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VOL.1 NO.329-193

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday December 19th 2023

JOIN SOMERVILLE'S 248TH ANNUAL GRAND UNION FLAG RAISING



Continued to page 20

KIWANIS CLUB OF SOMERVILLE,
SOMERVILLE LIONS CLUB,
SOMERVILLE ROTARY CLUB HOST
ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS LUNCHEON



Continued to page 16

THE SOMERVILLE
ELECTION STALL-OUT



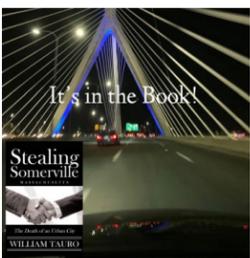
Continued to page 5



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.
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MARKET ACTIVITY

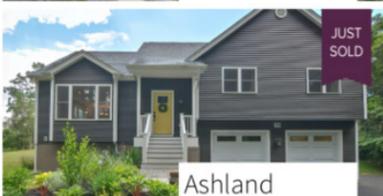
WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...



Malden



Medford



Ashland



Westwood

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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 Contact Name: _____
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Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

Please send both forms and payment to:

Medford High School
 Attn: Rob Farrell
 489 Winthrop Street
 Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 MHS Varsity Softball is a non profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
 Tax ID 04-6001400

Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.

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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JOANNE L. DIGREGORIO



Obituary

Joanne L. DiGregorio, a longtime administrative secretary for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, passed away on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Born in Somerville, she was the cherished daughter of the late Lucy (Costantino) and Joseph DiGregorio and sister to the late Mary DiGregorio. Joanne had a kind manner and a ready smile for all and a deep love for animals.

She is survived by her cherished cats, Hannah and Carrie, and the many friends that she made over the years. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a gravesite ceremony at the Holy Cross Cemetery, 175 Broadway Malden, MA 02148 on De-

ember 15, 2023 at 10:30 am, those attending are asked to meet inside the main gate.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joanne's memory can be made to the Northeast Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Ave, Salem, MA 01970.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING ALEXANDRIA KOSTOPOULOS



Obituary

Kostopoulos, Alexandria (Ghikas) - Of Medford December 13, 2023. Beloved wife of the late James Kostopoulos.

Loving mother of Charlie Kostopoulos of Melrose, Patty Connolly and her husband Tom

of Medford, Steve Kostopoulos of Medford and his late wife Laurie.

Dear sister of Ginny Chitopoulos, and the late Thomas and Connie Ghikas.

Cherished grandmother of Riley, Jennifer, James, Zachary, Annie, Alexandria and Cameron. Also survived by 10 adoring great grandchildren. Alexandria

(Allie) was a lifelong resident of Medford. A woman ahead of her time, she had a sharp mind and a remarkable memory. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her home was a hub of activity for the family, and Sunday dinners at Nana's were a given. She was well known in Medford as an owner, with her sister and brother, of the Mystic Bakery.

Visiting hours will be held for Alexandria, Monday morning December 18, in St. Athanasius The Great Greek Orthodox Church, from 10:00 - 11:00, followed by a Funeral Service at 11:00.

Relatives and friends invited.

Interment Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING ANN DOHERTY



Obituary

Ann (Harkin) Doherty, of Arlington, formerly of Somerville and Co. Donegal, Ireland, passed peacefully surrounded by her loving family on December 12 at the age of 91.

Beloved wife of the late John J. Doherty. Devoted mother of Patricia Doherty of Medford, Nancy Vogler and her husband Michael of Boston, John Doherty and

his wife Susan of Melrose, and Mark Doherty and his wife Elizabeth of Braintree. Cherished Granny to Patrick and Owen Healey, Laura and her husband Christopher McVeigh and Rebecca and her husband Kevin Anderson, Sydney, Jack, and Connor Doherty, Sean, Aidan, and Colin Doherty. Adored Great Granny Annie to Elliott and Fiona McVeigh and Charlie Anderson. Dear sister of Philip of England. Predeceased by Patrick, John, Ellen, and Lily of Ireland, Sarah of England, James of Quincy, Kathleen of Dorchester, and Daniel of Chicago. Proud and much-loved aunt and great-aunt of many nieces and nephews around the world. Especially missed by devoted nephew J.P. Doherty and his wife Mary of Dorchester.

Born in Cabadoey, Carn-donagh, County Donegal, Ann emigrated from Ireland to Boston as a young woman. She and her future husband John met at a local Irish dance and were happily married for 60 years. Although Ann lived in the U.S. for seventy years, she maintained a close connection to her family in Ireland, England, and Australia. She visited her home in Donegal numerous times and passed on to her children and grandchildren a sense of pride in their Irish heritage. Her nieces and nephews from home kept her connected to Donegal with their many visits and phone calls.

Ann's family was her greatest joy. She raised her children with love, patience, and understanding and was happiest when surrounded

by her loved ones. She enjoyed shopping, going to the casino, and watching the Red Sox. Ann was gracious and welcoming to everyone she met, opening her home and heart to all, whether it be neighbors stopping by for tea, family holidays, or relatives beginning their immigration journey to America.

In lieu of flowers, Ann's family would appreciate donations to Saint Anthony Shrine, 100 Arch Street, Boston. <https://stanthonyshrine.org/giving/gift/>

Ann was a supporter of the Shrine and its varied missions to the underserved. Until Covid grounded her, she regularly took the MBTA bus and train to Arch Street for Mass.

Funeral Procession from

the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Monday morning, December 18th at 9:00AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Agnes Church, Arlington at 10:00AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Ann's Funeral Mass will be live streamed from the parish website at <https://www.cparl.org> It can be found by scrolling down toward the bottom of the page.

