



**CITY OF LAWRENCE
MASSACHUSETTS**

The Common NEWS



www.cityoflawrence.com

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Residents and Friends of the City of Lawrence,

Happy New Year! Although we have had a snowy start, it is with great excitement that we enter a new year here in Lawrence. What a difference a year makes! We have been working tirelessly to Make Lawrence Better. That being said, there is still much to do. I want to take a moment to wish you health, wealth and happiness in 2015. I am looking forward to another year of challenge, change, and improvement for our City.

Sincerely,
Mayor Daniel Rivera

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER GRAND OPENING



Over 200 people attended the ribbon cutting for the new Family Resource Center for the Lawrence Public Schools on the lower floor of 60 Island St. One of the center's goals is to increase parent involvement in their child's education and provide services to families who are socially and economically challenged. The Family Resource Center will also offer workshops for businesses to discuss the job opportunities available and how to apply for them. At the ceremony, families got the opportunities to meet with representatives from 15 local agencies that provide service to families. Among these agencies; LCW, MHTF, Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Family Services, Compass for Kids, Lawrence Training School, Northern Essex Community College, and YWCA of Lawrence. (At the ceremony, members of the Lawrence High School Girls' Choir performed.)

Mayor Rivera, Superintendent Riley, and Nelson Batten, Director of Community, Family & Student Engagement were all in attendance to welcome everyone to the new Center.

GOVERNOR BAKER, MAYOR RIVERA & STATE DELEGATION ANNOUNCE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT FUNDS \$95K TO MAKE INTERSECTION SAFER

On February 5th, Governor Charlie Baker, with Mayor Daniel Rivera, State Senator Barbara L'Italien, State Representative Marcos Devers, State Representative Frank Moran and State Representative Diana DiZoglio, announced in a press conference an important intersection project that will be funded in part by additional Chapter 90 funds released in early January by Governor Baker. The intersection of Lawrence Street and Park Street will undergo a roadway improvement project. "I appreciate the opportunity to join Mayor Rivera and members of our state delegation to announce this important new construction project," said Governor Baker. "On our first day in office, we proudly released these funds as a commitment to local governments to ensure access to the infrastructure funds they were promised to repair roads, sidewalks and bridges."

\$95,000 in newly released Chapter 90 funds will go towards planning and engineering work that will get the City of Lawrence to a one hundred percent design plan of the Park Street/ Lawrence Street intersection reconstruction project. The Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization voted yesterday to include this intersection work in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The completion of the design plan will allow the city to receive \$1.2M from MassDOT to break ground on the project. "Governor Baker and his administration have done a great thing for the City of Lawrence," said Mayor Daniel Rivera. "These Chapter 90 funds are allowing us to transform the most dangerous traffic intersection in our city into an intersection that boasts driver and pedestrian safety in one of the poorest census tracts in the State. I am grateful for the work that Governor Baker is doing to help Make Lawrence Better and assist cities and towns; I look forward to continued collaboration in the future."





CITY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CITY RECEIVES \$3.925M TO IMPROVE MERRIMACK STREET



The City of Lawrence successfully applied for a MassWorks grant from the State for infrastructure improvements to support economic development. In doing so, Lawrence was one of 31 applications to receive \$67 million in funding from a pool of 150 and received the 6th largest award.

The need for improvements to Merrimack Street is recognized in various studies, including one by MassDOT in 1998 and MVPC's Priority Growth Strategy, especially if the City is to successfully support job growth in areas where commercial redevelopment is ripe for investment opportunity.

The grant application includes funding for roadway improvements along Merrimack Street from I495 to South Union Street, and land use planning study for the stretch between South Union and Broadway Streets.

Proposed physical improvements include roadway and signal improvements; new sidewalks, bicycle lanes and covered bus shelters; reconstruction of approximately 4,500 linear feet of Merrimack Street; modified lights signals to allow synchronization and a new signal; and signalized pedestrian crosswalks. The city is embarking on completing its design in the coming months in order to begin construction in spring.

