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PÁGINA 16

Puertorriqueños izan su bandera

La Srta. Movimiento Puertorriqueño 2006, Dorcas Ponce, de 14 años de edad, se presta a izar la bandera de la estrella solitaria. En la foto también se encuentran Domingo Meléndez, Presidente del Movimiento Puertorriqueño, Arnaldo José y Vanessa Espéndez, parcialmente cubierta.



PÁGINA 17

Izamiento Bandera Colombiana en Lowell

Bandera en mano y vestida con un traje representativo de Colombia, Vanessa Wong, de cuatro años, hija de Marta (Figueroa) y Simón Won, dispuesta a unirse a las festividades.

COLOBIANS IN LOWELL RAISED THEIR FLAG Flag in hand and dressed in a representative Colombian dress, 4-year-old Vanessa Wong, the daughter of Martha (Figueroa) and Simón Won, is ready for the celebration.

¿Le pusieron un ticket?



PÁGINA 2

El viernes, 21 de Julio, 2006, a las 12:07 PM, Rumbo tomó esta foto del Lincoln Navigator, placas RS6660, propiedad del empleado del Departamento Escolar Charles Birchall, estacionado en la Calle Essex en una zona de 30 minutos frente al Departamento Escolar, con auto de la policía en frente a él. Aparentemente, algunos empleados del Departamento Escolar reciben tratamiento especial de la Policía de Lawrence.

Got Ticket?

On Friday, July 21st, 06, at 12:07PM Rumbo took this picture of a Lincoln Navigator, plates RS6660, owned by Lawrence School Department employee Charles Birchall, parked on Essex St. by a 30 minutes parking sign, in front of the School Department, with a Police Cruiser in front. Some School Department employees seem to have special treatment from the Lawrence Police. PAGE 18



PÁGINA 32

VII Copa Maraton Parque Campagnone

Verónica Casado, abrazada a su pequeña hija Valerie, de siete años, dando las gracias a todos los que vinieron a la caminata este año dedicada en su honor.

PÁGINA 12



Nueva Escuela en el Edificio Espaillat

Colin Butler, matriculado en un curso básico de computadora con su maestra Maureen Vahey de Chelmsford, en la nueva escuela Training Unlimited que acaba de abrir en el Espaillat Building, en Methuen.

NEW SCHOOL AT ESPAILLAT BUILDING Colin Butler enrolled in basic computers and his teacher, Maureen Vahey, from Chelmsford, at the new Training Unlimited School just opened at Espaillat Building, in Methuen.

Regresaron las Ratas

Miembros de Laborers International Union of North America, Local 175, colocaron dos ratas como esta frente al edificio Washington Mill, que está siendo renovado con la ayuda de presos del Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Essex.

RATS ARE BACK Members of Laborers International Union of North America, Local 175, placed two rats like this one in front of Washington Mill, protesting for the use of prisoners from The Essex County Sheriff Department to work in a privately owned project. PAGE 20



PÁGINA 5

Editorial

Folk Festival, orgullo de Lowell

Celebrando su vigésimo año, las culturas del mundo se unieron en Lowell. El Festival de este año fue mejor que nunca – el patrón del cual todos los mejores eventos deben aprender.

Desde la precisión de sus mapas para encontrar los siete escenarios regados por toda la ciudad hasta la calidad de los actos, dieron a los asistentes la sensación de que este espectáculo llevó mucho esfuerzo. Aún con miles de personas llegando a Lowell durante el fin de semana, hubo tanto orden y limpieza que tuvimos que notarlo. Junto a cada envase de basura había un contenedor de reciclaje. Las calles estaban limpias y Lowell brilló.

Los comerciantes locales se mantuvieron abiertos y adentro de cada tienda parecía que estábamos en época de Navidad. Nadie se quejó porque las calles estaban bloqueadas o por no poder estacionar autos donde la celebración estaba llevándose a cabo.

Hasta los vendedores daban la bienvenida a los visitantes con una camaradería que mostraba estar felices de estar allí. Lawrence debe seguir ese ejemplo.

Folk Festival, Lowell's pride

Celebrating its 20th year bringing the cultures of the world to Lowell. This year's Festival was better than ever – the blueprint for all other magnificent events to follow.

From the accuracy of the maps to find seven stages throughout the city to the quality of the acts, gave everyone the sensation that a lot of effort had gone into planning this extravaganza.

Even with the thousands of people converging in Lowell for the weekend, there was such order and cleanliness that we had to notice. Next to every trash barrel there was a recycling container. The streets were clean and Lowell shone.

The local businesses remained open and inside the stores it was like the Christmas season. No one complained about the streets being blocked or not being able to park on the streets where the celebration was taking place.

Even the vendors welcomed visitors with camaraderie showing that they were truly happy to be there.

Lawrence should follow that example.

CARTAS AL EDITOR | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
RUMBO 315 Mt. Vernon Street, Lawrence MA 01843
Email: rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

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

¿Le pusieron una Multa?

Por Alberto Surís

En nuestra edición del 15 de julio, publicamos las fotos tomadas el lunes, 10 de julio, 2006, de dos vehículos estacionados frente al departamento escolar en Pemberton Way (83MW11 del Superintendente Escolar Wilfredo T. Laboy y RS6660). Me fijé que dos oficiales de la policía en motocicletas (Oficiales Flores y Yancey) estaban parados por la acera del frente y les comenté sobre estos dos autos estacionados ilegalmente. “Ese no es nuestro trabajo; eso le corresponde al oficial de control de tráfico. Estamos cuidando el cruce de carretera”, fue la respuesta de ambos.

Al día siguiente, martes 11, 83MW11 no estaba allí, pero en su lugar 38KC52 se había unido a RS6660 en el mismo lugar. Tomé una foto de ellos y fui al ayuntamiento. Diecisiete minutos más tarde cuando regresé había unas multas anaranjadas en los parabrisas de ambos autos. En ese momento me pregunté cuál sería la razón para que le tomara dos días al oficial de tráfico darse cuenta que no estaban supuestos a estacionarse allí. Me pregunté si el estar tomando fotografías tuvo algo que ver con eso. Pero parece que el haber sido multado no afectó a los dueños de los autos porque se quedaron allí hasta el final del día y ninguno de los dos autos volvió a ser multado, ni remolcado por la grúa, por estar estacionado ilegalmente.

Mi curiosidad ahora es saber cuál es el requisito del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence en cuanto al parqueo en Pemberton y Appleton Way pues un documento del concilio #334 de 1980, Artículo 11 – Autoridad y Deberes de la Policía – Sección 19-24 dice: Las calles abiertas a Vehículos de Emergencia solamente: Las siguientes vías han sido declaradas como PASEOS DE PEATONES y ningún vehículo excepto vehículos de emergencia deben ser operados en estas áreas excluidas.

APPLETON WAY – Desde Essex Street a Common Street.

VER **MULTA:**
CONT. EN LA PÁGINA 8

Got ticket?

See Article on Page 18



El viernes, 21 de Julio, este Honda placas 12B730 fue fotografiado a la 1:24 PM frente al Adams Café.

On Friday, July 21, pictured at 1:24 PM- Honda 12B730 by Adam's Café on Pemberton Way.



El lunes 17, este BMW, placa #53CW34, conducido por Daniel Lannon, de la Oficina de Veteranos de la Ciudad de Lawrence, se apresuró a entrar a Appleton Way desde la Essex, estacionó entre el ayuntamiento y el departamento escolar y fue a trabajar.

On Monday 17th this VMW, plate #53CW34, driven by Daniel Lannon, from the City of Lawrence Veterans Affairs, rushed in into Appleton Way from Essex Street, parked between City Hall and the School Department and went to work.



El martes, 18 de julio, foto tomada a las 2:41 PM- placas 43SR42 estacionado en Appleton Way, al lado del Departamento Escolar. Se marchó a las 3:55 por la salida de la Calle Common.

On Tuesday, July 18, pictured at 2:41 PM – Plate 43SR42 parked on Appleton Way by the School Department. He left at 3:55 thru the Common St. exit.



El jueves, 27 de Julio, este Ford Explorer rojo placas # 20PV00 fue fotografiado a las 12:55 PM, estacionado en Appleton Way al lado del Departamento Escolar. Este vehículo fue usado por el Superintendente Laboy, pero ahora lo usa el Departamento Escolar.

On Thursday, July 27, Red Ford Explorer plate # 20PV00, parked on Appleton Way by the school Department. This vehicle is Superintendent Laboy's former car and it is now being used by the School Department.

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PRIMERO EN UNA SERIE DE ARTÍCULOS

¿Quiere parqueo gratis? Ve a al Alcalde

Por Dalia Díaz

De vez en cuando alguien hace un poco de ruido con respecto al Lawrence Downtown Parking Associates y es desde la falta de satisfacción hasta hacer un escándalo por la mala administración que tiene. Esta es la organización al cargo de administrar todos los lotes de estacionamiento de la ciudad y que tradicionalmente pierde dinero. Entre las acusaciones, que a Ben Wales, su director ejecutivo, le permiten seguir perdiendo dinero de la ciudad mientras que nadie del gobierno local hace por prevenir que así sea.

Este año, bajo el liderazgo de la Concejala del Distrito D, Grisel Silva, algo diferente está pasando: ella está haciendo preguntas. Con su asistencia, nos lanzamos a investigar la historia del Lawrence Downtown Parking Associates, Inc. (LDPA).

LDPA fue establecida en 1982 como una organización privada, sin fines lucrativos y recibió un contrato para operar los lotes de estacionamiento el cual fue renovado en 1989 por el Alcalde Kevin Sullivan. Cuando la nueva Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad (el City Charter) se hizo oficial en 1985, establecía que el Departamento de Obras Públicas (DPW) estaría al cargo de los lotes de estacionamiento pero eso nunca sucedió y LDPA continuó operando los lotes. El dinero cobrado debía ser entregado a los fondos municipales mensualmente pero, desde el principio, nada se hizo según lo dictaba el contrato.

Mi primera parada fue a ver Lenny Degnan, ex Alcalde de Lawrence y ex miembro de la Junta Directiva de LDPA y alguien que por muchos años ha estado luchando para hacer que las autoridades hagan una auditoría de la Asociación. "Ellos hacen una auditoría independiente que Ben Wales presenta al alcalde todos los años. Lo que necesitamos es que la ciudad sea quien efectúe esa auditoría", dijo el Sr. Degnan.

Por muchos años, LDPA no ha devuelto dinero a la ciudad; es más, los garajes Buckley y Museum Square han estado operando con un déficit. Como parte de sus responsabilidades, LDPA debe hacer las reparaciones necesarias en estos lotes y garajes. Esto causa un problema cuando los garajes no dejan ganancia. El Sr. Wales explicó que en el 2002 ellos tenían \$100,000 apartados para unas reparaciones que tendrían que hacer en el garaje de Museum Square por valor de \$300,000. Como la ciudad estaba atravesando problemas económicos, el alcalde le dijo que entregara el dinero a la ciudad y las reparaciones no se han hecho.

Aproximadamente cuatro años atrás, el Alcalde Michael Sullivan pidió que le enviaran propuestas y un comité que él había nombrado iba a decidir quién recibiría el contrato del estacionamiento y escogieron a otra compañía. El alcalde tuvo la intención de firmar con la otra empresa pero se venció ante la presión ejercida por ciertos miembros de la junta directiva para que no se lo quitara a LDPA.

La realidad es que LDPA opera sin un contrato válido. El más reciente fue firmado por el Alcalde Larry LaFebre el cual está vencido. El Sr. Wales dice tener una carta del Alcalde Michael Sullivan que dice que

La realidad es que LDPA opera sin un contrato válido. El más reciente fue firmado por el Alcalde Larry LaFebre el cual está vencido.

"esta es una extensión del contrato previo."

El 15 de mayo de 1987, la Ciudad otorgó un contrato con Museum Square Apartments, que fue firmado por el Alcalde Kevin Sullivan. En este contrato, le garantizan 276 espacios para sus inquilinos. Los inquilinos pagan \$30 cada mes por cada auto en Museum Square Apartments. Durante el periodo de diez años Museum Square Apartments pagaría el 33% de la "Tasa de Estacionamiento Diaria". Durante los años once y dieciséis subiría al 66% y comenzando el primer día del decimosexto año, deben pagar el 100%.

Esto quiere decir que desde el 16 de mayo del 2003, Museum Square Apartments debe haber pagado el 100% de la "Tasa de Estacionamiento Diaria" por 276 espacios. El problema es que Museum Square Apartments nunca ha pagado ningún dinero a la ciudad. Si calculamos que le deben a la ciudad desde el 2003 solamente, eso sale como en \$100,000 cada año que le vienen cobrando a los inquilinos sin entregárselo a la ciudad.

"Yo no sé por qué no pagan," fue la respuesta del Sr. Wales. "Yo estoy muy orgulloso de la forma en que operamos los lotes. Le doy la bienvenida a la ciudad si quieren venir a hacer una auditoría. Mi oficina está abierta a todo el mundo."

¿Dónde está en alcalde en todo esto?

Si hay abusos o mala gerencia en la forma en que los lotes de estacionamiento están siendo administrados, debemos comenzar en la propia oficina del alcalde. El problema es que él no me devuelve mis llamadas. Después de estar tratando por semanas de conversar con él, me mandó un mensaje de que necesita saber los tópicos que quiero discutir para tener presentes a los jefes de los departamentos.

No es mi intención reunirme con jefes de departamentos cuando es su opinión lo que busco. He aquí algunas de mis preguntas:

¿Por qué no firmó el contrato con la compañía que fue aprobada después que pidió las propuestas?

La recomendación fue que se los quitara a LDPA.

¿Es apropiado que Ben Wales cobre doble?

Además de su posición como director ejecutivo, le cobra a la ciudad casi \$20,000 al año por limpiar la nieve en el invierno. Por muchos años, la Junta Directiva ha aprobado la compra de un camión nuevo cada tres años para el uso del Sr. Wales y le



venden el vehículo viejo a él.

¿Qué autoriza al Alcalde Sullivan para que regale estacionamiento gratis a ciertos empleados del ayuntamiento?

La lista enviada a LDPA aprueba el estacionamiento sin costo para él, Dave Burke, Joe Giuffrida, Myles Burke, Jorge DeJesus, Carolina Ganley, Luis Waldron y todos los concejales. ¿Por qué no para todos los empleados, o por lo menos, todos los jefes de departamentos? También sé que el Representante Estatal William Lantigua no paga pero no me dijo quien lo aprobó.

En una época en que el Concilio está luchando por hallar nuevas formas de cortar y balancear el presupuesto que muchos dicen va por \$16 millones el déficit, el Alcalde está disponiendo de dinero de los contribuyentes dándoles estacionamiento gratis y no cobrando las deudas.

La Junta Directiva de LDPA

Durante mi entrevista con el Sr. Wales, él se refirió a la Junta Directiva como la razón por la cual las cosas están como están. Cuando le pregunté por qué sus estatutos dicen que la Junta Directiva no debe funcionar con menos de nueve miembros, sin embargo, han venido operando con siete por muchos años, él simplemente dijo que es la responsabilidad de la Junta

Directiva llenar esas posiciones.

El Sr. Wales también dijo que siendo una entidad privada, sin fines lucrativos, ellos no tienen porqué llevarse estrictamente por los estatutos.

Otra pregunta fue con respecto a los requisitos para ser miembro de la junta que deben ser miembros de la Cámara de Comercio, tener un interés significativo en el comercio y presencia en el centro comercial de la ciudad, así como demostrar que no tienen ninguna relación que pudiera considerarse como un conflicto de intereses. Personas como Kevin Clement (nombrado por la Alcaldesa Patricia Dowling aunque ya no está como miembro de la junta y el Jefe de la Policía John J. Romero, miembro actual), no tenían los requisitos para ser escogidos.

Aparentemente, por lo menos en esos dos temas, la Junta Directiva de LDPA está violando sus propios estatutos.

La Junta Directiva actual esta compuesta de: Presidente James L. Conlon, Conlon Products; Tesorero, Robert Buco, Sovereign Bank; Tesorero Asistente, Joseph Bevilacqua, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce. También, Leonard Wilson, Sovereign Bank; Richard Vega, J & J Jewelers; Frederick Maloof, Lawrence Savings Bank; and John Romero, Chief of Lawrence Police Department. Ellos no reciben compensación y son elegidos por términos de dos años aunque muchos de ellos han estado ahí por muchos años.

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"Ganando con Diabetes" es un programa educativo para personas diabeticas de habla hispana, mayores de 50 años que viven en la Ciudad de Lawrence.

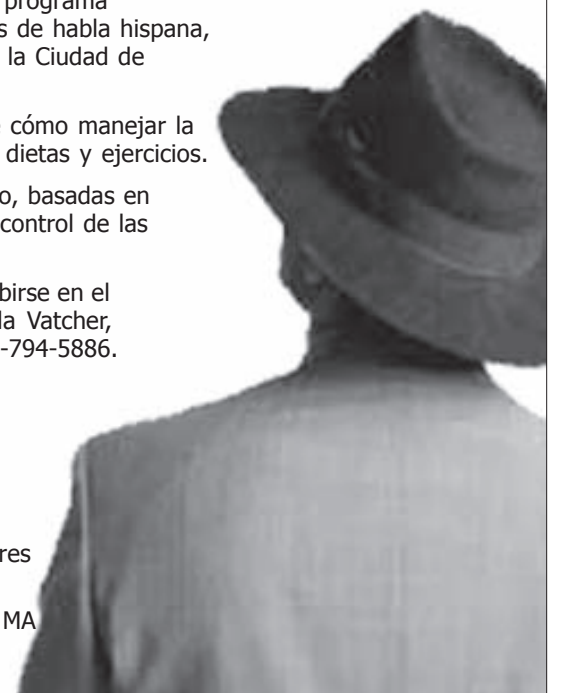
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Reconocerán estudiantes destacados de origen dominicano

El Cónsul General de la República Dominicana en Boston, el doctor Dominic Cabral invita a padres de estudiantes que hayan obtenido notas sobresalientes ponerse en contacto con la sede consular.

