

Supreme Court Upholds Ruling on Birthright Citizenship

MIRA Coalition Responds Ruling

The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition's (MIRA) Executive Director, Elizabeth Sweet, issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to bar President Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship nationwide from going into effect.

"The Supreme Court's decision to uphold the United States' Constitution and protect America's immigrant

community sends a direct message to President Trump and all future leaders that birthright citizenship is a fundamental constitutional right guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. We are grateful that this legal battle is now over, but recognize that continued attacks on immigrants remain. MIRA remains steadfast in our advocacy to protect immigrants in Massachusetts and across the country."

Elizabeth Sweet, directora ejecutiva de la Coalición de Massachusetts para la Defensa de los Inmigrantes y Refugiados (MIRA, por sus siglas en inglés), emitió la siguiente declaración en respuesta a la decisión de la Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos de impedir la entrada en vigor de la orden ejecutiva del presidente Trump destinada a eliminar la ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento a nivel nacional:

"La decisión de la Corte Suprema de defender la Constitución de los

Estados Unidos y proteger a la comunidad inmigrante del país envía un mensaje directo al presidente Trump y a todos los futuros líderes: la ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento es un derecho constitucional fundamental garantizado por la Enmienda 14. Agradecemos que esta batalla legal haya concluido, pero reconocemos que persisten los ataques contra los inmigrantes. MIRA mantiene su firme compromiso de defender a los inmigrantes en Massachusetts y en todo el país".



State Representative Frank A. Moran nominated Lawrence educator Itzel López-Pantoja for recognition at the 2026 "Latino Educators Shine Awards."

El Representante Estatal Frank A. Moran nominó a la educadora de Lawrence Itzel López-Pantoja para ser reconocida en los premios "Latino Educators Shine Awards" de 2026.

Pg. 12

Sheriff's Plumbing Program Gives Participants a Second Chance



Photo: courtesy of Gretchen Grosky, Sheriff Department

Diez hombres del Centro de Preliberación y Reinserción del Condado de Essex obtuvieron su certificación de plomería de Nivel 1 como parte de un nuevo e innovador programa ofrecido por la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Essex. En la foto aparecen, de izquierda a derecha: el instructor de plomería Michael Bloomer, el graduado Adrian Cubilete y el sheriff Kevin Coppinger. Pg. 4

Ten men at the Essex County Pre-release and Re-entry Center earned their Tier 1 plumbing certification as part an innovate new program offered by the Essex County Sheriff's Department. Shown from left to right is Plumbing Instructor Michael Bloomer, graduate Adrian Cubilete, and Sheriff Kevin Coppinger. Pg. 5

BrightBridge Credit Union Awards \$26,500 in Scholarships



18 exceptional local students received scholarship awards during its annual ceremony, recognizing their academic achievements, leadership and dedication to their communities.

BrightBridge President & CEO John J. Howard shared wisdom and "life hacks" with graduating seniors to help them prepare for their exciting career journeys. Pg. 10

Comprendiendo a nuestros jóvenes: Más allá de la conducta desafiante

Por Gerardo Pagán

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El 250vo aniversario de EE.UU. se celebrará en Lawrence Heritage con dos días de eventos

Dado que el año 2026 marca el hito del 250vo aniversario de los Estados Unidos, el Parque Estatal Lawrence Heritage—ubicado en 1 Jackson Street, esquina con Canal— le invita a reservar la fecha en su calendario para la 20va celebración anual del "4 de Julio a la Antigua Usanza" (Old-Fashioned 4th of July), la cual se extenderá a lo largo de dos días.

Las festividades comenzarán el viernes, 3 de julio a las 11:00 a. m. con la visita de Abigail Adams, quien compartirá sus experiencias durante la Revolución Americana, seguida de un almuerzo ligero.

El sábado, 4 de julio a las 11:00 a. m., la banda Live Oak Jazz Band ofrecerá una actuación, seguida a las 12:00 del mediodía por la tradicional ceremonia de izado de la bandera, la interpretación del Himno Nacional, breves discursos de funcionarios públicos, un desfile alrededor del parque, la lectura pública de la Declaración de Independencia, un almuerzo tipo bufé y, para concluir, diversos sorteos. Todas las actividades, en ambos días, son gratuitas y abiertas al público.

Durante esta celebración de dos días, también se llevará a cabo un concurso de preguntas y respuestas (trivia) con premios, centrado en la historia del Parque Estatal Lawrence

Heritage, mientras este se prepara para la celebración de su 40vo aniversario, programada para el 1 de septiembre de 2026; la información detallada sobre dicho evento se anunciará durante el próximo verano.

Por último, durante los meses de junio y julio de 2026, el Parque Lawrence Heritage albergará no una, sino dos exposiciones de objetos conmemorativos del Bicentenario de los EE. UU. (1976). El historiador e intérprete del parque para la temporada de verano, Rich Padova, exhibirá su colección en el primer piso, mientras que el historiador Tom Spitalere presentará la suya en el tercer piso, dentro de la galería y la sala comunitaria.

Los eventos del verano de 2026 cuentan con el patrocinio de la asociación "Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park" (Amigos del Parque Estatal Lawrence Heritage), así como con el apoyo de particulares, organizaciones y empresas para la realización del "4 de Julio a la Antigua Usanza".

Para cualquier información adicional, póngase en contacto con el organizador e intérprete del parque, Rich Padova—quien se incorporará a su puesto a mediados de mayo—, llamando al 978-794-1655 o enviando un correo electrónico a Richard.Padova@mass.gov.

250th birthday of U.S. to be celebrated at Lawrence Heritage with two days of events

As 2026 marks the milestone 250th birthday of the United States, Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street at Canal, invites you to mark your calendars with the 20th annual "Old-Fashioned 4th of July" celebration expanding to two days.

Festivities will begin on Friday, July 3rd at 11 AM with a visit from Abigail Adams who will share her experiences during the American Revolution, followed by a light luncheon.

On Saturday, July 4th at 11 AM the Live Oak Jazz Band will perform followed at 12 noon by the customary flag-raising, singing of the National Anthem, brief oratory by public officials, parade around the Park, public reading of the Declaration of Independence, buffet luncheon and concluding with raffles. All activities on both days are free and open to the public.

During the two-day celebration, there will also be a trivia contest with prizes on the history of Lawrence

Heritage State Park as it prepares for its planned 40th anniversary celebration on September 1st, 2026 with information on that to be announced this coming summer.

Lastly, during June and July 2026 at Lawrence Heritage there will be not one but two exhibits of U.S. Bicentennial memorabilia on display from 1976. Historian and summer Park interpreter Rich Padova will have his collection displayed on the first floor, while historian Tom Spitalere will have his collection displayed on the third floor in the gallery and community room.

Summer 2026 events are sponsored by the Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park along with support from individuals, organizations and businesses for the "Old-Fashioned 4th." For any additional information, contact organizer and Park interpreter Rich Padova, who will be coming on board in mid-May and may be reached at 978-794-1655 or Richard.Padova@mass.gov.





Lawrence Heritage State Park
1 Jackson Street at Canal
Lawrence, MA 01840
(978) 794-1655

Save The Dates!

20th Annual "Old-Fashioned 4th of July" celebration

Friday, July 3rd, 2026 and
Saturday, July 4th, 2026

July 3rd: Presentation by Abigail Adams at 11 AM followed by a light lunch.
July 4th: Performance by the Live Oak Jazz Band at 11 AM followed at 12 noon by brief oration, flag raising, singing of the National Anthem, short parade around the Park, public reading of the Declaration of Independence and buffet luncheon. Also on July 4th:
Free raffle drawings!
Free flag for every visitor!
Best-dressed red, white and blue contest!

Coming Event

Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts State Parks

"El camino al éxito está plagado de lugares de estacionamiento tentadores."
"The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces."
Will Rogers

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley



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¡Feliz cumpleaños, Estados Unidos!

Alberto y yo les deseamos un muy alegre aniversario de este gran país. Estamos especialmente agradecidos con Dios por permitirnos ganarnos la vida en este lugar glorioso, donde los residentes pueden trabajar duro y no tienen límites en cuanto a lo que pueden lograr. Este país también permite que aquellos que atraviesan momentos difíciles se recuperen y alcancen el éxito.

Los próximos días estarán llenos de celebraciones, y esperamos que su familia dedique tiempo a enseñar a nuestros jóvenes la bendición de ser estadounidense.

El temor a despedir a empleados problemáticos

(Mensaje para el alcalde de Lawrence, Brian DePeña)

Una razón común para no despedir a empleados es el temor a una demanda basada en discriminación o en alguna excusa trivial. Si los problemas están bien documentados, lo mejor para la empresa y para todos los empleados es poner fin a esa conducta antes de que toda la organización pierda el respeto por sus dirigentes.

Cuando un empleado se vuelve difícil o problemático, su impacto negativo puede extenderse mucho más allá de su propio desempeño individual. Estos empleados generan tensión, reducen la moral del equipo, obstaculizan la productividad y socavan la cultura organizacional. Retener a alguien así —ya sea por miedo al conflicto o con la esperanza de una mejora que nunca llega— puede resultar más costoso que tomar una decisión firme y oportuna.

Esa es la situación en la ciudad de Lawrence. Despedir a un empleado difícil es un paso necesario para salvaguardar el equilibrio, el respeto y la eficiencia del entorno laboral.

Para lograrlo, la ciudad debe identificar a los empleados problemáticos y, cuando sea necesario, terminar su relación laboral de manera ética, legal y estratégica. Es preciso documentar por escrito las infracciones y recabar testimonios de otros empleados (cuando estén disponibles), protegiendo así la cultura organizacional, el clima laboral y los objetivos del equipo. Contar con esta documentación es vital para justificar la corrección de las decisiones tomadas.

Cuando un empleado municipal carece de las cualificaciones necesarias, miente en su currículum, consume alcohol en el trabajo o existen quejas de índole sexual, no se le debe permitir seguir contaminando el Ayuntamiento. Si la ciudad cuenta con pruebas que la respalden, que recurran a un abogado.

Nunca preste atención a nada en las redes sociales

Dejé de leer los mensajes de Facebook porque me sube muchísimo la presión arterial. Utilizo mi página para mi propio beneficio y el de mis amigos y familiares; la página de *Rumbo* sirve para ofrecer información a mis lectores. Aparte de eso, no miro nada más.

De vez en cuando, alguien me envía algo que ha visto y quiere que confirme su veracidad, y ojalá nunca lo hubiera visto. La gente escribe cosas indignantes y, de inmediato, estas se replican en las páginas de otros, quienes creen alegremente que son ciertas.

Hace poco, alguien malinterpretó las acciones del Comité de Personal del lunes por la noche y arremetió con mensajes desagradables en internet contra los tres miembros que votaron a favor de aprobar a Santiago Matías para un periodo de 90 días en el departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario. Obviamente, desconocen que el Comité tiene la opción de remitir el asunto al pleno del concejo para su aprobación, rechazarlo o —como hicieron en este caso— enviarlo sin votación previa en forma de informe del comité.

Hablé con algunos de ellos para aclarar por qué procedieron de esa manera. Me explicaron que, si iban a dedicar horas a entrevistar a personas y escuchar testimonios, lo ideal era hacerlo cuando todos los miembros estuvieran presentes. Nunca llegaron a realizar una votación.

La vicepresidenta del concejo, Ana Levy, me comunicó que en la próxima reunión solicitará que se publique la vacante del puesto, tal como exige la Carta Constitutiva de la ciudad. Eso debería haberse hecho inmediatamente en cuanto el cargo quedó vacante.