CONNECTING HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

On Wednesday, December 10, 2014, Evelyn Urena (left) and Elecia Miller (right), attended the Neighbor Works America's annual Health and Housing Symposium in Washington DC. The pair was able to participate in an all-day symposium, "Exponential Impact: Connecting Health, Housing and Community", which looked at the impact of housing and community development efforts on community health outcomes. Housing is a major contributor to one's health and wellbeing; therefore it is a public health issue. The quality of housing will determine one's indisposition to chronic illnesses such as asthma, nutritional, and mental statuses.



FIRE DEPARTMENT



The New Year has started with the approval, by Mayor Rivera and City Council, for much-needed fire station repairs and an important approval for the purchase of a new Snorkel ladder truck. Our present truck has been unusable for the past year. A reserve ladder truck is currently in service until a new vehicle arrives. Three new firefighters have been added to the force and are now assigned to Fire Alarm. This will free up three other firefighters to man the trucks. The mayor is looking to hire several additional firefighters in the near future when two retirements free up additional spots.

Winter time brings with it an increase in heating related calls and fires. The suggestions and tips below are well worth reading:

- Make sure there are working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level including one outside the bedrooms.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly and change batteries twice a year, when you move the clocks ahead and when you move the clocks back.
- Fires caused by space heaters are rare but often deadly. If you must use a space heater, do so safely. Use only heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not use space heaters as your #1 heating source. Always turn off when going to bed or leaving home. Keep anything that can burn three feet away.
- Only electrically powered heaters are allowed. Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in Massachusetts for use in a home or apartment. The dangers of spilled fuel are too great.

PERSONNEL

JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH CAMILLE FORNESI



Camille Fornesi has worked for the City of Lawrence for the past 16 years as the Principal Clerk for the Inspectional Services department. Camille's responsibilities include, but not limited to: face to face customer service in the main office; intake safety & health complaints; scheduling inspections; data entry; accounts payable & receivables. The City of Lawrence would like to thank Camille Fornesi for her years of service and hard work in the Inspectional Services department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY RECIEVES \$1.3M TO FIGHT CRIME

State Senator Barry Finegold, State Representative Frank Moran, State Representative Marcos Devers, State Representative Diana DiZoglio and Mayor Dan Rivera, announced in a press conference that the city has been awarded a state public safety staffing grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security totaling \$1,005,294 to fight crime in Lawrence. "These grants will help us keep our police force on the street; specifically, it will allow us to redeploy our summer noise reduction vehicle, continue our walking patrols on Essex Street and Broadway and begin to re-staff our community policing efforts," said Mayor Rivera. "Lawrence would not be getting safer without this help from our State Delegation." Additionally, the City of Lawrence was awarded a Shannon Community Safety Initiative Award of \$328,680 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. The Shannon Grant specifically targets at-risk youth.

The city has been making strides towards making Lawrence safer. The funds received in this staffing grant will help the force to create new ways to not only combat crime, but to be pro-active in preventing it. "These funds will help our department continue to run at a high speed," said Interim Police Chief James Fitzpatrick. "It will allow us to focus more police in hot spots and towards targeted crime reduction, such as auto theft."



FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH DEANA GARSIDE



Deana Garside lives in Methuen with her husband and 2 children. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Salem State and has over 17 years' experience in Payroll and Human Resources. Deana has been with the City of Lawrence since December 2, 2013. As the Payroll Specialist, Deana processes the payroll for City Employees, answers employee inquiries, and tracks accruals. She works with other team members to resolve payroll issues with the goal of being more efficient. Thanks for all of your hard work Deana!

VETERAN'S SERVICES MAYOR RIVERA AND THE LAWRENCE COMMUNITY PAY TRIBUTE TO DAVID B. LEE, FALLEN LAWRENCE WWII SOLIDER

On the tenth of January the Lawrence community gathered for the re-dedication of David B. Lee square, seventy years to the day of the World War II hero's death. The ceremony was organized by Jaime Melendez; Director of Veteran's Services and took place on the corner of Common and Hampshire streets. The small crowd gathered at the square included Mayor Daniel Rivera, Lawrence community members, and members of the American Legion's Boston Chinatown Post. The square was initially dedicated to Lee in 1946, but the original plaque went missing over time. It was found in St. Mary's Cemetery in 2013. It was decided to wait until the anniversary of Lee's ultimate sacrifice to re-commemorate the hero with a new plaque. Lee was of Chinese-American descent. His family owned and operated businesses in Lawrence, including a coin operated laundry mat. The fallen soldier fought under General Patton and was member of the 712th Tank Battalion. He lost his life at age 22, during the infamous Battle of Bulge in Luxemburg, one of the bloodiest battles in history. He received a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster for his sacrifice. Lee is buried in the Luxemburg American Cemetery.



COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

GOVERNOR BAKER VISITS ROBERT FROST SCHOOL

The day before Governor-elect, Charlie Baker, was inaugurated as Massachusetts 72nd Governor, he took the time to tour the Frost School. He was accompanied by his wife, his Lieutenant Governor and Mayor Rivera. Baker spent time in classrooms, speaking with the student's one and one. He was also treated to a series of performances by students, including a reading of a poem entitled "We are the Frost", performances of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Suessical the Musical" at the Frost Educational Complex. The visit was the first of many for Baker, as he intends to take a statewide tour of school institutions. The governor-elect is making a point to emphasize the importance of education. He addressed the students stating that "This is where you lay the foundation for your future." Baker spoke to the hundreds in attendance, commending the Frost School and all Lawrence Public Schools for their dramatic improvements in academics in the last two years.



CHIEF CARLOS GARCIA AWARDED AUXILIARY POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



On Friday, January 16, 2015, the Lawrence Auxiliary Police Department awarded Chief Carlos Garcia the title of "Auxiliary Officer of the Year." The title of "Auxiliary Officer of the Year" is awarded to the person who best demonstrates a devotion to duty and public service, and whose conduct and contributions exemplify the purpose of the Auxiliary Unit. The celebration was addressed by Mayor Rivera, Interim Chief James Fitzpatrick, and Lt. Shawn Conway.

Lawrence Auxiliary Officers, Interim Police Chief James Fitzpatrick, Lt. Shawn Conway and Mayor Rivera supporting Chief Carlos Garcia (center)

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WITH THE LURA SMITH FUND AND MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Hundreds gathered at the Tsongas Center at Umass Lowell on January 19th for the lively annual Celebration of the Life of Martin Luther King. The event is run by Lura Smith, Assistant to the President of Middlesex Community College, and honored the life and work of the courageous activist by displaying dance groups, special presentations, emotional gospel choir performances, and many speakers on King's legacy.

The beautiful event also centered on recognizing local figures. Smith commemorated the president of Middlesex Community College, Carole Cowan who will be retiring this year. Taking her place will be Dr. James Mabry, who also attended the event. Chancellor Mary Meehan was honored with the "Living the Dream" award presented to him by Lura Smith. Mayor Rivera also presented Meehan with a citation from the city of Lawrence. All proceeds from the event went toward the Lura Smith Family Scholarship at Middlesex Community College.



Mayor Rivera with Lura Smith, of the Lura Smith Fund

FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION RALLY



Residents Supporting the Rally



Mayor Rivera thanks the First Responders for all their hard work.

The rally for the Police, Fire, and First Responders was the idea of Frank Cantwell of South Lawrence. With all that is happening across the country he felt we needed to recognize these brave men and women for all they do for us. Mr. Cantwell along with Brenda Rozzi, President of Sacred Heart Neighborhood Association and Wayne Hayes of Heal Lawrence organized the rally. The speakers for the event were Mayor Dan Rivera, Interim Police Chief Fitzpatrick, Interim Fire Chief Marsh, Paul Brennan from Lawrence General Paramedics, Frank Cantwell, and Wayne Hayes who read an e-mail from Ed Davis former Boston Police Commissioner. Hot chocolate for the event was provided by John Farrington from Carleen's. About 50 people and residents attended to show their support.

COME CELEBRATE THE 2015 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE!

Saturday, March 28th at 1pm

Parade starts at the intersection of Amesbury & Common street. Wear your green to show your support!

