



CITY OF LAWRENCE  
MASSACHUSETTS

# The Common *NEWS*



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

EDITION 11  
JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2016

## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR RIVERA



I hope you are all staying warm through this winter. We have been working hard to keep our streets clear of snow and ice. As we make our way into this year, I look forward to all of our upcoming annual traditions in Lawrence, including our St. Patrick's Day Parade—the biggest parade North of Boston—on Saturday, March 19th at 1pm. I look forward to seeing everyone and celebrating a long embraced Lawrence tradition as we march through the streets of Lawrence in our Irish gear! See you soon!!



SATURDAY, MARCH 19 AT 1:00PM  
STARTING POINT  
INTERSECTION OF AMESBURY & ESSEX STREET

## LAWRENCE PARTNERSHIP AWARDS TWO LOANS



Congratulations to La Cibaeña Bakery Inc and Auto Bori Music LLC for receiving the first two venture loans through the Lawrence Partnership. These loans have allowed these small businesses to purchase the necessary equipment to expand their product as well as to create jobs.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAYOR RIVERA'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

- Three credit rating increases in just two years with a positive outlook
- Delinquent tax collections are up 100% in the first 6 months of FY16
- Lawrence Budget balanced 6 years in a row
- 17.3% decrease in crime
- 19% drop in violent crime
- Residential burglaries are the lowest they have been in 12 years
- 5 net new police officers, all fluent in Spanish
- \$84M worth of permits pulled
- 335 new units of Housing, 133 of those are affordable housing
- \$16M in development dollars awarded
- First Urban Renewal Plan in a generation - \$175k.
- \$50M in new building and construction at Lawrence General Hospital
- 7 Level 1 schools
- Dropout Rates lowest since records are available



For inquiries, please contact Jessica at  
[jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com)

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JIM BARNES AWARD



Congratulations to Community Development director Jim Barnes who received the National Community Development Association Paul Poulos Achievement Award in recognition of his "dedicated commitment and outstanding contribution to the community development block grant program and the citizens it serves."

### INSPECTIONAL SERVICES LARRY HESTER RETIREMENT



Thank you for your 35 years of service to Lawrence!

Myrtle has been an employee for the City of Lawrence /Treasurer's office for 15 years. She started as a temp and through the years grew passionate about her work. Myrtle decided to continue her education, graduating from Hesser College with an Associates in Accounting. She is the Tax Title Specialist and among other duties works hand in hand with the City Attorney, interacts with other departments and provides exceptional customer service to taxpayers.

Myrtle has been a resident of Lawrence for 30 years and has a daughter who is an 8th grader student at the Community Day Charter Public School. Her hobbies include drawing and makeup geek.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: NEW BUSINESSES

#### BODY AND BRAIN YOGA



290 Merrimack St.  
riverwalk@bodybrain.com

#### NANNI AND TATA ITALIAN CUISINE



Dine-In, Take-Out, Catering  
150 Shepard St.  
(978) 655-6024

#### LAWRENCE PIZZA



2 Lawrence St. Rear (978) 891-2889

#### AMERICAN CAPITAL ENERGY (ACE)



Finances, builds, and operates commercial and utility-scale solar PV projects  
360 Merrimack St.

### PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: MYRTLE GRULLON PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTS CLERK



## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### FIRE DEPARTMENT NEW EDITIONS, HONOREES



Four firefighters honored as "Firefighter of the Year" at Exchange Club Lt. Matt Nadeau, Lt. Ryan Lavallee, FF Ed Burke, and FF Jay Flores.



Three firefighters graduated from the academy.

7 new firefighters started on Monday January 25th. After a 2 week training, they went off to attend the Mass Fire Academy for a 9 week training program.



### POLICE DEPARTMENT 7 BILINGUAL CANDIDATES TO BE HIRED



Lawrence is under the Castro Consent Decree. Municipalities under the Castro Consent Decree receive Civil Service lists for hiring with a set goal of hiring people of color. Since Lawrence has such a limited English population, qualified, diverse Civil Service candidates with Spanish speaking skills were being passed over on the list to meet the 1 person of color to 3 Caucasian civil service list mandated by the Castro Consent Decree. The City of Lawrence was granted the use of a PAR .08 Selective Certification Bilingual of the Civil Service law to pick the next 7 hires from a Civil Service list of all Spanish speaking candidates. All candidates must first pass the Civil Service exam and then will have to pass a rigorous psychological and a physical aptitude test along with a thorough background screening.

### ASSESSOR SENIOR CITIZENS TAX CREDIT

The City of Lawrence is hosting a Senior Citizens Tax Work-Off Program that will run from January 1st through October 31st 2016. This program allows senior citizens of Lawrence, 60 years or older as of January 1st, to work for up to \$500 off of property tax. Restrictions and requirements do apply to this program. For more information, contact Senior Center Director, Martha Velez 978-620-3550.

