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**Greater Lawrence  
Children's Christmas  
Party**

On December 22nd 2007 Power 800AM had the privilege of once again being a part of a The Greater Lawrence Annual Hispanic Children's Christmas Party. The event is put together every year by Families & Youth Initiative and headed by Program Coordinator, Delilah Rivera.

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# Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

## Has Expanded Its Hours!

If you need urgent care on a weekend, the Health Center's Haverhill Street site is now open:

**Saturday: 9:00am–8:30pm**

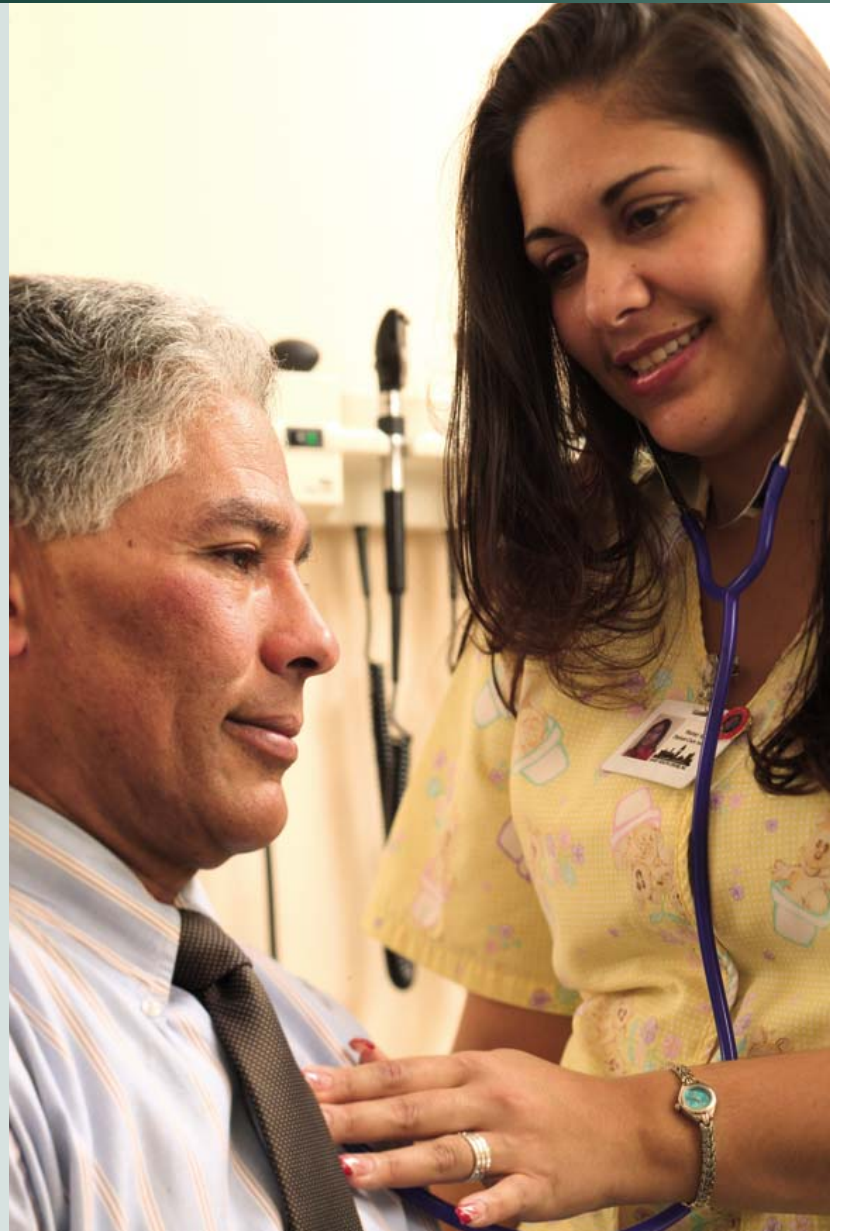
**Sunday: 1:00pm–8:30pm**

The pharmacy at the Haverhill Street site has also expanded its hours of operation:

**Monday–Friday: 9:00am–7:00pm**

**Saturday: 9:00am–1:00pm**

**Sunday: Closed**



# Website to aid highway flag hangers on safety issues MassHighway fears on safety issues addressed

**M**ethuen, MA, December 26 2007- A website addressing safety concerns brought forward by MassHighway has been designed by Jim Wareing of Methuen. Jim Wareing was recently caught in the middle of a controversy after MassHighway Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky announced a ban that forbids any flags or banners from bridge overpasses and demanded that his displays as well as others be removed before winter.

Bridges4troops.com went on-line this week and has many features where safety issues are highlighted to help assist those who place banners, signs and American flags on bridge overpasses throughout Massachusetts. This web site will also aid all states across the country by demonstrating to those who place displays that safety must be addressed.

Bridges4troops.com will allow people to register locations of their displays or banners, share photos and allow communication between these patriots through a message board and feedback forms to help assist in the safety concerns addressed by state officials. There is a designated page where safety suggestions are listed with pictures demonstrating the 'how to' of securing items to an overpass. This is believed to be a 'first in the nation website' stressing safety for those affixing signs, banners and flags to bridge overpasses.

Bridges4troops.com is in direct response to MassHighway Commissioner Paiewonsky's recently announced ban that forbids any signs, banners and flags from being placed on bridge overpasses including those paying tribute to our men and women serving in the armed services. Governor Patrick reversed the ban for 30 days while he was on a trade mission to China three weeks ago and ordered a task force be formed to review the current policy



Jim Wareing

to make sure we honor our troops safely.

The most recent ban is the second within a 14 month period where both Governors Mitt Romney and Deval Patrick halted the removal of flags during their tenure. Governor Patrick is expected to make his ruling next week on whether or not the overpass displays will be allowed to stay. Wareing hopes that this website addressing safety issues will make it easier for Governor Patrick to allow these patriotic displays to remain on overpasses. Please contact Jim Wareing for more information at 978-835-7464 or via e-mail at jim@bridges4troops.com.

# Crean página cibernética sobre pasacalles en los puentes

**M**ethuen, MA, diciembre 26, 2007. Una página cibernética relacionada con la preocupación que ha expresado el Departamento de MassHighway por la seguridad, ha sido designada recientemente por Jim Wareing de Methuen. Jim Wareing se encontró envuelto en una controversia recientemente después de que la comisionada Luisa Paiewonsky prohibiera el que banderas y pancartas fueran colocadas en los puentes

sobre las carreteras y que debían ser removidas antes del invierno.

Bridges4troops.com entró en efecto esta semana con muchos artículos donde los problemas de seguridad están contemplados para asistir a aquellos que quieran colocar banderas y pancartas en puentes sobre las

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# EDITORIAL

## ¡Mantengamos la fe!

Es muy fácil ser barrido por lo negativo que rodea diariamente nuestras vidas. Nuestros amigos y vecinos están perdiendo sus casas por adjudicaciones bancarias porque no pueden pagar las hipotecas; familias con severos problemas de salud sin seguro de enfermedad; políticos en los que no podemos confiar en que hagan lo que es correcto para nosotros, etc.

Debemos mirar de nuevo, particularmente a las cosas de las cuales estamos agradecidos; cosas como nuestro hogar, aunque sea un apartamento rentado, con tal que nos sintamos confortables en el; debemos concentrarnos en esas cosas que nos dan seguridad de que merecemos lo mejor, ya que cuando tenemos una actitud positiva, hay más posibilidad de que ocurran buenas cosas.

Además de ser positivos y vigilantes, esperemos lo mejor ya que la ley de atracción dice que atraemos las cosas en las cuales pensamos más. ¡Por lo tanto, hagamos del 2008 un año lleno de felicidad, buena suerte y éxitos!

## Let there be faith!

It is very easy to be swept by the negativity that surrounds our daily lives. Our friends and neighbors are losing their homes to foreclosures because they can no longer afford to pay their mortgages; families without health insurance and severe health problems; politicians we can no longer trust to do what is right for us, etc.

We must look again particularly to the things that we are grateful for; things like a home even if it's just a rented apartment as long as you can live there comfortably; we must concentrate on those things that give us assurance that we deserve the best because only when we have a positive attitude, good things are likely to happen.

Along with being positive and watchful, hope for the best because the law of attraction says that we attract what we think about the most. So, let's make 2008 a year full of happiness, good fortune and success!

### Cartas al Editor | Letters to the Editor

Las cartas deben tener menos de 300 palabras de largo. Favor de incluir un número de teléfono o dirección electrónica para confirmar quién la envía.

Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

Este es el reloj que llevaba puesto Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. cuando se encontró con un chofer borracho.

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Council**

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Por/By Dalia Díaz  
rumbonews.com/blogs

# Desde Mi Esquina

**BILINGUAL CONTENT**

Please see PAGE 19 to read this article in English

## Sin ninguna empatía

La reciente cesantía de empleados municipales en Lawrence el martes, 18 de diciembre, ha recibido bastante publicidad pero la verdad de lo que pasa realmente nosotros nunca podremos averiguar. Por ejemplo, el 14 de diciembre, el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan firmó un Formulario de Acción de Empleado que otorga a Michael Sweeney un estipendio mensual de \$1,000 por el manejo de los estacionamientos de autos y lo hizo retroactivo a julio así, el Sr. Sweeney recibió \$6,000 extras mientras otros empleados de la ciudad fueron mandados a casa en las Navidades por falta de dinero.

Es mi entender que antes que un empleado público tenga derecho a recibir una remuneración por trabajo adicional, cierto procedimiento debe ser seguido junto con

el papeleo para establecerlo. Asusta saber que el alcalde pueda firmar simplemente un Formulario de Acción de Empleado y deshacerse de millares de dólares para un solo individuo que debemos preguntarnos con qué frecuencia esto sucede.

Debemos preguntar también de qué parte del presupuesto esos fondos serán descontados. ¿Será reducido el salario de Frank McCann por \$1,000 al mes ahora que Michael Sweeney está al cargo de los estacionamientos? A fin de cuentas, la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad dice que los estacionamientos son la responsabilidad del Departamento de Trabajo Públicos.

Ahora que es oficial que Sweeney está encargado de los estacionamientos y ganando \$1,000 como estipendio por mes, quizás nosotros podemos pedirle cuentas en cuanto a dónde está ese dinero porque nadie parece saber.



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## Crean página cibernética sobre pasacalles en los puentes

carreteras de Massachusetts. Esta página cibernética también ayudará a todos aquellos que coloquen adornos en otros estados a través del país que deben contemplar la seguridad. Bridges4troops.com permitirá a las personas a registrar las localidades de sus adornos o banderas, compartir fotos y permitir comunicación entre estos patriotas a través de un tablero de mensajes y formulario con opiniones y reacciones que puedan asistir con los temores expresados por los oficiales del estado. Hay una página designada donde se listan los temores de seguridad, con fotografías demostrando como asegurar artículos en los puentes sobre carreteras. Se cree que esta es la primera página cibernética en la nación que enfatiza la seguridad para aquellos que fijan símbolos, pasacalles y banderas en los puentes.

Bridges4troops.com es una respuesta directa a la Comisionado de MassHighway, Paiewonsky, que recientemente anunciara la prohibición de que pasacalles, símbolos y banderas fueran puestas en los puentes incluyendo aquellos que pagan tributo a nuestros hombres y mujeres sirviendo en las fuerzas armadas. El Gobernador Patrick canceló la prohibición por 30 días mientras se encontraba en una misión de intercambio en China tres semanas atrás y ordenó se formara una fuerza de trabajo para revisar la política actual para estar seguros de que honramos a nuestras tropas con seguridad. La más reciente prohibición es la segunda en un período de 14 meses donde ambos Gobernadores, Mitt Romney y Deval Patrick pusieron un alto a remover banderas durante su gobierno. Se espera que el Gobernador Patrick tome una decisión la semana que viene de si los adornos de los puentes se quedan o no. Wareign espera que esta página dirigida a las cuestiones de seguridad ayude al Gobernador Patrick a permitir que los adornos patrióticos permanezcan en los puentes.

Para más información, por favor, contacte a Jim Wareing al 978-835-7464 or via e-mail at [\\_jim@bridges4troops.com](mailto:_jim@bridges4troops.com).

El dinero es sacado de los bolsillos de los contribuyentes de la ciudad y yo no veo la indignación. Las personas apenas se encogen de hombros y dicen que las personas tienen los gobiernos que merecen pero creo que eso es injusto. La mayoría de las personas en Lawrence están ocupadas trabajando para sostener a sus familias, confiando en sus líderes y muy a menudo incapaz de entender este sistema corrupto. Ellos no merecen ser aprovechados de que esta manera.

Para añadir insulto sobre la injuria, la mañana del martes, 18 de diciembre, mientras policías entregaban notificaciones de despido a los diferentes departamentos, el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan posaba para fotografías vestido como Santa Claus en Lawrence High School, aceptando un cheque de contribución de la facultad y estudiantes para la Fundación Jennifer Ortiz. Nosotros publicamos la foto la semana pasada pero no pudimos confirmar que fue el alcalde quien posó como Santa Claus. Al día siguiente yo llamé a Nelson Ortiz, director asistente del Departamento de Recreación y confirmé que fue el Alcalde Sullivan. El también me dijo que de allí, él fue a un hospital de Boston para visitar a niños desahuciados, algo que había sido establecido desde hacía mucho tiempo.

Cualquier cosa que el alcalde tuviera planificado para hacer ese día debió ser cancelado por respeto a las muchas familias afectadas debido a su decisión. El Sr. Ortiz se disgustó conmigo por dar mucha importancia a algo que él consideró admirable pero yo no pude encontrar nada que podría haber dispensado su acción ese día. Eso fue un

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# Recepción en El Northeast Independent Living

**BILINGUAL CONTENT**

Please see PAGE 24 to read this article in English

El Northeast Independent Living (NILP) llevó a cabo una recepción el martes, 18 de diciembre, 2007.

The Northeast Independent Living, Inc. es un centro de vida independiente controlado por sus consumidores, que provee consejo y servicio a personas con discapacidades en el área del Valle de Merrimack que desean disfrutar de una vida independiente en la comunidad. Este año que pasó, NILP sirvió a más de 1200 personas que viven en las 30 ciudades y pueblos que ellos cubren.

Las reglas de NILP requieren que un mínimo de 51% de su junta directiva esté formada por personas con discapacidades que reflejen a la comunidad incapacitada que sirven. Lo mismo sucede con los empleados a todos los niveles. En adición, cualquier persona que haya recibido servicios durante el año es elegible para votar por la junta directiva en su reunión anual. NILP fue fundado por Charles C. Carr en 1980 y tuvieron su primera oficina en la Calle Essex, en Lawrence. Gracias al incansable esfuerzo de Carr, su primer director ejecutivo, un año más tarde se mudaron para una oficina más

grande en el 429 de la calle Broadway y después a su edificio propio en el 10 de la Calle Ballard, en Lawrence, donde han continuado creciendo.

En 2007, el Gobernador Deval Patrick lo llamó para asumir el liderazgo de Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission y lo nombró Comisionado. En esta capacidad él traerá sus considerables y únicas destrezas en construir coaliciones, elevar la conciencia y efectuar cambios que beneficien a personas con discapacidades para que puedan vivir independientemente aumentando sus posibilidades de empleo y auto suficiencia.

## Historia

Antes de abrir sus puertas en Lawrence hace 25 años, la región del Valle de Merrimack proveía muy pocas opciones para personas con discapacidades, además de vivir en un asilo, un hospital estatal o una escuela residencial. En 1980, todo eso comenzó a cambiar cuando comenzaron a identificar personas con discapacidades y sus familias para proveerlas con los servicios de Vida Independiente (IL por sus siglas



Sitting, Tim Connors, Youth Program; Paula Callanan, worker, Judy De Jesús, skill specialist adults with physical disabilities, Modesta Ortega, P.C.A. coordinator and Lucinda Rondon, Secretary, bilingual secretary.



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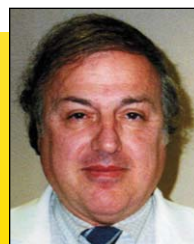


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en inglés). La necesidad de abogar por IL y sus servicios era monumental para un equipo de 3 empleados, viajando de casa en casa y de institución a institución, ellos estaban decididos a regar la voz de la existencia de IL y construir las bases para un cambio fundamental.

