

Rumbo

Diciembre 8, 2005 *Lawrence/Methuen* Año 10 • Edición No. 230-L

Inaugurado el Centro de Transportación

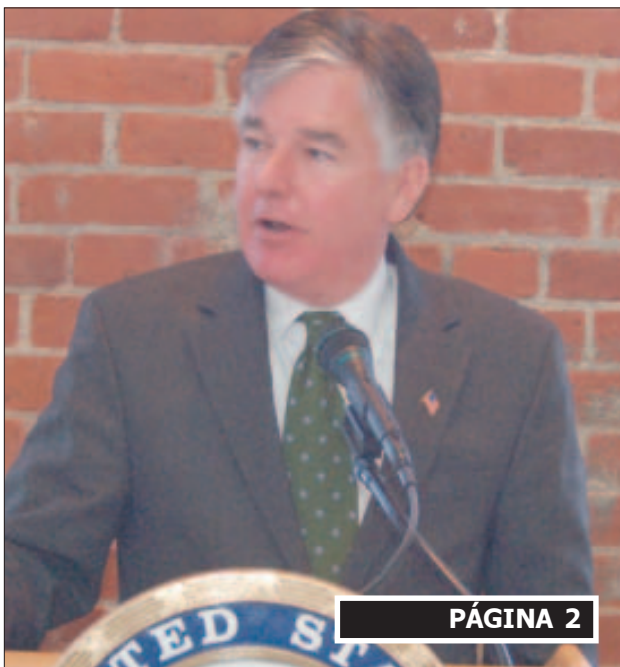


PÁGINA 3

El Centro de Transportación Senadora Patricia McGovern fue inaugurado el martes, 6 de diciembre con la presencia de autoridades de la ciudad y estatales.

NEW TRANSPORTATION CENTER DEDICATED

The Senator Patricia McGovern Transportation Center was dedicated Tuesday, December 6 with many city and state official in attendance. PAGE 3



PÁGINA 2

Foro sobre Lawrence RC

El Congresista Marty Meehan hablando a más de 200 personas que asistieron al foro sobre la Renovación de la Comunidad de Lawrence.

FORUM ON LAWRENCE'S RC

Congressman Marty Meehan speaking to more than 200 guests during a forum he hosted about Lawrence's Renewal Community. PAGE 2



PÁGINA 20

Cena de Navidad de NEPRA

Luis David Hiraldo, presidente de N.E.P.R.A. reacciona complacido ante el cheque de \$125,000 que le entrega el Representante William Lantigua durante la cena de Navidad para el Proyecto N.E.P.R.A.

NEPRA'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

N.E.P.R.A. President Luis David Hiraldo is pleased with the \$125,000 check he received from Representative William Lantigua, during the Christmas dinner for N.E.P.R.A. Project. PAGE 20

Bruce Arnold, half a century in Broadcasting

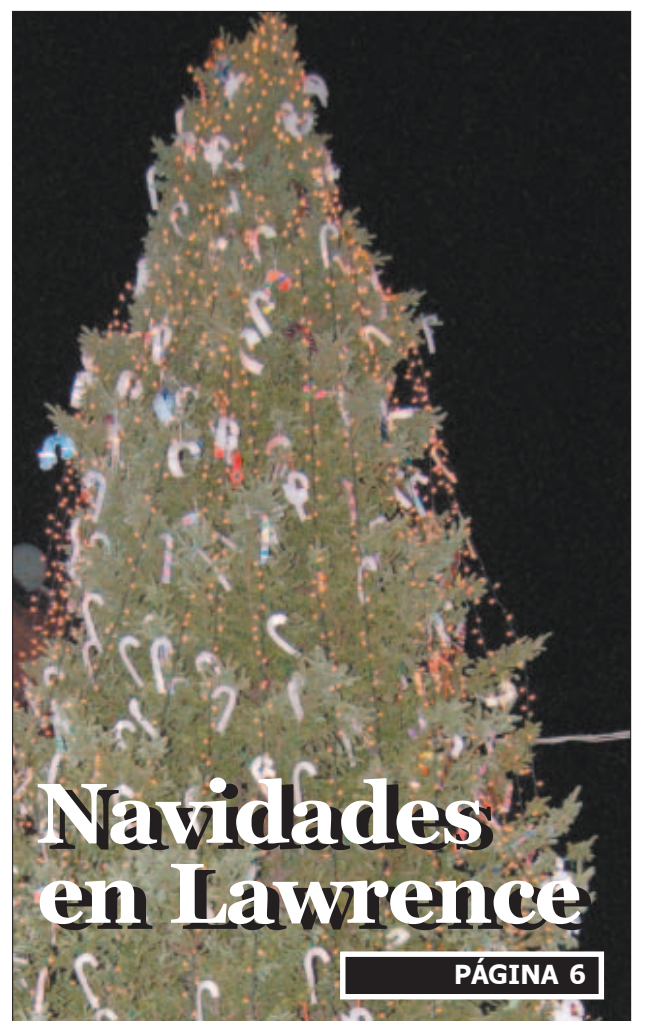


PÁGINA 10

Bruce Arnold recognizes someone in the crowd who gathered to celebrate his half a century in broadcasting.

BRUCE ARNOLD, MEDIO SIGLO EN RADIO

Bruce Arnold reconoce a alguien en la multitud que se reunió para celebrar su medio siglo en radio. PAGE 10



Navidades en Lawrence

PÁGINA 6

Para celebrar la estación, este árbol de Navidad de 25 pies de alto fue iluminado junto al ayuntamiento ante la presencia de autoridades de la ciudad y público en general.

CHRISTMAS IN LAWRENCE

To celebrate the season, this 25-foot Christmas tree was lit next City Hall with city officials and general public in attendance. PAGE 6

Editorial

Cosas estúpidas que dicen

Todos los años en esta época, la misma controversia surge en los medios de comunicaciones: ¿Es un árbol de Navidad o un árbol de días feriados? ¿Es Feliz Navidad o Felices Días de Fiesta?

Varias tiendas prohíben a sus empleados usar la palabra Navidad y la excusa es que no quieren ofender a nadie.

¿Quién puede sentirse ofendido porque le desean una Feliz Navidad? Si andan por las tiendas comprando juguetes con una lista en mano, debe ser celebrando el Día de Navidad, el mismo día que el gobierno federal reconoce como un día libre con pago.

Target, la cadena de tiendas, prohibió el uso de la palabra *Navidad* en sus anuncios pero cuando se encontró con un boicot de los consumidores, la ganancia del mes de noviembre indicó que debían hacer correcciones al problema y ahora planean cambiar la táctica de sus anuncios para este mes. Sears continúa con su terquedad.

Ellos piensan que los no Cristianos pudieran sentirse ofendidos con este saludo. Ni siquiera un ateo puede objetar a este gesto de buena voluntad. ¿Qué de malo tiene decir, "Feliz Navidad"?

Mientras que Happy Holidays (Felices días de fiesta) incluye Kwanza y Hannukah, diciendo Feliz Navidad no le falta el respeto a su religión o su herencia.

¡Vamos a dejarnos de sandeces!

Stupid things people say

Every year at this time, the same controversy erupts in the media: Is it a Christmas tree or a Holiday tree? Is it Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays?

Various store chains prohibit their employees from using the word Christmas and the excuse is that they don't want to offend anyone.

Who could possibly be offended by wishing them to have a Merry Christmas? If they are shopping in frenzy in a mall buying toys, carrying a list of names, it must be in celebration of the Christmas Holiday, the same day off that the federal government recognizes as a day off with pay.

Target, the store chain had forbidden the use of *Christmas* in its advertising but faced with a consumer boycott, the November profits showed that corrections needed to be made and they are now planning to change their advertising tactic for this month. Sears is still stubborn about it.

They believe that non-Christians may be offended by this greeting. Not even an atheist should object to this gesture of good will. What's wrong with saying, "Merry Christmas"?

While Happy Holidays will include Kwanza and Hannukah, saying Merry Christmas is by no means disrespectful to their religion or heritage.

Let's stop the nonsense!

Foro sobre Lawrence RC

Por Alberto Surís

El Congresista Marty Meehan fue el anfitrión en un foro para discutir la expansión de la Zona de Renovación de Comunidad de Lawrence. Representantes del Departamento de Viviendas y Desarrollo Urbano y del Servicio de Rentas Internas acompañaron al congresista, para responder a preguntas de cómo esta expansión impactará a la comunidad de negocios de Lawrence.

El Foro, que tuvo lugar en Sal's Conference Center and Function Facility, durante un almuerzo proveído por Sal Lupoli, propietario del establecimiento, el lunes, 5 de diciembre, 2005, atrajo a más de 200 hombres y mujeres de negocio. A pesar de que Chris Fingliss de New Balance explicó de cómo su compañía se ha beneficiado de los incentivos que el programa ofrece, no muchos, con la excepción de Malden Mills han tomado ventaja de ello.

De acuerdo con Fred T. Carberry, Director Interino de Planeamiento y Desarrollo, su oficina está para informar a la comunidad de negocio acerca de las ventajas de aplicar pero es la obligación de los dueños de negocios, a través de sus preparadores de impuestos o contadores, el aplicar. "Solo el Departamento de Rentas Internas puede decir cuántos negocios en Lawrence se están aprovechando de este plan", dijo Carberry.

En enero del 2002, Lawrence fue una de 40 comunidades en la nación que fue designada Renovación de Comunidad por el Departamento de Viviendas y Desarrollo Urbano en orden de revitalizar el desarrollo económico y revitalizar la ciudad. En 2004, el Congresista Marty Meehan legisló para expandir la actual zona de LRC y en 2005, HUD actuó para expandir el área, la cual incluye a Wood Mill, Riverwalk, Tower Hill y New Balance.

Julia Silverio, que fue parte del panel, explicó acerca de las dificultades que los latinos dueños de negocios confrontan. Silverio dijo a la audiencia que



La Ex Concejal y mujer de negocios de Lawrence, Julia Silverio, hablando durante el foro de Renovación de Comunidades.

Former City Councilor and Lawrence Business Woman Julia Silverio, speaking during the Renewal Community Forum.

En 2004, el Congresista Marty Meehan legisló para expandir la actual zona de LRC y en 2005, HUD actuó para expandir el área, la cual incluye a Wood Mill, Riverwalk, Tower Hill y New Balance.

a pesar que la mayoría de los negocios en Lawrence pertenecen a latinos, ellos son los más pequeños de todos y en una gran mayoría, operados por familiares.

VER FORO:
CONT. EN LA PÁGINA 5

Forum on Lawrence's RC

By Alberto Surís

Congressman Marty Meehan hosted a forum to discuss the expansion of Lawrence's Renewal Community Zone. Along with the congressman, representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Internal Revenue Service were on hand to explain how this expansion will impact Lawrence's business community.

The forum, which took place at Sal's Conference Center and Function Facility during a lunch provided by Sal Lupoli, on Monday, December 5, 2005, attracted more than 200 area business people. While Chris Fingliss from New Balance, explained how his company had benefited from the tax breaks offered by the designation, not too many, with the exception of Malden Mills, had taken advantage of it.

