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VOL.1 NO.329-216

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday May 28th, 2024

## SOMERVILLE MEMORIAL DAY PHOTOS



Continued to page 5

### SENATE APPROVES \$57.999 BILLION FISCAL 2025 BUDGET (S 3)



Continued to page 10

### VETERANS BENEFITS (H 4661)



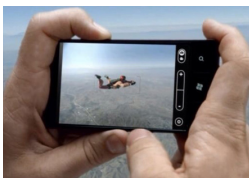
Continued to page 15

### MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

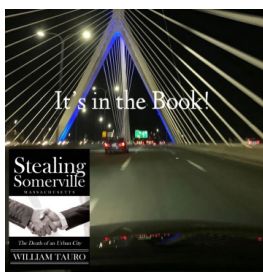
We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.  
Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



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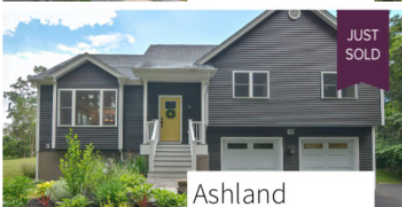
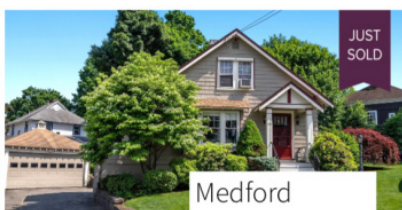
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**MARKET ACTIVITY**

**WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...**

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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®  
(617) 610-5382 [Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com](mailto:Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com)

Patricia Ng Broker Associate  
REALTOR®-(617) 818-5736 [Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com](mailto:Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com)

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Please send both forms and payment to:

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

If you have any questions email us at [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 CAMILLE JEUDY

Obituary

Jeudy, Camille- Of Everett, passed away on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 after a brief illness. He was 66 years old.

Born and raised in Port Au Prince, Haiti, he was the son

of the late Villard Jeudy and Celosse Gabrielle.

He was the beloved father of Peterson Jeudy, Jimmy Jeudy and Stephan Jeudy. The devoted brother of Mona Jeudy, Adeline Jeudy and her husband Alex Pierre,

Guerlyne Hathurin-Jeudy, Geraldine Jeudy and the late Ernst Jeudy. The dear uncle of Markendy Jean, Marcus Jean, Johanne Jeudy, Ashley Pierre Jeudy, and the late Bash Jean. The cherished great uncle of Sophia Jean, Olivia Millus Jeudy and

Brendon Hathurin. Also survived by many loving friends and extended family members.

At the families request Camille's services will be held privately.



### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING KEVIN T. CLOHERTY



Kevin T. Cloherty, of Cambridge, passed away on May 21, 2024 in Lexington, he was 68. Born in Somerville, but raised in Cambridge, Kevin was one of ten children born to the late Mary "Mae" (Kelly) and John J. Cloherty.

He was the cherished father of Kevin Cloherty of Revere. Kevin enjoyed the outdoors, camping and fishing. He could often be found casting his rods at Spy Pond in Arlington or time spent at Castle Island in Southie. For many years, he resided in Minnesota before moving

back to his beloved city of Cambridge. In addition to his son Kevin, he is survived by his brothers and sisters and their families; Marie Baird, Michael E. Cloherty, Sheila Cloherty Reilly, Laurene Bergin, David C. Cloherty and the late Kelly Carr, Joseph R. Cloherty,

John P. "Johnny" Cloherty and Brian Cloherty. He was the dear uncle to many nieces, nephews and several grand nieces and nephews.

Funeral services and burial will be private.

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING NORMAN J. AMIRAULT



Amirault, Norman J. - Of Winthrop, formerly of Medford passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. He was 94 years old.

Complete obit to be posted  
A Calling hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.)

Friday, May 31st from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

A prayer Service will be held

in funeral home on Friday, at 11AM .

Services will conclude with entombment at St. Michael Cemetery, Boston.

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING ROSE MARIE SCANLAN



Obituary

Rose Marie Scanlan - Of Somerville, passed away on May 17, 2024, she was 95.

