



CITY OF LAWRENCE  
MASSACHUSETTS

# The Common *NEWS*

[www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)

EDITION 1  
MAY / JUNE 2014



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you, The Common News. As a community, it is important for residents to know what is happening throughout the city. With this newsletter, we will bring you upcoming events, important messages from city departments, and news about our great city. More than that, this is a newsletter that I hope will encourage residents to come forward and share news and events that may be fitting for future issues of The Common News. For inquiries or submissions regarding our newsletter, please contact Wendy Luzon at [wluzon@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:wluzon@cityoflawrence.com) or Angelica Gil at [agil@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:agil@cityoflawrence.com). Thank you for taking the time to catch up with the latest news, and I look forward to bringing the community together as we continue to Make Lawrence Better.

Dan Rivera  
Mayor & CEO

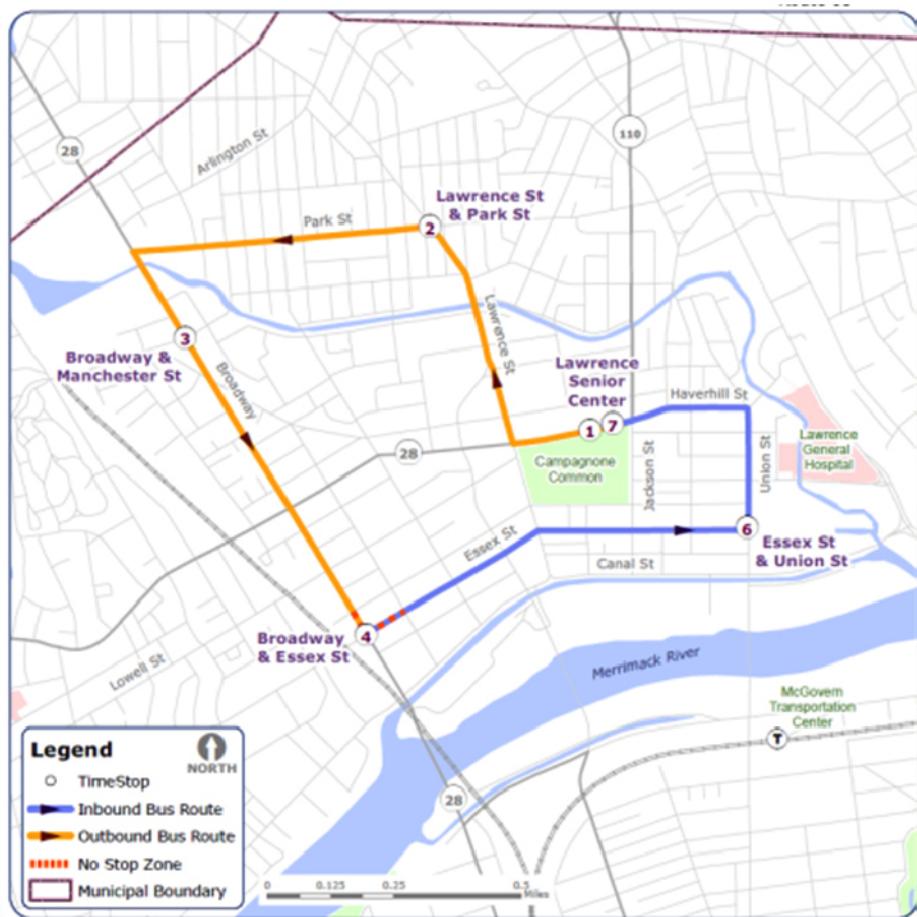
## CITY DEPARTMENTS NEWS

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Beginning July 1st of this year the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority will be enhancing its' service in the city of Lawrence. The first added service will be a new route that will take Lawrence residents from some of the more densely populated neighborhoods into our main commercial districts of Essex street and Broadway. The second service enhancement will begin on September 2nd. This enhancement will allow Lawrence residents to take advantage of the MVRTA bus service on Sundays. The Sunday MVRTA service will mirror that of the Saturday service. The same fee schedule applies, along with free transfers.

