

City Clerk Announces Early Voting Schedule

HAVERHILL – The City Clerk's office will hold Early Voting for the State Election beginning Saturday October 17th through Friday October 30th. All Early Voting will occur in the Early Voting Room located in the basement of the City Hall at 4 Summer St., which can be accessed via the Newcomb St entrance of the building. Handicap access is located via the Main St lower parking lot entrance.

Early Voting Dates & Times:

Saturday October 17 th	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Sunday October 18 th	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Monday October 19 th	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday October 20 th	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Wednesday October 21 st	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Thursday October 22 nd	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday October 23 rd	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Saturday October 24 th	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday October 25 th	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Monday October 26 th	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Tuesday October 27 th	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Wednesday October 28 th	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Thursday October 29 th	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday October 31 st	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The last date and time to register to vote or change your party registration for the November 3rd State Election is Saturday October 24th at 5:00 PM. The last day to request a Vote by Mail ballot is Tuesday October 27th by 5:00 PM. Election Day is Tuesday November 3rd with polls open 7 AM to 8 PM.

To check your voter registration status, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/voterregistrationsearch> or call the City Clerk's office at (978) 374-2312.

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Alberto Surís will be missed Siempre te recordaremos, Alberto



On October 7th, Alberto passed away at age 93. He was at home surrounded by friends and family. They will miss him as well as the community he loved. But also Sushi and Sweetie, his beloved cats. Read his obituary on page 4.

El 7 de octubre, Alberto falleció a los 93 años. Se encontraba en su hogar, rodeado de amigos y familiares. Lo extrañarán tanto sus seres queridos como la comunidad a la que tanto apreciaba. También lo echarán de menos Sushi y Sweetie, sus adorados gatos. Lea su obituario en la página 2.

ADENTRO / INSIDE

Desde Mi Esquina / From My Corner	3
Linette Perez appointment/nombramiento - Eng & Sp.	6
Lawrence Family Dev. Charter High School Fair - En & Sp	7
Frank Moran, Premios a la Escelencia Latina - Sp. & Eng.	8
Diana DiZoglio - Barreras on liquor stores / Barreras en licorerías Eng & Sp	9
Manny Gonzalez - No confidence vote / Voto de no confianza Eng & Sp	10
NECC News and Sports	12
Freedom Trail Smartphone App in Spanish	14

Pancake Breakfast

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2026 - 8:30-11:30am



Lawrence Elks Lodge,
682 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA

Pg. 7

Northern Essex Announces Construction Plans for Outdoor Athletic Complex- Release and Rendering

“Northern Essex has become a nationally recognized athletics program thanks in large part to the dedication of our coaches, staff, and student athletes. By ensuring they have access to safe, modern, and convenient facilities for practices and games, we’re investing in our students’ continued success on and off the field,” said NECC President Lane Glenn.

The fields will be constructed on the existing seven acres in the southwest corner of the campus along Kenoza Street. The initial phase of construction includes improving the playing surfaces to artificial turf and reorienting their current locations. The finished complex will include an NCAA regulation field surrounded by the eight-lane track and a baseball field optimized for players and spectators.

“These upgrades not only allow

our programs to continue to grow, but they provide an opportunity for the college to host regional and even national tournaments,” said NECC Executive Vice President and CFO/COO Michael McCarthy, noting the fields will be available for rent to local clubs, organizations, and schools. “We are creating something that will benefit our communities holistically.”

“This has been a long time coming; it’s great to see this project coming to fruition. This will likely be the finest on-campus facility at the two-year college level in the Northeast, which will elevate the overall student-athlete experience at the college,” said NECC Athletic Director Dan Blair.

McCarthy added that the fields will be financed through a variety of funding sources. The NECC Foundation Inc. is actively fundraising



for the completion of the project. For more information, contact Allison M. Dolan-Wilson, NECC Vice President of Institutional Advancement and

Workforce & Academic Innovation & Executive Director, NECC Foundation. The project is expected to be completed in early 2027.

Obituario de Alberto M. Surís

July 23, 1933 - Octubre 7, 2026

Alberto Suris, amado esposo, padre, abuelo, bisabuelo y amigo, falleció en paz, dejando tras de sí una vida marcada por el coraje, la perseverancia, el sacrificio y un amor inquebrantable por la libertad.

Alberto nació en Camagüey, Cuba, donde creció en un hogar cómodo. Su padre era capataz en el central azucarero Siboney y la familia disfrutaba de una buena vida. Tras completar su educación, Alberto asistió a la Academia Baldor, una escuela de comercio en La Habana, y más tarde trabajó en el Departamento de Salud.

Contrajo matrimonio con Aida Anillo y juntos tuvieron dos hijas, Mayra y Tania. Las niñas aún eran muy pequeñas cuando Alberto y Aida tomaron la difícil decisión de abandonar Cuba. España era su única opción, pero salir del país no era tan sencillo como simplemente decidirlo.

Antes de que Alberto pudiera ganarse el derecho a salir de Cuba, se le obligó a pasar dos años cortando caña de azúcar como castigo. Soportó el duro trabajo físico y las condiciones exigentes, consciente de que aquel sacrificio era el precio que tenía que pagar por la oportunidad de marcharse y construir una nueva vida para su familia.

Aquellos dos años supusieron mucho más que cortar caña de azúcar; pusieron a prueba su fortaleza, paciencia y determinación. Alberto los sobrellevó porque creía que la libertad —y la oportunidad de elegir su propio futuro— bien valían el sacrificio.

Al tener prohibido por el gobierno trabajar para mantener a su familia, laboró en la finca San Pedro, en San Antonio de los Baños (a unos 48 kilómetros de La Habana), lo que le impedía regresar a casa durante la semana.

Finalmente, en 1968, a los 35 años, Alberto salió de Cuba con su familia y comenzó un nuevo capítulo en Madrid, España. Durante los dos años que residieron allí, desempeñó diversos empleos e hizo todo lo necesario para sacar adelante a su familia. Las adversidades que había vivido en Cuba permanecieron con él, dejándole lecciones que llevaría consigo toda la vida: nunca dar la libertad por sentada, trabajar duro por aquello en lo que se cree y mantenerse fuerte ante la adversidad.

Con el tiempo, los familiares de Aida en Estados Unidos tramitaron la solicitud de inmigración para la familia, y Alberto, Aida y sus hijas pudieron trasladarse al país. Se establecieron en Massachusetts y comenzaron a trabajar de inmediato.

Alberto trabajaba durante el día en el departamento de contabilidad del Bank of New England y luego acudía a su segundo empleo en el almacén de Sears en Brookline. Mantuvo ese segundo trabajo durante 18 años. Su ética laboral era extraordinaria. Solía

bromear diciendo que cenaba todas las noches mientras veía el programa de Johnny Carson; un pequeño detalle que ilustra la rutina de un hombre que rara vez dejaba de trabajar.

En 1980, Alberto sufrió la devastadora pérdida de su esposa, Aida, quien falleció a causa del cáncer. Tras todo lo que habían vivido juntos, su muerte supuso una pérdida profunda y traumática. Sin embargo, Alberto siguió trabajando y avanzando. El trabajo pasó a formar parte de la rutina que le ayudó a sobrellevar el duelo.

En 1987, tras 18 años en Sears, Alberto decidió que había llegado el momento de dejar su segundo empleo. Por aquella época, su vida dio un giro inesperado: conoció a Dalia Díaz y contrajeron matrimonio en una ceremonia privada en Maui, Hawái.

Juntos, Alberto y Dalia iniciaron una nueva vida, repleta de trabajo, aventuras, risas, desafíos y un extraordinario compromiso compartido con su comunidad.

En 1996, fundaron Rumbo, un periódico bilingüe al servicio de Lawrence y de las comunidades circundantes. Lo que comenzó como un periódico se convirtió en una parte fundamental de sus vidas y reflejaba su fe en la comunidad, en la información y en la importancia de tener voz propia.

Alberto, que había pasado gran parte de su vida laboral en un segundo plano, descubrió incluso una nueva faceta de sí mismo como escritor. Su columna “Mi Jardín” gozaba de gran aprecio entre los lectores. Escribía con ternura sobre lo que cultivaba, así como sobre sus éxitos y, en ocasiones, sus fracasos en el jardín. Los lectores llegaron a conocer al hombre afable y paciente que se escondía tras aquellas palabras.

Muchos recuerdan también a Alberto como el “repartidor” de Rumbo. Él mismo distribuía personalmente los ejemplares del periódico por Lawrence y por las ciudades y localidades vecinas. Estaba orgulloso del periódico, de su trabajo y de la vida que él y Dalia construyeron juntos.

Durante 38 años, Alberto y Dalia permanecieron unidos, compartiendo una vida que comenzó con una boda íntima en Maui y continuó a través de innumerables aventuras, del crecimiento de Rumbo y de las muchas alegrías y desafíos de la vida familiar.

Ante todo, Alberto fue un padre y un abuelo dedicado. Le sobreviven sus hijas, Mayra Surís Brown —junto a su esposo, Robert— y Tania Surís Hood. El esposo de Tania, Dano, falleció hace varios años tras luchar contra la ALS. Sus hijastros, Roger St. Marie —con su esposa, Sharon— y Susan St. Marie también mantenían un vínculo muy estrecho con él.

Sus nietos también lo querían profundamente; entre ellos se encuentran las hijas de Mayra, Heather y Jessica —quienes ya han formado sus propias familias—, y el único hijo de Tania,



En el 2022, Alberto sembró un cerezo frente a su casa para que los pájaros tengan de comer cuando él ya no exista.

In 2022, Alberto planted a cherry tree in front of his home so birds would have food after he was gone.

David Hood, residente en Rhode Island. Deja además diez bisnietos, quienes se convirtieron en otra fuente de alegría y orgullo durante sus últimos años.

La vida de Alberto fue una trayectoria extraordinaria: desde una infancia cómoda en Camagüey hasta dos años difíciles cortando caña de azúcar a cambio del derecho a salir de Cuba; desde empezar de nuevo en Madrid hasta reconstruir su vida en Massachusetts; desde largas jornadas de trabajo día y noche hasta la creación de un periódico que llegó a ser parte esencial de la comunidad de Lawrence.

Él conocía el precio de la libertad. Conocía el valor del trabajo duro. Y sabía que una buena vida no es algo que simplemente sucede: es algo que uno construye.

Alberto construyó la suya con valentía, determinación, humor, amor y una devoción inquebrantable hacia su familia.

