



Photo by Justo Garcia, courtesy of Representative William Lantigua.

LANTIGUA REALIZÓ UNA FIESTA DE RECAUDACIÓN DE FONDOS

El Representante William Lantigua presentando a su señora madre, Elvira Soto al Gobernador Deval Patrick a la llegada de este al evento de Lantigua. Foto de Justo García, cortesía del Representante William Lantigua. **PÁGINA 6**

LANTIGUA HELD A FUNDRAISING EVENT

Representative William Lantigua introducing his mother, Elvira Soto, to Governor Deval Patrick at his arrival at Lantigua's event. **PAGE 7**

FORO SOBRE CASINOS DE JUEGO



Expresando sus puntos de vista durante un reciente foro llevado a cabo por la MVCC sobre casinos de juego, aparecen la Senadora Susan C. Tucker (D-Andover) y el Secretario de Seguridad Pública del Estado, Kevin M. Burke. Tucker se opone a los casinos de juego y Burke es el portavoz del Gobernador Deval Patrick a favor de los casinos.

Expressing their points of view during a recent MVCC forum on casino gambling are State Senator Susan C. Tucker (D-Andover) and Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin M. Burke. Tucker opposes casino gambling and Burke is Governor Deval Patrick spokesperson pro-casino gambling.



CRUZ ROJA HONRA A BOMBEROS

El Teniente Eric Zahn recibiendo su premio de manos de Jaime Devlin, director ejecutivo interino de la Cruz Roja Americana. Al Tte. Zahn y a los Bomberos Tara Reardon y Rodney Rivera se les acredita con salvar la vida de Michael Houle un empleado de la Lawrence Firefighter Credit Union, que estaba teniendo un ataque al corazón.

Lieutenant Eric Zahn receiving his award from Jamie Devlin, interim executive director, American Red Cross. Lte. Zahn and Firefighters Tara Reardon and Rodney Rivera are credited with saving the life of Michael Houle an employee of the Lawrence Firefighter Credit Union who had a massive heart attack.

FIREFIGHTERS HONORED BY RED CROSS, **PAGE 4**

POR ALBERTO SURÍS

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El viernes, 29 de febrero, la Cámara de Comercio del Valle de Merrimack llevó a cabo un foro sobre casinos de juego con la Senadora Susan C. Tucker (D-Andover) y el Secretario de Seguridad Pública del Estado, Kevin M. Burke. La Senadora Tucker se opone a los casinos de juego y Burke es el portavoz del Gobernador Deval Patrick a favor de

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DEMOSTRACIÓN A FAVOR DE ID PARA VOTANTES

Activistas locales Dian Kneeland y Danny Valcourt, sosteniendo carteles a favor de identificaciones para el votante. Ellos formaron parte de un grupo que hizo similar demostración el 3 de marzo, cuando el Gobernador Deval Patrick vino a Lawrence a la fiesta de recaudación de fondos del Representante William Lantigua, así como a la fiesta de recaudación de fondos de Marcos Devers el jueves, 6 de marzo.

Local activists Dian Kneeland and Danny Valcourt, holding signs in support of Voter ID. They were also part of a group demonstrating on Monday, March 3, when Governor Deval Patrick came to Lawrence at Representative William Lantigua's fundraiser and also on Thursday, March 6, at Marcos Devers' fundraiser.

DEMONSTRATION PRO VOTER ID, **PAGE 3**

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- es bajo en grasa saturadas, trans, colesterol, sal (sodio) y azúcar agregadas.



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Bomberos honrados



The proud family of Lieutenant Eric Zahn, smiles to the camera. They are his wife Katie and daughter Haley. Haley is 11 years old and a fifth grader at Saint Patrick School.



Receiving the awards from Jamie Devlin, interim executive director, American Red Cross, in the name of Firefighters Rodney Rivera and Tara Reardon, is Lawrence Fire Chief Peter Takvorian.

POR ALBERTO SURÍS
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Los Bomberos Rodney Rivera, Tara Reardon y el Teniente Eric Zahn, fueron honrados con el American Red Cross Lifesaving Team Award, en una ceremonia llevada a cabo el martes, 4 de marzo, 2008, en la Estación Central, localizada en el 65 de la Calle Lowell, en Lawrence.

“Diariamente, miembros del Departamento de bomberos de Lawrence hacen cosas extraordinarias”, dijo Jamie Devlin, director ejecutivo interino. “La Cruz Roja Americana se complace en honrar a estos tres merecedores miembros del Departamento de Incendios de Lawrence”.

Leyendo de un documento, Devlin dijo: “El 7 de mayo, 2007, los Bomberos Rodney Rivera, Tara Reardon y el Teniente Eric Zahn, entrenados por la Cruz Roja Americana en CPR/AED en Rescate Profesional, contribuyeron en salvar la vida a Michael Houle, un empleado de la Lawrence Firefighter Credit Union el cual estaba teniendo un masivo ataque al corazón”.

Desafortunadamente, los Bomberos Rodney Rivera y Tara Reardon no pudieron asistir a la ceremonia, así como tampoco Michael Houle, que aunque se ha recuperado de su problema del corazón, hace unos días



Award presented to Lieutenant Eric Zahn and Firefighters Rodney Rivera and Tara Reardon by the American Red Cross.

resbaló en la casa y se partió un tobillo, informó Devlin.

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

Llegó el momento de la Identificación de Votantes

Por muchos años la Ciudad de Lawrence ha estado tratando de implementar un sistema por medio del cual poder garantizar la honestidad e integridad del proceso de votación y ha caído en oídos sordos.

En el 2003, a pesar que nuestros Representantes Estatales decían estar a favor de una medida que requiriera a los votantes mostrar prueba de residencia o de llevar una tarjeta de identificación en particular, todos ellos se negaron a tomar la petición aprobada por el concilio (Home Rule Petition) a presentarla a la Casa de Estado y un grupo de ciudadanos personalmente lo hicieron.

Ahora, el asunto de la identificación de votantes está de nuevo en la noticia. Durante las visitas del Gobernador Deval Patrick a Lawrence la semana pasada, un grupo de activistas locales trataron de llamar su atención con letreros señalando la necesidad en busca del apoyo del gobernador.

El momento ha llegado para que Lawrence limpie su imagen de elecciones fraudulentas y deshonestas cada vez que hay una contienda. Puede que no tengamos control sobre la desorganización y el caos en el Departamento de Elecciones pero esto es algo que podemos tratar de convencer a nuestros funcionarios estatales de lo mucho que necesitamos empezar a poner a Lawrence en camino a recobrar la respetabilidad.

It's time for Voter ID

For many years the City of Lawrence has been trying to implement a system by which we can guarantee the honesty and integrity of the voting process and it has fell on deaf ears.

Back in 2003, although our local State Representatives claimed to be in favor of a measure that would require voters to show proof of residency or carrying a particular identification card, they all refused to take the Home Rule Petition approved by the City Council into the State House and a group of citizens personally carried it in.

Now, the Voter ID issue is back in the news. During Governor Deval Patrick's visits last week to Lawrence, a group of local activists tried to get his attention with signs pointing to the need in search of the governor's support.

The time has come for Lawrence to clean up its image of fraudulent, dishonest elections every time we have a contest. We may not have any control over the disorganized and cluttered voting lists in the Elections Department but this is something that we can try to convince our state officials how badly we need it to start putting Lawrence on the way to regain its respectability.

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.

Rumbo

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OPINIÓN

Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

Desde Mi Esquina

BILINGUAL CONTENT

Please see PAGE 15 to read this article in English

Las extrañas visitas del gobernador

¿Es imaginación mía o usted está de acuerdo conmigo que la asistencia del Gobernador Deval Patrick a las fiestas de recaudaciones de Willie Lantigua y Marcos Devers fue como una bomba que no explotó? ¿Qué propósito sirvió decirle a uno “¡Estoy contigo!” y después al otro, cuando ambos son Demócratas postulándose por la misma posición?

El Representante Lantigua puede haber pensado que ligó un buen partido cuando consiguió que el gobernador pusiera su nombre en su invitación pero se convirtió en un insignificante endoso. Sí, hay desacuerdo de si fue un endoso o no, por lo tanto, juzgue usted mismo aunque suena mejor en su forma original – en inglés:

“En 14 meses en su trabajo (algunas veces luce más largo), en ese tiempo él creó 20,000 nuevos empleos el año pasado, contribuyó con más dinero a la educación pública, a la seguridad pública, vivienda, transportación y abuso de sustancias, y en muchos casos, más que nunca en la historia. Cada una de estas importantes piezas legislativas, cada una de ellas han sido el resultado de colaboradores municipales. Necesitamos esos colaboradores y necesitamos apoyar a esos colaboradores, y por eso es que estoy aquí, para presentarles a mi colaborador, William Lantigua”.

El les pedía a los asistentes que apoyen a su colaborador para que puedan seguir

trabajando juntos. Si eso no es un endoso, yo no sé qué lo será. Me pregunto si llamó a Devers “colaborador” también.

Cuestionario de Salud Mental

La semana pasada reportamos sobre una manifestación que tuvo lugar en oposición a una nueva ley que requiere que todos los niños menores de 21 años de edad llenen un cuestionario de 7 páginas sobre su comportamiento social y emocional cada vez que vayan a un reconocimiento anual, y tengo que decirles lo mucho que me molestó eso.

Lo que lo hace más ofensivo es que esta ley fue dictada especialmente para los niños bajo Medicaid. Lo que la comunidad médica no le comunica a los padres es que ellos tienen el derecho a negarse a tomar la prueba.

Yo le tengo miedo a esas cosas porque hay el peligro de que los niños que son examinados por problemas emocionales y caen en una categoría errónea pudieran estar sacrificando su futura salud y profesiones.

Si los profesionales que trabajan con el niño ven la necesidad de hacer más investigaciones o aplicar drogas, solamente entonces deben ser consideradas pero en forma rutinaria tiene el potencial de hacer más daño en su vida adulta.

Irritación 1

Yo recibo casi 100 mensajes electrónicos cada día en mi casa y trato de leerlos y contestar cada uno de ellos. Ya he aprendido cuáles son ofertas de “loterías”



y el botón de borrar trabaja muchísimo. Pero usted debería estar cerca de mí para ver mi reacción cuando llego a mi casa a hacerle frente a docenas de mensajes que han sido enviados a una larga lista de personas usando CC: en lugar de BCC:.

Ante todo, no me interesa saber a quién más se lo han enviado y me molesta que ellos vean mi nombre entre las personas que lo ha recibido. Pudiera ser un chiste inocente pero también pudiera ser un comentario cargado de comentarios políticos que hará a esas personas pensar que estoy asociada con esa forma de pensar. Cuando usted incluye esos nombres en la línea marcada BCC:, el único nombre que el destinatario verá es el suyo y no tendrá conocimiento de a quién más le fue enviado – si es que fue enviado a alguien más. Es más bien como una cortesía.

