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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday April 9th, 2024

MAYOR BALLANTYNE INVITES LOCAL TEENS TO APPLY FOR MAYOR'S 2024 SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP





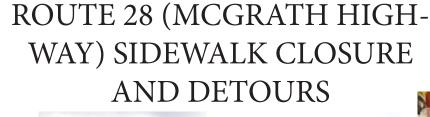


Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page

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John's





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Continued to page 11

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING RETIRED SOMERVILLE FIREFIGHTER **WILLIAM F. GRIFFITHS**



Continuded to page 17

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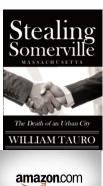


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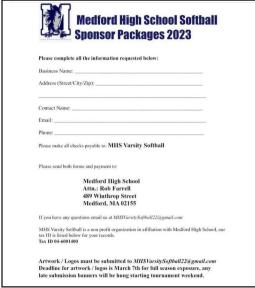
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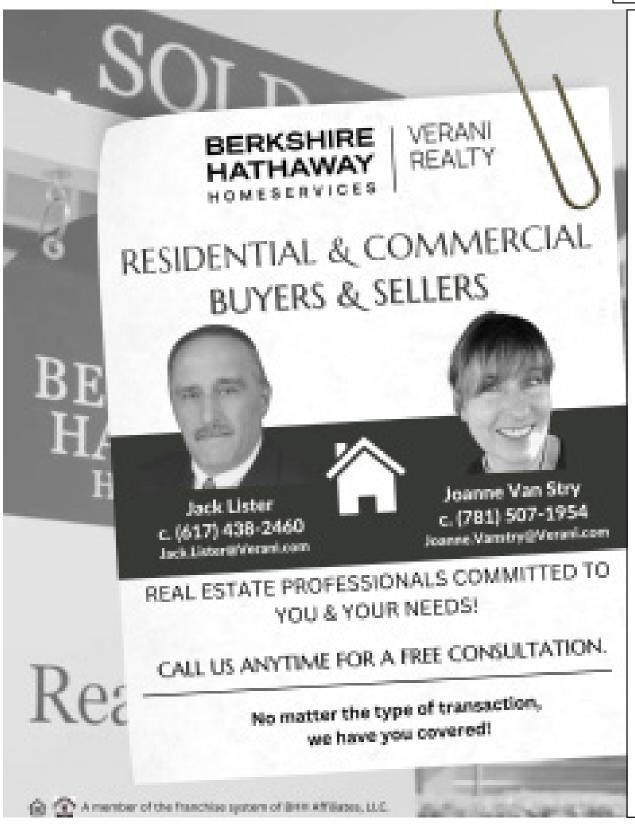
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CURBSIDE YARD WASTE PICKUP RESUMES WEEK OF APRIL 15 IN SOMERVILLE



Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Pickup on one-day delay all week due to Patriot's Day Holiday

on Monday

SOMERVILLE-Somerville's yard waste pickup begins for the season the week of April 15th. That

collection is on a one-day delay due to the Patriots' Day Holiday on Monday, April 15, so put all trash, recycling, and yard waste

out one day later than you normally would. A full yard waste calendar is available at somervillema.gov/yardwaste and is also in the Environmental Service Guide mailed to all households this month.

Yard waste should be put out with your trash and

recycling on your normal pickup day. Yard waste either be in a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Stickers are available free of charge at the DPW Building, 1 Franey Road, or the entrance desk at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. To request a sticker be mailed to you, please call

311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov.

For more information on yard waste pickup, visit somervillema.gov/yardor call 311 (617-666-3311).

MAYOR BALLANTYNE INVITES LOCAL TEENS TO APPLY FOR

MAYOR'S 2024 SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM Continued from front page



SOMERVILLE - Applications are now open for the City of Somerville Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne encourages all interested

local teens to apply. Interested teens can apply online now at somervillema.gov/summerjobs.

Applications are due by Sunday, April 28. All applicants will be interviewed the week of May 13.

About the Mayor's Summer Job Program

Every summer, the City of Somerville hires local teens to work with a variety of City departments, such as the Recreation Department, the Office of Sustainability, Parks and Open Space, the public libraries and more. Students are also placed

with local businesses that partner with the program. The program encourages career exploration and

skill development and fosters deeper connections with the Somerville community.

Applicants must be at least 14 years old by May 5, 2024, and either be enrolled in a Somerville school. or be a Somerville resident. The time commitment is approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks starting in July,

though actual schedules will vary by job site placement. The program will require onboarding and orientation. All positions are paid. The hourly rate is \$17.72.

If you have any additional questions, please contact summerjobs@somervillema.gov.

\$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4529)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-0. approved and sent to the Senate a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The \$375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$175 million for several transportation-related grant programs.

The programs funded by the \$175 million include the municipal small bridge program;

the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; and grants for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the commonwealth's public transportation, roads, and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for regional infrastructure that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for the

purchasing of electric vehicles by transit authorities."

"The Legislature continues to be responsive to the transportation needs of our towns and cities," said Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), House Chair of the Transportation Committee. "This legislation demonstrates a commitment to funding for local transportation projects with again, our new program especially for funding to rural towns. I am pleased to support this important piece of legislation which provides more tools for towns to tackle their project backlog in time for the new fiscal year starting in July."

"The ... program is an important state-municipal partnership that provides a vital revenue source to help cities and towns maintain local roads and bridges," said House GOP Minority Leader Brad Jones. "With this funding, communities can address their local transportation infrastructure needs and priorities on an annual basis. The bill also provides funding for several municipal grant programs that offer additional resources to assist cities and towns in carrying out critical transportationrelated initiatives."

