



METHUEN INAUGURA CENTRO COMUNITARIO

Linda Soucy, directora interina recibe una placa de reconocimiento de manos de Richard Dewhirst, Presidente de Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Inc., por su energía y dedicación al proyecto en beneficio del vecindario de Arlington en Methuen.

COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS IN METHUEN

Interim Director Linda Soucy received a recognition plaque from Richard Dewhirst, President of Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Inc., for "her selfless vision, energy and dedication to the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood and its residents."

Marcos Devers se postulará para Representante Estatal

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CONGRESISTAS REPORTAN DESDE WASHINGTON

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Joseph J. Bevilacqua, President/CEO Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, center, showing a Congressional Recognition award he received from District 6th Congressman John Tierney, and District 5th Congresswoman Niki Tsongas at the closing of the Special Report from Washington's breakfast held at the Wyndham Andover Hotel on Monday, February 11, 2008.

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LITUANOS CELEBRAN SU INDEPENDENCIA

Asta Grigalauskiene y Estera Suziedeliene, miembros del Dolija Ensemble, mostrando la maqueta de un medallón honrando a los primeros inmigrantes de Lituania, que pronto estará adornando la colección del Heritage State Park.

LITHUANIANS CELEBRATE THEIR INDEPENDENCE

Asta Grigalauskiene and Estera Suziedeliene members of the Dolija Ensemble holding a sketch of a medallion honoring the early immigrants from Lithuania that soon will be adorning the Heritage State Park collection.

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Methuen inaugurasu nuevo Centro Comunal



Hector Christin, 11; Maria Montero, 8 and Irene Ortega are greeted by Interim Director Linda Soucy at their arrival at the new Lena Lahey Community Center.



More than 200 guests enjoyed the food donated by Cedar Crest Restaurant. At the door, Mary Claire Kennedy, Cedar Crest's manager waiting on Annabel Rondón, of Arlington Community Trabajando.

+FOTOS: Más fotos en la Página 16

BILINGUAL CONTENT

Please see PAGE 16 to read this article in English

POR ALBERTO SURÍS

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

“Este sitio es fantástico”, dijo Hector Christin, 11, cuando entró al centro. “Yo voy a venir todos los días de la semana”, dijo mientras caminaba por la biblioteca. Christin es uno de 40 a 70 niños que vienen diariamente al Lena Lahey Community Center a jugar, después que terminan con sus tareas escolares.

La celebración de la gran apertura del centro comunitario para jóvenes y niños del vecindario de Arlington en Methuen, fundado con más de \$540,000 en donaciones públicas y privadas, localizado en el 141 de la Calle Tenney y administrado por Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. (MAN, Inc) se llevó a cabo el martes, 12 de febrero, 2008.

Durante una recepción ofrecida para celebrar la inauguración, el Director del Centro, Joan Mejía, el Alcalde de Methuen, William M. Manzi III, la Representante Estatal Linda Dean Campbell y el Representante Estatal Robert A. DeLeo, y Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, destacaron la importancia del proyecto.

La misión de MAN, Inc. es mejorar los niveles económicos, educacionales y sociales, de los residentes de bajos ingresos del vecindario de Arlington en Methuen. Las áreas de enfoque incluyen seguridad pública, programas juveniles, viviendas a precios razonables, servicios sociales, transportación, empleo y cuidando infantil.

Con la apertura del Lena Lahey Community Center, MAN Inc. tendrá 1,630

pies cuadrados más que su local original del 1 de Broadway. Además, 1,580 pies cuadrados serán añadidos en la primavera en el segundo piso con la instalación de un nuevo elevador. Este nuevo espacio permitirá a MAN, Inc., brindar los siguientes programas de vecindario con más efectividad: Un programa de karate con la Escuela de Karate de Methuen, una biblioteca satélite en combinación con Nevins Memorial Library, la Liga de Baloncesto de la Policía de Methuen, el centro de computadoras y trabajo escolar, el programa de parques en el verano, sábados de películas y trabajos manuales, Noche Nacional Afuera, ferias de trabajo, fiestas de cuadra, entrenamiento de trabajo y programa de donación de cestas de comida.

La construcción del Centro del Vecindario Arlington Methuen se llevó a cabo gracias al Departamento de Viviendas y Desarrollo Urbano bajo el Programa de Community Development Block Grant del Título I del Acta de 1974 de Planeamiento y Desarrollo, a través del Departamento de Viviendas y Desarrollo Comunitario de la Ciudad de Methuen. También se recibieron fondos privados y donaciones por la suma de \$62,500 a través de la Fundación Paula Moore, la Fundación Pringle Foundation, TGIF donaciones y recaudaciones.

Para más información, visite MAN, Inc. en el 141 de la Calle Tierney, en Methuen, MA 01844, o www.methuenarlington.com, o llame a Linda Soucy al 978-691-5645.

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

Milagro en la Calle Tenney

Con la inauguración del Centro Comunal Lena Lahey el pasado martes, 12 de febrero, la Ciudad de Methuen cerró un capítulo de decadencia social, de prostitución, drogas y pobreza en una de las áreas más densamente pobladas de la ciudad, muy cerca de los límites de Lawrence: la Calle Tenney.

“Esto es más que este edificio. Es más bien una comunidad. Nosotros hemos cambiado esta área con este vecindario”, dijo el Alcalde de Methuen William M. Manzi, III cuando dio la bienvenida a más de 200 personas que vinieron a admirar el nuevo centro de dos pisos, 1,630 pies cuadrados más grande del que estaban usando en el 1 de Broadway.

Y estaba en lo cierto; en 1992, nadie quería vivir en esa sección de la ciudad. El valor de la propiedad iba en descenso, los vecinos se estaban mudando hacia otros sitios, solo para ser remplazados por más vendedores de droga y más prostitutas. ¡Ya no más!

Una docena de bien merecidos reconocimientos fueron repartidos entre aquellas personas responsables del éxito del proyecto, pero uno fue dejado para el final, para ser entregado a la persona más merecedora. “Hemos avanzado mucho en 16 años y es por una persona”, dijo Richard Dewhirst, presidente de Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Inc., “Y esa persona es Linda Soucy”.

Methuen es dichoso de tener a Linda Soucy. Personas con la visión y tenacidad de ella, hacen que sucedan milagros.

Mirade in Tenney Street

With the inauguration of the Lena Lahey Community Center last Tuesday, February 12, the City of Methuen closed a chapter of social ills, prostitution, drugs and poverty in one of the most densely populated areas of the city, very close to the Lawrence limits: Tenney Street.

“This is more than a building. It is more of a community. We turned this area around with this neighborhood,” said Methuen Mayor William M. Manzi, III when he welcomed close to 200 guests who came to admire the new two-story center, 1,630 square feet larger than the one they used to have at 1 Broadway.

And he was right; in 1992 no one wanted to live in that section of the city. Property values were going down; people were moving out to be replaced by more drugs dealers and prostitutes. Not anymore!

A dozen of well-deserved awards were given away to a dozen of people involved in the success of the project, but one was saved for last and for the most deserving person. “We have come very far in 16 years and it is because of one person,” said Richard Dewhirst, President of Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. “And that person is Linda Soucy.”

Methuen is lucky to have Linda Soucy. People with her vision and tenacity make miracles happen.

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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Exchange Club de Haverhill honra a Trinity EMS

Fue más que un simple momento de entregar un cheque en una reciente reunión del Exchange Club de Haverhill. El club estaba celebrando la generosidad de uno de sus mayores auspiciadores – Trinity EMS. Trinity y su dueño John Chemaly han apoyado las actividades del club y sus programas para la juventud por mucho tiempo.

Chemaly ha estado apoyando programas como Junior Police, que educa a niños de tercer grado sobre seguridad personal y buena ciudadanía, y la recaudación para el Día de San Patricio, el cual ayuda a recaudar dinero para los esfuerzos del club para prevenir abuso infantil. Trinity también se asoció con el club y otros negocios del área para lanzar la campaña “We’ve Had Enough” (Ya Aguantamos Demasiado) la cual va dirigida a chóferes jóvenes alrededor de la época de las graduaciones. Cada año Trinity EMS ha donado \$5,000 al club para sus programas para la juventud que han sido reconocidos nacionalmente. Pero este no es un grupo que simplemente escribe un cheque y ya termina con el esfuerzo – ellos



From left to right: Rick Barry, Exchange member, John Chemaly from Trinity EMS and Eric LaFleur, President Exchange Club of Haverhill

ayudan de primera instancia.

“¡No solamente que nos apoyan económicamente,” dice Rick Barry, ex Presidente del Exchange Club y co-chair del Día de San Patricio. “Ellos juegan un papel

muy importante en nuestro Junior Police Program. El día de la asamblea, más de 1,000 estudiantes de tercer grado en la ciudad tendrán la oportunidad de conocer al personal de Trinity EMS y ver de cerca el equipo de ambulancia. Ellos toman tiempo de su día de trabajo para enseñar a estos muchachos lo que deben esperar en caso de haber una emergencia.”

Aún con el reconocimiento del Exchange Club de Haverhill, Chemaly es humilde sobre sus esfuerzos.

“El verdadero reconocimiento le pertenece a este club,” dijo Chemaly a medida que recibía su placa del club. “Ellos son los que están llevando a cabo estos programas para los niños de la ciudad. Nosotros estamos orgullosos de poder ser parte de esto.”

“El compromiso de Trinity a la comunidad es admirable,” dijo el Presidente del club Eric LaFleur. “Nosotros disfrutamos trabajar con ellos para producir lo mejor en los niños de esta región, y juntos hemos podido hacer un impacto en las vidas de los niños por aquí.”

Chemaly continúa ansioso de poder seguir trabajando con el Exchange Club de Haverhill en el futuro.

“Tenemos una gran relación con este club,” dijo Chemaly. “Y sabemos que vamos a continuar con más proyectos con ellos por los niños.”

Haverhill ahorra en transportación escolar

El Alcalde de Haverhill James J. Fiorentini alabó el ahorro generado por un nuevo plan llevado a cabo por su administración que ahorrará a los contribuyentes de Haverhill un estimado de \$14,600 este año. Fiorentino detalló las reformas que han tenido lugar en cuanto a la forma en que la ciudad paga por la gasolina para los autobuses escolares.

“Anteriormente, Coppola Bus Company, la cual provee la transportación para las Escuelas Públicas de Haverhill, pagaba altos precios por la gasolina de sus vehículos. Estos costos entonces se pasaban a la ciudad,” explicó el Alcalde Fiorentini. “Ahora, tenemos a la persona que provee la gasolina para la ciudad, Dennis K. Burke, entregando diesel directamente a Coppola en nombre del municipio. Las facturas por esta venta de petróleo son enviadas al Departamento Escolar, libres del impuesto federal en la gasolina.

El ahorro está estimado entre 24 centavos por galón,” concluyó el alcalde. “Quisiera agradecer a nuestro Director de Compras Bob DeFusco, la administración de Coppola y al Departamento Escolar por trabajar unidos para encontrar formas más eficientes de operar. Estas son algunas de las reformas y eficiencias en costos que necesitamos para sobrellevar estos tiempos difíciles,” anotó el alcalde.

Abuelos Adoptivos en Lowell

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Los Abuelos Adoptivos trabajan uno a uno con niños que necesitan un poco de atención extra y afecto para sobresalir; los maestros están siempre presente para supervisar y darle apoyo al voluntario. Como dijo un Abuelo Adoptivo en una escuela pública de Lowell, “Recibes mucho más de lo que das – las sonrisas y los abrazos que recibes, significan mucho más para mí.”

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2. Verifica y/o completa toda la información listada en el formulario.
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Please show your support for William and join us on March 3rd. I truly appreciated it and look forward to seeing you in Lawrence.

Sincerely,
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OPINIÓN

Observaciones de una reciente reunión del concilio

POR LUKE SENECA
 LSENECA@RUMBONEWS.COM

Estaba yo sentado esperando el comienzo de lo que sería una reunión del concilio que parecía tener una agenda cargada sin necesariamente involucrar aumentos en los impuestos y cortes de presupuestos. Mientras observaba a nuestro concilio de Lawrence en acción recientemente hubo algunos eventos interesantes en la reunión del 6 de febrero que me dejaron perplejo, me hicieron rascar la cabeza y me provocaron incertidumbre. Piense lo que piense, nosotros los contribuyentes necesitamos estar alerta antes que el resto del contenido de nuestros bolsillos se siga reduciendo hasta desaparecer.

Primero, da gusto ver que por lo menos un concejal – Grises Silva – parece tomar su trabajo en serio y ha demostrado estar dispuesta a trabajar con el alcalde para traer un poco de sanidad a la perenne broma conocida como el proceso del presupuesto municipal. Este año, sin embargo, el amor está en el aire ya que los concejales – por ahora – se están comunicando con la

Felicidades a Nilka Alvarez Rodríguez por debatir contra el presidente del concilio Patrick Blanchette por la forma tan irrespetuosa y sarcástica con que la trató. Es un día triste cuando los concejales no pueden hacer su trabajo y expresar su apoyo por las causas que son clave a sus constituyentes sin tener que confrontar innecesarios ataques personales del que tiene el martillo.

administración sin el rencor ni el veneno que ha visitado la cámara del concilio en el pasado.

Pero mantengan el radar atento. En la reunión del concilio Silva presentó un documento para ser revisado que aparentemente ha sido revisado previamente por el director de presupuesto de la ciudad,

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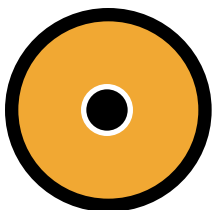
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Heritage State Park presenta exposición pintores dominicanos

POR BEATRIZ PÉREZ
BPerez@RUMBONEWS.COM

La República Dominicana conmemora el 27 de febrero el día de su Independencia y son varias las actividades que se planifican en este tiempo para realizar los elementos más importantes de la cultura, el arte y la herencia de los dominicanos.

Dentro del programa de eventos que se realizan para estas fechas, el pasado sábado el Heritage State Park abrió sus puertas al arte dominicano con la Exposición Arte Dominicano.

Esta exhibición que se ha estado realizando desde hace 22 años permite que pintores de origen dominicano proyecten sus trabajos que responden a los diferentes elementos que hacen de la pintura un arte rico repleto de variedad.

Gilda Durán es la encargada de coordinar y organizar la exposición, que estará abierta al público hasta el 29 de febrero de 9am-4pm.

Duran quien desde hace unos años esta residiendo en la Florida dijo que este evento nació con la idea de celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Dominicana y con ello el orgullo de la dominicanidad.

Uno de los participantes de esta exposición es George Richardson, quien es un artista de la fotografía.



Leonardo Nin junto a uno de los cuadros que presenta en la exposición Arte Dominicano



Los trabajos de Richardson según sus palabras buscan enviar un mensaje de esperanza y tratan de proyectar la dignidad de la miseria.

“Estamos acostumbrados a ver imágenes de nuestros países donde

la pobreza se presenta con graficas desgarradoras, olvidando que detrás de esa miseria existe belleza”, destaca.

Asegura el artista que con sus fotografías quiere demostrar que la República Dominicana no es solamente una

tierra de peloteros, donde existe al igual que en otras partes del mundo la prostitución y la drogadicción.

Junto a Richardson participan en la exposición: Gilda Duran, Leonardo Nin y Edmy Ortiz.

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Lawrence City and Other Poems:

Un homenaje a la Ciudad de Lawrence a través de la Poesía

POR BEATRIZ PÉREZ

BPerez@RUMBONEWS.COM

No obstante a que desde hace unos meses el poeta César Sánchez Beras puso en circulación su más reciente obra: La Ciudad de Lawrence y Otros Poemas, no fue hasta el pasado sábado cuando este libro fue presentado ante un público que gusta de la poesía y de esa magia que la rodea.