Irritación 2

¿Ha recibido un mensaje electrónico tan interesante, tan cómico, o tan bueno que quien se lo envió ya había pasado por muchas manos y usted tiene que sentarse a abrir 6 ó 7 emails hasta llegar al original? Cuando veo el primero solamente, pongo el botón de borrar en buen uso.

Si quiere ahorrar tiempo y disgusto a la persona que lo recibe, el momento en que usted lee el artículo, chiste o lo que sea, envíelo sin regresar al mensaje donde lo recibió porque de hacerlo así, entonces les estará enviando todas las 6 ó 7 copias que usted recibió también, y si ellos son como yo, no los abrirán tampoco.

Firefighters honored



Award presented to Lieutenant Eric Zahn and Firefighters Rodney Rivera and Tara Reardon by the American Red Cross.

By ALBERTO SURÍS

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Firefighters Rodney Rivera, Tara Reardon and Lieutenant Eric Zahn, were awarded the American Red Cross Lifesaving Team Award for the Professional Responder, in a ceremony held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at the Central Fire Station, located at 65 Lowell Street, in Lawrence.

“Members of the Lawrence Fire Department do extraordinary things on a daily basis,” said Jamie Devlin, interim executive director. “The American Red Cross is pleased to be able to honor these three deserving members of the Lawrence Fire Department.”

Reading from a written statement, Devlin said: “On May 7, 2007, Firefighters Rodney Rivera, Tara Reardon and Lieutenant Eric Zahn, trained in the American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Responder, helped save the life of Michael Houle, an employee of the Lawrence Firefighter Credit Union who was having a massive heart attack.”

Unfortunately, Firefighters Rodney Rivera and Tara Reardon were unable to attend the ceremony. Neither was Michael Houle, who has fully recuperated from his heart illness but few days ago, slipped at home and broke an ankle, informed Devlin.

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MVFCU vende Corazones de Caridad



Posando orgullosamente en la foto con los corazones vendidos está Felipe Jorge, Representante de Servicios a Miembros en la Sucursal de Lawrence de MVFCU.

Las sucursales de la Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union y sus empleados en las oficinas corporativas han estado muy ocupados apoyando la campaña Corazones de Caridad.

Los corazones son vendidos por \$1 a miembros y empleados para recaudar fondos para Emmaus, Inc. y Merrimack Valley YMCA y han recaudado más de \$700 en fondos para las Caridades del

Valle de Merrimack.

La sucursal de Lawrence sola ha vendido más de 360 corazones.

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union sirve a cualquier persona que viva, trabaje o asista a servicios religiosos en toda la región del Valle de Merrimack. Sus sucursales en Massachusetts son Lawrence, North Andover, Haverhill y Methuen así como en Plaistow, NH.

Ceremonia para eliminar la violencia contra mujeres



En las escaleras de la Casa del Estado para White Ribbon Day, (Izquierda a Derecha) Representante Estatal William Lantigua, la Directora de Programas de Servicios para la Mujer de la YWCA, Vilma Lora; Coordinadora de Servicios de Consejería Legal e Inmigratorios de la YWCA, Nancy Cruz; Educadoras de Adolescentes/Consejeras de Sobrevivientes de Violencia Doméstica y Agresión Sexual de la YWCA, Teresa DeJesus y Arelis Huertas; y el Representante Estatal Barry Finegold se unen a los jóvenes del Programa YouthBuild en apoyo a darle fin a la violencia en contra de la mujer.

YWCA de Lawrence y Programa YouthBuild se unieron para asistir a ceremonia en Casa del Estado para dar fin a la violencia en contra de la mujer.

Auspiciado por Jane Doe, Inc. (JDI), también conocido como la Coalición en Contra del Abuso/Agresión Sexual y la Violencia Doméstica (Mass. Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence), la YWCA de Lawrence y el Programa YouthBuild de Lawrence se unieron para asistir al primer evento anual White Ribbon Day (Día del Lazo Blanco) celebrado en la Casa del Estado el pasado 14 de febrero, con el propósito de dar fin a la violencia en contra de la mujer. Los caballeros presente fueron juramentados y prometieron “nunca cometer, ignorar, o mantenerse en silencio en cuanto a la violencia en contra de la mujer, la agresión sexual, y la violencia doméstica.”

El Presidente Honorario, Gobernador Deval Patrick y los Líderes de la Junta Organizadora de la Campaña, ex Embajador Paul Cellucci y Peter Roby, junto a otros importantes caballeros oradores, fueron acompañados por aproximadamente 400 personas en la Casa del Estado. Los caballeros en asistencia juraron trabajar para darle fin a la violencia del hombre en contra de la mujer. También en asistencia estuvieron los representantes estatales William Lantigua y Barry Finegold, como también miembros del personal de la oficina de la Senadora Susan Tucker, demostrando su continuo apoyo a la YWCA de Lawrence por sus 14 años de ofrecer

servicios y apoyo a víctimas de la violencia doméstica y la agresión sexual en el Valle del Merrimack. Durante todo este tiempo, la YWCA ha provisto servicios a más de 20,000 sobrevivientes de estos crímenes.

En Massachusetts en el año 2007, se estima que 1.3 millones de mujeres fueron víctimas de asalto físico y se atribuyen 34 muertes al acto de la violencia doméstica, un aumento estimado de 22% desde el año 2006. Dirigiéndose al grupo, Mary Lauby, Directora Ejecutiva de JDI, les exhortó a la audiencia presente que tornaran sus energías en ese evento y las convirtieran en un compromiso a largo término para trabajar con la Coalición y restablecer la capacidad de Massachusetts para suplir las necesidades de sobrevivientes de la violencia y realizar la promesa de prevención mediante la creación de un mundo libre de abusos.

Reconociendo que la educación es un componente importante en cambiar actitudes sobre la violencia doméstica y sexual y otros tipos de comportamientos abusivos en contra de la mujer, la YWCA extendió sus esfuerzos educativos especializados al programa YouthBuild de Lawrence, para educar a este grupo de hombres jóvenes a que comprendan su responsabilidad en prevenir el comportamiento violento en contra de la mujer. Esta asociación educativa conllevó a estos jóvenes a querer involucrarse en los esfuerzos de la YWCA en vincular a hombres en este movimiento social y a que participaran en el evento White Ribbon Day el pasado día de San Valentín.

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Gob. Patrick en fiesta de Lantigua

POR ALBERTO SURÍS

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El Gobernador Deval Patrick fue el invitado de honor del Representante William Lantigua en su fiesta de recaudación el lunes, 3 de marzo, 2008. La prensa no fue permitida. Las fotos que usted está viendo fueron tomadas por Justo García y están siendo publicadas por cortesía del Representante Lantigua. Un miembro del grupo de investigación de Rumbo logró grabar el corto discurso del gobernador.

El gobernador comenzó por hacer un breve recuento acerca de su niñez, cuando estaba creciendo en un suburbio de Chicago, dependiendo de asistencia pública y de cómo la educación cambió su vida radicalmente.

“Yo quiero decir una palabra o dos acerca de colaboración y la importancia de tener colaboradores”, comenzó el gobernador. “Yo estoy aquí para decirles que el colaborador que usted valora es el colaborador que hace la diferencia, y ese es William Lantigua”.

El gobernador dijo que, “En 14 meses en su trabajo (algunas veces luce más largo), en ese tiempo él creó 20,000 nuevos empleos el año pasado, contribuyó con más dinero a la educación pública, a la seguridad pública, vivienda, transportación y abuso de sustancias, y en



State Representatives Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen); Barbara A. L'Italien (D-Andover); David Torrisi (D-North Andover); Governor Deval Patrick and Representative William Lantigua. Photo by Justo García.

muchos casos, más que nunca en la historia. Cada una de estas importantes piezas legislativas, cada una de ellas han sido el resultado de colaboradores municipales. Necesitamos esos colaboradores y

necesitamos apoyar a esos colaboradores, y por eso es que estoy aquí, para presentarles a mi colaborador, William Lantigua”.

Entre Los Participantes estaban los Representantes Estatales David Torrisi,

Kevin J. Murphy, Mark V. Falzone, Thomas J. Calter, Barbara A. L'Italien y Linda Dean Campbell; la Senadora Susan Tucker; además, los Concejales Frank Morán y Michael Fielding.

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PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA DE ENERGIA PARA FAMILIAS DE BAJO INGRESO POR EL AÑO 2008.

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2	\$13,690	\$17,113	\$20,535	\$23,958	\$27,380
3	\$17,170	\$21,463	\$25,755	\$30,048	\$34,340
4	\$20,650	\$25,813	\$30,975	\$36,138	\$41,300
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Atty. Robert O'Koniewsky shakes hands with Governor Deval Patrick. Police Sergeant Melix Bonilla is pictured behind the governor and Representative William Lantigua. Photo by Justo García



Governor Patrick shakes hands with Jude Charles. Photo by Justo García.

Governor Deval Patrick at Lantigua's fundraiser

By ALBERTO SURÍS

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Governor Deval Patrick was the guest of honor at Representative William Lantigua's fundraising held Monday, March 3, 2008. The press was not allowed. The pictures you see in this edition were taken by Justo García and are published by the courtesy of Representative Lantigua. A member of Rumbo's research team had the opportunity of recording the governor's speech.

The governor started by making a brief recount about his childhood, growing-up in a Chicago suburb, depending on welfare and how education turned his life around.

"I want to say a word or two about partnerships, partnerships and the importance of partnerships," started the governor. "I'm here to tell you that the partner you value is the partner who makes the difference, and that is Willie Lantigua."

The governor said that, "In 14 months in the job (sometimes seems longer) in that time, he has added 20,000 new jobs last year, contributed with more money to public education, public safety, housing, transportation and substance

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abuse, in many cases, more than ever in history. Every one of these important legislation initiatives, every one of them has been the result of partnerships. We need that partnership and we need you to support that partnership, and that is why I'm here to present you my partner, William Lantigua."

Among the guests were the State Representatives David Torrisi, Kevin J. Murphy, Mark V. Falzone, Thomas J. Calter, Barbara A. L'Italien and Linda Dean Campbell; Senator Susan Tucker; also, Councilors Frank Morán y Michael Fielding.

"Malden Mills atraerá trabajos, vivienda e ingresos significativos a la ciudad. Esta vibrante comunidad residencial proveerá viviendas viables y de calidad a los residentes de Lawrence."

