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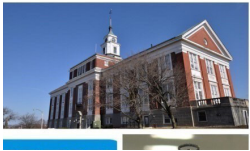
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VOL.1 NO.329-158

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday April 4th, 2023

## MEDFORD-TROOPERS ARREST TWO MEN WITH FIREARM, NARCOTICS



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



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Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page

### SOMERVILLE HOSTING COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS TO INFORM CULTURAL CAPACITY PLANNING



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### WANT TO HELP VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES?

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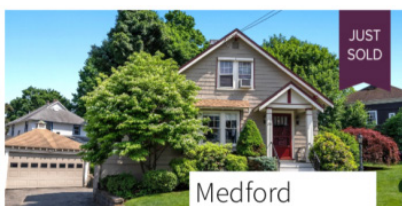
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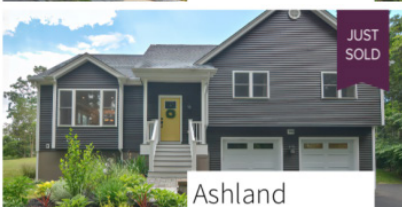
WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...



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Medford



Ashland



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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send us an email or give us call!

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### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JOHN GRAY JR.



**JOHN'S OBITUARY:**

Gray, John Jr. – Of Roslindale, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2023 at Briarwood Rehab in Needham. He was 77.

Born and raised in Boston. He was the beloved son of John Sr. and Eugena (Williams) Gray. He is also survived by many extended family members and friends. Calling Hours will be held

in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Wednesday, April 5th from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. A Prayer service will be held in the funeral home

at 12:30PM. Interment will be held at a later date where he will be laid to rest with his beloved parents.

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING BRIAN M. SEVOICH



**BRIAN'S OBITUARY:**

SEVOICH, Brian M. – Of Somerville March 30, 2023. Beloved son of the late Helene Sevoich. Loving father of Lynnsie,

Brian Jr., Aleasha and Jonathan Sevoich.

Dear brother of Kellyann LoRusso and the late Sean Sevoich. cherished grandfather of Cassidy, Izayah and Elijah. Visiting hours will be held

for Brian, in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Wednesday evening April 5, 2023 from 4:00 – 6:30, followed by a Funeral Home Service at 6:30. Interment private.



### EMINENT DOMAIN (H 83)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would prohibit private property from being taken by the government for private commercial enterprise, economic development or any other private use

without the consent of the owner. A similar measure was originally filed in 2005 as a response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allows communities to seize private homes and businesses solely for commercial purposes. The

ruling also allows states to establish laws prohibiting the practice.

“The right to own property is a basic principle of the commonwealth and it is one that I feel strongly should be upheld,” said

the proposal's sponsor House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “The government should never have the power to make value judgments with respect to private property. This proposed amendment would

protect property owners by explicitly affirming that economic development and private commercial uses do not constitute acceptable public uses for the purpose of eminent domain takings in the commonwealth.”

### CHANGE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR JUDGES (H 36)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would change the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 years

old to 75 years old.

“In recent years we have seen an increased need to bring judges back to the

bench after their mandatory retirement age,” said sponsor Rep. Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham). “This proposal would

allow them to stay on the bench and provide the court with their years of experience.”

### HIS OR HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (S 10)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would amend the part of the state constitution that creates the title “His Excellency” for the governor and lieutenant

governor. The proposal would add “Her Excellency” as a possibility.

“[The bill] is one of a several bills filed to clean up language in our con-

stitution that privileges male gender by using male pronouns to refer to office holders,” said sponsor Sen. Will Brownberger (D-Belmont). “I’m hopeful that the Judiciary

Committee will report out a consolidated bill that makes all the necessary corrections.”



### CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBORAH BYRNE FOR WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR THE HIGHEST SALES IN BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER!

<p><b>REALTOR OF THE MONTH</b> December 2021</p>  <p><b>Deborah Byrne</b> Leading Agent in Performance Somerville Office</p>	 <p><b>BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY</b> HomeServices Verani Realty</p> <p><b>REALTOR OF THE MONTH</b> December 2021</p>	<p>Deborah Byrne Relocation Director, Government Certified Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Verani Realty Cell: (617) 201- 4730 Website: <a href="http://www.debbyrne.com">http://www.debbyrne.com</a></p>
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### COBBLE HILL RESIDENTS VS SOMERVILLE CITY HALL



By Karen Glover

Evelyn Ortiz, Property Mgr. of Cobble Hill, deserves a special community service award. (Most likely, Ms. Ortiz won't be receiving any alcholades from this adminstration...lol.) Ms. Ortiz's dedication to the protection and preservation of Cobble Hill and the qual

ity of life of its residents is exceptionally commendable.

Ms. Ortiz's articles exhibit her skill, intellect and knowledge which enable her to exactly define and make complicated city matters crystal clear.

Ms. Ortiz highlights the tragedy and downfall of

Cobble Hill due to the aggressive, greedy, meanspirited machinations of politicians and developers. She simultaneously displays diplomacy in trying to give them the benefit of the doubt, mentioning perhaps they simply don't realize the repercussions of their actions...

(unfortunately, they are aware acutely aware of the repercussions of their actions...Senior Citizens are simply of no use to them!) As Ms. Ortiz repeatedly emphasizes in her multiple articles, there are many other viable alternative solutions to the city's ironclad quest to dismantle Cobble Hill as their dream plans, but Cobble Hill's nightmare. Several factors I don't think

have been addressed is that Cobble Hill Residents will have to involuntarily endure several or more years of continuous ear-deafening construction noise and upheaval! How are residents supposed to live with this daily gargantuan assault on their serenity?

The city also claims concern over the rat/rodent issue... HA! Observing the city's failed solutions, which have been ridiculously referred to as a "partial victory over rats" is the equivalent of watching paint dry. So now, construction of this Cobble Hill magnitude will continuously disturb the underground habitats of multitudes of rats, and these rodent multitudes will scurry to the surface...just

what we need!...more rats invading our homes, gardens, basements, backyards, streets, etc; not to mention more jeopardizing of our health and safety!