¡Dejen de difundir información falsa y de incitar al público con mentiras!

¡Llamando a Lina Montesino! ¡Llamando a Lina Montesino!

Sospecho que muchas personas en Lawrence tal vez no sepan que la candidata a representante estatal, Celina Reyes, también ha sido conocida públicamente como Lina Montesino. De ser así, convendría que los votantes entendieran por qué se utilizan nombres distintos en diferentes ámbitos.

El uso de un nombre profesional o personal diferente no es algo inusual, pero la transparencia es fundamental en la función pública. Los votantes merecen saber que la persona a la que apoyan es el mismo individuo que han visto bajo otro nombre. Si existe una explicación razonable, esta debería compartirse abiertamente para evitar confusiones.

La confianza pública se fortalece cuando los candidatos comunican con claridad su trayectoria e identidad. Al fin y al cabo, unos votantes bien informados toman mejores decisiones.



Happy Birthday, America!

Alberto and I wish you a very cheerful anniversary of this great country. We are particularly thankful to God for permitting us to make a living in this glorious place where residents can work hard and have no limits to what they can accomplish. This country also allows those who fall on hard times to get back on their feet and succeed.

The next few days will be filled with celebrations, and we hope your family takes some time to teach our young people the blessing of being an American.

Fear of Terminating Problematic Employees

(Message to Lawrence Mayor Brian DePeña)

A common reason for not terminating employees is the fear of a lawsuit based on discrimination or some innocuous excuse. If the issues are well-documented, it is best for the company and all employees to end that behavior before the entire company loses respect for those in charge.

When an employee becomes difficult or problematic, their negative impact can extend far beyond their own individual performance. These employees create tension, lower team morale, hinder productivity, and undermine organizational culture. Retaining someone like this, whether out of fear of conflict or in hopes of an improvement that never materializes, can prove more costly than making a firm, timely decision.

That’s the situation in the City of Lawrence. Terminating a difficult employee is a necessary step to safeguard the balance, respect, and efficiency of the work environment.

To achieve this, the City needs to identify difficult employees and, when necessary, terminate their employment ethically, legally, and strategically. Establishing a series of violations in writing and testimony of other employees (when available), thereby protecting organizational culture, the work climate, and team objectives. Setting up documentation like this is vital to prove your decisions correct.

When a city employee doesn’t have the necessary qualifications, lies on a resume, drinks on the job, or there are complaints of a sexual nature, they must not continue to poison City Hall. If the city is backed up by evidence, let them call a lawyer.

Never pay attention to anything on social media

I stopped reading Facebook messages because my blood pressure goes up tremendously. I use my page for my benefit and that of my friends and family; Rumbo’s page is to provide information to my readers. Aside from that, I don’t look at anything else.

Occasionally, someone sends me something they saw and wants me to confirm its truthfulness, and I wish I had never seen it. People write the most outrageous things, and right away they are copied on other people’s pages, joyfully thinking that it’s real.

Most recently, someone misunderstood the Personnel Committee’s actions on Monday night and blasted nasty messages online against the three members who voted to approve Santiago Matias for 90 days in Community Development. They obviously don’t know that the Committee has the option of sending it to the full council for its approval, denying it, or, as they did in this case, sending it without a vote as a committee report.

I spoke to some of them to clarify their reason for doing it that way. They told me that if they were going to spend hours interviewing people and listening to testimonies, it was best to do it while all the members were present. They never took a vote.

Council Vice President Ana Levy told me that she is going to request at the next meeting, the posting of the position as mandated by the City Charter. That should have been done immediately when the job became vacant.

Stop spreading false information and arousing the public with lies!

Calling Lina Montesino! Calling Lina Montesino!

I suspect that many people in Lawrence may not know that the candidate running for State Representative, Celina Reyes, has also been publicly known as Lina Montesino. If that is the case, it would benefit voters to understand why different names are used in different settings.

Using a different professional or personal name is not uncommon, but transparency is important in public office. Voters deserve to know that the person they are supporting is the same individual they have seen under another name. If there is a reasonable explanation, it should be shared openly so there is no confusion.

Public confidence is strengthened when candidates communicate clearly about their background and identity. In the end, informed voters make better decisions.

El programa de plomería del Sheriff ofrece a los participantes una segunda oportunidad a través de un oficio especializado

LAWRENCE, Mass.— Diez hombres del Centro de Preliberación y Reinserción del Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Essex se marchan con algo más que una certificación en plomería: se llevan una nueva oportunidad para construir un futuro.

Los graduados obtuvieron recientemente su certificación de plomería de Nivel 1, convirtiéndose en los primeros participantes en completar el programa de capacitación en plomería impartido en un centro penitenciario de Massachusetts. Las autoridades señalan que el programa está diseñado para ayudar a personas con antecedentes penales a adquirir las habilidades, la experiencia y el apoyo necesarios para encontrar un empleo estable tras su liberación.

Gracias a una subvención de 1,2 millones de dólares del Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, la iniciativa aborda dos desafíos simultáneamente: ayudar a las personas a reconstruir sus vidas tras el encarcelamiento y cubrir la escasez de mano de obra en el sector de la plomería.

A lo largo de varios meses, los participantes completaron 110 horas de instrucción teórica y 40 horas de formación práctica. Trabajando en una estructura de dos pisos destinada a la

capacitación en plomería —construida en las instalaciones de Lawrence—, aprendieron a instalar calentadores de agua, realizar instalaciones sanitarias en baños y completar sistemas de plomería residencial de principio a fin.

Para el Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger, el programa se centra en crear oportunidades reales para quienes buscan salir adelante.

"Para muchas personas que salen de prisión, el mayor desafío no es desear una vida mejor, sino encontrar la oportunidad de construirla", afirmó Coppinger. "Este programa ofrece a los participantes más que una certificación; les brinda una habilidad, un conjunto de herramientas y una oportunidad real de mantenerse a sí mismos y a sus familias. Cuando las personas salen de aquí con una trayectoria profesional definida, tienen muchas más probabilidades de triunfar, y eso hace que nuestras comunidades sean más seguras".

La certificación representa un hito importante para los graduados; muchos de ellos regresarán pronto a sus comunidades con una habilidad muy valorada en el mercado y acceso a una profesión de alta demanda.

El instructor de plomería, Michael Bloomer, animó a los graduados a ver este logro como el comienzo de un

nuevo capítulo.

"Han conseguido algo más grande que este certificado: han ganado la oportunidad de forjar su propio camino en este oficio fundamental", dijo Bloomer a los graduados. "Su futuro está ante ustedes, y ahora les toca a ustedes escribir el siguiente capítulo".

A diferencia de muchos programas de formación profesional, el apoyo no termina cuando los participantes salen de prisión. Gracias a una colaboración con Volunteers of America Massachusetts, los graduados reciben un kit de herramientas profesionales y pueden optar a recibir asistencia continua durante un máximo de un año tras su puesta en libertad.

Dicho apoyo incluye servicios de colocación laboral, transporte hacia y desde el trabajo, gestión de casos y ayuda económica para que los graduados obtengan certificaciones adicionales y sigan progresando en oficios especializados.

Matt Marrano, vicepresidente de Alianzas Estratégicas de Volunteers of America Massachusetts, señaló que completar el programa requirió dedicación y determinación.

"Completar este programa exigió compromiso, perseverancia y la voluntad de desafiarse a sí mismos", dijo Marrano a los graduados. "Formar parte de esta primera promoción significa que cada uno de ustedes ha ayudado a sentar las bases para los futuros participantes que seguirán sus pasos".

El sheriff Coppinger afirmó que el impacto del programa ya se percibe en las decisiones que toman los participantes. Destacó el caso de un participante que decidió permanecer bajo custodia el tiempo necesario para completar la certificación, en lugar de aceptar la libertad condicional

anticipada.

"Hemos visto de primera mano lo que esta oportunidad puede significar", dijo Coppinger. "Un participante optó por quedarse y terminar el programa en vez de salir antes de tiempo, porque sabía que esta certificación podía cambiar el rumbo de su vida. De eso se trata realmente: de dar a las personas la oportunidad de salir de aquí con un oficio, un propósito y un plan de futuro".

Funcionarios estatales y locales se unieron al personal del departamento, a los instructores y a los colaboradores comunitarios en una ceremonia de graduación para reconocer el logro de la primera promoción del programa.

Los responsables del programa señalan que esta iniciativa demuestra cómo la capacitación laboral puede contribuir a reducir la reincidencia, ayudando a las personas a conseguir un empleo digno tras su liberación. Dado que el sector de la fontanería se enfrenta a una escasez de trabajadores cualificados, los graduados acceden a un campo con gran demanda y oportunidades de ascenso.

Esta promoción es la primera de varias previstas para los próximos tres años. Las autoridades esperan capacitar a unos 60 participantes, creando oportunidades para más personas que buscan empezar de nuevo y ayudando, al mismo tiempo, a cubrir las necesidades de mano de obra en todo Massachusetts.

"Un empleo puede marcar la diferencia entre volver a viejos hábitos y construir una vida nueva", afirmó Coppinger. "Estamos ayudando a las personas a crear un futuro para sí mismas y para sus familias, haciendo a la vez que nuestras comunidades sean más seguras".



ALCALDE BRIAN A. DEPEÑA
DEPARTAMENTO DE RECREACION Y SERVICIOS PARA VETERANOS
COLABORACIÓN ENTRE DIANE SHIKRALLAH Y
LA ASOCIACIÓN DE VECINOS DE LAWRENCE

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Sheriff's Plumbing Program Gives Participants a Second Chance Through Skilled Trades

LAWRENCE, Mass. — Ten men at the Essex County Sheriff's Department's Pre-Release and Re-Entry Center are leaving with more than a plumbing certification. They are leaving with a new opportunity to build a future.

The graduates recently earned their Tier 1 Plumbing Certification, becoming the first participants to complete Massachusetts' first correctional facility-based plumbing training program. Officials say the program is designed to help justice-involved individuals gain the skills, experience, and support needed to find stable employment after release.

Through a \$1.2 million grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, the initiative addresses two challenges at once: helping individuals rebuild their lives after incarceration while filling workforce shortages in the plumbing industry.

Over several months, participants completed 110 hours of classroom instruction and 40 hours of hands-on training. Working inside a two-story plumbing training structure built at the Lawrence facility, they learned how to install water heaters, plumb bathrooms, and complete residential plumbing systems from start to finish.

For Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger, the program is about creating real opportunities for people looking to move forward.

"For many people leaving incarceration, the biggest challenge isn't wanting a better life. It's finding an opportunity to build one," Coppinger said. "This program gives participants more than a certification. It gives them a skill, a set of tools, and a real chance to support themselves and their families. When people leave here with a pathway to a career, they're far more likely to succeed, and that makes our communities safer."

The certification marks a significant milestone for the graduates, many of whom will soon return to their communities with a marketable skill and a pathway into a high-demand profession.

Plumbing instructor Michael Bloomer encouraged graduates to see the accomplishment as the beginning of a new chapter.

"You earned something bigger than this certificate. You earned the opportunity to create your pathway within this critical trade," Bloomer told the graduates. "Your future is in front of you, and it's your turn to write the next chapter."

Unlike many vocational programs, support does not end when participants leave custody. Through a partnership with Volunteers of America Massachusetts, graduates receive a professional toolbox and may qualify for up to one year of continued assistance after release.

That support includes job placement services, transportation to and from work, case management, and financial assistance to help graduates pursue additional certifications and continue advancing in the skilled trades.

Matt Marrano, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships for Volunteers of America Massachusetts, said completing the program required dedication and determination.

