

Abriendo el Círculo: Aspiraciones de los padres para las escuelas de Lawrence



Opening the Circle: Parental Aspirations for Lawrence's Schools

Miembros del panel, desde la izquierda: / Panel Members, from left:
Ralph Carrero, LFDCS Superintendent; Eliana Martinez, Social Studies/ESL Teacher, LIHS; Loraina Miranda, Parent and LCW volunteer and Jeff Riley, Superintendent/Receiver, Lawrence Public Schools.

Debate sobre la calidad y el futuro de la educación en la ciudad, celebrado en la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence patrocinado por Lawrence CommunityWorks el jueves, 4 de abril, 2013. |2 & |7

Debate over the quality and future of education in the city, held at Lawrence Public Library sponsored for Lawrence CommunityWorks on Thursday, April 4, 2013. |2 & |6

Celebrating Greek Independence Day in Haverhill



Mayor James J. Fiorentini celebrated the 192nd anniversary of Greek Independence Day with members and children of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Haverhill. |9

NILP's Legislative Breakfast



The Northeast Independent Living Program held its Annual Legislative Breakfast at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover. In this picture, (left to right), are the Consumer and Staff Panelists: Joseph Couture, of Lawrence, Oscar Arzola, NILP's Northeast Recovery Learning Community's Multicultural Outreach Peer Specialist, William Sanabria, NILP Community Support Services Peer Specialist, and Elizabeth Keegan, American Sign Language Interpreter. |9

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Reunión con los superintendentes

"Hay que alejarse de echar culpa y cooperar."
- Nelson Butten.

Por Dalia Díaz

La herramienta más importante entre los seres humanos es la capacidad de conversar. La reunión celebrada en la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence con Jeffrey Riley, Superintendente/Receptor de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence y Ralph Carrero, Director/Superintendente de la Escuela de Desarrollo Familiar de Lawrence abrió las puertas a una mejor comunicación entre la administración de las escuelas públicas, padres y maestros.

Los padres compararon la participación de los padres en las escuelas charter y el sistema escolar público preguntando cómo podemos inculcar el mismo nivel de participación en todas las escuelas. Se hicieron sugerencias en cuanto a "forzar" a los padres a participar y Ralph Carrero respondió que: "Creamos el ambiente que le avisa a los padres cuando ganan la lotería que deben apoyar ese requisito y también a los maestros cuando son contratados".

El Sr. Riley dijo que a los padres no les importa si sus hijos van a una escuela autónoma o privada. "Ellos sólo quieren buenas escuelas. ¡No me importa, sólo quiero buenas escuelas!"

Riley también dijo que tenemos que hacer un mejor trabajo. "La educación especial tiene que ser arreglada en las escuelas de Lawrence. Tenemos que organizarnos y hacerlo. Me gustaría tener una varita mágica."

Una buena nutrición es otro punto de interés de los padres y el Sr. Carrero hizo sonreír a todo el mundo cuando dijo: "El arroz y frijoles es importante. Los niños comen frutas si los visten de forma atractiva. "Él explicó cómo han adaptado el desayuno y el almuerzo en su escuela charter para que sean sabrosos y nutritivos.

El Senador Barry Finegold dijo que Lawrence está en la vanguardia de la educación. "Una cosa por la que el alcalde debería recibir crédito por lo que hizo con respecto a las escuelas. Existen iniciativas audaces que suceden en Lawrence provocadas por el receptor".

El Representante Estatal y Presidente del Concejo Municipal Frank Moran así como el Concejal Dan Rivera asistieron a la reunión a pesar de que se fueron temprano para asistir a una reunión del concejo.



One of the parents asking for better parental participation.



Nelson Butten, Co-Executive Director of Lawrence CommunityWorks.

Meeting with superintendents

"We need to move away from blame to cooperation."
- Nelson Butten.

By Dalia Diaz

The most important tool among humans is the ability to converse. The meeting held at the Lawrence Public Library with Jeffrey Riley, Superintendent/Receiver of the Lawrence Public Schools and Ralph Carrero, Director/Superintendent of the Lawrence Family Development Charter School opened the doors to better communication between the administration of the public schools, parents and teachers.

The parents compared parental participation at the charter schools and the public schools system wondering how we can instill the same level of participation at all schools. Suggestions were made as to "forcing" parents to participate and Ralph Carrero responded that, "We create the environment that advises parents when they win the lottery about that requirement and teachers as well when they are hired."

Mr. Riley said parents don't care if their children go to a charter or public school. "They just want good schools. I don't care; I just want good schools!"

Riley also said that we need to do a better job. "Special Education has to be fixed in Lawrence schools. We have to get organized and do it. I wish I had a magic wand!"

Good nutrition was another point of interest with parents and Mr. Carrero made everyone smile when he said, "Rice and beans is important! Children will eat fruits if you dress them attractively." He went on to explain how they have adapted the breakfast and lunches at his charter school to make them palatable and nutritious.

Senator Barry Finegold said that Lawrence is at the cutting edge of education. "One thing the mayor should be getting credit for is his move regarding the schools. There are bold initiatives happening in Lawrence brought on by the Receiver."

State Representative and City Council President Frank Moran as Councilor at-Large Dan Rivera attended the meeting although they left early to attend a council meeting.

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

Es año de elecciones

La razón por la cual se perdieron varias propiedades en el reciente incendio ocurrido en la Calle Hancock en Lawrence fue la misma que hemos estado escuchando por años: falta de agua en los hidrantes.

Todos recordamos el fuego en el edificio localizado en el 65 de la calle Park que dejó a 50 personas desplazadas el 26 de junio, 2010.

En aquella ocasión, el Departamento de Incendios dictaminó que la falta de mano de obra y presión de agua obstaculizó los esfuerzos para combatir el incendio que fue causado por el descuido de un plomero soldando la ducha del baño del apartamento #15 en el tercer piso.

Lo peor del caso fue que la opinión popular culpó a los bomberos. "Hablaban entre sí mientras caminaban para arriba y para abajo," dijo un testigo en aquella ocasión.

En aquella fecha se nos aseguró que se había iniciado una investigación sobre los problemas de la presión del agua y la actuación de los bomberos, y no fue hasta ahora que se vuelve a hablar de ello.

En una reciente comparecencia ante el Concejo Municipal, el Jefe de Bomberos Bergeron dijo que por 50 años hemos ignorado el sistema que supe de agua a los hidrantes "no es culpa de nadie, es que no hemos tenido el dinero para dar mantenimiento al sistema".

Esperemos que esta vez aparezca el dinero y que el trabajo pueda hacerse y no quede como otro truco electoral.

It's an election year

The reason why several properties were lost in the recent fire in Hancock Street in Lawrence was the same as we have been hearing for years: Lack of water in the hydrants.

We all remember the fire in the building located at 65 Park Street that left 50 people displaced on June 26, 2010.

At that time, the Fire Department ruled that the lack of manpower and water pressure hampered efforts to fight the fire that was caused by the carelessness of a plumber soldering a shower in the bathroom of apartment #15 on the third floor.

The worst of it was that popular opinion blamed the firefighters. "They talked to each other as they walked up and down," a witness said on that occasion.

At that time we were assured that the city had launched an investigation into the problems of water pressure and the action of the firefighters, and it was not until now that talks about it were resumed.

In a recent appearance before the City Council, Fire Chief Bergeron said that for 50 years we have ignored the system that supplies water to the hydrants "It's no one's fault that we have not had the money to service the system".

Hopefully this time the money will appear and the work will be done. Not another election gimmick!

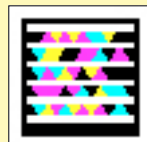
"Face reality as it is, not as it was or as you wish it to be."

"Haga frente a la realidad tal como es, no como fue o como usted quisiera que fuese."

Jack Welch

Rumbo

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
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■ READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Recompra de armas en Lawrence el 11 de mayo

Esta semana marca un hito para nuestra ciudad. Se celebra el primer aniversario del lanzamiento del Equipo Juvenil de Lawrence (Lawrence Youth Team). También marca el comienzo de un largo mes de esfuerzo de divulgación pública que conduce al programa de recompra anónima de armas en Lawrence el 11 de mayo de 2013.

Esta fecha es simbólica por dos razones. En primer lugar, es el día antes del Día de las Madres - uno de los temas es "darle a su madre el mejor regalo de su vida, Tranquilidad Mental -(Peace of Mind)".

En segundo lugar, es el inicio de la Semana Nacional de Paz a Agentes del Orden - (National Peace Officer's Week) donde se rinde homenaje a los agentes del orden dedicados a hacer cumplir la ley en toda la nación.

El programa de recompra de armas el 11 de mayo es un producto directo de los esfuerzos del equipo de jóvenes y una colaboración sin precedentes entre la oficina del alcalde, la comunidad y organizaciones basadas en la fe y el departamento de policía. La importancia y el impacto positivo de esta colaboración y la importancia del programa de recompra de armas no puede estar más indicado.

En su discurso sobre las condiciones del Estado en el 2011, el Gobernador Deval Patrick anunció la eliminación de la violencia juvenil como una de sus más altas prioridades para el resto de su mandato. Unos meses más tarde se lanzó un nuevo programa modelo llamado Iniciativa Juvenil Segura y Exitosa (Safe and Successful Youth Initiative) e invitaron a ciudades como Lawrence a solicitar fondos. Lawrence recibió una de las becas. El Equipo Juvenil de Lawrence fue establecido bajo esa subvención.

Lo genial de la iniciativa es el reconocimiento de que ningún joven es innecesario, que la violencia es prevenible y que para eliminar la violencia juvenil, debemos llegar a la raíz que causa la violencia. Cada vez más, los jefes de policía, oficiales de libertad condicional y alcaldes de todo el país están reconociendo que no podemos detener nuestra manera de salir del problema de la violencia. En

cambio, la forma de prevenir la violencia en primer lugar, es identificarla correctamente como una cuestión de salud y prevención.

La prevención de la violencia en un barrio mejora la salud general y el bienestar, y puede facilitar la cohesión y la participación comunitaria, acoger mejoras en el vecindario y fomentar el empleo y las oportunidades educativas. El daño a largo plazo como resultado de la violencia es omnipresente.

La violencia causa lesiones, muerte, y trauma emocional. Experimentar y ser testigo de la violencia, así como el temor a la violencia, son perjudiciales, con consecuencias que contribuyen a un comportamiento poco saludable y un entorno comunitario degradado.

La violencia influye donde la gente vive, trabaja y compra. Afecta a los padres el permitir que los niños jueguen al aire libre y caminen a la escuela, y donde haya tiendas de comestibles y lugares de trabajo en una comunidad. Además, la violencia y el miedo socavan los intentos de promover la alimentación saludable y la actividad física, lo que agrava las enfermedades existentes aumentando el riesgo de aparición de enfermedades, incluyendo enfermedades crónicas.

Prevención de la violencia en ciudades como Lawrence es fundamentalmente un problema de equidad y justicia social.

La juventud de Lawrence no es responsables del sitio donde hayan nacido o quiénes son sus padres. Estos jóvenes no son menos brillantes y talentosos o ambiciosos que los jóvenes de las comunidades vecinas. La diferencia es a menudo la falta de sistemas de apoyo vitales como un hogar de dos padres, un lugar seguro para vivir, acceso a recursos médicos y de asesoramiento, ingresos suficientes para satisfacer las necesidades básicas y modelos a seguir.

Los jóvenes en Lawrence son como los adolescentes en todas las comunidades - a veces son impulsivos y a veces toman malas decisiones, pero los riesgos son mayores en Lawrence, en gran parte debido a la fácil disponibilidad de armas de fuego.

El programa de recompra de armas el

11 de mayo es un símbolo potente de lo que sucede cuando todos trabajamos juntos. La eliminación de las armas de nuestras calles debe ser un esfuerzo de toda la comunidad para hacer que ese día sea un éxito. El día del evento, tarjetas de regalo de \$50 a \$150 se le dará a los que entreguen sus armas.

A partir de esta semana, los organizadores del programa se involucrarán en una campaña agresiva de información pública que conducirá al evento del 11 de mayo utilizando todos de todos los medios de difusión disponibles. Líderes en la fe llevarán a cabo una marcha por la paz en toda la ciudad el sábado, 4 de mayo alentando la participación pública.

Gracias a los medios de comunicación

Últimamente hemos estado viendo tantos crímenes cometidos por oficiales de la ley que me hizo pensar por qué están aumentando.

El caso más reciente fue el de David Seastrand, Jefe de Policía de New London, New Hampshire que pidió a una joven menor de edad acusada de consumir alcohol, si se le permitía tomar fotos de ella desnuda, él no presentaría cargos en su contra.

