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PÁGINA 2

Directores de la MVFCU rodean al Presidente Peter Mathews durante la ceremonia que dio comienzo a la construcción. Ellos son desde la izquierda: Joseph Bevilacqua, presidente de la Cámara de Comercio del Valle de Merrimack; Daniel Egan, presidente de Massachusetts Credit Union Association; Nick Lupoli; Sal Lupoli; Peter Mathews; Michael M. Sayler, presidente de la junta directiva; Michael Lupoli; Gus Longo, Mayté Rivera; y Alex R. Oski.

President Peter Mathews is surrounded by MVFCU Directors, during the ground breaking ceremony. They are from the left: Joseph Bevilacqua, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce president; Daniel Egan, Massachusetts Credit Union Association's president; Nick Lupoli; Sal Lupoli; Peter Mathews; Michael M. Sayler, board president; Michael Lupoli; Gus Longo, Mayté Rivera; and Alex R. Oski.



PÁGINA 7

VIETNAMITAS IZAN SU BANDERA

Dos miembros de la comunidad vietnamita izando su bandera en el Common de Lawrence.

VIETNAMESE RAISED THEIR FLAG Two members of the Vietnamese community rising they flag at Lawrence Common. PAGE 7



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Deval Patrick en el Chateau

Por Alberto Surís

Brad Samuels, un alumno de 8vo. grado de la Escuela Wood Hill, en Andover, a los 13 años, ya se interesa por la política.

“Vine con mi padre a escuchar a Deval Patrick. “Mi papá dice que él es un buen líder”, dijo el joven Samuels, que dice disfrutar el hablar de política en la escuela.

Brad y Daniel, su padre, un dentista de Andover se unieron a un grupo de más de 80 personas del distrito de la Senadora Susan C. Tucker que se dieron cita en el Chateau, en Andover, para escuchar a Duval Patrick, el viernes, 3 de febrero de 2006, el cual está postulado para Gobernador de Massachusetts.

La Senadora Tucker, la cual introdujo a Deval Patrick a la

VER **DEVAL PATRICK:**
CONT. EN LA PÁGINA 3

El Demócrata Deval Patrick hablando a un grupo en el Chateau, en Andover.

Democrat Deval Patrick speaking to a group gathered at The Chateau, in Andover.

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Editorial

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Poniendo fin a los abusos de los prestamistas

Una cosa buena viene a Lawrence. Al fin, un estudio será hecho para medir la magnitud de los abusos de los prestamistas y los extremadamente altos intereses que están causando tantos desahucios en esta ciudad. Este problema afecta a las minorías de baja entrada, particularmente a los latinos.

Por varios años hemos estado recibiendo quejas de miembros de nuestra comunidad que pierden sus casas pero nadie quería hablar de eso y conseguir información se convirtió en tremenda labor. Entretanto, las cifras continúan aumentando.

El Centro para el Desarrollo del Comercio en Northern Essex Community College ha recibido \$7,500 de Citizens Bank para conducir este estudio. El equipo al cargo de la investigación está pidiendo la cooperación de la comunidad y nosotros también queremos pedirles que lo hagan.

Cuando esté terminado, harán un informe público para la primavera de este año.

Putting an end to predatory lending

Something good is coming to Lawrence. Finally, a study will be done to measure the extent of predatory lending and extremely high interest rates that are causing so many foreclosures in this city. This problem affects low-income minorities, specifically Latinos.

For several years, we have received complaints about members of our community losing their homes but no one wanted to talk about it and gathering information became a tremendous task. Meanwhile, the figures continue to increase.

The Enterprise Development Center at Northern Essex Community College has received a \$7,500 from Citizens Bank to conduct this study. The research team is encouraging input from the community and we want to urge everyone to cooperate with this investigation.

A report will be made public in the spring of this year.

CARTAS AL EDITOR | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Merrimack Valley FCU comienza construcción de sus nuevas oficinas administrativas

Hace más de 50 años, Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union comenzó a servir al Valle de Merrimack con productos y servicios que la hicieron la institución exitosa que es hoy. Mientras que los empleados de Western Electric, AT&T y Lucent Technologies continúan siendo el grueso de sus miembros, más de 200 compañías se les han unido para proveer a sus empleados las mismas ventajas.

La celebración de hoy es la culminación del crecimiento que Merrimack Valley FCU está atravesando en años recientes. Ellos acaban de adquirir 40,000 pies cuadrados para establecer sus oficinas corporativas en Lawrence, MA en el Riverwalk en Merrimack Street y planean construir una sucursal de 4,000 pies cuadrados en el 500 de Merrimack Street con la asistencia de estudiantes de Merrimack College que ayudaron con la ingeniería de todo el proyecto. La mudanza tendrá lugar en unos 18 meses.

“Este es un acontecimiento muy grande para la Ciudad de Lawrence y una buena oportunidad para MVFCU de crecer mientras sirven a otros. Todos pensamos firmemente que este es el mecanismo adecuado en la revitalización de Lawrence y el glorioso futuro para nuestra ciudad,” dijo el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan. “Esta área ha sido una vergüenza por muchos años y va a ser convertida en la joya de la ciudad con esta construcción. Los residentes verán este proyecto como la continuación del renovado orgullo que está ocurriendo en sus comunidades,” dijo el alcalde.

“Los bancos están abandonando las ciudades



Lt. Governor Kerry Healey and President Peter Matthews.

pero las cooperativas de crédito están tomando su lugar”, dijo Daniel Egan, presidente de la liga de cooperativas del estado (Massachusetts Credit Union League). “Educación sobre finanzas es un problema muy grande en nuestra población de inmigrantes al igual que las prácticas codiciosas de algunos prestamistas y las cooperativas de crédito están aquí para ayudar”, añadió el Sr. Egan.

VER NUEVAS OFICINAS:
CONT. EN LA PÁGINA 5

Merrimack Valley FCU Breaks Ground for new Headquarters

Over 50 years ago, the Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union started serving the Merrimack Valley with products and services that made them the successful institution they have become. While the employees of the former Western Electric, AT&T or Lucent Technologies remain the stronghold of their membership, over 200 companies have joined their ranks giving their employees the same advantages.

Today's ground breaking is the culmination of the growth Merrimack Valley FCU has been experiencing in recent years. They recently purchased a new 40,000 square foot corporate headquarters in Lawrence, MA at the Riverwalk on Merrimack Street and plan to build a 4,000 square foot retail branch at 500 Merrimack Street with the help of Merrimack College students who helped engineer the whole project. The move will take place in about 18 months.

“This is a major event for the City of Lawrence

and a wonderful opportunity for MVFCU to grow while serving others. We feel very strongly that this move is going to be a catalyst in Lawrence's revitalization and a glorious future for our city,” said Mayor Michael J. Sullivan. “This area has been an eyesore for many years and it will be turned into the jewel of the city with this construction. The residents will view this project as a continuation of the renewed sense of pride which is occurring in their community,” the Mayor added.

“Banks are abandoning cities but credit unions are moving in,” said Daniel Egan, president of the Massachusetts Credit Union League. “Financial literacy is a big problem in our immigrant populations as well as predatory lending practices and the credit

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Deval Patrick at the Chateau

By Alberto Surís

Brad Samuels, an 8th grader from Wood Hill Middle School, in Andover, at age 13, is already interested in politics.

"I came with my dad to listen to Deval Patrick. My dad says that he is a good leader," said young Samuels, who claim to enjoy talking about politics with his friends at school.

Brad and his father, Daniel Samuels, a dentist from Andover joined a group of more than 80 people from Senator Susan C. Tucker's district gathered at The Chateau, in Andover, to listen to Deval Patrick, on Friday, February 3rd, 2006, who is a candidate for Governor of Massachusetts.

Senator Tucker, who introduced Deval Patrick to the audience, confessed that when she first heard about Deval Patrick, she said, "Maybe Patrick Deval? That would it make more sense," she said. At the beginning, she said to be confused until she finally met Patrick. "I came to realize that this man is as unique as his name. He is unique in his background, he is unique in his vision and he is unique in his humanity."

"Deval has a wonderful combination of business experience and compassion. He has been a successful attorney, a successful public servant and a successful corporate leader," said Tucker, who supports Patrick to be the next governor. "He is a good listener and he will take good ideas from whatever they come and put them into practice for the people of Massachusetts," said Tucker.

DEVAL IN HIS OWN WORDS

Why I'm running

"I believe that an enlightened government has a role to play in helping to make all of our lives better. I believe that each of us has a stake in our neighbor's dreams and struggles as well as our own. I believe in the American Dream, and want to



Deval Patrick y la Senadora Susan C. Tucker, D-Andover, durante una presentación de Patrick en el Chateau.

Deval Patrick and Senator Susan C. Tucker, D-Andover, during Patrick's presentation at a gathering at The Chateau.

work to put it within reach of more people here in Massachusetts."

Economy

"I see Massachusetts as a place in which businesses invest because of a well-

educated and well-prepared workforce and because they are assured that neither taxes nor regulation will be unreasonable. Massachusetts will be where people with ideas and initiative want to be, whether they are the next software giant or the next local grocer.