Again, Ms. Ortiz is requesting the city council reject these plans. The chances of the city council doing right by Cobble Hill is slim due to its members just feebly follow in the "mayor's" footsteps to support her hideous ongoing decisions for our city. We must not only hope, but also contact city council members, to support Evelyn Ortiz and the Residents of Cobble Hill. We do need a miracle that the city council will muster up a modicum of collective conscience-ness and leave Cobble Hill and Residents alone!

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY CORP NEEDS TO BE INVESTIGATED

Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

Somerville Community Corp owns this building. It's housing for low income residents. It's been empty for two years. The Gate Keeper for Somerville Homeless Families has failed. There is no good reason why this building has been empty for two years. There needs to be an investigation why this happened? Somerville wake up!

Please read article from 2001 below:

Article: MARCH 27, 2021 THE-SOMERVILLENEWS-WEEKLY

BUILDING FIRE 657-659 SOMERVILLE AVENUE

Somerville Firefighters responded to a fire at 657-659 Somerville Avenue on Saturday afternoon at 1230 on March 27th. Firefighters at

the fire station at Somerville Avenue and Lowell Street were alerted to the fire by a passing bicyclist who banged on the fire station door.

Arriving firefighters discovered a fully engulfed fourth floor balcony which was rapidly spreading. The building contains 9 apartments and one office space. All building occupants were able to safely evacuate. The fire spread into the fourth floor apartment where it originated and started spreading under the roof. Fire and smoke damage was limited to the fourth floor, however, water damage resulted on all floors. One cat was found and rescued from the fire apartment suffering from smoke inhalation and a dog was removed from another apartment. In the course of rescuing the dog, one firefighter was bitten on the hand and was treated and released from the hospital. All occupants of the building are currently displaced until repairs are made. Damage is expected to be in excess of \$200,000. The

cause of the fire is currently under investigation but is believed to be accidental.

March has been an extremely busy month for the Fire Department. This latest fire on Somerville Avenue was the most serious of 11 building fires that the Somerville Fire Department

has responded to this month. Several of them originated on porches or decks. Once again, residents are reminded to dispose of smoking materials in a metal container of sand and to NOT extinguish smoking materials in potted plants, combustible containers or throw them off the porch where

they could ignite mulch or other combustibles.

Charles J. Breen Jr. Somerville Fire Department Chief Engineer

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Charles J. Breen Jr. Somerville Fire Department Chief Engineer

SOMEONE COMMUNITY CORP OWN THIS BUILDING. HOUSING FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS EMPTY FOR TWO YEARS. THE GATE KEEPER FOR SOMERVILLE HOMELESS FAMILYS HAS FAILED! THERE IS NO GOOD REASON WHY THIS BUILDING HAS BEEN EMPTY FOR 2 YEARS!!! THERE NEEDS TO BE AN INVESTIGATION WHY THIS HAPPENED? SOMERVILLE WAKE UP!

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# MEDFORD-TROOPERS ARREST TWO MEN WITH FIREARM, NARCOTICS

Continued from front page



Shortly before 8 p.m. Thursday, Trooper Beau Schlichting, assigned to State Police-Medford, was stationary observing traffic at the intersection of Memorial Road and Canal Lane in Somerville. At that time he observed a black Honda Civic with illegal window tint pass his location. An electronic inquiry of the vehicle's license

plate revealed it was being sought by the Somerville Police Department regarding an incident that occurred approximately three weeks earlier. Trooper Schlichting entered traffic, activated his blue lights, and stopped the vehicle on River Road.

Upon exiting his cruiser he approached the Honda

and observed two occupants. The operator and passenger, later identified as DAVID ORTIZ, 21, of Somerville, and NEFTALI FLORES, 21, of Medford, respectively, were initially uncooperative with the Trooper. Trooper Richard Ferrino and a Somerville Police Officer both arrived on scene to assist. After a short investigation, Trooper Ferrino located a .45 cal Glock pistol, loaded with 13 rounds of ammunition, inside of a fanny pack on the floorboard of the driver's seat. Trooper Ferrino also located several baggies containing a substance suspected to be Cocaine inside of the fanny pack. Neither man is licensed to possess firearms.

At this point a full search of the vehicle was con-

ducted. During the search Troopers located another 9mm Glock, loaded with 16 rounds of ammunition, along with several large vacuum sealed packages of Marijuana and scales commonly used in the distribution of narcotics. Both men were transported to the Medford Barracks where they were booked pending arraignment at Somerville District Court on the following charges.

### DAVID ORTIZ

1. Illegal Possession of a Firearm;
2. Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device;
3. Improper Storage of a Firearm, Large Capacity;
4. Carrying a Loaded Firearm;
5. Possession of Ammunition without FID Card;
6. Trafficking Cocaine;

7. Possession of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony
8. Possession of a Class C Drug with Intent to Distribute;
9. Possession of a Class D Drug with Intent to Distribute;
10. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; and
11. Illegal Window Tint

### NAFTALI FLORES

1. Illegal Possession of a Firearm;
2. Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device;
3. Possession of a Class C Drug with Intent to Distribute;
4. Possession of a Class D Drug with Intent to Distribute;
5. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; and
6. Failure to Wear Seatbelt.

## LIMIT JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS TO 7 YEARS (H 34)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would limit judicial appointments to seven years but would allow judges to be re-appointed by the governor for an unlimited number of years every seven years. The appointment would have to be approved by the Governor's Council as required under current law.

Sponsor Rep. Vanna Howard (D-Lowell) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her why she filed the proposal.



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### \$388.6 MILLION FISCAL 2023 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 3548)

By Bob Katzen  
 Governor Maura Healey signed into law a \$388.6 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget. Provisions include \$65 million for free school meals; \$130 million to keep expanded nutrition assistance in place for a few more months; \$2 million for the reimbursement of SNAP benefits for victims of benefit theft; \$250,000 for a free abortion-related legal hotline; \$45 million for emer-

gency shelter assistance; \$40 million to support affordable housing for immigrants and refugees; and \$2 million for the Boston branch of the NAACP for costs of some programs to be included in its 114th National NAACP Conference taking place in Boston in 2023.

Other provisions keep some pandemic-era programs, set to expire, in place including allowing restaurants to sell

beer, wine and cocktails for take-out; expanding outdoor dining; and extending the authority, set to expire in a few weeks, for public bodies, agencies and commissions to hold their meetings remotely.