Una vez que estalló el escándalo, el Chief Seastrand renunció a su cargo.

Sin embargo, estamos leyendo acerca de muchos casos. ¿Se están poniendo más perversos o corruptos que nunca, o es porque los medios de comunicación están más dispuestos a difundir estas violaciones?

A través de los años, he escuchado historias horribles, sin embargo, han pasado por desapercibidos o apenas un susurro y ahora llegan a los tribunales.

Los medios de comunicación se han convertido realmente en un organismo que vela por la sociedad.

NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS

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

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

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

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INCENDIO/PELIGROS: Si usted pide prestado dinero para iniciar su negocio o comprar un inmueble, el banco requerirá que usted tenga seguro contra incendios (igual que cuando usted pide prestado para comprar una casa).

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Las elecciones para la alcaldía de Lawrence – Parte II ¿Se merece William Lantigua cuatro años más?

Por Pedro Payano

Es evidente, que el triunfo de William Lantigua en el 2009 generó muchas expectativas en la comunidad latina de la región. Mientras que en las comunidades no latinas, creó curiosidad en algunos, y en otros, la aceptación de que había llegado la hora de que un latino dirigiera la Ciudad de Lawrence. Sin embargo, las cosas no han sido tan halagüeñas como muchos se imaginaban. ¿Cómo hemos llegado hasta donde nos encontramos?

En ese entonces, William señalaba que no quería ser recordado por haber sido el primer latino elegido para esa posición, sino como el mejor alcalde que esta ciudad hubiera tenido. A tres años de ese pronunciamiento, podemos decir que no logró lo que quería, porque cuando la historia se escriba se nutrirá de la pruebas documentales existentes, y éstas son más negativas que positivas acerca de su gestión administrativa. No importa si la mayoría de sus seguidores lo consideren un héroe. Al final de la jornada eso no es lo que cuenta, sino lo que está escrito.

Se lo advertimos antes de tomar posesión. Le señalamos que mantuviera una buena relación con la prensa que es el cuarto poder: "...sobre todo prestarle atención a la prensa, incluyendo al periódico de habla inglesa más fuerte del área." (¡GANÓ UN LATINO! ¿Y ahora qué? Noviembre, 2009, PP). Pero hizo todo lo contrario. Cada vez que esa prensa tiene la oportunidad, con meta mensajes le recuerda a los lawrencianos y zonas aledañas, que Lantigua representa el abismo para la ciudad. Igualmente, los principales periódicos de Boston no pierden la oportunidad para destacar con énfasis cualquier situación relacionada con nuestro

alcalde.

También le dijimos: "William Lantigua debería unificar esta ciudad sentándose con todo el mundo y llamar al diálogo a aquellos que lo han rechazado;" (Artículo citado). Sin embargo, desde el mismo día de su juramentación, William comenzó a crearse una mala imagen. En vez de llamar a la conciliación, no con palabras sino con hechos, recibió a los participantes con una canción de Paul Anka, cantada por Frank Sinatra, que tiene como estribillo "I did it my way" (Lo hice a mi manera). Eso en sí ya constituía un desafío; fue una muestra de inmadurez política. Incluso, uno de sus allegados nos dijo esa noche, ante una pregunta nuestra, que él, diferente a William, creía en el "American Way" (la manera estadounidense), no en "My Way".

Lo que inicialmente le creó mayores problemas fue tratar de mantener los dos trabajos: alcalde y representante estatal; independientemente de que su justificación fuera legal, en ese momento no era correcto políticamente hablando, pues la ciudad atravesaba por una crisis financiera. Se lo advertimos pero no escuchó: "...permanecer como representante (...), ha creado una controversia que en nada favorece a la ciudad. William no debe olvidar que la percepción se convierte en realidad, y si desde ahora le da motivos a la prensa para cuestionarlo e incluso descalificarlo, inevitablemente, su administración podría pasar por serios problemas (Representante o Alcalde ¿Cuál de las dos? 1ro de enero, 2010, PP). Finalmente, el Estado lo obligó a desistir de su empecinamiento, pero ya había afectado a la ciudad por la publicidad negativa, y por los términos de la ley de

autorización de bonos de \$34 millones impuesta a la ciudad por el Estado, con un supervisor financiero externo.

Por igual, creó controversias innecesarias, cuando comenzó a hacer los cambios administrativos. Se esperaba un período de transición, pero no lo hubo. Sin embargo, algunos observadores justifican la acción de William como un mal necesario, ya que supuestamente se atrevió a desmontar una maquinaria política que había controlado la ciudad por mucho tiempo. Desafortunadamente, lo hizo por una razón equivocada, señalan algunos de sus opositores: eliminar una vieja maquinaria para sustituirla por la de él.

Después cometió otros errores infantiles que como consecuencia le crearon enemigos de distintos calibres, que sólo el tiempo dirá hasta dónde le podrían haber afectado. La forma como manejó sus relaciones públicas con la policía y los bomberos, son dos ejemplos.

La toma del departamento escolar por el Estado ha sido uno de los grandes fracasos del alcalde. Aunque él quiera convencer a la opinión pública de que fue su decisión, la prensa publicó posteriormente que el estado ya le había notificado la decisión de tomar las escuelas de Lawrence por carecer de liderazgo.

Además, esta administración se ha visto involucrada en varios escándalos. El jefe de la policía y el antiguo jefe de la administración han sido acusados formalmente por el gobierno federal. El mismo William está siendo investigado por un gran jurado.

La prensa ha criticado al titular reiteradamente por nombramientos de personas no calificadas, algunos sin pasar el proceso de igualdad de oportunidades, otros con antecedentes judiciales o violencia doméstica. Viajes al exterior, participando incluso en la política de otro país siendo un funcionario electo estadounidense.

Estos casos específicos de errores o debilidades de esta administración, y otros más que no hemos señalado, constituyen suficientes argumentos para que el sector de la población que ha sido educado con los estándares de la cultura política estadounidense, le den un rotundo rechazo.

Afortunadamente para William, una gran parte de los votantes, tiene otros estándares. Sus decisiones son más emocionales que políticas. Para ellos, la identificación personal con Lantigua es más importante que las cosas negativas que se hablen sobre él. Y, sobre todo, el sentido de identidad nacional: "él es uno de los nuestros y hay que dejarlo terminar". El reto de la oposición será cómo convencer a una parte de ese sector de que un cambio sería más beneficioso para la ciudad.

A veces parece que Lantigua está mejorando su imagen y relaciones públicas, sin embargo, justo cuando menos se espera, otra controversia o crisis se presenta en su administración. Pero quizás sea un poco tarde para mejorar, pues la oposición no da muestra de que piensa darle una segunda oportunidad.

La pregunta clave ahora: ¿Podrá la oposición obtener la victoria?

Pedro Payano es educador y politólogo

The Mayoral Elections in Lawrence – Part II

Does William Lantigua deserve another four years?

By Pedro Payano

It was evident that William Lantigua's victory in 2009 generated many hopes and expectations in the Latino community and around the region. In some non-Latino communities his victory elicited curiosity and the realization that the time had finally come for a Latino to lead the City of Lawrence. However, it is clear that things have not gone according to how many would have hoped or imagined. So the question is, how did we get to where we are today?

Right after being elected the city's first Latino Mayor, William announced that he did not want to be known for being the first Latino Mayor, but rather the best mayor the city has ever elected. Three years after this assertion, we can say that he did not achieve his goal and that when we finally read the history of his administration, what is written and documented and what will be remembered, will be more negative than positive regarding his legacy. Then it won't matter if some of his supporters still consider him a hero. At the end of his time in power, the only thing that will matter is what is written in the history books.

Our advice to him, before he was sworn in as Mayor, was to suggest that he should maintain a good relationship with the media, the fourth estate of power: "...above all keep the press informed, especially the mainstream media and press." ("A Latino has won! And now what?" November, 2009 by Pedro Payano). On the contrary, he did everything the opposite. Almost every time the mainstream media has the opportunity to write about him, it sends the message reminding all Lawrencians and those in surrounding communities, that Lantigua represents the worst for the City of Lawrence. Similarly, the mainstream media in Boston doesn't miss any opportunity to pick up on and run with any controversy related to the Mayor.

Early on we also told him: "William Lantigua should unify this community and sit down with everyone and anyone that criticized or rejected him" (Article cited). However, from the first day that he was sworn in, he started to create a bad image. Instead of calling for reconciliation, not only with words but through actions, his first address to the residents of the community was offered with Paul Anka's song, sung by Frank Sinatra, "I did it My Way". This obviously was a challenge but it was also a testimony of political immaturity. In addition, one of Lantigua's supporters confided to us when asked about the statement, that he, unlike William, believes in the "American way" and not "My Way".

What initially created problems for the Mayor was his attempt to keep both his jobs, State Representative and Mayor of the

PLEASE SEE **PAYANO**
CONTINUES ON PAGE 17



I Can Cope Support Group



The Lawrence General Hospital I Can Cope Support Group is offered to any patient who has cancer, or who is a cancer survivor. The group will provide information, offer comfort, teach coping skills, help reduce anxiety, and provide a place for people to share common concerns and receive emotional support.

The group will discuss topics including but not limited to nutrition, cancer treatments, financial stressors, communicating concerns and feelings, stress reduction and celebrating life.

<p>Session 1 Every Wednesday April 10 - May 15, 2013 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Session 2 Every Wednesday August 21 - September 25, 2013 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>
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To register or for more information, please call 978-683-4000, ext. 8090

So good. So caring. So close.

Parents share thoughts, desires for public education in Lawrence

More parent involvement, longer school day among desired reforms

Lawrence parents want district schools to forge stronger relationships between parents and teachers, offer more afterschool programming, and sharpen their focus on improving children's health and well-being, according to a report issued today by the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association (MCPSA) and Lawrence CommunityWorks (LCW), a non-profit community development corporation.

The report is based on input from a large group of Lawrence parents, who participated in 24 meetings held during the summer and fall. Parents shared their experiences in Lawrence schools, and their ideas about how to improve the quality of education in the community. All of the "Parent Circle" meetings were held in Spanish with English interpretation when necessary. Of the 131 parents who participated, 71 identified where their children attend school; 53 had children in traditional public schools, 13 in charter public schools, and five in private schools.

The state took over the Lawrence public schools in 2011, after years of poor performance and mismanagement, and appointed Jeffrey Riley as Receiver. MCPSA and LCW believed it was important to listen to parent about their concerns and their hopes for their public schools.

"The ParentCircles provided Lawrence parents with an opportunity to connect

with other parents in the community and discuss issues close to the heart, the education of their children," said Lawrence CommunityWorks co-executive director Nelson Butten. "Quality public education is a must if Lawrence is to re-invent itself for the 21st century, and parental involvement is a cornerstone to improving Lawrence schools."

Although the conversations touched on many topics, there was a consensus that emerged around four key findings:

- Strengthening relationships between Lawrence parents and teachers: parents expressed a disconnect between the teachers and the community and wanted to see more opportunities to build relationships and gain a deeper understanding of each other's experiences and expectations that are brought to the classroom.
- Learning from successful practices of Lawrence charter schools in engaging parents and promoting educational excellence: there is a perception that charter schools have higher parent participation. There are varying opinions as to why this is, including a more rigorous curriculum, strong encouragement to participate, and consistent and meaningful teacher-parent communication.
- Increasing after school programming opportunities: parents want more academic



Ralph Carrero, LFDCS Superintendent and Jeff Riley, Superintendent/Receiver, Lawrence Public Schools.

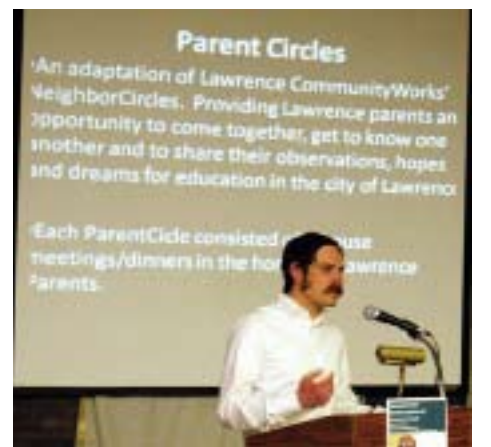
and recreational afterschool programming. Parents also want to see more family counseling and bilingual programming and homework clubs.

- Improving the health and well-being of the children: opportunities to exercise and eat healthy during the school day came up time and again throughout the conversations as well as the ability for a child to attend school without fear of crime or bullying.

Parent Circle facilitators noted that several charter-like reforms such as parent engagement and promoting educational excellence should be replicated in traditional district schools.

