



**CITY OF LAWRENCE
MASSACHUSETTS**

The Common **NEWS**



www.cityoflawrence.com

EDITION 2
JULY /AUGUST 2014

MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF STAFF SGT. ALEX R. JIMÉNEZ



Staff Sgt. Alex R. Jiménez was a son, a brother, an American soldier, and a Lawrence resident, amongst other things. In honor of his sacrifice, the City of Lawrence named the bridge on the corner of Canal and Marston Street after Jiménez. A bridge dedication ceremony was held in his memory back in November of 2013. Last month, a plaque to preserve the memory of Jiménez, our fallen soldier, was placed on the bridge.

The City gives special thanks to the following people for their contributions towards the construction of the bridge, the execution of the bridge dedication ceremony, and the creation of the plaque in Staff Sgt. Alex R. Jiménez's name: Mr. William Collins of Lawrence Veteran Services; Mr. Manny Diaz of the Diaz-Healy Funeral Home; Chief James Fitzpatrick of the Lawrence Police Department; Mr. Scott D. Kelloway, P.E., District 4, Assistant Construction Engineer; Mr. Jaime Luis Melendez, the Director of Veteran Services; Ms. Zoa Mendez of Mendez Flowerloons; Kevin and Mark Shea of Valley Monuments; and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Our soldiers are the true heroes of our nation. As long as the Staff Sgt. Alex R. Jiménez Bridge stands, Jiménez's acts of courage and valor will not be forgotten.



THE CITY OF LAWRENCE IS ON TWITTER

The City of Lawrence is on twitter. Get the latest on what's going on in Lawrence. Get up-to-date local government information, from news to events to arts to sports, you can follow us @COL1853. The Official Twitter account of the City of Lawrence. A Massachusetts community of excellence.

CITY DEPARTMENT NEWS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

This spring the Advisory Board recommended, the Mayor selected, and the City Council approved 21 social service support programs funded with HUD's Community Development Block Grant. They cover many community needs including: English for Speakers of Second Languages (ESOL), job training and workforce development, youth employment, and improvements to the Lawrence History Center. Each program is operated by a local non-profit organization, or in one case, the City's Council on Aging. HUD has just approved the grant, and the Community Development staff is working on contracts, starting with those programs that are operating this summer. We are very pleased with the quality of the applications and look forward to implementation of these very important programs.

Lawrence History Center - \$10,000 - Window and exterior brick repair

NE Veteran Liberty House - \$15,000 - Emergency housing support services for veterans

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund - \$15,000 - ESOL classes

Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence - \$10,000 - Homework support

Food for the World - \$10,000 - Food pantry services

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund - \$10,000 - Materials for a Culinary Arts/Food Service training program for out of school and unemployed Lawrence youth

Merrimack Valley YMCA - \$15,000 - An after-school music exploration program for at-risk youth

Greater Lawrence Community Action Council - \$15,000 - ESOL Adult Literacy Program

Lawrence Community Works - \$15,000 - ESOL classes

Lawrence Community Works - \$13,000 - Academic support, arts based enrichment activities, leadership development training, and mentoring.

Groundwork Lawrence - \$10,000 - A summer program focused on stewardship, the maintenance of open spaces, healthy living/food production and community outreach

Groundwork Lawrence - \$10,000 - Summer enrichment program

International Institute of Greater Lawrence - \$10,000 - Expansion of English program

Asian Center of Merrimack Valley - \$10,000 - The English Communication for Employment Program

Lawrence Community Boating Program, Inc. - \$15,000 - Boating, recreation, and leadership development for low and moderate-income youth

Lawrence Council on Aging - \$10,000 - Exercise classes for low to moderate income individuals

LMCC c/o The Community Group - \$10,000 - Materials & supplies for neighborhood organized projects

Arlington Community Trabajando - \$10,000 - Job training and jobs for low-and moderate income youth.