Loving daughter of the late Margaret (Fleming) and Leo V. Scanlan, she was born in Arlington and raised in Somerville..

Dear sister of Claire Maestri of Burlington and her late husband Robert, the late Jean Morrison and her husband Ernest, the late Peggy Stronach and her husband Clifford, and the late Eileen McCarthy and her husband Gerald.

Also survived by many cherished nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Rose was a retired longtime employee of New England Telephone. She enjoyed traveling, shopping and spending time with her large group of friends and her family. Rose and her four sisters loved making annual weekend trips to Cape Cod and planning family Christmas parties every year.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Saturday morning, May 25th from 8:30AM - 9:30AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Raphael Church, 512 High Street, Medford at 10:00AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: PEARL STREET REDUCING TO ONE WAY

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

Billy, reducing Walnut Street to Pearl Street to a single lane.

How do emergency vehicles get by at rush hour??

A frustrated citizen





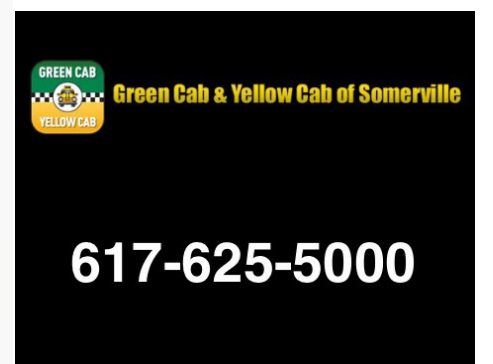
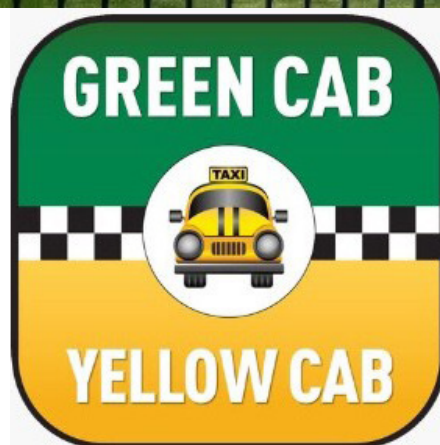
# Somerville Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Ceremony 2024 Photos



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### SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY ENCOURAGED TO JOIN PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025 WATER & SEWER RATES HYBRID MEETING WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 AT 6 P.M.



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville Water & Sewer Department is inviting all

members of the community to a public hearing that will share proposed Water and Sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2025.

The proposed changes to be discussed include:  
A 10% increase in water volumetric charges  
A 5% increase in sewer volumetric charges; and  
No change to existing base charges for both water and sewer.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 29, starting at 6 p.m. Community members have can attend the meeting in-person or virtually:  
In person at the Somerville Water and Sewer Department Conference Room, 15 Franey Rd, Somerville, MA 02145.  
Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:

Meeting Link: us06web.zoom.us/j/87205176724  
Webinar ID: 872 0517 6724  
To dial in: +1 309 205 3325

Community members unable to attend, but who would like to share their feedback can submit their questions or comments ahead of the hearing. Comments can be shared in advance two ways:  
Email [water@somervillema.gov](mailto:water@somervillema.gov) with RATE HEARING as the

subject.  
Via U.S. mail to the Somerville Water And Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA, 02145.

Comments must arrive no later than 12 p.m. on May 29 to be sure they are conveyed to the Department of Water and Sewer.

### SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY INVITED TO MORRISON AVENUE FLOOD RELIEF & WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS OPEN HOUSE ON MONDAY, JUNE 10



Community Open House Will Showcase Proposed Concept Designs and Collect Neighborhood Feedback

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 6

Councilor Lance Davis, Ward 5 Councilor Naima Sait, and the City of Somerville’s Engineering Division are inviting the community to an open house on flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Morrison Avenue (Cedar Street to Grove Street) and the surrounding neighborhood.

The event will be held on Monday, June 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Community Baptist Church (31 College Avenue). There will not be a formal presentation. Instead, project staff will be available to review initial concept design plans for stormwa-

ter management infrastructure and streetscape improvements, answer questions, and collect feedback. Community members are encouraged to drop-in at any time during the event.

