

# Merrimack Valley Happenings...

News of current economic developments and cultural events  
from the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council.

January 25, 2012

## QUICK LINKS:

[BUSINESS & ECONOMY](#)

[HIGHER EDUCATION](#)

[BUSINESS GROUPS](#)

[ARTS, CULTURE, NATURE, RECREATION](#)

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMY NEWS



The Lowell Small Business Assistance Center is now the [Merrimack Valley Small Business Center](#), with a new [website](#).

❖ [MVSBC January Newsletter](#)



Gov. Deval Patrick, U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, U.S. Rep. John Tierney, state Rep. Marc Lombardo and Selectman Andrew Deslaurier recently toured [Cabot Corp.'s](#) Billerica plant.

*The Lowell Sun:* [Patrick touts jobs progress on Billerica plant tour](#)



The [City of Lowell](#) and [Lowell National Historical Park](#) were awarded more than \$3 million in federal grants for a year-round trolley system carrying passengers from the Gallagher Intermodal Terminal to downtown Lowell and UMass Lowell's East Campus.

❖ *The Lowell Sun:* [Federal grants put Lowell trolley expansion on fast track](#)

## Raytheon

[Raytheon Co.'s](#) latest contract with Taiwan will help stabilize Raytheon's Integrated Defensive System's local operations in Tewksbury and Andover for three to five years.

❖ *The Lowell Sun:* [From Greater Lowell Raytheon plants, technology helping Taiwan defend itself](#)



MVEDC Board member [Robert W. Lavoie, Esq.](#) is now Of Counsel at the law firm of [Johnson & Borenstein, LLC](#) in Andover. *Bob also serves on the City of Amesbury's Municipal Council and the Board of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission*



Friday, January 27, 2012 is the deadline for new or growing companies in the Merrimack Valley are invited to enter the [2012 North of Boston Business Plan Competition](#) - 1st Prize - \$5,000, 2nd Prize - \$3,000, 3rd Prize - \$2,000; [entry forms/information](#)



Chelmsford-based software company [Kronos Inc.](#) has acquired Oregon-based OptiLink, enabling Kronos to offer more services to its many health care customers.

❖ *The Boston Globe:* [Kronos buys OptiLink](#)



Renovated mill buildings in Lawrence, Lowell, and Haverhill are vital to the cities' economic future.

*The Boston Globe:* [Mill redevelopment coming back strong after recession](#)

❖ *The Boston Globe:* [Mill redevelopment, by the numbers](#)



[The Patrick Murray Administration](#) has released its 2012 Statewide Economic Development Plan, ["Choosing to Compete In the 21st Century"](#) - An Economic Development Policy and Strategic Plan for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



[Merrimack Valley Planning Commission:](#)

❖ MVPC newsletter – ["Region Matters" – Winter 2011/12](#)

❖ *The Eagle-Tribune:* [Eight cities and towns collaborating for state DPW grant](#)



[Northern Middlesex Council of Governments](#) [Northern Middlesex Council of Governments:](#)

❖ [Regional Strategic Plan for Greater Lowell \(September 2011\)](#)



[City of Lowell - Office of Economic Development:](#)

❖ [January 2012 Business Resource Calendar](#)



[City of Lawrence:](#)

❖ ["Moving Lawrence Forward" newsletter](#)

❖ Weds., Jan. 25, 7:30-9:00 a.m.: City Hall before hours: Green Jobs networking; Salvatore's on the Riverwalk, 354 Merrimack St., Lawrence; sponsored by [Riverwalk Properties](#) & City of Lawrence



[Team Haverhill:](#)

❖ Monday, Jan. 30, 7:00 p.m.: ["Possible Dreams 2012 Bridge to Bridge & Beyond"](#) - community-wide conversation about recent progress and future possibilities in the heart of the city; NECC's Hartleb Technology Center, 100 Elliott Street, Haverhill

# HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



## UMass Lowell news & events:

- ❖ Friday, March 9: **Biopharmaceutical Summit** – learn how to drive innovation in biopharmaceutical manufacturing; UML Inn & Conference Center, Lowell; \$200 per person; [info/register](#)
- ❖ **Merrimack Valley Housing Report**



## NECC news & events:

- **NECC** is moving forward with construction of a \$27.4 million Health & Technology Center in downtown Lawrence; [press release and video](#); *The Eagle-Tribune*: [InTown Mall demolition begins today, making way for college health technologies building](#)
- *The Boston Globe*: [NECC poised to build new health-tech center](#)
- ❖ Wednesdays, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning Feb. 29: “Starting and Operating the Successful Weatherization or Energy Efficient Business”-8-weeks, noncredit; \$229; NECC Riverwalk, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence
- ❖ **iHealth@NECC** offers an Associate Degree in General Studies: Health Studies and Certificates in Phlebotomy, Emergency Management, Health Care Technician, and Medical Billing. Certification courses will be offered in advanced cardiac life support and pediatric advanced life support.
- ❖ **Register for Non-credit Courses** and programs
  - Monday, Feb. 27, “[Making Money in Your Online Home Business](#)”, one-night, noncredit class; NECC’s Riverwalk campus, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence; \$39 per person.
- ❖ **Workforce Development Services** offers customized training and consulting services
- ❖ **White Fund Enlightenment Series**
  - Sun., Feb. 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m.: Ardis Cameron: “The Lawrence Strike of 1912: Women, Protest, and Déjà Vu All Over Again;” Louise Haffner Fournier Education Center, 78 Amesbury St., Lawrence



## Middlesex Community College news and events:

- ❖ MCC **CompTia certificate** exam prep courses begin Jan. 10
- ❖ MCC’s **Writing Technical Information Certificate** -120 hour program begins Feb 16, 2012.
- ❖ *Valley Dispatch*: [MCC offers nurse-assistant program](#)
- ❖ *MCC offers several open enrollment, professional development courses on the Bedford and Lowell Campuses, including MS Excel (day and evening sessions); MS Access; Technical Writing Certificate Program; Web Design Certificate; CompTia Exam Prep; Project Management/PMP Exam Prep; Meeting and Event Management; Teaching PT at Community Colleges; SHRM Exam Prep; [online catalog](#)*
- ❖ Actor and Parkinson's disease activist **Michael J. Fox** will headline MCC’s Celebrity Forum on June 15 at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are \$35 and \$25, available at the LMA box office and [online](#).
  - ❖ The Lowell Sun: [MCC's next production? A blockbuster starring Michael J. Fox](#)
- ❖ MCC **Business and Industry Programs** assist employers with writing work-force training grants and offers credit and non-credit courses
  - ❖ [Online Career Training Certificates - Virtual Information Session.](#)



## Merrimack College news & events



[Suffolk University MBA -North Campus](#), Riverwalk, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence:

- ❖ 2012 Info Sessions: Tues., Feb. 7, 6:00 p.m., Room 323; Wed., March 7, 6:00 p.m., Room 418; Thurs., April 12, 6:00 p.m., Room 418; Wed., June 13, 6:00 p.m., Room 323



**Boston University's Metropolitan College** offers a Master of Science in Computer Science and a variety of IT courses at its [North Campus in Chelmsford](#).