NILP depende principalmente de personas iguales. Las personas con discapacidades trabajando juntas para lograr su independencia son más propicias a compartir sus experiencias de discapacidades, lo cual hace la enseñanza y consejería mucho más fácil e inmediata. Además, fundamental a la filosofía de IL es la creencia de que IL es lo correcto para personas con todo tipo de discapacidad. Seguir el ejemplo de tus compañeros toma un significado aún mayor cuando consideramos las únicas diferencias de cada grupo de discapacitados.

Aquellas personas que son sordas de nacimiento tienen su propio lenguaje (Lenguaje por señas) y cultura. No tiene sentido para una persona con dificultad de audio de ser un modelo, incluso si tienen otra clase de discapacidad. Lo apropiado y más efectivo de modelo es una persona sorda. Por lo tanto, para poder llenar las necesidades de IL de personas con diferentes clases de discapacidades, NILP ha desarrollado programas específicos, con personal calificado que tienen

similares discapacidades funcionando como modelos en cada programa.

## Programas

NILP provee apoyo y servicios a todas las personas con discapacidades. A aquellos individuos que tienen discapacidades que no están contempladas dentro de los parámetros de los amplios programas descritos se les recomienda que pregunten por información general y recomendaciones de programas a los cuales puedan ser dirigidos para tratar sus necesidades específicas.

## Programa para adultos con discapacidades físicas

El programa trabaja con adultos que tienen discapacidades físicas tales como lesiones en la columna vertebral, parálisis cerebral y distrofia muscular. Los servicios de IL incluyen: Asistencia en el cuidado personal, consejería por tus semejantes, apoyo y recomendación de equipos médicos duraderos.

NILP depende principalmente de personas iguales. Las personas con discapacidades trabajando juntas para lograr su independencia son más propicias a compartir sus experiencias de discapacidades, lo cual hace la enseñanza y consejería mucho más fácil e inmediata. Además, fundamental a la filosofía de IL es la creencia de que IL es lo correcto para personas con todo tipo de discapacidad. Seguir el ejemplo de tus compañeros toma un significado aún mayor cuando consideramos las únicas diferencias de cada grupo de discapacitados.

## Transición sin problemas

NILP trabaja con adolescentes con discapacidades y sus familias para facilitar la transición de instituciones y escuelas públicas dentro del sistema de servicios humanos para adultos. Servicios especializados incluyen apoyo e información durante el desarrollo individual de planes de educación y actividades sociales/recreativas.

## Consejería de parte de los tuyos

Uno de los puntos más importantes de NILP es que la mayoría del personal tiene incapacidades y sirven como modelos a los consumidores, proveyendo información y ayuda y facilitando las decisiones a tomar.

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Para más información contacte The Northeast Independent Living en el 20 de Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843-1018, Teléfono: 978-687-4288 (V/TTY) Fax: 978-689-

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# Entre Sueños y Realidades de Año Nuevo

POR BEATRIZ PÉREZ  
BPerez@RUMBONEWS.COM

Se va el 2007 y tal y como ocurre cada año para estas fechas surgen los buenos deseos, los propósitos, que son tan comunes como el árbol de navidad.

La idea fundamental de escribir el artículo tiene sus bases en el deseo generalizado que tiene mucha gente de lograr cambios positivos en su vida y en la comunidad en general.

Por lo regular las personas al acercarse la 12 de la noche del 31 de diciembre van estableciendo metas las que esperan ver hechas una realidad al final del próximo año.

En esta época los propósitos más comunes son: Mejorar y progresar en mi trabajo; hacer ejercicio y deporte, adelgazar y por ende asumir una dieta más saludable, dejar de fumar, dar más calidad de tiempo a la familia, comprar una casa, entre otros.

No obstante al interés que se pueda poner para que todos nuestros deseos se realicen, lo cierto es que esto va a depender de la cuota de compromiso que se asuma

ante este propósito que más que un anhelo es un reto con nosotros mismos y la sociedad.

De igual modo no se debe olvidar que como seres humanos debemos estar concientes de que en un momento determinado podríamos sentirnos defraudados con nosotros mismos al caer en la tentación de no cumplir con el compromiso que se ha hecho.

Es importante además no hacer propósitos que hasta cierto punto son imposibles de cumplir. Por ejemplo el decir que jamás se volverá a comer un chocolate, puede resultar imposible ya que usted ha de encontrar muchas tentaciones que pueden resultar difíciles de evadir.

Ante esta posibilidad la persona debe estar clara de que puede fracasar ante su intención, lo que definitivamente va a sentar las bases para saborear el éxito o el fracaso.

Y recuerde y tal como advierte la sicóloga Robin DiMatteo de la Universidad de California en Riverside, que aunque el

Si alguien nos preguntase, ¿Cuál es nuestro propósito de frente a la comunidad?, la respuesta sería que nuestro anhelo es que muchos lawrencianos puedan disfrutar de un espacio donde las huellas de la desesperanza no lastimen su autoestima y que juntos y tomados de las manos podamos avanzar hacia un mejor futuro.

Día de Año Nuevo es un momento lógico y oportuno para hacerse buenos propósitos, no es necesariamente el más práctico. En realidad, la temporada de diciembre es una época muy difícil para hacerse propósitos. “Es mejor comenzar el 6 de enero, cuando todos regresamos al trabajo y ya no hay toda esa comida y bebida”.

Como individuos es válido recibir el primer día del año confiados de que “este año será mejor que el que se fue”, y por lo tanto nos hacemos acompañar junto con las primeras horas del año de una lista de sueños y objetivos personales, casi interminable.

Pero antes de forjarnos metas de forma individual es necesario hacer compromisos

con la comunidad en la que vivimos, contribuir a su crecimiento, soñarla justa, saludable, segura y libre de imperfecciones socio-políticas.

A una sola voz debemos propugnar por una ciudad mejor repartida, donde prevalezca el respeto y se valore la dignidad del ser humano. Un lugar donde comprar una casa no se convierta en la peor de las pesadillas y donde los impuestos no continúen acabando con los sueños de muchos.

Si alguien nos preguntase, ¿Cuál es nuestro propósito de frente a la comunidad?, la respuesta sería que nuestro anhelo es que muchos lawrencianos puedan disfrutar de un espacio donde las huellas de la desesperanza no lastimen su autoestima y que juntos y tomados de las manos podamos avanzar hacia un mejor futuro.

Finalmente es importante aprender a respetar las posiciones y las decisiones y de este modo quizás se pueda lograr la verdadera unidad que tanto se aspira en esta comunidad.

Feliz Año Nuevo y que el 2008 nos traiga tranquilidad, la paz en el mundo y que en cada hogar no falte el pan... ¡Felicidades!

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# La Navidad Definitiva

“... Pero el ángel les dijo: No temáis; porque he aquí os doy nuevas de gran gozo, que será para todo el pueblo: que os ha nacido hoy, en la ciudad de David, un Salvador, que es CRISTO el Señor. Esto os servirá de señal: Hallaréis al niño envuelto en pañales, acostado en un pesebre. Y repentinamente apareció con el ángel una multitud de las huestes celestiales, que alababan a Dios, y decían: ¡Gloria a Dios en las alturas, Y en la tierra paz, buena voluntad para con los hombres!...”

Lucas, 2: 11-14 ( Edición Reyna-Valera 1960)

**CÉSAR SÁNCHEZ BERAS**  
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**P**osiblemente ninguna otra festividad sea celebrada tan uniformemente como es celebrada la natividad de nuestro señor. En todas las culturas, en todas las lenguas, en todas las épocas, la navidad es una fiesta que aglutina a las familias, a los miembros de las colectividades, a los comerciantes, a los cantantes, a los artistas,

a los diseñadores, a todos los eslabones de la sociedad.

Pero tanto la navidad como fiesta sagrada, como la navidad como momento de paroxismo comercial de la temporada, está atravesando por grandes sacudidas en sus raíces. Su lugar de nacimiento desde el punto de vista geográfico es todo un rompecabezas teológico, pues el nacimiento del señor ocurre como hecho físico, en un territorio que al momento de recibirlo, ya presentaba convulsiones sociales y políticas. Su venida anuncia el nacimiento del salvador del mundo y el regocijo de la providencia con los hombres de buena voluntad, pero fue recibido y juzgado por una sociedad que no entendió su mensaje de amor y que aun hoy, dos mil años después, todavía se muerde la cola, en una circularidad viciosa, de violencia, ingratitud, negación y fanatismo.

Nada ha valido el simbolismo de nacer en un pesebre, él, que es rey de reyes y señor de señores. Nada ha valido el ejemplo de venir a cumplir la ley y no ha transgredirla, él, que nació del Dios vivo, creador de cielos y tierra y de quien se necesita el permiso, para que una hoja caiga en otoño, o una nube se desgrane en aguacero. Nada ha valido su prueba de humildad, de comer con

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## CARTAS AL EDITOR

### BILINGUAL CONTENT

Please see PAGE 27 to read this article in English

### CARTAS AL EDITOR

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Carta al Editor,

Cuando yo asistí a la Recepción Anual de Northeast Independent Living, el martes, 18 de diciembre, 2007, me puse muy contenta de ver al Señor Alberto Surís de Rumbo, el cual estaba entrevistando y tomando fotos de los empleados de NILP. Yo entonces decidí contarle a Rumbo acerca del excelente servicio de transportación que he recibido de NILP en los últimos 7 años. Yo quiero dar públicamente las gracias a los empleados de NILP Mike Alan, Ruth Ann (Ruthie) Poole, Sam Chivers, Nan Donald, Jo Bower y Modesta Ortega por hacer los arreglos y proveerme con los servicios de transportación a muchos eventos de NILP.

Yo me impresioné mucho con el servicio de transportación que recibí de Modesta Ortega con relación al Simposio Anual de NILP llevado a cabo el pasado junio en el Hotel Double Tree, en Lowell. Modesta me había dicho que vendría a recogerme a mi casa a las 8 AM en la mañana del evento. ¡Ella arribó precisamente a las 8AM!

Mike Alan, el chofer de NILP siempre fue muy cortés. El autobús siempre está muy limpio y el nombre “Northeast Independent Living” está pintado en letras grandes al costado del autobús que lo hace fácilmente reconocible. Yo aprecio grandemente y doy gracias al Programa de Northeast Independent Living por el excelente servicio de transportación que ha hecho posible que yo asistiera a muchos maravillosos eventos de NILP, incluyendo el 2007 Holiday Open House.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo 2008!

Sinceramente,

**Lindy Galland**  
Lawrence, MA



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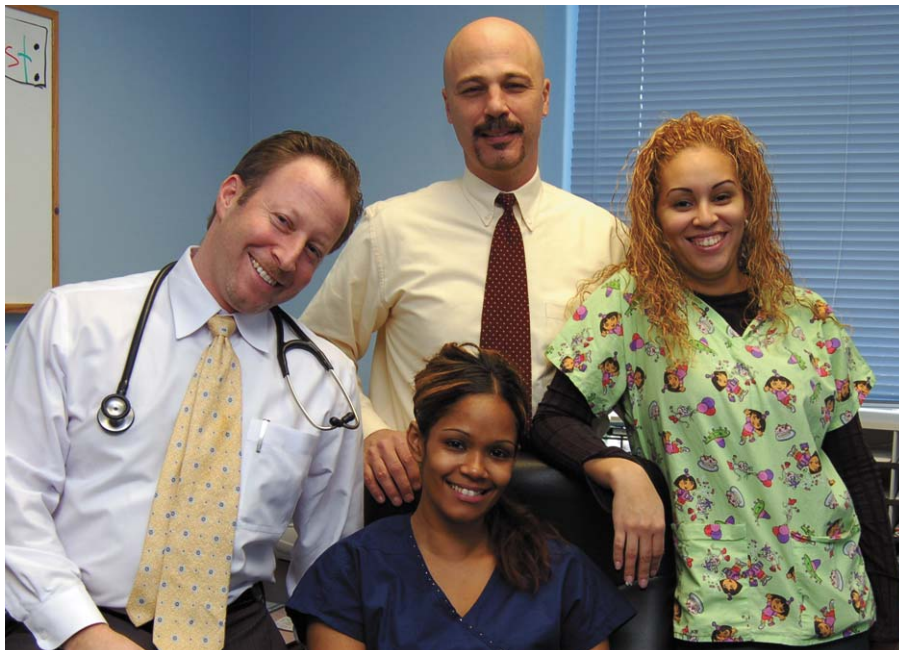
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# ¿Es malvado o bondadoso su plan de medicamentos por receta de Medicare?

**BILINGUAL CONTENT**

Please see PAGE 19 to read this article in English

**POR GRACE-MARIE TURNER**

Otra vez se aproximan las fiestas. Es hora de decorar, intercambiar regalos, reunirse con familiares y amistades y comer. Pero en el medio de todas estas celebraciones, conviene que los integrantes de la tercera edad inscritos en la Parte D de Medicare encuentren tiempo para considerar si desean permanecer en el plan de medicamentos por receta que tienen actualmente.

Al final de cada año, entre el 15 de noviembre y el 31 de diciembre, la Parte D de Medicare proporciona a los integrantes de la tercera edad un plazo de inscripción abierta, que representa una manera fácil y conveniente de cambiar de plan o inscribirse en uno por primera vez.

Gracias a la forma singular en que se estableció el plan, los integrantes de la tercera edad pueden optar entre una variedad de planes ofrecidos por las aseguradoras privadas. A diferencia de los programas gubernamentales tradicionales, los cuales solo cuentan con un plan único

para todo el mundo, la Parte D de Medicare está estructurada de manera tal como para permitir que las empresas aseguradoras compitan por los clientes. Por lo tanto, los precios se han mantenido relativamente bajos, a la vez que han florecido las opciones de cobertura.

De hecho, algunos de los planes solo cuestan unos pocos dólares por mes.

Por ese motivo, más integrantes de la tercera edad que nunca cuentan ahora con cobertura para medicamentos por receta. Durante el año pasado, la Parte D de Medicare proporcionó prestaciones a casi 24 millones de personas. Asimismo, las encuestas indican que la mayoría de los integrantes de la tercera edad están satisfechos con su cobertura.

Esto no significa que el programa no tenga problemas.

Muchos de los planes no cubren todos los medicamentos de marca, por lo tanto es posible que los integrantes de la tercera edad se vean obligados a tomar medicamentos genéricos en vez de los medicamentos de marca que tomaban antes de inscribirse en la Parte D. Además, en el caso de los medicamentos de marca que

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# Latinitas Magazine Lanza Concurso Nacional de Escritura para Jóvenes

Los primeros lugares publicaron en el primer número de Latinitas

Si siguiendo una tendencia inversa en la industria editorial, la revista Latinitas (www.latinitasmagazine.org), la primera revista digital hecha para y por jóvenes Latinas, esta aumentando sus exitosas publicaciones por el Internet con el lanzamiento de una revista impresa para adolescentes y mayores en el 2008.

Para reunir voces auténticas de todas partes de los Estados Unidos, la revista esta lanzando el Latinitas Magazine Concurso Nacional de Escritura buscando opiniones de jóvenes Latinas de edades entre 14 y 21 años en "Qué es ser Latina". Las escritoras ganadoras verán sus artículos publicados en la revista Latinitas del Internet e impresa.

Los medios de comunicación tienden a desatender o a malinterpretar la identidad Latina, cristalizándola uniformemente en imágenes muy sexuales o en excesivas representaciones de servidumbre. Aparte de ABC's "Ugly Betty," muchos de los medios de comunicaciones principales representan a las Latinas como gánsteres sin educación, "cholas", o sirvientas. De acuerdo con el organismo de control de los medios de comunicación, Children

Now (Niños Ahora), las representaciones negativas de la juventud por parte de los medios de comunicación han sido asociadas con una deteriorada imagen corporal y de la auto-estima entre niños y adolescentes, especialmente entre niñas que siempre se encuentran mal representadas por los medios de comunicación.

