

LHS's Evita has been one of their biggest successes



Folks have really been loving LHS Theater's performance of Evita. The final two performances are this Friday and Saturday (6pm at the LHS PAC) and I've attached some photos and the flyer. Tickets can be bought at <https://gofan.co/event/6222002>.

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Soup's On! Dinner and Auction

Tickets are now available for this year's Soup's On! Dinner & Auction — and we hope you'll be part of this special evening.

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Indian Ridge Country Club
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Seats are limited, so we encourage you to reserve your spot early — and consider inviting a friend to join you.

If you're unable to attend, you can still be part of the impact by making a donation through our event page.

A Moment of Reflection, by Michael T



Michael T visited Sundance and wrote what it meant for him to be surrounded by so much talent, and coming home full of ideas. He said, "I'll be honest. I reflected a lot on that trip and since coming back I've decided to scale back and then after a while I had inner thoughts and conflict and well I even had a moment where I thought I wasn't going to make a feature anymore but I listened to my heart and myself and decided that I am still doing a feature this year."

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Salud Mental en Lawrence con Geraldo Pagán

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Mental Health in Lawrence with Geraldo Pagán

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Don's miss this free show!

The annual K-12 Art Show and Self Portrait Exhibition opens Wednesday, April 29, 4-5:30pm at Lawrence Heritage State Park, and will run through that weekend (May 3).

This is always a very popular event with lots of families and walls and walls of student art!

A Moment Of Reflection



Kiki Martinez, and Julia Hess with Michael T at Sundance. “We did it guys!”

Retired U.S.Army Colonel Gary Grossi Launches Campaign for Congress in Massachusetts’ Third District

29 year Army veteran and VA clinician running to address drug crisis impacting Merrimack Valley communities

Acton, MA — Gary Grossi, a retired United States Army Colonel and longtime Acton resident, today announced that he is running for the United States House of Representatives in Massachusetts’ Third Congressional District. Grossi is seeking the Republican nomination to challenge incumbent Democrat Lori Trahan in the 2026 election.

Grossi served in the United States Army and Army reserve for 29 years, including a deployment to Iraq. He served in positions of authority including Deputy Commander of Nursing Services at the 399th Combat Support Hospital, where he helped lead medical operations supporting American service members. Grossi continued his commitment to caring for those who served by working in the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he focused on helping veterans struggling with substance abuse and psychiatric challenges.

Grossi said his experiences both in uniform and at the VA motivated him to run for Congress.

“After nearly three decades in the Army and working with veterans at the VA, I have seen firsthand the toll that addiction and mental health struggles are taking on our nation’s heroes,” Grossi said. “Many of the men and women who fought for our country are now fighting a different battle at home, and too often they feel like they do not have a voice in Washington.”

Grossi pointed to the ongoing opioid and fentanyl crisis as a major reason for entering the race. The Merrimack Valley and surrounding communities in Massachusetts’ Third Congressional District have been among the regions hardest hit in New England by the flow of dangerous drugs such as fentanyl entering the United States from China and across the southern border.

“Our communities are suffering from a wave of deadly drugs that is



destroying families and devastating towns across this district,” Grossi said. “This crisis is not abstract to me. I have seen its impact up close through my work with veterans and their families.”

Grossi said Washington’s failure to address the flow of fentanyl and the broader drug crisis has left communities without the support they need.

“While our district continues to struggle with addiction and overdose deaths, Lori Trahan has done little to confront the reality of this crisis,” Grossi said. “We need leadership that is willing to take this issue seriously and fight to protect our communities.”

If elected, Grossi said he will work to strengthen border security, stop the flow of fentanyl into the United States, and expand support for not only veterans, but everyone affected by addiction and mental health challenges.

“Our veterans and our communities deserve a voice in Congress that understands these issues from real experience,” Grossi said. “I am running to make sure their voices are heard.”

Massachusetts’ Third Congressional District includes communities across the Merrimack Valley and surrounding region. Grossi said he plans to spend the coming months meeting with voters across the district to discuss the issues facing their families and communities.

Supporters can learn more about the campaign, volunteer, or contribute by visiting <https://www.votearygrossi.com>.

By Michael T

Happy New Year. I slacked off insanely on this, by now it’s April and I’ve been gone for about 4 months now. I don’t do well in the cold but I’m here to update everyone finally. So what happened while I was gone:

Well, I developed several projects, scrambled to apply to some grants which I do not recommend, there has to be a better way for me to prepare for something like that.

I went to Sundance. First time ever, very eye-opening met a lot of cool filmmakers and watch almost damn near 14 films I think? Forgot to include the shorts blocks but I’m rounding up around 20 maybe? It was so refreshing being in a space where everyone was there to talk films and films people are passionate about making.

I’ll be honest. I reflected a lot on that trip and since coming back I’ve decided to scale back and then after a while I had inner thoughts and conflict and well I even had a moment where

I thought I wasn’t going to make a feature anymore but I listened to my heart and myself and decided that I am still doing a feature this year.

I’ve got a plenty of things I’m working on and I’m grateful for it, truly. This feature means a lot to me and often times I felt like I had too many comments and thoughts coming my way and it overwhelmed me and it almost took me out really.

I hope that this year I’m able to surround myself with community, be able to bring filmmaking to the forefront for my city and create interest in what I think is the ultimate medium in the arts.

I plan on bringing back movie nights (first one incoming April 11th) even planning special screenings and maybe a movie club because community and gathering, it means a lot to me and it keeps me going, I’ll be preparing that. I’d anticipate me just focusing on working on making all these things happen and hopefully creating a healthy balance between creating a sharing overall for myself.



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Desde Mi Esquina

POR DALIA DÍAZ

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¿Quién es el responsable del asunto de las cámaras en el Ayuntamiento?

Durante las últimas semanas, he intentado evitar la controversia en torno a William Castro, perturbada por los insultos y la falta de pruebas que circulan en los medios de comunicación y en las plataformas sociales. No escribo para debatir con aquellos que convierten todo en una vendetta política, sino para abordar la desinformación.

Aquellos de ustedes que tal vez deseen desestimar este texto lanzando más insultos contra mi credibilidad y honestidad, les digo que no me importa; no escribo para los desinformados, ni para la gente que quiere convertirlo todo en una vendetta política.

Esto no es una defensa de William Castro. Es una crítica a los comentaristas que se presentan como personas informadas sin verificar los hechos, reduciendo un asunto serio a una cuestión de daño partidista.

Lo que estoy a punto de decir se basa en la historia, las pruebas y la verdad. Mi mayor motivación fue el reciente reportaje en video emitido por Telemundo, realizado por Frances Felix: una reportera desinformada, joven, inexperta y aficionada que debería ser despedida de su trabajo por no haber realizado la investigación adecuada antes de ponerse frente a las cámaras.

Ella se refirió a William Castro como "director de personal", y eso fue el detonante para mí. Luego, revisé la transmisión de Telemundo solo para ver que otro reportero despistado, José Rivera Adrovet, se refirió a Castro con el mismo título. Su cargo era el de Jefe de Gabinete. Este error básico plantea interrogantes sobre la supervisión editorial. Estos son los medios de comunicación que mantienen informada a nuestra comunidad.

¿Qué le pasa a Telemundo? ¿Acaso no hay productores que se aseguren de corregir la información errónea que traen estos idiotas? Tenemos una directora de personal que sigue ocupando su puesto.

Tras tomarme el tiempo de hacer preguntas relacionadas con la cámara situada en el pasillo, fuera de la oficina del alcalde, descubrí algunos datos interesantes:

- En febrero de 2023, William Castro asumió el cargo de Jefe de Gabinete del alcalde, y las cámaras no estaban allí.
- En octubre de 2023, se convirtió en Jefe de Policía.
- A finales de 2023, el Ayuntamiento adquirió las cámaras; no fue Castro.
- A finales de 2023, las cámaras fueron instaladas dentro de la oficina del alcalde por el Departamento de Tecnología Informática (TI); no fue Castro.
- En 2025, Castro regresó a su cargo de jefe de gabinete, y la cámara seguía en el despacho del alcalde.
- Cuando se descubrió que la cámara contaba con capacidad de audio, el alcalde DePeña y Castro solicitaron al director de TI, Carlos Castillo, que eliminara dicha función. Sin embargo, su nombre no ha sido mencionado en nada.
- Hace apenas un par de meses, la cámara fue trasladada desde el interior del despacho del alcalde hasta su ubicación actual en el pasillo; este traslado fue realizado por el departamento de TI, no por Castro.
- La voz de Castro también figura en el video; por consiguiente, él también es víctima de un delito, si es que tal delito existe...