Se le extrañará profundamente, pero su historia —y la vida que tanto se esforzó por crear— perdurará a través de las personas que amó y de la comunidad que ayudó a construir.

Quienes lo conocieron recordarán a Alberto no solo por el amor que brindó a su familia y amigos, sino también

por la fortaleza y determinación que definieron su vida. Su trayectoria desde Cuba, atravesando adversidades y sacrificios hasta alcanzar la libertad que anhelaba, es una historia que merece ser recordada.

Deja tras de sí recuerdos que permanecerán en los corazones de todos aquellos que lo amaron.

Su vida fue un testimonio del anhelo humano perdurable de libertad, y de la valentía que a veces se requiere para alcanzarla.

El velorio tuvo lugar el lunes, 12 de octubre, en la funeraria Farrah's Funeral Home, ubicada en el 137 de Lawrence St., en Lawrence.

Su lugar de descanso final será el cementerio Evergreen en Brighton, Massachusetts, junto a su exesposa, Aida Anillo Surís.

En lugar de flores, puede realizar una donación al Departamento de Periodismo mediante cheque o en línea (www.necc.mass.edu/giving) a nombre de The NECC Foundation, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill, MA 01830. Por favor, indique “Alberto Suris Memorial Gift” en la línea de concepto del cheque o en la sección de comentarios si realiza la donación en línea.

Desde Mi Esquina

POR DALIA DÍAZ

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Lawrence sigue contratando incompetencia

Los habitantes de Lawrence siguen alzando la voz, exigiendo transparencia en las finanzas municipales y en los procesos de contratación. Lo único que le falta al Ayuntamiento es un cartel gigante que diga: «SE RUEGA A LOS CANDIDATOS CUALIFICADOS QUE NO PRESENTEN SU SOLICITUD».

Las decisiones del alcalde respecto a algunos de los cargos más importantes de la ciudad han suscitado serias dudas sobre la competencia, la rendición de cuentas y el respeto a la ciudadanía. El resultado es una administración cada vez más marcada por la controversia y por interrogantes sin respuesta sobre su capacidad para gestionar incluso las responsabilidades más básicas.

La reunión del Comité de Personal del Concejo Municipal, celebrada el pasado jueves, ofreció otro ejemplo preocupante. Los tres concejales presentes parecieron, o bien no estar preparados para cuestionar las respuestas que recibieron, o bien optar por posponer las preguntas difíciles hasta que Linette Pérez y la directora de Personal, Caryl García, comparezcan ante el pleno del Concejo la próxima semana.

La cuestión central es sencilla: ¿describió García con precisión las responsabilidades de Pérez, o exageró sus cualificaciones y experiencia para respaldar su nombramiento permanente como directora de la Oficina de Planificación y Desarrollo (OPD)? Y, lo que es más importante, ¿dónde está la documentación que respalda dichas afirmaciones?

Durante la reunión, según se informa, García afirmó que Pérez supervisó la subvención para el programa «Enfoques Equitativos para la Seguridad Pública» (EAPS, por sus siglas en inglés), otorgada en 2022 por la Oficina de Salud Comunitaria y Prevención —dependiente del Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts— al Departamento de Policía de Lawrence.

Al parecer, Lawrence recibió \$449,949 para una iniciativa destinada a ayudar a los residentes que enfrentan problemas de salud mental y trastornos por consumo de sustancias, mediante respuestas comunitarias coordinadas.

Si Pérez supervisó esta subvención, la ciudadanía merece respuestas concretas. ¿En qué consistían sus responsabilidades? ¿Controlaba o autorizaba los gastos? ¿Era responsable de la presentación de informes financieros? ¿Y qué documentación acredita el alcance de su autoridad?

No se trata de cuestiones triviales; tienen que ver con la administración de fondos públicos y con las cualificaciones que se emplean para justificar un nombramiento municipal de gran relevancia.

Los registros de la subvención plantean aún más interrogantes

Según un memorando del 24 de julio de 2023, enviado por Jeffrey Rouse —del Departamento de Salud Pública— al capitán Maurice Aguiler, la ciudad presentó problemas significativos en la contabilidad y la presentación de informes relacionados con dicha subvención. Rouse escribió que la ciudad había gastado \$225,097.91 de sus fondos del año fiscal 2023 y que tendría que devolver \$224,902.09 al Estado. También afirmó que, dado que la ciudad no pudo proporcionar información sobre los gastos por aproximadamente \$450,000 incurridos en el año fiscal 2022, el Estado tendría que considerar esos fondos como no gastados y exigir su devolución.

Estas declaraciones plantean una pregunta obvia: ¿Qué papel, si lo hubo, desempeñó Pérez en la gestión de estos fondos y quién era responsable de la documentación de los gastos faltantes?

Es fundamental determinar si el reembolso reportado por un monto superior a \$700,000 correspondía a la subvención EAPS descrita en el memorando u a otros programas de financiamiento. Los montos y las circunstancias deben verificarse con los registros reales de la subvención antes de sacar conclusiones.

El memorando también identifica un grave problema de rendición de cuentas: el estado no pudo obtener la información sobre los gastos que requería para los fondos del año fiscal 2022. ¿Quién era responsable de mantener esos registros? ¿Quién era responsable de reportar los gastos? ¿Y qué medidas correctivas, si las hubo, tomó la ciudad?

Tengo información que indica que Rosa Shephard, del departamento de policía, y Jeffrey Rouse, del Departamento de Salud Pública, participaron en la gestión de la iniciativa. Si los documentos de la subvención confirman esta información, sería importante para evaluar la descripción que hace García del papel de Pérez.

En lugar de ofrecer garantías generales sobre las capacidades administrativas de Pérez, García debería proporcionar la documentación que establezca con precisión lo que hizo Pérez.

El Ayuntamiento debería solicitar el contrato de subvención, los nombres y responsabilidades de los gestores designados, los registros de gastos, los informes requeridos, la correspondencia con el estado y la documentación de cualquier reembolso. Estos registros permitirían a los concejales y contribuyentes determinar lo sucedido, en lugar de basarse en versiones contradictorias.

(Cont. en la página 5)

From My Corner

BY DALIA DÍAZ

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Lawrence Continues Hiring Incompetence

Lawrencians keep raising their voices, demanding transparency in city finances and hiring practices. The only thing missing from City Hall is a giant sign reading: “QUALIFIED CANDIDATES NEED NOT APPLY.”

The mayor's choices for some of the city's most important positions have raised serious questions about competence, accountability, and respect for the public. The result is an administration increasingly plagued by controversy and unanswered questions about its ability to handle even basic responsibilities.

Last Thursday's City Council Personnel Committee meeting offered another troubling example. The three councilors present appeared either unprepared to challenge the answers they received or content to postpone the difficult questions until Linette Pérez and Personnel Director Caryl García appear before the full council next week.

The central question is straightforward: Did García accurately describe Pérez's responsibilities, or did she overstate her qualifications and experience in support of her proposed permanent appointment as director of the Office of Planning and Development (OPD)? More importantly, where is the documentation supporting those claims?

During the meeting, García reportedly said Pérez oversaw the Equitable Approaches to Public Safety (EAPS) grant, which the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Community Health and Prevention awarded to the Lawrence Police Department in 2022.

Lawrence reportedly received \$449,949 for an initiative intended to help residents facing mental health challenges and substance-use disorders through coordinated community responses.

If Pérez oversaw this grant, the public deserves specific answers. What did her responsibilities entail? Did she control or authorize expenditure? Was she responsible for financial reporting? And what documentation establishes the extent of her authority?

These are not trivial questions. They concern the administration of public funds and the qualifications being used to justify a major city appointment.

The Grant Records Raise More Questions

According to a July 24, 2023, memorandum from Jeffrey Rouse of the Department of Public Health to Captain Maurice Aguiler, the city had significant accounting and reporting issues involving the grant.

Rouse wrote that the city had spent \$225,097.91 of its fiscal year 2023 funding and would have to return \$224,902.09 to the Commonwealth. He also stated that because the city could not provide expenditure information for the approximately \$450,000 awarded in fiscal year 2022, the state would have to treat that funding as unspent and require its return.

Those statements raise an obvious question: What role, if any, did Pérez have in managing these funds, and who was responsible for the missing expenditure documentation?

It is essential to establish whether the reported repayment of more than \$700,000 involved the EAPS grant described in the memorandum or other funding programs. The amounts and circumstances must be verified against the actual grant records before conclusions can be drawn.

The memorandum also identifies a serious accountability problem: the state could not obtain the expenditure information it required for the fiscal year 2022 funding. Who was responsible for maintaining those records? Who was responsible for reporting expenditure? And what corrective action, if any, did the city take?

I have information indicating that Rosa Shephard at the police station and Jeffrey Rouse of the Department of Public Health were involved in managing the initiative. If the grant documents confirm that information, it would be important in evaluating García's characterization of Pérez's role.

Rather than offering general assurances about Pérez's administrative abilities, García should provide the documentation that establishes precisely what Pérez did.

The City Council should request the grant agreement, the names and responsibilities of the designated grant managers, expenditure records, required reports, correspondence with the state, and documentation of any repayment. These records would allow councilors and taxpayers to determine what happened instead of relying on competing accounts.

Public money demands documentary evidence, not vague assurances.
A Personnel Director Must Be Accountable, too

Concerns about García extend beyond this appointment.

Mayor Brian DePeña reportedly met with García to discuss the upcoming expiration of her three-year contract and the human resources courses required under that agreement. According to the account I received, García met with him

(Cont. on page 5)

Obituary of Alberto M. Surís

July 23, 1933 - October 7, 2026

Alberto Suris, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a life marked by courage, perseverance, sacrifice, and an unwavering love for freedom.

Alberto was born in Camagüey, Cuba, where he grew up in a comfortable home. His father was a foreman at the Siboney sugar mill, and the family enjoyed a good life. After completing his education, Alberto attended Academia Baldor, a business school in Havana, and later worked for the Department of Health.

He married Aida Anillo, and together they had two daughters, Mayra and Tania. The girls were still very young when Alberto and Aida made the difficult decision to leave Cuba. Spain was their only option, but leaving the country was not as simple as deciding to do so.

Before Alberto could earn the right to leave Cuba, he was required to spend two years cutting sugar cane as punishment. He endured the hard physical labor and demanding conditions, knowing this sacrifice was the price of the chance to leave and build a new life for his family.

Those two years were about much more than cutting sugar cane. They tested his strength, patience, and determination. Alberto endured them because he believed that freedom—and the opportunity to choose his own future—was worth the sacrifice.