Calling Hours Sunday, December 17th from 2:00PM ~ 5:00PM.

Services will conclude with burial at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

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THE SOMERVILLE ELECTION STALL-OUT Continued from front page



By Richard Scirocco

A correspondence detailing only a few of the Election violations by the Somerville Election personnel was served on the State and Federal Officials on the 17th of November 2023. A quick response from the Secretary of States legal representation responded with a standard delay of "addressing other issues seperately". As time is of the essence, and major impact to decisions are made, i.e. policies ,raising of taxes, etc. , the State Legal Department policy was exercising their preference of not acting immediately, but, it appears instead waiting out the timeline until the swearing in of a candidate.

By acting in this mannerism, it becomes a more complex issue

to remove someone once they are officially sworn into office.

One month forward, to date, no further response has been communicated which will ultimately force further legal action to be heard in a Federal Court of Law. Usually this would be a State matter, but, because of the direct conflict with high State officials in this election, it may need to be addressed to a higher court for fairness and unbiased rulings. The public deserves the truth, and honest elections without underhanded trickery or deception of any type. Elections have been conducted unfairly in Somerville for decades. One individual came forward and candidly explained the ease of ability to cheat a candidate out of their election.

She detailed and gave an eye

witness accounting of the actions. Reflecting back to the recount of the 2021 Somerville Election, where open cheating was taking place, caught red handed, and witnessed by over thirty individuals, the numbers changed constantly, and were never set straight or corrected. At the time, the count was protested by the Attorney Richard Ash representing William Tauro. Covid restrictions played a great cover up and distraction throughout the entire process. The late hours after the Election Commissioner sent home their officials, on that evening, over two dozen suitcases in red color, not black, that they used to transport ballots, were then brought into the room from downstairs in City Hall where they were carefully kept quiet until the late hours.

These were full of all William Tauro markings indicating a

popular vote cast in his favor, but, were deemed and stamped received the day or three days after the election took place by mail referring directly to violating sections in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 54 Section 93 pursuant to 91c. This claim of invalid votes was made by the Commissioner himself. The elderly voters were not asked but instructed that their election day was held during a certain time and they were to participate. Specifically, held in individual buildings throughout the community. Some of these vote sessions were conducted a month prior to the election date.

Anyone who would like to add to their experiences of unjust actions in the past of the election process are welcome to do so by contacting Wmtauro@aol.com. You will be protected by immunity under Massachusetts General Law Article 12 , and Mass General Law Chapter 56 section 120. More to follow...

Copy of correspondence from Secretary of States representation:

From: "Tassinari, Michelle (SEC)"
Date: November 17, 2023 at 10:47:00 AM EST
To: wmtauro@icloud.com
Cc: nsalerno@somervillema.gov, boston@ic.fbi.gov, "CIS User @ SEC"
Subject: RE: 2023 Somerville Municipal Election

Good Morning Mr. Tauro-

I am writing in regard to your

email below, in which you "request a recount as well as an investigation seeking proper operations of the vote counting machines, the provisional ballots, and other information determining the election result outcome." This email response is limited to your request for a recount. Please note that the only way to request a recount is to file recount petitions.

Under the provisions of General Laws chapter 54, section 135, to request a recount, a candidate must file petitions, on a form furnished by the state secretary, within 10 days after the election. Accordingly, the deadline to file recount petitions is today, Friday, November 17, 2023 at 5 pm. The petitions must be submitted by ward, be signed by at least 10 voters with one voter's signature notarized for each ward.

Additional information regarding recounts can be found on our website. I wanted to provide this response as quickly as possible since the deadline to file petitions is today.

I will address the other issues separately.

Michelle K. Tassinari
Director and Legal Counsel

Elections Division

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

One Ashburton Place, Room 1705
Boston, MA 02108

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT OF THE SEAT BELT LAW (H 2395, H 2340)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would allow police officers to issue tickets for seat belt violations even if the driver is not first stopped for another violation as required under current law.

"Seatbelts offer the best defense from injury or death in car crashes," said Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin), sponsor of H 2395. Seat belts promote safety, save lives and save money. We could

save 45 lives, prevent 500 injuries, and save \$525 million over 5 years with a primary seat belt law in effect. According to a recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine, the single greatest opportunity to improve health and reduce premature deaths lies in personal behavior and seat belt use is yet another form of impaired driving that must be addressed."

"There are so many highway deaths in the news where peo-

ple have been ejected from their cars," said Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro), sponsor of H 2340). "It's not so corny to say seatbelts save lives. This bill makes not wearing seatbelts a primary offense meaning that you can be pulled over for that. There would have been issues with the possibility of racial profiling but those issues were taken care of recently when we passed the hands free driving law."

Supporters of the bill have been trying to get it passed for years and have been unsuccessful. The original secondary enforcement law was approved in 1985, repealed on a ballot question in 1986 and then reimposed in 1994.

Opponents of the primary enforcement bill say that they have warned for years that creeping incrementalism would inevitably lead to these attempts to impose primary enforce-

ment.

They say this bill is another example of unnecessary government intrusion and argue people should have the personal freedom to make their own decisions. They express concern that primary enforcement will result in racial profiling and more minorities being pulled over for suspected violations of the law.

