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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday January 16th 2024

LEGALIZE FENTANYL TEST STRIPS



Continued to page 19

IN LOVING MEMORY OF KAYLA DRISCOLL

AUTISM AND POLICE



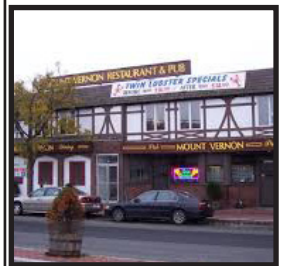
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MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

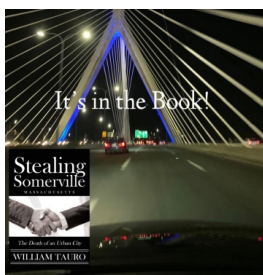
We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available. Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



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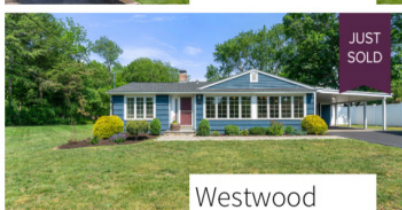
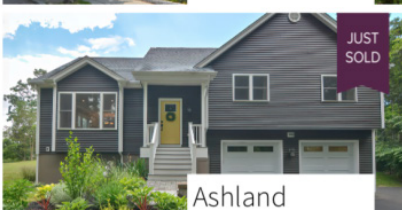
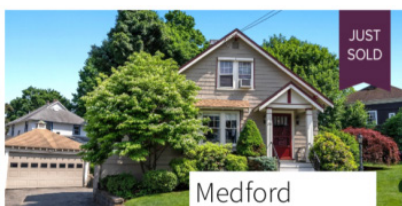
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MARKET ACTIVITY

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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 M.MAUREEN MURPHY



Obituary

Maureen Murphy died peacefully of a stroke with her family by her side on January 4, 2024, at the age of 84. She was born on

June 25, 1939, in Somerville, MA, and was raised in the same city.

Maureen later resided in Lowell, MA, Andover, MA, and Middleton, MA, before joining family in the Washington, DC area in 2019. Maureen will be fondly remembered as a devoted mother and grandmother and a defender of the down-trodden. She is survived by her children: Patricia Anne Franco (Charles Clark), John Michael Franco II (Kathy Franco),

Sheila Jeanne Franco, and Stephen James Franco (Kelly Rafuse). Maureen also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Sean Michael Franco (Cherrees Franco), Patrick John Franco, Nicholas John Franco, Kyle Michael Franco, Ezekiel Murphy Clark, Nora Hazel Clark, James Wesley Clark, and Savannah Leigh Rafuse-Franco. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Horgan Murphy and Thomas Murphy, as well as her aunts and uncles: Anne Butler, Mi-

chael Horgan, Tim Horgan, Paddy Horgan, Ellie Coleman, Nora Byrne, and Catherine Day. She is survived by numerous loving cousins and dear friends.

A funeral procession will begin at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.), Somerville, MA, on Saturday, January 20th at 10:00AM, followed by a funeral Mass celebrated in St. Clement's Church, 64 Warner St., Medford, MA, at

11:00AM. Services will conclude with burial at Oak Grove Cemetery, 230 Playstead Rd. Medford, MA, with a reception to follow. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Contributions in Maureen's memory can be made to MSPCA Angell Northeast Animal Shelter <https://www.northeast-animalshelter.org/> or St. Agnes Parish <https://agnesandrose.org/> in Middleton, MA.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING CECILE ALMONOR



Obituary

Cecile Almonor passed away on January 9, 2024, surrounded by the love of her family, she was 90. Born and raised in Latortue, Haiti she immigrated to the United States in 2010 and settled in Somerville with her family.

She was the devoted mother of Henrilia Au-

gustin of Billerica, Guerda Fils Aime of Haiti and the late Gezila Augustin, Lody Joseph and Melius Joseph. Cherished grandma of Henriette Stinfil, Alberta Etienne, Frito Elianor, Enide Elianor, Gary Elianor, Alexander Dumas, Malaeca Fleurisma, Fritz Joseph and Jean Eli Fleurisma. Great-grandma of Jada Felicia Elianor,

Adia Scope, Davin, Devlin and Danielle Stinfil and Azaria Dumas. Cecile was also a beloved sister and aunt to many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 19, 2024 in the Shekinah French Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 50 Central Street, Stoneham

with visitation beginning at 9:00AM to be followed by a Funeral Service at 10:00AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Services will conclude with burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JOSE VICTOR CRUZ



Obituary

CRUZ, JOSE VICTOR – Of Somerville, suddenly January 9, 2024. Services to be announced.