### LAWRENCE AIRPORT \$2.3M IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



In November, a \$2.3 million dollar Airport Improvement project to enhance operational safety was concluded in accordance with the FAA requirement for all airports with outdated RSA's to stay up to date with design standards. The project was the creation of Runway Safety Areas ("RSA's") on runway 14-32. A safety area provides a clear flat surface for aircrafts to use if they overshoot a runway due to a mechanical or pilot error.

## LAWRENCE CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTEES



Massachusetts Cultural Council

61 local individuals and organizations received cultural council grants to promote arts and culture in Lawrence. Included in the grantee list are various Lawrence K-12 schools (public and private), cultural associations and small community organizations. For more information, contact LCC chair Pat Mariano at [LawrenceCulturalCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:LawrenceCulturalCouncil@gmail.com)

## DOMINICAN FLAG RAISING



Celebrating 172 years of Independence.



## LAWRENCE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB HALL OF FAME



Lawrence Boys and Girls Club Executive Director Markus Fischer and Board President Greg Serrao with the newest inductees Mayor Rivera and grammy award winning Urales Vargas, known as DJ Budda, both Lawrence kids who participated in BGC programming. Urales Vargas has played a major role in the expansion of hip hop, soca, Latin pop/dance, R&B, and dancehall into the mainstream. He has produced pop and crossover hits for artists including Pitbull, Enrique Iglesias, Ne-Yo, Jennifer Lopez, Don Omar, will.i.am, Chris Brown, Jason Derulo, AKON, Marc Anthony, Daddy Yankee and Shakira.

In recent years, Vargas founded BEYOND Scholarship Foundation, which helps Lawrence students achieve their maximum potential by providing financial assistance to those demonstrating a drive and passion for the arts, academics, athletics, music, and/or other interests. The fund also provides guidance and mentoring to help students achieve their dreams.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST



Community leaders, students, Mayor Rivera and Congresswoman Niki Tsongas awaiting to hear this year's Merrimack Valley Branch NAACP Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast keynote speaker, criminal defense attorney, Socrates DeLa-Cruz. Attorney De La Cruz grew up in housing developments in Lawrence and was a Boys and Girls Club kid. He has received many honors and awards, including the Boys and Girls Club National Youth of the Year Award, which was presented to Attorney De La Cruz at the White House by President George Bush in 1991. He has also been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show where he was honored with the Oprah's Angel Award for his service to the community.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR



Community members celebrating the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Monkey at the Senior Center.

### MAYOR'S HEALTH TASK FORCE / CHNA11

#### City Adopts Complete Street Policy

The MHTF in conjunction with the city. The presentation was well received and the City Council voted to adopt said policy. Complete Streets call for consideration of all users of the roadways when a plan is being developed for improvements to, or new construction of roadways and sidewalks with the city. Complete Streets policies offer many benefits, including in the areas of public safety, accessibility, health and economic development. These collaborative efforts to improve the built environment are supported through a Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness & Leadership Initiative grant from the Mass. Dept. of Public Health.

#### Promoting Opportunities for Higher Education

Regis College President, Antoinette M. Hays, PhD, RN, was one of two guest speakers who presented at the January general membership meeting of the MHTF. Dr. Hays talked about the Nursing, Public Health and Sciences undergraduate program launched this past fall, in partnership with Northern Essex Community College. Dr. Hays highlighted the many benefits this program offers to area residents and those residing beyond city limits. Designed with working professionals in mind, this affordable program creates a bridge to access to higher education opportunities in health related fields, addressing educational and financial gaps often faced by residents of low socioeconomic status. Regis College is also planning to offer a Master's Level program in the near future.



#### International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

On December 9th Delamano, Inc. and the YWCA of Greater Lawrence, with support from the MHTF, held their 2nd Annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women event at El Taller to raise awareness and trigger action to end this global scourge, marking the brutal assassination in 1960 of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic. Paula Gomez-Stordy, Consultant, Advocate and Activist for Women's Rights Issues in the fields of gender violence and the anti-oppression movement was the keynote speaker. Lawrence Chief of Police James Fitzpatrick, along with Ambassadors from the Mass. Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and



Lawrence residents, Andres Gonzalez and Andres Polanco, led the White Ribbon Pledge, an initiative that engages men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence by promoting gender equality and working to transform harmful and violent aspects of masculinities. The Sugar Kings provided the entertainment for this evening.

**Elevated Thought, Movement City, The Common Sage, Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, The Addison Gallery of American Art, El Taller, Andover Bread Loaf, The Bread Loaf Teacher Network, The Lawrence Dream Network, Lawrence Youth Council, Youth Development Organization**

**CHANGE!**

**Recreating Education Youth Unite Through Arts & Writing**

Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence  
136 Water St. 2nd Floor  
Saturday March 19th 11:30 - 2:30pm  
Free Lunch, Workshops, Open Mic, Empowerment

Register with Karen Kravchuk, Education Director at the BGCL:  
Karen.Kravchuk@lawrencebgc.com

[www.elevatedthought.org](http://www.elevatedthought.org)



## Environmental Technical Training Program

### LEARN, TRAIN, WORK

#### FREE Training Program

To begin in early April

Unemployed? Underemployed? Interested in a training program that will give you the tools to find a job in growing environmental fields? Then join this FREE training program.