"Completing this program required commitment, perseverance, and a willingness to challenge yourselves," Marrano told graduates. "Being a part of this first cohort means that each of you has helped lay the foundation for future participants who will follow in your footsteps."

Sheriff Coppinger said the impact of the program can already be seen in the choices participants are making. One participant, he noted, chose to remain in custody long enough to complete the certification rather than accept early parole.

"We've seen firsthand what this opportunity can mean," Coppinger said. "One participant chose to stay and complete the program rather than take early parole because he knew this certification could change the direction of his life. That's what this is really about — giving people a chance to leave here with a skill, a purpose, and a plan for the future."

State and local officials joined department staff, instructors, and community partners at a graduation ceremony recognizing the achievement of the program's first class.

Program leaders say the effort demonstrates how workforce training can play a role in reducing recidivism by helping people secure meaningful employment after release. With the plumbing industry facing a shortage of skilled workers, graduates are entering a field with strong demand and opportunities for advancement.

The current class is the first of several expected over the next three years. Officials hope to train approximately 60 participants, creating opportunities for more individuals seeking a fresh start while helping meet workforce needs across Massachusetts.

"A job can be the difference between someone returning to old habits and someone building a new life," Coppinger said. "We're helping people create a future for themselves and their families while making our communities safer."

Mejia moves on, Sankey, McDonald named Interim Co-Head Coaches, national search underway

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics Northern Essex Community College

Northern Essex Community College Director of Athletics Dan Blair has announced the resignation of head baseball coach and assistant athletic director Jeff Mejia as he becomes the head coach of NCAA Division I Merrimack College.

Additionally, Blair has announced that assistant coaches Brian Sankey and Tyler McDonald have been named Interim Co-Head Coaches effective immediately.

Hired prior to the start of the 2013 season Mejia compiled a record of 362-154 and led the Knights to 10 trips to the NJCAA World Series, earning regional coach of the honors on 11 occasions.

"I'd like to thank Coach Mejia for his dedication to the program and the student-athletes over the last decade plus and wish him the best as he moves onto Merrimack. We're grateful for the impact he has had on the NECC program and we look to

continue building off that foundation", stated Blair. "We have a great group of returners and incoming students coming in and I have no doubt in the ability of Brian and Tyler to lead us through the summer while we conduct our search."

McDonald has served as an assistant for the previous two years, after playing two seasons for NECC serving primarily as a relief pitcher before continuing his career at Franklin Pierce where he graduated in 2024.

Sankey joined the program this spring in a volunteer role. A four-year standout at Boston College, graduating in 1996, he is a member of the Eagles Athletic Hall of Fame and a 32nd round draft pick of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1996 MLB Draft. He's made three coaching stops at the high school level and served 18 years as an MLB scout for both the Atlanta Braves and Milwaukee Brewers.

A national search for the Knights next baseball coach and assistant athletic director is underway.

Mejía emprende una nueva etapa; Sankey y McDonald son nombrados codirectores técnicos interinos; en marcha la búsqueda a nivel nacional

Por Dan Blair, Director de Atletismo Northern Essex Community College

Dan Blair, director de deportes de Northern Essex Community College (NECC), ha anunciado la renuncia de Jeff Mejia, entrenador principal de béisbol y subdirector deportivo, quien asumirá el cargo de entrenador principal en Merrimack College (División I de la NCAA).

Asimismo, Blair anunció que los entrenadores asistentes Brian Sankey y Tyler McDonald han sido nombrados codirectores técnicos interinos con efecto inmediato.

Mejia, contratado antes del inicio de la temporada 2013, acumuló un récord de 362-154 y llevó a los Knights a participar en 10 ediciones de la Serie Mundial de la NJCAA, obteniendo el reconocimiento como entrenador regional del año en 11 ocasiones.

"Quisiera agradecer al entrenador Mejia por su dedicación al programa y a los estudiantes-atletas durante más de una década, y desearle lo mejor en su nueva etapa en Merrimack. Estamos agradecidos por el impacto que ha tenido en el programa de NECC y buscamos seguir construyendo sobre esa base", declaró Blair. "Contamos con un excelente grupo de jugadores

que regresan y de nuevos estudiantes que se incorporan; no tengo dudas sobre la capacidad de Brian y Tyler para liderarnos durante el verano mientras llevamos a cabo el proceso de búsqueda".

McDonald se ha desempeñado como asistente durante los últimos dos años, tras jugar dos temporadas en NECC —principalmente como lanzador de relevo— y continuar su carrera en Franklin Pierce, donde se graduó en 2024.

Sankey se unió al programa esta primavera en calidad de voluntario. Destacado jugador durante cuatro años en Boston College (donde se graduó en 1996), es miembro del Salón de la Fama Deportivo de los Eagles y fue seleccionado por los Dodgers de Los Ángeles en la ronda 32 del draft de la MLB de 1996. Ha ejercido como entrenador en tres instituciones de nivel secundaria y trabajó durante 18 años como buscador de talentos (scout) de la MLB para los Braves de Atlanta y los Brewers de Milwaukee.

Ya está en marcha la búsqueda a nivel nacional para encontrar al próximo entrenador de béisbol y subdirector deportivo de los Knights.

REBUILDING OUR STREETS,
INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Mayor Brian A. DePeña and Department of Public Works Director Jorge Jaime are pleased to announce the continuation of the City of Lawrence's roadway resurfacing and infrastructure improvement program. As part of Lawrence's ongoing commitment to maintaining and enhancing public infrastructure, DPW will be conducting roadway rehabilitation and paving improvements on the streets listed below.

This project represents a significant investment in our neighborhoods and is designed to improve roadway conditions, enhance public safety, extend the life of our infrastructure, and provide smoother travel for residents, businesses, visitors, and emergency services.

As part of this project, crews will be performing roadway and infrastructure repairs, including:

- Repair, replacement, and adjustment of manholes, drainage systems, and utility structures
- Pavement restoration and roadway resurfacing improvements

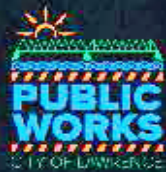
During construction, residents and motorists may experience temporary traffic impacts, detours, lane shifts, and parking restrictions. We respectfully ask everyone to follow posted signs, observe detours, and use caution near active work zones.

PHASE ONE			
Basswood St	Arlington St	Alder St	Arlington St
Monmouth St	Buswell St	End	Arlington
E.Haverhill	Berkeley St	Haverhill St	Prospect Hill
Bruce St	Avon St	Erving St	Prospect Hill
Logan St	Jackson St	Prospect	Prospect Hill
Vermont St	Ferry St	M.L	Prospect Hill
Lincoln St	Ferry St	Wesley St	Prospect Hill
Lexington St	Fern St	Park St	Arlington
Bunkerhill St	Buswell St	Fern St	Arlington

PHASE TWO			
Lisa LN	Barnard Rd	Barnard Rd	M.Vernon
Cypress St.	Essex St	To End	Tower Hill
Essex St	Ames St	Water St	Tower Hill
Byron Ave.	Ames St.	Congress St.	Tower Hill
Concord St.	Broadway	Franklin St.	Downtown



Brian A. DePeña
Mayor



Jorge Jaime
DPW Director

La audiencia sobre la auditoría de Brensley sigue adelante según lo previsto en la disputa en curso sobre la auditoría legislativa



Anne Brensley, candidata republicana a vicegobernadora de Massachusetts, compareció ante el Tribunal Superior de Middlesex el 25 de junio a las 3:00 p. m. para una audiencia relacionada con su demanda, la cual busca hacer cumplir una ley aprobada por los votantes que exige una auditoría de la Legislatura de Massachusetts.

La demanda, presentada en octubre de 2025, solicita al tribunal que ordene a la presidenta del Senado, Karen Spilka, y al presidente de la Cámara de Representantes, Ron Mariano, cumplir con el Capítulo 11, Sección 12 de las Leyes Generales de Massachusetts, tras la aprobación de una medida electoral a nivel estatal que otorga al Auditor del Estado la autoridad para auditar a la Legislatura. La medida fue aprobada por más de 2,2 millones de votantes de Massachusetts, lo que representa una de las expansiones más significativas de las facultades de rendición de cuentas gubernamental promulgadas mediante el proceso de iniciativa popular en la historia reciente del estado.

La disputa surge de una batalla de años sobre la transparencia y la supervisión en Beacon Hill. En 2024, los votantes de Massachusetts aprobaron

la Pregunta 1, autorizando a la Auditora del Estado a realizar auditorías de la Legislatura. La medida se produjo tras décadas de críticas señalando que la Legislatura operaba con una supervisión independiente limitada en comparación con otras ramas del gobierno estatal. Los defensores argumentaron que las operaciones legislativas financiadas por los contribuyentes deberían estar sujetas a los mismos estándares de auditoría que las agencias del poder ejecutivo y otras entidades públicas.

Desde la aprobación de la medida, los líderes legislativos han sostenido que las preocupaciones sobre la separación constitucional de poderes limitan la autoridad del Auditor para realizar ciertas auditorías de las operaciones legislativas. El estancamiento resultante ha generado múltiples

desafíos legales y se ha convertido en una de las disputas sobre transparencia gubernamental más observadas en Massachusetts.

Si bien la Auditora del Estado, Diana DiZoglio, ha sido la defensora más visible de la implementación de la ley de auditoría, la demanda de Brensley busca una orden judicial directa que exija su cumplimiento.

Específicamente, la demanda solicita que el tribunal emita una orden en forma de *writ of mandamus* (orden judicial de cumplimiento obligatorio) que instruya a los líderes legislativos a cumplir con la ley en un plazo de 30 días. Representados por la Oficina del Fiscal General de Massachusetts, los líderes legislativos han solicitado la desestimación de la demanda, argumentando, entre otras cosas, que en este caso son aplicables las doctrinas jurídicas que protegen a los funcionarios públicos frente a ciertos tipos de litigios.

"Los votantes se expresaron con claridad al aprobar esta medida", afirmó Brensley. "Este caso trata sobre si se aplicará o no una ley promulgada por más de 2,2 millones de votantes de Massachusetts. Considero que los tribunales deben respetar la voluntad

popular y exigir el cumplimiento de la normativa sobre auditorías".

Brensley también se enfrenta al desafío jurídico de acreditar su legitimación procesal, una cuestión que ha afectado a demandas anteriores relacionadas con la disputa sobre las auditorías.

"He identificado jurisprudencia de Massachusetts que, a mi juicio, respalda la legitimación de los candidatos en circunstancias como estas", señaló Brensley. "Espero poder exponer dichos argumentos y obtener un fallo sobre el fondo del asunto".

Brensley Audit Hearing Proceeded as Scheduled in Ongoing Fight Over Legislative Audit

Anne Brensley, the Republican endorsed candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, appeared in Middlesex Superior Court on June 25 at 3:00 p.m. for a hearing in her lawsuit seeking enforcement of a voter-approved law requiring an audit of the Massachusetts Legislature.

The lawsuit, filed in October 2025, asks the court to compel Senate President Karen Spilka and House Speaker Ron Mariano to comply with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 11, Section 12, following the passage of a statewide ballot measure granting the State Auditor authority to audit the Legislature. The measure was approved by more than 2.2 million Massachusetts voters, representing one of the most significant expansions of government accountability powers enacted through the ballot initiative process in recent state history.

The dispute stems from a years-long battle over transparency and oversight on Beacon Hill. In 2024, Massachusetts voters approved Question 1, authorizing the State Auditor to conduct audits of the Legislature. The measure followed decades of criticism that the Legislature operated with limited independent oversight compared to other branches of state government. Supporters argued that taxpayer-funded legislative operations should be subject to the same auditing standards as executive agencies and other public entities.