"As Lawrence schools are being reshaped, we think it's important for policymakers to learn about parents' aspirations for the city's schools," said John Schneider, director for gateway strategic initiatives for the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association. "We're also thrilled to hear the level of satisfaction Lawrence parents have with the city's charter public schools."

There are four charter schools in Lawrence. Community Day Charter Public School, which operates three schools, and Lawrence Family Development. In addition, Community Day is involved in a partnership



Spencer Buchholz, Director of Network Organizing, Lawrence CommunityWorks.

with the state receiver to help turnaround the Arlington Elementary School. Phoenix Charter Academy also partnered with the district to start an alternative high school to focus on dropouts and at-risk children. Phoenix operates a similar alternative high school in Chelsea and recently received approval to open another in Springfield. MATCH Charter High School, based in Boston, is also involved in Lawrence replicating a successful tutoring program it has run in Boston for years.



John Schneider, Director for Gateway Strategic Initiatives, Massachusetts Charter Public School Association.



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HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Padres comparten pensamientos, deseos sobre la educación pública

Quieren más participación, día de clases más largo entre las reformas deseadas

Los padres de Lawrence quieren que las escuelas del distrito forjen relaciones más fuertes entre padres y maestros, ofrezcan un programa más extenso después de la escuela, y agudicen su enfoque en la mejora de la salud y el bienestar infantil, según un informe publicado hoy por la Massachusetts Public Charter School Association (MCPSA) y Lawrence CommunityWorks (LCW), una corporación comunitaria de desarrollo sin fines de lucro.

El informe se basa en las aportaciones de un gran grupo de padres de Lawrence, que participaron en 24 reuniones celebradas durante el verano y el otoño. Los padres compartieron sus experiencias en las escuelas de Lawrence, y sus ideas acerca de cómo mejorar la calidad de la educación en la comunidad. Todas las reuniones del "Círculo de Padres" se celebraron en español con traducción al inglés cuando fuese necesario. De los 131 padres que participaron, 71 identificaron a dónde sus hijos van a la escuela; 53 tenían hijos en las escuelas públicas tradicionales, 13 en escuelas públicas charter, y cinco en las escuelas privadas.

El estado se hizo cargo de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence en el 2011, después de años de malos resultados y la mala administración, y designó a Jeffrey Riley como "Receiver". MCPSA y LCW estimaron que era importante escuchar a los padres acerca de sus preocupaciones y sus esperanzas para sus escuelas públicas.

"Los Círculos de Padres proporcionaron a Lawrence la oportunidad de conectarse con otros padres en la comunidad y discutir temas muy cerca del corazón, la educación de sus hijos", dijo Nelson Butten, co-director ejecutivo de Lawrence CommunityWorks. "La educación pública de calidad es una necesidad si Lawrence ha de reinventarse en el siglo 21, y la participación de los padres es uno de los pilares para mejorar las escuelas de Lawrence".

Aunque las conversaciones tocaron

varios temas, hubo un consenso que surgió en torno a cuatro conclusiones principales:

- El fortalecimiento de las relaciones entre padres y profesores Lawrence: los padres expresan una falta de conexión entre los maestros y la comunidad y quisieran ver más oportunidades para establecer relaciones y obtener una comprensión más profunda de las experiencias de otros y las expectativas que se traen al aula.

- Aprender de las prácticas exitosas de las escuelas charter de Lawrence en involucrar a los padres y promover la excelencia educativa: hay una percepción de que las escuelas charter tienen una mayor participación de los padres. Hay diferentes opiniones en cuanto a por qué es así, incluyendo un plan de estudios más riguroso, un fuerte estímulo para participar, y comunicación entre maestros y padres consistente y significativa.

- Aumentar las oportunidades de programación después de la escuela: los padres quieren más actividades académicas y recreativas después de clases. Los padres también quieren ver más consejería familiar y programas bilingües y clubes de tareas.

- Mejorar la salud y el bienestar de los niños: oportunidades para hacer ejercicio y comidas sanas durante el día escolar surgió una y otra vez a lo largo de las conversaciones, así como la posibilidad de que un niño asista a la escuela sin miedo a la delincuencia o la intimidación.

Los facilitadores de los Círculo de Padres señalaron que varias reformas tales como la carta de participación a los padres de las escuelas charter y promover la excelencia educativa deben ser replicados en las escuelas tradicionales del distrito.

"A medida que las escuelas de Lawrence

Ana Javier se quejó que frecuentemente no hay intérpretes en las reuniones y los padres temen hablar.

Ana Javier complained that often there are no interpreters at meetings and parents are afraid to speak up.



María De la Cruz, una maestra en el sistema escolar público, dijo que los padres no saben cómo acercarse a las escuelas. "Nosotros, como comunidad, podemos hacer una gran diferencia."

María De la Cruz, a public school teacher, said that parents don't know how to approach the schools. "We, as a community, can make a big difference."



Eliana Martínez, maestra de inglés y estudios sociales en la escuela Internacional de Lawrence High School, dirigiéndose al público.

se redefinan, creemos que es importante que las autoridades aprendan acerca de las aspiraciones de los padres para las escuelas de la ciudad", dijo John Schneider, director de iniciativas estratégicas de la Massachusetts Public Charter School Association. "También estamos encantados de escuchar el nivel de satisfacción de los padres de Lawrence tienen con las escuelas autónomas públicas de la ciudad".

Hay cuatro escuelas charter en Lawrence. Community Day Charter Public School, cuenta con tres escuelas, y Lawrence Family Development. Además, Community Day participa en una asociación

con el receptor estatal para ayudar a mejorar la Escuela Primaria Arlington. Phoenix Charter Academy también se asoció con el distrito para iniciar una escuela secundaria alternativa para centrarse en los estudiantes que han abandonado la escuela y los niños en riesgo. Phoenix cuenta con una escuela secundaria alternativa similar en Chelsea y ha recibido recientemente la aprobación para abrir otra en Springfield. MATCH Charter High School, con sede en Boston, también está involucrada en Lawrence replicando un programa de tutoría que se ha ejecutado con éxito en Boston desde hace años.

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La FTC envía reembolsos a consumidores perjudicados por un esquema de alivio para ejecuciones hipotecarias

La Comisión Federal de Comercio (FTC, por su sigla en inglés), envió 341 cheques de reembolso a consumidores hispanohablantes que perdieron dinero con estafadores que les prometieron detener la ejecución hipotecaria de sus casas o conseguirles modificaciones para sus respectivos préstamos hipotecarios. Bajo los términos de un juicio sumario, a los demandados de Dinamica Financiera se les prohibió la venta de servicios de modificación de préstamos hipotecarios o de alivio para ejecuciones hipotecarias.

Al conjunto de los consumidores afectados se les está devolviendo un monto superior a \$107,000. El monto que recibirá cada consumidor es variable; la suma indicada en cada cheque representa el 12 por ciento de la pérdida estimada de cada consumidor. Aquellos consumidores que reciban cheques de parte del administrador de reembolsos de la FTC deben cobrarlos dentro de los 60 días posteriores a la fecha de su despacho postal. La FTC nunca requiere que los consumidores paguen ningún monto de dinero ni que suministren información antes de cobrar los cheques de

reembolso. Quienes tengan alguna pregunta deben comunicarse con el administrador de los reembolsos Gilardi & Co., LLC llamando al 1-877-281-5622, o también pueden visitar www.consumidor.ftc.gov/ reembolsos para consultar información general adicional.

La FTC trabaja en favor del consumidor para la prevención de prácticas comerciales fraudulentas, engañosas y desleales y para proveer información para ayudar a los consumidores a identificar, detener y evitar dichas prácticas. Para presentar una queja en inglés o en español visite www.ftc.gov/ espanol o llame sin cargo al 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. La FTC ingresa las quejas presentadas por los consumidores a una base de datos segura llamada Red Centinela del Consumidor (Consumer Sentinel) que es utilizada por más de 2,000 agencias de cumplimiento de las leyes civiles y penales en los Estados Unidos y del extranjero. El sitio Web de la FTC provee información gratis sobre una variedad de temas del consumidor.

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BRIAN DE PEÑA

NILP's Legislative Forum held recently at The Massachusetts School of Law

The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. (NILP) Annual Legislative Forum was held at The Massachusetts School of Law in Andover recently. This year's theme was: HEALTH CARE REFORM: What Does It Mean To You? Eighty five people attended, while our State Senators, Representatives, local officials, and others had the opportunity to meet with constituents to discuss important health care issues affecting the lives of local people with disabilities and their families.

Most of the North Andover delegation were in attendance, including, Representatives Diana Dizoglio, James Lyons, and Senator Bruce Tarr's Office.

Given the competing demands for shrinking resources, we are working together to develop innovative solutions that safeguard and expand programs that promote independence for people with disabilities in the Merrimack Valley.

The NILP would like to thank everyone who attended the breakfast and special thanks to all of our Speakers for your true dedication to the needs of people with disabilities. The Breakfast was made possible in part thanks to a generous donation from Heav'nly Donuts



In this picture, (left to right), NILP Executive Director, June Cowen facilitates an insightful health care discussion with State Representative James Lyons (at the Podium), Chris Lange, Regional Director with Senator Elizabeth Warren's Office, HIRAK SHAH, aide to Senator Bruce Tarr, State Representative Diana Dizoglio, and State Representative Marcos Devers

Mayor Fiorentini celebrates Greek Independence Day at Haverhill City Hall



Last week, Mayor James J. Fiorentini celebrated the 192nd anniversary of Greek Independence Day with members and children of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Haverhill. The Mayor read the proclamation from the City and raised the Greek Flag over City Hall. Many children from the Greek school recited poems commemorating the day and their Greek heritage. Father Makarios Niakaros spoke on behalf of the church and thanked Mayor Fiorentini for always recognizing this day.

This year's flag raiser was Ted Vathally, president of the church board and son of former Mayor Thomas Vathally.

Mayor Fiorentini stated: "Each year that we celebrate this day I remind our citizens that Greece, the birthplace of democracy, fought for its own democratic existence many times over the centuries. This annual celebration brings to mind the constant struggle to protect our freedom and our political form of government, not only in foreign lands but also here at home. We are a nation with diverse cultures and beliefs, but our government and democracy make us the strong nation we are today. I am pleased to commemorate this day along with our Greek-American residents."

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 Steph@beyondsoccerlawrence.org
www.beyondsoccerlawrence.org

BEYOND SOCCER
 WHO: Lawrence Youth Boys & Girls, ages 4-14
 WHEN: Saturdays, 3:00-4:30 April 13th - June 8th
 WHERE: Greater Lawrence Technical School
 COST: \$15.00
 Registration forms available online or by visiting 60 Island Street
 Fee: **WAWERS** also available!
 We want to ensure that all children have equal access to quality sports experiences.

new balance FOUNDATION

Carta al Editor

Hola Vecinos,

Como ustedes saben hubo otro incendio terrible en Lawrence la semana pasada. La directora de la Escuela Intermedia Guilmette envió este llamado a la comunidad.

Si usted puede ayudar, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Heal Lawrence heallawrence@aol.com y nosotros coordinaremos con las familias.

Estaremos actualizando la situación de las tres familias afectadas por el fuego. Vamos a enviar un correo electrónico notificándoles de las actualizaciones para que sepa cuándo debe ir a la página web, www.heallawrence.org, para ver cuándo y cómo usted puede ayudar.

Wayne Hayes
MVNA Presidente
Heal Lawrence

Letter to the Editor

Hello Neighbors,

As you know there was another horrific fire in Lawrence last week. The Principal of the Guilmette Middle School sent this appeal out.

If you can help, please send an email to Heal Lawrence at heallawrence@aol.com and we will coordinate with the families.

We will be updating the status of the three families affected by the fire. We will send out an email notifying of any updates so you know when to go to the website, www.heallawrence.org, to see when, and how, you can help.

Wayne Hayes
MVNA President
Heal Lawrence

Students from Hancock St. Fire/Guilmette

I thought it more appropriate to send a separate email with information about one of our families. A Grade 6 student and her family was burned out during the fire on Hancock Street over the weekend. Their home was completely lost, as well as all of their belongings. They are presently staying with family and, fortunately, no physical injury occurred. Our student has been attending school, as well.

Information on clothing needs, if you can help:

Student – female size 12/14 top (girls); 14 bottom (girls)

Brother - men's size large shirt; size 36 waist pants

Older sister – expecting – could use maternity clothes - due in July (?)

Mother of student had shower planned for pregnant daughter – all the gifts, etc. were lost in the fire; baby is a girl, if anyone has equipment for a nursery that they can donate, that would be accepted.

If you would like to help in any way, please speak with Charlene Bobek.