Sin dudas que este evento que fue apoyado no solo por quienes conocen de la trayectoria y el talento de Sánchez Beras, sino por aquellos que andan tras la búsqueda constante de temas que enriquezcan su vida.

Esta actividad reunió a jóvenes estudiantes, a educadores y otros profesionales y a gente del pueblo que se fundieron en un abrazo para rendir homenaje a la poesía del escritor.

Los asistentes escucharon de labios de quienes dejaron sus huellas en este libro, su experiencia y el respeto que le merece el escritor.

Aunque desde diferentes puntos de vista tanto Dolores Calaf de Cambridge College, entidad educativa que financió el libro, el periodista y fotógrafo Milton Amador,

que es el autor de todas las fotografías que sustentan cada una de las poesías que aparecen en Lawrence City and Other Poems, el diagramador del mismo Juan Luis Montero, expresaron su satisfacción de ser parte de este libro, que como bien ha dicho su autor es un homenaje a una ciudad que se despierta cada día con el brillo de la esperanza y que guarda historia en cada rincón que se recorre.

Presente también en el acto Lou Bernieri, de Phillips Academy y quien escribiera la introducción del libro.

En su introducción Bernieri afirma que los poemas de Sánchez Beras llueven suavemente como bendiciones venidas del cielo para nosotros los que vivimos cerca de él en el Valle de Merrimack, "que afortunados somos de tener a César, un experto, escribiendo y soñando entre nosotros".

De igual modo el sacerdote Joel Almonó hizo la presentación de la obra. Para ello hizo un recorrido por las páginas de la literatura, deteniéndose justamente en el trabajo del autor y de su manera tan peculiar de hacer poesía, teniendo como



El poeta César Sánchez Beras junto al padre Joel Almonó quien hizo la presentación del libro.

musas el enigma del amor, el anhelo de la justicia y de la libertad, entre otras.

Rhina Espaillat fue quien hizo la traducción de español a inglés del libro. De igual modo Alan Bernabé acompañado de su trompeta deleitó a los presentes con dos temas musicales.

Para cerrar con broche de oro el autor leyó varios de los poemas que aparecen en su obra, desde Onan, Mulata, El Universo Comenzó en Noviembre, hasta Amor a la Medida, La India de la Calle Jackson, dejando esparcido en los presentes el embriagante placer de la poesía.



Britt McCulloch from Derry, NH

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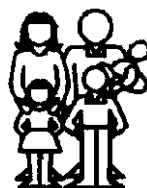
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MVCC Breakfast

Reporte especial desde Washington

Por **ALBERTO SURÍS**
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El lunes, 11 de febrero, 2008, el Government Affairs Committee de la Cámara de Comercio del Valle de Merrimack presentó su evento anual "Un Reporte Especial desde Washington", durante un desayuno en el Hotel Wyndham de Andover con los Congresistas Niki Tsongas y John Tierney con el Abogado Warren R. Tolman como moderador.

El Congresista Tierney habló sobre la recesión en que estamos debido al hecho de lo que estamos gastando en Irak que debíamos estar gastando aquí. "La buena noticia es que tenemos la oportunidad de hacer algo al respecto", dijo.

Tierney dijo que tenemos que encontrar líderes que puedan sacarnos de esta situación mientras que reconozcan que debemos dedicarnos activamente a estabilizar la región (Irak). Tierney está a favor de cortar los subsidios a las grandes empresas. "El dinero está saliendo por la puerta y necesitamos este dinero para ponerlo a trabajar aquí", dijo.

La Congresista Tsongas habló acerca de su primer voto que ella dio, para anular el veto del Presidente Bush de una medida para añadir millones de niños a un programa de seguros financiado por el gobierno federal. Acerca de su experiencia



Participants in the forum are MVCC Chairman of the Board Richard C. Dewhirst; Attorney Warren E. Tolman, Fox TV Commentator; Congressman John Tierney, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and Joseph J. Bevilacqua, President/CEO, MVCC.

como nueva en el congreso, ella comprende cuan fácil es votar apretando botones pero a la vez comprende cuan grande son las consecuencias cuando son apretados.

Como miembro de los Servicios Armados y Comité de Presupuesto, Tsongas fue a Irak como parte de un grupo bipartidario, y al aterrizar, dijo que había

quedado muy impresionada con el poderío militar y especialmente impresionada con las fuerzas armadas allí estacionadas. "Tenemos que fijar una fecha para traer a nuestras tropas de regreso e implementar la estabilización de la región", dijo Tsongas y añadió, "Tratamos de envolver otras naciones en el proceso de la guerra, ahora

debemos tratar de interesarlos en el proceso de la paz".

Patrocinadores del evento lo fueron Bank of America, Covanta Energy, National Grid, Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green, TEC Engineering y Kodiak Construction, Trinity Emergency and Healthcare Transportation, Wheelabrator, North Andover.



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El Enlace Entre la Oportunidad Económica y la Prosperidad

¿Por qué es que algunos países gozan en riqueza y otros no? ¿Por qué es que algunos países tienen un alto promedio de ingreso y otros no? ¿Será que las circunstancias históricas tengan algo que ver como algunos contienen? — ¿O será que la respuesta exista en acciones concretas que puede tomar un gobierno para resolver esta adivinanza?

POR ISRAEL ORTEGA
WWW.HERITAGE.ORG

Ahora en nuestro decimocuarto año, la Heritage Foundation se enorgullece en publicar nuestro Índice de Libertad Económica para el año 2008 con nuestro asociado Wall Street Journal examinando en gran detalle el enlace entre la oportunidad económica

y prosperidad en más de 157 países. El Índice mide la oportunidad económica estudiando a varios factores incluyendo: libertad empresarial, libertad de libre comercio, libertad monetaria, tamaño del gobierno, libertad inversionista, derechos propietarios y nivel de corrupción, entre otros datos. Después de evaluar todo los datos de cada país, nuestros editores y economistas ponen en orden a todos los países entre: las economías más libres hacia los menos libres.

Los resultados son analizados por economistas, académicos, intelectuales, oficiales extranjeros, políticos, e inversionistas con gran interés. Y a veces los resultados sorprenden a sus lectores. Este año las primeras tres casetas pertenecen

a Hong Kong, Singapore e Irlanda.

Gracias a su devoción a bajos impuestos, poca burocracia, y propósitos para atraer inversionistas, Honk Kong gana la distinción en ser la economía más libre según el análisis metódico de nuestros expertos.

Para nuestros vecinos en Latinoamérica los resultados son más ambivalentes con algunos países yendo hacia el camino correcto, otros tomando poca acción para cambiar su plan económico, y otros hacia un camino peligroso hacia un gobierno más intruso.

Anotando la mejor posición en nuestra lista (después de los EE.UU. y Canadá) en la región de Las Américas es Chile asegurando el ranking número 8 de 157. Chile gana la distinción después de acertar buenas notas en varias metas midiendo la oportunidad económica. Adicionalmente, Chile goza de inversión extranjera, mientras el sistema judicial es transparente e imparcial.

En el opuesto sentido encontramos a Cuba, Venezuela y Bolivia, todos alejándose de principios del mercado prefiriendo un camino hacia legislación y regulación más proteccionista. Específicamente, Venezuela sufre de poca libertad financiera y débil derecho propietario complicado por excesiva regulación. Adicionalmente, el gobierno Venezolano ha interferido con gran frecuencia el mercado financiero. Solo hace un par de años en 1995, la libertad económica en Venezuela era 60 por ciento libre. Desde ese tiempo su gobierno ha empezado a tomar acciones reprimiendo la

libertad económica resultando en su índice actual de 45 por ciento libre.

Aunque es fácil perdernos en los numeritos, la tesis central de nuestro Índice de Libertad Económica es sencilla. Otorgando más libertad a los consumidores y negocios resulta que la economía crezca.

Invitando más inversión extranjera por menos restricciones es un buen acercamiento económico. Removiendo las cintas burocráticas, manteniendo los impuestos bajos ayudará a crecer los negocios y la industrialización empresarial. Vez tras vez nuestros análisis nos dice que entre menos el gobierno interfiere, las economías más crecerán.


Uno de los mejores ejemplos de éxito es el país de Mauricio (es un país insular ubicado al suroeste del Océano Indico). Al efectuar reforma fiscal y acción punitiva para erradicar corrupción, Mauricio se encuentra en el número 18 ranking este año. Una devoción para fermentar la libertad económica es una de las claves para el éxito de un país.

En un mundo más y más global, será mucho más importante que nuestros vecinos en Latinoamérica empiecen a tomar en cuenta las lecciones de éxito de países como Mauricio, y otros países, para liberar, y eventualmente crecer sus economías.

Israel Ortega es un Asociado de Prensa y Medios de Comunicación para la Heritage Foundation y lleva más de media década trabajando en el Congreso y Washington, D.C. El índice puede ser leído en más detalle en: www.heritage.org.

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La NFCC recomienda que las parejas pongan los pies en la tierra y hablen seriamente tocante al dinero antes de hacer compromisos de toda la vida. "Quiera lo o no, la gente trae equipaje económico a una relación. Talvez se informen de una solvencia mala, una cantidad de deuda significativa, o ninguna experiencia en el manejo de dinero. Sin embargo, las diferencias economicas deben ser enfrentadas claramente," digo Gail Cunningham, portavoz de La National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC por sus siglas en ingles).

- No trate de atacar el problema con palabras fuertes. Mejor, haga tiempo mas conveniente y menos furioso para los dos.
- Si haga conversación informal de algo muy serio, respetando que cada persona tiene sus opiniones y preocupaciones.
- Si investigue para comprender la actitud financiera de su pareja. Por lo regular esta actitud esta presente desde la niñez y se desarrolla viendo como los padres manejan el dinero.
- Si tome en cuenta que uno de los dos va hacer el gastador y uno el ahorrador, y hay beneficios en aprender de cada uno.
- Si traiga documentos financieros, incluya una copia reciente de su historial de crédito, talones de cheque, estados de cuenta, pólizas de seguro, y inversiones a la mesa.
- No se culpe uno a otro. Eso parara la fluencia de la comunicación.
- Si haga un plan para descubrir todos los secretos financieros que tenga en su pasado. Sorpresas de esta clase pueden derrumbar su habilidad

- de obtener crédito en el futuro o cuando quiera comprar una casa.
- Si discuta cualquier documento legal que quiera establecer o cambiar, como un testamento o sus últimas voluntades.
- Si construya un presupuesto para los dos que incluya ahorrar. Aunque los ingresos de dos parezcan más, los gastos tan bien crecerán.
- Si decida cual de los dos va hacer responsable de hacer los pagos mensuales. Es probable que alguno sea el mejor para esta tarea.
- Si permita que cada uno tenga la independencia de gastar una cantidad fija en si mismo.
- Si fije metas a largo y corto plazo. Es bueno tener metas individuales pero también deberían fijar metas familiares.
- Si converse sobre préstamos a familiares y amigos. Decida si esto es algo que la parece bien o si será algo que nunca harán.
- Si hablen tocante el bienestar de sus padres y planeen apropiadamente para las necesidades financieras, si es necesario.

Registros de corte comprueban que las preocupaciones de dinero es una de las causas mayores del divorcio. El tomar acción hoy le puede prevenir un desastre después. Para ayuda profesional juntando dos ingresos, dos ritmos de vida y dos actitudes hacia el dinero, considere hacer una cita con un asesor certificado en una agencia de la NFCC. Para ubicar una agencia cerca de usted, llame al 1-800-682-9832 o en línea en www.nfcc.org.

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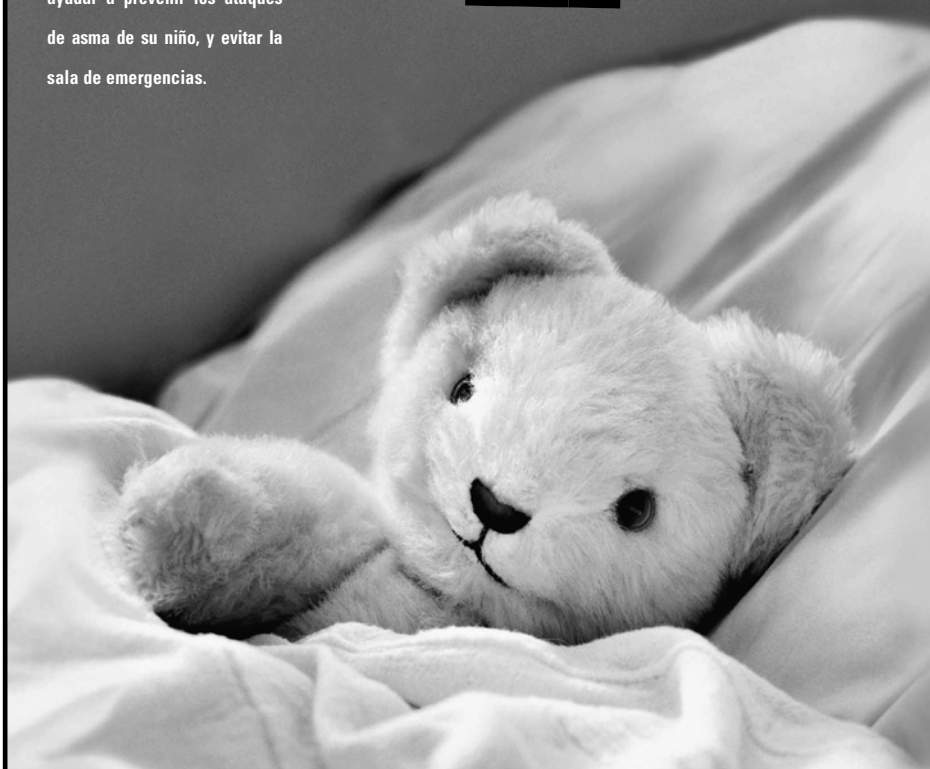
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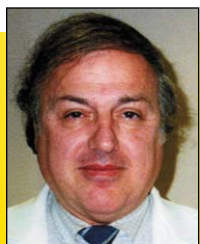


- Bob Fournier

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IRS y los Pagos de Estímulo

IRS Enviará Pagos de Estímulo Automáticamente Desde Mayo; Debe Presentarse una Declaración para Recibirlo

El Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS) indicó que en la mayoría de casos los contribuyentes no tendrán que hacer nada más que presentar su declaración de impuestos para recibir los pagos de estímulo económico a partir de mayo de este año.

El IRS usará la información de la declaración de impuestos de 2007 que

presente el contribuyente para determinar su elegibilidad y calcular su pago de estímulo. Los pagos a más de 130 millones de contribuyentes serán enviados durante varias semanas en la primavera y el verano o serán depositados directamente a cuentas bancarias para quienes seleccionan esta opción en su declaración, siendo ésta la manera más rápida para recibir su reembolso y también los pagos del estímulo.

En la mayoría de casos, los pagos equivaldrán a la obligación tributaria en la declaración de impuestos, con un máximo

de \$600 para individuos (\$1,200 declarando juntos). Quienes califican también recibirán \$300 adicionales por cada niño elegible para el crédito tributario por hijos.

Los pagos a contribuyentes con ingresos más altos serán reducidos en 5 por ciento del monto de ingreso bruto ajustado por encima de \$75,000 para individuos y \$150,000 para quienes declaran juntos.

“La ley también permite pagos a ciertos contribuyentes sin obligación de impuestos, tal como trabajadores de bajos ingresos o aquellos que reciben ciertos beneficios”, explicó Sara Eguren, portavoz del IRS. “Pero para esto debe presentarse una declaración de impuesto que incluya los beneficios que recibió la persona en el 2007”, añadió.