Since the measure's passage, legislative leaders have maintained that constitutional separation-of-powers concerns limit the Auditor's authority to conduct certain audits of legislative operations. The resulting standoff has produced multiple legal challenges and has become one of the most closely watched government transparency disputes in Massachusetts.

While State Auditor Diana

La audiencia del 25 de junio constituyó un nuevo capítulo importante en el debate jurídico y político en curso sobre la transparencia legislativa, las reformas aprobadas por los votantes y el alcance de la rendición de cuentas gubernamental en Massachusetts.

"Es una defensa enérgica por parte de la Oficina del Fiscal General y de los líderes legislativos", comentó Brensley. "Mi intención es defender con igual firmeza que debe aplicarse la ley aprobada por los votantes de Massachusetts".

DiZoglio has been the most visible advocate for implementation of the audit law, Brensley's lawsuit seeks a direct judicial order requiring compliance.

Specifically, the complaint requests that the court issue an order in the nature of a *writ of mandamus* directing legislative leadership to comply with the statute within 30 days.

Represented by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, legislative leaders have moved to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing, among other things, that legal doctrines protecting government officials from certain forms of litigation apply in this case.

"The voters spoke clearly when they approved this measure," said Brensley. "This case is about whether a law enacted by more than 2.2 million Massachusetts voters will be enforced. I believe the courts should uphold the will of the people and require compliance with the audit statute."

Brensley also faces the legal challenge of establishing standing, an issue that has affected previous lawsuits related to the audit dispute.

"I identified Massachusetts case law that I believe supports standing for candidates in circumstances such as these," Brensley said. "I look forward to presenting those arguments and obtaining a ruling on the merits of the case."

The June 25 hearing represents another significant chapter in the ongoing legal and political debate surrounding legislative transparency, voter-approved reforms, and the scope of government accountability in Massachusetts.

"I expect a vigorous defense from the Attorney General's Office and legislative leadership," Brensley said. "My intention was to argue just as vigorously that the law approved by Massachusetts voters should be enforced."

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>

Declaración de la campaña "Keep Mass Home" sobre la decisión del Tribunal Judicial Supremo de impedir que la iniciativa de control de alquileres aparezca en la boleta electoral de noviembre



El Tribunal Judicial Supremo de Massachusetts emitió hoy una decisión que impide que la iniciativa propuesta sobre el control de alquileres aparezca en la boleta electoral de noviembre. Los promotores de la campaña "Keep Massachusetts Home" (Mantengamos el hogar en Massachusetts) respondieron:

"Esta decisión es una enorme decepción tras todo el trabajo que miles de voluntarios y defensores de cada rincón del estado dedicaron a lograr que nuestra iniciativa de control de alquileres calificara para la boleta electoral; sin embargo, esto está lejos de ser el fin de nuestra campaña para proteger a los inquilinos de Massachusetts de los aumentos excesivos de alquiler", dijo Noemi "Mimi" Ramos, directora ejecutiva de New England Community Project y presidenta de la campaña "Keep Massachusetts Home". "En lugar de aceptar cualquier restricción a su capacidad de obtener ganancias de nuestras comunidades, unas pocas corporaciones de inversión inmobiliaria respaldadas por capital privado financiaron esta demanda en un intento desesperado por evitar una campaña electoral que estaban destinadas a perder. Aunque no estamos de acuerdo con la interpretación del tribunal, el problema señalado es fácilmente subsanable y no afecta el fondo de nuestra propuesta".

"Los inversores inmobiliarios corporativos, que valoran las ganancias por encima de las personas, acaban de ganar más tiempo para subir los alquileres sin límites, pero nosotros estamos aún más motivados para

enfrentarlos", dijo Rose Webster-Smith, directora de Springfield No One Leaves. "Hemos demostrado que levantar la prohibición del control de alquileres en Massachusetts no solo es posible, sino imperativo, y los residentes de Massachusetts lo quieren".

"Esta decisión no cambia el hecho de que los alquileres elevados están desplazando a trabajadores y personas mayores de comunidades en todo Massachusetts, obligando a la gente a tener varios empleos solo para pagar el alquiler e imposibilitando que las familias jóvenes ahorren dinero para alcanzar el sueño de tener una vivienda propia. Y a medida que la crisis de vivienda del estado continúa agravándose ante la falta de protecciones sólidas para los inquilinos frente a inversores corporativos codiciosos, seguiremos abogando por una política de control de alquileres que garantice hogares estables y comunidades fuertes en todo Massachusetts", dijo Carolyn Chou, directora ejecutiva de Homes for All Massachusetts, la coalición estatal de grupos de base por la justicia habitacional que lidera la campaña "Keep Massachusetts Home". "A través de esta campaña, ha quedado claro que muchos miembros del sector inmobiliario local comprenden la necesidad de una regulación de alquileres basada en el sentido común, y estamos comprometidos a continuar las conversaciones con todas las partes interesadas para lograr el alivio que los inquilinos necesitan tan desesperadamente".

Antecedentes

La campaña a favor del control de alquileres en Massachusetts cuenta con el respaldo de un movimiento estatal masivo integrado por inquilinos, propietarios de viviendas y vecinos. Esta primavera, defensores de la vivienda y voluntarios de la campaña "Keep Massachusetts Home" (Mantengamos el Hogar en Massachusetts) recopilamos más de 33.000 firmas de votantes

en todo el estado; una cifra más que suficiente para lograr que la moderna iniciativa de estabilización de alquileres se incluya en la boleta electoral estatal de noviembre. Al igual que en otoño — cuando los partidarios reunieron más de 124.000 firmas para iniciar el proceso de calificación de la iniciativa—, la campaña "Keep Massachusetts Home" fue la única de este ciclo electoral que no contrató a una empresa profesional remunerada para recopilar las firmas necesarias para figurar en la boleta.

La iniciativa, titulada "Petición de iniciativa para proteger a los inquilinos limitando los aumentos de alquiler", habría limitado los incrementos anuales del alquiler en Massachusetts al costo de vida, estableciendo un tope máximo del 5 %. Para un apartamento con un costo de 2.000 dólares mensuales, esto supondría un aumento anual en la renta mensual no superior a los 100 dólares.

El límite a los aumentos de alquiler seguiría vigente cuando se mudaran nuevos inquilinos, lo que significa

que el precio del alquiler no podría incrementarse drásticamente entre un inquilino y otro. La iniciativa apoyaría a los pequeños propietarios —en lugar de a las grandes corporaciones— al eximir de la medida a los edificios de cuatro unidades o menos que estén ocupados por sus propios dueños. Asimismo, fomentaría la construcción de viviendas y el crecimiento económico al aplicar los límites de alquiler a las nuevas construcciones únicamente después de los primeros 10 años de vida del edificio.

La campaña "Keep Massachusetts Home", que busca aprobar el control de alquileres en Massachusetts, está integrada por miles de inquilinos, propietarios y vecinos, así como por decenas de grupos de base dedicados a la justicia habitacional, sindicatos y organizaciones comunitarias y religiosas de todo el estado. Para obtener más información, visite keepmasshome.com.

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you."

Walt Whitman



Critical Home Repair Program

Ayudando a los dueños de la propiedad con reparaciones del hogar sin costo



Obtenga más información en:
bit.ly/CriticalHomeRepair
o llame al 978-681-8858 x 4
o escanee el código QR





Desde puertas nuevas y reemplazo de ventanas hasta la reparación de techos con goteras y más, para propietarios que cumplan con los requisitos de ingresos.





DIVERSE UNDERSTANDING
EDUCANDO • COMPRENDIENDO • TRANSFORMANDO COMUNIDADES



COMPRENDIENDO A NUESTROS JÓVENES: MÁS ALLÁ DE LA CONDUCTA DESAFIANTE

PADRES, CUIDADORES, EDUCADORES Y COMUNIDAD: ESTE TALLER ES PARA USTED.

TALLER COMUNITARIO PARA PADRES, CUIDADORES, EDUCADORES Y MIEMBROS DE LA COMUNIDAD

Muchos jóvenes enfrentan hoy desafíos emocionales, familiares, sociales y académicos que pueden manifestarse a través de conductas desafiantes, oposicionales, agresivas o de riesgo.

Lo que a menudo vemos como "mal comportamiento" puede ser la expresión de necesidades no atendidas y experiencias que merecen ser comprendidas.

¿POR QUÉ PARTICIPAR?
Porque comprender es el primer paso para ayudar. Cuando entendemos lo que hay detrás de la conducta, podemos responder con herramientas, apoyo y esperanza en lugar de frustración y castigo.

TEMAS QUE ESTAREMOS EXPLORANDO:

- Trastorno de Conducta
- Impacto del trauma en el comportamiento juvenil
- Ansiedad, depresión y regulación emocional
- Influencia de las redes sociales y la presión de grupo
- Estrategias efectivas para padres y cuidadores
- Recursos comunitarios disponibles para las familias

SOLOS NO PODEMOS HACERLO. JUNTOS PODEMOS MARCAR LA DIFERENCIA.

AÚN NO SE HA DETERMINADO LA FECHA
Esperaremos al interés y suscripciones de la comunidad para programar este importante evento.
¡Regístrese hoy!
Regístrese para recibir información sobre la fecha, ubicación y más detalles del evento.

SCAN ME!



KeepMassHome Campaign Statement on SJC Decision Barring Rent Control Initiative From November Ballot



The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court today issued a decision barring the proposed rent control cut ballot initiative from appearing on the November ballot. Proponents from the Keep Massachusetts Home campaign responded:

“This decision is a massive disappointment after all the work that thousands of volunteers and advocates in every corner of the state put into qualifying our rent control initiative for the ballot, but it’s far from the end of our campaign to protect Massachusetts renters from excessive rent hikes,” said Noemi “Mimi” Ramos, Executive Director of New England Community Project and Chair of the Keep Massachusetts Home campaign. “Rather than accept any restrictions on their ability to extract profits from our communities, a few private equity-backed real estate investment corporations financed this lawsuit in a desperate attempt to avoid a ballot campaign they were set to lose.

While we disagree with the court’s interpretation, the issue raised by the court is easily fixable, and doesn’t affect the substance of our proposal.”

“Corporate real estate investors who value profit over people just bought themselves more time to raise rents without limits, but we’re only more motivated to take them on,” said Rose Webster-Smith, Director of Springfield No One Leaves. “We’ve proved that lifting the ban on rent control in Massachusetts is not only possible but imperative, and the residents of Massachusetts want it.”

“This decision doesn’t change the fact that high rents are displacing workers and seniors from communities across Massachusetts, forcing people to work multiple jobs just to pay the rent, and making it impossible for young families to save money to achieve the dream of owning a home. And as the state’s housing crisis continues to worsen in the absence of strong tenant protections from greedy corporate investors, we’ll continue advocating for a rent control policy that ensures stable homes and strong communities across Massachusetts,” said Carolyn Chou, Executive Director of Homes for All Massachusetts, the statewide formation of grassroots housing justice groups that leads the Keep Massachusetts Home campaign. “Through this campaign, it’s become clear that many members of the local

real estate industry understand the need for common-sense rent regulation, and we’re committed to continuing conversations with all interested parties aimed at delivering the relief tenants so desperately need.”