Adam Chapdelaine, CEO of the Mass Municipal Association, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him if he supports the funding as is or would like to have seen it increased. Ex-CEO Geoff Beckwith often urged the House and Senate to substantially increase the amount of funding.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$375 million package.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

BAN COAL ROLLING (H 1698)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would prohibit anyone driving a diesel-powered vehicle from releasing significant quantities of soot, smoke or other particular emissions that obstruct or obscure another driver's view of the roadway. The measure also bans anyone from retrofitting a diesel-powered vehicle with a device, smokestack or other equipment that enhances the vehicle's capacity to emit these

pollutants. Violators would be fined from \$100 to \$1,000.

"Coal rolling ... is the practice of deliberately emitting soot from the modified exhaust pipes of a diesel-powered truck that can be directed at other vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians and pose a serious danger as the black smoke can intentionally impair visibility" said sponsor Rep. Brian Murray (D-Milford). "It serves no useful purpose and is clearly harmful to the environment, as well as associ-

ated with known health risks and respiratory issues. This bill would make it unlawful to add equipment to a vehicle for coal rolling and subject those who may continue this practice to a penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000."

ICE CREAM TRUCKS (H 3471)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would amend a four-decade old law that requires an amber dome light and the flashing orange lights on the back of

ice cream trucks when the truck is parked and serving ice cream. The bill would provide that the law be enforced and would impose a \$50 fine for failure to have the lights. It would also require that the operation of the lights be included as

part of the truck's annual inspec-

Supporters say that although these trucks that serve frozen desserts are required under current law to use these lights ... the requirement as

written includes no enforcement mechanism. They said it is time to enforce this law which saves lives and prevents injuries.

Sponsor Rep. Tom Vitolo (D-Brookline) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on why he filed the bill and how he feels about its initial approval.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: WHY IS MY WATER BILL SO HIGH?

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

I really hate this Mayor so I just got a water bill in the mail. They replaced the water meters and they're charging us \$2,000 for them. Is this normal did you get the same bill in the mail?

Yes the elderly like my mother cannot afford this. My name is on the house as well so I do help pay half the bills but this is fuc&@%#* ridiculous!

Billy's response:

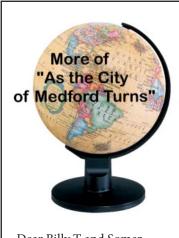
Dear &@%#*, They sent everyone the same bill with the lame excuse saying the old meters weren't working properly so they estimated this year's bill causing everyone to be outraged. I've been advising everybody to abate/appeal

Please feel free to write me a letter to the editor and I'll put it in the news for you.

Best regards, Billy T



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: MORE OF "AS THE CITY OF MEDFORD TURNS"



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

Well, it was crowded, heckled (not the best defense) and vocal at the podium as appx 100 congregated again at City Council. On Tuesday night, it seemed two issues caused reactions from the public, seemingly mostly taxpayers. One Councilwoman, Anna Callahan, had Agenda 24-059 – trying to create a conversation (beginning a bad end in sheep's clothing) titled "Resolution to Create a Rental Registry"the City "has climate sustainability affordable housing, and other goals that would be easier to accomplish if we could reach either renters or landlords in our city, and..."

First and foremost, what does someone's identity have to do with climate change?? Maybe this Councilwoman should work with the poor dears (meant sincerely)at the border breaking in with disease, no hygiene facilities while waiting for 2-3 days, no vaccines, lice, drugs, and hunger and Register them quicker so these effects do not spread to the neighbor states. The implication was if a tenant or a landlord is reported to have trash, bad grounds, loud behavior, etc. the City can reach them.

Well, we already pay some taxes and identities to the Census Dept and the forms, the Registrar of Voters, Assessors, CPA; this idea couples with a "rental licensing ordinance with efficiency standards..." Many disenchanted residents spoke – many new and long time landlords citing issues good/bad with tenants, not comfortable sending info on a tenant with NO details on Agneda-they do not have them yet...WHAT IS IT DO-ING ON AN AGENDA...

oh, another episode of cat and mouse.

First, what makes a Registry with tenant information (maybe violating a privacy law depending on questions) guarantee reaching a tenant? or force them to respond? Second, as said, we already have efficient ways to gain info from residents in the City.

There are too many loops for me: the City of Lynn was brought up be the Councilwoman a few times - this is not Lynn with dissimilar problems. Council suggested also that our public podium time be limited to 3 minutes with a total of 90 mins. Yet, due to a meaningless "start of conversation" on the Agenda item, the poor Public had to hear from a few of Council stating they were "disappointed" with public response, and pressing that we learn part of the system... amounting ALL to 2+ hours!. It passsed! Whose system?

In my last article, I mentioned 6 members of our seven ran on A CARD AS A GROUP – mob mentality; same philosophy basically – 'cause I would not run a in a group who did not think as I think, would you? As a dole, handout Councilor Tseng asked that we plebeians receive 3 minutes. This whole Registry scenario took 2 hours of OUR time....we will get only 3 minutes.

How about the prevention of falls to discuss? There are numerous cases that victims collected from the City in the past few years. After my bad fall, by which I broke my 2 front teeth and damaged a knee, I received a ttl of \$600 damages in compensation after I paid the Esthetic DMD and an orthopedist and a lawyer. VERY FEW SMALL ITEMS HAVE concentrated on a benefit to residents thus far in 2024. worse, there were 17 cases that year and 1 year later that sidewalk was replaced. We want healthy movement...not a philosophic end to be fulfilled most of what I observed in the past few months can lower home value, lower business and Realtor income and desire, comm development including Affordable! but, maybe, that is the goal...Wow,

all this leads to an influx of buyers who want cheaper homes!

Any which way, the Group – Our Revolution, will then gain their end of LOTS of Affordable apts and homes!