Los estudiantes de la Guilmette víctimas de incendio en Hancock St.

Me pareció más apropiado para enviar un correo electrónico con información acerca de una de nuestras familias. La casa de una estudiante de 6to grado y su familia se quemó durante el incendio en Hancock Street el fin de semana. Su casa resultó ser una pérdida total, así como todas sus pertenencias. Actualmente están en casa de familiares y, afortunadamente, no se produjo ninguna lesión física y la alumna ha estado asistiendo a la escuela.

La información sobre las necesidades de ropa, si usted puede ayudar:

Estudiante - tamaño de la hembra 12/14 blusas (de niñas), 14 de pantalones (de niñas)

Hermano - camisas para hombre de tamaño grande, pantalones: 36 de cintura

La hermana mayor - embarazada - podría usar ropa de maternidad - espera para julio (?)

La madre de la estudiante había planeado tener un "baby shower" para su hija embarazada - todos los regalos, etc se perdieron en el fuego del bebé es una niña, si alguien tiene equipo para un cuarto de niños que puedan donar, que sería aceptada.

Si a usted le gustaría ayudar de cualquier manera, por favor hable con Charlene Bobek.

Thank you!
Mary Giordano
Principal
Guilmette Middle School
80 Bodwell St.
Lawrence, MA 01841

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims of the recent fires in Lawrence. The website has a list of donated items and things that are still needed.

Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com

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DONDE: Greater Lawrence Technical School
COSTO: \$15.00

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Community Fair at the Wetherbee School

By Dalia Díaz

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Emily G. Wetherbee School, in Lawrence held its annual Community Fair, free and open to the public!

This fair was designed to create awareness of resources and programs available to our community!

There were raffles, free samples, magicians, face painting, Wii Fit, Dance Revolution, Just Dance, and the police/fire department to name a few of the child friendly activities.



At left, Hollie Fumero, one of the organizers of the Community Fair. At center, Dilenia Rodríguez of the WIC Program and Sharon Rastello, one of the teachers at the Wetherbee School.



Yuleka Santos Diana Tran Chau Nguyen are the three students who won the regional Destination Imagination Tournament at Triton Academy in Byfield. They scored 240 OUT OF A possible 240 points. They competed at the state tournament at Worcester Polytech Institute. Their

challenge was to write and act out a non verbal play that included at least two masks one of which had to morph. The name of the challenger was 'In Disguise'. The other two students that were not in the picture were Dajelise Perez and Lillian Interiano.



Patrice Murray of UMass Extension Nutritional Education Program was playing games with the children on what makes a proper nutrition. Here is Phuong Du with her daughters Tracie Du and Kathy Du.

Among the public servants attending the Fair were: Lieutenant David Amaro, Captain Eric Zahn, Sharon Birchall, president of the Exchange Club and Sergeant Jay Cerullo.



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Sprout



City Councilor Dan Rivera stopped by the Head Start table. Here he is with Eva Trinidad and Syxcel Bonilla.

Brenda Rozzi and the Sacred Heart/Brookfield St. Neighborhood Association are always very involved in community events. The Association meets the third Monday of each Month at Carleen's.



Rumbo

60 Island Street, Lawrence MA 01840
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Equipo de Natación Sincronizada más grande en el país realizará presentación anual



ANA Synchro, el equipo de natación sincronizado de Andover/North Andover YMCA realizará su 38va exposición anual dos veces el sábado, 20 de abril y de nuevo el domingo, 21 de abril. Este evento contará con 85 miembros de este equipo de nivel nacional, entre ellos dos nadadoras que también son integrantes del equipo nacional. Debido a que ANA Synchro pasa gran parte del tiempo en la carretera compitiendo y entrenándose, viajando hasta Los Angeles, Arizona y al muy conocido Centro de Entrenamiento Olímpico en Lake Placid, New York, esta es una oportunidad única para que la comunidad local pueda ver en

qué consiste la natación sincronizada.

La resistencia requerida de un nadador sincronizado es a menudo comparada con el de un corredor de maratón. Imagínese contener la respiración y correr. Ahora imagínese aguantar la respiración, correr y tratar de hacerlo al revés, debajo del agua. Esto le da un tanto de sensación de lo que es la natación sincronizada y la emoción del espectáculo que es ANA Synchro.

Las atletas de ANA Synchro estarán equipadas en trajes de baño a la medida y nadarán rutinas diseñados específicamente para ellas por los coreógrafos de nivel olímpico. El cierre del programa es una

rutina impresionante con velas, nadando completamente a oscuras. Es difícil creer que el equipo de natación sincronizada más grande en el país se entrena en nuestro patio. Venga a ver por qué es tan emocionante.

El espectáculo tendrá lugar en la YMCA de Andover/N. Andover, el sábado, 20 de abril a las 3:00 y 6:00 pm y el domingo, 21 de abril a las 3:00 pm. Los boletos están disponibles en la YMCA o llamando al 978-685-3541. ¡Asegúrese de comprar sus entradas con anticipación ya que las tres actuaciones del año pasado se agotaron!

Largest Synchronized Swim Team in Country to Perform Annual Show

ANA Synchro, the Andover/North Andover YMCA's synchronized swim team will perform its 38th annual show twice on Saturday, April 20 and again on Sunday, April 21. This event will feature 85 members of this nationally ranked team, including two ANA Synchro swimmers who are also US National Team members. Because ANA Synchro spends much of the time on the road competing and training, traveling as far as Los Angeles, Arizona and to the well known, Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, NY, this is a rare opportunity for the local community to see just what synchronized swimming is all about.

The endurance required of a synchronized swimmer is often compared to that of a marathon runner. Imagine holding your breath and running. Now imagine holding your breath, running and try doing that upside down, under water! This gives you a little feel for synchronized swimming and for the excitement of the ANA Synchro show.

ANA Synchro athletes will be outfitted in custom-made swimsuits and will swim routines actually designed specifically for them by Olympic level choreographers. Closing out the ANA show is a breathtaking candle routine, swam entirely in the dark. Hard to believe that the largest synchronized swim team in the country trains in your own backyard! Come see what the excitement is about...

The show will be held at the Andover/N. Andover YMCA on Saturday, April 20th at 3:00 and 6:00 pm and Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are available at the YMCA or by calling 978-685-3541. Be sure to buy your tickets early as all three of last year's performances sold out!

ANA Synchro Finds Gold and Silver in CT



The Andover/N. Andover YMCA's ANA Synchro team was awarded 16 gold, 10 silver and 7 bronze medals at last weekend's East Zone Invitational meet in Hamden, CT. To see these athletes and the entire ANA Synchro team perform, you can attend their annual show at the Andover/N. Andover YMCA to be held April 20-21.

Age Group Results:

13/15 Team:

Gold: Grace Alwan, Sophia Ju, Reverie Nedde and Anna Lang, all of Andover, Epke Paquette of Groveland, Alicia Yang of Acton and Jennifer Li of Concord.

Duet: Gold: Grace Alwan, Sophia Ju. Silver: Epke Paquette, Alicia Yang.

Figures: Gold: Sophia Ju, Silver: Grace Alwan. Reverie Nedde (Gold-Honorary) Anna Lang and Jennifer Li (Bronze-Honorary)

11/12 Team:

Gold: Gabriella Sajedi and Olivia Yang of Acton, Helen Zhou and Krystal Qiao of Chelmsford, Riley Spring, Ruby Remati, Sydney Ho and Emily Ma, of Andover.

Silver: Polina Malinovskaya, Chen-Chen Song, Emily Huang, Emerald Tan, Emily Qiu, Katie MacDonald, Lakshita Motwani

and Rebecca Page, all of Andover.

Trio: Gold: Anna Lang, Reverie Nedde, Jennifer Li, Silver: Gabriella Sajedi, Ruby Remati, Emily Ma. 4th: Olivia Yang, Helen Zhou, Krystal Qiao

Duet: Gold: Gabriella Sajedi, Ruby Remati, Silver: Riley Spring, Sydney Ho

Solo: Gold: Reverie Nedde

Figures: Gold: Reverie Nedde, Silver: Gabriella Sajedi, Bronze: Anna Lang, 4th: Ruby Remati

10/U Age Group

Duet:

Gold: Polina Malinovskaya, Chen-Chen Song

Silver: Melinda Zhang, Katie Wojcik

Solo: Silver: Chen-Chen Song

Figures: Gold: Chen-Chen Song, Bronze: Polina Malinovskaya

Intermediate Results:

13/O Intermediate:

Team: Bronze: Heather Schuettner of N. Andover, Liah Santana of Lawrence, Tanya Singh, Katie McGinness, all of Andover.

Trio: 4th: Heather Schuettner, Tanya Singh, Liah Santana

Duet: Silver: Heather Schuettner, Tanya Singh

Figures: Bronze: Heather Schuettner

11/12 Intermediate

Team: Gold: Kyra Donahue of Methuen, Veronika Sokolova, Aleah Davidsen, Olivia

Lai, Helen He, Ella Reck and Anna Ionescu, all of Andover.

Trio: Gold: Aleah Davidsen, Olivia Lai, Helen He

Duet: Gold: Kyra Donahue, Veronika Sokolova

Figures: Gold: Olivia Lai, Silver: Veronika Sokolova, Bronze: Helen He

10/U Intermediate

Team: Gold: Maitri Naik of Methuen, Katie Wojcik and Julia Paradis of N. Andover Olivia Liera and Melinda Zhang of Andover. Figures: Silver: Olivia Liera, 4th: Maitri Naik

For more information on ANASynchro's upcoming show or Learn to Synch programs contact head coach Svetlana Malinovskaya at 978-685-3541 ext 147 or smalinovskaya@mvmca.org

Founding the Future - Bradford Christian Academy

By Dalia Díaz

Bradford Christian Academy (BCA) had its annual fundraising breakfast on April 3rd at DiBurro's in Haverhill. Parents, faculty and community members who believe in BCA's mission attended and listened how Victoria Kennedy, Board President and Head of School outlined the progress achieves and future plans.

Mrs. Kennedy spoke with pride of how BCA develops students with compassionate hearts equipped for effective service as faithful ambassadors of Jesus Christ in their

communities and throughout the world.

Her daughter MacKenzie Kennedy who will be graduating this year offered a testimonial speaking about her three trips to the Dominican Republic, working with people who had so much less and that "changed her as a person and student."

She is thankful for having learned Spanish and will be majoring in Spanish in college in order to continue working with the people of Latin America. "I hope to take on a life of service."



Matt Perusse, director of performing arts at BCA with Angie Estevez of Haverhill who has a daughter attending sixth grade, and Karen Lumb, one of the breakfast hosts.



Victoria Kennedy, Head of School with her daughter MacKenzie.



The Bradford Christian Academy Choir.

Rev. David Munley with his son Stephen. "I have three children at BCA receiving an extraordinary education."



Tim Lacourse with his wife Kelly and two daughters attending BCA, Helen and Madelyn who sang with the choir "Sabbath Prayer" (from Fiddler on the Roof May 16, 17 and 18 at Northpoint Bible College.)

For more information or a tour call (978) 373-7900 or visit www.bradfordchristianacademy.org

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A Time to Advance Health Equity

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Statement on National Minority Health Month

April is National Minority Health Month, a time when we reflect on the incredible opportunity we face as a nation to improve minority health, advance health equity, and eliminate health disparities.

Fifty years ago, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to remind America of the "fierce urgency of now." That message is as meaningful today as it was in 1963. While our nation has made significant progress in reducing health disparities over the last fifty years, historically minorities have been less likely to get preventive care, and more likely to suffer from serious illnesses. They have been less likely to have access to quality health care and insurance coverage.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, the landmark legislation signed by President Obama, we are making strides in advancing quality, affordable health coverage regardless of race or ethnicity. The health care law addresses the needs of minority populations and other underserved groups by investing in prevention, supporting improvements in primary care and Medicare, and making health care coverage affordable and accessible for all Americans. The theme for National Minority Health Month this year is "Advance Health Equity Now: Uniting Our Communities to Bring Health Care Coverage to All."

Later this year, millions of Americans,

will gain access to health coverage that meets their needs and fits their budget no matter who they are or where they live. New Health Insurance Marketplaces will give all Americans who are uninsured or who buy their own coverage a simple way to shop for insurance. Starting Oct. 1, 2013, Americans can enroll through the Marketplaces for health coverage beginning as early as Jan. 1, 2014.

For the first time, Americans will be able to go to one place to learn about their coverage options and be able to make side-by-side comparisons of private insurance plans. With a single application, they will also be able to find out if they qualify for a new kind of tax credit that lowers their monthly premiums. And because the law finally bans discrimination against pre-existing conditions like diabetes or asthma, nobody will be turned away because of their health status.