Supporting this economic renaissance, state government will become an active partner with businesses and workers. As governor, I will be personally involved in expanding opportunity and business growth."

Environment

"We are often asked to choose between

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DEVAL PATRICK

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audiencia, confesó que cuando oyó hablar de Deval Patrick por primera vez, pensó: "¿Tal vez Patrick Deval? ¡Tendría más sentido!" dijo. Al principio, ella dijo haber estado confundida hasta que por fin conoció a Patrick. "Desde entonces, me he dado cuenta que el hombre es único así como su nombre. "El es único en su pasado, él es único en su visión y es único en su humanidad".

"Deval tiene una magnífica combinación de experiencia en negocios y compasión. El ha sido un exitoso abogado, un exitoso servidor público y un exitoso líder corporativo", dijo Tucker, la cual apoya a Patrick para que sea el próximo gobernador. "El sabe escuchar y aprovechará las buenas ideas no importa de dónde vengan y las pondrá en práctica para la gente de Massachusetts", dijo Tucker.

DEVAL EN SUS PROPIAS PALABRAS

Por qué estoy postulado

"Yo creo que un gobierno educado tiene que jugar un papel de ayuda para mejorar nuestras vidas. Yo creo que cada uno de nosotros tiene una participación en los sueños y luchas de nuestros vecinos así

como los nuestros. Yo creo en el sueño americano y quiero trabajar para ponerlo al alcance de más personas en Massachusetts."

Economía

"Yo veo a Massachusetts como un lugar donde los negocios invierten porque tenemos una fuerza laboral bien educada y preparada y porque se les asegura que tanto los impuestos como las regulaciones no van a ser irracionales. Massachusetts será lo que las personas con ideas e iniciativas quieren que sea, lo mismo si es una empresa gigante de informática como una pequeña bodega.

Apoyando este renacer económico, el gobierno estatal se convertirá en un socio activo de los negocios y los trabajadores. Como gobernador, yo estaré personalmente envuelto en expandir las oportunidades y el crecimiento de los negocios".

Cuidado de salud

"Yo quiero cuidado de salud para cada hombre, mujer y niño/a en Massachusetts, que sea accesible, al alcance de ellos, seguro, concentrado en el paciente y tan efectivo y moderno como la ciencia lo

permita.

Yo veo el cuidado de la salud como un bien común- como el aire puro, calles seguras, y una educación efectiva- y también creo que el gobierno tiene un papel que jugar en el asegurar que las condiciones existen para el sistema de cuidado de salud que todos queremos".

Educación

"La educación transforma vidas. Yo creo que debemos inducirnos en una estrategia detallada de educación: una que comience antes del kindergarten y continúe hasta universidades y colegios públicos, que sea flexible y promueva innovación; que ofrezca alternativas sensibles a la educación; que evalúe detalladamente el progreso académico; que honre la enseñanza como servicio público; y que prepare a la juventud a ser ambos, mejores trabajadores y mejores ciudadanos.

Los maestros tendrán el apoyo, compensación y desarrollo profesional para ampliar su actuación y satisfacción en el trabajo y los administradores tendrán las herramientas, entrenamiento y autoridad para ser responsable del rendimiento en sus escuelas".

JON KELLER NARRA SU EXPERIENCIA COMO ANALISTA POLÍTICO

Por Beatriz Pérez

Sin dudas para cualquier persona que está ligada a los medios de comunicación resulta edificante el poder escuchar de labios de un periodista como Jon Keller, sus experiencias y ciertos detalles de esta fascinante carrera.

El pasado viernes el reconocido comunicador estuvo de visita en esta ciudad de Lawrence y con un excelente buen humor habló sobre su trabajo como analista político.

La conferencia del afamado reportero se llevó a cabo en Northern Essex Community College, bajo el auspicio de White Fund Enlightenment Series.

Keller fue presentado por Eileen Bernal miembro de White Fund, quien se refirió a aspectos significativos de la vida de este periodista.

La cara de Jon Keller es conocida a través de sus análisis políticos realizados en la cadena de televisión CBS4 en su espacio de noticias en los horarios de 6pm y 11pm. Sin embargo su presencia en los medios de comunicación no se limita al análisis político, sino que también hace comentarios de cultura y temas sociales.

La voz del periodista se deja escuchar cada mañana en WBZ News Radio 1030, y es compañero fiel de muchos de los conductores mientras se desplazan a sus lugares de trabajo, al momento que conduce su espacio "Keller at Large".

Los asistentes a la conferencia, "Covering Politics: One Reporter's Wild Ride", fueron testigos de fascinantes historias vividas por el comunicador, quien cuenta con más de dos décadas de experiencia en los medios de comunicación.

Keller fue nombrado como Best TV Political Analyst por segunda ocasión en Boston Magazine's en su edición Best of Boston. De igual modo previamente obtuvo el premio en 1999, mientras que en el 2004 recibió un New England Emmy Award como mejor reportaje.

El veterano comunicador trabajo además como analista político para WLVI-TV (WB56), en el noticiero, "The Ten O'Clock News", así como en varias estaciones de radio a través de toda la región incluyendo a WCCM en la Ciudad de Methuen.

Entre los presentes en el evento estaba Bruce Arnold quien comparte anécdotas con el periodista ya que ambos laboraron juntos.

The White Fund tiene como propósito de desarrollar una serie de presentaciones interactivas para residentes adultos, jóvenes y niños del área de Lawrence.

Esta organización está fundada por un generoso regalo financiero del honorable Daniel Appleton White. White Fund Lecture Series ha proporcionado conversaciones culturales, presentando conferencias en los campos de historia, literatura, viaje, artes y política y Northern Essex colabora con The White Fund en esta serie de eventos.

Sin dudas que haber tenido la oportunidad de escuchar de los propios labios de este consumado periodista sus experiencias, lo controversial que puede resultar la relación de la prensa con la política y la importancia de no descuidar la parte humana cuando se trata de comunicar, fue para cada uno de los que estuvimos presentes allí una experiencia inolvidable.

YouthBuild Lawrence ayuda víctimas de Katrina

Por Alberto Surís

En un lluvioso domingo por la mañana, el 5 de febrero, 2006, seis miembros de YouthBuild Lawrence, abordaron una van a las 6:00 AM que los llevó desde la Casa Orange Wheeler hasta el aeropuerto. Su destino final: Gulfport, Mississippi. Gulfport, en la costa del Golfo de México, es la segunda ciudad en tamaño en Mississippi.

Yamira Cartagena y Michael Caban, dos empleados de YouthBuild Lawrence, estuvieron haciendo preparativos para el viaje conjuntamente con Jason Rodríguez, Marcos Del Valle, George McKay y Gabriel Javier para comenzar una campaña nacional auspiciada por los programas de YouthBuild para reconstruir cientos de casas que fueron destruidas en Gulfport por el Huracán Katrina.

El grupo realizará trabajos de carpintería, pintura y demolición por una semana. "Nosotros llevamos nuestras herramientas, los sombreros duros, los sacos de dormir, etc." dijo Caban. "Estoy muy excitado porque voy. He estado en California y Washington DC, pero este es mi primer viaje al sur", dijo y añadió, "Mi hijo de 7 años me dijo que cuando él crezca quiere hacer el mismo tipo de servicio que hago yo", dijo Caban.

"Es muy satisfactorio, estoy muy estimulado y no puedo esperar a comenzar a trabajar y ayudar a otra comunidad que lo necesita", dijo el líder de YouthBuild Gabriel

Javier, cuando se le preguntó acerca de lo que esperaba encontrar allá. Por su parte Marcos Del Valle expresó que "nunca había experimentado algo parecido en cuanto a lo que está a punto de hacer. Estoy ansioso de abandonar la zona de confort y descubrir algo nuevo acerca de mí", dijo Del Valle lleno de excitación.

De acuerdo con el Director del Programa de YouthBuild Lawrence, Andrew J. Mente, el equipo de Lawrence fue el primero de todo el Estado de Massachusetts en responder y brindarse como voluntario al llamado nacional de ayuda. "Por lo que a mi respecta, estos muchachos son unos pioneros", dijo Mente.

Youth Build USA fue fundado en 1990 como una organización sin fines de lucro, con el objetivo de desatar la energía positiva en los jóvenes de bajos ingresos para reconstruir sus comunidades y sus propias vidas.

En los programas de YouthBuild, jóvenes entre las edades de 16 a 24 años, carentes de empleo y educación, trabajan para conseguir su GED o diploma de escuela superior mientras aprenden destrezas de trabajo construyendo viviendas económicas para aquellos de bajos recursos o que no tienen un techo. Se les pone un gran énfasis en el desarrollo de liderazgo, servicio comunitario y la creación de una positiva, pequeña comunidad de adultos y jóvenes dispuestos a triunfar.

NUEVAS OFICINAS

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"Este es el ejemplo perfecto de cómo el gobierno local, estatal y federal pueden trabajar unidos a la empresa privada para beneficiar a una comunidad, especialmente sirviendo un área que tanto lo necesita. Esta construcción es simbólica de un cambio a gran escala en Lawrence, indicando el cambio positivo en la actitud del pueblo de Lawrence," dijo Peter Matthews, presidente de MVFCU.