YWCA of Greater Lawrence - \$5,000 - 24/7 support services for homeless victims of domestic violence

Notre Dame Education Center - \$10,000 -ESOL classes

Centro de Apoyo Familiar - \$10,000 - Support services to youths ages 12 to 24

POLICE - BACK TO SCHOOL 'SAFETY TIPS'

- School Zone = No phone zone, use crosswalk and sidewalks.
- Teach children to look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.
- Walk the route with your child beforehand. Tell him or her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there aren't many people around.
- Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies.
- Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children don't know well or don't trust.
- Teach your children that if anyone bothers them or makes them feel scared or uncomfortable that they should trust their feelings and immediately get away from that person. Teach them it is ok to say no.



ASSESSORS

Assessing Department Fiscal 2015 Triennial Valuation Update.

It is the duties of the City of Lawrence Assessor's Office to determine the full and fair cash values of all properties within the City on a triennial basis, including a complete data collection of all properties every nine years. All work performed in this regard is subject to the certification of the Bureau of Local Assessment of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The City utilizes the services of Real Estate Research Consultants (RRC) to assist the Assessors' Office in the performance of all the services as listed above.

For the past several months, data collectors have been performing interior and exterior field inspections at properties throughout the City as part of the department's triennial certification. All valid arms' length sales occurring in calendar year 2013 will be inspected and analyzed. All new residential, commercial, industrial building permits and personal property accounts will be discovered, listed and valued. The representatives will carry a photo badge by which his or her status as an Assessing Department employee can be verified.

AIRPORT

Next month the Airport will enhance its security measures with the installation of an airport-wide video surveillance system. The surveillance cameras will not only display in the Airport's administration building, but they will also be displayed on a dedicated monitor in the North Andover Police Department's communication center, and will also be made available to the MassDOT Aeronautics Division's Aeronautical Inspector through a secure web connection. The addition of video surveillance will complement the airport radio frequency monitoring system known as "G.A.R.D." that was installed at the airport last week. Both the video surveillance and the radio frequency monitoring system are funded by the MassDOT Aeronautics Division at no cost to the Airport.

WATER

Water Main Cleaning and Lining Work. The Lawrence Water & Sewer Department is beginning the first two phases of the 2014 water main cleaning and lining project on Monday, June 23rd. The first phase will include the Hancock Street area, where water quality and quantity issues have made this area a high priority. This work is expected to continue through August 8th. The second phase will include Parker, Winthrop, and South Union Streets. The work is expected to continue through September 18th.

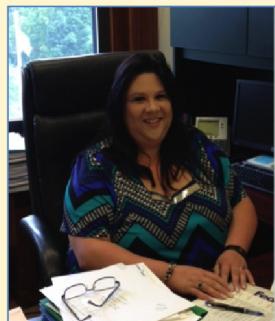
The work will result in temporary water interruption to homes and businesses in these areas. Services where water main work is to be completed will be connected to a temporary bypass feed. This work is being funded in part by the State Revolving Fund grant program and will lead to improved operations of the City's infrastructure. If you have any questions during this time, please do not hesitate to contact the Lawrence Water & Sewer Department by calling 978-620-3110.

PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2014 – RITA BROUSSEAU, PURCHASING AGENT

With over 30 years of service to the City of Lawrence, Rita has definitely earned the recognition for 'Employee of the Month'. Rita has climbed her way up the public sector ladder, starting as a Record Clerk for the Lawrence Police Department in 1985, then moving into the Comptroller Office in 1991 as Principal Account Clerk and continued to work in this position until 2001. Rita then became the Assistant Purchasing Clerk in 2001; due to her high level of work experience, ethics and dedication to the City; Rita was promoted to Purchasing Agent in 2012. Rita is responsible for the oversight and management of procurement of goods, services and construction services utilized by all city departments.