Forbidden by the government from working to support his family, he worked at San Pedro Farm in San Antonio de Los Baños, about 30 miles from Havana, which prevented him from coming home during the week.

At 35, Alberto finally left Cuba with his family in 1968 and began a new chapter in Madrid, Spain. During the two years they lived there, he worked several jobs, doing whatever was necessary to support his family. The hardships he had endured in Cuba stayed with him, teaching him lessons he would carry throughout his life: never take freedom for granted, work hard for what you believe in, and remain strong in the face of adversity.

Eventually, Aida's relatives in the United States petitioned for the family, and Alberto, Aida, and their daughters were able to come to the United States. They settled in Massachusetts and began working immediately.

Alberto worked during the day in the accounting department at the Bank of New England and then went to his second job at the Sears warehouse in Brookline. He kept that second job for 18 years. His work ethic was extraordinary. He joked that he had dinner every night while watching Johnny Carson's show—a small glimpse into the routine of a man who rarely stopped working.

In 1980, Alberto suffered the devastating loss of his wife, Aida,

who died of cancer. After everything they had endured together, her death was a profound and traumatic loss. Yet Alberto continued working and moving forward. His work became part of the routine that helped him endure the grief.

In 1987, after 18 years at Sears, Alberto decided it was time to leave his second job. Around this time, his life took another unexpected turn. He met Dalia Diaz, and they were married in a private ceremony in Maui, Hawaii.

Together, Alberto and Dalia began a new life—one filled with work, adventures, laughter, challenges, and an extraordinary, shared commitment to their community.

In 1996, they created Rumbo, a bilingual newspaper serving Lawrence and the surrounding communities. What began as a newspaper became an important part of their lives and reflected their belief in community, information, and the importance of having a voice.

Alberto, who had spent much of his working life behind the scenes, even discovered a new side of himself as a writer. His column, “Mi Jardín” (“My Garden”), became especially beloved by readers. He wrote with tenderness about what he was growing, his successes, and sometimes his failures in the garden. Readers came to know the gentle and patient man behind the words.

Many people also remember Alberto as Rumbo's “delivery boy.” He personally distributed newspapers throughout Lawrence and neighboring cities and towns. He was proud of the newspaper, his work, and the life he and Dalia built together.

For 38 years, Alberto and Dalia remained together, sharing a life that began with a private wedding in Maui and continued through countless adventures, the growth of Rumbo, and the many joys and challenges of family life.

Above all, Alberto was a devoted father and grandfather. He is survived by his daughters, Mayra Surís Brown and her husband, Robert, and Tania Surís Hood. Tania's husband, Dano, preceded her in death several years ago after battling ALS. His stepchildren, Roger St. Marie and his wife, Sharon, and Susan St. Marie, were also very close to him.

His grandchildren also loved him deeply, including Mayra's daughters, Heather and Jessica, who have families of their own, and Tania's only son, David Hood, who lives in Rhode Island. He leaves behind ten great-grandchildren, who became another source of joy and pride in his later years.

Alberto's life was an extraordinary journey—from a comfortable childhood in Camagüey, to two difficult years cutting sugar cane for the right to leave Cuba; from starting over in Madrid to



When Alberto's daughters were very young in Cuba, he built dollhouses for them to play with. Then, once in Massachusetts, when his granddaughters Heather and Jessica were small, he built the one shown above. To this day, Jessica's daughters (his great-granddaughters) play with it.

Cuando las hijas de Alberto eran muy pequeñas en Cuba, él les construyó casas de muñecas para que jugaran. Más tarde, ya en Massachusetts, cuando sus nietas Heather y Jessica eran pequeñas, construyó la que aparece arriba. Hasta el día de hoy, las hijas de Jessica (sus bisnietas) juegan con ella.

rebuilding his life in Massachusetts; from long days and nights of work to creating a newspaper that became part of the fabric of Lawrence.

He knew the price of freedom. He knew the value of hard work. And he knew that a good life is not something that simply happens—it is something you build.

Alberto built his with courage, determination, humor, love, and an unwavering devotion to his family. He will be deeply missed, but his story—and the life he worked so hard to create—will live on through the people he loved and the community he helped build.

To those who knew him, Alberto will be remembered not only for the love he gave his family and friends, but for the strength and determination that defined his life. His journey from Cuba, through hardship and sacrifice, to the freedom he sought is a story worth remembering.

He leaves behind memories that will remain in the hearts of all who loved him.

His life was a testament to the enduring human desire for freedom—and to the courage it sometimes takes to obtain it.

His calling hours were held on October 12, at Farrah's Funeral Home, 137 Lawrence St., Lawrence.

His final resting place will be at Evergreen Cemetery in Brighton, MA, with his former wife Aida Anillo Surís.

In lieu of flowers, you may donate to the Journalism Department via check or online (www.necc.mass.edu/giving) to The NECC Foundation, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill, MA 01830. Please write (Alberto Suris Memorial Gift) on the memo line or in the comments for online giving.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Desde mi Esquina...

(Cont. de la página 3)

El dinero público exige pruebas documentales, no garantías vagas.

Un director de personal también debe rendir cuentas

Las preocupaciones sobre García van más allá de este nombramiento. Según se informa, el alcalde Brian DePeña se reunió con García para tratar el próximo vencimiento de su contrato de tres años y los cursos de recursos humanos exigidos por dicho acuerdo. Según la versión que recibí, García se reunió con él en persona, argumentando que ni la ley estatal ni la Carta Constitucional de la ciudad la obligaban a hacerlo.

De ser cierto, este episodio plantea interrogantes sobre la relación laboral entre el alcalde y su directora de personal, así como sobre la capacidad de la administración para hacer cumplir sus propios acuerdos laborales.

Una directora de personal ayuda a garantizar que las prácticas de contratación de la ciudad cumplan con las normas profesionales. Esto hace que la verificación de las cualificaciones de los candidatos sea especialmente importante. La persona encargada de supervisar el proceso de contratación debe poder demostrar que las credenciales han sido verificadas y que los nombramientos están respaldados por cualificaciones documentadas.

¿Dónde están las pruebas de las credenciales de Pérez?

Actualmente, el alcalde propone a Pérez para el puesto de directora permanente de la OPD; sin embargo, persisten dudas sobre su currículum y sobre la verificación de sus credenciales académicas.

Pérez ha afirmado poseer una Maestría en Trabajo Social (Master of Social Work) de la Universidad Estatal de Salem (Salem State University). Me puse en contacto con dicha universidad para verificar esta afirmación. Según la respuesta que recibí, la institución no tiene registro de ninguna persona graduada con ese nombre. Abordo este asunto con mayor detalle en la página 6.

Esta respuesta plantea una cuestión seria que merece una respuesta definitiva. Antes de que la ciudad realice un nombramiento permanente, la administración debe obtener y verificar la documentación pertinente directamente con la institución académica.

Asimismo, García debería proporcionar al Concejo Municipal los documentos que acrediten las cualificaciones profesionales de Pérez y la experiencia que esta alega en la gestión de subvenciones.

Si dichas credenciales no pueden verificarse o si el currículum tergiversa sustancialmente su experiencia, las consecuencias deberían ser graves. No obstante, cualquier conclusión sobre deshonestidad o mala conducta debe basarse en pruebas verificadas, no en suposiciones.

El Concejo debe cumplir con su labor

El Concejo Municipal no debe limitarse a aprobar automáticamente las decisiones de la administración. Su responsabilidad consiste en plantear preguntas difíciles, examinar los expedientes y determinar si el nombramiento propuesto favorece los intereses de Lawrence.

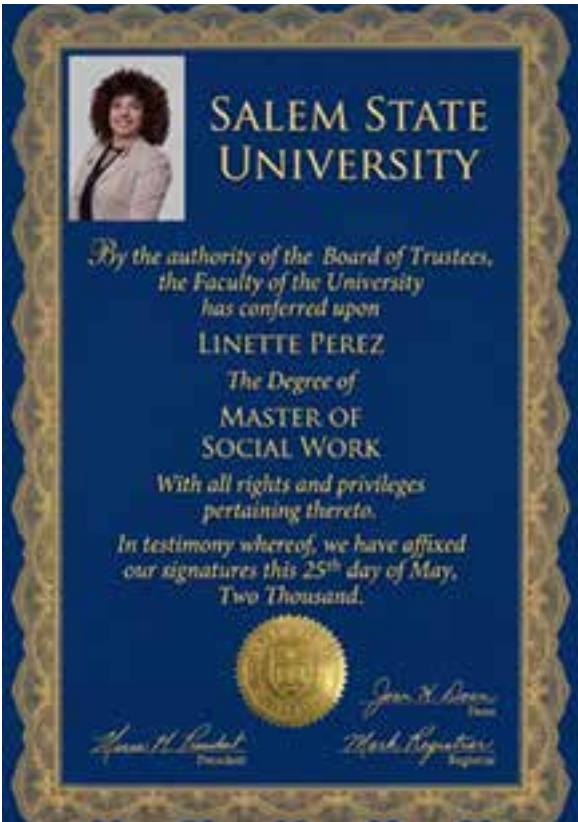
Los concejales también deberían indagar quiénes más postularon al puesto en la OPD, qué cualificaciones poseían dichos candidatos y qué criterios se utilizaron para seleccionar a Pérez. La ciudadanía tiene derecho a saber si el proceso de selección fue justo, competitivo y basado en el mérito.

En Lawrence no faltan personas cualificadas. Lo que se necesita es un proceso de contratación que las identifique, las evalúe de manera justa y seleccione al mejor candidato, en lugar de simplemente elegir a la persona que la administración prefiere.

El alcalde DePeña debe comprender que nombrar a personas inadecuadas —y no exigirles rendición de cuentas— socava su propia autoridad y daña la confianza pública en el gobierno municipal.

Los contribuyentes de Lawrence merecen administradores competentes, credenciales verificadas, una gestión responsable de los fondos públicos y un Concejo Municipal dispuesto a exigir respuestas.

La cuestión ya no es si estas preocupaciones merecen ser examinadas; la respuesta es que sí. La cuestión es si el alcalde y los concejales insistirán finalmente en la documentación y la rendición de cuentas que los residentes de Lawrence tienen todo el derecho a esperar.



From my Corner...

(Cont. from page 3)

face-to-face, arguing that neither state law nor the City Charter required her to do so.

If accurate, this episode raises questions about the working relationship between the mayor and his personnel director, as well as the administration's ability to enforce its own employment agreements.