Please see below the new bus route:

### RTE. 85 LAWRENCE SHUTTLE



**MVRTA**  
Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority  
[WWW.MVRTA.COM](http://WWW.MVRTA.COM)

**\$1.00** WITH TAP AND RIDE CARD  
**\$1.25** WITH OUT CARD FREE TRANSFERS

## GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR HOMEOWNERS THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT!

The City of Lawrence Community Development Department has received a new \$2.5 million lead abatement grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant will be offered to 160 low to moderate income homeowners to make their homes lead safe and to address qualifying health issues as well as code violations in their property. For more information, please call: Olivia Rosa, Intake Specialist at 978-620-3522.

# CITY DEPARTMENT NEWS CONTINUED...

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In 2011, the Lawrence Lead Abatement Program received a \$3.1 million grant from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control to create 200 lead safe units by February 2014. In total, the grant enabled the program to complete 261 units, resulting in a final tally of 130% of the commitment. "This is great news for our residents," said Mayor Rivera. "Children and their families in Lawrence deserve safe, quality housing and I thank HUD for this grant that has made Lawrence a better place to live."

"Lawrence is a national model for how to run a lead program," said HUD Region I Director Taylor Caswell. "Lawrence has the best program in the Commonwealth and we want to recognize that."

Some of the successful elements of the program included:

- 266 Children in lead safe homes
- 961 residents in lead safe homes
- 261 Lead safe/child safe residential housing units (130% of the commitment to HUD)
- Training provided to 120 Lawrence residents who were certified to perform housing rehabilitation safely; some went on to receive deleading Worker License
- The Lawrence Lead Program was able to secure an additional \$623,495.66 in matching funds to expand services (non-city tax dollars)

## INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

Inspectional services began conducting weekend inspections in May. We will be selecting districts and looking for violations such as working without permits, zoning violations like unregistered vehicles, unprotected swimming pools, illegally parked commercial vehicles and trash violations. We will also try to use this time to educate residents and provide warnings.

## AIRPORT

The big news at the Airport is the announcement from MassDot Aeronautics Division that they are undertaking an airport administration building program at 15 airports across the Commonwealth. Lawrence will have its Airport Administration building renovated in 2017. The renovation is expected to cost approximately \$3.9 million dollars. The Commonwealth will provide a grant to cover 95% of the project costs.

## FIRE

The Fire Department is completing work on the Chickering Road/Winthrop Avenue traffic light situation. This should cut down on wait time for the turn arrow.

*Diane Hileman, Principal Clerk for Treasurers' Office & Ray Hileman, Lead Inspector for Inspectional Services*

## CEMETARY & VETERAN SERVICES

On Saturday, May 17, 2014 we held the 12th Annual Beautification Day organized through the Veterans Services Department in cooperation with both the Bellevue and Saint Mary's Cemeteries. Hundreds of volunteers picked up old flags around thousands of headstones and replaced them with brand new flags. Volunteers assisted with cleanup tasks throughout both cemeteries. Following the event was a cook-out at the Greater LawrenceCommunity Boating House in South Lawrence featuring food, music and Boat rides on the Merrimack River.



## PERSONNEL

**May - Employee of the Month:** Patti Denault, Administrative Assistant for Department of Public Works- 43 years of service.

**June - Employee of the Month:** Ray Hileman, Lead Inspector for Inspectional Services – 36 years of service.

Thank you Patti & Ray for your dedication, hard work and years of service to the City of Lawrence!