Reglas del Concurso: participantes deben de ser entre 14 y 21 años de edad. Los ensayos deben de ser entre 800-1000 palabras en la primera persona o al estilo de la Prensa Asociada y en uno de los siguientes temas: ¿Cómo es ser una joven Hispana/Latina en tu ciudad natal? ¿Qué es lo que significa para ti ser una joven Hispana/Latina? ¿Cómo joven Hispana/Latina estás haciendo algo en tu comunidad para hacer una diferencia, y si es así qué es? ¿Cuál crees que sea el obstáculo más grande que enfrenta la comunidad Hispana/Latina hoy? Aplicantes deben presentar sus artículos a latinitasawards@yahoo.com para Febrero 10, 2008 o mandar una copia por correo a Latinitas, P.O. Box 4284, Austin, Texas 78765.

"Latinas vienen de los barrios y suburbios. Esperamos escuchar de jóvenes Latinas que representen la gran diversidad de Latinas," explica Alicia Rascon, la co-fundadora de Latinitas. "Yo nací en México, pero tienes a otras Latinas en los Estados Unidos que tal vez nunca han visto el país de origen de su familia – pero aún así practican la cultura y tradiciones de ese lugar. Esas son las historias que estamos ansiosas por leer."

El Censo de los Estados Unidos reporta que para el año 2025, uno en cada cinco adolescentes será Latino. Claramente, lo que pase entre las adolescentes Latinas no solo afecta a la comunidad Latina, pero también tiene un impacto extraordinario en la nación, en su totalidad.



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Por/By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA  
rumbonews.com/blogs



# Mi Punto de Vista

## Dejando ir a nuestro sentido de realidad

**BILINGUAL CONTENT**

Please see PAGE 25 to read this article in English

El Dr. Montesino, totalmente responsable por este artículo, es el Editor de LatinoWorldOnline.com y conferenciante del Information Processing Management Department en Bentley College, Waltham, MA.

Amidada que nos aproximamos al nuevo año, me siento indeciso si debo continuar con la parte III de mi serie sobre la crisis de la vivienda (una dura realidad) o tomar un descanso de esa tragedia y discutir otro asunto tan importante para nuestras vidas como lo es el nuevo año (una realidad inexistente.) Yo he

estado hablando de otros debacles políticos recientes, pero para evitar que se me acuse de aguafiestas, he decidido hablar sobre lo irreal del nuevo año y posponer la tragedia real de la vivienda para otra ocasión.

Ante todo, para que no nos cojamos el fin de año muy en serio, lo que usamos para medir nuestros días y breve vida en este planeta se llama el calendario Gregoriano, no el único pero sí el que más se usa en el mundo hoy día. Es una reforma del calendario originalmente llamado Juliano y fue decretado por el Papa Gregorio XIII, cuyo nombre fue dado al calendario el 24 de febrero de 1582 por bula papal. Es decir que este calendario que nos tomamos tan seriamente con tragos y comidas no tiene más que 425 años "Gregorianos" de

existencia.

"Las bulas papales eran emitidas originalmente por los Papas como medios de comunicación de naturaleza pública, pero después del siglo quince solo para ocasiones más formales y solemnes. Los eruditos y escolásticos han usado retroactivamente el término "bula" para describir cualquier documento papal complicado emitido en la forma de un decreto o privilegio (solemne o simple) y hasta cierta manera otros menos complicados emitidos en la forma de carta. Popularmente el nombre se usa para describir cualquier documento papal que contenga un sello de metal." (Fuente: www.Wikipedia.com)

Así es que aunque el cambio de un año para otro es en realidad una cuestión de convención y no de realidad en el amplio universo en que vivimos, tratamos de hacer de ese cambio de momento una celebración festiva y un punto de pausa y reorientación de nuestras vidas. Y ese instante nos da la oportunidad de tomar inventario y ver lo que somos y lo que hacemos y considerar la posibilidad de cambiarlos, aunque desafortunadamente es muy difícil dejar escapar a esa correa que nos controla. ¿Correa? usted se pregunta. Sí, yo respondo, y he aquí el

## Remueva nieve, hielo para los carteros

El Jefe del Correos Richard D. Pace pide la cooperación de los clientes postales para que mantengan las entradas y los buzones en las aceras limpias de nieve y hielo para proteger la seguridad y eficiente entrega del correo este invierno.

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Los carteros son particularmente vulnerables a resbalones, tropezones y caídas durante los meses del invierno y añadió: "Es extremadamente importante que mantenga su trillo de entrada completamente limpio de nieve y hielo para poder reducir el peligro de que un cartero sufra una lesión seria en un resbalón accidental.

Su asistencia en cuanto a esto es muy agradecida por su cartero y por todos los hombres y mujeres que trabajan para que usted reciba el mejor servicio posible."

Pace pidió a los residentes que reciben su correo en buzones rurales o en la acera que cuiden que la proximidad a llegar y a alejarse del buzón esté libre de hielo, nieve, vehículos, receptáculos de basura u otros objetos. "Esto permitirá que llegue hasta el mismo buzón y le deje su correspondencia o recoja lo que le haya dejado allí por recoger, sin tener que salir de su auto."



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# Ahorros automáticos con el programa Easy Savings™ de MasterCard

Octubre es el mes dedicado a las mujeres empresarias y para celebrarlo, MasterCard lanza el primer programa de ahorro automático para pequeños negocios

Según cifras de la agencia gubernamental, Small Business Administration, los hispanos somos el grupo minoritario del país con mayor participación en la comunidad de negocios. El 6.6% de todos los negocios del país durante el 2002 eran propiedad de empresarios hispanos, de los cuales más de un tercio pertenecían a mujeres.

La mayoría de las empresarias Latinas (72%) empezaron su propio negocio por si solas, utilizando su propio dinero para autofinanciarse. Entre 1997 y el 2006, el

número de empresas propiedad de mujeres hispanas creció 121.3 % y generaron un incremento en ventas del 33.3%. Se prevé que estas cifras aumenten en los próximos años y programas de apoyo y ahorro, como el Easy savings de MasterCard pueden contribuir al éxito y crecimiento de los negocios y empresas hispanas.

Este nuevo y único programa de las tarjetas de negocio de crédito y débito de MasterCard BusinessCard® esta disponible a través de ciertos bancos e instituciones financieras e incluye prestadores de servicios diversos, desde aerolíneas, restaurantes hasta renta de automóviles y servicios de paquetería. A partir de ahora, de manera fácil y automática, las empresas pequeñas podrán utilizar Easy Savings para

recibir ahorros automáticos, cada vez que utilice su tarjeta MasterCard Business Card tanto de crédito como de débito en productos y servicios que con frecuencia utilizan con proveedores inscritos al programa.

“Cuando uno es dueño de su propio negocio, cada centavo cuenta. Uno quiere saber cuanto se gana, cuanto se gasta y como y donde se puede ahorrar,” explica la experta financiera y autora, Hilary Kramer. “Este programa le facilita el trabajo, ya que no solo le permite dar seguimiento a sus gastos, también le proporciona ahorros cada vez que utiliza su tarjeta de crédito o débito MasterCard BusinessCard en productos y servicios que sean parte del programa.”

De acuerdo a la “Encuesta a pequeños negocios de MasterCard”, el 75% de los

negocios participantes confirmó que utiliza tarjetas para el pago de los gastos del negocio y que está interesado en participar en programas de ahorro y considera dichos programas como una importante ayuda para el manejo y crecimiento de su negocio.

“Este es el único programa de ahorro automático que existe para pequeños negocios que incluye tanto tarjetas de crédito como débito. El programa MasterCard Easy Savings ofrece una forma sencilla de ahorrar mientras se efectúan gastos del negocio y es parte del compromiso que tenemos de ayudar a los pequeños empresarios con herramientas y soluciones que les permitan manejar y crecer su negocio de forma más eficiente y efectiva,” expreso Bruno Perreault, Jefe de la División de Negocios -Pequeños y Medianos de MasterCard Worldwide.

Las empresarias hispanas dan empleo a 418,518 personas y generan casi \$67 billones en ventas. Ellas representan el 9.7 % del total de los negocios y firmas de mujeres en los Estados Unidos. Para inscribirse al programa de ahorro Easy Savings de MasterCard BusinessCard solo tienen que registrarse en el sitio web: [www.mastercardeasysavings.com](http://www.mastercardeasysavings.com)

Una vez inscritas, pueden chequear sus gastos y los ahorros que reciban a través de la página de Internet o en su estado de cuenta.

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# Estafadores buscan aprovecharse de los propietarios de casa

La NFCC advierte que se cuiden de las estafas relacionadas con ejecuciones hipotecarias

Si hay un ejemplo de aprovecharse de alguien cuando está débil, el estafar a alguien que teme la ejecución hipotecaria es ese ejemplo. La National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) advierte al consumidor que se cuide de ofertas que suenan demasiado buenas para ser verdad.

La sublevación de ejecuciones hipotecarias ha dejado la puerta abierta para estafadores que ofrecen “rescatar” a los propietarios de casa que se encuentran en problemas financieros. Usan una gran variedad de estafas y van tras personas de cualquier edad en prácticamente cada comunidad a lo largo del país. Cualquiera puede caer víctima de ellos.

Normalmente, estafas relacionadas con ejecución hipotecaria anuncian que salvarán los hogares de aquellos que encaran la ejecución hipotecaria- las personas que se han atrasado con pagos de hipoteca. Ellos prometen “salvar su hogar” o “pagar su hipoteca”, pero en realidad solo generan una ganancia rápida para ellos mismos o le quitan el valor a la casa sin beneficiar al dueño en lo más mínimo. “Estafadores pueden echar a una familia de su propio

hogar y venderla antes que el propietario de la casa se de cuenta de lo que está pasando,” dijo Gail Cunningham, portavoz de la NFCC.

## ¿Cómo funcionan las estafas de rescate de ejecución hipotecaria?

- El “rescate” identifica aquellos propietarios quienes tienen problemas con su hipoteca a través de anuncios de periódico, Internet o en oficinas gubernamentales.
- El “rescate” procede a ponerse en contacto con el propietario llamando por teléfono, visitándolo personalmente, dejando una carta o boletín en su puerta, o un anuncio comercial.
- El contacto inicial regularmente anuncia que el propietario se puede quedar con su casa fácilmente, y ofrece una nueva oportunidad para “empezar de Nuevo”, retener su puntuación de crédito, o recibir dinero en efectivo.

Durante la primera cita, el propietario confiado es ordenado a cortar toda comunicación con acreedores, asesores de crédito o abogados dejando que el “rescate”

maneje todos los detalles. Esto logra que el propietario no tenga acceso a soluciones financieras legítimas empeorando el problema hipotecario.

Generalmente, el estafador busca hacer dinero rápido a través de cargos o supuestos pagos directos hacia la hipoteca que nunca llegan a las manos de los acreedores. En algunos casos, el estafador se convierte en el dueño de la propiedad mintiéndole al propietario.

Cuando ya es demasiado tarde para salvar la casa, el “rescate” se queda con la propiedad o el propietario pierde su hogar a una ejecución hipotecaria después de haber perdido el valor en cargos que no se han pagado.

## ¿Cuáles son las señales de peligro?

La NFCC advierte a los propietarios que procedan con mucho cuidado cuando un individuo o compañía:

- Se dice ser un “especialista en hipotecas” o “servicio de ejecución hipotecaria”.
- Contacta a las personas quien aparecen en la lista de ejecuciones hipotecarias, incluyendo cualquiera que usa boletines o folletos o solicita su negocio de puerta en puerta, por teléfono o correo electrónico.
- Lo anima a que haga un contrato de arrendamiento, diciéndole que usted puede comprar su casa de nuevo cuando pase el tiempo.
- Requiere pago antes de recibir algún servicio para usted.
- Lo conduce a cortar todas comunicaciones con su acreedor o prestamista, asesores de crédito o vivienda, abogados o cualquier otro especialista legítimo.
- Le dice que le entregue sus pagos de casa o de hipoteca directamente a el/ella, o a su compañía.
- Requiere que usted transfiera su título de propiedad a el nombre de el/ella o de su compañía.
- Le hace una promesa que suena demasiado buena para creerla, por ejemplo, dinero en efectivo sin deber nada.
- Le dice que como parte del contrato, usted tendrá que moverse de su hogar por un tiempo para remodelar o cualquier otra razón.
- Ofrece comprar su casa en efectivo a un precio justo que no está fijado por el mercado de vivienda al tiempo de venta.

propiedad sin antes consultar a un asesor de crédito o vivienda o un abogado.

- No confíe en arreglos verbales - no significan nada. Todas las promesas tendrán que ser por escrito y mantenga copias de todos los documentos, especialmente los que usted firme.
- No firme nada que tenga líneas o espacios en blanco. Estafadores pueden agregar información después del trato sin que usted se de cuenta.
- Si no habla Inglés, use su propio traductor. No dependa en el traductor que le proporciona el “rescate”.
- No caiga preso a las promesas falsas usadas por estafadores. Por ejemplo:
  - Dice tener su puntuación de crédito
  - Promete dinero en efectivo instantáneamente
  - Garantiza que su casa se venderá en un número de días fijo
  - Ayuda en la declaración de bancarrota para “para la ejecución hipotecaria”
  - Ofertas de renta o premios gratis

El sitio [www.nopierdastuhogar.org](http://www.nopierdastuhogar.org) de la National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) es una fuente de información para consumidores que buscan educación sobre estafas y otros temas relacionados con problemas de vivienda. Además, si el propietario está preocupado y quiere saber más, puede tomar el cuestionario

Mortgage Reality CheckSM. El cuestionario mide el riesgo de una ejecución hipotecaria, y si es necesario, el consumidor en riesgo puede conectarse inmediatamente con un consejero certificado de vivienda de la NFCC. La educación financiera es la clave para prevenir ser preso de los estafadores.

Si el consumidor teme no poder hacer los pagos de hipoteca, le NFCC recomienda que acuda inmediatamente a un asesor de vivienda certificado de una agencia legítima antes de responder a alegaciones falsas. “Intervención de parte de un asesor certificado puede ser la diferencia entre una ejecución hipotecaria y el mantenerse dueño de su hogar,” dijo Gail Cunningham. “La NFCC representa la red de asesores certificados de vivienda más grande en la nación, con muchos de los miembros siendo aprobados por HUD, el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los E.E.U.U. y pueden proveer instrucciones y consejos sólidos para los propietarios, continuo.

## Acerca de la NFCC

La NFCC, fundada en el 1951, es la organización sin fines lucrativos para el consejo de crédito más grande y de más largo servicio en la nación. La misión de la NFCC es fijar el estándar nacional para el consejo de crédito, servicios de manejo de deudas y educación para el bienestar financiero de alta calidad por medio de sus agencias. Con cerca de mil oficinas comunitarias por toda la nación, la NFCC ayuda a dos millones de consumidores cada año. Para consejos financieros gratis y de bajo costo con una agencia de la NFCC, llame al 1-800-682-9832 o visite [www.nfcc.org](http://www.nfcc.org).

## Algunas cosas que NO debería hacer NUNCA

- No firme un contrato si está bajo presión. Tome su tiempo para repasar cada documento completamente, es preferible que haga esto con un abogado que representa sus intereses solamente.
- No le des sus pagos de hipoteca a nadie más que no sea su prestamista o acreedor, aunque le hayan prometido entregar esos pagos.
- No firme un contrato dejando su

MANTÉNGASE FUERA

Los ataques de asma de su niño pueden ser provocados por muchas cosas que jamás sospecharía. Incluyendo los animales de peluche. Con la nueva información, usted puede ayudar a prevenir los ataques de asma de su niño, y evitar la sala de emergencias.

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## DÍAZ: Desde Mi Esquina

bofetón a la ciudad entera.

### ¡Cortes, cortes, cortes!

Con los recientes despidos en la ciudad, varios empleados que trabajaban part-time fueron enviados a las filas de desempleo, estas son personas que dependían de su miserable salario para sus necesidades básicas. Algunos de ellos fueron dos oficinistas en el Centro de Ancianos ganando \$10,400 y \$9,880 cada una. Otra fue una asistente en la biblioteca que ganaba \$7,800. La Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence perdió a siete empleado y ha sido obligada a cortar servicios, horas y asistencia con la tarea a los estudiantes después de clases.

Eso a la vez que Michael Sweney está recibiendo \$12,000 adicionales todos los años por supervisar los estacionamientos

de autos. ¡El debe estar ganando cerca de \$100,000 al año!