El objetivo es reconocer los logros de nuestros estudiantes y de este modo seguir el ejemplo del honorable presidente de la República Dominicana, Doctor Leonel Fernández Reyna, quien puso en marcha desde su gestión anterior el realizar un acto donde son reconocidos aquellos alumnos que se destacan por sus calificaciones y logros escolares, durante el año escolar.

De acuerdo a Cabral la idea es seleccionar a estudiantes de las escuelas de Lawrence, Methuen, Salem, Lynn, Boston y de la ciudad de Providence en Rhode Island y en un acto pautado para llevarse a cabo a principios del mes de agosto reconocer a niños, niñas y jóvenes de origen dominicano que por sus logros académicos representan un orgullo para la Patria.

Alrededor de 20 estudiantes que asisten a las escuelas de educación

elemental, intermedia y secundaria serán seleccionados y reconocidos como "Alumnos Destacados".

La selección de los merecedores del reconocimiento se realizará en base a las calificaciones de los estudiantes, al igual que por el comportamiento y la disciplina demostrada durante su trayectoria escolar.

Esta sería la primera vez que el Consulado Dominicano en Boston lleva a cabo una premiación de esta magnitud.

Los interesados en participar deben de enviar la copia del record de calificaciones que sus hijos e hijas recibieron al final del pasado año escolar. Junto a ese documento enviar nombre de la escuela a la que asiste su hijo o hija, grado que cursa, nombres de los padres y su materia preferida. Asimismo agregar un número telefónico para contactarlos. El cónsul dominicano concluyó diciendo que esta premiación será una forma de felicitar a padres y estudiantes por convertirse en las aulas y en la comunidad en un orgullo para la Patria de Duarte, Sánchez y Mella.

"Para nosotros es de gran satisfacción homenajear a los estudiantes dominicanos que a diario se destacan en las escuelas de ciudades con un alto índice de dominicanos, en este estado", finalizó Cabral.

Lantigua resume la reforma de asistencia social (welfare) aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes

El Representante Estatal William Lantigua (D-Lawrence) anunció hoy que la legislatura fue finalmente aprobada después de una amplia revisión de la ley de asistencia social (Welfare) del estado, una propuesta diseñada para llevar a Massachusetts a satisfacer las nuevas normas federales y preservar cientos de millones de dólares que el estado recibe en beneficios federales de asistencia social anualmente.

"Esta legislatura requiere a los beneficiados satisfacer nuevos requisitos de trabajo mientras mantiene la protección necesaria para aquellos con verdaderos impedimentos para trabajar", dijo Lantigua. "En vez de castigar a aquellos con la mayor necesidad de asistencia, como el Gobernador Mitt Romney propuso, la legislatura ha optado por darle las herramientas necesarias para que lleguen a ser autosuficientes."

Para los hogares con niños, la propuesta aumentará entre 20 a 30 el número de horas por semanas que los beneficiados deberán trabajar, dependiendo de la edad de los niños. Exenciones del requisito de trabajo se asemeja a aquellos aprobados por

el gobierno federal y aplica a las siguientes personas: a deshabilitados o aquellos que tengan bajo su cuidado a un deshabilitado; mujeres que estén en su tercer trimestre de embarazo, al menos que estuvieran trabajando al comienzo del trimestre, en ese caso deben mantener su trabajo si este no representa ningún riesgo a la salud; y a personas con niños menores de un año de edad.

La legislatura requiere la creación de un plan de desarrollo de empleo para todos los beneficiados

No-exentos al igual que un "plan de bienestar familiar" para ayudar a aquellas personas que no están sujetas a los requisitos de trabajo superar sus obstáculos para conseguir empleo. Actualmente durante un período de cinco años, el límite de beneficios es de dos años. Este requerimiento no cambiará.

"Massachusetts fue el pionero cuando confrontó el tema de la reforma de asistencia social (Welfare) en 1995", comentó Lantigua. "Antes, 103,000 familias recibían beneficios. Hoy ese número ha sido reducido cerca de 46,300. Esta legislatura mantiene al estado en el camino correcto asegurando que aquellos que puedan trabajar trabajen, y aquellos que no puedan trabajar reciban la ayuda que necesitan", dijo Lantigua.

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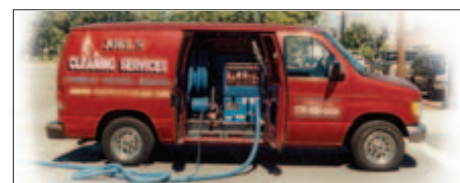
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Regresaron las Ratas

Por Alberto Surís

El jueves, 27 de julio, miembros de Laborers International Union of North America, Local 175, trajeron sus notorias y despreciables ratas y las colocaron frente al Washington Mill, en la calle Canal en Lawrence, que está siendo renovado.

Las ratas, ya conocidas en Lawrence, son usadas por la Unión, para reafirmar sus demandas por justicia para los trabajadores. En esta oportunidad, están protestando por el uso de prisioneros del Departamento del Sheriff del Condado de Essex, para trabajar en un proyecto privado en lugar de utilizar nuestros calificados y desempleados residentes.

De acuerdo con Michael P. Gagliardi, gerente del Local 175 del Sindicato, el propietario de Washington Mill lo es Architectural Heritage Foundation, de Boston y el contratista a cargo de las obras lo es Kapling Construcción, de Brookline. “La ciudad les está dando un incentivo de \$7 millones por 7 años en sus impuestos y en lugar de dar trabajo a los residentes de Lawrence, ellos traen prisioneros para hacer el trabajo”, dijo Gagliardi.

Gagliardi le ha escrito una carta a la Senadora Susan C. Tucker sugiriendo que “no debe haber incentivos en cuanto a crédito en los impuestos para este proyecto hasta que no haya una asociación para hacer de Lawrence un mejor sitio”, escribió Gagliardi a Tucker.

“En 1912, todos reaccionaron por el inhumano trato a los trabajadores – pero por lo menos les pagaban”

Michael P. Gagliardi,
Gerente del Local 175 del Sindicato

“En 1912, todos reaccionaron por el inhumano trato a los trabajadores – pero por lo menos les pagaban”, dijo Gagliardi, “pero bajo la administración de Sullivan, (Michael J. Sullivan) ellos traen prisioneros a hacer el trabajo. El Alcalde continúa diciendo que él está trabajando fuerte para reducir el desempleo. Nosotros tenemos cantidad de trabajadores cualificados en la ciudad que pueden hacer esta clase de trabajo, pero son ignorados”, dijo Gagliardi.

De acuerdo con el Representante Estatal William Lantigua, él no estaba enterado de la demostración y vino tan pronto como un miembro del Local 175 lo llamó. Lantigua también dijo que se ha puesto en contacto con la oficina del Representante Martín J. Walsh (D-Boston) y él le llevará copia de la carta de Gagliardi a la Senadora Tucker, el lunes, 31 de julio, desafortunadamente muy tarde para captar la reacción del



El Representante Estatal William Lantigua (D-Lawrence, centro) cambia impresiones con Michael P. Gagliardi, administrador de negocios del Local 175 (der.) y otro miembro de la unión no identificado (izq.)

Representante Walsh en esta edición. El Representante Walsh es miembro de del Comité de Protección al Consumidor.

Rumbo se puso en contacto con las oficinas de la Senadora Susan C. Tucker, del Alcalde de Lawrence Michael J. Sullivan y del Sheriff del Condado de Essex para conocer sus reacciones en cuanto a este asunto.

“Recibimos la carta a fines de semana e inmediatamente se la enviamos a Washington Mill en busca de respuestas a

la específicas alegaciones que se mencionan en ella”, contestó Les Bernal, Asistente Legislativo de la Senadora Susan C. Tucker por correo electrónico el sábado, 30 de julio, 2006. “Me parece imposible que tengamos su respuesta a tiempo antes de que vayan para la imprenta. Si sabemos algo, se los comunicaré”, terminó el mensaje de Bernal.

Ni el alcalde de Lawrence, Michael J. Sullivan o el Sheriff del Condado de Essex, Frank G. Cousins, Jr. respondieron al correo electrónico de Rumbo.

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La fecha límite para solicitar asistencia por desastre ha sido extendida al 7 de agosto

Los oficiales federales y estatales en Massachusetts anunciaron una extensión de dos semanas para que los afectados en los condados de Essex, Middlesex y Suffolk que sufrieron pérdidas o daños por las inundaciones a mediados de mayo se inscriban para solicitar asistencia por desastre.

La extensión al 7 de agosto fue provista por la Agencia Federal para el Manejo de Emergencias (FEMA, por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional.

“Hemos visto un flujo continuo de nuevas solicitudes en proceso de inscripción”, dijo Phil Parr, Coordinador Federal para las operaciones por desastre. “La decisión de extender la fecha límite para solicitar asistencia por desastre tiene el propósito de asegurar que todos los afectados tengan la oportunidad de inscribirse.”

Al momento, FEMA ha recibido unas 9,854 solicitudes de asistencia y más de \$37 millones en fondos monetarios han sido aprobados.

Los oficiales en las operaciones de

recuperación por desastre le reiteran a los afectados que asumir que porque tienen el seguro de propietario de hogares lo hará no elegibles para la asistencia puede ser una equivocación para luego descubrir que ese seguro no es suficiente para cubrir las pérdidas y haber dejado pasar la oportunidad de solicitar.

Los solicitantes pueden cualificar para una variedad de programas federales y estatales de asistencia por desastre como asistencia para la renta de vivienda temporera, préstamos a bajo interés de la Administración de Pequeños Negocios (SBA, por sus siglas en inglés) o para otras necesidades serias relacionadas al desastre que no están cubiertas por ningún seguro.

Dueños e inquilinos de hogares y propietarios de negocios que hayan sufrido pérdidas o daños por las inundaciones de mayo, pueden inscribirse para solicitar asistencia por desastres llamando gratis al 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) o TTY 800-462-7585 para aquellos con impedimentos del habla o auditivos, o vía Internet visitando www.fema.gov (la programación sólo está disponible en inglés).

DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 7

Federal and state officials in Massachusetts announced a two week extension for victims of the mid-May floods in Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk counties to register for assistance to help aid in recovery from uninsured or under-insured losses stemming from the event.

The extension to August 7 was granted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“We’ve seen a steady stream of applications continue to come in,” said Phil Parr, federal coordinating officer for FEMA. “The decision was made to extend the deadline to ensure that all those affected by this disaster have had every opportunity to apply for assistance.”

To date, FEMA has received 9,854 applications for assistance and more than \$37 million in aid has been approved.

Officials reiterated that often victims fail to register because they have home insurance and assume they are not eligible, only to later learn that assistance may have been available but, the registration period has already closed.

Applicants may qualify for help under a wide range of federal and state programs such as temporary housing assistance; a low-interest disaster loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA); or assistance for disaster-related needs not covered by insurance.

Homeowners, renters and business owners who sustained damage from the May floods can apply by calling the FEMA registration number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362); TTY 800-462-7585 for the speech- or hearing-impaired, or apply online at www.fema.gov.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK'S SEMINAR AT NECC



Cathy Minahan, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank, Congressman Marty Meehan and David Hartleb, President of Northern Essex Community College hosted the forum “Building and Sustaining Local Wealth: Challenges Facing Small Businesses, Microenterprises and Homeownership.” The forum was held at NECC’s Technology Center in Haverhill.

Cathy Minahan, Presidente del Federal Reserve Bank, el Congresista Marty Meehan y David Hartleb, Presidente de Northern Essex Community College auspiciaron el seminario “Creando y Manteniendo la Riqueza Local: Los Retos que Enfrentan los Pequeños Negocios, Microempresas y Dueños de Casas.” El foro tuvo lugar en el Centro Tecnológico de NECC en Haverhill.



Bienvenido Chalas and Nazario Esquea of Lawrence were two featured success stories of what a small loan can represent to a small businessperson.

Bienvenido Chalas y Nazario Esquea de Lawrence fueron dos comerciantes con historias exitosas de lo que significa un pequeño préstamo a un pequeño comerciante.



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Trabajos de la ciudad si están bien conectados

Por Dalia Díaz

Hace unos días, el Alcalde de Lawrence Michael J. Sullivan dijo durante una entrevista radial que la ciudad había empleado a tres personas para trabajar en el estadio de los veteranos. Puesto que no ha habido trabajos anunciados en ninguna parte, una petición bajo el Acta de Libertad de Información al Departamento de Personal era debida.

Los documentos recopilados demostraron algo en común que debe enfurecer a los lawrencianos: El ayuntamiento está traficando con influencia. Miremos la evidencia.

EMPLEADO	FECHA DE LA SOLICITUD	FECHA QUE FUE EMPLEADO	DEPT.	REFERIDO	REFERENCIAS DE EMPLEOS PREVIOS
Fausto Nunez	2/9/06	5/10/06	DPW	Mayor Sullivan	Andrea Traficanti Domingo Melendez Michael Sullivan
Carlos Ramos (ex miembro del Comité Escolar)	2/6/06	2/6/06	DPW	(Lo dejó en blanco)	Benites (no dio apellido) Delbys Cruz Mirna Espalla
Michael Dionne	2/16/06	1/30/06	DPW	Joe Poweiza	3 previos empleos
Gregory Morris (actual miembro del Comité Escolar)	5/18/06	5/18/06	DPW	Frank McCann Joe Viel Myles Burke	Joe Viel Frank McCann Mike Sullivan
Kenneth Fosman	4/20/06	6/20/06	DPW	Por sí mismo	Myles Burke
Mark Anthony Delgado	2/10/06	2/16/06	MIS	(Lo dejó en blanco)	3 previos empleos

Observe que emplearon a Carlos Ramos y a Gregory Morris el mismo día que llenaron la planilla de trabajo y Mark Anthony Delgado, apenas seis días después de hacerlo.

Lo que ese cuadro no demuestra es otras conexiones por ejemplo como es el caso de

Kenneth Fosman (yerno del Concejal Nunzio DiMarca y ex jefe de su campaña) quien fue empleado para trabajar en el estadio cuatro días antes de que fuera reinaugurado. De alguna forma él se enteró que había una posición disponible en el estadio porque él solicitó específicamente

esa posición.

Fausto Núñez indicó en su planilla que él había trabajado para la ciudad previamente pero en la página de la experiencia del empleo mencionó solamente que trabajó para Great Bay Clearing Co. Y ningún otro lugar. Su carta al alcalde explica

que él es el presidente de la Asociación de la Vecinos de la calle de Bromfield y Alma y ha presidido cinco asociaciones de vecindarios en el Distrito de Arlington.

VER **TRABAJOS:**
CONT. EN LA PÁGINA 13

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TALLER DE SOMWBA EN LAWRENCE

Un taller de certificación estatal tendrá lugar el 7 de agosto de 2006, de 10:00 AM a 1:00 PM, en la Cámara de Comercio del Valle de Merrimack, 264 Essex Street, Lawrence.

Auspiciado por The State Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance -SOMWBA (la Oficina Estatal de Asistencia para Minorías y Mujeres Empresarias), este taller presentará los requisitos para obtener certificación del gobierno estatal y federal.

El estado obtiene millones de dólares en productos y servicios de comercios certificados por SOMWBA. Si su negocio tiene un producto o servicio que el estado compra, usted se pudiera beneficiar de esta certificación.

Personal profesional proveerá instrucción completando la planilla de certificación y compitiendo en el mercado público. Todos los solicitantes de SOMWBA deben asistir a uno de estos talleres. Se requiere inscripción previa. Para más información y un paquete con el material de registro, llame al (617) 973-8692, o a través del Internet, vea la página de SOMWBA en <http://www.somwba.state.ma.us> para inscribirse electrónicamente. Las inscripciones deben ser recibidas a más tardar las 12 del mediodía del 6 de agosto, 2006.

MULTA:

CONT. DE LA PÁGINA 3

PEMBERTON Way – Desde Essex Street a Common Street.

Esta ordenanza fue aprobada unánimemente el 2 de junio de 1980 como permiso #B-3986".

Es de mi entender que esta ordenanza de la ciudad es aún válida aunque no es puesta en rigor. Algunos empleados del departamento escolar inspirados por el Superintendente Escolar Wilfredo T. Laboy, algunos empleados del ayuntamiento y una variedad de vehículos que NO son de emergencia lo utilizan a gusto, con la bendición del departamento de policía.

Otra área no oficialmente reservada para el uso exclusivo del departamento escolar es la zona entre los dos letreros de "Límite de estacionamiento por 30 minutos" en la calle Essex entre Appleton Way y Pemberton Way. Varias veces hemos publicado una foto del auto de Laboy con un letrero en el parabrisas indicando que es el suyo con el emblema del departamento escolar, parado al frente del edificio todo el día. Esta es una persona que tiene el estacionamiento pagado en el garaje de Museum Square como uno de sus muchos beneficios de empleo.

Me da la impresión que el letrero en el cristal es un mensaje para la policía dejándoles saber a quién le pertenece para que no jueguen con él y la policía lo complace.

Ahora dos nuevos vehículos están uniéndose al jefe: un Nissan gris 38KC52 propiedad de Mark A. Rivera y el Lincoln Navigator color marrón, placa RS6660 propiedad de Charles Birchall.

No he visto el Nissan 38KC52 por más de dos semanas; solamente el Lincoln Navigator RS6660 ha estado estacionado entre Pemberton y Appleton Ways por el mismo período de tiempo.

Desde la publicación del artículo de Rumbo el 15 de julio, nuestro teléfono no ha dejado de sonar con personas pasando información de otros empleados municipales que parquean en el centro comercial el día entero y nunca les ponen una multa. Lo sabemos al igual que sabemos que es porque la policía sabe a quien no multar.

Los que parecen estar ajenos a todo son el Sargento Emil V. DeFusco Jr., de Investigaciones de Asuntos Internos y el Capitán Ronald Plourde, quien está al cargo del control de tráfico.