[Enterprise Center at Salem State University news and events:](#)

- ❖ New or growing companies in the Merrimack Valley are invited to enter the [2012 North of Boston Business Plan Competition](#) - 1st Prize - \$5,000, 2nd Prize - \$3,000, 3rd Prize - \$2,000; entry deadline Friday, January 27, 2012; [entry forms/information](#)

## BUSINESS GROUPS

[Merrimack Valley Venture Forum:](#)



[Merrimack Valley Sandbox: VIDEO](#) - Student Entrepreneurs in the Sandbox Ecosystem

[Greater Lawrence Young Professionals Network \(GLYPN\):](#)



[North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau:](#)

- ❖ [NBCVB Newsletter January 18, 2012](#)
- ❖ Fri., Feb. 3, 8:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.: 6th Annual Tourism Summit; Marriott Peabody; [register online](#)
- ❖ [Top 10 Reasons to Enjoy Winter North of Boston](#)



Greater Merrimack Valley  
Convention & Visitors Bureau

adventures await

[Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau:](#)



**Valley Works Career Center:**

**Business Services:** Funding, Hiring Incentives, Job Posting, Labor Market Information, On-The-Job Training

**Events:** Hiring Events, Speakers, Networking for Professionals



**Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board**



**Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board:**

- ❖ Friday, February 10, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: - Massachusetts Job Creation Commission Regional Hearing; Saints Medical Center, 1st Floor Conference Room, 1 Hospital Drive, Lowell



**Career Center of Lowell:**

- ❖ Friday, Jan. 20, 10:00 a.m.: Workshop - “Successful Interviewing Skills & Professional Presence” – guest speaker Lisa Dowling, District Human Resource Manager of Home Depot; free, registration required – (978) 805-4735
- ❖ Fri., Feb. 3, 10:00 a.m.: “Using Social Media for your Job Search” - Guest Speaker Danielle Bergeron, President and CEO, Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce; free, registration required - (978) 805-4802



**Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce :**

- ❖ **January Newsletter**
- ❖ Friday, Feb. 17, 6:00 p.m.: “Dining for Dollars;” Lenzi’s, Dracut; \$125 – dinner for two and drawing entry for \$5,000



**Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce:**

- ❖ James Jajuga will step down as president of the Greater Haverhill Chamber on June 30.
  - The Eagle-Tribune: [\*Jajuga leaving Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce\*](#)
- ❖ *Fri., Feb. 10, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.: 22nd Annual Business Awards Breakfast; keynote: MA State Treasurer Steve Grossman; Renaissance Golf Club, 377 Kenoza St., Haverhill; \$30*



**Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Foundation:**

- ❖ *Monday, Feb. 6, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Welcoming Reception for new Chamber Executive Director Marcy Quill; Crave, 32 Elm Street, Amesbury*



**Salisbury Chamber of Commerce:**

- ❖ **Salisbury Chamber of Commerce Newsletter – January 2012**



**Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce and Industry:**

- ❖ Fri., Jan. 27, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.: Eye Opener, Zac & Ani's 9 Liberty St., Newburyport
- ❖ Thurs., Feb. 2, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.: Breakfast Series - "The Business of Google - Innovation, Collaboration and Culture in the Workplace;" Steve Winter, Director at Google; Phoenix Room, 19 Inn St., Newburyport



**Billerica Community Alliance:**



**Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce:**

- ❖ Mon., Feb 6, 8:00 a.m.: Congressional Breakfast – U.S. Reps. John Tierney and Niki Tsongas



**Young Professionals of Greater Lowell:**

- ❖ Sat., Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m.: YPGL night - hockey at the Tsongas Center; UML River Hawks vs. UMass Minutemen; \$10 for game ticket, food and access to a private box; RSVP to [info@ypgl.org](mailto:info@ypgl.org)



**Lowell Small Business Assistance Center** is now the **Merrimack Valley Small Business Center**, with a new [website](#).

- ❖ [MVSBC January Newsletter](#)



**Newburyport Cleantech Center:**

- ❖ Weds., Jan. 25, 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.: Sustainability Metrics & Market Value Seminar; [details/RSVP](#)



**Merrimack Valley Transportation Management Association (TMA)** - employers and property owners working to address employee transportation issues in I-93 and I-495 corridors of the Merrimack Valley

## ARTS, CULTURE, NATURE, RECREATION



**Merrimack Valley radio 980WCAP** – Thursdays, 9:10 a.m.: MVEDC's Dave Tibbetts offers highlights of this week's "Merrimack Valley happenings"; [Listen online](#).