Proverbio chino: "Cuando bebas el agua, recuerda que el manantial es la fuente del agua".

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From My Corner

BY DALIA DÍAZ

daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

Who is responsible for the camera issue at City Hall?

For the past few weeks, I have tried to avoid the William Castro controversy, disturbed by the insults and lack of evidence circulating in the media and on social platforms. I am not writing to engage with those who turn everything into a political vendetta, but to address misinformation.

To those of you who might want to disregard this text with more insults to my credibility and honesty, I'll tell you that I don't care; I am not writing for the ill-informed, people who want to make everything a political vendetta.

This is not a defense of William Castro. It is a critique of commentators who present themselves as informed without verifying facts, reducing a serious issue to partisan damage.

What I am about to say is based on history, evidence, and truth.

My biggest motivation was the recent video on Telemundo by Frances Felix, an uninformed, young, inexperienced, amateurish reporter who should be dismissed from her job for not doing the appropriate research before going on camera.

She referred to William Castro as "personnel director," and that was a trigger for me. Then, I checked on the Telemundo broadcast only to see that another absent-minded reporter, José Rivera Adrovet, referred to Castro by the same title. His position was Chief of Staff. This basic error raises questions about editorial oversight. This is the media that keeps our community informed.

What's wrong with Telemundo? Are there no producers to make sure that the wrong information these idiots bring is corrected? We have a personnel director who is still in her job.

Having taken the time to ask questions relating to the camera in the hallway outside of the mayor's office, I found a few interesting facts:

- In February 2023, William Castro became the Mayor's Chief of Staff, and the cameras were not there.
- In October 2023 he became the Chief of Police.
- In late 2023 the City Hall purchased the cameras, not Castro.
- In late 2023 the cameras were installed inside the mayor's office by the IT Department, not Castro.
- In 2025, Castro came back to his position of chief of staff, and the camera was still in the mayor's office.
- When the camera's audio capability was known, Mayor DePeña and Castro asked the IT Director, Carlos Castillo, to remove the audio. However, his name has not been mentioned anywhere.
- Just a couple of months ago, the camera was moved from inside the mayor's office to the location in the hallway by IT, not Castro.
- Castro's voice is also in the video, therefore, he is also the victim of a crime, if one exists...

Chinese proverb: "When you drink the water, remember the spring as the source of the water."



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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.

Lawrence enfrenta una creciente brecha en la atención de salud mental en medio de la escasez estatal

Por Dalia Díaz

En Lawrence, Massachusetts, una ciudad que ya lidia con desafíos económicos y de salud pública, el acceso a la atención de salud mental sigue siendo críticamente limitado, un problema que se repite en todo el estado, pero que se siente con especial intensidad en las comunidades marginadas.

Los proveedores y defensores locales afirman que la demanda de servicios de salud mental se ha disparado en los últimos años, mientras que la escasez de personal, la inestabilidad de la financiación y la limitada capacidad de tratamiento han provocado que muchos residentes tengan que esperar semanas, o incluso meses, para recibir atención.

En todo Massachusetts, los centros de salud comunitarios reportan importantes retrasos en el acceso a los servicios de salud conductual. Muchos pacientes esperan semanas para obtener una cita, y los retrasos afectan con mayor dureza a las comunidades de bajos ingresos.

En ciudades como Lawrence, donde muchos residentes dependen de estos centros, el impacto se magnifica. Las familias de bajos ingresos, los inmigrantes y las personas que no hablan inglés a menudo enfrentan barreras adicionales, como el transporte y el acceso lingüístico.

Recientemente, el reconocido terapeuta Geraldo Pagán, LMHC, ofreció una presentación a 275 estudiantes de Lawrence High School, patrocinada por el Departamento de Salud Pública.

“Más allá de los desafíos estructurales, las diferencias culturales desempeñan un papel fundamental en la comprensión y el tratamiento de la salud mental en la diversa población de Lawrence”, afirmó Pagán. “Por supuesto, existen muchas limitaciones, como la cultura, la situación económica, las barreras lingüísticas y, además, la escasez de profesionales disponibles”.

Continuó explicando la necesidad de mejorar la comunicación. Por ejemplo, los jóvenes perciben las dificultades sin comprender el porqué. “La percepción entre los maestros hispanohablantes y los angloparlantes es que creen que nacemos con un trauma”, agregó Pagán. “El resultado es que los maestros latinos asumen mayor responsabilidad sobre los estudiantes”, añadió.

Lawrence alberga una gran comunidad latina, incluyendo muchas familias con raíces en la República Dominicana y otros países del Caribe. Con frecuencia, los niños sirven de intérpretes para sus familiares, lo que puede incluir citas médicas, asuntos financieros, información legal, etc., exponiéndolos desde temprana edad a preocupaciones que no deberían tener presentes a esa edad.

En algunos hogares, los problemas de salud mental pueden ser malinterpretados, minimizados o estigmatizados. Afecciones como la ansiedad o la depresión a veces se presentan como debilidad personal en lugar de problemas médicos, lo que desalienta a las personas a buscar ayuda.

Dentro de las familias, las brechas generacionales pueden agravar el problema. Los residentes más jóvenes, a menudo más expuestos a la concienciación sobre la salud mental a través de las escuelas y las redes sociales, pueden querer buscar terapia o asesoramiento psicológico. Sin embargo, los familiares mayores pueden oponerse a estas ideas, prefiriendo la privacidad o el apoyo informal dentro del seno familiar.

“A menudo hay una desconexión”, dijo Pagán. “Los jóvenes piden ayuda, pero sus familias no siempre reconocen la salud mental como algo que requiere atención profesional. No se habla del suicidio; los padres son más receptivos, aunque no toman decisiones al respecto”, afirmó.

Geraldo también explicó que las largas vacaciones en el país de origen de la familia también pueden afectar al niño. Hay libertad, mucha familia y actividades que llenan sus días. Al regresar a Lawrence, “experimentan una sensación de abandono cuando los padres vuelven a trabajar todo el día y, a veces, también por la noche, lo que resulta en poco contacto como unidad familiar”.

Organizaciones comunitarias cubren la brecha

Los niños y jóvenes deben participar en actividades sociales y deportivas durante su tiempo libre. Pagán recomienda la YWCA y la YMCA por sus excelentes programas extraescolares. Los niños mayores podrían beneficiarse de actividades al aire libre después de la escuela y durante el verano a través de GroundWork Lawrence. A menudo aprenden habilidades y oficios trabajando en jardines y cultivando frutas y verduras.

Socialmente, el estigma también puede impedir que las personas hablen abiertamente. En comunidades muy unidas, la preocupación por la reputación o el juicio puede llevar a las personas a ocultar sus problemas. Esto puede resultar en aislamiento, empeoramiento de los síntomas y retraso en el tratamiento. Trabajadores sociales escolares y de los tribunales refieren a estudiantes con problemas de conducta a la consulta de Pagán, estudiantes que nunca deberían haber llegado allí.

La competencia lingüística y cultural complica aún más la atención. Incluso cuando los servicios están disponibles, la falta de profesionales bilingües o de enfoques de tratamiento culturalmente sensibles puede hacer

que los pacientes se sientan incomprendidos o reacios a continuar con la atención. Salas de emergencia como último recurso

Con los servicios ambulatorios saturados, muchos pacientes terminan en las salas de emergencia de los hospitales durante las crisis. Por lo tanto, la atención no es inmediata.

Los pacientes que buscan atención de salud mental de emergencia a menudo enfrentan largas esperas debido a la falta de camas psiquiátricas disponibles, y a veces pasan largos períodos en los servicios de urgencias antes de recibir el tratamiento adecuado.

La escasez de personal agrava la crisis

Un factor importante detrás de la escasez es la falta de profesionales de la salud mental. Si bien Massachusetts cuenta con una fuerza laboral de salud conductual relativamente amplia, esta no ha logrado seguir el ritmo de la creciente demanda.

El agotamiento profesional, la rotación de personal y la disminución del número de profesionales en puestos clave han dificultado aún más que comunidades como Lawrence accedan a una atención constante.

Los proveedores de salud mental también enfrentan inestabilidad financiera. Las fluctuaciones en la financiación pueden derivar en una reducción del personal, menos programas y tiempos de espera más prolongados, lo que limita aún más el acceso para quienes lo necesitan.

A pesar de los desafíos, las organizaciones locales continúan trabajando para apoyar a los residentes mediante el apoyo entre pares, la labor de divulgación y la prestación de servicios culturalmente sensibles. No obstante, los defensores de esta causa afirman que estos esfuerzos no pueden sustituir a un sistema de salud mental plenamente financiado y accesible.