Background

The campaign for rent control in Massachusetts is backed by a massive statewide movement of renters, homeowners, and neighbors. This spring, housing advocates and volunteers with the Keep Massachusetts Home campaign collected more than 33,000 signatures from voters across the state, more than enough to qualify the modern rent stabilization ballot initiative for the November statewide ballot. As in the fall, when supporters collected more than 124,000 signatures from voters to begin qualifying the initiative for the ballot, the Keep Massachusetts Home campaign was the only ballot campaign this cycle that did not hire a paid professional signature gathering firm to collect the signatures needed to qualify for the ballot.

The ballot initiative, An Initiative

Petition to Protect Tenants by Limiting Rent Increases, would have limited annual rent increases in Massachusetts to the cost of living, with a cap at 5%. For an apartment that costs \$2,000 per month, that means an annual increase in monthly rent of no more than \$100/month.

The limit on rent increases would continue to apply when new renters move in, meaning rent could not be drastically increased between tenants. The ballot initiative would support small landlords, not big corporations, by exempting owner-occupied buildings with four or fewer units. And it would encourage housing production and economic growth by applying rent limits to new construction only after a building’s first 10 years.

The Keep Massachusetts Home campaign to pass rent control in Massachusetts is made up of thousands of renters, homeowners, and neighbors, along with dozens of grassroots housing justice groups, labor unions, and community and faith-based organizations throughout the state. For more information, visit keepmasshome.com

Emphasizing Mental Health During Men's Health Month

The month of June is dedicated to many things, one of which being men’s health. In order to be truly healthy, people need to work on their physical health as well as their mental health. However, mental health often does not receive as much attention as it deserves. Men’s mental health gets even less attention.

In youth suicide (ages 10-24), males are nearly three times more likely to die by suicide than their female peers. That doesn’t go away with age either. Our communities are affected by mental health not getting the attention it needs. Simply having more conversations at home, with friends, at work, or at extracurriculars can make a positive impact. By having these conversations, we create a space where someone can feel safe to speak up when they’re struggling.

Check in on those around you. Many times, people face mental health issues in silence, which can cause them to feel isolated and alone. Give them the opportunity to share what they’re dealing with and be willing to listen. Talking about what someone’s experiencing and listening to them is the easiest way to help them realize they’re not alone. Making these conversations more common and having them in

routine environments helps normalize addressing mental health and supporting those who experience mental health struggles whether they choose to talk about them or not.

You can never truly know what is going on inside someone else’s head. While sometimes there are visible effects of someone struggling with their mental health, others you would never be able to tell are facing a battle we can’t see. Having conversations, being willing to listen, and offering support are things that everyone is capable of doing to improve the way our communities address mental health.

For more information about resources, suicide prevention, ordering materials, accessing training videos, or finding the closest Jason Foundation Affiliate Office near you, visit www.jasonfoundation.com. The Jason Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of youth and young adult suicide through awareness and education. Be willing to have hard conversations. Stay informed so that when those hard conversations happen, you are prepared to help in any way possible.

Mallory Wire
Division Director
The Jason Foundation, Inc.

Priorizar la salud mental durante el Mes de la Salud Masculina

El mes de junio está dedicado a muchas causas, entre ellas la salud masculina. Para gozar de una salud plena, es necesario cuidar tanto el bienestar físico como el mental. Sin embargo, la salud mental a menudo no recibe la atención que merece, y la salud mental de los hombres recibe aún menos atención.

En cuanto al suicidio juvenil (entre los 10 y 24 años), los varones tienen casi tres veces más probabilidades de morir por suicidio que sus pares mujeres. Esta tendencia persiste con la edad. Nuestras comunidades se ven afectadas cuando la salud mental no recibe la atención necesaria. El simple hecho de conversar más en casa, con amigos, en el trabajo o en actividades extracurriculares puede generar un impacto positivo. Al entablar estas conversaciones, creamos un espacio seguro donde las personas pueden expresarse cuando atraviesan dificultades.

Interésate por quienes te rodean. A menudo, las personas enfrentan problemas de salud mental en silencio, lo que puede hacer que se sientan aisladas y solas. Bríndales la oportunidad de compartir lo que están viviendo y muéstrate dispuesto a escuchar. Hablar sobre las experiencias de una persona y escucharla es la forma más sencilla de ayudarla a comprender que no está sola. Normalizar estas conversaciones en entornos cotidianos

ayuda a que hablar de salud mental y apoyar a quienes enfrentan dificultades—independientemente de si deciden hablar de ello o no— sea algo habitual.

Nunca podemos saber realmente qué sucede en la mente de otra persona. Si bien a veces existen señales visibles de que alguien lucha con su salud mental, en otros casos es imposible percibir que la persona está librando una batalla invisible. Conversar, estar dispuesto a escuchar y ofrecer apoyo son acciones que todos podemos realizar para mejorar la forma en que nuestras comunidades abordan la salud mental.

Para obtener más información sobre recursos, prevención del suicidio, solicitud de materiales, acceso a videos de capacitación o para localizar la oficina afiliada de The Jason Foundation más cercana, visite www.jasonfoundation.com. The Jason Foundation es una organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a la prevención del suicidio en jóvenes y adultos jóvenes mediante la concienciación y la educación. Atrévete a mantener conversaciones difíciles. Mantente informado para que, cuando surjan esas conversaciones complicadas, estés preparado para ayudar de cualquier manera posible.

Mallory Wire
Directora de División
The Jason Foundation, Inc.

BrightBridge Credit Union Awards \$26,500 in Scholarships to 18 Local Students

BrightBridge Credit Union (BrightBridge) awarded \$26,500 in scholarships to 18 exceptional students during its annual scholarship awards ceremony, recognizing their academic achievements, leadership and dedication to their communities.

BrightBridge's scholarship program supports students across its field of membership as they pursue higher education. This year, the credit union received more than 700 applications from students representing 350 high schools, making it one of the most competitive applicant pools in the program's history.

Applications were carefully reviewed by BrightBridge's Scholarship Committee, which evaluated each student's academic performance, extracurricular involvement and a personal essay reflecting on an event, experience or individual who shaped who they are today. Through their submissions, students demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting their peers and making a positive impact in their communities.

"Our Scholarship Committee was so inspired by the dedication these students have shown to their education and their communities," said Olivia Pink, scholarship coordinator and marketing specialist at BrightBridge. "This was one of the most exceptional and competitive groups of applicants

we have ever reviewed, making the selection process especially challenging. Every student who applied for our scholarship should be incredibly proud of what they have accomplished throughout their high school journey. Their achievements and commitment to making a difference are remarkable, and each of them has a bright future ahead!"

Two of the scholarships presented each year pay tribute to individuals who made lasting contributions to the BrightBridge communities. The Lisa Lewis Goodman Community Spirit Award, in the amount of \$2,500, recognizes a student who is committed to helping others through volunteerism. The award honors the legacy of a longtime BrightBridge collections manager whose dedication to serving others left a meaningful impact before her passing in 2021.

The James A. Burley, Jr. Scholarship, originally established in 2007 by RTN Federal Credit Union, commemorates the legacy of a devoted board leader who served the organization for 39 years, including 33 years as board chair. This scholarship is awarded annually to three graduating seniors who exemplify strong academic performance and leadership potential, with awards of \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000.



BrightBridge's annual scholarship awards night was held at the credit union's corporate office in Lawrence, Mass., where scholarship recipients were joined by family members and BrightBridge leadership to celebrate their achievements.

BrightBridge Credit Union otorga \$26,500 en becas a 18 estudiantes locales

BrightBridge Credit Union (BrightBridge) otorgó 26.500 dólares en becas a 18 estudiantes excepcionales durante su ceremonia anual de entrega de becas, reconociendo sus logros académicos, su liderazgo y su dedicación a sus comunidades.

El programa de becas de BrightBridge apoya a los estudiantes de su área de membresía en sus estudios de educación superior. Este año, la cooperativa de crédito recibió más de 700 solicitudes de estudiantes provenientes de 350 escuelas secundarias, lo que resultó en uno de los grupos de candidatos más competitivos en la historia del programa.

Las solicitudes fueron revisadas minuciosamente por el Comité de Becas de BrightBridge, el cual evaluó el rendimiento académico de cada estudiante, su participación en actividades extracurriculares y un ensayo personal en el que reflexionaban sobre algún evento, experiencia o persona que hubiera influido en quiénes son hoy. A través de sus presentaciones, los estudiantes demostraron un firme compromiso de apoyar a sus compañeros y generar un impacto positivo en sus comunidades.

"Nuestro Comité de Becas se sintió profundamente inspirado por la dedicación que estos estudiantes han demostrado hacia su educación y sus comunidades", afirmó Olivia Pink, coordinadora de becas y especialista en marketing de BrightBridge. "Este fue uno de los grupos de candidatos más excepcionales y competitivos

que hemos evaluado, lo que hizo que el proceso de selección fuera especialmente desafiante. Todos los estudiantes que solicitaron nuestra beca deberían sentirse increíblemente orgullosos de lo que han logrado a lo largo de su etapa en la escuela secundaria. Sus logros y su compromiso por marcar la diferencia son notables, ¡y cada uno de ellos tiene un futuro brillante por delante!"

Dos de las becas que se entregan cada año rinden homenaje a personas que realizaron contribuciones duraderas a las comunidades de BrightBridge. El premio "Lisa Lewis Goodman Community Spirit Award" (Premio al Espíritu Comunitario Lisa Lewis Goodman), dotado con 2.500 dólares, reconoce a un estudiante comprometido a ayudar a los demás mediante el voluntariado. El galardón honra el legado de una veterana gerente de cobranzas de BrightBridge, cuya dedicación al servicio de los demás dejó una huella significativa antes de su fallecimiento en 2021.

La beca "James A. Burley, Jr.", establecida originalmente en 2007 por RTN Federal Credit Union, conmemora el legado de un dedicado líder de la junta directiva que sirvió a la organización durante 39 años, incluidos 33 años como presidente de la junta. Esta beca se otorga anualmente a tres estudiantes de último año que destacan por su excelente rendimiento académico y su potencial de liderazgo, con premios de \$5,000, \$3,000 y \$2,000.

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Northern Essex places all-time New England best 12th in final Ron Case Cup presented by Daktronics standings

For the fourth straight year the Northern Essex Community College athletic program has climbed higher in the final standings of the NATYCAA Ron Case Cup presented by Daktronics finishing 12th overall in the non-scholarship division.

Since 2004, the Ron Case Cup has recognized excellence in two-year college athletics based on championship competition.

The Knights 12th place finish marks the highest finish ever by a community or junior college in New England in the 23 years the cup has been awarded.

"The 2025-26 athletic seasons for the Knights were truly rewarding and showed the tireless efforts of our student-athletes and coaches along with the continued success and growth of the entire athletic program. I'd like

to thank the college's administration for their continued support of the program, said NECC Athletic Director Dan Blair

In each of the previous three years NECC has finished higher than the year before, finishing 18th in 2025, 23rd in 2024 and 30th in 2023.

In the 2025-26 academic year, the Knights scored a program best 54 points highlighted by the men's basketball team capturing the school's first ever national championship in March. NECC also picked up cup points in baseball (4th place), men's soccer (5th place) and women's track and field (19th place).

RCSJ-Gloucester won the trophy for the third consecutive year which was awarded at the annual NACDA Convention at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas.

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BrightBridge Credit Union Golf Tournament Raises More Than \$71,000 for BrightBridge Foundation

BrightBridge Credit Union (BrightBridge) hosted its acclaimed Charity Golf Classic, presented by Synergent, on Monday, June 8, at Atkinson Resort & Country Club. The annual event brought together business partners, community members and BrightBridge teammates for a full day of golf and giving back.

