



MERCHANTS BE AWARE | 17

The Four Seasons Laundromat, located at 149 Lawrence St., Lawrence, where this story was originated.

COMERCIANTES TENGAN CUIDADO | 3

El Four Seasons Laundromat, localizado en el 149 de la Calle Lawrence, que originó esta historia.



"Todos los inspectores de la ciudad llevan consigo una chapa y una identificación personal con su foto", Inspectional Services Commissioner, Myles Burke.

"All City Inspectors carry a badge with their name and also a personal identification with their picture on," Inspectional Services Commissioner, Myles Burke.



RETRATOS EN EL SENIOR CENTER | 13

Bernie Greenside enseña arte en el Lawrence Senior Center. Vea las fotos que pintó en la página 13.

PAGE 8 Senior Center Portraits

Bernie Greenside teaches art at the Lawrence Senior Center. See the portraits he painted on page 13.

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Youth Basketball League wraps up 33rd season at the Lawrence YMCA | 10

The Lawrence Branch of the Merrimack Valley held its annual Youth Basketball League (YBL) banquets on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 4 and 5, where nearly 270 children and coaches were recognized for their achievements. In total the two banquets were attended by more than 600 children, coaches and their families. This was the 33rd season of this popular youth program.

PAGE 12 Easter Bunny makes early visit at YMCA's Eggsellent Easter Event

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Comerciantes, tengan cuidado



Por **Alberto Surís**
albertosuris@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 00

Últimamente hemos estado recibiendo llamadas de comerciantes que se han sentido intimidados, por los que ellos creen que son empleados de la ciudad o inspectores del estado, que vienen y les ofrecen sus servicios.

De acuerdo con Yolanda Rodríguez, propietaria del Four Seasons Laundromat, localizado en el 149 de la Calle Lawrence, en Lawrence, MA, el sábado, 15 de marzo, 2008, "Isaías Mencía, propietario de Mencía Fire Appliances, localizado en el 157 de la Calle Lawrence, en Lawrence, MA, entró en su tienda acompañado de otro hombre, fue directamente hacia los extintores, removió las tarjetas diciendo que la inspección había caducado, las reemplazó con las de su compañía, los cambió de sitio y se marchó, no sin antes dejar una cuenta de \$75.00 por sus servicios".

Rodríguez dijo que, al día siguiente, ella había rehusado pagarle a Mencía cuando vino a cobrar. "Yo le dije que la inspección había sido hecha sin mi autorización. Sólo la persona que atiende el lugar estaba aquí y ella se había llevado la impresión de que eran dos inspectores de la ciudad", dijo. "Mencía de puso de mal humor, removió sus tarjetas de los extintores y se marchó, no sin antes decirme a mí y a otra persona que estaba aquí que no quiso ser identificada, que yo, como dominicana debía hacer negocios con él, no con otra compañía tan distante".

Cuando contactamos a Isaías Mencía, nos dijo que el hombre que estaba con él era alguien que había comenzado a trabajar recientemente con él. No facilitó su nombre. "Cuando entramos en el Laundromat, pedimos permiso para hacer la inspección y se nos fue otorgado por el novio de Yolanda

Rodríguez, que estaba allí", dijo Mencía y añadió, "Yo le hice un favor, ya que las etiquetas de los extintores estaban vencidas y los extintores estaban colocados muy alto. Ahora están donde deben estar de acuerdo con el código", dijo Mencía.

Rumbo se puso en contacto con Dick Mohahan, Manager de Keane Fire Safety, localizado en el 1500 de la Main Street, en Waltham, MA, la compañía que inspecciona los extintores de Four Seasons Laundromat. "Esas tarjetas fueron colocadas en los extintores durante mi última visita el 27 de septiembre, 2007 y eran buenas hasta septiembre del 2008. Es ilegal removerlas, a menos que lo autorice el dueño del local", dijo Monahan, que prometió venir al Laundromat a reemplazar las tarjetas.

Rumbo se puso en contacto con el Inspector de Incendios, Ray Silva, en el Departamento de Incendios de Lawrence, que dijo no estar al tanto de que Mencía tuviera licencia para inspeccionar extintores.

Mencía está en total desacuerdo con esta afirmación. Él dijo que el Departamento de Incendios de Lawrence no es el que emite esos permisos y es la razón por la que Silva no lo sabe. "Ese ha sido un permiso que yo siempre he tenido pero que no me había decidido a hacer inspecciones de extintores hasta recientemente", dijo y añadió, "Yo tengo 5 permisos diferentes de supresión de incendios".

"Yo nunca vi ese permiso", dijo Silva. Rumbo solicitó de Mencía el número de ese permiso, pero dijo no recordarlo. Cuando se

Extintor colocado en la cocina del Restaurante Las Palmas, atendido por Mencía Fire Appliances.

Fire extinguisher at Restaurant Las Palmas' kitchen, serviced by Mencía Fire Appliances.

POR FAVOR VEA SURÍS
 CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 9

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

¡Esperemos lo mejor!

Recientemente, el Alcalde de Lawrence, Michael J. Sullivan hizo el sorpresivo anuncio de que pronto, va a anunciar sus planes para la construcción de una nueva Estación de Policía. Nadie puede discutir que no hay necesidad de una nueva Estación de Policía en Lawrence. Cualquiera que haya visitado ese sitio está de acuerdo de que las condiciones de trabajo allí son deplorables para los estándares de hoy.

Todos recordamos la oportunidad perdida cuando el Sheriff del Condado de Essex quería construirnos una a cambio de permitirle fabricar una pequeña cárcel para el área en el sitio donde el sitio de seguridad mínima conocido por La Granja está localizada. Los políticos se metieron por el medio y el proyecto fracasó,

Probablemente usted esté tan curioso como nosotros, preguntándose a sí mismo cómo él piensa pagar por eso o de cómo él planea de que NOSOTROS paguemos por eso, ahora que la propuesta de los casinos se cayó, por ahora.

Cuando los Lawrencianos todavía no han podido encontrar la forma de cómo pagar por el aumento del agua y el alcantarillado, el incremento de los impuestos a la propiedad, el alto costo de la gasolina y el aceite de calefacción y el constante incremento de los productos de consumo, nuestro alcalde hace el anuncio de que pronto él va a construir una estación de policía nueva.

Mientras tanto, todo lo que nos queda es apretarnos el cinturón y confiar en lo mejor.

LET'S HOPE FOR THE BEST!

Recently, Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan made the surprise announcement that soon, he will unveil his plans to build a new Police Station. Nobody can argue that there is no need for a new Police Station in Lawrence. Anybody who has visited that place agrees that the working conditions there are not up to today's standards.

We all remember the opportunity lost when the Essex County Sheriff promised to build one in exchange of allowing him to built a lock-up for the area where the minimum security facility known as The Farm is located. Politicians got in the middle and killed the project.

Probably you are as curious as we are, and asking yourself, how he plans to pay for that or how he plans WE will pay for that, now that casinos are out, for now.

When Lawrencians are still unable to figure it out how to pay for the water and sewer increases, the property taxes increase, the high price of gas and heating oil and constantly increasing high prices of supermarket goods, our mayor made the announcement that soon, he will built a brand new police station.

In the mean time, we all have to keep tight and hope for the best.

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

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 15

Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

Desde Mi Esquina



El izamiento de la bandera irlandesa

Fue una gran desilusión para Rumbo ver la bandera irlandesa flotando al frente del ayuntamiento de Lawrence y no haber sido invitados a su izamiento.

Pues, como no somos rencorosos, nos dio gusto participar en la Parada de San Patricio y cubrirla como siempre pero, una noche mientras cenábamos en Cedar Crest, nos enteramos que nadie se enteró de cuando lo hicieron. Sin ceremonia alguna, DPW la elevó a tiempo para la parada. Había estado programado pero lo tuvieron que cancelar debido a mal tiempo.

¿Por qué vivir con miedo?

A través de los años me he preguntado por qué tantas personas viven con miedo de hablar lo que sienten. Esa no es ninguna forma de una ciudad, un pueblo o una ciudad inmigrante como Lawrence puedan avanzar.

Durante los períodos de elecciones, hay muchas acusaciones siempre por parte de los candidatos hacia sus oponentes sobre los letreros que les rompen o roban de propiedades privadas. Cuando tratamos de hablar con los dueños de la propiedad de donde se perdieron los letreros políticos, lo niegan todo porque no quieren salir mencionados en el periódico.

Los dueños de comercios se quejaban hace unos años porque estaban siendo forzados por ex empleados del ayuntamiento a poner carteles políticos de ciertos candidatos. Cuando fueron confrontados por Rumbo, lo negaron todo

e inclusive hablaron elogiando al candidato que supuestamente estuvieron forzados a apoyar.

De más está decir que no pudimos escribir sobre eso porque no había historia ahí. La gente se echaba atrás, lo negaba y rogaba no ver su nombre impreso y cuando les insistíamos en conocer la razón nos decían que era por temor. A veces es temor a venganza o represalia. Temen que funcionarios municipales les mandarán inspectores o el departamento de bomberos a “encontrar cosas” por las cuales ponerles multas.

Mientras que sus temores están bastante exagerados en la mayoría de los casos y están basadas en la ignorancia del idioma y del sistema en que vivimos ahora, hay cierta verdad en eso. Nosotros nos negamos a jugar el juego según el Superintendente Escolar Wilfredo Laboy y el resultado fue que nos hizo mucho daño. Como castigo, Rumbo no hay recibido publicidad del departamento escolar desde 2002 y nos tienen prohibido entrar a las escuelas desde entonces. Por supuesto, eso no ha mermado nuestro progreso.

¿Debemos entonces tirarnos al suelo y pretender que hemos muerto para poder llevar una vida tranquila, sin confrontaciones? ¡De ningún modo! Eso no es vivir. Eso es realmente permitir que los pocos controlando nuestras vidas sigan engañando, robando y nos despojen hasta de nuestras almas. Cada vez que nos negamos a hablar en contra de alguna injusticia, estamos cediendo un pedacito de nuestra alma.

Irritación 3

Por favor, no me manden esas cartas de

cadena.

Esta semana recibí una foto de una bebida con muchas quemaduras con el texto usual de que por cada vez que esa foto es enviada a otras personas, la familia recibirá tres centavos que ellos necesitan para su cuidado y larga recuperación.

Pues bien, mi botón de borrar (delete) trabaja overtime con los mensajes que recibo de personas o compañías que no reconozco pero esta vino de una amiga por lo tanto lo abrí, por eso es que vi la foto. Por eso, me tomé el tiempo de educarla yendo a www.snopes.com y escribí en la línea de búsqueda “badly burnt baby”. Como por arte de magia salió la información con unas letras grandes indicando FALSO porque el mensaje no es verdadero. Este sitio en el internet le da el texto completo del mensaje electrónico que anda por el mundo, las muchas variaciones que puede que haya tenido con el paso de los años y cómo se originó, junto con si es cierto o no. Mientras que la foto es real de una bebida en Polonia en 2005, la historia en un invento.

Piense que nadie está contando cuántas veces esta foto está siendo enviada en todo el mundo; ¿cómo puede alguien recibir algún dinero? Lo mismo sucede con Bill Gates y AOL. Ese es otro que anda rondando por ahí. Dicen que le enviarán dinero si envía sus mensajes más para adelante. ¡No hay tal cosa!

Créame. Si esas cartas que terminan pidiendo que la envíe en los próximos diez minutos a 10 ó 12 personas que no sospechan que van a ser víctimas del aburrimiento de alguien, o algo desagradable me sucedería fuera verdad, hace rato que yo no estuviera aquí.

HITN Lanza “Club de Ali”
Un Nuevo y Encantador Programa para Niños

La red Hispana de Información y Telecomunicaciones en los Estados Unidos, HITN, anuncia el gran lanzamiento del “Club de Ali”, una de las más entretenidas formas de integrar un grupo de niños desde el pre-kinder hasta 11 años de edad. Este programa es creado para incentivar la lectura y la expansión de su vocabulario en español.