A personnel director helps ensure that city hiring practices meet professional standards. That makes verifying candidates' qualifications particularly important. The person overseeing the hiring process should be able to demonstrate that credentials have been checked and that appointments are supported by documented qualifications.

Where Is the Proof of Pérez's Credentials?

Now the mayor is proposing Pérez for the permanent OPD directorship, yet questions remain about her résumé and the verification of her academic credentials.

Pérez has claimed a Master of Social Work degree from Salem State University. I contacted the university to verify that claim. According to the response I received, the university had no record of a graduate by that name. I discuss this matter in greater detail on page 6.

That response raises a serious question that deserves a definitive answer. Before the city makes a permanent appointment, the administration should obtain and verify the appropriate documentation directly with the institution.

Likewise, García should provide the City Council with the records supporting Pérez's professional qualifications and claimed grant-management experience.

If those credentials cannot be verified, or if the résumé materially misrepresents her experience, the consequences should be serious. But conclusions about dishonesty or misconduct must rest on verified evidence, not assumptions.

The Council Must Do Its Job

The City Council should not serve as a rubber stamp for the administration. Its responsibility is to ask difficult questions, examine the record, and determine whether a proposed appointment serves Lawrence's best interests.

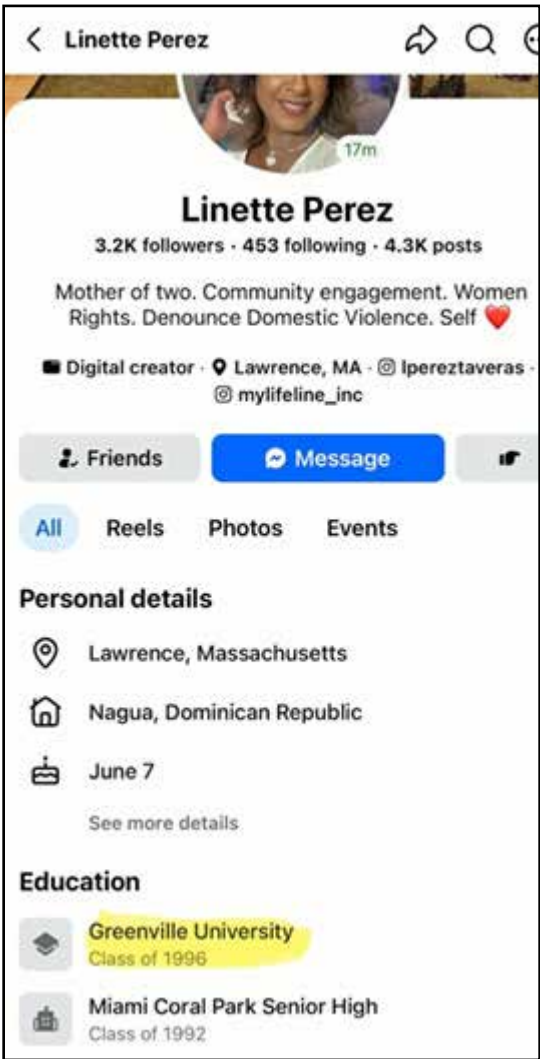
Councilors should also ask who else applied for the OPD position, what qualifications those candidates possessed, and what criteria were used to select Pérez. The public deserves to know whether the appointment process was fair, competitive, and based on merit.

Lawrence does not lack qualified people. It needs a hiring process that identifies them, evaluates them fairly, and selects the best candidate—not simply the one the administration favors.

Mayor DePeña must understand that appointing the wrong people and failing to hold them accountable undermines his own authority and damages public confidence in City Hall.

Lawrence taxpayers deserve competent administrators, verified credentials, responsible management of public funds, and a City Council willing to demand answers.

The question is no longer whether these concerns deserve scrutiny. They do. The question is whether the mayor and councilors will finally insist on the documentation and accountability that Lawrence residents have every right to expect.



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

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

Rosalynn Carter

Bélgica Linette Pérez: Preguntas serias que exigen respuestas

Por Dalia Díaz

Al contactar a Salem State University para verificar el diploma que, según se informa, Belgica Linette Pérez presentó como prueba de su formación académica, recibí la siguiente respuesta:

“No puede solicitar el expediente académico oficial de un estudiant-te, ya que se trata de un registro educativo privado protegido a nivel federal. Sin embargo, puedo confirmar si un estudiante se ha graduado, ya que esa información es pública. SSU no tiene ningún registro de que un estudiante con ese nombre se haya graduado. Además, este no es uno de nuestros di-plomas, ni los nombres coinciden con los de ningún miembro de la dirección de SSU. Si esta persona desea contactarme directamente porque cree que ha habido algún tipo de error, por favor, no dude en facilitarle mis datos de contacto”.

Salem State College pasó a llamarse Salem State University el 1 de julio de 2010. Si ella se graduó en el año 2000, el documento debería decir “College” en su lugar.

Reflexionemos sobre esto. Según la respuesta de la universidad, no se en-contró ningún registro de una graduada con ese nombre, y el diploma presentado para su revisión no coincidía con sus archivos. Se trata de discrepancias graves que exigen una aclaración inmediata.

Verificar las credenciales académicas de un candidato no es particularmen-te complejo. Es una responsabilidad básica de cualquier departamento de Recur-sos Humanos, especialmente cuando el puesto implica atender a los residentes de Lawrence. Entonces, ¿por qué estas discrepancias pasaron desapercibidas y no se resolvieron antes de que avanzara el proceso de contratación?

¿Verificó la directora de personal las credenciales de Pérez directamente con la universidad? Si lo hizo, ¿cuál fue el resultado? Si disponía de una copia del expe-diente académico de Pérez, como se ha sugerido, ¿por qué no puso la documenta-ción pertinente

a disposición de los concejales encargados de evaluar las cualifi-caciones de la candidata, respetando al mismo tiempo las leyes de privacidad vi-gentes?

¿Y qué hay del Concejo Municipal? ¿Verificaron los concejales de forma in-dependiente las credenciales de la candidata? ¿Solicitaron documentación que acreditara que todos los aspirantes cumplían con los requisitos establecidos para el puesto? Los residentes de Lawrence merecen saber si se aplicaron los mismos criterios a todos los candidatos.

No se trata de cuestiones administrativas triviales. Se trata de cuestiones de transparencia, rendición de cuentas y confianza de la ciudadanía en las personas encargadas de tomar decisiones importantes en nombre de la ciudad.

La responsabilidad no recae únicamente en el candidato. Toda per-sona que presente credenciales cuestionables debe rendir cuentas por ellas. Asi-mismo, cualquier funcionario público responsable de revisar dichas credenciales debe explicar qué medidas tomó para verificar su autenticidad.

También exijo una revisión inmediata de la gestión de este asunto por parte de la directora de Recursos Humanos, Caryl García. Si una investigación determi-na que ella tergiversó deliberadamente las cualificaciones del candidato, ignoró pruebas que debían haberse considerado o incumplió sus obligaciones, la ciudad deberá tomar las medidas disciplinarias pertinentes, que podrían llegar incluso al despido.

El hecho de ser abogado no exime a nadie de su responsabilidad profesio-nal. Tampoco debe quedar exento de rendir cuentas ningún empleado público por su cargo.

Los residentes de Lawrence merecen respuestas honestas, cualificaciones documentadas y un proceso de contratación que les inspire confianza. **Sin tratos de favor. Sin preguntas sin respuesta. Sin excusas.**

Los residentes de Lawrence merecen conocer la verdad.

Belgica Linette Pérez: Serious Questions Demand Answers

By Dalia Díaz

Upon contacting Salem State University to verify the diploma Belgica Linette Pérez reportedly presented as evidence of her educational qualifications, I received the following response:

“You may not request a student's official transcript because that is a federally protected, private educational record. However, I can confirm whether a student has graduated because that is considered public directory information. SSU does not have any record of a student by this name having graduated. Additionally, this is not one of our diplomas, nor do any of the names match any of the SSU leadership. If this person wishes to contact me directly because they believe there has been some sort of error, then please feel free to give them my contact information.”

Salem State College became Salem State University on July 1, 2010. If she graduated in 2000, it should say “College” instead.

Let that sink in. According to the university's response, it found no record of a graduate by that name, and the diploma submitted for review did not match its records. These are serious discrepancies that demand immediate clarification.

Verifying an applicant's educational credentials is not rocket science. It is a basic responsibility of any Human Resources Department, especially when the position involves serving the residents of Lawrence. So why did these discrepancies go unidentified and unresolved before the hiring process moved forward?

Did the personnel director verify Pérez's credentials directly with the university? If she did, what was the result? If she had a copy of Pérez's transcript, as suggested, why didn't she make the

relevant documentation available to the city councilors responsible for evaluating the applicant's qualifications, while respecting applicable privacy laws?

And what about the City Council? Did the councilors independently verify the applicant's credentials? Did they request documentation establishing that all applicants met the job's stated qualifications? Lawrence residents deserve to know whether the council applied the same standards to everyone.

These are not trivial administrative questions. They concern transparency, accountability, and the public's confidence in the people entrusted with making important decisions on the city's behalf.

The responsibility does not end with the applicant. Anyone who submits questionable credentials must answer for them. Any public official responsible for reviewing those credentials must explain what steps they took to verify their authenticity.

I am also calling for an immediate review of Human Resources Director Caryl García's handling of this matter. If an investigation establishes that she knowingly misrepresented the applicant's qualifications, disregarded evidence that should have been addressed, or failed to perform her duties as required, the city must take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

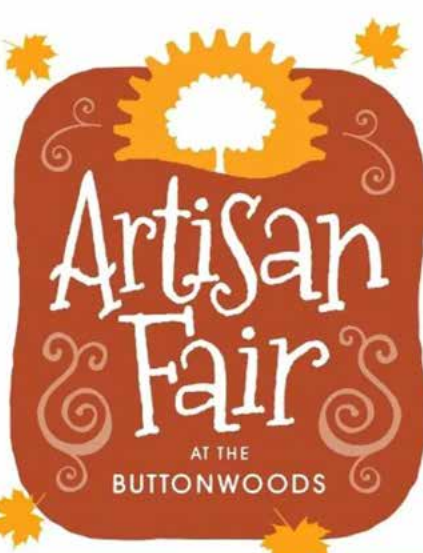
Being an attorney does not exempt anyone from professional responsibility. Nor should any public employee be shielded from accountability because of their position.

Lawrence residents deserve honest answers, documented qualifications, and a hiring process they can trust. **No special treatment. No unanswered questions. No excuses.**

Lawrence residents deserve the truth.