According to Fred T. Carberry, Acting Director of Lawrence Planning and Development, his office is

there to inform the business community about the advantages of applying but is up to that business community, through their tax preparer or accountants to do the actual application. "Only the Internal Revenue can tell how many businesses in Lawrence are taking advantage of this plan", said Carberry.

In January 2002, Lawrence was one of 40 communities in the nation to have been designated a Renewal Community by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, in order to spur economic development and revitalization in the city. In 2004, Congressman Marty Meehan authored federal legislation to expand the LRC and in 2005 HUD acted to expand the zone to include the Wood

SEE FORUM:
CONT. ON PAGE 15

Rumbo

Publicación quincenal de
SUDA, Inc.

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Lawrence, MA 01843

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WWW.RUMBONEWS.COM

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Año 10 • Edición No. 230L

Lawrence, MA
December 8, 2005

Rumbo is a bilingual newspaper published in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The print edition of Rumbo is a SUDA INC publication and is published four times each month. If you wish to advertise in Rumbo, call (978) 794-5360.

Centro de Transportación

Por Alberto Surís

Con entretenimiento proveído por The Mill City Jazz Band, y la presencia de legisladores estatales y oficiales electos de la ciudad, con el clásico corte de cinta, el pasado martes, 6 de diciembre, quedó inaugurado el Centro de Transportación Senadora Patricia McGovern. El Centro está localizado en la esquina de las calles South Union y Merrimack (211 de la calle Merrimack), no muy lejos de la antigua parada del tren.

El Centro de Transportación no es solo una estación de trenes, sino una Sub-Estación de Policía Comunitaria, tiendas próximas a abrir, una terminal de autobuses que próximamente darán viajes a los aeropuertos de Manchester y Logan y un inmenso edificio de estacionamiento con unos 900 espacios.



Transportation Center

By Alberto Surís

With entertainment provided by The Mill City Jazz Band, and the attendance of state and city officials, The Senator Patricia McGovern Transportation Center was dedicated on Tuesday, December 6, 2005. The Center, located at the corner of South Union and Merrimack Street (211 Merrimack St.) is not far away from the old Lawrence Train Station.

The Transportation Center is not just a new train station, but a Community Police Sub-Station, shops soon to open, a terminal for buses about to start traveling to Logan and Manchester Airports and back, and a huge parking building with close to 900 spaces.



Senator Steven Badour, Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan, Theodore Van Nahl, Senator Patricia McGovern, Adam and Jake Fee, Representative Barry Finegold, "Red" McGovern, Senator Susan Tucker, Representative David Torrisi, Representative William Lantigua, Matthew Keamy, Thomas Cahir and Dennis DiZoglio at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

La siguiente tabla muestra los distintos precios de estacionamiento en el Nuevo Centro.

The following are the parking rates for the Center, according to the MVRTA.

- \$1.00 per hour or part
- \$8.00 daily max to 2:00 am
- \$3.00 per day for commuter rail customers with proof*
- \$50.00 monthly pass for commuter rail customers with proof*
- \$75.00 monthly pass for regular parkers

*La prueba incluye un Pase Mensual Válido de Commuter Rail o un recibo de venta de un ticket. Tickets y pases están disponibles a la venta en el Centro de Operaciones de MBTA, localizada adyacente a la plataforma.

**Proof includes a valid Commuter Rail Monthly Pass or a receipt for a ticket sale. MBTA passes and tickets are available for sale at the Center Operations Office located adjacent to the platform.*

Fines de Semana y días de fiesta -
Weekends and holidays -
\$4.00 daily max to 2:00 am

Estacionamiento Nocturno -
Overnight parking -
\$4.00 in after 9:00 pm, out by 8:00



Mill City Jazz Band



Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

¿Cuatro años de vacaciones para Sullivan? No lo dé por hecho

Por Dalia Díaz

Muchos residentes de Lawrence están seguros que el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan va a pasar cuatro años de vacaciones y nada significativo tendrá lugar en la ciudad pero, la ceremonia de juramentación de su segundo término no se ha celebrado aún y él está retumbando como una tormenta.

La primera señal que vimos de las reformas que el alcalde está planeando hacer fue la creación de un Equipo de Transición con su hermano el ex alcalde Kevin Sullivan al frente. Mientras que los temblores empezaron a sentirse en el ayuntamiento, los residentes tenían la esperanza de ver un cambio positivo.

Al escuchar que el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan dismanteló la Junta Directiva del Workforce Investment Board, lo primero que pensé fue que el alcalde estaba en lo cierto. Los problemas con el WIB han aumentado al extremo que tenía que hacer algo drástico. Algunos de esos miembros posiblemente sean nombrados nuevamente, tal como el Presidente de Northern Essex Community College, David Hartleb, porque hay un requisito de que el colegio comunitario tiene que ser parte de la junta.

Al día siguiente, nos encontramos que el alcalde pidió a los miembros actuales de juntas directivas y comisiones en la ciudad que renunciaran a menos que tengan su misma visión en beneficio de la ciudad y las dudas comenzaron a surgir. ¡Tantos cambios siendo propuestos donde el denominador común es los deseos del Alcalde Sullivan! No hay intercambio de ideas, discusiones o sugerencias; simplemente seguir su visión. ¿Acaso es que el alcalde quiere rodearse solamente de gente que no le lleve la contraria?

"Yo quiero personas que quieran lo mejor para la ciudad", me dijo el alcalde recientemente. "El problema es que hay mucha gente que critican pero no hacen sugerencias de cómo hacer las cosas de mejor manera."

Pero el Alcalde Sullivan se contradice también. Fíjese en el Equipo de Transición que él ha formado. El Jefe de Policía John J. Romero y el Superintendente Escolar Wilfredo T. Laboy son parte del equipo. ¿Cómo puede esperarse una sugerencia para un cambio dentro de esos dos



Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan

departamentos con ellos ahí?

Si el alcalde quiere sugerencias, estas pueden solamente venir de personas de afuera mirando hacia adentro. ¿Qué tal con el Director de Presupuesto y Finanzas, John Griffin y el Director de Personal, Frank Bonet? ¡Ahí sí que va a tener sugerencias!

El Superintendente Escolar Wilfredo T. Laboy debe haber estado bailando en el techo al escuchar el Comisionado de Educación, David Driscoll, sugerir que los

¡Tantos cambios siendo propuestos donde el denominador común es los deseos del Alcalde Sullivan! No hay intercambio de ideas, discusiones o sugerencias; simplemente seguir su visión. ¿Acaso es que el alcalde quiere rodearse solamente de gente que no le lleve la contraria?

miembros del Comité Escolar deben ser nombrados, no elegidos por el pueblo.

Mi reacción fue de indignación total. ¿Qué pasó con la democracia? Si han de hacer algún cambio al Comité Escolar, debe ser volver al sistema anterior de elegirlos por toda la ciudad, no por distritos. Si el pueblo de Lawrence está de acuerdo con ese cambio, deben también pensar sobre esta pregunta: ¿Quién escogerá a esos miembros, el alcalde o el superintendente?

Esperemos que él no haga caso a la sugerencia del Sr. Driscoll.

Bien, esas son mis sugerencias para mejorar a Lawrence. Quizás tener tantas opiniones me descalifiquen para ser nombrada a una junta directiva en la ciudad.

Aviso a los políticos: Es hora de remover letreros

Por Dalia Díaz

El Departamento de Servicios de Inspección ha enviado un aviso a todos los candidatos para un puesto público en Lawrence dejándoles saber que ya es hora de remover sus letreros políticos.

"Les estoy escribiendo para pedirles su ayuda", dijo el Comisionado de Edificios Luis Waldrón en su carta. "Ya que las elecciones pasaron, estamos nuevamente, comenzando a recibir quejas con respecto a los letreros políticos que no han sido removidos".

Una Ordenanza Revisada de Zonificación en Lawrence requiere que todos los carteles sean removidos dentro de los treinta días después de las elecciones. Esto significa que la fecha límite para las elecciones generales es el 9 de diciembre y para las elecciones preliminares fue el 23 de octubre.

Los que perdieron en las elecciones preliminares en septiembre debieron retirarlos en treinta días pero la ciudad ha sido indulgente no haciendo cumplir la ley y el resultado ha sido que los carteles políticos de ganadores y perdedores de hace varios años están contaminando la ciudad.

Las multas comenzarán a mediados de diciembre según veamos qué letreros están en violación de los reglamentos.

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Estudiantes hacen entregas a Lazarus House

En la foto aparecen algunos de los estudiantes de la escuela secundaria que, a través de los consejeros donaron pavos de Thanksgiving a Lazarus House en Lawrence. La Sociedad de Honor de Lawrence High School reunió 20 cajas de comidas enlatadas para Lazarus House, las cuales fueron donadas por los estudiantes y la facultad.



LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL DELIVERS TO LAZARUS HOUSE

Pictured are Lawrence High School students who, through LHS Advisory, donated 26 Thanksgiving Turkeys to Lawrence's Lazarus House. The LHS Honor Society also collected 20 boxes of canned foods for Lazarus House, which were donated by LHS students and staff.

FORO:

CONT. DE LA PÁGINA 2



Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Joseph Bevilacqua; Sal's Conference Center and Function Facility Owner, Sal Lupoli; U.S. Small Business Administration Massachusetts District Director, Maurice L. Dubé; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Specialist, Cedric C. I. Kam; Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and State Representative William Lantigua, D-Lawrence, posing by the actual LRC map and the proposed area.

El Foro, que tuvo lugar en Sal's Conference Center and Function Facility, durante un almuerzo proveído por Sal Lupoli, propietario del establecimiento, el lunes, 5 de diciembre, 2005, atrajo a más de 200 hombres y mujeres de negocio.

"Y esa es una de las estipulaciones", dijo Silverio. "Si usted emplea a familiares, su negocio no califica".

De acuerdo con Silverio, hay ciertos factores por la cual estos negocios no han podido beneficiarse del programa y uno de ellos es la falta del uso de expertos

preparadores de impuestos del área y el no utilizar CPAs (Contadores Públicos Certificados) para preparar los impuestos. "La falta de conocimiento de la comunidad en encontrar los recursos que los asistan, es probablemente la barrera del idioma", dijo Silverio.

Silverio espera que con la nueva administración y con la cooperación de algunos de los concejales antiguos, la ciudad vaya a encontrar la solución de este problema. "La ciudad necesita crear un sitio donde las personas puedan obtener la información que necesitan", dijo Silverio y añadió, "Debemos ser capaces de trabajar con esos negocios, de ayudarlos, de mantenerlos en su negocio. No podemos olvidarnos de que el pequeño comerciante en Lawrence necesita asistencia, necesita ayuda y de que ahora tenemos la oportunidad de hacerlo y creo que debemos tomar los pasos necesarios para asistirlos ahora", terminó Silverio.

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Los libros necesitan estar en buenas condiciones y apropiados para muchachos entre 12 y 18 años de edad.

Si algún libro no puede ser añadido a la colección, será puesto a la venta. Usted puede llevar sus libros a la biblioteca principal o a la sucursal durante las horas laborables.

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Navidades en Lawrence

Por Alberto Suris

Como en años anteriores, Lawrence dio inicio a la temporada Navideña con la iluminación de un árbol frente al ayuntamiento. Al conteo de tres, el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan, con la ayuda de un grupo de niños encendió las luces en el árbol de 25 pies decorado por niños de las escuelas públicas de Lawrence.