**More About this Project**  
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 installing new drainage infrastructure and rehabilitating the existing sewer system along Morrison Avenue (between Cedar Street and Grove St.) as well as throughout

the surrounding neighborhood.

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, and new trees) throughout the neighborhood.

Final designs are currently anticipated to be completed by fall 2025. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as summer 2026. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change.

For more information about this project and to stay updated as work progresses visit [Somervillema.gov/morrisonave](http://Somervillema.gov/morrisonave).

### 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



### A TAVOLA RESTAURANT WINCHESTER OPEN FOR OUTDOOR PATIO DINING & TAKEOUT ORDERS: (781)729-1040 34 CHURCH STREET WINCHESTER



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“It’s as close as you can get for a real authentic Italian dining experience that will keep you coming back for more” “Definitely a two thumbs up rating and absolutely worth checking

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

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.



### RIVERSIDE IS HOSTING A FREE COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER ON 5/29



Photo: Expectant mothers in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford are invited to Riverside Early Head Start's free community baby shower on Wednesday, May 29!

Riverside's Early Head Start (EHS) program prepares children to successfully enter pre

school and helps families learn important parenting skills. To introduce families to the program, we are holding a free community baby shower on Wednesday, May 29, at 474 Broadway, Somerville, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Pregnant women and parents with infants up to three months old are in-

cluded to this unique event where they can form connections with other parents and community service agencies. Attendees will receive important resources, enjoy snacks, develop new parenting skills, and celebrate this transformative time in their lives. Everyone at the baby shower will leave with a pregnancy-friendly nutritional goodie bag and other surprises – call 781-468-6010 or text "SHOWER" to register today.

The Early Head Start pro-

gram promotes healthy child development by assisting families before and after a child is born. Services provided by Riverside Early Head Start include:

- Weekly home visits focused on child development and wellness
- Parent-child playgroups and socialization activities
- Health, safety, and nutrition education
- Pre-natal information and support
- Parent workshops and training
- Community events,

including annual baby showers. Early Head Start is a free home-visiting program for income-eligible families in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.riversidecc.org/child-family-services/early-childhood-services/early-head-start/>

### CELEBRATE SOMERVILLE'S NEPALI CULTURAL COMMUNITY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 1

SOMERVILLE – The Somerville community is invited to celebrate the city's Nepali community at a free festival showcasing Nepal's vibrant and

dynamic culture on Saturday, June 1, starting at 4 p.m. (rain date Saturday, June 8) at Union Square Plaza.

Festival attendees will get an opportunity to explore the food, live music, art, and culture of Nepal via an exciting array of vendors from Som-

erville's local Nepali community.

About the Nepali Cultural Festival  
The Nepali Cultural Festival

is co-hosted by the Somerville Arts Council, SomerViva, and the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA NCC USA MA Chapter).

### CAPITAL GAINS TAX (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 4-35, rejected an amendment that would retain a current law that requires any excess revenue in capital gains revenue over \$1 billion to annually automatically be transferred as follows: 90 percent to the Rainy Day Fund; 5 percent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund; and 5 percent to the State Pension Liability Fund. The \$1 billion would remain in the General Fund and be spent by the Legislature with

no restrictions.

The proposed Senate budget changes that for only fiscal 2025 by raising the threshold by \$375 million so that any excess over \$1.375 billion would automatically go to those three funds if the secretary of administration and finance makes a determination that the funds are needed to achieve balance for fiscal year 2025. The \$1.375 billion would remain in the General Fund to be spent on by the Legislature with no

restrictions.

"This amendment would have restored the original language of the capital gains law that allows transfers of excess gains collections over \$1 billion in one fiscal year," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "Changing this language for one year ... would create a precedent that would mean less transparency year after year by allowing a greater amount of taxpayer money to be used outside of the intended purpose of the capital

gains tax."

Opponents said the additional \$375 million is needed in the General Fund this fiscal year to fund many useful new programs in the budget including the new free community college program. They noted that the state estimates that there will be \$513 million in excess capital gains this fiscal year which means that a total of \$138 million will still be deposited in the Rainy Day Fund and the two other retirement

funds. They noted that a little less money for the Rainy Day Fund this year is acceptable because there is a healthy balance of \$8.4 billion currently in the Rainy Day Fund.