Paloma Márquez, actriz mexicana, juega el papel de “Ali”, una encantadora e imaginativa niña que desde una silla gigante en su recámara, invita a los niños a oír cuentos y unirse a su club.

“Club de Ali” iniciará su programación el próximo 29 de marzo del 2008, todos los sábados a las once de la mañana hora del este.

HITN-TV la Red Hispana de Información y Telecomunicaciones se estableció en 1983 como una organización sin fines de lucro. La misión de HITN está dedicada al avance de los latinos proveyéndoles un agradable entretenimiento educacional que invita a los individuos y a las familias gozar de una vida más completa, enriqueciendo sus vidas y haciendo posible que sirvan como un potencial generador intelectual para su progreso.

HITN-TV fue creado en 1987, como la primera cadena hispana de servicio público en los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico. Hoy, HITN está disponible por cable, satélite, video en demanda y en el Internet, llegando a más de 31 millones de hogares.

HITN provee una fuente única educativa y cultural, noticias y asuntos públicos, programas a los hogares de hispanos en los Estados Unidos y Puerto Rico. En la agenda educacional de HITN se incluye, Easy ESL y G.E.D. En la programación infantil se incluye La Tiendita de Mopatop, Narigota, La Aventura del Agua y el nuevo Club de Ali. Entre los premios ganados por HITN se encuentran: Diálogo de Costa a Costa, Cuadrigaa y El Journal.

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OPINIÓN

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 14

La verdad sobre la violencia escolar

Por **Dalia Díaz**
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

Porque me preocupa la violencia que existe en las escuelas públicas de Lawrence y cómo tratan de tajarla, envié un mensaje electrónico a todos los oficiales electos en Lawrence el 15 de marzo del 2008. Todos sabemos que hay una comunicación directa entre la oficina del alcalde y el Departamento de Policía con el diario de la ciudad cuando ellos quieren a un fotógrafo en el sitio y ellos se callan cuando la administración no quiere que las cosas se sepan.

Tal es el caso con estos ataques recientes. Los padres deben enterarse de las condiciones en las escuelas donde sus niños asisten siempre. Yo tenía la esperanza, que como funcionarios elegidos, ellos tomarían una posición en este asunto y me lo dejarían saber. Aquí están algunos de los ejemplos de incidentes recientes:

El viernes, 13 de marzo, dos muchachas fueron sacadas de la escuela esposada. El incidente implicó a una de ellas que estaba castigada en la oficina (vestida de uniforme completo) y asaltó a otra hembra. "La pelea fue feroz y peligrosa," según un maestro. La chica que fue atacada está embarazada. El Subdirector Ed Reynoso recibió varios puñetazos y fue lesionado tratando de separar la pelea. "Pareció como si todo

el personal trabajando el turno del día en la Policía de Lawrence se apareció en la escuela para restaurar la calma," un maestro me dijo. Nada estuvo en el periódico.

La semana pasada una estudiante vigiló a otra chica. Esto fue también una pelea salvaje. La chica que fue atacada aventajó a su atacante porque se quedó con puñados de su pelo. Varios maestros y miembros del cuerpo de seguridad fueron lesionados al tratar de separar la pelea. Nada apareció en el periódico.

El mes pasado un estudiante masculino acaparó a otro estudiante en la escalera de la Escuela de BMF y le dio una serie de puñetazos tan salvajemente en la cara del otro estudiante que había sangre por todas partes. Esto fue un acto de venganza por un asalto sexual por parte de la víctima a la novia del atacante. Nada de eso salió en el periódico local.

En la Escuela Frost una chica de séptimo del grado fue asaltada sexualmente. Eso salió en el periódico. Que sus atacadores volvieran a la escuela no salió mencionado en el periódico.

El Dr. Laboy distribuyó un video inadecuado muy gráfico que muestra a un estudiante escondiendo numerosas armas en sus pantalones anchos. El video es

El viernes, 13 de marzo, dos muchachas fueron sacadas de la escuela esposada. El incidente implicó a una de ellas que estaba castigada en la oficina (vestida de uniforme completo) y asaltó a otra hembra. "La pelea fue feroz y peligrosa," según un maestro. La chica que fue atacada está embarazada. El Subdirector Ed Reynoso recibió varios puñetazos y fue lesionado tratando de separar la pelea.

los habrían mantenido seguro en la escuela mientras sus padres están en el trabajo. Los muchachos van a estar sin supervisión en las calles en vez de en las escuelas.

La Unidad de Pandillas de la Policía de Lawrence estuvo en las escuelas el lunes pasado, el 10 de marzo, y se reunió con todos los maestros. Les dijeron claramente que hay un problema grave de pandillas en Lawrence y en el high school. Oí decir que la presentación de PowerPoint estaba escalofriante.

Para mi sorpresa, el lunes por la mañana, el Superintendente Escolar Wilfredo T. Laboy me había mandado un mensaje. Si fui sorprendida conque él me hubiese mandado un correo electrónico, yo me horroricé del contenido. El dijo, "Parece que los líderes de la ciudad están cansados de su sensacionalismo sobre las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence. ¿Por qué no encuentra usted algo más positivo que hacer con su vida? ¿Por qué no se convierte en una voz para la resolución de problemas en vez de ser una constante cínica y crítica!"

De esa manera respondió a los

POR FAVOR VE A DÍAZ
 CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 10

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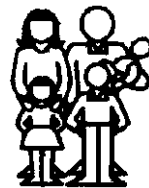


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ESPECIAL | IRS Y LOS PAGOS DE ESTÍMULO

IRS Enviará Pagos de Estímulo Automáticamente Desde Mayo

Debe Presentarse una Declaración para Recibirlo

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

El IRS usará la información de la declaración de impuestos de 2007 que presente el contribuyente para determinar su elegibilidad y calcular su pago de estímulo. Los pagos a más de 130 millones de contribuyentes serán enviados durante varias semanas en la primavera y el verano o serán depositados directamente a cuentas bancarias para quienes seleccionan esta opción en su declaración, siendo ésta la manera más rápida para recibir su reembolso y también los pagos del estímulo.

En la mayoría de casos, los pagos equivaldrán a la obligación tributaria en la declaración de impuestos, con un máximo de \$600 para individuos (\$1,200 declarando juntos). Quienes califican también recibirán \$300 adicionales por cada niño elegible

para el crédito tributario por hijos.

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

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

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

Cartas acerca del Estímulo Económico Especial Llegarán a Buzones en Marzo

Más de 130 millones de hogares en los Estados Unidos empezarán a recibir cartas del Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS) la próxima semana recordándoles que presenten una declaración de impuestos de 2007 para recibir un pago de estímulo económico de 2008.

“La notificación es informativa y no solicitará datos financieros de los contribuyentes”, dijo Sara Eguren, portavoz del IRS, alertando al público a estar concientes de que siempre hay estafadores al asecho. “Si le exigen algo más que llenar una declaración de impuestos federales para recibir su pago de estímulo hágaselo saber al IRS escribiendo a phishing@irs.gov”, agregó.

Los envíos postales del IRS empezarán la primera semana de marzo y continuarán durante todo el mes. Además, se dividirán en tres grupos semanales, y el envío principal será dirigido a quienes presentaron una declaración el año pasado. La notificación informativa,

titulada Notificación del Pago de Estímulo Económico (Economic Stimulus Payment Notice en inglés), alerta a las personas de que podrían ser elegibles por vez única para un pago de estímulo económico de hasta \$600 (\$1,200 casados declarando juntos) empezando en mayo. También hay un pago de \$300 por cada niño calificado menor de 17 años de edad.

“Para recibir un pago en 2008, los individuos que califiquen no tendrán que hacer nada más que presentar una declaración de impuestos para 2007. El IRS determinará la elegibilidad, calculará el monto y enviará el pago”, señala la notificación. ‘Este pago no debe ser confundido con cualquier reembolso de impuestos de 2007 que el gobierno federal le deba a usted. Los reembolsos de impuestos por ingresos de 2007 se harán por separado de este pago único’.

Sin embargo, las personas que no suelen presentar declaraciones de impuestos deben tomar un paso adicional este año para recibir un pago de estímulo. A fines de marzo, el IRS enviará una notificación especial a ciertos destinatarios del Seguro Social y el Departamento de Asuntos de Veteranos. Por lo general, esos beneficios no están sujetos a impuestos y los destinatarios no presentan declaraciones. Para recibir un pago de estímulo, las personas en este grupo necesitan presentar una declaración si tienen por lo menos \$3,000 de la combinación de ciertos beneficios del Seguro Social, beneficios de veteranos e ingresos del trabajo. El pago de estímulo mínimo para estas personas es \$300 (\$600, casados declarando juntos).

Pronto estarán disponibles más detalles acerca del envío especial para destinatarios del Seguro Social y de beneficios de veteranos.

Detalles sobre la elegibilidad, los montos de los pagos y los requisitos están disponibles en www.irs.gov.

POR FAVOR VEA IRS
CONTINÚA EN LA PAGINA 10

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Como Se Gastan Tres Mil Dolares

La NFCC recomienda como usar responsablemente su reembolso de impuestos y el dinero del plan de estímulo a la economía

Tres mil dólares es una buena cantidad. Y entre el paquete de estímulo a la economía que propone el Presidente Bush y la cantidad típica del reembolso de impuestos, esa es la cantidad exacta que recibirían muchos estadounidenses esta temporada de primavera.

¿Después de saltar con gusto, que es lo que debería hacer el consumidor con este dinero casi llovido del cielo? ¿Gastarlo? ¿Ahorrarlo? ¿Invertirlo? La National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC por sus siglas en inglés), dice que todas estas maneras son correctas, y ofrece los siguientes puntos para usar este dinero responsablemente:

- Pague su deuda. Si esta atrapado con tasas de interés de doble dígito en sus cuentas de crédito, esto le está haciendo más mal que nada. Económicamente, el dinero debería ser utilizado para pagar completamente, o por lo menos una porción de la deuda con la tasa de interés más alta. Sin embargo, algunos consumidores se sienten psicológicamente más a gusto liquidando varias pequeñas deudas por completo. De cualquier manera pagando su deuda es la manera número uno de gastar

este dinero.

- Ponga al corriente cualquier factura que tenga retrasada. Cargos de retraso pueden costarle alrededor de \$40, y eso no cuenta el daño que le hace a su reporte y puntuación de crédito. Ponga al corriente cualquier cuenta que se haya retrasado y manténgala así.

- Construya su cuenta de ahorros para emergencias. No es cuestión de "si" sino "cuando" una emergencia inesperada vaya a suceder, y por lo regular, sucede en el peor momento. Sin ahorros para pagar ese viaje a la sala de emergencia, o reparaciones de auto, usted se queda con resoluciones limitadas. O paga en efectivo, muchas veces usando el dinero que le pertenece a cosas de alta prioridad como su renta o servicios públicos, o carga ese gasto en su tarjeta de crédito, agregando a su deuda. Prepárese para lo inesperado teniendo por lo menos un mes de salario en una cuenta de mercado de valores.

- Planee para su futuro. Abra o agréguele a su cuenta de jubilación IRA antes del 15 de abril del 2008. Recuerde que lo que haga con su dinero hoy dicta si vivirá sus años de oro en pobreza o riqueza. El tiempo es el mejor amigo del dinero. Hágalo funcionar para su beneficio.

- Empiece a invertir. Mucha gente piensa que hay que tener mucho dinero para invertir, pero eso no es cierto. Haga su tarea y encuentre fondos mutuos sólidos. La bolsa de valores tradicionalmente produce buenos resultados. Lo más pronto que empiece a invertir constantemente, más grande la oportunidad para que su nido crezca.

- Haga las reparaciones necesarias. Ya sean reparaciones para su casa o auto que ha dilatado, demorar reparaciones solo empeora las cosas. Haga las reparaciones necesarias mientras tenga el dinero en mano. Y no se olvide que las reparaciones a su casa mejoran el valor de tal propiedad.

- Mejore la eficiencia de energía en su hogar. Haga un gasto pequeño ahora para ahorrar después. Estos son mejoramientos que pagaran por si mismos a lo largo del tiempo. Coloque burletes en puertas y ventanas, reemplace los filtros de calefacción, empiece a comprar focos de bajo consumo de energía, y si nuevos electrodomésticos son necesarios, considere los que tengan el sello de eficiencia de energía.

