



CITY OF LAWRENCE
MASSACHUSETTS

The Common **NEWS**



www.cityoflawrence.com

EDITION 18
MARCH / APRIL 2017

Message from Mayor Rivera

To my fellow friends and neighbors of Lawrence, I can say with ease this year, Welcome Spring. We were able to get through a few storms and cold days but that did not stop our March and April celebrations. The City of Lawrence began spring cleaning with our initiative to make Lawrence cleaner and with the help of the City Council; we have started to do so! Over \$500,000 was put into making Lawrence cleaner and hope that this can be the continuation of a cleaner Lawrence. I am looking forward to celebrating the numerous spring and summer events that will be coming up with you all.

**Mayor Dan Rivera's
NEW HOMEOWNER WELCOME**
Bringing City Hall to your Neighborhood



5 New HOMEOWNER Welcome Events!

Do you have questions about your
Water Bill? Water Department? Property Tax?
Snow Plowing? Potholes? Would you like to meet your
Police Chief? Fire Chief? DPW Director?

Please join us
Family Friendly

Lawrence City Hall 200 Common Street Lawrence, MA 01840 Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm 978-620-3010

MONDAY
MAY 1, 2017
Parthum School
6pm - 8pm

TUESDAY
MAY 9, 2017
Guilmette School
6pm - 8pm

WEDNESDAY
MAY 24, 2017
Arlington School
6pm - 8pm

SATURDAY
MAY 27, 2017
South Lawrence East School
10am - 12pm

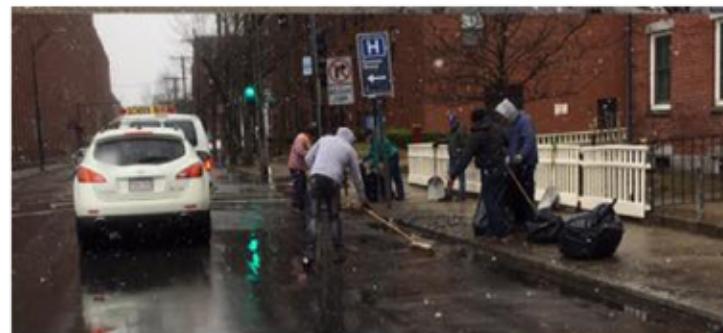
THURSDAY
JUNE 1, 2017
Frost School
6pm - 8pm

Mayor Daniel Rivera announces



a city-wide street sweeping operation that will begin on Tuesday, April 18th and continue city wide through Friday, June 9th. The City of Lawrence DPW Department has contracted Amric Power Sweeping to sweep the streets across the city. "Street sweeping is a basic service that increases quality of life, and for far too long we have been without properly functioning

street sweepers," said Mayor Daniel Rivera. The street sweeping operation will mirror the trash route in the city. "This street sweeping operation will not only clean our streets curb to curb, but it is also a necessary part of a comprehensive maintenance plan of the sewer system," said DPW Director Carlos Jaquez.



25 temporary Clean Lawrence Crew was put on the job to make sure our streets were clean. Here are a few of the Clean Lawrence Crew members hard at work cleaning our City streets.



Anti-Graffiti efforts in the amount of \$200,000 was approved which led to 25 anti-graffiti workers to be put on the job.



\$100,000 was approved for new street signs in our City

For inquiries, contact Cassandra at cabou-farah@cityoflawrence.com

Police Department

Officer of the Month

Officer Scott McCabe noticed a vehicle that matched a description communicated to him earlier that day. He was able to coordinate with other units as the car drove off after approaching it. After a brief pursuit which turned into a foot pursuit in which the suspect broke into a residence in an attempt to escape, he and other officers apprehended him. Officer Scott McCabe's observations and attention to detail that day resulted in the apprehension of an individual whom clearly represented an immediate danger to the citizens of Lawrence. He is commended for the degree of professionalism shown during the incident