El entretenimiento fue compartido por el Coro Femenino de la Escuela Superior y el grupo de danza de Taller Borinqueño, vestidas como Santa y sus duendecitos, cantando y bailando piezas Navideñas.

Algunos de los políticos locales utilizaron la oportunidad para venir al micrófono y enviar sus mensajes Navideños, pero la mejor parte de la noche fue cuando Santa llegó a bordo de un camión rojo de bomberos, para delicia de los jóvenes de todas las edades. Después de rifar algunos regalos, todos se movieron al interior del ayuntamiento para disfrutar de un refrigerio.



Santa vino en un camión rojo de bomberos.

Santa came in, in a red fire truck.



Los niños de todas las edades adoran a Santa.

Children of all ages adore Santa.

Christmas in Lawrence

By Alberto Suris

Like years past, Lawrence initiated the Christmas season by lighting up a tree next to City Hall. Mayor Michael J. Sullivan with the help of a group of small children, at the count of three, turned on the switch of a 25 foot Christmas tree, decorated by Lawrence schoolchildren.

The entertainment was shared by the Lawrence High School Girls Ensemble and a group of dancers of Taller Borinqueño, dressed in elves and Santa costumes, singing and dancing Christmas songs.

Some elected officials used the opportunity to come to the microphone and express their best wishes for the holidays, but the highlight of the night was the visit of Santa, who came in a red fire truck, to the delight of children of all ages.

After raffling several presents, the crowd moved inside City Hall for some light refreshments.



Grupo de danza de Taller Borinqueño.
Taller Borinqueño Dancers.

El Alcalde Sullivan se buscó unos ayudantes para encender las luces del árbol.

Mayor Sullivan got some helpers to turn the tree lights on.



Coro Femenino de la Escuela Superior.

The Lawrence High School Girls Ensemble.

Notas de su Bibliotecaria



Maureen Nimmo

Directora
Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence

¡Saludos amigos lectores! Espero que todos hayan pasado un buen Día de Acción de Gracias y que la nieve no les haya causado muchas inconveniencias. Yo tuve la dicha de pasarlo con mi familia aunque para poder hacer esto tuvimos que hacer un largo y lento viaje hacia el estado de Vermont.

Cuando usted lea esto ya habremos terminado con la primera etapa de las renovaciones del edificio. El auditorium estará ya terminado el piano retornado a su lugar, así podremos comenzar nuevamente a tener todos los eventos que por lo general son llevados en este salón. El auditorium es la parte más fácil de este proyecto ya que para cambiar la alfombra de este salón no hay que mover muchos muebles.

Como les mencioné en el último artículo, que les estaría informando de los datos específicos acerca de este proyecto y de las horas de servicio que tendremos. Estaremos cerrados al público en las semanas de diciembre 19 y 26. Esto permitirá que los trabajadores hagan su trabajo en el segundo piso y en Departamento de Circulación, los cuales son el área con más tráfico en la biblioteca. También son las áreas más difíciles pues tienen que mover todo los libros y ponerlos en orden en su lugar otra vez.

La biblioteca abrirá sus puertas al público en enero 2, 2006, pero el Departamento Infantil no estará brindando sus servicios hasta enero 9, 2006.

Durante las dos semanas que la biblioteca estará cerrada, la Sucursal del Sur de Lawrence estará abierta con un horario especial de lunes a viernes de 9 a.m. a 5 p.m. Recuerden que con su tarjeta de la biblioteca de Lawrence tienen derecho a utilizar los servicios de cualquier otra biblioteca tales como Andover, Methuen, North Andover, o cualquier otra ciudad en el estado que sea conveniente para usted. Estaré

Durante las dos semanas que la biblioteca estará cerrada, la Sucursal del Sur de Lawrence estará abierta con un horario especial de lunes a viernes de 9 a.m. a 5 p.m.

enviando información a todos los medios de comunicación para que estén todos informados del proceso.

Entre otras noticias, nuestra bibliotecaria para jóvenes adultos, Rebecca Domin está llevando a cabo una campaña para recaudar libros que sean apropiados para los lectores jóvenes. Si usted tiene algún libro lo cual ya haya leído y no esté usando, tráigalo a nuestra biblioteca. Rebecca está trabajando para establecer un espacio en nuestra biblioteca solo para jóvenes. Esto es de gran placer para nosotros, ya que tenemos una gran mayoría de jóvenes adultos que solicitan nuestros servicios, y queremos satisfacer las necesidades que ellos puedan tener. Es lindo que nuestros jóvenes tengan su propio espacio en el edificio, donde ellos puedan expresarse y ser jóvenes, sin crear ninguna implicación en las parte del edificio que son designadas para estudiar en silencio.

Yo he mencionado varias veces que creo fervientemente en la colaboración entre departamentos. Bueno, dicho esto, voy a servir como "Principal por un día" este viernes. El departamento escolar comenzó este programa el año pasado. Diferentes figuras de la comunidad sirven como principales en varias escuelas de la ciudad para tener conocimiento de lo que en verdad implica ser director de una escuela. Estoy segura que será divertido y será una experiencia instructiva para todos los que estamos envueltos en este programa, (¡por supuesto, si sobrevivimos!). De todas maneras, les informaré de mi experiencia. Nos vemos en la Biblioteca.

Sovereign Bank hace donación a la Charter School



Con el propósito de promover la educación a la ciudadanía y programas de inglés como segundo idioma, Sovereign Bank otorgó una dádiva de \$3,500 a Lawrence Family Development Center and Charter School. Desde la izquierda vemos a Peter Kamberelis, Administrador de Proyectos en Lawrence Family Development Center and Charter School; Scott Sanjurjo, Vicepresidente, Préstamos Comerciales, Sovereign Bank y miembro de la Junta Directiva; Jim Warren, Vicepresidente, Gerente de Relaciones Públicas, Sovereign Bank; Patricia Karl, Directora Ejecutiva; and John Housianitis, Presidente de la Junta Directiva.

SOVEREIGN BANK GIVES GRANT TO CHARTER SCHOOL

In an effort to support Citizenship Education and ESL Programs, Sovereign Bank awarded the Lawrence Family Development Center and Charter School a \$3,500 grant. From left to right are Peter Kamberelis, Project Manager at Lawrence Family Development Center and Charter

School; Scott Sanjurjo, Vice President, Commercial Lending, Sovereign Bank and member of Board of Directors; Jim Warren, Vice President, Relationship Manager, Sovereign Bank; Patricia Karl, Executive Director; and John Housianitis, President of the Board of Directors.

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- (i) Estos letreros están permitidos adentro de las ventanas de residencias y establecimientos comerciales abiertos al público cuando están ocupados por el dueño o el inquilino.
- (ii) Estos letreros no están permitidos en lugares vacíos, apartamentos vacíos; en árboles, postes eléctricos y automóviles sin registrar; tampoco en la parte de afuera de edificios u otras estructuras.
- (iii) Todos los letreros deben ser removidos dentro de treinta días después de las elecciones. Un candidato ganador en las elecciones preliminares puede mantener los suyos hasta treinta días después de las elecciones generales.
- (iv) El tamaño de estos letreros no debe exceder seis pies cuadrados.
- (v) No deben poner más de un letrero en un edificio a menos que su frente esté dando a más de una calle y en tal caso, podrán poner dos letreros, uno dando hacia cada calle.
- (vi) El letrero ante el cuartel de campaña de un candidato político no debe considerarse como un letrero político.

DESAFÍOS Y OPORTUNIDADES:

Programa de Crédito para Propietarios de Pequeños Negocios

Por Edgar Posada
Editado por Mayte Rivera

Recientemente me informaron de que la Ciudad de Lawrence ofrece un programa de asistencia financiera para pequeños negocios sean nuevos o ya establecidos. Este programa llamado *Small Business Revolving Loan Fund* o fondo de préstamos para micro-empresas es financiado a través del *Community Development Block Grant* de la ciudad, que es administrado por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano conocido como HUD.

El objetivo es ayudar a revitalizar el sector comercial de la ciudad al facilitarles acceso a capital y financiamiento a pequeños negocios. Por este medio, el gobierno municipal busca fomentar el desarrollo económico a través de la creación de empleos, y la generación de inversión comercial y el mejoramiento de las condiciones económicas del vecindario. Estos esfuerzos combinados eventualmente ayudarían a mejorar la calidad de vida de los residentes de la ciudad.

En una ciudad con más de 300 micro empresas, los programas de financiamiento no convencional, tales como el *Revolving Loan Fund*, son críticos. Un estudio del 2003 realizado por el Dr. Jorge Santiago y el Dr. James Jennings señala que con frecuencia los propietarios de pequeños negocios Latinos financian sus firmas con fondos familiares debido principalmente a limitaciones de crédito y la carencia de fondos para el pago de préstamos comerciales.

De acuerdo con Santiago y Jennings, en el 2003, el 89% de los micro-empresarios encuestados utilizaron ahorros familiares como su principal fuente de inversión, y sólo el 28% de ellos usó crédito convencional. De lo anterior podemos inferir que para estos propietarios de negocios minoritarios aún es difícil encontrar un financiamiento adecuado para sus negocios. Conversaciones con varios dueños de negocios confirman que la mayoría de ellos tienen interés en créditos comerciales pero los requerimientos del programa son a menudo abrumadores por el papeleo que implican y el tiempo que

En una ciudad con más de 300 micro empresas, los programas de financiamiento no convencional, tales como el *Revolving Loan Fund*, son críticos. Un estudio del 2003 realizado por el Dr. Jorge Santiago y el Dr. James Jennings señala que con frecuencia los propietarios de pequeños negocios Latinos financian sus firmas con fondos familiares debido principalmente a limitaciones de crédito y la carencia de fondos para el pago de préstamos comerciales.

conlleva su diligenciamiento.

El tema de la financiación también es una preocupación para las personas involucradas en el otorgamiento de créditos. Andrés Sánchez, miembro del comité y oficial de préstamos en Banknorth espera que más residentes empiecen a utilizar el programa revolving loan en lugar de acudir a refinanciar sus hipotecas para financiar sus negocios. En contraste con la opinión de algunos microempresarios, Sánchez afirma que los requerimientos crediticios y el proceso de diligenciamiento son razonables y de gran valor al momento de aprobar un crédito.

A Osvaldo Maldonado propietario de una micro-empresa llamada *All Pro Floor Care* le fue aprobado un préstamo por valor de \$30,000 de la Ciudad de Lawrence. El utilizó tales recursos para satisfacer sus necesidades básicas de capital y adquisición de equipos. Aunque a Maldonado inicialmente le fue negado un préstamo comercial porque carecía de fondos para cumplir con los pagos regulares, el *Revolving Loan Fund* le proporcionó una alternativa de financiamiento, la cual fue aprobada luego de que presentara su plan de negocios.

Marisol Reyes, micro empresaria dueña de *La Frutería* también solicitó recursos del *Revolving Loan Fund*, pero su crédito no cumplía los requisitos de puntaje requeridos por el comité. Su única opción fue considerar un préstamo personal a una tasa de interés del 18%. Ella espera que muy pronto su crédito reúna las condiciones del programa para tener acceso al fondo de préstamos de la ciudad.

