



EN LAWRENCE DEVASTADOR FUEGO

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Sólo un achicharrado andamio permanece erguido donde antes se encontraba el antiguo Club Nocturno Millennium, que estaba siendo renovado en la esquina de Market y Parker, en Lawrence.

Massive Fire in Lawrence

Only a charred scaffold stays standing next to where former Millennium Night Club, under reconstruction used to be at the corner of Market and Parker Streets, in Lawrence.

EDITORIAL

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OPINIÓN: Desde Mi Esquina

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TITULARES

United Way/IRS anuncian crédito

Michael K. Durkin, Presidente y CEO, de la United Way de Massachusetts Bay y Merrimack Valley haciendo el anuncio de "Earned Income Tax Credit" (EITC) durante una conferencia de prensa llevada a cabo en el Greater Lawrence Community Action Council.



United Way/IRS announced tax credit

Michael K. Durkin, President and CEO, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley making the "Earned Income Tax Credit" (EITC) announcement during a press conference held at Greater Lawrence Community Action Council.

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OPINION: From My Corner

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MVCC Breakfast with Mayors

"The Governor is working on the budget and he is not forgetting you," said Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin M. Burke, in his opening remarks. Burke was the keynote speaker at the breakfast held on Friday, January 18, by the Government Affairs Committee of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce at the Andover Country Club.

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MVCC DESAYUNO DE ALCALDES

El Secretario de Seguridad Pública, Kevin M. Burke, fue el orador invitado al desayuno.



Morris Juramentado

Gregory W. Morris siendo juramentado al cargo de Miembro del Comité Escolar, por el Escribano de la Ciudad de Lawrence William J. Maloney. Morris reemplazará al Rev. James F. Stokes, el cual, después de ganar la elección, renunció al cargo en medio de un escándalo de que había alterado y falsificado documentos que lo acreditaban como veterano.

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MORRIS SWORN IN

Gregory W. Morris is taking the oath of office of School Committee Member administered by Lawrence City Clerk William J. Maloney. Morris is replacing Rev. James F. Stokes, who after winning the election resigned his post amid a scandal of altering and forging documents crediting him of serving in the military.

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Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Has Expanded Its Hours!

If you need urgent care on a weekend, the Health Center's Haverhill Street site is now open:

Saturday: 9:00am–8:30pm

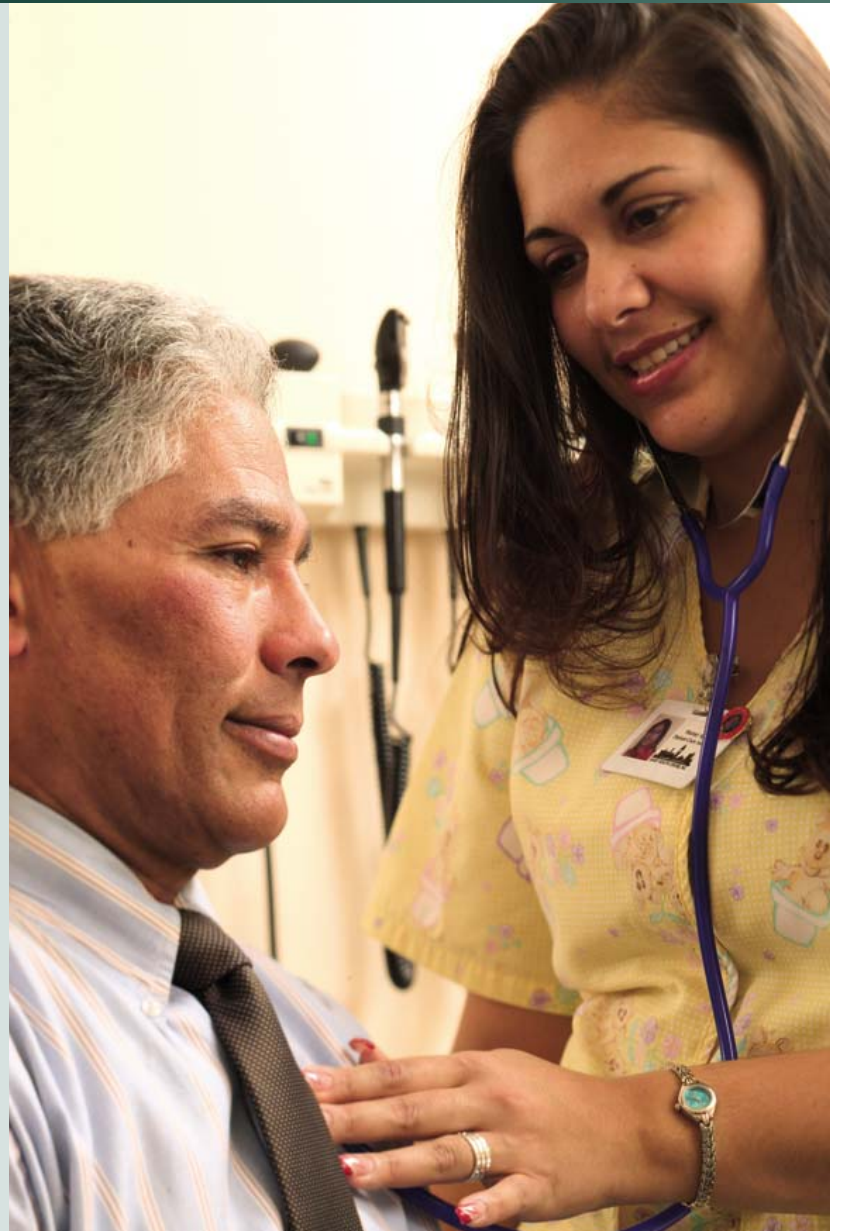
Sunday: 1:00pm–8:30pm

The pharmacy at the Haverhill Street site has also expanded its hours of operation:

Monday–Friday: 9:00am–7:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am–1:00pm

Sunday: Closed



Morris juramentado



Gregory W. Morris, a la izquierda, y Peter R. Larocque, comparten la alegría del momento poco después de haber sido juramentado.

Gregory W. Morris, at left, shares a laugh with Peter R. Larocque moments after the swearing-in ceremony.

POR ALBERTO SURÍS

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

El jueves, 17 de enero, dos y medio meses después de perder la reelección ante el Rev. James F. Stokes, Gregory W. Morris fue juramentado como miembro del Comité Escolar de Lawrence, representando al Distrito F. Morris tras la renuncia del Rev. Stokes. Morris fue reincorporado a su antigua posición ya que recibió más del 30% de la votación (56.68% vs. 42.91%).

Stokes, que ganó la elección 560 vs. 424 y fuera juramentado en el ayuntamiento el 7 de enero, renunció a su posición 3 días después en medio de un escándalo de haber alterado y falsificado documentos que lo acreditaban como de haber servido en lo militar, por lo cual fue arrestado por la Policía de Lawrence y agentes del FBI y encausado en la corte federal de Boston.



Mark Rivera presenció la ceremonia desde la puerta del recinto del concilio.

Mark Rivera witnessed the swearing-in ceremony from the Council Chamber's door.

En su primera comparecencia como miembro del Comité Escolar el próximo 31 de enero, Morris será el voto decisivo para elegir al vicepresidente, entre Peter R. Larocque y Samuel Reyes, asunto que fue pospuesto el 10 de enero cuando Stokes no se presentó a la reunión.

Morris sworn in

BY ALBERTO SURÍS

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On Thursday, January 17th, two and a half months after losing his bid for reelection to Rev. James F. Stokes, Gregory W. Morris was sworn in as Lawrence School Committee Member; representing District F after Rev. Stokes resigned his seat. Morris was reinstated to his former position since he received more than 30% of the votes (56.68% vs. 42.91%).

Stokes, who won the election 560 vs. 424 and was sworn in at City Hall on January 7th, resigned his post 3 days later

in the midst of a scandal about altering and forging documents crediting him of serving in the military, for which he was arrested by Lawrence Police and FBI agents and arraigned in Federal Court in Boston.

In his first appearance as member of the School Committee on Thursday, January 31, Morris will be the deciding vote to elect the vice chairman, between Peter R. Larocque and Samuel Reyes, a matter that was tabled on January 10 when Stokes did not show up to the meeting.

EDITORIAL

El tormento del presupuesto en Lawrence

Lawrence ha visto uno de los incendios más grandes en los últimos 14 años con la tragedia del Millennium Night Club. Camiones de bomberos de 13 ciudades y pueblos de los alrededores vinieron a socorrernos, 14 estructuras fueron destruidas y más de 200 personas se quedaron sin hogar, al menos temporalmente. Nadie quiere ver eso suceder en ninguna comunidad.

En unos momentos en que Lawrence está debatiéndose entre los cortes en el presupuesto, aumentos en el agua y el alcantarillado y fijar la nueva tasa en el impuesto a la propiedad, este siniestro fue la razón que algunos concejales necesitaban para cambiar su voto y ceder aprobando lo que la administración quiera de aumentos.

Mientras que nos damos cuenta que Lawrence debe pagar por sus obligaciones y no depender tanto de otras ciudades y pueblos, creemos que el énfasis debe caer en la frugalidad. Han ofrecido muchas sugerencias a través de los años y seguimos gastando como si no fuera nuestro dinero – porque no lo es.

El martes, 22 de enero, el Concilio de Lawrence volverá a tomar la tarea de decidir otra vez y el pueblo le pedirá e implorará que no apruebe ningún aumento. Pues, ya sabemos de algunos concejales que van a votar favorablemente, influenciados por el incendio pero esto no es algo que deben aprobar basado en emociones. Quizás ellos estaban buscando alguna razón para votar de esa forma y la encontraron con la desdicha de estas familias.

Lawrence budget woes

Lawrence has seen one of the biggest fires in the last 14 years with the tragedy of the Millennium Night Club fire. Apparatus from 13 cities and towns came to our aid, 14 structures were destroyed and over 200 people were left homeless, at least temporarily. Nobody wants to see that happening in any community.

At a time when Lawrence is wrestling with budget cuts, increases in the water and sewer rates and setting the new tax rate, this fire was the reason some city councilors needed to change their votes to give in and approve whatever the administration wants for increases.

While we realize that eventually Lawrence should pay for its share of expenses and not be so dependent on other cities and towns, we believe that the emphasis should be placed on frugality. There have been many suggestions made through the years and we keep spending like it's not our money – because it isn't.

On Tuesday, January 22, the Lawrence City Council will be taking up the task of deciding again and people will be begging and imploring not to approve increases. Well, we already know of some councilors who will be voting favorably, influenced by the fire but this is not something that should be voted on based on emotions. Perhaps they were looking for some excuse to vote that way and they found it with these families' misery.

Cartas al Editor | Letters to the Editor

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.

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

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Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

Desde Mi Esquina

BILINGUAL CONTENT

Please see PAGE 15 to read this article in English

La integridad de Rumbo es lo principal

Con frecuencia, nuestra integridad es puesta a prueba y debemos tomar decisiones muy difíciles, usualmente afectando el bolsillo. Ya sea en Rumbo o en "CrossOver" el programa radial en la WCCM-AM 1110, insistimos en mirar todos los ángulos de una situación y todas las posibilidades para resolver un problema antes de hacer juicio. Puede que cometamos errores basados en no tener suficiente o errónea información pero nunca en cosas de gran importancia y de seguro que nunca intencionalmente.

Nos gusta mantenernos firme en todo lo que decimos o escribimos y no permitimos que un anunciante tenga ninguna influencia en el contenido de nuestro periódico o programa radial – que es como debe ser. Por eso nos molesta tanto cuando alguien llama tratando de imponer su opinión sobre lo que hacemos, ya sea político o anunciante.

Hace unos años nos encontramos en una situación donde un buen anunciante nos pidió que canceláramos la columna de Ellen Bahan bajo la amenaza de cancelar su anuncio con nosotros. Nos negamos confiados en que todo lo que Ellen escribe es cierto y perdimos su apoyo. Otros anunciantes aparecieron porque admiran el valor de Ellen (y por ende el de Rumbo) y continuamos creciendo.

En aquel entonces, nos apretamos el cinturón y aceptamos la pérdida sin mencionarlo. Después de eso, en el 2001, el Superintendente Escolar de Lawrence dio órdenes de que no pusieran anuncios con nosotros y más recientemente, el Alcalde de Lawrence dio una orden similar a los jefes de departamentos de la ciudad porque

somos el único periódico que habla la verdad de los que está pasando en la ciudad y apretar el bolsillo parece funcionar con todos los demás.

Ahora resulta que perdimos a otro anunciante con un incidente parecido que fue montado para forzarlo a cortar su relación con nosotros. Rumbo no se vende. Queremos mantenernos libres de expresar la verdad como la vemos y ofrecer opiniones alternas si alguien no concuerda con la nuestra. ¡Eso es lo que hace a este país tan grandioso!

Jim Sereigo-Wareing, Fundador y Director de New England Caring For Our Military lo dijo mejor que nadie: "Los, los veteranos lucharon por los derechos de todos los americanos, incluyendo la libertad de expresión y la libertad de prensa."