The tournament proudly raised more than \$71,000 in support of the BrightBridge Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that plays a vital role in strengthening the communities the credit union serves. Through its support of financial education and community organizations, the Foundation helps expand access to resources that empower individuals and families to build stronger financial futures. Its impact can be seen through ongoing support of organizations such as the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless' Build A Bed program and the Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen in Waltham, as well as newer initiatives like the Officer Paul Tracey Memorial Scholarship, which honors Officer Tracey's legacy through education and opportunity.

"We are so grateful to everyone who joined us to make this incredible day so special," said John J. Howard, President & CEO of BrightBridge Credit Union. "Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Synergent, for being such a great partner to work—and golf—with, and to all of our sponsors for supporting the Foundation's

important work in our communities. Events like this bring people together for a great day on the course while making a meaningful impact. We're already looking forward to next year!"

With perfect conditions on the course and a strong sense of community spirit, participants enjoyed a memorable day with engaging competition, interactive contests, awards and raffle prizes. Fan favorite activities such as the air cannon and dart board returned, alongside the second year of Speed Golf and the debut of a new highlight: the Money Machine presented by Montagne Powers. Golfers were also treated to a variety of delicious food and beverages, with several holes offering unique snacks and refreshments to keep energy high throughout the day.

Behind the scenes, the event's success was made possible by the many BrightBridge team members who volunteered their time to create a seamless and enjoyable experience for all.

BrightBridge extends its sincere thanks to all sponsors—including Platinum sponsor TruStage and Palladium sponsors GEEAR and Service Credit Union—for their continued generosity. Their contributions made the event possible and will help drive lasting positive impact across the region.

For more information about the BrightBridge Foundation, visit www.brightbridge.com/foundation.



Team members from Synergent, the presenting sponsor of the 2026 Charity Golf Classic, joined BrightBridge President & CEO John J. Howard for a photo on the course. From left: Sue Hirschfeld, Mitch Ryan, Tyler Hudson, John Howard, Tim Gilman and Jen Barry.



Several BrightBridge team members volunteered to support the tournament, from morning registration to on-course contests and the evening awards ceremony. The tournament is always elevated by their enthusiasm and camaraderie with the golfers.

Lowell Community Charter Public School Celebrated Juneteenth, Lowell's 200th Birthday with "Reading Frederick Douglass Together" Community Event

In recognition of Juneteenth, students, parents, staff, and members of the greater Lowell community read Frederick Douglass' speech, "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?" This second annual public event was held in The Luna Theater at Lowell Community Charter Public School (LCCPS) on June 11th.

The project scholar, Dr. Robert Forrant, Professor of History Emeritus at UMass Lowell, said, "This was a great event to honor Lowell's 200th birthday year. Frederick Douglass spoke in Lowell on at least three occasions that we know of, and despite the city's economy relying on enslaved labor for its cotton, there was a well-organized antislavery movement in the city from the 1830s through the end of the Civil War. His 'What to the Slave...' address is one of the most important speeches in U.S. history. A public reading of it among the remains of the city's old cotton mills was a significant historical event!"

Student readers were Wenezar 4th, Natania 4th, Declan 5th, Esther 6th, Zarah 6th, Jonathan 8th grade class president, and Franklin Van 8th. Our adult readers were Dr. Robert Forrant, Nicholas Leonardos, Ernest



LCCPS' students, grades 4-8, took turns introducing the audience to Frederick Douglass by sharing facts about his remarkable life, each beginning with the words, "This is who Frederick Douglas is..."

Nwachan, George Procope, Tenesha Scarlett, Kim Shanahan, Lura Smith, and Jackie Wangatusi.

Following the reading, Dr. Forrant led a lively, interactive discussion with the audience about Douglass' most famous speech. After the event, readers

and attendees had the opportunity to meet and continue their discussion of Douglass' and the evening's program while they enjoyed the delicious food provided by Infuse Afro Fusion of Lowell.

The event was open to the public,

and tickets were free. LCCPS is proud to sponsor this annual celebration of Frederick Douglass' famous speech, especially poignant on Lowell's 200th birthday, and we look forward to hosting many more public events in The Luna Theater.

El representante estatal Frank A. Moran nomina a maestras de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, para premios "Latino Educators Shine Awards" de 2026

El representante estatal Frank A. Moran nominó a las educadoras de Lawrence Itzel López-Pantoja y Jazmin Núñez para ser reconocidas en los premios "Latino Educators Shine Awards" de 2026.

"Estas dos educadoras son ejemplos increíbles de la dedicación, la pasión y el liderazgo que ayudan a los estudiantes a triunfar tanto dentro como fuera del aula", dijo el representante estatal Moran (demócrata por Lawrence). "Gracias a la organización Latinos for Education por organizar la ceremonia anual de premios, así como a Itzel y Jazmin por ayudar a inspirar a la próxima generación de estudiantes".

Latinos for Education es una organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a garantizar que los educadores, estudiantes y familias latinos cuenten con las herramientas y oportunidades necesarias para prosperar. La organización impulsa esta misión mediante programas que fortalecen la diversidad docente, desarrollan líderes educativos y abogan por políticas que promuevan la equidad educativa.

Tanto López-Pantoja como Núñez trabajan como maestras en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, un distrito donde

más del 90 % de la población es latina y donde el inglés no es el primer idioma de más del 70 % de los estudiantes. Sus alumnos, muchos de los cuales enfrentan grandes necesidades económicas, a menudo requieren estrategias de apoyo diferentes a las de sus compañeros de entornos más acomodados.

Los premios "Latino Educators Shine Awards" fueron creados para destacar a los maestros que responden a estos desafíos con empatía, ayudando a los estudiantes a desarrollar confianza en sí mismos tanto dentro como fuera del aula. La ceremonia anual, celebrada en Boston, reconoció a más de 50 educadores latinos de todo el estado que encarnan la cultura, el liderazgo y la entrega humana.

"La ciudad de Lawrence se enorgullece de ser un centro cultural para los latinos en Massachusetts", afirmó el representante estatal Moran. "Educadoras como Itzel y Jazmin desempeñan un papel fundamental al ayudar a los estudiantes a superar desafíos, ganar confianza y visualizar nuevas posibilidades para su futuro. Su compromiso de servir a nuestros estudiantes refleja lo mejor de Lawrence y de su comunidad".



El representante estatal Frank A. Moran nominó a la educadora de Lawrence Jazmin Núñez para ser reconocida en los premios "Latino Educators Shine Awards" de 2026.

State Representative Frank A. Moran Nominates Lawrence Public Schools' teachers for 2026 Latino Educators Shine Awards

State Representative Frank A. Moran nominated Lawrence educators Itzel Lopez-Pantoja and Jazmin Nuñez as honorees for the 2026 Latino Educators Shine Awards.

"These two educators are incredible examples of the dedication, passion, and leadership that help students succeed both inside and outside the classroom," said State Representative Moran (D-Lawrence). "Thank you to Latinos for Education for hosting the annual awards ceremony, as well as to Itzel and Jazmin for helping to inspire the next generation of students."

Latinos for Education is a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that Latino educators, students, and families have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed. The organization advances this mission through programs that strengthen educator diversity, develop education leaders, and advocate for policies that promote educational equity.

Lopez-Pantoja and Nuñez both work as teachers in Lawrence Public

Schools, a district that is more than 90% Latino and where more than 70% of students' first language is not English. Their students, many of which have high economic need, often require different support strategies than some of their wealthier peers.

The Latino Educators Shine Awards were designed to highlight teachers who respond to these challenges with empathy, helping students build self-confidence in the classroom and beyond. The annual ceremony, which took place in Boston, highlighted more than 50 Latino educators from across the state who embody culture, leadership, and heart.

"The City of Lawrence is proud to be a cultural hub for Latinos in Massachusetts," said State Representative Moran. "Educators like Itzel and Jazmin play a vital role in helping students navigate challenges, build confidence, and see new possibilities for their future. Their commitment to serving our students reflects the very best of Lawrence and its community."

Acerca de Latinos for Education

Latinos for Education es una organización nacional sin fines de lucro dedicada a desarrollar y conectar el liderazgo latino en el sector educativo. Sus premios anuales Latino Educator Shine Awards destacan la representación, promueven el orgullo cultural e inspiran a la próxima generación de líderes latinos.

About Latinos for Education

Latinos for Education is a national nonprofit dedicated to developing and connecting Latino leadership in the education sector. Its annual Latino Educator Shine Awards highlight representation, promote cultural pride, and inspire the next generation of Latino leadership.

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Latinos for Education distingue a Andreina Croes, de LFDCS en su ceremonia anual de premios

Croes fue nominada por el representante estatal Frank Morán y el senador Pavel Payano



Dr. Darshan Thakkar, superintendente de Lawrence Family Development Charter School, recibió el premio en nombre de la educadora Andreina Croes, quien se encontraba asistiendo a la Conferencia Nacional de Escuelas Charter en Nueva Orleans.

Lawrence Family Development Charter School Superintendent Dr. Darshan Thakkar accepted the award on behalf of educator Andreina Croes, who was at the National Charter School Conference in New Orleans.

Latinos for Education celebró su quinta edición anual de los premios *Latino Educators Shine* (que destacan la labor de los educadores latinos) en el Centro de Conferencias MCLE de Boston, el 23 de junio de 2026. Andreina Croes, directora académica de los grados 1 y 2 en la escuela Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS), fue reconocida por sus logros. Este año, más de 50 educadores latinos de todo el estado fueron homenajeados por legisladores estatales debido a la labor pionera que realizan diariamente en las aulas.

Croes recibió el reconocimiento del representante estatal Frank Moran y del senador Pavel Payano por su dedicación y compromiso como educadora, así como por el increíble impacto positivo que genera en los estudiantes, las familias y la comunidad en general. Fue una de los 15 educadores de escuelas públicas *charter* de todo el estado en recibir esta distinción.

La senadora Liz Miranda (Demócrata - 2º Distrito de Suffolk) y el representante Michael P. Kushmerek (Demócrata - 3er Distrito de Worcester) también fueron homenajeados en la ceremonia de este año por su labor legislativa para promover la diversidad y la retención de educadores. El evento contó con las intervenciones de Miranda, Kushmerek y la Dra. Regina Robinson, asistente especial del comisionado. También participaron líderes clave de Latinos for Education, entre ellos Amanda Fernández, directora ejecutiva y fundadora; Jacqueline Monterroso, directora de políticas y defensa de derechos; y Migdalia Díaz, directora de operaciones y directora ejecutiva interina en Massachusetts.

Andreina Croes se dedica a

crear espacios donde cada estudiante se sienta orgulloso de quién es y de sus orígenes. Su objetivo es que los alumnos comprendan que su herencia cultural es un activo valioso y que poseen la confianza y la capacidad para perseguir sus sueños.

Basándose en su herencia venezolana, Andreina aporta una perspectiva única a su liderazgo. Fomenta vínculos significativos con las familias al hablar su mismo idioma y compartir experiencias culturales similares. Comprende las alegrías y los desafíos de ser inmigrante y de formar parte de una familia inmigrante, y utiliza esa comprensión para defender a sus estudiantes y amplificar sus voces. En el núcleo del liderazgo de Andreina se encuentra el compromiso de crear una comunidad en LFDCS donde se celebre y valore la identidad de cada estudiante.

"Recibir este premio es sumamente significativo para mí, ya que representa los valores que me llevaron al ámbito educativo: el servicio, la perseverancia y la convicción de que cada estudiante tiene la capacidad de triunfar", afirmó Andreina Croes. "Como latina orgullosa y directora de LFDCS, me comprometo a ayudar a nuestros alumnos a alcanzar su máximo potencial y a fomentar un entorno de aprendizaje donde cada niño se sienta valorado, desafiado e inspirado a soñar en grande".

