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VOL.1 NO.329-204

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday March 5th, 2024

SEX EDUCATION (S 2686)



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



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SOMERVILLE FAMILIES INVITED TO START PLANNING THEIR SUMMER FUN AT 2024 SUMMER CAMP AND ACTIVITIES FAIR

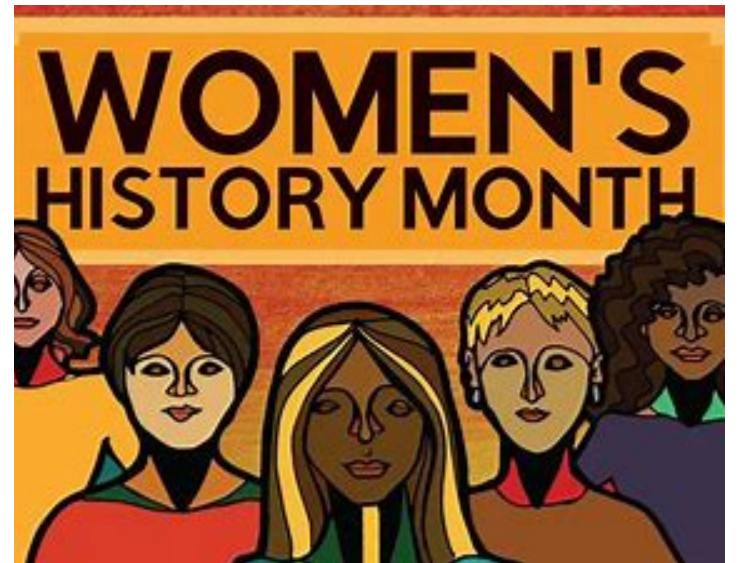
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BEGINS



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



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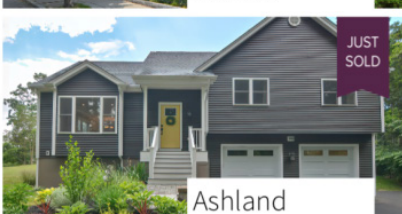
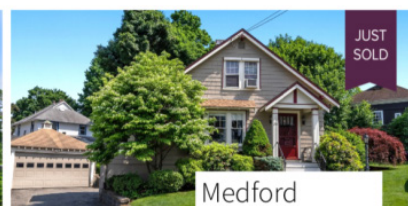
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MARKET ACTIVITY

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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!

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®
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Patricia Ng Broker Associate
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Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

Please send both forms and payment to:

Medford High School
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 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 REVEREND HARRY J. KAUFMAN



Obituary:
 Reverend Harry J. Kaufman – of Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin Parish (St. Catherine), Somerville, MA, passed away after a brief illness, March 2, 2024.

Son of the late Harry and Teresa (Howard) Kaufman. Brother of Linda Kaufman of FL.

Complete notice to follow.

Visiting hours will be held in Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin parish, 185 Sum-

mer St. Somerville, Ma, Thursday morning, March 7, 2024, from 10:00am to 11:00am, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00.

Interment MA National Cemetery, Bourne, MA time to be announced.

Late veteran, US Army.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING MAGGIE R. BRACKEN



Obituary:
 Bracken, Margaret R. "Maggie" (Ferguson) – Of Medford March 1, 2024.

Beloved daughter of the late Joseph and Abbey (Hallissey) Ferguson.

Loving sister of Mary Car-

roll of Medford, Timothy Ferguson of Somerville, Con Ferguson of Uxbridge the late Gerard and Joseph Ferguson.

Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours will be held in the George L. Doherty

Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Wednesday March, 6, 2024, from 10:00am – 1:00pm, followed by a Graveside Service in Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford, relatives and friends invited.

Maggie's family will be

celebrating a Funeral Mass in St. Clement Church, Medford at a later date.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING CORRINE A. POE



Poe, Corrine A. (Chiozzi) – Of Medford passed suddenly, on February 28, 2024. She was 73 years old.

Corrine dearly loved her family and animals (especially her cat, Kiki). She also loved her phone, and would check in with fam-

ily and friends often. Her love, kindness, generosity and support were appreciated by all who were lucky enough to make her acquaintance. She will be remembered for the kindness she shared with everyone and anyone.

Corrine is survived by her daughter Melanie Fedele

(Tony) of North Andover, MA, her son James McGowan of Madison, WI, her brother Albert Chiozzi (Mary) of Madison, WI and ex-partners Donald Poe and James McGowan.

She is also survived by her Grandchildren: Mariana Fedele, Sofia Fedele,

Angelo Fedele and Alex Fedele of North Andover, MA.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made, in Corrine's memory, to the ASPCA.

Funeral services are private

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING CHARLES R. CONWAY



Obituary

Charles R Conway of Lowell, age 80, formerly of Weston and Somerville, died on 02/25/2024. Beloved husband of 10 years of Chunmei Qin, and previously 38 years of Mary E. Gallagher.

Devoted father of Karen

Conway and her wife Stacey of West Suffield, CT, Kerry Conway of Lowell, and Yuting Jjiang of Lowell. Brother of Robert and his wife Kathy of Medford, Michael Conway of Boston, Patricia and her husband Daniel Grabowski of West Newbury, Joe and his wife Cheryl of North Carolina, Mary and her husband Neil MacIsaac of Natick, Frank and his wife Patti of Danvers, Paul of North Reading, John and his wife Nadia of Essex, and George Conway of Saugus. He also leaves one grandchild Clare Conway of West Suffield, CT. He is

predeceased by his sister Eileen Cooper of Virginia.