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WESTERN MEDICINE QUACKS VS EASTERN MEDICINE KNOWLEDGE, WHO SHOULD WE BELIEVE IN THESE DAYS?



He replied "You have at least three weeks to make a decision."

Meanwhile, as I was exiting the surgeon's office on crutches, a practitioner in the office, looked me directly in the eye, and said "You need a second opinion." and I took that as a serious warning he was trying somehow to give me for some reason heads up, so I took that persons advice.

Jan 2nd (same day)3:00pm (only one hour after me leaving the surgeon's office after them putting me back into a knee high cast again): I went to see a highly recommended, by a very good friend of mine, a Chinese ankle specialist in Boston's Chinatown who was booked up and could not handle me at that particular moment, and since I was referred to him from a trusted mutual family friend ours he instead went a step further and referred me over to his father, a 74 year-old retired ankle doctor for immediate vip treatment. For legal reasons I will refer to him as what he was jokingly around with me introduced himself as the "Chinese Witch Doctor."

The Chinese Witch Doctor looked at the x-ray that I showed him and stated that "your ankle is not fractured and your Achilles Tendon is not torn off so let's take that cast off and throw it in the friggin barrel." After removing the cast, he used his thumbs to find multiple pressure points on my leg that showed lack of blood flowing so he began working on my foot vigorously, pounding on the heel, pounding on the tendon, stretching my foot back-and-forth. He stated "if your Achilles Tendon was completely torn and your knee was fractured that you'd be kicking me in the head right now with tremendous pain and you wouldn't be able to move your foot at all."

After about an hour of massaging my leg, putting herbal ingredients on my foot and stretching my ankle and muscles, he went back to putting his finger on pressure points on my leg and ankle that showed me where blood was flowing once again and I had no more pain.

Friday Jan 5th 1:00pm: I went back to see the Chinese Witch Doctor (only three days after my first initial visit with him) he performed physical therapy on my ankle. Worked my knee over a little bit and says you're good to go. No surgery needed. Have a great life!

Monday Jan 8th3:30pm: I went for a third opinion with new x-rays just to satisfy my mind at the Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston and yes, they confirmed

with me and the Chinese Witch Doctor's diagnosis. They agreed that there is no fracture of the knee and that the achilles tendon "IS NOT COMPLETELY TORN OFF", THAT I DON'T NEED ANY SURGERY NOR A KNEE HIGH CAST" and They repeated that "I DEFINITELY DON'T NEED ANY SURGERY" as the Mount Auburn crew suggested differently and that I was good to go. They did suggest if I'm going to be out walking around campaigning everywhere on it like I am, that for a week or so walk around with a half boot and take it off when the swelling goes down just as a preventative precaution while on the mend to promote healing.

I never went back to the Mount Auburn Hospital because I waited to get another x-ray just to make certain before I wrote this article and I knew that I would've gave them a piece of my mind in my own way, and it wouldn't be nice and it wouldn't of ended good, so here this was the way the story goes and how and what transpired.

This is a perfect example on how a doctor can easily misdiagnose or misrepresent an injury and how it can impact and do damage on somebody's career or lifestyle.

By placing a full cast or a boot on someone's leg, especially a driving leg for 9 to 12 weeks could be devastating to a family who depends on someone who needs to work or if a person drives for a living to support them. Not to mention a chain reaction of effects that could severely impact someone's career.

A very good doctor friend of mine who has recently passed away, sat down with me last year one afternoon for lunch, and we had a conversation about other doctors. Other doctors would sometimes ask him "How come you recommend so many gastric bypass surgeries to so many patients?" And they would continue stating to him "Because you are taking food off our table where we are surgeons and we make money, amputating, legs and toes. "This is true, because doctors are a business as well.