La gente entiende lo que quieren oír

Richard Aybar y yo hemos decidido grabar todos nuestros programas en CrossOver en la WCCM 1110 AM los viernes a la una de la tarde para ponerlos en nuestro sitio en la Internet para que todos puedan escucharlo una y otra vez en caso de malentendidos. En algunos casos pudiera ser un simple error al no entender lo que dijimos en el aire pero con frecuencia encontramos que las cosas son tergiversadas intencionalmente. De esta forma, las personas pueden escuchar lo que se dijo, copiarlo, llevarlo a los tribunales si fuese necesario. ¡Hagan lo que quieran!

Ese también es el beneficio de la palabra escrita; si algo está explicado con claridad, no debe ser malentendido. Yo me siento orgullosa de ser muy clara en la radio y en estas páginas.



Merrimack Valley Hospital y la YMCA de Haverhill unen sus fuerzas

Merrimack Valley Hospital (MVH) y la YMCA de Haverhill han unido sus fuerzas y están trabajando juntos para desarrollar una comunidad más fuerte y saludable. El hospital y la YMCA ofrecerán seminarios médicos gratis, talleres, y demostraciones de cocina a través de todo el año. Las presentaciones cubrirán una amplia gama de tópicos desde asuntos de salud femeninos hasta enfermedades cardíacas.

"Merrimack Valley Hospital ha sido siempre defensor de la YMCA de Haverhill. En el otoño ellos fueron los únicos auspiciadores del programa juvenil de baloncesto y ahora nos complace que traigan programas educacionales a la Y. Estamos muy contentos de esta sociedad con MVH," dijo Tracy Fuller, la directora ejecutiva de la YMCA.

La primera presentación tendrá lugar el jueves, 31 de enero, de 6:00 pm a 7:30 pm en la YMCA de Haverhill localizada en el 81 de la Calle Winter en Haverhill. El Dr. Barry Bickley de Associates in Orthopedics explorará lo que es el reemplazo total de las rodillas, discutirá opciones para tratamientos y responderá preguntas de la audiencia.

Todos los eventos de MVH son gratis y abiertos al público. Refrigerios ligeros serán servidos y pre-registración será agradecida. Favor de llamar a Mary O'Neil al (978) 420-1157.

Una "Noche de Salud Femenina" está siendo planeada para febrero. Más información será ofrecida a través de la página en la Internet de Merrimack Valley Hospital así como otros medios a través de la ciudad.

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Un tributo a mi difunto padrastro

By DALIA DÍAZ

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El 19 de enero, mi padrastro, Rafael Velázquez murió en California, sólo, lejos de la familia, dejándonos a todos enojados porque la distancia lo hizo imposible para nosotros estar con él. Mi hermano y su familia fueron unas pocas veces de Scottsdale, Arizona. Mi hermana en Dallas fue una vez y Rosa María mi hermanastra viajó de Florida, yo creo un par de veces, también. Pero, fue su elección estar allí durante los últimos dos años. El podría haber vivido dondequiera que hubiese querido. Estoy enojada porque llevo la pena de no haber ido a verlo en sus últimos años.

Rafael tenía 84 años; él era un hombre bueno. A él le debo la buena vida que yo ahora tengo en este país. El era contador en la cooperativa de pesca de Almendarez en La Habana cuando pidió que le permitieran ir de pesca unas pocas noches cada semana para ganar dinero extra. Eso fue sólo la excusa para poder observar el litoral en busca de las condiciones correctas, robarse el barco y escaparse.

Después de muchos meses mirando el movimiento de los guardacostas, una noche dejamos la costa cubana a las 1:40 de la mañana. Había 44 personas en un pequeño barco de 27 pies que llevaba entre ellos a



mi madre y dos hermanas pero también a la primera esposa de Rafael y sus dos hijas, Hilda Rosa y Rosa María porque él no las dejaría atrás. Eso fue el 11 de febrero de 1963. Por la mañana, el Hess Diesel, un petrolero norteamericano nos rescató

Rafael was 84 years old; he was a good man. To him I owe the good life I now have in this country. He was the accountant at the fishing cooperative of Almendarez in Havana when he asked to be allowed to go fishing a few nights each week to earn extra money. That was only the excuse to search the coastline for the right conditions to steal the boat and escape.

en el Océano Atlántico y así empezamos de inmediato una nueva vida. No había regreso. Todos los años, sin fallar, yo lo llamaba en este aniversario.

Después de tres meses en Miami llegamos a Chelsea, Massachusetts. En aquel entonces no había industrias en Florida, apenas unos pocos hoteles y los únicos trabajos estaban en las plantaciones de tomate donde él y mi madre trabajaron. Durante varios años, él trabajó en la American Bilrite Rubber Company en Chelsea de 11 p.m. a 7 a.m. y de 8 a.m. a 3 p.m. en la cocina del antiguo Hotel Kenmore en Boston. ¡El era muy trabajador! El hacía cualquier cosa por ganar dinero para nosotros y siempre fue un gran apoyo para mí.

Cuando mi madre falleció, vendió la casa y le dije que se fuera de viaje a España como siempre soñó. En vez de eso, repartió el dinero entre miembros de la familia. Ahora la familia se piensa reunir para esparcir sus cenizas en la costa de Cayo Hueso, Florida, ya que esa fue la meta que él se había fijado al salir de Cuba. Esperamos que las olas lo lleven de regreso – coincidencia que será el 11 de febrero, en el aniversario de la partida.

A Tribute to my Late Stepfather

By DALIA DÍAZ

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On January 19, my stepfather, Rafael Velazquez died in California, alone, away from any relatives, leaving all of us angry because the distance made it impossible for us to be with him. My brother and his family went a few times from Scottsdale, Arizona. My sister in Dallas went once and Rosa María my stepsister traveled from Florida, I believe a couple of times, too. But, it was his choice to be there for the last couple of years. He could have been anywhere he wanted. I am angry because I carry the regret of not going to see him in his later years.

Rafael was 84 years old; he was a good man. To him I owe the good life I now have in this country. He was the accountant at the fishing cooperative of Almendarez in Havana when he asked to be allowed to go fishing a few nights each week to earn extra money. That was only the excuse to search the coastline for the right conditions to steal the boat and escape.

After many months of watching the movement of the coastguards, one night we left the Cuban coast at 1:40 a.m. There were 44 people in a small 27-foot boat carrying among them my mother and two sisters but also Rafael's first wife and their two daughters, Hilda Rosa and Rosa María because he wouldn't think of leaving them behind. That was February 11, 1963. By morning, the Hess Diesel, an American tanker rescued us in the Atlantic Ocean and we were ready to begin a new life. There was no return. Every year, without fail, I would call him on the anniversary.

After three months in Miami we came to Chelsea, Massachusetts. Back then there were no industries in Florida, just a few hotels and the only jobs were in the tomato plantations where he and my mother worked. For several years, he worked at the American Bilrite Rubber Company in Chelsea from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the kitchen of the old Kenmore Hotel in Boston. He was a workaholic! He would do anything to make money for us and he was a great support.

When my mother died he sold the house and I told him to take the trip to Spain that he always wanted. Instead, he gave the money to members of the family. Now the family is getting together to spread his ashes in the coast of Key West, Florida, since that was the goal he had upon leaving Cuba. Hopefully, the waves will carry him back – funny, on February 11th, the anniversary of the departure.

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Valuable Tax Credit Available for Low-Income Workers

Lawrence... People who work but don't earn a lot of money may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as free help preparing their tax return. On Friday, January 18, 2008, the Lawrence EITC Coalition will kick off their Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness campaign at the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., 305 Essex Street at 11:00 a.m.

The new maximum credit is \$4,716 for a family with two or more children; \$2,853 for a family with one child and \$428 if there are no children. The Earned Income Tax Credit is the federal government's largest program benefiting working families.

The new income limits are \$37,783 (\$39,783 if married filing jointly) for families with two or more children; \$33,241 (\$35,241 if married filing jointly) for families with one child or \$12,590 (\$14,590 if married filing jointly) if there are no children. Investment income must be \$2,900 or less. Children must meet certain age, relationship and residency requirements.

"The EITC is a valuable but complex tax break for lower income workers," said William Smits, IRS Stakeholder Relationship Manager, "Free help is available. Workers who qualify for EITC also may qualify for free tax preparation assistance. Community volunteers can help

taxpayers."

The following are the locations and hours of operations of free tax preparation sites in Lawrence:

(HOPE) HISPANIC OFFICE OF PLANNING AND EVALUATION
10 Pemberton Way, 2nd Fl,
Lawrence (978) 975-2636
Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Starting on January 29, 2008

GREATER LAWRENCE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC.
305 Essex Street, Lawrence
(978) 681-4900 ext 290
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (only in April) Starting on February 21, 2008

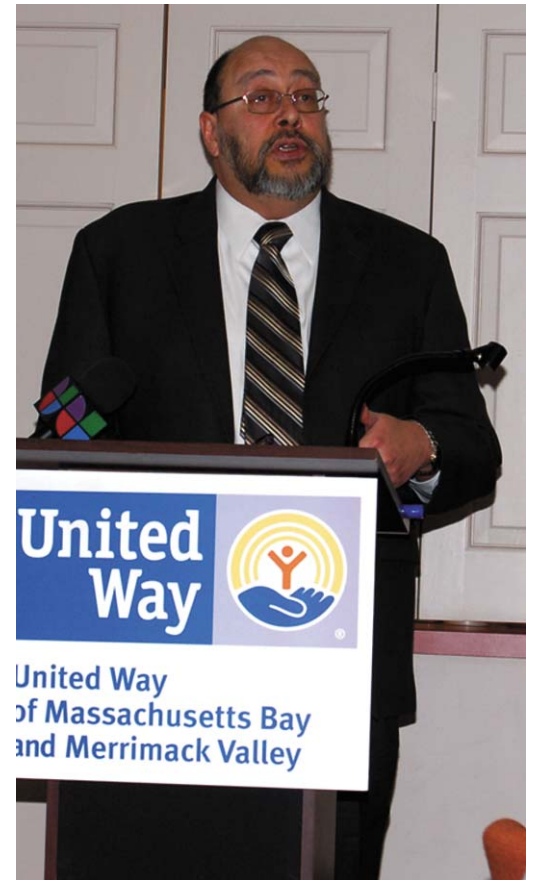
AMERICAN TRAINING
102 Glenn Street, Lawrence
(978) 685-2151
Saturdays-10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Starting on February 9

People should come prepared with the following items:

- * Proof of identification
- * Social Security Cards (or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number,

ITIN) for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration

- * Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- * Current year's tax package if you received one
- * Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- * Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- * A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available
- * Bank Routing Numbers and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit
- * Total paid for day care provider and the day care provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)
- * Information for other income
- * Information for deductions/credits
- * To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.



José Durán, director de la Oficina Hispana de Planeamiento y Evaluación brindando el uso de sus oficinas durante la conferencia de prensa.

José Duran, director Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation, making his offices available during the press conference.

THE
Lawrence Police Athletic League
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FEATURING THE

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Vs.

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Friday February 1, 2008 7:00PM
Valley Forum Lawrence, MA

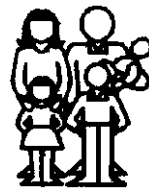
We are also publishing our Event Banner and will be soliciting businesses and residents. The proceeds will support the betterment of the organization.

The Lawrence Police Athletic League members would like to thank all those who participate.



William Benjamin
Campaign Coordinator
Lawrence Police Athletic League

This is the only association soliciting business and residents exclusively for the Lawrence Police Athletic League



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-o-

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Estimadamente, hay \$4.9 millones sin estar reclamado cada año solamente en Lawrence. El IRS estima que 20-25% de americanos califican para el crédito pero no lo reclaman.



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United Way announced \$30,000 investment in local EITC filing

Friday, January 18, new United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley President, Michael K. Durkin, announced a \$30,000 United Way investment into four Lawrence agencies aimed at helping more local residents and families file for their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. The announcement was made at 11 a.m. at the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council. The EITC effort is part of a larger United Way strategy to help families achieve financial stability.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit is one of the largest anti-poverty tools working in the United States," said Michael K. Durkin, President and CEO of United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. "We need to make sure that people have the information and assistance they need to access EITC and use it to build savings and financial security."

The IRS estimates that 20 to 25 percent of Americans who qualify for the credit do not claim it. Often taxpayers are unaware of EITC or are concerned about the costs associated with seeking help filing for it. Last year, an estimated \$4.9 million was left unclaimed in Lawrence alone. The average EITC refund last year was \$2,111. To encourage Lawrence residents to learn about EITC and to help more individuals and families gain access to the earned income tax credit they need and have earned, United Way will be investing \$30,000 into four Lawrence agencies:

Michael K. Durkin, President and CEO, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley with Philip F. Laverriere, Sr., Executive Director/CEO, Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., hosted the press conference.



- The Hispanic Office of Planning or Evaluation (HOPE) to continue its free tax service and EITC filing program for low-to-moderate income individuals and families.
- Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, which is launching a free tax service and EITC filing program for low-to-moderate income individuals and families.
- Family Service Inc. and Lawrence Community Works for outreach services to educate more Lawrence residents about EITC eligibility and promote use of the free tax preparation sites.