“I’m proud that the first major bill signed into law by our administration dedicates crucial resources to help Massachusetts families access safe and secure housing,

keep food on the table and pay for childcare,” said Gov. Healey. “Additionally, this bill supports our health care workforce, crucial housing and economic development programs like MassWork and our efforts to compete for federal funding.”

“This supplemental budget injects urgently needed funds into programs that support Massachusetts families and drive housing

and economic development across our state,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “It also takes important steps to educate the public on their options around reproductive health care, extends accessibility and flexibility for public meetings, protects access to clean water and bolsters broadband infrastructure.”

### \$350 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (S 2375)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 40-0, approved a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The \$350 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$150 million to pay for bus lane improvements, improvement of public transit, electric vehicles and other state transportation projects. The House has approved a different version and the Senate version now goes to

the House for consideration.

Supporters said the funding, known as Chapter 90 funding, will help cities and towns make their streets and bridges safer for all drivers and will improve the state’s public transportation system. They noted the money is relied on every year by local communities.

“This legislation will maintain and improve our state’s infrastructure, ensure that residents have safe and reliable transportation options and support sustainable, regionally equitable economic development in com-

munities across the commonwealth,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

“Our transportation system is the backbone of our commonwealth, connecting us to our jobs, families and communities,” said Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation. “This investment is not just an investment in infrastructure, but an investment in the future of our commonwealth, enabling our cities and towns to make the necessary improvements to promote efficient and safe travel for all.”

Geoff Beckwith, the executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, is one of the biggest advocates for more Chapter 90 funding above the \$200 million.

“We are grateful that the Senate has moved so quickly on this important legislation,” said Beckwith. “Cities and towns are anxious to begin the road construction season, and are waiting for this necessary infusion of funds. Communities are facing huge cost pressures as they seek to maintain 30,000 miles of local roads, so we hope

the Legislature can send the best bill possible to the governor as soon as possible, as a first step in investing in the massive infrastructure needs at the local level.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$350 million package.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

### REAL LIFE SOMERVILLE POLICE STORIES: (LEWD CONDUCT) ARREST



On Monday March 27th 2023, I was on duty as-

signed to patrol cruiser east 1. At approximately 12:11PM, I was dispatched to XXX Assembly Row, XXXX, for a report of a male masturbating inside the dressing room with the door opened. Officer D. Lambert in patrol cruiser east 4 was dispatched as back up.

Upon arrival I was met by store manager Mr.

XXXX. Mr. XXXX directed me to the dressing room area, and to a stall around the corner where the defendant was. Once I turned the corner I observed through a half-way opened door, a white male sitting down with his pants partially below his waist. Protruding from his pants I observed the defendant’s erected penis. I confronted the

defendant and he rapidly raised his pants covering his penis. Shortly after, officer Lambert arrived. The defendant was identified as Mr. Joshua Sperling.

Officer Lambert spoke with the employee / victim Ms. XXXX who stated that as she was walking through the dressing room and observed a door open for one of the stalls.

Then when she looked inside, she observed a male “completely exposed, masturbating”. Ms. XXXX stated that she was “shocked” and said “oh sorry” and walked away.

I placed the defendant under arrest for Lewd, Wanton and Lascivious Conduct, M.G.L. Ch.272 Sec.53/E.

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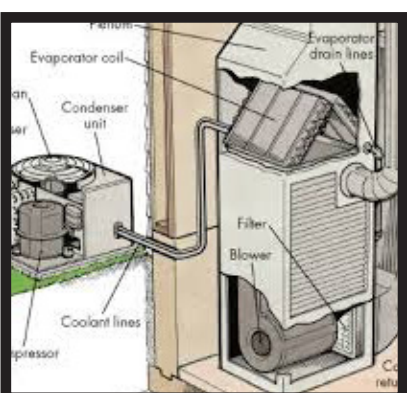
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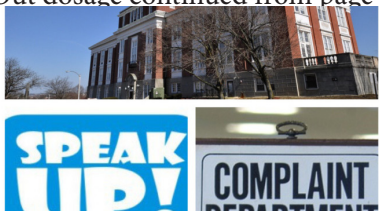
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

Here's your weekly News Talk Shout Out dosage continued from page 2



Heres Your Weekly Dosage of Somerville News Weeklys Newstalk Shoutout/Speakup Loud

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### OATH OF OFFICE (H 33)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would amend a current section of the constitution that gives Quakers the option to change the oath a person must take upon taking office from the current: “I do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the commonwealth of Massachusetts and will support the

constitution thereof.

So help me God.” Currently Quakers are allowed to change the word “swear” to “affirm” and the words “So help me God” with “under the pains and penalties of perjury.” The amendment would give that same option to anyone, not just Quakers.

“The state constitution

only allows people of Quaker faith to have the option of affirming their oath,” said sponsor Rep. Mindy Domb (D-Amherst). “The amendment would remove the Quaker eligibility [only] for this option. Federal officials, including the President, a U.S. Representative and a U.S. Senator all have the opportunity to choose to swear or affirm their oaths

of office.”



### CHILDCARE TAX CREDIT (S 1814)

By Bob Katzen

A measure before the Revenue Committee would allow up to a \$3,000 annual tax credit for families that spend money on childcare services. The childcare servicer must be a provider licensed by the state in order to qualify

for the tax credit and the child receiving childcare services must be a dependent of the taxpayer.

Sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his proposal.



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### Medford Poloce Call



proximately 3:41am on Friday morning. Due to the nature of the incident, additional details can not be released at this time. This was an isolated incident and there is no threat to the public.

These are all the details that can be released regarding this incident. Respectfully,  
Captain Paul F. Covino





### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: TAKE THE RIGHT TURN OR NOT?

Photo: Intersection of Middlesex Avenue and Foley Street Somerville (Assembly Row)

By William Tauro

Take the right turn or not? What would you do? It's a shame that none of our elected officials are as observant when it comes to public safety issues like this! Only in Somerville!



### HEARING ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

By Bob Katzen

The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on several proposed amendments

filed by representatives and senators to amend the state constitution.