El Sargento DeFusco nos aseguró que "Eso no es verdad. ¡Pruébalo!" y el Capitán Ronald Plourde, categóricamente negó haber dado órdenes a ninguno de sus oficiales con respecto a quien no dar multas.

Y yo le creo. Pero estoy convencido que si el dueño de RS6660 recibió dos multas (7/11/06 y 7/19/06) no fue porque se las mereció sino por la presión que Rumbo ha puesto. En contraste, Dionis Mezquita, de Guaranteed Home Mortgage company, Inc. localizado



Dionis Mezquita, de Guaranteed Home Mortgage Company, Inc., localizado en el 83 de la Calle Essex, en Lawrence, ha acumulado 18 multas sobre los últimos meses.

en el 83 de Essex Street en Lawrence, ha acumulado 18 multas en los últimos meses.

Mezquita ya recibió una carta del Deputy Tax Collectos diciendo que debe \$640 por 12 de esas violaciones de estacionamiento. "Yo lo discutiré a su debido tiempo. Mi queja no es por las multas que me dieron, sino por los privilegiados que no las reciben", dijo Mezquita.

Quiero aclarar que yo no concuerdo con las acciones de Mezquita. En mi opinión, él y cualquiera que se dueño de un negocio o trabaje en el centro comercial, debe guardar su vehículo en un lote o garaje durante el día. De ser así, crearán más espacios disponibles para sus clientes.

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Misa recordando al Dr. Joaquín Balaguer

El 14 de julio del 2006, recordando la muerte de su máximo líder el Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, la filial del PRSC Lawrence celebró una misa en su honor en la iglesia Saint Patrick en South Lawrence



El Dr. Joaquín Balaguer falleció el 14 de julio del 2002 en Santo Domingo, República Dominicana, fecha inolvidable para los seguidores del mismo. Así dejaron expresado los señores dirigentes de esta institución en esta área: Prof. Epifanio Minaya, Presidente; Sr. Ciriaco Mejía, Secretario General; Sr. Ramón Lockward, Secretario de Organización; Srs. José A. Gerónimo y Bernardo Peña, ambos representantes del directorio central ejecutivo del PRSC. Además, asistieron el Ing. Jony Perez, Dr. José Jiménez, y otros simpatizantes y amigos.

El Dr. Joaquín Balaguer gobernó el país por 22 años, en diferentes períodos constitucionales. El Dr. Balaguer fue el eje principal de la transición de la tiranía a la democratización del país.

El Dr. Balaguer nació en la Ciudad de Navarrete el primero de septiembre del 1906. Cursó parte de sus estudios en la

Ciudad de Santiago y luego en la capital del país. Murió el día 14 de julio, 2002 a la edad de 96 años. Aparte de la presidencia del país, el Dr. Balaguer se desempeñó como diplomático, escritor y poeta. Además, fundó el Partido Reformista Social Cristiano el 15 de agosto del 1962.

NEPRA VA A LA PLAYA



María Silva, Delia Cosme, Luis David Hiraldo, Tom Waldron y Sarah Alvarez listas para partir.

María Silva, Delia Cosme, Luis David Hiraldo, Tom Waldron and Sarah Alvarez ready to depart.

Por Alberto Surís

Desde que se anunció que NEPRA (New England Puerto Rican Alliance) estaba organizando un viaje a la playa, muchos ancianos en el Senior Center, se apresuraron a inscribirse para participar del viaje. En la mañana del 15 de julio, después de desayunarse en el Senior Center, 93 entusiastas de la playa abordaron dos autobuses del MVRTA y uno escolar que los llevó a Hampton Beach por el día.

Para el almuerzo, excepto por pizzas que fueron adquiridas localmente, ellos comieron la comida que llevaron consigo en los autobuses y de acuerdo con el Presidente de NEPRA, Luis David Hiraldo, todos disfrutaron de un gran día en la playa. "El viaje y el pasadía fue excelente, todos la pasaron muy bien y están dispuestos a hacerlo de nuevo", dijo Hiraldo.

NEPRA GOES TO THE BEACH

By Alberto Surís

Since the first announcement that NEPRA (New England Puerto Rican Alliance) was planning a trip to the beach, many seniors at the Senior Center rushed to put their names down on the list. In the morning of July 15th, after having breakfast at the Senior Center, 93 beachgoers boarded two MVRTA buses and one school bus that took them to Hampton Beach for the day.

For lunch, except for pizzas bought locally, they carried all their food in the busses. According to NEPRA's President Luis David Hiraldo, the seniors had a blast at the beach. "The trip was excellent, everybody had a great time and they are ready to do it again," said Hiraldo.



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John MacDonald fue ascendido a VP de Comunicaciones



Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union (MVFCU) acaba de nombrar a John MacDonald como Vicepresidente de Comunicaciones.

“En esta nueva posición, John estará al cargo de

los departamentos de desarrollo comercial, asuntos políticos, mercadeo y relaciones públicas”, dijo Peter Matthews, Presidente y CEO de MVFCU.

John, nativo de Chelmsford, MA, vive en Lowell con su esposa Dawn y sus dos hijos.

Con más de 45,000 miembros, Merrimack Valley FCU ofrece cuentas corrientes gratis, transacciones financieras a través de la Internet gratis, pago de sus cuentas gratis y una amplia gama de préstamos al consumidor y de bienes raíces a las tarifas y términos más competitivos del mercado. También, recientemente, instituyeron una línea de productos para pequeños comerciantes. Sus cuatro sucursales a través de North Andover, Haverhill y Methuen con una quinta abriendo en Plaistow en julio del 2006, les asegura que podrán cubrir las demandas de los nuevos socios al igual que los existentes – uno a uno.

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La comunidad—Sovereign Bank ha donado \$100,000 a organizaciones sin fines de lucro que proveen servicios vitales a individuos en comunidades afectadas por las inundaciones.

Además, todas las personas y empresas en áreas azotadas por inundaciones que tengan un préstamo en Sovereign Bank califican para efectuar pagos de préstamos diferidos especiales. Si usted fue víctima de un temporal, visite su Oficina Bancaria Comunitaria de Sovereign para obtener más información. Recuerde, estamos juntos en esto.

Para la comodidad de nuestros clientes de Lawrence, contamos con una oficina temporaria ubicada al lado de nuestras instalaciones de 555 Park Avenue, que están siendo renovadas.

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New School at Espaillat Building

Training Unlimited Inc. has been in operation for the past 11 years from their main campus located at 850 Chelmsford St., in Lowell, MA. On Thursday, July 27th, 2006, with the classic ribbon cutting ceremony, Training Unlimited Inc. opened a second campus at Espaillat Building, 225 Broadway in Methuen, the property of Benny Espaillat.

On hand for the Inauguration were Training Unlimited President Robert Eliassen; Chris Velantzas, Vice President and Dawna J. Osborne, Methuen School Director. Accompanying Methuen Mayor William Manzi, the guest of honor, was City Councilor Chairman Stephen Zanni, City Councilor Joseph A. Leone, III and Methuen Economic Development Director, Karen Faust. Joseph Bevilacqua, and Wil Carpenter, President/CEO and Vice President of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, respectively, were also on hand to welcome the new school into the area.

Among the courses that you can take right now at Training Unlimited in the new Methuen campus, are Microsoft Office Specialists, Medical Transcription, Insurance Billing and Coding, Medical Administrative Assistant, Administrative Support Professional and coming soon, GED. "All courses are certified by the Department of Education", said Methuen School Director Dawna J. Osborne.

If you want more information, you should contact Methuen School Director Dawna J. Osborne by calling 978-975-0200 or e-mail dawna@trainingunlimited.us

Nueva Escuela en el Edificio Espaillat

Por Alberto Suris

Training Unlimited ha estado en operaciones desde hace 11 años desde su campus principal, localizado en el 850 de la Calle Chelmsford, en Lowell, MA. El jueves, 27 de julio, 2006, con el corte de la clásica cinta, Training Unlimited dejó inaugurado su segundo campus, en el Edificio Espaillat, del 225 de la Broadway en Methuen, propiedad de Benny Espaillat.

A la inauguración asistieron el Presidente de Training Unlimited Robert Eliassen; Chris Velantzas, Vicepresidente y la Directora de la Escuela de Methuen, Dawna J. Osborne. Acompañando al invitado de honor, el Alcalde de Methuen William Manzi, vino el Presidente del Concilio de la Ciudad de Methuen, Stephen Zanni; el Concejal Joseph A. Leone, III y la Directora de Desarrollo Económico Karen Faust. Joseph Bevilacqua, y Wil Carpenter, Presidente/CEO y Vicepresidente de la Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, respectivamente, también asistieron para dar la bienvenida al área a la nueva escuela.

Entre los cursos que usted puede tomar en Training Unlimited, en el nuevo campus de Methuen se encuentran Microsoft Office Specialists, Medical Transcription, Insurance Billing and Coding, Medical Administrative Assistant, Administrative Support Professional y muy pronto, GED. "Todos los cursos están certificados por el Departamento de Educación", dijo la



Cortando la cinta/Cutting the ribbon, Chris Velantzas, Training Unlimited Vice President; Brad MacDugal, Congressman Marty Meehan Legislative Aid; Methuen City Councilor Chairman Stephen Zanni; Joseph Bevilacqua, MVCC President/CEO; Methuen Mayor William Manzi; Methuen City Councilor Joseph A. Leone, III; Benny Espaillat, owner Espaillat Building and Robert Eliassen, Training Unlimited President.

Directora de la Escuela de Methuen, Dawna J. Osborne.

Si necesita más información, debe ponerse en contacto con la Directora de la

Escuela de Methuen, Dawna J. Osborne llamándola al 978-975-0200 ó por correo electrónico dawna@trainingunlimited.us



6TH ANNUAL LATINO FESTIVAL

Haverhill, MA – GAR Park
Fecha: domingo, 27 de agosto, 2006
11:00 pm – 8:00pm

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TRABAJOS:

CONT.DE LA PÁGINA 7

Mark Anthony Delgado (hijo de la Concejala Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez) tuvo cuidado de mencionar su nombre en la planilla como que tiene un familiar trabajando para la ciudad. Pero él contestó "sí" a la pregunta, "¿Debe usted impuestos a la propiedad, agua o impuestos de carretera a la Ciudad de Lawrence?" Sus referencias incluyen tres veranos durante 2003, 2004 y 2005 que él trabajó para las escuelas públicas de Lawrence ganando \$10 por hora. Debemos preguntarnos si su madre era la conexión que lo hizo posible.

El caso de Gregory Morris es muy diferente. Nunca podremos esperar que él vote en el Comité Escolar contrariamente al alcalde mientras que su trabajo siga como 'temporal.'

La Ciudad de Lawrence no publica posiciones temporales por lo tanto no hay ninguna disponible. Una vez que el concilio apruebe el presupuesto de la ciudad, serán anunciadas al público y nombrados permanentemente. Frank Bonet, el director de personal para la ciudad dice, "No aprobaré a un empleado temporal para que sea colocado como empleado permanente a menos que la posición fuera aprobada (por el alcalde) y el proceso competitivo y justo fue conducido por el supervisor o jefe al cargo de tales posiciones." Tenemos que velar el proceso de busca cuando los anuncian para ver los resultados.

Con respecto al hecho de que todos los individuos deben pasar a través de una investigación de CORI (Récord de Ofensores Criminales), varias solicitudes de empleo llegaron en la oficina de personal después de la fecha en la cual el individuo comenzó a trabajar con el departamento de obras públicas. El Sr. Bonet dijo que, "Esta es una preocupación del departamento de personal ya que quisiéramos poder conducir las investigaciones y referencias inmediatamente antes que los individuos comiencen el empleo. Un manual de empleados que está siendo enviado al concilio de la ciudad resolverá situaciones futuras como esta."

De la forma que el sistema funciona actualmente, no hay oportunidad para la gente que inocentemente responden a un anuncio de periódico para competir por un trabajo de una forma imparcial. Hemos visto demasiadas veces que solamente aquellos bien conectados a través de política o de parientes son los escogidos. La experiencia y la capacidad no tienen cabida en las

Observe que emplearon a Carlos Ramos y a Gregory Morris el mismo día que llenaron la planilla de trabajo y Mark Anthony Delgado, apenas seis días después de hacerlo.

decisiones que toman.

Entretanto, algunos empleados municipales han sido problemáticos y los protegen. Tome el caso de Noah Shannon que tenía un expediente policiaco muy largo y le permitieron trabajar con los niños en el sistema escolar. Incluso fue arrestado por robar alfombras en una tienda y continuó trabajando.

Junto con Shannon, arrestaron a Juan Vanderveer, un empleado de la escuela secundaria de Lawrence. Vanderveer (hermano de Laura Vanderveer ex miembro del comité escolar) es un empleado problemático. El director de la Escuela Parthum se negó a permitir que él trabajase allí más y lo transfirieron a la escuela secundaria donde ha tenido una serie de problemas por mala conducta incluyendo el arresto por robar las alfombras con Shannon y sin embargo, continúa trabajando allí.

Parece como si la ciudad estuviese temerosa de despedir a un empleado ya sea de la ciudad o del departamento escolar por miedo a que ellos los demande. No deben asumir que perderán el juicio. Si hay suficiente evidencia, deben actuar como es debido.

Nathan Littlefield (hijo del superintendente escolar de Methuen) es otro ejemplo de un bandido que cobra un cheque. El superintendente escolar Wilfredo Laboy tenía razón para despedirlo después del incidente en la escuela de South Lawrence East cuando él colocó su pene en una ensalada de un compañero de trabajo.

Hoy, Sr. Littlefield está en la cárcel acusado de cargos federales de pornografía infantil mientras espera su juicio. Podemos asumir que su trabajo estará esperando por él.

CARTAS AL EDITOR

¿Qué pasa con nosotros los hispanos de Haverhill?

Después de una larga noche sin poder dormir, lo único que estaba en mi mente y me preguntaba a mí misma era: ¿Qué es lo que pasa con los Hispanos de Haverhill? Hay muchas personas que han trabajado y que han intentado seguir y abrir camino a esta labor tan importante de trabajar con la comunidad para que otros se unan y formen una asociación estable que represente a los hispanos de Haverhill. No se pone en duda que es una labor muy exigente y demanda de tiempo personal, pero como residente de Haverhill y habiendo explorado esos caminos, pienso que hay mucho trabajo por hacer en Haverhill.

Es hora que salgamos afuera y apoyemos a cualquier persona que tenga los mismos criterios y visiones que usted para la comunidad. No esperemos a que pase algo en nuestras vidas personales para ayudar y salir hacia fuera. A veces eso es lo que requiere para motivar a algunas personas pero por qué no tener algo ya establecido para poder manejar situaciones cuando nos llegan.

Sí, cada ciudad tiene líderes o trabajadores de la comunidad sea cual sea la razón empezaron ayudando la comunidad y llegaron a sus metas personales y ya ese campo no es tan importante para ellos. No se les puede echar la culpa; yo creo que no todo dura para siempre. Los intereses del ser humano cambian pero en una situación así es cuando tienen que surgir algo más fuerte para realizar y obtener un logro. Ya era para que hubiera más personal hispano en puestos importantes en la Ciudad de Haverhill, no hay representación en los comités en las escuelas o en puestos políticos que pueden ayudar mucho a nuestra comunidad.

Podemos dar muchos ejemplos como uno que me pasó a mí. Estaba en una ceremonia de 8vo grado donde 2% de los estudiantes de la escuela son jóvenes hispanos. Durante la ceremonia hubo quizás tres estudiantes hispanos que

obtuvieron certificados de logros especiales. Entre la emoción y los aplausos hubo dos estudiantes que decidieron con mucha determinación, añadir sus propios toques a la hora de los aplausos. Eran de dos a tres palmadas de más que ellos decidieron hacer cuando ya la mayoría de los aplausos habían terminado. Durante casi toda la ceremonia hicieron esto y yo me pregunté si yo era la única que escuchó a estos dos muchachos interrumpiendo la ceremonia y nadie más.

Después de algunas miradas serias y cuando estaba apunto de pararme y decirles que ya era suficiente, dejaron de hacerlo. ¡Qué alivio! Para mi enojo los estudiantes que lo estaban haciendo eran un hispano y un afroamericano. Pensé que por eso es que no nos quieren en ningún lado. Sí, ya sé, típico refrán que muchos usamos.

Durante los últimos momentos de la ceremonia el principal elogió a un grupo de padres que han ayudado y participado de muchas formas en la escuela y un reconocimiento había que darles porque sin ellos la vida de los maestros sería más difícil. Alrededor de cinco padres fueron mencionados y nominados y saben qué, ninguno de esos padres era hispano. Con gran tristeza me pregunté, ¿por qué no estamos envueltos en la educación y por qué nuestra participación en las escuelas no es visible todavía y no es importante? Esos fueron mis pensamientos cuando salía de la ceremonia.

La pregunta constante es cuándo habrá una semana hispana como la de Lawrence en Haverhill o cuándo se va a dar el Festival Latino o algún otro Festival en Haverhill. Desgraciadamente hay otras metas que lograr y el son de baile y diversión es parte pero no todo para lograr a cumplir metas y logros que beneficie a todos los hispanos en general.

Un placer,

Sandra Sánchez, Haverhill

CARTAS AL EDITOR

Dirección: 315 Mt. Vernon Street,
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Las cartas deben tener menos de 300 palabras de largo. Favor de incluir un número de teléfono o dirección electrónico para confirmar quién la envía.

Ciudad de Lawrence

El Departamento de Elecciones de la Ciudad de Lawrence está buscando personas para trabajar en la próxima Primaria Estatal y/o Elección Estatal
Fecha de la Elección: Septiembre 19 y Noviembre 7, 2006.

HORARIO: Turnos flexibles (No menos de 6.75 horas para recibir incentivo \$120.00 todo el día \$60 medio día)

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William Maloney City Clerk (978) 794-5803	Rafael Tejeda. Coordinador Bilingüe de Elección (978) 794-1336
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13 de Septiembre 2006	Horarios: 10:00 AM y 2:00 PM
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Para más información póngase en contacto con New Entry Sustainable Farm Project al 978-654-6745 ó por correo electrónico nesfp@tufts.edu . Nos puede visitar también en www.nesfp.org.