La Vicegobernadora Kerry Healey está muy impresionada con lo que esto significará para Lawrence. "Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union va a traer aproximadamente 80 empleos a la ciudad con un significativo aumento en empleo en años venideros," dijo la Vicegobernadora Healey. "Siempre que viajo por todo el estado, alardeo sobre Lawrence. Yo sé que el futuro de Lawrence va a ser inmensamente brillante."

Cuando Sal Lupoli comenzó, él tenía 35 compañías con 600 empleados. Treinta meses más tarde, hay más de 100 compañías y 1,600 empleados. Sus 35 restaurantes producen \$25 millones en ventas cada año, enviando pizzas a todas partes del estado pero él añade rápidamente, "Sin mi familia, no estaríamos aquí hoy."

La mañana comenzó con la participación de los miembros del JROTC de Lawrence High School ataviados con sus uniformes dando la bienvenida a unos 200 invitados y dignatarios. Las cadenciosas voces del Coro Femenino de Lawrence High School llenó el cavernoso e histórico edificio donde estaban las turbinas que proveían la electricidad y calefacción a las otras estructuras del complejo.

La Asociación Nacional de Cooperativas de Crédito ha aprobado un cambio haciéndola una institución comunitaria, lo cual le permite expandir sus servicios a un área más amplia. Este cambio significa que la sociedad ahora estará abierta a cualquier persona que viva, trabaje, practique una religión o asista a una escuela en el Valle de Merrimack, así como cualquier negocio u otra entidad local en esa área, para que puedan recibir los beneficios financieros al poder pertenecer a una cooperativa de crédito.

Ahora que Merrimack Valley FCU puede abrir sus puertas a todas las

"Los bancos están abandonando las ciudades pero las cooperativas de crédito están tomando su lugar"

Daniel Egan, presidente de la liga de cooperativas del estado

personas en el Valle de Merrimack, su mudanza a Lawrence es la mejor forma de servir a una población que carece de servicios.

"Como miembro que soy de la Comisión de Finanzas en la Casa de Estado, he aprendido mucho sobre las cooperativas de crédito", dijo la Senadora Estatal Sue Tucker. "Hace apenas unos días recibí una carta y me enteré de lo que están tratando de hacer por las personas que no tienen un hogar en el estado", ella añadió.

"Cuando yo vine a Lawrence aprendí sobre sus ríos y su historia pero carecía de algo: líderes y empresarios", dijo Mahesh Sharma, presidente de Cambridge College durante su discurso. "Yo aplaudo a Sal y a los funcionarios electos por su liderazgo. Lawrence fue prisionera de sus ladrillos y sus ladrillos la van a liberar."

Mejor conocida por el alto nivel de satisfacción por parte de sus miembros, el cual tiene un promedio de 94% en su encuesta anual, y habiendo ganado el Premio Diamante del 2005 de CUNA por Acción Política y el Massachusetts Performance Excellence de 2005 por su compromiso a mejorar la calidad, la cooperativa de crédito tiene la meta de conservar un bajo costo y alta satisfacción.

Con más de 43,000 miembros, Merrimack Valley FCU ofrece cheques gratis, la facilidad de hacer sus transacciones bancarias por la Internet de gratis, pago de cuentas gratis y una amplia gama de préstamos al consumidor y de bienes raíces a las tarifas y términos más competitivos. También, recientemente añadieron una línea de productos para pequeños comerciantes. Sus cuatro sucursales a través de North Andover, Haverhill y Methuen con su quinta sucursal en Plaistow, NH a principios de este año, les asegura que podrán servir las necesidades de cada miembro individualmente – uno a la vez.

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Comité Escolar considerará el aumento del Superintendente Laboy

Por Dalia Diaz

Durante la primera reunión del Comité Escolar de Lawrence, sentimos la esperanza de que ahora tengamos una representación decente en esa junta. El aumento de salario del Superintendente Wilfredo T. Laboy recibió un voto negativo que era lo justo y fue refrescante ver a Patricia Sánchez pedir más tiempo ya que la mayoría de los miembros son nuevos. ¡Eso era lo correcto!

Los miembros del Comité Escolar no deben ser presionados para votar por algo que no han tenido experiencia tratando. Ellos pidieron información adicional la cual ha sido proveída por la oficina del alcalde y ya están listos para hacerle frente de nuevo.

El miembro del Comité Escolar Gregory Morris ha colocado en la agenda el tema del aumento de salario del superintendente. De la única forma que esto podría hacerse es si uno de los miembros que había votado contra el aumento accede a llevarlo a votación otra vez.

"Yo quiero terminar con esto", me dijo el Sr. Morris. "Yo no quiero esto persiguiéndonos".

Como parte de la información adicional que pidieron, el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan les envió una carta enumerando los logros del superintendente incluyendo las mejoras en los exámenes del MCAS, el aumento en

la asistencia escolar en el distrito entero y muchas otras áreas.

Pero el alcalde no está correcto cuando dice que la construcción de la escuela secundaria está a tiempo y dentro de su presupuesto. Me han dicho que los estudiantes no se van a mudar este setiembre como pensaban. Dicen que hay tantos cambios que la mudanza tendrá lugar a mediados de curso o tal vez para el próximo setiembre del 2007.

El Alcalde Sullivan alega que él debe recibir un 3% de aumento por el costo de vida y un 2% por su mérito ya que gracias al esfuerzo del superintendente Lawrence High School recobró su acreditación en el 2004. El debe recordar que esto fue tomado en consideración cuando el Sr. Laboy recibió un aumento de salario el año pasado. La acreditación de la escuela secundaria fue uno de los logros listados como razones para justificar darle un aumento el año pasado.

Al alcalde también se le olvidó listar las cosas que lo desmeritan y que pueden ser de gran fundamento en la decisión. Por ejemplo, él no mencionó la forma en que el superintendente trata de sacar todo lo más que pueda de su posición, tales como los estribos que trató de hacer que el

... la peor razón para considerar darle un aumento de salario es que él todavía tiene pendiente ante los tribunales una acusación por asaltar a un miembro del Comité Escolar. Ese detalle no se halló en la lista de logros y debe ser tomado en consideración...

él ha sido un bochorno para esta ciudad a nivel nacional. Imagíñese solamente cómo se tomaría en cuenta en la industria privada.

El superintendente y el alcalde no estuvieron presentes en la segunda asamblea del Comité Escolar. Esa noche, ellos votaron unánimemente colocar en la agenda para esta próxima reunión un cambio en el requisito para los miembros del Comité Escolar de tener que obtener permiso previo del superintendente antes de visitar una escuela. Para sorpresa de todos, no fue incluido en la agenda de esta semana.

Hay una cosa que me tiene curiosa con respecto a esa asamblea del jueves. Mientras que Gregory Morris fue quien lo puso en la agenda, él está actuando como vocero del alcalde porque la recomendación viene del Alcalde Sullivan. Como chairman del Comité Escolar, el Alcalde Sullivan no puede hacer mociones sin antes ceder el martillo a otra persona hasta que termine la discusión sobre un tema en particular pero con su carta incompleta, los miembros han sido instruidos a seguir su camino.

El alcalde debe preocuparse más por negociar los contratos con los sindicatos de empleados que están trabajando sin uno. El superintendente debe recibir su aumento cuando el resto del personal reciba el suyo.

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La búsqueda de talento continúa

En la cuarta semana consecutiva, participantes llegaron de todo Massachusetts a Punto Final Nightclub en Lawrence para competir en *Proyecto Fama 2006*. Parece ser que cada semana que pasa la competencia aumenta en cantidad tanto como en talento, haciendo el trabajo del jurado de escoger tres semifinalistas mucho más difícil. Los concursantes presentaron varias canciones de reggaeton, música ranchera, bachata y baladas; y varios de ellos dominaron el escenario como si fueran artistas profesionales.

Sin embargo, el jurado tomó su decisión y votaron por Justina Ocasio, Vilenky Agramonte y Thomas Manuel Speing diciendo que estos tres concursantes mostraron "mucho talento y afinación vocal". Estos semifinalistas se presentarán en la Final de *Proyecto Fama 2006* el sábado, 18 de febrero en Galaxia Nightclub en Lawrence. Allí competirán contra los nueve semifinalistas que han sido seleccionados anteriormente – Pablo Argenis, Niulka Nova, Benjamín Grullón, Héctor Ferreira, Joann Flores, Elizabeth Ruiz, Lisandra Fernández, Shalon Rodríguez y Oscar Juárez – junto con los tres semifinalistas que serán seleccionados el próximo jueves, 9 de febrero.