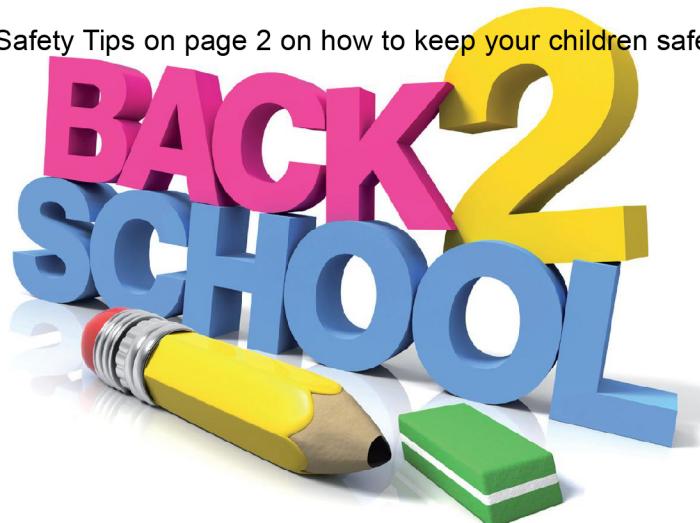
FIRE 'SAFETY TIPS'

The Fire Department has had a busy period with overheated electric wiring. We would like to suggest that residents be aware of using the correct extension cords that are rated for fans. The cord should service the fan and only the fan. A salesperson at your local hardware store should be able to explain and show you the proper cord. Air conditioners should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle. Extra heavy duty extension cords are made specifically for air conditioners but are not a safe solution. Follow these tips and all will be "cool".



DRIVE SAFELY - SCHOOL IS BACK

The Lawrence Public Schools website has a new look including helpful information on parent resources and more! Please visit the site at: www.lawrence.k12.ma.us
Please make sure to read the Lawrence Police Department Safety Tips on page 2 on how to keep your children safe throughout the year.



THE CITY OF LAWRENCE IS PLEASED TO WELCOME DISTRICT A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (D.A.N.A)

D.A.N.A does the following:

- Advocates for Community: Represents neighborhood interests to local government and advocates for community priorities.
- Organizes Community Events: Plans block parties, festivals, neighborhood clean-ups, other community projects.

You Can Make a Difference!

Attend your D.A.N.A meetings: Anyone that lives, works, or owns property can attend D.A.N.A meetings. Become an important part of discussions involving community and city affairs. Participate on a Committee: Organize events and activities. Become an Officer: Make decisions and prioritize neighborhood plans.

For more information contact Maria De La Cruz
(978) 303-7243

Meeting - 1st Wednesday of every Month
Where: 112 A East Haverhill Street Lawrence, MA 01841
Time: 6:00 pm

Important: Neighborhood associations are grassroots residents groups that work towards bettering their particular neighborhoods. They are neither City agencies nor City Departments. The City recognizes their efforts and collaborates to maintain and beautify all neighborhoods in Lawrence.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION!

Attend a meeting and you will:

- Find out what is going on in your neighborhood.
- Hear from Police about safety and crime.
- Meet your neighbors and City Councilor(s).
- Learn about fun local events and activities!
- Children are welcome!

**Please join us October 25th, for the
Neighborhood Association Awareness Fair!
10am - 1pm at The Lawrence Senior Center.
For more information, contact Wendy Luzon
at 978-620-3525 or wluzon@cityoflawrence.com**



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 29th-31st - Feast of the Three Saints Festival on Common Street
- September 1st - Bread and Roses Heritage Festival at the Campagnone Common – 12pm-6pm
- September 6th - 1st annual Jazz Festival at the Campagnone Common – 3pm-8pm
- September 26th - March of the Brides at Plaza 114 on Turnpike Street – 5pm
- September 27th - National Day of Remembrance for Murdered Victims at the Campagnone Common – 1pm-3pm
- October 18th - Revival of Unity Concert at LHS Performing Arts Center – 6pm-9pm