- **Ana Luna,**
Directora Ejecutiva,
Arlington Community
Trabajando

Reedificación de Malden Mills

¡Necesitamos su apoyo para hacer de Malden Mills una realidad!

Como propietarios de Malden Mills, College Street Management está muy excitado acerca de nuestra propuesta de reedificar el campus en una vibrante comunidad de uso mixto. El proyecto ofrece muchos beneficios tangibles para la Ciudad de Lawrence y:

- Creará nuevas opciones de vivienda para los residentes de Lawrence.
- Revitalizará el sitio que no está siendo utilizado, haciéndolo más seguro y más fácil de usar por los peatones.
- Proveerá nuevas oportunidades de empleo y retendrá a Polartec como el principal inquilino.
- Incrementará los ingresos a la ciudad por concepto de impuestos, nuevas viviendas, oficinas y tiendas al detalle.
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- Revitalizará apartamentos de alta calidad para usted.



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HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA
1

SURÍS: Foro sobre Casinos de Juego

los casinos.

Esta fue la segunda oportunidad para Burke de hablar a favor de los casinos antes de los hombres y mujeres de negocio del valle. La primera vez fue durante un desayuno con los alcaldes y administradores de ciudades y pueblos, llevado a cabo el viernes, 18 de enero. “Los casinos de juego son materia de desarrollo económico”, dijo el secretario Burke mientras pasaba a explicar los planes del Gobernador.

- El gobernador ha dicho que los casinos atraerán 20,000 trabajos permanentes y 30,000 temporarios de construcción a Massachusetts.
- Los planes del gobernador son los de crear un fondo de ayuda al impuesto de la propiedad y ayudar a los pueblos y ciudades en su infraestructura.

El 7 de febrero, 2008, hablando ante Bob Haynes, presidente de AFL-CIO y un grupo de líderes de la unión, Patrick dijo que los casinos de juego atraerían buenos trabajos con buenos salarios y oportunidades para entrenamiento y avance. De acuerdo con los recientes reportes dados a conocer sobre Foxwoods, los empleados del casino hacen un promedio de 45-50,000 dólares al año.

“20,000 nuevos empleos en esta gama de salarios ampliará las oportunidades económicas al mismo tiempo que otras iniciativas que tenemos de tecnología y ciencia de la vida al mismo tiempo que generará otros 50-80,000,000 de dólares en nuevos ingresos para el estado. Aprobar la ley retendrá un estimado de 1.1 billones de dólares que los residentes de Massachusetts están gastando ahora en los casinos de Connecticut solamente”, ha dicho Patrick y el gobernador ha continuado diciendo que, “con los ingresos de las licencias y las decenas y miles de nuevos empleos en el Commonwealth podremos reducir significativamente los impuestos de la



Panel members: MVCC Chairman of the Board, Richard C. Dewhirst, President; Chris Jennings, president Mystic Connecticut Coast and Country Travel Association; Senator Susan C. Tucker, D-Andover; Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin Burke and Joseph J. Bevilacqua, president CEO, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce.

propiedad para miles y miles de dueños de casa, crear fondos para proyectos de transportación y fortalecer nuestra habilidad de competir e incrementar la ayuda local para cada ciudad y pueblo en el estado. La legislatura debe tomar acción sobre esta propuesta”. El gobernador ha limitado a tres los sitios para estos casinos de juego en Massachusetts, para asegurar un máximo de beneficio económico para la totalidad del Commonwealth. Cada casino estará situado en una de las regiones identificadas:
Region 1: Suffolk, Middlesex and Essex
Region 2: Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, Nantucket, Dukes, and Barnstable

Region 3: Worcester, Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, y Berkshire

La Senadora Tucker, la cual dice estar “profundamente en contra de la idea del gobernador”, y la llamó “la madre de todas las batallas”, la cual está a punto de comenzar cuando se comiencen a debatir los proyectos del gobernador. “Y yo estoy acostumbrada a pelear”, advirtió.

“Es cierto, el estado necesita dinero. Lo sabemos”, accedió a decir la Senadora Tucker, pero dijo estar en desacuerdo que casinos de juego serán el remedio y está en desacuerdo con el gobernador de que los casinos van a producir el dinero

que necesitamos. Y para probar su punto, Tucker mencionó a los estados de New Jersey y Connecticut, con impuestos mucho más altos que Massachusetts y ambos con casinos de juego.

“Esta es la forma más regresiva de impuestos nunca inventada por el hombre”, dijo la Senadora Susan Tucker, y añadió, “Si Massachusetts aprueba los casinos de juego, New Hampshire se verá precisado a imitarlo y establecer sus casinos propios”. Tucker dijo que New Hampshire ya ha introducido proyectos de ley para el área de Pease International Tradeport, en Portsmouth. Quienes apoyan este proyecto de ley dicen que los residentes de New Hampshire hicieron cerca de medio millón de viajes por separado a Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun durante los pasados 12 meses, de acuerdo a un reciente estudio. De acuerdo a esto, New Hampshire podría recaudar por lo menos \$180 millones al año si legalizan las máquinas traga monedas en cuatro de sus hipódromos.

“Yo no puedo hablar de casinos sin hablar de las máquinas tragamonedas”, dijo la Senadora Tucker. “Estas máquinas están diseñadas para ser adictivas. Los jugadores de las máquinas juegan a extinguirse y el Gobernador Patrick está proponiendo tener Consejeros de Adicción en cada casino. ¿Por qué necesitamos una licencia en Massachusetts que requiera consejeros en adicción? ¿Recuerdan cuando la lotería comenzó, una vez a la semana e iba a resolver los problemas económicos del estado? Hoy se juega siete días a la semana y no está produciendo los ingresos esperados. (De acuerdo con un reporte del diario Boston Globe, los ingresos decrecieron \$71 millones en los primeros 5 meses del año fiscal).

“Pero por lo menos la lotería no le va a poner un embargo en su casa, no le va a servir alcohol y no le va a crear un problema con su tarjeta de crédito”, dijo la Senadora Tucker comparando lo que los casinos pueden hacer de su modo de vida.



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“Yo rebajé 30 libras en 3 meses y he mantenido ese peso por estos últimos 5 meses. La mejor parte del plan de Advance Weight Loss es que puedo comer comida ordinaria. Con otras dietas anteriores, yo perdí peso pero volví a recuperarlas y gané aún más cuando dejé de seguir la dieta. Los profesionales de Advance Weight Loss me mostraron cuáles comidas podía comer más y de cuáles apartarme. Ellos me enseñaron cómo cambiar mis hábitos de comer y me enseñaron cómo seleccionar mejor mis comidas. Para mí ha sido un exitoso cambio de estilo de vida. Su plan, conjuntamente con Mesotherapy, y una rutina de ejercicio diario, me ha dado un gran resultado”.

- Bob Fournier

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NOTAS DE SU BIBLIOTECARIA

Por Maureen Nimmo
Directora de la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence

Saludos, Amigos Lectores! Bueno, poco a poco estamos acercándonos más a la primavera y este mes contamos con muchas actividades aquí en la biblioteca y en la ciudad, las cuales esperamos gozar con buenas temperaturas. Cuando esta circular llegue a sus manos, ya habremos realizado el desayuno con el alcalde, el izamiento de la bandera irlandesa y la vice-cónsul Marianne Bolger ya habrá leído para los niños aquí en la biblioteca. Estoy esperando ansiosamente la Celebración Céltica, la cual se celebrará aquí en el auditorium Sargent y contará con la participación de George y Terri Kelley y la invitada especial Julia Kwolyk, quien nos deleitará con su gran voz y su violín. Todas las oportunidades de escuchar el magnifico piano Steinway de la biblioteca es, personalmente, un deleite. El concierto se llevará a cabo el día 30 de marzo a las 2:00 p.m.

Cambiando el tema: como ya les había informado en mi pasado artículo, soy miembro del comité de la Parada del Día de San Patricio, y como tal quiero darle las gracias a todos los que han ayudado y aportado durante la recolección de fondos al principio de este mes. La parada continuará tal como planeado, ya que reunimos lo suficiente para pagar los gastos que fueron añadidos este año. Espero que los demás eventos de la ciudad como el Pan y Rosas, la Semana Hispana y el Festival de los Tres Santos tengan tan buena fortuna como la de nosotros y puedan continuar como todos los años.

Recientemente me enteré de un nuevo servicio disponible a través de las computadoras, el cual es ofrecido por el Consorcio de Bibliotecas del Valle del Merrimack (MVLC). Este programa es llamado el "Duende de la Biblioteca" y puede ser encontrado en su página de Internet www.libraryelf.com. Este provee una lista de los materiales que usted tiene en el momento prestado y les recordará cuándo le toca regresarlos. El duende le enviará notificaciones a su dirección de correo electrónico para que no se pase de la fecha y se encuentre con multas. Creo que este es un gran sistema, especialmente para los padres de niños pequeños. Muchas veces estos padres toman prestados una gran cantidad de libros para leerles a sus niños (el cual se merece una gran ovación), y a veces se olvidan de cuantos libros tomaron prestados. También es un buen sistema para

La selección del grupo de lectura para el mes de marzo es el libro titulado *The Madonna of Excelsior* por el escritor del Sur de África Zakes Mda. La próxima reunión del grupo es el día 24 de marzo. El grupo ya escogió el tema para el año próximo: títulos ganadores del Premio Nobel.

personas como yo, que van leyendo más de un libro a la misma vez y solamente tenemos una vaga idea de cual hay que entregar primero. Es una pena tener que admitir que aún siendo la directora de la biblioteca, y estando aquí todos los días, a veces entrego materiales tarde. Para suscribirse a este programa, visite la dirección provista y regístrese a través de MVLC. ¡Yo seré una de las primeras!

La selección del grupo de lectura para el mes de marzo es el libro titulado *The Madonna of Excelsior* por el escritor del Sur de África Zakes Mda. La próxima reunión del grupo es el día 24 de marzo. El grupo ya escogió el tema para el año próximo: títulos ganadores del Premio Nobel. Hasta ahora, el grupo siempre ha escogido los temas basados en regiones (Ej.: América Latina, Asia, África). Estoy sumamente impresionada de que este grupo ha durado tanto tiempo que ya han agotado el tema regional. El grupo de lectura en español se estará reuniendo el día 7 de abril para discutir *Vivir para Contarla* por Gabriel García Márquez. Yo amo a este autor, pero no creo que pueda unirme a esta discusión en español, así que la dejo para todos los latinos intelectuales.

Bueno, todavía me encuentro de luto por mis querido Patriotas, y todavía es muy temprano para comenzar mi obsesión con los Medias Rojas (ya que la temporada no ha comenzado todavía). Además, estoy más obsesionada con el fútbol que con el béisbol. Esto significa que voy a tener que actuar como una persona sana y razonable por un buen tiempo. ¡Espero que todavía me puedan reconocer! ¡Nos vemos en la biblioteca!