Any proposed constitu-

tional amendment sponsored by legislators needs the votes of a majority of the 200-member Legislature in the 2023 to 2024

session and the same in the 2025 to 2026 session in order to appear on the November 2026 ballot for voters to decide. None of

these proposals have yet been approved.

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SAT, APR 22 AT 5 PM

Somerville Veterans Memorial Ice Rink

570 Somerville Ave, Somerville, MA 02143

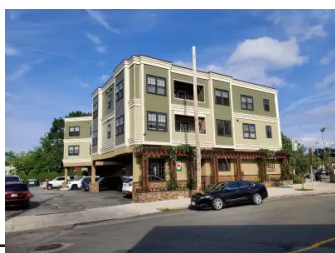
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

This Request for Proposal is issued by the Somerville Housing Authority (herein after the "Authority") to solicit proposals for the lease of available rooftop and penthouse space. These spaces are available for the installation and operation of communication facilities. These facilities are not limited to, Cellular Telephone, Personal Communication Systems, Paging, Land Mobile Radio, and Internet Antennas.

The lease of these spaces will be on a non-exclusive basis.

**2. PREMISES TO BE LEASED**

The Authority has rooftop and penthouse space for lease at 114 Highland Avenue in Somerville, MA.

Included in the RFP package is a layout of the roof at this site. Specific locations on the roof or penthouse

for installation of equipment will be viewed in the field and negotiated as such.

3. LEASE TERM  
Lease Terms are negotiable.
4. LEASE RATES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES  
The monthly rent is subject to negotiation as is the yearly escalator.

The monthly rent is subject to negotiation as is the yearly escalator.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA  
A. Respondent must have been in business for at least five years.

B. Respondents must supply a list of references complete with Names of Owners and locations of other sites where they currently lease rooftop space for antenna equipment.

C. Respondents must supply a monthly rental rate for proposed installed equipment, an annual escalator and a length of lease.

D. Respondents must include in their bid a full description of antenna equipment to be installed including space mounting requirements.

6. RFP Packages are available by email from ryanc@sha-web.org as of April 5th, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

RFP's will be received by email to ryanc@sha-web.org by May 24th, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/04/23, 04/11/23



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The Somerville Housing Authority invites sealed bids for Laundry Equipment Kiosk Purchase, set-up, and Maintenance at various State and Federally aided elderly housing developments owned and operated by the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority's Purchasing Manager.

The contract term is 3 years and are subject to the provisions of M.G.L. c.30B, inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 11:00 A.M., April 14, 2023, and publicly opened forthwith, at Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Bldg., 30R Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245.

Bid forms and Contract Documents will be available for download from our web site www.sha-web.org under our Bid opportunities tab. There will be no charge for these documents. If

bidding, you must email/register with Anthony Crespo, at tonyca@sha-web.org and leave contact information. Identify the email as Laundry Equipment Kiosk P-LKIOSK042023 purchase. Addendums will be posted on the website and will become part of the contract documents; the bidder shall be responsible to download and include in with bid. Bids can be mailed, or dropped off to Somerville Housing Authority, Attn.: Anthony Crespo, Laundry Equipment Kiosk

bid # P-LKIOSK042023 Purchase Maintenance at 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245 and must be received by the time and date specified.

A walk through is scheduled for 9:00 A.M., April 6, 2023. All shall meet at SHA Administrative Offices, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245. Please contact Anthony Crespo at 617/625-1152 Extension 336 if you plan on attending.

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/04/23,



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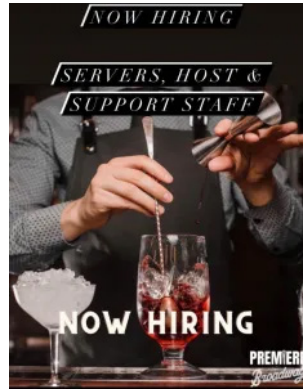


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### JOIN THE SPRING HILL SEWER SEPARATION VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING ON APRIL 10

Virtual Meeting Will Highlight Spring/Summer Construction Schedule and Forthcoming Streetscape Improvements on Summer St.

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen invite you to join a virtual community meeting to learn about construction progress on the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project.

The meeting will take place Monday, April 10, at 6 p.m. Visit [somervillema.gov/springhill](http://somervillema.gov/springhill) to register to attend.

At this meeting, City staff will review progress made to date and present an overview of the work planned for

this upcoming spring and summer. Featured updates include a review of planned streetscape improvements and green stormwater infrastructure coming to Summer Street. Following the presentation, residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and construction process.

Somerville's Spring Hill neighborhood is currently served by a combined sewer system, which collects both wastewater and stormwater runoff in the same pipes. Through the Sewer Separation project, the City is working to upgrade these systems by installing new storm drains that separate stormwater from the existing combined sewer. In addition

to the underground utility improvements, this project will also install street safety improvements and green infrastructure (drainage features designed to mimic natural processes such as irrigated planting areas, bio-retention basins with select soils and plants that catch and filter stormwater, and new trees) throughout the neighborhood.

This project is one in a series of actions the City is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure. Construction began last year and is expected to continue through 2024.



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### SOMERVILLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST SEEKS ONE NEW MEMBER



The City of Somerville seeks one Somerville resident to serve in a volunteer capacity on the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust (SAHT). This vacancy is for a Somerville tenant whose household is income eligible for federal or state housing programs with an interest in addressing and advocating for the city's affordable housing needs.

The SAHT administers funding to create and preserve affordable homes in

Somerville for renters and prospective owners with low and moderate incomes. Through a public process, Trustees evaluate project and program proposals and approve funding allocations to increase the local affordable housing supply. Applicants must be a Somerville tenant whose household gross income is at or below \$78,300 for one person; \$89,500 for two people; \$100,700 for three people; \$111,850 for four people; or \$120,800 for five people. Income limits for households of six or more people are available by request. The SAHT typically meets virtually on the second Thursday of each month at 5:15 p.m. The length of meetings varies depending on the specific nature of agenda items. The Trust

may also hold a special meeting in addition to its regular monthly meeting if necessary. Applicants should expect to commit a total of approximately four hours per month, which includes the duration of the monthly meetings and review of documents circulated in connection with each meeting. Members serve two-year terms in a volunteer capacity. The Trust is composed of nine Trustees: three designated by the Mayor, City Council, and Somerville Housing Authority, respectively. Six members are appointed by the Mayor following recommendations from the Appointments Advisory Committee: two Somerville residents (one who is a tenant whose household is eligible for federal or state housing

programs), two representatives of nonprofit organizations, one professional in real estate or housing, and another in banking or finance. Applications are due Wednesday, April 5. Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and any relevant supplemental material by email to [pgoldstein@somervillema.gov](mailto:pgoldstein@somervillema.gov) or by mail to Paul Goldstein, City of Somerville, OS-PCD Housing Division, 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145. Please contact Paul at the email above or 617-625-6600 ext. 2587 with questions. Applications will be reviewed by the Appointments Advisory Committee. The City of Somerville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion,

age, national origin, disability, or any other protected category. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities free of charge, upon request. Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).

