

# Rumbo

Agosto 22, 2003

Lawrence/Methuen

Año 8 • Edición No. 175-L

## Flag raising celebration - Izan bandera de Portugal



Photo: Bill Collins

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and Maria Duarte moments before raising Portugal's flag, in front of 222 Essex Street. Duarte, a concerned citizen, complained to the Mayor because her country's flag was missing from Essex Street. In response to her concern, the flag was replaced on Thursday, August 14.

*El Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan y María Duarte momentos antes de izar la bandera de Portugal frente al 222 de la Calle Essex. Duarte, una ciudadana consciente, se quejó al alcalde de que la bandera de su país faltaba de la calle Essex. En respuesta a ella, la bandera fue reemplazada el pasado jueves 14 de agosto.*

## Desfile Dominicano de Lawrence



Un grupo de muchachos marchó al frente abriendo la parada.

Por Alberto Surís

El Cuarto Desfile Dominicano de Lawrence se llevó a cabo el pasado domingo 17, entre colorido, música, alegría y cientos de personas a ambos lados de las calles por las que pasaban, que vinieron a disfrutarlo.

El Desfile Dominicano de Lawrence, fundado en el verano del año 2000, con el objeto de celebrar la Restauración de la Independencia Dominicana, ha venido creciendo en popularidad a medida que han pasado los años.

El desfile es la culminación de varias actividades que comienzan con la elección de la Reina, la Cena de Gala y este año, por primera vez, A.L.M.A. (Association of Ladies Motivating Action) se les unió en la celebración de un Día Típico Dominicano, que resultó todo un éxito.

La participación en el desfile de los tres partidos dominicanos con filiales radicados en Lawrence (PLD, PRD y PRSC) fue sin duda el toque más "dominicano" que faltó en los anteriores. Cada partido desfiló con su flota o carroza, entre las cuales es digno de destacar la del PRSC por su colorido y originalidad.

Aparentemente, la mayoría del público que se situó alrededor de la tribuna del jurado, eran partidarios del PLD. Estos aprovecharon la oportunidad de hacer la señal de la "L", mientras pasaban los miembros de su partido, y con el dedo pulgar apuntaban hacia abajo mientras desfilaban los miembros del PRD. Afortunadamente, a pesar de la rivalidad existente entre los partidos, todas estas demostraciones fueron hechas con altura y recibidas en forma jocosa.

Cuatro carrozas desfilaron en representación de Barahona, La Vega, Santiago de los Caballeros y San José de Ocoa. Barahona, con un motivo de un central azucarero, obtuvo el primer lugar por segundo año consecutivo. La Vega y Santiago se colocaron en segundo y tercer lugar, respectivamente.

El premio a la mejor comparsa recayó en los Diablos Cojuelos, mientras que Lawrence Ballet Academy resultó de nuevo la ganadora del primer lugar entre las academias de baile. De Nosotros y YWCA se clasificaron en segundo y tercer lugar.

Es de destacar que la Alianza Puertorriqueña de Nueva Inglaterra, N.E.P.R.A., tomó parte del Desfile Dominicano, siguiendo el llamado a la unidad que hiciera su presidente, Epifanio Gil.

El jurado del desfile estuvo compuesto por Claudio Pérez, Rafael Mirabal, Juan Matos y Milton Pimentel.

(Vea más fotos en las páginas centrales)



La carroza de Barahona fue ganadora por segundo año consecutivo del primer premio. Este año simulaban un ingerio azucarero completo con bueyes, carreta con caña y ¡hasta las torres echaban humo!

(Vea más fotos en las páginas centrales)



## Editorial

# Todos mienten

(en el Departamento Escolar)

El pasado domingo, el Eagle-Tribune publicó un anuncio de una página entera de la Asociación de Administradores Escolares de Lawrence apoyando al Superintendente Escolar, Wilfredo T. Laboy. No debemos guardarles rencor por permitir que usen sus nombres porque era lo más lógico que hicieran.

Desde el comienzo, el artículo no tenía credibilidad pero al ver el anuncio, las mentiras fueron confirmadas. El artículo dice que la asociación consta de 50 miembros; sin embargo, había 66 nombres en el anuncio. Eso, sin contar unos cuantos que “no estaban por acá o sin querer fueron dejados fuera de la lista.” Entonces, ¿Cuántos son?

El artículo también dice que la asociación “excluye a los directores de escuelas y funcionarios de alto nivel y está compuesta mayormente de directores asistentes y supervisores.” Había dieciséis principales en la lista y también lleva los nombres de las dos Asistentes del Superintendente, el Director de Personal y el Director de Presupuesto y Finanzas. ¿No los consideran funcionarios de alto nivel?

No se quejen si “siempre están levantando la alfombra en Lawrence para ver qué hay debajo.” Cuando ustedes tratan de engañar a la gente con declaraciones mal preparadas, menospreciando la inteligencia de los lectores, perdemos todo el respeto por ustedes y lo que representan.

## They all lie

(School Department, that is)

Last Sunday, The Eagle-Tribune published a full-page ad from the Lawrence School Administrators Association in support of the Superintendent of Schools, Wilfredo T. Laboy. No one should hold it against those lending their names because it was the logical thing for them to do.

From the beginning, the article was not very believable but when viewing the ad itself, the lies were confirmed. The article says that the association has 50 members yet, there were 66 names in the ad. That, not counting a few that “were out of town or were inadvertently left off the list.” So, how many are they?

The article also says that the association “excludes building principals and high-level management and is comprised mostly of assistant principals and supervisors.” There were sixteen school principals on the list and it also bears the names of the two Assistant Superintendents, the Director of Personnel and the Director of Budget and Finance. Are they not considered high-level management?

Don't complain if the “rug is always being lifted in Lawrence to see what's underneath.” When you try to fool the people with half-baked statements undermining the intelligence of the readers, we lose all respect for you and what you represent.

## Rumbo

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## Lawrence

# ¿Abundan los abusos entre los empleados municipales?

Por Dalia Díaz

En la industria privada despiden a la gente por dar mal uso al equipo de la compañía, mentir en la hoja del horario de trabajo, o hacer cosas personas durante horas laborales. La Ciudad de Lawrence no es una empresa privada así que todo eso pasa por desapercibido con Andrea Traficanti.

Al examinar las cuentas de su teléfono celular por los meses de febrero, marzo y abril de este año, encontré que ella no solo gasta cuatro veces el promedio de otros empleados, sino que lo usa como su teléfono personal todos los días y noches, incluyendo los fines de semana que no está de turno en caso de una emergencia.

Yo tengo un problema con eso porque ella debe tener su propio teléfono si quiere hacer citas con peluquerías o el salón de bronceado, no uno pagado por los contribuyentes de esta ciudad.

Así es, un salón de bronceado en Salem, New Hampshire, donde ella iba regularmente aparece muy a menudo en su cuenta, así como la dulcería Trípoli y muchísimas llamadas personales a varios pueblos a 30 millas de aquí.

Otro número que me confunde es el del hogar de Kevin Moury en Salem, New Hampshire. El es el Supervisor de Parques en Methuen. ¿Estará buscando trabajo allí?

Lo que más me irrita es que los obreros de DPW, incluyendo Andrea, tienen radios de dos vías para sus llamadas relacionadas a sus labores. La única razón porque ella lo usa es para que nadie pueda escuchar sus conversaciones. Los radios de dos vías son muy escandalosos y los pueden oír en los alrededores lo que no conduce



a pláticas personales.

Los teléfonos celulares son para poder llamarlos cuando no estén en casa ya que es el primer número en la lista que normalmente llaman.

Dicho sea de paso, desde mi primer artículo hace dos semanas cuando mencioné que Andrea había acumulado más de 350 horas de compensación adicional, ya tiene 414 horas. Ahora que ha sido nombrada para tomar la minuta de las reuniones del Comité para la Construcción de las Escuelas, el Departamento Escolar le pagará por ese trabajo. Hemos de vigilar si también le sumaran horas complementarias en su empleo de DPW.