He was one of the original staff employees of the United States Environmental Protection Agency for 30 years, and later served as the wastewater operator training coordinator at the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control. He is a graduate of Northeastern University and a Veteran of the Vietnam War, having served in the U.S. Army and a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, the Sharpshooter Badge (rifle), the Vietnam Service Medal, and the

Vietnam Campaign Medal. He was an avid hiker, biker, a two-time runner of the Boston Marathon, and an enthusiastic Boston sports fan. He loved his family dearly and was surrounded by loved ones when he passed.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville, on Sunday, March 3rd from 2:00PM to 4:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

A prayer service will be held in the funeral home on Sunday, March 3rd at 3:30PM.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Fisher House Foundation at <https://connect.fisherhouse.org/campaign/Charles-R-Conway>. The Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay free of charge while a loved one is in the hospital.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: UNAUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL FROM THIS CONSUMER'S USAA DEBIT CARD



The President of Devils Hockey League, Patricia McTernan was previously notified regarding the inquiry of the cost breakdown of the Hockey Tournament at Lake Placid, New York. It was requested of Ms. McTernan that she provide the cost breakdown of the tournament, as well as the hotel name, hotel address, cost of the three-night hotel stay, if any meals are included, and confirmation of the \$440.00 deposit which was paid directly to the Devils Hockey League website.

Ms. McTernan did not provide the information which was requested. As of this date, Can/AM Hockey USA also has not provided any requested information regarding this Hockey Tournament. This organization appears to show only their interest in charging an exorbitant fee; which is greater than the Devils Hockey League tuition for my son which began in September of 2023 and ends in March of 2024. Can/Am Hockey

USA was given a "blank check" and thus has taken financial advantage of this customer.

If a Stop-Payment had not taken effect for this withdrawal; Can/Am Hockey USA would have had free reign to make additional unauthorized withdrawals from this account without the knowledge or consent of this customer; and without explaining the cost breakdown.

Payments for hockey tuition and previous tournaments were always paid directly to the Devils Hockey League website via card transaction or by bank check made out to Devils Hockey League. Can/Am Hockey USA did not receive authorization or consent to collect charges. No explanation was given with regard to the failure of Devils Hockey League and the failure of Can/Am Hockey USA to provide a receipt from the initial deposit of \$440.00 for this Hockey Tournament.

Ms. McTernan did not make it known that Can/Am Hockey USA would be making withdrawals via card transactions. Can/Am Hockey USA, a.k.a. Can/Am Hockey Group appears to be a hockey organization. However, it is not a hockey organization at all. Can/Am Hockey USA is a hospitality company and is not Better Business Bureau Accredited.

After conducting research regarding this company, it was discovered that Can/Am Hockey USA has a history of charging exorbitant fees for their service without giving proper notice and without providing a cost breakdown. In one instance, Can/Am Hockey USA failed to reimburse a customer for a Hockey Tournament cancellation; even though the customer had actually paid for cancellation insurance.

It is requested that any future attempted withdrawal transactions be restricted regarding Can/Am Hockey

USA and also with regard to Devils Hockey League. There will never again be an opportunity for a "blank check".

Due to the unethical and illegal business practices of CanAm Hockey USA, it is respectfully requested that the charges of \$2,036.00, in addition to the deposit of \$440.00 be permanently and immediately returned to the USAA checking account ending in 5745 at the earliest possible moment.

Respectfully,

Richard O'Shea

Cc: Wisconsin Attorney General
Wisconsin Department of Revenue
Office of the Governor or
Wisconsin IRS Department of Revenue

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

Re:Dispute Case Number 27343081

Dear Sir/Madam:

On or about 29 DEC 2023; an unauthorized withdrawal from this consumer's USAA Debit Card for the checking account ending in 5745 in the amount of \$2,036.00 was debited by Can/Am Hockey USA without prior knowledge or consent of this consumer. This action is less than ethical. This action is not legal.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING YOLANDA (DI MARTINO) DI GIROLAMO



Di GIROLAMO, Yolanda (Di Martino) Of Winchester and Somerville, passed away on Saturday, March 2nd, at the Lahey Clinic of Burlington.

Raised and educated in Medford and Somerville, she was the daughter of the late Antonio and Angela Maria (Di Iorio) Di Martino. Yolanda graduated from Somerville High School, class of 1948, and worked in the Somerville Public Schools. In later years, she worked with her husband and son in a family run real estate management company, The Di Girolamo Companies.

She was very loving to her family and lived for

them. Yolanda was the beloved wife of Ralph Di Girolamo, and the devoted mother of Attorney Richard Di Girolamo, both of Winchester and Somerville. She was the loving grandmother of Assunta Di Girolamo of Lynnfield; and dear sister of the late Dominic Di Martino, Mary Giaquinto, Joseph Di Martino, Adeline "Lee" Consolazio and Rudolph Di Martino. Yolanda is survived by her niece, Dorothy Filteau, and many other loving nieces and neph-

ews.

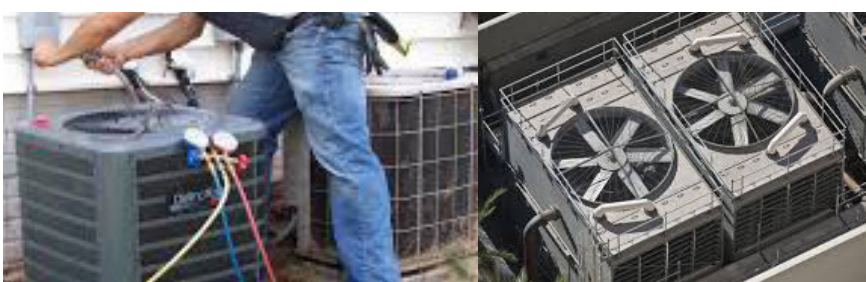
Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit in the Dello Russo Funeral Home, 306 Main St., MEDFORD on Tuesday, March 5th from 4 through 8 PM, and again on Wednesday, March 6th, at 9 AM followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at St. Eulalia Church, 50 Ridge St., Winchester, at 10 AM. Services will conclude with entombment at Carthage Mausoleum 1 in Woodlawn Cemetery,

Everett.