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Are you a veteran who is looking for a way to connect with other veterans, stay active, and give back to your community? If so, then the American Legion Post 69 in Malden is the place for you! We need your help to fulfill our commitments and are encouraging Veterans to Join. We are committed to serving veterans and their families. We can help you open doors to benefits, Health care assistance, employment, and other veteran programs. We

also support youth programs in scouting, ROTC, and help young people learn the importance of education and service to their country. If you are not a Veteran and has family member that was or is a Veteran, we have a program for you – The Sons of the American Legion. The Sons hold their own events, but also support Post activities. If you are interested in joining the American Legion Post 69, please contact us at

(781) 324-9570 or email us at americanlegion@gmail.com. We would be happy to welcome you into our team. By the way, Post 69 host's a karaoke party every first and third Friday of the month. This is a great opportunity for veterans and the public to come together and have some fun. The party starts 7:00 PM and ends 11:00 PM. There is no cover charge. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there!



DONATE TO LOCAL HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVES AT CITY BUILDINGS THROUGH FRIDAY, DEC. 22



City supporting two local gift drives for children and teens sponsored by Toys for Local Children and MAMA's Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville

SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announces the City's annual support of local holiday gift and toy donation drives. In the giving spirit of the season, the City is placing toy and gift donation boxes at City buildings, libraries, and firehouses through Friday, December 22. Donated gifts will support two community gift drives for

families in need of presents for children and teens this holiday season.

If you are able and wish to donate, please bring toys and gifts for children of all ages and age-appropriate gifts, clothes, and winter boots for teens. All gifts should be new and unwrapped. All gifts will be distributed to families by two local organizations: Toys for Local Children and the MAMA's Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville. More information on their gift drives and other ways to help support the drives can be found at mutualaidmamas.com and toysforlocalchildren.org.

“Our community is fortunate to have such committed local organizations run by caring volunteers working to help families

have a festive holiday season. I also want to give a big shout out to DPW, our Department of Public Works, which sets up our donation boxes and manages gift collection from all our City gift drop-off sites every year — all while also doing the work to decorate the City with lights and greenery to celebrate the season and supporting logistics for our holiday events. And thank you in advance to all who are able and willing to donate to these thoughtful drives for gifts, toys, clothes, and winter boots for our local youths,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. Look for the Donation Boxes at these City buildings, libraries, and firehouses: Please donate by Friday, December 22.

- City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Welcome Desk, 1st floor, and Mayor's Office, 2nd floor
- Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue
- Somerville East Library, 115 Broadway
- Somerville West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue
- City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Street
- Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Building, One Franey Road
- Council on Aging Offices, 167 Holland Street
- Somerville Police Headquarters lobby, 220 Washington Street
- Fire Stations:
 - Somerville Fire Department Headquarters, 266 Broadway
 - Highland Ave. Station, 265 Highland Avenue
 - Union Square Station, 255

- Somerville Avenue Teele Square Station, 6 Newbury Street (corner of Holland Street)
- Lowell Street Station, 651 Somerville Avenue (corner of Lowell Street)

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 at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

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State of A Tavola:

A Tavola's outdoor patio dining is open for business! Take-out and delivery is also available! (with-in a small radius of A Tavola).

A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social media channels. Please stay tuned

for any and all details.

As always our gift cards will be available through our website, over the phone and in person. Starting Tuesday, for every gift card purchase over \$100, we will add an additional \$20 gift card as a way to thank you for your support.

If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families please reach out and we will do

our best to help. Whether it be recipe ideas with random things you might have purchased or if you run out of something that you need that we can help with please don't hesitate to ask.

A Tavola Restaurant Winchester outdoor patio dining is open for business & takeout orders: (781)729-1040 34 Church St Winchester

Thank you for your continued support.



FAMILY FUN ON THE FARM MVES AND COAS HOST CAREGIVER PROGRAM AT EQUINE FARM

Photo: Anne and Bryan Hamlin of Medford are pictured with one of the friendly horses at Ironstone Farm. The Hamlins were among group that visited the farm as part of Mystic Valley Elder Services' Caregiver Support Program.

Mystic Valley Elder Services' (MVES) Memory Café has been traveling this fall! Memory Cafés bring together people with memory loss and their family caregivers to share positive experiences and build support networks. Memory Cafés are offered as part of MVES' Caregiver

Support Program. Recently, the Memory Café visited Ironstone Farm, a therapeutic horse farm in Andover.

Local families were able to attend one of two sessions at the farm sponsored by MVES, the Stoneham Council on Aging and the Reading Council on Aging. Families from Medford, Somerville and many surrounding communities had a great time bonding with each other and their equine friends under the guidance of the fantastic Ironstone team.

Since 1975, MVES has provided services and supports for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers in communities in the Greater Boston and North of Boston area. The non-profit agency strives to ensure that all individuals have the resources they need to live independently and with dignity. Services include options counseling, home care, elder protective services, health insurance counseling, caregiver supports, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and more. For more information, please call 781-324-7705 or visit <http://www.mves.org>.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING KAYLA E. DRISCOLL



Obituary:

Kayla E. Driscoll, 34, passed away unexpectedly on December 13, 2023. She was born on November 27, 1989 in Melrose, Massachusetts, to Ellen (O'Neil) Driscoll and John A. Driscoll. Kayla graduated from Somerville High School in 2007.

Kayla studied Muscular Therapy at the Cortiva Institute for Muscular Therapy in Watertown,

MA in May 2015. As a Massage Therapist, Kayla specialized in working with clients who experienced trauma and was known for creating safe and therapeutic environments for her clients.

Kayla had an infectious smile that lit up the room and her laugh was contagious. She was fun loving, warm, friendly and made everyone feel comfortable in her presence. She was creative and excelled at

any DIY project that she took on, making everything look beautiful and festive.

Kayla had a warm and nurturing personality and children were instantly drawn to her. She was the beloved Titia to her niece Alana and Auntie Kayla to Pierce and Lilia. They will forever miss playing with her as well as her tickles, hugs, and her fun gifts. Kayla was kind, protective, loyal, and was always

the first person to be there to help those that she loved.