**Merrimack Valley Magazine's January /February 2012 issue- Bridal Guide**

**Restaurants**  
in the Merrimack Valley



[Click here for](#) dozens of fine restaurants in the Merrimack Valley.

- ❖ **Babylon** and **Abu Nawas** are two of Lowell's newest restaurants; *Boston Globe*: [Two Iraqi families open restaurants in Lowell](#)



**Athenian Corner** Restaurant, 207 Market Street, Lowell: indoor Concerts on the Corner:

- ❖ Thurs., Jan. 26, 8:00 p.m.: Johannah Zacharer
- ❖ Thurs. Feb. 16, 8:00 p.m.: Todd Rourke



[Blue Ocean Music Hall](#) on the ocean at Salisbury Beach:

- ❖ Thurs., Jan. 26, 8:00 p.m.: Country Music - The Shana Stack Band
- ❖ Sat, Feb. 4, 8:00 p.m.: Paul D'Angelo
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m.: 3rd Annual NE Winter Blues Festival



[Creative Haverhill:](#)



[Haverhill Historical Society/Buttonwoods Museum:](#)



John Greenleaf [Whittier Birthplace](#), 305 Whittier Road, Haverhill:

- ❖ Sat. & Sun., Feb. 11 & 12: "Snowbound" Weekend at Whittier's Birthplace; free.



[Spotlight Playhouse](#), Haverhill:

- ❖ Feb. 10, 11, 18, 8:00 p.m.; Feb. 18-19, 2:00 p.m.: "Drop Dead," a potboiler murder mystery; Trinity Episcopal Church, 26 White St., Haverhill; [info/tickets](#)



[New Moon Coffeehouse](#), Haverhill:

- ❖ Sat., Feb. 18: James Keelaghan, Lindsay Straw opens
- ❖ Sat., Mar. 17: Amy Black, Meg Rayne opens
- ❖ Sat., Apr. 21: David Wilcox; Lori Diamond & Fred Abatelli open
- ❖ Sat., May 19: Danielle Miraglia and Liz Frame & the Kickers



Alive. Unique. Inspiring. [Lowell events](#) website

- ❖ Sat., Jan. 28, 2:00-5:00 p.m.: Small Publishers Book Fair, [The Old Court](#), 29 Central St., Lowell



["Dickens in Lowell"](#) – commemorating the bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth and his historic trip to Lowell in 1842

- ❖ Feb. 7, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Charles Dickens' 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party; UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren St., Lowell; RSVP: UMass Lowell Center for Arts & Ideas: 978-934-2957 or [ArtsAndIdeas@uml.edu](mailto:ArtsAndIdeas@uml.edu)



Thursday – Saturday, Feb. 9 - 11: Lowell's [WinterFest 2012](#) - food, music & fun

- ❖ *The Lowell Sun*: [Mush! Human Dog Sled Races returning to Lowell Winterfest](#)



The [Cultural Organization of Lowell \(COOL\)](#)

- ❖ *The Lowell Sun*: [Head of Cultural Organization of Lowell going to community nonprofit](#)



**Lowell Memorial Auditorium**, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell:

- ❖ Sun., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.: Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles
- ❖ Sat Feb 11, 8:00 p.m.: Blast!
- ❖ Tue Feb 14, 8:00 p.m.: Big Hearts Comedy Show featuring Paul D'Angelo, Jimmy Dunn & Tony V



**American Textile History Museum**, 491 Dutton Street, Lowell:

- ❖ Saturday, January 28: Super Saturday - free Admission and special activities
- ❖ Through May 27: Special exhibit - "Aloft: The Wonder of Kites"
- ❖ Ongoing: "Textile Revolution: An Exploration through Space and Time"