Cambian Fecha para Visita de la Unidad Móvil de Mamografías

La 4ta visita de la Unidad Móvil de Mamografías de Boston, originalmente programada para el pasado sábado, 1ro de marzo del 2008, fue cancelada debido al mal tiempo. La nueva fecha para este evento será el sábado, 29 de marzo del 2008, entre las 8:00 am—3:00 pm. Estas pruebas de mamografía se llevarán a cabo en la YWCA de Lawrence, ubicada en el 38 de la calle Lawrence, en la Ciudad de Lawrence. La YWCA continuará el proceso de reclutamiento, por lo tanto, le exhortamos a toda mujer de 40 años en adelante a llamar para hacer su cita.

La Unidad Móvil de Mamografías de Boston ofrece mamografías a mujeres de 40 años de edad en adelante, residentes del estado de Massachusetts, quienes nunca hayan recibido una mamografía anteriormente o para quienes haya transcurrido por los menos un año desde su última mamografía. Toda mujer es bienvenida, incluyendo mujeres que posean seguro médico, aquellas sin seguro médico o con cobertura médica limitada, sin importar su estatus migratorio. Personal BILINGÜE estará disponible durante todo el evento.

Representantes de la Red de la Salud Femenina, el programa estatal que ofrece pruebas para la detección del cáncer de senos

y cervical gratis, estarán presentes para registrar a participantes sin seguro médico o con seguro médico limitado, quienes resulten elegibles para este programa. Además, representantes de la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer estarán disponibles para educar a las participantes acerca de los servicios que esta entidad ofrece, como también elegibilidad para dichos servicios.

Habrán rifas especiales para aquellas mujeres que se registren con anticipación, además de información, regalitos y refrigerios para todas las participantes de este evento.

Todavía hay espacio disponible para el 29 de marzo. Regístrese hoy mismo. Para información adicional y/o para registrarse, favor de comunicarse con Minerva Grullón o Martha Roman-Dumeng a la YWCA de Lawrence al (978) 687-0331.

¡La Detección Temprana es su Mejor Protección! Unos minutos de su tiempo pueden salvarle la vida. Hágase su mamografía anualmente. ¡Hágalo por usted y por su familia!

Esta iniciativa es posible mediante donativos de Cynthia Alekel Mohr y el Family Mobile Mammography Fund, Boston Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., y Lenny Zakim Fund.



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Presidenta del Comité de Presupuesto y Finanzas

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

Reunión de la Asociación de Vecinos de Tower Hill

El miércoles, 27 de febrero, 2008, asistí a la primera reunión de la Asociación de Vecinos de Tower Hill con su nuevo Presidente Keith Wlodyka.

A medida que entré en Judson Hall en la Escuela Our Lady of Good Counsel, quedé muy impresionada no solo por la larga mesa con el registro de los asistentes y una amplia cantidad de plumas y copias de su boletín de noticias que estaban convenientemente colocados cerca de la entrada, pero también por los refrigerios que incluyeron deliciosos dulces y besitos de chocolate de Hershey.

La reunión y la asistencia fueron excelentes. Unas cuarenta personas, incluyendo a dos concejales, el Concejel at-Large Frank Moran y la Concejala por el Distrito B Grisel Silva estuvieron presente. El Presidente Wlodyka presentó al nuevo Vicepresidente Dan Clark y a la nueva Tesorera/Secretaria, Ann Clegg.

El orador invitado, el Director del Departamento de Planeamiento Michael Sweeney, utilizando una gráfica, dio una presentación muy comprensiva respecto

a las adjudicaciones bancarias y la nueva ordenanza que ha sido propuesta en la ciudad por la junta especial sobre adjudicaciones, desarrollo económico y seguridad pública (Foreclosure, Economic Development and Public Safety Task Force) del Alcalde Michael Sullivan. Dicha ordenanza lee:

“El propósito de la Ordenanza de Adjudicaciones sometida por el Departamento de Planeamiento es proteger y preservar los vecindarios y la seguridad pública regulando el mantenimiento de propiedades residenciales abandonadas o adjudicadas. Los dueños de estas propiedades abandonadas o adjudicadas incluyendo a los bancos, inversionistas, y compañías de prestamistas serán requeridos a registrarse con el Servicio de Inspecciones e incluir un punto de contacto que opera dentro de 20 millas de la Ciudad de Lawrence. El registro deberá de incluir el nombre, número de teléfono y dirección postal.

Habrà un costo inicial de \$100 y de no hacerlo, el resultado será una multa de \$300

y si no mantiene la propiedad debidamente resultaría en una multa de \$300 mensuales.”

Una discusión breve sobre lo siguió sobre la limpieza de los lotes vacíos y la demolición de los edificios dañados. Un representante del Departamento de Bomberos dio un informe sobre los recientes incendios de la calle Royal, Tower Hill y South Lawrence y, a petición mía, explicó lo que significa la construcción balloon.

El Jefe de Policía John Romero comentó sobre los aumentos en robos de tubería de cobre y los GPS portátiles en los vehículos. Una mujer nos informó que el Alcalde Sullivan y el Comité de Presupuesto y Finanzas están auspiciando un Foro Abierto al Público Sobre el FY2009 el martes, marzo 25, a las 6:00 PM en el Senior Center. Unos cuantos de los asistentes hicieron conocer sus preocupaciones haciendo preguntas sobre la privatización del Departamento de Agua.

La Madre Naturaleza premió a THNA por esta excelente reunión atrasando una nevada que había sido anunciada hasta que la reunión terminó.

LINDY GALLAND
Lawrence, MA

El Voto de la Juventud Lawrenciana

Preocupado por la poca participación de los jóvenes hacia la política, me he motivado a escribir sobre el voto de la juventud. Por años he venido observando que nuestros jóvenes no acuden a ejercer su derecho al voto que por ley le corresponde de elegir y ser elegido y a la vez a los miembros o autoridades que son las que dirigen nuestra ciudad, parece poco importarles a nuestras autoridades realizar o proyectar una verdadera política de aprendizaje de concienciación para que nuestros jóvenes acudan a votar.

No es solamente decir salgan a votar, sino plantearse mesas redondas, talleres, simposios y un programa de enseñanza lo cual pueda ayudar a que nuestros jóvenes que son el futuro de nuestra ciudad y próximo profesionales.

Es de mucha importancia que los próximos candidatos, ya sea para representante estatal, concejal y para la

alcaldía, hagan de su programa de gobierno una prioridad la concienciación de los jóvenes lawrencianos para que salgan a votar ya que ellos son el futuro de esta ciudad.

Atentamente,

NELSON SILVESTRE
Lawrence, MA

Llamado a los padres pro educación

En estos días he estado leyendo a cerca de todo cuanto pasa en las escuelas públicas de Lawrence, cosas que uno ni se lo imaginaba.

También he leído como atacan a la señora Dalia Díaz porque nos está abriendo los ojos para que tomemos conciencia y actuemos en defensa de la educación de nuestros niños.

Si bien es cierto que el superintendente tiene mucha culpa de lo que pasa en las escuelas, también es cierto que nosotros los padres cooperamos para que esto suceda.

Es triste ver como en las reuniones de padres solo hay uno o dos que están interesados por lo que pasa con sus hijos.

Si los padres no se involucran en la educación de los hijos, no pueden opinar o defenderlos de algún problema o cualquier situación en la que se encuentre el hijo.

Como ciudadana de Lawrence y como madre quiero darle las gracias a la señora Díaz por ponernos al tanto de lo que se mueve dentro de las oficinas de nuestras escuelas. También quiero hacer un llamado a todos los padres de la ciudad para que se preocupen un poco más por la educación de sus hijos.

La unión hace la fuerza y juntos podemos demostrarle tanto al Superintendente Wilfredo Laboy como al Alcalde Michael Sullivan y a todos esos profesores desconsiderados que estos niños tienen padres y madres que se preocupan por ellos.

Dejemos de querer tapar el sol con un dedo y dediquemos más tiempo a lo que en realidad es importante: la educación de nuestros hijos.

Que Dios les bendiga,

JOCELIN
(Suprimimos el apellido a su petición)
Lawrence, MA



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Una de cada tres. Esa es la probabilidad que mujeres por todo el mundo tienen de sufrir violencia en algún período en sus vidas, según las Naciones Unidas. En algunos países, es mucho peor - siete de cada diez mujeres sufrirá violencia.

La violencia contra mujeres y niñas toma muchas formas, incluyendo el tráfico de mujeres en Europa y Asia, matanzas de honor en Jordán y Arabia Saudita, la violación utilizada como un arma de guerra en Darfur y la República Democrática del Congo, y la violación, acecho y violencia doméstica en países industrializados como los Estados Unidos. Adicionalmente, según un estudio, 48 por ciento de latinas en los Estados Unidos dicen que el abuso por parte de su pareja ha aumentado desde que inmigraron a este país.

Ningún país está libre de la violencia contra la mujer, pero algunos están en mejor posición para ayudar a otros a prevenirla. Aquí en los Estados Unidos tenemos la oportunidad de hacer mucho más para proteger a mujeres y niñas de lo que realmente estamos haciendo.

En el otoño, Senadores Joe Biden (D-DE) y Richard Lugar (R-IN) introdujeron legislación innovadora para combatir la crisis global de violencia contra mujeres y niñas. La legislación International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) aplicaría la fuerza de nuestra diplomacia y apoyo económico hasta \$1 billón por un período de cinco años para prevenir el abuso y la explotación de la mujer por todo el mundo. La legislación aseguraría que esfuerzos para eliminar la violencia contra la mujer

formarían parte de nuestros programas de asistencia internacional, donde sea apropiado, con un énfasis particular en apoyar a los grupos internacionales de mujeres que están trabajando en sus países para proteger a mujeres y niñas.

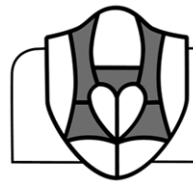
I-VAWA autorizaría recursos substanciales para programas internacionales que previenen la violencia, proveen servicios a sobrevivientes, reclaman oficialmente a los abusadores, cambian la actitud del público, y responden a la violencia contra la mujer en situaciones humanitarias. La legislación intentaría prevenir la violencia en todas sus formas, incluyendo matanzas

Ningún país está libre de la violencia contra la mujer, pero algunos están en mejor posición para ayudar a otros a prevenirla. Aquí en los Estados Unidos tenemos la oportunidad de hacer mucho más para proteger a mujeres y niñas de lo que realmente estamos haciendo.