Kayla is survived by her parents, Ellen and John A. Driscoll of Somerville, MA, her brother, John J. Driscoll and his wife Amanda Driscoll of Somerville, MA, and her niece, Alana. She is survived by many aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is predeceased by her grandparents Dorothy and Paul O'Neil, and Albert and Barbara Driscoll.

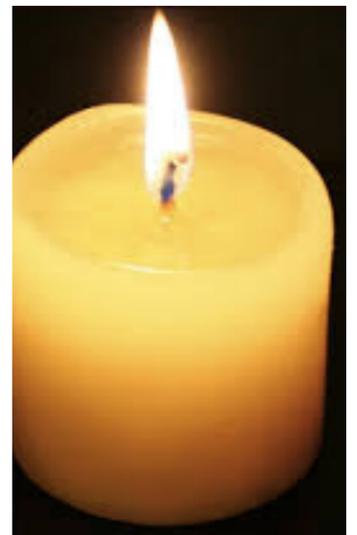
A Funeral procession will be held on Wednesday, December 20th from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville at 9:00AM, Followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Catherine Church, 179 Summer St. Somerville at

10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling hours will be on Tuesday from 4:00PM to 8:00PM.

Services will conclude with Kayla being laid to rest in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.



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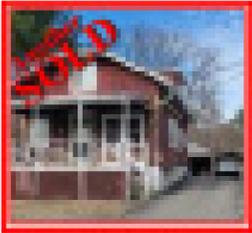


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81 Harvard St, Somerville Sq., Somerville
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70 Maple Street, Somerville
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41 Oliver Street, Somerville
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142 Elm Street, Somerville
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31 Beacon Street, Somerville
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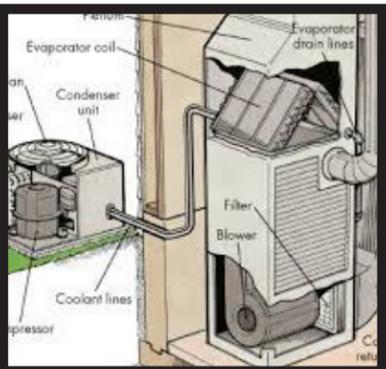
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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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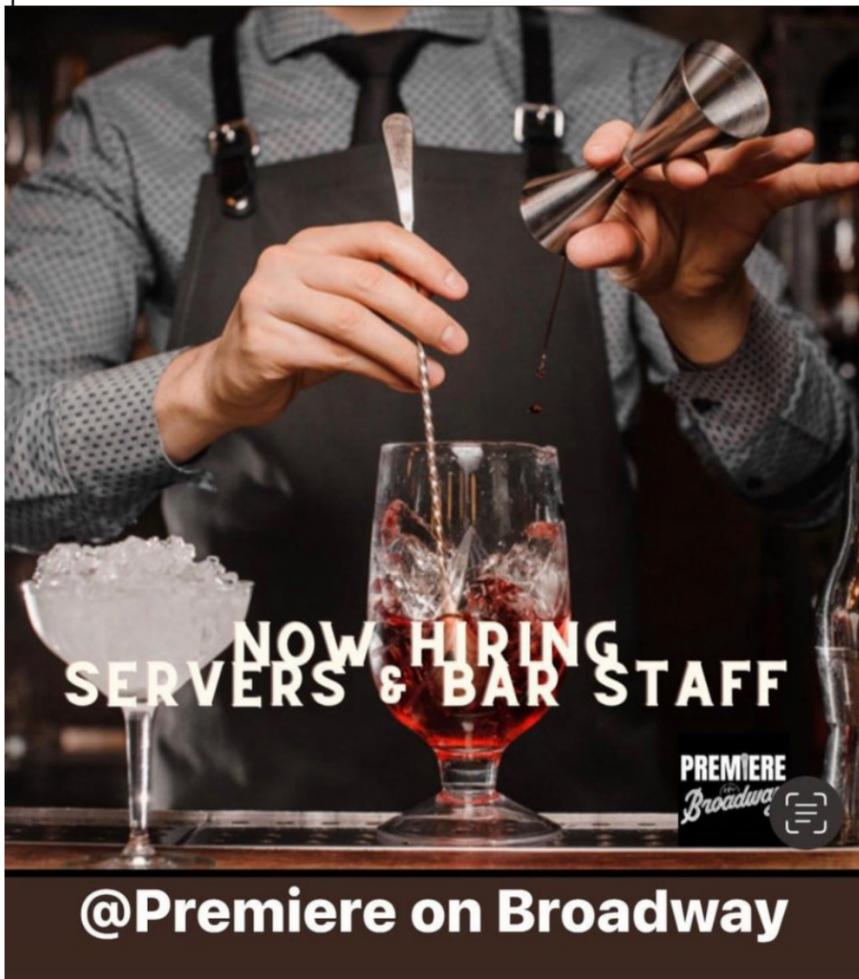
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BAN DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HEIGHT AND WEIGHT (H 1705)

By Bob Katzen

A bill that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of a person's height or weight, unless for the purpose of compliance

with any established state, federal or industry safety standard, was heard by the Judiciary Committee.

"This bill takes an important step towards rectify-

ing biases about a person's height and weight factors often beyond their control," said sponsor Rep. Tram Nguyen (D-Andover). "Body size discrimination affects all aspects of

an individual's life, from the workplace, to health-care, to their education. By safeguarding individuals from discrimination based on their looks we not only promote equal

opportunities but also foster a healthier and more equitable community."