Achieving health equity means each of us has an equal opportunity to attain optimal health. Let's recommit ourselves and our communities to act now to eliminate health disparities and increase access to quality care. We cannot afford to wait.

To learn more about National Minority Health Month and what the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is doing to reduce health disparities and achieve health equity, see www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov

Es hora de avanzar la equidad en la Salud

Declaración de la Secretaria del HHS, Kathleen Sebelius sobre el Mes Nacional de Salud de las Minorías

Abril es el Mes Nacional de la Salud de las Minorías, un momento en el que reflexionar sobre la increíble oportunidad que nos enfrentamos como nación para mejorar la salud de las minorías, la equidad en salud anticipada y eliminar las disparidades de salud.

Hace cincuenta años, el reverendo Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Se paró en la escalinata del Lincoln Memorial para recordar a América la "urgencia impetuosa de ahora." Ese mensaje es tan significativo como lo fue en 1963. Mientras que nuestra nación ha hecho progresos significativos en la reducción de las disparidades de salud en los últimos cincuenta años, históricamente las minorías han tenido menos probabilidades de recibir atención preventiva, y más probabilidades de sufrir de enfermedades graves. También han tenido menos probabilidad de tener acceso a una atención sanitaria de calidad y cobertura de seguro.

Debido a la Ley de Asistencia Asequible, la histórica legislación firmada por el Presidente Obama, estamos haciendo grandes progresos en la promoción de la calidad, la cobertura de salud asequible, independientemente de la raza o el origen étnico. La ley de salud atiende las necesidades de las minorías y otros grupos a la hora de invertir en la prevención, el apoyo a la mejora de la atención primaria y Medicare, y hacer que la cobertura médica sea asequible y accesible para todos los estadounidenses. El tema para el Mes Nacional de la Salud de las Minorías de este año es "Avancemos la Equidad en la Salud Ahora: Uniendo a Nuestras Comunidades Para Llevar la Cobertura de Salud a Todos".

A finales de este año, millones de

estadounidenses tendrán acceso a cobertura de salud que responda a sus necesidades y se adapte a su presupuesto, sin importar quiénes sean o dónde vivan. Nuevos Mercados de Seguros de Salud dará a todos los estadounidenses que no tienen seguro o que compran su propia cobertura de una manera simple de hacer compras para el seguro. A partir del 1ro de octubre 2013, los estadounidenses podrán inscribirse a través de los mercados para inicio de cobertura médica tan pronto como el 1ro de enero 2014.

Por primera vez, los estadounidenses podrán ir a un lugar para aprender sobre sus opciones de cobertura y ser capaces de hacer comparaciones entre los planes de seguros privados. Con una sola aplicación, también podrán averiguar si califican para un nuevo tipo de crédito fiscal que reduzca sus cuotas mensuales. Y finalmente, porque la ley prohíbe la discriminación contra las enfermedades preexistentes como la diabetes o el asma, nadie será rechazado debido a su estado de salud.

El logro de la equidad en salud significa que cada uno de nosotros tiene la misma oportunidad de alcanzar una salud óptima. Vamos a renovar nuestro compromiso y nuestras comunidades para actuar de inmediato y eliminar las disparidades de salud y aumentar el acceso al cuidado de calidad. No podemos darnos el lujo de esperar.

Para obtener más información sobre el Mes Nacional de Salud de las Minorías y lo que el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE.UU. está haciendo para reducir las disparidades de salud y alcanzar la equidad en salud, consulte www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov



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Help for Elders

Elder Services is currently recruiting & training more volunteers to help the elderly remain safely in their homes for as long as possible; the volunteers will help with:

- With door to door Transportation to medical appointments.
- With an advocate, to accompany the elder into the medical appointment.
- With food shopping & picking up prescriptions.

- With companionship, someone they can just talk with.

Request - This is a wonderful program for our elders who have no one to help them. However, Elder Services needs many more volunteers throughout the Merrimack Valley to answer all the calls for help we are receiving. We hope the folks who are reading this Ad can put a few hours aside each month and help support this critical need.

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NOTAS DE SU BIBLIOTECARIA

BY/POR MAUREEN NIMMO
Lawrence Public Library Director

Hola, queridos lectores de Rumbo. Leí en la edición de la semana pasada que la editora Dalia ha adoptado mi obsesión de "¡viene la primavera!" (Pueden leer su editorial "La primavera está en el aire" en la edición del 1 de abril de 2013). Ella tiene una idea muy buena. Ahora es el momento de limpiar lo que ha estado cubierto por la nieve. Nuestra ciudad puede ser hermosa en la primavera con todos los árboles llenos de flores. ¡No dejemos que la basura regada en el suelo arruine eso! Ahora mismo hay una gran cantidad de iniciativas de limpieza. Si todo el mundo participara en por lo menos una actividad, podríamos ver un cambio enorme.

Tuve el placer de presentarme ante el concejo municipal para aceptar una donación para la biblioteca. El concejal Mark Laplante nos presentó una colección de DVDs de todas las reuniones del concejo que se han celebrado este año, incluyendo las reuniones de los subcomités. Creo que esta es una idea muy buena. Las reuniones son más difíciles de encontrar en la televisión a menos que podamos verlas en el momento. Sucede lo mismo con los subcomités. Además, no se pueden buscar las reuniones utilizando el avance rápido o rebobinar, ya que se emite en "vivo." La biblioteca ahora tendrá a la disposición de todos los usuarios esta valiosa herramienta. Parte de nuestra misión es mantener la gente informada, y esta será otra manera de mantener un gobierno transparente.

Para celebrar la Semana Nacional de la Biblioteca, los Amigos de la Biblioteca están

patrocinando una charla con Susan Hegarty y Benjamín Padilla; Susan es la autora del libro recientemente publicado, *Las Aves del Parque de Den Rock* (The Birds of Den Rock Park). Los presentadores son expertos en vida silvestre y ecología. La Sra. Hegarty es una naturalista y recibió su certificado de observadora de aves por el trabajo que hizo en el Parque de Den Rock. El Sr. Padilla es miembro de Mass LIFT de AmeriCorps y actualmente está trabajando con el programa Groundwork Lawrence como relacionador público.

Las Aves del Parque Den Rock es un hermoso libro (y, por supuesto, está disponible para tomarlo prestado en las dos sucursales de la biblioteca). Confieso ser una gran amante de las aves desde el tiempo cuando era niña. Tenía una copia del libro *Las Aves de América*, y pasé incontables horas estudiando detenidamente las láminas de Audubon en el mismo. Hoy día, ¡todavía tengo ese libro como un gran tesoro! (Confieso que tengo una edición más reciente, pero las imágenes son las mismas.) El evento se llevará a cabo el martes, 16 de abril a las 6:30 PM en nuestra sala de historia local en el tercer piso. No se lo pierda. Después de escuchar la charla y ver las imágenes, bajen al segundo piso para sacar el libro y hagan una excursión a Den Rock para que vean y reconozcan las aves por ustedes mismos.

Vamos a tener la última reunión anual del club de lectura el lunes, 22 de abril a las 6 PM en El Taller, 275 Essex Street. El título de esta reunión "será anunciado." Por el momento, tendremos el título: "La Jugada del Partido" ("Play of the Game") por Al Basile. Este mini libro es un fragmento de su obra escrita en el 2007, *Más Ficción de Fenway; Más Relatos de la Nación de Medias Rojas* (More Fenway Fiction; More Short Stories from Red Sox Nation). Este pequeño libro publicado para nosotros a través de Cambridge College, fue organizado por nuestro amigo y presidente de la Fundación Robert Frost, Mark Schorr. Está disponible aquí en inglés y español gracias al traductor Esteban Corniel. Esta será una mini versión de lo que hicimos en toda la ciudad el año pasado, y esperamos que todo el mundo participe en nuestro programa de lecturas.

Me doy cuenta de que todo lo que he hecho es repartir tareas en este artículo: participar en limpiezas, ir a ver los pájaros, leer nuestro libro. Sin embargo, todas estas son buenas ideas. Nos vemos en la biblioteca.

NOTES FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN

Hello Rumbo readers. I see from last week's edition that editor Dalia has picked up my "spring is coming" obsession. (See her editorial "Spring is in the Air" in the 4/1/13 issue.) She has a good idea. Now is the time to clean what has been under the snow. Our city can be beautiful in the spring with all the flowering trees lining the streets. Let's not let all the garbage on the ground ruin that! There are a lot of clean-up initiatives going on. If everyone participated in at least one we could see enormous change.

I had the pleasure of appearing before the City Council to accept a donation to the library. Councilor Mark Laplante presented us with DVDs of all the council meetings that have been held this year including the subcommittee meetings. I think this is a really good idea. The meetings are a lot more difficult to find on television than they used to be unless you are able to catch them live. This is particularly true for the subcommittees. Also, the meetings can't be searched using fast forward or rewind since they are broadcast in "real time." The library can now make available to all our users this valuable tool. Part of our mission is to keep people informed and this will be another way to keep government transparent.

To celebrate National Library Week the Friends of the Library are sponsoring a talk by Susan Hegarty and Benjamin Padilla, the former the author of the recently published *The Birds of Den Rock Park*. The presenters are both wildlife and ecology experts. Ms. Hegarty is a naturalist and she received her Birders Certificate for the work she did at Den Rock. Mr. Padilla is a Mass LIFT Americorps member and is currently doing outreach work at Groundwork Lawrence.

The Birds of Den Rock Park is a beautiful book (and, of course, available to borrow at both branches of the library). I admit to being a great lover of birds since the time I was a child. I had a copy of *Birds of America* and spent countless hours poring over the Audubon plates in it. I still treasure that book today! (I do admit I have a newer edition but the images are the same.) The event will take place on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30 in our third floor local history room. Don't miss it. After you hear the lecture and see the slides you can go downstairs, check out a copy of the book and make an excursion to Den Rock to see which birds you can spot yourselves.

We will be having the last meeting for the year of the book club at 6:00 on Monday, April 22nd at the El Taller Restaurant, 75 Essex St. The title for that session remained "to be announced". We now have a title—"Play of the Game" or "La Jugada del Partido" by Al Basile. The piece is an extract from his 2007 work *Further Fenway Fiction; More Short stories from Red Sox Nation*. This little book was published for us through Cambridge College, the whole arrangement having been organized by our friend and Robert Frost Foundation President Mark Schorr. It is available here in English and Spanish thanks to translator Esteban Corniel. This will be a mini-version of last year's City Read and we hope everybody takes part.

I just realized that all I've done is hand out assignments in this article—participate in clean-ups, go watch birds, read our book. Still these are all good ideas. See you at the library.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
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■ LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Upcoming gun buy back on May 11

This week marks a milestone of sorts for our city. It marks the one-year anniversary of the Launch of the Lawrence Youth Team. It also marks the beginning of a month long public outreach effort leading up the first ever anonymous gun buy back program in Lawrence on May 11, 2013.

This date is symbolic for two reasons. First, it is the day before Mother's Day - one of the themes is "Give your Mother the Best Gift Ever- Peace of Mind". Second, it is the start of National Peace Officer's Week paying tribute to the nation's dedicated law enforcement officers.

The gun buy-back program on May 11th is a direct product of the Youth Team efforts and an unprecedented collaboration between and among the mayor's office, community and faith based organization and the police department. The importance and positive impact this collaboration and the significance of the gun buy back program cannot be over stated.

In his 2011 State of the Commonwealth Address Governor Deval Patrick announced the elimination of youth violence as one of his highest priorities for the balance of his term in office. A few months later he released a new model program called the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative and invited cities including Lawrence to apply. Lawrence applied for and received one of the grants. The Lawrence Youth team was established under the grant.

The brilliance of the initiative is the recognition that no young person is expendable, that violence is preventable and that to eliminate youth violence, we must go after the root causes of violence. Increasingly, police chiefs, probation officers, and mayors from across the country are recognizing that we cannot arrest our way out of the problem of violence. Instead, the way to prevent violence in

the first place is to properly identify it as a health and prevention issue.

Preventing violence in a neighborhood improves overall health and wellbeing, and can facilitate community cohesion and participation, foster neighborhood improvements and encourage employment and educational opportunity. The long-term damage resulting from violence is pervasive.

Violence causes injuries, death, and emotional trauma. Experiencing and witnessing violence, as well as the fear of violence, are damaging, with consequences that contribute to unhealthy behavior and a diminished community environment.

Violence influences where people live, work, and shop. It affects whether parents let children play outside and walk to school, and whether there are grocery stores and work places in a community. Furthermore, violence and fear undermine attempts to promote healthy food and physical activity, thereby exacerbating existing illnesses and increasing the risk for onset of disease, including chronic disease.