La legislación está languideciendo. No se han producido testimonios y hay poco movimiento en el Congreso. En el Día Internacional de la Mujer, vamos a resolver cambiando eso haciendo llamadas y escribiendo a nuestros Senadores y Representantes y pedir su apoyo al International Violence Against Women Act.

Si conseguimos pasar esta legislación, ayudaremos en parar una crisis global. Ayudaremos a mantener la seguridad de la próxima generación. Les daremos a mujeres y niñas - y sus familias - por todo el mundo una enorme oportunidad de tener una vida más sana y más segura.

de honor, quemazones de las novias en hoguera, quemazones por ácido, muertes por dotación, mutilación genital, violación en masa durante períodos de guerra, o el abuso doméstico.



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Forum on Casino Gambling



Panel members: MVCC Chairman of the Board, Richard C. Dewhirst, President; Chris Jennings, president Mystic Connecticut Coast and Country Travel Association; Senator Susan C. Tucker, D-Andover; Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin Burke and Joseph J. Bevilacqua, president CEO, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce.

BY ALBERTO SURÍS

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce held a forum on casino gambling, on February 29, 2009 with Senator Susan C. Tucker (D-Andover) and Secretary of Public Safety, Kevin M. Burke. Tucker opposes casino gambling and Burke is Governor Deval Patrick's spokesperson pro-casino gambling. This was the second opportunity for Burke to speak in favor of the casinos before the Valley's businessmen and businesswoman. The first time was during the Town Managers and City Mayor's breakfast held on Friday, January 18. "Casino gambling is an economic development matter", said Secretary Burke, and went on to explain the governor's plan.

- The governor has said casinos will bring 20,000 permanent jobs and 30,000 temporary construction jobs to Massachusetts.
- The governor plans to use casinos to fund property tax relief to aid cities and towns and infrastructure repairs.

On February 7, 2008, speaking to AFL-CIO President Bob Haynes and a group of union leaders, Patrick said that: Casino resorts would bring good jobs with good wages and opportunities for training and advancement. According to reports about the recent Foxwood's union drive, casino employees make on average 45-50,000 dollars per year.

"20,000 new jobs in this salary range

will broaden the range of economic opportunities alongside initiatives we have in clean technology and life sciences for example, and also generate another 50-80,000,000 dollars in new state revenue. Passing the bill will retain the estimated 1.1 billion dollars that Massachusetts residents now spend in Connecticut resorts alone," said Patrick. And the Governor continued saying that, "with the casino revenue licensing fees and tens and thousands of jobs for the Commonwealth we can significantly reduce local property taxes for thousands and thousands of homeowners, fund transportation projects to strengthen our overall economic competitiveness and increase local aid to every city and town in this state. We must have action on this proposal from the legislature."

The governor's legislation limits destination resort casinos in Massachusetts to three to ensure the maximum economic benefit to the entire Commonwealth. Each casino would be sited in one of the three identified regions:

Region 1: Suffolk, Middlesex, and Essex
Region 2: Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, Nantucket, Dukes, and Barnstable
Region 3: Worcester, Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Berkshire

Senator Tucker, who said to be "profoundly against the governor's idea," and called "the mother of all fights," the one that will take place once they begin

"I can't talk about casinos without talking about slot machines," said Senator Tucker. "These machines are designed to be addictive. Machine gamblers play to extinction and the governor is proposing Addiction Counselors on site. Why do we need a license in Massachusetts that requires addict counsels? "Do you remember when the Lottery started, once a week, and it was supposed to solve the state economic problems? Today we played 7 days a week and is not producing the projected revenues.

deliberating the governor's idea. "And I'm used to fight," she warned.

"True, the State needs money, we know that," agreed Senator Tucker, but disagrees that casino gambling will be the remedy and disagrees with the governor that casinos will produce the kind of money we need. To prove her point, Tucker mentioned the States of New Jersey and Connecticut, with much higher taxes than Massachusetts. And both with casino resorts.

"This is the most regressive form of taxation every invented by mankind," said Senator Susan Tucker, and added, "if

Massachusetts approves casino gambling, New Hampshire will be pressured to quickly follow with a resort casino of its own."

Tucker said that New Hampshire has Casino bills already introduced for the area of Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth. Supporters of this bill said that New Hampshire residents made nearly a half-million separate trips to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun during the past 12 months, according to a recent study. Adding that New Hampshire would raise at least \$180 million a year from legalizing slot machines at four racetracks and three resorts, according to a consultant for the gambling industry.

"I can't talk about casinos without talking about slot machines," said Senator Tucker. "These machines are designed to be addictive. Machine gamblers play to extinction and the governor is proposing Addiction Counselors on site. Why do we need a license in Massachusetts that requires addict counsels? "Do you remember when the Lottery started, once a week, and it was supposed to solve the state economic problems? Today we played 7 days a week and is not producing the projected revenues. (According to a Boston Globe report revenues fell \$71 million, or 3.8 percent, during the first five months of the fiscal year.)

"At least the lottery won't take a lean on your house, won't serve alcohol, don't mess your credit card," said Senator Tucker, comparing what casinos can do to your means of living.

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA ROBERT BENEDICT



Best wishes, Bobby, for
a speedy recovery.
You are missed!
**From the teens, staff,
Board members, and
volunteers of the
YMCA**



Before Hour Mixer at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union

By **ALBERTO SURIS**

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, always responding to its members' needs and preferences, and for those who could not attend Business After Hour Mixers, has established Business Before Hour Mixers.

On Tuesday, March 4, 2008, together with Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, the MVCC held one of those early hour mixers (7:30 A.M. to 8:45A.M.) at the new JDCU branch located at 380 Merrimack Street, in Methuen, where Credit Union's friends and members had the opportunity of business networking while taking a chance to win valuable door prizes.



These are the people who greet you when you visit the Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union branch at 380 Merrimack Street in Methuen. Left to Right: Kelly Orlando, Steve Jones, Scott Flagg, Anne-Marie Bisson, Kathy Regan, Kara Doyle, Maureen Couture, David York, Elkin Montoya and Alishia Isaac.

Middle Row Left to right: Gerri Bechat, Donna Richardson and Elaine Stellberger. Seated left to right: Michelle Silveira and Jennifer Hall.

Stephen D. Jones, Vice-President, Community Development, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union chats with Joseph J. Bevilacqua, President/CEO Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, during the Business Before Hour mixer.



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- **Ana Luna**, Executive Director, Arlington Community Trabajando

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GET HELP NOW

WITH YOUR HEATING BILLS

(Back to November 1st, 2007)

THIS APPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL(S) WHO ARE APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR THIS YEAR'S HEATING SEASON 2008. BELOW IS THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY CHART WITH THE MAXIMUM INCOME.

Family Size (# of people in the household)*	100% of Federal Poverty Level	125% of Federal Poverty Level	150% of Federal Poverty Level	175% of Federal Poverty Level	200% of Federal Poverty Level
1	\$10,210	\$12,763	\$15,315	\$17,868	\$20,420
2	\$13,690	\$17,113	\$20,535	\$23,958	\$27,380
3	\$17,170	\$21,463	\$25,755	\$30,048	\$34,340
4	\$20,650	\$25,813	\$30,975	\$36,138	\$41,300
5	\$24,130	\$30,163	\$36,195	\$42,228	\$48,260

*For family size larger than five (5) people in the household please call our office for eligibility levels.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY:

- Residency: Participants must reside in Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Reading, or North Reading.
- Low Income: Participants must prove they meet Federal and State Income guidelines by providing income and documentation showing gross household revenue for all household members 18 years and older for a minimum of 4 weeks (one month) prior to their application date.

Persons whose heat is included in their rent (including those individuals who reside in Federal Section 236, Section 211 (D) (3), and Section 202 developments and in State Section 13A rental housing) may be eligible for assistance.

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Appointments may be made on by calling (978) 681-4950 or on a walk-in basis at GLCAC, Inc. LIHEAP Office, 2nd Floor 305 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA Monday through Thursday 9 AM - 4 PM

On International Women's Day Let's Help Stop Violence Against Women Worldwide

The International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) would apply the force of U.S. diplomacy and foreign aid totaling \$1 billion over five years to preventing abuse and exploitation against women worldwide.

BY ESTA SOLER

PRESIDENT OF THE FAMILY
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One in three. That's the chance women worldwide have of experiencing violence some time in their lives, according to the United Nations. In some countries, it's much worse - seven in ten women will suffer.

Violence against women and girls takes many forms - from trafficking in Eastern Europe and Asia, to honor killings in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, to rape being used as a weapon of war in Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to rape, stalking and domestic violence in industrialized countries like the United States.

No country is immune, but some are better positioned than others to help stop it. Here in the United States, we can do much more to keep women and girls safe than we're doing today.

Last fall, Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE) and Richard Lugar (R-IN) introduced groundbreaking legislation to combat the global crisis of violence against women and girls. The International Violence Against Women Act (I-VAWA) would apply the force of U.S. diplomacy and foreign aid totaling \$1 billion over five years to preventing abuse and exploitation against women worldwide. It would integrate efforts to end gender-based violence into all existing, appropriate U.S. foreign assistance programs, with a special emphasis on supporting the overseas women's groups that are working in the trenches to keep women and girls safe.

I-VAWA would authorize substantial resources for international programs that prevent violence, provide services to survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, change public attitudes, and better address violence against women in humanitarian situations. It would aim to prevent violence in all of its forms, including honor killings, bride burnings, acid burnings, dowry deaths, genital mutilation, mass rapes in war, or domestic violence.

The bill is languishing right now - there have been no hearings, and little movement. On International Women's Day, let's resolve to change that by calling or writing our Senators and Representatives and asking them to support the International Violence Against Women Act.

If we pass this legislation, we will help stop a global crisis. We will help keep the next generation safe. We will give women and girls - and their families - worldwide a vastly better chance to lead safer, healthier lives.

OPINION

Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

From My Corner

MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 4 para leer este artículo en Español

The Governor's weird visits

Is it my imagination or do you agree with me that Governor Deval Patrick's attendance to Willie Lantigua and Marcos Devers' fundraisers was a dud? What purpose did it serve to tell one "I'm with you!" and then the other, when both are Democrats running for the same position?

Representative Lantigua may have thought he scored big having the governor putting his name on his invitation but it turned to be a meaningless endorsement. Yes, there is disagreement as to whether or not it was an endorsement; judge for yourself:

"In 14 months in the job (sometimes seems longer) in that time, he has added 20,000 new jobs last year, contributed with more money to public education, public safety, housing, transportation and substance abuse, in many cases, more than ever in history. Every one of these important legislation initiatives, every one of them has been the result of partnerships. We need that partnership and we need you to support that partnership, and that is why I'm here to present you my partner, William Lantigua."