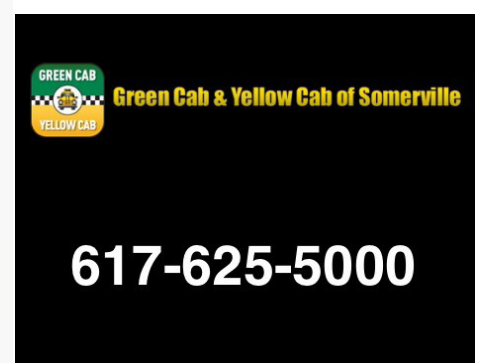
To leave a message of condolence, please visit <http://www.dellorusso.net> Dello Russo Funeral Homes Medford - Woburn

Published by Boston Globe from Mar. 3 to Mar. 4, 2024.

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SOMERVILLE FAMILIES INVITED TO START PLANNING THEIR SUMMER FUN AT 2024 SUMMER CAMP AND ACTIVITIES FAIR

Continued from front page



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing that the City’s Summer Camp and Activities Fair is returning for 2024, providing families with the opportunity to learn about summer activity options available to their children and to get detailed information from program representatives about sum-

mer camps, recreational activities, and learning opportunities for children of all ages.

The Fair will be held on Thursday, March 7, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the East Somerville Community School gym (50 Cross St).

Representatives from over 20 regional camps and organizations such as the Somerville YMCA, City of Somerville Recreation Department’s Somertime Program, and the Somerville Media Center, along with many others, will be in attendance. All families are welcome to attend and there will be free pizza.

Language interpreters will also be available on site.

“We are thrilled to bring back the summer camp and activities fair after four years,” said Chris Hosman, SomerPromise Director for the City of Somerville. “It is as much about community building as it is about increasing access to programming. Whether you are seeking full time Summer opportunities for school-aged children or teen jobs, there is something for everyone.”

This annual event is a great way to plan an enriching Summer and help children discover new interests

that may turn into lifelong passions. The 2024 Somerville Summer Activities Guide of all summer camps and programming will be available at the event. This booklet and regularly updated information can also be found on the Somerville Hub website: somerville-hub.org.

“The Summer Camp and Activities Fair is a wonderful reminder of how students can continue to grow and learn over the summer months,” said Ruth Santos, Director of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC). “It’s a fun and lively event where families can meet providers face-

to-face, ask questions, and find out more about the great programs available locally.”

The Summer Camp and Activities Fair is a collaborative effort between the SFLC of the Somerville Public Schools and SomerPromise. To learn more about this event, visit the Somerville Hub at <http://www.somervillehub.org> or contact the SomerPromise Wraparound Services Manager, Lara Versari at (617) 625-6600, x 2346 or lversari@somervillema.gov.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING LINDA L. YOUNG



Obituary Young, Linda L. (Wheeler)-

er)- Of Salem, formerly of Medford, passed away at home on Sunday, March 3rd surrounded by her loving family. She was 86 years old.

Born in Arlington, she was the beloved daughter of the late Oliver and Thelma (Provost) Wheeler.

Beloved wife of the late John T. Young who passed away in 2019. Devoted mother of Christopher Young and his wife Ginny of Stoneham, Laura Young of Salem, MA, and Timothy “Tim” Young and his wife Rainy of Saugus. Cherished grandmother

of Kerri Thompson and her husband Mike and the great grandmother of Allison and Brady Thompson all of Wakefield. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broad-

way (Powder House Sq.) on Thursday, March 7th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Funeral Service and burial are private.

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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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them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

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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.

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.



SEX EDUCATION (S 2686) Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved, on a voice vote without a roll call, and sent to the House legislation that would require that all public schools offering a comprehensive sexual health education curriculum “provide medically accurate, age-appropriate sexual health education.” The Senate has approved the bill four times in the past including a 38-1 vote by which it passed in 2023. Each time the measure died from inaction by the House.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in September adopted updated revisions to local sex education rules that are in line with the changes sought under the Senate bill.

Sen. Sal DiDomenico, the sponsor of the bill, said he supports the revisions adopted by the board, with the backing of Gov. Maura Healey, but noted they are “guidelines and suggestions only.”

“The [bill] turns them into a minimum standard,” said DiDomenico. “It gives teeth to frameworks, and ensures kids aren’t receiving inaccurate and harmful information. This prevents bad stuff from being taught in our schools.”

The bill’s prospects for passage in the House do not look promising this year, given the remarks by House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) last week. “Given that it has been less than a year since BESE adopted the new guidelines, it is im-

portant that we give school districts adequate time to implement them, rather than rush to potentially amend or codify them into law,” said Mariano.

Under current law, public schools are not required to teach sex education and the bill does not change that but rather mandates that any schools that choose to teach sex education are required to follow a curriculum, based on age, that includes human anatomy, reproduction and sexual development; the benefits of abstinence and delaying sexual activity; the importance of effectively using contraceptives to prevent unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS; ways to effectively discuss safe sexual activity; relationship and communication skills to form healthy, respectful relationships free of violence, coercion and intimidation; and information about gender identity and sexual orientation for all students, including recognition that people have different sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

The measure also requires any school offering sex education to notify parents about the school’s sex education curriculum and gives parents the right to withdraw a student from the instruction. Another provision creates a process for parents to inspect the program instruction materials before the start of the course.