Actividades Culturales de Latinos Unidos de NH

El 12 de agosto, Latinos Unidos de New Hampshire celebrarán *Latino Night* con el equipo de pelota de NH Fisher Cats, en el parque de pelota Merchantsauto.com Stadium. Allí tendremos actividades culturales y también un equipo de pelota Manchester y de Nashua que estarán jugando temprano a las 3:30 PM en ese día por primera vez antes del juego de los Fisher Cats.

Esta es la primera vez que desarrollamos este tipo de colaboración y también porque esto hace historia en el parque y nos sentimos muy honrados de poder ser parte de patrocinar el evento. Luego tenemos el Desfile del Festival que será el día 18 de agosto en la calle principal de Manchester (ELM) al mediodía. El

Festival se llevará a cabo el día 19 de agosto de 12:00PM a 8:00PM.

Tenemos otro evento el día 4 de agosto en el City Hall Plaza de Manchester, "La entrega de el patrocinio del Bank Of America, tenemos presentaciones culturales y se nos hará entrega de una proclama de la ciudad. Un evento divertido también.

Como pueden ver seguimos aumentando nuestros eventos y lo hacemos con el propósito de cumplir con la misión de nuestra organización.

Gracias por el apoyo,

Sonia Parra
Directora Relaciones Publicas
Latinos Unidos De NH

REGRESO A LA ESCUELA: Conocimientos básicos de la vida real para sus hijos sobre cómo presupuestar

Por Eduardo Sayan

El verano llegó y está ya a punto de acabarse. Pronto los niños cambiarán sus trajes de baño por libros y comenzarán un nuevo año escolar. No es posible dejar de ver las señales, quizás ya recibió su lista de útiles escolares o ha visto las ofertas en las tiendas de departamentos. Como la mayoría de los padres ya lo saben, pronto va a llegar la hora de comprar todo, desde ropa y zapatos hasta mochilas y lápices y, en muchos casos, para más de un niño.

Unirse a los millones de compradores para adquirir los útiles y ropa para el regreso a la escuela para los chicos parece ser una enorme tarea, especialmente si usted tiene más de un hijo en edad escolar. Pero, como en la mayoría de los casos, la planificación hace la tarea más fácil, así que primero haga una lista con sus hijos de los artículos que necesitarán. Aproveche entonces esta oportunidad para familiarizarlos con cómo hacer presupuestos y enseñarles la importancia de administrar el dinero, y el papel que esto juega en los grandes acontecimientos de la vida, como lo es regresar a la escuela.

Si sus niños son muy jóvenes para tener su propio dinero, provéalos de una cantidad fija para las compras del regreso a la escuela. Quizá su hijo o hija tiene un empleo de verano y tiene planes de comprar sus propios artículos y ropa para la escuela. Páseles estos consejos a ellos para ayudarles a hacer sus compras solos. Ya sea que aprendan a presupuestar con \$20 o con \$200, estos conocimientos los beneficiarán por el resto de sus vidas.

Los consejos y la tabla proporcionados

Establezca la diferencia entre las "necesidades" y los "deseos". Aliente a sus hijos a que contribuyan de su dinero para cerrar la brecha entre lo que "necesitan" y lo que "desean"

a continuación por la Campaña de Educación Financiera Hispana de Visa, no sólo les ayudarán a usted y a sus hijos a hacer compras acertadas para este año sino también para los años venideros.

Consejos para el regreso a la escuela:

- Anime a sus hijos a pensar en formas de ahorrar, como recortar cupones, buscar ventas especiales o comprar suministros escolares por trimestre o por semestre
- Anime a sus hijos a cumplir con los límites de gasto del presupuesto. Haga hincapié en que adquirir otro artículo caro podría significar sacrificar otra cosa
- Lleve consigo una hoja impresa con el presupuesto en blanco cuando vaya de compras y vea que sus hijos anoten en ésta los gastos reales y que los comparen con el presupuesto que ellos crearon
- Establezca la diferencia entre las "necesidades" y los "deseos". Aliente a sus hijos a que contribuyan de su dinero para cerrar la brecha entre lo que "necesitan" y lo que "desean"
- Enséñeles a hacer compras comparando precios para evitar las compras impulsivas o pagar precios excesivos. Desánimelos de comprar algo en la primera visita a la tienda. En lugar de eso, haga que comparen precios en varios lugares y que se tomen su tiempo para pensar en las compras
- Tenga una cuenta de ahorros o una alcancía, y dígales a los chicos que si están por debajo del presupuesto, lo que ahorren ahora podrá ponerse en la cuenta de ahorros para comprar después un nuevo juguete o un CD.

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FIESTA ANUAL CONTRA EL PLOMO

La organización Greater Lawrence Community Action Council (GLCAC, Inc.) Merrimack Valley Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (MVLPPP) celebró su más exitosa "Fiesta Anual de Plomo" para promover el conocimiento público en cuanto a los peligros a la exposición al plomo el pasado miércoles, 19 de julio, 2006 en Lawrence Heritage State Park.

Network Health auspició el evento este año. GLCAC, Inc. se compone de programas tales como WIC, Head Start, Family Support, Even Start, Community Partnership for Children y otros comercios y agencias como la Oficina de Planeamiento y Desarrollo, YWCA, ADT Security, Kid-Start, Inc. Child Development, Mass Health y Network Health.

Este año añadieron una piñata como atracción. El Alcalde de Lawrence Michael Sullivan fue invitado a darle el primer golpe. Más de 550 adultos y niños asistieron al evento de este año.



ANNUAL LEAD FIESTA

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council (GLCAC, Inc.) Merrimack Valley Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (MVLPPP) held its most successful "Annual Lead Fiesta" to promote public awareness of lead exposure hazards on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at the Lawrence Heritage State Park.

Network Health sponsored this year's event. GLCAC Inc. is made up of programs such as WIC, Head Start, Family Support, Even Start, Community Partnership for Children and other businesses and agencies among them Office of Planning and Development, YWCA, ADT Security, Kid-Start Inc, Child Development, Mass Health and Network Health.

This year a piñata was added as an attraction. Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan was invited to take the first swing. More than 550 adults and children attended this year's event.

AGOSTO 13, 2006

Festival Cultural Latino De San Patricio Lowell, MA

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IZQUIERDA Myles Burke, Jefe de Despacho de la Oficina del Alcalde de Lawrence, dando lectura a una proclama de la ciudad presentada al Movimiento Puertorriqueño. Jorge De Jesús, enlace de la alcaldía para la comunidad hispana, hace la traducción.
DERECHA La Concejal por el Distrito D, Grisel Silva acompañada por el Concejal por el Distrito C, Jorge A. González, entregaron una proclama al Presidente del Movimiento Puertorriqueño, Domingo Meléndez, en nombre del Concilio de la Ciudad de Lawrence.



Las reinas del Movimiento Puertorriqueño y de cosecha borincana, siendo presentadas así como la directiva del Movimiento Puertorriqueño.



Los Boy Scouts, representados por José Maldonado, estaban allí con una mesa llena de información para todo aquel que estuviera interesado.



Dos personalidades de la radio actuaron como maestros de ceremonia, ellos son, María Rivero, "Sunev" de la Power 800 y Arnaldo José, de WCEC-1110.



Y allí estaba Nazario Esquea acompañado de su esposa Xiomara, mostrando y vendiendo celulares y CDs, como si estuviera en su tienda del 412 de la Essex Street.



Northern Essex Community College estaba representado por Joselyn Marte y Niurka Aybar.



Cristóbal Ramos, interpretando las notas del Himno Nacional de Puerto Rico, durante el izamiento de la bandera.



Jairo Lazano, de Taller Bohique, vende recuerdos (souvenirs) alegóricos a la Isla del Encanto.

PUERTORRIQUEÑOS IZARON SU BANDERA

Por Alberto Surís

El pasado 23 de julio, 2006, los puertorriqueños del área se dieron cita frente al ayuntamiento de Lawrence para izar la bandera de su bella isla. Organizado por el Movimiento Puertorriqueño, que preside Domingo Meléndez, la bonita ceremonia contó con la presencia del Representante Estatal William Lantigua (D-Lawrence), la Concejal por el Distrito D, Grisel Silva y el Concejal por el Distrito C Jorge A. González.

Mientras se izaba la bandera, se oyeron las notas del Himno Nacional de Puerto Rico, interpretadas por Cristóbal Ramos, más conocido por El Polifacético. Acto



seguido, Myles Burke, Jefe de Despacho de la oficina del alcalde y en representación de este, leyó una proclama de la ciudad, felicitando a los portorriqueños en su celebración.

Vanessa Espendez, Vicepresidenta del Movimiento, aprovechó la ocasión para presentar a Naed Morales, Virreina de



Las Batuteras del Movimiento Puertorriqueño hicieron gala de coordinación, en sus bailes rítmicos.



Semana Hispana y anunciar que ésta iniciará la formación de un grupo de Juventud Boricua que cultive y realce las tradiciones y cultura boricuas. Terminado el acto del izamiento de la bandera, los allí presentes fueron invitados a pasar al Parque Campagnone a disfrutar del 8vo. Festival Cultural Puertorriqueño.

El festival, que fue dedicado a la incansable trabajadora Sara Iris Saldaña, comenzó con el Himno de Estados Unidos, que fue interpretado por Howard Tejeda, seguido de distintas interpretaciones artísticas, culminando con la actuación del grupo 4ever.

IZAMIENTO BANDERA COLOMBIANA EN LOWELL

Por Alberto Surís

El jueves, 20 de julio, un grupo de colombianos se reunió a la entrada principal del Ayuntamiento de Lowell, para izar la bandera de su país el cual está celebrando 196 años de independencia.

El Alcalde de Lowell, William F. Martin, leyó una proclama de la ciudad en honor de los colombianos, mientras que la Concejal Rita Mercier, que siempre dice presente en todos los eventos étnicos, felicitó a los colombianos por su duro trabajo en este país, en ocasión de la celebración de la independencia de su país.

Obed Papp, del Consulado Colombiano en Boston, leyó un mensaje del Presidente de Colombia, Dr. Álvaro Uribe Vélez, dirigido a todos los colombianos residentes en el país y el extranjero y los urgió a que pensarán la forma en la que puedan ayudar a su país.

Beatriz Sierra, recibió muestras de agradecimiento por parte del público ya que por 10 años ha venido coordinando estos festejos y expresó satisfacción por el entusiasmo y patriotismo que desplegaron sus paisanos.

Como en otros años, Alba Rojas y su nieta Daniela Sierra, cantaron el himno colombiano, mientras que el Padre Diego (James Taggart), de la Parroquia de San Patrick, interpretó las notas del himno de Estados Unidos, acompañado del resto del público.

COLOMBIANS IN LOWELL RAISED THEIR FLAG

On Thursday, July 20th, a group of local Colombians gathered at the Lowell City Hall main entrance, to raise the flag of their country which is celebrating its 196 years of independence from Spain.

Lowell Mayor, William F. Martin, Jr. read a proclamation to honor the Colombians in their celebration. City Councilor Rita Mercier, always present at every ethnic celebration, congratulated the "hard working Colombians", in the occasion of the celebration of their country independence.

Obed Papp, from the Colombian Consulate in Boston, read a message from the President of Colombia, Dr. Alvaro Uribe Vélez, to all Colombians living abroad, where he urged them to think about what they can do for their country.

Beatriz Sierra, who has been coordinating this event for the past 10 years, said that she was very pleased with the enthusiasm and patriotism shown by her countrymen. Like many other years, Alba Rojas and her granddaughter Daniela Sierra, sang the Colombian national anthem while Padre Diego (James Taggart), from The St. Patrick Chapel, sang the United States National Hymn, accompanied by the general public.



Indy Esmeral, Juliet Gómez, Hillary Naranjo, Ivanna Gutiérrez y Daniela Sierra bailando una Cumbia, ante el público.

Indy Esmeral, Juliet Gomez, Hillary Naranjo, Ivanna Gutierrez and Daniela Sierra doing a Cumbia, before the public.

Bailando un Joropo, no necesariamente en orden, Natalie Agudela, Natasha Gutiérrez y Génesis Lambert.

Not necessarily in order dancing a Joropo, are Natalie Agudela, Natasha Gutiérrez and Génesis Lambert.



El Alcalde de Lowell, William F. Martin, Jr. leyendo la proclama de la ciudad. Detrás, Beatriz Sierra, coordinadora del evento; Elkin Montoya y Obed Papp, del Consulado de Boston.

Lowell Mayor William F. Martin, Jr. reading the City Proclamation. Behind him, are Beatriz Sierra, event coordinator; Elkin Montoya and Obed Papp, from the Colombian Consulate in Boston.



JOHN MACDONALD PROMOTED TO VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union (MVFCU) promotes John MacDonald to Vice President of Communications.



"In this new position, John will oversee business development, political affairs, marketing, and public relations," stated Peter Matthews, President/CEO of MVFCU.

John, originally from Chelmsford, MA, lives in Lowell with his wife Dawn and two children.

With over 45,000 members, Merrimack Valley FCU offers free checking, free online banking, free bill payment and a wide range of consumer and real estate loans at the most competitive rates and terms available. Also, recently they instituted a small business product line. Their four branches throughout North Andover, Haverhill and Methuen and their fifth branch opening in Plaistow in July 2006, assures them to be able to meet the demands of new and existing members – one member at a time.

Got ticket?

By Alberto Suris

In our July 15th edition, Rumbo published the pictures taken on Monday, July 10th, 2006, of two vehicles stationed by the School Department building, on Pemberton Way (Lawrence Schools Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy's 83MWII and RS6660). I noticed two police officers in motorcycles (Officers Flores and Yancey) stationed across the street and made a comment to them about those two cars illegally parked. "That is not our job; that is the traffic control officers. We are minding the crosswalk", it was their answer.

The next day, Tuesday the 11th, 83MWII was not there, instead, 38KC52 had joined RS6660 at the same spot. I took a picture of them and went into City Hall. Seventeen minutes later upon my return, there were orange tickets on the windshield of both cars. At that time I wondered what would be the reason that it took the traffic control officer two days to realize that they were not supposed to park there. I wondered if my taking pictures had something to do with it. Having been ticketed didn't affect the car owners because they remained there till the end of the work day and neither of the two cars were ticketed again, or towed away, for being illegally parked.

My curiosity now is finding out what is the criteria of the Lawrence Police

Department regarding parking on the Pemberton and Appleton Ways, since "City Council Document # 334 of 1980 Article 11 – Authority and Duties of the Police – Section 19-24 states:

Streets opened to Emergency Vehicles Only: The following ways have been declared to be PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS and no vehicles except emergency vehicles shall be operated on these excluded ways:

APPLETON WAY – Northerly from Essex Street to Common Street.

PEMBERTON WAY – Northerly from Essex Street to Common Street.

This Ordinance was unanimously approved on June 2, 1980 and approved by the State Department of Public Works on July 1st, 1980 as permit #B-3986".

It is my understanding that this City Ordinance is still valid although it is not enforced. Some School Department Employees, led by Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy, some City Hall employees, and a variety of other NON emergency vehicles use it at their leisure, with the blessings of the police department.

Another area unofficially reserved for the exclusive use of the school department is the zone between the two "30 minutes parking limit" signs on Essex Street between Appleton Way and Pemberton Way. Several times we have published a picture of Superintendent Laboy's car with a sign on its dashboard stating his status, with the school department official logo on it, parked all day long in front of the school department's main entrance. This is a person, who gets parking paid at Museum Square Garage by the School Department as one of his many employment benefits.

To me, this sign on the dashboard is a message for the police to know whose car is this, and not to fool around with him, and the police have been complying all this time. Now, two new vehicles are joining their boss: a grey Nissan 38KC52 owned by Mark A. Rivera and a Burgundy Lincoln Navigator, plate RS6660 owned by Charles Birchall.

I have not seen the Nissan 38KC52 for more than two weeks; only the Lincoln Navigator RS6660 has been parking within Pemberton and Appleton Ways for the same period of time.

Since the publication of Rumbo's article on July 15, our telephone has been ringing off the hook with people passing information about other city employees who park all day long around downtown streets and never got a ticket. We know that and also believe that it is because the police knows who not to ticket.

The ones that seem not to know what is going on are Sgt. Emil V. DeFusco Jr, from Internal Affairs Investigations and Captain Ronald Plourde, in charge of Traffic Control.

Sgt. DeFusco Jr assured us that "It's not true. Prove it!" and Captain Ronald Plourde, in charge of Traffic Control flatly denied that he had given instructions to any of his officers regarding who not to ticket.



Dionis Mezquita, from Guaranteed Home Mortgage Company, Inc., located at 83 Essex Street in Lawrence, has accumulated 18 tickets over the last few months.

RS6660 PARKING BEHAVIOR

- 7/10/06 | 11:57 AM
On Appleton Way – Till end of day.
- 7/11/06 | 10:18 AM
On Appleton Way.
- 7/11/06 | 10:37 AM
On Appleton Way – Pictured with ticket - left at end of work day.
- 7/17/06 | 2:22 PM
On Essex St by Pemberton Way crosswalk till end of day.
- 7/18/06 | 2:59 PM
On Essex St. in front of the S.D, till end of day.
- 7/19/06 | 10:24 AM
On Essex St. by Pemberton Way.
- 7/19/06 | 2:11 PM
Still at the same place – pictured with a ticket on, left at the end of the day. (All day, same spot - one ticket).
- 7/21/06 | 12:07 PM
On Essex St. in front of the School Department, with a Police Cruiser in front. This car did not move for the rest of the day.
- 7/27/06 | 10:13 AM
Between the Crosswalks by Pemberton Way.
- 7/27/06 | 12:51 PM
Still at the same spot – Left at end of work day.

