



# CITY OF LAWRENCE MASSACHUSETTS

# The Common *NEWS*

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

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## Message from Mayor Rivera

I hope you are all staying warm and safe this winter season. Although it has been a mild winter, Mother Nature still managed to give us a good amount of snow. Our Lawrencians have been cooperative with the alternative parking allowing DPW to do their jobs quickly and efficiently. Thank you to both our constituents and DPW for their efforts in keeping our streets and sidewalks cleared. As we make our way into 2017, I look forward to all of our upcoming events and traditions in Lawrence, including our fun filled month of Irish heritage which is celebrated throughout the month of March. I look forward to seeing everyone in their green gear as we celebrate.

## Highlighted Story: State of the City



Photo Caption: Mayor Daniel Rivera gives the State of the City in front of City Council on 2/7/2017.



Photo Caption: Mayor Daniel Rivera also honors former Representative Marcos Devers at the City Council meeting on 2/7/2017.

- 23 new police officers in the past 3 years, more being fully bilingual
- 12 new police officers starting the Police Academy this Spring and Summer
- Bailey Street Fire Station reopened
- The Diadimo Building is now our City Hall Annex
- \$500,000 lent to small businesses in Lawrence as part of the Venture Loan Fund
- Bulger Veterinary Hospital will be constructing a state of the art animal Hospital on Chickering Road (Showcase cinema 1-6 site)
- Tombarello Salvage yard is now City owned
- Valley Lodging Motel is now 21 units of housing for Lawrence families
- Lawrence will have close to 1,000 additional housing units from now through 2019, offering a mix of affordable and market rate units
- 50 90 day laborer positions 25 to keep the city clean and 25 anti-graffiti positions

For inquiries, contact Cassandra at [cabou-farah@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:cabou-farah@cityoflawrence.com)

## Police Department

### Officer of the Month in December



#### Detective Angel Mejia

Detective Angel Mejia had been diligently investigating numerous residential breaks occurring citywide. During his investigation, was able to determine a pattern in the crimes and ultimately identify two suspects. These two suspects were apprehended and as a result of further investigatory practices he was able to link them to 33 residential breaks in Lawrence.

### Officer of the Month in February



#### Officer Chris Bussey

Officer Chris Bussey was made aware of a carjacking that had just taken place in Lawrence involving a firearm on February 7, 2017. He was able to locate the victim's vehicle almost immediately. There were two suspects in the vehicle still, he was able to coordinate with other units and after a brief pursuit, during which he was possibly fired upon by the suspect, he apprehended them without incident.

### Office of the Month in January



#### Officer Solomon Dor

Officer Solomon's responded to a structure fire at 38 Tremont Street on December 19, 2016, and was made aware there may be people still in the building that couldn't get out. He entered the building and was able to locate and assist a female to exit the burning building to safety.

## NEW ADDITION!

Mayor Daniel Rivera swears in the most recent addition to the Lawrence Police Department.



#### Officer Jordanny Vargas

## Police Department

### Lawrence Exchange Club Award Ceremony and Public Safety Awards Dinner

Exchange Club's Public Safety Awards Dinner honoring the Lawrence Police Department and Fire Department and all the good work our public safety does for the community.



## Fire Department

### THANK YOU and Welcome Back!

A military homecoming for Fire Fighters David Swarbrick and Michael Espinola were in order as Mayor Daniel River, Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty, and Veteran's Services Director Jaime Melendez welcome them back.

## Planning and Development



Mayor Dan Rivera awarding \$2,000 grants to two small businesses as part of the Better Retail Practice Program. The program provides small Lawrence businesses with a free consultation on how to improve their business interiors. The owner can then spend up to \$2,000 to implement and get fully reimbursed by the city.

This time around Carlos Stilo Barbershop on Broadway and Sweet Grace Heavenly Cake on Essex St were the recipients. To date, 9 Lawrence small businesses have taken advantage of the program.

## Employees of the Month: Congratulations!

### February's Employee of the Month



**Gabriel Soto**  
**Head Cashier Tax Collector's Office**

He was nominated because of excellent customer service provided to a taxpayer during a recent visit to City Hall. Gabriel and all of the staff in the Treasurer/Collector's office continue to work diligently toward helpful and professional customer service.

### **Department of Public Works**



**Milagros Puello**  
**New City Engineer**

Milagros Puello is a product of Lawrence, attended the Bruce school and went to Central Catholic High School where she graduated from. She earned her Civil Engineering Degree from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and has a Master's in Environmental Engineers from WPI. She continues to be a Lawrence resident today. Congratulations and welcome!