Supporters said that under the bill, local cities and

towns still have the authority and power to decide whether sex education is taught in their schools. They said the measure will ensure that schools that choose to teach sex education will have a framework to follow. They noted the bill will prepare students to make healthy decisions and will reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

“The [bill] will finally make it clear that sex and relationship education in Massachusetts must be inclusive of all students and emphasize the importance and necessity of consent in relationships,” said DiDomenico. “I am proud we passed this commonsense health policy through the Senate and now we must get it over the finish line to ensure our children have the information they need to protect their health, form respectful relationships and build the bright futures they deserve.”

“Today’s vote affirms what we already know – a strong majority of people in Massachusetts, including most parents, want young people to receive sex and relationship education at school,” said Jamie Klufts, co-chair of the Healthy Youth Coalition. “We look forward to working with the House to pass the [bill] this session so that the state’s exciting new Health and Physical Education Framework can reach its full potential and do the most to support our students and teachers.”

“Providing comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate sex and

relationship education to our youth is the best way to prepare them to make safe and healthy choices,” said Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester), Senate Chair of the Committee on Education. “I’m pleased that the Senate is continuing to advance this legislation that ensures that Massachusetts public schools use research-informed curricula that prioritize inclusivity and the health and well-being of students.”

No one spoke against the bill during Senate debate on the proposal but there was opposition from outside the Legislature.

“The bill is government mandated ideological instruction under the guise of health education,” Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle told Beacon Hill Roll Call. “It will use the authority of the law and the money of the taxpayers to impose the value system of the secular left onto the public schoolchildren of the state. This legislation requires sex-ed courses in public schools to include ‘affirmative education that people have different sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.’ That affirmative approach extends, explicitly, to the practice of contraception, and implicitly, to abortion.

Doyle continued, “According to the proposed law, all public school sex education must be consistent with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework, recently revised by the Healey Administration. That document

is filled with references to acknowledging diversity, showing respect for different kinds of families and overcoming stereotypes, prejudices, bias, sexism and cultural stigmas—thinly disguised code language for traditional moral beliefs.

“If enacted, this legislation will effectively preclude any public school teacher, administrator, nurse or staff member from raising a moral objection or voicing an ethical dissent to any of the sexual behaviors celebrated and affirmed under this curriculum. Should this measure ever become law, one can only hope that the recent experience in the City of Worcester—where significant numbers of parents exercised their right to a sex-ed opt-out for their children—will be emulated throughout the commonwealth.”

Sam Whiting, an attorney for the Massachusetts Family Institute told Beacon Hill Roll Call that this bill isn’t about sex education, it’s about sexual indoctrination. “Parents and school committees don’t want a radically progressive, one-size-fits-all sex education curriculum crammed down on them from Beacon Hill. We are optimistic that even though the bill has passed in the Senate, it will again die in the House, as it has the last four legislative sessions.”

BIRTH CERTIFICATES (H 4292)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would change some of the language in the current law governing the content of birth certificates. Changes include replacing “both parents” to “parent or parents” and changing “the child’s mother” to “the person who gave birth to the child.”

Current law allows each party to a marriage to adopt any surname, including the present or birth-given surname of either party; retain or resume

use of a present or birth-given surname; or adopt any hyphenated combination of names. The bill broadens the options and also allows each party to adopt “any first name, middle name or any other name.”

“Our current birth certificate statute uses outdated language and categories that do not represent the full variety of family structures in the commonwealth,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). “No child should start out with a government-issued docu-

ment that fails them. This bill ensures that our birth certificates reflect reality for all Bay Staters, accurately and inclusively.”

“A birth certificate is the first document our government sends us in our lifetimes,” said House sponsor Rep. Dwane Shand (D-Newburyport). “That document should accurately reflect the makeup of our commonwealth’s families and their complexities.”

ROSA PARKS DAY (H 3075) – The House gave

initial approval to legislation designating February 4th as Rosa Parks Day, “in lasting recognition of a historic civil rights leader.”

“Rosa Parks was a hero of the civil rights movement whose courageous act to challenge segregation kindled and continues to inspire the fight for justice and equality of all peoples,” said co-sponsor Rep. Kip Diggs (D-Barnstable). “Celebrating Ms. Parks on her birthday will make a great addition to Black History Month in the commonwealth.”

Rep. Mike Kushmerek (D-Fitchburg) said he co-sponsored the measure “in order to bring awareness and representation to the heroic actions of Rosa Parks during the Civil Rights Movement.” Kushmerek noted, “February 4th is the birthday of Rosa Parks, so it will be a strong and persevering reminder to all those within the commonwealth to reflect on the role she played in raising international awareness of the struggles for civil rights.”



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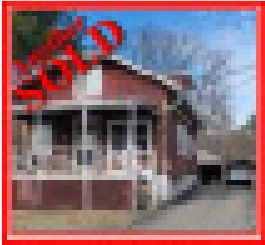


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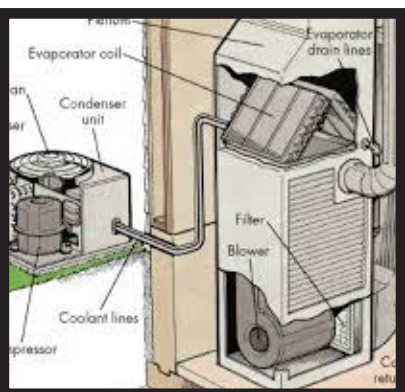
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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MEDFORD POLICE OFFICER LARRY CROWLEY RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to Patrol Officer Larry Crowley on his retirement after 25 years of dedicated service to the Medford Police Department and the City of Medford.



ELECT RAND WILSON FOR DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE

Many long-time Somerville and Medford residents are probably frustrated with the current state of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. I sure am — and that’s why I’m running for a leadership position in the state party. We need change! Let me explain what’s wrong and why.

In Massachusetts, over half of the state party’s current governing group, the Democratic State Committee, are either members who have served for 20-years and are rewarded with “lifetime” membership or they are “add-on” diversity delegates who are self-nominated and elected internally by other state committee members. A highly insular process.