Mientras que algunos contribuyentes de bajos ingresos o sin ingresos del trabajo podrían no estar obligados normalmente a presentar una declaración, el IRS enfatiza que deben hacerlo para recibir un pago de \$300 (\$600 en declaraciones conjuntas) si tuvieron ingresos calificados, como beneficios del Seguro Social, ciertas Jubilaciones Ferroviarias, y ciertos beneficios de veteranos, además de ingresos del trabajo, que sumen por lo menos \$3,000.

Es necesario tener un Número de Seguro Social válido para calificar para el pago de estímulo. Los contribuyentes que presentan sus declaraciones usando un Número de Identificación Personal del Contribuyente

(ITIN) emitido por el IRS, o cualquier número emitido por el IRS no califican. Tampoco son elegibles los individuos que pueden ser reclamados como dependientes por otra persona, o quienes presentan la Forma 1040-NR, 1040-PR o 1040-SS.

Para atender a quienes declaran impuestos más tarde en el año, el IRS continuará enviando pagos hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2008. El IRS también advierte a los contribuyentes que si presentan su declaración de impuestos para 2007 y luego se mudan que deben presentar al Servicio Postal de EE.UU. una tarjeta de cambio de dirección.

El IRS enviará dos notificaciones informativas a los contribuyentes alertándoles acerca de los pagos de estímulo. Sin embargo, los contribuyentes deben mantenerse alerta acerca de estafas de reembolsos o “rebates”, como llamadas telefónicas o e-mails alegando provenir del IRS y solicitando información sensible. El IRS no llamará ni enviará e-mails a los contribuyentes acerca de estos pagos ni solicitará información financiera. Las estafas por email e información acerca de llamadas de estafadores deberían ser remitidas a phishing@irs.gov.

El sitio de Internet de la agencia, www.irs.gov, será la mejor fuente para información actualizada y para preguntas de los contribuyentes.

REUNIÓN DE LA ASOCIACIÓN DE VECINOS DE TOWER HILL


La Asociación de Vecinos de Tower Hill tendrá su próxima reunión el miércoles, 27 de febrero, 2008, a las 7:00 p.m. en la sala de Judson Hall en la escuela Our Lady of Good Counsel, 526 Lowell Street, Lawrence.

Ellos han invitado al Director de la Oficina de Planeamiento de Lawrence, Michael Sweeney para que sea su orador invitado. El Sr. Sweeney discutirá una nueva ordenanza que va a ser sometida al concilio con respecto a las adjudicaciones bancarias y cómo la ciudad está tomando precauciones contra los cientos de propiedades ahora vacantes. Además, él hablará de los lotes vacíos, especialmente de los lotes en Tower Hill y cómo la ciudad planea venderlos.

También en asistencia estará el Jefe de Policía John Romero así como representantes del Departamento de Bomberos y del Concilio.

Durante cada reunión ellos dan la oportunidad a sus miembros y residentes de discutir temas de la calidad de vida o preocupaciones que puedan tener. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a esta reunión o la asociación, puede ponerse en contacto con el nuevo Presidente de THNA, Keith Wlodyka llamando al 603-548-9929, towerhillman@hotmail.com o al Vicepresidente de THNA Dan Clark al 978-902-0595, mragpicker@verizon.net. Todos están invitados a asistir a estas reuniones y refrigerios serán servidos. Traiga a un vecino o a un amigo.


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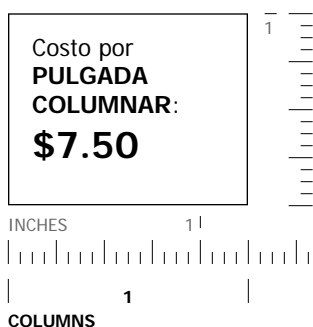
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OPINIÓN

¿Cuál es el estado de la ciudad?

BILINGUAL CONTENT

Please see PAGE 27 to read this article in English

POR NUNZIO DI MARCA
NDIMARCA@RUMBONEWS.COM

Cada año en esta época el jefe mandatario de la ciudad tiene que dar un reporte en frente del Concilio Comunal y del pueblo por medio de la transmisión televisiva. Esto no es tan diferente de lo que el presidente de los Estados Unidos hace y de lo que el gobernador del estado de Massachusetts hace. Es el tiempo donde el jefe ejecutivo puede hablar de sus logros, mientras al mismo tiempo anunciar los programas y actividades que él quisiera realizar para mejorar la calidad de vida para todos los ciudadanos. Esta por de más decir que se deben mencionar las cosas que no fueron hechas bien. Por supuesto la presentación tiene que ser sincera y verdadera.

El Presidente George Bush ya dio su Presentación del Estado de la Unión al país y al mundo y el gobernador Deval Patrick dio su presentación sobre el Estado del Estado. Nosotros ahora en la Ciudad de Lawrence estamos esperando ansiosamente la presentación sobre el Estado de la Ciudad que debería ser dado por el alcalde. El nunca lo dio el año pasado, al contrario, lo puso en el web de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Señor alcalde muchas personas no tienen la accesibilidad a una computadora por lo tanto no podrán estar informados de lo que pasa. Un representante de la gente, sea federal, estatal o local es responsable a la gente que él/ella representa, por consiguiente yo pienso que es sumamente importante que la presentación se debe dar de una manera que todo el mundo pueda oírlo y sí es necesario conseguir la asistencia de una persona que hable por señas para aquellas personas que son sordas y que así tengan la misma oportunidad de los demás.

Como un ex Concejal de toda la ciudad, yo me sentí ofendido el año pasado en la manera en que el alcalde actuó hacia ese tema. Señor alcalde, esperamos que este año usted actuará diferente y dará el reporte como se debe. La Administración y el Concilio han hecho muchas cosas buenas, cuando han trabajado juntos; sin embargo,

El nunca lo dio el año pasado, al contrario, lo puso en el web de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Señor alcalde muchas personas no tienen la accesibilidad a una computadora por lo tanto no podrán estar informados de lo que pasa. Un representante de la gente, sea federal, estatal o local es responsable a la gente que él/ella representa...

a veces cuando el alcalde a tratado de salirse con la suya sin considerar o consultar a los concejales, eso ha causado problemas entre las dos entidades de nuestro gobierno local. La franqueza, la unión y la cooperación y por supuesto una buena dosis de lógica van lejos y son cosas necesarias para que la ciudad marche adelante.

La ciudad necesita eliminar los gastos innecesarios mientras que a su vez implementa un plan agresivo para ayudar a los negocios grandes y pequeños a promover el desarrollo de empleos y trabajar duramente para ampliar la base de impuestos a ese punto y a ese punto solamente la Ciudad de Lawrence tendrá mejores días.

OPINIÓN

El concepto de hombre

POR ARTURO RAMO GARCÍA
ARAMO@ADIGITAL.PNTIC.MEC.ES
WWW.APLICACIONES.INFO

Dada la tremenda confusión en que se encuentra el mundo, observamos dos respuestas a la pregunta ¿qué es el hombre? “La primera: el hombre es un ser natural viviente superior, producto de la Naturaleza y reintegrable a lo natural orgánico, sin residuo; la segunda: el hombre es un ser natural, viviente superior, creado por Dios y dotado de un alma que trasciende inmortalmente lo natural orgánico” (R. Gómez Pérez, Represión y libertad, EUNSA, Pamplona, 1975). Gracias a la revelación conocemos el carácter creatural del hombre, la inmortalidad del alma y la libertad humana. No se trata de elegir una entre las dos opciones sino acertar con la verdadera realidad del ser humano.

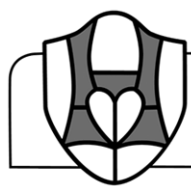
En la civilización occidental se ha considerado al hombre como un ser creado a imagen de Dios, con inmortal y redimido por Cristo. Es imagen de Dios porque tiene las dos potencias de inteligencia y voluntad que lo distinguen de los animales. Pero el hombre puede deteriorarse acercándose a una vida animal o puede desarrollarse y crecer en semejanza con Dios.

Otra característica del hombre es su libertad, que le permite elegir entre los compromisos que le mejoran y puede hacer

el bien o abusar de su libertad eligiendo el mal. Esto “no es libertad, ni parte de la libertad, pero es signo de ser libre” (Santo Tomás).

El ser humano es un compuesto de cuerpo y alma. Ha sido creado por Dios (alma) con la cooperación de los padres (cuerpo). También sobre esto hay dos opiniones encontradas: los que piensan que el hombre es sólo cuerpo y los que piensan que es esencialmente alma. En ambas posturas hay una reducción que consiste en aceptar una parte como si fuera el todo. Rafael Gómez dice que “el materialismo explica como ilusión toda universal experiencia espiritual, por no hablar de la mística; el idealista descarta como ilusoria toda la evidencia sensible. Únicamente el cristianismo no descarta ninguna experiencia humana. Acepta la evidencia total”.

También se observa el reduccionismo al considerar la libertad. Unos absolutizan la libertad diciendo que el hombre es libertad, mientras otros afirman que el ser humano tiene poca o nula libertad. Pero el hombre es libre, con una libertad limitada por el respeto a la libertad a los demás.



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CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA
5**SENECA: Observaciones de una reciente reunión del concilio**

Mark Andres, el cual designará más de 30 puntos “decisivos” que llegarán a tiempo para balancear el año fiscal 2009. Este documento fue sujeto de discusión en la reunión del Comité de Presupuesto y Finanzas la semana siguiente. Hubo muchas exclamaciones de “uuuh” y “aaah” por el simple hecho de que un documento como ese exista, que la gente se impresione con que un programa de esa índole esté en funcionamiento para guiarlos en este proceso. Wow! Gerentes realmente haciendo su trabajo. ¿Podrá ser esta la primera vez? Sin embargo, si todos nos enfocamos en seguir la ley estatal y la carta constitucional de la ciudad la ciudad podrá tener su presupuesto como corresponde para el 1ro de julio como es debido, con suficiente tiempo de sobra y sin bombo y platillo ni magia.

Donde los contribuyentes deben estar preocupados es en dos frentes. Primero, Andrews dijo en ambas reuniones que él iba a hablar con los empleados de la ciudad que son miembros de la unión para escuchar sus ideas sobre los cortes y consolidación. Si usted realmente piensa que las uniones van a contemplar una reducción en su compensación, hay un puente en Brooklyn que puede comprar por \$1. Todo lo que Andrews – y el alcalde por ende – tiene que decirles es que cuando venga la próxima negociación de su contrato este será más parecido al sector privado – sin aumentos y un 50/50 en el costo del cuidado de la salud. ¿Por qué en una recesión mientras que el resto de nosotros está atravesando necesidades los empleados municipales

continúan recibiendo aumentos de salarios? Si no les gusta, se pueden ir a buscar trabajo a otra parte – nadie tiene derecho a un empleo cómodo de la ciudad. Además, como mínimo, Andrews debe tomar la lista de cortes y consolidaciones que Silva y el ex concejal Nunzio Di Marca presentaron el año pasado como punto de partida. No hay por qué reinventar la rueda.

Segundo, parece que hay muchas conversaciones entre los concejales y Andrews fuera de las reuniones y del escrutinio del público. La reducción del proceso de transparencia en el proceso no puede significar nada bueno para los contribuyentes. Los contribuyentes necesitan asegurarse que ellos tienen más – no menos – que opinar en la forma en que el presupuesto va a ser desarrollado. Los concejales y los contribuyentes necesitan estar seguros que no van a ser embaucados en un falso sentido de seguridad como resultado de palabrería sutil y los excesivos halagos que el director de presupuesto derrama cada noche en las asambleas del concilio.

Finalmente, si los concejales van a presentar y discutir asuntos de mayor envergadura como esto, sería apropiado que lo pusieran en la página de la Internet de la ciudad para que todos puedan ver lo que se ha propuesto. El único otro recurso sería ir a la oficina del escribano de la ciudad durante el día con la esperanza de que estén abiertos, para obtener una copia de los documentos, pues no hay otra forma de conseguirlos. ¡Simplemente pongan todo en la Internet! Si la página del Internet

...parece que hay muchas conversaciones entre los concejales y Andrews fuera de las reuniones y del escrutinio del público. La reducción del proceso de transparencia en el proceso no puede significar nada bueno para los contribuyentes. Los contribuyentes necesitan asegurarse que ellos tienen más – no menos – que opinar en la forma en que el presupuesto va a ser desarrollado.

nuestra no sirve, pónganlo en la de Methuen o de Andover si es necesario. Las de ellos son fáciles de manejar.

Unos cuantos puntos a prisa. Felicidades a Nilka Alvarez Rodríguez por debatir contra el presidente del concilio Patrick Blanchette por la forma tan irrespetuosa y sarcástica con que la trató. Es un día triste cuando los concejales no pueden hacer su trabajo y expresar su apoyo por las causas que son clave a sus constituyentes sin tener que confrontar innecesarios ataques personales del que tiene el martillo.

En señal de que Nick Kolofoles claramente ha perdido algo de su ligereza, él admitió que como presidente del Comité de Ordenanzas él presentó favorablemente un documento nombrando a cierto parque usando una palabra en español sin tener idea de lo que significaba. No se perdió curiosidad intelectual ahí en él. Ni tampoco hubo necesidad de averiguar en el Comité de Ordenanzas obviamente. Repita después de mí, “esperanza” significa “hope”.

Y después como señal de que el Concejal Kolofoles ya no puede pegarle a una bola curva, dejó escapar un asunto que hubiese tenido serias implicaciones en la situación de nuestro mal administrado presupuesto. Por un lado en la discusión con respecto al desarrollo de un parque en el antiguo local de Covanta, salió a relucir que el propietario le debía dinero a la ciudad por cierta otra propiedad (no se aclaró si esta propiedad envuelva el proyecto del parque o si estaba próxima al proyecto del parque). El total en la deuda - \$87,000. Sin embargo, al abogado de la ciudad Charles Boddy se le escapó que esa deuda había sido pagada por el dueño por mucho menos del total que debían. Kolofoles preguntó varias veces cuánto habían pagado. Pero cada vez Boddy fue impedido de contestar la pregunta por el Presidente Blanchette. ¿Por qué? ¿A quién estaba Blanchette protegiendo – quizás a su buen amigo el director el presupuesto Mark Andrews quien tuvo que aprobar la cantidad inferior? ¿Cuál es el gran secreto? ¿Cuán perjudicial (para los contribuyentes) fue la reducción? ¿Tal vez tenemos grandes cantidades en excedente ahora que podemos regalar dinero? ¿Por qué lo dejaste caer, Concejal Kolofoles, una vez que lo tenías ya en la boca?

Finalmente, en lugar de dar reconocimientos a empleados municipales todas las semanas por simplemente hacer lo que les pagan por hacer, ¿por qué no investigan la causa para que los hidrantes del incendio la de calle Park y del infierno del Millennium Night Club no funcionaran? Ojalá que su vecindario no sea el próximo.

DECIDIÉNDOSE POR ADOPTION**¡Hola! Mi nombre es Dylan****“A mí me gusta intercambiar tarjetas. También me gusta montar bicicleta.”**BY MILTON L. ORTIZ
1-800-882-1176

De descendencia caucásica y latina, Dylan es un jovencito de diez años que se muestra sociable una vez se siente

confortable con las personas a su alrededor. A él le gusta hacer deportes tales como el béisbol y el hockey en hielo, pero prefiere jugar por diversión más que por competencia. A Dylan también le gustan los juegos de video, los juegos de mesa, ver películas y los viajes de un día.

El vive actualmente en un hogar residencial y responde bien con la estructura y la consistencia de la vida hogareña. Dylan también responde bien en la escuela, en clases pequeñas estructuradas. En la escuela y el hogar residencial, Dylan se relaciona bien con el personal y ha comenzado a hacer amigos. Su trabajador social lo describe como un niño inteligente que va con la corriente en vez de ser el líder.