# WHY ARE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS IMPORTANT?

Neighborhoods generally organize to:

- Improve public safety and increase better communication with Lawrence Police
- Build a sense of community among neighbors
- Address a particular issue of the neighborhood
- Provide the neighborhood with an effective communication link with local government officials regarding policy, planning, and projects
- Empower residents to work together in improving their neighborhood

A neighborhood association brings people together to form a collective, united voice. A diverse group of neighbors can be a powerful force in building a unified community where people want to become involved in issues and neighbors lives. We all play a major role in making our neighborhood better. Please join your neighborhood association today!

For more information please call:

**Wendy Luzon, Neighborhood Planner**  
**City of Lawrence**  
**Community Development Department**  
**Phone: 978-620-3525**  
**Email: [wluzon@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:wluzon@cityoflawrence.com)**

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Over the next 14 months, the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) will participate in the development of Regional Transit Plans. These plans would give the MVRTA and other transit authorities the opportunity to improve local, fixed-route bus service, identify new markets and riders, address environmental concerns and meet the growing economic development needs of each region. There will be opportunities throughout the planning process for public input and feedback, including a public hearing on the final draft plan. To begin the survey, which is extremely important in preparation of the Regional Transit Plan, please visit link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MVRTASurvey>. Your participation will be very helpful in this regard.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: THE CITY OF LAWRENCE YARD SALE PROGRAM

### What is the City of Lawrence Yard Sale Program?

The City of Lawrence's Yard Sale Program is administered through the City's Planning Department and is designed to sell small, City-owned vacant lots to property owners whose property abuts to these lots. The overall goal of the Yard Sale Program is to decrease the density of Lawrence's residential neighborhoods by increasing the amount of yard space available to community residents.

### What kind of vacant lots will be sold through this program?

Only non-buildable, City-owned vacant lots can be sold through the Yard Sale Program. All lots sold through the Yard Sale Program are generally less than 4,000 square feet. Not all City-owned vacant lots are for sale. All vacant lots to be included in this program must first be approved by the Surplus Property Task Force, composed of key city employees appointed by the Mayor.

### What can a vacant lot be used for?

All Yard Sale Program lots are sold as non-buildable. Based upon this requirement, a vacant lot can only be used as an accessory use to the abutting property. Such uses may be for a garden, landscaped open space or off-street parking. In some cases, a vacant lot may be used for a garage or an addition to an existing structure. Any lot which is sold for a garage or an addition to an existing structure must be approved by the task force.

### Who can apply to buy a vacant lot through the Yard Sale Program?

A residential property owner whose property is located immediately adjacent to a vacant lot is eligible to apply.

### What is the first step to purchase a vacant lot through the Yard Sale Program?

If you are a direct abutter to a vacant lot, an exploratory call can be made to the Planning Department at (978) 620-3502.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## GOVERNOR PATRICK ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO CREATE PUBLIC PARK AT FERROUS SITE IN LAWRENCE



LAWRENCE – Wednesday, April 30, 2014 – Governor Deval Patrick announced a \$2.7 million investment to help create a public park at the Ferrous Site in Lawrence. The funding will help the City of Lawrence and its community partner, Groundwork Lawrence, acquire the site and create a park that will provide a quiet, natural respite within Lawrence's North Canal District and allow residents to access the Lower Locks waterfall and the riverfront. "Growth requires investment, and creating and then upgrading our urban parks will create growth and opportunity in Lawrence and beyond," said Governor Patrick. "This investment will improve the lives of the city's residents now and for generations to come."

The \$2.75 million investment is one of seven projects across the Commonwealth funded through the Patrick Administration's Signature Urban Parks program. Through this program, the Administration seeks to revitalize urban communities by opening up or upgrading green spaces for outdoor recreation, and improving access to natural resources such as waterways and historic neighborhood landmarks.

## YOUTH JOBS INITIATIVE ADDS A SPECIAL FEATURE: City offers businesses Two-Four-One Deal on Summer Jobs

In a program dubbed Match the Mayor, businesses are being asked to create 185 summer jobs for youths to match the 185 positions funded by the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board. Mayor Daniel Rivera is encouraging employers to hire a youth through the city's summer jobs program, and in return, the city will pay for an additional youth worker at the participating company. Businesses that want to help, but cannot hire youths, may donate \$1,550 to fund a position for a youth worker at a non-profit organization in the city.