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## Lawrence Heritage State Park Programas interpretativos

¿Está interesado en aprender más sobre la historia de la Ciudad de Lawrence?

Venga a conocer al personal de Lawrence Heritage State Park en visitas semanales guiadas durante las horas del museo para enriquecer su mente con un mejor entendimiento de quienes fundaron a Lawrence, la historia industrial de Lawrence, la importancia de Lawrence en la historia del movimiento laboral, y su rica historia cultural.

Esta es una gira del museo con un guía de Lawrence Heritage State Park, una actividad interactiva, y un vídeo sobre la famosa “Huelga de Pan y Rosas.”

Las giras duran aproximadamente una hora. La entrada es gratis y es accesible con sillas de ruedas. Favor de llamar a su personal al (978) 794-1655 para que le den más información.



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**Lawrence****Cambios en el Comité de Construcción de Escuelas**

Por Dalia Díaz

La oficina del Fiscal de Distrito del Condado de Essex continúa su investigación del Comité para la Construcción de Escuelas y sus prácticas. El resultado ha sido los cambios impuestos por el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan dentro de este grupo tales como mantener minutas de las reuniones, televisar las reuniones y remover a miembros que no asisten regularmente.

Hemos de tener presente cómo es que estas cosas suceden. Todo comenzó con una carta a la oficina del fiscal del distrito por Bill Collins. Este es el mejor ejemplo de lo que una sola persona puede lograr.

El Sr. Collins escribió una carta quejándose al Fiscal de Distrito Thomas M. Donovan porque muchas de las reuniones se llevaban a cabo en secreto sin documentación de sus decisiones y en fechas y horario variables. A veces, algunos miembros no eran notificados de que habría una reunión.

Tras de la investigación de esta queja, el Alcalde Sullivan fue notificado de los resultados y el primer cambio que implementó fue la notificación de estas reuniones en la oficina del City Clerk en el ayuntamiento 48 horas antes de tener lugar. También, prometiendo que las mismas van a ser televisadas por el canal 10.

Hay un problema con este sistema de anunciar las reuniones en el ayuntamiento ya que no le permite al público en general enterarse de cuándo serán para así poder asistir si lo desean. Solamente yendo al ayuntamiento usted podrá enterarse. Estas reuniones deben ser anunciadas en ambas estaciones de televisión: el Canal 10 y el Canal 22. El propósito de estas estaciones es informar a los residentes.

Irónicamente, Andrea Traficante ha sido asignada para producir la minuta de estas reuniones. Es irónico porque cuando Suzanne Piscitello hizo la moción de no tomar notas de estas asambleas, Andrea la secundó. Ahora es su deber mantener cuidadosas notas de lo que allí sucede.

Andrea recibirá pago por las horas de trabajo en este comité por ser quien mantenga la minuta. Este gasto debe ser pagado por el sistema escolar y no por el ayuntamiento. Ahora debemos vigilar si también le darán horas de compensación en



*Amy McGovern, miembro del Comité Escolar que ahora tomará parte en el Comité para la Construcción de Escuelas.*

su posición en DPW por asistir a estas reuniones.

El cambio más reciente del Alcalde Sullivan ha sido el anuncio que Noah Shannon ha sido removido de este comité. Resulta que él había renunciado desde julio del 2002 y nadie lo sabía. Alegando que estas reuniones creaban conflicto con otras obligaciones suyas como la razón por casi nunca poder asistir, el Sr. Shannon envió la carta de renuncia del comité.

Ahora, ha sido un buen paso del alcalde el nombramiento de Amy McGovern a este grupo. No hay palabras para poder alabar la contribución de la Srta. McGovern a la ciudad como miembro del Comité Escolar. Ella es la única que hace su trabajo, cuestiona los temas ante ella, representa verdaderamente a los votantes y vota de acuerdo a su criterio. Ella va a forzar al Comité para la Construcción de Escuelas a cumplir con la ley y responder a los intereses del pueblo.

Otra cosa que el alcalde debe hacer: remover a Laboy y a sí mismo del comité porque su asistencia a las reuniones ha sido mínima.

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## Lawrence

# Maestro se postula para el Comité Escolar

Por Dalia Díaz

James Vittorioso, residente de toda su vida en Lawrence, quiere ser el próximo miembro del Comité Escolar por el Distrito A. Habiendo sido miembro de esa junta en 1984-85, él conoce las necesidades y los problemas que plagan la ciudad hoy.

Aparte de haber vivido aquí toda su vida, el Sr. Vittorioso ha trabajado con los niños de esta ciudad a través de los años. El tiene un Bachillerato en Administración de Empresas de Husson College en Bangor, Maine y tres Maestrías: Master de Artes – Historia y Enseñanza de Ciencias Políticas de New Mexico Highlands, Las Vegas, New Mexico; Maestría en Educación – Guía y Consejería de Boston State College, Boston, MA; y una Maestría en Educación de Lesley College, Cambridge, MA.

El Sr. Vittorioso ha trabajado para el sistema escolar de Lawrence desde 1971. El comenzó trabajando en Lawrence High School y al cabo de los años ha estado en las escuelas Oliver, Tarbox, Bruce, Leía, General Donovan, Sr. Mary, St. Francis, y el Departamento de Servicios a Jóvenes (DYS) como maestro y consejero. En la actualidad, es maestro de Preparación para el MCAS en la Escuela Guilmette. “Por eso creo que la principal fortaleza de Lawrence está en sus ciudadanos y en sus niños – el futuro de Lawrence,” afirma el Sr. Vittorioso.

“Cuando yo fui miembro del Comité Escolar, el presupuesto escolar era \$28 millones. Hoy es \$110 millones con casi el mismo número de maestros y estudiantes,” dice el Sr. Vittorioso en una entrevista exclusiva para Rumbo. “Yo comprendo que



los salarios de los maestros y los costos de seguros han subido. En 1972, mi salario como maestro era \$7,200,” nos dice con una sonrisa.

“Mis razones para postularme para el comité escolar son, según dijo el Presidente Ronald Reagan, ‘El problema con el gobierno es el gobierno en sí.’ Mi preocupación principal es la disciplina. Unos cuantos estudiantes en las clases son los que dificultan el proceso de aprendizaje. Muchos maestros están pidiendo ayuda,” explicó.

La disciplina es un problema afectando a todos los distritos escolares en los Estados Unidos. Algunos sistemas escolares han pedido permiso para poder administrar castigo corporal a los estudiantes que estén fuera de control en los grados desde

kindergarten hasta el octavo. “Yo no estoy de acuerdo con esto,” se apresura a explicar. “Yo prefiero que los padres tomen una parte activa. Si los padres se involucran realmente, yo creo que el comportamiento en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence mejorará.”

Entre las cosas que el Sr. Vittorioso aprueba están el dar preferencia a los residentes de Lawrence para los empleos disponibles en el sistema escolar, si están capacitados; la mejoría de la disciplina del sistema escolar en general; hacer que todos los maestros usen una identificación; enseñar educación cívica en todos los grados; tener un código de vestimenta desde kindergarten hasta el doceavo grado; más involucramiento de padres y maestros en las normas de las escuelas; mejorar la comunicación entre el sistema escolar y el concilio; mejorar los programas de educación alterna para los estudiantes que han perdido el control que interrumpen el proceso normal de aprendizaje; revisar el sistema de desarrollo profesional; hacer que nombren a un padre de familia al Comité Escolar para que los represente y hacer que todos los administradores enseñen una clase

por período cada semana o por lo menos al mes.