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SOMERVILLE HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION RESUMES SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Department of Public Works (DPW) wish to remind residents that beginning Saturday, April 1, Somerville residents can once again drop off household hazardous waste at the

DPW yard on designated days. Drop offs are accepted on the first Saturday of each month, April through November, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the DPW yard (1 Franey Rd.).

Accepted materials include

motor oil, aerosol paint, household cleaning chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and more. Proof of residence such as a driver's license or utility bill is required. Waste materials should be placed in sturdy boxes and not in loose or

plastic bags.

Residents can learn more about other accepted items by visiting [somervillema.gov/trash](http://somervillema.gov/trash) or calling 311 (617-666-3311).

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DISTRICT 18 VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP INFO DAY!

Want to join the VFW Auxiliary? Not sure how? Have questions about what we do?

Meet us in person at the George Dilboy VFW Post in Somerville, have snacks, and join us in helping our Veterans! Representatives from Waltham, Somerville, Melrose and

Medford Auxiliaries will be here in person! Come on down and bring a friend!

April 8, 2023  
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm  
George Dilboy VFW Post #529

351 Summer Street, Somerville MA 02144

For more information please call 781-789-8018 or [k.durkee.erwin@gmail.com](mailto:k.durkee.erwin@gmail.com)

Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square. Give what you can, Take what you need. Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group! The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming. Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

homeless and less fortunate. A "Somerville Blessing Boxes" Facebook page has been established keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free to join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville. One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square. "Give what you can, Take what you need." Much thanks and appreciation, Frank Santangelo

Blessing Backpack Checklist

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>BASICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Wool beanie (hat)</li> <li>___ Smart wool socks</li> <li>___ Gloves</li> <li>___ Scarf</li> </ul> <p><b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Quality instant coffee</li> <li>___ Tea</li> <li>___ Energy drink</li> <li>___ Beef jerky</li> <li>___ Dried fruit</li> <li>___ Fruit leathers</li> <li>___ Trail mix</li> <li>___ Nuts</li> <li>___ Granola bars</li> <li>___ Protein powder packets</li> <li>___ Restaurant gift cards</li> </ul> <p><b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Journal &amp; pen</li> <li>___ Stationary</li> <li>___ Stamps</li> <li>___ Pre-paid phone card</li> </ul> | <p><b>TOILETRIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Multi-purpose wipes</li> <li>___ Chapstick</li> <li>___ Facial wipes</li> <li>___ Moisturizer</li> <li>___ Comb</li> <li>___ Toothbrush &amp; tooth paste</li> <li>___ Grooming kit</li> </ul> <p><b>SURVIVAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ First aid kit</li> <li>___ Water bottle with built in filter</li> <li>___ Heat-pack</li> <li>___ Multi-purpose tool</li> </ul> <p><b>TREATS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Chocolates</li> <li>___ Fruit snacks</li> <li>___ Cookie snack packs</li> <li>___ Candy (individually wrapped)</li> <li>___ Mints</li> <li>___ Chewing gum</li> </ul> <p><b>SPLURGE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>___ Starbucks gift card</li> <li>___ Compact reusable bag</li> </ul> |
|---|---|



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## SOMERVILLE HOSTING COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS TO INFORM CULTURAL CAPACITY PLANNING

Continued from front page

Local Cultural Ambassadors leading nearly 20 community conversations citywide to discuss how to help arts and culture continue to thrive in Somerville

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announces that the City and the Somerville Arts Council have launched the next phase of the Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan, consisting of nearly 20 community conversations open to the public and organized by interest (such as visual artists or event organizers).

“Arts and culture are at the center of what makes Somerville the wonderfully unique and innovative city that it is,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “These community conversations will inform our cultural capacity planning efforts which aim to not only nurture the current artistic community but also to ensure that they continue to thrive.”

The discussions will be facilitated by local Cultural Ambassadors in addition to City staff serving as Advisors. These conversations will address the question: How can we help arts and culture thrive in Somerville? The full list of dates and topics are below.

Date	March 31
Time	10am-12pm
Topic	Arts Non-Profits with Lynn Gerven
Location	Mudflat (81 Broadway)
March 31	Arts Non-Profits with Lynn Gerven
10am-12pm	Mudflat (81 Broadway)
April 5	Youth with CJ
6pm-8pm	Somerville Media Center (90 Union Sqare)
April 5	6pm-8pm

Arts & Culture with Cathy Piantigini	Somerville Public Library (79 Highland Avenue)	April 6	6pm-9pm
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Visual Arts with Joe Wight	Milk Row Studios (238 Somerville Avenue)	April 7	6pm-9pm
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BIPOC Folks with CJ	Milk Row Studios (238 Somerville Avenue)	April 13	6pm-8pm
Dance Folks with Callie Chapman and Emily Beattie	Assembly Row SomArts Space (495 Artisan Way)	April 13	6pm-8pm
Immigrants with Murshid Buwembo	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 20	2pm-4pm

Literary Artists with Andrea Read	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 20	6pm-8pm
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Musicians with Ajda Snyder	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 20	7pm-9pm
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Gallerists with Lynn Gervens	Mudflat (238 Somerville Avenue)	April 22	12pm-3pm
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Women’s Group with Catherine Nakato	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 22	6pm-9pm
Men’s Group with Catherine Nakato	The Somerville Armory	April 22	6pm-9pm