"Nos llena de orgullo celebrar a la Sra. Croes por este merecido reconocimiento", declaró el Dr. Darshan Thakkar, superintendente de LFDCS. "Su pasión por la educación, su compromiso con la excelencia académica y su dedicación a empoderar a cada estudiante han dejado una huella duradera en nuestra comunidad escolar".

Acerca de Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS)

Lawrence Family Development Charter School, con sede en Lawrence, Massachusetts, es una institución pública *charter* (escuela autónoma) centrada en ofrecer una educación de alta calidad y oportunidades equitativas a estudiantes desde el nivel K-1 hasta el octavo grado. Fundada en 1995, LFDCS

es una escuela que valora la lengua de herencia cultural y opera bajo el principio de que una sólida participación familiar y las alianzas escolares son fundamentales para el éxito de los estudiantes. Este entorno colaborativo garantiza que cada niño desarrolle las habilidades académicas básicas y los hábitos intelectuales necesarios para el crecimiento continuo, una ciudadanía activa y el éxito personal.

Latinos for Education Honors Andreina Croes of LFDCS at Annual Awards Ceremony

Croes was nominated by State Rep Frank Moran and Senator Pavel Payano

Latinos for Education hosted its fifth annual Latino Educators Shine Awards at the MCLE Conference Center, Boston, on June 23, 2026. Andreina Croes, Head of School for Grades 1 and 2 at Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) was recognized for her achievements. This year, more than 50 Latino educators from across the Commonwealth were honored by state legislators for the trailblazing work they do in the classroom every day.

Croes was recognized by State Representative Frank Moran and Senator Pavel Payano for her dedication and commitment as an educator, as well as for the incredible positive impact she has on students, families, and the broader community. She was one of 15 charter public school educators from across the state to be recognized.

Senator Liz Miranda (Democrat - 2nd Suffolk) and Representative Michael P. Kushmerek (Democrat - 3rd Worcester) were also honored at this year's awards ceremony for their legislative work in advancing educator diversity and retention. The ceremony featured remarks from Miranda, Kushmerek; and Dr. Regina Robinson, Special Assistant to the Commissioner. Also speaking were key leaders from Latinos for Education, including Amanda Fernandez, CEO and Founder; Jacqueline Monterroso, Director of Policy and Advocacy; and Migdalia Diaz, COO and Massachusetts Interim Executive Director.

Andreina Croes is dedicated to creating spaces where every student feels proud of who they are and where they've come from. Her goal for students is to understand that their heritage is an asset, and that they possess the confidence and ability to pursue their dreams.

Drawing from her Venezuelan heritage, Andreina brings a unique perspective to her leadership. She fosters meaningful connections with families by speaking the same language

as them and by sharing similar cultural experiences. She understands the joys and challenges of being an immigrant and part of an immigrant family, and uses that understanding to advocate for her students and amplify their voices. At the heart of Andreina's leadership is a commitment to creating a community at LFDCS where every student's identity is celebrated and loved.

"Receiving this award is incredibly meaningful to me because it represents the values that brought me to education—service, perseverance and a belief in every student's ability to succeed," said Andreina Croes. "As a proud Latina and a Head of School at LFDCS, I am committed to helping our students grow to their full potential and fostering a learning environment where every child feels valued, challenged and inspired to dream big."

"We are very proud to celebrate Ms. Croes for this well-deserved recognition," said Superintendent of LFDCS Dr. Darshan Thakkar. "Her passion for education, commitment to academic excellence, and dedication to empowering every student have made a lasting impact on our school community."

About Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LDCS)

Lawrence Family Development Charter School, based in Lawrence, MA, is a Commonwealth public charter institution focused on providing high-quality education and fair opportunities for students from K-1 through Grade 8. Established in 1995, LFDCS is a heritage language school that operates on the principle that robust family involvement and school partnerships are essential for student success. This collaborative environment ensures every child develops the fundamental academic skills and intellectual habits necessary for lifelong growth, active citizenship, and personal success.

Summer Eats Returns to Feed Kids and Teens Across Massachusetts This Summer

Join Project Bread in Summer Eats Awareness Week: July 6-10

BOSTON – Summer Eats, the Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program, is kicking off across the Commonwealth this summer, providing free meals to all kids and teens ages 18 and under. In 2025, nearly 3 million meals were served at more than 1,500 sites statewide. During Summer Eats Awareness Week, July 6-10, Project Bread is encouraging community members to help spread the word about the program, with free promotional materials available online.

Throughout the school year, children in Massachusetts rely on free school meals to meet most of their daily nutrition needs. Summer Eats closes the gap when the school year ends, helping to ensure children and teens continue to grow, learn and thrive during school vacation. On an average day in July 2025, more than 73,000 kids ate at least one Summer Eats meal.

Participating meal providers operate and staff meal sites, often in conjunction with activities and educational programming at schools, libraries, local park and recreation areas, and more. Kids and teens are required to eat onsite at most Summer Eats sites. Grab & Go meals are available in select rural communities. All are welcome. No registration or ID is required.

Families may also be eligible for SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), a separate federal food benefit that provides \$120 per eligible school-age child to spend on groceries during the summer.

For more than 20 years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and statewide food security nonprofit Project Bread have partnered to support communities in offering Summer Eats meals to children in Massachusetts. Throughout the school year, the nonprofit and DESE also partner to expand access to and



participation in school meal programs. This year, Project Bread has granted more than \$240,000 to Summer Eats sponsors statewide for equipment, staffing, and outreach and promotion efforts.

“Summer is a time for kids to play, explore, and recharge. But for many families across Massachusetts, it also means worrying about how to put food on the table,” says Erin McAleer, President and CEO of Project Bread. “Summer Eats exists so that every child has a meal - whether it be at a local park, a library, or school, the program is there for all kids and teens: no cost, no registration, no one left behind.”

For more information about Summer Eats, including meal site locations, visit projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-8333 for help in any language. A personal contribution to support Summer Eats can be made at www.projectbread.org/donate.

About Project Bread

Project Bread is the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts. Beginning in 1969 with the first Walk for Hunger, the nonprofit focuses on driving systemic change to ensure people of all ages have reliable access to healthy food. Project Bread works collaboratively across sectors to create innovative solutions to end hunger and improve lives across the Commonwealth. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

El programa Summer Eats regresa este verano para alimentar a niños y adolescentes en todo Massachusetts

Únase a Project Bread durante la Semana de Concienciación sobre Summer Eats: del 6 al 10 de julio

BOSTON – Summer Eats, el Programa de Servicio de Alimentos de Verano de Massachusetts, comienza sus actividades en todo el estado este verano, ofreciendo comidas gratuitas a todos los niños y adolescentes de 18 años o menos. En 2025, se sirvieron casi 3 millones de comidas en más de 1,500 puntos de distribución en todo el estado. Durante la Semana de Concienciación sobre Summer Eats (del 6 al 10 de julio), Project Bread invita a los miembros de la comunidad a ayudar a difundir información sobre el programa; para ello, hay materiales promocionales gratuitos disponibles en línea.

Durante el año escolar, los niños de Massachusetts dependen de las comidas escolares gratuitas para cubrir la mayor parte de sus necesidades nutricionales diarias. Summer Eats cierra la brecha cuando termina el año escolar, ayudando a garantizar que los niños y adolescentes sigan creciendo, aprendiendo y prosperando durante las vacaciones escolares. En un día promedio de julio de 2025, más de 73,000 niños consumieron al menos una comida de Summer Eats.

Las organizaciones proveedoras participantes gestionan y atienden los puntos de distribución de alimentos, a menudo en conjunto con actividades y programas educativos en escuelas, bibliotecas, parques locales, áreas recreativas y otros lugares. En la mayoría de los puntos de Summer Eats, es necesario consumir los alimentos en el mismo lugar. En algunas comunidades rurales seleccionadas, se ofrecen comidas para llevar (Grab & Go). Todos son bienvenidos; no se requiere inscripción ni identificación.

Las familias también podrían ser elegibles para SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), un beneficio federal de alimentación independiente que otorga 120 dólares por cada niño en edad escolar elegible para gastar en alimentos durante el verano.

Desde hace más de 20 años, el Departamento de Educación Primaria y Secundaria de Massachusetts (DESE) y Project Bread —una organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a la seguridad alimentaria en todo el estado— colaboran para

ayudar a las comunidades a ofrecer comidas de Summer Eats a los niños de Massachusetts. Durante el año escolar, esta organización y el DESE también colaboran para ampliar el acceso y la participación en los programas de comidas escolares. Este año, Project Bread ha otorgado más de 240,000 dólares a los patrocinadores de Summer Eats en todo el estado para cubrir gastos de equipamiento, personal y esfuerzos de difusión y promoción.

“El verano es una época para que los niños jueguen, exploren y recarguen energías. Pero para muchas familias de Massachusetts, también significa preocuparse por cómo poner comida en la mesa”, afirma Erin McAleer, presidenta y directora ejecutiva de Project Bread.

“Summer Eats existe para garantizar que todos los niños tengan una comida; ya sea en un parque local, una biblioteca o una escuela, el programa está disponible para todos los niños y adolescentes: sin costo, sin necesidad de inscripción y sin dejar a nadie atrás”

Para obtener más información sobre Summer Eats, incluidas las ubicaciones de los puntos de distribución de alimentos, visite projectbread.org/summer-eats, envíe un mensaje de texto con la palabra FOOD o COMIDA al 304-304, o llame al 1-800-645-8333 para recibir ayuda en cualquier idioma. Puede realizar una contribución personal para apoyar a Summer Eats en www.projectbread.org/donate.

Acerca de Project Bread

Project Bread es la organización líder en seguridad alimentaria a nivel estatal en Massachusetts. Desde sus inicios en 1969 con la primera Caminata contra el Hambre (Walk for Hunger), esta organización sin fines de lucro se centra en impulsar cambios sistémicos para garantizar que personas de todas las edades tengan acceso constante a alimentos saludables. Project Bread colabora con diversos sectores para crear soluciones innovadoras destinadas a acabar con el hambre y mejorar la calidad de vida en todo el estado. Para más información, visite: www.projectbread.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.

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<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

Bread and Roses: Revelación del Logo de este año

Una vez más, el Festival ha colaborado con jóvenes de Movement City y Lawrence CommunityWorks para diseñar el logotipo de este año. Estén atentos a los anuncios sobre cómo pueden comprar la mercancía de este año.

La diseñadora del logotipo de este año, Franny, tiene esto que decir sobre su diseño:

¡Hola! Soy Franny, y soy estudiante de primer año de secundaria. He sido estudiante en Movement City durante tres años. He participado en todos los talleres que ofrece Movement City. He bailado, rapeado y creado arte digital y tradicional. Estos últimos tres años en el programa han

sido los mejores de mi vida, Movement City ha visto crecer mi confianza.

La inspiración para este logo provino de mi conexión con el edificio de Movement City, específicamente, la forma en que están dispuestos los ladrillos. La palabra "comunidad" también me recordó a mi propia comunidad en Movement City. Elegí diseñar manos porque siento que es la forma más sencilla de representar a la comunidad de Lawrence. "Construido por Trabajo Impulsado por la Comunidad" es un título que representa que solo las personas cercanas a ti son las que te apoyan a ti y a tus creaciones.



Bread and Roses Unveiling this year’s Logo

Once again, the Festival has partnered with youth at Movement City and Lawrence CommunityWorks to design this year’s logo. Stay tuned for announcements about how you can purchase this year’s merch.