United Way's larger strategy to improve financial stability among individuals and families invests in skills development,

education, career advancement, and asset building opportunities that help low-income workers achieve financial stability. For example, in 2007 through the sponsorship of Bank of America, United Way launched the Financial Education Toolkit, an online resource aimed at ensuring the quality and consistency of financial education programs in Massachusetts. Bank of America also works on a national level with United Way of America to increase access to EITC for low-to-moderate income families. The partnership continues to expand outreach and educate the public on EITC eligibility.

Individuals who want to learn more about EITC or free tax preparation sites for low-to-moderate income residents can dial 2-1-1, a free health and human service referral line or 1-800-906-9887.

El correos de Methuen ahora ofrece pasaportes

La oficina de correos de Methuen, en el 272 de Broadway, ahora está facilitándolo.

Esta oficina empezó a ofrecer el servicio de pasaportes el 18 de enero. "Este es un servicio muy conveniente para nuestros clientes que estén planeando viajar fuera del país," dijo el Postmaster de Lawrence Richard D. Pace.

La oficina aceptará solicitudes de lunes a viernes entre las 12 del mediodía y las 4 p.m. y los sábados entre las 9 y las 11 a.m.

En el caso de niños menores de 14 años solicitando un pasaporte, ambos padres deben acompañarlos y si tiene entre 14 y 17, con uno de ellos es suficiente.

Hay nuevas regulaciones requiriendo un pasaporte para viajar por avión a Canadá, México, Central y Sur América, el Caribe y Bermuda. El Sr. Pace recomienda que las personas solicitando pasaportes lo hagan por lo menos con dos meses de anticipación para evitar costos adicionales para apurar la solicitud.

Entre los requisitos tiene que presentar: Evidencia de ciudadanía, dos fotos de pasaporte y una identificación actual con fotografía.

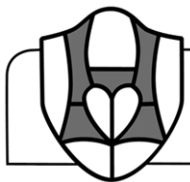
El costo puede ser pagado con cheque o en efectivo. Los pasaportes cuestan un total de \$97 para personas mayores de 16 años de edad; \$82 para menores de 16, y \$67 para pasaportes que están siendo renovados.

Para ahorrar tiempo, las planillas pueden ser adquiridas en www.usps.com/passport para llevarla completada antes de ir.

Cartas al Editor

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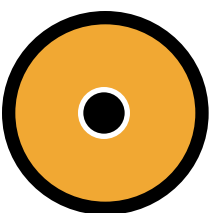


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Carmen Chalas
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Observaciones de una Crisis Fiscal

POR LUKE SENECA
LUKESENECA@LIVE.COM

El Contribuyente Curioso

Lawrence no es una ciudad financieramente rica. No hay depósitos de riqueza que ella puede utilizar cuando una insuficiencia ocurre. No habrá Proposición 2 ½ que llevar ante los votantes. Por eso la administración fiscal de sus recursos municipales debe ser la base de cualquier esfuerzo para sacar a nuestra ciudad de las sombras que amenazan con la inminente intervención del estado. Bien que sabemos que la apropiada administración ha estado en carencia por mucho tiempo.

Mientras que el ayuntamiento continúa debatiendo si ellos deben seguir las leyes estatales y establecer el impuesto a la propiedad – ya pasado mucho más del 1ro de enero que es la fecha límite – he aquí algunas preguntas a las cuales todos los contribuyentes de Lawrence les deben una respuesta:

1. ¿A dónde fueron a parar los \$15 millones en la cuenta de caja libre de la ciudad?
2. Si los honorarios de agua son aumentados al nivel necesario para sostener las operaciones apropiadas de la planta del tratamiento de agua, ¿quién operará esta moderna planta: profesionales sumamente adiestrados o amigos sin la educación necesaria, agencias de publicidad, y los parientes de los políticamente conectados que nos causaron problemas en primer lugar?
3. ¿Si los honorarios de alcantarilla son aumentados al nivel propuesto por el alcalde, continuará Lawrence pagando un 50% de evaluación más alta de lo debido, en efecto subvencionando las tasas que pagan los Andovers?
4. ¿Por qué tienen los concejales de la ciudad teléfonos celulares pagados por los contribuyentes? ¿Qué utilizaron estas personas antes de ser elegidos – latas y cuerdas?
5. Ya que la tasa del impuesto a la propiedad no fue fijada antes del 1ro de enero, ¿cuál es el flujo de caja de la ciudad actualmente? ¿Ha pedido dinero prestado para cubrir gastos? ¿Cuánto estamos pagando en intereses en ese

- dinero prestado? Si la ciudad paga interés en tal préstamo a causa de la inacción del concilio, ¿no debe salir ese dinero del salario de los concejales?
6. Dependiendo del tipo de acción que el concilio tome sobre la tasa de impuestos y los cortes del presupuesto, ¿qué significará específicamente esto para los servicios de policías y de bomberos en cada sección de la ciudad?
7. El estado publicó un informe esta semana que discute las condiciones tan pobres de los puentes del estado. ¿Cómo se encuentran los cuatro puentes que conectan las dos mitades de Lawrence? El Duck Bridge estaba programado para ser rehabilitado hace tres años. ¿Por qué no ha sido hecho ese trabajo?
8. En el fuego reciente de la Calle Park, fue reportado que algunas bocas de agua no trabajaron y que la presión de agua fue muy baja. ¿Por qué fue permitida esta condición? ¿Quién es responsable de esto? ¿Si hay un fuego en su vecindario, trabajarán las bocas de incendio?
9. ¿Qué implicaciones específicas habrá

- para el presupuesto de FY09 a causa de las demoras en el presupuesto de FY08?
10. ¿Cómo va a lucir la contabilidad de la ciudad para el 1ro de abril? ¿Cerraremos otro año fiscal el 30 de junio con un déficit?
11. Tomando un pago temprano de la ayuda local que el estado provee según fue informado la semana pasada, ¿qué significará esto para la situación del dinero efectivo de la ciudad como mientras cerramos el FY08 y hacemos la transición hacia el FY09?
12. ¿Cuándo va la ciudad a cesar de recoger la basura a los comercios gratis y obligarlos a contratar con compañías privadas?
13. ¿Necesita realmente una ciudad de 7 millas cuadradas financiar dos bibliotecas?
14. La directora de la biblioteca ha indicado que cortes en el presupuesto traerán como consecuencia la pérdida de su acreditación. ¿Hasta qué nivel se pueden hacer cortes antes que esto suceda?
15. A la vez que los estacionamientos

- públicos de la ciudad giran un superávit de dinero bajo la nueva administración del departamento de la planificación, ¿por qué el concilio sigue empujando para que DPW sea quien los opere, bajo cuya administración vimos déficit, desorganización fiscal extrema y actividad criminal?
16. Extendiendo el contrato del superintendente escolar pasando el término del actual alcalde, ¿ha aumentado la posibilidad que la ciudad tenga que hacer un pago inmenso al superintendente escolar si el próximo alcalde y comité escolar quisieran terminar su contrato (el cual habría terminado junto con el término del actual alcalde)?
17. ¿Cuál es el plan a largo plazo para el cerciorarse que el Estadio de Veteranos es un productor neto de renta para la ciudad?
18. Cuándo la ciudad prepare su

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CARTAS AL EDITOR

BILINGUAL CONTENT

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CARTAS AL EDITOR

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Ojo con el presupuesto de la policía

Cuando era joven me afincaba a mis convicciones sin comprometerlas, creyendo que a medidas que envejecía encontraría la sabiduría de por qué soy tan obstinado en asuntos morales y éticos. Ya estoy más entrado en años y creo que un poco más inteligente. También pienso que el pueblo de Lawrence debe ser firme y no ceder en dar a la ciudad en el aumento de los impuestos, ni un solo centavo. Sin vigilancia pública, no deben soltar dinero; es más, pienso que es constitucionalmente erróneo que la ciudad demande sin hacerle frente a los problemas.

La ciudad en contraste a los miembros públicos como yo creen que tienen derecho y han mostrado una historia de demandar y amenazar al público para intimidar al concilio a aumentar los impuestos. Puede que usted haya notado como yo lo he hecho, que departamentos como el de la policía nunca ha intentado reconciliar con el público para enmendar cómo vemos sus acciones; su comportamiento es consistente con la mentalidad de fanfarrones que tienen.

Sin embargo, si yo estuviera en el lugar de los concejales, miraría la división que ha existido por algún tiempo y comprendería que mientras que no estoy en libertad de

comprometer dinero de impuestos que no es mío, sí veo un problema y a través de un tiempo ha sido posible ofrecer una oferta de paz para unir a los dos lados. Si la ciudad la rechaza y sostiene su táctica de intimidación por lo menos yo continuaré con buena conciencia.

Yo ofrecería una vieja sugerencia, la de tener una junta de vigilancia que nos ayude a encarar muchos de los temas públicos para poder así lograr que el público y la policía trabajen juntos. Entonces, si propuestas legítimas como esta idea es rechazada por la policía, entonces el concilio podrá continuar aguantando los fondos y haciéndolo saber al alcalde en cada reunión que tenga que ver con dinero, porque ellos trabajan para el pueblo de Lawrence y tendrán que ganarse nuestra aprobación antes que nosotros decidamos aflojar los fondos, y no aquellos que viven de nuestros impuestos.

Para aquellos que han dicho que están dispuestos a pagar 200 dólares más por los servicios que nos proveen, solamente les digo: denme su nombre, teléfono y dirección para yo abusar de ustedes verbalmente y retarlo a violencia física, entonces cobrarle 200 dólares por eso, como la policía de Lawrence ha hecho conmigo. Aquellos que no están de acuerdo o lo están, son líderes o seguidores, yo soy uno que ha ofrecido una opción a pesar de mis reservaciones con el liderazgo de la ciudad, así que si usted tiene una mejor idea, personas como yo estamos dispuestas a escucharla.

MARK GRAY
LAWRENCE

NOTAS DE SU

Bibliotecaria

Por **Maureen Nimmo**
Directora de la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence

BILINGUAL CONTENT

Please see PAGE 21 to read this article in English

Saludos Amigos Lectores. Como les indiqué en mi pasado artículo, continuaré utilizando este espacio para aclarar los asuntos que estamos enfrentando debido a la crisis con el presupuesto de la ciudad. Anteriormente les expliqué que la biblioteca tiene un alto riesgo de perder su certificación y lo que esto significaría en términos de cortes a los servicios ofrecidos al público. Esta semana les voy a explicar un poco sobre cómo la biblioteca trabaja y por qué somos tan diferentes a los otros departamentos en la ciudad, los cuales también enfrentan cortes debido al presupuesto. Es muy importante para mí que la gente de nuestra comunidad entienda por qué he estado expresándome tanto sobre este tema tanto a nuestros concejales como a la prensa. Les aseguro que no es porque no quiero compartir mi parte en la crisis fiscal. El problema es muy complejo.

La biblioteca es un departamento municipal y es financiada por la ciudad. Los fondos que nos da la ciudad cubren nuestros gastos de personal, la manutención del edificio y el costo de los materiales, libros y suscripciones. Sin embargo, aparte de la ciudad, también somos miembros del Massachusetts Regional Library Systems (Sistema Regional de Bibliotecas de Massachusetts). Este sistema regional es controlado por el Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (Junta de Comisarios de las Bibliotecas de Massachusetts). Esta junta nos provee la mayoría del financiamiento necesario para continuar con los servicios que no son posibles de cubrir con los que nos da la ciudad. A través de esta ayuda del estado, podemos ofrecer nuestra programación en-línea (on-line) y proveer un acceso razonable al Internet. Sobre todo, nos permiten el acceso de compartir recursos en nuestro consorcio y en todo el estado. Estos servicios incluyen: acceso al catálogo a través de las computadoras, el poder tomar prestado materiales de otras bibliotecas para nuestros clientes, el

uso del sistema operativo de bibliotecas, y acceso para todos nuestros clientes de todos los servicios ofrecidos en las bibliotecas en todo el estado.

Esto significa que estamos controlados por la ciudad y el estado. El estado demanda que las bibliotecas sean apoyadas financieramente por sus municipalidades si van a ser también apoyadas por el estado. El estado determina si las bibliotecas son certificadas o no. Los tres requisitos que determinan esta certificación son los siguientes: ¿Abre la biblioteca suficientes horas? ¿Recíproca la biblioteca con otras a través del estado? ¿Recibe la biblioteca suficiente ayuda monetaria de su municipalidad? Si la respuesta a cualquiera de estas preguntas es que no, entonces la biblioteca pierde su certificación y los miembros de esta comunidad no son bienvenidos en ninguna otra biblioteca en el estado. En otras palabras, no estoy en la posición de buscar fondos en otros medios para cubrir lo que nuestra municipalidad nos corte. Yo puedo encontrar \$5,000,000 en fondos privados y esto no hace ninguna diferencia para el estado; ellos nos quitarán la certificación si el dinero no viene de la ciudad. Nada más vale para ellos, ni nos ayudaría en esta situación.