- Considere hacer un pago adicional en cuentas de deuda garantizadas. Poniendo \$1,000 hacia la deuda principal de su hipoteca podría ahorrarle lo triple a lo largo

de la vida del préstamo.

- Use su reembolso de impuestos como una semilla para plantar la entrada a su propio hogar. Aprenda de aquellos que no pagaron una cantidad de entrada cuando compraron su casa. Entre más grande el pago de entrada, más bajo su pago mensual. Piense a largo plazo y ahorre hacia un pago de entrada para su propio hogar.

- Use el dinero hacia una meta específica. Por ejemplo, destínelo para sus vacaciones de verano, el trabajo de ortodoncia para su hijo/a, sus compras navideñas del 2008, un fondo estudiantil para el colegio, o cualquiera de sus sueños o necesidades personales.

Y finalmente, comprese algo para usted. Cene en un restaurante especial, o compre aquel artículo anhelado (con medida). Cuando se haya encargado de todo lo previo, se a ganado una recompensa por un trabajo bien hecho.

Para ayuda de un profesional tocante a como tomar las mejores decisiones económicas, haga una cita con un asesor de crédito certificado en una agencia de la NFCC. Para comunicarse con la agencia más cercana a usted, llame al 1-800-682-9832.



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Cámara aprueba resolución para ayuda local

\$5.26 billones presupuestados; las ciudades y pueblos no sufrieron a pesar de la insuficiencia de renta

El Representante Estatal William Lantigua (D-Lawrence) se unió a sus colegas en la Cámara de Representantes para pasar una resolución local de ayuda temprana que aumentará la asistencia estatal a ciudades y pueblos en el presupuesto del año fiscal 2009 por \$223 millones. La resolución fue concordada por escritores de presupuesto de la Cámara y el Senado y esperan que sea debatido en el Senado en las próximas semanas.

La resolución proporciona un aumento en la ayuda local que representa un 4.43 por ciento sobre el año pasado e incluye las tres categorías mayores de la ayuda local – financiación del Capítulo 70 para escuelas públicas, la ayuda de la lotería y ayuda adicional. La aprobación de una resolución local de ayuda casi cuatro meses antes del comienzo del año fiscal ayudará a Lawrence a planear su presupuesto municipal con más confianza y certeza. Garantiza que

Lawrence recibirá \$136 millones en el Capítulo 70 ayuda educacional, \$190,699 en fondos de asistencia adicional de ayuda, y \$24.2 millones en la ayuda de la lotería, para una suma de \$160.4 millones en el año fiscal 2009. Greater Lawrence Technical School recibirá \$21.4 millones en el Capítulo 70 financiación.

"La aprobación de esta resolución casi dos meses antes de nosotros debatir el presupuesto es un signo claro que la Cámara ha puesto las necesidades de las ciudades y pueblos muy altos en el orden del día," Lantigua dijo. "A pesar de un clima fiscal duro nuestro apoyo para la ayuda local se queda y hemos proporcionado un aumento sostenible a la vez cuando muchas otras partes del presupuesto pueden ver las reducciones".

"Las ciudades y los pueblos necesitan nuestra ayuda y una vez más, la Legislatura aumenta las dos necesidades críticas de los municipios – las escuelas y la ayuda local," dijo el Speaker de la Cámara Salvatore DiMasi (D-Boston). "Mientras que este año difícil en el presupuesto demanda cortes, a

través de la eficiencia y el gasto sabio el gobierno del estado, y me complace que este acuerdo asegura que cada comunidad en el estado verá un aumento en la ayuda local basada en formas fiables de renta".

"El Representante Estatal Lantigua se ha unido a nosotros hoy para asegurar que las ciudades y pueblos del estado son protegidos aún en estos tiempos de dificultad e incertidumbre fiscales. Nuestra resolución para ayudar a las ciudades y pueblos nunca han sido más fuerte y demostramos que esa ayuda local es una prioridad absoluta año tras año dando los municipios los mil millones de dólares del estado para ayudar a pagar por servicios locales básicos," dijo el Representante Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop) presidente del Comité de Ways and Means.

La resolución garantiza que las

POR FAVOR VEA AYUDA
CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 9

House Passes Early Local Aid Resolution

\$5.26 Billion Budgeted; Cities and Towns Held Harmless Despite Revenue Shortfall

State Rep. William Lantigua (D-Lawrence) joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass an early local aid resolution that will increase state aid to cities and towns in the fiscal year 2009 budget by \$223 million. The resolution was agreed to by House and Senate budget writers and is expected to be debated in the Senate in the coming weeks.

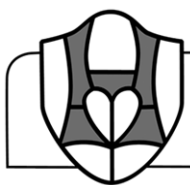
The resolution provides an increase in local aid representing a 4.43 percent hike over last year and includes the three major categories of local aid – Chapter 70 funding for public schools, lottery aid and additional assistance. Passage of a local aid resolution nearly four months before the start of the fiscal year will help Lawrence craft its municipal budget with greater confidence and accuracy. It guarantees that Lawrence will receive \$136 million in Chapter 70 educational aid, \$190,699 in additional assistance funding, and \$24.2 million in lottery aid, for a total of \$160.4 million in fiscal 2009. Greater Lawrence Technical School will receive \$21.4 million in Chapter 70 funding.

"Passage of this resolution nearly two months before we even debate the budget is a clear sign that the House has put addressing the needs of cities and towns high on the agenda," Lantigua said. "Despite a tough fiscal climate our support for local aid remains and we have provided a sustainable increase at a time when many other parts of the budget may see reductions."

"Cities and towns need our help and, once again, the Legislature is increasing the two most critical needs of municipalities – schools and local aid," said House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi (D-Boston). "While this difficult budget year demands cuts, efficiencies and wise spending throughout state government, I am pleased that this agreement ensures every community in the Commonwealth will see an increase in local aid based on dependable forms of revenue."

"Rep. Lantigua has joined with us today in ensuring the Bay State's cities and towns are protected even in these times of fiscal difficulty and uncertainty. Our resolve to help cities and towns has never been stronger and we demonstrate that local aid is a top priority year after year by giving municipalities billions of state dollars to help pay for basic local services," said Representative Robert A. DeLeo (D-Winthrop), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

The resolution guarantees cities and towns will receive \$935 million in unrestricted local aid, \$811 million of which is generated by the Massachusetts Lottery and \$124 million of which is allocated from the Commonwealth's General Fund. Since the lottery was "uncapped" by the Legislature in fiscal 2007, all revenue other than prize money and a small amount for administration goes to municipalities.



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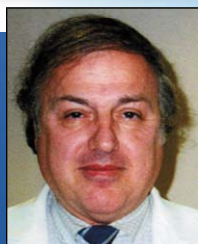


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CONTINUES ON PAGE 21

NOTAS DE SU BIBLIOTECARIA

Por **Maureen Nimmo**

Directora de la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON **PAGE 21**

Saludos, Amigos Lectores. Espero que hayan pasado un buen día de San Patricio y que hayan tenido la oportunidad de ver la parada y hayan tenido también la oportunidad de haber llegado hasta la biblioteca para gozar del pan y té irlandés. Muchas gracias al Sr. David Burke, miembro de la junta de la biblioteca, por haber donado los panes. ¡El Sr. Burke es el hombre indicado para todo lo que se necesite que tenga que ver con Irlanda!

Esperamos, finalmente, comenzar pronto con nuestro Grupo Conversacional. Varios problemas con el presupuesto nos habían atrasado, pero ya estamos buscando a la persona que facilitará estas clases. Yo espero que el primer grupo comience en abril hasta el final de mayo. Originalmente, tratamos de comenzar este proyecto durante el otoño pasado, y en ese tiempo le expliqué de qué se trataba. Ha pasado tanto tiempo desde entonces que se los explicaré nuevamente. Los Grupos Conversacionales serán una herramienta de aprendizaje para aquellas personas que tienen un conocimiento en cierto lenguaje, pero no son fluentes en éste todavía. La idea es de proveerle al estudiante la oportunidad de participar en conversaciones naturales para incrementar su nivel de comodidad en el lenguaje. Habrá dos grupos separados, uno aquí en la biblioteca principal y otro en la sucursal del Sur de Lawrence. Yo participé en un grupo como este llamado Alliance Francaise, el cual me ayudó a repasar mi francés. Si está usted interesado en participar de estos grupos, o servir como voluntario, por favor contáctese conmigo o con Ana Santos para más información.

Todo ya está listo para comenzar con nuestro programa "Tarjetas de la Biblioteca para todos los Niños del Primer Grado." Nuestras titiriteras, Lois Elliot y Anne Obar, estarán visitando todos los salones de primer grado en todas las escuelas de Lawrence. Juan y Linda (las marionetas) son siempre un éxito con los niños. Estoy muy impresionada con nuestra coordinadora de los servicios al público, Terry Farish, quien organizó este programa. Fue muy difícil el año pasado el poder efectuar este programa, y será mucho más difícil este año ya que contamos con menos personal. Estoy sumamente agradecida con Lois y Anne por tener la iniciativa de ir a cada salón de todas

estas escuelas. Ellas dos trabajaron juntas el año pasado y contaron con un gran éxito. Lo que hay que admirar es que Anne fue una de las siete personas que fueron despedidas el diciembre pasado. Ella todavía quiere trabajar para el bien de nuestros niños como voluntaria. Este es un nivel alto de compromiso y es de ser grandemente admirado.

Soy miembro del Club Rotario de Lawrence y acabo de regresar a mi oficina después de haber participado en el almuerzo del día de San Patricio. Tuve la oportunidad de escuchar a Julia Kwolyk en esta función. Ella es una cantante y además toca el violín. Lo más excitante es que ella es la persona que participará aquí como parte de nuestra Celebración Celta el día 31 de marzo (2:00 p.m. en el auditorium Sargent). Ya yo tuve la dicha de haber escuchado a George y Terri Kelley, quienes estarán participando junto a Sra. Kwolyk. Les prometo que ustedes quedarán muy impresionados con estos artistas. La admisión, por supuesto, es gratuita y todos están cordialmente invitados, así que vengan temprano para que aseguren un asiento.

Bueno, todavía me estoy recobrando sobre un evento deportivo que ocurrió este pasado febrero y del cual no me he superado completamente todavía. Estoy tratando de no involucrarme tan temprano con los Medias Rojas. Sin embargo, el no hacer referencia hacia algún deporte antes de despedirme, no parece normal. Así que les pregunto, ¿cuán buenos son los Celtas? (¡Y eso que no me gusta el baloncesto!) ¡Nos vemos en la biblioteca!

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CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA 3

SURIS: Comerciantes, tengan cuidado



Sticker colocado en el Restaurante Las Palmas, para reemplazar el de Mencia Fire Appliances.

Sticker placed at Las Palmas Restaurant, to replace the Mencia Fire Appliances'.

le pidió que lo mandara por fax, dijo que "mi abogada me aconsejó no hacerlo", pero nos dio los nombres de varios comercios donde podíamos ir y confirmar su trabajo. Entre ellos nos dio El Típico Restaurante, al lado del Laundromat. Allí rehusaron darnos ninguna información o permitir a este reportero a pasar a su cocina. "La dueña regresa en dos semanas", nos dijeron.

Otro sitio fue Marabú, en la esquina de las Calles Unión y Methuen. Estaba cerrado. Entonces fuimos a Las Palmas Restaurant, en la Calle Essex, donde Mencia Fire Appliance da mantenimiento al sistema de supresión de incendio necesario para que el negocio opere con seguridad, incluyendo los extintores de incendio.

La dueña del Restaurante Las Palmas estaba visiblemente molesta con la visita del reportero de Rumbo, y se llenó de ira cuando el Inspector de Incendios Ray Silva se personó en el local a revisar un sticker colocado por AAA State Fire Marshall, con domicilio en Lynnfield, MA. "Este hombre, vestido con una camiseta que decía Fire Marshall vino, removió el sticker que decía Mencia Fire Appliance, puso el suyo y comenzó a decirme precios de lo que había que hacer. Yo creía que era un bombero, fue entonces que me di cuenta que no lo era", le dijo a Silva.