This year’s logo designer, Franny, has this to say about her design:

Hi! I’m Franny, and I am a freshman in high school. I have been a student at Movement City for three years. I have participated in every workshop Movement City offers. I’ve danced, rapped, and created both digital and traditional art. These last three years in the program have

been the best of my life, Movement City has watched my confidence grow.

The inspiration for this logo came from my connection to the Movement City building itself specifically, the way the bricks are arranged. The word "community" also reminded me of my own community at Movement City. I chose to depict hands because I feel it is the simplest way to represent the community of Lawrence. "Built by Labor Powered by Community" is a title that represents that only the people that you're close with are the people that support you and your creations.



As we gear up for Fiesta en la calle on Saturday, July 11, from 12:00 to 5:00, I wanted to take a moment to shout a massive "THANK YOU!!!" to each and every one of you!

There's so much hard work and passion poured into the event, and every time we do Fiesta, I find myself truly inspired.

Our amazing staff, board of directors, and volunteers are the magic behind this event!

To all the artists who are participating in the Salon Show—thank you for sharing your work with us!

To all of the performers who will grace us with their talents—we're so excited to hear you!

To our incredible sponsors—your generosity helps keep Fiesta free and accessible for everyone, and we couldn't do it without you!

Please check out the full list of contributors below, and if there's a business you know or are interested in, I encourage you to check them out and show them some love.

I can't wait to celebrate all of our efforts and the creativity of our community together.

Monica + the Essex Art Center team

Atención Correcta, Lugar Correcto.

SALA DE EMERGENCIAS

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

Right Care, Right Place.

URGENT CARE

- Sprains
- Minor animal bites or stings
- Minor cuts or burns
- Dehydration

- Pink eye
- Rashes or other skin issues
- Primary care concerns (if unable to see primary care provider)

Merrimack Health Lawrence Hospital EMS and Cataldo Ambulance Service Announce Strategic Partnership

Agreement Strengthens Emergency Medical Services for Local Communities

Merrimack Health announced today a strategic partnership with Cataldo Ambulance Service to strengthen emergency medical operations for local communities, while also supporting intercampus transportation needs between Lawrence, Methuen and Haverhill Hospitals. The agreement takes effect July 1, 2026.

Cataldo Ambulance Service is a highly regarded provider of emergency medical services with a history of working alongside Merrimack Health Lawrence Hospital and the broader Merrimack Health system. This partnership brings together two dedicated EMS providers with shared commitments to the health and safety of their communities, strengthening access to prehospital care and ensuring patients receive timely, high-quality services.

"As the needs of our communities

continue to grow, we are committed to evolving to meet those needs and ensuring residents have access to high-quality, responsive emergency care," said Diana Richardson, president and CEO, Merrimack Health. "By partnering with Cataldo, we are strengthening our region's EMS response, supporting our dedicated workforce, and building on the advanced clinical capabilities that our patients rely on every day."

"Cataldo is honored to partner with Merrimack Health and Lawrence Hospital to support our communities," said Dennis Cataldo, president and CEO, Cataldo Ambulance Service. "We have a long history of working alongside the hospital and local public safety partners, and we look forward to building on those relationships. Together, we will continue delivering exceptional emergency



medical services while supporting the dedicated EMS professionals who proudly serve these communities."

Under the agreement, Cataldo Ambulance Service will assume responsibility for Basic Life Support (BLS) operations in Lawrence, including 911 dispatch for the City of Lawrence as well as CMED dispatch coordination for Massachusetts Region III. Dispatch operations will remain at Lawrence Hospital, maintaining close coordination with local public safety and health care partners. Nearly all Lawrence Hospital EMS employees will continue with the service, now as Cataldo Ambulance employees, preserving the continuity, experience and expertise of the workforce that has long served these communities.

Paramedic and Advanced Life Support (ALS) services will continue to be provided by Merrimack Health for the cities and towns of Lawrence, North Andover, Andover and Methuen. Lawrence Hospital paramedics will remain hospital employees and continue delivering advanced prehospital clinical care, including the hospital's whole blood transfusion program – a lifesaving capability that allows paramedics to administer whole blood to critically injured patients in the field before they arrive at the hospital. Lawrence Hospital was the second in the state to achieve this advanced level of trauma care. Cataldo will also provide an additional paramedic service unit for added service support.

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.

About Cataldo Ambulance Service

Founded in 1977 by Bob and Diana Cataldo as Somerville Ambulance Service, Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc. has grown from two ambulances to one of the largest private EMS providers in Massachusetts. Today, Cataldo operates a fleet of over 200 late-model, custom-designed vehicles from 25 base locations, employs more than 1,200 EMS professionals, and provides dedicated 911 emergency services to 18 communities across Greater Boston and the North Shore. The company is headquartered in Somerville, MA, and remains a family-owned and operated business under the leadership of President and CEO Dennis Cataldo.

Cataldo delivers exceptional prehospital care and continues to introduce innovative programs to meet the evolving needs of its patients and communities. Cataldo's services include Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), non-emergent medical transport, wheelchair van services, mobile integrated health through its SmartCare program, mass casualty incident support, and special event medical coverage. For more information, visit www.cataldoambulance.com.

Exjefe de policía de Massachusetts recibe \$1.2 millones tras un complot "malicioso" para destituirlo

Un jurado determinó que un administrador municipal utilizó maliciosamente a otro agente de Sherborn como "peón" para forzar la salida del veterano jefe

Sarah Roebuck, Departamento de Policía de Sherborn

Un exjefe de policía recibirá \$1.2 millones después de que un jurado determinara que un administrador municipal interfirió maliciosamente en su contrato laboral, lo que provocó su despido.

Richard Thompson, exjefe del Departamento de Policía de Sherborn, fue destituido en 2020 por la Junta de Selectos (Select Board) de Sherborn, según informa el MetroWest Daily News. La junta alegó acoso, abuso de poder y la creación de un clima de miedo dentro del departamento de policía. Su contrato estaba vigente hasta junio de 2022.

Posteriormente, Thompson presentó una demanda contra el

municipio, el exadministrador municipal David Williams y el teniente David Bento, quien asumió el cargo de jefe interino tras la suspensión de Thompson.

Tras un juicio de tres semanas, el jurado declaró a Williams responsable de interferir intencional y maliciosamente en la relación contractual de Thompson con el municipio. Los miembros del jurado eximieron de responsabilidad tanto al municipio como a Bento.

En una declaración facilitada a través de su abogado al MetroWest Daily News, Thompson afirmó que el veredicto suponía una reivindicación tras seis años de litigio.

Former Mass. police chief awarded \$1.2M after 'malicious' firing plot

A jury found a town administrator had maliciously used a fellow Sherborn officer as a "pawn" to force the veteran chief out

Sarah Roebuck
Sherborn Police Department/Facebook

A former police chief has been awarded \$1.2 million after a jury found a town administrator maliciously interfered with his employment contract, leading to the chief's termination.

Richard Thompson, the former Sherborn Police Department chief, was fired in 2020 by the Sherborn Select Board, MetroWest Daily News reports. The board alleged harassment, abuse of power and creating a climate of fear within the police department. His contract was scheduled to run through June 2022.

Thompson later filed a lawsuit against the town, former Town Administrator David Williams and Lt. David Bento, who became acting chief after Thompson was placed on leave.

After a three-week trial, a jury found Williams liable for intentionally and maliciously interfering with Thompson's contractual relationship with the town. Jurors cleared both the town and Bento of wrongdoing.

In a statement provided through his attorney to MetroWest Daily News, Thompson said the verdict brought vindication after six years of legal proceedings.



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Fisher College Awards \$3,000 Donation to Lawrence High School Esports Program Through Partnership with PlayVS

Fisher College Esports joined PlayVS in celebrating a \$3,000 donation to the Lawrence High School Esports Program, recognizing the school's commitment to student engagement, leadership development, and competitive gaming opportunities. The donation, provided by PlayVS, will support the continued growth of the student-led program by funding tournament fees, team jerseys, and equipment.

Established during the 2024-25 school year after a group of students advocated for the opportunity to create a competitive gaming team at their school, the Lawrence High School Esports Program has quickly become on the school's most impactful extracurricular programs. In its inaugural year, Lawrence High School's Esports teams qualified for the playoffs in both competitive seasons and earned third-place finishes, demonstrating the talent, dedication, and teamwork of its student competitors.

Beyond competitive success, the program has created a welcoming space for students who may not traditionally participate in athletics or other extracurricular activities, helping them develop confidence, leadership skills, and a stronger connection to their school community.

The Lawrence High School Esports Program currently serves approximately 25 students in grades

9 through 12 and competes in titles including League of Legends, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, and Rocket League. School leaders plan to expand into additional game titles next year to create even more opportunities for student participation.

The PlayVS grant underscores the growing importance of scholastic esports programs and their ability to foster teamwork, problem-solving, communication, and academic engagement. For many Lawrence High School students, esports has become a pathway to greater involvement in school and an opportunity to explore future careers in gaming, technology, media, and digital innovation.

"Fisher College is proud to partner with PlayVS in supporting the next generation of student leaders through esports," said Fisher College President Steven Rich. "Programs like the one at Lawrence High School demonstrate how competitive gaming can create meaningful opportunities for students to build confidence, develop leadership skills, strengthen teamwork, and discover pathways to college and future careers. We are excited to see this program continue to grow and make a positive impact in the Lawrence community."

Through this partnership, PlayVS and Fisher College continue to support the growth of scholastic esports



programs that provide students with meaningful opportunities to compete, connect, and succeed both in and out of the classroom.

About Fisher College Esports

Located in Boston's Back Bay, Fisher College is home to one of the nation's premier collegiate esports programs. Fisher College Esports provides students with opportunities

to compete at the highest level while developing leadership, teamwork, and career-ready skills in the rapidly growing esports industry.

About PlayVS

PlayVS is North America's leading amateur esports platform, empowering students through organized competitive gaming experiences and educational opportunities in schools nationwide.

“Salir y demostrar de lo que soy capaz me ha enseñado mucho sobre quién soy. Podemos ir más allá. Siempre tenemos más que dar”.

To go out there and prove what I can do has taught me a lot about who I am. We can push ourselves further. We always have more to give.”

Simone Biles

Programa de 10 semanas
11 de junio - 27 de agosto

2026

Jueves, 6-8pm
30 Island St.

PODER

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¿QUE ES PODER?

- Programa de liderazgo y desarrollo personal creado por LCW.
- Enfocado en el crecimiento personal, la participación comunitaria y el desarrollo de habilidades de liderazgo.
- Fortalece la comprensión de la misión, cultura y valores de LCW.
- Desarrolla habilidades prácticas de liderazgo y aumenta la confianza de los participantes.
- Prepara a los miembros para asumir roles de liderazgo dentro de LCW.
- Empodera a los participantes para generar un impacto positivo en la comunidad.
- Fortalece la conexión entre los miembros y la visión, propósito y dirección de la organización.

REGÍSTRATE HOY

SCAN ME

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10 Week Program
June 11th - August 27th

2026

Thursdays, 6-8pm
30 Island St.

PODER

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

WHAT IS PODER?

- Leadership and self-development program created by LCW
- Focuses on personal growth, community engagement, and leadership development
- Deepens understanding of LCW's mission, culture, and values
- Builds practical leadership skills and confidence
- Prepares participants to take on leadership roles within LCW
- Empowers members to make a positive impact in the broader community
- Strengthens connections between members and the organization's vision and purpose

REGISTER TODAY

SCAN ME

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