NOTE: The zone on Essex Street between Pemberton and Appleton Ways is a 30 minutes parking limit zone.

And I believe him.

But I'm convinced that if the owner of RS6660 got two tickets (7/11/06 and 7/19/06) was not because he was meant to receive them, but because of the pressure Rumbo put into it. In contrast, Dionis Mezquita, from Guaranteed Home Mortgage Company, Inc., located at 83 Essex Street in Lawrence, has accumulated 18 tickets over the past months.

Mezquita already has received a letter from the Deputy Tax Collector stating that he owes \$640 for 12 outstanding parking violations. "I will discuss this at a proper time. My complaint is not only the tickets I got, but for the privileged ones who don't get tagged", said Mezquita.

I want to make it very clear that I don't condone Mezquita's actions. In my opinion he and anybody who owns a business or works in downtown, should garage their vehicles during the day. By doing so, they will create plenty of free space for their customers.



Lawrence Community Emergency Response Team

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6:30 pm to 11:00 pm

Music By "60's Invasion"

Donation \$30.00 Person / \$240.00 Table

For ticket call 978-975-3100 Ext. 113

City jobs for the well-connected

By Dalia Diaz

A few days ago, Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan said during a radio interview that the city had hired three employees to work at the Veterans Memorial Stadium. Since there have been no jobs posted or advertised anywhere, a request under the Freedom of Information Act to the personnel department was due.

The documents collected showed one common thread that should make Lawrencians very angry: City Hall is trafficking influence. Let's look at the evidence.

Please note that Carlos Ramos and Gregory Morris were hired on the spot, the day they filled out a job application and Mark Anthony Delgado just six days later.

What that chart does not show is other connections such as is the case of Kenneth Fosman (Councilor at-Large Nunzio DiMarca's son-in-law and former campaign manager) who was hired to work at the Veterans Memorial Stadium four days before it was reinaugurated. Somehow he knew there was an opening at the stadium because he clearly applied for that position.

Fausto Núñez stated in his application that he had worked for the city previously but in the Employment Experience page he just mentioned that he worked for Great Bay Cleaning Co. and no other place. Apparently, these work references are not checked out. His cover letter to the mayor says that he is the president of the Bromfield/Alma Street Neighborhood Association and has presided over five neighborhood associations in the Arlington District.

Mark Anthony Delgado (Councilor at-Large Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez's son) was careful to mention her name on the application as having a relative working for the City. He also answered "yes" to the question, "Do you owe any real estate, water or excise taxes to the City of Lawrence?" His references included three summers during 2003, 2004 and 2005 that he worked for Lawrence Public Schools earning \$10 per

EMPLOYEE	DATE OF APPLICATION	DATE OF HIRE	DEPT.	REFERRED BY	WORK RELATED REFERENCES
Fausto Nunez	2/9/06	5/10/06	DPW	Mayor Sullivan	Andrea Traficanti Domingo Melendez Michael Sullivan
Carlos Ramos (former School Committee member)	2/6/06	2/6/06	DPW	(Left blank)	Benites (no first name) Delbys Cruz Mirna Espalla (sic)
Michael Dionne	2/16/06	1/30/06	DPW	Joe Poweiza	3 previous employers
Gregory Morris (current School Committee member)	5/18/06	5/18/06	DPW	Frank McCann Joe Viel Myles Burke	Joe Viel Frank McCann Mike Sullivan
Kenneth Fosman	4/20/06	6/20/06	DPW	Self	Myles Burke
Mark Anthony Delgado	2/10/06	2/16/06	MIS	(Left blank)	3 previous employers

hour. We must wonder if his mother was the connection that made it possible.

The case of Gregory Morris is very different. He could never be expected to vote in the School Committee contrary to the mayor while his job remains as 'temporary.'

The City of Lawrence does not post temporary positions so there were none available. Once the City Council approves the city budget, they will be advertised and filled permanently. Frank Bonet, Personnel Director for the city says that, "I would not approve a temporary employee being placed as a permanent employee unless a position was approved (by the Mayor) and competitive and fair hiring process was conducted by the supervisor/department head of such positions." Let's watch the process closely when they are posted to see the results.

With regards to the fact that all individuals must go through a CORI (Criminal Offender Record) check yet, several applications arrived in the Personnel Office after the date in which the individual began working with the Department of Public Works. Mr. Bonet said, "This is a concern of the Personnel Department that we would like to conduct immediate checks and references prior to individuals beginning employment. An employee

Seems as if the city is afraid to fire anyone in both the city side and school department side for fear they'll sue. They should not assume that they will lose a suit. If there is enough evidence, they should act on it.

work with the children in the school system. He even was arrested for stealing rugs from a store and remained on the job.

Together with Shannon, John Vanderveer, a Lawrence High School employee was arrested. Vanderveer (School Committee member Laura Vanderveer's brother) was a troubled employee. The Parthum School principal refused to allow him to work there any more and he was transferred to the high school where he has had his share of misdeeds including the arrest for stealing rugs with Shannon and continues to work there.

Seems as if the city is afraid to fire anyone in both the city side and school department side for fear they'll sue. They should not assume that they will lose a suit. If there is enough evidence, they should act on it.

Nathan Littlefield (son of the Superintendent of Schools in Methuen) is another example of a loser collecting a paycheck. The Superintendent of Schools Wilfredo Laboy had grounds to fire him after the incident at the South Lawrence East School when he placed his penis in a coworker's salad.

Today, Mr. Littlefield is in jail on federal charges of child pornography awaiting trial. It is safe to assume that his job will be there as well.

handbook being sent to the City Council will resolve future situation as such. "

Given the system as it presently is, there is no opportunity for naïve people responding to a newspaper ad to get a job fairly and square. We have seen it too many times that only those well connected through politics or relatives are the ones hired. Experience and qualifications have no bearing on the hiring decisions.

Meanwhile, some city employees have been problematic and they are protected. Take the case of Noah Shannon who had a very long police record and was allowed to

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In order to qualify, gross annual household income cannot exceed the following income limits per household size:


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LOW INCOME (80% OF AMI)	41,700	47,700	53,650	59,600	64,350	69,150	73,900	78,650

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The rats are back



Members of Laborers International Union of North America, Local 175, posing in front of one of the rats placed across Washington Mill, protesting for the use of prisoners from The Essex County Sheriff Department to work in a privately owned project.



Representative William Lantigua (D-Lawrence, center) exchange impressions with Michael P. Gagliardi, Local 175 businesses manager (right) and another unidentified union member (left).

By Alberto Surís

One Thursday, July 27, members of Laborers International Union of North America, Local 175, brought their notorious, mean rats and placed them across the Washington Mill, on Canal Street, in Lawrence, which is being renovated.

The rats, now a familiar sight in Lawrence, are used by the Union to reinforce their demands for justice for the workers. This time, they are protesting the use of prisoners from The Essex County Sheriff Department to work in a privately owned project, instead of our local, qualified and unemployed residents.

According to Michael P. Gagliardi, Local 175 Business Manager, the Washington Mill is owned by Architectural Heritage Foundation, from Boston and the work is being done by general contractor Kapling Construction, out of Brookline. "The city is giving them in the next seven years, \$7 million in tax credits and instead of giving jobs for Lawrence residents, they bring prisoners to do the work," said Gagliardi.

Gagliardi had written a letter to Senator Susan C. Tucker, suggesting that "there should be no tax credits to this project until it is a full partner in making Lawrence a better place," wrote Gagliardi to Tucker.

"In 1912 people reacted for inhumane treatment to workers- at least they were paid", said Gagliardi, "but under the Sullivan Administration (Mayor Michael J. Sullivan) they bring prisoners to do the job. The major

continues to say that he is working to reduce unemployment. We have plenty of qualified workers in the city who can do this kind of work but they are ignored," said Gagliardi.

According to Representative William Lantigua, he was not aware of the workers' demonstration, but came in as soon as a member of Local 175 called him. Lantigua also said he had contacted the office of State Representative Martin J. Walsh (D-Boston) and he will bring him a copy of Gagliardi's letter to Senator Tucker on Monday, July 31, unfortunately too late to capture Representative Walsh's reactions in this edition. Representative Walsh is a member of the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection.

Rumbo contacted the offices of Senator Susan C. Tucker, Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and Essex County Sheriff, for their reaction on this matter.

"We got the letter late last week and immediately forwarded it to Washington Mills seeking responses to the specific allegations raised in the letter," responded Les Bernal, Legislative Assistant to Senator Susan C. Tucker by e-mail on Saturday, July 30, 2006. "It's unlikely we'll have their responses by the time you go to print. If we hear back from them in time, I'll let you know," ended Bernal.

Neither Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan or Essex County Sheriff Frank G. Cousins, Jr. have responded to Rumbo's e-mail.

Local Student Selected to Attend the National Student Leadership Conference

Chris Iraheta-Alejandro, of Lowell, MA, class of 2007, has been selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference (NSLC), an extraordinary leadership development program for outstanding high school students. While attending the NSLC, Chris will have the opportunity to study, experience, and develop the skills and traits that define and identify a leader. This year, approximately 8,000 gifted high school students from across the United States and from 45 countries around the world will find themselves immersed in a learning environment unlike any they have ever experienced. These young leaders return to their schools with increased potential and newly developed abilities that enable them to make a positive difference in their communities.

Through participation in this extraordinary program, students develop their abilities to think on their feet, to engage in critical analysis, and to communicate effectively - skills that will serve them well as leaders in high school, college, and throughout their lives. The NSLC mission is to identify and recognize outstanding young leaders from around



the world, and to provide them with a unique learning environment that encourages not only academic achievement, but also diversity, cooperation, and social responsibility.

"Students develop a sense of independence and responsibility," said Dr. Paul M. Lisnek, the NSLC Director of Academics and former Assistant Dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. "They leave with a true feeling of accomplishment and confidence in their ability to handle the challenges that lie ahead."

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SUMMER 2006 PROGRAMS

All Programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For more information or to register call 978-794-1655. Tours run weekly through the last week of August.

BOAT TOURS ON THE MERRIMACK RIVER!
Sundays 1:00 P.M., June 25 through August 27, 2006.
A "Find Yourself in a State Park" program. Leave from the Bashara Boathouse at Riverfront State Park, Eaton Street, South Lawrence. Tours go rain or shine. Limited capacity -- reservations recommended. Call 978-794-1655 for information and reservations. Also recommended to bring -- windbreaker, hat, camera and sunscreen.

"RIVER TO TEXTILES" TOUR
Tuesdays at 10 a.m. A walking tour of Lawrence's historic mill and canal district. Meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center at 1 Jackson Street. Tours last one to one and a half hours. Visitors will learn about Lawrence's historic textile mills and waterpower system, which harnessed the Merrimack River. Approximately 1.5 miles; weather permitting.

"CITY OF WORKERS" EXHIBIT TOUR
Mondays at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays 10 a.m. A guided tour of the exhibit on the history of Lawrence. Visitors should meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center, at 1 Jackson Street. Tours last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes, and involve an interactive activity, and the showing of a video about the famous "Bread and Roses" Strike of 1912.

"REVIVIENDO MEANS REBIRTH"
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. A guided walking tour of the Gateway District, a focal point of revitalization in Lawrence. Visitors should meet in the lobby of the Visitor Center at Lawrence Heritage State Park. Tours last approximately one hour. Distance one-half to one mile; weather permitting.

Guided tours available at other times. Call to make reservations.
**"River to Textiles" is also available as a bicycle tour.

Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center is located at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840. For information, reservations, or directions, call 978-794-1655, email Lawrence.Heritage@state.ma.us Or see <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/lwhp.htm>

FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES

Want free parking? See the Mayor

By Dalia Diaz

Every now and then there are rumblings about the Lawrence Downtown Parking Associates ranging from dissatisfaction to outrage for poor management. This is the organization in charge of managing the city's parking lots that traditionally loses money. Among the accusations, that Ben Wales, its executive director is allowed to just go on and continue losing city money but no one in the local government does anything to prevent it.

This year, under the leadership of District D Councilor Grisel Silva, something different is happening: she's asking questions. With her assistance, we set out to investigate the history of the Lawrence Downtown Parking Associates, Inc. (LDPA).

LDPA was established in 1982 as a private, non-profit organization and was granted a contract to run the parking lots which was later renewed in 1989 by Mayor Kevin Sullivan. When the City Charter became official in 1985, it stated that the Department of Public Works (DPW) was to be in charge of the city's parking lots but, that never happened and LDPA continued operating the lots. The monies collected were to be turned into the city coffers on a monthly basis but, from the very beginning, nothing went according to the contract.

My first stop was Lenny Degnan, former Mayor of Lawrence and former member of the Board of Directors of LDPA and someone who for years has been fighting to get the authorities to perform an audit on the Association. "They have an independent audit that Ben Wales presents to the mayor each year. What we need is for the city to be in charge of that audit," said Mr. Degnan.

For many years, LDPA has not turned any revenues to the city; in fact, the Buckley and Museum Square garages have been operating in a deficit. As part of their responsibilities, LDPA must do the

necessary repairs on the lots and garages. This causes a problem when the garages are not profitable. Mr. Wales explained that in 2002 they had \$100,000 set aside for repairs that were needed at Museum Square at a cost of \$300,000. Since the city was experiencing budget problems, the mayor asked for the money to be turned into the city and the repairs have not been done.

Approximately four years ago, Mayor Michael Sullivan sent out for bids and the committee he had appointed to decide who was to receive the downtown parking contract chose another company. The mayor had intentions of signing up with the new company but cave under the pressure of certain board members asking him not to take away from LDPA.

The reality of it is that LDPA operates without a valid contract. The last contract between LDPA and the city was signed by Mayor Larry LeFebre which has expired. Mr. Wales claims to have a letter from Mayor Michael Sullivan stating that "this is an extension of the previous contract."

On May 15, 1987, the City entered into a contract with Museum Square Apartments which was signed by then Mayor Kevin Sullivan. In this contract, they guaranteed 276 parking spaces for their tenants. Tenants pay \$30 each month per car to Museum Square Apartments. During the initial ten year period Museum Square Apartments would have to pay 33% of the "Daily Parking Rate". During years eleven and sixteen it would go up to 66% and starting the first day of the sixteenth fiscal year, they should pay the full amount.

That means that since May 16, 2003, Museum Square Apartments should have been paying 100% of the "Daily Parking Rate" for 276 spaces. The problem is that Museum Square Apartments has never paid any monies to the city at all. If we calculate what the city is owed since 2003 alone, it comes up to approximately \$100,000 each



For many years, LDPA has not turned any revenues to the city; in fact, the Buckley and Museum Square garages have been operating in a deficit... LDPA must do the necessary repairs on the lots and garages.

year that they are charging their tenants and not turning it in to the City of Lawrence.

"I don't know why they don't pay it," was Mr. Wales answer. "I am very proud with the way we are operating the lots. I welcome the city to do an audit. My office is open to anyone."

Where is Mayor Sullivan in all of this?

If there is mismanagement or abuses in the way the parking lots are administered, we should start right at the Mayor's office. The problem is that he doesn't return my calls. After trying for weeks to meet with him, a message from him was that he needed to know the topics of conversation to be discussed so that he could have the different department heads present.

It is not my intention to meet with department heads when it is his opinion what I am after. Here are some of my questions:

Why did you not sign the contract for the company that was approved after it was sent out for bids?

The recommendation was to take it away from LDPA.

Is it appropriate for Ben Wales to double-dip?

Besides his job as executive director, he charges the city close to \$20,000 each year for snow plowing. For many years, the Board of Directors has approved the purchase of a new truck every three years for Mr. Wales' use and sells the old vehicle to him.

What gives Mayor Sullivan authority to grant free parking to certain City Hall employees?

The list sent to LDPA approves parking without charge for himself, Dave Burke, Joe Giuffrida, Myles Burke, Jorge DeJesus, Caroline Ganley, Luis Waldron and all City Councilors. Why not for all employees or, at least, all department heads? I also know that State Representative William Lantigua parks for free although he did not tell me who approved it.

At a time when the City Council is struggling looking for ways to cut back and balance a budget that some say is up to \$16

million, the Mayor is giving away taxpayers' money granting free parking and not collecting debts.

LDPA's Board of Directors

During my interview with Mr. Wales, he referred to the Board of Directors as to the reason for things to be the way they are. When asked why their by-laws say that the Board cannot have fewer than nine members, yet they have been operating for many years with only seven, he simply said that it is the Board's responsibility to fill the positions.


Mr. Wales also said that being a private, non-profit organization, they can deviate from the by-laws.

Another question was regarding the criteria to be a Board member was that members must be Chamber of Commerce members, have significant business interest and presence in the downtown area, and demonstrate they do not have any contractual relationship that could appear as a conflict of interest. People like Kevin Clement (appointed by Mayor Patricia Dowling and no longer on the Board, and Police Chief John J. Romero, a current member) do not have those requirements.

Apparently, at least on those two issues, LDPA's Board of Directors is acting in violation of its own by-laws.

The current Board of Directors consists of: President James L. Conlon, Conlon Products; Treasurer, Robert Buco, Sovereign Bank; Assistant Treasurer, Joseph Bevilacqua, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce. Also, Leonard Wilson, Sovereign Bank; Richard Vega, J & J Jewelers; Frederick Maloof, Lawrence Savings Bank; and John Romero, Chief of Lawrence Police Department. They receive no compensation and are elected to two-year terms although the same people have been there for many years.



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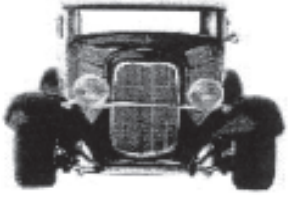

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For any of the following activities, unless noted differently, please call Kathy Bresnahan or Rita LaBella at the Council on Aging at (978) 374-2390.