With a majority of the committee unaccountable to grassroots Democrats, it’s no wonder that the Democratic Party’s leadership hasn’t addressed the major problems facing regular working people, and instead, has quietly protected the millionaire (and now billionaire) class and their corporate special interests.

The party is all talk and no action. While Massachusetts has one of the highest rates of income inequality in the U.S., Democrats have done little to redistribute wealth from the rich to working families. And while our seacoasts flood coastal communities

and temperatures rise to the highest in recorded history, state-level Democrats have shied away from passing a much-needed Green New Deal.

The party’s lack of accountability contributes to paralysis at the statehouse. Despite having elected Democrats in control of all branches of our state government, we can’t pass rent control or build enough affordable housing. Our state minimum wage is well below a living wage. Our public transportation is neither affordable nor well-functioning.

The party’s true colors were displayed when, after finally winning a “millionaire’s tax” which generated significant new revenue for public education and transportation, the Democratic governor and the majority Democrat-controlled legislature turned around and gave huge tax breaks to richer, higher-income households and corporations.

We need a Democratic Party that leads the fight to reverse economic and social inequality and campaigns for a Green New Deal. We need to elect state leadership that shares these goals and holds our elected officials accountable. That’s why I am running for a seat on the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee.

The DSC is the governing group of the state party. I am a candidate in the Second Middlesex district which includes all of Somerville and Medford, about half of Winchester and a part of North Cambridge.

We won’t be able to do anything about economic inequality or climate change without also redistributing power from the “one percent” to working people. That will take aggressive grassroots political organizing. If elected, I will fight for a state party that pays more attention to what working people need, and less attention to what its millionaire donors and their corporate lobbyists want.

I have worked for over 40 years as a labor organizer helping workers build power to win better wages and working conditions. I will bring the energy, values and enthusiasm of the labor movement to my work on the DSC.

As a longtime resident of Somerville, I serve on the Ward 6 Democratic Committee and am a trustee of the Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund. I also help convene a community-labor coalition, Somerville Stands Together.

My candidacy has been endorsed by Rep. Mike Connolly, Rep. Erika Uytendoeven, 14 city councilors in

the district, six unions and many other local leaders.

I urge everyone to vote in the March 5 primary election and to give me the chance to help create a state Democratic Party that fights harder — and wins more often — for all of us!

Sincerely,

Rand Wilson



An unelected majority rule the DSC

See the complete breakdown @ tinyurl.com/Mass-DSC

Member Category	Number	Elected	Not elected
Add-on	91		91
20 year lifetime members	149		149
DCS staff and officers	4	4	
Ballot (80 potential)	68	68	
Caucus (80 potential)	76	76	
Ex-officio	16	16	
Other elected	10	10	
TOTALS	414	170	240
Percent elected / not elected		42%	58%



USE INTEREST FROM STATE'S "RAIN DAY FUND" TO LEVERAGE FEDERAL FUNDS (H 4446)

By Bob Katzen

House 154-0, approved a bill that would leverage the interest from the state's Rainy Day Fund to better compete for federal dollars, to ensure the state receives the maximum possible share of federal funds and to pay down the state's long term debt liabilities. The Rainy Day Fund currently has a historic balance of \$8.2 billion.

The Senate already approved a different version of the bill in January. A House-Senate conference committee will likely hammer out a compromise version.

"This legislation expands our commonwealth's competitive edge as we compete for federal funds and pay down our debt obligations," said Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham), chair of the House Committee on

Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight Committee. "The Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, CHIPS Act and Inflation Reduction Act, all contain time-sensitive opportunities for our commonwealth and our local communities — opportunities that require us to have matching resources available. The passage of this bill today ensures that we can properly compete for all available federal funds.

"Ensuring that the commonwealth is able to aggressively compete for the federal funding being made available to states is critical, especially given the challenging revenue conditions that we are facing here in Massachusetts this fiscal year," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "It's vital that Massachusetts does everything that it can to share in that prosperity."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)
Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytendhoeven Yes

AUDITOR DIZOGLIO APPOINTS DR. ALAN SAGER TO THE CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR DIANA DIZOGLIO

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio appointed Alan Sager to the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) Oversight Council to

serve as the healthcare economist for the remainder of an unexpired term ending September 30, 2025.

Dr. Sager has extensive experience as a professor of health policy and management at Boston University School of Public Health for over 30 years, where he has led courses on healthcare finance, health regulation and planning, and health services. "Dr. Sager has utilized

CHIA data in his classrooms to help teach the next generation of public health leaders, and now, in a full-circle moment, he is bringing his extensive skillset to CHIA. Alan brings a wealth of knowledge to both CHIA and the Commonwealth. I look forward to Alan's contributions and CHIA's

continued work to make high-quality healthcare more accessible and affordable," said Auditor DiZoglio.

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For William "Billy" Tauro Mayor of Somerville




















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4	AND	\$74,200
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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

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Visit: somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing

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

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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:

2024-4 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 26 Merriam St. (located opposite 26 Merriam St.), 41 Montrose St.

2024-5 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Chestnut St nearest 20-100 Chestnut Street, from approximately 40 ft south of Poplar St to 680 ft south of Poplar St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-6 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the east side of Chestnut St nearest 20-100 Chestnut Street, from approximately 680 ft south of Poplar St to 700 ft south of Poplar St (public).

2024-7 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Chestnut St nearest opposite 20-100 Chestnut Street, from Poplar St to Chestnut St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-8 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Linwood St nearest 15-71 Linwood Street, from approximately 50 ft south of Poplar St to 620 ft south of Poplar St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-9 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Linwood St nearest 15-71 Linwood Street, from approximately 620 ft south of

Poplar St to Fitchburg St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to Permit Parking Only at all times.