Debido a que la operadora del Laundromat confundió a los hombres que entraron a su tienda con dos inspectores de ciudad, Rumbo se puso en contacto con el Comisionado del Servicio de Inspecciones de la ciudad, Myles Burke, el que enfáticamente lo negó. "Todos los inspectores de la ciudad llevan consigo una chapa y una identificación personal con su foto de recién creación".

"Yo enfáticamente sugiero a todo comerciante que reciba una visita de alguien que diga que es un Inspector de la ciudad, que le exija mostrar su identificación. Si ellos no pueden, que se comuniquen de inmediato con esta oficina o que den parte a la Policía de Lawrence", dijo Burke y añadió, "También, nuestro personal ha sido oficialmente entrenado para recibir o pedir pagos en efectivo. Todos los pagos han de ser pagaderos a la Ciudad de Lawrence, por medio de cheques o Money Orders", terminó Burke. Mientras nos encontrábamos en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de Lawrence, el Code Enforcement Inspector Jorge A. De Jesús reportó que otro comerciante, el Sr. Marco Polo Rodríguez el cual está remodelando su antiguo negocio (El Gallinazo) localizado en el 326 de la Calle Lowell, había tenido un problema con un individuo que entró a su tienda a hacer una inspección, vestido con una chaqueta roja y letras amarillas que decían "Fire Marshall". Rodríguez, que no lo conoce, fue informado de que antes de que reabriera, tenía que reemplazar toda la cocina, y comenzó a darle precios.

Aquellos que conocen a Marco Polo Rodríguez, que por su propia admisión dice "no tenerle miedo a nadie", mandó al individuo a hacer buñuelos. "La ciudad debía hacer algo para protegernos de personas como ésta".

"Creanme", dijo el Comisionado Burke. "Estamos tratando. Oímos esos rumores todo el tiempo pero necesitamos la ayuda del pueblo, necesitamos que las personas nos traigan sus quejas y cualquier información que tengan. Es la única forma que podemos ayudarlos".

CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA 8

AYUDA: Cámara aprueba resolución para ayuda local

ciudades y pueblos recibirán \$935 millones en la ayuda local sin restricción, \$811 millones que son generados por la Lotería de Massachusetts y \$124 millones de que son asignados de los Fondos Generales del estado. Desde que la Legislatura le quitó el máximo a la lotería en el año fiscal 2007, todo el dinero aparte de los premios y una pequeña cantidad para la administración, va a municipios.

En el año fiscal 2009, sin embargo, sólo \$811 millones son proyectados para ser generados - \$124 millones menos de lo que fue asignado el año pasado. El presupuesto de la Legislatura asegurará que los \$124

millones adicionales sean distribuidos y que las ciudades y los pueblos no sufran consecuencias debido al lote del año pasado.

La resolución local de la ayuda mantiene también un compromiso hecho por la Legislatura hace tres años aumentando el Capítulo 70 por \$223 millones a \$3.95 mil millones. El aumento viene como parte de un plan de cinco años para llevar los distritos escolares individuales hacia su nivel de contribución de objetivo y ayuda. Bajo el plan de la Legislatura, cada distrito escolar vería un aumento en la financiación del Capítulo 70 sobre el año pasado.

CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA 6

IRS: IRS Enviará Pagos de Estímulo Automáticamente Desde Mayo

beneficios de veteranos, además de ingresos del trabajo, que sumen por lo menos \$3,000.

Es necesario tener un Número de Seguro Social válido para calificar para el pago de estímulo. Los contribuyentes que presentan sus declaraciones usando un Número de Identificación Personal del Contribuyente (ITIN) emitido por el IRS, o cualquier número emitido por el IRS no califican. Tampoco son elegibles los individuos que pueden ser reclamados como dependientes por otra persona, o quienes presentan la Forma 1040-NR, 1040-PR o 1040-SS.

Para atender a quienes declaran impuestos más tarde en el año, el IRS continuará enviando pagos hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2008. El IRS también advierte a los contribuyentes que si presentan su declaración de impuestos para 2007 y luego

se mudan que deben presentar al Servicio Postal de EE.UU. una tarjeta de cambio de dirección.

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

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

información

CLASES DE INGLÉS Y GED GRATIS

La YMCA de Lawrence, a través del Programa REC, está ofreciendo clases de GED y Inglés Como Segundo Idioma (ESL) a todas las comunidades del Merrimack Valley. Las clases son ofrecidas gratis, cinco días a la semana a diferentes horarios.

Estamos buscando personas voluntarias para maestros. Si usted conoce alguna persona interesada en ofrecer servicios voluntarios, el programa REC esta solicitando apoyo voluntario para clases de GED y ESL.

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CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA 5

DIAZ: La verdad sobre la violencia escolar

incidentes verdaderos que resumí. Lo único que estoy haciendo es exponer la corrupción que él ha instituido y que todos los funcionarios públicos, electos o nombrados, están dispuestos a dejar pasar. Después de que siete años en este sistema, Lawrence está todavía en el fondo - sino empeorando - según el Departamento de Educación.

Es una "nota adversa" contra el maestro que trata de disciplinar a un estudiante. No "luce bien" para el sistema al igual que marcar la asistencia o la llevar un récord de la deserción escolar en el high school. El comité de la disciplina es débil. Ellos se reúnen, hablan y se encogen de hombros. Ellos se hacen de la vista gorda a la violencia seria en sus escuelas.

Algunas personas piensan que Laboy ha utilizado la brujería en el alcalde o por lo menos lo ha hipnotizado. El es simplemente débil y ha permitido que él haga lo que le de la gana por demasiado tiempo y no lo puede parar ahora.

El me puede llamar cínica o crítica pero él nunca podrá llamarme mentirosa. Si funcionarios de la ciudad están cansados de mí y de mi lenguaje declamatorio es porque estoy impidiéndoles continuar violando esta ciudad más de lo que ellos ya han hecho.

¿Me puede decir alguien que esos incidentes violentos no sucedieron en las escuelas? ¿Por qué no llamaron a la policía? ¿Por qué los padres no se enteran de lo que pasa realmente en las escuelas? Llámeme sensacionalismo pero pienso que esto es lo más importante que yo puedo hacer con mi tiempo y mi vida: informar a la comunidad de qué clase de gente está hecho nuestro gobierno - un montón de cobardes y vendidos que permiten que

él opere el departamento escolar como su empresa privada.

El código de la disciplina en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence es ignorado. Porque se ha ignorado, tenemos la violencia en nuestras escuelas. No hay consecuencias sino segundas oportunidades infinitamente. Los estudiantes no tienen copias del código de la disciplina. No está en ninguna de las páginas web. No está anunciado en ninguna pizarra de mensajes en la escuela.

En Lawrence High School, un estudiante de honores que tiene casi perfecta asistencia, Flormarie Figueroa, fue suspendida por ponerse un suéter porque ella tiene frío. Los estudiantes que se escapan de clase, los estudiantes que son irrespetuosos a los maestros y compañeros de clase y los estudiantes que utilizan la palabra F hacia el personal y la administración no son castigados.

El sistema escolar de Lawrence es controlado por los datos. Si un estudiante recibe una detención o una suspensión, eso es una nota adversa contra el bien remunerado administrador. Ellos temen perder su trabajo. Por eso es que se hace muy poco.

¿Dónde está nuestro liderazgo? Bien, al momento del cierre, supe del Concejal del Distrito E David Abdo quien me dio las gracias por traerlo a su atención y dijo estarlo investigando. El ex Concejal at-Large Nunzio DiMarca también me diciendo, "Creo firmemente que las medidas preventivas son las mejores, por lo tanto, es esencial controlar los vestíbulos así como las aulas. ¿Qué maravilloso cómo ellos tratan de barrer todas las cosas negativas bajo la alfombra? ¿Quién dijo que aquí no hay censura?" Nunzio concluyó.

¿Dónde está el liderazgo de esta ciudad?

Llama Hoy! (978) 794-5360



¿COMO UTILIZARÍAS ESTE ESPACIO?

Si pensaba que un anuncio pequeño no funciona, esta es la prueba de que estaba equivocado. Este pequeño anuncio ha logrado llamarte la atención y ya le ha dedicado unos segundos de tu tiempo. Los lectores de Rumbo podrían estar leyendo sobre sus productos y/o servicios. El costo del anuncio no es un secreto ni envuelve trucos de venta. Este lo podrás calcular con la guía que aparece en la página 23. ¿Qué pondrías tú en este espacio? Comunícate con Alberto al (978) 794-5360.

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CITY OF LAWRENCE
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

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Presidenta del Comité de Presupuesto y Finanzas

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Foro Abierto del Presupuesto
del Año Fiscal 2009
martes, 25 de marzo de 2008
6:00pm - 9:00pm

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Refrigerios ligeros serán servidos!

Youth Basketball League wraps up 33rd season at the Lawrence YMCA



Andrew Grealey and Tom O'Koniewski, members of the Lawrence YMCA's Iowa Hawkeyes Youth Basketball League (YBL) team enjoy time together at the end-of-year banquet held in the YMCA's gymnasium.

Members of the Youth Basketball League (YBL) Gophers team with their Coach Jon Plumb are (left to right): Justin Belanger, Yanluis Castillo, Sade Velez, Marcus Velez, Benjamin Bagley, and Alfredo Tavares.

The Lawrence Branch of the Merrimack Valley held its annual Youth Basketball League (YBL) banquets on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 4 and 5, where nearly 270 children and coaches were recognized for their achievements. In total the two banquets were attended by more than 600 children, coaches and their families. This was the

33rd season of this popular youth program. YMCA Youth Basketball is a unique program where the development of the child is stressed, rather than competition. "YBL stresses fair play, values education, and fun. All players participate, and our goal is a growth experience for all players and volunteers involved in the program," said Doug Currier, Senior Program Director

at the Lawrence Branch YMCA. Thirty five volunteer coaches organize weekly practices, teach basketball skills, and coach the weekly games.

The Lawrence YMCA YBL season included a family trip to see the Boston Celtics play the LA Clippers, Wednesday, February 6, 2008. The YBL season also included family basketball games, where

YBL parents played against YBL youth teams.

Each YBL player received a trophy at the banquets. The motto of YBL is "everybody plays, everybody wins," Currier said.

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Easter Bunny makes early visit at YMCA's Eggsellent Easter Event

The Andover/North Andover Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA hosted children and their parents at the annual Eggsellent Easter Event, on Saturday March 15, 2008. Families enjoyed a light breakfast, spring arts & crafts projects, and the Easter Bunny was on hand for photos.



Showing off their Easter craft project are sisters Madelyn Lipski, age 5, and Paige Lipski, age 2, of Lawrence. The sisters attended the YMCA's Eggsellent Easter Event held Saturday at the Andover/North Andover YMCA.



Jen Morrill of Dracut visits with the Easter Bunny son Kyle, age 7, and daughter Alyssa, age 4.



Andover's Samantha Jenney, age 3-and-a-half, stops by to say 'hello' to the Easter Bunny at the YMCA's Eggsellent Easter Event, held at the Andover/North Andover YMCA.



Lucas Flores, age 3 of Lowell, is all smiles as he visits with the Easter Bunny.

Merrimack Valley YMCA Spring Training



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(think 9 innings in baseball 🏆)

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www.mvymca.org

Senior Center Portraits

By Alberto Surís
albertosuris@rumbonews.com



It took Bernie Greenside about 45 days to paint the portraits of 11 members of the Lawrence Senior Center staff. Their paintings are hanging on a wall of the center's lobby.

Greenside

has been coming to the Lawrence Senior Center since 1985, where he has become a member of the Council on Aging, the board that oversees the center.

An enthusiast painter, he likes to teach his art to everyone interested. Greenside teaches art classes every Friday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, free for Lawrence residents. For non-residents there is a modest one-time charge of \$20.00.