Dylan ha experimentado pérdidas significativas en su pasado, por lo que continúa haciendo uso de los servicios terapéuticos disponibles para él. El se beneficiará de una familia que le asegure que él continuará recibiendo estos servicios en el futuro. Dylan espera que un día pronto pueda tener una familia con la que pueda contar y de quien pueda recibir la estabilidad que necesita. La familia adoptiva de Dylan necesita estar dispuesta a ser visitantes, mientras él tiene tiempo para establecer una relación segura y luego moverse lentamente hacia su nuevo hogar. El también necesita saber que va a poder seguir en contacto con su hermano y hermana, y a tener algunas visitas con sus padres biológicos. Dylan es legalmente libre para la adopción.

Usted puede ayudarle a Dylan a encontrar un lugar llamado HOGAR, llamándonos a MARE al (617) 542-3678 ó a la línea gratis 1-800-882-1176 y preguntando por Milton Ortiz. También puede llamarnos si desea aprender más sobre la adopción en general o recibir una copia gratis del folleto “Decidiéndose por Adopción”. Usted también puede encontrar información en español acerca de otros niños que están en espera, en el Manual de MARE, el cual se encuentra en las bibliotecas públicas en todo el estado de Massachusetts, o visítenos en el Internet: www.mareinc.org.

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OPINIÓN**Nuevos Policías de Lawrence**

Como pudieron enterarse en la edición anterior de Rumbo (282L), el Departamento de Policía de la Ciudad de Lawrence juramentó a cinco nuevos policías. Esto ocurre en el momento correcto para que surjan gestos faciales y observaciones tan pronto se comunica la noticia. He aquí algunas de mis observaciones:

- De los cinco policías, tres son hispanos
- De los cinco policías, dos (hasta el momento) sabemos que están bien conectados. Félix González es hijo del Concejal por el Distrito C, Jorge A. González. Kevin Schiavone es hermano del Director de Desarrollo Económico de la ciudad Tom Schiavone. Vale notar que Schiavone trabaja dentro de la oficina del alcalde y es un excelente fotógrafo.
- La dádiva que recibió, que suma un total de \$240,000 fue dirigido a comunidades que tienen un alto nivel de crímenes violentos. Yo pensé que todo crimen era violento, pero enfóquense igual que yo en la palabra "alto nivel" (en inglés "high rate"). ¿Nos puede proveer alguien alguna estadística?

Otra cosa es que se trató de darle poca importancia a esta juramentación al no hacer de la ceremonia lo mismo que en años anteriores. Esta además se dilató, pues pudo haber ocurrido en diciembre, pero con nuevos concejales que no se habían juramentado (y más importante los que se quedaban fuera), el presupuesto de la ciudad no se había aprobado (recuerden que el presupuesto del Departamento de la Policía fue tema controversial), era probable que la noticia cayera de mal gusto en ese momento. Sin embargo, los hechos dicen que no hubiese sido así, esta dádiva recibida paga por el primer año de estos

oficiales. Para el próximo año se esperaba que en el departamento hubiera posiciones vacantes. Ahora estas posiciones serán llenadas por estos cinco policías. ¡Yo no veo nada malo aquí! Pero me pone sospechoso el que tratan de minimizar y que dilataran la juramentación.

Cuenta Cancelada

El programa pasado de CrossOver recibimos una llamada de un oyente que nos contaba lo preocupado que estaba de la junta vigilante fiscal de la ciudad (Lea el blog de Dalia Díaz de la edición 282L). El nos preguntaba que cómo es posible que un proveedor de productos (vendedor) que recientemente le canceló la cuenta a la ciudad por falta de pago, estuviera formando parte de un grupo que le daría consejos a la ciudad de cómo gastar su dinero. El se refería al Presidente de Corporate Express Norm Jones. ¡Ouch! Mi equipo de investigación sigue trabajando en esto... les seguiré contando.

No hay descanso

En esta edición de Rumbo pueden enterarse que el Ingeniero Marcos Devers se postulara para representante estatal por el Distrito 16 en contra del Representante William Lantigua. A coro conmigo... como dice la canción... Parece que fue ayer. ¡Que rápido pasa el tiempo!

Lo primero que se me ocurre pensar es en las últimas tres contiendas políticas donde estos dos han participado y diferido. Para Gobernador de Massachusetts la primera opción de Lantigua fue Tom Reilly. La de Devers fue Deval Patrick.

Para congresista del 5to Distrito la primera opción de Lantigua fue Eileen Donohue, la de Devers fue Niki Tsongas. En las elecciones primarias para la presidencia que recién pasó, Lantigua apoyó (y sigue apoyando) a Hillary Clinton, mientras que

Devers apoyó (y sigue apoyando) a Barack Obama.

En los dos primeros ejemplos, ambos terminaron del mismo lado y podemos esperar lo mismo con el último. ¿Tendrá esto influencia en la contienda del Distrito 16? De ganar Obama la nominación presidencial, Devers estaría de tres-tres. Sin embargo Hillary barrió el piso con Obama en Lawrence y el gobernador estará en Lawrence recaudando fondos para Lantigua.

Páginas de Internet

Las siguientes páginas de Internet me llamaron la atención en días recientes. Si conocen de alguna que pueda interesarme, déjenmelo saber.

BILLMANZI.COM: El alcalde de Methuen tiene una página cibernética a estilo de BLOG y la actualiza con frecuencia.

JAMESFIORENTINI.COM: El alcalde de Haverhill no se queda atrás. Su página también recibe actualizaciones frecuentes bajo el mismo formato BLOG.

GRISSELILVA.COM: La concejala del Distrito B de la Ciudad de Lawrence también está al día.

PERIODICORUMBO.COM: La columna de Dalia Díaz (Desde Mi Esquina), la de Ellen Bahan (It's All About Right(s) y este (Observatorio) puedes encontrarlo en la página web del periódico Rumbo.

ESPANOL.DTVTRANSITION.ORG: Necesitarás un televisor nuevo o estar conectado al cable (o) satélite para recibir la nueva señal que comenzará a funcionar el 17 de febrero del 2009. Más sobre este tópico en ediciones futuras de Rumbo y en mi blog. También pueden leer www.dtv2009.gov/es.

Marcos Devers se postulará para Representante Estatal

Es oficial, el ex-concejal general y alcalde interino de la Ciudad de Lawrence, Marcos A. Devers, va a anunciar formalmente su ya anticipada candidatura para Representante Estatal por el 16to

Distrito de Essex, el 6 de marzo del 2008.

Mr. Devers hará su anuncio formal en frente de su familia, amigos y seguidores en el Cesar's Restaurante, localizado en la Calle Essex No. 97. El evento empezará a las 5:30 PM.

A pesar de haber sido impedido de participar con su nombre en la boleta en base a un tecnicismo hace dos años, Marcos A. Devers consiguió alrededor de 1,000 votos por calcomanía. Esto fue un gran logro considerando que el electorado estaba todavía en la curva de aprendizaje del proceso.

Marcos Devers se siente seguro de que ahora habrá igualdad de condiciones en el terreno de juego, ya que los nombres de los dos candidatos aparecerán en la boleta electoral. "Yo estaré presentando una gran alternativa para los votantes de Lawrence, y que estoy listo para ser su Representante estatal a tiempo completo, dispuesto y capaz para satisfacer las necesidades de mis constituyentes en el 16to Distrito."

El representante actual quien no vive en el distrito desde hace algunos meses, no se enfoca en las necesidades del distrito las cuales empeoran, tales como el desempleo y el embargo de propiedades y no ha propuesto ni actuado en planes tangibles para mejorar la calidad de vida y la economía en el distrito. Es tiempo de que tengamos un representante que traiga verdadera mejoría al distrito.

"Yo he sido honrado al haber recibido tan gran apoyo de tanta gente a través de la región y trabajaré incansablemente para hacer que ellos y mis constituyentes estén orgullosos de su Representante Estatal. Yo les doy la bienvenida a todos los que me apoyan el jueves, 6 de marzo a las 5:30 PM, ya que nos embarcamos en un viaje para poner fin a la política y táctica imperantes que hemos observado en estos últimos años."

ASISTENCIA EN LA COMPRA DE CASAS

Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership se complace en anunciar la disponibilidad de fondos para asistir con el pago de entrada para los compradores por vez primera.

El Merrimack Valley Regional Housing Consortium Down Payment Assistance Program (El Programa de la Ciudad) está disponible en Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Littleton, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro y Westford.

Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership estará al cargo de administrar este programa. Ellos tienen \$120,000 del Estado de Massachusetts para ser utilizados en el orden en que sean solicitados. La asistencia será otorgada a los primeros compradores según la fórmula de primeros compradores que es el 5% del precio de compra con un máximo de \$10,000. Se anticipa un promedio de 15 familias que serán beneficiadas con este programa.

Puede encontrar más información en su página en la Internet, www.mvhp.org.

Ellos también conducen el Proyecto Génesis con clases de entrenamiento para compradores. Más de 10,000 familias han tomado este entrenamiento ya.

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Methuen Opens their Community Center

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Favor ver la PÁGINA 3 para leer este artículo en Español

POR ALBERTO SURÍS

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

“This place is awesome,” said Hector Christin, 11, when he entered the Center. “I’ll be here everyday of the week,” he said while walking into the library. Christin is one of about 40 to 70 children who come to the Lena Lahey Community Center, on a daily basis to play, after they do their school work.

The grand opening celebration of the community center for young children in the Methuen Arlington neighborhood, funded by over \$540,000 in public-private donations, located at 141 Tenney Street, managed by Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, Inc. (MAN, Inc.) was held on Tuesday, February 12th, 2008.

An open house of the new building followed with remarks from Center Director Joan Mejia, Methuen Mayor William M. Manzi III, State Representative Linda Dean Campbell and State Representative Robert A. DeLeo, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The mission of MAN, Inc. is to improve the economic, educational, and social levels of low-moderate income residents of the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood. Main focus areas include Public Safety, youth programs, affordable housing, social services, transportation, employment, and child care.

With the opening of the Lena Lahey Community Center, MAN Inc. will gain 1,630 square feet from its previous location at 1 Broadway Street. An additional 1,580 square feet will be added on the second floor in the spring with the

installation of a new elevator. This new found space will enable MAN, Inc. to run the following neighborhood programs more efficiently: a karate program with Methuen Karate School, a satellite library with Nevins Memorial Library, the Methuen Police Basketball League, the safe haven computer and homework center, a summer parks program, Saturday movies and crafts, National Night Out, job fairs, block parties, job training, and a food basket/giving program.

The construction of the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Center was primarily funded by United States Department of Housing & Urban Development under the Community Development Block Grant Program provisions of Title I of the Planning and Development Act of 1974 as amended, through the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and the City of Methuen Community Development Department. Also private donations in the amount of \$62,500 through the Paula Moore Foundation, the Pringle Foundation, TGIF donation and fundraising efforts.

For more information, visit MAN, Inc. at 141 Tenney Street, Methuen, MA 01844, check out www.methuenarlington.com, or call Linda Soucy at 978-691-5645.



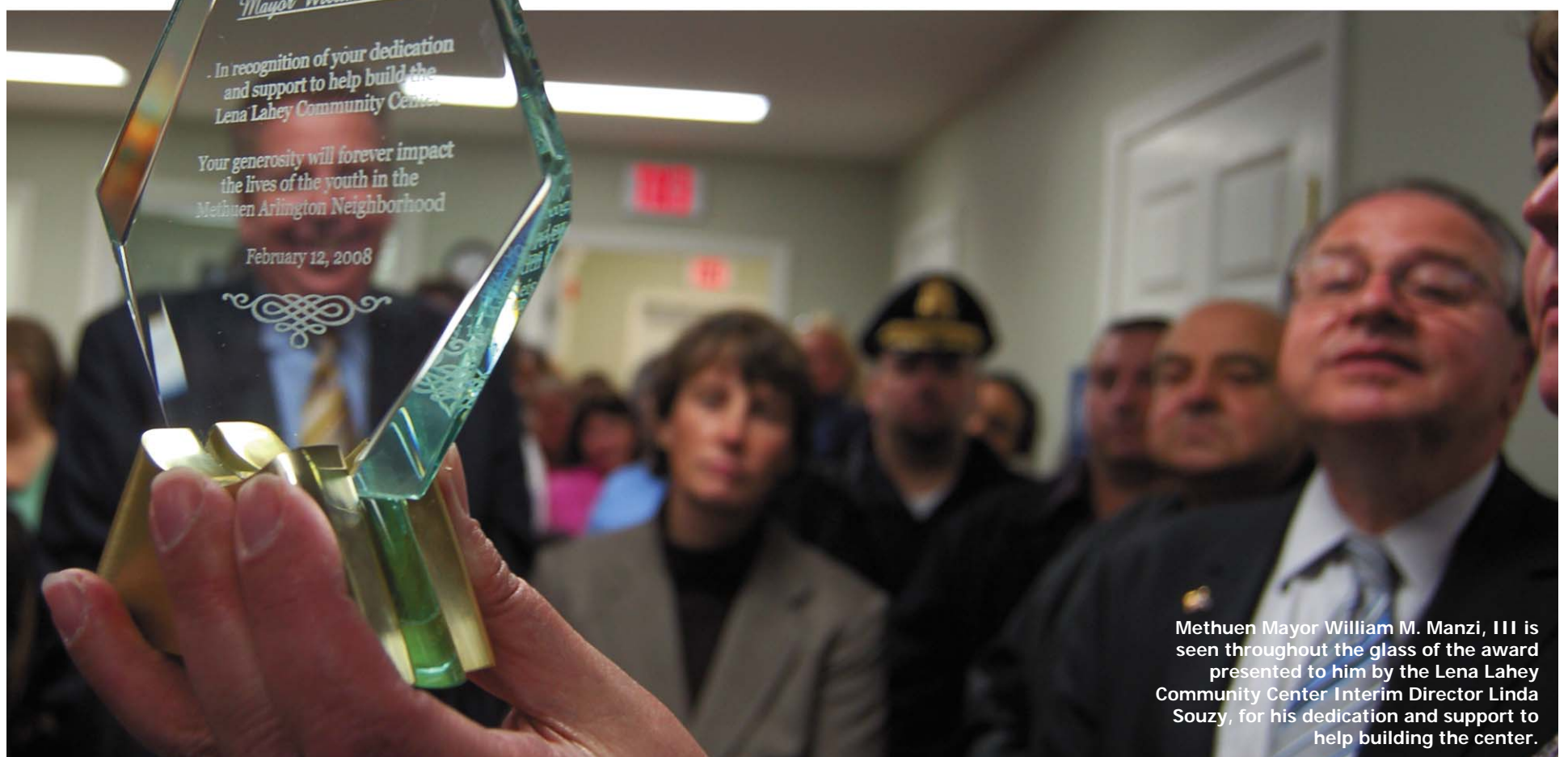
Jennifer and Stephanie Soucy, presented a check from MetLife Foundation for \$1,000 to their mother, Interim Director Linda Soucy, to benefit the Center. Looking on, Robert A. DeLeo, State Representative 19th Suffolk District, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means and Linda Dean Campbell, State Representative (D-Methuen).



Lena Lahey Community Center Director Joan Mejia, welcoming the visitors.



TOP: Karen Sawyer, Director of Economic and Community Development, left, credited Mary Frongillo and Doug Pope of Pope Industries, General Contractors; Carolyn Finlay, City Consultant and Barry Donohoe also of Pope Industries for the success of the construction. BOTTOM: Methuen High student Yonelsi Hernandez, and friend Mariah Flores, a 7th grader at Tenney Scholl going through old pictures of past activities. They both agreed that “this place is really good, bigger and beautiful.”



Methuen Mayor William M. Manzi, III is seen throughout the glass of the award presented to him by the Lena Lahey Community Center Interim Director Linda Soucy, for his dedication and support to help building the center.