A big message from the Public and reflected on by Council especially George Sciarpelli is these Agenda items TAKE NEEDLESS time from the floor, Public, and the new Councilors DO NOT HEAR US. They passed it anyway... Apparently, after Collins and others said they hear us, THAT IS A LIE. Again, I say watch 2 Tuesday mtgs/month/CH 22/ 7PM or go to a meeting. You pay TAX for the seat either way HA AT LEAST VOTE!!

Thank you for your time, Sharon Deyeso, Longtime, Concerned Resident Medford, MA

FREE PARKING FOR VETERANS (H 3533)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would allow cities and towns to restrict two parking spaces in off street parking lots, large retail parking lots and

parking garages to parking for veterans only – as long as the lot has more than 1,000 parking spaces.

Municipalities would be required to erect a sign that reads as follows: "Veteran

parking Only. This space is reserved for those who have served. Unauthorized vehicles may be removed at the vehicle owner's expense."

Violators would be fined \$100 and cities and towns

would be allowed to tow the offending vehicles at the owners' expense.

"Supporting veterans is a fundamental duty and reserving parking spaces for them through this bill is a modest way to show our gratitude" said sponsor Sen. Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). "It's a small step, but it reflects our ongoing commitment to honor their service."

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THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

By Bob Katzen

"Our administration is deeply committed not only to preventing overdoses in our state, but also providing the incredible organizations doing the work in communities with the tools they need to improve health outcomes and save lives. By investing in these diverse organizations now, we are laying the foundation for them to have the resources they need to address the overdose crisis appropriately and quickly in the future."

—Gov. Maura Healey announcing the awarding of \$2.9 million to 20 organizations led by Black, Indigenous and people of color to address substance use in the communities they serve, which continue to be disproportionately impacted by increases in overdoses.

"We see the impact of the overdose epidemic every day — thousands are dying every year in Massachusetts from preventable overdoses, and we need to utilize every tool we

have to address the crisis. Overdose prevention centers are proven, evidence-based facilities that can save lives and connect people to health care, treatment and recovery and their community."

—Dave Foley, President of

SEIU Local 509 announcing support for establishing overdose prevention centers in the Bay State.

"We urge everyone to be vigilant when performing transactions or providing information online for RMV-related services. Customers should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites claiming to assist with RMV services and inform their relatives and friends about this as well."

—Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie.

"Solar power is clean, local and abundant and is already playing a leading role in Massachusetts' transition away from dirty energy sources. Gov. Healey's leadership in setting an ambitious yet achievable goal of 1 million solar roofs by 2030 will help turbocharge solar in Massachusetts."

— Johanna Neumann, Acting Director of Environment Massachusetts, urging Healey and Climate Chief Hoffer to make solar energy a key part of Massachusetts' strategy to address climate change.

MEDFORD POLICE RESPOND TO ANIMAL CRUELTY CALL

This morning at approximately 11 a.m., officers responded to the area of Fellsway West and Sheridan Ave for a report of animal cruelty involving a man who was walking a group of dogs. According to witnesses, the man struck one of the dogs multiple times in the head and then lifted the dog off the ground by its collar in a harmful manner. One witness provided video evidence

to the officers, allowing them to identify the suspect.

The officers then responded to the suspect's home, where he was taken into custody.

Frederick Ingrando, 33, of Medford, was arrested and charged with Animal Cruelty.

The dogs, not owned by Mr. Ingrando who is a hired dog-

walker, were removed and are in a safe location awaiting pick up by their owners. The dog that was struck was taken to a local veterinarian to be evaluated.

This investigation is still ongoing.



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!

For new membership call (781)395-2519





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State of A Tavola:

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

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

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

If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families please reach out and we will do our best to help. Whether it be recipe ideas with random things you might have purchased or if you run out of something that you need that we can help with please don't hesitate to ask.

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

Thank you for your continued support.



SUSTAINAVILLE WEEK 2024: CELEBRATE CLIMATE ACTION IN SOMERVILLE, APRIL 20-27



Week of Events Features Release of Updated Community Climate Action Plan, Bike Clinic, Miyawaki Forest Tour, and More

All Events Are Free and Family Friendly

SOMERVILLE – Join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment for a series of free and family friendly events and interactive activities to celebrate SustainaVille Week, April 20-27, an annual celebration of climate action in Somerville during the week of Earth Day.

See the full schedule of events online here: http://www.somervillema.gov/sustainaville-

week.

"Whether it's planting a pollinator garden, advocating to decarbonize new construction in our area, recycling, or investing in sustainability initiatives, every day the City and Somerville community work together to help protect our planet," said Mayor Ballantyne. "This year's SustainaVille Week is especially exciting as community members can review the City's updated Climate Forward plan that will help us maintain a strong, healthy community in the face of climate change while simultaneously reducing climate pollution and our dependence on fossil fuels. I look forward to seeing everyone to celebrate what we have achieved and inspire the hard work ahead of us as we continue fighting climate change."

The 2024
SustainaVille Week
lineup features a community celebration for
the updated community
climate action plan, the
Climate Forward plan.

Get inspired by interactive art that explores our shared climate resilient vision. The event is free, open to all, and family friendly. The event will include interactive art, light refreshments, and live music.

Check out highlights of the schedule below:

Pollinators, Plants, and Possibilities, Saturday, April 20

10 a.m.-1 p.m.: Groundwork Somerville's South Street Farm (138 South Street)

2 p.m.-4 p.m.: Somerville Community Growing Center (22 Vinal Ave)

Join us for a fun day of family friendly activities, including seed plantings, composting demos, arts &

crafts, and live music. Language support will be available for Spanish and Portuguese, and other languages upon request.