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



L-R – James Fitzpatrick, Acting Police Chief; John Marsh, Fire Chief; Mayor Dan Rivera; Maria De La Cruz, Resident & District A Organizer along with many residents who came out to support NNO

National Night Out is an annual event to promote awareness about crime and drug prevention, to generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. It is an opportunity for communities to come together for a common cause - safety. Last year in the US, over 37 million people participated. In Lawrence, fourteen neighborhoods came together this past August 4th and 5th to mark this year's National Night Out. The festivities were held at the Campagnone Common Park on the first night and they were held at various locations throughout Lawrence on the second.

This year's National Night Out would not have been possible without the coordination and, most importantly, the dedication of the Lawrence Methuen Community Coalition (LMCC) with support from the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) along with the generous support from local businesses and organizations. Those organization include: Lawrence Community Works, Groundwork Lawrence, Arlington Community Trabajando, Loft-Five Fifty, Lawrence Training School, the Sacred Heart/ Brookfield St. Neighborhood Association, the Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association, the Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Association, the Prospect Hill/ Back Bay Neighborhood Association, District A Neighbors, the Lawrence Youth Team, the General Donavon Neighborhood Association, YouthBuild Lawrence, the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association, and the Lawrence Boys' and Girls' Club.

SEMANA HISPANA



Semana Hispana celebrated its 35th annual festivities this past June. The theme of this year's festival was "Honor Our Heroes" and was dedicated to local veterans. Semana Hispana kicked off the festivities with a V.I.P. Luncheon, attended by many residents, business owners, and special guests Mayor Daniel Rivera and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren. The celebration continued with an array of Hispanic Cultural Nights which spanned over 6 days. Venezuelans, Colombians, Peruvians, Mexicans, Ecuadorians, Dominicans, and Puerto Ricans all had the opportunity to share a taste of their heritage with the community on those nights. The Cultural Nights were followed by a weekend long festival at the Campagnone Common, which included carnival rides and games, live performance by local artists, music, and food. The annual parade, which winds through the city, wrapped up the festivities.



L-R – Mayor Rivera, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and Jose Davila, President of Semana Hispana at the V.I.P. Luncheon

JADE BUDDHA FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE CELEBRATION

The Jade Buddha for Universal Peace is the largest Buddha carved from gemstone quality jade in the world. The Jade Buddha is 2.7 meters high, weighs 4 tons, and sits on a 1.4 meter high alabaster throne. The Buddha is considered priceless, but, more importantly, it is a wonder of the world. The Jade Buddha has been exhibited around the world for all people, irrespective of their religion, to appreciate its sheer size and beauty. The Lumbini Buddhist Temple at 79 Margin Street in Lawrence, MA had the honor of hosting the Jade Buddha recently from June 26th to July 13th. Mayor Daniel Rivera himself attended the opening Ceremony on June 28th. As a symbol of peace, the Jade Buddha serves as motivation for the community, motivation to aspire towards harmony in all aspects of our lives.



Mayor Rivera supporting the Jade Buddha Celebration



The Jade Buddha Statue

LAWRENCE CICLOVÍA



When the Healthy Active Living Working Group of the Mayor's Health Task Force was introduced to the concept of a ciclovía last May, little did Betsy Goodrich of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, and champions of the cause such as Dr. John Raser, know of the appeal this event would have on our partners. On Sunday, August 03, city officials, partners, children and their families, volunteers, and visitors from as far away as Boston, all came out to support this wonderful event put together as a part of the S.A.L.S.A. Campaign, encouraging active lifestyles for our residents.

This Open Streets event could not have been possible without the kind sponsorship and support of: the Holy Family Hospital, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Everett Mills, NESC Federal Credit Union, Coady's Garage and Towing Services, Merrimack College's School of Education and Social Policy, and Community Benefits, Northern Essex Community College, Groundwork Lawrence, RM Technologies, Neighborhood Health Plan, Cedars Mediterranean Foods, Inc, and the Lawrence General Hospital's Emergency Services team.