Officers of the Month

Detective William Colantuoni responded to 599 Andover St. and spoke to a victim who was robbed of \$9,000.00 on January 10, 2017. The victim provided him with little information, a nickname and a general vehicle description. During the following weeks Detective Colantuoni conducted many interviews, developed leads, conducted search warrants, and was able to put together a case that would ultimately result in the arrest of three suspects. Detective Colantuoni's diligence and meticulous manner, in which he conducted this investigation, resulted in the

apprehension of three suspects who clearly represented a danger to the citizens of Lawrence. Officer Michael Colantuoni responded to a medical assist call at 50 Broadway on March 24, 2017 and while he was there he spoke to a man identified as Danny Grant. While reviewing his department emails he was made aware the Detective Division was attempting to identify a male subject wanted in connection to a bank robbery. Upon inspection of photos of the wanted subject, he was able to identify him as Danny Grant who appeared to be still wearing the same clothing he wore in

the commission of the robbery. The subject was the same individual Officer Calantuoni had just assisted in getting the medical help he needed. The Detective Division was notified and apprehended Danny Grant at The Lawrence General Hospital. Officer Colantuoni's awareness and attention to detail that day resulted in the apprehension of a man who clearly represented a danger to the citizens of Lawrence. They are both commended for the degree of professionalism and discipline they showed while performing above and beyond your duties.



Police Department

Lawrence Police Department painted a police cruiser blue for Autism Awareness Month in April.



Fire Department



Lt. Armano and Captain Driscoll accept a 5000.00 grant from a Global Insurance Representative for fire prevention program. Lt. Armano found and wrote the grant to allow fire inspectors to document and update information on inspections live, saving time, energy and increasing efficiency.



Fire Captain Paul Hamel, Firefighters Matt Peek and Mike Buzzel lend a hand to Haverhill at a fire there this week.

Assessor's Office:

2nd Commitment of Calendar Year 2017 Motor Vehicle Excise Issued

The City of Lawrence issued the (2nd Commitment) calendar year 2017 motor vehicle excise on Tuesday, April 11th. Payment must be received by Thursday, May 11th to avoid costly penalties, interest and fees. In the previous Common News (edition 17) the assessors stressed the importance of avoiding costly fees. Here is a recap: in the 1st commitment there were 39,522 excise bills mailed and due to reasons listed below the Deputy Collector issued 10,171 \$30 demand bills or roughly 25% did not pay timely. Avoid the fees!

"Why didn't I receive my 2017 excise bill?"

There are many reasons why you may not have received a Motor Vehicle Excise tax.

They may be any of the following:

1. The Registry of Motor Vehicles does not have your current mailing address.
www.massdot.state.ma.us/rmv
2. Your registration has expired.
3. You haven't been billed yet. (Note: Lawrence issues up to 12 motor vehicle excise commitments in a calendar year.)
4. The U.S. Postal Service has misplaced your bill.



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.

Senior Center

Easter Bunny Breakfast

The Lawrence Senior Center partnered up with Lawrence Neighborhood Associations, and Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition to host an Easter Bunny Breakfast. The Easter Bunny made an appearance himself to participate with others in this event.



***Senior Tax Work Off Program* is available.
Please contact Laura Alefantis at 978-620-3542 for more information**

Meals on Wheels

Many of our elected officials took part in the Meals on Wheels Program and delivered meals to the elders in our Community. Thank you to Council President Kendrys Vasquez, Representative Juana Matias, and Mayor Dan Rivera for being our Meals on Wheels Hero's!



Lawrence Council on Aging New Employees:



Johanny Shephard, Outreach Coordinator at the LCOA.

Johanny joins the LCOA team to assist and provide essential services to our elders and the community. She speaks 6 languages, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian, and Polish fluent.

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Muoi Lam, Vietnamese Outreach Coordinator

Muoi Lam has worked with the LCOA for many years through a partnership with Merrimack Valley Immigrant and Education Center. Ms. Lam has now been hired to be a Vietnamese Outreach Coordinator for the LCOA. She speaks 3 different dialects in Chinese, Vietnamese, English and a little Spanish.

Lawrence Public Library

The Irish Counsel visits the Branch Library in South Lawrence and reads to the children. Special St Patrick's Day cookies were brought for a treat. Irish songs and stories were also brought to the Library by Terry Kelley, the Friends of the Library, and the Hibernians to continue the Irish Celebrations for the Month of March.