Youth Led Bike Clinic, Monday, April 22, 6-8 p.m., The Dojo @ Somernova (15 Properzi Way) Bring your bike and get it tuned up by the Groundwork Somerville Bike Team!

Pollinator Action Table at West Branch, Tuesday, April 23, 4-6 p.m., West Branch Library (40 College Ave.)

Learn about the Pollinator Action Plan and ways to explore the biodiversity in your neighborhood at this information table.

Imaging Climate Forward 2050, Wednesday, April 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Greentown Labs (444 Somerville Ave.)

Step into Somerville in 2050 where we have succeeded in creating a climate forward community! Get inspired by interactive art that explores our shared climate resilient vision.

Join the City of Somerville for the release of its updated community climate action plan – the Climate Forward plan. The event is open to all and is family friendly. The event will include interactive art, light refreshments, and live music.

Registration recommended but not required: greentownlabs.com/ event/imagining-climate-forward-2050/

Miyawaki Forest Tour, Thursday, April 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Behind Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Come explore the Miyawaki forest seedlings and learn about the city's urban tree canopy.

Civic Day, Saturday, April 27, 12-4 p.m., City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)

Learn about local government, programs, services, and ways to get involved!

MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE INVITES COMMUNITY TO JOIN THE WEST BROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13



Open House Will Showcase Proposed Street Safety Improvements and Collect Neighborhood Feedback

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld, and the City of Somerville Office of Mobility are inviting the community to an open house to discuss proposed new designs for Broadway between Clarendon Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway. The event will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd).

The City of Somerville is planning to reconstruct sidewalks and repave Broadway between Clarendon Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway (Route 16). The City is taking this opportunity to redesign the street to make it safer for all people whether they are

walking or wheeling, cycling, taking the bus, or driving.

In the fall of 2023, community members shared their transportation safety concerns through a range of channels, including street outreach, community meetings, and a survey. The project team reviewed all feedback and has developed a new conceptual design for the street. Attend the open house to review this conceptual design, share your feedback, and ask staff questions. Refreshments and games will be provided.

Following the event, a recorded presentation and information about the conceptual design will be available on the project website. Additional opportunities for community members to share feedback will include an online survey and virtual office hours with Mobility Division staff on April 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Questions and comments can also be submitted by emailing transportation@somervillema.gov and by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

Visit

somervillema.gov/westbroadway to learn more about the project and stay up to date.

This project is one of a series of actions the City is undertaking in pursuit of our Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and series injuries from our roadways. Final designs are currently anticipated to be completed by early 2025. Construction is anticipated to take place 2025-2026. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change.

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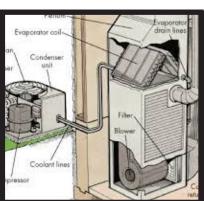
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Instant Shoe and Luggage Repair is located on the corner of Broadway and Mt. Vernon Street, just before the I-93 overpass and only a few blocks from Sullivan Station.

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



SOMERVILLE STREET SWEEPING RESUMES MONDAY, APRIL 1



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Parking Department are reminding all residents that regular street sweeping schedules officially resume Monday, April 1, and will continue through December 31, 2024.

Somerville's street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains.

Residents and community members can check street signs to know when parking is unavailable due to sweeping. A recurring pattern was chosen in order to allow residents to plan ahead.

Find Your Street Sweeping Schedule & Avoid Parking Tickets
On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street.

The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the street sweeping schedule in areas where

they park. The best way to do this is to read the signs on the street when you park. You can also sign up for street sweeping reminders.

Sign Up for Street Sweeping Reminders
You can use the Somerville Waste Wizard below to find out when your street is being swept. Sign up to receive complimentary street sweeping notifications by selecting "Sign Up for Reminders."

Sign up for reminders

here: somervillema.gov/departments/sweeping

Please remember that this is a courtesy service that may experience technical problems; it remains the drivers' responsibility to follow the posted signs and move their vehicle on time.

For more information regarding street sweeping procedures, visit parksomerville.com or call 311 (617-666-3311).

JOIN THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



SOMERVILLE – The Somerville Public Library Board of Trustees is actively seeking one enthusiastic individual to join their ranks, and we welcome applications from all Somerville residents. This is a chance for community members with diverse experiences, skills, and perspectives to contribute their passion for libraries to our vibrant community.

What is the Somerville
Public Library Board of
Trustees?
As the governing body
of the Somerville Public Library, the Board of
Trustees collaborates with
the Library Director to
oversee operational and
administrative policies.
In addition to providing

essential guidance, Trustees actively support the library through strategic planning, advocacy, public relations, and outreach efforts.

Who Can Join? The open position available to any Somerville resident 18 or older who is passionate about libraries and want to contribute to their growth.

What is the Time Commitment?

The Board typically meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. As a Trustee, you will be appointed by the Mayor to serve a three-year term in a volunteer capacity.

How Do I Apply? Applications are due by the end of the day on Monday, April 15, 2024. What should I include in the application? A brief statement of interest: Please briefly explain why you would like to join the committee and how you feel you can support its work.

You may apply by email, U.S. Mail, or drop off your application: Email to Cathy Piantigini, Director of Libraries, cpiantigini@somervillema. gov

Mail to Cathy Piantigini, Director of Libraries, Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143

CHANGE ARCHAIC LANGUAGE REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (H 4396)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-0. approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would modernize and remove archaic language in state laws to reflect the evolution of terminology relating to persons with disabilities.

Changes include replacing "handicapped persons" with "persons with disabilities," replacing "the mentally retarded" with "persons with an intellectual disability," replacing "retarded children" with "children with an intellec-

tual disability" and replacing "disabled American veterans" with "American veterans with disabilities."