### El asunto con Stokes

Mucho que se ha dicho sobre si James Stokes fue veterano de los Marines o si es un ministro verdadero pero yo traté de averiguarlo y salí con más preguntas. Los asuntos de veteranos y su licenciatura son crímenes Federales que deben ser atendidos por la oficina del Procurador General de los Estados Unidos. Los estados no tienen nada que ver con eso por lo tanto, ¿por qué está el Alcalde Michael J. Sullivan enviando los resultados de la investigación a la oficina del Fiscal del Distrito de Essex?

Según el Eagle-Tribune del jueves, 27 de diciembre del 2007, "Voceros de las oficinas del Fiscal del Distrito de Essex y del procurador de los Estados Unidos no

nos devolvieron las llamadas para decirnos si están investigando a Stokes."

Lo único que usted tiene que hacer es leer los periódicos para darse cuenta que hay una influencia innecesaria en juego aquí a nivel local. Si Stokes renuncia a su puesto y desaparece, todo desaparecerá con él porque la presión cesará.

Otra cosa que nadie parece haberse preguntado es quien dejó escapar la información contenida en el reporte del CORI. ¿Cómo es que aprendimos tanto sobre su contenido? Es un crimen divulgar cualquier información contenida en un CORI y si esa persona es un empleado de la ciudad, él o ella debe ser despedido de inmediato porque no podremos tenerle confianza más nunca con tal sensitiva información. El Alcalde Sullivan debe ordenar una investigación sobre esto.

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## SÁNCHEZ BERAS: La Navidad Definitiva

los infieles, lavarle los pies a los alumnos, ser justo con la pecadora o cenar en la casa de un recaudador de impuestos, los que los seguimos nos empeñamos en tener las pompas que él rehusó y sentarnos primeros a la mesa, cuando a los llamados se le niega la puerta de entrada.

Nada ha valido su mensaje de acción basándose en dar sin recibir, a no escribir libros, sino hablarle "cara a cara" a los sedientos de la palabra tierna, a no tener ejército ni espada, que impongan sus verdades, sino poner la mejilla para que la verdad se imponga sola. Hoy que con dos mil años de ver su ejemplo y escuchar su palabra nosotros pedimos prueba sobre prueba de su amor como si fuera un rigor científico, mientras negamos la convicción del centurión que no pidió la prueba del milagro, sino la promesa contenida en su palabra, para que donde se encuentre el mal, por su nombre poderoso, se acabara. Duele tanto ver la parafernalia en torno a su

nacimiento físico, como duele ver la ceguera en torno a su nacimiento diario. Porque la natividad es a fin de cuentas un milagro repetido del amor, un hecho repetido hasta el infinito, pues Dios nace cada vez que cumplimos nuestro deber de padre, nuestra obligación de hermanos, nuestro mandato de amigo, nuestra obligatoriedad de ciudadano, nuestra responsabilidad compartida de miembro de la raza humana.

Por eso debemos de ejercitar nuestra celebración navideña, reinventarla como mito y como realidad, rediseñar nuestro espíritu de celebración y ampliar la cobertura de nuestras alegrías. Que por cada bombilla que adorne nuestra casa, demos una bendición por lo recibido y lo por recibir. Que por cada tarjeta navideña que enviemos, agreguemos al mensaje un "Dios te bendiga", que por cada regalo bajo el árbol de pino de nuestra sala, demos un abrazo sanador a quienes se sienten abandonados en la cuesta abajo de la vida,

que por cada bocado que degustemos en la mesa con nuestra familia, pidamos de corazón que no le falte comida al resto de nuestros hermanos en todos los rincones de la tierra.

Quizás y solamente quizás, el nacimiento sea enteramente cierto y no este dolor que presumo en la cara del que vino a ser mediador entre el padre y los mortales. Cada fusil que apunta al pecho de nuestro semejante es sin duda un dolor que se encona en el pecho omnisciente del creador. Cada niño que deambula sin hogar, sin asistir a la escuela, sin haber comido en días, es un pequeño Dios que deambula en procura de que lo veamos en ese que excluimos con nuestras ambiciones.

Porque la navidad no será definitiva hasta que sea justa y proporcional para todos. La navidad será una ración de felicidad que ofende a quien la inspiró con su llegada, mientras unos mueran por hartazgo y otros por carencia.

Pero debemos celebrarla en su honor con júbilo sincero y con conocimiento de causa. Debemos celebrarla con la esperanza de ser mejores y con la voluntad de lograr la igualdad social, que anuncia la igualdad espiritual ante el Dios verdadero. Solo compartiendo la alegría seremos acreedores de la felicidad, pues la vida es un don que compartiéndolo es que se merece.

Esta navidad nos encuentra en un mundo convulso, entre guerras fratricidas y hambrunas y enfermedades. Nos encuentra en medio del desasosiego de no saber si despertaremos en medio de una hecatombe mundial o de un cataclismo de la naturaleza. Pero esta navidad es un milagro repetido y la certeza inequívoca de que Dios aun confía en la capacidad de regeneración de sus siervos. Celebremos la navidad, con gozo, con regocijo y con la convicción de que nuestra ventura tiene por costo, que los demás también alcancen la dicha, pues nadie puede reír completamente si olvidamos que el que llora a nuestro lado es definitivamente nuestro hermano.

## Legisladores locales anuncian un acuerdo con los fabricantes de OxyContin a favor de Lawrence

La Senadora Estatal Susan C. Tucker y los Representantes Estatales Barry R. Finegold y William Lantigua se complacen en anunciar que en enero 2008, la Ciudad de Lawrence recibirá fondos para mejorar y expandir su capacidad de proveer un detallado programa de prevención de abuso de sustancia basado en los jóvenes.

Los fondos emanan de un acuerdo logrado en mayo 2007 con Purdue-Pharma, los fabricantes del narcótico OxyContin. La Oficina del Fiscal General Martha Coakley ha concedido \$835,811 en dádivas para 10 coaliciones comunitarias del Estado, incluyendo a Lawrence.

"Estoy muy contenta de la Fiscal General haya concedido estos fondos para la Ciudad de Lawrence," comentó Tucker (D-Andover). "OxyContin es una droga terrible y su impacto se ha sentido más allá de lo individual. Familias enteras se han destruido con esto."

Massachusetts tomó el liderazgo en una investigación llevada a cabo por varios estados concerniente a un extenso mercadeo "off-label" por Purdue Pharma de la droga OxyContin. La investigación descubrió que Purdue fracasó en revelar el riesgo que conlleva el uso y abuso asociado con la droga. El fallo ordenó a Purdue a pagar un total de \$19.5 millones a los 26 estados participantes. Como parte del fallo, Massachusetts recibió una porción del acuerdo para ayudar a pagar por programas dirigidos a combatir el abuso y adicción de drogas que se venden con receta, que incluyen, pero no limita, la educación, el alcance, prevención y seguimiento del programa. "Estoy muy entusiasmado de que la ciudad de Lawrence tomara la iniciativa de solicitar esta dádiva. El abuso a OxyContin puede devastar a las familias", dijo el Representante Finegold (D-Andover). "Ayudando para asegurar que miembros de nuestra comunidad tiene los recursos que necesitan para combatir la adicción a medicinas que se venden bajo receta es una magnífica forma de comenzar el 2008".

Lawrence está entre las 10 ciudades y pueblos que han sido seleccionados para recibir porciones de la dádiva. Las apropiaciones de esta dádiva serán determinadas a través de un proceso detallado que tomará en cuenta un número de factores incluyendo diversidad geográfica y económica.

El Representante Lantigua, (D-Lawrence) se hizo eco de lo dicho por la delegación de Lawrence. "La adicción a OxyContin continúa poniendo en gran riesgo a la salud de aquellos que abusan de ella y una significativa amenaza a la seguridad pública. Debemos hacer todo lo posible para combatir estos problemas y esta dádiva es un gran paso en la dirección correcta", dijo. La fecha límite para aplicar por esta dádiva era noviembre 15, 2007.

Porciones de la dádiva serán distribuidas comenzando en enero, 2008.



### HOUSTON ROCKETS GAME! Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Night at the Boston Celtics!

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Be there as Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen look to bring a Championship to Boston.

Enjoy an exciting evening of NBA basketball with your family, friends or reward your business associates as the Boston Celtics take on Yao Ming, Tracy McGrady and the Houston Rockets on January 2<sup>nd</sup>!

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008**  
**Boston Celtics vs. Houston Rockets at 7:30 PM**

## Greater Lawrence Children's Christmas Party



On December 22nd 2007 Power 800AM had the privilege of once again being a part of a The Greater Lawrence Annual Hispanic Children's Christmas Party. The event is put together every year by Families & Youth Initiative and headed by Program Coordinator, Delilah Rivera.

Power 800AM has been a major sponsor for this event for over 10 Years. The Greater Lawrence Annual Hispanic Children's Christmas Party gives children from all around the community the opportunity to receive a Christmas

Present.

There was also so much to do; crafts, face-painting, performances by local youth and a chance to take a picture with Santa, things the whole family could enjoy. El Calenton's Awilda Reyes and Santiago Matias were there to host the festivities, Program Director Johnny Mackenzie and Power 800 staff Alexandra Montes and Johanna Deleon were there to lend a helping hand as well. It was a wonderful event and Power 800AM is proud to be a contributing sponsor.

## La Fundación Impacto Comunitario: ¡Provocando Sonrisas! Celebran el día del niño en Maimón



Cientos de niños y niñas del Municipio Maimón, Prov. Mons. Noel celebraron en grande su día con una hermosa actividad realizada por la Fundación Impacto Comunitario.

Más de 500 niños y niñas disfrutaron de almuerzo, golosinas y un espectáculo artístico con diversos payasos, zancos, entre otras atracciones. Impacto Comunitario entregó más de 500 juguetes en esta actividad.

Los juguetes fueron enviados como donación por la Organización Dominicana de Recursos Internacionales (ODRI), presidida por el filántropo Orlando Vargas, quien realiza una labor humanitaria en beneficio de los dominicanos y dominicanas.

La música, la alegría y el entusiasmo de los cientos de niños y niñas presentes dominaron el ambiente del amplio y acogedor Polideportivo de Maimón.

Decenas de voluntarios contribuyeron al éxito de la celebración del día del niño quienes cuidaron y protegieron a los niños y niñas participantes y le brindaron su amor y cariño.

El acto fue encabezado por la coordinadora de la Fundación Impacto Comunitario, Valentina Abreu, entre otras personalidades nacionales e internacionales invitadas, destacándose el Sr. Ernesto Bautista, del Comité pro Ayuda a los Damnificados de la Tormenta

Noel y Olga con sede en Boston-EU y Sr. Roberto Cruz, Síndico del Municipio Maimón.

Más de 2500 niños en todo el país han recibido un juguete nuevo de la Fundación Impacto Comunitario, dejando la satisfacción de provocar más de 2500 sonrisas.

Valentina Abreu, anunció desde ahora que Impacto Comunitario celebrará en mayo próximo, el día de las madres, donde se reunirán más de mil madres de este municipio.

Ernesto Bautista, productor del programa Mass TV, quien grabó las incidencias para ser apreciadas por los dominicanos residentes en Boston, invitó a los niños y niñas a mantenerse en las escuelas para que sean útiles a la sociedad en el futuro y hacer un país mucho mejor.

Impacto Comunitario Inc., es una institución sin fines de lucro, una institución joven, compuesta por personas ilusas y su mayor ilusión es hacer que las cosas sucedan. Trabaja de manera intensa en la creación de alternativas que generen un cambio de vida en nuestros comunes. Se dedica a crear proyectos en beneficio del país, especialmente de los menos favorecidos y tiene en carpeta un proyecto educativo de desarrollo integral a ser ejecutado el próximo año.



# ASAMBLEA ANUAL & FIESTA DE NAVIDAD DE ARLINGTON COMMUNITY TRABAJANDO

Casi 300 personas asistieron a la Asamblea Anual y Fiesta de Navidad de Arlington Community Trabajando (ACT). “Estamos muy contentos con el apoyo de la comunidad hacia nuestra fiesta y muy agradecidos a los donantes. Este año celebramos muchos éxitos y dimos reconocimientos a nuestros voluntarios y auspiciadores,” dijo la directora ejecutiva de ACT, Ana Luna.

Cambridge College fue premiado como “El Socio Comunitario del Año” por su constante contribución y donaciones a los eventos de ACT.

ACT también reconoció el arduo trabajo de la junta directiva dándole el premio de “Miembro de la Junta Directiva del Año” al Dr. James Jennings por sus contribuciones a ACT y sus soluciones creativas al crecimiento de la organización.

Las elecciones anuales de la junta directiva también tuvieron lugar y los resultados fueron las siguientes personas elegidas a la junta directiva de ACT: Rafaela Pichardo, Víctor Abramson, James Jennings, Carlos Matos, Cecilia Luna, Guillermo Ortiz, Isa Perez, Evelyn Saint Hilaire and Gumercindo Frías.

“Damos las gracias a más de 20 voluntarios que ayudaron a organizar este evento y esperamos tener otro año de éxitos en el 2008,” dijo Ana.

La asamblea tuvo lugar en la tienda de Malden Mills en Broadway, como cortesía de sus nuevos dueños College Street LLC.

Los regalos que Santa distribuyó fueron donados por varias entidades, individuos y Cambridge College.



Santa Claus giving the presents.  
Santa Claus passing out presents.



Acompañando a los ganadores del 2007, Izquierda a derecha / Appearing with the 2007 winners are, from left to right: Ana Luna, Chris Harris, Anabelle Rondón, Manny Tirado, Nathalia Ramírez, Gabriel Escobar, Carlos Matos & Ana Delsa Rondón quien ganó “Voluntaria 2007” (Volunteer of 2007).



Nathalia Ramírez recibió el premio de “Joven Voluntaria del 2007” y Manny Tirado recibió el premio de “Joven Líder 2007.”

*Nathalia Ramírez received the award of “Youth Volunteer of 2007” and Manny Tirado received the award “Youth Leader of 2007.”*



De izquierda a derecha: Chris Harris, Anabelle Rondón y Gabriel Escobar entregando el premio “Community Entrepreneur 2007” al empresario del año.

*From the left, Chris Harris, Anabelle Rondón and Gabriel Escobar presenting the “Community Entrepreneur 2007 Award”.*

## Arlington Community Trabajando's Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

Close to 300 people attended Arlington Community Trabajando's (ACT) Annual Meeting and Holiday Party. “We are so happy with the community's support to our event and are thankful to our donors. This year we celebrated many successes and gave awards to our volunteers and sponsors,” said ACT's Executive Director Ana Luna.

Cambridge College was awarded the “Community Partner of the Year” award for their constant contributions and donations to ACT events.

ACT also recognized the hard work of the board members and gave the “Board Member of the Year” award to Dr. James Jennings for his contributions to ACT and creative solutions to organizational growth.

The annual meeting board elections also took place and the membership elected the following people to serve on ACT's board of directors: Rafaela Pichardo, Victor Abramson, James Jennings, Carlos Matos, Cecilia Luna, Guillermo Ortiz, Isa Perez, Evelyn Saint Hilaire and Gumercindo Frías.

“We thank the more than 20 volunteers

who helped to organize this event and look forward to another year of success in 2008,” said Ana.

The meeting was held at the Malden Mills store on Broadway, courtesy of its new owners College Street LLC.

The gifts Santa distributed were donated by several entities, individuals and Cambridge College.



*Straight from Boston's North End*

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# From My Corner

**MATERIAL BILINGÜE**

Favor ver la PÁGINA 4 para leer este artículo en Español



## Is Your Medicare Drug Plan Naughty or Nice?

**MATERIAL BILINGÜE**

Favor ver la PÁGINA 10 para leer este artículo en Español

By GRACE-MARIE TURNER

### No empathy

The recent lay offs of municipal employees in Lawrence on Tuesday, December 18th have received quite a share of publicity but the truth of what really is going on in the background we may never find out. For example, on December 14th, Mayor Michael J. Sullivan signed off on an Employee Action Form granting Michael Sweeney a \$1,000 per month stipend for the handling of the parking lots and he even made it retroactive to July so, Mr. Sweeney received \$6,000 extra while other city employees were being sent home for Christmas for lack of money.



It is my understanding that before a public employee is entitled to receive a stipend, a procedure must be followed along with paperwork to set it up. It is

frightening learning that the mayor can simply sign an Employee Action Form and dispose of thousands of dollars for a single

individual so we must wonder how often it happens.