Thank you to artist Gregory Maichack, the Lawrence Cultural Council, and our community friends for making Pastel Night a success! Coming Soon: Pastel Night for Families.



Author Terry Farish sharing stories with 1st graders about the immigrant experience through her book "Joseph's Big Ride." For National Library Week.



Employee of the Month Congratulations!

Deana in the Payroll Office

Is the Employee of the Month for the month of April. Deana works diligently to ensure ALL employees are paid on time! She's always willing to lend a helping hand when we are short staffed.

Irish Heritage Month

Although we had to cancel the St Patrick's Day parade, the Irish spirit still ran high through the Irish Flag Raising, Irish Luncheon, and Banquet.



Mayor Dan Rivera at the 146th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Banquet and Dance.



The Irish Flag Raising took place on March 1 to kick off Irish Heritage month.

Art Gallery

Thursday, April 6, 2017 Student art auction at the Everett Mills was held to support our colleagues and students from the Lawrence Public Schools and the Essex Art Center. Everyone did an amazing job with their pieces and Congrats to those who had a chance to take home these amazing masterpieces.



Alisa Colon, A Girl. A Ball. A Dream.
Grade 10, Abbott Lawrence Academy, Drawing and Illustration

Read Across America

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!" Mayor Dan Rivera Celebrates Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America Day by visiting & reading to the students of the Lawrence Family Public Academy.



International Women's Day

Delamano Inc honored Elizabeth Delgado as their Women of the Year on March 8th for all of her great work to support the victims of Domestic Violence. Congratulations!



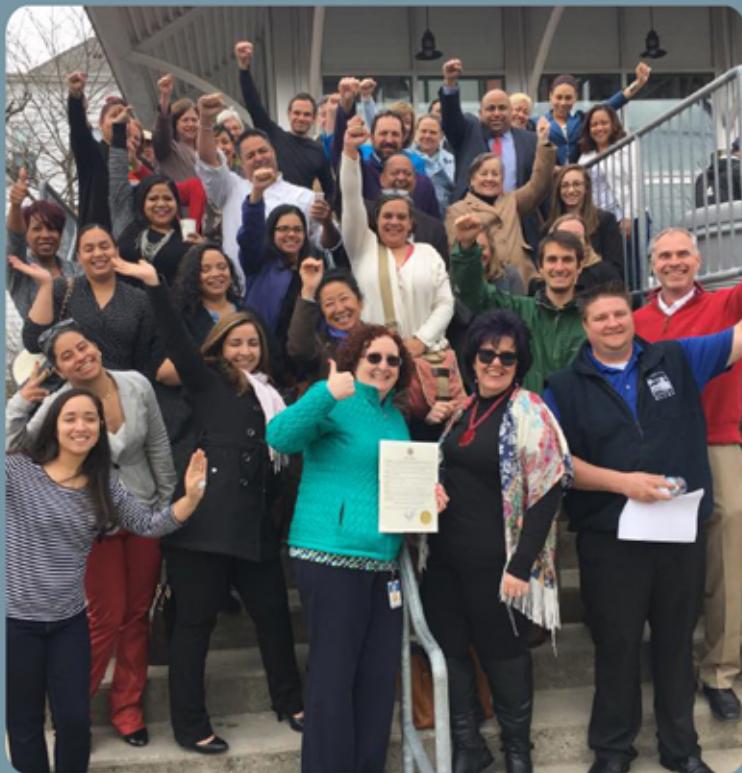
Delamano Inc presents Woman of the Year Award to Elizabeth Delgado.



Mayor Dan Rivera presenting a Proclamation to Elizabeth Delgado.

CDBG Celebration

Mayor Dan Rivera celebrating National CDBG week with our Community Development Office and Community Organizations! April 18th kicked off CDBG week in celebration of raising awareness about Community Block Development Grants (CDBG).



New Homeless Coordinator

Anil "Nilly" DaCosta



The City of Lawrence and the MHTF welcomes Anil "Nilly" DaCosta to the Office of Planning & Development team as the new Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator. Nilly has vast experience working with the homeless population, and has developed a deep understanding of the root causes that lead to homelessness. Nilly is familiar with the organizations and services that exist in the Lawrence area and beyond, to assist this population. His work with this community, coupled with his well-established connections and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, will help facilitate the coalition-building process and work necessary to create the innovative approaches needed to lead policy, systems and environmental changes that effectively address chronic homelessness in our City.

