

Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) scored a game high 20 points, as he recorded 10 in each half. He was followed by Jay’von Depina (Brockton) he scored a career high 19 including five three-point baskets.

Christian Sanders (Boston) scored 15 points while both Alex Johnson (Worcester) and Joan Vidal (Lawrence) dropped in 10 points apiece.

The Knights will host fifth seeded MassBay on Friday evening at 7:00pm as the Bucs picked up a 70-66 victory over fourth seeded CCRI.

Top seeded Knights pull away in second half, advance to Championship Sunday

Haverhill, MA (February 27, 2026) – The top seeded Northern Essex Community College men’s basketball team punched their ticket to the Region 21/East District championship game for the fifth consecutive year on Friday night as they as they dispatched MassBay by a 101-74 final score. In the process, the Knights improved their overall record to 29-3.

The Region 21/East District Championship game will be played on Sunday at 12:00pm at the Sport and Fitness on the Haverhill campus.

The Knights jumped out to 6-0 lead in the opening minutes led wire to wire for 40 minutes as they took a nine-point advantage to the locker room at

halftime leading 42-33.

Jay’von Depina (Brockton) continued his hot start to the post-season as he drained four three pointers on his way to scoring a team high 17 points.

A trio of teammates joined Depina in double figures as Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) recorded a double-double of 13 points and 10 rebounds, while Christian Sanders (Boston) and Jacob Mercedes (Salem) each scored 10 points.

The Knights continued their high-pressure defense and forced the Bucs into 18 turnovers in the game.

The game saw a combined 54 fouls called against both teams.

Johnson’s layup with 3.8 seconds left second Knights to fourth straight Region 21/ East District Championship



Haverhill, MA (March 1, 2026) – Alex Johnson’s (Worcester) layup with 3.8 seconds remaining in the game gave the top seeded and #2 nationally ranked Knights picked up their 30th win of the season.

In front of a standing room only crowd at the Sport and Fitness Center, Johnson finished with a game high 23 points matching the output of Quincy’s Karmari James. For the Knights Jacob Mercedes (Salem) scored a career high 14 points off the bench.

Trailing for all but 19 seconds in the game and by as many as 10 points at the 10-minute mark of the second half, NECC’s high pressure defense turned up the volume and forced four Quincy turnovers in the game’s final two minutes.

The Knights frontcourt of



Christian Sanders (Boston) and Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) scored eight points apiece in the game.

With a 30-3 overall record the Knights are likely to receive an opening round bye in the NJCAA National Tournament scheduled for March 11-14th in Herkimer, NY on the campus of Herkimer College. The 12-team tournament field will be announced on Wednesday at 6:00pm live on the NJCAA Network.

Notes: Alex Johnson was named the Region 21/East District Tournaments most outstanding player.

The Knights fourth straight NJCAA Region 21 Championship ties the Region 21 and New England record for consecutive men’s basketball championships.

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24 Central Square,
Chelmsford, MA

Old Mill House Coffee is celebrating March Madness with a variety of delicious seasonal lattes!

Take some time to network, sample these delightful latte flights, and rank your favorite flavors!

Old Mill House Coffee
Monday, March 9th
1:30PM - 2:30PM

[Register here!](#)

THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF GREATER LOWELL PRESENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MIXER!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH
4:30PM - 6:30PM

THE OLD COURT
29-31 CENTRAL ST.
LOWELL, MA





Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

DUE TO OVERWHELMING MEMBER REQUESTS

THE \$125 EMAIL BLAST SPECIAL IS BACK!!!

Can You Believe Only \$125.00!

Special Email Promotion Offer:

Just \$125.00 to reach Over 2,000 MVCC Members & their Business Email Contacts!

We are pleased to provide **YOU** with this **MV Chamber Member service** to promote your products, services and events at an especially affordable price!

Simply email your e-blast flyer to the Chamber and we will email it to everyone in our email data base for just \$125.00 based on a 1st come 1st served basis.

(Time limited offer until March 31st)
Only one member e-mail per day will be sent.)