Another similar circumstance happened about 14 years ago as I was referred by my Mount Auburn Hospital doctor into going into the Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford to receive a gastric bypass. As I entered this operating room under sedation/anesthesia. The surgeon looked me directly into my eyes and said "Bill when I go in and if I see your gallbladder doesn't look good I will remove it ok?" And like I said, being sedated under anesthesia while being wheeled

into the operating room, I looked at him blurry eyed and repeated "ok?" When surgery ended after an hour or so and as I was waking up in the recovery room, the first face that I saw was the surgeon. He looked down at me and said "Bill just to let you know I didn't like how your gallbladder looked so I removed it!" While still under anesthesia all that I could say at the moment was "ok" as awaiting the anesthesia to wear off.

Some time later come to find out that there was nothing wrong with my gallbladder. This particular surgeon did it to make money. This particular surgeon was also doing this to multiple other patients having surgery during this time period as well. He finally got caught, lost his license to practice and moved on into hiding. A year or two after that this butcher of a doctor became the head of barometric surgery in another local hospital that I don't want to mention that's located next-door to Somerville. After all this occurred, the statute of limitations had already expired, and I couldn't do a thing about it. But now, living without a gallbladder, I have to take certain medications for the rest of my life to make up the bile that the gallbladder is now no longer producing. Like I said, doctors are a business so proceed with caution.

The moral of the story is, don't always put your trust into just one doctor. Always get a second opinion and even a third. Remember that doctors, even doctors who have fancy doctor's offices in hospitals always still have rent to pay and that it's still a business. It's disappointing, but true!

#ISupportMyLocalWitchDoctor

By William Tauro

Either I am super human or the doctor/surgeon misdiagnosed my injury and/or lied to me?

Dec 31st (New Year's Eve Day): Fell 12' feet off a ladder while fiddling around on my boat and landed on my right heel.

Jan 1st 10:00am (New Year's Day): Went to Mount Auburn Hospital Emergency Room where they told me I had a completely torn off Achilles tendon and a fractured ankle where they put me into a cast up to my knee informing me that I need surgery.

Jan 2nd 2:00pm: Went back to the Mount Auburn Hospital to their orthopedic surgeon

where they put me in another 2nd cast up to my knee and gave me two options.

Option#1: If I elect to not have surgery, they said eight weeks in a full cast with four additional weeks in a boot with no driving at all to let my injury heal on it's own.

Option #2: The surgeon's practitioner came out and told me that the doctor informed him that luckily he has an opening and that he could squeeze me in to perform surgery immediately and that he could have me walking around normal and out of a cast/boot in only four weeks and castfree. So before I left, they put me back into another full leg cast again up to my knee with instructions not to drive. I asked the practitioner "How much time do I have to make a decision?"

William "Billy" Tauro
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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 family. 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 at 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!



MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

Photo L-R: Jim Henry, Billy Tauro, Steve McLaughlin

Congratulations to The Medford VFW on its new Installation of Commander Steve McLaughlin as he takes charge.

Best of luck and we can't wait to see all the good things that you will bring to the VFW under your guidance and leadership!

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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.

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Thank you for your continued support.



STUDENTS MUST TAKE A FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE (H 4199)

By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee held a public hearing on legislation that would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and assist in the implementation of curriculum on personal financial literacy to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to be-

come self-supporting and to enable them to make critical decisions regarding personal finances. All students in grades 9-12 would be required to take the course.

The components of the curriculum would include the understanding of loans, borrowing money, interest, credit card debt and online commerce; the

rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home; saving, investing and planning for retirement; banking and financial services; balancing a checkbook; state and federal taxes; charitable giving; preventing identity theft; avoiding online scams; and learning a basic understanding of cryptocurrencies.

“Far too many of our young people are thrust into life after high school with limited education on basic financial skills and habits,” said sponsor Rep. Ryan Hamilton (D-Methuen). “This is unacceptable in a world where ever-increasing college costs lead to high student debt burden and inflated rent and living costs make finding a stable job and

place to live challenging for our young people especially. Ensuring that all students in Massachusetts receive financial literacy education prior to graduation is critical to both empowering the next generation and spreading greater information on healthy money practices throughout our communities.”

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING BENJAMIN Z. ROTHBERG



We are saddened to announce that Benjamin Z. Rothberg passed peacefully in his sleep on Sunday, January 7, 2024. He was a lover of all creatures great and small, and his compassionate spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

Born on Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North

Carolina, Benjamin is the loving son of Laura (Clayman) Rothberg and the late Dr. Richard Rothberg. Dear brother of Dr. Jonathan Rothberg and his wife Kriss, all of Somerville and the late Miriam Ruffalo and her surviving husband, Glen Ruffalo of Boca Raton, Florida. Cherished uncle of Rachel Ruffalo of Miami, Florida.