Community Health Panel



Pictured from left to right: Elecia Miller, Dr. Howard Koh, Vilma Martinez-Dominguez, and Dr. Vish Viswanath.

Vilma Martinez-Dominguez, MHTF Coordinator, was invited by Dr. Howard Koh, Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership at Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health (HSPH), and Harvard Kennedy School, and Dr. K. "Vish" Viswanath, Lee Kum Kee Professor of Health Communication, also of HSPH, to participate in a Community Health Panel on Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative Health Deep Dive two-day meeting. She talked about Lawrence's efforts to engage small businesses in the Lawrence Ciclovia (open streets) and the Healthy on the Block/Bodegas Saludables initiative, as part of their collective work to build a Culture of Health. It is part of a three year program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to strengthen the private sector's role in building a Culture of Health by convening thought leaders, investigating the meaning of leadership in context, and disseminating lessons learned.

LYC Upcoming trip and scholarships



In addition to volunteering at local outfits such as Cor Unum Meal Center, and at community efforts such as Earth Day, the Council has been working arduously on completing their short film, "What Is Education? Liberation through Creation", their WIE Bill of Rights for Education in Lawrence, and recently completed their mural. This group of aspiring advocates, are of the thinking that the education system as it stands, need to move at the same speed as other advances, such as those in technology and science. They believe more education should come through experience, and "hands on" opportunities, than currently exists. On May 4, the LYC will host a mural unveiling and launch the premiere of their video at the Lawrence Public Library, beginning at 6:00PM. On May 10, they will travel with their peers from Elevated Thought to the Department of Education, Washington, D.C., to present their work to staff and to learn how the Department's policies will be able to support their Bill, as well as potential challenges that may exist for their work. The group will do a final year in review presentation, at the MHTF General Meeting, on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at 10:00AM.



Groundwork Lawrence Earth Day Comcast Cares Day

The weather was not going to stop this group from making Lawrence Cleaner! Volunteers got together at the Campagnone Common to get to work as they cleaned 30+ sites across the city of Lawrence.

SAVE THE DATE

Edition 18 • March-April • 2017

15th Annual Beautification Day

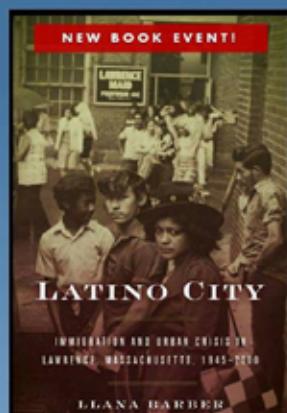
Saturday May 20, 2017 @ 9:00 am
Bellevue and Saint Mary's Cemeteries
Meet at Saint Mary's Mausoleum
6 Woodland Street
Methuen, MA 01844



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!
CEREMONY FOR VETERAN FLAG DISPOSAL
VOLUNTEER COOKOUT TO FOLLOW
AT THE RED BARN
RESERVOIR STREET
LAWRENCE MA, 01840
12:00PM
RAIN OR SHINE



For more info please call Jaime Melendez or Dawn Mackland-Rivera 978-620-3282



An Afternoon with Author Llana Barber

to celebrate the release of her new book
*Latino City: Immigration and Urban Crisis
in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945-2000*

Sunday, June 11, 2017
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Lawrence Public Library
Local History Room, 3rd Floor
51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence

Llana Barber is assistant professor of American
Studies at the State University of New York
College at Old Westbury.

Books will be available for
signing and purchase

Light refreshments will be provided

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Event co-sponsored by the Friends of the
Lawrence Public Library, the Friends of the
Lawrence Heritage State Park, and the
Lawrence History Center.

Please RSVP to Louise Sandberg at 978-620-3606,
lsandberg@cityoflawrence.com

More information about *Latino City* is available from the University of North Carolina Press at:
<https://www.uncpress.org/book/9781469631345/latino-city/>

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