We must also question from what line item in the budget those funds will be deducted. Is Frank McCann's salary being reduced by \$1,000 a month now that Michael Sweeney is handling the parking lots? After all, the City Charter says that the parking lots are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works.

Now that it's official that Sweeney is in charge of the parking lots and earning a \$1,000 per month stipend, perhaps we can ask for accountability as to where is that money going because no one seems to know.

Money is being taken out of the pockets of this city's taxpayers and I don't see the outrage. People just shrug their shoulders saying that people have the governments they deserve but I believe that to be unfair. Most people in Lawrence are busy working to support their families, trusting their leaders and very often unable to understand this corrupted system. They don't deserve to be taken advantage of like this.

To add insult to injury, the morning of Tuesday, December 18th, while police officers were delivering pink slips to different departments, Mayor Michael J. Sullivan was posing for pictures dressed up as Santa Claus at Lawrence High School, accepting a contribution check from the faculty and students for the Jennifer Ortiz Foundation. We published the picture last week but could not confirm that it was in fact the mayor posing as Santa Claus. The next day I called Nelson Ortiz, assistant director of

The holidays are here again. That means it's time for decorations, gifts, family, friends, and food. But during all the celebrating, seniors enrolled in Medicare Part D should carve out time to consider whether they want to stay with their current prescription drug plan.

At the end of each year, from November 15 through December 31, Medicare Part D provides seniors with an open enrollment period, an easy and convenient way to switch plans—or sign up for the first time.

Thanks to the plan's unique design, seniors can choose from a variety of plans offered by private insurers. Unlike traditional government programs, where there's just one plan for everyone, Medicare Part D is structured so that insurance companies must compete for customers. Consequently, prices have stayed relatively low while coverage options have flourished.

In fact, some plans cost just a few dollars a month.

That's why more seniors than ever before have prescription drug coverage. This past year, Medicare Part D provided benefits to almost 24 million people. Meanwhile, polls have indicated that most seniors are happy with their coverage.

This isn't to say the program has no pitfalls.

Many plans don't cover every brand-name drug, so members might have to take a generic medication instead of the brand they were using prior to signing up for Part D. Furthermore, for brand-name drugs that still are under patent protection, a generic version won't even exist. To access these treatments, members might have to pay more out of their own pocket. Or they might have no choice but to take an alternative

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We are also publishing our Event Banner and will be soliciting businesses and residents. The proceeds will support the betterment of the organization.

The Lawrence Police Athletic League members would like to thank all those who participate.



**William Benjamin**  
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# ANA Synchers take Six Gold Medals at NESSA Figures Meet

It was tough being an ANA competitor at the New England Synchronized Swimming Association Figures Meet held in Gloucester, MA recently. The ANA Synchers, the synchronized swim team from the local YMCA, took first place finishes in an incredible six competition age groups.

The youngest ANA swimmers in the Novice 8-under group started the day and offered people a glimpse of why the 60+ member ANA Synchers are considered one of the top synchro teams in the New England region. Sophia Ju placed first, Reverie Neddie, second, and Anna Lang, third in the Novice 8-U category. Ju, Neddie and Lang are all from Andover.

In the 10 and Under Intermediate category Katherine Gorrie of Andover took home a silver and Angela McNamara, also of Andover, a bronze. In the more advanced 10 and Under Age Group category, the ANA Synchers wowed audience members again by grabbing the top three finishes. All swimmers from Andover, Nicole Carzo, took gold, Tatiana Bouchard, silver and Sachiko Hagiya, bronze.

Continuing their outstanding performance in the age group categories, Caitlyn MacGregor of North Andover won first place and Candace Ju of Andover, took third in the 13-15 Age Group. Jessica Mancini of Andover placed first and Missy Andrews of Chepachet, RI took second in



the 16-17 Age Group category. Leaving only the 3rd place finish on the table, ANA finished the 16-17 AG category with Meaghan Arsenault of Methuen taking the 4th place honors.

Completing this incredible day competing among the most experienced swimmers, Margaret Conlon of Methuen took gold in the 18-19 Age Group category.

With 6 first place finishes and a host of other ribbons, the NESSA Figures Meet, held December 4 at the Cape Ann YMCA was a great day for the ANA Synchers!

If you are interested in learning more about synchronized swimming, the ANA swim team practices at the Andover/North Andover YMCA. Come and check us out – You'll find you really can walk on water!

Accepting new swimmers for the on-going synchro introductory program.

For information on upcoming events, find ANA Synchers online at [www.anasynchers.org](http://www.anasynchers.org). If you are interested in becoming a synchronized swimmer or coach, please contact head coach Eugenia Gillan at 978-886-7075 or [ateugeniagillan@yahoo.com](mailto:ateugeniagillan@yahoo.com).



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## It's All About Right(s)

### You better watch out, you better not shout, you better not cry, I'm telling you why

**S**anta has once again come through; he has left bags of gifts on my porch to distribute to my favorites...

Oh, here's one right off the bat. More side letters! No names, but I'll bet if we cross-reference this to the campaign finance list and those that were present on Election Day holding a sign, it would become apparent, but why bother, I do so love surprises!

Oh, Santa! I would not exactly call this a gift for the taxpayers, but I do understand where you are coming from. This is a Proposition 2-1/2 override, so we can keep the double dipping slackers in the manner they are accustomed to.

Here's a big one. It is a bridge for Billy, a "footbridge"! You know Santa, I keep telling you that the last thing Billy needs is a bridge. He already has one. In fact, when is that 8th wonder of the world being unveiled so the masses can traverse it? I hear there is a hurdling course you have to overcome before you can step foot on the bridge. Oh, and Billy, where do we park to take the bridge? Behind your liquor store, Right? And Billy, do you get any beautification around your building? That was one of the items mentioned at the first meeting about the Billy Bridge. I'd hold out for a pay turnstile; fast nickels are better than slow dimes, Billy!

Oh Santa, you are so thoughtful! Here is a bottle of the world's cheapest champagne for Billy to crack on his head... I mean the footbridge, you are right he would never spring himself.

Santa sent a plaque to go with Billy's faux champagne. Oh, it's a nice big plaque, no faux plaque, bigger than the ones Sharon M.oney Pollard puts up with only her name on them. It reads the "Billy Bridge", Gateway to Liquor, Lottery, Cigarettes and Deals. Big deals, small deals, upstairs deals and back room deals.

This will make someone happy, it says to Chief Yahoo, "His job as royal enforcer of the unwashed masses back".

Santa I am surprised you are giving this a guy a gift. I thought he was on the other list. Notice Santa, I only said someone would be happy, many would be very unhappy if he is allowed to resume as Chief of Police. I know it is bad to take back gifts; you get a bad reputation doing that, but for the sake of Methuen take this gift back!

And with a gift for the chief comes a gift for da dawwg. COAL, in fact, it is the biggest package of coal I have ever seen it my life. Hmmm! If only his mother-in-law had won the election! Santa, how

much time does this rogue have left on the dole? I'll answer that myself Santa: TOO LONG!

Wow! Here are two giant corks strung together, one for the bag pipe one for the mouth. Wait a minute; I am looking for a tag, here it is. Ohhhh! Santa says, "To the Little Windy One". Santa is that "windy" in as gas, you know like bad gas? Oh, here's the name, Scott Lever, our very own bagpipe player/cyber crime guy/internet master! Solomon-made man; I wish I could say Merry Christmas.

Oh, this one says Matty K. Tires - compliments of Tewksbury State Hospital. Santa had nothing to do with this gift.

Here's another one for Matty K. This one is from Santa. Toothpicks, spittle catcher, shoe polish, excuses and press releases. I hope they are good. Ahhh! They are probably bad. Good for Bridgeboy, bad for us.

Santa, here's one that is well needed, to Joey Salvo: Time off from his running of the entire school department single-handedly. Oh, wait! Did he already get his gift? He was spotted on town time shopping. Hey, does he have a side letter too?

Santa is a little confused with what your job is Joey Salvo, he thought you were in charge of the money, then he saw you on TV, outlining the plan for security, so if you get the wrong gift, suck it up Joe!

Here's one for Sgt. Michael Havey, taxi rides anywhere to nowhere? Santa, how sweet, how fitting!

One of my favorite boyz, Randy Haggard, who I have not seen in a very long time - he must on vacation perhaps spending some time with Patrick Starfish under a rock. Once again Santa is giving Randy an introductory course to the Skip Barber Driving School. You know Randy, it is a gift that you can use every year, at least. I know it is like getting underwear, but same goes, you really need it.

WOW, here's a great big badge! No name, now in the past all badges have gone to our very own Con Man himself, Joe Giarusso, who has survived the Manzi regime which I heard at one time, was iffy. No wait; here's the label. It says, Zanni, Past Chairman of the Methuen City Council. Thank God Santa does know all!

What do you think that Zanni will do with a badge if he is not chair of the council? He will probably be pushing around crossing guards. This is the way you do it; this is the way you do it. WATCH ME; WATCH ME! Where's my gavel? Oh damn, Jack Cronin has it!

Here's one for all town employees, it is not from Santa and it says, "From Billy the Bridge". Hey! How did this get on my porch? Loyal readers, you do not think that I am under surveillance... DO YOU? Well, it's here let me read it. It is the Monday before Christmas, and the Monday before New Year's off with pay, and the card reads, remember who to vote for!

Here's an odd gift, it is a shovel and it says "Bridgeboy". Santa wants to know

now that you got your bridge, who's going to shovel it? Santa gives him a small shovel, with no handle!

This one is for Ray DiFiore. It is a consultant job in Haverhill. Santa, maybe you don't know, he already has a consultant job in Haverhill, plus the head of the DPW in Methuen, and he is also retired! I'd say his dance card is full.

Here's one for our ex-legal beagle, Moe Lariviere. It's a job with the Methuen School Department, under the tutelage of Joey Salvo himself, after all he is running the School Department eyes closed and single-handedly. Whew! What a big job for such a little man! I do know that he can arise to the occasion! Bring in his soapbox and watch him go! Santa this sounds like a pay-off. Santa what you should give Moe is some big ones so he stands up and tells it all for all of us! We really need this Santa, please Santa!

Oh, here's one that IS deserving. It is to all the real employees in the City of Methuen that without their service to the citizens, we would be in dire straits. It is a day of reckoning for all those that have bilked the City into the Stone Age. I hear it is just around the corner! Hold tight, and please keep up the good work!

Oh, here's one for our old queen shar, it is a condo in Florida. Santa I hate to be the bearer of bad news AGAIN, but she already has one! Can she return this one and buy something else? Is the gift receipt in the package? You know, the one that does not show the amount. And I will be sure and tell her to keep her cancelled check for future reference!

Here's a credit card for Little Load Lussier. Santa please, think about this one!

Oh, Santa, a yearly favorite, but do you really think he will use them? It is letters for the front of Bridgeboys Manzi's liquor store. Billy, were you confused last time because Santa gave you the whole alphabet? Santa thinks you have something going on so he only put the letters you NEED! Billy, you must now take responsibility, you are after all the gateway to the 1.5++++Million Dollar Footbridge, people will be using your liquor store as a landmark, and they will need all the letters!

Wow, in spite of all that has gone on the lovely confines of Methuen, this is more grants for the Police Department, to buy ATVs, motorcycles, bicycles and whatever! Santa, who wrote this grant? Who signed the application? Santa, maybe because you are so busy, like most of the citizens in Methuen, you do not know of the trouble the Police Department is in because of misusing Grant Monies. I hear the elusive letter from the Feds is in the mail, demanding

## Local Lawmakers Announce OxyContin Settlement Grant to Lawrence

**S**tate Senator Susan Tucker and Representatives Barry R. Finegold and William Lantigua are pleased to announce that the City of Lawrence will receive funding to improve and expand their capacity to provide comprehensive, youth-focused substance-abuse prevention initiatives in January 2008.

The funding stems from a May 2007 multi-state consent judgment reached with Purdue Pharma, the maker of the narcotic pain medication OxyContin. The Office of Attorney General Martha Coakley has awarded \$835,811 in grant funds to 10 qualified community coalitions throughout the Commonwealth, including Lawrence.

"I am so glad that the Attorney General has awarded this funding to the City of Lawrence," commented Tucker (D-Andover). "OxyContin is a terrible drug and its impact is felt far beyond the individual. Families have been destroyed by it."

Massachusetts was a leader of a multi-state investigation concerning Purdue Pharma's extensive off-label marketing of Oxycontin. The investigation uncovered that Purdue failed to disclose abuse and addiction risks associated with the drug. The consent judgment ordered Purdue to pay a total of \$19.5 million to the 26 participating states. As part of the judgment, Massachusetts received a portion of the settlement to fund or assist funding programs directed at combating prescription drug abuse and addiction, which includes, but is not limited to, education, outreach, prevention, or monitoring programs.

"I'm thrilled that the City of Lawrence took the initiative to apply for this grant. OxyContin abuse can devastate families," said Representative Barry Finegold (D-Andover). "Helping to ensure that members of our community have the resources they need to combat prescription drug addiction is a great way to start off 2008."

Lawrence is among the 10 cities and towns that have been selected to receive portions of the grant funding. Grant appropriates were determined through a detailed application review process which took into account a number of factors including geographic and economic diversity.

Representative Lantigua echoed the Lawrence delegation's sentiment. "OxyContin addiction continues to pose a major health risk to those who abuse it and a significant threat to public safety. We must do all we can to address both problems and this grant is a giant step in the right direction," he said.

The deadline for grant applications was November 15, 2007. Portions of the grants will be distributed to each grantee starting in January 2008.



Pictured (from left to right seated) Cara Green and Stacha Bomba. (Standing from left to right) John Goudreau and Douglas Currier.

## Merrimack Valley YMCA Honors Four Outstanding Staff Members

Merrimack Valley YMCA employees Stacha Bomba, Douglas Currier, John Goudreau, and Cara Green were awarded the 2007 President/CEO Award from the Merrimack Valley YMCA.

- Stacha Bomba** of Merrimack is Youth and Teen Director at the Methuen YMCA
- Douglas Currier** of Haverhill is Senior Program Director at the Lawrence YMCA
- Cara Green** of Lawrence is Site Coordinator for the Andover/North Andover YMCA's Child Care Program
- John Goudreau** of North Andover is Director of Outdoor Programs Associate Director of YMCA Day Camp Otter for the YMCA's Camping Services Branch

This annual award is presented to one full-time staff member at each Merrimack Valley YMCA branch for exhibiting teamwork and dedication to the YMCA, as well as outstanding service to YMCA members.

They were honored last week at a staff dinner held at Palmer's Restaurant in Andover.

## YMCA Honors Outstanding Volunteers at Annual Meeting



Honored during the YMCA's annual meeting for exemplary volunteer service in 2007 were policy volunteers (from the left): Robert Baker of Swampscott, Board of Trustees Member; Diane Sullivan of Andover, Andover/North Andover Branch Board Member; Peter Snow of Melrose, Camping Services Branch Board Member; Bill Fili of Methuen, Methuen Branch Board Member; and Marko Duffy of Tewksbury, Lawrence Branch Board Member.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA honored its outstanding policy volunteers at the organization's 128th Annual Meeting held on December 14 at the Wyndham Andover Hotel. More than 150 members of the business community were on hand to hear about the YMCA's accomplishments during the course of 2007.

James Kapelson of Andover, YMCA Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, said, "The Merrimack Valley YMCA has much to be proud of. We continue to build relationships throughout the community with business partners, service clubs and other not for profit organizations. The YMCA provided over \$3 million worth of programming and support services for the communities of Merrimack Valley."

The annual meeting keynoter was Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan who spoke of the partnership between non-profits such as the YMCA who help children and families connect with strong role models in our community.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA is a

multi-faceted not-for-profit social service organization providing programs and services to preschoolers through senior citizens in the towns of Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Methuen and Salem, New Hampshire. The Merrimack Valley YMCA is comprised of three facility branches: the Lawrence Branch on Lawrence Street in Lawrence founded in 1880; the Andover/North Andover Branch on Haverhill Street in Andover built in 1975 and the Methuen Branch opened in 2003. The Y also operates a Camping Services Branch with boys and girls resident camps on Bear Island, Lake Winnepesaukee and a day camp on Captain's Pond in Salem, New Hampshire.