Un sistema bajo presión

Las autoridades estatales han adoptado medidas para abordar la crisis, incluida la ampliación de los equipos de respuesta ante crisis y de los programas comunitarios. Sin embargo, persisten las brechas, especialmente en



aquellas comunidades que enfrentan barreras tanto económicas como culturales.

Para los residentes de Lawrence, las consecuencias son tangibles: retrasos en la atención, afecciones que quedan sin tratar y una presión cada vez mayor sobre las familias y las redes de apoyo social.

Mirando hacia el futuro

Los defensores de la salud mental reclaman un aumento de la financiación, el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral y una mayor accesibilidad a una atención culturalmente competente, especialmente en ciudades como Lawrence.

Advierten que, sin una inversión significativa, la brecha entre quienes necesitan ayuda y quienes la reciben seguirá ampliándose; no solo debido a las carencias sistémicas, sino también a causa de las barreras culturales que determinan la forma en que se concibe, se aborda y se trata la salud mental.

Geraldo Pagán se encuentra en Diverse Understanding Mental Health Counseling LLC, 130 Parker St., Lawrence, y su correo electrónico para reservar una cita es diverseunderstanding@gmail.com

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

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

Rosalynn Carter

Lawrence Faces Growing Mental Health Care Gap Amid Statewide Shortages

By Dalia Díaz

In Lawrence, Massachusetts, a city already grappling with economic and public health challenges, access to mental health care remains critically limited — a problem echoed across the state but felt especially sharply in underserved communities.

Local providers and advocates say the demand for mental health services has surged in recent years, while staffing shortages, funding instability, and limited treatment capacity have left many residents waiting weeks — or even months — for care.

Across Massachusetts, community health centers report significant delays in accessing behavioral health services. Many patients wait weeks for appointments, with delays hitting low-income communities the hardest.

In cities like Lawrence, where many residents rely on these centers, the impact is magnified. Lower-income families, immigrants, and non-English speakers often face additional barriers, including transportation and language access.

Recently, a well-known therapist, Geraldo Pagán, LMHC, offered a presentation to 275 Lawrence High School students, sponsored by the Department of Public Health.

“Beyond structural challenges, cultural differences play a major role in how mental health is understood and treated in Lawrence’s diverse population, said Pagán. “Of course, they have many limits such as culture, economics, language deficiencies and on top of all that, there are not many professionals available.”

He went on to explain the need to improve communication. For example, young people feel the conditions without understanding why. “The perception between Spanish-speaking teachers versus English-speakers is that they believe that we are born into trauma,” Pagán added. “The result is that Latino teachers take more responsibility over the students,” he added.

Lawrence is home to a large Latino community, including many families with roots in the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean countries. Quite often, the children serve as interpreters for their family members which may include medical appointments, financial issues, legal information, etc., exposing the child from an early age to worries that should not have a play in their minds at that age.

In some households, mental health struggles may be misunderstood, minimized, or stigmatized. Conditions such as anxiety or depression are sometimes framed as personal weakness rather than medical issues, discouraging individuals from seeking help.

Within families, generational divides can deepen the issue. Younger residents, often more exposed to mental health awareness through schools and social media, may want to seek

therapy or counseling. However, older family members may resist these ideas, favoring privacy or informal support within the family.

“There’s often a disconnect,” Pagán said. “Young people are asking for help, but their families don’t always recognize mental health as something that needs professional care. Suicide is not discussed; parents are more receptive although they make no decisions in that regard,” he stated.

Geraldo also explained that extended vacations in the family’s home country can also affect the child. There’s freedom, lots of family, and activities filling their days. Upon their return to Lawrence, “They have the feeling of abandonment when parents go back to work all day and sometimes at night, resulting in little contact as a unit.”

Community Organizations Fill the Gap

Children and young people should be involved in social and sporting activities in their free time. Pagán recommends the YWCA and YMCA for having ideal after school programs. Older children could benefit from outdoor activities after school and during the summer through GroundWork Lawrence. They often learn skills and trades working in gardens and cultivating fruits and vegetables.

Socially, stigma can also prevent individuals from speaking openly. In tight-knit communities, concerns about reputation or judgment may lead people to hide their struggles. This can result in isolation, worsening symptoms, and delayed treatment. Pagán’s practice received referrals from school social workers and the courts of students with behavioral problems who should have never made it there.

Language and cultural competency further complicate care. Even when services are available, a lack of bilingual providers or culturally informed treatment approaches can make patients feel misunderstood or reluctant to continue care.

Emergency Rooms as a Last Resort

With outpatient services stretched thin, many patients end up in hospital emergency rooms during crises. Even then, care is not immediate.

Patients seeking emergency mental health care often face long waits due to a lack of available psychiatric beds, sometimes spending extended periods in emergency departments before receiving appropriate treatment.

Workforce Shortages Worsen the Crisis

A major factor behind the shortage is a lack of mental health professionals. While Massachusetts has a relatively large behavioral health workforce, it has not kept pace with rising demand.

Burnout, turnover, and declining



numbers in key roles have made it even harder for communities like Lawrence to access consistent care.

Mental health providers also face financial instability. Funding fluctuations can lead to reduced staffing, fewer programs, and longer wait times — further limiting access for those in need.

Despite the challenges, local organizations continue working to support residents through peer support, outreach, and culturally responsive services. Still, advocates say these efforts cannot replace a fully funded, accessible mental health system.

A System Under Strain

State officials have taken steps to address the crisis, including expanding crisis response teams and community-based programs. But gaps remain, especially in communities facing both economic and cultural barriers.

For residents of Lawrence, the

consequences are real: delayed care, untreated conditions, and increasing strain on families and social networks.

Looking Ahead

Advocates are calling for increased funding, workforce development, and expanded access to culturally competent care — especially in cities like Lawrence.

Without significant investment, they warn, the gap between those who need help and those who receive it will continue to widen — not only because of systemic shortages, but also because of the cultural barriers that shape how mental health is understood, discussed, and treated.

Geraldo Pagán can be found at Diverse Understanding Mental Health Counseling LLC, 130 Parker St., Lawrence, and his email address is diverseunderstanding@gmail.com if you want to set up an appointment with him.

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A close-up photograph of a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling and looking upwards. She is wearing a light-colored top.

The issue of surveillance cameras at City Hall



My take on "cameragate" that has attracted significant attention.

1. Last Tuesday I mentioned that the City Council needed to do our jobs and follow the ordinance we adopted in 2018 that regulates the purchase, placement, and accountability of city owned surveillance cameras. You can read that entire ordinance here: https://library.municode.com/.../codes/code_of_ordinances...

2. I have placed a review of the ordinance on the next full city council agenda as

new business. The resolution's introduction is pictured below. Based on our law (ordinance), it is important to know that camera funding and placement requires city council approval after a public hearing. There are also reporting requirements. The item I placed before the council is comprehensive and we should follow the ordinance's requirements (including the enforcement provision).

3. We were informed last Tuesday that either a state or federal agency has begun a criminal investigation on the most recent controversy. Tuesday's vote was to instruct the city attorney to request the appropriate state/federal agencies to begin an investigation. Since we were told that an investigation was already initiated, the matter before the council was unnecessary. However, I argued that it was necessary to follow the 2018 Surveillance Ordinance.

Marc Laplante
Lawrence City Councilor

El asunto de las cámara en el Ayuntamiento

Mi opinión sobre el "cameragate", un asunto que ha acaparado una atención considerable.

1. El martes pasado mencioné que el Concejo Municipal debía cumplir con su labor y acatar la ordenanza que aprobamos en 2018, la cual regula la compra, la ubicación y la rendición de cuentas de las cámaras de vigilancia propiedad de la ciudad. Pueden leer el texto íntegro de dicha ordenanza aquí: https://library.municode.com/.../codes/code_of_ordinances...

2. He incluido la revisión de esta ordenanza en el orden del día de la próxima sesión plenaria del Concejo Municipal, bajo el apartado de "nuevos asuntos". A continuación, se muestra una imagen de la propuesta de resolución presentada. Con base en nuestra normativa (la ordenanza), es importante señalar que tanto la financiación como la ubicación de las cámaras requieren la aprobación del Concejo Municipal, previa celebración de una audiencia pública. Asimismo, existen requisitos específicos en materia de presentación de informes. El punto que he sometido a consideración del Concejo es de carácter integral, y considero que debemos cumplir estrictamente con los requisitos establecidos en la ordenanza (incluida su cláusula de cumplimiento y ejecución).