(191 Highland Ave)	April 23	1pm-3pm
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Dancers, Dance Educators, Facilitators, and Choreographers with Callie Chapman and Emily Beattie	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 23	4pm-7pm
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Performing Arts Presenters, Curators, Producers with Callie Chapman and Emily Beattie	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 26	5pm-7pm
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People with Disabilities with Murshid Buwembo	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 27	6pm-9pm
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Visual Arts with Julia Csekö	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 27	6pm-9pm
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Parents of Kids with Callie Chapman and Emily Be	The Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave)	April 30	2pm-4pm
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To learn more or to register, visit the Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan page on the Somerville Arts Council website, [somervilleartscouncil.org/culturalcapacity/conversations](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/culturalcapacity/conversations) or contact Somerville Arts Council Director Gregory Jenkins via phone: 617-625-6600 ext. 2985 or email [gjenkins@somervillema.gov](mailto:gjenkins@somervillema.gov)

“As a Somerville Ambassador for the Visual Arts, I hope to get a better understanding of how we as a sector can affect changes for the improvement of living and

working conditions within our creative communities.” says Ambassador and artist Julia Csekö. “In these Community Conversations, I look forward to discussing equitable pay, protecting artist live-work spaces, creating sustainable systems for funding the arts and culture, increasing the number and quality of art spaces dedicated to making and showing art, as well as increasing the visibility of the arts sector as a vibrant and active part of the local economy, bringing prosperity to our cities”.

In addition to Community Conversations, residents are also invited to participate in city-wide forum #1 on May 23rd, focused on cultural preservation, and a second city-wide forum in the fall focused on cultural development.

“Community participation in this process is paramount, and we are excited about the range of conversations we are able to have as a part of the Cultural Capacity Plan,” says Gregory Jenkins, Director of the Somerville Arts Council. “That these conversations are being led by community ambassadors who are intimately engaged in these issues will deepen both the information we are able to glean and the details of the plan itself”.

About the Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan  
The Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan (SCCP) will drive a bold vision, articulate a clear strategy, and center creative people and cultural vitality at the heart of Somerville’s future.

The SCCP will be grounded in conversations across diverse cultural communities that will foster a shared understanding of the City’s arts and culture history, current strengths and weaknesses, as well as outlining

goals, priorities, and strategies to implement them.

With the third largest share of architects and designers, and the fourth largest concentration of visual artists, musicians, and other performing artists out of any city or town in Massachusetts, Somerville is a hub of the local creative economy. While the city’s recent building boom has created the potential for the development of new arts spaces, the arts community is questioning its ability to capitalize on this growth and flourish in the future. This concern stems from the challenges brought on by COVID-19 as well as organizational capacity, and institutional support. To learn more about the challenges artists face in Somerville, please see the Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment, <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/spacework>

Building on previous cultural planning efforts in Union Square and pre-planning work initiated in 2020, the Somerville Cultural Plan will provide the container for cross-cultural conversations that will build capacity for cultural change by establishing the vision, policy framework, implementation strategies, organizational structures, and funding requirements needed to develop Somerville’s cultural community in ways that weave arts and culture into other policy and practice areas and help this community to flourish. The City of Somerville has hired Forecast Public Art and Solomon Office to lead this effort. This process will continue through September 2023.

For further questions, please contact Dan at [Forecastpublicart.org](mailto:Forecastpublicart.org).

## RETURN YOUR COMPLETED 2023 CITY OF SOMERVILLE CENSUS FORM



All Somerville residents should be on the lookout for the 2023

annual City of Somerville census in their mailbox. Upon receipt, please complete the brief form and return it to the City via mail, email, fax, or in person.

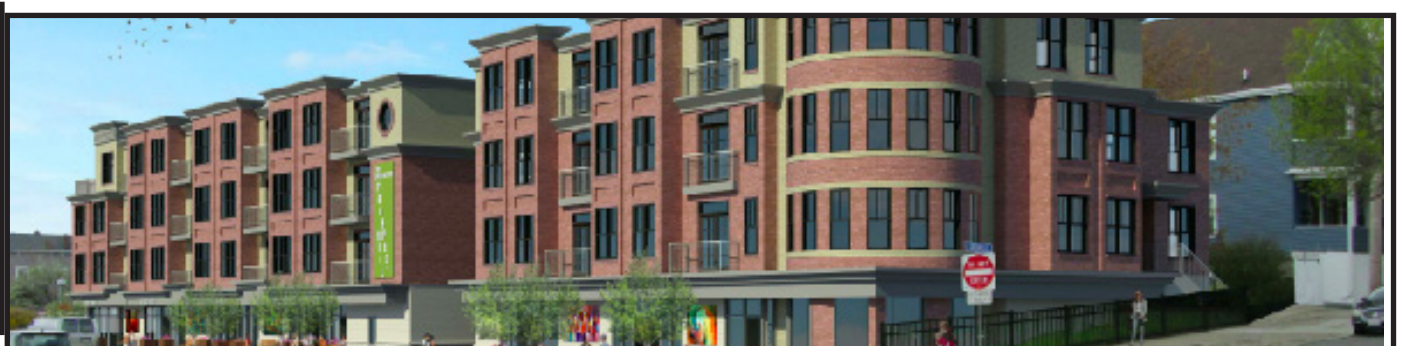
High census participation provides an accurate population count, which helps the City

plan municipal services and adapt as the population changes. The Elections Department also uses the census to help keep voting rolls up to date. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to [census@](mailto:census@somervillema.gov)

[somervillema.gov](mailto:census@somervillema.gov), by dropping it off in a census box at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by faxing it to 617-625-5643. Contact 311 at 617-666-3311 with any questions. Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written

materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).

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## SOMERVILLE'S PARKS TREE HEALTH PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY THIS SPRING



Trees in City parks to undergo proactive maintenance and comprehensive health assess-

ments; park closures required during maintenance. The City of Somerville's annual Parks Tree Health Program is set to begin this month to promote healthy tree growth and help preserve Somerville's urban forest. Now in its fourth year, the Parks Tree Health Program is designed to go beyond routine maintenance. Led by the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division, the program involves a comprehensive

health assessment of parks trees by a certified arborist, proactive maintenance work, and development of long-term maintenance recommendations. This spring, 232 trees throughout seven parks will be assessed and maintained through the program.