Lamentablemente, la biblioteca se encuentra en una situación "de todo o nada." Por esta razón he estado casi omnipresente en todas las reuniones del presupuesto desde el mes de junio. Les repito, no es que no estoy dispuesta a "apretarme mi correa" como todos los otros jefes de departamentos. No puedo hacerlo sin que los resultados sean catastróficos para nuestra comunidad.

Les suplico, una vez más, que por favor se comuniquen con sus concejales y le pidan que respalden el presupuesto. También les pido que continuemos orando por los Patriotas. Ellos son los que me han ayudado, hasta ahora, para que yo no pierda mi sanidad (esto es asumiendo que no la he perdido todavía). ¡Nos vemos en la biblioteca!

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Hillary abrirá oficina en Lawrence

Amanda Coulombe, una voluntaria de la campaña de Hillary Clinton para Presidente visitó al Representante Estatal William Lantigua en su oficina, localizada en la Calle Essex, buscando voluntarios que quisieran trabajar en su campaña. Más de 50 amigos y simpatizantes de la candidata respondieron al llamado del representante y se brindaron a cooperar.

Hillary to open office in Lawrence

Amanda Coulombe, a volunteer with the Hilary Clinton for President campaign visited State Representative William Lantigua's office, located on Essex Street, looking for volunteers to help in the campaign. More than 50 friends and highly motivated supporters of the candidate responded to the call and signed in.

Methuen Post Office now offering passport service

Are you planning to travel abroad? Well, Methuen Post Office, 272 Broadway, is now making it easier for you in your planning.

The Post Office began offering passport service January 18. "This is a real convenient service for our customers who are planning to travel out of the country," said Lawrence Postmaster Richard D. Pace.

Passports applications will be accepted Mondays to Fridays from 12 noon to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. The new service means persons seeking passports can have their applications processed in locally without having to leave town, saving them time.

Mr. Pace said both parents must accompany children under 14 years of age applying for a passport, and one parent must be present for children 14 to 17-years-old.

There are new regulations requiring a passport for all air travel to and from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda.

He recommended persons apply for their passports at least two months before their departure to avoid extra costs to expedite an application.

Other requirements in applying for a passport, he said, include: Evidence of citizenship, two passport photos, and current photo identification.

Passport fees can be paid by check or cash. Passports cost a total of \$97 for persons 16 years of age and over; \$82 for persons under age 16, and \$67 for passports being renewed.

To save time, passport applications can be downloaded at www.usps.com/passport to complete your passport beforehand, Pace said.

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Reunión del Comité Democrático de la Ciudad de Lawrence

El Comité Democrático de la Ciudad de Lawrence tendrá una reunión de sus dirigentes en la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence el sábado, 2 de febrero del 2008. Esto es con el propósito de elegir a los delegados a la Convención Estatal Democrática que se llevará a cabo el 7 de junio del 2008 en Tsongas Arena en Lowell.

La reunión está abierta a todos los votantes que estuvieron inscriptos como Demócratas antes del 31 de diciembre del 2007.

Las puertas se abrirán a las 9:15 a.m. y la reunión comenzará a las 10:00 a.m. Más información está disponible de Dian Kneeland, Presidenta del Comité de la Ciudad, al 978-764-6863.



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EN LAWRENCE DEVASTADOR FUEGO

POR ALBERTO SURÍS
ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

Janet Ayala y su compañero Luis Taveras fueron despertados abruptamente por personas gritando ¡Fuego! ¡Fuego! “Fue después de las dos de la madrugada y solo tuvimos tiempo de agarrar a nuestros niños de 1 y 2 años de edad y correr escaleras abajo, sólo con ropas de dormir”, dijo Ayala desde el refugio provisional donde se encuentran en la South Lawrence East School donde hay otras 35 personas.

La pareja solía vivir en un tercer piso del edificio localizado en el 8 de la Calle Springfield. De acuerdo con Ayala, la cual ha estado mirando las noticias en televisión su edificio todavía está entero, pero luce muy mal. “Creo que lo perdimos todo”, dijo y añadió “Antes de venir aquí nos llevaron a Cor Unum donde nos atendieron muy bien y nos dieron alimento”.

El fuego, de acuerdo con el Jefe de Incendios Chief Peter Takvorian comenzó alrededor de las 2:00 AM del lunes, 21 de enero, en el antiguo Club Nocturno Millennium el cual estaba bajo reconstrucción para convertirlo en un restaurante.

El siniestro, considerado como sospechoso, se regó hacia otros edificios rápidamente. Cuando lograron controlarlo, 14 edificios con un total de 27 apartamentos fueron reducidos a escombros, enviando a más de 180 personas a la calle, muertas de frío, en busca de refugio.

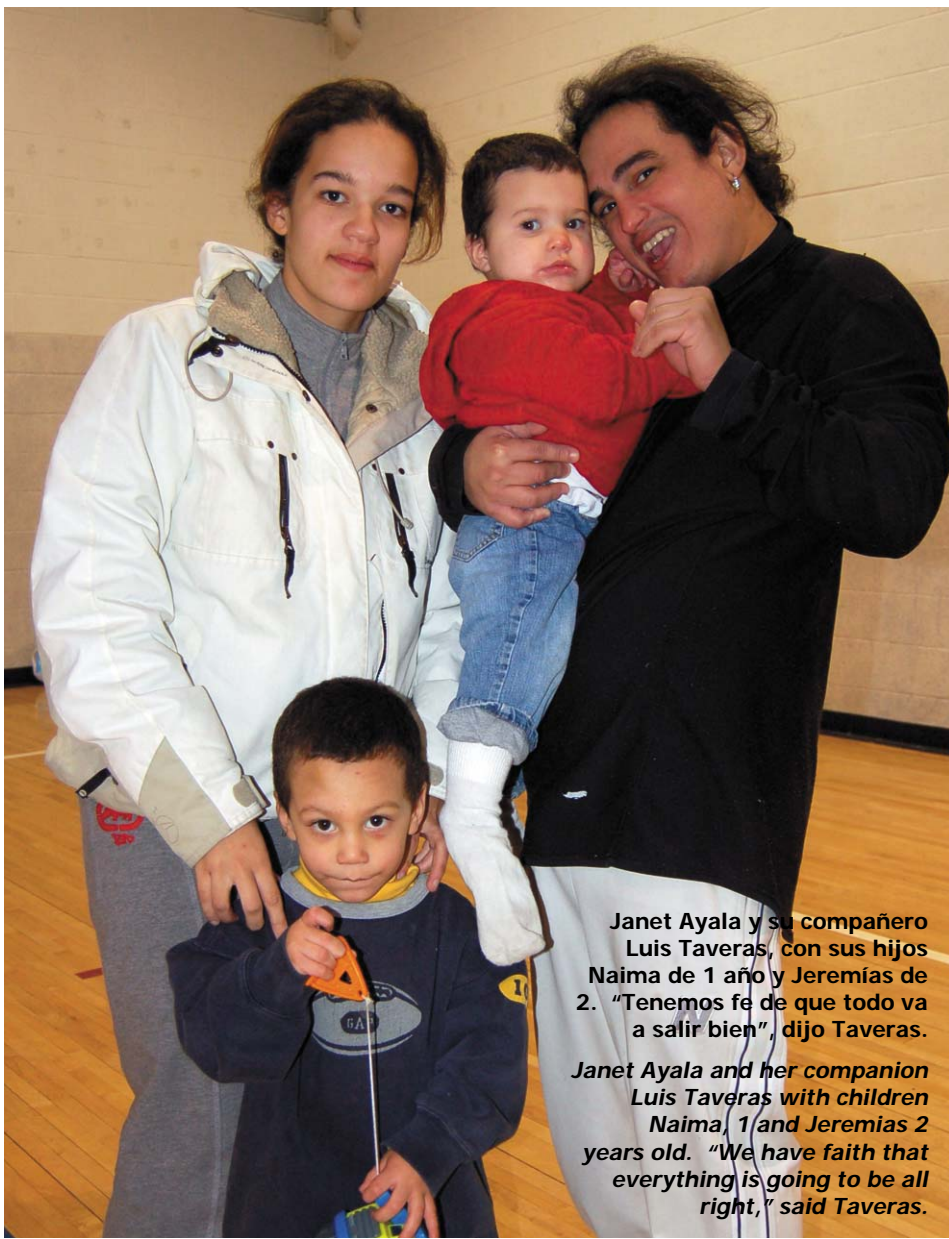
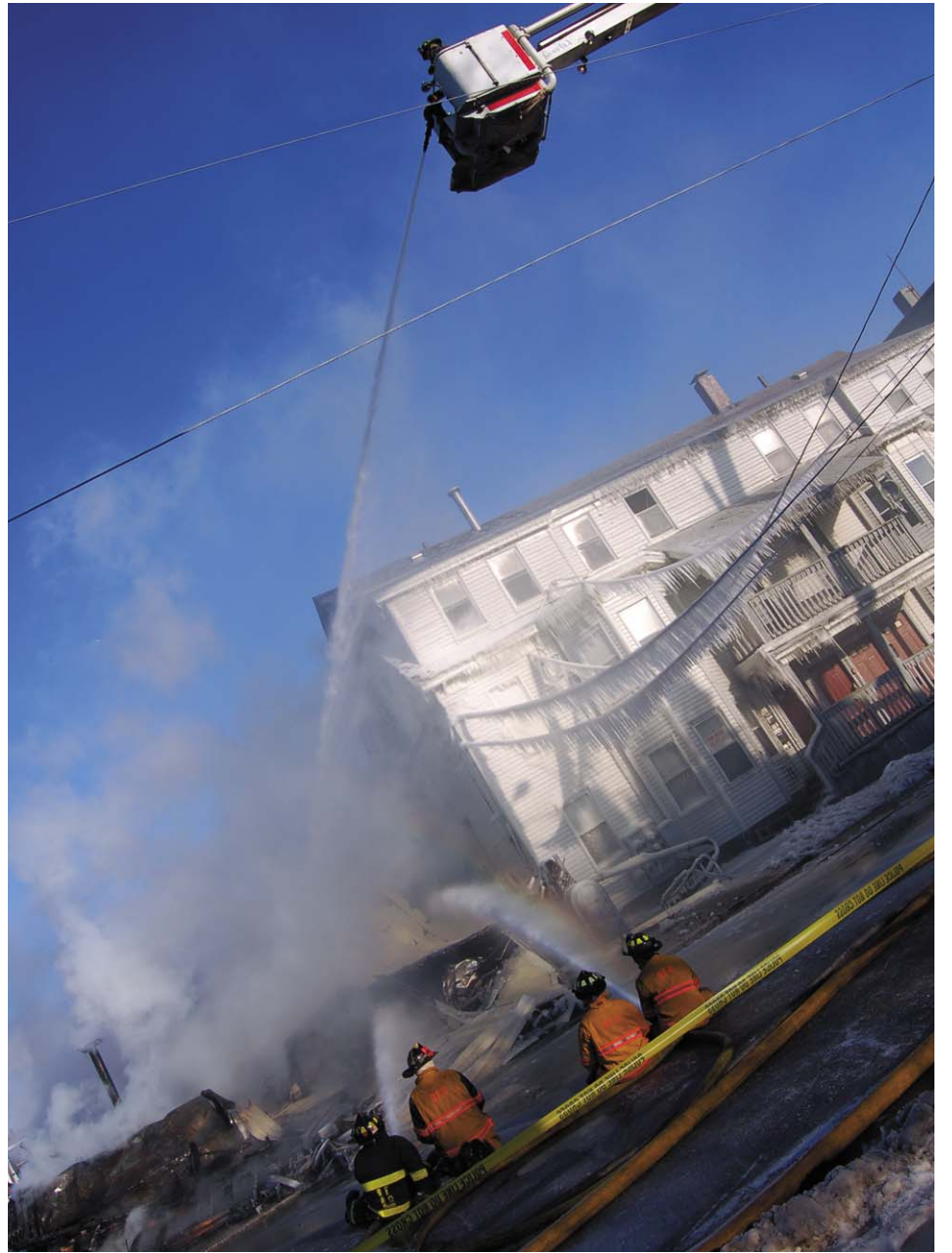
El Gobernador de Massachusetts, Deval Patrick siendo entrevistado por reporteros de televisión, rodeado por el Alcalde de Lawrence y los tres Representantes Estatales de Lawrence, Barry R. Finegold, David M. Torrisi y William Lantigua.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick being interviewed by television reporters surrounded by Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and the three Lawrence State Representatives, Barry R. Finegold, David M. Torrisi and William Lantigua among others.





Bombero Héctor Santiago



Janet Ayala y su compañero Luis Taveras, con sus hijos Naima de 1 año y Jeremias de 2. "Tenemos fe de que todo va a salir bien", dijo Taveras.

Janet Ayala and her companion Luis Taveras with children Naima, 1 and Jeremias 2 years old. "We have faith that everything is going to be all right," said Taveras.