3. El martes pasado se nos informó que una agencia —ya sea estatal o federal— ha iniciado una investigación penal en relación con la controversia más reciente. La votación celebrada el martes tenía por objeto instruir al abogado de la ciudad para que solicitara a las agencias estatales o federales competentes el inicio de una investigación. Dado que ya se nos había comunicado que dicha investigación ya estaba en curso, la moción que se presentó ante el Concejo resultaba, en ese contexto, innecesaria. No obstante, yo sostuve que, independientemente de ello, resultaba imperativo cumplir con lo estipulado en la Ordenanza sobre Vigilancia de 2018.

Marc Laplante
Concejal de la Ciudad de Lawrence

A Resolution Directing a Review of Chapter 9.25 of the Municipal Code (Surveillance Technology) and Reaffirming the Lawrence City Council's Oversight Role in Ensuring Compliance With The Ordinance

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2018, the Lawrence City Council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 133-18, codified as Chapter 9.25 of the Municipal Code of the City of Lawrence, titled "Surveillance Technology" (the "Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the Ordinance is: "to promote transparency and uphold the civil rights and civil liberties of Lawrence residents while using surveillance technologies. This chapter requires that legally enforceable safeguards, including robust transparency, oversight, and accountability measures, must be in place to protect civil rights and civil liberties before any surveillance technology is deployed. It requires data reporting measures must be adopted that empower the Lawrence City Council and public to verify that mandated civil rights and civil liberties safeguards have been strictly adhered to." (Municipal Code § 9.25.010); and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance mandates that no municipal entity may seek funding for, acquire, borrow, use, or enter into agreements concerning any new or existing "surveillance technology" (as broadly defined in § 9.25.020) without prior City Council approval following a properly noticed public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance further requires submission and Council approval of a Surveillance Impact Report and a legally enforceable Surveillance Use Policy before any such technology may be deployed, along with ongoing data reporting to enable the City Council and the public to verify strict adherence to all civil rights and civil liberties safeguards; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance explicitly assigns the Lawrence City Council a central, ongoing oversight role to ensure that surveillance technologies are not deployed without the legally required transparency, accountability, and protections for residents' constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, periodic review of the Ordinance's implementation is necessary to confirm that all municipal departments and agencies are fully complying with its requirements and that the City Council is effectively exercising its mandated oversight responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lawrence as follows:

Review Directed. The City Council hereby directs a formal review of the implementation of and compliance with Chapter 9.25 of the Municipal Code. This review shall examine:

- a. All surveillance technologies currently in use or proposed for use by any municipal entity;
- b. Whether City Council approval was obtained for each technology's funding, acquisition, and deployment as required by § 9.25.030;
- c. Whether approved Surveillance Impact Reports and Surveillance Use Policies are being strictly followed;
- d. The adequacy and timeliness of all required data reporting to the City Council and the public; and
- e. The City Council's ongoing role and procedures in exercising its oversight and enforcement responsibilities under the Ordinance.

Report Required. The mayor, in coordination with the Police Department, Information Technology Department, Department of Public Works and any other municipal entity that has deployed or seeks to deploy surveillance technology, shall prepare and submit a comprehensive written report to the City Council within forty-five (45) days of the adoption of this Resolution. The report shall be made publicly available and shall address each element listed in Section 1 above.

Public Hearing Scheduled. The City Council shall schedule a properly noticed public hearing, to be held no later than ninety (90) days after adoption of this Resolution, for the purpose of receiving the report, hearing public testimony, and discussing any recommended actions to strengthen compliance with and enforcement of the Ordinance.

Reaffirmation of Council Role. The City Council hereby reaffirms its central role, as established by the Ordinance, in protecting Lawrence residents' civil rights and civil liberties through rigorous oversight of surveillance technology.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Submitted by:

Marc L. Laplante
Lawrence City Council



Solicitudes al 978-552-8532

Nuestro Espiritu



VOZ APASIONADA CON TU MARCA



Wanda Santos Commission on Disability for Methuen is at Mass School of Law Andover

I had the opportunity to attend Pathway to the Bench: Becoming a Judge last night, and it really was an honor to be there.

Listening to the panel, I kept thinking about the reentry work I'm so connected to and the systems our most vulnerable communities have to navigate, disabilities, mental health, housing, custody... these cases are real lives, not just files.

What I loved most was hearing that many of these judges never even saw themselves in these roles.

Life and experience led them there and that perspective matters.

The biggest takeaway? Compassion and listening. Yes, decisions must be based on FACTS, but truly seeing people and understanding the full picture is what shapes how justice is experienced.

We need more of this, more balance, a more humane approach.

Thank you, Eunice Delice Zeigler, for creating such a powerful space





Thursday, May 14, 2026
Andover Country Club
6:00 PM

Join us as we honor these Champions of Community Action:

Mercy Anampiu, Lowell Community Health Center
Steve Joncas, Housing Development Champion
Lala Books, Local Bookstore and Community Advocate

Money raised at our Spring Celebration will support our efforts to strengthen communities and reduce poverty.

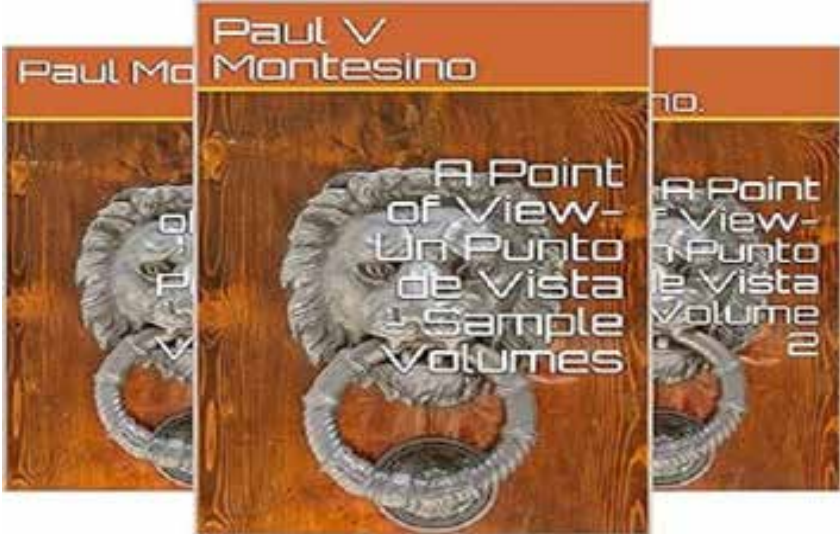
Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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>

Ahora en Amazon / Now in Amazon



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

Lawrence Public Schools Arts: “Evita” this weekend



Folks have really been loving LHS Theater’s performance of Evita. The final two performances are this Friday and Saturday (6pm at the LHS PAC) and I’ve attached some photos and the flyer. Tickets can be bought at <https://gofan.co/event/6222002>.



The annual K-12 Art Show and Self Portrait Exhibition opens Wednesday, April 29, 4-5:30pm at Lawrence Heritage State Park, and will run through that weekend (May 3) . This is always a very popular event with lots of families and walls and walls of student art!



RKL Escuela de Comunicación anuncia inicio de la edición número 30 de su Taller de Comunicación



La RKL Escuela de Comunicación anunció el inicio de la edición número 30 de su Taller de Comunicación, cuya recepción de bienvenida se llevó a cabo el viernes, 10 de abril de 2026 en las instalaciones ubicadas en el 60 de Highland Street, Suite 85 West, en la ciudad de Lawrence, Massachusetts. Las clases darán inicio el sábado, 11 de abril y se desarrollarán durante seis sesiones consecutivas, en horario de 9:00 de la mañana a 1:00 de la tarde, para un total de 24 horas de formación. Este programa reafirma el compromiso de la institución con la preparación de nuevos talentos en el ámbito comunicacional, consolidándose como un espacio de crecimiento profesional y desarrollo personal para la comunidad. La recepción de bienvenida contó con la presencia de los representantes estatales Frank Morán, Estela Reyes y medios locales a quienes la organización expresó su agradecimiento por su respaldo a las iniciativas educativas y comunitarias. En esta edición participan 15 estudiantes, además de dos invitados especiales, quienes recibirán

capacitación de la mano de un equipo de profesionales con amplia experiencia. Desde la República Dominicana, la comunicadora Hilda Peguero impartirá el módulo de oratoria, mientras que el actor y formador Carlos Mercado estará a cargo de la lectura escénica. Por su parte, Néstor Castillo ofrecerá formación en buen uso del español, técnicas de audio y locución comercial. Asimismo, Taylor Atkinson impartirá el módulo sobre código de vestimenta, proporcionando herramientas clave sobre imagen profesional y presentación personal. El taller es una iniciativa conjunta de RKL Voice Over Studio y RKL Escuela de Comunicación, orientada a fortalecer las competencias comunicativas de sus participantes y elevar los estándares en el ejercicio de la comunicación. La institución agradeció a los estudiantes, facilitadores e invitados especiales por formar parte de esta nueva edición, reiterando su compromiso de continuar impulsando espacios de aprendizaje de alta calidad.

