



CITY OF LAWRENCE
MASSACHUSETTS

The Common *NEWS*

www.cityoflawrence.com

EDITION 16
Nov / Dec 2016

Message from the Mayor

Twas the season of giving and what a better way to welcome 2017 than by giving back to our community! Jackets were donated by the Highland Street Foundation, toys were delivered for the children of our neighboring businesses, and City Hall once again opened up its doors and let our fellow Lawrencians join in our Christmas celebration. As the year comes to an end, I would like to thank everyone who made this another successful year in Making Lawrence Better. May this New Year bring peace, health, and happiness to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,
Dan Rivera
Mayor & CEO

Photo Captions:
Mayor Dan Rivera
delivers Christmas presents
to neighboring business for
their employee's children.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



Christmas Present Deliveries

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting took place on December 9th 2016. Mayor Dan Rivera had a special visitor from the North Pole visit the City of Lawrence. Parents and children of all ages were present to enjoy the Christmas carols sung by the Lawrence High School Girls' Ensemble and warm up with hot chocolate.

For inquiries, contact Jessica at jvalentin@cityoflawrence.com

Police Department



Photo Caption: Mayor Dan Rivera swears in the Lawrence Auxiliary Police on December 17th, 2016. Congratulations to all who were sworn in.

Fire Department



Lawrence fire department recently received its first new fire engine, a pumper in 12 years. Crews are currently training on the truck and should be in service soon.

Promoted: Darren Cassista and Johnny Jimenez to Lt. Sworn in to firefighter: Jean Jimenez, Giovanni Bonet, and Felix Fernandez

Photo Caption: Mayor Dan Rivera swears in new Fire Fighters and promotes others. Congratulations on all of your positions in the Fire Department and thank you for all that you do.

Veteran Services



Veteran's breakfast: Mayor Dan Rivera honors those who have served at the Veteran's Luncheon that took place at the Senior Center. A surprise recognition for his service was presented to him at the luncheon as well. Thank you to all who have served and continue to serve today.

Photo Caption: From Left- Gerard Maguire from North Andover Veteran Services, Martha Velez, Mayor Dan Rivera, Jaime Melendez, J.T. Torres.

Veteran's Day Ceremony



The Veteran's Day Ceremony: took place on November 11, 2016 and honored all who have served. Two Veterans were also honored that day and had homes built for them with the help of New England Veteran's Liberty House of Lawrence and Northeast Outreach of Haverhill.

Treasurer's Office New Treasurer

Kelly Oakes



Kelly Oakes is an accountant with more than 16 years of experience. Most of her career has been spent in public accounting. She also has experience as a corporate controller in private industry. A graduate of University of Massachusetts – Lowell, she holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration/Accounting. Kelly is a resident of Lowell, MA and is looking forward to working for the City of Lawrence,

DPW Introducing New DPW Director

Carlos Jaquez



Carlos Jaquez is a Registered Professional Engineer with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Carlos also holds a Master's Degree in Structural Engineering from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. He has over 10-years of experience in the areas of project management, construction management specifically in public works projects. During my off times you can find me spending time with my family (I am married with a 3-year old son) or hiking in the White Mountains. I am also a native of Santiago, Dominican Republic and a former resident of Lawrence.

Assessor's Office

Taxpayer information
Real Estate and Personal
Property Tax Abatement



An abatement is a reduction of property tax. Generally, abatements are granted when taxpayers are able to prove that the fair market value of their property is less than its assessed value. It may be based on a reduction in the assessed value of taxable property, or a parcel may be exempted completely from the property tax based on ownership and use (a church, for example). A taxpayer must apply for abatement only for the current fiscal year and only if there is a dispute concerning the property valuation or the property classification. An application cannot be filed on taxes from previous years.

For more information on reasons for abatements, who can apply, the procedure, and other information, taxpayers can contact the Assessor's Office or visit the Assessors Department link at www.cityoflawrence.com

Lawrence Airport Runway Project



The Airport is undertaking a project to rehabilitate runway 5-23 and to create Runway Safety Administration ("FAA") design standards. A Runway Safety Area is a flat area of land at the end of a runway that is free of obstacles and available for an aircraft to use in the event of an emergency. The purpose of an RSA is to provide an area for an aircraft to come to a stop if it blows a tire, lands too long on the runway or loses an engine during a take-off. Runway 5-23 is currently 5,000 feet long and 150 feet wide. The runway will remain 5,000 feet long but will be narrowed to 100 feet wide to be in line with current FAA design standards. The runway will be repaved and grooved for better traction and will have new runway lights and guidance signs installed. This phase of the project will start when the project resumes in early April.

\$400K Complete Streets Grant to Improve Pedestrian Safety at Wetherbee School

The City of Lawrence will soon see improved pedestrian way between Weatherbee School and the Riverfront Park as a result of its successful grant application to MassDOT's Complete Streets Program. This project envisions newly constructed sidewalks, granite curbing and new crosswalks and ADA compliant ramps along Kingston Street. New safety measures will be constructed at Everett Street include crosswalk bump-outs and pedestrian flashers for those using the crosswalks. This will slow traffic and notify drivers that pedestrians are crossing this busy thoroughfare. The goal of the project is to create a safer pedestrian environment for children both walking and biking from the school to the park. There are currently over 100 communities in the state enrolled in the Complete Street's program, but Lawrence was one of only 11 communities selected to put their ideas into action. Any questions about the program can be addressed to Theresa Park, Planning Director, at 978-620-3501.