El Sr. Vittorioso se tomó el tiempo también para decirnos a lo que él se opone: Empleos otorgados sin haber sido anunciados; un estipendio para los miembros del Comité Escolar; teléfonos celulares para los miembros del Comité Escolar; todos los viajes fuera del estado para los miembros del Comité Escolar; demasiadas conferencias para maestros y administradores, aún si es pagado por una dádiva porque eso es también dinero de los contribuyentes; demasiadas conferencias donde todos los administradores están fuera de su edificio; y el nepotismo que todavía existe en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence.

El hijo único de Jennie (Minicucci) y Emmanuel Vittorioso quiere contribuir a su comunidad. “En breve, Lawrence tendrá una deuda de \$331 millones. Esto incluirá la nueva escuela secundaria por \$110 millones y otras necesidades,” explicó. “Esta deuda les costará a ustedes, los contribuyentes, entre cuatro y cinco millones de dólares en intereses cada año,” concluyó el Sr. Vittorioso.

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# How prevalent are abuses among Lawrence city employees?

By Dalia Díaz

In private industry people get fired all the time for misusing company equipment, lying on the time sheet, or doing personal stuff during work hours. The City of Lawrence is not a private enterprise so all that goes unnoticed with Andrea Traficanti.

Upon checking the bills for her cellular telephone for the months of February, March and April of this year, I found that she not only spends four times the average of other employees, but she uses it as her personal telephone every day and night, including the weekends that she is not "on call."

I have a problem with this because she should have her own telephone if she wants to make hairdressers or tanning salon appointments, not one paid by the taxpayers of this city.

Yes, a tanning parlor in Salem, New Hampshire, where she was going regularly appears very often on her bills, along with Tripoli Bakery and a myriad of personal calls to several towns 30 miles from here.



Another number that puzzles me is the home of Kevin Moury in Salem, New Hampshire. He is the Supervisor of Parks in Methuen. Could she be looking for a job?

What irritates me most is that DPW workers, including Andrea, have two-way radios for work-related calls. The only reason she uses this one is so that no one else can hear her conversations. The two-way radios can be heard by anyone in the same area and are very loud, not conducive to private chats.

The cell phones are only to be used when they are not at their home number, which is listed first on the on call list.

By the way, since my article two weeks ago when it was mentioned that Andrea has accumulated over 350 hours of comp time, she has now piled up 414 hours. Now that she has been appointed to take minutes of the School Building Construction Committee meetings, she'll be getting paid from the School Department. We must watch to see if she gets comp time added at DPW.

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Citizenship and computer classes meet from 9AM to 11AM. Preschool classes are available for three to five-year olds of adults enrolled in the morning classes. For more information, please call the Seton Asian Center at 683-7316.

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## James S. Vittorioso Lawrence School Committee

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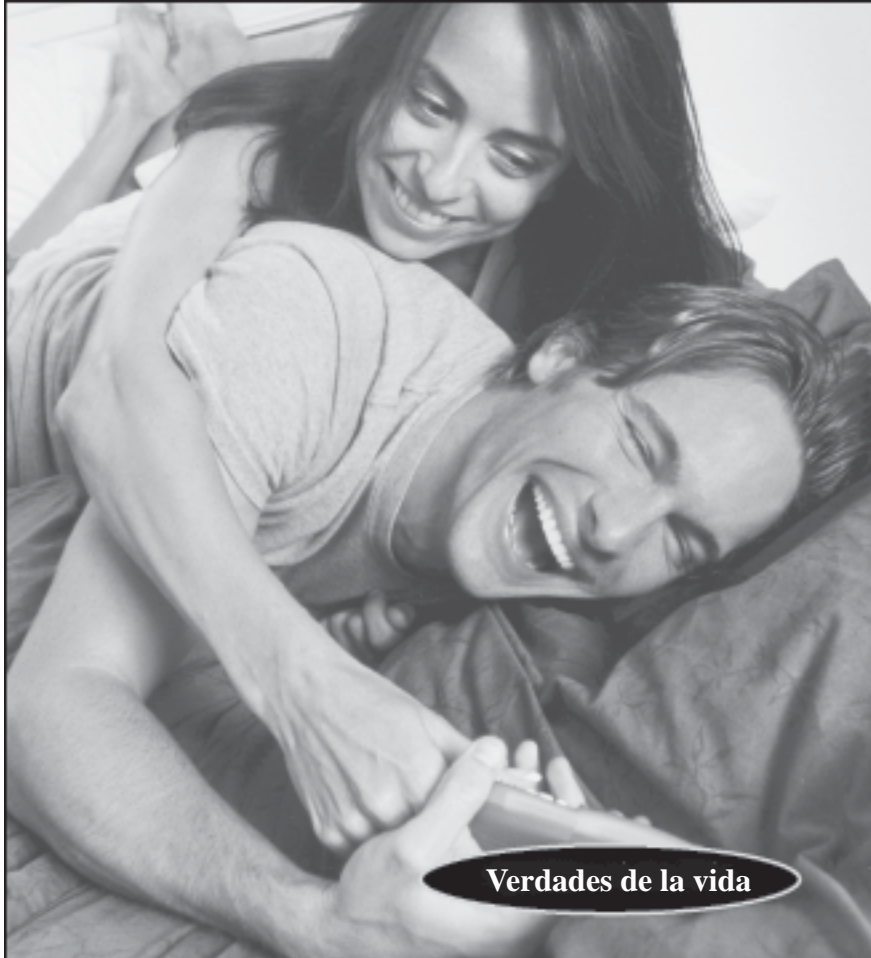


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one can learn.

Agradezco su voto el  
23 de setiembre.

I appreciate your vote  
on September 23.

Pagado por / Paid for by James S. Vittorioso



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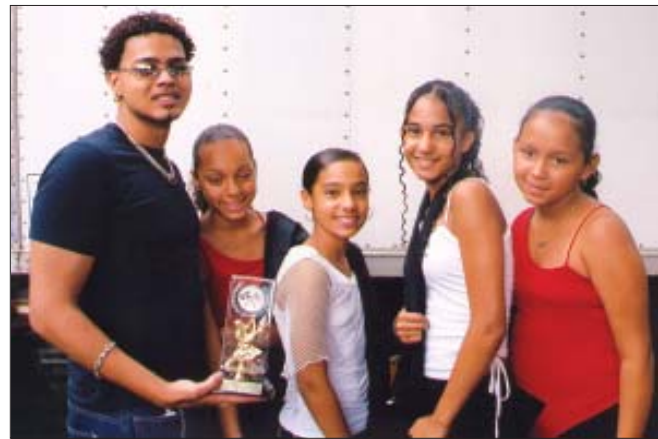
# Desfile Dominicano



La Senadora Sue Tucker bailó con los Carajuelos.



Abajo vemos al jurado del desfile el cual estuvo compuesto por Claudio Pérez, Rafael Mirabal, Juan Matos y Milton Pimentel.



YWCA dance group: Third place winners.

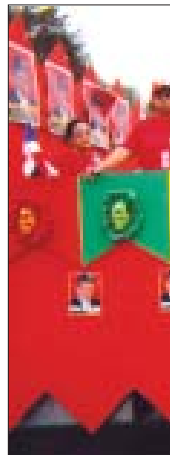
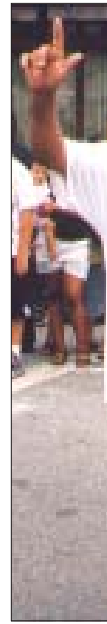


**ELECT John Dmytrow**

*for Councillor at Large*

En la actualidad es el Chairman del Concilio de Ancianos  
Currently the Lawrence Chairman for the Council on Aging

**Los Ancianos serán mi prioridad #1**  
**The Elderly will be my #1 Priority**





# ano en Lawrence



La c  
más  
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L. p  
  
El I  
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**Methuen**

# An Open Letter from Bill Patenaude

Methuen Citizens:

My name is Bill Patenaude and the reason, I am running for mayor as I did in 2001, is to present the citizens of Methuen with the opportunity to choose the Open Government Platform. This will empower citizens by giving them the knowledge they need to participate in our city's government with confidence. Also, as before, I am not taking any financial contributions for my campaign and will work for all the citizens of Methuen.