En la Final de *Proyecto Fama 2006*, Telemundo Boston traerá a la respetada Dra. Ana María Polo del exitoso programa *Caso Cerrado* como uno de los jurados. También estará exclusivamente esa noche Bolívar Soto, estrella del programa *Santo Domingo Invita*, para ser el presentador de la Gran Final. El ganador de *Proyecto Fama 2006* se ganará varios premios: \$1,000 en efectivo, un viaje a Miami donde se presentará en vivo en el show de Telemundo *Cada Día* con María Antonieta; un viaje a La República Dominicana donde será recibido con un brindis especial en el Salón VIP del Hotel Clarion de Santo Domingo durante una Rueda de Prensa; una sesión de fotos artísticas en el estudio de Joanne Carlos Molina; una invitación para salir en el show *Santo Domingo Invita*; y la oportunidad de grabar su demo musical,

Recuerden que sólo queda una noche de audiciones y tres puestos, pero todavía pueden registrarse. Llamen a Telemundo Boston para participar la próxima semana al (617) 242-4606.

todo hecho posible por Telemundo Boston.

"Sabíamos que había mucho talento en nuestras comunidades latinas," dice Patricia Domeniconi, Gerente de Telemundo Boston, "y ha sido impresionante ver la participación y el talento de todos los concursantes. Hemos logrado tanto éxito en este año y sé que *Proyecto Fama* seguirá creciendo año tras año."

Recuerden que sólo queda una noche de audiciones y tres puestos, pero todavía pueden registrarse. Llamen a Telemundo Boston para participar la próxima semana al (617) 242-4606.

ZGS Communications es una compañía hispana de radio y televisión, concede en Arlington, Virginia, que actualmente tiene y opera 10 canales de televisión afiliados a TELEMUNDO. Dichas estaciones de TV están ubicadas en Washington, DC, Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Myers-Naples, Boston, Hartford, Providence, El Paso, Springfield, MA y Raleigh. ZGS también es dueño y operador de tres estaciones de radio en español que sirven a las comunidades de Washington, DC y Tampa. Por casi dos décadas, ZGS se enorgullece en ser un medio comunitario con el compromiso especial de servir, de transmitir programación local, de llegar a la comunidad y de celebrar la cultura hispana y difundir su herencia. Las estaciones ZGS están dedicadas a la excelencia y a exponer resultados óptimos, ya que es parte integral del mercado al que sirve.

Notas de su Bibliotecaria

Maureen Nimmo

Directora

Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence

¡Saludos Amigos Lectores! Bueno, ya terminamos el mes de enero sin muchos problemas y la primavera se encuentra a la vuelta de la esquina. Al terminar el invierno se van los dolores de cabeza que vienen con las tormentas de nieve.

Mientras escribo estas cortas líneas, recuerdo que ya se cumple un año desde que comencé a escribir esta columna y un año como directora de la biblioteca. ¡El tiempo ha pasado volando! Yo disfruto mucho el escribir para Rumbo. Para mí es una gran manera de no tan solo compartir con ustedes lo que está sucediendo en el edificio, pero también para solicitar ideas de ustedes y de qué les gustaría a ustedes ver en la biblioteca. Estoy muy agradecida que este periódico me de esta gran oportunidad. Especialmente cuando puedo a través de este, comunicarme con ustedes en inglés y en español.

Ya la renovación principal ha sido terminada. En mi reunión con el Consejo de Administración decidimos tener un día oficial para nuestra "gran reapertura" durante la primera semana de abril. Esta es la Semana Nacional de la Biblioteca y queda apropiado con nuestra celebración. Aparte de que nos da más tiempo para terminar algunos detalles que nos faltan en el Salón de Conferencias Robert Frost y en el Salón de Historia. Espero que puedan pasar pronto por aquí y ver las mejoras del edificio.

Tuve el placer de almorzar la semana pasada con dos de nuestros antiguos directores (Joseph Dionne y David Hildt.) Ellos quedaron muy impresionados al ver los cambios en el edificio. Para dar crédito a quien se lo merece, ellos reconocieron mi buena fortuna al saber que estoy trabajando con una administración que

valora la biblioteca y grupos culturales.

Ana Santos, supervisora del Departamento de Referencias, y Peggy Rambach del Centro Asiático del Valle del Merrimack han estado trabajando arduamente para el programa "Bibliotecas para el Futuro" el cual es patrocinado por Metlife Insurance. Ellas dos se reúnen una vez a la semana en el Centro Asiático con familias de inmigrantes residentes de Lawrence. Los adultos de estas familias cuentan sus historias de cómo eran sus vidas en sus países natales y los retos que encontraron al mudarse a este país. Los jóvenes de estas familias escriben estas historias y estas aparecerán en un libro el cual será publicado al final de este año. El Sr. Rambach ha tenido mucho éxito con grupos similares en el pasado. Estos libros han tenido resultados muy impresionantes ya que las historias son muy emocionantes.

Nuestro Grupo de Lectura estará leyendo el libro *Native Speaker* el cual relata experiencias de los coreanos americanos. ¡Únase a nosotros el 20 de febrero para discutir este libro! Este pasado mes discutimos un libro sobre China titulado *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*. Después de la discusión Wen He, de nuestro Departamento de Referencia, preparó una exhibición sobre la celebración del Nuevo Año Chino. De acuerdo al calendario chino este es el Año del Perro y el calendario de Wen presenta retratos de algunos de los perros del personal de la biblioteca incluyendo mi preciosa perrita Haley. Yo quisiera traerla contigo a trabajar, pero como no se puede una foto de ella será suficiente. Venga y vea el retrato de Haley y los de sus otros amiguitos, Jake y Chelsea.

¡Nos vemos en la biblioteca!

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February 15, 7 PM or February 19, 2 PM

The owner selection process for the two permanently affordable three bedroom homes, listed above, will begin in February 2006. Anyone interested in being selected to purchase one of these homes

MUST attend one of two information sessions, scheduled for February 15 and 19, 2006. Applications will be available at the end of each meeting.

Preference will be given to income eligible households with 2-4 school age children, who live, work or have children in a public elementary or secondary school in Andover (including the Greater Lawrence Technical School). The owner must be income eligible, meaning total household income must be less than 80 percent (about \$50,000, depending on family size) of the area median income established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. All applicants must complete a first time homebuyer's class **BEFORE** purchasing of one of these homes.

Vietnamitas izan su bandera



Un grupo de vietnamitas que asistieron a la ceremonia del izamiento de su bandera, rodeando al Jefe de Despacho del Alcalde, Myles Burke, los Directores de Asuntos de Veteranos de Lawrence y Methuen, Daniel Lannon y Ed 'Hoppy' Curran, Tai Pham, Edward F. Vo, Son Dinh, Donny Pham and Nga Dinh entre otros.

Group of Vietnamese attending the flag raising ceremony surrounding Mayor Sullivan's Chief of Staff, Myles Burke, Lawrence Veterans Affairs Director Daniel Lannon, Methuen Veterans Affairs Director Ed 'Hoppy' Curran, Tai Pham, Edward F. Vo, Son Dinh, Donny Pham and Nga Dinh among others.



Son Dinh, Tai Pham and Donny Pham, sostienen la bandera antes de ser izada.

Son Dinh, Tai Pham and Donny Pham holding the flag about to be raised.



Edward F. Vo, presidente de la comunidad vietnamita en Lawrence, sostiene la proclama recibida de Myles Burke.

Edward F. Vo, Vietnamese Community President in Lawrence, holds the proclamation received from Myles Burke.

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Vietnamese Raised Their Flag

By Alberto Surís

On Saturday, January 28, 2006, a group of local Vietnamese got together at the Common, across the Lawrence City Hall, to raise their flag.

Myles Burke, Chief of Staff to Mayor Michael J. Sullivan, represented him at the ceremony. "The Mayor asked me to deliver a citation to you and extend his congratulations and thanked you for choosing Lawrence to be your new home," said Burke.

Edward F. Vo, Vietnamese Community President in Lawrence, representing the group, received the citation from Burke. "We want to thank the City of Lawrence for welcoming us. We want to be good citizens," said Vo.

Por Alberto Surís

El sábado, 28 de enero, 2006, un grupo de vietnamitas del patio se reunieron en el Common frente al ayuntamiento de Lawrence para izar su bandera.

Myles Burke, Jefe de Despacho del Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan, le representó en la ceremonia. "El alcalde me pidió que les entregue esta proclama y les extendiera sus congratulaciones y les diera las gracias por haber escogido a Lawrence para hacerlo su

nuevo hogar", dijo Burke.

Edward F. Vo, presidente de la comunidad vietnamita en Lawrence, recibió la proclama de Burke en representación del grupo. "Queremos dar las gracias a Lawrence por habernos acogido. Queremos ser buenos ciudadanos", dijo Vo.

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MERRIMACK VALLEY FCU

COMIENZA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE SUS NUEVAS OFICINAS ADMINISTRATIVAS



The Lt. Governor Kerry Healey addressing the audience.

Due to the rain that morning, the ground breaking was held inside the building.

Debido a la lluvia de esa mañana, la ceremonia tuvo lugar en el interior del edificio.



The ladies of MVFCU: Susan Ferreira, Laurie Aspinwall and AVP of Finance, Jan White.

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan, Joseph Bevilacqua and Sal Lupoli.