En contraste con Maldonado y Reyes, hay otros propietarios de negocios que buscaron otras opciones de financiación por razones diferentes. José Del Carmen, *Pueblo Supermarket* por ejemplo, utilizó algunos ahorros familiares como inversión inicial. El prefirió apoyarse en recursos

propios más bien que exponer su negocio a endeudamiento. Después de su inversión inicial, Del Carmen ha expandido su negocio sustancialmente y ahora tiene una línea de crédito de \$50,000 con un banco local, la cual espera incrementar en un futuro.

Como es evidente a través de las experiencias y comentarios de propietarios de negocios las necesidades y circunstancias personales de microempresarios pueden variar significativamente. No obstante, el programa de préstamos es una alternativa viable para microempresarios que cumplen los requisitos exigidos.

De acuerdo con el Sr. Orlando Salazar, gerente del fondo, la mayoría de empresarios necesitan asistencia para preparar un sólido plan de negocios. El opina que algunos de ellos "no están suficientemente preparados" cuando solicitan un préstamo comercial.

Asimismo, Andrés Sánchez también indicó que una de las mayores barreras para la concesión de un crédito es la carencia de garantías reales además del alto margen de deudas que la mayoría de propietarios de negocios tienen cuando buscan financiamiento. Es la carencia de capital inicial, limitado conocimiento del negocio, y crédito inestable lo que finalmente reduce la posibilidad de la adjudicación de un crédito de negocios.

Después de hablar con algunos propietarios de negocios y personal del programa de préstamos de la ciudad, hay dos consideraciones que deberían ser reexaminadas: el role y las necesidades de los propietarios de negocios, y las expectativas al igual que los requisitos exigidos para crédito con las instituciones financieras. Tal vez haya una forma de recrear un fuerte lazo entre ambas partes al establecer una sólida comunicación con microempresarios y proporcionar asistencia técnica a microempresarios de la ciudad.

Lawrence es un excelente lugar para iniciar un negocio, pero sin un sólido plan de negocios y algún capital inicial, sea en ahorros familiares o créditos bancarios, estos negocios tendrán limitadas oportunidades de éxito. La buena noticia es que hay servicios disponibles de la ciudad y también de la oficina de *US Small Business Administration* que pueden ayudar a propietarios de negocios a satisfacer sus necesidades de capital. Todo lo que se necesita es concentración, compromiso y perseverancia.

En nuestro próximo artículo tendremos una entrevista y discusión con un representante del *US Small Business Administration* para identificar asistencia técnica para microempresarios y pequeños propietarios de negocios.

Este es un programa auspiciado por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano para *Community Outreach Partnership Centers*. El CEDC, es el Centro de Desarrollo Económico y Comunitario anexo a Northern Essex Community College y es parcialmente patrocinado por HUD y otros donantes privados. La opinión e información presentada en los artículos refleja el punto de vista de los autores.

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Celebran fiesta pro-cena de Navidad

Por Beatriz Pérez

Gracias al apoyo de comerciantes, empresarios y personalidades de esta ciudad, el Consulado Dominicano en Boston en coordinación con un comité, hará realidad el que por segundo año consecutivo varias familias de bajos recursos puedan celebrar una verdadera Navidad.

Esta iniciativa que comenzó el pasado año dejó de ser un simple proyecto, luego de la fiesta pro-recaudación de fondos realizada el pasado sábado en Galaxia Night Club donde se rifó un pasaje de ida y vuelta a la República Dominicana, cuya ganadora resultó ser la señora Miguelina Richardson, nativa de Villa Riva un municipio de San Francisco de Macorís en la República Dominicana.

Richardson ganó la oportunidad de ofrecer una cena de Navidad a sus compueblanos, tal y como lo hizo Andrés Gil oriundo de Blanco Arriba, Tenares.

De acuerdo a la ganadora, el lugar específico donde se va a llevar a cabo este encuentro de Navidad es en Naranjito.

La fiesta fue amenizada por Charlie Rodríguez, "El León" y Alegría Típica Dominicana que dirige Omar Fernández.

En el acto, en representación del Cónsul Dominicano Dominic Cabral, habló el vice-cónsul Frank Tejada. Cabral tuvo que viajar fuera del país por asuntos relacionados con sus funciones.

Asimismo, en nombre del comité organizador habló el empresario Manny Carrasco.

Estuvieron presentes en el acto el Representante Estatal William Lantigua, el Concejal Marcos Devers y una amplia comitiva del Consulado Dominicano en Boston, presidida por el vice cónsul Claudio Pérez, Ana María Espailat, Ramón González, Edilio Carrión y Miriam Fajardo representante de la Junta Central Electoral dominicana en Boston. Al igual que Edward Martínez, presidente del Festival Dominicano de Boston, entre otros.

El presidente de Casa Dominicana Bolívar Vásquez fue la persona encargada



Miguelina Richardson junto a Manny Carrasco y los vice-cónsules dominicanos Claudio Pérez y Frank Tejada



El vice cónsul Frank Tejada disfruta de un sabroso merengue con su esposa Sunset.

de extraer el boleto ganador, mientras el Concejal Devers dio a conocer el número correspondiente al boleto.

La comunicadora Milagros Domínguez y el conductor del programa de televisión "Mass TV" Ernesto Bautista fueron los encargados de animar el evento.

A través de un comunicado el Cónsul General de la República Dominicana, Dominic Cabral agradeció el apoyo



El merengue Charlie Rodríguez "El León".

brindado por la comunidad de Lawrence y zonas aledañas a este evento.

El funcionario diplomático manifestó también que gracias al esfuerzo mancomunado de todos aquellos que de una u otra forma contribuyeron al éxito de la actividad muchas familias de bajos recursos en la República Dominicana tendrán la esperanza de disfrutar de una alegre nochebuena.



Sunday, December 11, 2005
6:00 P.M

Cambridge College
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December 12th:

Florence Crittenton League
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St., Lowell, MA

Don't miss it! And remember, bring
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Santa tiene un buzón de correos en la YMCA de Andover/North Andover

Santa tiene unas cajas para recoger la correspondencia especial que recibe durante el mes de diciembre de todas partes del mundo, incluyendo la YMCA de Andover/North Andover. Brianna Slattery, de 7 años de edad de

North Andover, deposita su carta. La maestra de la YMCA Meghan Hill de Andover la observa.

El buzón especial estará disponible para que los niños de todas las edades puedan dejarle notas a Santa hasta el 24 de

diciembre a la 1:00 p.m.

Para los niños que dejan su dirección de remitente, Santa les responderá todas sus cartas. La YMCA de Andover/North Andover está localizada en el 165 de Haverhill St., Andover.

Santa has a postal box at the Andover/North Andover YMCA

Santa has boxes to collect the special mail he receives each December all over the world, including the Andover/North Andover YMCA! Brianna Slattery, age 7 of North Andover, deposits

her letter. YMCA teacher Meghan Hill of Andover looks on.

The special mail box will be available for children of all ages to leave Santa a note through December 24 at 1:00 p.m.

For children who leave a return address, Santa responds to all letters. The Andover/North Andover Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA is located at 165 Haverhill Street, Andover.



BRUCE ARNOLD

Half a Century in Broadcasting

By Alberto Surís

More than 200 fans and associates of the popular Voice of The Merrimack Valley, Bruce Arnold, gathered at Wyndham Hotel, in Andover, last Sunday, December 4th, to celebrate his 50 years in radio.

Arnold started radio at the age of 20. In 1955, he made his debut at WJWG Radio Station in North Conway, N.H. From 1956 to 1959 he was with the Army, doing radio and television. Bruce joined WCCM in 1959 where he has been producing popular shows as "Purely Personal", "Here's Cooking at You" and "Hot Line", which he shares with Francis (Ronnie) Ford.

President and CEO of Costa-Eagle Radio, owners of WCCM-1490AM, Pat Costa presented Arnold with the radio station's first *Broadcaster Legend Award*, for his 50 years of dedicated service to the station and the general public. In presenting the award, Costa announced that future legend awards will be called the *Bruce Arnold Broadcaster Legend Award*.



¿Qué está pasando?, parece decir Bruce Arnold al entrar en el salón.

What's going on?, seems to say Bruce Arnold when he entered the room.

Bruce Arnold recibe el Broadcaster Legend Award de manos de Pat Costa.

Bruce Arnold receiving the Broadcaster Legend Award, from Pat Costa.



Francine Pickels pone una rosa en la solapa de Bruce, bajo la Mirada de Pat Costa.

Francine Pickles pinned a rose to Bruce's lapel under Pat Costa's watch.



Bruce Arnold se quedó mudo cuando su esposa Lenore le dijo: "Toda esta gente está aquí por ti".

Bruce Arnold appears speechless when his wife Lenore told him, "All these people are here for you dear."



Cheryl Gowdy, Pat Costa y su esposa Sally.

Cheryl Gowdy, Pat Costa and his wife Sally.



Johnny Mackenzie fue uno de los primeros invitados en felicitar a Bruce.

Johnny Mackenzie was one of the first guests to congratulate Bruce.



Harry y Victoria obsequiaron a Bruce con una camiseta de los Red Sox con su nombre y el #50 bordada en la espalda. Ellos son los hijos de Danny y Pam Roche.

Harry and Victoria presented Bruce with a Red Sox shirt with his name and #50 embroiled in the back. They are the children of Danny and Pam Roche.



El Manager de WCCM John Bassett y Pat Costa, presidente de Costa-Eagle Communications, organizadores del evento, hicieron un gran esfuerzo para que Bruce Arnold no se enterara.

Event organizers WCCM General Manager, John Bassett and Costa-Eagle Communications President Pat Costa, made every effort to keep it as a secret from Bruce Arnold.



El Presidente de MVFCU Peter Matthews, conversa con Francis (Ronnie) Ford. Más tarde, Ford se bromeó que a él nunca le han dado una cena.

MVFCU President Peter Matthews chats with Francis (Ronnie) Ford. Later, Ford complained that he never got a dinner.



Bruce Arnold con antiguos compañeros de trabajo de WCCM.

Bruce Arnold with WCCM Alumni.



Miembros del equipo de Here's Cooking at You felicitando a Bruce.

Members of the Here's Cooking at You crew greeting Bruce.



El Alcalde de Lawrence Michael J. Sullivan y el Presidente/CEO de la Cámara de Comercio del Valle de Merrimack Joseph Bevilacqua, felicitando a Bruce Arnold. Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and MVCC President and CEO Joseph Bevilacqua, congratulating Bruce Arnold.



Disfrutando de la fiesta, John MacDonald, Richard D'Agostino y el voluntario de LCAT-Canal 8, Bill Collins, que hizo un vídeo del evento.

Enjoying the party, John MacDonald, Richard D'Agostino and LCAT-Channel 8 volunteer Bill Collins who videotaped the event.

BRUCE ARNOLD MEDIO SIGLO EN RADIO

Por Alberto Surís

Más de 200 fanáticos y asociados del popular "Voz del Merrimack Valley", Bruce Arnold, se reunieron en el Hotel Wyndham de Andover el pasado domingo, 4 de diciembre, para celebrar sus 50 años en radio.