Parks will close to the public on days when tree maintenance is taking place. This year's schedule is as follows:

Parks Tree Health Program Work Schedule – Park Closures Required  
 Glen Park / Capuano Field: February 21, 22, 23 & April 18 (school vacation weeks)  
 Grimmons Park: February 24 & April 19  
 Kenney Park: March 6, 7  
 Morse-Kelly Playground: March 8  
 Dickerman Playground: March 9 & April 17

Stone Place Park: March 13  
 City Hall Concourse / 1895 Building: April 17, 18, 19 (school vacation week)  
 For more information on the program, including a description of what assessment/maintenance activities are included and previous years' reports, visit [somer ville.ma.gov/treehealth](http://somer ville.ma.gov/treehealth).

## SOMERVILLE STREET SWEEPING RESUMES APRIL 3, 2023 SOMERVILLE STREET SWEEPING REGULATIONS IN EFFECT APRIL 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Parking Department remind all residents that regular street sweeping will resume this season on Mon-

day, April 3, and continue through December 31, 2023. Department of Public Works crews conduct street sweeping not only to help keep our streets clean but to also reduce flooding by preventing clogged street drains.

On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The

penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Vehicle owners are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the street sweeping schedule in areas where they park. The best way to do this is to note the days for street sweeping on your street by relying on posted signs.

You can also look up a street's sweeping schedule or sign up for complimen-

tary street sweeping reminders by text, email, or phone, by visiting [somer ville.ma.gov/sweeping](http://somer ville.ma.gov/sweeping). Soon the City will also release a smartphone app for street sweeping, trash and recycling reminders as well. The reminder service is offered as a courtesy and as a backup, but not as a failsafe service. Drivers should always check the street signs when parking.

For more information

regarding street sweeping procedures, visit [park-somer ville.com](http://park-somer ville.com) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

## THOSE BLUE SAND BARRELS ARE FOR YOU:



Use the Sand for Better Traction on Icy Surfaces This Winter  
 A blue barrel filled with sand is situated on the roadside of a sidewalk

Have you seen blue sand barrels around your neighborhood? The City of Somerville Department of Public Works has distributed sand citywide for residential use.

Sand increases traction on icy surfaces and, since it is less corrosive than salt-based ice melt, helps maintain the conditions of our sidewalks and other infrastructure. For our full Winter Guide, visit [somer ville.ma.gov/snow](http://somer ville.ma.gov/snow).

## NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT SOMERVILLE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! 15% OFF SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 7AM-9AM (DINE IN ONLY) 25 Bow St, Somerville, MA 02143



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### TOP SOMERVILLE COMMENTS ONLINE



RE:Somerville Community Safety Meeting

A great time at the community safety meeting. Unfortunately. The current administration does not understand that until the police department can form a connection with the youth. There will never be peace in the streets of Our once great city.

This has been the one

major problem for thirty years, since mayor joe took office.... And also 95% Of the residents that showed either have either no criminal record, Have never caused crimes, Never done drugs, Or have never been to jail!!! So how can they possibly ever come up with a plan to make the city better

when they have never gone through any of the struggles that our city has been suffering from? We need new leadership somebody who has been there and can actually relate to what the people are going through especially when they are at their lowest.. We do not need a bunch of politicians Or

residents who have no experience with any of these struggles? Trying trying to find ways to solve them. When they have never gone through any of this in their life nor their families..... And that is the one hundred percent honest truth..

Christopher Ter



THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:  
 2023-23 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: the west side of Bowdoin St. from approximately 20 ft. south of Washington St. to 40 ft. south of Washington St. (alternate spot for 318 Washington St.); the east side of Leland St. from approximately 20 ft. north of Washington St. to 40 ft. north of Washington St. (alternate spot for 349 Washington St.).  
 2023-24 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended as follows: Fire Lane - Chester Ave, running from the corner at McGrath Highway down the residential side of the street in an easterly direction for 175 ft.  
 2023-25 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended as follows: Fire Lanes - Hardan Road, starting from the corner at Ware St. and covering the narrow portion of the street, for a distance of 83 ft. on the even side and a distance of 101 ft. on the odd side.  
 2023-26 Article III Section 3-7 "Temporary Emergency Construction Restrictions" is amended as follows: Approximately 60 ft. of two-hour except by permit parking at 355-357 Medford St. is converted to No Parking Any Time for the duration of the School St./Community Path Detour.  
 2023-27 Article III Section 3-7 "Temporary Emergency Construction Restrictions" is amended as follows: Approximately 210 ft. of resident permit parking on the east side of School St.

between Medford St. and the School St. bridge is converted to No Parking Any Time for the duration of the School St./Community Path Detour.  
 2023-28 Article III Section 3-7 "Temporary Emergency Construction Restrictions" is amended as follows: Approximately 275 ft. of two-hour except by permit parking on the east side of Medford St. from Pearl St. to the Medford St. bridge is converted to No Parking Any Time for the duration of the School St./Community Path Detour.  
 2023-29 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended as follows: convert the existing two hour parking spaces on the east side of Grand Union Blvd. from approximately 400 ft. south of Foley St. to approximately 280 ft. south of Foley St. to metered parking.  
 2023-30 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: convert the existing two hour parking space on the east side of Grand Union Blvd. from approximately 280 ft. south of Foley St. to approximately 260 ft. south of Foley St. to No Parking Any Time.  
 2023-31 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: convert the existing two hour parking spaces on the east side of Grand Union Blvd. from approximately 120 ft. south of Foley St. to approximately 80 ft. south of Foley St. to No Parking Any Time.  
 2023-32 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: convert the existing metered spaces on the west side of Grand Union Blvd. from approximately 55 ft. south of Foley St. to approximately 115 ft. south of Foley St. to No Parking Any Time.  
 2023-33 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: convert the existing No Parking Any Time space on the west side of Grand Union

Blvd. from approximately 430 ft. south of Foley St. to approximately 505 ft. south of Foley St. to a loading zone.  
 2023-34 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: the west side of Grand Union Blvd. from approximately 505 ft. south of Foley St. to approximately 525 ft. south of Foley St.  
 2023-35 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended as follows: convert the existing electric vehicle parking on the west side of Grand Union Blvd. from approximately 55 ft. north of Foley St. to approximately 95 ft. north of Foley St. to metered parking.  
 2023-36 Article V Section 5-11C "Bus Stops" is amended as follows: extend the existing bus stop on the east side of Grand Union Blvd that currently ends 60 ft. north of Canal St. an additional 20 ft., converting the existing accessible space into part of the bus stop.  
 2023-37 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: the north side of Canal St. from approximately 50 ft. east of Grand Union Blvd. to approximately 30 ft. east of Grand Union Blvd.  
 2023-38 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: convert the metered space on the west side of Grand Union Blvd. from approximately 30 ft. north of Artisan Way to approximately 50 ft. north of Artisan Way to No Parking Any Time.