Benjamin is also survived by many cousins and extended family members on the East and West Coasts.

Services will be held privately by the family.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of his love for animals, memorial donations in his name can be made

to the MSPCA, 350 South Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02130 or <http://www.mspca.org>.

POTENTIAL 2024 BALLOT QUESTIONS

By Bob Katzen

Several campaigns to put proposed law on the November 5, 2024 ballot for voter consideration have cleared the next hurdle. Secretary of State Bill Galvin’s office certified that the necessary 74,574 had been filed for several potential ballot questions.

Galvin has sent those

questions to the Legislature which now has until May 1, 2024 to approve the proposed laws. If not approved by the Legislature, proponents must gather another 12,429 signatures and file them with local officials by June 19, 2024, and then the secretary of state’s office by July 3, 2024, in order for the question to appear on the November

2024 ballot. The proposed laws include ones that would permit the state auditor’s office to audit the Legislature; increase over five years the minimum wage for tipped workers to the same as the general minimum wage; legalize some psychedelic substances including psilocybin and psilocyn found in

mushrooms to treat mental health disorders including major depressive disorder and substance abuse; remove the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam as a high school graduation requirement and instead require students to complete coursework certified by the student’s district as demonstrating mastery of the

competencies contained in the state academic standards in math, science and technology and English; and several proposals to change the rights and benefits for on-demand drivers like Uber and Lyft.

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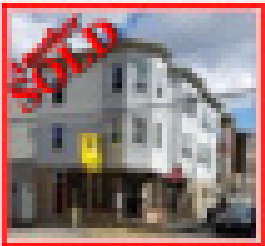


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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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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Instant specializes in repairing zippers, on luggage and hand bags, as well as shoe repair services such as stretching, resoling, and re-heeling. The store also stocks items ranging from blankets, to perfumes, jeans, belts, jackets and socks



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 POLICE ARE HIRING

. The first step to becoming a police officer is to take the Massachusetts Civil Service Police Entrance exam.

You can apply for the exam at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2024-municipal-police-officer-mbta-transit-police-officer-and-state-trooper-examination>

until January 16th.

If you missed our first information session, we will be holding another one on January 10th at the Medford Police Department from 6:00-8:30pm.

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JOIN OUR TEAM! Apply to take the exam. Deadline to apply: Jan 16

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- Must be able to qualify for and complete all City standards

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.



SOMERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT WEEKLY CRIME LOG 1/2/2024 – 1/8/2024



Crime Log
1/2/2024 – 1/8/2024

[HTTPS://WWW.SOMERVILLEPD.COM/PUBLIC-SAFETY-NEWS](https://www.somervillepd.com/public-safety-news)

Assault

24000645: On 1/4/24 at approximately 9:40 PM,

Somerville Police responded to a business in Assembly Row for report of an assault. Upon ar-

rival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was out to dinner with a group of people and an altercation ensued. During the altercation, the victim was attacked by four individuals.

Commercial Breaking and Entering

24000914: On 1/6/24 at approximately 8:31 AM, Somerville Police re-

sponded to a business on Washington St for report of an open door. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the owner who stated the rear door of the business was forced open. Nothing was reported missing.

Other Crimes:

- 3 Bike Thefts
- 1 Package Theft
- 1 MV Theft
- 1 MV Vandalism
- 1 Vandalism

MEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFICATION WANTED

On December 31, 2023, at approximately 11:35 a.m., an unknown black male suspect wearing dark colored clothing and a green camouflage ski mask assaulted a Wegmans' customer after it appears that the victim got into an argument with a female

party. A second female associate of the suspect was also present. If you can identify any of these suspects or have any information regarding this incident, please contact Detective Thomas Mattos at 781-391-6767 ext. 3245.

IDENTIFICATION WANTED



On December 31, 2023, at approximately 11:35 a.m., an unknown black male suspect wearing dark colored clothing and a green camouflage ski mask assaulted a Wegmans' customer after it appears that the victim got into an argument with a female party. A second female associate of the suspect was also present.