Supporters said the primary objective of the bill is to identify and eliminate outdated, archaic language from the General Laws of Massachusetts and replace it with more respectful, personfirst language. They noted that once the archaic language was found, they contacted the relevant state agency or office to confirm that the bill would have no unforeseen conse-

quences, such as impacting funding or access to services.

"Today with the passage of this legislation, the commonwealth is taking a critical step toward fostering inclusivity and upholding our long-held principles of dignity and respect for all who call the commonwealth home," said Rep. Mike Finn (D-West Springfield), a lead sponsor of the bill. "We can all celebrate that it is long past time for the commonwealth to update its General Laws, ensuring that no individual is subjected to

negative and harmful language."

"Removing out-of-date, antiquated and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws to describe people with disabilities is an important step in ensuring that our values, as a commonwealth, are also reflected in statute," said Rep. Jay Livingstone (D-Boston), House Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. "As legislators, it is our job to help make sure that people with intellectual or developmental disabilities feel included, accepted and embraced for who they are, and this is an important step in doing so."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

ROUTE 28 (MCGRATH HIGHWAY) SIDEWALK CLOSURE AND DETOURS

Continued from front page



Starting Monday morning, April 8, sidewalk detours between Third Street and Rufo Road

CAMBRIDGE/SOMER-VILLE – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass-DOT) is announcing daytime construction operations for concrete sidewalk repairs on Route 28 (McGrath Highway) southbound in Cambridge and Somerville between Third Street and Rufo Road. Detours will start Monday, April 8 at 6:30 a.m. and remain in place for approximately one month.

Inbound pedestrian detour:

Pedestrians from Rufo Road will be redirected to the Route 28 northbound sidewalk, turn right onto the northbound sidewalk, continue south, turn right at Third Street, cross Route 28, and back onto the southbound sidewalk.

Outbound pedestrian detour:

Pedestrians from the southbound sidewalk will turn right at Third Street, cross Route 28, turn left onto the northbound sidewalk, continue north, turn left at Rufo Road, cross Route 28, and back onto the southbound sidewalk.

The work is being conducted as part of a \$15.6 million project to perform bridge repairs, paving and other related work on 1.5 miles of Monsignor O'Brien/McGrath Highway, Route 28, between Cambridge and Somerville.

All work is weather permitting and may change without notice.

Signs and traffic control devices will be used to guide pedestrians around the work zone.

Those traveling through the area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www. mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Follow MassDOT on X

@MassDOT to receive

and traffic conditions.

regular updates on road

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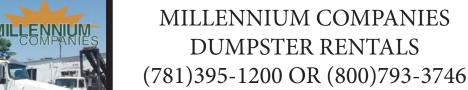














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William "Billy" Tauro For South Middlesex County Registrar Of Deeds



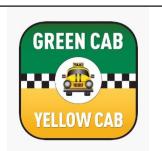




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The makers of "Premiere on Broadway" now brings you another Somerville hotspot! Public Tavern at 565 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145 is now open! Only on Broadway in Somerville! A great place for all! It's a great place to sit down, have a few adult beverages, enjoy your favorite game and enjoy some good food, and some friendly local conversation!



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The Somerville/MedfordNews Weekly











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

300 Somerville Ave., Somerville &







Features: shared deck space

Min. & Max. Income Limits					
Household Size	Min. Income*	Tier 1 (50% AMI) Maximum Income Limits			
2	227.040.00 (200.0	\$59,400			
3	\$37,848.00 (300 Somerville Ave.)	\$66,800			
4	AND	\$74,200			
5	640,090 (124 Calland Alla)	\$80,150			
6	\$40,080 (124 College Ave.)	\$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

 $\textbf{Request hard applications and more information at: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 \ or \ \underline{inclusionary@somervillema.gov}$

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

<u>VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS</u>: Thurs. @ 5:30-7:30 PM

Online: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/591022621 Call in: +1 (872) 240-3412 / Access code: 591-022-621

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: linclusionary@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.



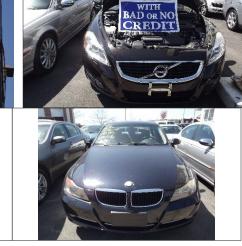






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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL

ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS

THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING: 2024-15 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 12 Westwood Rd, 42 Oliver St.

2024-16 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the north side of Bow Street, nearest 71 Bow Street, 112 feet west of Bow Street Place to 72 feet west of Bow Street Place.

2024-17 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time at the two parking spaces on Fairfax St. along the side of 357 Alewife Brook Parkway.

Metrics	Criteria	Criteria Met?	
Traffic Calming Me	trics		
Prevailing Speeds	85 th percentile speed exceeds 20 mph	Y/N	
Street Width	Paved width of street does not exceed 40 feet	Y/N	
Minimum Traffic	Average Daily Traffic of at least 800		
Volume	vehicles per day	Y/N	
Public Support	At least 33% of residents, or 9 residents, support petition.	Y/N	
Priority Considerati	ions		
Prevailing Speeds	85 th percentile speed exceeds 25 mph	Y/N	
Adjacent Land Use	Street serves or is adjacent to a school, public space, senior center, affordable housing or building of worship.	Y/N	
Neighborway	Street identified as Neighborway in Somerville's Bicycle Network Plan	Y/N	
Upcoming Street	Street is adjacent to an upcoming	1/11	
Reconstruction	street is adjacent to an upcoming	Y/N	
Totals	Traffic Calming Metrics Met	<u>?/4</u>	
	Priority Considerations Met	?/4	

2024-18 Article XIV Section 14-2 is amended with the addition of the following language: Traffic Calming Petition - A petition indicating at least 9 residents, or 33% of the residents on the street (whichever is lower) support the implementation of a traffic calming device. 2024-19 Article XIV Section 14-3 is amended as follows: replace the current Warrants for Article XIV Installation table with "Proposed Traffic Calming Assessment Table - The City uses several metrics to assess the general characteristics of streets and the potential viability of traffic calming measures. A second group of metrics helps document priority considerations. Each metric is assigned a "Yes" or "No" designation. Metrics are described in more detail below."