MEDFORD FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1032 NEWS UPDATES

All Medford Fire Stations are currently accepting donations for Toys for Tots, the Medford Family Network, and other organizations whose goal is to help families during the holiday season.

Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy to those in need this holiday season.

Local 1032 has previously donated truck loads of toys each year, and we thoroughly enjoy helping those in need. With the continued generosity of our community, we can really make a difference.

The donation deadline is December 23.



SOMERVILLE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN TASK FORCE SEEKS MEMBERS



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan Task Force, which will review and update the City's ADA Transition Plan, is accepting applications from community members to join the Task Force.

The ADA Transition Plan Task Force will be part of a community driven process to review the ADA Transition Plan and ensure that the City complies with all disability laws and promotes an environment free of discrimination and harass-

ment for individuals with disabilities in Somerville. Task Force members will review the current ADA transition plan, propose updates to the plan, and draft and propose accountability measures to monitor and sustain continual progress.

The Task Force will consist of 6 constituent members supported by City staff and representatives from the City's Commission for Persons with Disabilities. All applicants must live or work in Somerville. Ideal candidates will be committed to disability and accessibility advocacy and invested in expanding accessibility services City-wide. Applicants must be at least 17 years old.

Duration and Time Commitment
ADA Transition Plan Task Force members will be compensated for their

time. Members will be expected to attend meetings, which will be hosted both virtually and in-person with a hybrid option, up to two hours per week over a period of no longer than 8 months. Members should also be prepared to attend potential additional meetings for subcommittees and readings. If virtual meetings create a barrier for you, please still apply, and our team will work to aid you with access and/or training.

How to Apply: Deadline January 19, 2024

The ADA Transition Plan Task Force application will be available online starting Monday, December 18 on the City website at somervillema.gov, the RSJ website at somervillema.gov/RSJ, and will be shared via City and RSJ social media feeds. Community members can also pick up printed applications at the Somerville

City Hall front desk or by calling the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2059.

Applications are due by 7 p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2024. Applicants can fill out the online form, email their responses to apomeroy@somervillema.gov, or hand-deliver or mail them to Somerville City Hall, Attn: RSJ Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.

###

The City of Somerville is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, disability or any other protected category. Women, minorities, veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Auxiliary aids and ser-

vices, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified individuals 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 at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.



MEDFORD-MALDEN ELKS #915 NEWS: LUNCHEON FOR THE VETERANS FROM THE CHELSEA SOLDIERS HOME

On Sunday December 10th, the Medford-Malden Elks had the honor to host a luncheon for the Veterans from the Soldiers Home in Chelsea. What a great turnout! Holiday music was playing, food was served and each Veteran received a little gift.

Thank you again to those who volunteered their time whether it was from cooking the meal (the food was great), shopping for the food or gifts, serving the food, decorating, assisting them in entering/leaving the building or even behind the scenes. Your time was appreciated. It was a huge success and the Veterans so appreciated it!



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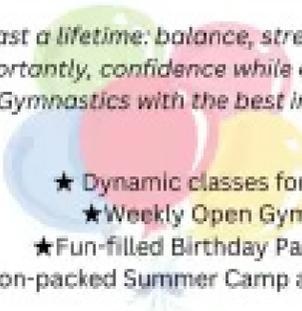




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3		\$66,800
4	AND	\$74,200
5	\$40,080 (124 College Ave.)	\$80,150
6		\$86,120

Address + Unit Number	Bedrooms	Monthly Rent	Utilities Included	Approx. Area (SF)
300 Somerville Ave. #6	2	\$1,290	N/A	1,509
124 College Ave. #2-5	2	\$1,492	Water; Sewer	650

* Min. income requirements are waived for households with rental subsidies through mobile housing vouchers such as Section 8, MRVP, VASH etc.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: Tues. Jun. 27– Wed. Jul. 26 22
 Online at: somerillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing
 Request hard applications and more information at: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 or inclusionary@somerillema.gov

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wed. Jul. 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM
 Faxed to: 617-591-3235; Emailed to: inclusionary@somerillema.gov
 Mailed/Dropped off to: City Hall Annex: 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145;

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Somerville/Medford News Weekly 06/27/23, 07/04/23, 07/11/23, 07/18/23

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or apomeroy@somerillema.gov.

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VOLUNTEER TODAY FOR THE SOMERVILLE PEDESTRIAN & TRANSIT ADVISORY AND SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Applications Due February 9, 2024
SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is seeking volunteers to join both the Somerville Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC) and the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee (SBAC). PTAC and SBAC advise the City on projects, policy, and programs related to walking, bicycling, and transit as a means of transportation in Somerville and work to create

a safer and more equitable built environment for people of all ages and abilities.

Committee work includes reviewing City project/plans and providing recommendations, working with City staff to engage residents for input and information about city projects, and working with other transportation organizations at the local, state, and national

level.

PTAC typically meets in a hybrid fashion on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. SBAC typically meets in a hybrid fashion on the first Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Members are appointed by the Mayor to serve two-year terms in a volunteer capacity. Members must

either live or work in Somerville and take an active interest in bicycle, pedestrian, or transit issues in Somerville. Members are expected to attend monthly committee meetings and one sub-committee meeting, for an average time commitment of 3-4 hours a month. All members must agree to follow the City of Somerville's Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members.

Interested community members should submit a brief statement of interest and information on any relevant qualifications on this form by noon on Friday, February 9th, 2024. Statements of interest should indicate whether the candidate is applying for the PTAC, SBAC, or either committee.

ALL INVITED TO CITY OF SOMERVILLE 2024 INAUGURATION

Ceremonies and Addresses To Be Held at Somerville High School on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Public Reception at The Row Hotel Will Immediately Follow.