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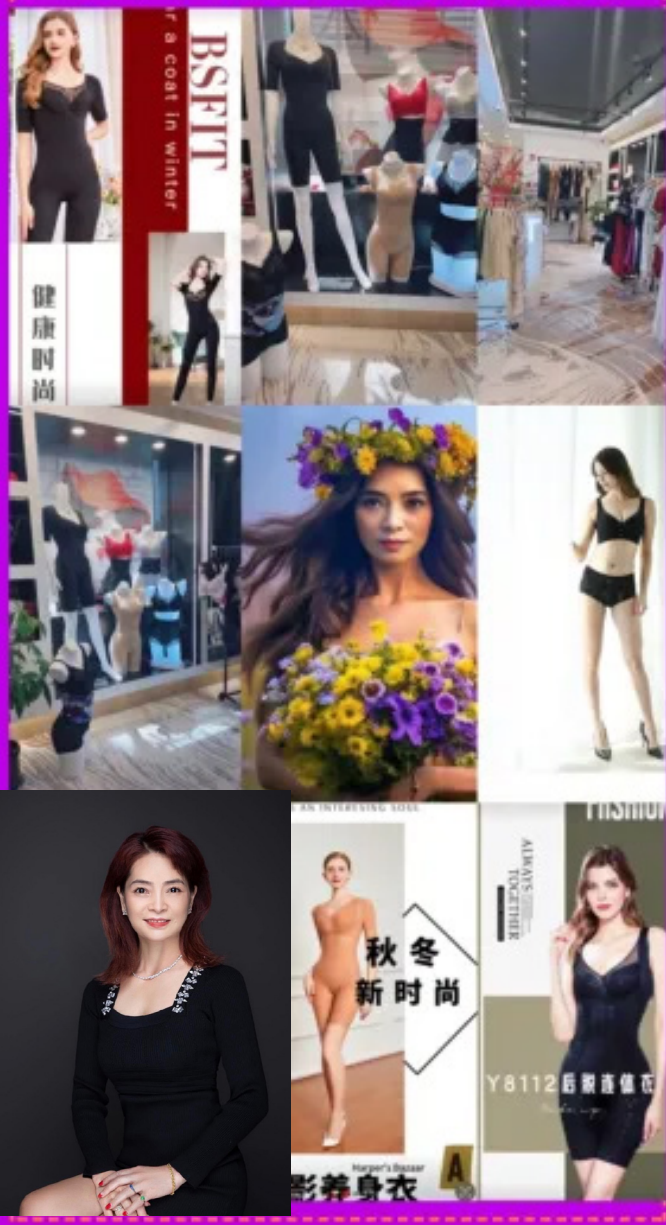
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Continued from front page



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| <p>A Thank You from The Driscoll Family</p> <p>We are so grateful for the overwhelming support and love we have received during this challenging time. Your kindness has been a source of strength for our family, and we feel truly blessed to be part of</p> | <p>such a caring community.</p> <p>A special thank you goes out to the Somerville Fire and Police Departments for their exceptional care and support. Your dedication has not gone unnoticed, and we are deeply touched by your</p> | <p>compassion. The continuous outpouring of love, thoughtful gestures, heartfelt messages, and acts of kindness have made a significant impact on us, and we want to express our sincere gratitude. Thank you for being there for us.</p> |
|--|---|---|



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William "Billy" Tauro For South Middlesex County Registrar Of Deeds



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2024

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Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Lacourt Realty, LLC & 300 Somerville Avenue Realty, LLC are pleased to announce **2 income-restricted rental apartments** available through the City of Somerville Inclusionary Housing Program at:

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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: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing
Request hard applications and more information at: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 or inclusionary@somervillema.gov

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

LOTTERY: Tues. Aug., 1, 2023 @ 3PM | Register to view the lottery here:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2110441532871509852>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: INCLUSIONARY@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV / 617-625-6600 ext. 2566
Visit: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing

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@somervillema.gov.

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SOMERVILLE OPENING OVERNIGHT WARMING CENTER TO SERVE COMMUNITY FOR 2024 WINTER SEASON



Warming Center Will Also Provide Access to Hot Meals, Bathrooms and Safe Sleeping Spaces for Residents Experiencing Homelessness

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City of Somerville’s Health and Human Services Office, and Housing Families, are announcing the opening of an overnight warming center for the remainder of the winter 2024 season. Starting tonight, January 8, the warming center will operate seven nights a week from 6:45 p.m. to 7 a.m., on the second floor of the Armory (191 Highland Ave). The center is scheduled to conclude operations on Sunday, March 24, 2024.