2007 marks the 128th anniversary of the Merrimack Valley YMCA. This year also marked 100 years of YMCA camping at the Merrimack Valley YMCA.

In 2007, the Merrimack Valley served over 33,000 participants in a variety of program related activities such as preschool child care, tutoring and mentoring programs for elementary children, music and arts clubhouse, YMCA Youth & Government, teen leaders clubs, youth center, swimming and water safety, youth and adult sports leagues and teams, literacy programs, residences for homeless men, counseling services for alcohol and drug-related issues, job training, summer vacation clubs, resident camps and day camp and family programs and camping.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA's mission, as a community-based organization governed by its members, is dedicated to putting Christian principles in practice through programs, membership opportunities and community services that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

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## Mr. B's Sport Stories



### Goodbye to a good man!

Many years ago, when we were very young and full of pie and vinegar (for lack of another word), I first met the man of which this story is about. I had seen him around and we usually nodded or said "Hi" as we met. Nothing special; just two guys being cordial. I was managing a team in the now defunct Social League and I'm pretty sure it was the Jennies team from So. Union St. I decided to take in a game at the So. Lawrence Common (The O'Connell) and the game was part of the "Y" industrial league.

The city's ranking had the City Fast Pitch League as the #1 or best league in the City, the Social League was considered #2 and the Y league was #3. The better players played for the #1 league, some of the older players dropped down to the #2 league and teams that were sponsored by mills and companies made up the teams of the "Y" industrial league, hence the name.

I saw my acquaintance playing for one of the teams and was surprised to see he had some pretty good athletic ability. He probably would've been called the David Wells of the softball games, this because of his portly build, he did have much more hair though and some of it or maybe even a lot of it was used as what we once called "cookie duster" on his top lip. (Many old timers called them misplaces though I've never known why). His was the full and black type and if you remember the Jackie Gleason shows you see the likeness of it as Gleason portrayed Reggie Van Gleason.

My man was the pitcher for his team and I was surprised at his ability to throw strikes and keep the hitters off balance. When he came in at the end of each inning he immediately picked up and lit a gigantic cigar and he seemed to get as much enjoyment puffing on the cigar as he did striking out a batter, although I must really search my memory bank to remember him whiffing anyone. The thing about him was he pitched each pitch and each inning with such "gusto" and a late comer to the park would not be able to figure out the score by looking at him and how he kept his nose to the grind win or lose.

Turning the pages forward maybe 8 to 10 years we saw more of each other and we became pretty tight friends. Our #2 league became the top league as the original #1s folded and the #3 League became just the Y league. Al Kraunelis was one of that league's stalwarts. Same Al, same demeanor, and maybe not the same cigar but one from the same family, probably from Cuba.

I found out when talking to him that he had an important job at Malden Mills and in fact, was one of the key players on Aaron Feuerstein team. He talked to me about the cities both Lawrence and Methuen and told me of the many involvements that he and his company had with each and how gratifying it was to be able to give back to his much loved neighborhoods.

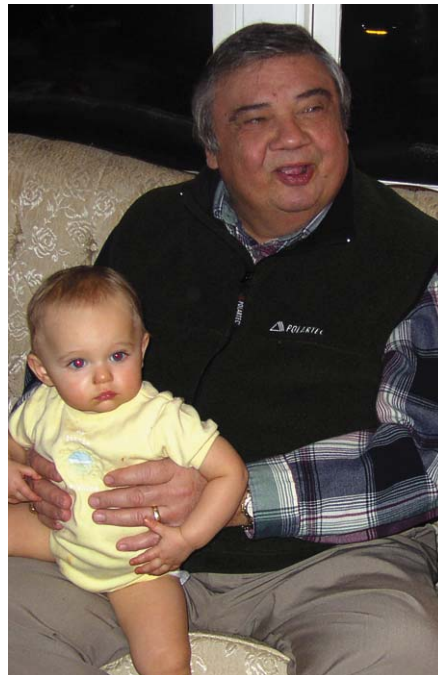
He invited me to meet with him at his office at the Mill and I was astounded at his position and his office and how the people that worked for him were truly on his side.

He introduced me to Billy Perez a former LHS athlete who was at the time his right hand man. Of course his industry although booming, his phone ringing, his signing of important documents, all took a back seat as he wanted to discuss softball, the old days, the present, and even the future. God, he loved that game! He also loved that cigar that was almost the size of some pee wee league bats, and of course, there were not any smoking laws in those days so Al and cigar were like Siamese joined for life.

These meetings turned out to be more than two jocks talking the old days as he volunteered his company's backing of the Lawrence Recreation Department of which I was the Assistant Director. It was at a time when the city was in a financial bind and recreation was to take a big hit. (It seems that our city has always been in a financial disaster mode doesn't it?) Well, Malden Mills in the person of Al Kraunelis donated some big bucks to keep us afloat. I won't give you figures but he helped us big time and it wasn't a one time thing. Unfortunately, word got out and a lot of other agencies started to clamor at his door to try to get a piece of the proverbial "pie". He did accommodate many of the people who asked for his help but of course he had to draw the line. I'm not sure if he ever knew how many kids he helped in the area of Lawrence and Methuen.

To those of you who remember the disturbance (see riots) on Lowell and Oxford streets and the notoriety it brought to our city, many of you don't know the very important role Al Kraunelis played in cooling down a very explosive situation. I was covering the story with John Moran when the radio station WCCM was one, and was privy to a lot of the goings on and sat in on some very important meetings about some of the strategy. I was present at the police station where Sam Aliano who I think was a Captain at the time or maybe a Sergeant I'm not sure but I know he was immense and showed me much leadership and courage throughout.

It seems the cops had one of the ringleaders in custody and he was a pretty tough and mouthy guy. He told the cops he had the "juice" to shut the action down or at his word start burning the city down. He didn't seem fazed by the brass that surrounded him and they weren't sure if he was just a "blowhard". He said he had just been fired from his job at Malden Mills and if he could get his job back he would and could call off his gang of rebels. I listened and waited and nobody reacted to his plea, I told Aliano I had a good friend who could make this happen and he said, "it's worth a try." I called Al and he said, "the guy was a bad employee but he would dismiss company policy to make this happen". He also said, "Frank, as soon as I can, after this cools down if this guy screws up again I'm dumping him". I said, "deal." Aliano agreed and remarkably it all stopped when the guy was told he was back on the job. When later talking to Al and laughing about how a non descript person had so much power



Al Kraunelis with granddaughter Sarah.

throughout that situation. Oh, yeah! He lasted on the job for about 9 days.

Al had very many Hispanic people working for him and told me how hard many of them worked and how trustworthy they were, he had a special bond with them and their culture. He and Malden Mills would eventually sponsor a softball team in the #1 fast pitch league and he got some of the best players in the area to play for his team. Proud of his team and his company, their uniforms were simply the best. He was a pitcher on the team but only toed the rubber now and the but even though he represented the company he was just happy to coach one of the bases and then rush between innings to his faithful stogie hidden on the bench (smoking wasn't allowed on the field else he'd have it with him). Nelson Ortiz now the Assistant Recreation

CONTINUES ON PAGE  
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### Kathi Watts of Lawrence Honored by Association of YMCA Professionals



Merrimack Valley YMCA Camp Registrar Kathi Watts of Lawrence was honored by the Association of YMCA Professionals (AYP), the

professional society for YMCA staff members in the United States. Kathi received the 'Unsung Heroes' award at a ceremony held at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. She has served as registrar since July 1985. The AYP Awards Ceremony was attended by 200 YMCA Professionals from Eastern Massachusetts.

Kathi was nominated by Merrimack Valley YMCA Camp Otter Director Bronwyn Crocker. In her nomination, Bronwyn said, "Kathi is diligent and consistent in her work ethic. She's a caring employee and the caretaker of the Camping Services' Branch records and history. She's been the voice of our camps for 23 years. Kathi started with the Y when there were no computers and now manages the entire camp database."

### GLCAC Receives Grant from Stride-Rite Corporation

The Stride-Rite Corporation honored the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. Child Care Center (581 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA) with The Making "Strides" in Education Grant for over \$11,000. Thanks to Stride Rites generosity the center will be able to enhance the programs educational equipment and provide literacy kits to each of the center's 253 children. The Stride-Rite Corporation has worked closely with the Child Care Center for almost 30 years and has made several generous donations during that time. The centers Toddler, Preschool, Kindergarten and School-Age Programs will all benefit from the Stride-Rite Grant.



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# Open House at The Northeast Independent Living

## MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 6 para leer este artículo en Español

The Northeast Independent Living (NILP) held an open house on Tuesday, December 18, 2007.

The Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. is a consumer controlled Independent Living Center providing Advocacy and Services to people with all disabilities in the greater Merrimack Valley who wish to live independently in the community. This past year, NILP served over 1200 people living in the 30 cities and towns they cover.

NILP's by-laws require that a minimum of 51% of its Board of Directors is people with disabilities that reflect the disability community we serve. The same holds true for the staff at all levels. Further, anyone who has received services during the year is eligible to vote for the Board at its Annual Meeting

NILP was founded in 1980 by Charles C. Carr, and had their first office on Essex Street in Lawrence. Thanks to Carr, its first executive director's tireless effort, they soon moved to a larger office at 429 Broadway one year later and then to their own building, located at 10 Ballard Road, in Lawrence where they continue growing.

In 2007, Governor Deval Patrick called Carr to take leadership at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and named him the Commissioner. In this capacity, he will bring his considerable and unique skills in coalition building, raising awareness and effecting change to benefit people with disabilities in living independently and maximizing employment opportunities and self-sufficiency.

## History

Prior to opening their doors over 25 years ago in Lawrence, the greater Merrimack Valley region provided few options for people with disabilities besides life in a nursing home, state hospital or



Sitting, Tim Connors, Youth Program; Paula Callanan, worker, Judy De Jesús, skill specialist adults with physical disabilities, Modesta Ortega, P.C.A. coordinator and Lucinda Rondon, Secretary, bilingual secretary.

residential school. In 1980, that all began to change when we started identifying people with disabilities and their families to provide them with Independent Living (IL) services. The need for IL advocacy and services was over-whelming for our staff of 3 people. Traveling from house to house, and institution to institution, we were completely committed to spreading the word of IL and building a foundation for fundamental change.

NILP subscribes heavily to peer role modeling. People with disabilities working

together to achieve independence are likely to bond to their shared experience of disability, which makes teaching and counseling much easier and more immediate. Additionally, fundamental to the IL philosophy is cross-disability - the belief that IL is a right for people with all types of disabilities. Peer role modeling takes on an even greater significance when considering the unique differences of each disability group.

People who are pre-lingually deaf have their own language (i.e. American Sign

Language) and culture. It makes no sense for a hearing person to be a role model, even if they have some other type of disability. The appropriate and most effective role model is a deaf person. Thus, in order to meet the IL needs of people with different types of disabilities, NILP has developed specific programs, with qualified staff that have similar disabilities functioning as peer role models in each program.

## Programs

NILP provides advocacy and services to all people with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities that do not fit within the parameters of the broad program descriptions below are encouraged to ask for general information and referral which will then direct them to the program that is best suited to meet their disability specific needs.

## Adults with Physical Disabilities Program

Program works with adults who have physical disabilities such as spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy. Independent Living services include: Personal Care Assistance, peer counseling, accessibility advocacy, and referral for durable medical equipment.

## A Smoother Transition

NILP works with adolescents with disabilities and their families to facilitate the transition from both institutional and public schools into the adult human services system. Specialized services include advocacy and information during the development of Individualized Education Plans and social/recreational activities.

## Peer Counseling

One of NILP's strongest points is that a majority of our staff have disabilities and serve as role models to consumers, providing information and support, and facilitating decision making.

## Skills Training

Training activities which focus on consumer skill development to achieve or increase independence.

## Advocacy

A service process emphasizing consumer control and self-reliance. An array of approaches aimed at assisting persons with disabilities to take charge of the life choices, act on their own behalf, and overcome situations that reduce the potential for independence.

For more information contact The Northeast Independent Living at 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843-1018, Phone: 978-687-4288 (V/TTY) Fax: 978-689-4488.

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Por/By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA  
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## MONTESINO: Dejando ir a nuestro sentido de realidad

# My Point of View

## Unleashing our sense of reality

### MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 13 para leer este artículo en Español

Dr. Montesino, solely responsible for this article, is the Editor of LatinoWorldOnline.com and Senior Lecturer in the Information Processing Management Department at Bentley College, Waltham, Massachusetts.

As we approach the new year I find myself debating whether to continue with Part III of my series on the housing and mortgage crisis (a real McCoy) or take a brief break from that impending debacle and discuss other matters as important to our lives like the New Year (an unreal thing). I have been talking about other political debacles recently, so as not to become a party pooper, I go for the unreal new year stuff and postpone the real housing tragedy for another date.

First, so we don't take the actual end of our year too seriously, what we use to measure our days and brief time on this planet is the Gregorian calendar, not the only one but the most widely used in the

world today. It is a reform of the original Julian calendar and it was decreed by Pope Gregory XIII, for whom it was named, on 24 February 1582 by papal bull, actually an edict. So this calendar that we take so seriously with drink and food is only 425 Gregorian years old.

"Papal bulls were originally issued by the pope for many kinds of communication of a public nature, but after the fifteenth century, only for the most formal or solemn of occasions. Modern scholars have retroactively used the term "bull" to describe any elaborate papal document issued in the form of a decree or privilege (solemn or simple), and to some less elaborate ones issued in the form of a letter. Popularly, the name is used for any papal document that contains a metal seal." (Source: www.Wikipedia.com)

So even though the change of one year for the next is actually a matter of convention and not reality out there in the universe, we try to make of that shift a moment of silly celebration and a point of pause and reorientation of our lives. And that moment gives us the opportunity to

take inventory of ourselves and see what we are and what we do and consider the possibilities of changing both, although unfortunately it is difficult to let go of that leash. Leash? You ask. Yes, I answer, and here is the example, a story I wrote a while back that is still very much relevant today.

I recall, several years ago, when our family Dalmatian unexpectedly escaped from our backyard. I was inside the house tending to some household responsibilities when the frantic words of my kids hit me: "The dog got away!" Not only had this young pooch left the confining boundaries of the yard, but it had done it with such enthusiasm that it had translated the escape into the speed of a race. In one instant, the white black-spotted image of the Dalmatian was almost two blocks away. I thought she would never return.

Instinctively, my gut reaction was to get the leash and run out of the house after the dog. I was not even sure what the leash could do at the moment. Upset, disappointed by the sudden and unexpected departure of the dog all I could do was call her name, stand in her view when she looked back and shake the leash in the air in disgust. To my amazement, the dog saw the leash and ran towards me panting and sat down faithfully and quietly within my reach while I held her and placed the leash around her neck. It was clear that the leash had penetrated her daily trained mind to mean a reward much larger than her short-lived freedom. My dog was so used to the security, pleasures and control of the leash that the mere possibility of running away free forever did not register in her animal mind. So when I consider the leashes that control you and me, I am not kidding. I am dead serious.

How many habits, how many fears, how many missed opportunities to be really free and in charge of our lives do we miss because we don't want to let go of our own leashes? Are we heavy smokers or heavy drinkers? How about heavy abusers of our partners, our children physically or mentally? Have we given up on educational opportunities for us or our own because "we believe" or were made to believe that we can do no better? I recently read a Buddhist comment that went something like this "our eyes are crystal clear when we are born and then the adults who raise us provide the cataracts to blur our eyesight." Are we blind to the possibilities of a future that is becoming because we are distracted by the reality of a present that is going away? Is this the year when we are finally going to let go of the leash? Well, it is not my leash.

And this is my point of view today.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 8 para leer este artículo en Español

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rumbo  
315 Mt. Vernon Street, Lawrence MA 01843  
Email: rumbo@rumbonews.com

Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

To the Editor,

When I attended the Annual NorthEast Independent Living Program Holiday Open House on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, I was happy to see Señor Alberto Surís of Rumbo, who was interviewing and photographing NILP staff members. I then decided to tell Rumbo about the excellent transportation services that I received from NILP for the past seven years.