MVFCU's Vice President of Operations William Betton, Jr. and AVP of MIS, Joseph Callery.



Congressman Marty Meehan, Lt. Governor Kerry Healey, Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and Sal Lupoli.



Chamber of Commerce President Joseph Bevilacqua, Merrimack College President Richard Santagati and Sal Lupoli sharing a good laugh.



Councilor Joseph Parolisi, Chick LoPiano and Councilor Gil Frechette.



Lawrence High School students participating in the JROTC gave the celebration an air of elegance.



Joseph

MERRIMACK VALLEY FCU BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS



Over two hundred guests attended the ground breaking.



Retired Firefighter Rick Kenyon welcome everyone playing the bag pipe. With him, Sharon Birchall of the Firefighters' Credit Union.



MVFCU President Peter Matthews with Maurice L. Dubé, District Director, and Lisa Gonzalez of the U.S. Small Business Administration.



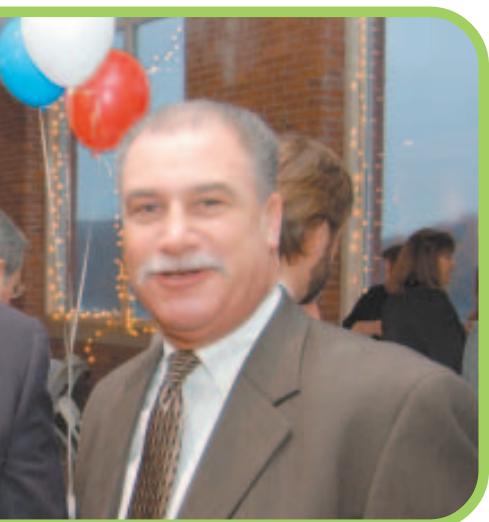
The Lawrence High School Girls Ensemble having breakfast prior to their concert.



Pastores David Berroa, Rafael Blanco y Juan Melo.



Mahesh Sharma, president of Cambridge College chats with Peter Matthews.



John M. Mansour, manager of Firefighters' Credit Union with President Peter Matthews.



Local legislators participating in the celebration: State Representatives, Barry Finegold (D-Andover), David Torrisi (D-North Andover), William Lantigua (D-Lawrence) and Lt. Governor Kerry Healey.



Nora Carroll and Gloria Schwarz.

Youth Build Lawrence to help Katrina victims



By Alberto Surís

On a rainy morning, Sunday, February 5th, 2006, six members of YouthBuild Lawrence, boarded a van at 6:00 AM to take them from The Orange Wheeler House in Lawrence, to the airport. Their final destination: Gulfport, Mississippi by the Gulf of Mexico. Gulfport is the second largest city in Mississippi.

Two YouthBuild Lawrence Staff, Yamira Cartagena and Michael Caban, have been making preparations for the trip, along with Jason Rodriguez, Marcos Del Valle, George McKay and Gabriel Javier to kick off a multi-year national commitment from YouthBuild programs across the country to rebuild hundreds of homes in Gulfport, that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The group will do carpentry work as well as painting and demolition for one week. "We are carrying all our tools, hard hats, sleeping bags, etc., " said Caban. "I'm really excited to be going. I've been in California and Washington DC, but this is my first trip to the South", he said and added, "My 7 years old son told me that when he grows up he wants to do service like me", said Caban.

"It feels great and I'm thrilled and can't wait to get down and dirty to help out

another community in need," said YouthBuild Leader Gabriel Javier, when asked about his trip expectations. "I have never experienced anything like what I'm about to do. I'm looking forward to stepping out of my comfort zone and discover something new about myself," said Marcos Del Valle full of excitement.

According to Lawrence YouthBuild Program Director, Andrew J. Mente, the Lawrence team was the first to volunteer from Massachusetts, responding to a national call for help. "As far as I know, this guys are the pioneers", said Mente.

Founded in 1990, YouthBuild USA is a national nonprofit organization that works to unleash the positive energy of low-income young people to rebuild their communities and their lives.

In YouthBuild programs, unemployed and undereducated young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people. Strong emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive mini-community of adults and youth committed to success.

SOUP-A-BOWL

A NEW EVENT AT MARY IMMACULATE HEALTH/CARE SERVICES

WHEN:

February 9th, [Founders' Day]

LOCATION:

Mary Immaculate Nursing/Restorative Center | 6:30am-6:30pm

LOCATION:

Mary Immaculate Residential Community | 10:00am-4:00pm

Paint your own soup bowl – or more than one if you wish – we provide all supplies, paint, brushes, sponges, etc. We then have your bowl glazed and fired.

All bowls will be on display March 3, again in both locations and you are invited to fill your bowl with a variety of several delicious soups at our March Madness Soup-A-Bowl Fest.

Tickets are \$15 and should be purchased in advance by calling 978 685 6321 ext. 1477 or ext 1402. Cash, checks, and MC/Visa accepted. Tickets also available at MI Nursing/Restorative Center or MI Residential business office.

For more information, please call Linda Thomson at 978 685 6321 or e-mail: Linda_thomson@mihcs.com.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the residents and clients of Mary Immaculate Health/Care Services.

GROUND BREAKING

CONT. FROM PAGE 2

unions are there to help," added Mr. Egan.

"This is a classic example of Local, State and Federal governments working together with private business to benefit a community, especially serving an underserved area. This ground breaking is symbolic of a major change in Lawrence, indicative of the positive change in attitude of people about Lawrence," said Peter Matthews, President/CEO of MVFCU.

Lt. Governor Kerry Healey was impressed with what this will mean to Lawrence. "Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union will be bringing approximately 80 jobs into the city with a significant increase in employment in the coming years," said Lt. Governor Healey. "Whenever I'm traveling throughout the state, I brag about Lawrence. I know the future of Lawrence is going to be immensely bright."

When Sal Lupoli started, he had 35 companies with 600 employees. Thirty months later, there are over 100 companies and over 1600 employees. His thirty-five stores earn him \$25 million in retail every year, shipping pizzas all over the state but he is quick to add, "Without my family, we wouldn't be here today."

The morning started with the participation of Lawrence High School's JROTC members in full regalia welcoming approximately 200 guests and dignitaries. The mellifluous voices of the Lawrence High School Girls' Ensemble filled the cavernous historic building that used to house the turbines providing power and heat to all other structures in the compound.

The National Credit Union Association recently approved a change in charter thus becoming a community credit union, allowing them to expand their services to a broader area. This change means that membership will now be open to persons who live, work, worship or attend school in the Merrimack Valley, as well as businesses and other local entities located in that area, to receive the financial benefits of belonging to a credit union.

Now that Merrimack Valley FCU can open its doors to all individuals in the Merrimack Valley, the move to Lawrence is the best way to serve this underserved population.

"As a member of the Finance Commission at the State House, I've learned a lot about credit unions," said State Senator Sue Tucker. "Just a few days ago I received a letter and I learned about how the credit unions are trying to deal with homelessness in this state," she added.

"When I came to Lawrence I learned

Today's ground breaking is the culmination of the growth Merrimack Valley FCU has been experiencing in recent years. They recently purchased a new 40,000 square foot corporate headquarters in Lawrence, MA at the Riverwalk on Merrimack Street and plan to build a 4,000 square foot retail branch at 500 Merrimack Street with the help of Merrimack College students who helped engineer the whole project. The move will take place in about 18 months.

about its rivers and history but something was missing: leaders and entrepreneurs," said Mahesh Sharma, president of Cambridge College during his speech. "I applaud Sal and the elected officials for their leadership. Lawrence was imprisoned by its bricks and its bricks are going to liberate it."

Best known for its high member satisfaction ratio, which averages 94% in their annual survey, and also for winning the 2005 CUNA Marketing and Business Development Diamond Award for Political Action and the 2005 Massachusetts Performance Excellence Award for their commitment to quality improvement, the credit union is focused on low cost and high satisfaction.

With over 45,000 members, Merrimack Valley FCU offers free checking, free online banking, free bill payment and a wide range of consumer and real estate loans at the most competitive rates and terms available. Also, recently they instituted a small business product line. Their four branches throughout North Andover, Haverhill and Methuen and their fifth branch opening in Plaistow in early 2006, assures them to be able to meet the demands of new and existing members – one member at a time.



EL LAWRENCE COUNCIL ON AGING

está buscando personas mayores de 55 años interesadas en bolear. Cualquier persona interesada puede llamar al Senior Center al (978) 794-5886 desde las 12 del mediodía hasta las 4 de la tarde. Preguntar por María Silva.

THE LAWRENCE COUNCIL ON AGING

is looking for bowlers 55 or over. Anyone interested, please, contact Lawrence Senior Center at (978) 794-5886 and ask for María Silva, 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM.

School Committee to consider Superintendent Laboy's raise

By Dalia Diaz

During the first meeting of the Lawrence School Committee, there was hope that we are now going to have decent representation on that board. The salary increase for Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy was voted down as it should have been and it was refreshing seeing Patricia Sánchez asking for time since most members were new. That was the right thing to do!

The School Committee members should not be pressured into voting for something they had no experience dealing with. They requested additional information which has been provided by the mayor's office and they are ready to tackle the issue again.