Painting is like a second best choice for Greenside, who used to be a clarinet jazz musician in his younger years. "Rock-and-roll ruined my career," confessed.

"I studied art at the Art Institute of Boston, although I'm a self taught when it comes to portraits," said Greenside, who also has a studio at home that keeps him very busy doing portraits and all kinds of paintings.

You can see the portraits of Nelida Vatcher, Noemi Gonzalez, Lee Nichols, Martha Velez, Barney Reilly, Maribel Betancourt, Luz Rosado, Martha Medina, Basilia Rosario, Maria Silva and Winnie DiTommazzo at the Lawrence Senior Center, 155 Haverhill Street and for more information about Bernie Greenside's art classes and all other services provided by the Center, call (978) 620-3540.

Retratos en el Senior Center



El pintor Bernie Greenside frente a sus fotos - *Painter Bernie Greenside by his portraits.*

Por Alberto Surís
albertosuris@rumbonews.com

Le tomó unos 45 días a Bernie Greenside pintar los retratos de 11 de los empleados del Senior Center de Lawrence. Sus pinturas se encuentran expuestas en la antesala del centro.

Greenside comenzó a venir al Lawrence Senior Center desde 1985, donde ha pasado a ser miembro del Council on Aging, junta que supervisa el centro. Un entusiasta pintor, él gusta de enseñar su arte a todo el que muestre interés. Greenside enseña clases de arte todos los viernes de 1:00 PM a 3:00PM, gratis para los residentes de Lawrence. Los que no son residentes tienen que pagar la modesta suma de \$20.00 una sola vez.

La pintura fue como la segunda mejor opción para Greenside, que en sus años más jóvenes tocaba jazz con su clarinete. "El Rock-and-Roll arruinó mi carrera musical", confesó.

"Estudié arte en el Instituto de Arte de Boston aunque aprendí por mí mismo el arte



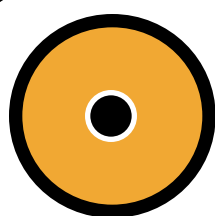
Bernie Greenside con el Director del Lawrence Senior Center apuntando hacia su retrato.

Bernie Greenside with Lawrence Senior Center Director Barney Reilly, pointing to his portrait.

de hacer retratos", dijo Greenside, el cual también tiene un estudio en su casa donde está siempre ocupado haciendo retratos y otros tipos de pintura.

Usted puede ver los retratos de Nérida Vatcher, Noemí González, Lee Nichols, Martha Vélez, Barney Reilly, Maribel

Betancourt, Luz Rosado, Martha Medina, Basilia Rosario, Maria Silva y Winnie DiTommazzo en el Lawrence Senior Center, 155 Haverhill Street y para más información acerca de Bernie Greenside, clases de arte y otros servicios proveídos por el centro, llame (978) 620-3540.



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OPINION

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 5

The truth about school violence

By **Dalia Díaz**

daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

Because I am very concerned about the violence going on in the Lawrence Public Schools and how it is covered up, I sent an email to all elected officials in Lawrence on March 15, 2008. We all know that there's direct communication between the mayor's office and the police department with the daily newspaper when they want a photographer on site and they keep quiet when the administration doesn't want things to get out.

Such is the case with these recent attacks. Parents should be made aware of the conditions at the schools where their children attend at all times. It was my hope, as elected officials, that they would take a stand on this issue and let me know their position. Here are some examples of recent incidents:

On Friday, March 13, two girls were taken out of the school in handcuffs. The incident involved a girl who left in-house suspension (in full uniform) and assaulted another female. "The fight was vicious and dangerous," according to a teacher. The girl that was attacked is pregnant. Assistant Principal Ed Reynoso received several punches and was hurt breaking up the fight. "The entire day shift of the Lawrence Police Department showed up at the school to

restore calm," a teacher told me. Nothing was in the paper.

Last week a female student stalked another girl. This was also a vicious fight. The girl who was attacked got the best of her stalker by pulling out fistfuls of her hair. Teachers and security were hurt breaking up that fight. Nothing was in the paper.

Last month a male student cornered another student in the stairwell of the BMF School and savagely punched the face of another student. There was blood everywhere. This act was in retaliation for a sexual assault by the victim to the attacker's girlfriend. Nothing was in the paper.

At the Frost School a 7th grade girl was sexually assaulted. That made the paper. Her attackers returning back to school didn't make the paper.

Mr. Laboy distributed an inappropriate and graphic video showing a student hiding numerous weapons in his baggy pants. The video is fine for police training but it is inappropriate for a school setting. The committee probably didn't see the video and had to rely on the superintendent's description of it. The school committee allowed him to talk his way out of it.

In another brilliant move of trivial prowess, the Lawrence School Committee

On Friday, March 13, two girls were taken out of the school in handcuffs. The incident involved a girl who left in-house suspension (in full uniform) and assaulted another female. "The fight was vicious and dangerous," according to a teacher. The girl that was attacked is pregnant. Assistant Principal Ed Reynoso received several punches and was hurt breaking up the fight. "The entire day shift of the Lawrence Police Department showed up at the school to restore calm," a teacher told me. Nothing was in the paper.

was so worried about a car accident in Randolph, MA that they voted to give the students two more holidays. A student was hit by a car when someone was on his way to vote, so they decided to cancel classes on Election Day. If they were so concerned about their safety, they would have kept them safe at school while their parents are at work. Unsupervised children will be on the streets instead of in schools.

The Lawrence Police Gang Unit was in the schools last Monday, March 10, and met with all teachers. They were told there is a serious gang problem in Lawrence and

the high school. I heard the PowerPoint presentation was chilling.

To my surprise, by Monday morning, School Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy had sent me a message. If I was surprised that he had sent me an email, I was shocked at the content. He said, "It seems that city leaders are truly tired of your sensationalism of Lawrence Public Schools. Why don't you find something more positive to do with your life? Why don't you become a voice for problem solving and instead of being a constant cynic and critic!"

That was his way of responding to the real incidents that I outlined. All I am doing is exposing the corruption that he has instituted and that all the public officials, elected or appointed, are willing to overlook. After seven years in this system, Lawrence is still at the bottom - if not getting worse - according to the Department of Education.

It is a "black mark" against the teacher who tries to discipline a student. It doesn't "look good" for the system just like keeping track of the attendance or the drop out rate at the high school. The discipline committee

**PLEASE SEE DÍAZ
CONTINUES ON PAGE 22**



UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

V-DAY LAWRENCE IS COMING!

V-DAY LAWRENCE 2008

A Production of Eve Ensler's

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

As Part of the 2008 V-Day Campaign

Join us as we celebrate V-Day's Ten Year Anniversary, raise awareness and end violence against women and girls

TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY!

at the Bell Tower Square – 60 Island Street - Lawrence
on Friday, March 21 & Saturday, March 22, 2008

About V-Day

V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues*. 2008 marks V-Day's 10-year anniversary and with it V-Day has introduced two new events, V-Day's A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer: Writings on Violence Against Women and Girls, and the V-Day documentary *Until The Violence Stops*. In 2007, more than 3000 V-Day events took place in the U.S. and around the world. To date, the V-Day movement has raised over \$50 million and educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it, crafted international educational, media and PSA campaigns, launched the Karama program in the Middle East, reopened shelters, and funded over 5000 community-based anti-violence programs and safe houses in Kenya, South Dakota, Egypt and Iraq. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina. <http://www.vday.org>

What is a V-Day Campaign?

A V-Day Campaign is a catalyst for mobilizing women and men to heighten awareness about violence against women and girls. By creating this global community, V-Day strives to empower women to find their collective voices and demand an end to the violence that affects one in three women in the US and around the world.

WHO: V-Day Lawrence **WHAT:** V-Day Lawrence 2008, a benefit production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, raising funds for the YWCA of Greater Lawrence **WHERE:** Bell Tower Square – 60 Island Street – Lawrence, MA

WHEN: Friday & Saturday, March 21 & 22 at 8:00pm **ADMISSION:** \$7 a ticket, \$5 for H.S. students

CONTACT: Elizabeth Delgado, Organizer & Director – 978-397-5851 **GOAL:** To raise awareness to stop violence against women and girls and funds for our beneficiaries the YWCA **SPONSORED BY:** Elaine's Pizza, Caribbean Bakery, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Beauty Solutions & Rumbo.

José Mateo Ballet Theatre Presents

Back to Cuba

A set of ballets, including a premiere, that explore the beauty and mystique of the Cuban culture

Back to Cuba features a set of ballets, including a premiere that explores the beauty and mystique of the Cuban culture. The concert offers the new format for viewing ballet for which José Mateo Ballet Theatre has become known: cabaret-style seating, close-up view of the dancers, and drinks during the show.

Based on the critical and popular success of Cuban-born Mateo's *The Cuban Condition*, which premiered in 2004, *Back to Cuba* offers another look into the Cuban culture with a premiere, and returning works, set to a treasury of Cuban music rarely heard.

Back to Cuba is the second program of two presented by José Mateo Ballet Theatre this spring. Currently in its 22nd season, José Mateo Ballet Theatre has forged a new model for a ballet organization. Artistic Director José Mateo is the only ballet director in New England to have served for two decades as resident choreographer of an established company and to have produced such an extensive body of choreographic work – over 80 original ballets - for local ballet audiences.

The Sanctuary Theatre, 400 Harvard Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge (off the Harvard Square stop on the Red Line, \$10 parking available). Tickets are \$35 for reserved cocktail table seating. Call (617) 354-7467 or www.BalletTheatre.org

The dates are between April 4-20, 2008, as follows: Friday, April 4, 8:00 PM; Friday, April 11, 8:00 PM; Friday, April 18, 8:00 PM; Saturday, April 5, 8:00 PM; Saturday, April 12, 8:00 PM; Saturday, April 19, 8:00 PM; Sunday, April 6, 4:00 PM; Sunday, April 13, 4:00 PM; and Sunday, April 20, 4:00 PM.

Letters to the Editor

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

OPINION

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

From My Corner



Raising the Irish flag

It was a great disappointment for Rumbo seeing the Irish flag waving in front of Lawrence City Hall, and we were not invited to the flag raising.

Well, we held no grudges and were happy to be part of the St. Patrick's Parade covering it but, then one night, while having dinner at Cedar Crest, we found out that no one even knew when it was done. Unceremoniously, DPW raised it, in time for the parade. It had been scheduled and later canceled due to bad weather.

Why live in fear?

Through the years I've been wondering why so many people live in fear to speak up. That is no way to advance for any city, town or immigrant city like Lawrence.

During the election periods, there are plenty of accusations from candidates toward their opponents about breaking or stealing signs from private properties. When we tried to ask the property owners where the political signs have disappeared, they denied everything because they didn't want to be quoted in the newspaper.

Store owners complained several years ago about being forced by former City Hall employees to put up political signs of a certain candidate. When confronted by Rumbo, they denied it and even spoke highly of the candidate they supposedly were forced to support.

Needless to say that we were not able to write about it because there was no story there. People would recant, deny and beg not to see their name in print and when we insisted in knowing the reason they said it was fear. Sometimes it is fear of revenge or retaliation. They fear that city officials will be sending inspectors or the fire department to their businesses to "find things" for which to fine them.

While their fears are greatly exaggerated in most cases and based on ignorance of the language and the system in which we now live, there is some truth to some of it. We refused to play the game according to Superintendent of Schools Wilfredo Laboy and the result has hurt us tremendously. As punishment, Rumbo has not received any advertising from the school department since 2002 and we have been banned from entering any school building since that time. Of course, that has not deterred our progress.

Must we lie down and pretend that we are dead in order to have an easy, non-confrontational life? No way! That's not living. That is really allowing the few in control of our lives to cheat, rob and steal even our souls. Every time we refuse to speak up against some injustice, we are giving away a little of our soul.

Pet Peeve 3

Please do not forward me chain letters!

This week I received a picture of a badly burnt baby with the usual text that for each time that picture is forwarded, the family would receive three cents that they so badly need for her long-term care.