Artisan Fair October 24 at 11am – 3pm

Spend an afternoon browsing a marketplace of local artisans — from hand-thrown pottery to stitched textiles, carved woodwork, and one-of-a-kind jewelry. Every piece has a story, and so does the neighbor who made it. Take your time, chat with the makers, and find something you won't spot anywhere else. Whether you're hunting for a gift or just love beautiful things made by hand, there's a reason to stop by every table.



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Lawrence Family Development Charter School Hosts Annual High School Fair



Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) and its Opening Doors team, along with eighth-grade students, and nearly 30 high school representatives came together on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, for the Annual LFDCS High School Fair.

La Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) y su equipo del programa «Opening Doors» («Abriendo Puertas»), junto con estudiantes de octavo grado y cerca de 30 representantes de escuelas secundarias, se reunieron el martes 6 de octubre de 2026 para celebrar la feria anual de escuelas secundarias de la LFDCS.

Through the Opening Doors program, students have been preparing for this important milestone since the spring of seventh grade, developing skills in professional introductions, asking thoughtful questions, and researching high schools that align with their interests and goals.

LFDCS student ambassadors also played a special role in the evening. Selected by their seventh-grade teachers for their leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to supporting their peers, these students helped make the event a success.

This year was especially meaningful as LFDCS welcomed back alumni representing their new high schools and sharing their success stories, inspiring current students as they explore the exciting opportunities

ahead.

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.

La Lawrence Family Development Charter School organiza su feria anual de escuelas secundarias



Lawrence Family Development Charter School student ambassadors also played a special role in the evening. Selected by their seventh-grade teachers for their leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to supporting their peers.

Los estudiantes embajadores de la Lawrence Family Development Charter School también desempeñaron un papel especial durante la velada. Sus maestros de séptimo grado los eligieron por su liderazgo, sus logros académicos y su compromiso de apoyar a sus compañeros.

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A través del programa «Opening Doors», los estudiantes se han estado preparando para este importante hito desde la primavera de su séptimo grado, desarrollando habilidades para realizar presentaciones profesionales, formular preguntas bien fundamentadas e investigar escuelas secundarias que se alineen con sus intereses y metas.

Los estudiantes embajadores de la LFDCS también desempeñaron un papel especial durante la jornada. Seleccionados por sus maestros de séptimo grado debido a su liderazgo, rendimiento académico y compromiso para apoyar a sus compañeros, estos estudiantes contribuyeron a que el evento fuera un éxito.

Este año resultó especialmente significativo, ya que la LFDCS recibió a exalumnos que, representando a sus actuales escuelas secundarias,

compartieron sus historias de éxito, inspirando a los estudiantes actuales mientras exploran las emocionantes oportunidades que tienen por delante.

Acerca de la Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS)

La Lawrence Family Development Charter School, con sede en Lawrence, Massachusetts, es una institución pública de tipo «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, la LFDCS es una escuela que promueve el desarrollo de la lengua materna (o de herencia) y se rige por el principio de que una sólida participación familiar y una estrecha colaboración con la escuela 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 su crecimiento a lo largo de toda la vida, el ejercicio de una ciudadanía activa y el éxito personal.

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El representante estatal Frank A. Moran nomina a José A. Rivera Adrovét para los Premios a la Excelencia Latina 2026



José A. Rivera Adrovét, presentador de noticias de Telemundo Nueva Inglaterra recibiendo el premio otorgado por el Representante Estatal Frank Morán.

El representante estatal Frank A. Moran nominó a José A. Rivera Adrovét, presentador de noticias de Telemundo Nueva Inglaterra, para recibir los Premios a la Excelencia Latina 2026. Este evento anual, organizado por el Caucus Legislativo Afroamericano y Latino de Massachusetts, busca reconocer a líderes y pioneros latinos que marcan la diferencia en sus comunidades y en todo Massachusetts.

“José ha contribuido a que las noticias locales sean accesibles para las familias hispanohablantes de toda Nueva Inglaterra”, declaró el representante Moran. “La gente confía en periodistas de renombre para comprender lo que sucede en sus comunidades y cómo afecta sus vidas. Me enorgullece nominar a José y reconocer el trabajo que realiza a diario”.

Rivera Adrovét presenta el noticiero Telemundo Nueva Inglaterra, que se transmite en Massachusetts y otros estados de Nueva Inglaterra. Su trabajo en las noticias en español ayuda

a la audiencia a mantenerse conectada con los eventos, las decisiones y los temas que dan forma a sus comunidades e impactan su vida cotidiana.

“La representación en el periodismo es importante”, añadió el representante Moran. “Cuando los residentes pueden acceder a las noticias locales en el idioma que hablan en casa, están mejor preparados para participar en sus comunidades y tomar decisiones informadas. La trayectoria de José es un poderoso ejemplo de este servicio público”.

Los Premios a la Excelencia Latina permiten a cada legislador nominar y reconocer el liderazgo y las contribuciones de los residentes latinos de todo Massachusetts. Más de 80 residentes fueron reconocidos en el evento de este año, que se celebró en el Gran Salón de la Casa de Gobierno.

La lista completa de homenajeados, que incluye a Alberto Vasallo III y Lidia Maldonado, se puede consultar en el sitio web del Caucus Legislativo Afroamericano y Latino de Massachusetts.

State Representative Frank A. Moran Nominates José A. Rivera Adrovét for the 2026 Latino Excellence Awards



State Representative Frank Moran accompanied by two of his colleagues, on the left is Rep Mindy Domb and on the right is Rep Judith Garcia.

State Representative Frank A. Moran has nominated José A. Rivera Adrovét, a news anchor with Telemundo Nueva Inglaterra, to be recognized for the 2026 Latino Excellence Awards. This annual event is hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and seeks to recognize Latino leaders and trailblazers who make a difference in their communities and Massachusetts at-large.

“José has helped make local news accessible to Spanish-speaking families throughout New England,” said Representative Moran. “People rely on trusted journalists to understand what is happening in their communities and how it affects their lives. I am proud to nominate José and to recognize the work he does every day.”

Rivera Adrovét anchors Noticiero Telemundo Nueva Inglaterra, which airs in Massachusetts and other New England states. His work in Spanish-

language news helps audiences stay connected to the events, decisions, and issues shaping their communities and impacting their day to day lives.

“Representation in journalism matters,” Representative Moran added. “When residents can get local news in the language they use at home, they are better equipped to participate in their communities and make informed decisions. José’s career is a powerful example of that public service.”

The Latino Excellence Awards allows each legislator the opportunity to nominate and celebrate the leadership and contributions of Latino residents across Massachusetts. More than 80 residents were recognized at this year’s event, which was held in the Great Hall of the State House.

A full list of honorees, which includes Alberto Vasallo III and Lidia Maldonado, can be found on the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus website.

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El informe de la Auditora Estatal identifica barreras en el proceso de concesión de licencias de alcohol en Massachusetts

Ofrece perspectivas basadas en datos sobre equidad y justicia

La oficina de la Auditora Estatal, Diana DiZoglio, publicó hoy un informe que examina el sistema del estado para otorgar licencias a restaurantes, bares, hoteles y clubes para la venta y consumo de alcohol.

El informe destaca cómo una fórmula de cuotas basada en la población, establecida en 1933, genera una escasez artificial o arbitraria de licencias para el consumo de alcohol en los establecimientos, precisamente en comunidades donde los empresarios desean abrir negocios. Al mismo tiempo, esto obliga a los posibles propietarios a recurrir a un proceso legislativo y a un mercado privado de reventa que favorece a quienes poseen mayor riqueza y contactos.

El informe, titulado “License to Pour: Access and Equity in Massachusetts Liquor Licensing” (Licencia para servir: acceso y equidad en la concesión de licencias de alcohol en Massachusetts), fue elaborado por la División de Mandatos Locales (DLM, por sus siglas en inglés) de la Auditoría Estatal. El estudio analizó datos municipales sobre licencias, encuestó a 260 funcionarios municipales y propietarios de negocios, y realizó entrevistas a titulares de licencias, autoridades locales, legisladores y actores del sector.

Según el informe, 2,5 millones de residentes viven en municipios que enfrentan restricciones en la concesión de licencias de alcohol debido a la cuota impuesta por el estado. Veintiséis municipios obtuvieron el control local gracias a una oportunidad limitada —entre 1978 y 1984— para quedar exentos de dicha cuota estatal; esto ha creado un sistema desigual de dos niveles, que impide a algunos municipios responder a sus necesidades y prioridades locales.

El informe señala que el acceso a las licencias aumenta en función de la riqueza del municipio: los municipios más ricos emiten un 58% más de licencias por habitante que los menos ricos. Además, los municipios más adinerados consiguen más licencias a través del proceso de «petición de autonomía local» (home rule petition), un mecanismo que carece de criterios establecidos por escrito y de un registro público completo y fácilmente accesible.

Los propietarios de negocios informaron haber pagado sumas de seis cifras para adquirir licencias en el mercado secundario privado dentro de los municipios sujetos a cuotas (600 000 dólares en Boston, 175 000 dólares en Somerville y 100 000 dólares en Beverly), frente a un costo de adquisición de 2500 dólares en Cambridge, una ciudad que cuenta

con control local. En comparación con los estados vecinos, Massachusetts tiene menos restaurantes de servicio completo por habitante. Alcanzar el promedio regional podría significar 490 restaurantes adicionales, 9,500 empleos, 311 millones de dólares en salarios anuales y 56 millones de dólares al año en impuestos estatales y locales sobre el consumo de alimentos y bebidas.

El informe recomienda eliminar la cuota impuesta por el estado —basada en la población— y establecer un control local para la concesión de licencias de venta de alcohol para consumo en el establecimiento; abordar las barreras de equidad y acceso a la riqueza generadas por el mercado secundario; y crear una plataforma pública de datos sobre licencias a nivel estatal para mejorar el acceso a la información, la equidad y la transparencia.

«Necesitamos un sistema de concesión de licencias de alcohol que sea transparente, justo y que brinde a todos nuestros negocios locales una oportunidad de éxito», afirmó la auditora DiZoglio. «No debería ser necesario contar con recursos financieros ilimitados ni con las conexiones políticas adecuadas para obtener una licencia de venta de alcohol. Debemos mejorar; nuestro informe arroja luz sobre cómo y por qué el sistema actual resulta insuficiente. Massachusetts no tiene que elegir entre una regulación responsable del alcohol y las oportunidades económicas. Ambas cosas son posibles. Este estudio ofrece conclusiones basadas en evidencia para ampliar el acceso y construir un sistema más equitativo, transparente y atento a las necesidades de todos los emprendedores locales, independientemente de su origen, su saldo bancario, su código postal o sus conexiones políticas».