I wish to publicly thank NILP staff members Mike Alan, Ruth Ann (Ruthie) Poole, Sam Chivers, Nan Donald, Jo Bower and Modesta Ortega for arranging and providing me with the transportation services to many NILP events. I was especially impressed with the transportation

services that I received from Modesta Ortega regarding last June's Annual NILP Symposium at the Double Tree Hotel in Lowell. Modesta told me that she would come to my home at 8 AM during the morning of the event. She arrived at precisely 8 AM.

Mike Alan, the NILP bus driver, was always very courteous. The bus is always very clean, and the name, "Northeast Independent Living" appears in big printed letters along the side of the bus, which makes it easily seen. I greatly appreciate and thank the Northeast Independent Living Program for the excellent transportation services that made possible my attendance at many wonderful NILP events that included the 2007 Holiday Open House! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo 2008!

Sincerely,

**Lindy Galland**  
Lawrence, MA

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**21****BAHAN: It's All About Right(s)**

that we repay another \$170,000 of misused grant funds. I guess you can't believe all you hear.

This one has no name, loyal readers you can assign the names. IT IS KICKBACKS! I believe it corresponds with the campaign finance list!

Here's one, this box looks familiar, this seems to come every year a box this size, shape and color. I'll bet I know what it is, RIGHT, it's that big box of hair, no names, but it can be shared with many! In fact, what's inside should be gray now.

Here's chauffeur for Matty K. so he can sit in back with Billy and make good use with all the presents he has previously received!

Here's a tire gauge for guess who? Matty K.

Here's an antenna for guess who again. Matty K. How's that radio frequency being bombarded on you house working out for you? Santa wants to know.

Here's a mask that looks like Bridgeboy's face, it's red and sweaty. Santa, he doesn't need this, you might want to take it back. He looks red and sweaty most days now. Must be the pressure!

Here's one for Captain Kris McCarthy: a trip to Disney World. Santa, I have to question this gift also. Didn't he already go? Goofy said he saw him.

Here's a box of Ya Ahhhhh's! Where the tag? It says, "You'll know who."

Oh, wow! Here's an interrupter for Zanni, next time Bridgeboy Manzi gives him a list of questions to be asked of the Water and Sewer Task Force, the interrupter will read them for Zanni.

Here's a box of paint brushes, paint and a pourer, let's see who this is for. There it is! It says, for "Eli the Painter."

Here's a box of feet and it says is it for me. Sheeeeet, I'll have nothing to do with anybody's feet. No thank you!

Wow, this one is so small! It is a common pin. It reads for Councilor Rahme to let the air out of her swollen head now that she is out of office. Maybe now that she is out, she will see the light. Away from old shar and her puppet.

Here's some zoning passes.

This is a heavy one. The card reads, "Joe Leone". Interesting, it is a money wrench. Santa what is he supposed to do with this? Ahhh, I get it! He is going to throw it in at the council meeting with the sewer and water task force. This is not from you Santa. Again, another gift from Bridgeboy. I am starting to get paranoid. Has Billy been up on my porch? Well, the wrench is the cute way of saying Leone is not on the same page with the people. He is definitely in Billy's pocket, and loyal readers, he does know better. What do you think Billy is going to give him for Christmas?

Here's a donkey suit, but Santa you are not telling me who gets the head and who gets the ass. Do you mean I get to pick? Oh boy! Two off the top of my head and many on the list or waiting in line behind them.

Here's a list of people Joe Solomon wants removed from the city payroll. Santa, I do not think I have enough ink to print this. I wonder what he does all day besides make lists. Whew! I am glad I do not live in that neighborhood! HOW DID THIS GET ON MY PORCH?

Speaking of Joe here's another gift for

him: two ball bearings to spin around it his hand. Santa you did not tell me which Joey but I think I know.

Hey, this one is for Ken Willett, some new Patriot's gear including a big box of foam fingers. The way the Patriots are playing, I am sure he wore out all the stuff he has. GO PATS! 19-0

A big box of THANK YOUs for all the police that go to work, do their jobs the best they can and keep their nose clean!

This is heavy one, and a big one. Let me find the tag. Oh, I get it. It is a huge chunk of cement with yet another plaque on it. The plaque is to be placed as the keystone on the "Great Wall of Broadhurst", which is located on Osgood Street, across from Riverwalk/Broadhurst parking Lot. It says compliments of the taxpayers. Santa, I can't believe that the taxpayers really paid for the "Great Wall of Broadhurst"! Hey, wait a minute: the Great Wall of Broadhurst connects to the Billy Bridge. Should we call it the great Billy Bridge now?

Here's one I whole heartily agree with Santa. It is the Council Chairmanship for Councilor Jack Cronin! Thanks Santa, and we the people thank you, especially the Central District.

Here's a giant box, full of truth sticks and balls. It says, "Ellen, you know who these are for. Santa and you know they will come get these presents and go forward and do the right thing."

Santa, I have a special request for you. I can guarantee they are on your good list, not the naughty list. These people have worked very hard to do the right thing for the citizens of Methuen, and they need recognition and our thanks. It has been a pleasure to work along side these people. They are the members of the Sewer and Water Task Force, they are the one who are watching, they are ones who care, they have given much of their time and good hearts for the citizens of Methuen. They are Robert LeBlanc, Jack Burke, Dottie Kalil, Pat Uliano, Jerry McCall, Elton McGray, and Jill Stackelin!

To Gerry Duchene a map to Gleason Street. Santa, why are you giving Gerry a map to Gleason Street? Ohhhh, I get it!

Here's a bag of major attitude adjustment. Santa, what's the meaning of this? It says to Mayor Bridgeboy Manzi and Frank Russo. Oh, wait a minute, here's some fine print. It says, "every time the citizenry or the council's questions you, do not act like someone is pulling your short hairs." It also says, "come on guys, the council and the citizens have a right to question you and I know you don't think they do, but Santa says they do, SO wipe that smirk, that look of disdain or that disgusting look off your face! Do what you are supposed to do, be professional do the people's work, it's not about you. If you try real hard, you might make Santa's good list next year." Lol, lol, lol!

Merry Christmas John Catina, looks like you are here to stay, retired, yet back at the spout with a consultant job!

Merry Christmas to John Cena your family and your champion son may you have continued happiness and success. Santa says he looks great and also in the commercials!

Here's one that says to Tom Kelly. It says, "Tom, great suits; man, you look great! Here's one just in case, it is asbestos.

Here's one to Larry Giordano, thank you for all the years and time you have given to the youth of Methuen. Thank you for having touched and molded many of our young people. Santa Says! Also, Santa says thank you for being a council member and trying to do the right thing for the citizens of Methuen.

Oh, here's another one! This one is for councilor, Bob Andrew. Santa says thank you for your commitment, for your loyalty, for your time and the consideration that you have given to the citizens of Methuen, you will be sorely missed. Santa says he has a big gift for you in two years.

Thanks, Bob!

Oh, here's one for Jack Cronin! Santa says thank you Jack for standing tall, for being the man you are, never blinking, never quivering. Only thinking of the people and doing the right thing. Santa thanks you and we thank you.

Here's one for councilor chair Zanni. Santa it is an empty box, I think there is a message here. Santa what list is he on?

Here's one for Mr. Nick, one of my favorite guys. It says, "Time heals all wounds," but it also says, "Time has a way of working things out." It also says, Santa and I should work together to make things right. OK, SANTA, I'M IN! Merry Christmas, Mr. Nick!

This has to be the prettiest box with the prettiest ribbons and bows I have ever seen. It is taking my breath away, it is so special, let me open it up and see what is inside. It is overflowing with good hearts, and thank yous, beautiful flowers and the most expensive champagne it is full of ribbons and confetti. I know who this is for, let me check the card. Yea! I am right it says to Dalia Diaz and Alberto Suris, thank you for being you, thank you for all you do! I know you do not get thanked enough. And I do know how hard it is!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MY LOYAL READERS HEALTH, WEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO YOU!

If Santa or I have missed a gift or missed someone who deserves a special gift or honorable mention, because Santa has a good list and a bad list, or you just what to plain chat or rat, I can be reached at 978-688-1667 or EllenBahan@yahoo.com. And don't be afraid to leave a message, I answer them discreetly.

**Santa Says!**

And sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and for those that deserve it get everything that is coming to them.

PS. Joe there still time to throw on a Santa suit and run to a mall...you're the Joey I am talking about!

**Wait a minute...**

I thought we were done, what do I find in the bottom of the bag? A ticket to Waterloo? A ride hard and fast? I know who this is for!

Here's a box it full of compasses and maps, Santa says it is for the citizens to go forward and do the right thing and tell the truth.

**YWCA of Greater Lawrence to be Awarded a 2007 Grant from the Lenny Zakim Fund**

**O**n Wednesday, January 9th, the YWCA of Greater Lawrence will be awarded a grant by the Lenny Zakim Fund and will be honored together with other grantees at an Awards Ceremony at the Park Plaza Hotel, in Boston.

The YWCA of Greater Lawrence is one of over 70 grassroots, community-based organizations that will receive a 2007 grant from the Lenny Zakim Fund at the Awards Ceremony. Grantees include youth-serving organizations and organizations working for social justice in diverse ways.

The YWCA of Greater Lawrence draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership, and power in order to attain a common vision; peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. We do this by offering programs and services to women and youth age 2 months to 17 years in the local Lawrence community.

The YWCA of Greater Lawrence is honored to receive a grant from The Lenny Zakim Fund to further our work in our Women's Health Advocacy Project which brings breast and cervical cancer screenings, along with prevention and education services regarding diabetes and heart disease, to the medically under-served women in our community.

**ABOUT LENNY ZAKIM AND THE LENNY ZAKIM FUND**

Lenny Zakim believed that one person can change the world. As the executive director of the New England Region of the Anti-Defamation League, he fought tirelessly to put an end to prejudice, civil rights violations, and anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry of all kinds. After Lenny was diagnosed in 1995 with multiple myeloma, he created, with the help of friends and supporters, a philanthropic organization that would transform his vision of social justice into an enduring legacy: The Lenny Zakim Fund.

The mission of the Lenny Zakim Fund is to identify, listen to, support and connect grassroots community organizations and programs operating "below the radar screen" of many large charitable groups and government grants. The Lenny Zakim Fund provides assistance to those who demonstrate the will and potential to make a difference but lack the necessary resources.

# HAVERHILL

## Mayor and Superintendent of Schools Announce Improvement in City's Drop-Out Situation

Mayor James J. Fiorentini and School Superintendent Dr. Raleigh Buchanan today announced that the latest figures show the City has made significant improvement in the City's drop-out rate.

The City's annual drop-out rate, according to recently released numbers from the Department of Education, went from 7.3% down to 5.7%, roughly a 20% improvement. In addition, the City was notified that of all the urban districts in the state, the City of Haverhill had the highest graduation rate.

Mayor Fiorentini, who instituted a Drop-out Commission 4 years ago in an effort to lower the drop-out rate, called this "a significant improvement" and that the school department was headed in the right direction:

"As a city, we ask the school department and the school superintendent to focus on lowering the drop-out rate. The Mayor's Drop-out Commission made a number of suggestions," the Mayor explained.

"It is obvious that the school department took these requests seriously and made drop-out reduction a priority. "Despite the progress, obviously we still have a way to go and I commend the school department on

moving in the right direction," the Mayor added.

Superintendent of Haverhill Public Schools Raleigh Buchanan stated: "I'm pleased that we make any kind of progress toward reducing the drop-out rate. An education is a way in which we can improve out standard of living in the City year by year. Our overall goal is to exceed the 3.3% state drop-out rate in the future."

## Mayor Orders City to Immediately Reissue Hunting and Fishing Licenses

In response to constituent complaints, Mayor James J. Fiorentini today ordered that the City Clerk's office immediately reinstate the process of selling hunting and fishing licenses in the City of Haverhill.

The process had been stopped because the City Clerk's office was short-staffed.

Fiorentini, who learned of the practice through constituent complaints, ordered the Clerk's office to immediately begin reselling hunting and fishing licenses.



## Checkered Flag Indoor Karting opened in Haverhill

Pictured is Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini (left front), and Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce President Joe Bevilacqua (right front) being congratulated after a hard fought go-kart race by owners Domenic Messina (left rear) and T. J. Tasca (right rear), during the grand opening celebration.

At the same time, Former City Councilor Robert Desmarais was hired on an interim basis in the City Clerk's office to begin to handle some of the backlog.

Fiorentini stated: "Improving customer service is our number one goal here at City Hall. It is not acceptable to cut back on service because we are short-staffed. Our job

is to serve the public. Despite our financial problems and our staffing situation, we will find a means of doing this.

"That said, there are a lot of functions and activities that constituents can on-line, as opposed to in-line. However, we'll keep both options available."

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## DÍAZ: From My Corner

the Recreation Department, and confirmed that it was Mayor Sullivan. He also told me that from there, he went to a Boston hospital to visit terminally ill children, something that had been set up for a long time.

Whatever the mayor was scheduled to do on that day should have been canceled out of respect for the many families being affected due to his decision. Mr. Ortiz was upset with me for making a big deal out of something he considered commendable but I could not find anything that could have excused his action that day. That was a slap in the face to the entire city.

## Cuts, cuts, cuts!

With the recent lay offs in the city,

several part-timers were sent to the unemployment lines, people who depended of their meager income for basic necessities. Some of them were two clerks at the Senior Center earning \$10,400 and \$9,880 each. Another was a library assistant who was only earning \$7,800. The Lawrence Public Library lost seven employees and has been forced to cut services, hours and assistance with homework to students after school.

That at the same time that Michael Sweeney is taking home an additional \$12,000 each year for supervising the parking lots. He now must be making close to \$100,000 a year!

## The issue with Stokes

A lot is being said about whether James Stokes was a veteran of the Marines or even a real ordained minister but as I tried to figure it out I came up with new questions. Veterans discharge issues are Federal crimes that should be handled by the United States Attorney General's Office. The states have nothing to do with that so, why is it that Mayor Michael Sullivan is forwarding the results of the investigation to the Essex District Attorney's Office.

According to the Eagle-Tribune report of Thursday, December 27, 2007, said that, "Spokesmen for the Essex District Attorney and U.S. attorney did not return calls to say if they are investigating Stokes."

You just have to read the newspapers to realize that there is undue influence being exerted here at the local level. If Stokes resigns the seat and goes away, everything will blow away with him because the pressure will cease.

Another thing that no one seems to have questioned is who released the information contained in the CORI report. How is it that we learned so much about its content? It is a crime to divulge any information contained in a CORI and if that individual happens to be a city employee, he or she should be fired immediately because can no longer be trusted with such sensitive information. Mayor Sullivan should be pursuing an investigation on this.

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**Essex Art Center Galleries Exhibitions**

Main Gallery: Landscapes – Paintings by Nancy Grice, John Mulcahy, and Carmelo Polanco

Elizabeth A. Beland Gallery: Evidences: Footprints, Driplines  
Sculpture and drawing by Joyce Audy Zarins

January 11 – February 29, 2008, with an opening reception on Friday, January 11, 5-7 pm.

Gallery hours: M - F 10-6  
Call for additional evening hours.

Closed: February 18  
Photographs are available on request.

The reception and galleries are free and open to the public.

The Essex Art Center is located at 56 Island Street, Lawrence, MA

For directions and other information, please visit our website, www.essexartcenter.com, or call 978-685-2343.

**ACTIVITIES AT THE Haverhill Senior Center**

**Free cell phones**

Council on Aging announces it has a supply of free cell phones for Haverhill seniors. These phones are programmed to call 911 in an emergency. This is a free service. Please call Joel Berg for additional information.

**Avoid identity theft!!**

Haverhill COA and TRIAD have purchased a shredder for City seniors' use. The shredder will be available at the Citizens Center, 10 Welcome Street, Room 30, on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

There is no charge for this service thanks to donations by TRIAD, Essex County Sheriff's Department and the Haverhill Council on Aging. For additional information call Joel at 978-374-2390 Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m.

**Red Sox Game in Toronto**

Haverhill Council on Aging and Recreation Department are planning another trip to the Sky Dome Baseball Stadium in Toronto, Canada, to see the Red Sox play the Blue Jays! The bus will leave on Friday, April 4, 2008, at 7:00 a.m. and return in the early evening on Sunday, April 6.

This trip includes a day of sightseeing at Niagara Falls and a trip to Niagara's new casino if desired. Hotel accommodations are at the Travelodge in Niagara Falls. Transportation is provided by luxury motor coach.