2024-10 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Linwood St nearest 32 Linwood Street, from approximately 50 ft south of Poplar St to 610 ft south of Poplar St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-11 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Linwood St nearest 32 Linwood Street, from approximately 610 ft south of Poplar St to Fitchburg St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to Permit Parking Only at all times.

2024-12 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Inner Belt Rd, nearest 10 Inner Belt Rd, from approximately 20 ft south of Roland Street to approximately 360 ft south of Roland Street, convert unregulated spaces to 2 hour parking except by permit 8am-2:30am, and permit parking only 2:30am-8am.

2024-13 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Inner Belt Rd, from approximately 160 ft south of Washington Street to approximately 260 ft south of Washington Street, convert taxicab stand to No Parking Any Time (between the two curb cuts on Inner Belt Rd adjacent to 30 Washington Street).

2024-14 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Inner Belt Rd, from approximately 30 ft south of Washington Street to approximately 140 ft south of Washington Street, convert unregulated space to No Parking Any Time for the right turn lane (from Washington St to Roland Street, adjacent to the parking lot of 75 Crescent).

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 ADVERTISED: FEBRUARY 20, 2024
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 MARCH 5, 2024
 EFFECTIVE: MARCH 13, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

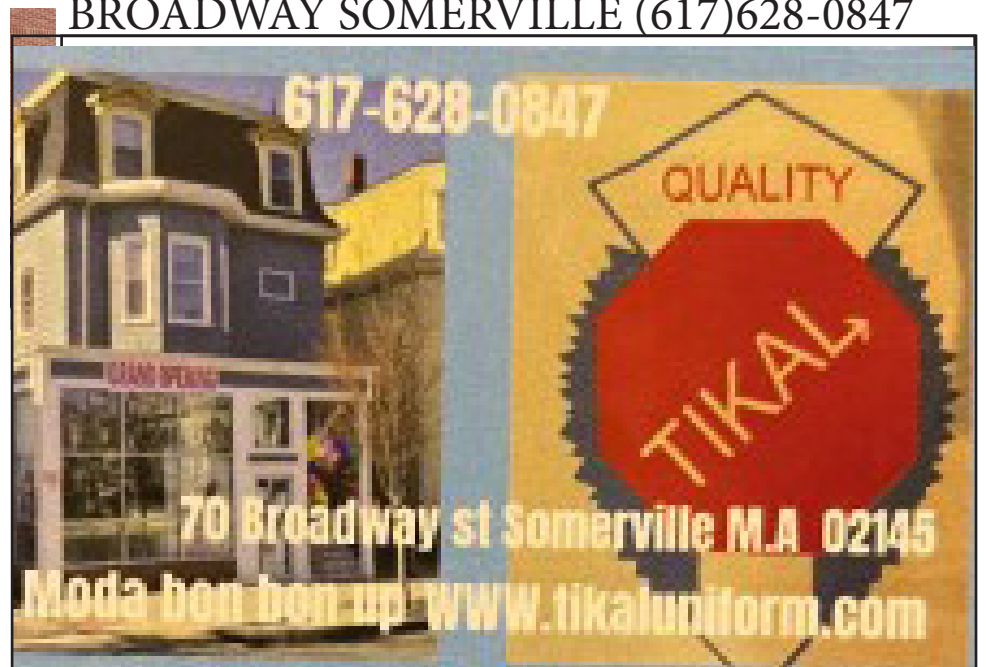
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INCREASE FINES FOR VIOLATING HANDICAPPED PARKING (H 3261)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would allow cities and towns to increase the current \$300 maximum fine for parking illegally in a parking space reserved for handicapped persons. That \$300 fine is

set by the state and goes into the municipalities' General Fund.

The measure would allow cities and towns to impose an additional \$450 fine – making the total fine \$750. The additional \$450 would be placed into a specialized

local account to be used for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades in the city or town where the violation occurred. The original \$300 fine would still go into the community's General Fund.

“In my district and across

the state, cities and towns through commissions on disabilities have plans to make their communities more accessible,” said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). “However, oftentimes a lack of funding prevents them from enacting their plans. This bill

allows them to place some of the financial burden on the backs of those who violate the laws that exist to protect the rights of people with disabilities, and to provide for greater opportunities of access.”

PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS, COSTS AND TRANSPARENCY (S 2520)

By Bob Katzen

On November 15, 2023, the Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would make major changes and reforms to the state's pharmaceutical system by “lowering the cost of drugs at the pharmacy counter and improving oversight of the pharmaceutical industry.”

“The Senate has made pharmaceutical cost containment and oversight a priority for a long time, and I'm proud that we've had the opportunity to pass this bill in three consecutive sessions, improving it as we learn more and more about the industry,” said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), Senate chair of the Com-

mittee on Health Care Financing. “While we are supportive of the work of the pharmaceutical industry, we also know that far too many Massachusetts residents are struggling to access lifesaving, essential medication due to outrageous and skyrocketing costs. [This legislation] will provide necessary transparency and oversight measures, so that consum-

ers can trust that this system is putting patients and their health before profits.”

“I am pleased the Senate has passed this crucial prescription drug legislation,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Healthcare is all about accessibility and affordability, and this reform-

minded consumer focused bill will allow increased access to prescription drugs while also considerably driving down the cost of everyday medications.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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The Project consists of but not limited to:
Construct new mailroom in apartment building lobby including walls, resilient flooring, acoustical ceiling tiles, new mailboxes, counter, cabinetry, trim, and new lighting. Demolish existing mailroom walls and finishes.