Arnold comenzó su carrera en la radio cuando tenía 20 años. En 1955 hizo su debut en WJWG, una estación de radio en Conway, NH. Durante los años 1956 a 1959 estuvo en el ejército haciendo radio y TV. Bruce se unió a WCCM en 1959 y desde entonces ha venido produciendo programas populares tales como "Purely Personal", "Here's Cooking at You" y "Hot Line", el cual comparte con Francis (Ronnie) Ford.

Pat Costa, presidente y CEO de Costa-Eagle Radio, propietarios de WCCM-1490AM otorgó a Arnold la primera placa *Broadcaster Legend Award* y anunció que en el futuro, este codiciado trofeo se llamará *The Bruce Arnold Broadcaster Legend Award*.



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Profile Mortgage estará rifando DOS PASAJES AEREOS a Puerto Rico o a la República Dominicana. Para participar solo tiene que COMPRAR o REFINACIAR su propiedad en los meses de octubre, noviembre, o antes del 10 de diciembre. El ganador se dará a conocer en el programa radial La Casa Llena que se transmite de Lunes a Viernes de 1 a 2 de la tarde por WCEC 1110 AM el día 9 de Diciembre.



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JEAN ACEVEDO

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES: Loan Program for Small Business Owners

By Edgar Posada
Edited by Mayte Rivera

I recently discovered that the City of Lawrence has a program that offers financial assistance to new or established entrepreneurs. The Small Business Revolving Loan is funded by the City's Community Development Block Grant Program which is managed by the Office of Planning and Development. It is designed for micro entrepreneurs and small businesses from Lawrence who seek non-conventional financing. The goal is to help revitalize the commercial sector of the city by providing capital to small businesses, thereby promoting economic development through job creation and generation of commercial investment.

In a city with over 300 minority businesses, non-conventional financing programs, such as the Revolving Loan, are critical. A 2003 study by Dr. Jorge Santiago and Dr. James Jennings indicates that a notable number of Latino business owners finance their firms with their own money because of limited established credit and shortage of down-payment capital for commercial loans.

According to Santiago and Jennings, in 2003 89% of entrepreneurs used family savings as principal source of investment with only 28% of entrepreneurs choosing to access some form of conventional credit. We can infer from these figures that the majority of minority business owners still struggle finding adequate financing for their businesses. Conversations with various business owners confirmed that most of them do have a keen interest to access commercial loans but the applications and program requirements are often too overwhelming and time consuming.

The issue of financing is one of concern to business lenders. Andres Sanchez, a member of the Revolving Loan Review Committee and commercial lender at Banknorth is hoping that more people begin utilizing the revolving loan program instead of tapping home equities for business-related investments. In contrast to business owners, Sanchez believes that the requirements and application process for the Revolving Loan program are

reasonable and worth pursuing.

Osvaldo Maldonado a local business owner, *All Pro Floor Care*, applied for a city loan and was approved for \$30,000. He has utilized the funds for basic capital needs and equipment acquisition. Mr. Maldonado was initially rejected by a commercial bank because he lacked a sizable down payment for the loan. The Revolving Loan Program provided a financing alternative, but it wasn't until Mr. Maldonado prepared and presented a business plan and financial statements that he was able to earn an approval from the Loan Review Committee.

Marisol Reyes also tried accessing the Revolving Loan funds but quickly realized that her credit score was not strong enough to guarantee loan approval by the Committee. Her only option was to apply for a personal loan at 18% interest. Reyes clarified that she doesn't have any regrets of her initial loan, but she is hoping that in the future her credit score has improved enough to win strong consideration by the City's business loan program or another lower-interest financing product.

In contrast to the experiences of Osvaldo and Marisol, there are others who have elected to pursue other financial alternatives for other reasons. Jose Del Carmen, *Pueblo Market*, utilized his family savings as down-payment for his business because he preferred relying on his own resources instead of exposing his business to unnecessary debt. After his initial investment, Del Carmen has since been able to successfully expand his business. Today, he has a line of credit of \$50,000 with a local financial institution, which he expects to increase in the near future.

As evident through the insights and comments of business owners, the needs and personal circumstances of entrepreneurs can vary significantly. Nevertheless, the Revolving Loan Program can be a viable financial alternative for eligible entrepreneurs. Orlando Salazar, manager of the small business revolving loan fund, notes that most entrepreneurs need assistance building a solid business plan as "they are often unprepared" when

they attempt to access the city's loans. Andres Sanchez added that one of the major barriers to financing is the lack of collateral or investment from the borrowers as well as the high debt margin that most business owners have when they seek financing. It is, as they observed, the lack of initial capital, limited business knowledge, and unstable credit that ultimately reduce the credit-worthiness of business borrowers.

The dialogue and interviews with business owners and city personnel, revealed two major considerations that should be examined: 1) the role and needs of local business owners and 2) the expectations and underwriting criteria of financial institutions. Perhaps there's a way of creating a stronger link between the two worlds by establishing strong communication ties with business owners and delivering additional technical assistance to those who need it. Through this interaction and commitment there can be mutual benefit for business owners as well as lenders.

Our next article will feature an interview and discussion with a representative from the US Small Business Administration to identify technical assistance available for micro entrepreneurs and small business owners.

This is a program activity funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for Community Outreach Partnership Centers. CEDC is a community and economic development center at Northern Essex Community College and is partly funded by HUD and other private donors. The opinion and information provided in the articles solely reflects the view of the author/s.

WARNING TO POLITICIANS: Time to remove signs

By Dalia Díaz

The Inspectional Services Department has sent a memo to all the candidates for public office in Lawrence advising them that it is time to remove their campaign signs.

"I am writing to ask for your assistance," said Building Commissioner Luis Waldron in his letter. "Now that the elections are over, we are, once again, beginning to receive complaints regarding political signs which have not yet been removed."

The Lawrence Revised Zoning Ordinance requires all signs be removed within thirty days after the election. This sets a removal deadline of December 9, 2005 for the general election signs and an October 23 deadline for the primary.

Those who lost in the preliminary elections of September should have had their signs removed within thirty days but the city has been lenient enforcing this ordinance and the result has been that political signs of winners and losers of several years ago are still littering the city.

Violation notices will be issued in mid December upon observance of signs which are not in compliance.



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Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration



Christmas Carols, Hot Chocolate, and Cookies

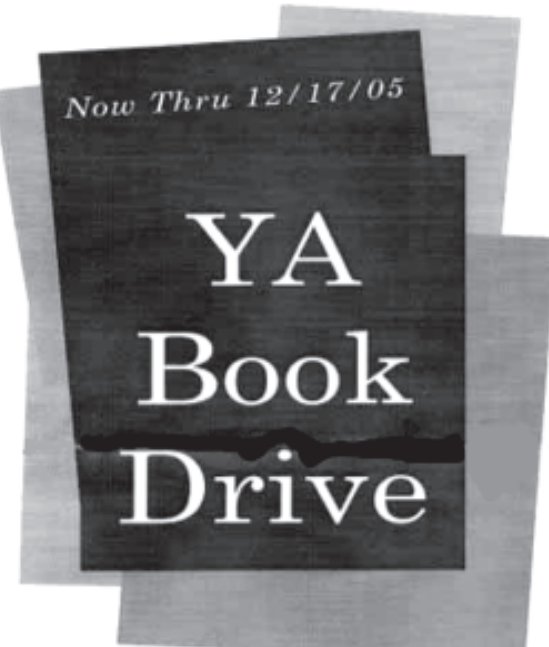
6:00pm, Friday, December 9th, 2005

All Are Welcome!



Central Catholic Courtyard
(facing Marion Avenue)

Followed by the Annual CCHS Chorus Christmas Concert at 7:00pm in the Rogers Theater. (Admission is \$3.00 at the door.)



Now Thru 12/17/05

YA Book Drive

The Lawrence Public Library is designing a space for teens on the second floor of the Main Library. But we need your help. We are looking for book donations that teens might enjoy reading. If you have books to donate please drop them off at either of our two Lawrence locations.

Books need to be in good condition, appropriate for teens ages 12- 18. Any books that cannot be added to our collection will go towards our annual book sale.

Drop off books anytime during our business hours.

Our Hours Are:

Main Library
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-8:00pm
Friday and Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm
Sunday 1:00pm-4:00pm

Branch Library
Monday 10:00am-6:00pm
Wednesday 10:00am-4:00pm
Friday 10:00am-4:00pm

Phone Numbers
Main 978-682-1727
Branch 978-794-5789

Lawrence Public Library
Main Library
51 Lawrence St
Lawrence, MA.
Branch Library
135 Parker St.
South Lawrence, MA

A CLASSic Fine Arts Auction



CLASS Inc. recently held a CLASSic Fine Arts Auction at their Parker St. facility in Lawrence. CLASS Inc. is dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities.

The event was a great success, with over 70 people in attendance and raising more than \$4,000 to support CLASS and the Arts Exploration Program. The program was established for the purpose of developing individuals' natural artistic talents and expressive potential. The auction gave these individuals the opportunity to showcase their talents and feel a great sense of value as they saw their artwork purchased.

In addition to the artwork created at

CLASS, the following local artists donated art pieces: Chantal Perry, Mary Ann McArdle, Peter Wood, Laura Paige, and Nancy Stewart.

Autographed sports memorabilia was also featured to raise additional funds.

CLASS would like to thank the following businesses and people for their donations: Joe Fish Restaurant, John and Bonnie Demers, Saltwater Grill, Shaw's Supermarket in North Reading, Tripoli Bakery, Wal-Mart in Methuen, Wild Oats in Andover. Special thanks to Skip Dykstar for being the auctioneer and to Cydnie Breazeale-Davis for providing the entertainment.

For more information about the difference CLASS Inc. is making in the community, please visit their website at www.classinc.org.



Keep your mail carrier safe this fall season

"Many Lawrence residents may argue that autumn is the best of our four seasons. The beautiful colors of the leaves inspire us to seek out the best vantage points to view the dazzling tapestry. And while we all agree that leaves are beautiful on trees, once they fall, they can become a hazard when left on walkways, driveways or porches," said Postmaster Joseph J. Fanciullo.

"During the winter months, you are

diligent at removing snow around mail boxes and walk areas. On behalf of the service workers and guests visiting your home, we hope you will make the same effort at clearing leaves from the passage ways leading to your doors and mailbox," he said.

He said leaves that look dry can hold moisture underneath, making them slippery over concrete, blacktop or a wooden structure, like a porch. By keeping these areas clear of leaves you will lessen the chance of someone slipping and possibly

"We welcome our daily visit to your home and look forward to another safe season of serving you"

being injured.

"Thank you for your cooperation as we look to keep your postal carrier out of harm's way. We welcome our daily visit to your home and look forward to another safe season of serving you," he said.

Una subasta de arte CLASSica

Recientemente, CLASS Inc. celebró una Subasta de Bellas Artes CLASSica en su local de Lawrence. CLASS Inc. Se dedica a enriquecer la vida de personas discapacitadas.

El evento tuvo un gran éxito con más de 70 personas en asistencia y recaudando más de \$4,000 para apoyar a CLASS y su Programa de Exploración de las Artes. El programa fue establecido con el propósito de desarrollar el talento artístico natural en los individuos y así expresar su potencial. La subasta dio a estas personas la oportunidad de mostrar y valorar su talento al ver sus trabajos siendo comprados.