**UMass Lowell Art Galleries:**

**University Gallery**, McGauvran Student Center, UML South, 71 Wilder St., Lowell

**Dugan Gallery**, UML South, 883 Broadway St., Lowell



**Western Avenue Studios**, 122 Western Avenue, Lowell: Two buildings, six floors and 143 studios filled with artists working in all disciplines, media and styles, near the heart of downtown Lowell:

- ❖ **The Loading Dock Gallery** at Western Avenue Studios:



**Arts League of Lowell (ALL) Gallery**, 24 Shattuck Street, Lowell:



**Ayer Lofts Gallery**, 172 Middle Street, Lowell:

- ❖ Through Feb. 5: photo art of Eddie DiCroce



**Lowell National Historical Park**, 246 Market Street, Lowell:



**The Brush Art Gallery & Studios**, 256 Market Street, Lowell:



**Revolving Museum**, 290 Jackson Street, Lowell:

- ❖ Tues., Feb. 7, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.: Dickens and Steampunk Soirée; \$15, 2/\$25; [tickets online](#)



**Merrimack Repertory Theatre**, 50 E. Merrimack Street, Lowell:

- ❖ January 5- 29:"The Voice of the Turtle" by John Van Druten
- ❖ February 9-March 4: Daddy Long Legs (adapted from the Jean Webster novel)
- ❖ March 15-April 8: "Mrs. Whitney" by John Kolvenbach
- ❖ April 19-May 13: "Ghost-Writer" by Michael Hollinger



**Whistler House Museum of Art**, 243 Worthen Street, Lowell:

- ❖ Jan. 11 – Feb. 24: Sustenance," Artwork by Michael E. Jones & Poetry by Christine M. Jones



**Pollard Memorial Library**, 401 Merrimack St., Lowell:

- ❖ Sat., Feb. 4, 1:00 p.m.: Super Bowl Saturday Matinee: The Blind Side; free
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 11, 1:00 p.m.: Winterfest Matinee The Smurfs; free



**Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell:**



**PCA Westford's Parish Center for the Arts:**

- ❖ Sat. Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.: Barn Dance; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](http://MVArts.info)
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.: Karaoke Super Star Evening; [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](http://MVArts.info)



The **LiveLawrence** - online calendar for community events in Lawrence



**Lawrence History Center**, 6 Essex St., Lawrence:

- ❖ *The Eagle-Tribune*: [Exhibits, events to recall landmark Strike of 1912](#)



**Bread & Roses Centennial:**

- ❖ **Exhibit - "Short pay! All out"** - The Great Lawrence Strike of 1912; Everett Mill, 6th floor, 15 Union St. Lawrence; free and open to the public
- ❖ **Heritage State Park** - exhibit of pastel paintings of city mills by Michael Manseur of Newbury; open daily, 9-4, through Jan. 30.
- ❖ Friday, Jan 27, 7:30 p.m.: "Singing for Our Lives" - Concert of the Peoples' Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle; Lawrence High School Performing Arts Center; \$10-\$25; [info/tickets](#)



**Essex Art Center**, 56 Island Street, Lawrence:

- ❖ *Elizabeth A. Beland Gallery*- Jan.13 – Feb.24: "Transitions in Light" - Holograms by Ron Zeheb

[Register now winter classes](#)



**Lawrence Heritage State Park**, One Jackson Street, Lawrence:

- ❖ Exhibit of pastel paintings of city mills by Michael Manseur of Newbury; through Jan. 30.



**Addison Gallery of American Art**, Phillips Academy, Andover: Free, open to the public

- ❖ Through April 15: The Civil War: Unfolding Dialogues
- ❖ Jan. 14 - April 8: "Open Windows" : Keltie Ferris, Jackie Saccoccio, Billy Sullivan, Alexi Worth
- ❖ Weds., Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.: Gallery Concert - Experimental music for voice, harpsichord, and handmade electronics by Lesley Flanigan and Tristan Perich; free, open to the public
- ❖ Fri., Jan. 27, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.: Opening Reception for Winter Exhibitions; free, open to the public
- ❖ Sat., Jan. 28, 2:00 p.m.: Gallery Talk - Open Windows: Keltie Ferris, Jackie Saccoccio, Billy Sullivan, and Alexi Worth with guest curator Carroll Dunham and the exhibiting artists.



**Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College**, North Andover:

- ❖ Weds., Feb. 1, 7:00 p.m.: Film Series: “The Shop Around the Corner;” free
- ❖ Thurs., Feb. 2, 7:00 p.m.: James Vanderpol Book Read and Lecture; free
- ❖ Fri. Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.: The New England Tenors; advance \$20, at door: \$25.
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 4, 2:00 p.m.: National Marionette Theater - “Pinocchio” \$12; family 4-Pack: \$40
- ❖ **Fri. – Sun., Feb. 10 - 12: Acting Out! Theater Company presents “Hairspray;” [buy tickets online – MVArts.info](#)**
- ❖ Weds., Feb.15, 7:00 p.m.: Film Series: “J.S.A.: Joint Security Area;” free
- ❖ Fri. Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.: New Black Eagle Jazz Band; advance tickets: \$20, at door: \$25.
- ❖ Fri., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.: Legendary Ladies of Song- Music of Doris Day, Peggy Lee and Rosemary Clooney; advance \$30, at door: \$35.

***Discover Amesbury!***

[Discover Amesbury - online guide to downtown Amesbury](#)



**Whittier Home Museum**, 86 Friend Street, Amesbury:



**Amesbury Sports Park**, 12 South Hunt Road, Amesbury - Snow Tubing



Find out about “all things Newburyport” – [Stay in the Loop – January 2012](#)



**YWCA Greater Newburyport:**



**Firehouse Center for the Arts**, Newburyport:

- ❖ Dec. 28 – Jan. 29: Gallery - “Beyond Our Vision;” Jeremy Barnard photography
- ❖ Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27 – 28, 8:00 p.m.: New Works Festival; \$13



**Newburyport Art Association**, 65 Water Street, Newburyport:

- ❖ Jan. 6-28: Winter Members Juried Show I - Oil, Watercolor, Printmaking, Drawing, Digital Art, Sculpture
- ❖ Feb. 2-25: Winter Members Juried Show II - Acrylic, Pastel, Mixed Media, Fine Craft, and Photography; reception & awards Saturday, Feb. 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- ❖ March 1-17: Young & Budding Artists Show - Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Pastel, Pencil, Mixed Media, Photography, and Sculpture; reception & awards Sunday, March 4, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- ❖ **NAA 2012 Winter Education classes**



**Custom House Maritime Museum**, 25 Water Street Newburyport:

- ❖ *The Daily News of Newburyport:* [Maritime museum names new director](#)



**BRIDGE GALLERY**

**Bridge Gallery**, 1R Water Street, Newburyport:

- ❖ January and February: Winter Trunk Show and Sale



**Belleville Roots Music Concert Series**

- ❖ Fri., Feb. 17, 8:00 p.m.: **Mardi Gras Celebration** featuring 2012 Grammy nominated Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys; Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High St., Newburyport; \$20 advance/\$25 day of show/ children 12 and under \$10.



**Joppa Flats Education Center & Wildlife Sanctuary**, Plum Island Turnpk, Newburyport

- ❖ *The Daily News of Newburyport*: **Parker River wildlife refuge offers free programs**
- ❖ Jan. 8 – Feb. 26: “Observations.” paintings of landscapes and wildlife by Lully Schwartz, Joan Merrill, and Carol Reynolds
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 11: **7th Annual Merrimack River Eagle Festival**



**Essex National Heritage Area:**

- ❖ **Essex National Heritage Area News – January 2012**

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Economic Development Council  
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9/30/11