### March's Employee of the Month



**Keyla Rodriguez**  
**Personnel Department**

During the last two years, Keyla has been instrumental in providing outstanding and dedicated work in the recruitment of Police Officers and Firefighters for the City of Lawrence. This is an extensive process. However, with the timeline that was provided to our office (in getting individuals active and ready for their academies, Keyla has worked diligently to ensure that each candidate was provided dedicated time and service in their completions of the application and review process, sometime under constraints of time.

### **Assessor's Office** **Avoid Potential Motor Vehicle** **Excise Penalties, Interest and Fees**

The Lawrence Board of Assessors has issued this message trying to get the word out about your 2017 motor vehicle excise.

Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60A, all Massachusetts residents who own and register a motor vehicle must annually pay a motor vehicle excise. While individual communities bill and collect these excise taxes, it is the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) that compiles all the information you see on the bill, according to the information on the motor vehicle registration. It is important to note that every motor vehicle, whether registered or not, is subject to taxation, either as excise or personal property, for the privilege of registering a motor vehicle.

The City of Lawrence issued the calendar year 2017 motor vehicle excise (1st Commitment) on Tuesday, February 28th. Payment of your motor vehicle excise is due 30 days from the date the excise bill is issued (not mailed, as is popularly believed) to avoid costly penalties, interest and fees.

For more information on Motor Vehicle Excise and Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the Assessors link on the City of Lawrence website at [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com).



## Veteran Services

Lawrence Veteran Services had a special visitor Mr. Seth Bia President of the Massachusetts Veterans Service Officer Association in January.



Every year the State house holds a veterans' legislation luncheon. This past January, Veteran Service officers also honored one of Western Massachusetts own, Westfield State representative John Valies as they are legislator of the year.



Veteran's Services Director Jaime Melendez attended the NECC military connected student breakfast on the Lawrence campus in February where representatives from the veterans service organizations, and agencies could join the veteran students for breakfast.

## Dominican Heritage Celebration 173rd Anniversary of DR Independence



Mayor Dan Rivera, the Dominican Consulate of Boston, other city and state officials, and the Lawrence community came together on Saturday, February 4th in celebration of the 173th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Dominican Republic Independence.



## Library Give Back Project Children's Room TLC



A big thank you to community member and Library friend Francina Victoria and other volunteers who helped celebrate Francina's birthday with a give back project in the Children's Room. Visit the Children's room and check it out if you have not done so yet.

## Immigration Forum

Mayor Dan Rivera joins the Office of Representative Juana Matias and Senator Jaime Eldridge for the first Immigration Community Forum & Know Your Rights Presentation which took place at the Lawrence Public Library on February 15, 2017. Remember to stay updated and informed!



The St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser took place on February 10, 2017 at the Reliefs Inn. Irish Step Dancers put on an amazing performance and Mayor Dan Rivera recognized the work of the committee members who invest their time in putting on an event like this to continue to represent their traditions and culture in the Immigrant City of Lawrence.



## Ground Work Lawrence Event Flyer

### 2017 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Earth Day, Comcast Cares Day — Saturday, April 22  
Fiesta de Salud/Celebrating Health Fair — Saturday, May 6\*  
*Council on Aging, Lawrence Senior Center*  
SALSA Festival (Kite) — Saturday, June 3\*  
*City of Lawrence Mayor's Health Task Force*  
Farmers Market — July 5 - October 28  
Ciclovia (Open Streets) — Sunday, August 6 & 20\*  
*City of Lawrence Mayor's Health Task Force*  
Greenway 5K — Sunday, August 13  
Spicket River Cleanup — Saturday, Sept. 16  
Greenway Walk, Trails & Sails — Saturday, Sept. 23\*  
Den Rock Park Hike, Trails & Sails — Sunday, Sept. 24\*  
Glow Gala — Thursday, November 16
- \*denotes GWL participation



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Lawrence Ground Work wants to keep you informed! These are the events that will be taking place for the 2017 year.

### Lawrence Senior Center Chinese/ Vietnamese New Year: year of the Rooster



Lawrence Ground Work wants to keep you informed! These are the events that will be taking place for the 2017 year.

### Have a Heart Event



Lawrence students working with seniors at the Lawrence Senior Center designed and created ceramic bowls for their Have a Heart Project. For a \$10.00 bowls were purchased as one of a kind bowl and be feasted to a meal. The event took place on Thursday Feb. 16th Lawrence Senior Center. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Senior Center to help feed the elderly

**Senior Center  
Easter Bunny Breakfast  
April 8, 2017**

## Easter Bunny Breakfast

All You Can Eat Pancakes

Bacon - Sausage - Ham - Pastry - Coffee - Juice

Raffles - Family Fun

Magician - Easter Bunny - Face Painting

**It's Magic!**



**SUPPORT YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

**Saturday April 8, 2017 - 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 below

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

**Raising a Reader  
April 25, 2017**



## Earth Day - Comcast Cares Day April 22, 2017