2024-20 Article XIV Section 14-3 is amended as follows: replace the current Priority Ranking System language with "The above recommended metrics for Article XIV installation include a total of four thresholds and four priority considerations. The above analysis is used to direct data collection efforts to evaluate the proposed Traffic Calming Petition. After data collection, the proposed street is added to the traffic calming consideration list where it is evaluated alongside other traffic calming needs based on bi-annual data collection, community feedback, and staff recommendations. Traffic calming is also often implemented in pavement and sidewalk reconstruction projects through the City's Pavement Resurfacing Program. The length of time it takes to process a request and provide a recommendation, is subject to spring and fall data collection and the volume of requests. Streets at the top of the prioritization list will be more likely to receive funding and will be treated first.

2024-21 Article XIV Section 14-4 is amended as follows: replace the current Neighborhood Traffic Management Process with "(a) A resident alerts the City to a problem area, this can be done through methods such as contacting the City's 311 Services, emailing the Mobility Division, providing feedback as part of a project outreach process, or via a Councilor.

(b) Neighbors complete a petition (Traffic Calming Request Form, included in Appendix B) including a written description of the location of concern and requires the signatures of at least 9 residents, or 33% of the residents on the impacted street(s) (whichever is lower). Upon submission, the petition will be verified with City records to validate the residency status of the petitioners. The petition must be signed by the inhabitants of households who legally reside on the street. Only one handwritten signature per household will be considered.

(c) Once the petition is verified, the City will collect data in order to prepare an analysis evaluating the criteria for implementation.

(d) After data collection, the proposed street is added to the traffic calming consideration list where it is evaluated alongside traffic calming needs based on bi-annual data collection, constituent requests, and staff recommendations.

(e) The Traffic Commission votes to adopt, reject or modify the recommendations made by the City, if there are impacts to regulations under Traffic Commission's purview (for example, impacts to curb-side parking).

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Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/02/24, 04/09/24, 04/16/24

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MAYOR BALLANTYNE INVITING SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY TO SPRING CIVIC DAY CELEBRATION



Join Family-Friendly Activities and Games to Learn About Local Government & Services on Saturday, April 27

SOMERVILLE – Mayor

Katjana Ballantyne invites community members to attend the city's spring Civic Day celebration on Saturday, April 27, from noon to 4 p.m. at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) and on the City Hall concourse.

Civic Day aims to provide community members of all ages with fun, interactive opportunities to learn about City government, programs, services, and ways to get involved.

Currently planned activities include lawn games, face painting, trivia, City Hall scavenger hunts, and exploring a Somerville Fire Truck. Stay tuned to the City website and social media channels for updates on programming.

The City Hall concourse will be closed to vehicular traffic. Temporary handicap parking will be available along Highland Avenue near the concourse. In the event of inclement weather, all outdoor activities will be moved inside to Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.)

Multilingual staff from the

SomerViva: Office of Immigrant Affairs will be present to offer language support for residents who may need assistance connecting with city departments.

For more information, please contact Victoria MacGregor at vmacgregor@ somervillema.gov or visit somervillema.gov/civicday

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL APPROVES GOV. HEALEY'S PARDON OF MISDEMEANOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION

By Bob Katzen

The Governor's Council unanimously approved Gov. Maura Healey's executive order that pardons misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions that occurred in Massachusetts before March 14, 2024. The pardons will apply to thousands of people who were convicted of the offense which is no longer an offense. The Bay State decriminalized marijuana possession in 2008 and then

legalized it on a ballot question in 2016.

In October 2022, President Biden issued a presidential proclamation that pardoned many federal and D.C. offenses for simple marijuana possession. In December 2023, he expanded that pardon to include more offenses and issued a call for governors to take action to pardon marijuana convictions in their states.

"Massachusetts made history today,' said Gov. Maura Healey. "Thousands of Massachusetts residents will now see their records cleared of this charge, which will help lower the barriers they face when seeking housing, education or a job ... I'm proud that Massachusetts was able to answer his call to action in this momentous way. I hope that other states will follow our lead as we work together to make our communities more fair and equitable."

"People in every community across the state, especially Black and Brown people, who were disproportionately charged with marijuana-related crimes over the years will no longer be punished for something that is now legal in our state," said Carol Rose, executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. "Let's be clear: Tens of thousands of people in Massachusetts will now get a second chance and will face fewer barriers to

housing, jobs, education, student loans and stability."

"Massachusetts changed state laws around marijuana possession and this proposal is based on the simple premise of fairness and equity that a person should not bear the mark of conviction for an offense that is no longer a state crime," said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden

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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING RETIRED SOMERVILLE FIREFIGHTER WILLIAM F. GRIFFITHS Contined from front page

Photos provided by Somerville Firefighters Local 76

By William Tauro

Sadly shortly after nearly one month ago celebrating William F. Griffiths's 100th Birthday, he is being laid to rest!

Retired Somerville Firefighter William Griffiths "Bill" retired in 1982 and was a proud member of Engine Company 2 running out of the Cross Street Firehouse then moving with the company to open their "new" quarters at Headquarters on Broadway.

Bill was a member of The Greatest Generation who served his country during World War 2 in the United States Marine Corps. He was assigned to the 1st Tank Battalion and he fought at Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and was later wounded on Okinawa. After the War, Bill returned to his hometown Somerville and joined to Department.