For next Thursday's meeting, School Committeeman Gregory Morris has placed the superintendent's salary raise on the agenda. The only way this could be brought up before one year is if one of the members who had voted against the raise would bring it up one more time.

"I want this over with," Mr. Morris told me. "I don't want this hanging over us."

As part of the additional information that was requested, Mayor Michael J. Sullivan sent them a memo enumerating the superintendent's accomplishments dealing with improvements in the MCAS scores, increased attendance for the entire district

and many other areas.

But the mayor is not quite correct when he said that the high school construction project is on time and on budget. It is my understanding that students will not be moving in this September as scheduled. It has been said that there are so many changes going on that it will take place by the middle of the next school year or perhaps the following September of 2007.

Mayor Sullivan also states that he should get a 3% cost of living increase and a 2% merit increase because thanks to the superintendent's efforts Lawrence High School recovered its accreditation in 2004. He must remember that this was taken into consideration when Mr. Laboy received an increase in pay last year. The accreditation of Lawrence High School was one of the accomplishments listed as the reasons to justify a raise last year.

The mayor also forgot to list the detractions that could be pivotal in their decision. For example, he did not mention the fleecing that the superintendent has been performing at every chance like billing for the running boards, the automatic car starter that was hidden as an oil change in his car, etc.

Mayor Sullivan continues to allow

...the worst reason to even consider giving him a salary increase is that he still has a trial pending in court for assaulting a member of the School Committee. That detail was missing from the list of accomplishments and it should be taken into consideration because he has been an embarrassment to this city on a national level. Just imagine how this would be weighed in private industry.



LITHUANIANS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE

On Sunday, February 19th, the Lawrence/Merrimack Valley Chapter of the American Lithuanian Council Inc., A.L.T., will celebrate the 88th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence and the 90th anniversary of A.L.T.

A mass, in Lithuanian, will be celebrated by Rev. Albinas Janiunas at 12 noon at Corpus Christi Church on Essex and Union streets in Lawrence, MA, the former Holy Rosary Church. It will be for the intention of the patriots of Lithuania.

Immediately following the service, the civil observance will be held in the parish hall next to the church. A traditional Lithuanian meal will be prepared by Chef David, prior to the film "In Love With Lithuania" by director Arvydas Barysas.

The tickets for the meal can be obtained by calling David at (603) 893-0585 or at the door of the hall. For more information you may call Jonas Stundia at (978) 685-4478.

OPEN MIC NIGHT!

The next Open Mic Night at the Lawrence Music Clubhouse is Thursday, February 2nd from 6 to 8pm. Come and share your talent with our great community! You can sing, dance, play an instrument, act, recite poetry, tell stories and much, much more. Or you can come and check out the local talent! All ages are welcome.

The Music Clubhouse is located at the Lawrence Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA. We are open Monday-Friday, 3pm to 8pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Drop in at any time and/or participate in any of our special programs including Guitar, Keyboard, Voice, Drum and Recording Workshops.

**For questions about
Open Mic,
the Music Clubhouse
or our special workshops
contact Amy Baione at
(978) 686-6191 ext.17
or at
abaione@mvymca.org**

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NECC Receives Funding to Study Foreclosure Rates in Lawrence

Study to Focus on Foreclosures and High Interest Loans in Lawrence Citizens Bank has given the Housing and Urban Development/Northern Essex Community College Community and Enterprise Development Center (CEDC) \$7,500 to conduct a foreclosure study of Lawrence, Massachusetts. The study will examine the homeownership retention ability of low-income minorities, specifically Latinos. Resident case studies will unveil risk factors that hamper long-term homeownership affordability.

The study research staff will be meeting and interviewing representatives of real estate, mortgage, housing and community organizations to gather different perspectives on foreclosures and predatory lending in Lawrence. They will also refer to foreclosure and real estate data to gather additional statistical information. The findings, drawing from interviews and resident focus groups, will be synthesized into a community report that will be shared through a public forum in the spring of 2006.

Mayte Rivera, director of the HUD/NECC CEDC, says this study is very timely. "Lawrence has one of the highest percentages of high interest refinancing activity in the state. It's likely this is contributing to the city's high foreclosure rates, which have increased consistently in recent years."

According to ForeclosureMass, Inc., there were 92 cases of foreclosures reported in Lawrence in 2004. That number had increased to 131 in 2005. Fifty-three percent of the 2004 foreclosures were experienced by Latino households as compared to 55 percent of the foreclosures in 2005. The study is a follow-up to a report released by the Northern Essex Community College Institute for Community and Workforce Development titled "The Making of Community : Latinos in Lawrence, Massachusetts." This report revealed many important contributions by immigrant home buyers in Lawrence, suggesting the growth of a middle class of Latinos who are playing

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a vital role in the city's economy.

"The goal of the study is to educate residents, city personnel, business owners, academic institutions, community organizations, financial literacy providers, real estate agents and also representatives from the financing sector, of the current foreclosure trend and predatory lending concerns in the city," says Rivera. "We hope it raises community consciousness regarding mortgage practices in the home-buying market and sheds light on possible preventive alternatives."

The Community and Enterprise Development Center (CEDC) formerly known as the Community Institute of Business Education has been a key player in implementing HUD/OUP (Office of University Partnerships) programs for over five years at NECC. The Center has provided training and educational services for micro-entrepreneurs in Lawrence, Massachusetts, predominantly Latino merchants. Through recent funding initiatives, it has provided assistance to neighborhood and community organizations, Latina child-care providers and to Lawrence residents in need of financial literacy education. CEDC has served over 1,500 residents and businesses over the past five years through HUD/OUP activities.

HUD/NECC's CEDC research team is encouraging input from the community. Please contact Mayte Rivera at mrivera@necc.mass.edu or 978 738-7632 with questions or suggestions.

Notes from your Librarian

Maureen Nimmo

Director

Lawrence Public Library



Our book club's next

selection will be

Native Speaker

written about the

experiences of Korean

Americans. Join us

on February 20th for

that discussion. This

month our book,

Snow Flower and the

Secret Fan was about

China.

Hi Rumbo readers. Well, we made it through January without too much trouble. Now if we can get one more month behind us it will be March. Then I can start thinking about spring. I think I get crazier every year with my constant counting off of how much there is left of winter but I do love the nice weather. No worries about possible blizzards and whether to close the building!

I am thinking, as I write this, that it is now a full year I have been library director and also a full year of these columns. It seems to have passed so quickly. I really do enjoy doing the columns. For me it is a great way not just to share with you all what is happening in our building but also to solicit ideas from you as to what you'd like to see happen. I get a lot of feedback from Rumbo readers and I really appreciate that. All in all, I'm very glad that this newspaper gives me such a wonderful opportunity. Especially since I can reach both the English and the Spanish speaking communities.

Well, the main renovation work is all finished here. In my monthly meeting with our Board of Trustees we discussed when we should have our official "grand opening" and decided on the first week of April. That is National Library Week which seemed appropriate and it will also give us time to finish a few ancillary projects, like our History room and our new Robert Frost conference room. Of course, I hope you all stop by to see the improvements here before then.

I had the pleasure of having two of the former directors (Joseph Dionne and David Hildt) join me for lunch and a tour of the building last week. They were really impressed with the changes. To give credit where it is due, they also acknowledged my good fortune to work with an administration that makes libraries and cultural groups a priority.

Ana Santos, our head of reference and Peggy Rambach from the Asian

Center of the Merrimack Valley have been working hard on our *Libraries for the Future* program that is being sponsored by a grant from Metlife Insurance. The two are meeting once a week, at the Asian Center, with immigrant families living in Lawrence. The parents on the families are telling the stories of their lives in their native countries and of the challenges they faced moving here. The children are then writing these stories down and the stories will all appear in a book later in the year so we will all be able to share these moving accounts. Ms. Rambach has run similar groups for young adults from the Asian Center in the past. The books that have resulted have been impressive indeed.

Our book club's next selection will be *Native Speaker* written about the experiences of Korean Americans. Join us on February 20th for that discussion. This month our book, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* was about China. After the discussion, Wen He from our reference department arranged a display celebrating Chinese New Year. This is the Year of the Dog and Wen's calendar features some of our staff's dogs including my own beautiful whippet, Haley. I keep threatening to bring her to work with me but I guess the photo will have to do. Come in and see her with her dog friends, Jake and Chelsea.

See you at the library.

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IT'S ALL ABOUT RIGHT(S)

BY ELLEN BAHAR

Am I the only one who sees these things?

I am talking about the way Jajuga all-solemn like walks down the aisle at Billy's Inauguration wearing a black robe.

Does that mean that we should forget all the indiscretion that he is charged with? After all he did lose his job. After all somebody he was closely associated with did commit suicide.

Jajuga was connected with 50 million dollars worth of federal grants probe. How is that case going? I think I am going to make some phone calls.

How can you show your face after you are embroiled in something this dastardly? Never mind wearing a black robe like a judge does! I think he would have looked better in a mink coat? OR MAYBE A STRIPED SUIT!