Massive Fire in Lawrence

By ALBERTO SURÍS

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

Janet Ayala and her companion Luis Taveras were suddenly awakened by people screaming Fire! Fire! "It was after two in the morning and we only had time to grab our 1 and 2-year-old children and ran downstairs to safety, only with our night clothes," said Ayala from the provisional shelter they are staying at South Lawrence East School where there are about 35 other people.

The couple used to live in a third floor apartment building located at 8 Springfield Street. According to Ayala, who had been watching the news on television, their building is still standing, but seems to be

in bad shape. "I think we lost everything," she said and added, "Before coming here (the shelter) they took us to The Cor Unum where we were treated to a hot meal."

The fire, according to Fire Chief Peter Takvorian started sometime after 2:00 AM on Monday, January 21, on the former Millennium Night Club which was under renovations to be converted into a restaurant. The fire, considered as suspicious, spread rapidly to other buildings. By the time it was under control, 14 buildings with a total of 27 apartments were reduced to rubble, sending more than 180 freezing residents to shelters.



MVCC BREAKFAST WITH MAYORS



Sitting, from left: Andover Town Manager, Reginald Stapczynski; Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, Joseph J. Bevilacqua; Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin M. Burke; Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce President, Richard Dewhurst; North Andover Town Manager, Mark H. Rees.

Standing, from left: Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini; Methuen Mayor, William Manzi, III; Eagle Tribune Publisher and MC, Al Getler; Andover Town Manager, Reginald Stapczynski; Amesbury Mayor, Thatcher Kezer and City of Lawrence Mayor, Michael J. Sullivan.

“The Governor is working on the budget and he is not forgetting you,” said Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin M. Burke, in his opening remarks. Burke was the keynote speaker at the breakfast held on Friday, January 18, by the Government Affairs Committee of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce at the Andover Country Club.

Burke spoke before Mayors and Town Managers of Andover, Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Lowell and Tewksbury, where he did a plug for the casino business. “The project is being studied and is going to generate money that we can give to the needy cities and towns,” said Secretary Burke.

For Andover, the 2008 is all about communications. According to Town Manager Reginald Stapczynski, they are planning a leaflet to be sent to every citizen to keep them informed about what is going on in their town. Contracts have been signed with Comcast and Verizon, two of the biggest competitors, and also, the web page has been upgraded.

Despite the on-going improvements along Main Street, Stapczynski assured the 300 plus in attendance that traffic won't be affected. He was also pleased that three large new banks have settled in Andover: Buttler, Enterprise and Bank of New England.

“I'm impressed that the administration has sent a high profile state official and I want him to deliver a message to the Governor and Lt. Governor,” said Stapczynski referring to Secretary Burke. “Tell them that we need relief. Our hands are tied with regulations,” said Stapczynski, and briefly spoke about three needed to follow in order

to have something fixed. “We would like to be able to use some good business practices and have anything that need to be fixing, fixed,” he said.

For Methuen Mayor William M. Manzi, III, “this are exciting times,” and credited his Economic Development Director Karen Sawyer, for all she has done. “She does the work and I take the credit,” said Manzi jokingly. Manzi said that the Master Plan implemented in Methuen will be the blueprint for the next 20 years. The Mayor mentioned the assisted living facility being built across the street from Enterprise Bank, on Broadway, with additional parking spaces in downtown as some of his administration's achievements. “Next week, we will be unveiling on-line applications for different permits people will be looking at on the internet. We are cutting the red tape,” said Manzi.

“In closing, our Governor has highlighted the problem, we can use more money, but we also need the Governor to take a closer look at the regulations imposed on us. The State needs to loosen up the shackles imposed on cities and towns so we won't need that much money from the State,” ended Mayor Manzi.

In a similar tone as the previous speakers, Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini complained about not having limitations on their operating costs but handcuffed when it comes to revenues. “My message is help us, or change the way to manage our cities.”

According to Mayor Fiorentini the city highlights are: Having the lowest unemployment rate in 6 and half years; enjoying the highest concentration of department stores moving in the valley

“We are going into entertainment,” announced Mayor Sullivan. According to Sullivan, Lawrence will be known as “The Entertainment Hub North of Boston.” The mayor said that Lawrence Stadium is being looked at for professional teams to play here.

(BJ's, Lowe's, Walgreen's) and more coming; the greatest increase in MCAS scores in a decade; the highest percentage of high school graduates of any urban school district in the State; the greatest influx of new retail stores in three decades; a stable or declining crime rate that makes us one of safest urban areas around; Forest City is the largest investment in downtown in the history of the city; the Cordovan, is 90% occupied; and the new Industrial Park.

Mayor Fiorentini closed his remarks with an invitation to all businessmen/women in attendance: “Haverhill needs business and we want you.” For Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan, the Annual Merrimack Valley Mayors and Town Managers breakfast is a great way to start the year, his 6th year, as he pointed out.

“We had one fine year last year,” said Sullivan, listing all the accomplishments: New Water Treatment Plant; reconstruction of the Veterans Memorial Stadium; 4 new ball fields and 1 new softball field; a skating park at the Leonard School; completion of the Washington Mill; expansion of

Cambridge College; opening of the new Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union headquarters and Branch; and the opening of the New High School with 99% of the students wearing new uniforms on opening day.

“And 2008 will be better than 2007,” said Sullivan who went to mention what is on the works, like Pentucket Medical moving into one of Sal Lupoli's buildings at the RiverWalk, Essex Street going two ways with new signs, new benches, “a real friendly street”; Northern Essex Community College opening a new Technology Center; and 200 vacant lots will be sold by the Planning Department Director, Michael Sweeney.

“We are going into entertainment,” announced Mayor Sullivan. According to Sullivan, Lawrence will be known as “The Entertainment Hub North of Boston.” The mayor said that Lawrence Stadium is being looked at for professional teams to play here.

“I only have three people to recognize, instead of 40 or close, like Sullivan,” said North Andover Town Manager Mark H. Rees in his turn to the mic. According to Rees, 2007 was a very good year for North Andover, too. The replacement of the water tanks and the improvement of The North Andover Common were some of the highlights of the past year. “Our residents step up to the plate and raised taxes to improve quality of life,” he said. Major sponsors of the breakfast were Bank of America; Covanta Energy; National Grid; Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green; TEC Engineering and Kodiak Construction, Trinity Emergency and Healthcare Transportation.

Merrimack Valley Hospital and Haverhill YMCA Join Forces

Merrimack Valley Hospital (MVH) and the Haverhill YMCA have recently joined forces and are working together to build a stronger, healthier community. The hospital and the YMCA will offer free medical seminars, workshops, and cooking demonstrations throughout the year. The presentations will cover a wide range of topics from women's health issues to cardiac disease.

"Merrimack Valley Hospital has always been very supportive of the Haverhill YMCA. In the fall they were the sole sponsor of our youth basketball program and now we are happy to have them bring educational programs to the Y. We are very excited to partner with MVH in this way," stated YMCA's Executive Director Tracy Fuller.

The first presentation is scheduled for Thursday, January 31 from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Haverhill YMCA located at 81 Winter Street in Haverhill. Barry Bickley, MD of Associates in Orthopedics will explore total joint replacement, discuss treatment options, and answer audience questions. All the MVH events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served and pre-registration is appreciated. Please call Mary O'Neil at 978-420-1157.

A "Women's Health Night" is currently being planned for February. More information will be posted on the Merrimack Valley Hospital's website as well as at other venues throughout the city.

Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 108 acute care beds, 17 adult behavioral medicine beds, and 3 pediatric beds. All are private rooms. The hospital's clinical strengths include a 24-hour emergency department; orthopedic, endoscopic and general surgery; adult behavioral medicine care with a focus on geriatric issues. MVH also provides a wide range of outpatient services, such as surgical day care; x-rays; MRI exams; PET-Scans; 64-Slice CT Scans; digital mammography; bone density testing; dysphasia testing; nuclear medicine; and physical therapy.

The hospital's awards for excellence include the #1 Nursing Team in New England Award, 2003 (Advance for Nursing Magazine); National Quality Leader Award for Pneumonia Care, 2006 (CareScience Select Practice); High Reliability Cardiac Care Award, 2006 (MassPRO); Top 100 Best Acute Care Hospital Award, 2004 (Total Benchmark Solutions); and Top Ranked Community Value Provider Award, 2007 (Cleverley & Associates). An affiliate of Essent Healthcare, Inc., the hospital serves Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. More information can be found at www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com.

Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

From My Corner

MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 4 para leer este artículo en Español

Rumbo's integrity comes first

Occasionally, our integrity is tested and very difficult decisions must be made, usually affecting the bottom line. Whether here at Rumbo or "CrossOver" our radio show on WCCM-AM 1110, we insist in looking at all angles of a situation and all the possibilities in resolving a problem before passing judgment. We might make mistakes based on insufficient or wrong information but never on anything of great importance and certainly never intentionally.

We like to stand firm on everything we ever say or write and do not allow any advertiser have any influence on the content of our newspaper or radio program – the way it should be. That's why we are very annoyed when someone calls trying to input opinions on what we do, whether politicians or advertisers.

A few years ago we found ourselves in a situation where a big advertiser asked us to cancel Ellen Bahan's column under the threat of canceling their ad with us. We refused confident that everything Ellen writes is the truth and lost their support. Other advertisers came along because they

admire Ellen's courage (and by default, Rumbo's) and we continued to grow.

Back then, we sucked it up and took the loss without ever mentioning it. After that, in 2001, Lawrence Superintendent of Schools gave orders not to place any ads with us and most recently, the Mayor of Lawrence gave a similar order to his department heads because we are the only newspaper that speaks the truth about what goes on in the city and tightening the purse strings seems to work with everyone else.

We now lost another advertiser when a similar situation was staged to force him to sever his relationship with us. Rumbo does not sell out. We want to remain free to express the truth as we see it and offer opposing views if someone disagrees. That's what makes this country great!

Jim Sereigo-Wareing, Founder/Director of New England Caring For our Military said it best: "Veterans fought for the rights of all Americans, including the freedom of speech and freedom of the press."

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People understand what they want to hear

Richard Aybar and I have decided to tape all of our CrossOver shows on WCCM 1110 AM on Fridays at one o'clock and placing them on our website for all to hear over and

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Lawrence Democratic City Committee to Hold Caucus

The Lawrence Democratic City Committee will hold a caucus at the Lawrence Public Library on Saturday, February 2, 2008. This is for the purpose of electing delegates to the Democratic State Convention, which will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

The caucus is open to all voters who were registered Democrats as of December 31, 2007.

Doors to the caucus will open at 9:15 a.m. and the caucus will start at 10:00 a.m. Further information is available from Dian Kneeland, City Committee Chair, at 978-764-6863.

Letters to the Editor

Rumbo
315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843
Email: rumbo@rumbonews.com
Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

Free

Medical Seminar!

Are You Considering A Total Joint Replacement?

Come to the Haverhill YMCA on Thursday, January 31, 2008


Barry Bickley, MD
of Associates in Orthopedics

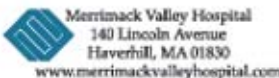
- Explore Joint Replacement
- Discuss Treatment Options
- Begin Your Journey

WHEN: Thursday, January 31, 2008
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM


LOCATION: YMCA
81 Winter Street
Haverhill, MA 01830

FREE LIGHT DINNER
RSVP BY: January 29, 2008
Mary O'Neil 978-420-1157





Merrimack Valley Hospital
140 Lincoln Avenue
Haverhill, MA 01830
www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com



YMCA
We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Observations of a Fiscal Crisis

By **LUKE SENECA**
LUKESENEKA@LIVE.COM

The Curious Taxpayer

Lawrence is not a financially rich city. There are no reservoirs of wealth into which she can tap when a shortfall occurs. There will be no Prop 2 1/2 overrides. Hence proper fiscal management of her municipal resources needs to be a cornerstone of any effort to move our city out of the shadows of impending state receivership. Alas, such proper management has been lacking for quite some time.