It was great to see current and retired members of the Somerville Fire Department to have had the opportunity to stop by and wish Bill a Happy 100th!

Obituary:

Representing the "Greatest Generation" with humility, honor and pride William (Bill) F. Griffiths, affectionately known as Bill, a beloved member of the Somerville community, passed away on March 28, 2024, at the age of

Born on February 20, 1924, to the late Mary Margaret (Nolan) and Ambrose Griffiths, Bill grew up alongside his late siblings Ambrose Griffiths, Marguerite (Griffiths) Knight, and Thomas Paul Griffiths.

Bill's life was defined by his unwavering commitment to service and sacrifice. After proudly serving his country during World War II as a corporal in the USMC First Division, where he fought in pivotal battles such as Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, and Okinawa, Bill received a Purple

Heart and other medals for his role in the Battle of Okinawa. He returned to marry the love of his life, Florence "Jo" Wilcox Griffiths,

Together, they shared 55 years of love and companionship, raising a family and building a life rooted in dedication to others.

In civilian life, Bill continued his legacy of service by joining the Somerville Fire Department. A proud member of Engine Company 2, Bill served with honor and distinction for 32 years before retiring in 1982.

His contributions to the department and the community were exemplary, earning him the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

Bill is predeceased by his son Nolan Paul Griffiths and survived by William T. Griffiths and his wife Patricia of Billerica, Lee Ann Griffiths and her husband Joseph Carbone of Canton, Dan Griffiths and his wife Margaret of West Brookfield, Linda Griffiths of Revere and Jean Giurleo and

her husband Tony of Med-

Bill wasContinued from front page courage, honor, and compassion. His memory will forever be cherished by his family, friends, and the Somerville community, serving as an enduring reminder of the profound impact one individual can have through a lifetime of service and sacrifice.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on THURSDAY, April 4th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. A Prayer service will be held in the funeral home at 12:30PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

An urn burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Bill's name to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516





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 $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\}$ Somerville is overwhelming.

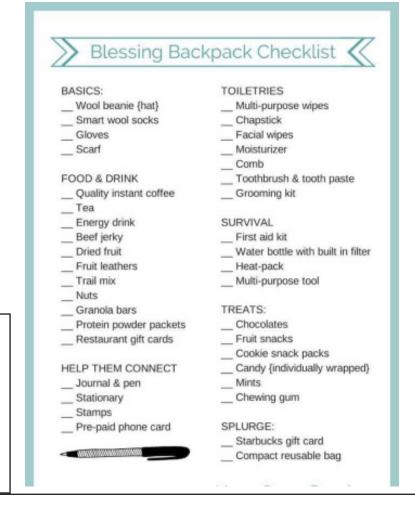
Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the homeless and less fortunate.

A "Somerville Blessing Boxes" Facebook page has been established keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free the 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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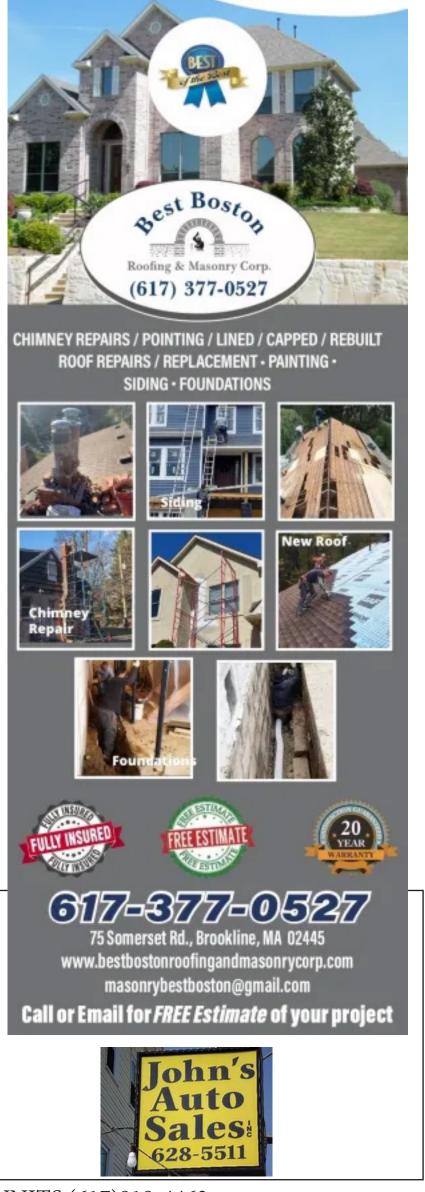


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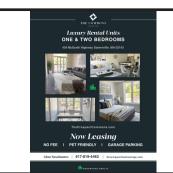
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ONE SOMERVILLE, EVERY CHILD: MAYOR BALLANTYNE INVITES SOMERVILLE TO CELEBRATE THE 'WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD' APRIL 8, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2024

by the National Association for the Educa-



Somerville community invited to join celebration with music, food and children's activities and learn more about Somerville's community-wide approach to supporting

SOMERVILLE - Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville Public Schools, and Somerville's early childhood community invite Somerville parents, children, and educators to celebrate the Week of the Young Child from April 6 to 12, 2024.

The Week of the Young Child was designated

needs of young children and their families. This week of celchildhood development ebrations will include programming and activities across the city, family-friendly specials in local restaurants, and will culminate in a community-wide celebration on Thursday, April 11, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the Somerville High School concourse (81 Highland Ave). The event will include family-friendly music, food, and activities, as well as a proclamation by Mayor

Ballantyne advocating for young children.