FOSTER'S DOWNEAST

Haverhill COA and Bethany Community Services are planning a trip to Foster's Downeast Clambake, Wednesday, August 9, 2006. The clambake includes New England Clam Chowder, Mussels and/or Clams, succulent Maine Lobster, Corn on the Cob, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes and Onions, Rolls/butter, hot drawn butter, blueberry Crumb Cake (chicken or vegetarian substitutes available)

Cost of this trip is \$38.00 per person including transportation. Bus will leave Westgate at 10:00, lunch starts at 11:30 a.m.

Contact Kathy Bresnahan or Rita LaBella at Haverhill COA 978-374-2390 or Darlene Sutton at Bethany 978-374-2165 for reservations.

FOSTER'S DOWNEAST CLAMBAKE

Haverhill COA and Bethany Community Services are planning a trip to Foster's Downeast Clambake, Wednesday, August 9, 2006. The clambake includes New England Clam Chowder, Mussels and/or Clams, succulent Maine Lobster, Corn on the Cob, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes and Onions, Rolls/butter, hot drawn butter, blueberry Crumb Cake (chicken or vegetarian substitutes available). Cost of this trip is \$38.00 per person including transportation. Bus will leave Westgate at 10:00, lunch starts at 11:30 a.m.

BABY BOOMERS BASH

Haverhill Recreation Department and COA are planning a Baby Boomer Bash at DiBurro's Ward Hill on Saturday, August 19, at 8:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by A Good Time DJ's Paul Eason. A cash bar as well as hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Tickets are \$20.00 per person for this great event.

RED SOX GAME IN WASHINGTON

COA is hosting a trip to a Red Sox Game at Baltimore's Camden Yards from September 14 to 16!! It is impossible to see a game in Boston, so join us for

FREE CELL PHONES

Council on Aging announces it has a supply of free cell phones for Haverhill seniors. These phones are programmed to call 911 in an emergency. This is a free service. Please call Joel Berg for additional information.

this fun-filled trip which features sightseeing in Washington D. C. and Camden Yards for Red Sox - Orioles game. Washington D. C. sights will feature the World War II and FDR Memorials at the Capital Mall as well as the Air and Space Museum, where Lindberg's "Spirit of Saint Louis" and other aeronautical attractions are housed. Bus will leave West Gate at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 14. Cost of this fabulous trip is \$239 per person double occupancy, \$235 triple occupancy, \$329 single occupancy. Children 17 and under are \$199 per child with two adults (max 2 children).

SCALLOP FESTIVAL

Haverhill COA is planning a trip to the 37th Annual Bourne Scallop Festival on Friday, September 22. The American Bus Association has named the Scallop Festival as one of the top 100 Events in North America, so don't miss out on this great opportunity! There will be plenty to do and plenty to eat. Events will include a judged art show, home expo, rides, and entertainment. Tickets for this trip are \$30 per person, including a delicious scallop meal fest (or chicken if you prefer). Bus will leave Haverhill at approximately 7:30 a.m. and return late afternoon.

RED SOX IN TORONTO

Red Sox Game in Toronto from September 22 to 24!! It is impossible to see a game in Boston, so join us for this fun-filled trip which features sightseeing at Niagara Falls and the Sky Dome Baseball Dome Red Sox - Blue Jays game. Bus will leave West Gate at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, September 22. Cost of this fabulous trip is \$239 per person double occupancy, \$235 triple occupancy, \$329 single occupancy. Children 17 and under are \$199 per child with two adults (max 2 children).

HAVERHILL NEWS

Mayor calls for mandatory after school tutoring for kids failing the MCAS test

Mayor James J. Fiorentini, deeply concerned about Haverhill's MCAS scores, today called for a new program to require that kids who fail the MCAS stay after school and, if necessary, go to school through the summer in order to improve their scores. Fiorentini said he was basing his program upon a program recommended by James A. Payser, Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Education who recommended 45 minutes of mandatory after school MCAS tutoring for school districts that the State had taken over for nonperformance.

Fiorentini, who made the proposal at Thursday night's School Committee meeting, said that improving MCAS scores should be the top priority of the School Committee: "We have talked about MCAS scores for years. It is time for action. It is time to get over we-can't-do-anything-because-of-the-budget attitude and take immediate and strong action to improve MCAS scores. Mandatory after school and summer school tutoring programs have been shown to work in a number of districts. The Chairman of the State Board of Education recommends them for failing school districts but why should it be limited to that?"

Fiorentini said while he would search for State grants to fund the program if necessary the School District should fund them from the budget: "Budgets are about priorities. Improving MCAS scores should be our number 1 top priority in the school system and that means we have to fund it."

Fiorentini received the immediate support of other School Committee members. School Committee woman Erin Francescone noted that when the City did provide after school and summer school

"Budgets are about priorities. Improving MCAS scores should be our number 1 top priority in the school system and that means we have to fund it."

James J. Fiorentini,
Mayor of Haverhill

tutoring programs, those programs worked to improve MCAS scores.

Fiorentini convened a Mayoral Task Force comprised of himself, and School Committee members Erin Francescone and Kerry Fitzgerald to report back on means of implementing the program.

Haverhill Expands, Improves, City-Owned Docks

As part of Mayor James J. Fiorentini's continuing efforts to reconnect citizens to the waterfront, the Mayor announced today that the City was expanding the city-owned dock system in the park behind the Tap Restaurant and was installing docks at what is known as Chase's Wharf beside the Water Street Fire Station.

The new system doubles the amount of city-owned dock space in those two locations along the Merrimack River. The money also provides for improved docks that are more durable.

The City was able to purchase the docks because of the money accumulated from the dock fee established several years ago by the City. The docks were purchased used by the city and a price much lower than the city would spend on new docks.

Mayor James J. Fiorentini called the new docks part of the City's commitment to reconnect the people of Haverhill to the waterfront: "When these new fees were established a couple of years ago we made a commitment to the boaters of Haverhill that the money would all be used to make improvements for better boating in the City. This is the first of what we hope will be several improvements.

These docks double the number of boats that are now able to pull up to our public docks in the public park on Washington Street behind the Tap Restaurant. We encourage people to bring their boats to downtown Haverhill and to dock for free at our new public dock system."

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El pasado 28 de julio, Cristóbal Ramos, más conocido como El Polifacético, estuvo de cumpleaños. Desde estas páginas le deseamos que haya disfrutado de su día a plenitud.





IT'S ALL ABOUT RIGHT(S)

ITSALLABOUTRIGHTS.COM | BY ELLEN BAHAN

Back seat mayor

I can tell you right now that if indeed the election had been different, I as your mayor would not be taking the \$15,000 increase in salary.

I realize this is an easy thing to say, seeing that I AM NOT MAYOR. But I wouldn't take the money; I'd be working for you, making the necessary cuts, holding the line, and making decisions for all of you, not for my pals or myself.

It is about principle, integrity, and what I believe is the true meaning of public service. How could I give or by default accept a salary increase, when I would be asking the citizens of Methuen to take a salary cut?

Call it whatever you want, but when your property taxes increase, or the fees that the city charges you to do business increases, it is indeed a salary cut.

If you were to take me seriously as a true representative of the people, I would not have betrayed that trust.

Mayor Billy BridgeBoy Manzi needs to show the people of Methuen that he is willing to make the necessary and sometimes painful cuts for the good of all the people.

By installing more high priced personnel, and I am talking about you Matty K., then accepting an increase because you handled the flood business satisfactorily (which, by the way remains to be seen), a salary increase at this time is grossly disingenuous.

Oh God, Billy, please don't prove me right! Do not turn out to be a carbon copy of the nefarious queen! Some are now calling you Pollard with pants. I don't think you would look good in red and blond

would not do you justice!

Oh, by the way, I AM RUNNING FOR MAYOR AGAIN!

I believe that the people of Methuen need an opposite choice. I am truly opposite. I would have started with an audit of all accounts, especially the grants.

This is by no means sour grapes; I wrote all the true facts before and will continue in the future.

Domestic spying

Unless you are under a rock, by now you have heard a little something about our federal officials eavesdropping on transmissions deemed to be a potential threat to our national security.

The Democrats and the Republicans are in a pitch battle to renew the provisions of this legislation. The Dems say it goes too far and the Republicans cite necessity for public safety.

NOTE: The Patriot Act has passed Congress... Hey it's been a long time since I published, but Methuen is like a soap opera; things never change. DID YOU MISS ME?

Tons and tons of money have already been thrown at the after effect of 911... prevention, preparedness being the objective; however, a great deal of these monies has been pumped into the bottomless pit to administrate the corrupt.

Example: Some of you citizens out there in pork town think for one minute, if you ended up on the wrong end of the past politico wave, the regime of Sharon M.oney Pollard and her band of merry huffers, you were investigated, persecuted, and presumably hung by the very same public

employees whom you pay their salary.

Just ask Moe (Maurice Laviriere, Esp.) Well, maybe not, the very same noose destined for me, happened to get lassoed around Moe's neck. Damn! I hate when that happens, and I'll bet Moe hates it even more!

Sharon M.oney Pollard, not only allowed public employees to run roughshod over those who dare dissent against her policies, she condoned department heads to do the same. Using their offices and positions to extract revenge.

In Methuen, we are using those funds designated for protecting the citizens; you know the funds for public safety to investigate the very citizens who ultimately pay the tab.

I have proof of this anomaly. I know you are not going to believe this, but I have been investigated. Not for doing anything wrong or against the law because I have not broken any laws. (It must be for doing all the good I have done.)

The only thing I do is to write about those who do and continue to break the law. Whether it is misappropriate funds, use their position as public officials to extract special favors, steal, be it time or tangible stuff, or cover up toxic sites.

In other words, if you are doing the dirty, and I find out about it, I am going to tell anybody and everybody that will listen just what you are up to.

For this I have been investigated, and paid the price. Makes you think we live in Cuba, or Iraq, or anyplace where freedom of speech is a crime.

The only crime is that our public officials are using tax dollars to try and discredit those who dare speak against the reigning regime.

BILLY, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DO THAT... ARE YOU?

I have seen little changed in status quo for Billy's regime, AN AUDIT WOULD HAVE PUT TO REST ANY QUESTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR, INSTEAD BILLY CHOSE TO ADD TO ROLES AND TRY TO RETAIN THOSE ALREADY PROVEN TRUSTED CONFIDENTS, I AM SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING ALL THOSE

Oh God, Billy, please don't prove me right! Do not turn out to be a carbon copy of the nefarious queen! Some are now calling you Pollard with pants. I don't think you would look good in red and blond would not do you justice!

MAYORAL APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS.

My opinion

They will do whatever we let them get away with.

- Joseph Heller

I wrote this article some time ago. Again, the flap has risen, as to the Federal Government listening in on our telephone conversations to ensure our safety.

I have no problem with this and to be honest, I always assumed or at least hoped that covert action was alive and well in America. If our government having this knowledge and technology will keep us safe, I concur.

It does not mean that I will remain blind giving a free pass to those public officials who do not have the people's best interest at heart. Local, State or Federal Public officials who will use their positions to extract information for purposes of revenge, intimidation, or to better their positions, should be held accountable for their actions.

Either scenario falls under the heading of corruption. It is up to the people to do diligence.

We can start in Methuen, I can prove that our public officials have used their official status to investigate individuals without just cause.

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For details on what classes and camps we are offering, please log on

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Not one more frikken nickel

By Ellen Bahan

I know it was Saturday 7/22/06, and I realize that there is a method to the daily record of advertisement, death, Dear Abby and horoscope's madness, but I do hope that everybody caught the headline...ABOVE THE FOLD, our mayor, Billy BridgeBoy Manzi's vow of a quick fix for his...I mean your...I mean ours...I mean the footbridge, something that I have been harping about for years now.

What galled me to no end was the fact that Billy said, "the mistakes also will hit the city in the pocketbook."

First of all, your property taxes are going up. Your services are costing you more. Billy has hired more high priced personnel. Billy hasn't made a cut in any way, shape or form.

How much more are we expected to spend! 1.5 million with, you know, cost overruns, you can count on. I laid my bet on the 2 million dollar spot. You know material shortage, inclement weather, too hot to work, I forgot my hard hat, my mother had a toothache. All this to connect two private entities.

It has been a ruse from the beginning! And Billy you are as much to blame as big old shar, and snidely whiplash DiZoglio. After all your building (liquor store, and father's rental property) is one side of the destination.

A destination that has no public

parking on either side, yet the taxpayers for this town and country are footing the bill. (80% Federal, 20% State)

It has not been a secret that this span was not handicap accessible. In other words this is not a mistake. It is something that our audacious politicians thought they were going to get away with.

Bridge boy, look me in the eye and tell me that you have never walked down, (facing your store) the left side of the building where the ramp is slated to go up and down, with a little black ice, ice, snow, sand or oil and felt a funny feeling, a tightness in the back of your pants that you were going down or over into the falls. Never mind that the grade is totally wrong for handicap accessibility. But apparently, it is about you making money than the handicap.

Think about the people from Mills Falls AKA Mar-Lin Mills, 97 apartments streaming over for liquor, lottery, chips and don't forget the Chinese Food at Daddy's rental property.

Where's Sid Harris? Didn't he just get approved to be the handicap watchdog? Something that I was in agreement with. I think I will have to rethink this, seeing that he was not the one that blew the whistle.

Thank you, John Miller! Mr. Miller was ousted from the zoning board during the reign of terror by our big old queen, Sharon

Billy, you can do like I did when I was concessionaire for the Methuen Ranger Band Parents: Sell hot dogs, hamburgers, raffle tickets, maybe a car wash, you know Matty K. can do the tires.

held accountable for their actions or non-actions. Stupidity should not be an excuse!

Billy, you are going to have to put that bigger, newer cash register in the back room for a while. And forget about getting the letter's for the front of your building.

The good part is that you have received a \$15,000 raise, which can be contributed to the cost of correcting this deliberate design flaw. With Atty. Doherty, who was the driving force on the 97 unit entirely low income housing project slammed into the old Mar-Lin Building kicking in his fair share, (it is rumored that he is one of the mouth pieces for Ted Kennedy), the taxpayers should be spared from having to spend one more frikken nickel on Methuen's dirty little secret!

Billy, you can do like I did when I was concessionaire for the Methuen Ranger Band Parents: Sell hot dogs, hamburgers, raffle tickets, maybe a car wash, you know Matty K. can do the tires. (Note: Matty K. seems to be real good with tires, with all the tires, tires, tires, and tires that were bought for employees at Tewksbury State Hospital with taxpayer money on his last job.)

Only one more year left till election! Billy under your picture in the hallway of the great hall it will read...BILLY MANZI, ONE TERM MAYOR. Instead of being mayor for a second term he got a bridge...THE BILLY BRIDGE!

Money Pollard, because he took his job seriously to protect the citizens of Methuen. Something that is not an asset when you sit on one of the mayoral appointed boards. In fact, Billy has passed a decree (approved by council) to keep those people on boards that have long served them... I mean, their allotted time.

It is apparent that they have not lived their usefulness in passing these dirty deals that are detrimental to the citizens of Methuen. It is very easy to track the dirty deals and the pay offs attached to them.

Methuenites you do not have to look any further than the private footbridge when you are looking for graft and corruption.

Boston's big dig might be on a grander scale, but it has nothing on Methuen's little pig. Heads should also roll here in the lovely confines of pork town. Politicos should be

The Morning Wake Up

with Bruce Arnold



and Marc Lemay

Weekdays 6:00 AM - 9:00 AM

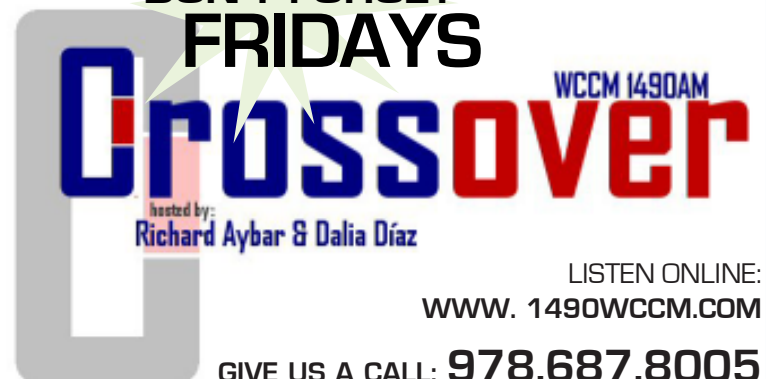


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“CHOICES” WORKSHOP OFFERED FOR POTENTIAL STUDENTS

Area residents who have been thinking about attending Northern Essex Community College but are unsure about a course of study are invited to attend a free, one-hour workshop which will be held at the Haverhill campus on the following dates:

Thursday, August 10
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, August 29
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the college’s Career Planning department, the “Choices” workshop is designed to help potential students recognize possible career paths stemming from their personalities and interests, then identify the corresponding NECC program.

Northern Essex offers over 70 associate degree and certificate programs in the areas of business, human services, computers, criminal justice, deaf studies, early childhood and elementary education, electronic technology, engineering science, health professions, liberal arts, and many others. Classes are offered days, evenings or weekends as well as online.

Since materials are handed out, reservations for this workshop are required.

To register or for more information, call the NECC Career Planning department at 978-556-3722.

NECC Announces New Academic VP



Dr. Lane A. Glenn, dean of academic and student services for the Auburn Hills Campus of Oakland Community College in Michigan, will be the new vice

president of academic affairs at Northern Essex Community College with campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence, MA.

Glenn, who was selected by the search committee which included five faculty, a staff member, two deans, and President David Hartleb, will begin this fall, replacing Dr. Paul Bevilacqua who announced his retirement last winter. Bevilacqua served as Northern Essex’s vice president and dean of academic affairs since 1998 and will continue in this role until Glenn starts.

“I’m thrilled with the selection of Dr. Glenn for the important position of vice president of academic affairs,” said President Hartleb. “His academic background and teaching experience are in the liberal arts area and he also has extensive experience working with business and industry and knows the importance of aligning academic programs

with the workplace.”

Glenn has served in his current role at Oakland Community College since 2001. He has been responsible for providing academic and administrative leadership of faculty and staff and curriculum development for the flagship campus of Oakland Community College’s five-campus system. The system enrolls 74,000 students annually and Auburn Hills serves 8500 students each semester.