City Receives \$400,000 PARC Grant to Begin Renovations to O'Connell Park



On December 12, 2016, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the awarding of \$7.2 million in Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grants for 24 communities in Massachusetts. Lawrence was awarded \$400,000 for Phase I renovations to O'Connell Park (South Common). The project will include improvements to the park's pathway system, installation of site furnishings and dugouts, and overhead electrical work. Design work will begin in spring of 2017 and construction can begin after July 1, 2017. Phase I renovations will be completed by June 1, 2018. This application for funding was the result of the visioning and master planning process that the City contracted with McCabe Enterprises to undertake. The Community Development Department will administer this grant and will contract with Groundwork Lawrence for Project Management services. While Phase I renovations may not be the most visible changes to the park, they lay the basic groundwork for future renovations that could be done when funding becomes available.



Lead Paint Hazard Control Grant

The City of Lawrence has received a Lead Paint Hazard Control Grant in the amount of \$2.9 million from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control to create 160 lead safe units by July 31, 2019. This is the 4th time the city receives lead hazard control grant funding since 2004. Upon notice of the award, the community development housing staff immediately went to work to implement the new program and provide a new workplan to carry out the objectives of this new program. Minimal modifications were made to the workplan due to planning and experience the city had gained through the previous lead hazard control projects. With this grant the City of Lawrence, in partnership with the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers grants of up \$10,000 per unit to assist Lawrence residents with lead inspections and deleading with the purpose of creating healthy, lead safe environments for children to live in. For more information please call Evelyn Urena 978-620-3518 or Olivia Rosa 978-620-3522.





Costa Radio

Costa Radio delivers a check for the Fire Victims of East Haverhill St. Thank you to Costa Radio for your generosity to those who were affected by the incident.



Stadium OPENING Thanksgiving Game

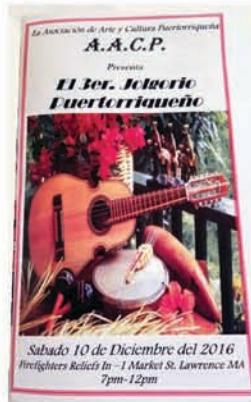
It was officially game time at Veteran's Stadium. The Stadium was ready to open for the annual Thanksgiving Game for the Lawrence Lancers and Central Raiders. Thanks to Mayor Dan Rivera, Abel Vargas, Atty. Charles Boddy, Chris Huntress, Architect at Huntress Associates, Lance Hamel, and Rita Brosseau who helped make this happen.



Photo Caption: From left- Abel Vargas, Atty. Charles Boddy, Mayor Dan Rivera, Chris Huntress (Architect at Huntress Associates) and Lance Hamel.

Jolgorio Puertorriqueño

Photo Caption: Mayor Dan River celebrated a festive holiday evening at the 3rd annual Jolgorio Puertorriqueño.



Read Across America

Photo Caption:
Mayor Dan Rivera visits the Parthum and Frost School to read to the children during the Read Across America Challenge.



Mayors Health Task Force

Lawrence is a Mass in Motion Community!

As part of this municipal effort, the MHTF staff along with the city's Land Use Planner, Daniel McCarthy, attended the Complete Streets 201 training in Lowell on December 8. Mass in Motion Lawrence is a three pronged approach to Health, focusing on Healthy Eating, Active Living, and Complete Streets.

LAWRENCE, MA



MHTF's 3 rd Annual Spanish Mental Health Community Forum

When the MHTF Behavioral Health Working Group hosted its third Spanish Mental Health Community Forum on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, "Anxiety" was the word on everyone's lips. Leading the conversation, were panelists Dr. Jose Antonio Ribas, Dr. Belen Godwin, and community resident Emmanuel Hernandez, who held the audience captive to their every word.

Lawrence Continues to Build a Culture of Health with the RWJ Foundation

Lawrence continues to be an active participant of the RWJF Alumni Network and to share and exchange lessons learned through our work in creating a culture of health. A team from Lawrence composed of Elecia Miller, MHTF Project Officer, Martha Velez, Lawrence Senior Center Exec. Dir., and Richard Napolitano, Senior Vice President, External Relations/Chief Development Officer at GLFHC, were invited to the 2016 RWJF Culture of Health Prize Celebration & Learning Event at their headquarters in NJ this past November.



Glow Gala

Groundwork Lawrence hosted their annual Glow Gala on Thursday, November 17th from 6:00 - 9:30. All of the support helped raise additional funds to change places and lives in Lawrence! The evening featured a silent auction, raffle, eco-art auction and fantastic food and dancing.





Ciudad de Lawrence
Alcaldé Daniel Rivera

Asistencia en Aplicar para el Examen de Policía

Viernes Febrero 3, 2017

8:30am-5:30pm

Biblioteca Principal de Lawrence

Salon Robert Frost (3rd Nivel)

51 Calle Lawrence, Lawrence, MA

Ven y llena una solicitud
para el examen oficial de policía que se lleva a
 cabo 03/25/2017!

**Mujeres, minorías, veteranos y personas con
discapacidades se les anima a aplicar!**

Para mas informacion comunquese con:

Departamento de Recursos Humanos de Lawrence al (978) 620-3060
or fbonet@cityoflawrence.com

SAVE THE DATE

A book club that seeks to promote literacy and empower the city of Lawrence through Latin American Literature

Un Círculo de lectura que busca promover la alfabetización e impulsar la Ciudad de Lawrence a través de la literatura latinoamericana.

The Agora's Laurel

Mensual
los jueves comenzando el
9 de Febrero
7PM - 8PM

Monthly
Tuesdays starting on
February 7
7PM - 8PM

Lawrence Public Library
Soar to New Heights Through Knowledge