“The opening of our overnight warming center reflects Somerville’s commitment to providing not just shelter, but also dignity, compassion, and supportive services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I want to thank City staff, and our partners at Housing Families, for their collaboration in opening this potentially life-saving center. Because of their hard work, the City can now provide warmth, safety, and community for any adult resident that needs help this

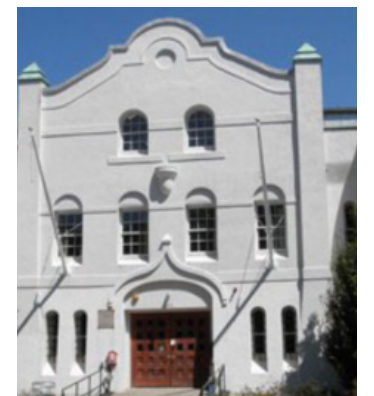
winter.”

Warming center guests will also have access to free hot and cold meals, water, bathrooms, yoga mats, and space to sleep. The space is equipped to support up to twenty adults on a nightly basis.

The warming center will only be available to adults experiencing homelessness. For families or those with children, please contact the Somerville Office of Housing Stability by calling 617-625-6600, Ext. 2581 for referral to family

resources and shelters.

For questions regarding the Somerville Overnight Warming Center, please visit somervillema.gov/warmingcenter or contact Somerville 311(627-666-3311)



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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING RINA C. PALMER



Obituary

Mrs. Rina C. (Biagiotti) Palmer passed away surrounded by the love of her family on January 12, 2024, she was 96. A longtime Somerville resident, Rina was born in East Boston, the cher-

ished daughter of Alice (Groppi) and Victor Biagiotti. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph A. Palmer.

A very active and independent woman, Rina was a devoted parishioner of St. Benedict Parish. She enjoyed the outdoors, spending time at the beach or just sitting in the sun on the back deck. In earlier years, Rina worked for many years at Somerville Savings Bank and retired as assistant manager. In addition to raising her family she also found time to do volunteer work with St. Benedict Church and the Shriners in Wilmington, MA. She also actively partici-

pated in the local Jolly Elders Seniors Group. But above all family was first and foremost in her life. She enjoyed nothing more than the family traditions around the holidays and loved to cook, especially her homemade raviolis which she lovingly shared with everyone.

Rina was the devoted mother of Joanne Hayes and her husband Daniel of Tewksbury, Joseph Palmer and his partner Audrey McDevitt of Newburyport and the late Carole L. LeBreton. Cherished "Gram" of Jaryd Palmer, Kristen Palmer and her wife Leann, Christopher Hayes and his partner

Katey Dillon. Dear sister-in-law of the late Eva, Anthony and Louise Palmer.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Rina's family in St. Benedict Church, 25 Arlington Street, Somerville on Wednesday, January 17th from 10:00AM - 11:00AM to be followed by her Funeral Mass at 11:00AM. Services will conclude with burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rina's memory can be made to the Shriners Children's Hospital, 51 Blossom St, Boston, MA 02114 or <http://www.shrinerschildrens.org> or St. Jude Children's Hospital at <http://www.stjude.org>



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AUTISM AND POLICE (S 2542)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops.

The measure, dubbed the "Blue Envelope" Bill" would create a voluntary program giving people with the disorder the option to be given a special blue

envelope that holds the person's driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance cards. On the outside of the envelope there would be specific instructions for police officers on the driver's diagnosis, impairments, triggers, emergency contact information and best practices for communicating. The bill is designed to enable the driver to quickly and easily hand the envelope to a police officer during a traffic stop.

"The Blue Envelope Bill will make our commonwealth a safer place for people who are neurodiverse," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "It moves us closer to equal opportunity and access for people of all abilities."

"The Blue Envelope Bill would be a game changer for our family and for so many Massachusetts residents," said Ilyse

Levine-Kanji, an Executive Committee member of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts. "Like many people with autism, my 25-year-old son Sam does not have any physical characteristics that indicate he has autism."