Well, my delete button works overtime with emails from people or companies I don't recognize but this one came from a friend so I opened it, that's why I saw the picture. So, I took the time to educate her by going on www.snopes.com and wrote in the search line: badly burnt baby. Like magic, out came the information with a big FALSE indicating that the email is a fake. This website gives you the full text on that email message making the rounds, the many variations it may have had through the years and how it originated, along with whether it is true or not. While the picture is real of a baby girl in Poland from 2005, the story is made up.

Keep in mind that no one is keeping track of how many times that picture is being forwarded all over the world; how can anyone receive any money? The same for Bill Gates and AOL. That's another one making the rounds! They say that they will send you cash for forwarding a message. No such thing.

Trust me. If those letters that end by requesting that I forward it in the next ten minutes to 10 or 12 other unsuspecting victims of someone's boredom or something unpleasant will happen to me were true, I would no longer be here.

CITY OF LAWRENCE
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan
Councillor Grisel Silva, Chair of Budget & Finance

The Lawrence City Council
Host an

FY 2009 Budget Forum
Tuesday, March 25, 2008
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Lawrence Senior Center
155 Haverhill Street * Lawrence, MA 01840
Light refreshments will be served!

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OPINION

By Ellen Bahan
rumbonews.com/blogs



It's All About Right(s)

This article was published on March 15, 2002. Nothing has changed and the public should be aware of this so, why write a new one?

The secret of 4 Gleason Street

A big dirty secret. Four years ago, when I found the town to be derelict in their duty to protect the health and safety of its citizens, I began watching the goings-on very closely. Much of the time it has been a bumpy ride, but if we the citizens do not hold our elected and appointed officials accountable, ultimately we have no one else to blame but ourselves when our hired help oversteps their bounds.

The story I am about to tell is once again about the utter audacity this administration has when it comes to informing the people and protecting their safety and well being. After all, it is the only reason this bureaucracy exists in the first place.

4 Gleason Street is located in the Central District. It is a little dead-end street located directly across from Friendly's Ice Cream Shoppe. The street consists of on one side an old defunct gas station and an old factory at the end which once housed the company Unitrode, and more recently Shear Metals. The other side of the street is lined with houses, where mothers and fathers live with their children.

On January 9, 2001, David Skelly, Health Inspector came in front of the Town Council, requesting a Declaration of Nuisance, 4 Gleason Street. As I stated above, I have been keeping a keen eye on what is going on around me. I cannot be everywhere at one time, so a couple of years ago, when a resident at 15 Gleason Street, Linda Gerard, called me and relayed a story that would raise the hair on the back of your neck, we agreed at that time she would keep me posted as to the disposition



of this property, 4 Gleason Street. Council kept a low profile on this item, and agreed to table this request. The subject dropped, and I thought no more about it at the time, until I received a call from Linda Gerard.

Jump in the way back machine with me. The year is 2000, the date is October 17. Front-page news in the Eagle Tribune reads, CHEMICALS BEING LEFT ON EMPTY LOT. "Her neighbor, Mark, who requested his last name not be used, said he smelled a 'strong chemical smell' coming from the old factory late at night last week, at approximately the same time when he saw several people walking around the property on Gleason Street."

"Earlier this month, Conservation Officer Joseph Giarrusso found 11 50-gallon barrels, of what he said appears to be waste oil, illegally dumped on the sight of the Shears Metal," stated the Eagle-Tribune article.

The same article also said that, "Mrs. Gerard and several of her grandchildren said they have seen people on several occasions unloading barrels on the property, but Mr. Giarrusso said this was the first time he has found anything illegally dumped there.

Mr. Giarrusso said illegal dumping is 'unfortunately not as uncommon' as he would like and has found barrels in other locations in Methuen."

Linda Gerard has been calling the town officials since July 2000, reporting trucks coming and going all hours of the night. Linda Gerard describes the fact that trucks loaded with waste barrels drive onto an abandoned factory site across from her house and then leave without the barrels.

Did I forget to tell you that this building did not have electricity? Tell me what kind of clean up could one be doing in the dark of night? These boys must have had X-ray vision or miner's hats at the very least!

Let's fast forward to the present, and I will now relay what our investigation has uncovered. On March 1, 2002, Linda Gerard and I visited the offices of the DEP, (Department of Environmental

Lawrence Family Development Charter School Students Celebrate the Joy of Reading

Lawrence Family Development Charter School students celebrated Read Across America Day on March 3rd and 4th, in recognition of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Dr. Seuss was born Theodor Seuss Geisel on March 2, 1904 in Springfield, MA. He is the American writer and cartoonist best known for his classic children's books, including The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, How the Grinch Stole Christmas and One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish. His books are famous for their funny rhymes and whimsical characters.

Overall, 360 kindergarten through fourth grade students read more than 700 books during the two day event. # parents, local business leaders and other dignitaries shared their joy of reading with students by reading their favorite Dr. Seuss books to them. Students also read to their guests and every child was given a free copy of a grade appropriate Dr. Seuss book for their home library.

Sixty-five kindergarten students participated in the activities by welcoming a very special guest reader to the school's Foley Family Library. Sal Lupoli, President and CEO of Sal's Pizza Retail and Wholesale Divisions, Salvatore's Restaurants and Riverwalk Properties visited the students and read The Cat in the Hat with them. Mr. Lupoli spoke with the students about the importance of reading every day so they can become better readers. He also invited the students to come to his restaurant to learn how pizza is made.

Ralph Carrero, Director/Superintendent of the Charter School, told those gathered at the event that "Lawrence Family Development Charter School's Early Childhood Education Program places great emphasis on learning to read at a very young age because research shows that children reading at grade level by the time they reach third grade ensures they will achieve academic success for the rest of their formal education."

PLEASE SEE BAHAN
CONTINUES ON PAGE 22



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Merchants be aware

By Alberto Surís
albertosuris@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 3

Lately, we have been receiving calls from merchants who feel intimidated by, what they believed are City or State inspectors, offering them their services.

According to Yolanda Rodriguez, owner of Four Seasons Laundromat, located at 149 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA, on Saturday, March 15, 2008, "Isaias Mencia, owner of Mencia Fire Appliances, located at 157 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA, walked into her shop, accompanied by another man, went directly to the fire extinguishers, removed the tags saying the inspections had expired, replaced them with his company tags, moved them to another location, and left, not before leaving an invoice for \$75.00 for his services."

Rodriguez said that she refused to pay Mencia next day, when he came to get paid. "I told him that the inspection was done without my permission. Only the attendant was here and she was under the impression that they were city inspectors," she said. "Mencia got very angry, removed his tags from the extinguishers and left, not before telling me and another customer who was present but who doesn't want to be identified, that I, as Dominican, should do business with him, also a Dominican, not

with another far away company."

Isaias Mencia, when contacted, said that the man with him was somebody who just started working with him. No name was given. "When we went into the Laundromat we requested permission to inspect the fire extinguishers and permission was granted by Yolanda Rodriguez's boyfriend, who was there," said Mencia and added, "I did her a favor, since the inspection was overdue and the fire extinguishers were placed too high from the floor. Now they are within code," said Mencia.

Rumbo contacted Dick Monahan, Service Manager of Keane Fire Safety, located at 1500, Main Street, Waltham, MA, the company who inspected the Four Seasons Laundromat's fire extinguishers. "Those stickers were placed on the fire extinguishers during my last visit there on September 27, 2007 and were good until September 2008. It's illegal to remove them, unless authorized by the Laundromat's owner," said Monahan who promised to come by the Laundromat to replace the stickers.

Rumbo contacted Fire Inspector Ray Silva at the Lawrence Fire Department who said that he was not aware if Mencia is licensed to inspect fire extinguishers.



Extintor colocado en la cocina del Restaurante Las Palmas, atendido por Mencia Fire Appliances.
 Fire extinguisher at Restaurant Las Palmas' kitchen, serviced by Mencia Fire Appliances.

Mencia strongly disagreed with this statement. He said that the Lawrence Fire Department is not the one who issues those permits, and that is why Silva didn't know. "This is the permit I always had, but not until recently I decided to do fire extinguisher inspections," he said. "I have

five different fire suppression permits," he added.

"I never saw that permit," said Silva.

PLEASE SEE SURÍS
 CONTINUES ON PAGE 21



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CALENDAR

Para listar su evento en esta sección de Rumbo, favor de enviarnos un correo electrónico a (y solo a) calendar@rumbonews.com. Este debe incluir el nombre, fecha, hora y lugar del evento. Se recomienda un número de información o dirección de correo electrónico. Una breve descripción de de menos de 30 palabras puede ser incluida. Si su mensaje no incluye la información requerida no será colocado en el calendario. Su aviso será listado solo si hay espacio disponible. Rumbo no se hace responsable de cualquier información errónea que sea publicada.

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.

RUMBO

Upcoming Rumbo Editions:
The **Regional Edition** will print on **Tuesday April 1st**. Material Deadline is **Friday March 28th**.

The **Lawrence/Methuen Edition** will print on **Tuesday April 8th**. Material Deadline is **Friday April 4th**.

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Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

ANNUAL DINNER NEW DATE
April 29, 2008

Ralph B. Wilkinson Award
Presentation to
Leonard A. Wilson
&
Community Spirit Award Presentation
to
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Head Start Program

CONFIRMED FEATURED SPEAKER
GOV. DEVAL PATRICK

LAWRENCE: T.H.N.A. Meeting

3/26/2008
Our Lady of Good Counsel School's Judson Hall
526 Lowell Street, Lawrence

TIME: 7:00:00 PM
FEE: \$ 0
MORE INFO: Call 603.548.9929

Tower Hill Neighborhood Association General Meeting Wednesday March 26, 2008 at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Good Counsel School's Judson Hall, 526 Lowell Street. The guest speaker will be State Representative Barry Finegold and he will be discussing the housing foreclosure crisis in Lawrence. Police Chief John Romero will also be attending the meeting to discuss any quality of life issues or concerns with the residents. The T.H.N.A. meetings are open to the public and we welcome all to attend. For additional information contact Keith Wlodyka, President at 603-548-9929 or Dan Clark, Vice President at 978-902-0595. Refreshments served.

HAVERHILL: Genocide Lecture to be Held at NECC

3/26/2008
NECC Technology Center
100 Elliott Street, Haverhill

TIME: 1:00:00 PM
FEE: \$ 0
MORE INFO: Call 978.556.3955

Richard Kamber, professor of philosophy at The College of New Jersey, will speak at Northern Essex Community College on Wednesday, March 26, from noon to 1 p.m. as a guest lecturer in its Genocide awareness series sponsored by the NECC Diversity Committee.

Kamber will speak on the subject "Can Democracy Prevent Genocide". Kamber believes democracy provides humanity's best hope for preventing genocide. His talk is an explanation and defense of this.

Free and open to the public, the lecture will be held in the Technology Center which is located on the college's Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St.

Kamber served for 15 years as dean or vice president of three colleges and for seven years as chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at The College of New Jersey. He has written books on Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and William James.

His published articles cover a wide range of subjects including aesthetics, existentialism, education, film, and the Holocaust and he has lectured frequently on these topics.

For additional information regarding the speaker series contact Judith Kamber at jkamber@necc.mass.edu or 978-556-3955. Or visit the website at <http://cit.necc.mass.edu/ofs/genocide.shtml>

ANDOVER: YMCA Camps Open House

3/30/2008
Andover/North Andover Branch YMCA
165 Haverhill Street, Andover

TIME: 1:00:00 PM - 5:00:00 PM

FEE: \$ 0
MORE INFO: Call 978.975.1330

Learn about Camp Lawrence, Camp Nokomis and YMCA Day Camp Otter on Sunday, March 30, 2008, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Camp Lawrence for Boys and Camp Nokomis for Girls are located on Bear Island, Lake Winnepesaukee, New Hampshire. Day Camp Otter is located on Captain's Pond, Salem, NH (local transportation available). For more info: (978) 975-1330.

HAVERHILL: Tax Information Session

4/2/2008
Haverhill Citizen Center
10 Welcome Street, Haverhill

TIME: 10:00:00 AM
FEE: \$ 0
MORE INFO: Call 978.374.2390

Haverhill Council on Aging and H & R Block are presenting an informational session on April 2, 2008, at the Citizen Center, 10 Welcome St., at 10:00 a.m. The topic of this presentation is the federal stimulus package which will provide a \$300-600 rebate to qualified individuals.