Preventing violence in cities like Lawrence is fundamentally an equity and social justice issue.

The youth of Lawrence are not responsible for where they are born or who their parents are. These youth are no less bright or talented or ambitious than the youth in neighboring communities. The difference is often the lack of vital support systems such as a two parent household, a secure place to live, ready access to medical and counseling resources, adequate income to satisfy basic needs, and strong roles models.

Young men in Lawrence are like teenagers in every community - they are sometimes impulsive and occasionally make bad choices but the stakes are higher

in Lawrence in large part because of the ready availability of guns.

The gun buy-back program on May 11 is a potent symbol of what happens when we all work together. The removal of guns from our streets must be a community wide effort to make the day a success. On the day of the event, gift cards ranging from \$50 to \$150 will be given to those turning in guns.

Starting this week the organizers of the program are embarking on an aggressive public information campaign leading up to the May 11th event utilizing all forms of media outreach. Faith-based leaders will be conducting a peace march throughout the city on Saturday, May 4th to encourage public participation.

Thank the media

Lately we have been seeing so many crimes being committed by law enforcement personnel that it made me think as to why they are increasing.

The most recent case was that of the New London, New Hampshire Police Chief David Seastrand, who asked a young woman accused of underage drinking, if she allowed him to take nude pictures of her, he wouldn't press charges against her.

Once the scandal broke, Chief Seastrand resigned from his position.

But, we are reading about too many cases. Are they becoming more perverse or corrupted than ever, or is it because the media is more willing to broadcast these violations.

Through the years I heard of horrendous stories yet, they would go unnoticed or barely a whisper and they now make it to the courts.

The media has really become a watchdog of society.

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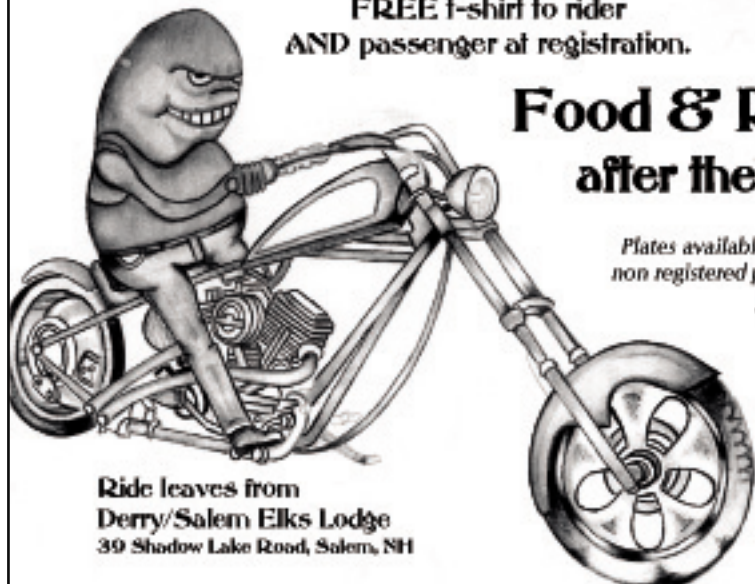
May 19th, 2013 - \$20 per rider \$10 per passenger

Registration starts at 9am. Kickstands up at 11am.

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Volunteers Needed!

Did you know that 1 in every 50 children in the US will go to sleep without a home this year? Horizons for Homeless Children is looking for energetic and enthusiastic volunteers to play with children living in family homeless shelters in Northeastern Massachusetts.

A commitment of just 2 hours a week will make a significant difference in the lives of some wonderful children in your community. Trainings for your region are coming up soon.

Sign up today! Contact us at (978) 557-2182 or at northeast@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org for more information and an application, or fill one out online at www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 5

PAYANO

City of Lawrence. Regardless of any legal justification he might make, politically speaking it was not the right decision considering the financial crisis the City of Lawrence was experiencing at that time. We warned him but he did not listen: "... remaining as State Representative creates major controversy that does not favor the City of Lawrence. William should not forget that perception becomes reality, and if he gives the media reasons to question his motives and consistently disqualify him, inevitably his administration will encounter serious problems (Representative or Mayor? Which one of the two? Jan. 1st 2010, Pedro Payano). In the end, the state forced William to act on his stubbornness, but it was already too late, because the city was affected by the negative publicity and by the terms of the agreement under which the state was going to issue the bond loan of 34 million dollars, requiring an outside financial overseer.

The Mayor also created unnecessary controversy when he began to make administrative changes. There was an expectation that there would be a transition period, but there wasn't. Some defended William's actions as a necessary evil because William allegedly dared to remove a political machine that had controlled the city for a long time. Unfortunately, it was seen by some of his opponents as having been done for the wrong reasons, removing one machine only to replace it with his own political machine.

He then committed other errors of judgment that helped to create more political enemies in different areas. Only time will tell when and how much damage it caused him. The way and manner in which he handled the police and fire department are just two examples.

The state's taking receivership of the Lawrence public schools is one of the biggest failures of this Mayor. While he would like to convince the public that it was his decision that the state take over the schools, the state had already made the decision and the press reported that this was in part due to a failure of the Mayor's ability to lead and govern.

Finally, this administration has seen itself involved in various other controversies. Notably, the Deputy Chief of Police and William's former Chief of Staff have been formally indicted and William himself is the subject of a grand jury investigation.

The press has consistently criticized the Mayor for appointing individuals to positions in which they aren't qualified, in some cases bypassing the accepted application and interview process, thereby violating equal opportunity laws. There have been other instances of unethical behavior involving domestic relationship violations. To make matters worse the Mayor has made frequent trips outside the United States and involved himself in questionable political affairs in his native Dominican Republic.

These specific examples of political errors and faults of his administration, and more that remain unmentioned in this article, constitute sufficient arguments for

that segment of voters who are educated in the political ways of American culture, who wish to see Lantigua resoundingly defeated in the upcoming election.

Fortunately for William, there is a sizable portion of voters who operate by other standards. Their decisions are based more on emotions than on well thought out political reasons. For them, their personal connection with Lantigua is more important than the negative things said about him, and above all, their feeling and identification based on national origin: "He is one of ours and we should let him finish". The challenge for the opposition is to convince enough of those supporters that a change in the city's

leadership would be much more beneficial for the city overall.

At times it would appear that Lantigua is improving his image and public relations, however, just when least expected, another controversy or crisis occurs in his administration. But maybe is too late for improving, considering the fact that the opposition has given every indication that they don't intend to give him a second term.

The key question then is... Can those that oppose him win?

Pedro Payano is an educator and a political scholar

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APLICACIONES.INFO

El Foro Independiente de Opinión es un grupo de profesionales (licenciados en Química, Medicina, Pedagogía, Ingeniero Agrónomo, Ingeniero de Caminos, Profesor Mercantil, Catedrático universitario, etc.)

El arte de saber escuchar

Por Agustín Pérez Cerrada

"Observa mis jardines donde los jardineros van en el alba a crear la primavera, no discuten sobre los pistilos ni las corolas: siembran las semillas" (CIUDADELA. Antoine de Saint Saint- Exupéry).

El don de la palabra, vehículo de la comunicación, de las relaciones personales, tiene su correlato en la sabiduría de la escucha.

En toda comunicación se da uno que habla y otro que escucha. Por tanto, ambos serán responsables de la calidad de la comunicación, reflejada en la mutua y continua escucha. Y ello depende tanto de la educación que se ha recibido, como del empeño personal que ponga cada uno; esto es, de su disposición de ánimo. El oír lo presta la naturaleza, la escucha se cultiva.

Saber escuchar es un arte que no se logra sin esfuerzo. Oír el sonido de las palabras y escuchar el contenido de la palabra son dos actitudes totalmente distintas. es no prestar atención profunda, es simple captación de una sucesión de sonidos; una actitud con algún grado de pasividad. Es más que oír con paciencia a los demás, es interpretar y entender lo que alguien dice, es descubrir el sentido que las palabras encierran; es un comportamiento activo que supone acercamiento y acogimiento a la persona comunicante, y aún de interesarse en lo que de verdad importa al otro. Una actitud más que una técnica que pueda entrenarse; ya que escuchar requiere, además de un cierto silencio interior, aceptar a las personas tal como son. Claro está que dependiendo siempre de la intensidad y cualidad de la relación; del grado en que se compartan los mismos puntos de vista; o que, en ocasiones, convenga cortar la comunicación. No puede existir armonía donde impera la discrepancia.

Sabemos que no basta con hablar para ser entendidos, ya que es relevante lo que el otro escucha y comprende. El tono de voz, el vocabulario escogido, los gestos corporales de la comunicación no verbal que acompañan a las palabras --un asentimiento leve, una sonrisa, una mirada--, son elementos auxiliares para entendernos mejor y para percibir el grado de comprensión.

Supuesto que la comunicación es una oportunidad de enriquecerse con las aportaciones de los demás, de equivocarnos menos o ganar amigos; ha de tenerse en cuenta que la escucha supone un modo de apertura al otro. Por ello, siempre cabe la posibilidad de que se despierte algún grado del "instinto de defensa" ante formas de invasión de la propia intimidad, ante ideas

que se estiman como un ataque al personal sistema de valores, a las convicciones o a la manera de ver el mundo, que podría desembocar en "reacciones contra" que impidan escuchar con profundidad y aún lleven a algún grado de agresividad. La experiencia muestra que el ámbito en que se produce la comunicación es multiforme; por tanto, variados serán los matices a descubrir en cada ocasión en que nos encontremos; ya sea entre los componentes de un equipo de trabajo jerarquizado, entre padres e hijos, entre amigos, o entre contrarios. Por ello, siendo la disposición a escuchar dinámica y creativa, un ejercicio interesante puede ser valorar la propia capacidad de escucha y si para nosotros es una cualidad importante. Pudiera ser que no seamos tan buenos escuchantes como podríamos llegar a serlo, y que necesitemos algún entrenamiento para adquirir mayor habilidad en el arte de saber escuchar.

Señalemos algunos malos hábitos a evitar:

- Estar impaciente por tomar la palabra, en lugar de dejar hablar al otro.
- Interrumpir repetidamente la conversación.
- Reaccionar impulsivamente ante cualquier discrepancia.
- Mostrar con nuestro tono de voz, apatía o agresividad.
- Confundir el "ruido de palabras" y la frivolidad con la verdad.
- Brindar poca atención a nuestro interlocutor.
- Ignorar el interés del otro.
- Hablar al mismo tiempo con más de una persona.

Sin duda, podremos escuchar mejor:

- Sin interrumpir a la otra persona antes de que termine de hablar.
- Haciendo preguntas pertinentes.
- Dando respuestas visuales o verbales.
- Aceptando al interlocutor.
- Sin miedo a la verdad.
- Evitando la locuacidad.
- Teniendo buena actitud mental y ejercitando una escucha activa.
- Controlando el impulso a desmentir.

La calidad de la atención, tener la paciencia de escuchar sin interrumpir, con verdadero deseo de entender y comprender, proporciona estímulos para una comunicación más abierta, más serena, más sincera; donde cada parte exprese sus ideas con más libertad donde pueda manifestarse la personalidad del interlocutor; donde la amistad encuentre un terreno abonado para arraigar.

Innovadora educación virtual en GLTS



Reynaldo Camilo, GLTS Autobody student, tries his hand at SIMSpray, the new virtual painting tool which has arrived in the Autobody and Collision career area. Students can hone their skills while painting virtual panels with virtual paint. The system then scores their performance, which the students can store on a thumb drive.

Como novedad este año, los estudiantes de carrocería de Greater Lawrence tendrán la oportunidad de probar sus habilidades virtuales incluso antes de poner un pie en la cabina de pintura.

SIMSpray, que llegó a GLTS el mes pasado, es la herramienta de enseñanza del mercado desarrollada por VRSIM en East Hartford, Connecticut. Este equipo viene completo con la computadora, el monitor, el teclado y la pistola y permite a los estudiantes oportunidades múltiples para la práctica no disponibles anteriormente.

En el pasado, los estudiantes tuvieron que entrar en la cabina de pintado con máscaras y equipo de seguridad. Los instructores tuvieron que ubicar los paneles y utilizar las pinturas sobrantes para practicar. Ahora, los estudiantes simplemente usan un casco virtual y gafas, y pintan un panel de coche virtual. El sistema SIMSpray puede aumentar el nivel de habilidad del estudiante al tiempo que reduce los costes de material, ya que no se utiliza pintura real.

El sistema SIMSpray será utilizado con

los estudiantes antes de comenzar a trabajar en un vehículo real. Este sistema ayuda a perfeccionar sus habilidades y terminar un producto de aspecto profesional.