Además de las obras de arte creadas en CLASS, los siguientes artistas locales donaron algunas piezas: Chantal Perry, Mary Ann McArdle, Meter Word, Laura Paige y Nancy Stewart.

Artículos deportivos autografiados fueron también parte de la subasta para adquirir fondos adicionales.

CLASS quisiera agradecer a los siguientes comercios y personas por sus donaciones: Joe Fish Restaurant, John y Nonnie Demers, Saltwater Grill, Shaw's Supermarket en North Reading, Trípoli Bakery, Wal-Mart en Methuen, y Wild Oats en Andover. Un agradecimiento especial a Skip Dykstar por ser el subastador y a Cydnie Breazeale-Davis quien proveyó en entretenimiento.

Para más información sobre la diferencia que CLASS Inc. Está haciendo en la comunidad, favor de visitar su sitio en la Internet en www.classinc.org.

LETTERSTO THE EDITOR

Address: 315 Mt. Vernon Street,
Lawrence MA 01843

Email: rumbo@rumbonews.com

Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

CARTAS AL EDITOR

Envíe sus cartas por e-mail a:
rumbo@rumbonews.com

Las cartas deben tener menos de 300 palabras de largo. Favor de incluir un número de teléfono o dirección electrónica para confirmar quién la envía.



A Town to Remember

By Eileen Yelle

"It had its good points, and bad. What potential! It has a proud history. Unfortunately, today, people will probably only remember it for crime, rundown streets, and formerly historical buildings which are turning to dust."

This place is really about so much more than that.

This is a story about one of the most famous areas in all of America. People, trade, a part of a town where the use of creating items by hand and machine began.

Towertown

In its infancy, where American Industry sprung up from, is forgotten and is suffering. But, from the ashes, history remembers the growth of giving ordinary men and women the chance to learn a trade, a craft, and grow as human beings. Woman led a major role in sparking a generation. They became influences and producers, and became role models, where, in the past, were only considered second class citizens.

Not in Towertown. Everyone had a chance here, and their growth process began here.

Stately brick factory buildings with glorious clock towers were common, but, their majesty was not. They had character. A long, winding river made sure they were protected and kept high and mighty. The two were like brother and sister, one never overshadowing the other.

So much to tell.

If you leave Towertown to move to another location, you do it with a sense of loss, and a feeling of what could have been, but proud of what it was. You always flashback to when you were a child, and then a young adult, and you are left with your own sweet and sometimes bitter stories, a lifetime mixed with both pleasure and pain.

Everything during the Industrial Revolution happened here. The "Olde Girl" as locals called it, may have its bruises, but they healed with pride.

This place has its own stories to tell.

Ellen Yound can tell you more than most. She embodies Towertown: a place where life is told "like it is." She remembers both now and then, that the experience left you with conviction for a bygone era, many of the morals of the place, hard and mean, but missing today in our much too hurried society.

She lives now in a city very different from the grit environs of Towertown. Peace here doesn't always feel good to her. She has a left piece of herself back in that land, and it's that spirit that haunts her, but strengthens her just the same.

"It had style and had persona, more than most," she said while sitting in a chair on a front porch in a harbor port town far away from the mecca she called home.

This is a tale of what Towertown has left in her collective consciousness that will never fade away.

She recalls in great detail the scenes of a multidimensional culture.

"I like it here, but I miss Towertown," she adds, a tear streaming down her cheek, that she doesn't bother to wipe off.

Sullivan, lame duck? Think again!

By Dalia Díaz

Many Lawrence residents are banking on the idea that Mayor Michael J. Sullivan is going to coast along for the next four years and nothing meaningful will be done in the city but, the swearing-in ceremony for his second term has not taken place and he is rumbling like a storm.

The first sign we saw of this revamping that the mayor is planning to do was with the creation of a Transition Team headed by his brother, former mayor Kevin Sullivan. While the shivering was starting to be felt at City Hall, the residents hoped for real positive change to be made.

Upon hearing that Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan had fired the entire Board of Directors at the Workforce Investment Board, my first thought was that the mayor is on the right track. The problems with the WIB have gone on far too long and something drastic had to be done. Some of those members might be reappointed such as the President of Northern Essex



Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

Community College, David Hartleb, because there is a requirement for the local community college to be part of that board.

The very next day, we found out that the mayor requested current members of boards and commissions in the city to step down unless they follow his vision for the city and doubts began to crop up. So many changes being proposed where the common denominator is Mayor Sullivan's wishes! No exchange of ideas, arguments or suggestions; just follow his vision. Is it that the mayor wants to be surrounded by "yes" people?

"I want people who have the best interest of the city at heart," the mayor told me recently. "The problem is that there are too many people who criticize but make no suggestions as to how to make things better."

But Mayor Sullivan contradicts himself, too. Take a look at the Transition Team he has assembled. The Police Chief John J. Romero and the School Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy are part of it. How can

So many changes being proposed where the common denominator is Mayor Sullivan's wishes! No exchange of ideas, arguments or suggestions; just follow his vision. Is it that the mayor wants to be surrounded by "yes" people?

anyone expect any suggestion of change coming from those two departments with them involved?

If the mayor wants input, this can only come from outsiders looking in. How about including the Budget and Finance Director, John Griffin and the Personnel Director, Frank Bonet? There, he'll get answers!

School Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy must have been dancing in the ceiling when the Commissioner of Education, David Driscoll, suggested that the School Committee should be appointed, not elected by the people.

My reaction was total outrage. What ever happened to democracy? If any changes should be made to that Committee, it should be to go back to being elected city-wide instead of by districts. If the people of Lawrence agree to that change, they must also think of this question: who gets to appoint its members, the mayor or the superintendent?

Let's hope that he doesn't follow through on Mr. Driscoll's suggestions.

Well, those are my suggestions for the betterment of Lawrence. Perhaps being so opinionated disqualifies me to be appointed to a board in the city.

FOSTER KIDS OF MERRIMACK VALLEY HOST HOLIDAY PARTY FOR LOCAL FOSTER CHILDREN

The Foster Kids of Merrimack Valley, Inc. is hosting its first annual holiday party for all local foster children in the Merrimack Valley at the Sons of Italy in Lawrence on Saturday, December 10th from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. Santa Claus will make a special appearance. Pizza, sweets, door prizes, and gifts for each child will be available. Tax-deductible contributions are being accepted to help raise money to buy suitcases for local children in foster homes.

"Many children use plastic bags to carry their belongings from one foster home to another," stated Larry Giordano. "Suitcases help make their transitions easier and more dignified for the kids. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated."

The organization is pleased to acknowledge a \$250 contribution made by the Methuen Firefighters Association Local #1691.

HOW TO HELP:

Donations of gifts and money are being accepted. Make checks payable to Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.

For more information, please contact Larry Giordano, President for the Foster Kids of Merrimack Valley at (978) 683-2220.

Mail-in your tax-deductible contributions to:

Larry Giordano
c/o Foster Kids of Merrimack Valley
76 Bonanno Court
Methuen, MA 01844



Save the Date!

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Invitations to follow...

Help us celebrate another year of successful projects, partnerships, and programs.

Support Groundwork Lawrence while sampling the flavors of Lawrence's restaurants, bidding on lanterns made by local artists, and entering to win fantastic prizes at the door!



Groundwork Lawrence, 60 Island Street, Lawrence, MA 01840

SEE OUR WEB PAGE
RUMBONEWS.COM

YMCA HONORS QUALITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



The Merrimack Valley YMCA honored 5 employees with Quality Service Awards. Pictured is Gary P. Morelli (far left), YMCA vice president of membership and program development, congratulating the winners. (From left to right) Amy Baione, director of the Lawrence Music Clubhouse of Haverhill; Amanda Enos, preschool and kindergarten director at the Lawrence YMCA, of North Andover; Tami Hulse YMCA accounting manager, of Methuen; Tanya Shih, member services representative at the Andover/North Andover YMCA, of Lawrence ; and Russell Plourde, facilities director of the Methuen YMCA, of Salem, NH.

Last week, the Merrimack Valley YMCA honored five employees who have exhibited an exemplary level of member service and who personally and professionally demonstrate the YMCA character development traits of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

YMCA full and part-time employees are encouraged to nominate co-workers for this new award. These awards are presented in the spring and fall. "We look to employees who foster

relationships with YMCA members by providing quality member services that is professional, helpful, prompt and courteous. The people selected for this honor are role models in the area of character development. They have often created or initiated new member programs and services that assist with member satisfaction," said Gary P. Morelli, Merrimack Valley YMCA Vice President of Membership and Program Development.

FORUM:

CONT. FROM PAGE 2

The forum, which took place at Sal's Conference Center and Function Facility during a lunch provided by Sal Lupoli, on Monday, December 5, 2005, attracted more than 200 area business people.

Mill, Riverwalk, Tower Hill and New Balance areas.

Julia Silverio, who was part of the panel, explained about the difficulties Latino businesses encounter. Silverio told the audience that even when most businesses in Lawrence belong to Latinos, they are the smallest of all and in a vast majority, operated by relatives. "And that is one of the stipulations," said Silverio. "If you employ relatives, your business doesn't qualify."

According to Silverio, there are several factors why these businesses haven't been able to benefit from the program and one of them is the lack of use of tax preparers who are experts in the area and the lack of use of CPAs for the tax preparation. "The lack of knowledge the community has in finding the resources to assist them, is probably due to their language barrier," said Silverio.

Silverio hopes that with the new administration taking shape and with the cooperation of some older councilors, the city will come up with a solution for these problems. "The city needs to put together a place where people can go and get the information they need," said Silverio and added, "We need to be able to work with those businesses, to help them out, to keep them in business. We can not afford to

forget that the smaller businesses in Lawrence need assistance, need help and we have an opportunity to assist them now and I believe we should take steps to assist them now," ended Silverio.

Central Catholic United Nations Club Garner Seven Awards at Brown University Conference



Central Catholic UN Club award winners, left to right: Michael J. Twomey, Patricia B. Letayf, John W. Facendola, Mary Kate Conboy, Matthew J. Bourque, Christina M. Panagiotakos, and Matthew R. Lyon.

LAWRENCE - The Central Catholic United Nations Club earned seven awards at the Brown University Model United Nations Conference this fall. Competing with over 20 schools from across the nation, the Central Catholic delegation earned the second highest number of awards. First place went to the Huntington High School from California.

Winning Best Delegate Awards were Mary Kate Conboy (a junior from Windham, NH), Patricia B. Letayf (a junior from Salem, NH), and Matthew R. Lyon (a junior from Lawrence). Winning an Outstanding Delegate Award was John W. Facendola (a junior from Dracut). Winning Awards of Commendation were Matthew J. Bourque (a sophomore from Lawrence), Christina M. Panagiotakos (a senior from Methuen) and Michael J. Twomey (a junior from North Andover). Congratulations to the entire delegation for a job well done!

The Central Catholic UN Club consists of about 40 students that meet weekly to research and discuss international politics and issues, practice public speaking, and engage in mock United Nations conferences. They compete in five competitive conferences annually and have

been named the "Outstanding Large Delegation" at the University of Massachusetts Conference for three straight years. The Club is moderated and coached by social studies teacher Kevin Comtois.