I am a long time resident of Methuen and currently reside at 10 Brentwood Rd. I'm married with four children, my daughter the youngest, is entering into her sophomore year, at Methuen High School.

I have been employed with the M.R.C. for twenty three years as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and at the LGH, for the last fourteen years in the power plant where I am licensed as a Third Class Engineer.

I am a retired veteran with 20 years of service. My active duty time was with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, where I was decorated for bravery. The remainder of the time was spent in the Army and Air Force Reserves. After Vietnam, I attended Northern Essex Community College and Bridgewater State College, where I received a B.S. in Education.

My Mayoral Platform of Open Government, is dedicated to empower citizens by making their elected officials



more accessible, accountable, and responsible, as they will be able to see where their tax dollars are being spent. This will be done by using a multi-media / low tech approach. The following are just several of the ways open government will be implemented. Suggestions and recommendations are always welcome.

- Placing all checks, contracts, vendors' names, etc. on the Internet and in the library.
- Televising all board meeting, community development, conservation, zoning, health, etc. on MCTV, as they play a vital role in the development and direction in which our city is heading. Also, the members of these boards are appointed, by the mayor and city council, which will give us further insight, into the hearts and minds

of our elected officials.

- Having all department heads on MCTV bimonthly, answering phone calls about their past, present and future projects.

Due to the Eagle Tribune's recent article concerning the high unemployment rate in Methuen, I feel I must clearly identify what I believe to be the problem. The Mayor should make every effort to keep and recruit businesses for the City of Methuen. However, I believe with the passing of the North American Free Trade Act, N.A.F.T.A., (which I fought against with Jobs With Justice), began the spiraling downfall of manufacturing in America. It continues today with our loss of jobs to third world countries for slave labor wages.

Lucent and Polo are some of the examples of manufacturing losses in this area. Think about it when you go shopping. Most of the products you buy that were once made in America, by Americans, are now made in other countries. These job losses, reduce our earned income, our tax base, and lower our standard of living. But, being as disgraceful as this is, we also lost our sovereignty. My opinion of this is, economic treason, as we handed over the control of our economic future, to N.A.F.T.A, G.A.T.T, and the World Trade Organization. As these trade agreements supercede our state and federal laws, they control our country's destiny and our children's future. Still, at the heart of this and other issues lies our real problem: we have an ethical and moral vacuum on every level of leadership within this country. The only way to change this is to vote them out of office.

The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, believes toxins have a huge effect on our educational budget. This year's schools'

budget is approximately \$43,466,798, along with a transportation budget of \$2,216,554. Our Special Education budget is \$8,101,811, approximately one fifth, and the transportation is \$1,437,995, approximately three fifths of our transportation budget. The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow states that toxins in our environment have led to nearly 17% of children in the U.S. to suffer from one or more learning, developmental, or behavioral disabilities. Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) now affects 3-5% (and possibly as much as 12%) of all school children. The number of children in special education in the U.S. increased 191% between 1977 and 1994. This demonstrates how important environmental issues are, but it doesn't show the pain and suffering these children and their families endure everyday, for which there is no price tag.

In November 2002 Methuen Citizens voted for freedom of choice by not fluoridating their public water system and saved \$14,000 a year of taxpayers' money and thousands of dollars on renovations and equipment that would have been needed to pump this toxin into our water supply. Ninety nine percent would have been wasted, as most would be used for washing dishes, showers, laundry, flushing and watering your lawn. I was the chairperson that led the fight to stop water fluoridation, which we won by over 1,800 votes. I would like to thank all the citizens that voted for freedom of choice, our most precious right. However, we must maintain vigilant over our water system, as water will become a commodity on the stock market in relativity short time. This is due, to the expected increase in world market demand.

There are no quick fixes to these problems, but through leadership and the open government policy, we will overcome these issues by working together. Remember, to remain free we must be brave.

Please vote on September, 16<sup>th</sup> and EMPOWER YOURSELF. Vote for OPEN GOVERNMENT.

Bill Patenaude for Mayor

## Enroll your child today and discover all the wonderful things you and your child will love about the the new Methuen YMCA Child Care Center.

*Here are just 5 of the many reasons you and your child will love the Methuen YMCA*

### 1. A healthy mind...

Your child will enjoy a wide variety of mind enriching activities that encourage creativity and individuality. The Y's curriculum involves many of the amenities offered at the Y.

### 2. A strong body...

Your child will be involved in playful activities that develop motor skill and increase physical confidence.

### 3. A happy spirit...

Your child will be in a warm supportive environment, which fosters the development of a healthy self-esteem and encourages personal growth.

### 4. A safe and secure environment...

Your child will be guided and cared for by teachers selected because of their training, certification and remarkable sensitivity to the needs of preschoolers. And parents are an important part of our Y's family and are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom, share special skills, plan special activities and much more!

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Next to your love and care, the Methuen Y's Child Care Center will be the best thing you do for your child this year.

The Y's Child Care and Enrichment Center is a five day program, operating from 7 am to 6 pm year round. Your child will spend each day enjoying these teacher guided activities:

- Arts & Crafts • Dramatic Play • Storytime • Gym Time
- Environmental Education • Outdoor Play • Games
- Music • Nutritional Snacks • Physical Fitness
- Science • Outdoor Play • Songs & Poems
- Special Family Nights • And much much more

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**MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA**  
**METHUEN BRANCH CHILD CARE CENTER**  
 129 HAVERHILL STREET • METHUEN

## ValleyWorks Career Center Lawrence & Haverhill announce new hours

### Lawrence

Mon & Fri: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
 Tues & Thurs: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
 Wed: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

### Haverhill

Mon & Wed: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
 Tues & Thurs: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
 Fri: 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

The career center will be open late on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and will no longer be open Saturday mornings. The new hours do NOT apply to the Lucent Career Center in Haverhill, also operated by the WalleyWorks Career Center.



## It's all About Right(s)!

By Ellen Bahan

### Non-issue

Sharon M.oney Pollard does have a way with words. A non-issue is what she called the Mayoral Forum, sponsored by the cable access show; It's All About Right(s). How hilarious that Sharon M.oney Pollard still thinks she gets to pick the issues, the forum, the subject matter, moderator, and all participants. Unfortunately, for Sharon M.oney Pollard the issues are a product of this administration's mismanagement, patronage, taxpayer funded revenge, and then just plain old favoritism for a job done poorly, at best. NOW STAND AND ANSWER!

I call it fear. Sharon M.oney Pollard also states in the daily record of advertisement, death, Dear Abby and horoscope, "You never sit and get interviewed by your opponents' supporters." Funny that never seems to be an issue when the shoe is on the other foot as the two previous mayoral debates were handled.

Jump in the way back machine with me. The year is 2000, the election is between Larry Giordano and the queen, the debate is on MCTV, hosted by the then station manager, Bill Barrell. During the debate, the queen says that if she becomes mayor, she will give Barrell and MCTV a new studio. Talk about bribes!

To boot, the mayor or any government entity does not have any jurisdiction over the cable access channel. What am I thinking? I AM IN PORK TOWN! Still today, the cable advisory board reads like a hackarama extravaganza.

Also in that debate, the queen arrives with a sheath of papers, facts and figures supplied by the double D's, (Mayor Dennis DiZoglio), rump swabs. It was amazing, Larry was asking for pubic documents that never seemed to be available to mere mortals. That reminds me of a past column, "A Leg Up", perhaps I should write a sequel.

Next, let us fast forward up to the 2002 election with Bill Patenaude as the opponent, Mr. Patenaude pressed and pressed for a debate and finally the queen in all her queenlyness informs him two days before, that she will graciously grant Mr. Patenaude an audience, that will be aired live and repeated one time. Bill Patenaude's microphone fails to work!