As the City Council continues to debate whether they should follow state law and set a tax rate – now well beyond the January 1 deadline – here are some questions to which all Lawrence taxpayers are owed an answer:

1. Just where did the \$15 million in the city's free cash account all go?
2. If the water fees are increased to a level needed to sustain proper operations of the water treatment plant, who will run the state of art facility: real highly trained professionals or unqualified hacks, flacks, and relatives of the politically connected who got us into trouble in the first place?
3. If the sewer fees are increased to the level proposed by the Mayor, will Lawrence continue to pay a 50% higher assessment than it should be, in effect subsidizing the rates the Andovers pay?
4. Why do city councilors have taxpayer-funded cell phones? What did these people use before they were elected – tin cans and string?
5. Since the tax rate was not set by January 1st, what is the city's cash flow presently? Has it borrowed money to meet expenses? What is the interest amount on any such borrowing? If the city is paying interest on such borrowing because of the council's inaction, shouldn't those monies come out of the councilors' salaries?
6. Depending on the type of action the council takes on the tax rate and budget cuts, what will this

- specifically mean to police and fire services in each section of the city?
7. The state issued a report this week discussing the poor condition of the state's bridges. How do the four bridges connecting the two halves of Lawrence fare? The Duck Bridge was supposed to be rehabbed three years ago. Why has that work not been done?
 8. At the recent Park Street fire, it was reported that hydrants did not work and water pressure was low? Why was this condition allowed to happen? Who is responsible for this? If there is a fire in your neighborhood, will the hydrants work?
 9. What specific implications for the FY09 budget will there be because of the delays on the FY08 budget?
 10. By April 1, what will the city's ledger sheet look like? Will we close another fiscal year on June 30 with a deficit?
 11. By taking an early local aid payment from the state as was reported last week, what will this mean for the city's cash situation as we close FY08 and move into FY09?
 12. When will the city stop providing free trash pickup to businesses and force them to contract with private vendors?
 13. Does a city of 7 square miles really need to fund two libraries?
 14. The library director has stated that budgets cuts will lead to our library system losing its accreditation. What level of cuts can indeed be absorbed until this happens?
 15. At a time when the city's parking facilities are now turning a money surplus under new management of the planning department, why should the council keep pushing for the DPW to run them, under whose tenure we saw deficits, extreme fiscal mismanagement and criminal activity?
 16. By extending the school superintendent's contract past the current mayor's term, has the school committee caused the city to make a huge settlement payout to the superintendent should the next mayor and school committee want to end his

CONTINUES ON PAGE
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Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence to receive the Distinguished Citizen Award presented by The Arc of Massachusetts



The "Keystone Kayaking" photos depict the kayaking program that our Keystoneers (which is our youth leadership group) did with youth from CLASS.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence (BGCL) will be honored at a ceremony in the Great Hall at the State House in Boston on Wednesday, January 30th. The BGCL will be a recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Citizen Award – an award given to individuals and organizations that demonstrate a significant contribution to persons with intellectual and development disabilities. The award is granted by the Arc of Massachusetts.

The Arc of the United States is one of the nation's largest grass-roots organizations dedicated to individuals with cognitive and development disabilities. The Arc of Massachusetts represents 120,000 people with developmental disabilities.

The 2008 Distinguished Citizen Award is to recognize the efforts of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence for its work with CLASS in Lawrence. The BGCL has a partnership with CLASS for Outdoor Exploration which is funded through New Balance. The program creates recreational opportunities (snowshoeing, rope courses, kayaking and healthy diets) that connect non-disabled youth from the BGCL and CLASS in all of these activities. Because of the success

of this program, New Balance has agreed to fund this program for another year. The new funding will focus on training BGCL staff to expand more inclusive recreation opportunities for youth with disabilities in their facility.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence believes in forming relationships with other non-profits that serve youth of the area and our relationship with CLASS is an example of one of those successful relationships.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence opened its brand new facility on 136 Water Street in November, 2006. The programs at the Club are divided into 6 core program areas; Character & Leadership, Education & Career Development, The Arts, Sports & Fitness, Health & Life Skills and Special Programs. From homework help, career development, nutrition training, fitness, dance, and a multitude of skill development programs, the kids of the Club are part of a well rounded and designed program. This level of programming requires the generosity of the community to ensure that we can continue to deliver programs to the kids of Lawrence. For information on how to get involved, contact Kathy Boshar at 978.683.2747 x 118.

JOB POSTINGS

HELP WANTED? Let our readers be your next hire!

Find out how cost effective it would be to tell our readers that you are hiring. Rumbo is a bilingual (English-Spanish) newspaper distributed effectively all around the Merrimack Valley. Seventeen Thousand copies are printed every month assuring you a successful advertising campaign.

Let us work with you to get your next employee. Call Alberto Surís at 978.794.5360 or visit our website (rumbonews.com) for more information (click where it says "Your Ad in Rumbo").

Cost per
**COLUMNAR
INCH:**
\$6.50

INCHES 1"

rumbonews.com

**PLEASE CALL
(888) 892-8901**

ARE YOU GREEDY???
ENTREPRENEURIAL SALES PROFESSIONALS WANTED
MUST SPEAK ENGLISH
BILINGUAL SPEAKING A PLUS, BUT NOT NECESSARY
MUST BE A SELF STARTER
MINIMUM INVESTMENT REQUIRED

Caritas Holy Family Launches New Branding Campaign

Caritas Holy Family Hospital today announced the launch of its integrated marketing and advertising campaign, "Family". The campaign embodies the philosophy of care at Holy Family Hospital – offering its community high-quality care, innovative treatment options and new technologies, all delivered by a team of trusted, compassionate medical experts.

The hospital aims to solidify its brand and spread its new family-focused message through the airwaves, in print and around the community. Three distinct but cohesive executions highlight the hospital's expertise in cardiology, oncology and maternity services. Television spots will begin airing today on Comcast Cable and will run periodically throughout the year on networks including A&E, TNT, HGTV, Food Network, USA Network and Lifetime. Print advertisements will be featured in various local community publications throughout the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire beginning February 1, 2008.

"This is a tremendously exciting time for Holy Family," said hospital CEO Tom Sager, who will mark his first-year anniversary on January 29, 2008. "Our hospital staff is exceptional, clinically and personally. Each day at the hospital is a day spent with family. Patients consistently remark on the special, familial environment they enjoy here, and our new campaign

conveys this spirit of caring."

Holy Family's advertising also features programs, technologies and achievements that epitomize the quality of care available to area residents. For example, maternity services at Holy Family are in the top 10 percent nationally for patient satisfaction, according to Press Ganey. The hospital's William L. Lane Cancer Center received the highest rating and seven commendations by the American College of Surgeons. On the technology front, Holy Family recently installed a new "GE Lightspeed" 64-Slice CT Scanner. With this new machine, specially-trained technologists can capture clearer, more accurate images in seconds to diagnose and treat patients faster.

In addition to advertisements, Holy Family will unveil its newly revamped website on February 1st, 2008. Many months in planning, the new site will have a fresh new look and a host of new features designed to help patients, families and physicians interact with Holy Family like never before and make well-informed healthcare decisions. In three clicks or less, visitors will now be able to:

- Browse an extensive health library on healthcare topics from A-Z
- Get detailed information about Holy Family's services and clinical centers
- Interact with the site via virtual tours, online health quizzes

- Sign up for FREE e-Newsletters on specific topics such as Heart Health, Breast Care Health, Men's Health and more
- Find a Physician in their community
- View interactive Google maps and get directions to Holy Family
- Find full listings of classes, support groups, and other events

- Read the latest news from around the Caritas system and across the country

For screenshots or copies of the television spots, or for additional details, please contact Anna Frankenfield at 978-687-0156 ext. 2659 or anna.frankenfield@caritaschristi.org.



IS YOUR PRODUCT IRRESISTIBLE?

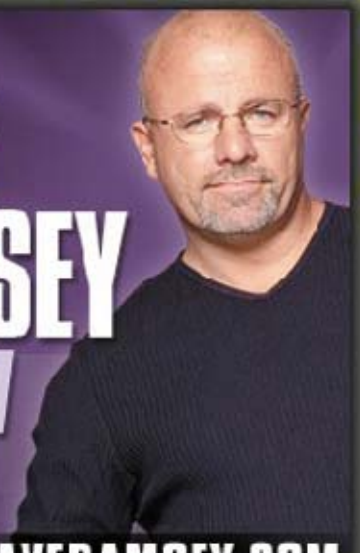
Let's talk about spreading the word!

Rumbo is a FREE bilingual (English-Spanish) newspaper published four (4) times a month by SUDA, Inc.

PUBLICATION DATES:
1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd of Every Month

**The secret is out...
Rumbo Tells Everybody!**

ADVERTISING SALES 978.794.5360



THE DAVE RAMSEY SHOW

DAVERAMSEY.COM


Weekdays
Mondays from
2pm - 4pm
Tuesday - Friday
2pm - 5pm
On
"Your Conversation Station"

am WCCM 1110 "your conversation station"

Dave includes special theme hours on the show that are very popular among his listeners. Examples of these theme hours include: kids and money, cars and money, small business, and more. Dave also has "Debt Free Fridays" where listeners call in to celebrate paying off their last debt using his Total Money Makeover Plan. Listeners also cut up credit cards on air, which Dave calls "plasectomies." Dave Ramsey offers life-changing financial advice as host of the nationally syndicated radio program.

Hotline

Hosted By
Lou Blasi



- Politics
- Sports
- Community

For Compelling Conversation
TUNE IN

Monday Through Thursday
12:00pm - 1:00pm

ONLY ON

am WCCM 1110 "your conversation station"

CALENDARIO

DEIAMANO VOLUNTEER NEEDED

DELAMANO is seeking for empathic and committed volunteers to answer our domestic violence Spanish/English helpline serving victims of domestic violence in the Greater Lawrence community.

Volunteers must be fluent in spoken English and Spanish and be over 21.

Volunteers are required to attend 24 hours of training covering a variety of topics in the field of Domestic violence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WENDY LUZON AT 978-530-7058.

FIESTA MULTICULTURAL ADOPCIONES

Domingo, Febrero 10, 2008, Boys and Girls Club, 15 Talbot Avenue, Dorchester, MA, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Un evento informativo gratis, abierto para toda persona considerando la adopción de niños mayorcitos, grupos de hermanos y niños de color de DSS. Los futuros padres adoptivos pueden conocer niños disponibles para la adopción y sus trabajadores sociales en un ambiente divertido e informal. Habrá información, refrigerios, actividades y entretenimiento para la familia. Contacte la agencia Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) para más información y para registrarse al 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) o visite www.mareinc.org.

BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED!

The Lawrence YMCA's child care center is in need of new and gently-used books (for preschool to middle-school students). Donations can be brought to the Lawrence YMCA, 40 Lawrence Street. For more information: 978-686-6191.

What?, When?, Where?

We want to know!

To list your event on this section, send us an email to calendar@rumbonews.com

Free Nursing Home Advocate Training

The Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley in partnership with North Shore Elder Services is hosting a FREE Nursing Home Advocates Training this January. The three-day training course will take place on January; 25, 28 and 29. The day long training will start at 9:30 AM and end at 3:30 PM each day.

Nursing Home Ombudsman help to protect the rights of nursing home residents. These trained and certified volunteers visit nursing homes on a regular basis to help solve issues on the behalf of residents. The one year commitment includes the three days of training, monthly supervision and dedicated hours each month for nursing home visits.

Lunch and light refreshments will be provided for each attendee each day along with mileage reimbursement.

At the conclusion of the three-day training, each person will be certified by the State of Massachusetts as a Nursing Home Ombudsman for Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

Due to the popularity of this training, we anticipate this seminar will be over enrolled. Since space is limited, reservations are

strongly recommended. To reserve a space, please contact Gerry Proulx at Elder Services at 978-946-1445.

Super Cooking for Super Bowl Sunday

Cooking for a super bowl party has become a sporting event of its own - so many ravenous pigskin enthusiasts - so little food. Now, a two-night, non-credit cooking class led by a well-regarded personal chef may cure your cooking ills. "Super Bowl Sunday Party - Cater Your Own Party" offered Wednesday and Thursday, January 30 and 31, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Timony Grammar School, 45 Pleasant View St., in Methuen, will teach even the most seasoned cook a trick or two about how to prepare for that football crowd with a super-sized appetite.

Joseph Maglio, personal chef and restaurant owner, with more than 20 years experience including stints at Caesar's Palace, Andres, and Williams Sonoma, leads this hands-on class that will not only teach how to prepare great food for a Super Bowl Party, but also sends attendees home with enough food for a party of eight.

The menu includes Texas Chili, Italian Meatballs, Stuffed Mushrooms, BBQ Baby

Back Ribs, Buffalo Chicken Wings, and Crab Cakes with cocktail sauce. Each student leaves the class with a ½ gallon of chili, 24 wings, 16 meatballs, 16 stuffed mushrooms, 16 ribs, and 8 crab cakes. All food items are packaged with a FoodSaver.

The fee for this class is \$60 with a \$120 materials fee collected at the first class. To register for this class or for additional information call 978-556-3700.

For more cooking classes see www.necc.mass.edu/noncredit/wfdce/personalenrich.php

Essex Chamber Group Offers Pre-game Concert Super Bowl Sunday

The Essex Chamber Music Players (ECMP) will present pianist David Pihl performing the works of three great composers in a pre-Super Bowl game recital at the Technology Center conference area on Northern Essex Community College's Haverhill campus on Sunday, February 3, at 2:30 p.m.

The program will include Robert Schumann's (1810-1856) Sonata for Piano in F# minor, opus 11, Frederic Chopin's (1810-1849) Nocturne No. 2 in Eb, opus 55 and Scherzo

HOW, WHEN AND WHERE TO FIND



THIS WEEK!
You are reading our Lawrence/Methuen Edition

NEXT WEEK!
Our next publication will be printed on February 1st

Lawrence/Methuen Edition

PUBLICATION DATES: 8th & 22nd of Every Month
DISTRIBUTION: Massachusetts: Lawrence and Methuen

Regional Edition

PUBLICATION DATES: 1st & 15th of Every Month
DISTRIBUTION: Massachusetts: Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill, Andover, North Andover, and Lowell
New Hampshire: Salem, Nashua, and Manchester

Website: rumbonews.com
Advertising Sales: **(978) 794-5360**

MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA

We want your family to be part of our family. Join the YMCA!