Levine-Kanji continued, "In a stressful situation, where split second decisions must be made, I'm relieved that a police officer could see a blue envelope in Sam's car

and immediately understand that any unusual behavior or speech pattern is a result of autism. Thus, this bill could dramatically decrease the possibility of a tragic misunderstanding."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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Thank You Somerville & Medford

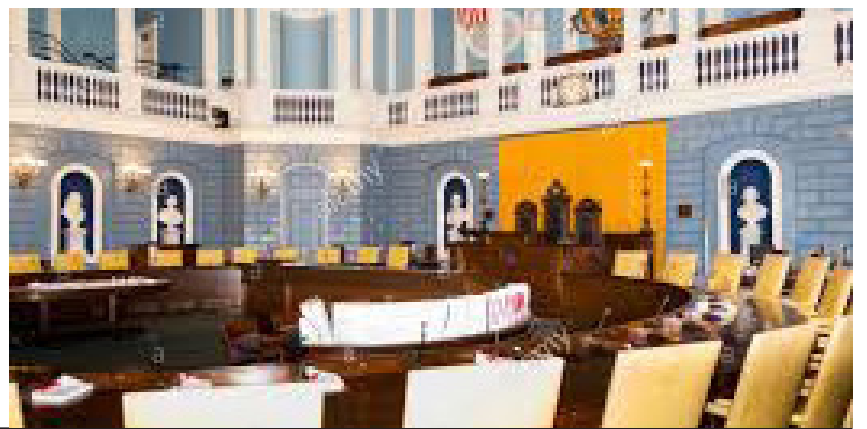
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REQUIRE INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO GET CUSTOMER'S CONSENT (H 3179)



By Bob Katzen

Another measure heard by the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee would prohibit telecommunications or internet service providers from collecting personally identifiable information from a customer as a result of the customer's use of

the telecommunications or internet services, without the customer's express written approval.

"[The bill] seeks to empower consumers by allowing them to take control of how their personal information is collected and disseminated," said sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "At a time of grow-

ing privacy concerns, this bill will help to ensure that no personally identifiable information is shared by a telecommunications or internet service provider without the customer's explicit written consent and will give the customer the power to revoke that consent at any time."

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

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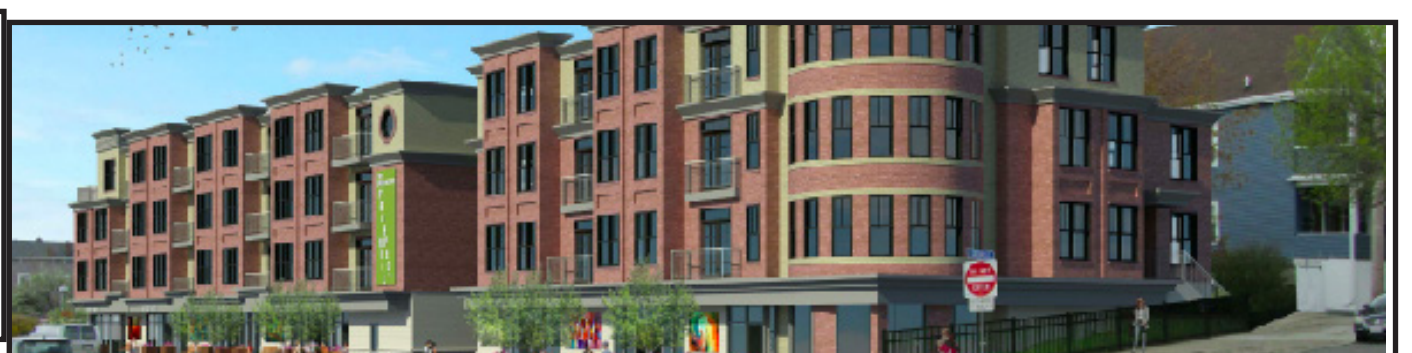
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LEGALIZE FENTANYL TEST STRIPS (S 2543)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House legislation that would legalize the sale, possession and distribution of fentanyl test strips as well as other testing equipment used to identify fentanyl in a drug.

The measure includes a "Good Samaritan" provision that exempts from liability "any person who, in good faith provides, administers or utilizes fentanyl test strips or any testing equipment or devices solely used, intended for use or designed to be

used to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl or its analogues."

Supporters said that fentanyl test strips help prevent overdoses by enabling drug users to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl, the opioid that was present in 93 percent of fatal overdoses in the first three months of 2023. They said that under current law fentanyl test strips are considered drug paraphernalia – causing police departments and harm reduction organizations that are interested in distributing them to be

concerned that the distribution would subject them to criminal or civil liability.