Next the queen again in all her queenlyness agrees to a debate with Mr. Patenaude on WCCM's Ronnie Ford's Hotline Show, but surprise, surprise, the day the debate is to air, WCCM changes the time

of the Hotline Show, moving it back a 1/2 hour. Just before they go on the air, the queen enters with her entourage of hacks, asks Bruce Arnold moderator of the debate, if he would like to be Grand Marshall of the upcoming Santa parade. What do you think Bruce said?

Seems to me old shar is always buttering her bread, setting the tone before the gun is fired. How politically savvy! Oh God, how smarmy!

I can understand Sharon M.oney Pollard's trepidation of It's All About Right(s) Mayoral Forum. You see, when old shar cannot control the surroundings or information disseminated; she packs up her chips and goes home.

Let me tell you why. Sharon M.oney Pollard is incapable of playing fair and thus thinks that we are all incapable. If you watched the Forum, MCTV channel 22, It's All About Right(s) Mayoral Forum, Methuenites saw for themselves that this was not the case.

A long time ago when I first began my quest into the goings on in our local government, I approached the mayor and council, rose-colored glasses firmly planted on my nose, hat in hand, begging to be heard. It was not until the glasses were ripped on my face, I was threatened by two town employees, insulted and called names by the town lawyer and other employees made to participate in a kangaroo trial; did I learn the rules of the game. I have always been a quick learner. If you cannot beat them at the game, you must learn just how they play. Loyal readers IAM ON A ROLL! DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?

Read on...

### Public information is knowledge

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives. A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both." (James Madison fourth president of the US.)

I am sure my loyal readers are well aware of the incredible difficulty of obtaining public information in the Town of Methuen. Not by my word alone, many

(Cont. on page 14)

## Lawrence

# Changes on School Building Construction Committee

By Dalia Díaz

The Essex County District Attorney's office continues looking over the School Building Construction Committee and its practices. The results have been changes imposed by Mayor Michael J. Sullivan within that group such as keeping accurate minutes of its meetings, televising such meetings and replacing members that do not attend regularly.

Let's keep in mind how these things happened. It all began with one letter to the District Attorney's office by Bill Collins. This is the best example of what one concerned citizen can accomplish.

Mr. Collins wrote a complain letter to District Attorney Thomas M. Donovan because many of the School Building Construction Committee meetings were held in secret with no record available of their decisions and held at variable dates and times. Occasionally, members were not even notified that a meeting was to be held.

Upon investigating the complaint, Mayor Sullivan was notified of the findings and began to comply by first posting these meetings in the City Clerk's office at City Hall 48 hours prior to taking place. Also, promising that these meetings would be shown on Channel 10.

There is a problem with the posting of the meetings in the City Clerk's office because that doesn't allow the public to find out when they will be held in case of planning to attend. Only by going personally to City Hall you can learn about it. These meetings should be posted on both television stations: Channel 10 and Channel 22. The purpose for having these outlets is to inform the residents.

Ironically, Andrea Traficante has been assigned to take minutes of these meetings. It is ironic because when Suzanne Piscitello made the motion not to have minutes kept of the meetings, Andrea seconded it. Now it is her duty to keep careful notes of what is being said.

Andrea will receive pay for the hours of work in this committee for taking minutes. This expenditure should come out of the school department and not from the



School Committeewoman Amy McGovern, has been appointed to the School Building Construction Committee.

city. We must now watch if she will also accumulate comp time at DPW for attending these meetings.

The latest change Mayor Sullivan announced was the removal of Noah Shannon from this committee. It turned out that he had resigned since July of 2002 and nobody knew it. Claiming that these meetings conflicted with other activities as the reason he was hardly ever there, Mr. Shannon sent a letter resigning from the committee.

Now, it was a good move for the mayor appointing Amy McGovern to be part of this group. We cannot say enough about Ms. McGovern's contribution to this city as a member of the School Committee. She is the only one doing her homework, questioning the issues, truly representing the voters and voting her mind. She will force the School Building Construction Committee to abide by the law and be responsive to the interests of the people.

There is one more thing the mayor should do: remove Laboy and himself from that committee because their attendance to meetings has been minimal.

## Sons of Italy Five Mile Road Race & Health Walk

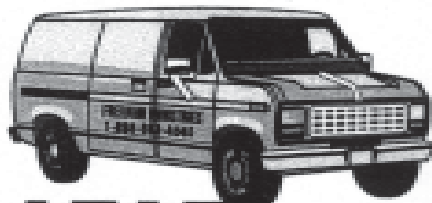
Race and Health Walk to benefit Big Brothers Big Systems of Greater Lawrence, Inc.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sons of Italy Road Race & Health Walk will be held on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning at the Sons of Italy, Marston Street, Lawrence. The Health Walk will begin at 5:45 pm and the Race at 6:15 pm. A complimentary spaghetti dinner follows the Race. All proceeds benefit Big

Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lawrence serving the Lower Merrimack Valley. Pre-registration is \$14, day-of-event registration is \$18.

The Race offers a challenging course. The first 200 registrants will receive a long sleeve T-shirt. Trophies will be awarded for different age categories with cash prizes for the male and female winners. Incentive gifts will be given to participants who bring in sponsor money for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Call (978) 687-1370 for registration information. Applications are available at the Sons of Italy Lodge.

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## Letters/emails/Cartas

Some of the emails received regarding our Editorial of August 8, 2003

### Blame the School Committee

¡Te Felicito!

Your editorial was outstanding young lady!

Everyone that has read it has made the same statements. It was also nice of you to point out that when he came in to the school system he excused himself for his Spanish speaking skills.

Great Job!

I just finished reading your editorial. I LOVE IT. You are a girl after my own heart. How many times have we tried to let the people know of the waste of money as well as the illegal ways of the great combo Mike Sullivan and Andrea Traficante? I wonder what will happen next. You are the best. I just wish the people of Lawrence would smarten up, and speak up.

We are not giving Wilfredo T. Laboy's Alma Mater enough credit. Could you tell me where Wilfredo got his BA degree? Where did he get his administrative credentials? What University do we thank for this great educator?

Fantastic! Your editorial is excellent. But, I couldn't expect less from you.

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**Although we have not written about the Superintendent of Schools, Wilfredo Laboy, in recent weeks, we have received some letters due to the national coverage he acquired when he failed his literacy test.**

I am appalled, angry, and embarrassed by this issue. The fact that Spanish is his first language is no excuse for a man in his position to flunk this test.

What bothers me the most about this article is that it sends a message to the rest of the Anglo world that Hispanics are getting these jobs and they don't even have a basic command of the English language. You know, filling a quota. An accurate message it seems to be in this case.

Here I am, Writing Specialist and now Team Lead of a writing organization. Many times I've sensed that people that don't know me wonder how good my writing and grammar skills are to have this job. I take pride in the fact that my command of the English language is better than probably most of the Native American men that work for me. Actually, I think I can probably say "all". Seeing articles like this infuriates me. How unfair to the rest of us...

Daisy Díaz  
East Hartford, CT

Everyone that I have spoken to has stated that you have been right all along regarding Mr. Laboy! However it is easy now to jump on the band wagon! When you were questioning him how many supporters did you have!

My concern over him is not the fact that he failed (three times!) but more so over the excuses he used. English is his second language? He's been here since he was 5 years old! Spanish is his second language!

He felt humiliated to be in a room with 23 year olds! What ever happened to leading by example? If we believe that teacher competency is important then he should validate the test by stating it is not easy, and that he will work hard to pass it!

The word "stupid" should not ever appear in the vocabulary of an educator. It is the most degrading word that exists, especially when you want to inspire an individual on risk taking to try learning something new.

Rules apply to everyone, how he handles this will help determine the case of the teachers against the school system!

Keep up to good work.