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville City Council, and the Somerville School Committee, warmly invite the community to attend the 2024

inauguration ceremonies on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

The inauguration ceremonies and addresses by Mayor Ballantyne, the incoming City Council President, and the incoming School Committee Chairperson will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, in the Somerville High School auditorium (81 Highland Ave).

Organizational meetings of the City Council and School Committee will precede the ceremony at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall (93 Highland Ave).

The ceremony will include American Sign Language interpretation as well as interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese, with interpretation into other languages

available upon advance request.

A public reception at The Row Hotel (360 Foley Street, Assembly Row), will immediately follow the inaugural ceremony starting at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Members of the public are invited to all inaugural events. The organizational meetings and inaugural

ceremony will be live-streamed and shared on the City's GovTV station, as well as online at YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV. For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 2100.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JULIEN A MARTIN

Obituary:

Martin, Julien A. - Of Arlington, formerly of Medford, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. He was 90.

Born and raised in Lewiston, Maine. He was the beloved son of the late Jean D. and Gabrielle (Bedard) Martin.

He was the beloved husband of 67 years to Jolline V. (Fournier) Martin. Devoted father of Ronald Martin and his wife Janet Bueker of Waltham. Loving brother of Helen Lapage and her late husband Romeo and the late Larry Martin and his wife Carmen, Louis Martin and his wife Muguette, Gaetan Martin and his wife

Mariejeanne and Julie Boucher and her husband Gerard. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A Funeral procession will be held on Friday, December 22 in the George L. Doherty Funeral 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Raphael Church, 512 High

Street at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling hours will be Thursday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM

Services will conclude with interment at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington.

Late U.S Navy Veteran, Korean War.



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KIWANIS CLUB OF SOMERVILLE, SOMERVILLE LIONS CLUB, SOMERVILLE ROTARY CLUB HOST OUR ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS LUNCHEON

Continued from front page



SOMERVILLE: On Thursday, December 14th, the Kiwanis Club of Somerville, along with our friends from the Somerville Lions Club and Somerville Rotary Club hosted our annual Toys For Tots luncheon at the Mount Vernon Restaurant.

Gunnery Sergeant Curtis Dunham and Lance Corporal Matthew Rankey of the United States Marine Corps, joined us again this year as we proudly collected a record

number of toys donated by members of the three clubs for the Toys For Tots campaign.

Nineteen Somerville Kiwanis members as well as fifteen members of Somerville Rotary and Lions Clubs plus one additional guest attended today's event.

Following a wonderful buffet lunch, Gunnery Sergeant Dunham and Lance Corporal Rankey thanked the clubs for their continuous support of the Toys for Tots

program for more than 29 years. There was a special surprise when Distinguished Past President Jay Lynch, the program chairman, presented the Marines with a check for \$2000, a donation made by the Middlesex Federal Savings Bank, who have been long time supporters of the Somerville Kiwanis Club and Toys For Tots program. Special thanks to Past President Michael McWilliams and Member Adam Portney from Middlesex Federal for helping to make this

donation possible. Kiwanis President Dawn Austin thanked the members of all the clubs for their support of the children who are being served by the Marine Corps program. After the meeting, the members loaded the toys in the Marine Corps van to capacity.

In a separate program, tomorrow, the Somerville Kiwanis Club will be delivering wrapped toys to 180 children from Somerville and Cambridge who are part of the Head Start program and have been identified as most in need of help at Christmas.

To learn more about the Kiwanis Club of Somerville, or to become a member, visit our web site, <http://www.somervillekiwanis.org>. You can also follow us on Facebook, Kiwanis Club of Somerville.

Pictured below, L-R Gun-

nery Sergeant Curtis Dunham, Kiwanis President Dawn Austin, Program Chairman Distinguished Past President Jay Lynch, and Lance Corporal Matthew Rankey, hold a few of the toys that were donated today.

Photo #2 Member Adam Portney from Middlesex Federal Savings Bank presents the check for \$2000.00 to Sergeant Dunham along with Program Chairman, Jay Lynch.

Photo 3 and 4 show many of the hundreds of donated toys donated from the members and from Middlesex Federal Savings Bank.

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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING GLORIA J. BURGOS



Obituary

Mrs. Gloria J. (Pike) Burgos, of Somerville, passed away surrounded by family on Sunday, December 17th she was 77.

Born in Waltham, she was the daughter of the late Joan M. (Lincoln) and Charles V. Pike. The beloved wife of Monserrate Burgos, together they recently celebrated 58 years of marriage.

In addition to her devoted husband, she is survived by her cherished children; William Burgos and his wife Therese and Michelle Burgos Collins and her husband Robert and a loving grandmother of Michael, Brian and Alyssa Burgos, Ryan, Sean and his wife Brittany, and Samantha Collins. Dear sister of Dorothy Pike, Kenneth Pike and the late John, James and Charles Pike.

Family was first and foremost in Gloria's life and she enjoyed nothing more than time spent together. Occasionally she enjoyed trips the Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun and more recently Encore to try her luck on the slot machines. Her most favorite hobbies included going to bingo, traveling to Puerto Rico to visit family and spending time with her family on cruise ships!

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Thursday, December 21st from 3:00PM to 7:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Gloria's name can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at <http://www.alz.org>

SOMERVILLE NAMED ONE OF NATION'S DIGITAL INCLUSION TRAILBLAZERS

City's Digital Bridge Initiative Recognized for Work to Close Digital Divide by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance

SOMERVILLE – The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) has named the City of Somerville as a 2023 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer, recognizing the city's efforts to close the digital divide. The NDIA is focused on advancing digital equity by supporting community programs and equipping policymakers to act.