"Es como jugar a un juego virtual", dijo Daniel Martineau, instructor exploratorio para el área de carreras en Auto Body Collision. "De esta manera no desperdiciamos materiales".

Además de gafas, la pistola de pintura SIMSpray se ve exactamente como una real, lo que permite a los estudiantes a conseguir la sensación de esta herramienta en sus manos. Con la pistola de pulverización, los estudiantes pueden ajustar la cantidad de imprimación virtual, pintura y barniz que se aplican a su panel virtual.

Una vez finalizado el proyecto, el equipo emitirá un grado y la puntuación de su desempeño y el estudiante puede salvar su informe en una unidad flash si les gusta. Todo el proceso de tres pasos, desde el principio hasta el final, tarda unos diez minutos.

SIMSpray brings innovative virtual education into GLTS auto body classroom

New this year, Greater Lawrence auto body students will get the opportunity to test their virtual skills before ever stepping foot into the paint booth.

SIMSpray, which arrived at GLTS last month, is a state of the art instructional tool developed by VRSIM in East Hartford, Conn. This computer equipment comes complete with monitor, keyboard, and spray gun and allows students numerous opportunities for practice not available before.

Previously, students had to step inside the spray booth with masks and safety gear. Instructors had to locate panels and left over paints to practice with. Now, students simply wear a virtual helmet and goggles, and paint a virtual car panel. The SIMSpray system can increase a student's skill level while lowering material costs since no actual paint is used.

The SIMSpray system will be used

with students before they begin working on an actual vehicle. This system helps them hone their skills and finish a professional looking product.

"It's like playing a virtual game," said Daniel Martineau, exploratory instructor for the Auto Body and Collision career area. "This way they don't waste materials."

In addition to goggles, the SIMSpray paint gun looks exactly like a real one, allowing students to get the feel for this tool in their hands. With the spray gun, students can adjust the amount of virtual primer, paint, and clear coat they apply to their virtual panel.

Upon completion of the project, the machine will grade and score their performance and the student can save their report on a thumb drive if they like. The entire three step process, from start to finish, takes about ten minutes.

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Chamber Spring Expo at Michael's

By Dalia Díaz

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce held its Spring Expo on April 3rd at Michael's Function Hall. As usual, it was a sell out and this year it seemed to be packed more than expected.

There were demonstrations and samples from every company represented and best of all, the valuable information that was offered.

Next, the Fall Expo that will take place at Andover Country Club.



The fun began at the front door with Matt, Wendy and Lou from WCCM 1110 AM giving away prizes.



Lawrence General Hospital was well represented by Vanessa C. Kortze and Andrea Eobstel. Domenic A. Kalil of Kiai Communications is chatting with them.



Dan Harty of Covanta Energy was explaining the Mercury Recovery Program to Robert Boisselle.



Debbie Daigle and Kelly MacDonald from the Visiting Nurses Association.



Katie Bard and James Kapelson promoting the services at the Merrimack Valley YMCA.



Tim Burke is saying hello to another Chamber buddy, Ed "The Plumber" Kelly.



Pamela Joseph, a Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant from North Chelmsford was offering a raffle that many attendees wanted to win.



Cal Williams of the United Way always supporting their services. We missed seeing Usha Chatterjee this year.



Ernie Greenslade, of Northern Essex Community College is catching up with a former colleague, Deborah Coletti who works at Fidelity House.



Marian Kelly and Gretchen Arntz of Emmaus, Inc.



Financial Advisor Travis Holland of Edward Jones Investments in North Andover.



Lisa Berube, Cooperative Education Liaison at Greater Lawrence Technical School and Liana Measmer, GLTS Communications Specialist.



Kevin Farrell of Northeast Independent Living Program and Julie Gershon of Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc.



Charles Chivakos and Amy Pozerski are ready to taste the wonderful cakes from Sweet Perfection that Kathy Santoro was serving. They are located in North Andover.

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Asian Center of Merrimack Valley, Inc.

1 Ballard Way, Lawrence, MA 01843
978-683-7316 | www.asiancentermv.org

Clases de ciudadanía

Las inscripciones se están aceptando para las clases de preparación para la ciudadanía celebradas el miércoles por la mañana y por la noche en el Centro Asiático, 1 Ballard Way, Lawrence, MA 01843.

Las clases cuestan \$50 por una sesión de diez semanas y comienzan a las 9 AM a 11 AM ó 6 PM a 8 PM.

Las clases están abiertas a cualquier persona interesada en la preparación para convertirse en ciudadano de los EE.UU. Las clases cubrirán las preguntas sobre el gobierno y la historia de los Estados Unidos y la práctica de la entrevista de ciudadanía. Llame al Centro Asiático en el 978-683-7316 x 11 ó visite el sitio web del Centro Asiático de www.asiancentermv.org para obtener instrucciones de cómo llegar y más detalles.

Citizenship Preparation Classes

Enrollments are now being taken for citizenship preparation classes held on Wednesday mornings and evenings at the Asian Center, 1 Ballard Way, Lawrence, MA 01843.

Classes cost \$50 for a ten-week session and run from 9 AM to 11 AM or 6 PM to 8 PM.

Classes are open to anyone interested in preparing to become a US citizen. Classes will cover US government and history and practice questions for the citizenship interview. Call the Asian Center at 978-683-7316 x 11 or check out the Asian Center's website at www.asiancentermv.org for directions and more details.

Free Community Head and Neck Cancer Screenings in April

Holy Family Hospital is offering a series of FREE Head & Neck cancer screenings during the month of April.

Morning and afternoon screenings are available on Thursday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 16th through Friday, April 19th. Appointments are required and will take place at the following locations:

Andover Ear Nose & Throat Center - 198 Massachusetts Ave., North Andover, MA

Colden Seymour Ear, Nose & Throat - 200 Sutton St., Suite #100, North Andover, MA

Holy Family Hospital's Cancer Center - 70 East St., Methuen, MA

Individuals who can answer yes to any of the following questions are encouraged

to be screened:

- * Do you smoke or chew tobacco?
- * Are you more than a 'social' drinker?
- * Do you have a history of head and neck cancer?
- * Do you have a lump in your mouth, throat or neck that won't heal?
- * A sore that will not go away?
- * Or have difficulty swallowing?

Screening Schedule:

Morning and afternoon appointments are available and open to the public.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling Holy Family's DoctorFinder service: 800-488-5959. We will confirm the location when you schedule your appointment.

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Si tienes ropa usada y pequeños artículos del hogar que ya no usas, dónalos para quienes si los necesitan. Llegaremos a tu puerta para recibir lo que puedas entregar.

Para programar una cita, llama al 1.800.483.5503 o visítanos en nuestra página web en internet: www.bbbsfoundation.org.

Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

Lawrence Senior Center

Actividades Futuras

- Abr 11 Funda de Compra. 10:00-1:00pm Tarjeta Azul.
- Abr 12 Bingo Especial! 1:00pm \$5.
- Abr 14 Casino Foxwoods! \$28
- Abr 15 Centro Cerrado!
- Abr 16 Funda de Compra. 10:00-1:00pm Tarjeta Blanca
- Abr 18 Evaluación de la Salud Oral! 9-1pm
- Abr 18 "Salud del Cerebro" Asociación de Alzheimer.
- Abr 19 Almuerzo especial! 11:30am
- Abr 19 Bingo Especial! 1:00pm \$5.
- Abr 23 Taller de TRIAD. 9:30am "Poder sobre para decisiones de salud y Poder de autoridad duradero."
- Abr 25 Reunión de los Veteranos. 2:00pm
- Abr 26 Bingo Especial! 1:00pm \$5.
- Abr 27 Limpieza del día del Planeta Tierra!

Upcoming Events

- Apr 11 Brown Bag Day! Blue Card 10:00-1:00pm.
- Apr 12 Special Bingo! 1:00pm \$5.
- Apr 14 Foxwoods Casinos! \$28.
- Apr 15 Center Closed!
- Apr 16 Brown Bag Day! White Card. 10:00-1:00pm
- Apr 18 Oral Health Screening. 9-1:00pm.
- Apr 19 Special Lunch. 11:30am
- Apr 19 Special Bingo! 1:00pm \$5
- Apr 25 Veteran's Meeting. 2:00pm
- Apr 26 Special Bingo! 1:00pm \$5
- Apr 27 Earth Day Clean-up!
- Apr 29 TRIAD workshop 9:30am "Health Care Proxy & Durable Power of Attorney."

Community Pathways meeting with MIRA

Please Join us Tuesday April 9th at 1:00 PM for our next Community Pathways Meeting, Lawrence Public Library, 3rd Floor, Robert Frost Room.

This month Mira Kohl from MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition) will present information on Immigration to the United States, Pathways to Legalization. Followed up by questions and answers. In addition we will discuss our upcoming community Citizenship Event planned for April 14th and April 18th.

Please Join Us - ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

If you have any questions about our group, who we are, or if you would like to present your services to our group at a future meeting, please contact Betsy Leeman at the Asian Center. 978-683-7316, or by email: betsyleeman@asiancentermv.org

CARTAS AL EDITOR

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

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims of the recent fires in Lawrence. The website has a list of donated items and things that are still needed.

Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Grammy Great Talks Making Music at NECC

Three-time Grammy Award winner Adam Ayan, who has worked with myriad music giants such as Madonna, Foo Fighters, Carrie Underwood, Faith Hill, Pearl Jam, Keith Urban, Kelly Clarkson, the Rolling Stones, and Rascal Flatts, will give a presentation, sponsored by Northern Essex Community College, on album mastering on Monday, April 22, at 7p.m. in the David Hartleb Technology Center on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St.

This event, which is free and open to the public, will explore the mechanics of music mastering from a leader in the field. Music mastering is the final creative step in transforming a recording into a record.

Ayan, who grew-up in Malden and Windham, NH, graduated from Pinkerton Academy. He is also a graduate of UMass Lowell's Sound Recording Technology (SRT) Program. He works as a mastering engineer at Gateway Mastering Studios in Portland, Maine, where he has collected more than 50 gold, platinum, and multi-platinum albums.

"Mastering is all about bringing my clients' music to its fullest sonic potential, and always respecting their artistic vision," Ayan says. "I have been in the fortunate position of mastering recordings across many musical genres, maintaining the same philosophy of crafting my clients' recordings to best serve their musical message. Be it rock, pop, metal, country or jazz, the concept is always the same: master



to best convey my clients' recordings to the listener."

"Ayan is one of the most celebrated music professionals who most people have never heard of," according to Lecuyer. "Rock legends and country crooners alike trust him to make the final adjustments to their recordings when cutting an album."

For additional information on this event contact NECC music instructor Michael Lecuyer at mlecuyer@necc.mass.edu

Northern Essex offers a certificate in music technology and an associate's in general studies: music.

NECC Sponsors Electronic Recycling Drive

Individuals will have the opportunity to recycle electronic devices for free at Northern Essex Community College's 5th Annual Electronics Recycling Event on the Haverhill Campus Tuesday, April 16, rain or shine.

Free and open to the public, this event is part of the college's celebration of Environmental Awareness Month.

The free electronics recycling will be

offered from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the David Hartleb Technology Center Parking Lot on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St.

ACT Secured Recycling of Lawrence will be available to collect outdated personal computers, laptops, fax machines, cell phones, electronics, copiers, wires and cables. No televisions, projection screens, or household appliances will be accepted.



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Classical Guitar Concert Continues MCC's Free Music Series

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2013 spring concert series, continues with a performance by classical guitarist Jérôme Mouffe at 8 p.m. Friday, April 12, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6) on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

MCC's newest music faculty member, Mouffe is a virtuoso guitarist from Belgium who has dazzled international audiences with his passionate and spontaneous playing. He will perform solo works by Isaac Albéniz, Agustin Barrios Mangore, Giulio Regondi and Paco de Lucia.



A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's FREE spring concert series, continues with a performance by classical guitarist Jérôme Mouffe, at 8 p.m. Friday, April 12, in the MCC Concert Hall (Building 6), on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. Call 781-280-3923 for information.

Other events in MCC's free A World of Music concert series include "Music Influenced by Islam" at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 27, in MCC's Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus.

For more information about A World of Music, contact Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta, director, at peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3923. For directions, visit: www.middlesex.mass.edu.

Middlesex Community College Lowell Campus Open House

Middlesex Community College will host an Open House on its Lowell campus from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 6, in the Lowell City Building Cafeteria, located at 33 Kearney Square.

Prospective students and their families will have the opportunity to learn about MCC's more than 75 degree and certificate programs, as well as noncredit courses, tutoring, academic and career counseling, disability support and other special programs. Students can turn in college

applications or schedule appointments for placement testing.