Donate to Tim Lyons - he's running for Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley (FKMV)



Tim Lyons will take on the Boston Marathon this year, seizing an opportunity that brings him back to his roots. After entering the employee lottery at Bank of America, Tim earned a coveted bib for one of the world's most iconic races. A 2004 graduate of Haverhill High School, where he ran track, Tim's marathon journey marks a meaningful return to the sport. While he has continued to run recreationally over the years, this race represents a new level of commitment—one driven not by competition, but by purpose and community connection. Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley (FKMV) is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting children in foster care across the Merrimack Valley. The organization works to provide essential resources, enrichment opportunities, and a sense of stability for youth navigating the challenges of the foster system. From supplying

everyday necessities to creating memorable experiences, FKMV focuses on meeting both the practical and emotional needs of foster children, helping them feel seen, supported, and valued within their communities. For Tim, running in support of FKMV is deeply personal. Through his colleagues at Bank of America, including Danielle Giordano and Erin Blanchard he has gained insight into the organization's impact. Growing up in the Merrimack Valley, Tim is especially proud to give back to the community that shaped him. His run is more than just 26.2 miles—it's a way to support local children in need and to contribute to an organization making a meaningful difference close to home. If you would like to support Tim and our kids, please go to Fosterkidsmv.org and use our QRCode.

www.rumbonews.com

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Essex County Habitat for Humanity

647 Andover Street, Lawrence
Abierto de martes a sábado, de 10 am a 5 pm
ecestore.org

Nuevos datos muestran una caída de casi 75% en la muerte de gatos en albergues en la última década

Informe más reciente de Best Friends Animal Society muestra una tasa récord de gatos salvados el año pasado

La organización nacional líder en bienestar animal, Best Friends Animal Society, anunció nuevos datos que muestran que un número récord de gatos fueron salvados en Estados Unidos en 2025.

Según datos de Best Friends de 2025, recopilados de más de 10,000 albergues, el número de gatos sacrificados ha disminuido casi un 75% en la última década. Best Friends atribuye este progreso a tres factores clave:

Rabies Vaccination Clinic for Haverhill Residents

The City of Haverhill is pleased to announce an upcoming rabies vaccination clinic for cats and dogs, scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Haverhill City Hall. This clinic is being held in partnership with Amesbury Animal Hospital.

Rabies vaccinations will be available for \$20 per animal (cash only) and are open to both cats and dogs. The clinic is open to Haverhill residents only, and proof of residency will be required. Vaccinations will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dog Licensing Requirement: All dogs must be licensed at the time of vaccination. Owners who do not already have a current license must obtain one on-site through the City Clerk's Office, which will be available during the clinic.

- License Fees:
 - o \$15 for spayed/neutered dogs
 - o \$20 for unaltered dogs
 - o Cash only

Clinic Logistics:

- Dog Owners: Enter the lower-level City Hall parking lot on the Main Street side and proceed through the designated drive-through route exiting toward Newcomb Street. Dogs must be leashed.
- Cat Owners: Park in the upper-level lot and walk to the northeast side entrance of the building for vaccinations. Cats must be in a carrier.

Clear signage will be posted to direct both vehicle and foot traffic.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to protect their pets and comply with state rabies vaccination and licensing requirements.

For additional information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (978) 374-2312 or cityclerk@haverhillma.gov.

Programas para gatos comunitarios –

Cada vez más comunidades en todo el país han implementado programas humanitarios que esterilizan, vacunan y devuelven a los gatos sanos a sus hogares al aire libre. Estos programas han sido uno de los principales impulsores en la reducción del número de gatos sacrificados en albergues, con un aumento de casi el 70% en la cantidad de gatos devueltos de forma segura a sus hogares al aire libre en la última década.

El impacto de la Generación Z en las adopciones de gatos – Las adopciones de gatos han aumentado un 20% en los últimos 10 años, con la Generación Z liderando como la generación que más gatos adopta.

Programas de hogares temporales para gatitos –

Los gatitos representan casi la mitad de todos los gatos que ingresan a los albergues y son los más vulnerables mientras están bajo cuidado. Albergues en todo Estados Unidos han ampliado cada vez más programas basados en voluntariado, en los que hogares temporales brindan cuidado intensivo las 24 horas en casa para ayudar a que estos pequeños sobrevivan y prosperen durante las primeras semanas cruciales de su vida. Estos programas también reducen la presión sobre los albergues y aumentan significativamente las tasas de supervivencia de los gatitos.

“Una disminución del 75% en el número de gatos que mueren innecesariamente en los albergues simplemente porque no tienen un lugar seguro al que llamar hogar es algo que quisiera gritar desde los tejados”, dijo Julie Castle, directora ejecutiva de Best Friends Animal Society. “Es una noticia increíblemente alentadora. Sin embargo, todavía hay aproximadamente 200,000 gatos que mueren cada año. Todos podemos ser parte de la solución: adoptando, ofreciendo hogares temporales, siendo voluntarios, donando, alzando la voz y compartiendo en redes sociales para ayudarnos a salvarlos a todos”.

La publicación de estos datos se produce justo cuando la mayoría de los albergues entra en la temporada de gatitos, el período que va de primavera a otoño cuando las gatas tienen camadas y los albergues experimentan un aumento en la llegada de gatitos neonatos vulnerables.

Los albergues están instando a los miembros de la comunidad a ofrecer hogares temporales para gatitos esta primavera para ayudar a mantener el progreso reflejado en los nuevos datos. Best Friends Animal Society trabaja para poner fin al sacrificio de perros y gatos en los albergues de Estados



(Crédito de la foto: Best Friends Animal Society)

Unidos y lograr que el país se convierta en no-kill*, lo que significa salvar a cada mascota sana y tratable. Para ser parte de la solución, visite SalvaUnamascota.org

*“No-kill” se define por una tasa de salvación del 90% para los animales que ingresan a un albergue y es un referente significativo y de sentido común para medir el progreso en la salvación de vidas. Por lo general, el número de mascotas que sufren problemas médicos o de comportamiento irreparables que comprometen su calidad de vida y les impiden ser reubicadas no supera el 10% de todos los perros y gatos que ingresan a los albergues. Para que cualquier comunidad sea considerada “no-kill”, todos los actores de esa comunidad deben trabajar juntos para lograr y mantener ese objetivo común, priorizando la seguridad de la comunidad y la buena calidad de vida de las mascotas como principios rectores de “no-kill”. Esto implica cooperación entre albergues de animales, grupos de rescate, agencias gubernamentales, miembros de la comunidad y otros actores, todos comprometidos con las mejores prácticas y protocolos.

Acerca de Best Friends Animal Society

Best Friends Animal Society es una organización líder en bienestar animal dedicada a salvar las vidas de perros y gatos en los albergues de Estados Unidos y hacer que el país se convierta en “no-kill”. Fundada en 1984, Best Friends opera instalaciones y programas de salvación en todo el país en asociación con más de 6,000 albergues y organizaciones de rescate. Desde nuestra sede en Kanab, Utah, también operamos el santuario de animales “no-kill” más grande del país, un destino que da vida a nuestra misión para miles de visitantes cada año. Mantenemos la base de datos de albergues de animales más completa del país y la ponemos a disposición del público, brindando a las comunidades información crítica sobre las necesidades de sus albergues locales y cómo pueden ayudar. Creemos que cada perro y gato merece un hogar. Y creemos que, trabajando juntos, podemos salvarlos a todos®.



Rabies Vaccination Clinic

**For Haverhill Residents Only
(Proof of Residency Required)**

Saturday May 2, 2026
10 AM to 12 PM
Haverhill City Hall
4 Summer St
Haverhill, MA 01830

The clinic will run on a first come, first served basis. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in carriers.

\$20 per rabies vaccine for cats and dogs. CASH ONLY.

All dogs must be licensed at time of vaccination. We will also be licensing dogs during the clinic.