You can help make a child's holiday bright

The Lawrence Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA needs assistance in making Christmas memorable families who do not have the means to provide their children with Christmas gifts. Children range in age from toddlers to 18-year-olds. Each year, through the generosity of YMCA members, staff, and the community-at-large, the YMCA helps parents make sure that the holiday season is a special time of year for all.

If you can sponsor a child or a family, please contact Frank Kenneally or Michelle Becotte at 978-686-6191. Financial contributions for the YMCA to purchase gifts and gift wrap are also appreciated. The Lawrence Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA is located at 40 Lawrence Street.

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rumbo@rumbonews.com

www.rumbonews.com



Pictured (from left to right) are: Methuen YMCA Program Director Stephanie Lane, and representing the Methuen Patrolman's Union are Kevin Dzioba and Ken Leone. Children from the YMCA's child care program in the front row are: Alexander Vermette, age 3; Brianna Colon, age 5; and Emma McAlpine, age 4.

METHUEN PATROLMAN'S UNION SUPPORTS METHUEN YMCA'S 'REACH OUT FOR YOUTH' PROGRAM

The Methuen Patrolman's Union donated proceeds from their 1st annual golf tournament held at Merrimack Golf Course in Methuen. They made a \$4,500 donation to the YMCA's 'Reach Out For Youth' scholarship assistance program.

Notes from your Librarian



Maureen Nimmo

Director
Lawrence Public Library

Hi, Rumbo readers! I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and that the snow didn't create too many problems. I was lucky to spend the day with my family even though doing so did involve the most time-consuming trip to Vermont on record.

By the time you see this we should be finished with the first stage of our renovations. The auditorium will be finished and our piano retuned so that we can host a lot more events there once things return to normal. The auditorium is the easy part of the whole enterprise since the carpeting in there requires no major moving effort.

I said, in my last article, that I would give you specifics about the project and about our hours as things progressed. It looks like we will be closed completely the weeks of December 19th and 26th. This will allow the crews to work on the second floor and the circulation area, the areas of greatest traffic in the building. Also the most difficult areas to move since all the books must be moved and then put back in the same order.

The week of January 2nd we will open again to the public but the children's room will not be available till the week of the 9th. During the two weeks that we are completely closed we will open up the South Lawrence branch library from 9-5 on Monday-Friday. Do remember that your Lawrence library card does give you the right to use the resources of any library in the state so full service will be available to Lawrence patrons in Andover, Methuen, North Andover or wherever is convenient for you. I will also send out public service announcements to all the local media so everyone knows what is going on.

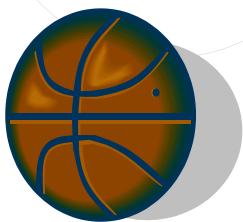
In other news, our young adult librarian, Rebecca Domin is running a book drive in order to acquire more titles suitable for teenage readers. If you have any such books that are no longer being used, bring

them by. Rebecca is working on establishing a space in the library just for teens. This is very exciting for us because we have an awful lot of young adult patrons and we want their needs to be met as much as any of our patrons. It will be nice for the teenagers to have their own area in the building where they can just be teenagers without the same concerns as groups of young people can create in parts of the building that are there for quiet study.

I have mentioned here, often, that I believe strongly in collaboration between departments. Well, on that note, I will be serving as one of the "Principals for a Day" on Friday. The school department began this program last year. Different members of the community serve as principals at the various schools in order to get an understanding of what a principal's job actually entails. I am sure it will be fun and a learning experience for all of us involved. (That is, of course, if we survive!) Anyway, I'll let you all know how it goes. See you at the library.



VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED



This program is for boys and girls ages 5-14 years old. YMCA basketball is a unique program where we stress the development of the child rather than competition. The main goals of the program are: skill development, personal development, fair play, fitness, character development and fun. We do not keep score, standings or focus on winning and losing. The focus is on learning skills, participation and fun.

Players divided into 5 divisions:

- 5-6 year olds 7-8 year olds
- 9-10 year olds 11-12 year olds
- 13-14 year olds

(players in this division cannot be on a high school team)

FEES:

- YMCA FAMILY: \$52**
- YMCA MEMBER: \$62**
- PARTICIPANT: \$99**
(Non-Member of YMCA)

Players participate in team practices one night a week and games are played on Saturday mornings. **Special Events** are scheduled throughout the season including: Photo Day, bake sale, Family Celtics Trip, and season ending banquets.

Financial Assistance available for those who are eligible.

For more information please contact Doug Currier at 978-686-6191 ext. 15




Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Night
With The Boston Celtics

Friday, December 16, 2005
at the TD Banknorth Garden Boston, MA
Time 7:30PM

Boston Celtics vs. Milwaukee Bucks



Merrimack Valley Chamber Tickets are in the Halo - these seats are in a private area across from the media seating. They are not available through the TD Banknorth Garden box office!



Enjoy an exciting evening of NBA basketball with your family and friends as the Boston Celtics take on the Milwaukee Bucks
A great time to thank your business client and staff!

Healthy Holiday Eating

The season for savory dishes has arrived, but maintaining nutritious eating habits shouldn't be daunting. It is not too late to get a handle on the holiday eating. Take these ideas from Elisabetta Politi, R.D., nutrition manager at Duke University Diet and Fitness, and you might find the happy medium between being a diehard dieter and a guiltless gorging.

Say so long to strict rules. Politi says people who are ultra-strict about their diet during the holidays generally don't enjoy the celebration and tend to rebound later. "When January comes and everyone starts their New Year's resolutions, those people who have done really well through the holidays tend not to be highly motivated."

Prepare and set goals for gatherings. Eat a snack before you head to Aunt Betty's infamous afternoon feast. If you take the edge off of your appetite, you'll be less likely to overindulge on the mouthwatering dishes. When you get there, try to keep track of your calorie intake. One goal Politi recommends is limiting alcohol intake to one beverage and drinking sparkling or seltzer water during the event. Think in terms of calorie comparisons, too. A serving of eggnog packs 251 calories, while a serving of spiced cider has 128 calories. Choose the cider, and with just one beverage serving, you've cut 123 calories from your day's caloric total.

Remember portion control. At celebrations, especially those with buffets, Politi advises, "take a look at what's being offered before deciding what to put on your plate." When making your plate, Politi suggests this ratio: 1/2 vegetables, 1/4 protein, and 1/4 grains. "Most of the volume on your plate is taken by vegetables, which tend to be lower in calories. Of course, you want vegetables that are not cooked with a lot of fat," Politi says. If you'd rather not make a heaping plate of food once in the day, she also recommends the alternative

Choose wholesome and healthy over high-fat and processed. When the holiday season draws near, it will bring with it the temptation of delectable (read: high-fat and high-sugar) dishes, which could mean disaster for your health.

of eating small portions frequently to avoid being overly hungry at any point.

Learn from Volumetrics. This theory, established by Dr. Barbara Rolls, professor of nutrition at Pennsylvania State University, found that people tend to eat the same volume or weight of food every day. "If you want to cut down on calories and not be hungry, eat more food with low calorie density," Politi says. "Food that has low calorie density has a lot of water bound to it." So, vegetables, fruit, and puffy grains such as rice or couscous are perfect choices to help you feel full.

Choose wholesome and healthy over high-fat and processed. When the holiday season draws near, it will bring with it the temptation of delectable (read: high-fat and high-sugar) dishes, which could mean disaster for your health. Fear not, Politi says. "If you want to enjoy food that has high calorie density, just try to choose something wholesome." Nuts and dried fruits are flavorful and nutrient-packed alternatives to highly processed foods that offer no healthy benefits.

Put things into perspective. Politi says, "I think it's important to enjoy the spirit of the holidays and not focus on food so much; it is not the main point of the gathering. By doing that, you will make healthier choices."

HEALTHY HOLIDAY BAKING GOLDEN HEALTH COOKIES

INGREDIENTS:

2 ripe bananas
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 cup margarine, softened
1/4 cup shelled sunflower seeds
1-1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup honey
1 tsp baking powder
1 egg
2 cups raisin-granola cereal
1/3 cup plain, lowfat yogurt

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 3750 F. Puree bananas in blender. Beat butter and honey until fluffy. Beat in egg, yogurt, vanilla, and bananas. Combine flour and baking powder; add to banana mixture. Stir in granola and sunflower seeds. Drop by heaping tablespoons onto non-stick cookie sheets (or spray sheets with non-stick vegetable spray). Bake for 12-15 minutes. Makes about 2 1/2 dozen.



RIFA A BENEFICIO DEL LAWRENCE SENIOR CENTER

Este cuadro, del recién fallecido Papa John Paul II, donado por el pintor del Senior Center Bernie Greenside, será rifado durante la próxima fiesta de Navidad, el día 16 de diciembre, 2005. Las papeletas para la rifa pueden ser adquiridas por \$1.00 cada una, en el Lawrence Senior Center, localizado en el #155 de la Calle Haverhill, en Lawrence.

RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE LAWRENCE SENIOR CENTER

This portrait of the late Pope John Paul II donated for Lawrence Senior Center Painter Bernie Greenside, will be raffled during the Christmas Party on December 16th, 2005. Tickets for the raffle can be bought for \$1.00 each at Lawrence Senior Center, 155 Haverhill Street, Lawrence.

YA BOOK DRIVE ONGOING THRU DECEMBER 17TH, 2005

The Lawrence Public Library is designing a space for teens on the second floor of the Main Library, but we need your help. We are looking for book donations that teens might enjoy reading. If you have books to donate please drop them off at either of our two Lawrence locations.

Books need to be in good condition, appropriate for teens ages 12 to 18. Any books that cannot be added to our collection will go towards our annual book sale.

You may drop off your books anytime to the Main or Branch Libraries during our business hours.

MAIN LIBRARY HOURS ARE:

Mondays - Thursdays, 9 AM to 8 PM
Fridays y Saturdays, 9 AM to 5 PM
Sundays, 1 PM to 4 PM

BRANCH LIBRARY HOURS ARE:

Mondays, 10 AM to 6 PM
Wednesdays, 10 AM to 4 PM
Fridays, 10 AM to 4 PM.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT REBECCA AT THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY (978) 682-1727.

SEE OUR WEB PAGE
RUMBONEWS.COM

Beatbox Battle

Friday, December 16, 2005

6:00 to 9:00 pm

Lawrence YMCA Music Clubhouse

6:00 Junior Division (age 10-13)

6:45 Senior Division (age 14-18)

7:30 Open Division (age 19+)

8:15 Final Round

Door charge: \$1.00 or one canned good item per person
Prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in each division
Grand Prize: Great Pair of Celtics Tickets!
Doors open at 5:30 pm

To enter
or for questions:

Call (978) 686-6191 x 17 or see
Amy Baione at Lawrence YMCA.



A Christmas Carol Presented at Northern Essex

The Christmas holidays just wouldn't be complete without a dose of Tiny Tim, Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, and Jacob Marley. These characters and spirits will come to life during Northern Essex Community College's 6th annual production of A Christmas Carol.

This Christmas classic, written by Charles Dickens in 1843 over a six-week period, will be performed by a cast comprised of faculty, staff, alumni, and students of the college, as well as members of the community.