At Northern Essex, he will be responsible for the quality and administration of all instructional programs, including strategic planning, curriculum development, budgeting, and instructional technology. The college currently serves 6,500 credit students each semester and offers over 70 credit certificate and associate degree programs.

Prior to coming to Oakland Community College (OCC), Glenn spent seven years at Lansing Community College (LCC) in Michigan where he taught theater and English (1994 to 1999) and served as director of special projects (1999-2000) and director of learning services (1999-2000) for the Business & Community Institute, the arm of the college which provides contracted training.

From 1996 to 1999, he was coordinator of LCC’s Stage Technology Program, which he helped found in cooperation with government agencies and the entertainment industry. The first of its kind in the country, the program includes a U.S. Dept. of Labor registered apprenticeship and trains stage technicians to work in theater, convention, sporting, and film venues. He also developed courses for online delivery and helped found LCC’s Virtual College which offers courses through the Internet.

Glenn began his education at a community college and went on to earn a Ph.D. in theater from Michigan State University in 1994; a Master of Arts in Speech from Oklahoma State University in 1991; and a Bachelor of Arts in English and Speech/Theater from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma in 1989.

He has written critical essays, book

reviews, fiction pieces and poems for a wide range of publication and presented papers and served on panels at many educational conferences.

“I’m very excited about coming to Northern Essex,” said Glenn. “The mission and promise of community colleges everywhere is to provide opportunity to our students and our communities, for education, career preparation, and regional economic development. NECC is clearly a college prepared to do all that and more, with a strong student focus and commitment to the life of the community. I’m looking forward to joining NECC’s faculty and staff in that important mission.”

Haverhill resident named to NECC Board of Trustees



Marlene Yeo of Haverhill, director of Somebody Cares New England (SCNE), a nonprofit organization, has been appointed to a five-year term on the Northern Essex Community

College Board of Trustees by Governor Mitt Romney, effective immediately.

“Marlene Yeo is a good fit for our board of trustees,” said David Hartleb, president of the college. “She has done so much to help those close to home who are facing challenges due to poverty. The college will benefit from her insight.”

Yeo is the pastor of Community Christian Fellowship Street Church which opened its doors in November of 2005. Located in space donated by Trinity Episcopal Church, 26 White Street, Haverhill, the church targets low income residents from the area. In March of 2003, Yeo founded SCNE to address issues faced by the poor, elderly and youth in the City of Haverhill.

SCNE works with other social service organizations to identify gaps in service and fill them. Activities include providing day shelter and meals to the homeless on all state and national holidays; visiting the homeless in recovery and/or hospitalization; securing and delivering furniture donations for the elderly and poor; providing meals to the elderly and low income housing residents monthly; and officiating at weddings, funerals and memorial services.

SCNE also hosts two events annually, a “Day of Compassion” and “Chain Reaction”, a local city mission event. The website for SCNE is www.somebodycaresne.org.

The college’s Board of Trustees includes nine members who are appointed by the governor of the state to a maximum of two five-year terms as well as an alumni elected member, who also serves a maximum of ten years, and a student trustee who serves for two semesters.

LATINOS UNIDOS DE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRESENTS...

7th

Latino Festival Gala Dance 2006

**THE RADISSON HOTEL
700 ELM STREET
MANCHESTER, NH**

Edwin Pabón y su Orquesta & Grupo Esperanza

AUGUST 5, 2006 - 7:00 PM—1:00AM

\$ 30.00 per person

Hors D’oeuvres will be served around 9:30PM
18 yrs. and older (ID needed and required)

Formal Attire required
Men (suit and tie required)
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We (LUNH) reserve the right of admission. No refunds after ticket purchase. Advanced purchase only. Sorry, there will not be tickets sold at the door.

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Procter & Gamble, Gillette signal plans to maintain packaging plant at Devens

Merrimack Valley Project calls on company to sign lease by September 1st, provide re-training grant for laid off workers

According to the Merrimack Valley Project (MVP), a regional organization of congregations, unions, and community groups that has led a campaign on behalf of Gillette temp workers, Procter & Gamble, which purchased Gillette last year, has notified MVP and a number of local officials, including representatives from the office of U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan, that the company is in "serious negotiations" to extend its lease at Devens and intends to keep one of its primary packaging operations at Devens for several years, while the company conducts a comprehensive review of its global operations.

"We are encouraged that P&G is re-negotiating its lease at Devens," said MVP President Annia Lambert. "We urge them to complete negotiations no later than September 1st, and to make a public announcement of their commitment to staying at Devens."

"Hundreds of families depend on these jobs for their livelihoods. It is in the company's interest to put workers' minds at ease as soon as possible."

Added Lambert, "Procter & Gamble has yet to make any provision for hundreds of workers at its other Devens packaging plant who will lose their jobs in October. These are poor people who need help transitioning into new jobs."

In May, Procter & Gamble announced it would transfer one of its two Devens packaging operations to North Carolina. MVP has called on Procter & Gamble to provide funds for re-training and other assistance for workers who will lose their jobs at the facility.

A shutdown of both of Gillette's Devens' packaging plants would cost taxpayers at least \$26 million and would eliminate jobs for over 1,825 workers through direct layoffs and economic ripple effects, according to a social impact study conducted by the Center for Labor and Community Research, a non-profit consulting group based in Chicago.

As it has for the past 18 months, MVP said it would continue to pursue the company's commitment to workplace opportunity and dignity for all the employees at the Gillette facilities.

HHS approves Massachusetts plan to extend health care to more residents

More Massachusetts residents who are battling HIV disease or those who are chronically uninsured will have access to Medicaid health services according to an approval granted today by HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt.

Secretary Leavitt has approved a plan that will increase the enrollment cap in the state's Medicaid 1115 waiver known as "MassHealth" from 770 enrollees to 1,300. Enrollment caps for long-term or chronically unemployed and therefore uninsured residents will be lifted from the current 44,000 to 60,000 with today's approval. The amendments to the state's MassHealth program will also increase the income level for low-income workers to help them purchase employer-sponsored health plans.

"Massachusetts has led the way in getting health care to citizens who would otherwise not have access to regular health care services," Secretary Leavitt said. "Through today's announcement, I am pleased to assist Governor Romney toward his goal of providing affordable health care

to Massachusetts residents."

Today's expansion of the health plan for the chronically uninsured, the "Essential" plan will allow the state to remove 12,000 individuals from the current waiting list for services.

Low-income workers who receive help buying employer-sponsored group health plans will see income eligibility rise from the current 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$40,000 for a family of four) to 300 percent of poverty (\$60,000 for a family of four). This will allow more workers to participate in job-based insurance rather than relying on the taxpayer funded safety net care pool that operates in the state with a mix of federal and state dollars.

The MassHealth 1115 waiver program currently provides health care services to over one million state residents and has reduced the number of uninsured individuals in the state by 40 percent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Equal Choice" of care at home for Disabled Senior Citizens

Seniors citizens and the disabled who qualify for long term care services under the MassHealth program will have an "equal choice" of care at home, or care in a nursing home, under new, hard fought legislation adopted unanimously this week by the Massachusetts House and Senate. And we couldn't be more pleased and proud of Representative Barbara L'Italien and Senator Susan Tucker who lead the good fight.

S. 2273, The Equal Choice bill, modernizes the MassHealth program from one which has historically favored institutional care to one which focuses on individual choice and the care needed "in the least restrictive setting appropriate".

The equal choice bill also establishes a "pre-admission counseling" program for people who are referred to a nursing home, to ensure that they are aware of community alternatives. Everyone about to enter a nursing home—regardless of whether they are privately paying, or seeking MassHealth support—will have the opportunity to explore options with a knowledgeable nurse or elder care advisor.

According to the Romney Administration, the equal choice bill will

save state taxpayers \$134 million in the first five years after implementation. Several recent studies of the state's long-term care system have noted the Commonwealth's over-reliance on institutional care. Today, approximately 75% of the MassHealth funding for long term care goes to nursing homes and now we can hope to balance the equation by offering some real choice to elders, family caregivers and adults with disabilities. It's a win-win!

The board and staff of Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley fought hard for this bill along with disability advocates such as Northeast Independent Living Program because we share this important mission of offering real choice to elders and adults with disability. For the first time in 40 years, we set a clear mission for more than \$2 billion in state spending.

Thank you to all our legislators who helped us and especially Senator Tucker, chair of the committee on Elder Affairs who sponsored the bill and Representative Barbara L'Italien who was our champion on the House side.

Rosanne DiStefano
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley
978-683-7747 X 399

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Address: 315 Mt. Vernon Street, Lawrence MA 01843
E-mail: rumbo@rumbonews.com

Letters should have no more than 300 words. Please include a telephone number or electronic address to confirm who is sending it.

EAC EXHIBITS

The Essex Art Center has two wonderful gallery exhibitions this summer on display through August 18th "ARTISTS at PLAY: Saltmarsh Collaborative" Large colorful drawings by: Gladys Buchs, Diane Faissler, Judith Imm, Elaine Insero, Nancy Marculewicz, Veronica Morgan, Barbara Muka, & Fran Swan-Smith.

"The birds, the Bea, Synchronicity and Me" An installation of dimensional woodblock prints, wire, ink drawings and words by Annie Silverman.

Their summer hours are Mondays 9-6, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-8:30 and Thursdays 9-6. We are closed Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

CLAYROOM students, our summer clay room open studio hours are Tuesdays 6-8 pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9-3 pm

FALL EVENTS TO KEEP IN MIND

September 8th: deadline for Juried Show

September (date TBA): Fall fundraiser

September 25 - December 15: 10-12 week FALL CLASSES

October (date TBA): 2nd Annual 5k & Kids Fun Run

Hopefully you are able to take advantage of what Essex Art Center has to offer you. We are in the middle of planning our Fall programming and would appreciate any feedback that you may have as to what you have or have not enjoyed at Essex Art Center in the past and what you may like to see offered in the future. It is always great to hear from our community, whether it be positive or negative. All feedback is welcomed and needed to *help us grow!*

For more details on EAC events, please log on www.essexartcenter.com

Mr. B's Sports Memories

Those were the days

By Frank Benjamin



Can you remember when people heated their homes with either a coal stove or furnace? Carrying a bag of coal or coke (no, not Coca-Cola or cocaine) which was a derivative of coal or a bag of wood that would be needed to start the fire in the stove or furnace.

Remember Pingree's on So. Broadway behind where Henry Nassar's Ford dealership is today, they bagged wood products and sold them to area stores.

Did you ever swim the river? If so, did you ever come home the color of the dye that came from the Lowell Mills.

Ever skate at the Everpure where they made ice on Andover St., the building still stands right next to the cut rate bakery store and the mini pond was in the back where the industrial park is now?

Speaking of skating, did you ever skate at "Hillseys" and probably see the former Jeanette Lambert (now Cockroft) practicing her spins and poise prior to skating for I'm not sure whether it was the Ice Follies or the Ice Capades. She's retired now from the Mass employment agency and lives in NH after many years on Water St. Still a beauty, I might add.

Tell me, did you ever con a young lady friend to go to Lake Cochickewick or Hillseys or the Grove in So. Lawrence to

see the submarine races and were you surprised at how many actually thought that this was legit?

Did you ever go to Shattuck's Farm for ice cream?

Did you ever go to the drive-in theater that stood where the North Andover Mall is today? Big Bill Sullivan whose son Mike was a fine baseball coach and athletic director at Central Catholic High School (and whose grandson Chris proudly serves that school today) was the manager of the drive-in. Mike and his wife Peggy, a pretty good tennis player, live in Salisbury these days.

Did you ever swim in the canals either north or south? I remember jumping off the bridge behind Lawton's and hiding with my friends under the bridge while the cops came to shoo us away.

Do you remember "Bluebells"?

Did you ever have a dessert that was white bread, white sugar, soaked in tap water? If it were to be served to today's kids the parents would be subject to cruel and abusive treatment by the a DYS.

The Merrimack River had many swimming spots the rocks, the point, bare island where bathing suits were not needed.

The Canoe Club since burned to the ground in a spectacular midnight blaze that lit up the skies of Lawrence bringing to mind the Bruce School blaze.

The Canoe Club was once where the Bill Wall experiment station stands today.

On the grounds were two beautiful tennis courts, clay courts a rarity in those days in charge or the caretaker of these courts, grounds and building was a Coolidge St. resident who, if he were a woman, could've qualified for the starring role of the wicked witch of the west. If any of my buddies were even caught taking a shortcut from Broadway, this guy would chase us. We used to go from where Sam's Steakhouse is today (it used to be Elwards Diner) and by Joe Musamara's Malco Electronics across the Canoe Club land, diagonally to Shattuck St.

Let me tell you, he could run and Bobby Hendry and Rock White, Rudy Bibeau and Paul Mailhot could all run. Eddie O'Neil AKA Bubbles who later became a Marist brother and was the white version of "Fat Albert" he was at his top speed at the dinner table.

Bubbles wasn't with us this day and we got chased. It was not a contest I got caught and this very mean guy took me into the Canoe Club locker room and stuffed me into a locker and locked me inside. I don't know how long I was kept there and it seemed like forever. It was hot, I was scared to death and I know I shed some tears! Also, I had some very impure thoughts about this man and those thoughts eventually turned to prayers as I thought I was a goner and he was intent on letting me expire in my lock up.

He finally freed me and I never forgot this man and wondered if it happened today what charges he could face. Well, he's been dead for many years now and I can still remember his face and voice as if it were yesterday. I hope he is in a place where his speed and meanness can be put to good use and he has a nice shiny shovel to keep the fires of hell burning and it is always as hot as my stay in the locker. I also hoped his Mother and Father would one day wed. Get It?

Tell the truth did you ever hook a ride on the bumper of a car in the snow? Did you ever sneak into a movie? Do you remember what a rumble seat was? How about the ouijia board?

Did you know the movie "The Great Imposter" starring Tony Curtis was written about a Lawrencian from State St. in Southie and was a graduate of Central Catholic High School. His name Fernand (Fred) Waldo DeMara.

Does the name Jim Mulligan ring a bell to you? He was a long time POW in Korea and wrote a best selling book "The Hanoi Connection." He lived on Salem St. and his Dad, Jim Sr. operated a radio and TV repair store for years.

Remember when margarine came in a square box and when removed it was white and resembled lard and the package contain an orange like powder that was to be mixed by hand in a bowl to add color and voila! Butter-colored margarine!

Remember calling the drugstore and asking if they had Bayer aspirin? If the clerk answered "yes" we said you'd better put clothes on them.

Do you have Prince Albert in a can? (A popular pipe tobacco) if answered "yes", we'd say shouldn't you let the poor guy out.

We all thought we were comedians.

Lantigua's funding requests restored to fiscal 2007 budget

State Representative William Lantigua (D-Lawrence) announced that three critical local funding requests were restored to the fiscal 2007 budget after he and other House members voted to override Governor Romney's line item vetoes.

"I'm extremely grateful for the support of House leadership," Lantigua said, "especially Speaker [Salvatore] DiMasi and [House Committee on] Ways and Means Chairman [Robert] DeLeo. The governor's vetoes would have crippled vital programs in our area just when they're needed most," he added, referring to the torrential rains and flooding that hit the Lawrence area in May.

Food for the World Pantry received \$105,000, nearly double last year's earmark of \$53,000. Neighbors in Need, another advocacy group providing food to the city's disadvantaged residents, was given \$100,000 for the third consecutive year. Arlington Neighborhood Association, a community development corporation providing technical assistance and resources to local residents and businesses, also was level-funded at \$60,000.

Lantigua said he made it clear to his colleagues in the legislature that these organizations would have faced serious shortfalls or elimination without state funding.

"In budget debates, just as in life, persistence pays off," Lantigua said. "When it comes to my city, I don't like taking 'no' for an answer."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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

Envie sus cartas por e-mail a:
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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.



6TH ANNUAL LATINO FESTIVAL

Haverhill, MA – GAR Park
Date: Sunday, August 27th, 2006
11:00 pm – 8:00pm

The Best Live Latin Music

Cultural Performances

Latino Food, Piña Colada, home-made
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Don't miss this year's Latino Health Fair!

GLTS Announces June Students of the Month

By Graham Entwistle

Greater Lawrence Technical School, Andover, has announced its Students of the Month for June. They are juniors Cristal Diaz, Kendra Fantauzzi, and Brendalee Rivera, all of Lawrence, and freshman Matthew Hunt of Methuen.

The four students were honored at a luncheon in the school's restaurant, the Edward V. Coakley Four Winds just before the school year ended.

Cristal Diaz, who is the daughter of Yovanny Molina and Rafael Rodriguez of Lawrence, is a Marketing major.

She owns a 3.5 grade point average, and has been a member of the National Honor Society for the past two years. She also participates in SkillsUSA and DECA, a marketing organization, and has finished in the top five in Retail Merchandising during the past two DECA state competitions.

Cristal is a member of the Principal's School Council and the student council, and she serves on the State Student Council Advisory Committee. As a member of Greater Lawrence's Cooperative Education Program, she alternates weeks in the classroom with weeks spent working for pay in the school's administrative office.

"I'm learning many computer skills necessary to my field," she says of her co-op work.

Cristal's favorite subjects are math and English. After graduating, she plans to attend Johnson and Wales University, majoring in business.

Kendra Fantauzzi, who is the daughter of Lillian Pelletier and Rafael Melendez of Lawrence, majors in Cosmetology.

"You gain an extra advantage here," she says of Greater Lawrence. "Not only do you get a high school diploma, but you also become certified in your career area. That's what motivated me to come here."

Kendra is an honor roll student with perfect attendance the past two years. As a member of SkillsUSA, she has received a bronze medal in Community Service at the Fall Leadership Conference, and a silver medal at the state level for her team's Tech Prep Showcase presentation on wigs for cancer patients, titled "Locks for Love." She was also elected to serve on the SkillsUSA State Conference Advisory Council.