The work is estimated to cost \$58,000.00. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the

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All Bids shall be submitted online at www.bid-docs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.
CONTRACT REQUIREMENT: General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until 22 March

2024 on 3:00PM EDT and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

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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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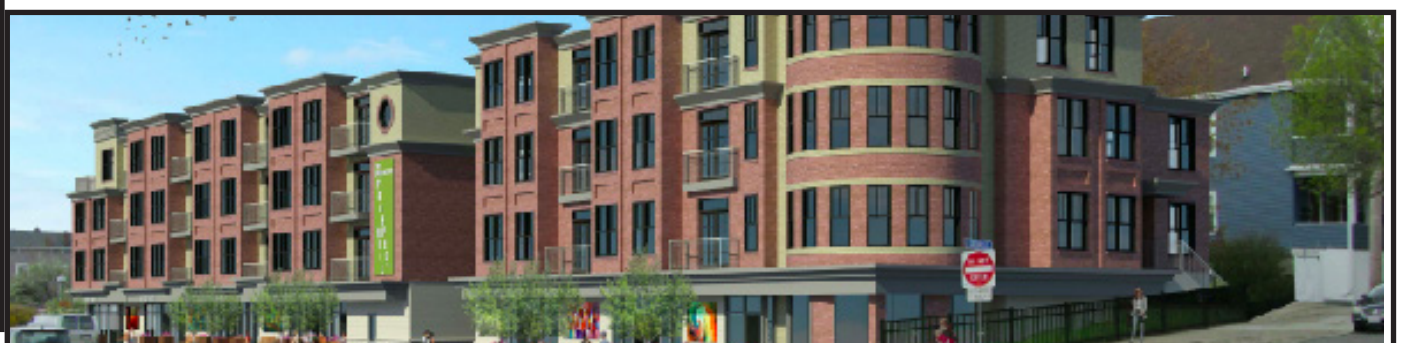
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CHANGES IN GUN LAWS(H 4139, S 2584)

By Bob Katzen	compromise version of dueling bills that would change some of the state's gun laws.	February 1 of this year approved different versions of the measure, leading to appointment of the conference committee.	Sens. Cindy (D-Newton), Joan Lovely (D-Salem) and Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) will represent the Senate while the House members will be Reps. Michael Day (D-Stoneham),	Carlos Gonzalez (D-Springfield) and Joseph McKenna (R-Webster).
The House and Senate each appointed their members of a conference committee which will attempt to hammer out a	The House on October 18 of last year and the Senate on			

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING PEACE DIPIRO

Obituary:	2024, she was 48.	and Albert DiPiro and the dear sister of the late John DiPiro.	nephew, Vincent Potter and his family of Brockton and by her many friends at Clarendon Hill Towers.	Services are private.
Ms. Peace DiPiro, of Somerville, passed away suddenly on February 23,	Born in Boston she was the cherished daughter of the late Hilda (Kanter)	Peace is survived by her		

MARIJUANA AND FIRST RESPONDERS (S 48)

By Bob Katzen	would require the Cannabis Control Commission and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to study and report to the Legislature on the barriers	that first responders face about their legal right to use cannabis.	ensure we do not hold on to pre-existing, bias-driven bans," said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "I filed [the bill] to investigate the existing barriers to first	responders' legal right to use cannabis ... The bill would also explore the effectiveness of cannabis in treating anxiety, depression, stress, PTSD and other traumas."
The Committee on Cannabis Policy has given a favorable report and recommended passage of a measure that		"As we move away from cannabis prohibition, we should		

MAKE OBTAINING ID CARDS EASIER FOR HOMELESS PERSONS (S 2251)

By Bob Katzen	ments when trying to obtain an ID card. They noted that this legislation removes those barriers by eliminating fees and only requiring that applicants present documentation showing that they are currently receiving services provided by the state, a homeless service provider or another service provider. They argued that ID cards are necessary for applying for jobs, enrolling	in school, interacting with law enforcement, accessing government buildings, opening financial accounts and many other basic services that many take for granted.	the Senate sponsor of the bill. "Having proper identification is the foundation to accessing food, shelter and employment opportunities, while also breaking the cycle of poverty."	and applying for services—the most basic of necessities. These barriers harm the most vulnerable people in our commonwealth and eliminating them is a compassionate step that makes the path to stability a little bit easier."
On July 27, 2023, the Senate 38-0, approved and sent to the House legislation that would make it easier for homeless youth and adults to secure free state ID cards.		"When we listen to our homeless youth about the challenges they face, there is a common denominator and that is access to identification," said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester),	"Fees and documentation are not just barriers to identification," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "By extension, they are barriers to getting a job, accessing healthcare	(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.) Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes
Supporters said that currently a person experiencing homelessness faces prohibitive fees and documentation require-				

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PROHIBIT USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (S 245)

By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee has given a favorable report to and recommended that the Legislature approve a proposal

would prohibit public schools from using an athletic team name, logo or mascot which is associated with Native Americans, or which denigrates any racial, ethnic, gender

or religious group. "I am pleased the bill was approved by the Education Committee," said Senate sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford

(D-Northampton). "This bill acknowledges the common humanity of all, corrects historical wrongs and addresses the profound psychological harm caused by perpetuating

racist stereotypes — harm caused to both people who are of Native American heritage and those who are not."

ADDRESS FOOD ALLERGIES IN SCHOOLS (S 150)

By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee has also given a favorable report to and recommended passage of legislation that would require every school district, approved private day or residential school and education collaborative that enrolls a student with a

life-threatening food allergy to develop and implement a Food Allergy Management and Prevention Plan.

The plan would include identifying students with known food allergies, strategies for reducing exposure to allergens and treating allergic reactions.

Another provision would require professional development related to food allergies for all school staff, including training on epinephrine administration for appropriate staff members.

Supporters said that currently, school districts are not required to have food allergy plans but

it is recommended that they do so.