Performances will be held, Friday, December 9 at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 10, 3 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. in the Top Notch Theater located on the third floor of the Spurr Building on the college's Haverhill campus. The 7 p.m. performance on Saturday, December 10, is a benefit performance; all proceeds will be donated to the Hawryliw Theatre. Free parking and handicap access are available.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$6 for children 12 and under. Proceeds from this production, which is open to the public, will benefit the Fine and Performing Arts Department. Tickets will be available at the door one half hour before each production. Since performances do sell out, please try and arrive early.

The cast in order of towns is as follows:

Amesbury

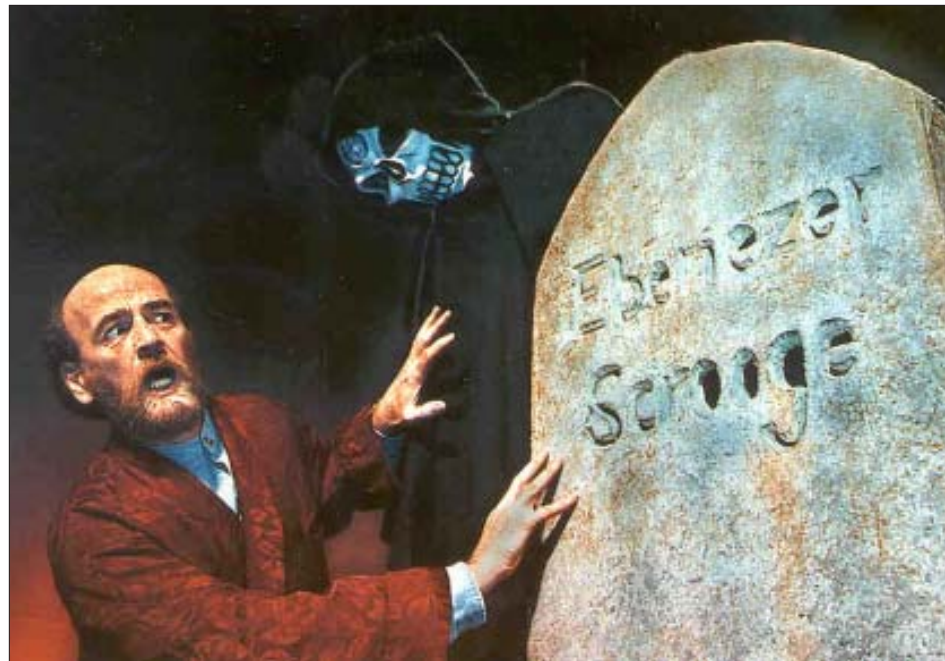
Peter Cratchitt - Scott Symonds
Fan - EmmaKate Symonds
Young Scrooge - Thomas Madden

Andover

Mrs. Fezziwig - Jillian Ternullo
Third Man - Chris Fawcett

Atkinson, NH

Madrigal Singer - Jake Gardner
Bradford
Uncle Fezziwig - Bruce Potter
Chelmsford
Jacob Marley - Arthur Barlas
Derry, NH
Asst. State Manager & Dick Wilkins & Party Guest - Joey O'Donnell



Dover, NH

Charity Man - Bob Ficke
Hampstead, NH
Party Guest - Chrissy Coates
Haverhill
Tiny Tim - James Sullivan
Boy in the Street - Egan Davis
Ghost of Christmas Future - Joshua Terrien
Fred's Wife - Megan Peabody
Fred - Bryan Burns-Fedele
Madrigal Singer - Lindsey Bombard
Mrs. Cratchitt - Emily Mooers
Bob Cratchitt - Eric Barnes Salvi
Stage Manager - Jenny Giorato
Ebenezer Scrooge (Director) - Jim Murphy
Laundress (Designer) - Susan Sanders

Methuen

Martha Cratchitt - Adrienne Retelle
Madrigal Singer - Jonathan Bennett
Maid - Dianne Gannon

Newbury

Ghost of Christmas Past - Emily Murphy
Ghost of Christmas Present - Adam Colby
LaMonica
Belle - Christine Murphy

Newburyport

Young Ebenezer & Want - Colin Budzyna
Ignorance - Erin Budzyna
Old Joe - Ozan Haksever
Undertaker - Sue Grolnic

North Andover

Party Guest - Jessica Ritter

Plaistow, NH

Fred's Housekeeper - Laurie Palermo

Salem, NH

Madrigal Singer (choral director) - Alisa Bucchiere

A limited number of tickets are available for each performance at www.mvarts.info, and also at the door. The production is directed by Jim Murphy of Haverhill, NECC Theater professor.

For additional information contact Susan Sanders, at 978-556-3374 or at Ssanders@necc.mass.edu

Regulations on Political signs in Lawrence

- (i) Such sign in permitted inside of windows of residences and business establishments open to the public when such premises are occupied by the owner or tenant.
- (ii) No such sign is permitted in or upon vacant premises; vacant dwelling units; in or upon trees, utility poles and unregistered vehicles; and on the outside of buildings or other structures.
- (iii) All such signs shall be removed within thirty days following the election. A winning election candidate in a primary election may maintain his or her sign until thirty days following the general election.
- (iv) The size of any such sign shall not exceed six square feet.
- (v) Nor more than one sign shall be placed upon any premises unless such premises fronts upon more than one street, in which event, two signs may be erected, one on each frontage.
- (vi) Headquarters signs for a political candidate shall not be considered a political sign.

Photos with Santa to Benefit the YMCA

Brickstone Square in Andover once again welcomes the Merrimack Valley YMCA to sponsor the always-popular photos with Santa as part of Santa's Village at the office complex.

Youth from the Andover/North Andover Branch YMCA's Teen leadership programs will be on hand to assist Santa and take the photos.

Photos are \$5.00/each. Hot chocolate and popcorn will be available.

Proceeds will benefit the Merrimack Valley YMCA's youth and teen programs.

Photos can be taken, weather permitting, from 5-8pm, on:

- Saturday, November 26, 2005
- Saturday, December 3, 2005
- Friday, December 9, 2005
- Saturday, December 10, 2005
- Saturday, December 17, 2005



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

La Comunidad de Santa Ana de San Agustín The Community of Saint Anne St. Augustine

Celebra la Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

11 de diciembre, 2005
al mediodía



Celebrates the Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 11, 2005
At noon

Fiesta Cultural (Cultural Fiesta) 2:00 PM
Centro de Santa Ana (St. Anne Center)
Beech & Merrimack Sts.

Comida (food) Música (music) Baile (dance)
Bailes folklóricos (Folkloric dancing)

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If you are interested, please contact Dawna Perez at (978) 738-7605 or go to www.idealists.org and search for AmeriCorps Capacity Builder under Literacy USA for more detailed information. Applications due by December 23.

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LEAKEAS EXTERMINATING

CALL TO ARTISTS: YMCA Arts Week 2006

Each June YMCAs all over the country host something called YMCA Arts Week, a special time for promoting and celebrating the arts, artists and their importance to the wellbeing of a community and its people.

This year the Merrimack Valley YMCA Lawrence Branch will host Arts Week from June 11-17, 2006. I am happy to say that this year we will be placing special emphasis on the work of local artists and performers.

This announcement serves as the first of many invitations that will be extended to local artists who would like to exhibit and/or perform their work during YMCA Arts Week 2006. Visual artists, photographers, dancers, musicians, singers, poets, storytellers, actors, playwrights and all others are invited to share their art with the YMCA and the greater Lawrence community. Opportunities include a building-wide art installation and several live performances throughout Arts Week. Let's all take advantage of this special time to come together in honor the arts, artists and one another.

For more information, contact Amy Baione, Lawrence Music Clubhouse Director, (978) 686-6191 ext. 17, abaione@myymca.org.

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Don't miss Open Mic at the Lawrence Music Clubhouse!

Every Monday the Clubhouse hosts Open Mic Nights from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Musicians, vocalists, poets, dancers and storytellers are invited to perform. Beginners, amateurs, professionals and fans are all welcome. To sign up for an Open Mic Night come by 4:30 pm on that Monday or sign up in advance with Amy Baione or Aimee Tejada. Two piece limit; approximately 5-6 minutes per performer. Come check out the local talent!

For more information, contact Music Clubhouse Director Amy Baione at 978-686-6191

EL LAWRENCE COUNCIL ON AGING



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Cena de Navidad de N.E.P.R.A.



N.E.P.R.A.'s Christmas dinner

By Alberto Surís

New England Puerto Rican Alliance (N.E.P.R.A.) celebrated Christmas with a typical Puerto Rican dinner, at the Sons of Italy on Sunday, December 4, 2005. The menu, prepared for NEPRA members has roast pork, rice and beans, and boiled plantains among many other delicacies. For desert, Rice pudding with coconut, of course. In addition, a huge cake made by Charo's Bakery.

NEPRA President Luis David Hiraldo, expressed gratitude to Representative William Lantigua, for his work bringing funds to help the NEPRA Project, a school in which more than 60 students are actually enrolled in courses of alphabetization, GED and computer. "Beginning January 1st, 2006, more students will be enrolled", said Hiraldo.

Lizzy Espendez, Rosa Santiago, Ricardo Arévalo and Delbys Cruz are some of the teachers at NEPRA Project, located within Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, at 305 Essex Street, in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Por Alberto Surís

La Alianza Puertorriqueña de Nueva Inglaterra (N.E.P.R.A.) celebró las Navidades con una típica cena Navideña, en el local de los Hijos de Italia, el 4 de diciembre, 2005. El menú, preparado por miembros de NEPRA consistió de puerco asado, arroz con gandules, pasteles y guineítos entre otras delicias. De postre, desde luego, arroz con leche y coco y como si fuera poco, un enorme bizcocho preparado por Charo's Bakery.

El Presidente de NEPRA, Luis David Hiraldo, expresó su gratitud hacia el Representante Estatal William Lantigua por su trabajo en la Casa del Estado que le ha permitido traer fondos para sustentar el Proyecto NEPRA, una escuela en la que actualmente hay 60 estudiantes matriculados aprendiendo alfabetización, GED y computadoras. "Comenzando el 1ro. de enero, 2006, matricularemos más estudiantes", dijo Hiraldo.

Lizzy Espendez, Rosa Santiago, Ricardo Arévalo, y Delbys Cruz son algunos de los maestros que enseñan en el Proyecto NEPRA, localizado dentro del Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, el 305 de la calle Essex, en Lawrence, Massachusetts.



Felicita Arroyo (arriba) y Cristobal Ramos (abajo) aplaudiendo la actuación del grupo musical.
Felicita Arroyo (top) and Cristobal Ramos (bottom) couldn't be happier with the musical group's performance.



Por su contribución, Sarah Alvarez recibió una placa de manos del Presidente de NEPRA, Luis David Hiraldo.

For her contribution, Sarah Alvarez received an award from NEPRA President Luis David Hiraldo.



Julio Morel fue proclamado Miembro Honorario por sus contribuciones a NEPRA. Morel también fue el "autor" del delicioso puerco asado.

Julio Morel was proclaimed an Honorary Member for his contributions to NEPRA. Morel was responsible for the delicious roast pork served that night.



Este grupo de damas la estaba pasando muy bien.
These ladies were having a great time singing along with _____.