Students are invited to participate in breakout sessions to explore specific areas of academic interest, learn about financial aid, or take a campus tour.

For more information or to register for MCC's Lowell campus Open House, call 1-800-318-3434 or visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/admissions/openhouse/ohform.aspx>.

Middlesex to Host Transition Program Information Session

A Public Information Session about Middlesex Community College's nationally recognized Transition Program, a two-year, noncredit certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities, will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, April 25, in MCC's Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road.

Prospective students and their families will receive a mandatory overview of the program, as well as in-depth information on the curriculum, application procedures, details of the required internship portion of the program, and prospective job opportunities.

Transition is a unique, specialized program designed for students without the skills necessary to complete requirements for an associate degree. Transition Program students attend classes designed to teach independent-living skills, computer and

job-survival skills, and social skills. They will also be placed in an internship program. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities while receiving specialized coursework and training tailored to meet their needs.

Candidates should have a high school diploma or GED credential, interest in training for entry-level work in business and industry, fifth- to eighth-grade level reading and math skills, and the maturity and emotional stability to effectively participate in a program on a college campus.

To register for MCC's Transition Program Public Information Session, call 781-280-3630.

For more information about The Transition Program at Middlesex, contact Kathy Matheson, Disability Support Services, at 781-280-3525.

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COOPERATIVE EDUCATION COLUMN**

Vasayda: Tuxedo Cat - Female

What a fun, affectionate girl Vasayda is! She is 8 years young, very affectionate and loveable. She freely gives head butts and loves to be snuggled and cuddled. A little more outgoing than her other family members, Jacoby and Mr. Kitty, she spreads the love around by cuddling the other cats. These three kitties came to the adoption center when their owner moved. They do not have to be adopted together. All are mellow and outgoing and would do fine in separate homes, but if you were looking for 2 or 3 cats that already love each other, this family is pre-made for you.



Vasayda loves her treats and will come running for them. She is a plump girl who could use a little more exercise, but she is good natured, good with children, and would make a great family pet. She might be ok with a mellow dog given a slow introduction.

Jacoby: Tuxedo - Male

Jacoby is a short haired Tuxedo boy with white mittens and bib and a cute little white chin strap. He is a little reserved for just a few minutes when you first meet him, but he can easily be won over with catnip and treats. He will be doing back rolls for you in no time. Jacoby is only 8 years old, with a long life ahead of him. He loves to be petted and held, and is quite playful. He is outgoing and affectionate, and would make a great family pet. He has only ever been an indoor kitty.



Jacoby lived with his sister Vasayda and another family member, Mr. Kitty. Their owner moved and couldn't take them along. All are available for adoption. They make a great family of kitties but do not have to be adopted together. Jacoby would do fine in a home with another mellow kitty and would be ok with older respectful children. He might even be ok with a mellow dog.

Mr. Kitty: Domestic Short Hair-Black And White - Male

Mr. Kitty is one special boy. When you meet him, he may be a little shy for a few seconds, but with a gentle head scratch and a soft voice, you will make fast friends with him. Before you know it, he will be looking for pats and giving you head butts. At 12 years old, Mr. Kitty lived his entire life in one home until the family moved to an apartment that wouldn't allow cats. He is outgoing and playful and enjoys being petted and picked up. He loves to be brushed and he uses a cardboard scratching board.



Mr. Kitty came to the adoption center with two buddies: Jacoby and Vasayda. He can be adopted with one or both of these sweet kitties, or Mr. Kitty can be adopted separately to a new home. Mr. Kitty deserves a chance to live his senior years with a loving person or family. Maybe he is your next best friend?

Henry: Button Quail - Male

Henry is a button quail. He is very cute and soft. Henry is looking to hang out with other small birds or with a single female button quail. Button Quails are very soft and fun to watch. They make funny noises and keep you entertained for hours. Feel Free to contact the MSPCA - Small Animal Staff person at 978-687-7453 ext, 61 01 or e-mail us at smallmammals@mspc.org for more information.



Silent Bob: Hamster - Male

Silent Bob is a tiny, adorable hamster sweetheart who will brighten up your life! Come visit our Small Animals rooms and see why adopting a small guy is a great option for many families who want to adopt a pet.



One of three MSPCA Animal Care and Adoption Centers statewide, the MSPCA at Nevins Farm in Methuen cared for more than 7,000 animals last year. The MSPCA does not receive state or federal funding and continues its work based solely on the generosity of its supporters. The Noble Family Animal Care & Adoption Center at Nevins Farm is located at 400 Broadway, Rte. 28 in Methuen and is open to the public from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays; 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wednesdays & Fridays; 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. To contact the MSPCA at Nevins Farm regarding adoptions and programs please call (978) 687-7453 x. 6101 or on the Web at: www.mspca.org/nevins.

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

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JOB OPENING

**CITY OF LAWRENCE
MASSACHUSETTS**



MAYOR WILLIAM LANTIGUA

**LABORER/MEO
PAY GRADE: \$16.19 PER HOUR
UNION: CHAPTER 3, SEIU, LOCAL 615**

Duties: Performs a variety of unskilled labor duties of which the following are typical examples; (1) Plants, cultivates, fertilizes, waters, sprays, and propagates plants, shrubs, trees, hedges, ground covers, and flowers; (2) Seeds or sods new lawns; fertilizes, maintains, and waters lawns; (3) Rakes, hoes, weeds, and performs general grounds maintenance and laboring tasks; (4) Spades and fertilizes flower beds and sets out plants; (5) aid in keeping the grounds of public buildings clean, orderly, and free from pests, insects, diseases, and fungi; (6) trims and prunes hedges, trees, shrubs, and stakes trees; (7) supports sporting events by assembling, erecting and dismantling tents, equipment, and related event equipment; (8) makes minor repairs to parks equipment; (9) makes repairs to athletic/sports facilities and/or contact supervisor for such repairs; (10) paints and repairs park benches; (11) cleans gutters and drains; (12) sweeps paths and driveways; (13) may drive light truck or other light equipment in connection with the assigned responsibility and maintain and make minor adjustments to the equipment (if needed); (14) open and close Stadium as outlined in the Veterans Stadium log schedule; (15) make arrangements for security personnel access; (16) hear complaints from customers and vendors.

Qualifications: One year full-time paid experience in general grounds maintenance work and education equivalent to graduation of high school, or any recent training such as academic courses and certification programs which are relevant to this job classification. A Commonwealth of Massachusetts Driver's License is mandatory. Commercial Driver's License a plus.

DEADLINE: APRIL 12, 2013. Applications and full job descriptions are available in the Personnel Department of the City of Lawrence, Frank Bonet –Personnel Director, Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street, Room 303, Lawrence, MA 01840

Download an application by visiting the city's website at www.cityoflawrence.com

The City of Lawrence is an Equal Opportunity Employer

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS are provided to applicants with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodations for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Personnel Director at (978) 620-3060. The decision on granting reasonable accommodations will be on a case-by-case basis.

JOB OPENING

**CITY OF LAWRENCE
MASSACHUSETTS**



MAYOR WILLIAM LANTIGUA

**Assistant City Attorney (Full Time)
Pay Grade \$65,000.00-\$85,000.00 Yearly
Non-Union, Exempt**

Duties: Under the direction of the City Attorney, shall assist the City Attorney in the performance of the duties of the office, including collection matters and tax title foreclosures; drafting of ordinances; representation of the City in Court, particularly in the Land Court and Federal Court and before administrative tribunals; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the City Attorney.

Qualifications:

- Law Degree, admission to Massachusetts Bar required
- Excellent writing, and organizational skills
- 7+ years' municipal law and litigation experience preferred. (Preference will be given to candidates with civil rights law experience, federal court trial experience, civil service, industrial accident, land use law, education law, MCAD experience, labor law experience, collective bargaining experience and experience before state and federal administration tribunals.)
- Computer proficiency desirable. MUNIS experience a plus.
- Bilingual (English / Spanish) candidates encouraged to apply.

Deadline to apply is UNTIL FILLED. Applications and full job descriptions are available in the Personnel Department of the City of Lawrence, Frank Bonet, Personnel Director, Lawrence City Hall 200 Common Street, Room 303, Lawrence, MA 01840

Download an application by visiting the city's website at www.cityoflawrence.com

The City of Lawrence is an Equal Opportunity Employer

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS are provided to applicants with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodations for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Personnel Director at (978) 620-3060. The decision on granting reasonable accommodations will be on a case-by-case basis.

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Fecha: 27 de Abril, 2013

Hora: 7:00 PM a 12:30 AM

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PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF LAWRENCE
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

DOC. 32/2013
In City Council
April 2, 2013



Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in the City Council Chambers, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of said Hearing is to gather testimony, information, and public input concerning the proposed amendment to the Revised Ordinances of the City of Lawrence to be amended by DELETING Chapter 8.28 of the Municipal Code (Regulating the Maintenance of Abandoned and Foreclosing Residential Properties) and inserting in its place and stead a new Chapter 8.28 (Regulating the Maintenance of Abandoned and Foreclosing Residential Properties). Subsections of the proposed amended Chapter of the Municipal Code will address the purpose of the section, provide applicable "Definitions", requirements pertaining to "Registration and Notice of Abandoned and/or Foreclosing Residential Properties", "Maintenance" requirements, "Sign and Marking" requirements, provide regulations regarding "Properties without Certificates of Compliance", "Expenses", "Nuisance Referral" regulations, and "Notice" requirements.

A complete and unabridged copy of the proposed amended Ordinance referenced herein shall be available for examination and copying at the Office of the City Clerk, 200 Common St., Lawrence, MA during business hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. A complete and unabridged copy of the proposed amended Ordinance referenced herein is also available on the City of Lawrence Website located at www.cityoflawrence.com..


Persons wishing to be heard on said matter shall be given the opportunity.

Attest: William J. Maloney, City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF LAWRENCE
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

DOC. 33/2013
In City Council
April 2, 2013



Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in the City Council Chambers, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of said Hearing is to gather testimony, information, and public input concerning the proposed amendment to the Revised Ordinances of the City of Lawrence to be amended by ADDING new Chapter 8.30 to the Municipal Code (Mediation of Foreclosures of Owner-Occupied Residential Properties) to be placed in proper numerical order. The subsections of the proposed new Chapter of the Municipal Code will address the "Purpose" of the Chapter, provide "Definitions", requirements pertaining to "Mediation Certification", "Establishment of a Mediation Program", the "Scope of Mediation Programs", "Confidentiality in Mediation", "Notice" requirements, "Administration of Mediation Programs

A complete and unabridged copy of the proposed amended Ordinance referenced herein shall be available for examination and copying at the Office of the City Clerk, 200 Common St., Lawrence, MA during business hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. A complete and unabridged copy of the proposed amended Ordinance referenced herein is also available on the City of Lawrence Website located at www.cityoflawrence.com..


Persons wishing to be heard on said matter shall be given the opportunity.

Attest: William J. Maloney, City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF LAWRENCE
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

DOC. 53/2013
In City Council
April 2, 2013



Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in Council Chambers, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of said hearing is to gather testimony, information, and public input concerning the proposed amendment to the Revised Ordinances of the City of Lawrence to be amended by ADDING the following new paragraph to Section 10.36.340 of the Municipal Code (Handicapped Parking), to be inserted in the proper alphabetical order:

Ferry Street, East side, from a point forty (40) feet southerly of the intersection of Mann Street to a point sixty (60) feet southerly of the intersection of Mann Street.


Persons wishing to be heard shall be given the opportunity.

Attest: William J. Maloney, City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF LAWRENCE
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

DOC. 63/2013
In City Council
April 2, 2013



Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in the City Council Chambers, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of said Hearing is to gather testimony, information, and public input concerning the proposed approval of the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Annual Action Plan budget for fiscal year 2014 for the City of Lawrence. The Fiscal Year 2014 HUD Annual Action Plan and Budget, with the Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] estimated in the amount of \$1,306,172.00 and the HOME Grant estimated in the amount of \$552,548.00.

A copy of the petition and supporting documentation concerning this matter may be examined at The Lawrence Community Development Department, 225 Essex Street – 3rd Floor, Lawrence, MA on any business day between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. A copy of the petition and other documents may also be examined and copies in the Office of the City Clerk, 200 Common Street, Lawrence, MA on any business day between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Information concerning the proposed grants may also be obtained from the City of Lawrence Website at www.cityoflawrence.com/.

Persons wishing to be heard on said matter shall be given the opportunity.

Attest: William J. Maloney, City Clerk

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Si quiere una foto que vio en Rumbo, solo tiene que llamarnos al (978) 794-5360. Déjenos saber la edición y la página en la que vio la foto.

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