If you are on Social Security and receive at least \$3,000 per year, it is imperative that you complete a tax return this year. Even if you do not normally file a tax return, this year you must do so to receive your rebate. We will have tax forms available at this presentation. Do not miss out on the rebate!

Please contact Kathy X11 or Rita X16 at 978-374-2390 for additional information.

LAWRENCE: Information Night @ Notre Dame High School

4/15/2008
Notre Dame High School
205 Hampshire St, Lawrence

TIME: 4:00:00 PM

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.

FEE: \$ 0
MORE INFO: Call 978.689.0248

There is Still Time to Apply!
April 15, 2008
Administrative Offices, 3rd Floor
4:00 PM

For more information please contact: Delia Durán-Clark, Director of Admissions or Sara Cohen-Harrigan, Associate Director of Admissions at 978.689.0248.

HAVERHILL: Trip to Foxwoods


4/16/2008
Merrivista 6:15 AM
Westgate Shopping Plaza 6:45 AM


FEE: \$ 23
MORE INFO: Call 978.374.2165

Bethany Community Services and the

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-JESSE, AGE 5






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Haverhill Council on Aging are hosting a trip to Foxwoods Casino on Wednesday, April 16, 2008. Cost of \$23 includes transportation, lunch 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.

LAWRENCE: HSPT @ Notre Dame High School

4/17/2008
 Notre Dame High School
 205 Hampshire St, Lawrence
 TIME: 2:00:00 PM
 FEE: \$ 25
 MORE INFO: Call 978.689.0248

HSPT - Admissions Entrance Exam
 April 17, 2008
 2:00 PM
 \$25.00 Registration Fee

For more information please contact: Delia Durán-Clark, Director of Admissions or Sara Cohen-Harrigan, Associate Director of Admissions at 978.689.0248.

Haverhill: Trip to Museum of Fine Arts

4/28/2008
 TIME: 9:30:00 AM - 5:00:00 PM
 FEE: \$ 30
 MORE INFO: Call 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: "Boston's Julie Andrews"

4/30/2008
 Haverhill Senior Center
 10 Welcome Street, Haverhill
 TIME: 1:00:00 PM

FEE: \$ 0
 MORE INFO: Call 978.374.2390

The Haverhill Cultural Council and the Haverhill Council on Aging have joined together and are pleased to announce the appearance of singing star Ruth Harcovitz, "Boston's Julie Andrews", in a forthcoming program.

Ms. Harcovitz, who is in constant demand throughout the country for her charm, beautiful voice, and warm personality, has appeared as soloist with orchestras, in summer stock, and in resorts. Recently returned from a successful singing tour in Florida, here in Massachusetts she is known for her wide variety of thrilling programs, which always draw large crowds.

Ms. Harcovitz will be appearing in her program, APRIL IN PARIS, featuring French songs that became popular in America in their English versions.

The program will take place at the Haverhill Senior Center at 10 Welcome St., on Wednesday, April 30, following a tea that begins at 1 PM. All are cordially invited to attend, and urged not to miss, this very special event.

It is open to the public and free of charge. For information and reservations, call the Haverhill Senior Center at (978) 374-2390.

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Haverhill Cultural Council, a local agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Haverhill: Alaska by Land and by Sea

5/23/2008
 FEE: \$ 4299
 MORE INFO: Call 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.

Haverhill: 19th Annual Tribute to Women Luncheon

5/28/2008
 DiBurro's of Ward Hill
 TIME: 12:00:00 PM - 2:00:00 PM
 FEE: \$ 0

MORE INFO: Call 978.374.6121

The Haverhill YWCA is pleased to announce that the 19th Annual Tribute to Women Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, at DiBurro's of Ward Hill from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m.. Fox25 News anchor Maria Stephanos will be keynote speaker and honorary chairperson. Ms. Stephanos is a native of Groveland, MA, and we are pleased to have her participate in this community event. The YWCA is currently seeking nominations from Haverhill and area communities.

Women from the Greater Haverhill area are nominated to the YWCA Academy of Women because of their unique and outstanding achievements. The YWCA Academy of Women was established to create a permanent tribute to the achievements and significant contributions of women. Members of the Academy are women who bring out the best in all of us. Each one has become a role model by setting high standards, blazing new trails, working to overcome obstacles, or participation in community. Those of us who have come in contact with them are challenged to aspire to greater heights. The goals of the Academy include leadership development, continuing education on public issues and community involvement.

Nominees must work or reside in Haverhill, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Middleton or Topsfield, MA, as well as Atkinson, Danville, Hampstead, Kingston, Newton, Plaistow or Sandown, NH. Deadline for nominations is March 28, 2008.

Nomination kits are available at the YWCA of Haverhill, 107 Winter Street, MA, 978-374-6121. Contact the YWCA of Haverhill for additional information or to request a nomination kit.

Haverhill: Trip to Candem Yards

5/30/2008
 TIME: 7:00:00 AM
 FEE: \$ 249
 MORE INFO: Call 978.374.2390

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!! Haverhill Council on Aging and Recreation Department are planning another trip to the Camden Yards to see the Red Sox play the Baltimore Orioles! The bus will leave on May 30, 2008, at 7:00 a.m. and return in the early evening on June 1.

This trip includes a day of sightseeing in Washington, D.C. The tour will visit the Capital Mall's war memorials, the Smithsonian Museums, and many of the attractions

of our Nation's Capital. The day will end with an illuminated tour of the Presidential Monuments.

Hotel accommodations are at the luxury Hilton McLean Hotel (www.mclean.hilton.com). Transportation is provided by luxury motor coach.

Cost for this trip is \$249 per person, double occupancy; \$245 for triple occupancy, and \$329 for single occupancy. All meals are on your own.

Contact Kathy Bresnahan or Rita LaBella at Haverhill COA 978-374-2390 or kbresnahan@cityofhaverhill.com to make your reservation or to request additional information.

Haverhill: The Big Apple and 'Cruise to Nowhere'

6/1/2008
 FEE: \$ 359
 MORE INFO: Call 978.374.2165

From September 13-14, 2008 The Big Apple and 'Cruise to Nowhere' on the Norwegian Spirit with a tour of New York City, Rockefeller Plaza, Ground Zero, South Street Seaport and Top of the Rock. Also included are three meals a cocktail party and all taxes and gratuities (except for on board charges). The cost is \$359 pp double with a \$50 deposit due at sign up, final payment is due June 1st.

Haverhill: Seven Day Tour to the Canyonlands

6/10/2008
 FEE: \$ 275
 MORE INFO: Call 978.374.2165

On September 10, 2008 Bethany Homes will leave on a seven day tour to the Canyonlands. Also includes are ten meals, round trip air, accommodations at the Casa Blanca Resort Casino, Zion, Bryce Canyon and Grand Canyon National Parks, Valley of Fire, Lake Mead, Hover Dam and an optional day trip to Las Vegas. A deposit of \$275 will reserve your space and includes air taxes and transfers and travelers insurance, the final payment due June 10th.

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

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆

DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆

DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

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

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

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

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

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

SPRING INTO BUSINESS EXPO & JOB FAIR



APRIL 16, 2008

Michael's Function Halls
Alpha/River Street, Route 110, Haverhill, MA
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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- Close of Show Marketing Mixer 5pm – 7pm (Free For Exhibitors)

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Central Catholic High School Project Rebuild Fundraiser



The contestants in the 1-pound burger eating contest shake hands before the event. They are, from left, science teachers Shawn Chase and Andrew Nikonchuk, and seniors, from left, Richard Holak of Windham, N.H. and Eric Lustenberger of Methuen. The event raised \$1,000.



Project Rebuild participants, from left, senior Colleen Bourque of Lawrence, senior Vanessa Scafe of Methuen, junior Christopher Pelonzi of Salem, N.H. and Br. Rene D. Roy, school president, sell tickets during the fundraiser.



Science teacher Andrew Nikonchuk takes the winning bite in the 1-pound burger eating contest. Fellow science teacher Shawn Chase took second place.



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NOTES FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN

By **Maureen Nimmo**
Lawrence Public Library Director

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 9

Hello Rumbo readers. Hope you all had a fun St. Patrick's Day and that you all had a chance to see the parade and to stop by the library for Irish bread. Thanks to David Burke from the Library Trustees for the breads. Mr. Burke is your man for all things Irish!

Well it looks like we will finally get our Conversation Group rolling. Various budget-related issues have held us back. Right now we are in the process of looking for a facilitator. I expect that the first groups will get started in April and run through to the end of May. We had originally planned to get this project started in the fall and, at that time, I explained to you the details but I will go over them again. Conversation Circles are a language learning tool for people who have some knowledge of the language in question but are not completely fluent. The idea is to give folks the opportunity to engage in natural conversation in order to increase their comfort level. There will be two separate groups, one here at the main library and the other at the south branch. I took part in this type of group with the Alliance Francaise a few years ago in order to brush up on my French. It turned out to be very useful and a whole lot of fun as well. If you are interested in participating in this group or serving as a volunteer please contact me or Ana Santos for more information.

Everything is in place for our Library Card for Every First Grader program to get under way. Our two master puppeteers, Lois Elliot and Anne Obar, will be visiting all the first grade classrooms in the city. Juan and Linda, the puppets, are always a big hit with the children. I am really impressed by our outreach coordinator, Terry Farish, for organizing this. It was difficult enough

last year but this year it is much worse because of the staffing shortage. I am extremely grateful as well to Lois and Anne for being willing to get out there and visit all the different schools. These two worked as a team last year and were very successful. What is amazing though is that Anne was one of the people laid off in December. She is still willing to do this work for our children on a volunteer basis. That is an impressive level of commitment to me and highly admirable.

I am a member of the Lawrence Rotary Club and I have just come back to my office after the Rotary St. Patrick's day luncheon. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to hear Julia Kwolyk perform at the function. She is a singer and fiddler/violinist. What was exciting for me though, was that she will be performing here as part of our Celtic Celebration on March 31st (2:00 p.m. Sargent auditorium). I have already had the privilege of hearing George and Terri Kelley, with whom she'll be performing, several times in the past but I had not heard Julia before. I can promise you that you are in for a treat at the concert. Admission is, of course, free and everyone is welcome but it is wise to show up early to ensure a seat.

Well I am slowly recovering from a certain sporting event that occurred in early February and I am trying to prevent myself from going off the deep end about the Red Sox before the season begins. Still, it doesn't seem normal to sign out without reference to some team. I'll just say: How good are the Celtics? (And I don't even like basketball!) See you at the library.

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 00

SURIS: Merchants be aware



Sticker colocado en el Restaurante Las Palmas, para reemplazar el de Mencia Fire Appliances.

Sticker placed at Las Palmas Restaurant, to replace the Mencia Fire Appliances'.

Rumbo requested from Mencia the permit number but said that he did not remember it. When we asked him to fax it, he said, "My lawyer advised me not to do it," but gave us the names of several merchants where we could check his work, and prove him right.

Amongst them, El Típico Restaurante, next to the Laundromat. They refused to give any information or allow this reporter to walk into their kitchen. "The owner will comeback in two weeks," they said.

Another place was Marabú, on the corner of Union and Methuen streets. It was closed. Then, Rumbo went to Las Palmas Restaurant on Essex Street, where Mencia Fire Appliance did and maintain all the fire suppression needed to safely operate the business, including the fire extinguishers. Las Palmas restaurant owner was visibly upset with the Rumbo reporter's visit, and became irate when Fire Inspector Ray Silva showed up to check on a sticker placed by AAA State Fire Marshall, located in Lynnfield, MA. "This man, dressed in a T-shirt with the name Fire Marshall printed on it, came in, removed Mencia Fire Appliance's sticker, put his stickers on, and started giving me prices of what needs to be done. I thought he was a firefighter and then I realized he was not," she explained to Silva.