**Learn:** About environmental remediation, storm water and waste management and safe hazardous removal.

**Train:** Receive in classroom and on-site training and certificates and licenses in fall protection, hazardous waste operations and emergency response, asbestos worker, storm water management practices, de-leading methods and more.

**Work:** You will receive job search support, assistance with building your resume, and practice interview skills.

For more information contact Lesly Medina  
lmedina@groundworklawrence.org, (978) 974-0770 x7020



## EARTH DAY COMCAST CARES DAY

### JOIN US, ÚNETE

Saturday April 30, 2016

Sábado 30 de Abril, 2016

8am - 1pm

Starting / Comenzando:

Campagnone North Common



Volunteers of all ages welcome. We also welcome for-profit, non-profit and community organizations to volunteer as groups.

Voluntarios de todas las edades son bienvenidos.

For more information / Para más información: Rose Gonzalez (978) 974-0770 x7001, [info@groundworklawrence.org](mailto:info@groundworklawrence.org)



Changing Places, Changing Lives

## Easter Bunny Breakfast

### SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

All You Can Eat Pancakes - Bacon - Sausage - Ham  
Pastry - Coffee - Juice  
Raffles - Magician - Face Painting - Easter Bunny



**Saturday March 12, 2016 - 8:00 - 11:30am**

Lawrence Senior Center  
155 Haverhill Street, Lawrence, MA

**DONATION: \$8 person - \$5 seniors / children 10 & under**

Tickets available at the door or  
in advance through the neighborhood associations

in partnership with  
Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition, Lawrence Senior Center,  
Lawrence Neighborhood Associations:  
South Lawrence West, Tower Hill, Mount Vernon, Colonial Heights, Prospect Hill, District A, South Common  
to support National Night Out activities

Please Join  
Mayor Dan Rivera for  
**Community  
Office Hours**



**March 09, 2016**  
**4:00pm-6:00pm**  
Saint Patrick Parish  
118 South Broadway

This will be the first of many community hours being scheduled across the city.  
For more questions please call the Mayor's office at 978-620-3010.

**CITY OF LAWRENCE • DAN RIVERA, MAYOR**



**\$20.00 P/CLASS**



**MY CULTURE-MY FAMILY MATTERS PROGRAM**  
PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO COME TOGETHER TO ENJOY A MEAL, LEARN A DANCE, SHARE YOUR STORIES AND HAVE FUN!





**BEGINNER LATIN DANCE CLASSES**  
Children ages 6 to 17 years old can learn native dances from a variety of Latin countries.

**ETHNIC COOKING CLASSES**  
All adults can join in and learn to prepare an ethnic meal from instructors who enjoy cooking and are happy to share their recipe and culture with everyone.

This program is in partnership with the Lawrence Senior Center, United Persian Association, Colombian Cultural Committee of the Merrimack Valley, and the Guatemalan Cultural Group of the Merrimack Valley.

Classes offered twice a month on Sundays from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM at the Lawrence Senior Center, 155 Haverhill Street, Lawrence MA. For more info: Ana Camargo at 978-397-8343 or [anacamargo@yahoo.com](mailto:anacamargo@yahoo.com). Dance classes scholarships available for families with more than 3 children.



# IRISH HERITAGE MONTH

**SUNDAY, MARCH 6  
AT 2:00PM**

White Fund Lecture-A  
Pictorial Exhibit of the 1916  
Easter Rising with featured  
guest speaker,  
Michael Quinlin

Lawrence Heritage  
State Park  
One Jackson Street

SATURDAY. MARCH 12  
AT 6:00PM

## 145th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Banquet and Dance

## Reliefs In One Market Street

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13  
AT 2:00PM**

Honor Molloy, Dublin-born, Brooklyn based writer, actor and director will read from her lyrical book "Smarty Girl, Dublin Savage"

Lawrence Heritage State  
Park  
One Jackson Street

**TUESDAY, MARCH 15  
AT 10:00AM**

Irish Film Festival  
Lawrence Heritage  
State Park  
One Jackson Street

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18  
TIME 12:00PM**

## 47th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon

## Reliefs In One Market Street

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19  
AT 1:00PM**

## Saint Patrick's Parade

## Parade Route Starting Point

Intersection of Amesbury & Essex Street  
**End Point**  
Osgood & Market St  
**Reviewing Stand**   
At Salem & Loring St. (by Pizza King)

## Good viewing locations:

Claddagh Pub, Central Bridge,  
Pizza King, Relief's In

**No Street Parking along parade route  
will be in effect between  
11AM-4PM the day of the parade.**