He is not the only one. What about Deputy Dawg Alaimo? In the past, he and his family have cost the town over hundred thousand dollars in hush money for an out-of-court settlement to quell real bad behavior while working for us as police officers.

Then the dawwg has the nerve to state for the daily record of advertisement, death, Dear Abby and horoscope, that it was a good thing that the knickknacks indemnified both him and the chief; again for bad behavior, not following protocol, threatening and harassing ex-town solicitor last February.

What about the dawwg's significant other, (currently Billy's 50K+ executive secretary), who gets appointed like abracadabra to the fire department and passes out when the equipment is strapped on her?

How many qualified men and women did she step on to received that appointment, which in the end was a waste of time and money. Don't fret Lisa; there is always a career in blowing up balloons for a politico who will keep you attached to the spout. Oh! Look she has landed on her balloon again.

What about the fact that Lisa's brother was sky rocketed on to the fire department above many qualified applicants, only to find out in the end that he had lied on the application and was finally terminated.

What about old shar and her little load? Let's take the load for instance. He was found guilty of credit card fraud while wielding the teachers' union pension plan card, purchasing golf trips at four-star resorts for himself and his nefarious queen. Not to mention the luggage.

The load did end up losing that over 100K-lifetime appointment to the spout. But in the end David Driscoll, Biggest Cheese at the Department of Education goes and names a room after the load in a little publicized ceremony. I hope it was the men's room. David what were you thinking?

What about old shar herself, diverting mitigation funds from the Brooks deal to her Festival of Trees. The DA found nothing wrong with this? Just whom is the DA representing? Since when has the DA been the end all know all, he says all is well in pork town and I guess we are supposed to all be Stepford Wives and believe him.

This is not the first time the DA has

This is no way to run a government. We the people need reform and we need it now.

Billions of dollars are being literally flushed down the toilet when it could be put to such good use if only those doling it out would be held accountable. Let's start in Methuen and perhaps create a national wave.

been mute. Whatever happened to the investigation of Officer Amy Beth Bergeron who committed suicide immediately after having attended a private Methuen police get together?

What about plummeting Patrick McDougal into the ground on a wire tapping case, but refusing to release the Moe Lariviere tapes?

The game is to charge you with something, rack up a horrendous lawyer's bill, all the while we the people are picking up the tab for the prosecution. Where is the justice?

You know, in my world when you do awful things like these politicos have done and are doing, you are so full of shame that you dry up and blow away or get locked up and put away. I am learning that this is not the case in the wonderful world of politics.

In politics you wear a black robe, become the Grand Marshall of the town parade and have an appreciation dinner to collect cold hard cash, get promoted to Deputy Police Chief, get the best representation money can buy, without having to spent a dime of your own!

Please, quick get me a pair of rose-colored glasses! Years ago when I was wearing mine I did not notice the terrible travesty we call local government.

For me it has never been about the money, the patronage or corruption; it is about life and death. The money, the patronage, and the corruption are what's taking up the time of our elected, and appointed politicos. They need to start focusing on life and death. After that, everything becomes easy.

Cover Up

What brought it to my attention was the ultimate cover up down on Gleason Street where our officials turned a blind eye to the citizens who were sick and dying, while working behind the scenes to insure yet another developer a 10 million + tax free loan to develop a toxic soup with little or no clean up.

Two little boys within a close proximity died. Does that not mean anything? Many families are sick and will not be recovering.

I am not limiting the travesty to local government, it is happening all over at all levels, but for now I want to try and understand how those of you that live in our community have so little regard for the rest of us. Why do you think that you are above the rest of us and have to pay no consequences, yet brazenly and constantly let us know, DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

Well the answer to that is a big yes! I am disgusted and dismayed that you purport to be our leaders.

If all the corruption, mismanagement, and mistakes were to be bared for all Methuenites to see, I KNOW YOU WOULD ALL BE APPALLED!

This is no way to run a government. We the people need reform and we need it now. Billions of dollars are being literally flushed down the toilet when it could be put to such good use if only those doling it out would be held accountable. Let's start in Methuen and perhaps create a national wave.

When you do bad things, you should be held up for all to see, then the buttons should be ripped off your coat, your sword broken in half and you get removed from the public trough, never to be there again. Branded with a big red A on your forehead and it doesn't stand for adultery like back in the Pilgrim days.

A View From The Front Pew

Well, not exactly a pew anymore. Make that one of those funeral parlor chairs where you sit to view the body.

Where to begin! It was a packed house, police and fire awardees family members, some of the rank and file of the fire department and all of the brass of the police department, except Captain Wnek, I assumed he was circling the building in his black crown vic, looking for a fire lane to park in.

I was glad to see that Billy had invited the fire department giving them some credit, after that faux paux by the police chief in the daily record of advertisement, death, Dear Abby and horoscope, hogging all the glory for themselves. AGAIN!

I didn't realize this was going to be a major media event! Go Figure! Billy's Inauguration

It was lovely! I was so impressed that Billy did actually open up what should have been public to the public. It has not been like that in the past.

Old Shar did have the swearing in ceremony, then her and her anointed cohorts, the beautiful people, removed themselves to party in an undisclosed location away from the prying eyes of the unwashed masses.

I always wondered if it had something to do with their table manners.

So, Billy, you did a good thing, we need more good things!

PS. Have you raised the private funds to pay for the party?

Public Invited to Forum on Criminal Justice Careers

Northern Essex Community College's Criminal Justice program will hold a forum featuring a number of successful men and women who work in the criminal justice system titled, "The Sky's the Limit: Success Stories in Criminal Justice" on Friday, Feb. 10, from 12 to 1 p.m. on the Lawrence Campus, 45 Franklin Street, Room 244.

The speakers will tell their own personal stories of the difficulties they faced in achieving their professional goals. This presentation, by a panel of distinguished criminal justice professionals, will serve to remind students of the many challenges others have overcome and still been successful in their careers.

Speakers include Attorney Robert Harnais, General Counsel, Norfolk County Sheriff's Office; Second Deputy Commissioner of Probation Elizabeth Tavares; The Honorable Jose Sanchez, Essex County Juvenile Court; and The Honorable Angela M. Ordonez, Norfolk Probate and Family Court.

The Criminal Justice Program at NECC attracts a diverse student population from the Merrimack Valley in northern Massachusetts and from southern New Hampshire. While most of these students share an interest in working within the criminal justice system, after graduation they pursue a wide variety of careers in law enforcement, corrections, probation, and in law, itself. Many NECC students work full time to pay for their education, and have had little opportunity to meet with, or to learn from, accomplished professionals, according to Carol Liebman, program coordinator.

Northern Essex offers an associate in science degree program in Criminal Justice that describes and analyzes the various aspects of the criminal justice system. The curriculum is designed to take a systems approach in understanding the crime problem in the United States. The program is structured to prepare students for professional careers, whether they are pre-service or already working in the criminal justice field. It is recognized that a majority of criminal justice students continue their education after completing their degree. Consequently, the curriculum has a broad, academic orientation, facilitating transfer to four-year institutions.

For additional information contact Carol Liebman, coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program at 978-738-7444 or cliebman@necc.mass.edu.

The Talent Search continues

For the fourth consecutive week, performers from all over Massachusetts gathered in Punto Final Nightclub to compete in Proyecto Fama 2006. It seems that each week, the competition has increased in number and talent, making the judge's task of choosing three semifinalists increasingly difficult. The contestants performed ballads, reggaeton, bachata and merengue songs, and many of them seemed to dominate the stage like pros.

In the end, however, the judges made their decision and voted for Justina Ocasio, Vilenky Agramonte y Thomas Manuel Speing stating that they were "incredibly talented and showed great vocal control". These semifinalists will now compete in the Proyecto Fama 2006 Finale on Saturday, February 18 at Galaxia Nightclub in Lawrence. Here they will battle with the previously selected nine semifinalists – Pablo Argenis, Niulka Nova, Benjamin Grullón, Hector Ferreira, Joann Flores, Elizabeth Ruiz, Lisandra Fernandez, Shalon Rodriguez and Oscar Juarez– as well as with the three semifinalists who have yet to be selected in the last auditions next Thursday, February 9.

In the *Proyecto Fama 2006 Finale*, Telemundo Boston will bring as a special guest judge, the well-respected arbitrator, Dr. Ana Maria Polo from the hit show *Caso Cerrado*. In addition, Bolivar Soto, star of *Santo Domingo Invita*, will make an exclusive appearance as host of the event. The winner of Proyecto Fama 2006 will win various prizes which include: \$1000 in cash; a trip to Miami where the winner will appear on Telemundo's morning show, *Cada Día con María Antonieta*; a trip to the Dominican Republic where the winner will stay in the

exclusive VIP suite of the Clarion Hotel in Santo Domingo and hold a press conference; a photo shoot in the Joanne Carlos Molina studio; a special appearance on *Santo Domingo Invita*; and the ability to record a demo, all made possible by Telemundo Boston.