He is asking the attendees to support

his partner so they can continue working together. If that's not an endorsement, I don't know what is! I wonder if he called Devers "partner," too.

Mental Health questionnaire

Last week we reported on a demonstration that took place in opposition to a new law requiring all children under 21 years of age to fill out a 7-page questionnaire about their social and emotional behavior when taken for an annual check up, and I have to tell you how much it bothered me.

What makes it more offensive is that this law was dictated especially for all children under Medicaid. What the medical community fails to communicate to parents is that they have the right to refuse that test.

I have a problem with that because there is an inherent danger to children being tested for emotional problems and falling into erroneous categories that may jeopardize their future health and careers.

If the professionals who work with the child see the need for further testing or drugging, only then it should be considered but on a routine basis it has the potential of doing more harm in his adult life.

Pet Peeve 1

I received close to 100 emails each day at home and I try to read and answer

each one of them. I learned by now which are "lottery" offers or scams and the delete button works overtime. But you should be around to see my reaction when I get home from work to tackle the dozens of messages that have been sent to a long list of people by using CC: instead of BCC:.

First of all, I don't care to whom they were sent and I do object that they see my name among the people who received it. It may be an innocent joke but it could also be a politically charged commentary that I may be later associated with that line of thinking. When you include the names of the BCC: line, the only name seen by the receiver is his or hers and they will have no knowledge as to whom else it has been sent - if anyone at all. It's like a matter of courtesy.

Pet Peeve 2

Have you received an email so good, so juicy that the sender had to forward it but it had been forwarded 6 or 7 times and you have to keep opening one email after another until you get to the original? Well, when I see the first one I put the delete button to use.

If you want to save time and aggravation to the person receiving it, the moment you read the article, joke or whatever it is, forward it without going back to the email in which you received it because then they will receive all 6 or 7 like you did, and if they are like me, they won't open them either.

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Ceremony to End Violence Against Women



On the State House steps for White Ribbon Day, (L to R) Representative William Lantigua, YWCA Director of Women's Services, Vilma Lora; YWCA Legal Advocacy Coordinator, Nancy Cruz; YWCA Teen Educators, Teresa DeJesus and Arelis Huertas; and Representative Barry Finegold join the young men of the YouthBuild program in support of ending violence against women.

Ambassador Paul Cellucci and Peter Roby, along with other important male speakers, were joined by nearly 400 guests at the State House. All the men in attendance pledged to work to end men's violence against women. Also attending were Representatives William Lantigua, and Barry Finegold, and staff from Senator Susan Tucker's office, demonstrating their ongoing support to the YWCA of Greater Lawrence for fourteen years of supportive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the Merrimack Valley area. During that time, the YWCA has served more than 20,000 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

In Massachusetts in 2007, an estimated 1.3 million women were victims of a physical assault with 34 deaths attributed to an act of domestic violence, up an estimated 22% over 2006. Addressing the group, Mary Lauby, JDI's Executive Director, urged the crowd to turn the energy from the day's events into a long-term commitment to work with the Coalition to restore the capacity of Massachusetts to meet the needs of survivors of violence and to realize the promise of prevention in creating a world free of abuse.

Recognizing that education is a critical component in changing domestic and sexual violence, and other abusive behaviors toward women, the YWCA extended specialized outreach efforts to YouthBuild of Lawrence to educate these young men to understand their responsibility to prevent abusive behavior against women. This educational partnership prompted these young men to become involved in the YWCA's efforts to engage men in this movement and to participate in the White Ribbon Day event on Valentine's Day.

Sponsored by Jane Doe, Inc. (JDI), also known as the Mass. Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, the YWCA of Greater Lawrence and YouthBuild of Lawrence joined forces and attended the First Annual White Ribbon Day held at the State House on February

14, 2008 to end violence against women. Those taking the pledge promised "never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women, sexual assault and domestic violence."

Honorary Chair Governor Deval Patrick and Campaign Co-Chairs former

MVFCU introduces new Mortgage Officer



Charles (Charlie) Galligan has joined the Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union as Mortgage Officer.

Charlie has been an account executive for some "very large mortgage companies where he developed relationships, marketed mortgage and equity loan products. He has a wide range of product experience and training and development," said Christine Whittaker, AVP Mortgage Lending.

Mr. Galligan has a BS from Springfield College and an MBA from Suffolk University. He has been an account executive in the Mortgage Industry over the past ten years in all of New England.

Charlie says that he chose to work here because he likes the credit union philosophy and our mission of serving one member at a time. "It's that personal service that makes the difference over any large banking institution, making it a win/win situation for the credit union and the members," said Charlie.

Charlie lives in Boxford, MA with his wife Denise and two children: Tim, 16 years old and Julianna who is 14.

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union serves anyone who lives, works or worships throughout the Merrimack Valley region. Branches located in Massachusetts are Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover and Haverhill and also in Plaistow, NH.

Cartas al Editor

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Lawrence Branch sells Hearts for Charity



Proudly posing in the picture with hearts sold is Felipe Jorge, Member Service Representative at the Lawrence Branch of MVFCU.

The Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union Branches and employees at the Corporate Office have been busy supporting Hearts for Charities.

Hearts were sold for \$1 to members and employees to raise funds for Emmaus Inc. and Merrimack Valley YMCA and they have raised \$700 for the Merrimack Valley Charities.

The Lawrence branch alone has sold over 360 hearts.

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union serves anyone who lives, works or worships throughout the Merrimack Valley region. Branches located in Massachusetts are Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover and Haverhill and also in Plaistow, NH.



Top O' The "Mourning" To Ya!

Local Theater Company "acts out" again in an Irish wake

THE STAGE at 60 Island Street in Lawrence will once again be transformed into Rory's Pub when the ACTING OUT Theater Company brings back its popular St. Patty's themed interactive comedy, LAFFERTY'S WAKE the first two weekends in March.

The show is an audience participation comedy about a wake being held for the poor, dearly departed Charlie Lafferty in his favorite Irish Pub. "The performers constantly interact with the audience," says N. Andover resident Linda Schoonmaker, co-founder and co-director of the not for profit organization that has called the Lawrence performance space home for the past three years. "There are lots of jokes and good old Irish sing-a-long songs, as well as a cash bar, so everyone always has a great time when we do this show!" she

adds.

"Audience response was so positive last year that this year we have also added two "road" shows to accommodate more folks," says co-director Penny Kohut, who plays Lafferty's widow Kathleen in the production.

In addition to performances on March 7, 8, 14, and 15 at THE STAGE, Lafferty's Wake will be at the Cedar Crest Restaurant on March 13th and at The Claddagh Pub on March 16th.

"We really hope people come and join us for some Irish fun and frolic at Lafferty's Wake", says Schoonmaker, "and they should also come and give us a wave at the St. Patrick's Parade on the 9th!"

For more information about Lafferty's Wake, call (978) 794-0001 or go to www.actingout.biz.



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


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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

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.

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.

Do something good, volunteer at the Y! The YMCA has been a volunteer organization since it began in 1844. The Merrimack Valley YCMA has many opportunities for volunteer service, including class assistants, instructors, clerical help, youth basketball league coaches, scorekeepers, and assistants for special projects and events. Give of yourself and receive the benefit of helping others. For more information, stop by the Member Services Desk to see our volunteer opportunities book.

LAWRENCE: Lafferty's Wake

60 Island Street
Lawrence, MA
Date: 3/8/2008
Start Time: 7:30:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$12
More Info: 978.794.0001

Catch the spirit of St. Patty's Day with the ACTING OUT Theater Company at the interactive musical Irish comedy, Lafferty's Wake! March 8, 14, 15 (7:30 pm)
The Stage 60 Island Street Lawrence. Tix \$12. Cash bar. Call (978) 794-0001 or visit www.actingout.biz

CATCH THE SHOW ON THE ROAD:

March 13th (6:00) pm
Cedar Crest Restaurant - call (978) 685-5722.

March 16 (3pm)
The Claddagh Pub Call (978) 794-0001

Thank you for supporting Theater Arts in the Merrimack Valley!

HAVERTHILL: New England Spring Flower Show

Date: 3/10/2008
Start Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 25
More Info: 978.374.2165

On March 10th join Bethany Homes at The New England Spring Flower Show 'Rhapsody in Green' at the Bayside Expo in Boston. The bus will leave Haverhill at 9a and will leave Boston at 3p. The cost is \$25 and includes the show ticket and transportation. Enjoy lunch on your own, there are many food vendors available.

HAVERTHILL: St. Patrick's Day Party

DiBurro's of Ward Hill
Date: 3/13/2008
Start Time: 11:00 AM - 2:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 7
More Info: 978.374.2390

Faith and Begorrah, St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner! Haverhill Council on Aging announces its Senior Citizen St. Patrick's Day Party will be held on Thursday, March 13, at DiBurro's of Ward Hill from 11:00 a.m.

until 2:00 p.m. E. J. Ouellette and the Irish Maggies will provide live entertainment, and a traditional Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage will be served. Doors will open at 10:45 a.m.

The presentation of the prestigious D. Raymond Taffe Award will take place at the luncheon. Last year's recipient were Bernice Descheneau and Maryjane Thomas, who are known for their leadership qualities and volunteer efforts.

There are 300 tickets available for Haverhill seniors at \$7.00. Addition seniors, non-seniors and out-of-town seniors may purchase tickets for \$16.00. Tables of ten may be reserved.

Tickets are available at the Citizens Center, 10 Welcome St., Haverhill, MA. Contact Kathy Bresnahan X11 or Rita Labella X16 at the Council on Aging 978-374-2390 for additional information.

HAVERTHILL: Four Day Tour of Washington DC

Date: 3/15/2008
Start Time: 12:00 AM
Cost Per Person: \$ 579
More Info: 978.374.2165

Bethany Homes Presents-A four-day tour of Washington DC 'A Patriotic Celebration of America. The trip includes World War II Memorial, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Holocaust Museum, the city's Famous Monuments: the FDR and Korean Monuments, Arlington Cemetery, Vietnam Memorial.

Also includes is round trip motorcoach transportation, six meals (three dinners-three breakfasts), all admission to touring venues, lodging at Courtyard by Marriott, tour director luggage handling and taxes. The cost is \$579pp double plus \$15 trip protection a \$50 deposit confirms your reservation. Your final payment due by March 15th.

HAVERTHILL: Michael Amante Concert

Date: 3/15/2008
Cost Per Person: \$ 54
More Info: 978.374.2165

Michael Amante is performing at Mass Mutual Convention Center in Springfield, MA on April 15, 2008. Your day trip includes this magnificent show, motorcoach transportation and lunch on your own at Holyoke Mall at Ingleside. Sign up required, the cost is \$54 and final payment due March 15, 2008. Please note that this is a ticketed event and seating will be assigned in order of payment.