"The idea for this bill came to me from Newton Police Chief John Carmichael," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "The department wanted to distribute fentanyl test strips to help prevent overdoses, but they discovered that state law stood in the way of them doing so. As the fentanyl crisis has worsened across the country, a majority of states have already moved to legalize

these affordable, lifesaving test strips. It's time for the commonwealth to do the same. By passing this bill, we will empower police departments and community organizations to distribute fentanyl test strips and save lives."

"We know two things in Massachusetts as facts: opioids take far too many lives in our state and fentanyl test strips save them," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "By voting to legalize fentanyl test strips, the Senate is taking a commonsense action step

to save lives in our state—and we know it works."

"I am proud to report out this bill from the Judiciary Committee," said Sen. Jamie Eldridge(D-Acton), the Senate chair of the Judiciary Committee. "It represents a commonsense criminal justice reform that will better address substance use challenges."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2040 (S 2488)



The Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee held a hearing on legislation that would accelerate the decrease of carbon emissions by

requiring the state to achieve net zero emissions by 2040, instead of current law which sets the goal for 2050.

"I filed this legislation because the latest scientific consensus indicates the worst effects of our climate crisis have begun to unravel," said sponsor

Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton). "In terms of our collective progress toward net zero emissions, we are crawling when the science clearly demonstrates we

need to be sprinting. We have now already reached the point where you don't need to look at the science, just look out your window.

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Public Tavernn 565 Broadway, Somerville

YELP First to Review Maria M.Elite 24 Somerville, MA

I recently had the pleasure of dining at Public Tavern, nestled at 565 Broadway in Somerville, MA, and boy, was it a lively experience! This sports bar offers a fantastic blend of entertainment options, from arcade games to karaoke, making it the perfect spot for a Wednesday night out with friends.

We kicked off our evening by trying a couple of their cocktails, and let me tell you, they didn't disappoint. I ordered the lemon drop cocktail, and it was a delightful balance of sweet and tart. On the other hand, the margarita, while enjoyable, was a touch sweeter than my usual preference. But here's the kicker - both drinks were only \$10 each, making them a fantastic bargain!

Moving on to the food, we decided to go all out with a variety of bar bites. The nachos were an absolute

standout; priced at just \$10, they were generously loaded with peppers, cheese, jalapeños, and came with a side of salsa that added a delightful zing. The value for money here was unbeatable, and I'd easily rate them a solid 8/10.

Next up, we dug into the turkey club, which came with three slices of bread, lettuce, tomatoes, and crispy bacon. The accompanying fries were well-seasoned, and while they were good, they didn't quite reach the same level

of excellence as the nachos. I'd give the turkey club a respectable 7/10.

Finally, we tried the potato skins, which were served in a set of three. They were pretty standard but managed to pack a punch in terms of seasoning. My only quibble was that they were on the smaller side, but they did hit the spot taste-wise 7/10.

Overall, Public Tavern is a gem worth checking out, especially if you're a local looking for a great spot to catch a game, enjoy some

arcade games with friends, and indulge in reasonably priced drinks and delicious bar bites.

Food: 7/10
Affordability: 9/10
Ambiance: 8/10



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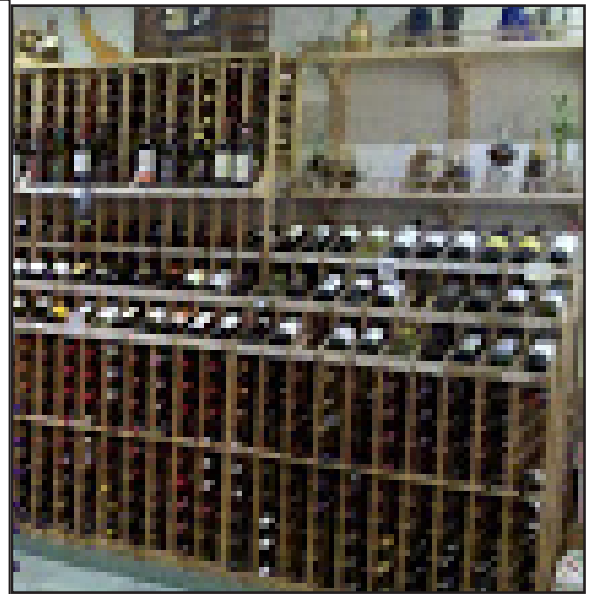


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