Ralph Carrero  
Lawrence

Laboy... The pillar of our community?

Laboy told the Eagle Tribune he'll take the November exam instead of September to give himself more time to prepare. "Over the course of the next two months, I have schools to open and a lot of things to get done," he said.

This is a big distraction. Who is he kidding? He and Lawrence are the laughing stock all over the State. I am sure he will not resign nor go job hopping because now, no community except the big sucker he now works for will take him. Only in Lawrence folks can you get screwed so often. If our children have to pass the MCAS test then he has no excuse. Not to mention the fact that he claims to have English as his second language. He came to this country when he was five.

When and how did he get this far? Only here, can he attain the highest salary with no true credentials, no true qualifications. No where else. They are too smart. The state must take its share of the blame for allowing this fiasco. The State Department of Education has failed miserably and should be housecleaned. Also, I am very disappointed in Gov. Romney, for his statements should have his facts in hand before saying anything.

Lawrence, once again has been put down, laughed at and deservedly so. We were only six months away from accreditation when he came on board. What good job? His lucrative position must end. If we are to gain the respect of ourselves, other communities in the State and above all our children who have been hurt the most.

Eileen (Yelle) Hughes  
Lawrence

**Lawrence Police Gang Unit**

**(978) 794-5923 Confidential  
Cooperate with Lawrence Police!**

**If you hear strange noises or shots in your neighborhood, call this telephone number. Your message will be completely confidential.**

No topic in our seven years of publication has brought the level of telephone calls and email messages that the article on Andrea Traficante, "Giving the city a bad name" produced. These emails are just some samples.

I just read your story on Andrea, what a story!! What a great job you did! You know it is about time people like her should not get away with some of the things they do in this city. Imagine she is telling you to see her lawyer. Who is this lawyer, anyway? BOWERS?

Well, I needed to tell you to keep the good work up.

You should make this a series if they do not fire her.

That article blew me away; you were right on the mark!!! This kind of investigative reporting shames the other papers. The good news is you are making them dig deeper and work harder... and we will all benefit from that. You forgot one word that describes the Andreas and Wilfredos of the world, ARROGANCE !!!

The article is GREAT!!! The entire City is talking about it.

McCann is walking around with his head touching his knees. Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 pm everyone at City Hall was walking out with a Rumbo newspaper in their hands, smiling from ear to ear.

Upon reading your article, most people's first comment is: Dalia is an excellent investigative reporter. She really does her homework.

**Attention  
Massachusetts  
Wartime era  
Veterans!**

**You may qualify for state as well as federal benefits. If you have any questions regarding eligibility call the City of Lawrence's Veterans Services Office at (978) 794-5846.  
Daniel Lannon,  
Director**



## Ellen Bahan's Short Stories

### If it quacks like a duck...

It's lame! Does everybody know what a lame duck is? It is a politico who, if elected, enters into their last term, and cannot be elected again because of term limits. In other words the sky is the limit when it comes to giving out favors, golden parachutes for your cronies, no wait old shar already did that for her buddy Maddy V. Remember she got a retirement package, even though she was a few years shy on employment.

I can only fathom what is in store for you the good people of Methuen, if old shar ascends to the throne again.

### All choked up

I am still wiping away the tears from my eyes after reading that heart-warming story about Ray DiFiore in the Sunday daily record of advertisement, death, Dear Abby and horoscope.

Strange I thought Ray worked for the people! I must be missing something because nowhere in the article did I see the people mentioned. In fact, you'd think that old shar was opening up her purse, taking out her checkbook, or was that the Teacher's Union Pension Plan credit card and paying old Ray herself.

### Not!

I guess I'd believe the Teacher's Union Pension Plan credit card before I'd believe Sharon M.oney Pollard wrote a personal check. Come to think of it, old shar never did show us the check where supposedly she paid back the Teacher's Union Pension Plan for the junket she and Billy Bridgeboy Manzi took together to Washington, DC to schmooze with those loads we lovingly call our federal senators and representatives. Hey, Billy Bridgeboy Manzi never showed his reimbursement check either!

What I found fascinating about the article is the fact that Ray DiFiore was employed in the public works department

for 33 years, 30 of those years spent in Lawrence. Not for anything, but has anyone taken a close look at Lawrence lately? I'd say that we really cannot afford to have Ray here much longer, three years is already too long! Has anyone taken a look at our parks lately?

In my business we have this saying... you get what you pay for!

### Fish tales

It has come to my attention that our newly installed Chief of Police has been acting badly. Let me go on the record to be the first to say I am shocked!

It seems that the chief was out to dinner at a fine establishment in Methuen. I think we can all safely assume his mode of transportation was the family cruiser, since I have been told the Made-Man does not own a car.

Well, being the health conscience boy we all know he is, he ordered the fish. According to sources the fish was not to his liking, and being the in-charge guy he is, he demanded to speak to the owner, who obliged. He started the conversation as one full of himself often does and asked the owner, DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

The owner obviously having missed that famous picture of Solomon poised with the dawwgs, at the swearing in of the made-man ceremony, pleaded ignorance.

The conversation declined to obnoxious, on the chief's part, and the badly acting chief, summonsed a cruiser to pick up the fish and have it tested. Alas, the dishwasher had already deep-sixed the fish. HA HA HA, sometimes I do really crack myself up.

I thought that one of the deputy dawwg's duties would be as fish taster. The other is... Well, we all know what dawwg's do.

How's that for taxpayer money spent wisely? Folks you ain't seen nothing yet!

*Ellen Bahan is a columnist expressing her opinion. You can email your comments and suggestions to Ellen Bahan to Ellenbahan@aol.com*

## Lawrence

# Teacher, candidate for School Committee

By Dalia Díaz

James Vittorioso, a lifelong resident of Lawrence, wants to be the next member of the School Committee for District A. Having been a member of that Committee in 1984-85, he knows the needs and problems abounding the city today.

Aside from living here all of his life, Mr. Vittorioso has worked with the children of this city through the years. He holds a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from Husson College in Bangor, Maine and three Masters degrees: Master of Arts – History and Political Science Teaching from New Mexico Highlands, Las Vegas, New Mexico; Master of Education – Guidance and Counseling from Boston State College, Boston, MA; and Master of Education from Lesley College, Cambridge, MA.

Mr. Vittorioso has been working for the Lawrence school system since 1971. He started working at Lawrence High School and has worked through the years at the Oliver, Tarbox, Bruce, Leahy, General Donovan, St. Mary, St. Francis, and the Department of Youth Services as teacher and counselor. At present, he is the MCAS Prep teacher at the Guilmette School. "That's why I believe Lawrence's main strength is its citizens and its children – Lawrence's future," Mr. Vittorioso stresses.

"When I was a member of the School Committee, the school budget was \$28 million. Today it is \$110 million with about the same number of teachers and students," said Mr. Vittorioso in an exclusive interview for Rumbo. "I know teachers' salaries and insurance costs have gone up. In 1972, my pay for teaching was \$7,200," he says with a smile.

"My reasons for running for the school board are, to quote President Ronald Reagan, 'The problem with government is the government itself.' My main concerns are discipline. A few students per class are making the learning process very difficult to do. Many teachers want help," he explained.

Discipline is an issue facing all school districts in the United States. Some school systems have requested permission to be able to administer corporal punishment to out-of-control students from grades K-8. "I do not favor this," he's quick to explain. "I favor getting the parents involved. If the parents, truly get involved, I believe that behavior in the Lawrence Public Schools will improve."

Among the things Mr. Vittorioso favors



are giving preference to Lawrence residents for school system jobs, if they are qualified; the improvement of school discipline system-wide; have all teachers wear badges; teaching character education to all grades; a dress code from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade to dress up not down; more parent/teacher involvement in school policy; better communications between school system and the city council; improve alternative programs for out-of-control students who disrupt the normal learning process; review professional development; have a parent appointed to sit with the school committee and give parents input and have all administrators teach one class period per week or month.