«Este informe llega con mucho retraso», señaló Christopher Tkach, fundador y presidente de Idle Hands Craft Ales en Malden. «Pone de relieve un sistema de licencias obsoleto que, con demasiada frecuencia, favorece la riqueza y las influencias, al tiempo que obstaculiza a quienes emprenden en el sector de la restauración por primera vez y a los pequeños operadores innovadores. Espero que esto fomente un diálogo significativo y una acción legislativa que permita crear un camino más equitativo hacia la obtención de licencias y ayude a prosperar a la industria de la hospitalidad en Massachusetts».

El informe completo está disponible en: <https://www.mass.gov/report/license-to-pour-access-equity-in-massachusetts-liquor-licensing>.

State Auditor's Report Identifies Barriers in Massachusetts Liquor License Process

Provides Data-Driven Insights into Equity and Fairness



Business owners reported paying six-digit sums to purchase licenses in the private secondary market in quota municipalities (\$600,000 in Boston, \$175,000 in Somerville, and \$100,000 in Beverly) compared with acquisition costs of \$2,500 in Cambridge, a local-control city. Compared to neighboring states, Massachusetts has fewer full-service restaurants per resident; matching the regional average could mean 490 additional restaurants, 9,500 jobs, \$311 million in annual wages, and \$56 million a year in state and local meals taxes.

The report recommends eliminating the state-imposed, population-based quota and establishing local control for on-premises liquor licensing; addressing the equity and wealth-access barriers created by the secondary market; and creating a statewide, public licensing data platform to increase information access, equity, and transparency.

“We need a liquor licensing system that is transparent, fair, and gives all of our local businesses a shot at success,” said Auditor DiZoglio. “You shouldn’t need to have unlimited access to money and all of the right political connections to obtain a liquor license. We need to do better, and our report shines a light on how and why the system is falling short. Massachusetts does not have to choose between responsible alcohol regulation and economic opportunity. Both are possible. This study provides evidence-based insights to increase access and build a system that is more equitable, transparent, and responsive to all local entrepreneurs – regardless of their background, bank balance, zip code or political connections.”

“This report is long overdue,” said Christopher Tkach, founder and president of Idle Hands Craft Ales in Malden. “It shines a light on an outdated licensing system that too often favors wealth and connections while holding back first-time restaurant entrepreneurs and innovative small operators. I hope it sparks meaningful dialogue and legislative action to create a more equitable path to licensure and help Massachusetts’ hospitality industry thrive.”

The full report is available at <https://www.mass.gov/report/license-to-pour-access-equity-in-massachusetts-liquor-licensing>.

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's Office today released a report examining the Commonwealth's system for licensing restaurants, bars, hotels, and clubs to serve alcohol.

The report highlights how a population-based quota formula, written in 1933, results in an artificial or arbitrary shortage of on-premises liquor licenses in communities where businesses want to open, while pushing prospective business owners into a legislative process and private resale market that favors wealth and connections.

The report, License to Pour: Access and Equity in Massachusetts Liquor Licensing, was produced by the State Auditor's Division of Local Mandates (DLM). It analyzed municipal licensing data, surveyed 260 municipal officials and business owners, and interviewed license holders, municipal officials, legislators, and industry participants.

According to the report, 2.5 million residents live in municipalities facing liquor licensing constraints due to the state-imposed quota. Twenty-six municipalities were allowed local control due to a limited opportunity between 1978-1984 to opt out of the state-imposed quota, creating an inequitable two-tier system that leaves some municipalities unable to respond to local needs and priorities.

Per the report, license access rises with municipal wealth, with the wealthiest municipalities issuing 58% more licenses per resident than the least wealthy, while securing more licenses through the home rule petition process – which has no written criteria and no complete, readily accessible public record.

Solicitudes al 978-552-8532

Notas Cristóbal

VOZ APASIONADA CON TU MARCA

Moción de censura contra el alcalde Brian A. DePeña

Por Juan “Manny” González

Buenas noches, presidente del Concejo, Rodríguez, vicepresidente, Levy, y concejales.

Esta noche comparezco ante ustedes en mi nombre y en el de aquellos que me pidieron que los representara en esta importante reunión.

Les pido respetuosamente a todos los concejales que presten mucha atención a lo que solicitan sus electores.

Personalmente, creo que ya es hora de presentar una moción de censura contra el alcalde DePeña.

Permítanme destacar algunas razones, más allá de las acusaciones formales a nivel federal y estatal:

* La falta de respeto hacia las personas y los procedimientos ha derivado en demandas judiciales contra la ciudad (caso Scott Wood).

* Su manipulación del departamento de policía provocó docenas de vacantes. Arruinó la moral de dicho departamento. Ha habido un total de cinco jefes de policía: Vasque, McCarthy, Castro, Bonilla y Aguiler. ¿Qué les dice eso a ustedes?

* El despilfarro de miles de dólares de los contribuyentes en investigaciones innecesarias que no condujeron a nada. Por ejemplo, el Informe Bennet y la

investigación Maverick. Se gastaron cerca de 100.000 dólares intentando ayudar a su amigo, el Sr. Castro.

* La falta de respeto de su administración hacia la mayoría de los concejales; su asesor principal llegó a hablar de un "circo y payasos".

* Este alcalde ha tenido cinco o más jefes de gabinete en menos de cinco años. Uno de ellos está cumpliendo una pena de cárcel y el otro está demandando a la ciudad de Lawrence por millones de dólares.

* En cuanto a las acusaciones federales y estatales, este alcalde cree que aceptaremos su pésima excusa o razonamiento sobre por qué no deberíamos considerar la acusación federal en su contra. No debería importar si era alcalde o no; es vergonzoso que lo haya puesto por escrito.

Concejales, Lawrence necesita un "reinicio". Necesitamos comenzar a sanar tras toda la locura que esta administración ha traído a nuestra ciudad.

Empecemos por APROBAR UNA MOCIÓN DE CENSURA contra el alcalde y esperemos que simplemente se retire.

Gracias y que Dios bendiga a la ciudad de Lawrence.

Vote of No Confidence in Mayor Brian A. DePeña

By Juan “Manny” Gonzalez

Good evening, Council President Rodriguez, Vice President Levy, Councilors.

Tonight, I stand before you for myself and for those who asked me to represent them at this important meeting.

I am respectfully asking all of you councilors to pay close attention to what your constituents are asking for.

I personally believe a vote of NO Confidence in Mayor DePeña is well overdue.

Let me highlight some reasons beyond the Federal and State indictments.

* The lack of respect for people and processes that have resulted in Lawsuits against the city. (Scott Wood)

* His manipulation of the police department that resulted in dozens of vacancies. He brought that department's morale to the ground. A total of 5 Chiefs of police: Chief Vasque, McCarthy, Castro, Bonilla, and Aguiler. What does that tell you?

* Wasted thousands of taxpayers' dollars on unnecessary investigations that accomplished nothing. Ex. Bennet

Report, and Maverick Investigation. Close to \$100k trying to help his friend, Mr. Castro.

* The disrespect by his administration towards most of the councilors. His Senior advisor referencing a “Circus and Clowns”

* This Mayor has gone through 5 or more Chiefs of Staff in less than 5 years. One is serving jail time, and another is suing the city of Lawrence for millions of dollars.

* Regarding the Federal and State indictments, this mayor believes that we are going to accept his lousy excuse or reasoning for why we should not use the federal indictment against him. It shouldn't matter whether he was the mayor or not. Shame on him for putting that in writing.

Councilors, Lawrence needs a “Reset”. We need to start healing from all the craziness that this administration has brought into our city.

Let's start BY TAKING A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE on the mayor and hope that he just walks away.

Thank you, and God bless the city of Lawrence.



Chamber Night at the MRT Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Elixir Mixer

at Merrimack Repertory Theatre **Thursday, October 22**

You're invited to indulge in **specialty** elixirs designed by Dr. Jekyll himself.

Gather in the MRT lobby from **5PM-6:30PM** for cocktails/mocktails, snacks, and mixing it up with friends & colleagues. Then stay for the performance of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

\$75: Attend mixer + see the production

- Ticket to the mixer with three drink tickets
- 7PM Show Ticket

\$35: Attend mixer only

- Ticket to the mixer with three drink tickets

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Mix, Mingle & Mystery at Merrimack Repertory Theatre!

Join us on Thursday, October 22, for a special Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Elixir Mixer! Enjoy specialty cocktails and mocktails, light bites, and networking with fellow Chamber members from 5:00–6:30 PM, followed by the 7:00 PM performance!

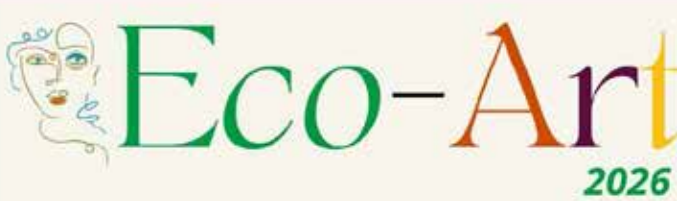
Ticket Options:

\$75: Mixer admission, three drink tickets, and a show ticket.
\$35: Mixer admission and three drink tickets (show not included).

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Join us for our annual Glow Gala on Thursday, November 20, featuring a special Eco-Art Auction that celebrates sustainability through the 4 Rs:

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Artists of all ages and mediums are invited to submit up to **3** pieces that creatively interpret eco-conscious practices.

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- Promote sustainable art
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Submission Deadline:
Friday, **October 23**

Art Drop-Off:
By Friday, October 30 at 5 PM
50 Island Street, Suite 101, Lawrence, MA

Questions?
ecoart@groundworklawrence.org

Scan to learn more:





News from Northern Essex Community College

#9 Knights shut out MassBay, runs win streak to eight

Haverhill, MA (October 4, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College men’s soccer team currently ranked #9 in the NJCAA picked up their eighth straight win over the weekend with a 7-0 win over MassBay, running their record to 8-2 overall and 5-0 on region play.

The Knights used their high pressure offense to onslaught the Buccaneers defense, outshooting the visitors by a 39-2 margin, including putting 20 shots on target.

Gabriel Garcia (Everett) recorded his second two goal game of the week as he scored a pair of first half goals that allowed the Knights to never look back. In the 19th minute he beat the keeper to his right from 16 yards out and 13 minutes later converted a penalty after being cleaned out by a defender inside the box.