"I'm thrilled that the bill received a favorable report from the Joint Committee on Education and will continue forward in the legislative process," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "This bill would

help ensure that Massachusetts children with food allergies have safe learning environments, both in the classroom and in the cafeteria."

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BEGINS Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The Senate kicked off Women's History Month on March 1 with the unveiling of a portrait of former First Lady and Massachusetts native Abigail Adams, the wife of President John Adams and an early advocate for women's rights and women's education who also opposed slavery.

Adams was an advocate for women's rights at a time in history when women were barred from voting or holding elected office. Adams famously told her husband, a delegate in the First Continental Congress, to "remember the ladies."

The portrait, unveiled by Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), will hang permanently in the Senate lobby.

"Centuries after Abigail Adams told the founders to 'remember the ladies,' we still have a long way to go to reach full equality when it comes to women's representation on Beacon Hill," said Spilka. "Either by accident or design, the many contributions of women who have shaped our commonwealth and our nation have been left out of the art here in the Statehouse. As we celebrate their achievements—and those of the strong women who lead

our government today—I am committed to ensuring that the halls of power change to reflect these women. As we unveil Adams, we are taking a meaningful step towards 'remembering the ladies' and making it clear that women belong here."

Spilka also announced the revival of the Senate Art Committee which was established in 1972, but has been dormant for many years, and the appointment of Sen. Julian Cyr (R-Truro) to head the committee. One of the committee's first order of business is to solicit nominations from residents for a woman to be honored with a bust in the

Senate Chamber. The committee is seeking nominees who are influential woman, with some ties to the Massachusetts, who have made historic contributions to the Bay State.

"The art that adorns the halls of the Statehouse should embody the values of Massachusetts and reflect who we are as a commonwealth," said Cyr. "Yet, as I come and go from my office, I often remark that the portraits, murals, and sculptures in our capital do not encompass the richness of our history and the diversity of our communities. I am thrilled and honored to lead a renewed Senate Arts Committee, one that will work to ex-

pand inclusivity and representation in the art that beautifies the Statehouse. As an LG-BTQ+ person, I understand how integral it is to see people like yourself represented in spaces of power. As we solicit submissions for a sculpture of a trailblazing woman to join the all-male busts in the Senate chamber, I am excited to see the remarkable names that will be put forward."

A website will soon go online to accept

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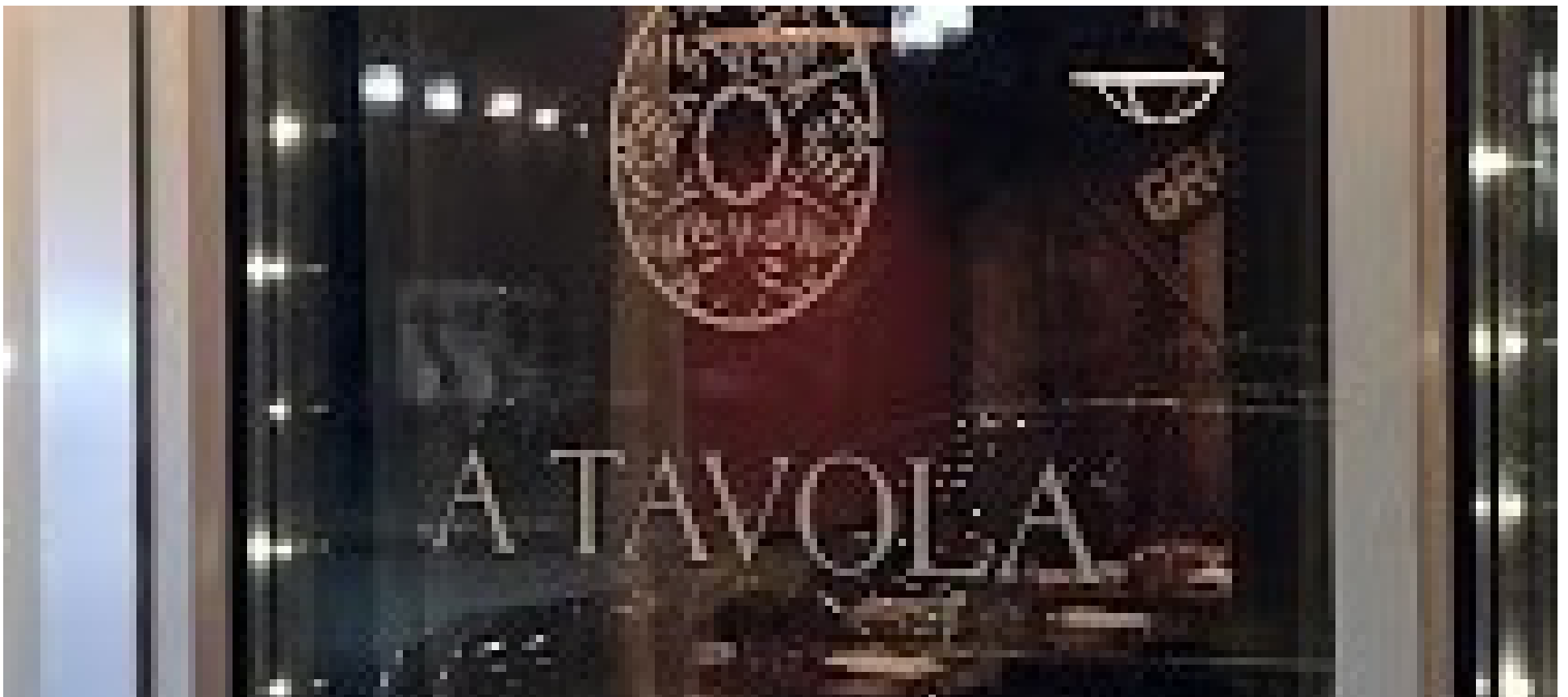
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