As the pandemic demonstrated, digital inclusion – access to affordable high-speed internet,

devices, and digital skills training – is essential to participating and thriving in today's world. Recognizing the ongoing needs of the community, Somerville didn't stop digital inclusion efforts at the end of the quarantine.

"Closing the digital divide in Somerville is not just a goal; it is a moral imperative," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Somerville's Digital Bridge team is doing innovative work that helps empower our community, creates more equal opportunities, and fosters a future where every resident can thrive in the digital landscape, and I'm so pleased to see their efforts recognized by the NDIA."

This year, Somerville joins a record number of Digital Inclusion Trailblazers, with 47 total awardees representing municipal, county, and regional governments paving the way for digitally inclusive communities across the US.

"Nonprofits, libraries, churches, and other community organizations can't reach digital equity on their own. For everyone to thrive in today's digital world, we need all hands on deck," said Angela Siefer, NDIA executive director. "NDIA's Digital Inclusion Trailblazers exemplify the key role local governments have in

building connected communities for all of their residents."

Trailblazers provide models for other local governments to aspire to as communities build digital inclusion ecosystems. Somerville achieved Trailblazer status by prioritizing digital inclusion for residents of their communities through: Funding digital navigators at the Council on Aging and Somerpromise (one at each). Digital literacy skills and digital navigator funded by MBI to MassHire MetroNorth to serve Somerville residents at SCC. Currently working with MAPC to create a Digital Equity Plan for

the City of Somerville.

NDIA revised the seven-year-old Trailblazer program this year, identifying seven categories of current best practices. Each applicant's materials are verified for accuracy, assessed for community impact, and posted in an interactive map and searchable database on NDIA's website. By sharing materials with open-sourcing, NDIA provides community advocates and local governments ways to continue learning, connect with trailblazing peers, and plan their own digital inclusion solutions.

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>BASICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat) <input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf <p>FOOD & DRINK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee <input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink <input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky <input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers <input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars <input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards <p>HELP THEM CONNECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen <input type="checkbox"/> Stationary <input type="checkbox"/> Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card 	<p>TOILETRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick <input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer <input type="checkbox"/> Comb <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit <p>SURVIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter <input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool <p>TREATS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs <input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped) <input type="checkbox"/> Mints <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum <p>SPLURGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card <input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag
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GIVE WORKERS PAID TIME OFF TO VOTE (H 4217)

By Bob Katzen

The House approved and sent to the Senate legislation that would require employers to give employees sufficient time off, with pay, to vote in state, city and town elections, on Election Day, if the employee does not have sufficient time to vote outside working hours.

Employees would be required to give an employer three days' notice of his or her intent to take time off to vote on Election Day. The measure also bars employers from requiring an employee to vote by mail or to vote during a designated early voting period prior to Election Day.

The proposal would replace a current law that is narrower,

applies only to manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishments, only allows the worker to vote during the two hours after the polls open on Election Day and does not require the employers to pay the worker for the time off.

"The legislation that was advanced by the House today will help to guarantee that every Massachusetts voter has

time to vote on Election Day, regardless of the constraints of their job, a critical step towards ensuring that every eligible voter has the chance to make their voice heard at the ballot box," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

Authors of the bill and other earlier versions of it did not respond to requests

by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to comment on this new version of the measure. Legislation. Legislators who did not respond are Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn) and Reps. John Lawn (D-Watertown) and Aaron Michlewitz (D-Bos-

SENATORS' SUPPORT OF THEIR PARTY'S LEADERSHIP IN 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 15

By Bob Katzen

The percentage next to the senator's name represents the percentage of times

the senator supported his or her party's leadership so far in 2023 through December 15. The number in parentheses repre-

sents the number of times the senator opposed his or her party's leadership.

Some senators voted on

all 97 roll call votes. Others missed one or more roll calls. The percentage for each senator is calculated based on the num-

ber of roll calls on which he or she voted.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen 98.9 percent (1)

ALLOW ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT FOR POLICE DOGS (H 2423)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would allow advanced life support care to be administered to an injured police dog by a licensed, trained, qualified

professional.

The bill is a follow up to a law, known as Nero's Law, approved in 2022 that requires EMS personnel to provide emergency treat-

ment to a police dog and use an ambulance to transport the dog injured in the line of duty to a veterinary clinic or hospital if there are not people requiring emergency medical treat-

ment or transport at that time. Nero's law does not require EMS personnel to administer treatment on the way to the hospital. This new bill adds that requirement.



RETIRED POLICE DOGS – DAKOTA'S LAW – (H 2424)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would create a Retired Police Dog Care Fund to provide grants to non-profit organiza-

tions to provide care and medical services to retired police dogs. The law is named after Dakota, a police dog who suffered PTSD following the 2013

Boston Marathon bombing.

"Dakota's Law is based on a true life Massachusetts story which is now

an award winning documentary called 'Healing Dakota,'" said sponsor Rep. Steve Xiarhos (R-Barnstable). "Dakota's Law is aimed at provid-

ing a lifetime of financial support to pay the medical bills of heroic police K9s injured in the line of duty and upon their retirement."

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JOIN SOMERVILLE'S 248TH ANNUAL GRAND UNION FLAG RAISING

Continued from front page



Program begins at 11:30 a.m. with Procession from City Hall to Prospect Hill

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Museum will kick off the New Year on Monday, January 1, 2024, with a ceremony for the anniversary of the “Grand Union” flag-raising ceremony at Prospect Hill Park.