Since the operator of the Laundromat confused the two men who walked at their place with city inspectors, Rumbo contacted Inspectional Services Commissioner, Myles Burke who emphatically denied it. "All

City Inspectors carry a badge with their name and also a personal identification with their picture on, recently issued. I strongly suggest to any merchant who receives a visit from somebody saying that they are City Inspectors, to request from them those identifications. If they can't provide it, call this office immediately or report them to the Lawrence Police Department," said Burke. "Also, all our staff is officially trained not to receive or request payments in cash. All payments must be done by check or money order payable to the City of Lawrence," concluded Burke.

While at Lawrence City Hall, Code Enforcement Inspector Jorge A. De Jesus reported that another merchant, Marco Polo Rodriguez, who is remodeling his business located at 326 Lowell St. (Formerly El Gallinazo Restaurante) had a problem with a vendor who entered his business, clad in a red coat with yellow lettering printed "Fire Marshall" to do an inspection.

Rodriguez, who doesn't know the individual, was told that before he reopens, he has to replace the entire kitchen, and started giving him prices. Those who know Marco Polo Rodriguez, who by his own admission, "Is not afraid of anybody," told the man to "get lost." "The city should do something to protect us," said Rodriguez.

"Believe me", said Commissioner Burke, "We are trying. We hear these rumors all the time but need the help of the people; we need the people to come forward with any information they have. That is the only way we can help."

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 8

LOCAL AID: Lantigua, House Pass Early Local Aid Resolution

In fiscal 2009, however, only \$811 million is projected to be generated – \$124 million less than was allocated last year. The Legislature's budget will ensure the additional \$124 million is distributed and that cities and towns are held harmless to last year's allotment.

The local aid resolution also maintains a commitment made by the Legislature

three years ago by increasing Chapter 70 allocations by \$223 million to \$3.95 billion. The increase comes as part of a five year plan to move individual school districts toward their target-aid contribution level. Under the Legislature's plan, each school district would see an increase in Chapter 70 funding over last year.

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OPINION | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

Rumbo

315 Mt. Vernon Street, Lawrence MA 01843

Email: editor@rumbonews.com

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

Comments on Nunzio's Article last week

I read Mr. Di Marca's commentary and it seems like every time I read one of his articles I say the same thing, it was their lack of ACTION that people like me not only voted against Mr. Di Marca but had others do the same. I'm not thousands of votes or even hundreds, but I can get tens of votes to sway one way or the other. I always hear, we need this, we need that. Let me make a suggestion as I have in the past, when someone like me goes before the city council it is that golden opportunity to investigate and take ACTION, when they don't, it shows voters like me they are full of hot air.

Lawrence is in dire need of people who will ACT not talk. I'm at a point now that when I see politicians speak against something I say well, what ACTION did they take to fix it. Mr. Di Marca impressed me most when he went to the school committee meetings and spoke out at the public participation; he disappointed me

most when he said to the effect of: he brought up the idea of a police oversight board so the council could give the public the chance to vent. I want politicians like Mr. Di Marca to know it wasn't any philosophy or idea on government it was their lack of action to the citizens – also known as representation – that caused their support to bottom out.

'A man is defined not by his words but by his actions' - also a story, one time I was left in charge of a platoon, I gave out orders left and right, clean the head (bathroom) room inspection at this time, etc. At the end of the day I had a burning question on my mind, so I turned to one of my fellow soldiers as I was inspecting the bathroom and said, why haven't I heard one complaint, or anyone questioning my orders? Everyone basically turned on heal and went straight to their task. The answer I got was, "Everyone knows you wouldn't give any order you wouldn't do yourself and do it twice as hard." I had heard it before but true it was, respect was something earned not demanded. Politicians of Lawrence, earn our respect with action, not words. Thank you,

MARK GRAY
Lawrence

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 14

DIAZ: The truth about school violence

is weak. They meet, talk, and shrug their shoulders. They turn a blind eye to the serious violence in their schools.

Some people think that Laboy has used witchcraft on the mayor or at least have hypnotized him. He is just weak and has let him do whatever he wanted for too long and he cannot stop him now.

He may call me a cynic or a critic but I could never be called a liar. If city officials are tired of me and my ranting it's because I'm in their way of raping this city more than they have.

Can anyone tell me that those violent incidents did not happen in the schools? Why the police was not called? Why do parents don't hear about what is really going on in the schools? Call it sensationalism but I think that this is the most important thing I can do with my time and my life: inform the community of who our government is made up of - a bunch of cowards and sell-outs who allow him to run the school department as his private company.

The discipline code in the Lawrence Public Schools is ignored. Because it's ignored, we have violence in our schools. There are no consequences only infinite second chances. Students do not have copies of the discipline code. It is not on any of the web pages. It is not posted in the

school.

At Lawrence High School, an honor roll student who has close to perfect attendance, Flormarie Figueroa goes to in-house suspension for wearing a sweater because she is cold. Students who cut class, students are disrespectful to teachers and classmates and students who use the F word toward staff and administration get away with it.

The Lawrence school system is data driven. If a student is given a detention or a suspension, that's a black mark against the highly paid administrator. They are afraid for their job. That's why very little is done.

Where does our leadership stand? Well, as we go to print, I heard from District E Councilor David Abdoo who thanked me for bringing it to his attention and said to be researching it. Former Councilor at-Large Nunzio DiMarca also responded by saying, "I firmly believe that preventive measures are the best measures, therefore, it is essential to monitor the halls as well as the classrooms. Isn't it wonderful how they try to sweep all the negative things under the rug? Who said there's no censorship here?" Concluded Nunzio.

Where is the leadership of this city?

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 16

BAHAN: It's All About Right(s)

Protection), to view the file that existed on the property at 4 Gleason Street. THE FILE WAS NINE INCHES THICK! The latest documents in the possession of the DEP were dated in 1995.

Bottom line is Antimony, Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Silver and Zinc was detected. Some were trace amounts, but nevertheless these substances were detected. (I will provide to anyone who requests the report from the DEP.) Other test showed tetrachloroethene, trichloroethylene, dichlorobenzene, and methylene chloride. The report shows that some of these substances were found in the ground water and the sewer system.

It is hard to decipher the information, because the PUBLIC INFORMATION, supplied by Methuen's own Health Department had been sanitized! I'M SHOCKED! The fact remains that according to the document I received from the DEP, only approximately 40 cubic yards of soil was excavated from a 17- by 24- foot area to depths ranging from 2 to 3 feet.

For those of my loyal readers who are not sure where this toxic dump is located, it is in the flood plain, adjacent to the Spicket River. So I ask, after years and years and years of this factory producing these substances then showing up in the soil around this building, how much of it leached into the water and subsequently into the river and down stream?

I tell you it gets much better; you'd have thought by now that these hacks that report directly to the queen would have gotten smarter. Even though Methuen boasts of 3 McDonald's, 2 Burger Kings and 2 Wendy's, if these hacks were out on their cans tomorrow, there still wouldn't be enough fryolators to go around!

Linda Gerard paid \$25, for what she thought and what should have been a complete file. The DEP states that there is nothing that should be missing, deleted or withheld from any of this public information. This information is public and open for any and all to view. In the top right hand corner it stated there were 112 pages. Let me list the ones that were absent. First the index and the list of appendixes was missing. Page 1, page 23 thru 47, page 72 thru 74, page 76, page 78 thru 87, page 89, 91, 98, 99, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109. Mind you this was one of those plastic spiral binders with all the teeth that had to be dismantled! So, when you think our tax paid employees are doing nothing all day, think again!

Even after all the finagling by the different departments, the best-laid plans always seem to run astray. In the information received by Linda, were some very interesting documents. There was a Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest, which stated the barrels that had mysteriously appeared at 4 Gleason Street contained 3 barrels of waste oil, 8 barrels of Trichloroethylene. Hey! Isn't that the same stuff that was detected in the soil in the 1995 report? Can you imagine, what a coincidence!

Another piece of information was an e-mail from the owner of the property, David P. Spada, to our very own Building Commissioner, Gerald Deschene. It is a friendly e-mail, sent by two people who obviously know each other. It starts out with, "I tried to call you but no answer." I'll just bet that queenie is kicking herself for the first time for closing down town hall

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at 12 noon on Fridays, because if town hall had been opened, there would never have been any proof of this conversation! Back to the e-mail.

Spada is recalling a conversation with William (Baby Buck) Buckley, where BB informed him that "You People" want the building at 4 Gleason Street torn down immediately. Or else the town would go into court and tear down the building and sell the property. This e-mail is dated 1/4/02. It goes on to say that Spada also received a call from the Badge Boy Giarrusso, he suspects the same subject.

This is a line that I particularly found intriguing, "It sounds as though some folks are pretty upset with me (?). Bill made it seem as though I have not delivered on previous commitments - which I do not understand. I think that I have." It goes on, "Please be clear that I have been diligently pursuing a development plan for Gleason Street and have spent in excess of \$85,000 (in addition to the original cost of purchasing both sites) removing debris, undertaking a civil engineering study and survey, wetlands flagging, HUD (assisted living) appraisal and extensive DEP and EPA testing (ongoing over the last year) to get both parcels "out of the DEP Loop." "In fact, I filed my last report with the DEP providing a year's worth of data and analysis this past December 15th, 2001 and the (6 month, 10K) HUD demographic demand/supply study came back very positive with respect to the HUD parameters necessary for the approval for an assisted living senior housing project at that location."

The funny part about all these documents that Mr. Spada has filed on 12/15/01, not a one of them are on record at the DEP, or in the town records. For all my loyal readers, I am sure that you are all aware that HUD is FEDERAL MONEY, FUNDED BY OUR TAX DOLLARS! Isn't it amazing that it appears Spada is going to get away with tearing down a building, not cleaning up a toxic site, having the town of Methuen officials be accomplices in the deal, and install our elderly on a contaminated site, with us funding the project. How sweet it is!

I spoke with someone today that mentioned that line from the Christmas Carol, when Scrooge says there is a need to deplete the overburdened population. Is this how we are supposed to think about it, the elderly are old anyhow; they are going to die anyhow, who cares if a little toxicity contributes to their demise. Imagine less drain on the social security and Medicare rolls.

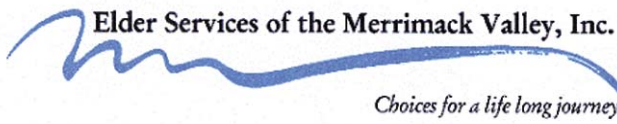


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CLASIFICADOS | CLASSIFIEDS

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NECESITAMOS VOLUNTARIOS PARA:

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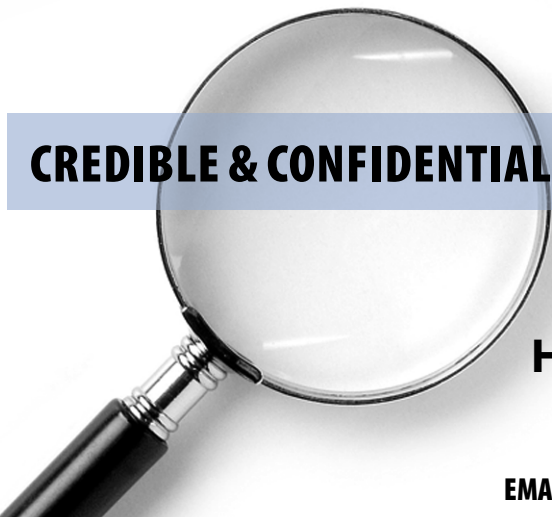
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Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's SPRING EXPO NEW DATE AND LOCATION

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

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

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

Lost.

(How most kids feel about preparing for college.)

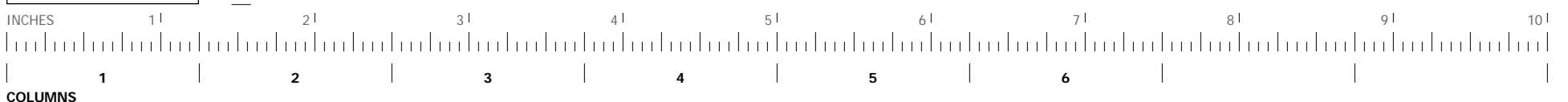
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