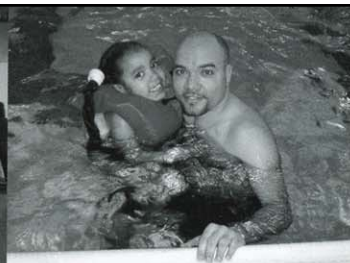
Bring this ad to the YMCA's Welcome Center – redeem this for a 2-week family membership.

You can also redeem this for an 2-week individual adult membership.


If your family joins the YMCA between now and February 15, 2008, you will receive **\$100 in Y bucks**, which can be used toward YMCA classes.

If you take out an adult membership, you will receive **\$50 in Y bucks!**

YMCA members – bring this ad to the Welcome Center. We'll give you a pass to refer a friend for this 2-week family membership. When your friend joins, you will receive \$100 in Y bucks, too!

You Can Join Anywhere, But You Belong at the Y.



- **Wellness Centers** – work out using our state-of-the-art cardiovascular and strength training equipment
- **Character Development** – values that are important to you as a parent are important to us at the YMCA. "Everybody plays, everybody wins!" – The YMCA develops character by demonstrating and teaching the core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.
- **Swimming Pools** – enjoy family fun swim, lap swim time and parent/child swim classes
- **Your YMCA membership** includes dozens of group exercise classes, Spinning classes, aerobics classes, yoga classes – all at no additional fee!
- **Monthly Family Nights** – meet other families from our community

www.mvymca.org

* Some restrictions apply. For more information, stop by and speak with a Member Services Representative.

To have your event listed on this section of Rumbo, please send us an email to (and only to) calendar@rumbonews.com. The email must contain the name, date, time and location of the event. A contact email and phone number is recommended. A brief description of less than 30 words could also be included. If your message is missing any of this information, it will not be posted. Posting of your event is subject to space availability. Rumbo is not responsible for any misprinted information.

No. 3 in C# minor, opus 39 and 14 of William Thomas McKinley's (1938-) Twenty-Four Etudes.

The recital is a fundraiser for ECMP concerts. The program will run for 1 1/2 hours, leaving plenty of time for watching the game afterwards.

"The program combines music by two of the most well known classical composers," according to Michael Finegold, artistic director of ECMP. "Robert Schumann represents the full flowering of the German Romantic era in western music and Frederic Chopin continues to be one of the most beloved composers for the piano."

A resident of Reading, MA, William Thomas McKinley is one of the most highly regarded and well-known composers of his generation, says Finegold. He studied with Aaron Copland among others.

Pihl, of Worcester, is an active solo and collaborative pianist in the Northeast. He has performed in concerts and festivals in Germany, the Czech Republic, and at numerous colleges in the United States. He holds a Master's Degree in Piano Performance from the UMass/Lowell College of Music.

He is the solo pianist in the recently released "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra" by William Thomas McKinley on Master Musicians Collective (MMC) Recordings,

and is the featured pianist on "Music for Woodwind, Volume 1" by John Mitchell, just released by MMC last month. Along with Michael Finegold, he is a founding member of the Essex Chamber Music Players of Massachusetts. The Finegold-Pihl duo have actively performed throughout the Northeast and recorded William Thomas McKinley's "Secrets of the Heart" for flute and piano on MMC Recordings.

The NECC Technology Center is handicap-accessible. Tickets for general admission at \$10 and \$5 for students, NECC students with a college ID free.

For more information contact ECMP314@comcast.net, call: 978-556-3413 and see <http://www.essexchambermusicplayers.org>, <http://www.necc.mass.edu/MusicDept/ecmp.php>

Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at <http://www.mvarts.info>.

"Personal Space, Community Risk" Seminar

Defining, identifying and treating Compulsive Hoarding is the focus of an innovative seminar "Personal Space, Community Risk" on Tuesday, February 26 from 9:30am to 12:00pm at Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, 360 Merrimack Street, Building 5, Lawrence. The seminar, which takes a community approach to compulsive hoarding, is approved for 2.0 Social Work CEUs.

The program will cover topics from the causes of compulsive hoarding to differentiating between hoarding and clutter, and knowing when a situation is a health or safety risk.

Inspectional Services, Tenancy Preservation, Lawrence Housing Authority and Elder Services will lead panel discussions to cover a variety of issues about compulsive hoarding, and how to respond.

Because space is limited, registrants should contact Alicia Hussey at 978.946.1496 to assure seating.

The seminar is supported by a Lawrence Community Development Block Grant.

NOTICE

Effective February 4th, 2008 Methuen City Hall hours will change to better serve the citizens of Methuen.

New City Hall Hours
The Searles Building (City Hall) & Quinn Building (City offices)

Effective February 4th, 2008
Monday -Thursday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
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NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, una coalición de comunidades de fe, agencias de servicio social y organizaciones de salud, está buscando voluntarios para llevar a ancianos a citas al médico y otras citas de calidad de vida a través del Programa de Friends in Deed de Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

Si usted puede, aunque sea ocasionalmente, por favor, llame a Jerry Proulx, reclutador de voluntarios, al 1-800-892-0890 ext. 463 (y mencione Interfaith Caregivers.)

Gracias de parte de Interfaith Caregivers y los muchos ancianos que necesitan de los servicios de choferes voluntarios para poder permanecer independientes en su propio hogar.

SUDOKU

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Solutions on Page 23

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VOLUNTEER TEACHERS NEEDED

The Lawrence Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA's Resident Education Center offers programming which focuses on supportive services for very low income residents of the YMCA and the Greater Lawrence community.

Services include assistance in Pre-GED preparation, Basic and Intermediate Computer instruction, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, including conversational English, and assistance to accessing mainstream resources.

The classes are free to qualified participants. (However preference is given to homeless and formerly homeless individuals). When a particular class is filled, the YMCA maintains a waiting list for future classes.

For more information, please contact Luz Wheatly at 978-686-6191. The YMCA is located at 40 Lawrence Street, Lawrence.

Merrimack Valley YMCA "Reach Out for Youth" Volunteers Kick-Off 2008 Campaign

Campaign goal is \$550,000

The Merrimack Valley YMCA's "Reach Out For Youth" volunteer committee held its 2008 campaign kick-off breakfast at the Methuen YMCA on January 17, hosting volunteers and community leaders. In his welcoming remarks, "Reach Out for Youth" Campaign Chairman Robert Needham of Andover said "I am pleased to announce that thanks to our volunteer leadership and several employees we have already raised nearly \$175,000 toward our \$550,000 goal. The YMCA is able to provide nearly 2,000 youth and families in need with educational, camping services, health and wellness activities and recreational activities because of each of you."

Guests were treated to a musical presentation from Cesar Aquino, age 18, of the Lawrence YMCA's Music Clubhouse. Cesar performed an original song he wrote and produced at the Music Clubhouse's recording studio.

Another special guest was YMCA family member Po Ling ("Gigi") Chan, of the Andover/North Andover YMCA. Gigi shared her passion about being a member at the YMCA. She joined 5 years ago, eager to make changes toward a healthier lifestyle, "The classes I signed up for make it so much easier and more fun to exercise. It is not just a workout, but a team of staff and members who support each other during success and also during the moments of doubt. With the encouragement from staff and members I've been able to accomplish so much. I have learned to swim, spin and run. I completed my first indoor triathlon last year. I've run in four running races. I'm learning how to ride a bicycle. I've made changes to my diet and lifestyle so that I can do these things. My body changed. I realize I like to help people," she said. "The Y is more to me than just a place to get a good workout. It is where I see my friends, where I set my personal goals, where I feel successful and where I can do amazing things. It is like a second home to me. Thank you to all of you for what you do. We all must remember that our greetings,

words of kindness and encouragement can change someone's life."

Chairman Needham thanked the campaign volunteers, "These individuals have generously donated their time, talent and treasure to this year's appeal. They have all agreed to assist the YMCA in its fundraising efforts to ensure that thousands of youth and families are able to participate in Y programming and to support vital youth programming that is offered to the community at no or a nominal cost." He thanked this year's 'Reach Out For Youth' campaign leadership team:

Marko Duffy (Campaign Co-Chairperson) of Tewksbury

LEADERSHIP DIVISION

Jeffrey Found (chairperson) of Andover; Margot Bloom (Co-chairperson) of Lynnfield; Julia Diaz of Danville, NH; Alan Dorson of Hampton, NH; and Larry Rossi of Methuen.

BUSINESS DIVISION

Diane Sullivan (chairperson) of Andover; Jennifer Borislow of Methuen; Sam Conte of Andover; Vincent Cottone of Andover; Priscilla Cubelli of Methuen; Tim Felter of Andover; Jeff Leeds of Andover; and Bill McCartney of North Andover.

COMMUNITY DIVISION

CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Mary Lou Schaalman of North Andover; Bryan Sweet of Methuen; Donna Abbott of Lowell; Steven Smith of North Andover; Jim Wefers of North Andover; and Jonathan Rossi of Dracut.

The YMCA's Reach Out for Youth annual appeal and its special events represent the vehicles through which charitable dollars are raised each year to help make all of this possible:

- Offer financial assistance for children and families who would not otherwise be able to participate in YMCA programs and services.
- Provide funding to support camping



Thank you YMCA "Reach Out for Youth" campaign volunteers: Jonathan J. Rossi, Laurence J. Rossi, Maria Crockett, Thomas Hajj, Elise Brassil, Sara Wormald, Mary Lou Schaalman, Diane Sullivan, George Bourque, Robert B. Needham, and James F. Wefers.

experiences for low income youth within the Merrimack Valley, southern New Hampshire and throughout the northeast region.

- Subsidize outreach programs at all branches that serve specific needs and are not fully supported by fees. Some examples include: Junior and Teen Achievers, Mentoring, Youth & Government, Teen Leaders, Bright Futures, youth sports and family programming.
- Expand and develop new programmatic initiatives designed to meet community needs.
- Provide health, wellness and support for the 73 homeless or near homeless men residing in the Single Room Occupancy housing at the Lawrence Branch.
- Make health and wellness opportunities accessible to everyone.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA is a multi-faceted not-for-profit social service organization providing programs and services to preschoolers through senior citizens in the towns of Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Methuen and Salem, New Hampshire. The Merrimack Valley YMCA is comprised of three facility branches: the Lawrence Branch on Lawrence Street in Lawrence founded in 1880; the Andover/North Andover Branch on Haverhill Street in Andover built in 1975 and the Methuen Branch opened in 2003. The Y also operates a Camping Services Branch with boys and girls resident camps on Bear Island, Lake Winnepesaukee and a day camp on Captain's Pond in Salem, New Hampshire. Last year the YMCA marked its 128th anniversary.

In 2007, the Merrimack Valley served over 33,000 participants in a variety of program related activities such as preschool child care, tutoring and mentoring programs for elementary children, music and arts clubhouse, YMCA Youth & Government, teen leaders clubs, youth center, swimming and water safety, youth and adult sports leagues and teams, literacy programs, residences for homeless men, counseling services for alcohol and drug-related issues, job training, summer vacation clubs, resident camps and day camp and family programs and camping.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA's mission, as a community-based organization governed by its members, is dedicated to putting Christian principles in practice through programs, membership opportunities and community services that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

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NOTES FROM YOUR Librarian

Maureen Nimmo
Lawrence Public Library Director

MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 10 para leer este artículo en Español

Hello Rumbo readers. As I indicated in my last article, I will continue to use this space to further clarify the issues around the current budget crisis. I explained to you all last time that the library is at high risk for being decertified and what that means in terms of service cuts. This week I would like to explain a bit about how the library works and why our department is different from all the other departments in the city that are currently facing cutbacks. It is important to me that the people of this community understand why I have been so vocal on this issue both at council and in the press. I assure you that this doesn't come from an unwillingness to do my share in a fiscal crisis. The issue is much more complex.

The library is a municipal department and is funded by the city. Our city funding covers our personnel costs, the maintenance of the physical structures and the cost of books and subscriptions. Beyond the city, however, we are also a member of one of the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems. The Regional library system is controlled by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). MBLC provides us with nearly all of the funding necessary to keep the library going beyond what the city contributes. Through state funding, we are able to keep up our online programming. We are able to provide reasonable internet access to all our customers. Most importantly, we are given access to shared resources in our consortium and across the state. These services include access to the online catalog, interlibrary loans, use of an online library operating system and access for all of our customers to all of the services offered in libraries across the

state.

Effectively, then, we are controlled by the city and by the state. The state demands that a library be supported financially by its municipality if it is to be, in turn, supported by the state. The state determines whether a library will be certified or not and three factors go into this determination: Is the library open sufficient number of hours? Does the library provide reciprocal services to other libraries across the state? Does the library receive sufficient monetary support from its municipality? If the answer to any of the above questions is no, then the library is decertified and members of the community in question are no longer welcome in any library anywhere in the state. In other words, I am not in a position to seek creative avenues for funding to make up for a municipal shortfall. I could find \$5,000,000 in private funding and it would still do the library no good with regard to certification. The state cares only about municipal funding. Nothing else does any good.