RECOGIDA DE REUTILIZACIÓN Y RECICLAJE

Sábado 18 de abril
10am - 1pm
en Habitat ReStore
647 Andover St, Lawrence

bit.ly/RestoreTheEarth

Artículos para el hogar | Metal | Ropa | Textiles | Libros | CD

“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

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Navigating Guilt, Grief & Loss as a Dementia Caregiver

Join Bridges® with Experts from McLean Hospital

Thursday, April 30 | 7 - 8 PM

Dementia Education Seminar on Zoom

Join us for a complimentary, expert-led education session designed for dementia caregivers. Our guest experts from McLean Hospital will share insights on:

- Understanding the types of grief that manifest throughout the course of dementia, like anticipatory grief and ambiguous loss.
- Recognizing how feelings of loss and sadness impact the daily life of a caregiver.
- Learning practical strategies to navigate these complex emotions.

Presented by:



Caroline Bader, MD
Associate Medical Director of Geriatric Psychiatry Outpatient Services, McLean Hospital
Instructor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School



Marie Clouqueur, LICSW
Program Director of GUIDE and Caregiver Services
McLean Hospital

Click below to register online and receive Zoom login details.

Bridges by EPOCH <info@bridgesbyeepoch.com>



BridgesbyEPOCH.com
978.289.4100
254 Lowell Street
Andover, MA 01810

Kindly contact Senior Advisor Susan to RSVP.

stourtillotte@bridgesbyeepoch.com

El Departamento de Transporte de Massachusetts (MassDOT) le invita a asistir a una próxima reunión informativa pública presencial sobre el proyecto de mejoras del corredor de la Ruta 114 en North Andover.

Se anima al público a asistir a esta reunión para obtener más información sobre el proyecto y expresar sus opiniones. La reunión se llevará a cabo el miércoles, 6 de mayo de 2026, en el Arcidi Center del Merrimack College, ubicado en 20 Rockridge Road en Andover, a partir de las 6:30 p. m. MassDOT presentará los antecedentes del proyecto, presentará al equipo de construcción del proyecto, revisará las próximas actividades de construcción y el cronograma, y brindará una descripción general de la participación pública. Tras la presentación, habrá un espacio para preguntas y respuestas. Todas las opiniones y comentarios expresados durante la reunión serán revisados y considerados en la mayor medida posible. Esta reunión será grabada y estará disponible en línea para quienes no puedan asistir.

Reunión informativa pública presencial
Fecha: 6 de mayo de 2026
Horario: de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m.
Lugar: Arcidi Center del Merrimack College
20 Rockridge Road, Andover, MA, 01810

Página del evento en línea: <https://www.mass.gov/event/north-andover-route-114-corridor-improvements-public-information-meeting-05-06-2026>

Esta reunión es accesible para personas con discapacidades. MassDOT proporciona adaptaciones razonables y/o asistencia lingüística sin costo previa solicitud (por ejemplo, intérpretes de Lengua de Señas Americana y otros idiomas distintos del inglés, subtítulo en vivo, videos, dispositivos de asistencia auditiva y formatos alternativos de materiales), según disponibilidad. Para solicitar adaptaciones o asistencia lingüística, comuníquese con el director de Diversidad y derechos civiles de MassDOT por teléfono (857-368-8580) o por correo electrónico (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Las solicitudes deben realizarse con la mayor antelación posible antes de la reunión y, para servicios como la lengua de señas, la traducción en tiempo real para el acceso a la comunicación (CART) o la traducción o interpretación de idiomas, deben realizarse al menos diez días hábiles antes de la reunión.

Family Services Hosting a Spring Gala

Lawrence, MA - At a time when more children and families are turning to community support than ever before, Family Services of the Merrimack Valley will host its annual gala fundraiser on Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Haverhill Country Club.

The evening will bring together community members, business leaders, and supporters for a celebration of impact - featuring a complimentary cocktail, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live music, and an auction. Proceeds from the event will directly support 20+ vital programs that educate, nurture, mentor, and empower families across the Merrimack Valley. Funds raised will help expand access to youth mentoring, mental health counseling, suicide prevention, parent education, and advocacy for children - services that reach more than 8,000 individuals each year.

“This event is about more than just one evening - it’s about showing up for families in our community who need support, connection, and hope,” said Liz Sweeney, CEO “Every ticket purchased helps ensure that children and families in the Merrimack Valley have access to the resources they need to thrive.”

The event is generously sponsored by Bulens Family Foundation, James LeMaitre, Mainstream Global, Vitale-Brown Charitable Foundation, Haverhill Bank, BrightBridge Credit Union, Bank of New England, Kay Frishman & Rob Hilbink, LCW Certified Public Accountants, Velonex Technologies, Windover Construction. The evening will be emceed by “Boston Dad” Daryl Silva, and we will honor volunteer Connie LeMaitre for her dedication and impact on local families.

About Family Services of the Merrimack Valley

Family Services is a non-profit, social service organization committed to helping children and families build a better life. The organization helps more than 8,000 people in the Merrimack Valley each year through 20+ programs focused on youth development, parent education and emotional health. All of its services are infused with a sense of hope and enable individuals to thrive in their family, community, workplace and school. Family Services is located at 430 North Canal Street, Lawrence, MA. For more information call 978-327-6600 or go to FSMV.org.

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

George S. Patton



Merrimack Health Welcomes New Chief Human Resources Officer and Chief Development Officer

Visael “Bobby” Rodriguez and Maria Gudinas bring expertise in workforce development and philanthropic engagement to Merrimack Health’s executive leadership team

Merrimack Health is pleased to welcome Visael “Bobby” Rodriguez as Chief Human Resources Officer and Maria Gudinas as Chief Development Officer. They join Merrimack Health’s leadership team, bringing expertise and vision to support the system’s continued growth and commitment to high-quality, equitable care for patients and families in the Merrimack Valley.

“Bobby and Maria are exceptional leaders who will play key roles in advancing our mission to care for the Merrimack Valley,” said Diana Richardson, president and chief executive officer at Merrimack Health. “Bobby’s leadership in building a strong, supportive workplace culture aligns with our values, and Maria’s deep roots in the region and ability to connect people to a shared purpose will strengthen our philanthropic efforts. We are thrilled to welcome them as we continue to build a high-quality community health system for our region.”

Rodriguez has more than 20 years of experience leading human resources, culture, and workforce strategy in large-scale health care organizations. His expertise includes workforce planning, talent development, employee engagement, and organizational strategy. In his new role, Rodriguez will continue to shape and strengthen Merrimack Health’s workforce and

employee engagement, helping to attract and retain exceptional health care professionals who reflect the diverse communities of the Merrimack Valley.

He joins Merrimack Health from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, where he served as vice president of human resources, culture, belonging & community impact. He previously held senior HR leadership roles at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and Baystate Health.

“I am honored to join the Merrimack Health team to support and advance its integration journey as a system,” said Rodriguez. “Building an equitable workplace where every employee feels seen, supported, and empowered is what drives me. The Merrimack Valley is a diverse, vibrant community, and I look forward to helping build a workforce that truly reflects and serves the people we care for.”

Gudinas brings more than 25 years of experience building philanthropic cultures within mission-driven organizations, with a strong ability to translate vision into donor relationships and giving programs that generate lasting, meaningful impact. She joins Merrimack Health from AgeSpan, Inc., a Lawrence-based area agency on aging, where she served as Chief Development Officer. She previously held senior leadership positions at the University of New Hampshire and Granite United Way.

She brings a deep understanding of the Merrimack Valley and its communities, having led development efforts in the region for much of her career. In her new role, Gudinas will build donor relationships and community partnerships that help



Visael “Bobby” Rodriguez as Chief Human Resources Officer



Maria Gudinas as Chief Development Officer

ensure every person in the region has access to trusted, compassionate care close to home; and that Merrimack Health has the philanthropic resources to continue investing in the services, programs, and people that make that possible.

“I am honored to begin this new role and eager to collaborate with philanthropic partners throughout the Merrimack Valley to advance a premier regional healthcare system focused on innovation, access, and community well-being,” said Gudinas.

For more information about career or donating opportunities at Merrimack Health, visit <https://www.mhlawrencehospital.org/careers> and <https://www.merrimackhealth.org/donate>

About Merrimack Health

Merrimack Health is the region’s first health care system serving the Merrimack Valley, prioritizing care and services based on the needs of its patients and supporting those who deliver the expert care. Serving communities across Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, Merrimack Health includes hospitals in Lawrence, Haverhill, and Methuen, as well as a network of community-based physician practices. A recognized leader in heart care and stroke treatment, maternal and child health, orthopedics, surgical care, trauma and emergency services, behavioral health and outpatient programs, Merrimack Health delivers trusted, compassionate care close to home.

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FREE Youth Mental Health Trainings

ATTN: Parents/Guardians, Teachers, Social Workers, Youth Workers, Volunteers, etc.



Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn to recognize, support, and refer youth who are experiencing mental health challenges.