Mr. Vittorioso took the time to also tell us what he is against: Jobs given out without proper postings; stipends for school board members; free cell phones for school committee members; all out-of-state trips for school board members; too many conferences for teachers and administrators, even it is grant money because it is taxpayers' funded; too many conferences (meetings) where all administrators are out of the building; and the nepotism that still exists in the Lawrence Public Schools.

The only child of Jennie (Minicucci) and Emmanuel Vittorioso wants to give back to his community. "Soon Lawrence will become indebted for \$331 million. This will include the new \$110 million high school and other needed ventures," he explained. "This debt will cost you, the taxpayers, between four and five million dollars in interest charges each year," Mr. Vittorioso concluded.

You can find previous articles in our website: [www.rumbonews.com](http://www.rumbonews.com)

## Lawrence Heritage State Park Interpretive Programs

Are you interested in learning more about the history of the city of Lawrence? Join interpretive staff at Lawrence Heritage State Park for weekly guided museum tours and enrich your mind with an understanding of Lawrence's founding, Lawrence's industrial history, Lawrence's importance in labor history, and Lawrence's rich cultural history.

This is a guided tour of the museum at Lawrence Heritage State Park, an interactive activity, and a video about the famous "Bread and Roses" Strike.

Tours last approximately one hour. Free admission, fully accessible. Please call park staff at (978) 794-1655 for more information.



Lawrence Heritage State Park  
Visitors Center, 1 Jackson Street,  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Wednesdays, 1pm & Sundays, 1pm  
through Labor Day

## National Night Out Celebration at West Street Park



**Due to scheduling conflicts we have to change the date for the National Night Out at the West St. Park.**

**The new date for the NNO Block Party is Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> from 3PM-8PM at the West St. Park.**

**All activities are expected to go forward.**

**Please contact Domingo Melendez for more information at (978) 975-8793.**



## Reader response

# Disagrees with article on political signs

I think it's important to respond to a recent article on political signs by Bill Collins (with a supportive editorial by the RUMBO publishers). Although I have seen Bill Collins, Dalia Díaz, and Alberto Surís do incredibly important work here in the community, I believe they got this issue wrong. Here's why.

One of the foundations of this country is its commitment to the concept of free speech. Many of us have come to recognize that the existence of this right is one of the few things that gives us a glimmer of hope even while living under what is slowly evolving into a country run by millionaires on behalf of corporate America.

But more specifically it is the existence of *political speech* that is what the Constitution (and common sense) tells us should always be protected. Political speech comes in any number of ways, including what people say at city council meetings, what community organizers say at workshops or to a crowd at a demonstration, the letter to the editor you write, or simply the placing of a sign on your property advocating an idea or election of a candidate.

This is fundamental to any functioning democracy, the idea that the government can play no role in the abridgement of political speech. When you begin to curtail this right you begin to slowly dismantle one of the things that prevent us from becoming the kind of police state that existed in the former Soviet Union, North Korea, Cuba, Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and numerous other countries in this world.

In fact under the Patriot Act, we are already losing many of the protections we once held dearly. Of course the rationale is the same as the one provided in Bill Collins' article on political signs. They always tell us that they are doing these things to protect us.

In the RUMBO article it is to protect us from the omni-present Israel Reyes signs that are up all over the city. There is nobody less worthy of elected office than people like Israel, who make no contributions to the city except to run for whatever political office is available. (Under whatever political party is convenient at the time.) But this is beside the point.

Every government (and certainly every dictatorship) uses excuses to bully its own people into submission. Whether it's "protection from terrorists", "protection from the communist threat", protection from the "anti-American element in this country" (apparently anyone who disagrees with 'da furer, I mean the president, etc.) I think this point was overlooked in the RUMBO article.

It is important to remember however that political speech is different than *commercial speech*, which has never been protected by the Constitution and never should be. Commercial speech has always been regulated as any other thing related to commerce is. It is here that the community and/or government are allowed to step in and ensure that a community's right not to be beholden to the greed of a corporation is upheld.

This is why we allow communities to regulate commercial billboards. This is why we have laws against fraudulent advertising



(which unfortunately is easily skirted). This is why we have zoning regulations that do allow for some input from the community when it comes to where commercial establishments will be allowed to set up shop. But commercial speech is one thing, political speech is on a whole other level and we need to understand the difference.

Bill Collins does bring up an interesting point about the reality that these un-enforced laws are on the books. But this is simply a civics lesson for all of us that reinforces that it is up to government bodies to make the laws, but it has been left to the courts to determine (once someone challenges them) whether these laws can stand the constitutional test.

If you surveyed the law books of this nation you would find laws still on the books as ridiculous as a prohibition of women baring their legs in public or anyone playing board games on Sundays (remnants of the Puritans), as racist as the prohibitions on mixed-race marriages (reminders of our country's legacy of vicious racism), or as homophobic as the anti-sodomy laws that have finally been overturned by the Supreme Court.

In other words, simply because a law is on the books does not mean that it is a legal statute. Certainly when a public servant knows that a law is unconstitutional, as Bob Quimby must at this point in his career, it is their responsibility to ignore the law. Hopefully, some intelligent elected officials will then get around to removing these archaic (and potentially dangerous) laws from the books.

I think that Bill Collins, Dalia Díaz, and Alberto Surís, should also remember that as three of this communities best and most persistent critics of the failures of elected officials (i.e. government) they would be some of the first targets if political speech was no longer protected. In these days of John Ashcroft and a president who sends us off to a war based on bold lies, we need all the space for political dialogue that political speech can offer.

This article was written by Jonathan Leavitt. Jonathan was the founder of the Massachusetts Green Party and is currently the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Anti-Corporate Clearinghouse (MACC) P.O. Box 1382 Lawrence, MA 01842 (978) 683-3967 info@stopcorporatecontrol.org www.stopcorporatecontrol.org

# Rumbo's response to Jonathan Leavitt

By Dalia Díaz

First, you don't write short. Also, you don't know how to stick to the issue, losing the audience with your diatribe.

Second, you are right about Rumbo being the first target if political speech was no longer protected. We already lost that with Wilfredo Laboy who doesn't allow Rumbo in the schools or Central Office because we write 'negativity' towards him. Where have you and your group been to defend our cause?

The point in the Rumbo articles was: What's the sense of having laws if any city employee can decide which of them should be enforced? That behavior lends to more abuse than the laws itself. You praised Bob Quimby for ignoring laws that he considers unconstitutional, well, let's strike the noise ordinances and allow radios to blare freely.

We didn't mention Israel Reyes for his signs alone but because he sits in the Planning Board, the same group that regulates these ordinances and that's hypocrisy.

## It's All About Right(s)...

(Cont. from page 11)

of you have experienced personally the utter perversion in which public information is disseminated.

As soon as Sharon M.oney Pollard planked her butt down on the throne, she created the position of Minister of Public Information. Wait! I'm confused. That was Iraq. Excuse me; in Methuen we have a Keeper of All Public Information, Baghdad Toody.

I am sure you know this is not normal operating procedure. Other towns in the Commonwealth disseminate their information through their department heads. Think about it, who better to know what goes on in a department than the department head?

The Town or City Clerk is supposedly the true keeper of all public information that is not housed in the individual departments. If you noticed, I said supposedly, for in Methuen, under the reign of the queen, many others and I have been commanded to only speak to Toody, Keeper of All Public Information in the Town of Methuen.

I am never sure where "Toot" gets the garbage she supplies to us. I guess it would be even scarier if the department heads supply it to her; it would certainly verify my constant complaints of patronage and incompetent hires. Then again, Toody could be sanitizing it; I'll bet she washes her dollars bills too.

This plays into the above article of fairness. Fairness in Methuen is non-existent. In Methuen, information is on a need to know basis, and obviously the citizens have no need to know anything. Since this regime has ascended to power (as a matter of fact, since the last regime), public information has become so scarce and costly; you would think we were dealing in diamonds.