A processional will leave from the City Hall Concourse at 11:30 a.m., followed by a ceremony at Prospect Hill Park from 12 noon – 1 p.m. As always, members of the public, including families

with school children, are invited to participate, and to inspire authenticity, all are encouraged to wear what they consider to be traditional colonial clothing.

The annual ceremony commemorates the raising of the nation's first official flag, featuring thirteen red and white horizontal stripes, atop Prospect Hill on New Year's Day, 1776. At the time, Prospect Hill was a key site in a string of fortifications created by Washington and the

Continental Army in their siege of British troops in Boston during the first year of the American Revolution.

The afternoon's program will include songs to join in, and remarks by participants from the Charlestown and Rhode Island Militia, and the Ancient and Honorable Company (first chartered in 1638). His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot will bring a disturbing message from King George III, as a commemorative

flag is raised atop the Prospect Hill Tower.

Light refreshments will be offered, as well as a few items highlighting the City's historic assets for purchase from the Somerville Museum. Depending on the weather, the Tower will be open briefly to the public following the ceremony.

A MESSAGE FROM MEDFORD MAYOR BREANNA LUNGO-KOEHN: TRANSFORMING MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL



We have just taken a major step forward toward our goal of transforming Medford High School!

The Massachusetts School Building Authority voted to move our application into the Eligibility Phase of the School Building Process. We're now that

much closer to reimagining the facility and strengthening our learning environment for students, teachers and staff.

There are still a lot of details and procedures that need to be ironed out but this will be a community-driven process that

incorporates the needs and values of students, families, caregivers and educators.

Thank you to our school committee members, district administration, City Council, community advocates and leaders who have supported and

helped bring this project together.

We would not be where we are without the support of our community.

Let's get to work!

MEDFORD LIONS HOST POPULAR TURKEY RAFFLE, 2023

THE MEDFORD LIONS CLUB successfully hosted its 6th Turkey Raffle starring 4 big birds, 3 gift cards and great baskets! This fundraiser gives the Club longitude to donate funds to Mass Eye Research, Diabetes, or like fund of choice (Carroll School or Perkins School) This year friends and the Public were asked to eat here...



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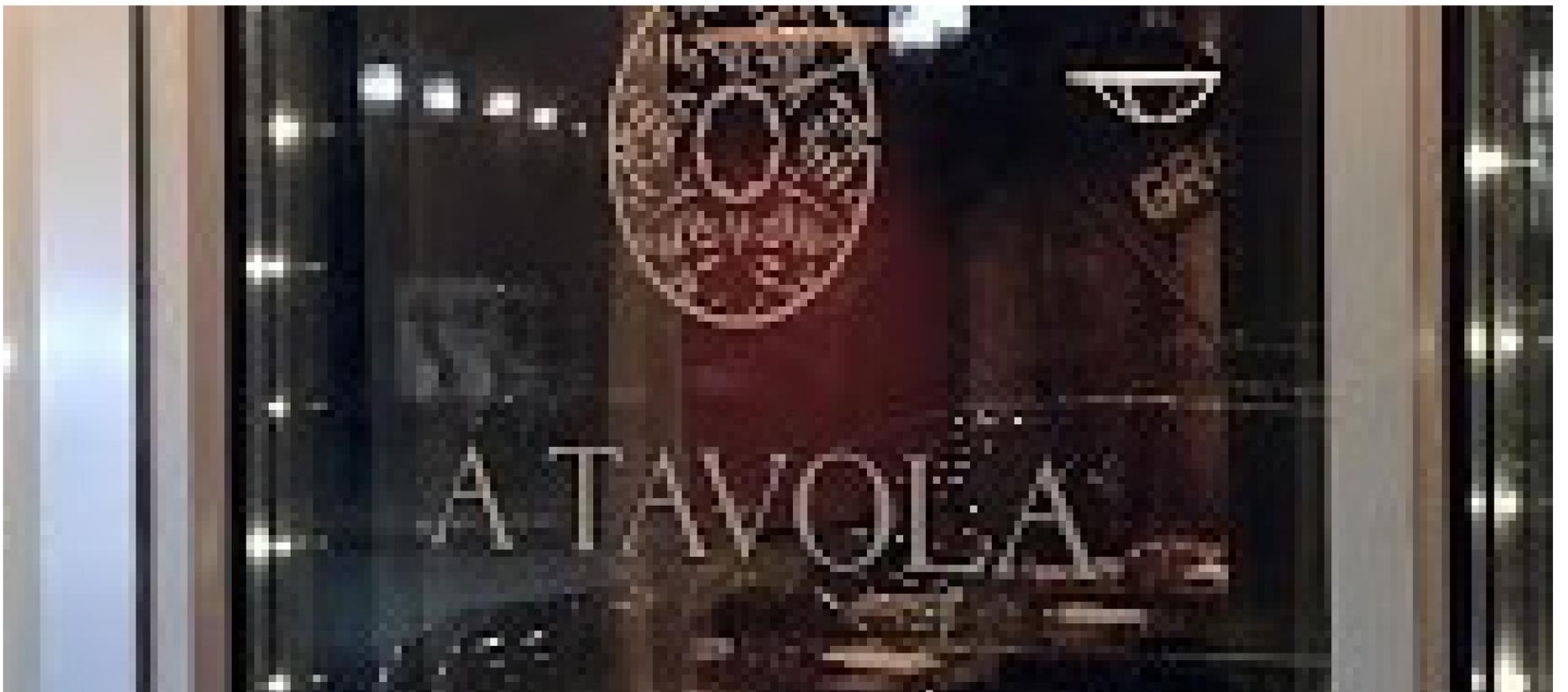
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