LOCAL BUSINESSES



In this edition of "MADE IN LAWRENCE" we recognize the creative and specialized work of National Fiber Technology. NFT manufacture custom-made specialized performance fur fabrics, hair and wigs used by the entertainment market for movies, television, theme parks, theater and special effects. Their products can be seen on the backs of the Grinch, King Kong, The Energizer Bunny, The Cat in the Hat, and the monsters in Where The Wild Things Are. Join us in celebrating and applauding the wonderful work of NFT!



NEW BUSINESSES



Congratulations to the owners of Pollo Centro at their new location at 436 South Union Street



We Welcome SCOOPTOPIA - Located at 360 Merrimack St Building 9, Entrance K Serving Gelato, Sorbet and Ice Cream made right in the shop!

MAKE LAWRENCE GREENER & CLEANER



Given the current condition of the city's streets and sidewalks, Mayor Rivera and the Department of Public Works are addressing the issue head on by hiring 25 temporary laborers and taking twelve (12) weeks to provide exceptional, general maintenance to all areas in the city in need of cleaning, including lots and public areas. This new city-wide

clean-up initiative, headed by Mayor Rivera and the Department of Public Works, is known as "Clean Lawrence." Not only will the initiative create visible change in Lawrence, we hope it will also encourage our residents to take ownership and pride of their homes, their neighborhoods, and the surrounding areas.

Under the guidance of Moises Brea and John Isensee, respectively Lawrence's Recycling Coordinator and Director of Public Works, the twenty-five laborers will also be conducting door to door visits throughout the community in order to make residents aware of their efforts. As well, they will be providing residents with informal training and basic knowledge of:

- Recycling in the city
- Homeowner responsibilities
- Tips on how to maintain neighborhood cleanliness
- How to report any illegal dumping of waste
- City's ordinances on trash and litter

If you know of any streets or areas in need of cleaning, please contact the Department of Public Works office at (978) 620-3090.

YARD WASTE SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2014

September:

- Monday 08 through Friday 12
- Monday 15 through Friday 19
- Monday 22 through Friday 26

October:

- Monday 29 through Friday 3
- Tuesday 14 through Saturday 18
- Monday 20 through Friday 24
- Monday 27 through Nov 31

For more information please call: Moises Brea, Recycling Coordinator - 978-620-3311.

13TH ANNUAL SPICKET RIVER CLEANUP!



Sat, Sept. 13th, 8am-1pm
at Manchester Park,
75 Manchester Street, Lawrence, Ma

Volunteers needed!

To sign up or for more information, contact Rosa Piña at 978-974-0770 x1 or at rpin@groundworklawrence.org

CENTRO DE APOYO FAMILIAR (CAF), HEALTHY FAMILIES: HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE CLEAN UP COMMUNITY EVENT

Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF) in partnership with the Church Iglesia de Dios de la Profecia, Manos que Ayudan, Inc., Groundwork Lawrence and the City of Lawrence conducted a community clean-up event Saturday July 26, 2014. The clean-up focused on the Dr. Nina Scarito park on Brook Street and was designed to help beautify the community, encourage neighbors to come together, and provide a service and learning opportunity for area youths and families. It was a great success about: 40 trash bags were collected and more than 50 volunteers participated, the majority from Church Iglesia de Dios de la Profecias, as well as other people from the neighborhood. This event is the beginning of CAF's initiative Healthy Families, Healthy Neighborhoods, a program for churches to be active and collaborate in their communities as part of CAF Community Transformation model with the faith-based community. For more information about this clean-up event call Centro de Apoyo Familiar 978.332.7108.



Any inquiries or submissions for The Common News, please contact Wendy Luzon at wluzon@cityoflawrence.com or Angelica Gil at agil@cityoflawrence.com