MVCC BREAKFAST A SPECIAL REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Por ALBERTO SURÍS

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

On Monday, February 11, 2008, the Government Affairs Committee of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce presented its annual event, "A Special Report from Washington," during a breakfast at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover, with Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and Congressman John Tierney with Attorney Warren E. Tolman as moderator.

Congressman Tierney spoke about the recession we are in due to the fact that we are spending in Iraq what we should be spending here. "The good news is that we have an opportunity to do something about it," he said.

Tierney said that we have to find leaders that can take us out of this situation while recognizing that we have to get actively engaged in stabilizing the region (Iraq). Tierney is pro-cut subsidies to big companies. "The money is going out the door and we need this money to put it to work here".

Congresswoman Tsongas spoke about her first vote she took, to override President Bush's veto of a measure to add millions of children to a federally funded health insurance program. About her experience as new congresswoman, she realized how easy it is to vote just by pressing buttons but how big the consequences are when you press them.

As a member of the Armed Services and Budget Committees, Tsongas went to Iraq as part of a bipartisan group and upon landing, she said she was impressed with the military might and specially impressed with our armed forces deployed in that area. "We needs to put in place a time table to bring our troops back and implement stabilization in the region," said Tsongas, and added, "We tried to engage other countries in the process of war, we should try to have them involved in the matter of peace."

Sponsoring the event was Bank of America, Covanta Energy, National Grid, Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green, TEC Engineering and Kodiak Construction, Trinity Emergency and Healthcare Transportation, Wheelabrator, North Andover.



Participants in the forum are MVCC Chairman of the Board Richard C. Dewhirst; Attorney Warren E. Tolman, Fox TV Commentator; Congressman John Tierney, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and Joseph J. Bevilacqua, President/CEO, MVCC.



Denise Murray, MVCC Administrative Assistant was celebrating her birthday that day (no aged was disclosed). Here she is with Mary Mascola of Diversity Association being waited by Anthony Travers.



Bill Wayland of 980AM WCAP, a Lowell radio station transmitting the forum live with Sister Mary Murphy, SND de Namur, Ph.D. President, Notre Dame High School, who attended the breakfast.



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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.

Marcos Devers Seeks State Representative Seat



It's official, former Lawrence City Councilor at-Large and Interim Mayor, Marcos A. Devers, will formally announce his long anticipated candidacy for State Representative in the 16th Essex District on

Thursday, March 6th, 2008.

Mr. Devers will make the formal announcement in front of family, friends and supporters at Cesar's Restaurant,

CONTINUES ON PAGE
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THNA Meeting

Tower Hill Neighborhood Association will be hosting their next general meeting on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:00 PM at Our Lady of Good Counsel School's Judson Hall, 526 Lowell Street, Lawrence.

They have invited the Lawrence Planning Director, Mr. Michael Sweeney to be our guest speaker for the evening. Mr. Sweeney will be discussing a new ordinance being submitted to the City Council regarding foreclosures and how the city is taking precautions against hundreds of vacated properties. In addition, he will be discussing vacant lots, especially the lots on Tower Hill and how the city plans to sell them.

Also in attendance will be Police Chief John Romero as well as representatives from the Lawrence Fire Department and City Council.

During every meeting they give our attending members and residents the opportunity to discuss quality of life issues or concerns they may have. If you have any questions regarding this meeting or the Neighborhood Association, contact the new THNA President, Keith Wlodyka at 603-548-9929, towerhillman@hotmail.com or THNA Vice President Dan Clark at 978-902-0595, mragpicker@verizon.net. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings and refreshments will be available. Bring a neighbor or friend.

Lawrence Legislators Take Stand on Children's Safety

Representative Barry Finegold (D-Andover), along with fellow Lawrence legislators Senator Sue Tucker and Representative William Lantigua, are taking a stand against the millions of dangerous children's products

CONTINUES ON PAGE
23

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Students Helping Students Fund Assists Fire Victims

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 19

Marcos Devers Seeks State Seat

Students from Lawrence Family Development Charter School responded quickly to help the school age victims of the devastating fire of January 21st that destroyed a city block in South Lawrence. Forty families were left homeless and in their rush to escape the flames many lost everything they owned, including the essential items their children would need to return to school.

Lawrence Family Development Charter School students and their parents wanted to play a role in the recovery effort being undertaken by the City of Lawrence and local charities to help the victims. They responded by coordinating a drive to collect donations of backpacks, school supplies and money that could be used to help replace some of the things the South Lawrence children lost in the fire.

This successful effort was overseen by the school's Parent Liaison, Zori Davidovich. Twelve new backpacks, over \$600 in school supplies and \$500 in cash were donated to the school's Students Helping Students Fund by charter school families. The contributions were then given to the Eagle Tribune Santa Fund so they could be distributed to the families of the 25 children affected by the fire.

On Friday, February 08, 2008 Ralph Carrero, Director/Superintendent of Lawrence Family Development Charter School, told a gathering of students and



Lawrence Family Development Charter School students holding some of the school supplies and a check for \$500 donated to the Eagle Tribune Santa Fund to help victims of last month's fire in South Lawrence. At top are kindergarteners Kevin Carcamo and Sandra Hernandez. Below are Zori Davidovich, Parent Liaison; Emely Santos and Jefry Pagan, Student Ambassadors representing the sixth grade; kindergartener Abigail Estrada, second grader Felix Breton, fourth grader Jessalyn Sencion, and Ralph Carrero, Director/Superintendent.

staff, "I am very proud of the families and students of Lawrence Family Development Charter School. Their work on this project exemplifies the spirit of giving back to the

community that we instill in our students with our educational focus on civic responsibility. This is so essential for the city to thrive."

located at 97 Essex Street. The event will kick off at 5:30 PM.

Despite being tripped up on a technicality two years ago, Marcos A. Devers received nearly 1,000 sticker votes. This was an astounding feat considering the electorate was still on a learning curve with the process.

The incumbent, who does not live in the district since some months ago, does not take care of the real needs in the district which are worsening with foreclosures and unemployment and poor quality of life. It is time for the district to have a State Representative that brings real, tangible improvements to district.

Marcos Devers is feeling confident now that there will be a level playing field as both candidate's names will appear on the ballot. "I will be making a strong case to the voters of Lawrence that I intend to be a full time State Representative ready, willing and able to serve the needs of my constituents in the 16th District."

"I've been honored to receive the outpouring support of so many people throughout the region and I will work tirelessly to make them and my constituents proud of their State Representative. I welcome all supporters on Thursday, March 6th at 5:30 PM as we embark on a journey to put an end to the politics as usual tactics we have witnessed over the last several years."



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OPINION

By Ellen Bahan
rumbonews.com/blogs



It's All About Right(s)

ILL GOTTEN GAINS

I understand it is in the winds for Bridgeboy Manzi to try and pass off Kathy Lavigne as the new permanent chief of police.

Oh, Bridgeboy when will you ever learn! If you have enough puppets on the council to allow this to happen, you will again place the City of Methuen in an untenable situation. And that he does, he's got the "Interpreters".

Just like the shameless pandering that was exhibited when you pushed Solomon down the people's throats, in spite of his recorded past bad behavior. Let me also mention da dawwg!

Kathy Lavigne is not respected by the officers. She is only a welcome relief after the scourge of chief yahoo, but she cannot survive on her experience, because it is limited. She has been skyrocketed to the position of Captain, only because of her

political alliances.

Her mother was just reappointed to the MCTV Board. A board that in the past has let a great deal of money slip through their hands, instead of using it for its intended purposes of bolstering up our community television enterprise. It looks like for more of the same to come.

This does not bode well for the citizens, who need to feel safe again, protected by the police, instead of that renegade bunch that has rode roughshod over dissenters of the past regime. I understand that Bridgeboy is also taking up some of the tactics of the nefarious queen shar.

I believe they call it strong-arming.

I Smell a Disability Claim

How come we never learn that when you have criminals parading around as cops

Lavigne should have made this one of her top priorities. Instead, she has nestled into the politico pouch and thinks this is going to insure her the chief's position.

bad things are bound to happen.

I am referring to the drug bust gone askew when the professor of forgery, or let me phrase that another way, Criminal Officer Aiello got hit by a car he was trying to stop for drug activity.

The saga of another little Joey!

I thought he had been removed from Detectives, but apparently not. Does he have something on Bridgeboy Manzi? He must! I think many, many of them must have something on him.

Aiello's past behavior has shown all of us what an elitist ass he really is; now I fear he is going to have a big ongoing claim for disability.

So much for Kathy Lavigne's leadership, this criminal cop should have been cut loose years ago, and the city would not be set up for a lawsuit.

Lavigne should have made this one of her top priorities. Instead, she has nestled into the politico pouch and thinks this is going to insure her the chief's position.

Once again due to poor, stupid decisions by Bridgeboy Manzi and the "Interpreters", because you know they are all going to put their heads together, speak their tongue of ass and make another devastating decision for the City of Methuen.

Things just never seem to change! I will be informing you of the agendas that need to be filled, and once again loyal readers, it is not for your best interest!

Merrimack Valley Hospice Volunteers Learn About Hospice House Project

Some of the most important contributors to Merrimack Valley Hospice's team are the volunteers. And they are the ones getting a first hand peek at the plans for the new Merrimack Valley Hospice House. On Tuesday, February 5th the agency's volunteers have been invited to join President Joan Stygles Hull, RN, MBA, for a dinner and presentation on the plans to build a Hospice House in Haverhill.

Merrimack Valley Hospice is building the 14 bed Hospice House off of North Avenue in Haverhill. The Merrimack Valley Hospice House will be the first of its kind to be built in the Merrimack Valley, and the project will cost an estimated \$8.5 million. The Hospice House will care for terminally ill patients and their families, who for a variety of reasons are unable to receive hospice services in their homes. Some of the facility highlights include private patient rooms with space to accommodate family members overnight, and community areas and gardens that replicate a home-like setting.

"This dinner presentation was the idea of one of our most dedicated volunteers, Lillian Margolis," said Joan Stygles Hull, RN, MBA, President / CEO of Merrimack Valley Hospice. "She has spearheaded the effort and we are excited to be sharing our plans with some of the most important individuals on the hospice team."

Throughout the evening volunteers will have an opportunity to view exterior renderings of the Hospice House, as well as floor plans for the facility. A video to launch the campaign will also be shown, which includes interviews with staff, families and even

volunteers like Margolis. Hull and members of the Merrimack Valley Hospice House Campaign will be available to answer questions about the Hospice House.

"Our volunteers play such an important role in the lives of our hospice families, and their support is invaluable as we move forward with this new project," said Hull. "This is the largest undertaking in our agency's history. In order to make this dream a reality we will be relying on the support of our volunteers as well as the entire community."

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Exchange Club of Haverhill Honors Trinity EMS for their Support



From left to right: Rick Barry, Exchange member, John Chemaly from Trinity EMS and Eric LaFleur, President Exchange Club of Haverhill

It was a lot more than a check passing moment at the recent Exchange Club of Haverhill meeting. The service club was celebrating the generosity of one of its biggest corporate supporters – Trinity EMS. Trinity and its owner John Chemaly have been long time supporters of the club and its youth programming.

Chemaly has been supporting programs like the club's Junior Police Program, which educates third graders about personal safety and good citizenship, and the St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, which helps to raise money for the club's child abuse prevention efforts. Trinity also partnered with the club and several area businesses to launch the "We've Had Enough" campaign which targeted teenage drivers around prom season. Each year Trinity EMS has donated \$5,000 to the club for their nationally recognized youth programs. But, this is not a group that simply writes out a check and is finished with the efforts – they help out first hand!

"Not only do they support us financially," said Rick Barry, former President of the Exchange Club and co-chair of the St. Patrick's Day event. "They play an important role in our Junior Police program. On the day of the assembly, more than 1,000 third graders in the city have an opportunity to meet Trinity EMS personnel and see their ambulance equipment. They take the time out of their schedule to show these kids what to expect if they are ever in an emergency situation."

Even with the Exchange Club of Haverhill's recognition, Chemaly is humble about his efforts.

"The real recognition belongs to this

The Exchange Club of Haverhill is a member club of the National Exchange Club organization, and focuses its efforts on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The club is comprised of volunteers from the community, and is truly a 'hands on' organization. They have been recognized for achievement in their Junior Police, Fire Prevention, Read Across America and Trees for Tots programs. They also provide two generous scholarships to youth in the community, Youth of the Year, and the ACE Award, an award designed to recognize the efforts of a student who has overcome adversity during their high school career. The club meets on Thursdays at noon at Olivia's in Haverhill. For more information visit them on the web at www.haverhillexchangeclub.com.

club," said Chemaly as he received his plaque from the club. "They are the ones out their doing all of these programs for the kids in the city. We are just proud to be part of this."

"Trinity's commitment to the community is remarkable," said club President Eric LaFleur. "We enjoy working with them to bring out the best in the kids in this region, and together we've really been able to make an impact on the lives of children right here."

Chemaly looks forward to working with the Exchange Club of Haverhill in the future.

"We've got a great relationship with this club," said Chemaly. "And we know we're going to continue to do more projects with them for the kids."

Senator Panagiotakos Reads to Young Children at Lowell Community Health Center in Support of Reach Out and Read



Senator Steven C. Panagiotakos shares a story with a few of Lowell Community Health Center's youngest patients. Photo courtesy of the Reach Out and Read National Center.

Research Shows Program in Which Doctors Distribute Books at Check-ups Improves Language Development, a Critical Component of School Readiness

Doctors at the Lowell Community Health Center are sending their youngest patients home with free books and important advice for their parents – "Read to your children every day." Today, Senator Steven C. Panagiotakos (D-Lowell) visited the health center and read to a group of young children, emphasizing the importance of reading aloud.

Lowell Community Health Center participates in Reach Out and Read (ROR), a national children's literacy program that focuses on young children at risk of entering school unprepared to learn. At every checkup, doctors participating in ROR guide and encourage parents to read aloud to their young children every day, and give each child a carefully selected new, developmentally and culturally appropriate book. By the time that child enters school, he or she will have a home library of up to 10 books.

Reach Out and Read has one of the strongest records of research support of any school readiness intervention. Studies show that parents who get books and counseling on reading aloud from their doctors and nurses are more likely to read to their young children, read to them more often, and provide more books in the home. Children exposed to Reach Out and Read show improved language development, giving a child as young as 2-year-old a 6 month head start developmentally.

The program has gained broad bipartisan support in Massachusetts, and Senator Panagiotakos, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, has been a leading advocate for

the program's state funding. "Senator Panagiotakos has been a terrific champion for Reach Out and Read for many years now," said Dr. Barry Zuckerman, founder and CEO of the program. "We're grateful for his leadership on behalf of young children."

"I commend the Lowell Community Health Center for responsibly prescribing a healthy dose of story-time," said Senator Panagiotakos. "Reach Out and Read has consistently worked with local medical professionals to ensure our communities maintain a healthy attitude towards literacy; reminding us all that reading is a cornerstone of developmental skills and later school success."

Lowell Community Health Center is one of 3 sites in Senator Panagiotakos' district that participate in Reach Out and Read, that together provide books to nearly 11,000 children annually. Across the state, 199 Reach Out and Read sites serve over 158,664 low-income infants, toddlers and preschoolers annually.

Nationally, thousands of doctors this year will give 4.9 million new books to 3 million low-income families at more than 3,500 health care sites nationwide. Reach Out and Read serves about 25 percent of America's at-risk infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read was the only American literacy program featured at the recent White House Conference on Global Literacy.

Since it was founded in 1989, Reach Out and Read has trained more than 47,000 doctors and nurses who have given over 20 million books to children in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands. International programs modeled on Reach Out and Read have been started in Bangladesh, Italy, Israel, the Philippines, England, and Canada. For more information, please visit www.reachoutandread.org.

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Lawrence Legislators Take Stand on Children's Safety

that have been streaming into the United States.