Tues, 4/14/26
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM



430 No Canal St, Lawrence



To register:
Scan QR or FSMV.org/trainings

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

Learn to prevent youth suicide with 3 simple steps: recognize risk factors, intervene, and refer.





Thurs 4/16/26
2:00 - 1:30 PM



Virtual (Zoom)



To register:
Scan QR or FSMV.org/trainings

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Massachusetts Welfare Spending Skyrockets as Oversight Declines and Fraud Surges



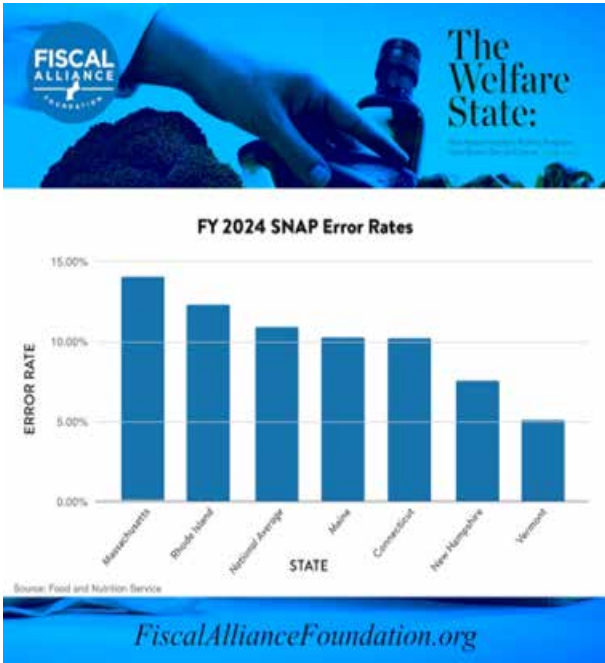
posted by Fiscal Alliance Foundation | Osc
Massachusetts Among the Highest in the Nation and in New England

The Fiscal Alliance Foundation today released a new study examining Massachusetts’s welfare programs, with a particular focus on rising fraud risks, weak oversight, and rapidly growing enrollment in key programs. The study, authored by the Foundation’s visiting policy analyst Hayden Dublois, is the organization’s first comprehensive analysis of welfare spending in Massachusetts and highlights significant concerns about growth, oversight, and long-term sustainability.

The study finds that SNAP enrollment in Massachusetts has increased by an astonishing 40 percent over the past decade, rising from just under 785,000 recipients in 2015 to more than 1.1 million in 2024. At the same time, more than \$1 billion in benefits were issued improperly between 2022 and 2024 alone, a staggering level of waste that raises serious concerns about program integrity.



Massachusetts now has a SNAP error rate of 14.1 percent, significantly higher than the national average of approximately 11 percent and every other New England state. The Commonwealth now ranks among the worst-performing states in the nation on payment accuracy, while neighboring New Hampshire ranks among the best.

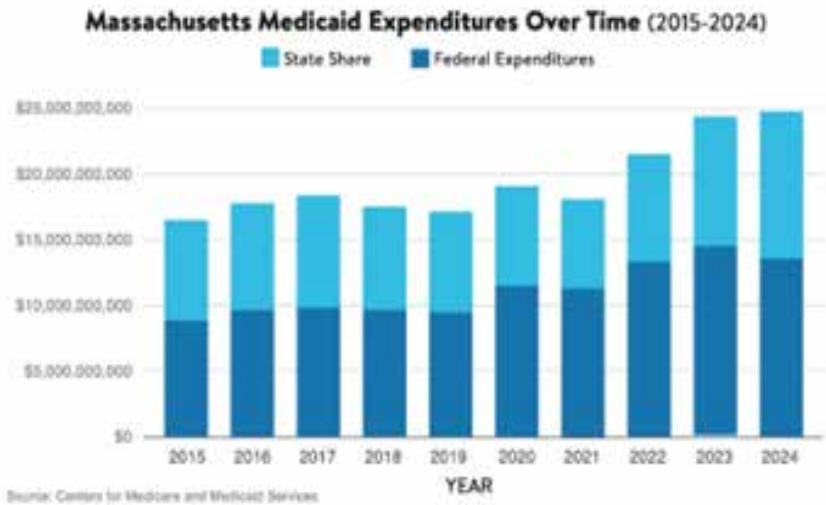


Beginning in FY2028, federal rules will require states with error rates above 6% to begin sharing the burden of costs, leaving taxpayers to pick up the tab. The study also finds that between 65 and 75 percent of able-bodied SNAP recipients are not working, while state policies continue to allow individuals to bypass federal asset limits and remain eligible for benefits regardless of accumulated wealth.

The report cites a whistleblower account describing “rampant” and “unabated” fraud within the system, along with a workplace culture that discourages basic verification of eligibility.

“More than a billion dollars in improper SNAP payments in just two years is not a rounding error, it is a complete failure of oversight. Taxpayers are being asked to fund a system where fraud is ignored, safeguards are weakened, and accountability is treated as optional. That is unacceptable,” said Paul Diego Craney, Executive Director of the Fiscal Alliance Foundation.

The study also finds that broader welfare spending continues to grow rapidly, with Medicaid now consuming nearly one out of every four state budget dollars and total costs rising sharply over the past decade. Medicaid spending has increased by nearly 50 percent since 2015, while state taxpayers have financed tens of billions in program costs. The report also highlights rising expenditures tied to non-citizen emergency care and expanded state-funded benefits.



In TANF, caseloads have grown significantly while spending on work-related activities has declined, with only about half of work-eligible recipients meeting minimum requirements. Housing and homelessness spending has also surged, more than doubling in recent years, with emergency shelter costs approaching \$1 billion and programs like HomeBASE seeing dramatic increases, raising further concerns about oversight and long-term sustainability.

“Beacon Hill has prioritized expanding enrollment over protecting taxpayers and ensuring these programs are being used as intended. When you combine skyrocketing caseloads with weak verification and rising error rates, you create an environment where fraud can thrive. Reform is long overdue, and it starts with restoring basic accountability and putting safeguards back in place,” said Craney.



“Massachusetts’s welfare programs are on a collision course with reality. Years of ignoring improper payments while promoting more program enrollment at all costs have now put the Commonwealth’s taxpayers in a bind. Policymakers need to reverse course and adopt commonsense reforms to address out-of-control welfare spending,” closed Hayden Dublois visiting policy analyst at the Fiscal Alliance Foundation.

The Fiscal Alliance Foundation study concludes that without immediate reforms focused on fraud prevention, verification, and accountability, Massachusetts taxpayers will continue to face rising costs and growing risks within the state’s welfare system.



Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

Abbatessa Shatters School Record in Hammer Throw to Highlight Jim Sheehan Invitational

Fitchburg, MA (April 5, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College track and field competed at the Jim Sheehan Memorial Invitational at Fitchburg State on Saturday afternoon and saw several strong early season performances.

Maci Abbatessa (Danvers) had a solid day in the throws and she started by breaking the college’s 16-year-old hammer throw record with a toss of 34.35 meters (112’ 8”) which broke the record of Katelyn Wallace 111’ set back in 2010. In addition, she had a throw of 31.69 in the discus which qualified her for her third event in the national meet next month.

Janelis Uviedo (Nashua, NH) also picked up a national qualifying performance in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 1:21.64.

On the men’s side Aivyn Privetera (Haverhill) ran a 17.29 in the 110 hurdles and Teriq Goodman (Worcester) sprinted a 23.96 finish in the 200.

In the field events Milton Garcia (Methuen) hit 5.42 meters in the long jump while Derick Pierre Paul (Lawrence) cleared 1.72 in the high jump.

NECC will return to the track next Saturday for the Ed Daniels Classic at Southern New Hampshire University.

Knights sweep season series from Roxbury

Boston, MA (April 5, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College baseball team, ranked 12th in the most recent NJCAA national poll, swept a double header from Roxbury on Saturday afternoon to complete the three-game series sweep over the Tigers. The wins improved the Knights record to 11-6 overall and 5-0 in conference play.

NECC won both games by scores of 13-2 and 7-0.

Game 1:

Brooks Keefe (Marblehead) recorded three hits including a pair of doubles and three RBI’s to lead the offense in the opener, while Eric Bridges (Saugus) struck out 11 batters without issuing a walk while going the distance on the mound.

David Castillo (Boston) drove in the first run of the game in the first inning on a ground out to short that scored Jaren Megan (Fairhaven) who led the game off with s single up the middle.

Owen Derocher (Berkley) scored a game high three runs in the game as the Knights scored three runs in the fourth and four runs in the fifth to blow the game open. Jack Alyward (Lowell) joined Keefe

with multiple hits in the game recording a pair of his own.