Cristian Lopez (Chelsea) closed out the first half scoring when he took a pass from Josh Senyonjo (Lowell) at the top of the box and snuck one past

the keepers’ outstretched arms.

NECC would add four more goals in the second half, starting in the 51st minute when Sam DeAmorim (North Andover) scored from the top of the box on an assist from Ty Picanso (Methuen).

Matheus Martins (Malden) made it a five goal lead in the 60th minute on a give and go pass from Garcia who was credited with the assist. Martins would later add his nations best 10th assist when he sent a corner kick in that Thomas Kotas (Methuen) headed into lower left corner.

Between Martins goal and assist, Lopez would add his second of the game on an assist from Jorge Sanabria (Chelsea) who sent a pass across the box and Lopez beat the keeper to his left.

Dylan Gavin (Methuen) made two saves to record the win in net.

NECC stays home on Tuesday night to host Community College of Rhode Island at 7:00pm at Whittier Tech.

Volleyball grabs pair of wins over MassBay and Roxbury

Haverhill, MA (October 4, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College volleyball team picked up a pair of 3-0 wins over MassBay and Roxbury to complete a perfect week and ran their win streak to five matches. The pair of wins improved the Knights record to 7-5 overall and 6-2 in Region 21 action.

Against MassBay, the Knights cruised to a three-set win with scores of 25-8, 25-9 and 25-15.

Maria Rosario (Lawrence) and Santa DeLeon (Lawrence) combined for 11 kills in the win as the Knights hit

.304 as team in the match.

Rachelle Torres (Lawrence) handed out 18 assists in the match and also served up a match best six service aces. Faith Martin (Billerica) added four service aces.

Game statistics from the Roxbury match aren’t currently available.

NECC will return to the court on Thursday when they play host to Massasoit with first serve set for 6:30pm from the Sport and Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus.

Northern Essex Announces Addition of Women's Flag Football

Haverhill, MA (October 14, 2026) – Northern Essex Community College is pleased to announce the addition of women’s flag football to its varsity athletic offerings beginning with the 2027-28 academic year. The newly established program will start practice in the Fall 2027 and compete in the Spring of 2028.

The fastest growing sport at the collegiate level, the NJCAA will offer a national championship in the sport for the first time in the spring 2028 season, coinciding with the Knights taking the field on its newly under construction all turf outdoor athletic complex on the Haverhill campus.

Girls flag football participation at the high school level has increased nearly 50% over the previous year across the nation and more than 80 high schools in Massachusetts will sponsor the sport in the spring 2027. Participation at the NJCAA has more than doubled since it began recognizing the sport in 2025.

“We’re excited to join the growing number of schools to sponsor Women’s Flag Football, and offering new

opportunities for women to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. We look forward to bringing this exciting sport to our championship culture at Northern Essex”, stated Knights Athletic Director Dan Blair. “Right now, the sport has its greatest number of participants in Massachusetts within the Merrimack Valley and this will help us tremendously in building our program.”

NECC will become the third community college in Massachusetts to announce the addition of the sport joining Roxbury and Massasoit.

The search for the inaugural head coach of the program is underway; interested applicants can apply through the included link. Additional information about the program, including its inaugural season, coaching staff and recruitment opportunities will be announced at a later date.

Interested prospective students may complete the online student recruitment form and/or contact Director of Athletics Dan Blair dblair@necc.mass.edu for additional information.

NECC’s McCarthy Appointed to Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Statewide

Northern Essex Community College is pleased to announce that Michael McCarthy, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial and Operating Officer, has been appointed to the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center (MSBDC) statewide Advisory Council, a newly established group of business, government, economic development, and community leaders helping guide the future of small business support across the Commonwealth.

The Advisory Council was established as part of the MSBDC’s five-year strategic plan, which is focused on strengthening the organization’s ability to help entrepreneurs build and grow sustainable businesses that drive economic growth and innovation across Massachusetts.

“I’m honored to have been asked to join this amazing group of leaders to help our small businesses and local economies while creating opportunities for students,” said McCarthy.

The statewide Council brings together CEOs, entrepreneurs, professional service providers, economic development partners, government leaders, and other key stakeholders. Members will provide strategic insight into the opportunities and challenges facing Massachusetts small businesses, identify opportunities for collaboration and new programming, and help ensure MSBDC programs and services continue to evolve alongside the needs of the business community.

“The strength of the MSBDC has always been rooted in our connection to the businesses and communities we serve,” said Paula Murphy, State Director of the MSBDC. “Our Advisory Council brings together an exceptional range of perspectives from across Massachusetts. Their experience and insight will help us think strategically about where small businesses are headed, where gaps and opportunities exist, and how the MSBDC can continue delivering meaningful impact throughout the Commonwealth.”

The Massachusetts Small Business Development Center provides no-cost, confidential business advising and educational resources to entrepreneurs

and small businesses throughout the Commonwealth. Through its statewide network, the MSBDC helps businesses at every stage navigate challenges, identify opportunities, access resources, and build the strategies needed for sustainable growth.

As a member of the Advisory Council, McCarthy will bring his experience in higher education, budgeting, and workforce development to discussions surrounding emerging issues affecting small businesses, opportunities for statewide collaboration, and initiatives designed to strengthen Massachusetts’ entrepreneurial ecosystem.

“Community colleges are an integral part of economic development at all levels,” said NECC President Lane Glenn. “Having Mike seated at this table will provide important perspectives on how local community colleges offer training to both employers and employees, build connections, offer professional certifications, and provide development guidance that leads to positive business growth. I’m grateful he’s able to play a role in this discussion.”

The MSBDC’s statewide work is made possible through the support and collaboration of key public, academic, and private-sector stakeholders, including the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA); the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development and Massachusetts Office of Business Development; a consortium of higher education institutions led by the University of Massachusetts Amherst Isenberg School of Management; and a broad network of public and private partners. Representatives from several of these stakeholder organizations will also participate on the Advisory Council, bringing their perspectives and expertise to help inform and strengthen the MSBDC’s statewide efforts. Together, these relationships strengthen the MSBDC’s ability to connect Massachusetts entrepreneurs and small businesses with expertise, resources, and opportunities across the Commonwealth.

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

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

CICERO

Speak Spanish? Young People in Your Community Need You as a Mentor

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts Offers One-to-One Mentoring

Every child carries real potential, but not every child has equal access to the guidance that helps that potential take root. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM), the region's leading one-to-one youth mentoring program, exists to close that gap by matching children with caring adult mentors who show up consistently in their lives.

BBBSEM pairs children with adult mentors, known as Bigs, based on shared interests, geography, and personality. When a mentor and a child share a language, trust often builds faster, since a child doesn't have to translate their own life to be understood. Matches spend a few hours at a time together, a couple of times a month, from baking a family recipe to exploring a museum exhibit by a Hispanic artist, building relationships that last for years. Many Spanish-speaking families are waiting to be matched, and without more Spanish-speaking volunteers, some children wait longer than they should for a mentor who understands where they come from.

For Spanish-speaking families, Spanish-speaking staff and interpreters work directly with them to make sure every step of the process, from enrollment to matching, is clear and comfortable.

Anyone can enroll a child or become a mentor. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and able to commit a few hours, a couple of times a month, for at least a year.

For more information, to become a volunteer, or to register your children, visit: www.emassbigs.org.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday | November 4 | 4:00 p.m.
Light Refreshments | Bridges® at Andover

We understand the challenges of caring for a loved one with memory loss. Connect with other caregivers and memory care experts in a support group to learn helpful tips to help you cope with these challenges.

We're here to support you. If needed, feel free to bring your loved one. They can enjoy an activity with our life enrichment team while you attend the support group.

Contact Senior Advisor Susan to join us.

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Can't make our in-person session?
Join our online support groups via Zoom.

TO REGISTER:
[Bridges by EPOCH info@bridgesbypoch.com](mailto:info@bridgesbypoch.com)

Caregivers are invited to join in-person support groups.
Reach out to your Senior Advisor for details.



BridgesbyEPOCH.com
978.289.4100
254 Lowell Street
Andover, MA 01810

Glow Gala 2026

Early Bird Tickets/
Entradas con descuento anticipado

SALE/PREVENTA

Grab your Early Bird ticket until October 25th and secure your spot at a special price for just \$85.

Consigue tu entrada con descuento hasta el 25 de octubre y asegura tu lugar a un precio especial de solo \$85.

Join us for an inspiring evening at our annual Glow Gala! Since 1999, Groundwork Lawrence has been making positive change happen in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Our mission is to regenerate and improve the physical environment through strong community partnerships that empower people, businesses, and organizations to advance environmental, economic, and social well-being. The Glow Gala is our special opportunity to celebrate the progress we've made together—transforming green spaces, building healthier futures, and expanding educational opportunities for Lawrence youth. Come celebrate with us as we honor the achievements of our community, reflect on the impact of our work, and look ahead to an even brighter future together.

New in 2026 GWL proudly presents the Chet Sidell Legacy Award. The Award recognizes an individual who creates opportunities, supports others, and strengthens the Lawrence community through leadership, generosity, and mentorship. For this inaugural award we have the honor of presenting Bill Traynor founder and longtime Executive Director of LCW. As a valued friend and partner of GWL, Bill has collaborated with us on projects like the Reviviendo Initiative and has helped to create spaces where people can come together to build trust and see what's possible. Join us at Glow on November 19th as we celebrate the impact of Bill Traynor.

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- Rashes or other skin issues
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SALA DE EMERGENCIAS

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- 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



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➤ Are you new to the childcare field?

➤ Want to make a difference in a child's life?

Early Childhood Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program for Intermediate English Language Learners

Program Includes:

- English Language classes & College Prep
- New Teacher Academy
- CPR/First Aid Certification
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- Full Time Paid Apprenticeship
- On the job coaching
- Massachusetts EEC teacher certification

Schedule

English Classes: Oct. 20 - April 1, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6pm - 9pm.