For additional parade information, visit the website: www.lawrencestpatsparade.com

LOCAL BUSINESS



In this edition of "Made in Lawrence" we recognize the innovative work of Techprint Incorporated. Located on Marston St and visible from Route 495, Techprint has produced specialized printing products since 1974. Led by President, Paul Durant Jr., Techprint has stayed ahead of the curve producing products as simple as name plates and as complex as keyboards used to operate high end medical equipment. Their customer base includes well-known names such as Phillips Medical, General Electric, Hologic, and other domestic and international companies.

One of the many products they produce is the "InSite Impact Tester" pictured in this newsletter. Techprint has teamed up with Riddell, the industry leader in the world of football equipment, to design and manufacture a new integrated technology that monitors and records head impacts for athletes on the football field. This technology allows coaches to keep tabs on any possible head injury their athletes may experience and make quick decisions to keep them safe. Techprint uses its high-production capacity to print on a thin plastic material "printed electronics" that are able to capture levels of impact and report it to a hand-held unit.

This is just one example of the many products produced on Marston St. right here in Lawrence. To find out more about the many more products Techprint produces please visit their website at www.Techprintinc.com

NEW BUSINESS



**Join The Official Ribbon
Cutting On Feb. 26th At 3:00pm!**

City of Lawrence welcomes Cumberland Farms!

Please come and enjoy a cup of Freshly Brewed Cumberland Farms Coffee at their new location right here in Lawrence.

Be sure to sign up for their membership program for discounts on Gas, Coffee, and More!

Address: 320 South Broadway Street
Hours of Operation: 24 Hours a day

WINTER SAFETY TIPS FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

The inclement weather during these cold winter months can be an added stress to your already busy schedule. It is helpful to have any kind of safety and wellness information as both a Lawrence resident and business owner for the harsh New England winter! Here are some tips to ensure a safer, warmer winter:

- Dress appropriately - Wear layers and remember to keep your hands and head covered.
- Walk slowly and cautiously in snow, there may be ice covered underneath layers of snow.
- When walking on ice, walk slowly and keep your head up to anticipate any added dangers.
- Keep winter emergency kit inside your home that includes:
 - Blankets • First aid kit • Batteries • Flashlights • Hand warmers
- Install weather stripping underneath your windows and doors to prevent drafts
- Be aware the signs of frost bite (areas of skin become gray, pale, even black) and hypothermia (intense shivering and person may become lethargic)
- Stay off frozen bodies of water that have not been approved to go on!
- You can still get sunburnt in the winter. If you are spending an extended amount of time outside on a sunny day, don't be afraid to apply sunscreen
- For business owners, keep your storefront and sidewalk shoveled to provide a more welcoming environment for patrons.
- For residents, keep your sidewalks shoveled to provide a safer environment for your neighbors.

GROUNDWORK LAWRENCE & CITY OF LAWRENCE INVITE YOU TO EARTH DAY, COMCAST CARES DAY



BUILD A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS & LET US KNOW YOUR TEAM WILL JOIN US!

Contact: Rosa Piña - 978-974-0770 x7001 or email: rpina@groundworklawrence.org

Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 8am - 1pm

Pemberton Park

Sponsored by Comcast

MAKE LAWRENCE GREENER & CLEANER

TRASH & RECYCLING TIPS

Due to the large amounts of snow in the city and all across the state, we are asking residents to be mindful of the trash & recycling removal process during this time.

- Please shovel out your trash & recycling bins to ensure proper and timely pick up by Harvey
- Ensure bins are placed in front of snow banks and not hidden in driveways or sidewalks.
- Once emptied, promptly place bins back on your property for effective snow plow removal
- Questions regarding trash/recycling removal or schedules, please call: 978-620-3311

SNOW REMOVAL & SAFETY TIPS

Keep yourself safe from injury by taking these precautions:

- Individuals over the age of 40, or those who are relatively inactive, should be especially careful.
- If you have heart trouble, do not shovel without a doctor's permission.
- Dress warmly. Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow! Pace yourself. Be sure to stretch out and warm up before taking on the task.
- Shovel only fresh snow.
- Push the snow as you shovel.
- Do not pick up too much at once.
- Lift with your legs bent, not your back. Keep your back straight.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion. If you run out of breath, take a break.