Cost for this trip is \$249 per person, double occupancy; \$245 for triple occupancy, and \$329 for single occupancy. All meals are on your own.

Contact Kathy Bresnahan or Rita LaBella at Haverhill COA 978-374-2390 to make your reservation or to request additional information.

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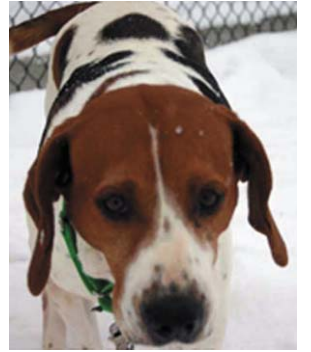
**AISHA & PUKI, DOGS – PAPILLONS, SPAYED FEMALE & NEUTERED MALE**

Hello, we are Aisha and Puki! We are young, energetic dogs looking for a new home to call our own. Aisha is a black female, who is very laid back, loves to kiss and cuddle, and is very playful. Puki is red and tan, very friendly, loves kids, and barks to get attention. We are at the shelter because our owner was allergic to us. Even though we don't have to go home together, we love each other very much, and would ask

that you consider adopting the two of us together. Come down and see how cute we are, we know you'll love us!

**CHARLIE, DOG - HOUND X, NEUTERED MALE**

Hi my name is Charlie, and I am at the shelter because my owners weren't taking very good care of me. I like to play and be petted, not to mention do all the things that hounds like to do, like sniff around everywhere! I would not like to live with small animals or cats (well, maybe I would, but they wouldn't like me!), and I would do well in a home with older children and adults, due to my big size. Please come down and check me out today!



**ROOMBA, DOG - PIT BULL X, SPAYED FEMALE**

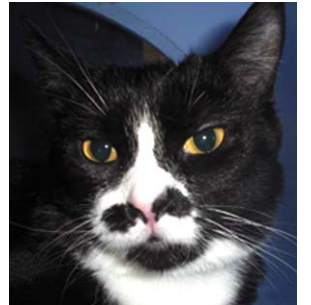
So you might be thinking that I look kind of familiar...well that's because I was here at the shelter just a few months ago! It turns out that my adoptive family was not prepared to handle all the exercise and training that I need, so they decided to bring me back to the shelter to find another home. This time around, the shelter staff is being extra careful to find me the PERFECT home with someone who understands all of my needs. I am extremely high energy and need to go for walks, runs, and have lots of play time daily. I am definitely a rough n' tumble girl who needs someone who can handle my more difficult behaviors such as pulling and grabbing your clothes. (Hey, I think it's lots of fun!!)



Luckily for me, the shelter has an amazing group of volunteers who work with me on training and teaching me how to do the right things. I now wear a gentle leader when I go for walks so I can't pull you or grab your clothes, and I am doing great with clicker training too! I am learning all kinds of new things and I am very smart when challenged. My training would need to be continued through the training program here at the shelter, otherwise I will forget a lot of what I have learned. If you are looking for a challenging yet rewarding experience, please come in and meet Roomba. She has amazing potential to be a terrific and well behaved dog. She just requires consistency and rules along with exercise. The shelter and training staff would be happy to speak with you at length about her, so please feel free to come to the shelter.

**ASTRID, CAT - BLACK & WHITE DSH, SPAYED FEMALE**

Astrid is an absolutely wonderful cat! She was found as a stray along with another adult female cat and a plethora of kittens like a traveling band of gypsies. Astrid was placed in a foster home to finish nursing her kittens and is now back at the shelter and ready for the right adopter to come along. We won't accept just any adopter here, the right applicant must be perfect in every way. Ok, that's a lot of pressure - just promise to love her forever and give her a great home.



**COCOA, CAT - BLENDED CALICO DLH, SPAYED FEMALE**

Cocoa is a beautiful cat with a great disposition. She is a vocal girl and will call to get your attention if she wants to be petted (which is most of the time!) Cocoa's original owners said she likes to sit on your shoulder like a parrot. She has lived with other cats, dogs, and young children in the past and did great. Cocoa would like a home where she will get brushed regularly and receive plenty of attention. Cocoa is declawed and should be an indoor-only kitty.



**CRACKERS, CAT - GRAY DSH, NEUTERED MALE**

This handsome guy is only 6 months old. Crackers came to us along with his brother, Pepperoni, because the children in the household were allergic. Both cats were neutered here at the MSPCA and have received their first set of vaccines and microchips. Crackers would love to find a home with his brother, Pepperoni. So if you're looking for a great pair of young, affectionate, well-rounded cats, look no further!



**SAVE LIVES:** get your pet spayed or neutered. Reduced SNAP fees are made possible through generous donations of time and resources by participating veterinarians who believe in the importance of spaying and neutering as part of a complete pet health care program.

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**NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS**

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, una coalición de comunidades de fe, agencias de servicio social y organizaciones de salud, está buscando voluntarios para llevar a ancianos a citas al médico y otras citas de calidad de vida a través del Programa de Friends in Deed de Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

Si usted puede, aunque sea ocasionalmente, por favor, llame a Jerry Proulx, reclutador de voluntarios, al 1-800-892-0890 ext. 463 (y mencione Interfaith Caregivers.)

Gracias de parte de Interfaith Caregivers y los muchos ancianos que necesitan de los servicios de choferes voluntarios para poder permanecer independientes en su propio hogar.

CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA

10

## TURNER: ¿Es malvado o bondadoso su plan de medicamentos por receta de Medicare?

siguen estando protegidos por patentes, no existen versiones genéricas. Es posible que los integrantes de la tercera edad tengan que pagar más dinero en efectivo para obtener dichos tratamientos. O bien, tendrán que recurrir a medicamentos alternativos.

Por lo tanto, estudien atentamente sus opciones, puesto que los diferentes planes cubren medicamentos diferentes. Asimismo, es posible que los medicamentos cubiertos por cada plan cambien de año en año.

Otro problema de la Parte D se refiere al temido "agujero de la dona", o sea la laguna en la cobertura entre gastos moderados para medicamentos y gastos elevados.

No obstante, los integrantes de la tercera edad pueden evitar con frecuencia caer en el agujero, si hacen selecciones inteligentes y con conocimiento de causa. En California por ejemplo, aquellos que se inscriban en la Parte D pueden optar por uno de 14 planes diferentes que ofrecen cobertura dentro de la laguna. Dichos planes ofrecen costos más bajos porque promueven medicamentos genéricos, pero por lo menos uno de ellos cubre también medicamentos de marca.

Al mismo tiempo, el tener que pagar por los medicamentos puede no ser necesariamente un problema. Todas las empresas farmacéuticas más importantes

han establecido programas para asistir a los pacientes, con el objeto de ayudar a aquellos integrantes de la tercera edad que necesiten un poco más de ayuda para pagar sus facturas, aunque no tengan derecho a Medicaid.

Los procedimientos para establecer el derecho a dichos programas y para presentar la solicitud varían según la empresa y el medicamento, pero los médicos pueden asistir a sus pacientes explicándoles cómo funcionan dichos programas.

Todos los usuarios de Medicare deben considerar también los programas Advantage de Medicare. Actualmente, alrededor del 20% de las personas inscritas en Medicare utilizan un plan Advantage; la mayoría de los mismos ofrecen "atención coordinada" porque cubren las Partes A, B y D de Medicare.

Estos planes funcionan a través de empresas aseguradoras privadas, con el objeto de combinar cobertura médica y de medicamentos, eliminando de este modo la necesidad de tratar con proveedores distintos.

El sistema de prestaciones de medicamentos por receta de Medicare funciona porque utiliza la flexibilidad y la gama de selecciones propias del sector

privado.

Al mismo tiempo, la Parte D hace que la compra de medicamentos sea más segura, liberando a los integrantes de la tercera edad del temor de buscar en línea medicamentos baratos provenientes de distribuidores extranjeros. Considerando que se calcula que un 10 por ciento de los abastecimientos de medicamentos por receta a nivel mundial son falsificados, comprar medicamentos de farmacias poco confiables por Internet es extremadamente peligroso.

Todos aquellos que busquen cobertura para medicamentos por receta tienen una multitud de selecciones para elegir, por lo tanto no hay motivo para permanecer en un plan insatisfactorio. Mientras tanto, todos aquellos que no estén cubiertos deberían aprovechar esta oportunidad para inscribirse. Considerando todas las opciones disponibles, seguramente encontrará el plan que más le convenga. Este es el momento para ponerse a buscarlo.

Grace-Marie Turner es presidenta del Instituto Galen, una organización dedicada a la investigación, con oficinas centrales en Alexandria, Va., que se concentra en desarrollar ideas basadas en el mercado libre para la reforma en el campo de la salud.

CONTINUES FROM PAGE

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## TURNER: Is Your Medicare Drug Plan Naughty or Nice?

drug.

So be sure to go over the options carefully, as different plans cover different drugs. And the drugs covered by each plan may change from year to year.

Other problems with Part D include the dreaded "doughnut hole," or the gap in coverage between moderate and high drug expenses.

By making smart, informed choices, however, seniors can often avoid the hole. In California, for example, Part D enrollees

can choose between 14 different plans that offer coverage within the gap. These plans often lowers costs by promoting generics, but at least one of them still covers brand-name drugs.

And paying for the drugs need not be a problem either. All the major drug companies have set up patient assistance programs for senior who need a little extra help paying the bills, even if they don't qualify for Medicaid.

Eligibility and application procedures

vary by company and drug, but doctors can assist patients with understanding how these programs work.

Everyone who uses Medicare should also consider a Medicare Advantage program. About 20 percent of Medicare enrollees currently utilize an Advantage plan, most of which offer "coordinated care" by covering Medicare Parts A, B, and D.

These plans work through private insurance companies in order to combine medical and drug coverage, doing away with the need to deal with separate providers.

The Medicare prescription drug benefit works because it utilizes the choice and flexibility that comes from the private sector.

At the same time, Part D makes purchasing prescription medications safer, freeing seniors from the scary prospect of going online in search of cheap drugs from foreign distributors. With 10 percent of the world's prescription drug supply now estimated to be counterfeit, it's extremely dangerous to purchase medicine from fly-by-night Internet pharmacies.

All those seeking drug coverage have a multitude of options to choose from, so there's no reason to stick with a disappointing plan. Meanwhile, anyone who isn't covered should take this opportunity to sign up. With all the options that are available, there's a plan that's right for everyone. Now's the time to find it.

Grace-Marie Turner is president of the Galen Institute, a research organization based in Alexandria, Va., that focuses on free-market ideas for health reform.

CONTINUES FROM PAGE

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## MR. B: Goodbye to a good man!

Director for the City of Lawrence after working for Al and the union at Malden Mills became the team manager.

One Sunday night when Malden Mills was the radio game of the week (I know it's hard to believe that we had a station that did local sports at one time), John Moran and I did the games, in the second inning Malden's at bat. I say on the air they should bunt down first base because the player is too far back to make a play. The hitter bunts down first and is safe. Moran says, "nice call coach."

Next hitter I say another bunt this one down third. Hitter bunts both batters are safe. Moran, my boss, is ecstatic about my calls. Third batter I say bunt to third make the baseman handle the ball. Done as planned. Moran says, "Benj, you're really on your game tonight!"

Wow! I say, "John, check Nelson out; he's wearing a radio headset and doing what I'm telling him to do," John says, "nah" I say, watch this. I say, 'Hi Nelson' on the air and he waves back. It turns out Kraunelis told Nelson to listen to me on the radio because I really knew the game. We shared many laughs about that one.

Al Kraunelis was one of the finest people I've ever known and upon hearing of his illness visited him in the hospital he knew he was in a big problem but he wouldn't let on. Laughing joking with his wife, talking of a trip he just made with his whole family he was at his enjoyable best. His act was so good I felt maybe he wasn't as bad as I heard but his Oscar award performance conned me. Al Kraunelis was a big man with a big heart, a big cigar and a big personality, not many like him pass our way and we should feel privileged for the honor.

Maybe the new mayor and city council could name a field in his memory. Maybe a softball field of a game he loved, maybe one of the fields at the Burnham Road Park. It would be a small repayment for the many, many deeds he did for the area. Maybe a replica of a large cigar would be the thing, many of us would get the meaning.

With his death at a much too young age both cities are left with a huge void both civically and as a benefactor to so many groups. He was a huge man that cast a big shadow that most of us fell under.

With his passing I'm thinking that Heaven became a better place upon his arrival. He probably had one of his Cuban specials stashed for the event.

## Letters to the Editor

Rumbo

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Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

### The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee

Presents...

#### THE ANNUAL MERRIMACK VALLEY MAYORS and TOWN MANAGERS BREAKFAST

Friday, January 18, 2008  
7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Andover Country Club  
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Includes a Full Hot Breakfast Buffet

Invited/Confirmed Guests:

Lt. Governor Timothy Murray

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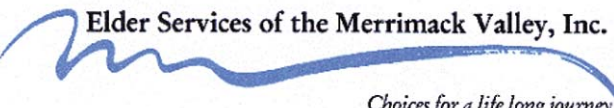


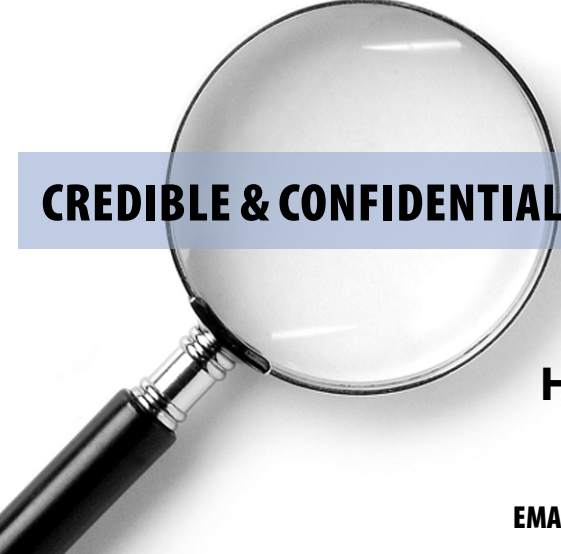
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*Choices for a life long journey*  
 Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (Servicio a los ancianos del Valle de Merrimack) está activamente reclutando voluntarios para un número de programas y servicios relacionados con la asistencia a ancianos en el Valle de Merrimack.  
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 Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley es una agencia privada sin ánimo de lucro. Su misión es la de crear programas y servicios que los dé fuerza a adultos para que permanezcan seguros e independientes en sus propios hogares y comunidades por el mayor tiempo como sea posible. Anualmente, más de 20,000 ancianos a través de 23 ciudades y pueblos del Valle de Merrimack reciben asistencia de varios programas ofrecidos por Elder Services. Nuestras oficinas están convenientemente localizadas en Lawrence, en el 360 de la Calle Merrimack.  
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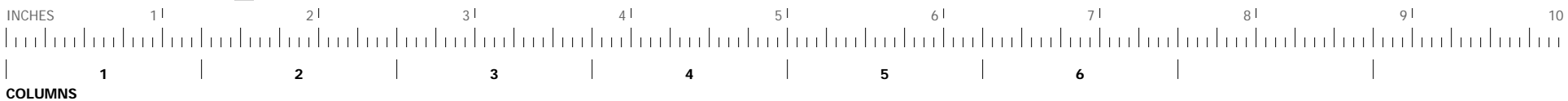
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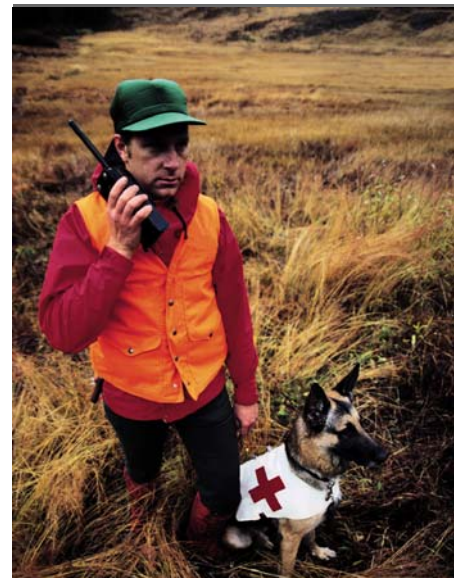
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