PROMULGATED: MARCH 9, 2023  
 ADVERTISED: MARCH 21, 2023 MARCH 28, 2023  
 APRIL 4, 2023EFFECTIVE: APRIL 12, 2023

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 3/21/23, 3/28/23, 4/4/23

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THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

"Massachusetts remains

deeply committed to working with our partners across state and local agencies to ensure our schools offer a safe and healthy learning environment for our children and educators. These grants will provide the resources that school officials need to enhance safety and mitigate potential threats."  
—Gov. Maura Healey announcing \$570,000 to some Massachusetts school districts to bolster school safety and enhance violence prevention efforts.

"If we truly want to fix the broken childcare sector that is having damaging effects on

our children, families, educators, and economy, we need public investment. This funding is a win for everyone and we are committed to continuing our work with our state partners to solve the child care crisis."  
—Lauren Kennedy, co-president of Neighborhood Villages, a Boston-based nonprofit that advocates for solutions to challenges faced by the early education sector, commending Gov. Healey for signing the supplemental budget which includes \$68 million to help extend a grant program.

"The tourism industry is criti-

cal to local economies across our state, and we are committed to supporting the small businesses, hospitality industry partners, and incredible attractions that make communities throughout Massachusetts some of the best tourism destinations in the world. By marketing Massachusetts to visitors outside of our borders, we are investing in this key sector of our economy."  
—Massachusetts Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao on the announcement of a new state marketing campaign "Take a Moment," which encourages visitors to pause from their daily lives and engage in new

experiences and sensory moments in Massachusetts."  
"The Credit for Life Fairs offer high-quality experiential learning for young adults in Massachusetts. Students deserve access to education that will prepare them for the kind of financial situations they will encounter throughout their lives."  
—State Treasurer Deb Goldberg on \$42.2 million in grants that provide Massachusetts high schools and special education programs with funding to hold "Credit for Life Fairs" which provide financial education for students.

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Porter Square - 2 Family - \$1.38M



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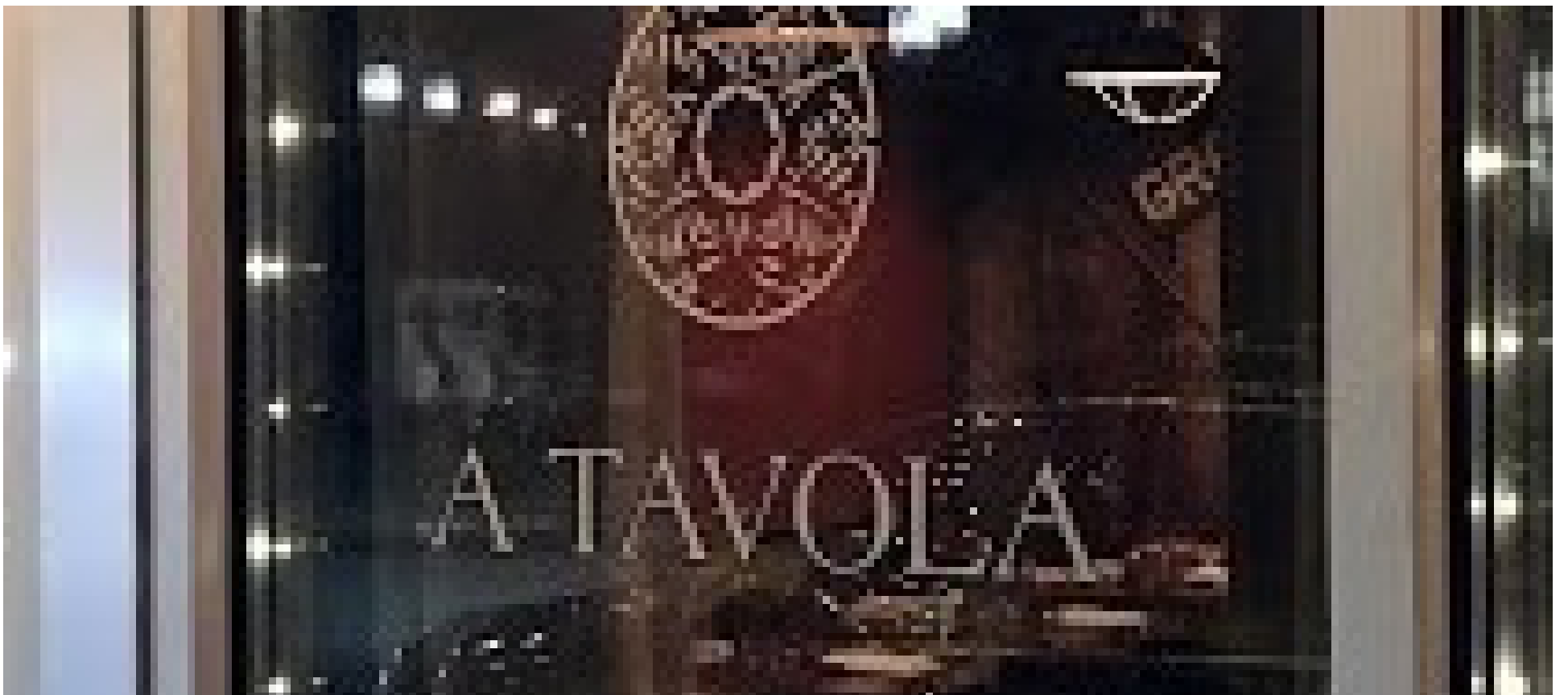
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