For more info contact: The MV Chamber at **978-686-0900** or email office@merrimackvalleychamber.com

The Member's e-mail shall contain the words (Paid Advertisement) and shall not contain any offensive material. The Chamber reserves the right to review and not send any proposed email it considers offensive or inappropriate.



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.

Sunday, March 22nd, 2026 – 8:00 PM Merrimack Valley Chamber Night at the Boston Celtics VS Timberwolves!



Be there for when Jaylen Brown and the Boston Celtics take on Anthony Edwards & the Minnesota Timberwolves

Enjoy an exciting night with your family, friends and/or reward your business associates!

ONLY \$115.00 EACH - Balcony Section 308 Row 12

3/22/26 --- Celtics vs TWolves --- \$115.00 Each
of Tickets ___ Total ___ Check (Payable to Merrimack Valley Chamber)
You can now pay online with secure credit card payments/Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa
www.merrimackvalleychamber.com

Name _____ Company _____
Email _____ Address _____

Telephone: 978-686-0900 Email: office@merrimackvalleychamber.com

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Payment Must Accompany Ticket Order. **No Refunds, No Cancellations**
Thank You!

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

MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & NORTH OF BOSTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU FREE BUSINESS NETWORKING MIXER AT DAVIO'S!

Attend our Business Networking Mixer at Davio's Lynnfield!
Join us for networking, complimentary appetizers, a cash bar, a chance to win a door prize, and more!

Tuesday, March 10th, 2026

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Davio's Lynnfield
1250 Market St
Lynnfield, MA 01940

To Register/Sponsor: Call the MVCC: (978) 686-0900 or Register at MerrimackValleyChamber.com

FREE MEMBER APPRECIATION MIXER!



DAVIO'S
NORTHERN ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE



NORTH of BOSTON
Convention & Visitors Bureau

¿Eres una joven embarazada o un(a) padre/madre menor de 25 años?



¡Únete a nuestro Programa para Padres Jóvenes!

Apoyamos a madres y padres jóvenes y a sus hijos para que alcancen su máximo potencial, ofreciendo ayuda en todos los aspectos de la salud, el crecimiento personal y el bienestar.

Nos enfocamos en:

- Apoyo social y emocional
- Asistencia educativa
- Acceso a atención médica
- Apoyo con necesidades básicas (Comida, Ropa, Pañales)
- Conexión con otros servicios según sea necesario

Ofrecemos:

- Acceso a recursos comunitarios
- Educación e información sobre la crianza
- Apoyo con la escuela secundaria, universidad, GED y programas de capacitación laboral
- Ayuda para encontrar cuidado infantil seguro y confiable
- Grupos de bienestar y apoyo entre padres

Requisitos:

- Estar embarazada o ser padre/madre menor de 25 años y residente de Lawrence o Haverhill.
- Participar activamente en el programa, incluyendo visitas en el hogar, crear metas educativas, personales y profesionales.

¿Te interesa aplicar?

Escanea el código QR o llámanos al (978) 327-6646



Family Services
OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY

430 N Canal St. Lawrence - 978-327-6600 - FSMV.org

Are you an expectant or parenting young adult under 25?



Join Our Young Parents Program!

Supporting young parents and their children to reach their full potential with care for health, wellness, and personal growth.

We focus on:

- Social & emotional support
- Education assistance
- Access to medical care
- Support with basic needs (Food, Clothing, Diapers)
- Connections to other needed services

We provide:

- Access to community resources
- Parenting education & information
- Support with high school, college, GED, and job training
- Help finding safe and reliable childcare
- Wellness & peer support groups

Eligibility

- Must be under 25, expecting or parenting, and live in Lawrence or Haverhill.
- Actively participate in program activities, including home visits, and work on your educational, personal, and professional goals.

Interested in applying?

Scan the QR Code or call us at (978) 327-6646



Family Services
OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY

430 N Canal St. Lawrence - 978-327-6600 - FSMV.org

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

Rumbo

"The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley"

WWW.rumbonews.com