In other words the library is in something of an "all or nothing" situation. For this reason I have been all but omnipresent at budget hearings since June. I repeat that I am not unwilling to "tighten my belt" like any other city department head. I am unable to do so without catastrophic results for our community.

I beg you again to talk to your councilors and ask them to support the budget. Let's also pray for continued success for the Patriots. They are all that is keeping me sane right now. (That is, assuming I am, in fact, sane.) See you at the library.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 10 para leer este artículo en Español

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rumbo
315 Mt. Vernon Street, Lawrence MA 01843
Email: rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

Keeping the police budget in check

When I was younger I held to my convictions without compromise. I believed also when I got older I hoped I would be wiser and find a way around my being so stubborn about moral and ethical issues. I am a little older now, I think a little wiser. I believe that absolutely the people of Lawrence should stand fast and not give in to the city on raising taxes, not even one red cent. Without public oversight, there cannot be in good conscious or good sense a release of money; in fact, for the city to demand anything without any redress I believe is constitutionally wrong.

The city in contrast to public members like me believe they are somehow entitled, and have shown a history of demanding and threatening the public to bully the city council in raising taxes. You may have noticed as I have, that departments like the police have never made any attempt to reconcile with the public to mend how we view their actions; this behavior is consistent with their bully-like mentality.

However, if I were in the shoes of the city council, I would see the division

that has existed for quite some time and understand that while I am not at liberty to compromise tax money that is not my own, I see a problem and through the course of time have been able to produce a peace offering to help bridge the two sides. If the city declines and holds to their push and bully tactics then at least, I may continue in good conscious.

I would offer an old suggestion, to have a police oversight board to help in addressing a lot of public issues in an effort to get the public and the police to work together. Then if legitimate joint ventures such as this idea was rejected by the police, then the council could continue to withhold funding, and bring it to the attention of the mayor at each meeting revolving around money, that they work for the people of Lawrence, and will have to gain favor with us until WE decide to let loose the purse strings, and not those who live from our tax dollars.

For those that have come forward to say they would pay 200 dollars for the services being provided, I say to you: give me your name, phone and address so that I can verbally abuse you and challenge you to physical violence, then charge you 200 dollars for it, like the Lawrence police have done to me. For those of you who disagree or agree, are leaders or followers, I am the one who has offered up an option despite my reservations of the city leadership, so if you have a better idea, people like me are waiting to hear it.

MARK GRAY
LAWRENCE

Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc.

Child Care Center Earns National NAEYC Accreditation

Program Among First in Nation to Complete More Rigorous Accreditation Process

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. Child Care Center (581 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA) was awarded Accreditation by The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) on 12/31/07. The Association is a national system that measures the quality of early childhood programs. The GLCAC Inc. Child Care Center is one of the first programs in the country to earn the mark of quality represented under the new NAEYC Accreditation system.

"We're very proud to have earned this distinguished mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards, the staff work very hard and are truly dedicated to the children and families we service" said Robin Lynch, Program Director, GLCAC Inc. Child Care Center. "NAEYC" Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible." The

center is non-profit, has been in operation for over 36 years and is also a recipient of the Universal Per-K Quality Grant by The Department of Early Education and Care through the state of Massachusetts which is awarded to early childhood programs that have proven quality.

To earn NAEYC Accreditation in the new system, the GLCAC Inc. Child Care Center went through an extensive year long self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the ten new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and more than 400 related Accreditation Criteria. The program received NAEYC Accreditation after an on-site visit by an NAEYC Assessor to ensure that the program meets each of the ten NAEYC program standards. "The new NAEYC Accreditation system raises the bar for preschools, child care centers and other early childhood programs," said Mark Ginsberg, Ph.D., Executive Director of NAEYC. The GLCAC Inc. Child Care Center's NAEYC Accreditation is a sign that they are a leader in a national effort to invest in high quality early childhood education, and to help give all children a better start.

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DIAZ: From My Corner

over again in case of misunderstandings. Well, in some cases it could be unintentional error in understanding what was said on the air but very often we find that things are purposely twisted. That way, people can go back and hear what was said, copy it, take it to court, if necessary. Be my guess!

That is also the benefit of the written word; if something is clearly explained, it should not be misunderstood. I pride myself of being clear on the radio and on these pages.

With that in mind, let's talk about Gov. Deval Patrick. We seldom venture outside the Merrimack Valley but this time I want the public to reason things out on a specific topic: giving in-state tuition to children of

undocumented residents.

Gov. Patrick has said that he will ignore the Legislature and circumvent the wishes of the House and Senate and grant in-state tuition at the University of Massachusetts to those students. This is a country of laws and the system of checks and balances was created precisely to avoid abuses by politicians.

While it is true that many of the beneficiaries of the governor's measure will be Latino students and many families will rejoice at the thought of saving so much money, just imagine their reaction if Gov. Patrick was proposing to circumvent the Legislature for something else. Let's suppose that the governor was planning to

offer students from neighboring states to pay as Massachusetts residents but ignoring the children of undocumented residents of this state. We'll be ready to impeach him!

No matter where you are in the illegal aliens' issue, the governor should respect the laws and follow the established pattern, respecting the opinion of those we elected to represent us.

Again, this is not an argument for whether or not children of undocumented residents should get in-state tuition as some of you might want to understand. This is about our governor not following the law. Am I clear enough?

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SENECA: Observations of a Fiscal Crisis

- tenure (which would have ended with the end of the current mayor's term)?
17. What is the long-term plan for making sure that Veterans Stadium is a net revenue producer for the city?
 18. As the city prepares its FY09 budget, what reforms and efficiencies will be built into, as many councilors had asked for during the budget debate in 2007?

The City and the Home Foreclosures Crisis

Recently we have seen news reports of municipalities taking action against lenders who were responsible for the loans that have been a major factor in the foreclosure crisis hitting our nation. For instance Baltimore and Cleveland have sued such lenders, seeking damages for the amount of expenditures the cities are incurring to oversee vacant properties now owned by the lenders. Cities are forced to deal with the mess when the lenders do not properly manage their properties – increased fires, rampant vandalism and criminal activity such as drug use, more need for homeless services, the city's own policing of abandoned properties.

These cities have spent millions of dollars they don't have to clean up the mess left behind by these multi billion dollar financial institutions. Lawrence is in the same boat, a city where the foreclosures have hit us extremely hard. Perhaps it is time for the city to explore similar legal action. The mayor and his team at a minimum should talk to the Baltimore legal team (a place where the mayor used to live and work) to see what options we may have. A conversation between our legal professionals and their lawyers certainly wouldn't hurt. And what would it cost – the price of a phone call? Seems like a no-brainer.

CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA
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SENECA: Observaciones de una Crisis Fiscal

presupuesto para el FY09, ¿qué reformas y eficiencia serán puestas en práctica según muchos concejales habían pedido durante el debate del presupuesto en el 2007?

La ciudad y la crisis de adjudicaciones bancarias

Recientemente hemos visto en las noticias los informes de los municipios que toman medidas contra prestamistas que fueron responsables de los préstamos que han sido un factor clave en la crisis de ejecución de hipotecas que abate la nación.

Por ejemplo Baltimore y Cleveland han demandado a tales prestamistas, buscando restitución por los gastos que las ciudades contraen por supervisar las propiedades vacías que ahora son poseídas por los prestamistas. Las ciudades son forzadas a tratar con otros problemas que se desarrollan cuando los prestamistas no mantienen apropiadamente sus propiedades – los fuegos aumentan, el vandalismo desenfrenado y la actividad criminal tales como el uso de la droga, más necesidad de servicios para personas sin hogar, y la ciudad tiene que custodiar las propiedades abandonadas.

Estas ciudades han gastado millones de dólares que no tienen en limpiar los

problemas que dejaron atrás estas instituciones financieras de billones de dólares. Lawrence está en la misma situación; una ciudad donde las adjudicaciones bancarias nos han afectado enormemente. Quizás es hora para que la ciudad explore una acción legal semejante. El alcalde y su equipo como mínimo deben hablar con el equipo legal de Baltimore (un lugar donde el alcalde vivía y trabajaba) para ver qué opciones podemos tener. Una conversación entre nuestros profesionales legales y sus abogados seguro que no haría daño. ¿Y qué costaría – el precio de una llamada telefónica? Me parece que no admite discusión.

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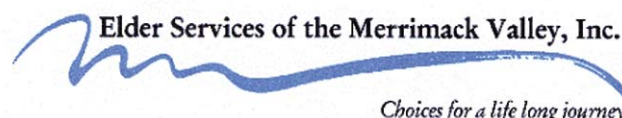
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VOLUNTARIOS



Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (Servicio a los ancianos del Valle de Merrimack) está activamente reclutando voluntarios para un número de programas y servicios relacionados con la asistencia a ancianos en el Valle de Merrimack.

NECESITAMOS VOLUNTARIOS PARA:

- Llevar a ancianos a sus visitas al médico.
- Trabajar como acompañantes en la casa.
- Ir de compras y/o hacer mandados tales como recoger medicinas de la farmacia.
- Aconsejar a los ancianos sobre la opciones de seguro de salud
- Abogar por los residentes de casas de asilo

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Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley es una agencia privada sin ánimo de lucro. Su misión es la de crear programas y servicios que los dé fuerza a adultos para que permanezcan seguros e independientes en sus propios hogares y comunidades por el mayor tiempo como sea posible. Anualmente, más de 20,000 ancianos a través de 23 ciudades y pueblos del Valle de Merrimack reciben asistencia de varios programas ofrecidos por Elder Services. Nuestras oficinas están convenientemente localizadas en Lawrence, en el 360 de la Calle Merrimack.

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LMCC
(Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition)

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(Contracted Position)

PROJECT COORDINATOR

New initiative in Lawrence is looking for a multicultural person to lead a neighborhood based project working with youth on the prevention of Underage Drinking. The Project Coordinator is responsible for developing, maintaining and managing a comprehensive strategy in expanding substance abuse prevention initiatives with several community partners. Must be bilingual in Spanish and English, committed to the Lawrence community and have strong leadership skills. Grass roots organizing experience a plus. Bachelor's degree in Public Health or Social Services area, experience related to the position preferred.

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c/o Harold Magoon Director
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AVISO



CIUDAD DE LAWRENCE

En Enero 16 del presente, la Ciudad de Lawrence enviara por correo el Censo Anual a todos los hogares en la Ciudad. El Censo ahora es en español e inglés para la conveniencia de los Hispanos contestando el mismo. NO se proporciona esta información a agencias , y su sólo uso es para que la Ciudad de Lawrence pueda establecer datos estadísticos locales ,dentro de la misma y también notificar a la división de Elecciones de cualquier cambio en el hogar. El Censo,también proporciona pruebas de que Ud. esta viviendo en la Ciudad y le protege contra ser removido de la Lista de Votantes Activos ,. Es muy importante que todo el mundo participe en este proceso. Cuando contestes el Censo, debes llevar en mente lo siguiente:
En esta ocasión el sobre de retorno esta previamente pago.

1. Al recibo, el Censo Anual se debe completar y devolver dentro de DIEZ (10) DÍAS, ó inmediatamente, a la Oficina de City Clerk's Office, 200 Common Street, Room 107, Lawrence, MA 01840.
2. Verifica y/ o completa toda la información listada en el formulario.
3. Enumera toda la familia o miembros de la casa cuya dirección legal es la misma. Incluye cualquier miembro de la familia en el Ejército, fuera en la universidad o confinado a un hogar de descanso cuya dirección legal es la misma.
4. Tache cualquier persona que ya no vive en esta dirección y escriba su nueva dirección.
5. Indique si cualquier individuo listado se ha mudado o se ha muerto.

Para más información, favor de llamar la División de Censo a (978) 620-3290



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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆ DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆ DIFFICULTY: ★★★☆☆

ANNOUNCEMENT



CITY OF LAWRENCE


Next week, the City of Lawrence will mail its Annual Census Form to all homes in the City. The Census is now in Spanish and English for the convenience of everyone answering the Census. This information on the form is used by the City of Lawrence voters to establish local statistics within the City, and to notify this division of any changes in the household. The Census also, provides proof of residence to the Election Division and protects an individual from being dropped from the Active Voter List. It is very important that everyone participate in this process. You should keep the following in mind when answering the Census, the Return envelope this year is prepaid.

1. Upon receipt, the Annual Census Form should be completed and returned within TEN (10) DAYS, or immediately thereafter, to the City Clerk's Office, 200 Common Street, Room 107, Lawrence, MA 01840.
2. Verify and/or complete all information listed on the form.
3. List all family or household members whose legal address is the same. Include any member of the family in the Military, away at school or confined to a rest home whose legal residence is the same.
4. Cross off any resident no longer residing at this address and list his/her new address.
5. Indicate if any individual listed has moved or is deceased.

For further information, please call the Election/Census Division at (978) 794-5807 or 978-620-3290

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