The delegation has signed on to co-sponsor An Act Relative to Children's Safety. The legislative measure classifies an item as unsafe if: it does not conform to all federal laws and regulations setting forth standards for children's products; it has been recalled for any reason by the federal government or manufacturer and the recall has not been rescinded; or if an agency of the federal government has issued a warning that the product's use poses a safety hazard and the warning has not been rescinded.

"This bill makes good, honest sense," said Finegold. "I have two young children of my own and represent scores of parents here in Lawrence, Tewksbury and Andover. If there is a step that I can take to ensure the safety of children across the Commonwealth, I'm going to take it."

Representative Lantigua echoed Finegold's sentiment. "This legislation is a significant step toward protecting children, the most vulnerable segment of our population," said Lantigua. "By working together with the federal government, manufacturers, and retailers, the Department of Public Safety will be able to provide the latest possible information about unsafe products to those responsible for the care of children."

"I am a proud cosponsor of this important bill," said Senator Sue Tucker. "While the federal government does its part to ensure the safety of our children, it's only right that we in the legislature take positive steps to do our part."

Under this bill, the Department of Public Health will make available on its website a list of unsafe children's products and notify licensed or registered day care providers and pediatricians of the listed products. If passed, Massachusetts would become the ninth state nationwide to ban the sale of recalled products.

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Lithuanians Celebrated Their Independence Day

Por Alberto Suris
albertosuris@rumbonews.com

Since 1918, every year, area Lithuanians get together to celebrate their Independence Day by raising their flag across from City Hall in Lawrence, rejoice with cultural events and traditional food, which include sriubos duona, mēsa, bulvės, grybai, žuvis and other delicacies.

This year, their 90th Independence Day celebration event took place at Corpus Christi Church and Hall, on Sunday, February 10, 2008 with a bilingual Mass at 11:00 AM and a dinner followed by live performance by Dolija Ensemble, a Lithuanian Folk Group.



Members of the Dolija Ensemble, not necessarily in order, Vitalijus Lisovskis, Asta Grigalauskiene, Estera Suziedeliene, Aidas Kupcinskas, Arunas Borneika, Oskaras Lisovskis, Renata Bazikas, Vytautas Suziedelis, Valda Lidziute and Gintaras Dirzauskas.



Nothing like home made deshera (sausage) being cooked by Tomas Stundzia in a kugelis (pot).



Jonas Stundzia approves by smelling the pot of kopūstai (sauerkraut) freshly cook by David (Mockus) Boucher.

By Frank Benjamin
rumbonews.com/mrb

Mr. B's Sport Stories



1963 Social League Softball

It was portrayed as an easy going fun league and was put on a par with softball games that were played at outings and family get togethers. Games were played at city parks throughout the city. The Social League was considered to be a higher league than the Y Industrial League but lower than the Lawrence Fast Pitch League. Many people and players felt the Social League was beneath them even though some of the area's best players were playing for the allegedly inferior teams.

It was a time when the city league had shrunken to four teams. The social league was growing and featured teams from throughout the area. The Concordia Club, Parker Tavern, Post 122 of Methuen, the Ward 6 Club, the East End Club, and the Town Tavern of Andover were some of the teams that made up the league. Games were played at the Gill Avenue field in Methuen, the Sargent Club field also in Methuen, the Lorenz on Prospect Hill, the O'Connell in South Lawrence, the Steven Barker, and an occasional game at the Mecca of local softball, the hallowed Hayden Schofield.

These games brought howls from the players of the dying league that was on its last leg.

One move made a big difference for the fledgling league was when prominent business man Gene McAuliffe was named the league president Billy Callagy served as his aide. Both men were highly respected former athletes of our city. League meetings were held at Gene's place of business which was a funeral parlor conveniently located across the street from the park on Lawrence Street.

One of the league's rules was win or lose the team that was the visitors would have to go to the home teams bar after the game. A rule that would not only create a better camaraderie with the teams but also to help the sponsors because this rule meant many pitchers and bottles of "brewskis" could make a slow night a good night for an owner.

The caliber of ball picked up as players from the other league decided to come "down" to the Social League. The Concordia Club, Sweetheart Inn, Post 122 and the Andover team were the top teams and The Jeff's formerly The Jennie's were making their presence felt. Players that eventually came to the upstart league were perennial all stars Tommy DiResta a great and gifted player who was a pitcher but

could play any position on the field and in most cases better than anyone.

Don Overka was also a player of any position. Larry Klimas the former great Methuen High coach who has passed away also came into the league, the Methuen Fieldhouse bears his name to this day. His great pal and high school teammate also a great Coach at LHS came into the league with his buddy Larry and they were also premier players. I'm talking about John Kelleher, of course, and he also joined Larry in heaven at a much too young age. I believe with all the construction of school buildings that Kell should be honored with a field or gym bearing his name.

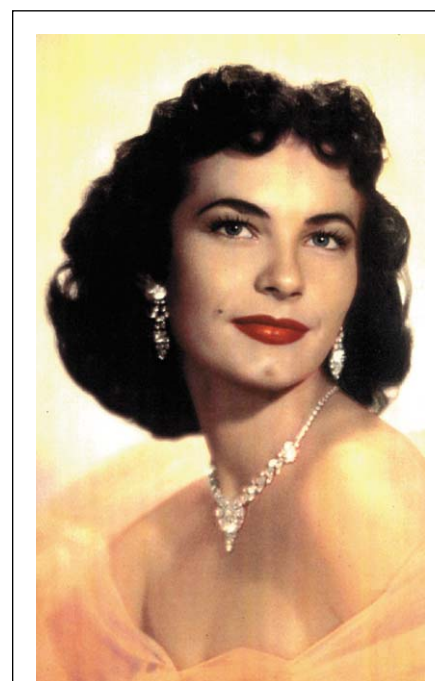
Billy Timmons, Dickie Lynch and Dickie McCarron were other stars that came into the social league. A year or two later the great pitcher Dick Krausse joined in and so did Lowell's great pitching star Ernie Wilson he of the tantalizing off speed stuff that could drive batters crazy.

Dave Downey was spinning his magic for the Concordias and he was no walk in the park. Buddy Ralph, Jimmy Wefers, Willie Cartier, Irv Wermers, Nick Carnett all played on the two fist beer drinkers club of which it is said "that this team would spill more hops than most teams would drink." They didn't miss any "Hops" on the field.

Ray Tremblay managed the Post 122 and had now retired from the telephone company and still lives in Methuen. Dick Drummond, as his pitcher and brother Don an all time great, still talked about as one of Central Catholic's all time greats. He lives in Florida now and a few years ago he led a senior citizens team to a national championship in slow pitch softball.

Barney Reilly called "Buckshot Barney" in those days. Barney was better in all sports than most players in the area; he was an excellent shortstop. He's the city's director of the aging these days. The Sweetheart Inn featured Bobby Fitzgerald a former Lancer and Northeastern University star who became the Athletic Director at Greater Lawrence Technical School; he now is probably swapping game strategies in heaven with Klimas and Kelleher two of the many players he coached at LHS.

Barney Parley a transplanted New Yorker and Raytheon retiree, Terry Keaney and former Central Catholic great three-sporter Freddie Nader who has just seen his grandson off to college at University



Do you know this lady?

Look for an upcoming story about her in a future column by Frank Benjamin. Send your guess to rumbo@rumbonews.com or give us a call at (978) 794.5360.

of Maine, Orono. There were many fine players and Al Kraunelis pitched for some of the teams and he has now gone to the great cigar store in the sky.

Bob Ryan now retired from Pease air force base pitched in the league first for the Merrimack Club and later for the Jennie's and The Jeff's. Jackie Poremba was a pitcher for a short time for the Jennie's and his brother Bob called "Satch" was a hurler for both the Jennie's and Jeff's. The Poremba family owned the Richwood hotel and bowling alleys on South Union St.

Jack Gushing (I think he came from North Andover) was a pitcher as was Bob Fanning a retired cop from Andover. I don't recall who Gushing pitched for but Fanning pitched for me while I managed the South Lawrence teams.

The Ward Six team had some young and potentially great players and the late Stevie Borys had the tools to be a fine pitcher and was a fine shortstop, he was the owner of the Calumet Club that's still on the corner of Shattuck and Broadway in South Lawrence. His wife Cathy is a retired school principal and his father in law was Gene McCarthy a fine Lawrencean.

Jack Gage a former LHS athlete played a strong third base and that team was always a threat to beat to top teams in the circuit. They were close friends and even after a loss they would handle it with class and enjoy whatever club they would be visiting.

In the future I'll try to bring more social league stories of the early days and if you see me and care to refresh my memories days, feel free to do so.

American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Andover-Lawrence Plans Kick-off Celebration

Kick-off Scheduled for Wednesday, March 12

Join millions of other American Cancer Society Relay For Life participants across the country in the fight against cancer. Find out how to get involved in the Relay For Life event of Andover-Lawrence at a Kick-off celebration on Wednesday, March 12, at For Winds Restaurant, Greater Lawrence Technical School, 57 River Road in Andover. Kick-off celebration begins at 6:00 p.m. – join the fun!

Anyone interested in joining the planning committee, becoming a team captain, volunteering or just finding out more about Relay For Life is encouraged to attend the kick-off. For more information about Relay For Life, to find out how to volunteer, or to RSVP for the kick-off, please call Randi Holland at your local American Cancer Society at 781-314-2643 or email at randi.holland@cancer.org.

"I encourage anyone interested in joining the Relay For Life to call the American Cancer Society and volunteer. The Relay will be a great way to renew our hope in the fight against cancer, while also doing something practical to support the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education, advocacy and service," said Randi Holland, Development Executive for the American Cancer Society.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's largest signature activity as well as the most successful national fundraiser. It is a unique event that offers communities an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Relays are 12 to 24 hours in length and go overnight. Teams of 8 to 15 people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking, jogging, or running around a track or path. Cancer survivors will begin the Relay by walking the first "Victory Lap" in a celebration of survivorship. Also, a Luminaria Ceremony beginning after dark will honor cancer survivors and remember those who are no longer with us. Teams are encouraged to camp out in tents and enjoy the great music, food, and camaraderie of the event.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. For more information on cancer, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit www.cancer.org.

Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support Course at Merrimack Valley Hospital

Merrimack Valley Hospital will hold the American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support Course on Tuesday, February 19 from 9:00am-2:00pm in the auditorium of the hospital located on the first floor. The fee is \$75.00 and includes the textbook.

This course is designed to teach skills of CPR victims of all ages, use of the automated external defibrillator and relief of Foreign-Body Airway Obstruction (FBAO). It is intended for those who provide healthcare to patients in a wide variety of settings including in-hospital and out of hospital settings, lifeguards, nursing students, or anyone who is required to take a healthcare provider course for employment.

All participants who successfully complete the course, including written examination and skills demonstration will receive BLS Healthcare Providers Course Completion card. For more information, please call the hospital's education department at 978-521-8550.

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HAVERHILL | NEWS FROM HAVERHILL**Mayor Officially Invites Verizon FiOs to Provide Telecommunications in City**

Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced that the City had extended a formal invitation to Verizon to bring its FiOs fibreoptic telecommunications network to Haverhill. Recently, Mayor Fiorentini met with Verizon External Affairs Regional Director Stan Usovicz, a former mayor of Salem, urging him to consider expanding Verizon's services into Haverhill and its growing market.

"I am committed to working with the Cable Television Advisory Committee in expanding choice for television, internet and other telecommunication services for Haverhill residents," Mayor Fiorentini stated. "Greater competition means lower rates and more value for residents, providing an even greater emphasis on quality and customer service. I hear from many residents who are very satisfied with Comcast, but many others have expressed to me that they would like a choice of cable and internet providers, and choice is what we are seeking to provide," noted the Mayor.

"While only Verizon will determine if they do in fact come to Haverhill, it is at least technically feasible as the fibreoptic network is already in the adjacent communities of Methuen and West Newbury," the Mayor pointed out.

The fibreoptic lines run contiguously from one community to another.

"If Verizon does decide to come to Haverhill, they would provide coverage throughout the entire City, leaving no neighborhoods without the service, which is one of my conditions," stated the Mayor.

The Mayor also emphasized the economic development value in fibreoptics.

In addition, at his meeting with Usovicz, the Mayor called on Verizon to reduce the number of 'double' utility poles located throughout the City. There have been numerous constituent complaints about the appearance of these poles.

City of Haverhill Saves Thousands in Fuel Costs under New School Bus Plan

Mayor James J. Fiorentini lauded the savings generated by a new plan undertaken by his administration that will save Haverhill taxpayers an estimated \$14,600 this year. Fiorentini detailed the reforms undertaken with the manner in which the City pays for gasoline for City school buses.

"Previously, Coppola Bus Company, which provides school bus transportation for the Haverhill Public Schools, would fuel up their own vehicles, paying taxes and high retail gas prices. These costs were then passed onto the City," Mayor Fiorentini explained. "Now, we have the City's fuel supplier (Dennis K. Burke) delivering diesel fuel directly to Coppola on the City's behalf. The invoices for this wholesale fuel are sent to and paid by School Department, free from Federal gasoline Excise Tax."

The savings are estimated at over 24 cents per gallon, with the school buses

using approximately 60,000 gallons a year.

"The savings equates to over \$14,600 a year," concluded the Mayor. "I'd like to thank our new Purchasing Director Bob DeFusco, the administration at Coppola Bus and the School Department for working together to find more efficient ways of doing business. These are the sorts of reforms and cost efficiencies we need to get us through these challenging fiscal times," noted the Mayor.

Mayor Orders Hiring and Spending Freeze for City of Haverhill

Mayor James J. Fiorentini today announced that he is immediately ordering a hiring and spending freeze for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Fiorentini ordered a freeze on all new, non-essential hires. The hiring freeze will leave a number of positions in the City vacant.

Fiorentini also ordered that all expenditures of \$500 or more must be personally reviewed and signed by him.

The Mayor said that he was determined to strictly limit all spending in the City prior to next year budget.

Fiorentini stated: "I have ordered an immediate freeze on all hires in the City. We will leave a number of positions vacant until we put together the FY09 Budget. We know that we will have a large budget deficit in FY09. We have seen this coming for some time and have been planning for it. We've been building up our tax base, making structural changes to health insurance and reorganizing city government. Even with these long-term structural changes, we know we have a deficit in FY09. It would be foolish to hire people at this point since under our union agreements the last people hired are the first ones let go in a lay-off."

Fiorentini also stated that all expenditures of \$500 or more must be



Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce President Joseph Bevilacqua received the Member of the Year Award at the Statewide Massachusetts Economic Development Council Annual Meeting, held at the new Boston Convention Center. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino was keynote speaker. In the photo are from the left: Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini, Joseph Bevilacqua, Rob Hubbard, MEDC Chairman of the Board, and Mayor Thomas Menino.

reviewed by him personally: "We are not going to spend one nickel more that is absolutely necessary."

Mayor Presents Citation to Outgoing Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School Committee Member William Lannon

Today, Mayor James J. Fiorentini presented Mr. William C. Lannon with a citation recognizing his long term service to the City of Haverhill as a school committee member for the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School.

Mayor Fiorentini stated: "Mr. William



Lannon is a former superintendent of schools for the City of Cambridge as well as having served with distinction as a member of the school committee for the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School. He has been an active member of our community for many years and his departure from the school committee will be a great loss. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors."