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### Employers

If interested in participating in the program or learning more information, please call the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. at (978) 620-4702.

### Youth

If interested in applying for the program, please download the online application at [www.mvwib.org](http://www.mvwib.org) or call 978-722-7000.

## CITY OF LAWRENCE MAYOR'S HEALTH TASK FORCE CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH WITH ANNUAL BREAKFAST

On Saturday, May 10, 2014, 80 women from across the city joined Mayor Dan Rivera and the City of Lawrence Mayor's Health Task Force (MHTF), in their annual Women's Health Breakfast, themed "Celebrating the Woman Within You." This year's breakfast highlighted the power of gratitude through a workshop led by Gloria Davila, Med, MM, NCTMB, and her team from Perfectly Balanced Life, a Boston based group. The morning started off with welcome, acknowledgements and a brief overview of the reason for the annual celebration by MHTF's Coordinator, Vilma Lora. This was followed by an interactive session led by Gloria, mixed in with singing and dancing- ways of embracing gratitude and its power. The activity culminated in a dim-lit session of music and massages. Women left the event empowered, happy and ready for the next day... MOTHERS' DAY!! Special thanks to our partners and numerous sponsors for their ongoing support of this event and others hosted throughout the year!



## LOCAL BUSINESSES



In the first edition of MADE IN LAWRENCE, we highlight the long lasting success of Cardinal Shoes. Sitting along Lawrence's historic North Canal, Cardinal Shoes reminds us of our great history in manufacturing. In keeping that tradition, Cardinal Shoes recently celebrated their 50th year anniversary of producing quality products right here in Lawrence, MA.

Cardinal Shoes serves as a world-wide supplier of high quality footwear specializing in ballet and dance footwear. Through Cardinal Shoes, Lawrence manufacturing has reached consumer markets in over 80 different countries. As noted by owner Richard Bass, shoes manufactured right here in Lawrence can be seen at the highest levels of ballet performances across the globe.

Join us in applauding and celebrating the success and continued production of Lawrence made products!

## NEW BUSINESS - GRANDES SANDWICH

We welcome Grandes Sandwiches to the City of Lawrence!

Located at 61 Essex Street - Doors open at 9:00am

Daily specials include sandwich combinations and wraps, natural juices and milkshakes!



Picture: Mayor Daniel Rivera & Angel Sanchez, Owner



# MAKE LAWRENCE GREENER & CLEANER

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2014



On May 3rd, Groundwork Lawrence, Comcast, the City of Lawrence, and many other partners came together to clean up and complete beautification projects across Lawrence. Earth Day was a great success as close to 2,000 volunteers dedicated a day to making a positive impact on our community by planting trees, building community and schoolyard gardens, beautifying bridges and generally cleaning up our city. Volunteers participated as individuals, groups, and as corporate teams. They worked at 50 sites across Lawrence, including: parks, alleyways, and entrance ways into the city, downtown and identified clean up areas. Over 70 tons of trash was collected! Mayor Rivera would like to continue the clean-up effort and is encouraging residents to continue to clean your neighborhood beyond Earth Day. If you would like to form a team and continue cleaning efforts, please contact Rosa Pina at [rpina@groundworklawrence.org](mailto:rpina@groundworklawrence.org) or call 978-974-0770 x:7001. For additional information please visit [www.cleanlawrence.com](http://www.cleanlawrence.com)



## How to Avoid Over Flow Fines



## RECYCLING IS EASY!



Any inquiries or submissions for The Common News, please contact Wendy Luzon at [wluzon@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:wluzon@cityoflawrence.com) or Angelica Gil at [agil@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:agil@cityoflawrence.com)