ANDOVER: Easter Bunny Visits YMCA

YMCA Andover/North Andover Branch
Date: 3/15/2008
Start Time: 8:30:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 12

Easter Bunny makes early visit at YMCA's Eggsellent Easter Event. You can make reservations for the Andover/North Andover Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA's



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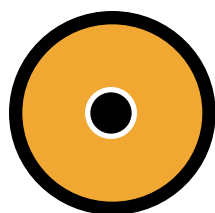
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Carmen Chalas
"La Embajadora"

annual Eggsellent Easter Event to be held on Saturday, March 15. Seating times for the light breakfast will be: 8:30; 9:30; and 10:30. Children can make an Easter craft project to take home. The Easter bunny will be on hand for photos. Cost per family is \$8 for YMCA Family Members; \$10 for General Members; and \$12 for non-members.

N. ANDOVER: Program on Long Term Care Insurance

Saint Michael Church Parish Hall
196 Main Street, North Andover
Date: 3/18/2008
Start Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30:00 PM
Cost Per Person: FREE
More Info: 978.686.4050

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, a coalition of faith communities, social service agencies, and health organizations working together to serve elders and caregivers, will sponsor a Long Term Care Planning Workshop by Anne Allar, CLTC (Certified in Long Term Care).

The program will be held at Saint Michael Church Parish Hall, 196 Main Street, North Andover on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Join Anne Allar and learn why Long Term Care insurance is such a hot topic today, how policies and laws impacting Long Term Care have changed, what the consequences are for your family and your retirement portfolio if you live a long life, how to choose a Long

Term Care insurance company or agent, and if Long Term Care insurance is appropriate for you. For more information call Jean Guyer at (978) 686-4050.

HAVERHILL: 'The Black Watch'

Date: 3/19/2008
Start Time: 12:00:00 AM
Cost Per Person: \$ 60
More Info: 978.374.2165

On May 19, 2008 The Springfield International Tattoo Royal Highland Regiment of Canada 'The Black Watch' will perform at Mass Mutual Convention Center in Springfield, MA at 2:00p (one show only)! This (must see) World Class event will not be repeated until 2016! Lunch is at Chez Josef and includes chicken marsala or baked scrod and will be served with vegetables, potato, salad, rolls and dessert. Sign up is required. The cost for transportation, lunch and show is \$60. Your final payment is due on March 19th. Please note that this is a ticketed event and seating will be assigned in order of payment.

ANDOVER: Candlelight Vigil

Old Town Hall
Date: 3/19/2008
Start Time: 7:00:00 PM - 8:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: 978.681.7864

Merrimack Valley People for Peace is sponsoring a 7 - 8 PM candlelight vigil for peace in front of the Andover Old Town Hall on Wednesday, March 19, the observance of

the anniversary of five years of war in Iraq. This event is coordinated with the national theme of "FIVE YEARS TOO MANY." The vigil is a witness to pursue peace, bring the troops home and end the war. Let your light shine and bring friends, families, neighbors, churches. Lend your voice and presence to the growing cries to bring this war to an end. For further information contact Rev. Jim Todd, 978-687-7864.

HAVERHILL: Trip to Foxwoods

Merrivista 6:15 AM
Westgate Shopping Plaza 6:45 AM
Date: 4/16/2008
Start Time: 6:15:00 AM
Cost Per Person: \$ 23
More Info: 978.374.2165

Bethany Community Services and the Haverhill Council on Aging are hosting a trip to Foxwoods Casino on Wednesday, April 16, 2008. Cost of \$23 includes transportation, luch voucher and keno play. To avoid disappointment sign up early with Darlene at 978.374.2165 and Kathy or Rita at 978.374.2390. Payment if full is due at sign up.

HAVERHILL: Trip to Museum of Fine Arts

Date: 4/28/2008
Start Time: 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 30
More Info: 978.374.2390

Back by popular demand!!!! Haverhill COA is planning a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts

Art in Bloom Exhibit on Monday, April 28. April 2008 marks the 32th Anniversary of Art in Bloom, and it is a wonderful spring event. The bus will leave Westgate at 9:30 a.m. and return to Haverhill at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Tickets for this event are \$30.00 per person for seniors. MFA members and non-seniors should call the COA for additional information.

Please call the COA if you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity to visit the MFA. Contact Kathy or Rita for additional information.

HAVERHILL: Alaska by Land and by Sea

Date: 5/23/2008
Cost Per Person: \$ 4,299
More Info: 978.374.2165

...On the Diamond Princess. From August 17-30, 2008. Enjoy Fairbanks, Denali, Mt. McKinley, Anchorage, Whittier by land and College Fjord, Skagway, Ketchikan, Glacier Bay, Juneau and Vancouver, BC by sea! Prices start at \$4299 pp double with \$600 deposit due at sign up, your final payment is due May 23rd.

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NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS
Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, una coalición de comunidades de fe, agencias de servicio social y organizaciones de salud, está buscando voluntarios para llevar a ancianos a citas al médico y otras citas de calidad de vida a través del Programa de Friends in Deed de Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.
Si usted puede, aunque sea ocasionalmente, por favor, llame a Jerry Proulx, reclutador de voluntarios, al 1-800-892-0890 ext. 463 (y mencione Interfaith Caregivers.)
Gracias de parte de Interfaith Caregivers y los muchos ancianos que necesitan de los servicios de choferes voluntarios para poder permanecer independientes en su propio hogar.

Tiffany Johnson Recognized at Lawrence School Committee Meeting

On Thursday January 31st Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan and the Lawrence School Committee recognized Tiffany Johnson for her work with and for the children of Lawrence with a citation at the Lawrence School Committee meeting.

"Great people do great work" said Mayor Sullivan as he introduced Miss Johnson to the school committee and those in attendance.

Tiffany was recognized for her annual holiday concerts that she has performed at Lawrence's Parthum School.

The event, which will be entering its fourth year, is a free holiday extravaganza that has brightened the lives of thousand of Lawrence school children. Parthum School principal Sharman Sullivan says "They love her. They treat Tiffany like she's a movie star. It really is a bright spot for all of our students. She is what every parent wants their child to aspire to." Added Sullivan, "I was very moved when I listened to Tiffany's CDs and learned about the performance. It is so awesome that Tiffany takes time out of her busy life to entertain our students. You are a special person for that."

The Christmas Concerts are produced by Illumina Concert Events, a nationally known event production company. Illumina President Ronald Bellanti, who is a Lawrence native, grew up in the Prospect



Principal Sharman Sullivan, Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy, Tiffany Johnson, Mayor Michael Sullivan, Manager Ronald Bellanti.

Hill Area where the Parthum School is located. Mr. Bellanti is also the founder of

a child Safety Campaign Called Ground Control. He has recently named Tiffany the New Hampshire State 2008 Spokesperson for his group. "The amazing thing about Tiffany is not simply her high level of talent. It is her high level of caring. She uses her talents to give back. When she plays at that school she is treated like a star. The kids absolutely go crazy over her. And you can see how happy it makes her to make them happy. Tiffany is a role model for these kids and more than that she is an inspiration.

Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy summed his feelings up like this, "Thank you for letting us benefit from your talents. The kids have a profound sense of appreciation, probably greater than anyone." Adding, "When you become famous I am going to pull out your picture just to show everyone I knew you when."

When Tiffany was 12 years old she wrote and subsequently published, a children's book. The book titled, "Why Snow Falls in Winter," was unique in the fact that it was a book for children written by a child. At about that same time Tiffany began showing high levels of ability as a painter and an artist. By the time she entered the eighth grade Tiffany began to turn her attention more and more towards her singing career. Says Tiffany "I love all aspects of creativity. I love to write, I love to compose poetry, and paintings are things I really enjoy. But at some point relative to my music it all just clicked... I just knew."

What has happened since is the creation of an impressive body of musical work that would be impressive for a performer twice Tiffany's age. Her debut release, "Christmas @ Tiffany's" was recorded during the summer of 2005, and released in November of that year. That record was followed by two additional CD releases 2006's "Tiffany Over Broadway" and 2007's "All of Me". All three musical collections were all produced by music business giant, producer Marty Walsh. Walsh, who is best known for his worldwide success as a member of the band Supertramp, brought a level of input

and interest that is usually unheard of for a teenage performer. Walsh's extensive background working with other young female performers like Leanne Rimes made him the perfect choice for his role. This summer (2008) will see Tiffany heading back to the studio with Walsh for a fourth collaboration. And for the first time the focus will be on Tiffany singing original and previously unreleased material. Tiffany Johnson is a star on the rise. She is a young woman that is not just a super talent in waiting, but a shining example for hundreds of children around her. From her end when asked how it feels to have accomplished so much so fast and when pressed what it means to her to be on the receiving end of all this attention, Tiffany says, "I love to make music and I love to perform. I feel that it is important to give back and to be able to do so with my music is beyond cool. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to make these kids smile."

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NOTES FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN

By **Maureen Nimmo**
Lawrence Public Library Director

Hello Rumbo readers. Well, we are gradually making our way towards spring and we have a month full of events here at the library and all over the city to see in the nicer weather. By the time this issue hits the stands we will have already enjoyed the mayor's breakfast, the raising of the Irish flag and Irish vice-consul Marianne Bolger's reading of children's stories at the library. I am particularly looking forward the Celtic Celebration here in the Sargent Auditorium featuring George and Terri Kelley with their guest Julia Kwolyk on fiddle and vocals. Any opportunity to hear the library's beautiful Steinway piano is a joy for me. The concert is on March 30th at 2:00 p.m.

Slightly off subject: as I have mentioned in my last few articles, I am part of the Saint Patrick's Day Parade committee. As such, I wanted to thank everyone who turned out for our fundraiser earlier this month. We were able to raise enough funds to cover our added expenses so the parade will go on. I hope the other city events like Bread and Roses, Semana Hispana and the Three Saints have equal good fortune and will endure.

I recently learned of a new online service available for library users through the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium. The program is called Library Elf and can be found at www.libraryelf.com. It is a list you can join that will give you reminders of when your books (and other material) are almost due and exactly which books and how many you have checked out at a time. Notifications will come to your email so you don't forget what is due when and end up running up fines. I think this will be a real boon to parents of small children in particular. Folks often come and check out

a whole pile of children's books at a time for bedtime reading or general reading aloud with their little ones (Bravo to them for doing so, by the way) and it is easy to lose track of what you have. It will also be good for people like me who always have several books going on at the same time and only a flimsy idea of which one was started first and getting close to overdue status. I have to admit it is pretty bad to be a library director and, consequently here every day and still manage not to get things back on time. To sign on go to the address above and register through MVLC. I sure will.