"We knew that there was plenty of talent in our Hispanic communities," says Patricia Domeniconi, General Manager of Telemundo Boston, "and it is amazing to see the response and participation from all the contestants. We have been able to achieve so much this year, and we are confident that *Proyecto Fama* will be a success in the years to come."

Remember that there is only one more night of auditions and three coveted positions left, but there is still time to register! Call Telemundo Boston to participate next week at 617-242-4606!

ZGS Communications is a Hispanic-owned broadcasting company, headquartered in Arlington, VA that currently owns and operates 10 Telemundo affiliate television stations. The television stations are located in Washington DC, Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Myers-Naples, Boston, Hartford, Providence, El Paso, Springfield, MA and Raleigh, NC. In addition, ZGS owns and operates three Spanish-language radio stations serving Washington, DC and Tampa. For nearly two decades ZGS has been proud to be a community broadcaster with a special commitment to service, local programming, community outreach, and the celebration of Hispanic culture and heritage. The ZGS stations are dedicated to excellence and are integral parts of the markets they serve.



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FEBRUARY ART CAMPS

Ages 7-10

Art Adventures
Taina Vargas & Claudia Areña
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Ages 8-10

A Journey with Words & Pictures
Cathy McLaurin & Candis McMurray
Wednesday 9-3, Feb 22 \$25

Go on a personal journey through the use of collage, mixed media, and simple bookmaking techniques, writing exercises and inspiring artists to create your own unique work. Bring a lunch. Limited to 10.

Ages 11+ Stained Glass In A Day

Sandy Dukeshire
Tuesday 9-3, Feb 21 \$25
Learn the art of stained glass. Create geometric panels while learning basic glass cutting techniques, along with the copper foil assembly method. Bring a lunch. Limited to 8.

Ages 11+

The Print
Jessie Harris
Thursday 9-3, Feb 23 \$30
Discover printmaking through explorations with plexi glass and ink. Learn how to carve a linoleum block. Create unique prints on paper or fabric throughout the day. Bring sketches and ideas and a lunch. Limited to 8.

Ages 11+

Photography
Nancy Dudley
Friday 9-3, Feb 24 \$30
Learn how to shoot, develop and print in one day. Bring a 35 mm camera and create black and white prints. Bring a lunch. Limited to 7.

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DEVAL PATRICK

CONT. FROM PAGE 3

economic development and environmental stewardship. From my experience in the energy industry, I am convinced that this is a false choice. In Massachusetts, I believe we can and must have both. The time is right to show how we in Massachusetts can balance our common interests in growth and the environment.

I will support renewable energy projects whenever the benefits for all of us outweigh the disadvantages. I believe the Cape Wind Project in Nantucket Sound is just such a project."

Health Care

I want health care for every man, woman, and child in Massachusetts that is accessible, affordable, portable, safe, patient-centered, and as effective as modern science can make it.

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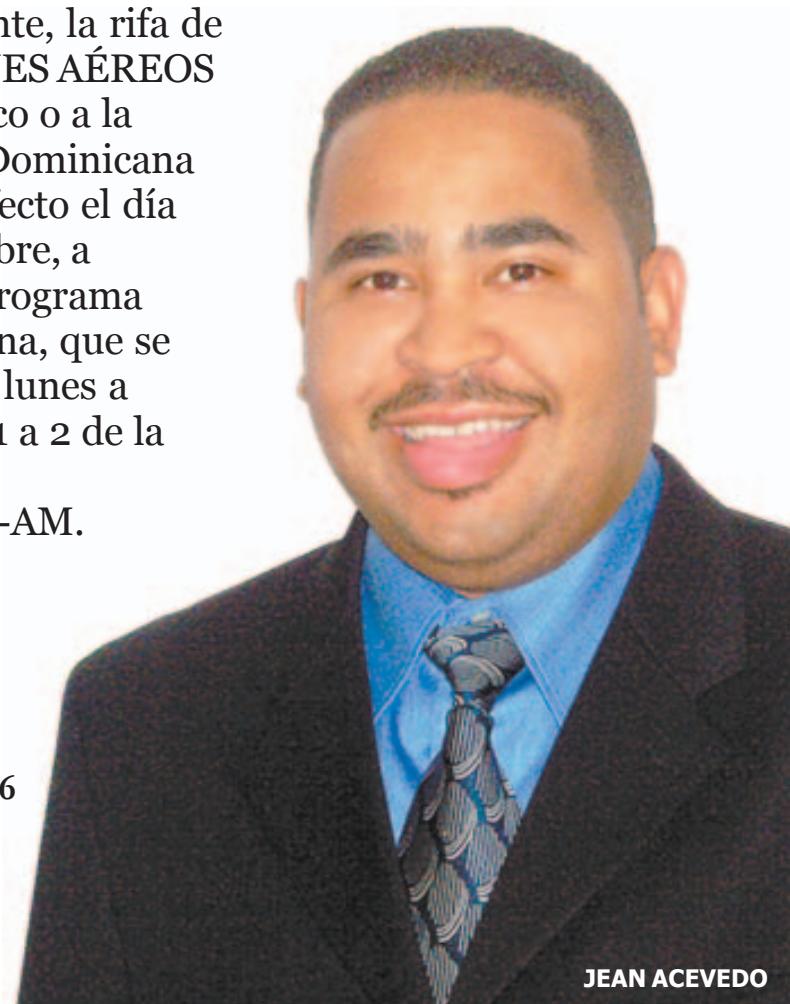


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trasmite de lunes a
viernes, de 1 a 2 de la
tarde por
WCEC 1110-AM.



JEAN ACEVEDO

AAA ADVANCED WEIGHT LOSS SYSTEM ALLANACH/MORTGAGE GROUP AMERICAN MEDICAL SYSTEMS AMSI MORALES
ANDOVER HOUSING AUTHORITY ARRIG EYE AND EAR ASSOCIATES ASPEN DENTAL AUTO WHOLESALERS OF HOOKSETT BABBITT
DESIGNS BALLARDVALE CROSSING, LLC. BELLESINI ACADEMY BERKELY SHOE BETHANY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. BUYER
ADVERTISING C1 BUFFET CAMBODIA CLOTHING COMPANY AUCTION CASEY FAMILY SERVICES CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH
SCHOOL CHARLES RIDGE REALTY CHINAHILL FEDERAL LAWRENCE CITY OF NASHUA COLE BROTHERS CIRCUS, INC.
COMCAST COMMONWEALTH LAND TRUST COMMUNITY DAY CHARTER SCHOOL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
COMMUNITY TEAM WORK CONFIDENCE MORTGAGE COSTA EAGLE COMMUNICATION COVANTA HAVERHILL, INC. CRSPARKS
RESTAURANT CULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF LAWRENCE DAHL COMPANIES DAVID WILSON ASSOCIATES DEGNAN INSURANCE
AGENCY, INC. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS DEDICATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTING
ASSOCIATES, INC. DISTRICT COUNCIL 35 DOMINICAN CONSULTANTS DR. KENNETH MACOUL FIDELITY HOUSE FORBA
MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC. FOREST EDGE, LLC. GLCA, INC. GERALD TRANSPORTATION SERVICES SERVAIS LINCOLN-
MERCURY/SUZUKI GREATER LAWRENCE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LAWRENCE LAWRENCE
TECHNICAL SCHOOL GREENWOOD MEADOWS, LLC. DR. MICHAEL GROSSMAN GTS GUSTINADVERTISING HAMPTON INN &
SUITES HEALTH QUARTERS HERITAGE PROPERTIES HISPANIC IDEAS MEDIA HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL HOMEWOOD SUITES
INTERNATIONAL MILLS JAN-PRO CLEANING SERVICES JEWELERS JEAN DANEY JOHNSON'S PICTURES LABORER'S
LOCAL UNION 175 LANDT LEARNERS LEARNING CENTER LAWRENCE FAMILY DOCTORS LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTERS
TELEVISION LAWRENCE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER SCHOOL LAWRENCE FAMILY DOCTORS LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTERS
CREDIT UNION LAWRENCE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER SCHOOL LAWRENCE FAMILY DOCTORS LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTERS
EXTERMINATING LEE LAW OFFICES MVRTA MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MARBLEHEAD HIGHLANDS, INC. MENDEZ
FLOWERLOONS MERRIMAC HELPING HANDS IN RUMBO ROCK VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS MOLLY MAID MONTES
MARBLE & GRANITE CORP. NEPHRA BAILEY NASTASIA NAZTEL COMMUNICATIONS NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES NETWORK
HEALTH NEW WORLD REAL ESTATE, INC. NH DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES NORTHPOINT REALTY DEVELOPMENT, LLC.
P&D REALTY TRUST PAT BENNETT REALTY PEABODY PROPERTIES, INC. PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS PUBLISHERS CIRCULATION
FULFILLMENT INC. RESULTS MEDIA SALEM RADIOLOGY SOVEREIGN BANK WALTER INSURANCE CO. WASH INN WORLD RADIO

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A CONSIDERAR PARA DECIDIR
ANUNCIARSE CON
NOSOTROS

Rumbo

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SUDA, INC.

315 MT. VERNON STREET
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