New Teacher Academy: 1st week: Jan. 12, 13, 14 & 15
Then Wednesdays, Jan. 20 - March 31, 9am - 3pm

Eligibility

- 18 years or older
- Pass background check
- US Work Authorization
- High School Credential
- Intermediate English Level
- Desire to improve English skills
- Genuine interest in Early Education
- Commitment to complete the program

Location

English Classes and New Teacher Academy will be in Lawrence, MA

Scan to register for an info session



Wendy Taylor - TCG
wtaylor@thecommunitygroupinc.org
1 Union St. Suite 300, Lawrence, MA
978-682-6628

Alisa Povenmire - NDEC
executivedirector@ndecclawrence.com
354 Merrimack St, Entry C, Suite 210
Lawrence, MA 978-521-3357





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NEW AMERICANS**

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WEDNESDAY SEPT 30, 4PM

**[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.
US/J/81494411176](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81494411176)**

TRAINING LOCATION:
NDEC - LAWRENCE
354 MERRIMACK STREET
ENTRANCE C, SUITE 210
LAWRENCE, MA 01843

TRAINING TIMELINE:
JAN 27 - MAY 28, 2027
MON, WED, FRI 9AM-2PM

✓ **DO YOU WANT TO HELP
IMMIGRANTS LEARN ENGLISH?**

✓ **ARE YOU AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LEARNER YOURSELF?**

✓ **DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A
TEACHER, TRAINER, VOLUNTEER, OR
STUDENT LEADER?**

✓ **IF YOU ANSWERED YES, BECOME A
CERTIFIED TEACHER OF ENGLISH
FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER
LANGUAGES (TESOL)!**

**REQUIRED: ADVANCED ENGLISH
LEVEL AND WORK AUTHORIZATION.**

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Next Classes Start:
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Interested candidates will take a placement test
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Freedom Trail® Announces Official Smartphone App Available in Spanish

The Freedom Trail Foundation has launched the official Freedom Trail® app in Spanish during National Hispanic Heritage Month and as part of the Freedom Trail’s 75th anniversary. Available for iOS and Android devices, the Freedom Trail app connects 16 of America’s most significant historical landmarks. The innovative offering highlights the rich history of the American Revolution as it unfolded in Boston, as well as a wide assortment of historic sites just steps off the Trail. Bringing the stories of the brave people who helped shape America to life, it makes any visit to and walk along the Freedom Trail fun and educational. The Freedom Trail Foundation has partnered with STQRY, a leading mobile app technology platform to create this Freedom Trail experience.

“The best stories make you feel like you’re part of them. We’re proud to

help the Freedom Trail bring Boston’s history to life for more people” says STQRY CEO and President, Thomas Dunne. “Adding Spanish means even more visitors can experience these incredible stories in a way that feels personal.”

Signature events such as Paul Revere’s midnight ride, the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Boston Tea Party, and the Boston Massacre are featured as well as other historic events and over 250 years of history. The app guides users on the Trail with automatic audio at stops with GPS mapping as well as an interactive map that helps find stops with ease, and over 1.5 hours of audio content, including music and guest interviews with historians and academics. Additionally, photos, images and text for all stops invite people to experience the Trail and historic sites featured on the app. It is the only official

app, historically accurate, with text approved by Boston-based historians and the Freedom Trail Foundation.

The partnership with STQRY for the new Spanish and original app came to fruition due to STQRY’s unique technology offering, their experience in working with the travel and tourism industry, and its common mission to help educate and entertain a technology-driven audience visiting major sites, like the Freedom Trail. STQRY’s state-of-the-art Mobile App Producer, a web-based content management system allowed the Foundation to organize and construct an app that can be easily published and updated across multiple app stores, as well as their connection with Spanish speaking narrators made it seamless to create.

“The Freedom Trail Foundation endeavors to help all navigate and enjoy experiencing the Freedom Trail, and this initiative makes the Freedom Trail more accessible to Spanish speaking residents and visitors alike” says Freedom Trail Foundation Executive Director Suzanne Segura Taylor. “We are delighted to welcome more people to visit Boston’s historic gems while using the new Spanish app that is educational and entertaining.”

The Freedom Trail apps are available in Spanish and English on the iOS App Store and the Android Market for \$9.99. For more information or to purchase the app, visit <https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/tours/freedom-trail-tour-app>.



EARLY-STAGE SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday | October 20 | 11:00 a.m.
Online via Zoom

A dementia diagnosis can be overwhelming. We invite those living with early-stage dementia to join us for a guided conversation to connect with others also living with a dementia diagnosis, who truly understand the specific challenges and emotions that they may be going through.

Our Bridges® experts will provide recommendations to resources and information about the disease, and practical tips and advice to help these attendees through their dementia journey.

Caregivers are invited to join in-person support groups. Reach out to your Senior Advisor for details.
Connecticut - Brookfield, Norwalk, Orange, Stamford, Trumbull
Massachusetts - Andover, Hingham, Lexington, Mashpee, Pembroke, Sudbury, Westford, Westwood
New Hampshire - Nashua

HONORED TO FLY THE PURPLE FLAG
Purple Flag for Dementia Care accreditation signifies our adherence to 60 best practices, extensive team member training, and a collaborative approach.

TO REGISTER:
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Caregivers are invited to join in-person support groups. Reach out to your Senior Advisor for details.



BridgesbyEPOCH.com
978.289.4100
254 Lowell Street
Andover, MA 01810



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday | October 21 | 11:00 a.m.
Online via Zoom

Join Bridges® memory care experts and other caregivers who understand the complexities of caring for a loved one with memory loss.

Our Zoom support groups offer the opportunity to ask questions, share stories, and learn strategies to make caring for your loved one a less stressful and more fulfilling experience for you both. We also offer in-person support group opportunities. Reach out to your Senior Advisor for details.

Connecticut - Brookfield, Norwalk, Orange, Stamford, Trumbull
Massachusetts - Andover, Hingham, Lexington, Mashpee, Pembroke, Sudbury, Westford, Westwood
New Hampshire - Nashua

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254 Lowell Street
Andover, MA 01810



House of Mercy focuses on the physical, mental, and most importantly, spiritual rehabilitation of every person that comes seeking help in our organization. We are a place of rest for souls feeling lost and rejected today. Our mission is to reestablish and to raise lives according to the commands and principles of The Bible, and the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

House of Mercy is in need of underwears for men and women. If you are interested in making a donation, Rumbo recommends ordering from Bags in Bulk.

Check out their webpage for selections where you can buy assorted sizes in bundles of 50 for a very low price.

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

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



Bagsinbulk.com

New Winter Energy Bill Relief for Massachusetts Families

With winter energy costs expected to rise significantly due to the war in Iran, Governor Maura Healey declared a **State of Energy Emergency**. This gives the state additional authority to **increase heating assistance, offer relief to middle-class families and take charges directly off bills.**

In total, Governor Healey is delivering \$150 million in relief to Massachusetts families.

NEW HELP FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

Governor Healey created a new, **one-time heating assistance benefit** for middle-income families who heat their homes with oil.

- Families earning between **60% and 100% of the State Median Income** can qualify for up to \$680 in relief this winter.
- For example, a family of four earning up to \$171,749 may qualify.

up to **\$680** in relief

Applications for this new middle-income heating oil benefit will open in **December 2026.**

MORE ASSISTANCE THROUGH HEAP

Governor Healey is also boosting assistance available through the Massachusetts **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**, which helps households earning at or below **60% of the State Median Income.**

- Depending on your income and how you heat your home, eligible households can receive **between \$600 and \$1,450** in heating assistance this winter.
- HEAP is available to both **homeowners and renters**, and you do not need to be behind on your heating bills or receive other public assistance to qualify.

20% more assistance for oil heat customers

15% more assistance for utility heat customers

You may be eligible for HEAP assistance for home heating costs incurred during the heating season from **November 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027.**

Even if you have not qualified for heating assistance in the past, check again this year.

To apply or find a HEAP agency in your area, visit Mass.gov/HeatingHelp.

Governor Maura T. Healey
Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

Mass.gov/HeatingHelp

Nueva Medida de Alivio en las Cuentas de Energía para Familias de Massachusetts

Ante la expectativa de que los costos de energía aumenten significativamente debido a la actual guerra en Irán, la gobernadora Maura Healey declaró un **Estado de Emergencia Energética**.

Esta medida le da al estado autoridad adicional para **ampliar la ayuda económica** para que las familias puedan pagar la calefacción este invierno, extender esta asistencia a más familias de clase media y eliminar ciertos cargos directamente de las facturas de energía.

En total, la Gobernadora Healey está invirtiendo \$150 millones para dar alivio a las familias en Massachusetts.

NUEVO APOYO PARA FAMILIAS DE CLASE MEDIA

La Gobernadora Healey creó un nuevo programa de **ayuda para la calefacción** dirigido a familias de **ingresos medios**. Este beneficio estará disponible únicamente durante este invierno.

- Las familias con ingresos entre el **60% y el 100% del ingreso medio estatal** podrían calificar para recibir hasta \$680 en ayuda este invierno.
- Por ejemplo, una familia de cuatro personas con ingresos de hasta \$171,749 al año podría calificar.

hasta **\$680** en ayuda

Las solicitudes para este nuevo programa de ayuda para la calefacción abrirán en **diciembre de 2026.**

MÁS ASISTENCIA A TRAVÉS DE HEAP

La Gobernadora Healey también está ampliando la ayuda disponible a través del **Programa de Asistencia de Energía para el Hogar (HEAP, por sus siglas en inglés)**, que ayuda a hogares con ingresos de hasta el **60% del ingreso medio estatal**.

- Dependiendo de sus ingresos y del tipo de calefacción que utilicen, los hogares elegibles pueden recibir entre **\$600 y \$1,450** para **ayudar a cubrir sus costos de calefacción** este invierno.
- HEAP está disponible tanto para **propietarios como para inquilinos**. No necesita estar atrasado en sus facturas de calefacción ni recibir otros beneficios públicos para calificar.

Las familias que calientan sus hogares con petróleo u otros combustibles entregados a domicilio recibirán aproximadamente **20% más ayuda** mientras que las familias que utilizan gas natural o electricidad para la calefacción recibirán **15% más**

HEAP puede ayudar a cubrir los costos de calefacción durante la temporada que va desde el **1 de noviembre de 2026 hasta el 30 de abril de 2027.**

Si usted no ha calificado para esta asistencia de calefacción en el pasado, revise nuevamente este año.

Para aplicar o encontrar una agencia de HEAP en su área, visite Mass.gov/HeatingHelp

Governor Maura T. Healey
Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

Mass.gov/HeatingHelp



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)



DIVERSE UNDERSTANDING

EDUCANDO • COMPRENDIENDO • TRANSFORMANDO COMUNIDADES

COMPRENDIENDO A NUESTROS JÓVENES: MÁS ALLÁ DE LA CONDUCTA DESAFIANTE



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.

¡Regístrate hoy!

Regístrate para recibir información sobre la fecha, ubicación y más detalles del evento.



SCAN ME!

"Debemos aprender a vivir juntos como hermanos o perecer juntos como necios."

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

Martin Luther King Jr.