"Somerville is proud to join hands with our esteemed early childhood community in commemorating the Week of the Young Child. This celebration underscores our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our youngest residents and their families," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Through initiatives like SomerBaby, Home Visiting, and the establishment of the Somerville Partnership for Young Children, the City strives to dismantle barriers and foster an inclusive environment where every child can thrive. Together with Somerville Public Schools and our dedicated community partners, we invite parents, children, and educators alike to learn more about all of our supportive family services and join enriching programming and activities across the city."

To learn more about planned programming, and view participating local restaurants, please go to: somervillema.gov/Week-OfTheYounaChild

The city's collective approach to meeting the needs of young children has been supported by the Somerville Children's Cabinet led by Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ruben Carmona. The cabinet is composed of representatives from the City of Somerville, the Somerville Public Schools, and community partners. The SomerPromise division of the Somerville Health and Human Services Department, provides backbone support.

"It is a privilege to be a part of the long history of early childhood work in Somerville," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rubén Carmona. "In Somerville Public

Schools, we're committed to making sure our youngest learners have access to high quality learning opportunities and to providing inclusive, multilinqual programming and wrap-around services for families through strong partnerships between the Public Schools, the city, and multiple community partners."

Since its inception in 2017, the Somerville Children's Cabinet has focused on developing comprehensive child wellbeing and education systems that leverage the many resources and partners within the city and in the surrounding community to help eliminate the link between children's socioeconomic status and achievement. The One Somerville, Every Child umbrella tagline reflects Somerville's commitment to equity and its collective approach to supporting all children and youth in our city."



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JOIN THE MYSTIC RIVER OUTFALL AND SEWER SEPARATION COMMUNITY MEETING ON APRIL 24



Virtual Meeting to Offer Project Overview and Collect Neighborhood Feedback

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and City staff invite you to join a virtual community meeting to learn about flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the surrounding neighborhood.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, April 24, at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the project website at somervillema. gov/mysticoutfall to learn more and attend the meeting. For those unable to attend, a recording of the presentation will be available on the project website, as well as on City YouTube and the

GovTV channels.

At this meeting, City staff will introduce the project and share initial conceptual designs. Following

the presentation, residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and provide feedback.

The City of Somerville is making substantial systemwide investments to modernize its sewer and stormwater infrastructure. As part of this effort, the City will be rehabilitating the existing utilities in Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the

neighborhood west of Foss Park. To support stormwater management in this area and beyond, the City is also installing new drainage

infrastructure and constructing a new stormwater outfall pipe that will discharge to the Mystic River. This project will reduce flood risk in the surrounding area and help maintain the water quality of local rivers.

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

This project is one of a series of actions the City is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address

flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure. Preliminary designs are expected to be complete by Fall 2024. Final design is anticipated to be complete during 2025. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change. Construction will follow.

INCREASE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a measure that adds a 7-day license suspension to the current \$250 fine for not stopping for a school bus with

flashing lights as children get on and off the bus.

According to the American School Bus Council, an estimated more than 10 million drivers illegally pass school buses every

year. In addition, onethird of children who are killed outside the school bus are between five and seven years old; nearly two-thirds of bus related fatalities of school-age children occur outside the school bus; and passing vehicles are responsible for two-thirds of school bus loading and unloading fatalities.

Sponsor Rep. Susannah Whipps (I-Athol) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to comment on why she filed the bill and how she feels about its initial approval.

USE OF BREAKDOWN LANE (H 3370)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initital approval to legislation that would double fines for motor vehicles speeding in the far-right lane, or "breakdown" lane in areas where travel in that lane is permitted during peak commuting

hours.

City's

"While allowing travel in the far-right lane is essential on some highways in the commonwealth to temporarily provide traffic relief during peak hours, many motorists use this lane as a highspeed passing lane, risking the safety of disabled motor vehicles, emergency personnel and themselves," said sponsor Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick). "Numerous accidents and fatalities have occurred due to excessive speed in the breakdown lanes. This legislation will not only further protect

those who dedicate their lives to our safety but will protect motorist safety as well."

A speeding ticket fine imposed on a driver is \$100 for any speed up to 10 miles per hour above the speed limit. An additional \$10 fine

is added for each additional mile per hour above the first ten. The legislation doubles the total fine. For example, if you are traveling 25 miles above the speed limit, the fine would be \$250 (\$100 for the first ten miles above and \$150 for the additional 15 miles above).

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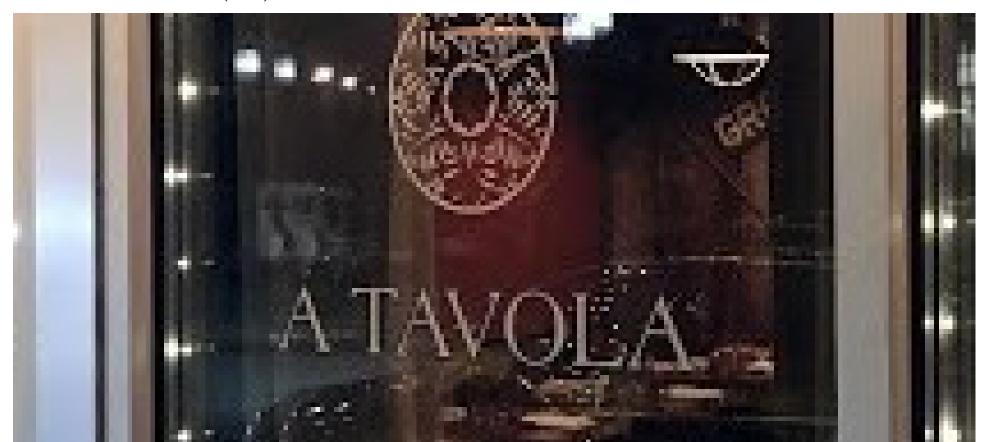
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