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All of our Websites offer:

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- WYSIWYG editing tools
- Complete e-commerce functionality
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- Real time, secure credit card processing
- Expanded selection of billing options
- Advanced pricing options
- Custom shipping, discount, and tax rules
- Online inventory management tools
- Site Translation tool for 12 languages
- Customizable Flash pages and components
- Site Promotion / Search Engine tool
- Up to 500 MB of storage space
- Unlimited bandwidth
- Free technical support
- Free software upgrades

OPINION

Observations of a Recent City Council Meeting

By **LUKE SENECA**

LSENECA@RUMBONEWS.COM

There I sat awaiting the start of what would be a council meeting with the semblance of a meaty agenda that did not involve tax hikes and budget cuts. While watching our Lawrence city council in action recently there were some interesting events at the council's February 6th meeting that provoked bemusement, head scratching, and wariness. Regardless of what you thought, we taxpayers really need to be on the alert before the rest of the contents in our ever-shrinking wallets are seized.

First it's good to see that at least one councilor – Grisel Silva – seems to take her job seriously and has demonstrated a willingness to work with the mayor's office on bringing some sanity to the perennial running joke known as the city's budget process. This year, however, love is in the air as the councilors – for now – are communicating with the administration without the rancor and venom that has visited the chamber in the past.

But keep your radar up. At the council meeting Silva presented a document for review that apparently has been worked out in advance with the city's budget director, Mark Andrews, that would designate over 30 "decisional" points in a schedule for the city to hit in order to make the FY09 budget come in on time and balanced. This document was the subject of discussion at the Budget and Finance subcommittee meeting the following week. There seems to be a lot of "oohs" and "aahs" that such a

document exists, that people are impressed with the fact that a schedule could be in place to guide everyone in this process. Wow! Managers actually managing. Could this be a first? However, if everyone just focused on following state law and the city charter the city could have its budget in place by July 1 like it is supposed to with plenty of time to spare and without all the fanfare and slight of hand.

Where the taxpayers should be concerned are on two fronts. First Andrews kept saying at both meetings that he would be talking with the unionized city employees to get their ideas on cuts and consolidations. If you actually think the unions would contemplate a reduction in their compensation, there is a bridge for sale in Brooklyn you can buy for a \$1. All Andrews – and the mayor for that matter – should be telling them is that come the next negotiation their contracts would be more in line with the private sector – no raises and a 50/50 sharing of health care costs. Why during a recession while all the rest of us are going without should municipal employees keep getting raises? If they don't like it, they can go find a job somewhere else – no one has a right to a cushy city job. Further, at a minimum, Andrews should get a hold of the list of cuts and consolidations that Silva and former councilor Nunzio DiMarca put forth last year as a good starting point. The wheel does not need to be re-invented.

Second, there seemed to be a lot of talk of meetings with councilors and Andrews outside the scope of a public scrutiny. The reduction of transparency in the process, again, cannot mean a good thing for the taxpayers. The taxpayers need to make sure

that they have more – not less – say in the manner in which the budget is going to be developed. Councilors and taxpayers need to be sure not to be lulled into a false sense of security brought on by the smooth talk and excessive flattery the budget director throws around each night at the council meetings.

Finally, if the councilors are going to be presenting and discussing major documents like this, it would be nice if they made it onto the city's website so that all of us can look at what is being proposed. Short of driving down to the clerk's office during the middle of the day and hoping that it is open, we have no other way of obtaining such documents. Just put everything on the website! If the city's website won't work, put it on Methuen's or Andover's website if you need to. Theirs are pretty good and are easy to work.

A few quick points. Kudos to Nilka Alvarez Rodriguez for fighting back against council president Patrick Blanchette for the disrespectful and sarcastic manner in which he treated her. It is a sad day when councilors cannot do their job and articulate their support for issues key to their constituencies without having to face the unnecessary personal attacks from the one wielding the gavel.

In a sign the Nick Kolofoles clearly has lost something on his fastball, he admitted that as chair of the Ordinance subcommittee he put out a document favorably from committee naming a certain park using a Spanish word he had no clue as to what it meant. No intellectual curiosity lost on him. No due diligence need apply at the Ordinance committee. Repeat after me, "esperanza" means "hope".

And then in a sign that councilor Kolofoles can no longer hit the curve ball, he let go of a matter that would have implications on our badly strained budget situation. At one point in the discussion regarding the development of a park at the old Covanta site, it came out that the property owner had a fire watch lien on certain property he owned (it was unclear whether this property involved the park project or was adjacent to the park project). The total of the lien - \$87,000. However, city attorney Charles Boddy let it slip that the lien was satisfied by the property owner for an amount less than the total owed. Kolofoles asked several times what the settlement amount was. But each time Boddy was prevented from answering the question by president Blanchette. Why? Who was Blanchette protecting - perhaps his good buddy the budget director, Mark Andrews, who had to sign off on the lower amount? What is the big secret? How bad (for the taxpayer) was the reduction? Perhaps we have such big budget surpluses now that we can give money away? Why did you drop the bone, councilor Kolofoles, once it was firmly wedged in your mouth?

Finally, instead of handing out citations each week to city employees who are simply doing what they are paid to do, howabout next time looking into why some fire hydrants did not work at the Park Street fire and the Millenium night club inferno? Hopefully your neighborhood won't be next.

CHOOSING ADOPTION

Hi! My name is Dylan

"I like trading cards. I also love to ride my bike."By **MILTON L. ORTIZ**
1-800-882-1176

Born of Caucasian and Latino heritage, Dylan is a ten year old boy who is outgoing once he is comfortable with

those around him. He enjoys playing sports such as baseball and ice hockey, but prefers to play for fun rather than for competition. Dylan also likes playing video games, playing board games, watching movies and going on day trips.

Currently living in a residential home, he thrives with a very structured and consistent home life. Dylan does well at school in his small structured classroom. At school and home, Dylan gets along well with the staff and has begun to make friends. His social worker describes him as an insightful child who goes with the flow rather than leading.

Dylan has experienced significant losses in his past, for which he continues to make use of the therapeutic supports available to him. He will benefit from a family who will ensure he continues to receive these supports in the future. Dylan hopes to one day soon have a family that he can rely on and who will give him the stability he needs. An ideal family for Dylan would be open to being a visiting resource while he takes the time he needs to build a trusting relationship and to slowly transition into his new family. He also needs to know that he will be able to maintain contact with his brother and sister and a couple of visits with his birth parent. Dylan is legally free for adoption.

To learn more about Dylan or about adoption in general, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange at 617-54-ADOPT (542-3678) or 1-800-882-1176. You can also read about other waiting children in the MARE Photolisting located at many public libraries in the state, or visit the MARE Web site at www.mareinc.org.

SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM AT CARITAS HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

If you or someone you know are ready to quit smoking, we can help. Caritas Holy Family Hospital is offering an 8-week smoking cessation program beginning Monday, October 29 through Monday, December 17. Classes will be held each week from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Participants are asked to pay \$25 at the first session. At the end of the program, all individuals who complete the class have the option to donate the \$25 to the hospital or be reimbursed.

Devote just a few hours one night a week and make a lifetime change for the better. For additional information and to pre-register, please call 978-687-0156, ext. 2301. But don't wait, space is limited.

He's not just an alley cat. He's a street cat, porch cat, and park cat.

No matter what you call him, no matter where you find him, he's living a valued life. Born outside, these unsterilized cats eventually form colonies, making their home wherever they can find food. Tomcats prowl for mates, females become pregnant, and the cycle of reproduction continues. To help them, Alley Cat Allies has a cost-effective plan that not only reduces feral cat populations, it also improves their lives. It's called Trap, Neuter, and Return or TNR. To learn about this smart, compassionate, proven method of population control, or to give a gift of time or money, go to www.alleycat.org.

SUPPORT TRAP, NEUTER, AND RETURN

The National Feral Cat Resource

7920 Norfolk Ave., Suite 600 • Bethesda, MD 20814
www.alleycat.orgPhotographer:
Molly Wald

Because alley cats, barn cats, tomcats, & street cats need a different kind of care.

Griffin White Foundation donates \$50,000 to Merrimack Valley Hospice House Project



From left to right: Joan Stygles Hull, President of Home Health Foundation, Don Nolette, President of the Griffin White Foundation, David Nesbitt, Co-chair of the Campaign for Merrimack Valley Hospice House.

The Griffin White Foundation in Haverhill has long been a supporter of the Home Health Foundation Family of agencies – which is comprised of Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice and HomeCare, Inc. Recently the group cemented their support by making a generous donation of \$50,000 to the Merrimack Valley Hospice House project. Their donation for the project marks the first Haverhill foundation to support the Merrimack Valley Hospice House.

“We are thrilled with Griffin White’s generosity and commitment to our Hospice House,” said David Nesbitt, Co-chair of the Merrimack Valley Hospice House Campaign. “This marks one of the first major community contributors for the House, and it leads the way for more foundations to participate.”

Merrimack Valley Hospice is building the 14 bed Hospice House off of North Avenue in Haverhill. The Merrimack Valley Hospice House will be the first of its kind to be built in the Merrimack Valley, and the project will cost an estimated \$8.5 million. The Hospice House will care for terminally ill patients and their families, who for a variety of reasons are unable to receive hospice services in their homes. Some of the facility highlights include private patient rooms with space to accommodate family members overnight, and community areas and gardens that replicate a home-like setting. This facility will also be the first Hospice House in the state with some of the rooms specifically designed for the needs of pediatric hospice patients and their families.

Throughout the year, Home Health VNA patients have benefited from the

support of the Griffin White organization in many ways. The Griffin White Foundation offers discretionary funds for the agency’s clinical staff to use for patients. One recent example of this generosity was when a visiting nurse noticed that a patient would benefit from the use of a lift chair. The patient was mobile once in a standing position, but struggled a great deal to get there. She was aware of the funding from the Griffin White Foundation, and immediately mentioned it to her manager. Funds from the Griffin White Foundation were used to purchase a \$1600 chair for the patient, and her quality of life has improved tremendously.

“The Griffin White Foundation has partnered with us in the past to bring the best quality of life we can to our patients,” said Joan Stygles Hull, RN, MBA, President /CEO of Merrimack Valley Hospice and the Home Health Foundation. “And we are thrilled with their pledge of \$50,000 to our Hospice House project. They recognize the tremendous need for such a place – a ‘home’ for our terminally ill patients who for a myriad of reasons cannot remain in their own homes.”

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit agency affiliated with Home Health VNA and HomeCare, Inc. The three agencies serve more than 80 communities throughout Northeastern Massachusetts, the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. The agency is accredited by the Joint Commission, considered the gold standard for quality care. For more information on the Merrimack Valley Hospice House, visit www.merrimackvalleyhospice.org.

OPINION

What is the State of the City?

BY NUNZIO DI MARCA

NDIMARCA@RUMBONEWS.COM

Every year around this time, the chief executive of the city has to give a report before the City Council and to the people in the city through the television transmission. This is no different from what the President of The United States does and what the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does. It’s the time when the chief executive can highlight his accomplishments while at the same time point out programs and activities that he would like to get underway to improve the situation and the quality of life of the citizens. Needless to say the shortcomings will and should be brought up as well. Naturally the presentation has to be done sincerely and truthfully.

President George Bush already gave his State of the Union Address to the country and the world, and Governor Deval Patrick gave his State of The State Address. We, in the City of Lawrence are now anxiously awaiting the State of the City Address which the mayor is responsible for. It didn’t happen last year; instead the mayor posted it in the city of Lawrence web page. Mr. Mayor many folks do not have accessibility to a computer therefore, they have no way of knowing what is going on. A representative of the people whether it be at the Federal, State or at the local level,

is duly responsible to the people he/she represents consequently it is, I feel of the outmost importance that the presentation is done in a way where all people have a chance to see it and to hear it and yes have also a signer to assist so that the hearing impaired can also have that opportunity.

As a former City Councilor at Large, I felt offended in the way it was handled last year. Hopefully, Mr. Mayor this time around it will be done the proper way. Many good things have been accomplished by this administration working in unison with the Council, however, there have been times where the chief executive has tried to get things done his way without really considering the suggestions of the various Councilors and as a result a drift was created between the two branches of our local government. Openness, unity and cooperation and of course a good dose of common sense go a long way and are necessary in order for the city to move forward.

The city needs to curtail wasteful spending while at the same time implement an aggressive plan to assist businesses big and small, promote job development, and work feverishly to broaden the tax base then and only then, the City of Lawrence will have better days.

AVISO



CIUDAD DE LAWRENCE

Elección Congressional Especial
Martes, 16 de Octubre, 2007

La Ciudad de Lawrence abrirá las urnas de votación estarán abiertas el próximo martes, 16 de octubre, desde las 7:00 AM hasta las 8:00 PM. Para la Elección Especial del Quinto Distrito Congressional.

Esta Elección Especial es nada más para el quinto Distrito Congressional y será celebrada el 16 de octubre del 2007.

La Próxima Elección Municipal será el 6 de noviembre 2007. Las notas enviadas en los Distritos C y D entre el 5 de octubre y el 16 de octubre indican su centro de votación correctamente. Debemos aclarar que estas elecciones son para el Quinto Distrito únicamente, las Elecciones de la ciudad serán el 6 de noviembre, 2007. Cualquier referencia a las elecciones locales es un error involuntario.

Para más información, favor de llamar a la División de Elecciones al (978) 794-5807, 794-5808, o 794-1336 visitarnos en el Internet.

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

VOLUNTEER WITH HOMELESS CHILDREN!

Horizons for Homeless Children is looking for volunteers to play with some great kids for 2 hours a week. Your time can make a world of difference for the children living in homeless shelters in Massachusetts. Many located in the Merrimack Valley including Haverhill, Lawrence, and Tewksbury.

A commitment of six months and attendance at a training session are required. Upcoming trainings include Boston, July 24 and 25 and Peabody, July 30 and 31. For more information about the program, visit our website: horizonsforhomelesschildren.org, or call or write Sheila Carman at 978-557-2182 - scarman@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

CALENDARIO | CALENDAR

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.

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
Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

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.

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.

LAWRENCE: Environmental Expo

Function Room, 60 Island St., Lawrence
Date: 2/16/2008

Start Time: 12:00:00 PM

End Time: 2:00:00 PM

Cost Per Person: \$ 0

More Info: 978.974.0770

The Groundwork Lawrence Green Team and Clean Water Action Present: Environmental Expo

Support Lawrence Teens! Keep our families healthy! The Groundwork Lawrence Green Team, a group of High School students, and Clean Water Action are hosting an Environmental Expo to help educate the Lawrence community about simple actions to clean-up community spaces, improve air quality, and keep our families safe from toxic chemicals. Come get fun tips on easy ways to make cosmetics and household cleaning products. Learn how to recycle and why it's important. Hear exciting updates on Lawrence's effort to reduce diesel pollution. Get healthier, play games, and support the community building work of these teens. Take action today for a healthier tomorrow. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information contact: Danielle Connor: 617.338.8131 x205, Heather McMan: 978.974.0770.

LAWRENCE: "Personal Space, Community Risk" Seminar

Elder Services of Merrimack Valley
360 Merrimack Street, Building 5,
Lawrence MA
Date: 2/26/2008
Start Time: 9:30:00 AM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: 978-946-1496

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

SOUTH LAWRENCE EAST LITTLE LEAGUE

2008 REGISTRATION

February 9th, 10th, 23rd, & 24th

March 8th, 9th, & 15th

11:00 - 2:00pm

Knights of Columbus - 1 Market Street

T-Ball (5-7) \$35 Little League (8-12)

\$55 Softball (7-12) \$55

Babe Ruth (13-15) \$90 Challenger

(5-16) \$20

ALL Players must bring Birth Certificates & Proof of Residence

ANY QUESTION PLEASE CONTACT:

Greg Morris 978-726-7334

George Herman 978-688-2689

Ozzie Diaz 978-975-4122

Jose Fernandez 978-688-8123

Please visit our website for up-to-date information southlawrenceeastbaseball.com

When and Where is your next event?

Send it to us at calendar@rumbonews.com

contact Alicia Hussey at 978-946-1496 to assure seating.