Simple things like the payroll records for a couple months of the police and fire departments become a thousand dollar fee to redact pertinent information that supposedly is not public. The number of

cell phones the town has is also a secret. No, wait! Toody, Keeper of All Public Information in the Town of Methuen stated in a letter that they do not know.

I see by the large Pollard signs cropping up in the town, we have a new slogan, it appears the "Forward Together" and FU has been left by the wayside. I wonder why? The new slogan says experience, leadership and knowledge. I ask a simple question of how many cells phones we currently have and who they are assigned to, and this seems to have the girls stumped. So much for the new slogan, it is also a bunch of BS.

It has recently come to my attention that a recent request for information through Toody, Keeper of All Information in the Town of Methuen has been forwarded to Tina Touma Conway, Town Clerk. I can only wonder why after all this time the regime has decided to follow the rules of the game. Could it be the heat has been turned on up at the next level? I hear all the time that Lawrence activists are hoping the federal government steps in to inflict receivership on Lawrence. The people who are watching those that are supposedly minding the store can see no other way to shovel out the corruption, incompetence and disservice being perpetrated upon the citizens of Lawrence. If the feds do come, I shall be standing on the border urging them to broaden their scope and take a look at this administration, which is also up to no good.

Methuen is not being run in the best interest of its citizens. This administration is hell bent on favoritism, suppressing your public information even if it means harm to its inhabitants. Forward Together for us and the hell with the rest of you. Leadership, experience and knowledge, my ass!

*Ellen Bahan is a columnist expressing her opinion. You can email your comments and suggestions to Ellen Bahan to Ellenbahan@aol.com*



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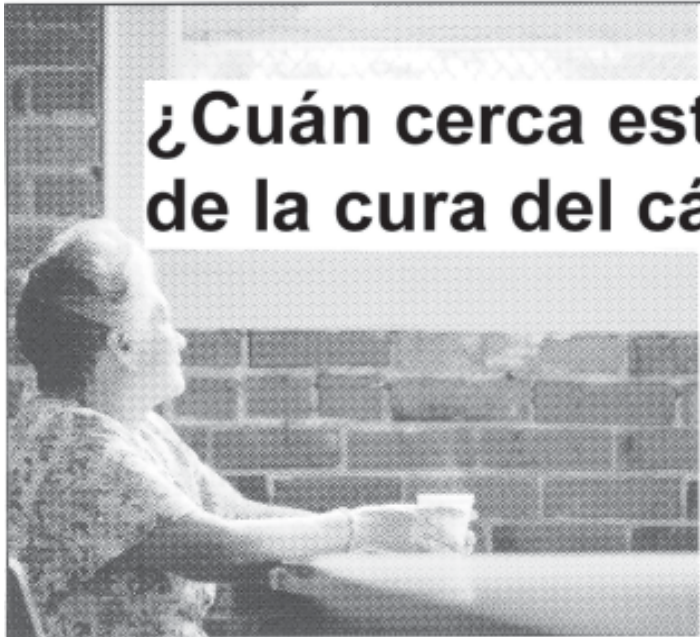


## McDonald's Nuevo horario

Manny González le recuerda que su restaurante McDonald's en la esquina de Broadway y Essex St., en Lawrence, está abierto ahora todos los **viernes y sábados** hasta las **2:00A.M.** Comidas para llevar solamente.

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Ford Taurus Wagon, 1994, well maintained for 110K miles. Has third seat and roof rack. Automatic, air conditioned, power windows and seats. Will sell for only \$1775. Call Andover—  
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## Ciudad de Lawrence

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**Deberes:** Planear y dirigir los programas organizados de recreación patrocinados por la ciudad. Evalúa las necesidades de la comunidad en cuanto a programas de recreación, trabaja con los funcionarios de las escuelas, los grupos comunitarios y otras personas y organizaciones que sean apropiadas. Responsable de la supervisión de las actividades de recreación del departamento, incluyendo la supervisión directa de actividades seleccionadas y de programas, así como de programar las actividades del departamento. Responsable del desarrollo del presupuesto del departamento trabajando con el director de finanzas, y del control de gastos del departamento incluyendo la nómina de pago y contratos de compras y servicios. Prepara las solicitudes para las concesiones especiales y fondos federales y administra tales fondos de acuerdo con políticas establecidas. Realiza otros deberes relacionados según le sean requeridos.

**Calificaciones:** Los deberes requieren el conocimiento del manejo de la recreación como el equivalente a cuatro años universitarios. El trabajo requiere cinco años de experiencia en recreación y en supervisión. Supervisa el personal del departamento el cual consta de dos empleados pagados y el personal temporal y entre 40 y 50 voluntarios.

**Fecha límite para solicitar:** 26 de agosto del 2003

Las planillas están disponibles en la **Oficina de Personal del Ayuntamiento de Lawrence, 200 Calle Common, Room 302, Lawrence, MA 01840.**

Los anuncios de trabajo detallados están disponibles en la **Oficina del Personal u ojeando nuestra página en el Internet [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)**

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## Latina Women

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# Liga Roberto Clemente

## Entrega de trofeos

Por Alberto Surís

Con gran excitación de parte de los chicos que la componen, se llevó a cabo la repartición de los trofeos de la Liga Roberto Clemente el pasado 15 de agosto, 2003. Después de la cena, la Directora de la Liga, Isabel Meléndez, dio la bienvenida a todos y presentó a varios políticos que aprovecharon la ocasión para dirigirse a los presentes.

Maricelis Ortiz, coordinadora de la Liga, procedió a llamar a los jugadores y a entregarles sus trofeos. El primer equipo en ser llamado fue Angels, Campeón en la categoría 5-7 años y su coach Emilio Gómez y a su patrocinador, Damaris Meléndez de Adam's Café.

Dentro de esa misma categoría se encuentran los Rangers, patrocinados por WIC, que clasificaron como Sub-Campeones, con su coach Vicente Santiago. Los Piratas, coach Ely Rodríguez, patrocinado por el Dr. Randal Davis, D.M.D./P.C. y por último los Coquies, patrocinado por Commonwealth Motors y su coach Darío Concepción.

Los Yankees, en la categoría 8-10 años, patrocinado por Tropical Express/Multi Service resultó Campeón, con su coach José Cardona al frente del equipo. Los Indians, patrocinados por la Federación Hispana de Deportes, resultaron Sub Campeones dirigidos por Lily & Freddy Santiago. También, dentro de esa categoría, participó el equipo

**La composición fotográfica muestra a alguno de los equipos de la Liga Roberto Clemente, que participaron en el campeonato 2003.**

Diamonbacks, patrocinado por Merrimack Valley School of Hair Design, con su coach Víctor Gómez.

La categoría de 11-12 estuvo compuesta de Los Cubs, patrocinado por Creciendo en Gracia, que resultaron los Campeones, con su coach Luis Terrero, y Los Cardinals, coronados Sub-Campeones, patrocinados por Kennedy's Cleaners con su coach Francisco Tineo.

En la categoría de 13 a 15, Los Braves resultaron Campeones, con su coach Sarai Díaz, patrocinados por Santo Domingo Motors. Los Sub-Campeones de esa liga lo fue el equipo del Rex Sox, dirigido por Luis Maysonet y patrocinado por Henry's Jewelry. El Equipo de Los Athletics, patrocinados por GLFHC y dirigido por Luis Claudio, también participó.



Angels, Campeón en la categoría 5-7 años y su coach Emilio Gómez y a su patrocinador, Damaris Meléndez de Adam's Café.



Este es el equipo "Los Braves".



Este es el equipo "Los Coquies."



Los Sub-Campeones de esa liga lo fue el equipo del Rex Sox, dirigido por Luis Maysonet y patrocinado por Henry's Jewelry.