Game 2:

Jack Sarno (Byfield) tossed four innings of hitless baseball striking out six, with the offense giving him all the support he would need as they plated four runs in the top of the first inning.

Megan led the game off with a single and after stealing a pair of bases scored on a fielding error. Jake Yngber (Miami, FL), drove in the second run of the opening frame with a base hit of his own and would come around to eventually score on a balk by the pitcher, while Kade Maselli (New Gloucester, ME) scored the final run of the frame on a sacrifice fly from Adrian Guillermo (Lawrence).

Josh Jones (Hampstead, NH) recorded a two RBI single in the third inning before the Knights concluded the scoring in the fourth inning with an unearned run before the game was called after five innings due to darkness.

The Knights will return to the field on Monday to conclude their season series with CCRI in Warwick at 3:30.

Kelleher strikes out 11 as Knights complete sweep of CCRI

Warwick, RI (April 6, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College baseball team, ranked 11th in the week five NJCAA national poll released earlier today completed the season sweep of CCRI on Monday afternoon as the defeated the home team by a 12-5 final score. With the win the Knights remain perfect in region play at 6-0 while improving to 12-6 overall.

Jack Kelleher (Haverhill) picked up his fourth win of the season as he struck out 11 in seven innings of work, while allowing three runs (two earned) on three hits, while issuing two walks. JP Nowicki (Chelsea) and Justin Daniliuk-Poirier (Methuen) combined to strike out five over the final two innings.

NECC jumped out to a five run first inning advantage on a pair of home runs

from Jack Alyward (Lowell) and Marbel Soriano (Boston) as they gave Kelleher plenty of support before he took the mound.

Seven of nine starters recorded multiple hits in the game led by a three for four performance from David Castillo (Boston) that included a pair of RBI’s.

Jake Yngber (Miami, FL) recorded a two out, two RBI base hit in the seventh inning that would result in to the game winning hit as he drove in Owen Derocher (Berkley) following his double and an intentional walk issued to Castillo.

The Knights would add five additional runs in the final two innings as part of their 17 hits offensive onslaught.

The Knights are scheduled to play at Bunker Hill on Tuesday at 3:30pm.

Alejandro Delgado named NJCAA First Team All American

Haverhill, MA (April 8, 2026) – Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) of the national champion Northern Essex Community College men’s basketball team has been selected to the NJCAA All-America First Team as selected today by the NJCAA Basketball Committee.

The Region 21 Player of the Year averaged a double-double on the season with 17.9 points and 11.6 rebounds per game. In 35 games played this season, he recorded the double-double in 26 of those games with season high of 17 rebounds on three occasions and 32 points against MassBay on January 23rd.

Delgado also averaged 3.3 assists per

game and 1.8 steals per game while stepping up in some of seasons biggest moments on the defensive end. In the closing minute of the regional championship against Quincy he forced two turnovers to set up the victory and in the national semi-final against Salem he blocked what would have been a game tying basket in the final seconds.

Delgado becomes the sixth All-American under head coach Darren Stratton as Luis Reynoso last took home the honor in 2023 and 2024.

The All-American honor for Delgado makes him the 58 all-time All-American for Northern Essex.

Delgado Player of the Year, Stratton Coach of the Year Sweep National Awards

Haverhill, MA (April 9, 2026) – The national champion Northern Essex Community College men’s basketball team has made it a clean sweep of the end of season awards as the NJCAA has announced Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) as National Player of the Year and head coach Darren Stratton as National Coach of the Year.

Delgado becomes just the second athlete at NECC to earn the award in school history (Colby Maiola, 2016), while Stratton becomes the first coach in the college’s history to win the award in any sport.

The Region 21 Player of the Year and first team All-American averaged 17.9 points and 11.6 rebounds per game. In 35 games played this season recorded the double-double in 26 of those games with season high 17 rebounds on three occasions and 32 points against MassBay on January 23rd.

Delgado also averaged 3.3 assists per game and 1.8 steals per game while stepping up in some of seasons biggest moments on the defensive end. In the closing minute of the regional championship against Quincy he forced two turnovers to set up the victory and in the national semi-final against Salem he blocked what would

have been a game tying basket in the final seconds.

Stratton, who has amassed 384 wins in his legendary 23 years at the helm of the program. Previously the head coach from 1999-2015, he returned to lead the program again in 2020 and the Knights have been on a run of unrepresented success ever since, both at the program and region level.

This year, highlighted by the programs first national championship, he guided the Knights to 33 victories. In addition to Delgado, Christian Sanders, Alex Johnson and Yunosuke Matsuda all earned post season recognition from the region. Stratton also became the first coach in national tournament history to play all 15 players on his active roster in a national tournament game during the team’s quarterfinal win over Genesee.

Since his return to the program, in five full seasons, Stratton has led the Knights to all five Region 21/East District Championship games, winning the championship each of the last four years and advancing to the national tournament. Over that same time, he has a record of 147-20, good enough for an 88 percent winning percentage. Including both stints over his career, Stratton has a winning percentage of 64 percent at 384-243.

Knights rout Bunker Hill, run win streak to 14

Haverhill, MA (April 15, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College baseball team, ranked seventh in the week six NJCAA national poll, rolled to a dominate win on Wednesday evening as they defeated Bunker Hill by a 16-1 final score. The win improves the Knights to 17-6 overall and 11-0 in region play, while extending their win streak to 14 games.

Dominic Pefine (North Andover) picked up his second win in as many outings against the Bulldogs as he struck out eight in four innings of work, allowing just one run on three hits, while issuing three walks.

David Castillo (Boston) found his groove at the plate collecting three hits in his three at bats including a second inning triple that drove in a run for one of his three

RBI’s in the game.

Jack Aylward (Lowell) gave the Knights all the runs they would need when he drove in two first inning runs on line drive to left field that scored Castillo and Jaren Megan (Fairhaven). Aylward would collect two more RBI’s as part of his two hit performance with a ball that stayed just inside the line in the second inning.

Kade Masselli (New Gloucester, ME) and Owen Derocher (Berkely) each recorded multiple hits in the game as well including Derocher hitting a fourth inning home run to left field as part a nine run fourth inning for the Knights.

NECC will return to the field on Saturday afternoon when they play host to Suffolk County in non-region action at Haverhill Stadium.

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Walt Whitman



STARTING APRIL 7TH, 2026 METHUEN POLICE CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



Chief Scott McNamara
Is proud to announce that the
**METHUEN POLICE DEPARTMENT IS
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**

The academy is an exciting, dynamic, and informative 12-week course designed to provide participants with an interactive, hands-on, comprehensive overview of the Methuen Police Department. Class time will include an introduction to patrol, detectives, swat, communications, CPR, and various other department programs. At the completion of the academy, you will have knowledge of CPR with the option of certification.

Applications can be picked up at the Methuen Police Department dispatch window or printed from our website, Methuenpolice.com. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. You must fill out the application and all the waivers to be considered. You must live or work in the city of Methuen to be considered.

Participants cannot have any felony convictions, be on parole or probation, or have been arrested in the last 2 years.

WHEN: April 7th, 2026 – June 16th, 2026
Every Tuesday Night

COST: FREE

WHERE: Methuen Police Department
90 Hampshire St. Methuen, MA 01844

****apply early due to a limited amount of space****

For more information contact:
Officer Mark Aiello
Community Outreach Division
Call (978) 983-8701 or
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26th Annual YAR Conference

Endicott College
May 20, 2026
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

The New England region's only annual full-day conference bringing together professionals who are committed to the well-being of youth and young adults—featuring interactive workshops, CEUs, and valuable networking.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

You can view the schedule and all of the workshop descriptions by clicking the link below. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

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OUTSIDE THE LINES

OPEN MIC NIGHT

HOSTED BY FELIPE COLLAZO

ALL STYLES OF PERFORMANCE ARE WELCOME
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME

FEBRUARY 15
MARCH 15
APRIL 12
MAY 17
6:00PM



ESSEX ART CENTER
56 Island Street
Lawrence MA 01840
www.essexartcenter.org

We're excited to announce that starting next month, our board member, Felipe Collazo, will host Open Mic Nights at the Center! Mark your calendars for Sundays: February 15, March 15, April 12, and May 17, and get ready to unleash your creativity!

Whether you want to share spoken word, sing a solo, or showcase your unique performance style, this is your moment to shine. Open Mic Nights will kick off at 6:00 PM—come ready to express yourself and connect with fellow artists in our vibrant community.



Separa la fecha!



Esencia Cubana

Esta Noche Cubana



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