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

HAVERHILL: James Vanderpol

Haverhill Public Library, Milhendler Room

Date: 2/26/2008

Start Time: 2:00:00 PM

Cost Per Person: \$ 0

More Info: Haverhill Council on Aging

The Council on Aging is hosting local commentator and historian James Vanderpol on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Haverhill Public Library in the Milhendler Room.

Mr. Vanderpol will speak on "The State of the Union..... Dictatorship versus Democracy". He will speak on life under the Hitler regime from personal experience as well as the state of our educational system, poverty in the United States, and illegal immigration.

Please join us for a lively discussion on current events and refreshments. There is no fee for this event.

HAVERHILL: Trip to Williamsburg

Date: 3/1/2008

Start Time: 12:00:00 AM End Time:

12:00:00 AM

Cost Per Person: \$ 699

Lawrence YMCA's Music Clubhouse 2nd annual 'Clubhouse Idol' singing competition

THE DATES ARE:

March 14th: Open auditions (ages 13-18 only) 5-8pm

March 21st: 'Hollywood Round' (first round of competition) 6-8pm

March 28th: Top Ten Competition 6-8pm (Open to the public final round; audience chooses winner.)

Auditions will be held at The Lawrence Music Clubhouse located in the Lawrence YMCA (Please sign up prior to March 14th). Competition held at the small gymnasium in the Lawrence YMCA. All are welcome!

Last year we had over 20 auditions and over 150 in attendance to the show.

This year will prove to be bigger and brighter as we celebrate the amazing talent of the youth in the Merrimack Valley YMCA.

The Lawrence Music Clubhouse
40 Lawrence Street Lawrence
lawrencemusicclubhouse.org or call David Bickel at 978-686-6191 for more details.

More Info: 978.372.1081

The Council on Aging is offering a 6-day trip to Williamsburg, Washington, D. C., and Lancaster, PA. This trip will run from April 17-22, 2008.

This trip includes five nights lodging, four dinners, and five breakfasts, 2-day ticket to Williamsburg, ticket to the Virginia Tattoo, and luxury motor coach transportation with tour guide.

Cost for this trip is \$779 pp/double, \$699 pp/triple, and \$1089/pp triple. Deposit of \$100 is required at sign-up and balance is due on March 1.

For additional information contact Kathy Bresnahan X11 or Rita LaBella X16 at 978-372-1081 or kbresnahan@cityofhaverhill.com.

LOWELL: Seminario para Primeros Compradores

10 de la calle Kirk, Lowell

Date: 3/3/2008

Start Time: 6:00:00 PM

Cost Per Person: \$ 0

More Info: 978.459.8490

El Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership se complace en anunciar que estamos ofreciendo en Lowell el Proyecto Génesis, Seminarios para Primeros Compradores de Casa en Español.

HOW, WHEN AND WHERE TO FIND

THIS WEEK!
You are reading our Regional Edition

Rumbo & Rumbo

NEXT WEEK!
Our next publication will be printed on February 22nd

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Las clases se llevarán a cabo en el #10 de la calle Kirk, Lowell. Las próximas clases comenzarán en Marzo 3, 10, & 17 de 6:00pm a 9:00pm. Se requiere asistir a las tres clases para recibir el certificado del Proyecto Génesis.

TEMAS INCLUYEN

- El Proceso de Comprar una Casa
- Guía de Hipoteca del Banco
- Aspectos Legales
- Inspección de La Casa
- Programas de Asistencia para el Depósito
- Información de Crédito

Llame a nuestra oficina al 978-459-8490 para registrarse. www.mvhp.org.

LOWELL: First Time Home Buyer Training

10 Kirk Street, Lowell
 Date: 3/3/2008
 Start Time: 6:00:00 PM
 Cost Per Person: \$ 0
 More Info: 978.459.8490

The Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership is pleased to announce that we are offering the Project Genesis Home Buyer Training Seminars in Lowell in Spanish.

The classes will be held at 10 Kirk St., Lowell. The next series will begin on the evenings of March 3, 10, & 17 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Participants must attend all sessions to receive a certificate of completion.

- Topics include
- Overview of the Home Buying Process
 - Bank Mortgage Guidelines
 - Legal Aspects
 - Home Inspections
 - Down Payment Assistance Programs
 - Information on Credit

Please call the office at 978-459-8490 to register. www.mvhp.org. Thank you.

Journalist, Authority on Irish Affairs to Speak at NECC



Internationally recognized journalist Kevin Cullen will share his observations of today's Ireland in a lecture "A Terrible Beauty: Ireland in the 21st Century" during Northern Essex Community College's White Fund lecture on Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m. in the White Fund Room at 78-82 Amesbury St., in the Louise Haffner Fournier Education Center in Lawrence.

Cullen lived in Ireland experiencing its people and culture, first as a student and then as a journalist. He witnessed the transformation as Western Europe's poorest country became its richest. Ireland has gone from an agrarian economy to one that is second only to the United States in the manufacturing of software. Cullen explores the arrival of this primitive little island entrenched in poverty to a country with a per capita wealth index second only to Japan.

"It is a story," Cullen says, "that draws on and draws portraits of harried Dubliners, righteous Bible thumpers in mid-Ulster, former terrorists, self-made millionaires, barstool philosophers, and, as Sting once put it, poets, priests, and politicians."

Cullen has worked for the The Boston Globe since 1985. He completed

several stints in the Globe's investigative unit, the Spotlight Team, and was part of the team that exposed mobster James "Whitey" Bulger as an informer who was protected by the FBI.

He covered the conflict in Northern Ireland for more than 20 years. In 1995 he was awarded the citation of excellence by the Overseas Press Club of America for interpretive reporting in Northern Ireland. In 1997-1998, he was the Globe's Dublin bureau chief, then moved to London to serve as the paper's chief European correspondent, covering the war in the former Yugoslavia.

The Irish Times described him as "the most informed American journalist on Irish affairs," while the media critic at the Independent of

London called him "the most astute observer of Irish affairs in the American media...and one of the most level-headed commentators on Northern Ireland on either side of the Atlantic."

Cullen is a frequent commentator on the BBC, RTE, and National Public Radio, and a regular contributor to the Sunday Business Post and The Irish Times.

In 2001, after four years abroad, he returned to Boston and joined the Globe's investigative team that broke open the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, for which the team received the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. In more recent years, he has reported from Iraq and in July 2007 was appointed as a metro columnist.

Born in Boston, he grew up in Malden

and graduated from the University of Massachusetts, attended Trinity College in Dublin, and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. He is co-author of "Betrayal: The Crisis in the Catholic Church," and was a contributor to the book, "Britain and Ireland: Lives Entwined II."

The White Fund's purpose is to have a free series of interactive presentations for Lawrence area adults, youth, and children. The audience is encouraged to seek wisdom, cultural enrichment, and intellectual enhancement by attending and participating.

Funded by a generous financial gift from the Honorable Daniel Appleton White, the White Fund Lecture Series has provided cultural conversation featuring well-known lecturers in fields such as history, literature, travel, the arts, and politics. The White Fund is collaborating with Northern Essex on this series.

For additional information or to receive a calendar of upcoming events in the White Fund Enlightenment Series, call 978 738-7403.

For directions to NECC's Lawrence Extension Campus, located at 78-82 Amesbury Street, visit the college's website www.necc.mass.edu and click-on maps and directions at the top of the home page. Parking is available behind the building. Additional parking is available at the Buckley Garage which is across the street from the campus. Parking is free to those attending NECC events.

SUDOKU | SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

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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 of 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.

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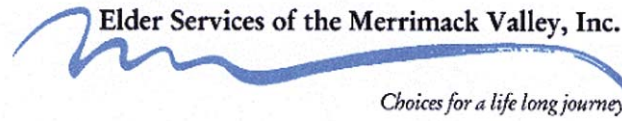
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periodicorumbo.com

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

Disponibilidad de reembolso por millas recorridas. Proveemos orientación, entrenamiento y constante apoyo.

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.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, FAVOR DE LLAMAR AL 800-893-0890, EXT. 445 Ó 463 A NUESTRO PROGRAMA DE VOLUNTARIOS. SE ALEGRARÁ DE HABERLO HECHO.

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

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DIFFICULTY: ★★★

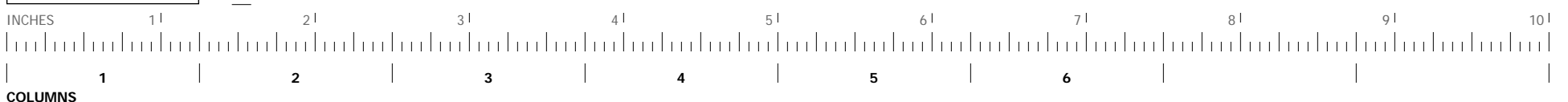
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DOVES

Susina and Chege are just two of the many doves currently available at the shelter for adoption. Both males and females are currently available for adoption. We also have a variety of colorations from solid white to solid brown and everything in between. Chege was brought in by his owners because he was no longer wanted and Susina was abandoned at the shelter. They are now comfortably sharing a cage together while they wait for their forever home.



SAMANTHA

Samantha is a queen. She is not for the first time cat owner but for someone that understands felines and can appreciate their quirks and antics. Although she thinks she runs the show, she is very easy to predict and a lot of fun for the feline fancier who wants to be entertained. There are not many dull moments in the office where Samantha spends most of her time. She tolerates the dogs and cats that visit the office daily but makes it clear to each and every one of them that she is the only diva. Please be sure to visit Ms. Samantha, she promises to make your trip worthwhile!



LACEY

Lacey is a spunky little cutie pie in search of a new home. Her previous owner's lost their home and were forced to surrender her. Her owner's described her as very busy, yet affectionate and said there was nothing they would change about her. She greeted most strangers with a meow and loves to jump and stay active. She also loved the young boy in the house and would do well with children. She would, however, prefer to be the only cat after living in a household with another cat that didn't like her.



MAXINE

Maxine is a love. She is a great dog who loves kids and is fabulous with other animals. She enjoys spending her days gazing out the window or sleeping in her bed. She describes herself as a mellow couch potato who is happy-go-lucky and friendly when company is around. She enjoys toys (the stuffed kind she can pull apart) and treats. At 12 years old Maxine is housebroken but does have some eye and hearing issues. Although she loves kids, she would probably do best in a home without toddlers. Maxine still knows how to be the life of the party and is just waiting for a new place to call home.



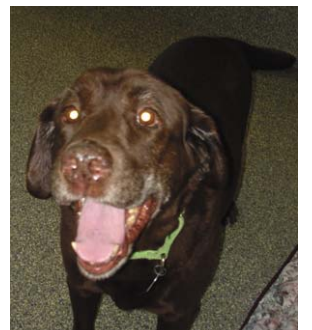
COCO

Coco is an energetic guy who loves to be around people. He is the perfect family dog and is used to living with young children and teens. He also get along great with other dogs and would likely even do well with a cat. He knows his basic commands and approaches everyone he meets with a friendly wag. Like his friend Jake, he is very food motivated and will do anything for a treat. He is searching for an active family that will love him for life!



JAKE

Jake is a happy-go-lucky guy with lots of energy and spunk. He loves attention, toys and belly rubs. He likes other dogs and is currently sharing his kennel with another lab named Coco. Jake can sometimes get nervous in new situations and he isn't a big fan of stairs. Other than that, he is a perfect angel. He greets each stranger he meets with kisses and wants to be everyone's best friend. He was brought to the shelter because his family no longer had time for him. He is hoping to find a home that will spoil him with treats (food is he weakness), play fetch with him in the backyard and lavish him with attention.



SAVE LIVES: get your pet spayed or neutered. Reduced SNAP fees are made possible through generous donations of time and resources by participating veterinarians who believe in the importance of spaying and neutering as part of a complete pet health care program.

Esta pulsera era un regalo que Amber Apodaca recibió del centro donde ayudaba a adolescentes con problemas de drogas y alcohol. La tenía puesta cuando un chofer menor de edad borracho le quitó la vida

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Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's SPRING EXPO NEW DATE AND LOCATION

The Expo which had been scheduled for April 2 will now be held on Wednesday, April 16 at Michael's Function Halls, Alpha and River Streets, Haverhill (the former Pat's Beef House where the Chamber held a number of successful expos in the past).

We will be notifying those who have already registered and a new expo flyer with the new date and location will be in this mailing.

I hope you can join us at the Spring Expo - April 16 either as an exhibitor, an attendee or at the timely and informative luncheon discussion featuring what many believe is one of the nation's most pressing question-immigration.

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

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La oferta de Canales Selecto es válida hasta el 31 de marzo de 2008 y sólo está disponible para clientes que sean elegibles y estén suscritos a la oferta promocionada del Paquete Triple. Esta oferta sólo es válida en zonas cableadas y con servicio de Comcast (y no puede ser transferida) y se limita a clientes residenciales que cumplan con los criterios de elegibilidad. Oferta limitada a Starter Digital Cable, 6.0 Mbps High Speed Internet y servicio Digital Voice de Comcast y requiere la suscripción a los 3 servicios. **DESPUÉS DEL LAPSO PROMOCIONAL DE 12 MESES O SI EL SERVICIO ES CANCELADO O BAJADO DE CATEGORÍA, APLICARÁN LOS CARGOS REGULARES A MENOS QUE EL SERVICIO SEA CANCELADO. USTED PUEDE CANCELAR EL SERVICIO LLAMANDO AL 1-800-COMCAST.** El cobro actual mensual de Comcast por los tres servicios varía entre \$133.29 a \$146.75, dependiendo de la zona y el costo actual por el servicio Canales Selecto es de \$8.95 adicionales al mes. Los servicios de Cable Digital y de Internet de Alta Velocidad se limitan a una sola toma. Servicio sujeto a las condiciones y términos estándares de Comcast. Los precios mostrados no incluyen cargos de equipos e instalación, impuestos, cargos de franquicia o Tarifa Reguladora de Recuperación ni otros cargos aplicables (por ejemplo llamadas internacionales o cargos per-call). Aplica un cargo de activación de \$29.95 para el Digital Voice de Comcast. No puede ser combinado con otras ofertas. **Servicio de Cable:** Algunos servicios están disponibles por separado o como parte de servicios de otro nivel. Se requiere el Servicio Básico de Suscripción para recibir servicios de otro nivel. Se requiere un convertidor digital y un control remoto para los servicios On Demand. Las selecciones On Demand están sujetas al cobro indicado al momento de la compra. No toda la programación está disponible en todas las áreas. **Servicio de Internet de Alta Velocidad:** Estímulos de poder proveen aumentos de velocidades de carga y descarga de datos para los primeros 10MB y 5 MB de un archivo, respectivamente. Comparaciones de velocidad entre descargas hechas con Comcast a 6.0 Mbps y descargas estándar a 768 Kbps DSL y 56 Kbps por red telefónica (sólo para descargas). Muchos factores afectan la velocidad. La velocidad actual puede variar y no está garantizada. Se requiere Cable modem. No todos los programas, incluyendo McAfee, son compatibles con sistemas Macintosh. McAfee, cuyo precio está basado en el precio de venta al detal del producto, se vende por separado. **Digital Voice de Comcast:** El precio del paquete ilimitado aplica únicamente a llamadas marcadas directamente a lugares en los Estados Unidos, Canadá, Puerto Rico y otros territorios de los Estados Unidos desde la casa. No hay una compañía de conexión de larga distancia separada disponible. El servicio de Digital Voice de Comcast (incluyendo los servicios de 911/emergencia) podría no funcionar después de un corte de luz extenso. Ciertos equipos del cliente pueden no ser compatibles con los servicios de Digital Voice de Comcast. Se requiere EMTA (\$3.00 al mes para Comcast). Llámenos para restricciones y detalles completos o visite www.comcast.com. Comcast ©2008. Todos los derechos reservados. Todas las demás marcas registradas son propiedad de sus respectivos dueños. X2H-2P-013108V1-A3MA