Kendra, who is a volunteer student manager for the state champion Reggie wrestling team, has also volunteered to perform community service with her classmates. Last year, she served as a horse handler for disabled children at Ironstone Farm in Andover, while this year she volunteered at the Lazarus House in Lawrence.

Outside of school, she likes to spend time with family and friends. She participates in Hispanic festivals throughout the region, and was the first-runner up queen for Miss Puerto Rico at a festival in Lawrence.

After graduating, Kendra would like to study business management and photography at a four-year college. She also intends to put her cosmetology training to good use, as she plans to work in a salon to help pay her college expenses.



Graham Entwistle Photo
Greater Lawrence Technical School junior Cristal Diaz of Lawrence, who was recently named one of the school's students of the month for June.



Graham Entwistle Photo
Greater Lawrence Technical School junior Brendalee Rivera of Lawrence, who was recently named one of the school's students of the month for June.

Both Cristal and Kendra were nominated by Principal Marybeth Sullivan, who retired on June 30. Mrs. Sullivan had been a mentor for both students through the school's mentoring program.

Brendalee Rivera, who is the daughter of Ivelisse Santana of Lawrence, majors in Fashion Design. Instructor Brendon Neilon nominated her, commenting on the great effort she put forth in successfully studying for the MCAS exam.

"Brendalee is a true bright spot in the Reggie family," Mr. Neilon said. "She strives to be a better student on a daily basis. I share her joy in reaching her goal of passing both the English and math MCAS tests."

Brendalee came to Greater Lawrence because of its many career area choices. In her Fashion career area, she has enjoyed learning different stitches, and how to make clothing with padding in the shoulders.

After graduating, Brendalee wants to enroll in a two-year LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) program, followed by an additional two years of college. Her favorite subject is English. Outside of school, she has volunteered to help the organization Neighbors in Need. She also likes to walk and play basketball.



Graham Entwistle Photo
Greater Lawrence Technical School junior Kendra Fantauzzi of Lawrence, who was recently named one of the school's students of the month for June.



Graham Entwistle Photo
Greater Lawrence Technical School freshman Matthew Hunt of Methuen, who was recently named one of the school's students of the month for June.

Matthew Hunt, the son of Joseline Hunt of Methuen, majors in Culinary Arts & Hospitality.

Instructor Jayne Jennings nominated him, saying "he is always prepared to work hard," a sentiment echoed by his culinary instructor, Scott Stewart. Ms. Jennings says he completes all assignments and is an avid reader. His physical education teacher, Jim Qualter, has also been impressed by Matthew's enthusiasm in class.

Matthew's favorite thing to bake is cheesecake.

"The program here prepares you to be a chef," he says. "You get to see what it's like. We also learn about good knife skills, how to use utensils, and how to keep your workplace clean."

Matthew is a member of the Reggie golf team, and maintained a perfect attendance record this past school year. His favorite subject is biology. In particular, he enjoyed studying about coral reefs.

Outside of school, Matthew likes to bike and swim. After he graduates, he intends to become a chef.

The Student of the Month program was begun nine years ago to familiarize the Greater Lawrence communities with the school's outstanding students and their achievements. Marilyn Fitzgerald administers the program.

Sales Tax Holiday approved by Lantigua, House

State Rep. William Lantigua (D-Lawrence) announced today that the House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved legislation giving shoppers a sales tax break in August for the third year in a row.

The legislation designated August 12th and 13th as a sales tax holiday weekend, exempting single item purchases of \$2,500 or less from the state's five-percent sales tax. Similar measures in the last two years aimed at stimulating the state's economy saved consumers \$25 million and netted retailers \$900 million. Revenue loss incurred by the Commonwealth was offset by spikes in meals and gas tax collections.

"If you're in the market for a new television or you're getting ready to make a back-to-school purchase, circle your calendar and prepare to save for the third consecutive year," Lantigua said. "The sales tax holiday lets consumers keep their hard earned dollars and gives retailers a shot in the arm during a historically slow sales period. It's a win-win situation for buyers and sellers alike."

The exemption approved in the House by a vote of 145 to 7 does not apply to automobile, motor boat, meals and tobacco product sales as well as telecommunication services and gas, steam and electricity. The bill is expected to win approval in the Senate and reach the Governor's desk shortly thereafter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley is in seeking Volunteers for a number of activities related to helping elders in the Merrimack Valley. Volunteer Drivers are needed to drive elders to medical appointments. Volunteers are also needed to work as companions for elders living alone and who may need help with day-to-day tasks. A mileage reimbursement is available. Orientation, training and ongoing support provided. Call 800-892-0890 X380 for more information and to offer your services.

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley is a private non-profit agency that provides programs and services that help older people remain at home as long as possible. Over 20,000 elders throughout the 23 cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley annually receive assistance from the programs offered by Elder Services. Offices are centrally located in Lawrence at 360 Merrimack Street. Please call 800-892-0890 for more information on our programs and services, to receive assistance or to volunteer.

Greater Lawrence Students Gain Microsoft Office Certifications

By Graham Entwistle

Forty Greater Lawrence Technical School Office Technology students took a big step toward career success this year by becoming certified in the use of Microsoft Office.

In addition, several students achieved Expert status, the highest certification level possible for an application. Along with their high school diplomas, several members of the Class of 2006 left with the Expert certification. Cathiria Rivera reached the Expert level in two areas: Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Also achieving Expert status in Word were classmates Luisa Reyes, Irkania Alvarez, and Jennifer Cubi, and Class of 2007 member Tanisha Ortiz.

Few skills are more important in today's workplace than the ability to use a computer, and when it comes to computing, Microsoft Office reigns supreme. Job applicants who can demonstrate proficiency in the Office suite of software applications, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access, clearly have a head start in gaining employment.

Official Test Site

With that in mind, the Greater Lawrence Technical School Office Technology department has made Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification a cornerstone

of its program. During the 2004-05 school year, through grant funding, the Office Technology area was upgraded with state-of-the-art computers and software, and qualified to become an official Microsoft testing site.

MOS (pronounced "mouse") training has become an integral part of the curriculum.

Thanks to this emphasis, 40 students achieved core competency in at least one Office application this year, and many reached that level in two programs.

"The students have really jumped on board with this program," Office Technology instructor Karen Massahos said. "I'm extremely proud of all of them."

After a pilot study last year, which was open only to seniors, the MOS program added sophomores and juniors this year. Juniors Rafael Sanquintin and Joane Joseph are two of the students who took advantage of this expanded access. Both achieved core competency in Word and Excel, and they will be going for Expert status next year.

"Gaining these certifications will help me get a better job in the future," Rafael said.

"This program prepares me for a real-life job," Joane said. "Computer skills are necessary in almost any job."



Graham Entwistle Photo

Greater Lawrence Technical School students Rafael Sanquintin and Joane Joseph display certifications they have earned through the Microsoft Office Specialist program.

Inspired Other Schools

According to department head Bonnie Carr, several other schools have taken notice of Greater Lawrence Tech's accomplishments in MOS certification, including Dover High School in New Hampshire, which recently implemented the program after visiting GLTS to see it in action.

"The word is out that Greater Lawrence has this program in place, and it's working successfully," Ms. Carr said.

Microsoft itself develops the requirements for obtaining certification, and once a student successfully passes an application's competency test, Microsoft mails a certificate directly to a student's home.

"It gives students something they can hold onto and show the world," Ms. Massahos said. "As an employer, you know from the certification that the student knows a software program inside and out."

"These certifications are recognized worldwide, so a student could move to the other side of the country, or move to Europe,

and take these certifications with them," she said. "I think that carries a lot of weight with employers."

Program for Freshmen, Too

Rounding out the department's computer instruction, freshmen entering the Office Technology career area will be able to better prepare for MOS certification thanks to a new program implemented in 2005-06 known as IC³.

"IC³ stands for Internet and Computing Core Certification," Ms. Massahos said. "There are three certifications students can obtain in that program: Computing Fundamentals, Internet, and Software. It's the foundation of the Microsoft Office certification program."



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City of Lawrence

The Election Division of the City of Lawrence is looking for individuals that qualify to work as Election Poll Workers during the State Primary and State Election.

Date of the Elections: September 19 and November 7, 2006

Hours: Flexible Shifts (No less than 6.75 hours to receive pay \$120.00 full day, \$60.00 half day)

Qualifications: 1. Be a resident of Lawrence
2. Be a registered voter
3. Bilingual preferred

Contacts:
William Maloney City Clerk (978) 794-5803
Rafael R. Tejada. Bilingual Election Coordinator (978) 794-1336

TRAINING: ONE SESSION MANDATORY
September 12, 2006 Time: 6:00 PM
September 13, 2006 Time: 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM
September 14, 2006 Time: 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

PLEASE HELP YOUR COMMUNITY!

Disaster Recovery Experts Advise: Be Careful When Hiring Contractors for Repairs

State and federal disaster recovery officials advise Massachusetts residents who suffered disaster-related damages following the May flooding to be careful when hiring unknown contractors to clean up and repair their homes and businesses.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) neither certifies nor endorses any private-sector contractor. Residents must be especially alert for door-to-door solicitors who hand out makeshift flyers and promise to speed up the insurance or government claims process.

All FEMA and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) personnel carry photo identification. Flood victims should never hesitate to ask to see it.

Emergency management officials also offer the following suggestions on how to be a wise consumer:

- Use reliable, licensed contractors. In Massachusetts, all home improvement contractors must be registered with the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS). Other professionals, such as plumbers, must be licensed. Check with the BBRS at (617) 727-7532 or <http://www.mass.gov/bbbs> to see whether the contractor is registered, and check with the Better Business Bureau of Eastern Massachusetts at 508-652-4800 or <http://www.bosbbb.org/> to inquire about a business before signing a contract.
- Get a written estimate. Be sure to obtain a written estimate for the job and read the fine print. Compare the services and prices of several reputable contractors before making a final decision. Hire local contractors, if possible. Some contractors charge a fee for an estimate, which is often applied to the price of subsequent repairs they make.
- Check references. Contractors should be willing to provide the names of previous customers. Call some former customers who had similar work done to make sure they were satisfied with the job.
- Ask for proof of insurance. Make sure the contractor carries general liability insurance and workers' compensation. If the contractor is not insured, the homeowner may be liable for accidents that occur on the property or to the house/building.
- Insist on a written contract. A complete

contract should clearly state all the tasks to be performed, all associated costs and the payment schedule. Never sign a blank contract or one with blank spaces. Make sure the contract clearly states who will apply for the necessary permits or licenses. Have a lawyer review the contract if substantial costs are involved and keep a copy for your records.

- Get any guarantees in writing. Any guarantees made by the contractor should be written into the contract. The guarantee should clearly state what is guaranteed, who is responsible for the guarantee and how long the guarantee is valid.
- Have work inspected. If excavation work is being performed (e.g., sewers or basement walls) make sure a qualified inspector examines the work before it is hidden from view to avoid similar problems in the future.
- Make final payments when the work is completed. Do not sign completion papers or make the final payment until the work is completed to your satisfaction. A reputable contractor will not threaten you or pressure you to sign if the job is not finished properly.
- Pay by check. Avoid on-the-spot cash payments. The safest route is to write a check to the contracting company. A reasonable down payment is 30 percent of the total cost of the project, to be paid upon initial delivery of materials. Federal law gives consumers a three-day "cooling off" period for unsolicited door-to-door sales of more than \$25.
- Cancel the contract if necessary. Canceling a contract should be done within three business days of signing. Be sure to follow the procedures for cancellation that are set out in the contract. Send the notification by registered mail with a return receipt to be signed by the contractor.

Consumers who have problems with a contractor or have been victims of fraud are urged to contact the following:

**Massachusetts Attorney General
Consumer Complaint and Information
Section**

Phone: 1-617-727-8400

Internet: <http://www.ago.state.ma.us/>

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards,

Home Improvement Contractor

Registration Program

Phone: 1-617-727-7532

Internet: <http://www.mass.gov/bbbs>

GALLERY 181 PRESENTS...

Seekers and visions

First annual juried
visionary art international
exhibition

Gallery 181 is quickly establishing itself as an exciting and innovative exhibition space, located in the historic turn-of-the-century mill city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, USA. The city is open and eager culturally, welcoming all types of arts events, and is becoming a mecca for artists! The nature of these mill buildings has provided artists with wonderful studio spaces, galleries, and the projection for the future of this city is quite optimistic due to the energetic creativity of its inhabitants and visitors. Gallery 181 is located within one of these mill buildings, a common area to many businesses and shops. The space is enormous and challenging, and we have been fortunate to be featuring very exciting and innovative exhibitions! Please go to www.caladangallery.com/sites/gallery181 to see our present endeavors!

SEEKERS and VISIONS will be an adventurous and captivating exploration. We will be exhibiting the work of artists whose direction is primarily in the Spiritual, Visionary, Surreal, Fantastic, and Imaginative realms. There is a dynamic movement among artists to propell themselves into the areas of self-knowledge and spiritual understanding. This has been reflected in the work of artists all over the world, in response to a confusing, materialistic environment of unrest. Many artists choose to depict the actuality of this truth – there are those whose work seeks to understand and transcend it – we are interested in the many expressions of this, our legacy of spiritual survival.

Submissions due or postmarked by August 15, 2006. Notifications sent by August 20, 2006.

CURATOR AND JUROR

Marjorie Kaye

Director, Gallery 181

Marjorie Kaye is the new director of Gallery 181, and has, in the space of a few months, brought immense energy and forward thinking to the very bountiful space of the gallery. She is also the director of the on-line venue, Caladan Gallery, which has been flourishing for 2 ½ years, with monthly exhibitions focusing on timely, socially relevant art and issues. These exhibitions include artists from all over the country and international as well! Visit www.caladangallery.com to view!

Ms. Kaye is also a noted artist in her own right, most known for her detailed Mandalas and Social Surrealism. She has exhibited in many venues all over the country and has her work in many collections both national and international. She has also been featured in many TV and On-line interviews, and has been an Associate Art Editor of the Mad Hatter's Review magazine. You are welcomed to visit www.caladangallery.com/sites/marjorie to view her work!

For more information, visit or contact Gallery 181, C/o Metropolis Fine Confections, 181 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA 01840.

Youth Training Center Open House

ValleyWorks Career Center
Youth Training Services Open
House to introduce new
training programs for youth
ages 16-21.

ValleyWorks Career Center (VWCC), a One-Stop Career Center dedicated to assisting individuals and businesses in the Merrimack Valley with all aspects of entering, re-entering or hiring the workforce, today announced an OPEN HOUSE to introduce youth to new occupational skills trainings. The programs include educational and occupational skills training which prepare youth for employment.

Open House is scheduled on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 from 1-3 pm at Valleyworks Career Center's Lawrence location at 439 South Union Street, Lawrence, MA. Youth ages 16-21 are welcome to attend and review program opportunities with Youth Career Counselors and representatives from area training vendors. Training programs will begin accepting eligible youth August 14 through the remainder of 2006 on a first come and first served basis.


Youth Welcome Sessions are held each week at Valleyworks Career Centers in Lawrence and Haverhill. These weekly sessions orient youth to career center services, review eligibility criteria and determine next steps in the application process for eligible youth.

Programs that include educational remediation or GED test preparation as well as an occupational skills certification are: Medical Billing-Coding and Medical Secretarial Certification, Electronics Manufacturing Certification, Medical Assisting Certification; and Certified Nursing Assistant [.CNA] and Home Health Aide Certification [CHHA]. In addition, a .CNA program for high school graduates or GED graduates is offered to youth requiring ESOL training.

For more information, call Megan Shea, Youth Program Director, 978-722-7026.

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ÚLTIMO DÍA PARA APLICAR: Agosto 9, 2006.



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Para los residentes de bajos ingresos de Lowell y otros pueblos del valle de Merrimack. *IEE en conjunto con la ciudad de Lowell ofrece clases gratis en español requeridos para el **trabajo en plomo** (DeLeading).

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*Ciudades de Lowell, Amesbury, Andover, N. Andover, Billerica, Boxford, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Merrimack, Methuen, Middleton, Newbury, Pepperell, Rowley, Salisbury, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro, West Newbury y Westford.

INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (IEE)

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VII COPA MARATON PARQUE CAMPAGNONE

Por Alberto Suris

El pasado domingo, 30 de julio, 2006 se llevó a cabo la séptima caminata alrededor del Parque Campagnone, que cada año patrocina la Asociación Técnica de Deportes. Este año, la caminata fue dedicada a la lucha contra el cáncer del seno y a Verónica Casado, que está sufriendo de él.

Verónica, abrazada a su pequeña hija Valerie, de siete años, dio las gracias a todos los que vinieron a la caminata así como a todos aquellos que la han ayudado, especialmente a sus compañeros de trabajo y de su iglesia. "Por favor, vayan al médico a chequearse con regularidad, no esperen a que sea demasiado tarde", dijo Verónica no solo a las mujeres sino a los hombres también.



Llena de optimismo, Verónica Casado, al frente de un grupo de caminadores listos para partir.



Ganadores en la categoría masculina: Recibiendo la copa de manos de Verónica Casado, el ganador del Primer Lugar, Armando Gautreaux (1); Segundo Lugar, Carlos Roa, (15) y Tercer Lugar, Ramón Puello, más conocido como Martín Piragua (2).

Verónica Casado recibió una "medalla de esperanza" de Nelson Silvestre, principal organizador del evento.



Ganadoras en la categoría Femenina Oro: Primer Lugar, Clara Pérez (9); Segundo Lugar, María Clemencia (16) y Tercer Lugar, Martha Medina (12).



En la categoría de Mujeres Masters, quedaron en primer lugar, Julie Tejada (140); en segundo lugar, Felicita Caminero (130) y Jacqueline Medina (105), en tercer lugar.



En la categoría Minusválidos masculinos, quedaron, en primer lugar, Samuel Hilario (183); José Rosario, (154) quedó en segundo lugar y Antonio Bueno (151) llegó tercero.