The March selection for the book club is *The Madonna of Excelsior* by South African writer Zakes Mda. They will meet next on March 24. The club has already decided on next year's theme: Nobel Prize winning titles. So far the club themes have been chosen based on a regional basis (e.g. Latin America, Asia, Africa). I am impressed that this club has endured long enough to have pretty much exhausted the regional theme. The Spanish language group will be meeting again on April 7 to discuss *Vivir para Contarla* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I love Garcia Marquez but I don't think I'm up to a discussion in Spanish on the subject so I leave that to our Latino intellectuals.

Well I am still in deep mourning over my beloved Patriots. It is still a little early to get into overdrive over the Red Sox as their season has not even started yet. Besides I am a little less demented about baseball than football. I guess that means I will have to be acting like a sane person for a while. Hope you all still recognize me! See you at the library.

Mammography Van Reschedules Visit

The 4th Visit of the Boston's Mammography Van, originally scheduled for Saturday, March 1st, was cancelled due to inclement weather. The new date for this event will be Saturday, March 29th, 2008, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at the YWCA of Greater Lawrence, located at 38 Lawrence Street, in Lawrence, MA. The YWCA will continue to recruit participants for these screenings; therefore, all women ages 40 and over are encouraged to call for an appointment.

The Boston Mammography Van offers mammography screenings for women ages 40 and older, residents in the state of Massachusetts and anyone who has not received a screening mammogram in the past 12 months. All women are welcome, including those with health insurance, the uninsured, and women with limited health coverage, regardless of their immigrant status. Bilingual English/Spanish services will be available all day.

Representatives from the Women's Health Network, the Mass. state-funded free cancer screening program, will be

onsite to assist participants with eligibility assessment and to enroll those found eligible in the state program. The American Cancer Society will also be available to educate participants on their services and answer questions regarding eligibility. Participants will receive information and incentives. Light refreshments will be provided to participants throughout the day.

Early Detection is your Best Protection! An annual mammogram could save your life! Please take a few minutes to schedule your mammogram today. Do it for yourself; do it for your family!

We still have space available for March 29th. Register today! For additional information and/or other eligibility requirements, please call Minerva Grullon or Martha Roman-Dumeng at the YWCA at (978) 687-0331.

This initiative is possible thanks to a generous donation by Cynthia Alekel Mohr and the Family Mobile Mammography Fund, the Boston Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., and The Lenny Zakim Fund.

Finegold Appointed to Vice Chair of Judiciary Committee

State Representative Barry R. Finegold (D-Andover) was appointed to the position of Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary Thursday. Finegold's was one of only eight promotions to leadership level within the House of Representatives chosen by Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi.

"This appointment is a wonderful opportunity and I am greatly appreciative of Speaker DiMasi's confidence in me," said Finegold.

The role of Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, with the input of all committee members, is to consider the merit of legislation before them and determine

whether the bills will go forward to the full membership of the House for a vote or if the bill should receive an adverse report.

"Representative Finegold is a tremendously hard worker and is a great leader for the people and issues important to his district," said Speaker DiMasi. "I am confident Barry is up to the challenge of taking a leading role in the difficult and meaningful work of the Judiciary Committee and I am thrilled to have him as a member of my leadership team."

State Representative Barry R. Finegold represents the 17th Essex District including precincts in Andover, Tewksbury and the City of Lawrence.

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VOLUNTARIOS

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.

Choices for a life long journey

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:

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- Aconsejar a los ancianos sobre las opciones de seguro de salud
- Abogar por los residentes de casas de asilo

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

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

OPINION | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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

Tower Hill Neighborhood Association Meeting

On Wednesday, February 27, 2008, I attended the first Tower Hill Neighborhood Association Meeting that was held by the new President, Keith Wlodyka.

As I entered Our Lady of Good Counsel School's Judson Hall, I was impressed not only by the long table with the attendance register and an ample supply of pens and newsletters that was conveniently placed near the entrance, but also by the refreshments that included delicious pastries and Hershey chocolate kisses.

The meeting and its attendance were excellent. About forty people, including two city councilors, Councilor at-Large Frank Moran and District B Councilor Grisel Silva, were present. President Wlodyka introduced the new Vice President, Dan Clark, and the new Treasurer/Secretary, Ann Clegg.

The guest speaker, Planning Department Director Michael Sweeney, using a chart, gave a comprehensive presentation regarding foreclosures and the proposed new city ordinance by Mayor Michael Sullivan's new Foreclosure, Economic Development and Public Safety Task Force. The ordinance reads:

"The purpose of the Foreclosure Ordinance submitted by the Planning Department is to protect and preserve neighborhoods and public safety by regulating the maintenance of abandoned and/or foreclosed, residential properties. Owners of abandoned or foreclosed properties including banks, investors, and mortgage companies would be required to register with Inspectional Services and include a point of contact that operated within 20 miles of the City of Lawrence. Registration would include name, phone number, and mailing address. There would be a \$100

registration fee and failure to register would result in a fine of \$300 and failure to maintain the property would result in a \$300 fine for each month the property is not maintained."

A brief discussion about vacant lot cleanup and damaged building demolition followed. A Fire Department speaker gave updates on the Royal Street, Tower Hill and South Lawrence fires and, upon my request, explained balloon construction.

Police Chief John Romero commented about the increases in thefts of copper pipes and portable GPS devices from vehicles. A woman informed us that Mayor Sullivan and the Budget and Finance Committee are hosting an FY2009 Budget Open Forum on Tuesday, March 25, at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center. A few of the meeting attendees voiced concerns and asked questions about the Water Department privatization.

Mother Nature rewarded the THNA for this excellent meeting by delaying a predicted evening snowstorm until the meeting ended.

LINDY GALLAND
Lawrence, MA

Service providers need fair payment from the State

Every day, more than 100,000 dedicated individuals go to work to provide high-quality services to residents of the Commonwealth who need assistance, many of whom are our friends and neighbors. The work these caregivers do helps to strengthen our society and builds caring communities in every city and town throughout the Commonwealth.

The state asks private, contract human service providers to deliver these services on its behalf, and the Commonwealth purchases these services for its residents. While my organization, The Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) in Lawrence, continues to provide these quality services to care for society's most vulnerable residents, the work is becoming

harder and harder to perform every year because of the state's purchase of services system.

By the Commonwealth's own admission, its dysfunctional business model has caused rates to remain the same for more than two decades, and it needs to be fixed. Even the best business manager could not succeed in an environment where costs rise and revenues remain flat.

The Campaign to Strengthen Human Services, Senate Bill 65, would fix these problems that providers face every day. The bill would ensure transparency in the rate-setting system and would ensure that providers are reimbursed for rising costs, such as heat, rent and fuel. Governor Deval Patrick has expressed his desire to sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

With providers being reimbursed at 1987 levels for these escalating costs, they are forced to find ways to make ends meet, whether it is offering fewer programs, paying a smaller salary to employees or offering a more basic health care plan with a higher employee contribution. This is not the way we should be treating employees who work hard every day to care for others, but with limited funds and no mechanism for contract review, our organizations' options are severely limited.

The Northeast Independent Living Program is a cross disability, consumer-controlled organization providing advocacy and independent living services to people with disabilities living in the Merrimack Valley. We have continued to provide quality services to our participants despite the escalating costs associated with operating the organization.

At NILP, staff members have had to carry the burden of rising healthcare costs in a climate where costs in general are forcing workers to relocate due to high costs of living in Massachusetts. Staff members struggle to make ends meet working full time to support their families, and they need and deserve fair wages. However, it is difficult to sustain equitable wages when funds are limited and minimal increases have been given to providers in general.

The state has realized these problems exist, and now we must encourage our senators and representatives to help us fix them. In an October 2007 report entitled Financial Health of Providers in the Massachusetts Human Service System, the state recognized the "financial stability of these [human service] organizations depends in large part on Commonwealth purchasing practices" and the "financial health of human services providers in the Commonwealth is suffering."

NILP helps people find housing, learn their rights, apply for benefits and live independently in the community. The services we provide are invaluable

and enhance the quality of life in our communities. We want to ensure our organizations future to make sure our workers can continue providing high quality, life affirming services to people with disabilities and elders living in the Merrimack Valley.

We all want the best care for our loved ones and neighbors, and we must ensure that it is provided for all of us when we need it. The Campaign to Strengthen Human Services will improve the financial condition of these human service providers by providing a purchase-of-service system that pays providers a fair, market-based value for the services they provide. If we all work together, the passage of Senate Bill 65 can make our cities and towns in the Commonwealth strong, caring communities.

KAREN BUREAU
Interim Executive Director

A call to parents pro education

In the past few days I have been reading about everything that is happening in the Lawrence Public Schools, things that no one could even imagine.

I have also read how Mrs. Dalia Diaz is attached for trying to open our eyes to become conscientious and defend our children's education.

If it is true that the superintendent has a lot of fault for what is happening in the schools, it is also true that we the parents allow this to happen.

It is sad seeing that at parent meetings there are only one or two truly interested for what really goes on with their children.

If parents do not become more involved in their children's education, they cannot opine or defend them in case of a problem or a situation where the child may find himself later on.

As a citizen of Lawrence and as a mother, I want to give thanks to Mrs. Diaz for keeping us abreast of whatever moves inside our schools. Also, I want to call out all parents in this city so they can worry a little more for their children's education.

The unity is the strength and together we will demonstrate to Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy and Mayor Michael Sullivan and all the inconsiderate teachers that these children have fathers and mothers who are concerned about them.

Let's stop covering the sun with one finger and spend more time in what is really important: our children's education.

God Bless you all,

JOCELIN
(last name withheld by her request)
Lawrence, MA

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The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) is seeking written proposals from qualified Professional Web Design Companies to update, design, maintain and host the MVRTA website. The Request for Proposal package is available via email at staff@mvrta.com. A preproposal meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2008. Proposals are due Friday, April 18, 2008.

Cartas al Editor

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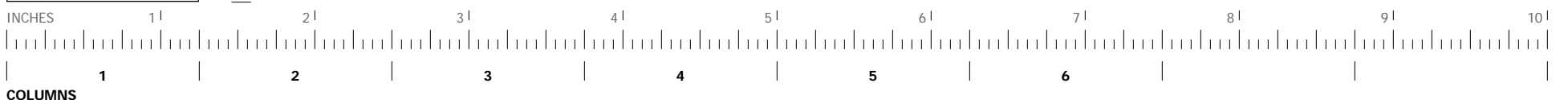
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