(A "Yes" vote is in favor of any excess capital gains revenue above \$1 billion going to the Rainy Day Fund and the two retirement funds. A "No" vote is for raising the threshold to \$1.375 billion.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

### \$350,000 MORE FOR YWCAS

Bob Katzen

The Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would increase funding for YWCAs by \$350,000 (from \$650,000 to \$1 million).

"For close to 150 years, YWCAs around the world and the nine YWCAs in Massachusetts have stood beside our young women as a pillar of support and empowerment and across the state they are working hard to expand outreach, staffing, programming and support services to hundreds of at-risk girls," said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester), the sponsor of the amendment. "This \$350,000 amendment is critical to the continuance of our investment in gender specific youth violence prevention."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$350,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



<b>LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT (GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR)</b>		Docket No MI24P1159GD	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
IN RE: Guardianship of: Josiah Nii Odoi Yemoh		Middlesex Probate and Family Court 10-U Commerce Way Woburn, MA 01801 (781)865-4000	
A MINOR			
I, Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate for the Middlesex Probate and Family Court hereby certify that			
Florence Fofu Djarnie 87 Fremont Street Somerville, MA 02145		and Alberta A.B. Abbuah 1254 Bay Road Stoughton, MA 02072	
was/were appointed or confirmed by Order of this Court dated		March 13, 2024 (date) as:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guardian pursuant to G.L. c. 190B, §5-206. These letters shall expire on the minor's 18th birthday, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary Guardian pursuant to G.L. c. 190B, §5-204. These letters shall expire on June 05, 2024 (date)			
These Letters of Guardianship for a Minor, whose date of birth is _____, are proof of the Guardian's full authority and responsibility to act pursuant to G.L. c. 190B, §5-208, regarding the minor's support, education, health and welfare as follows:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to perform any and all acts necessary for the day-to-day care, custody, education, recreation and property of the minor,			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to authorize any and all medical and dental care for the health and well-being of the minor, except the Guardian may not consent to extraordinary medical treatment pursuant to G.L. c. 190B, §5-306A.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other authority as follows:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Guardian's authority is specifically limited as follows:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Guardian is prohibited from permanently removing the child from the Commonwealth without an Order from the Court.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Date	March 19, 2024	 Tara E. DeCristofaro REGISTER OF PROBATE	
Somerville/Medford News Weekly 05/28/24			



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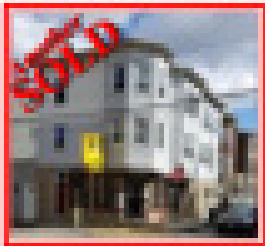


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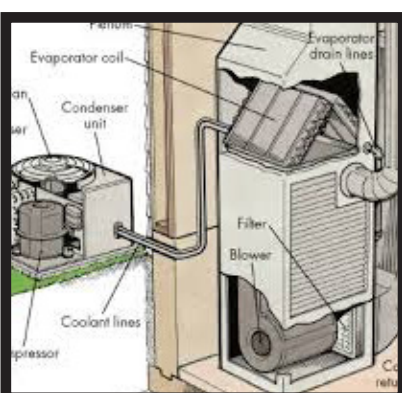
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## MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS (H 3142)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would allow the Bay State's 41 municipal light plants to provide services to other Massachusetts municipal and state plants, and

plants in other states. Current law prohibits this practice.

Supporters said the bill will encourage more efficient services such as constructing, maintaining and repairing utility poles

and traffic signals across the state and will also enable municipal light plants to sell, rent and lease merchandise.

"This bill will allow for an expansion of services offered by municipal light

plants to surrounding communities," said sponsor Rep. Jay Barrows (R-Mansfield). "This will be good for consumers as it ideally would enable more competitive services to be provided."



## SENATE APPROVES \$57.999 BILLION FISCAL 2025 BUDGET (S 3)

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 40-0, approved a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2025 state budget after adding an estimated \$89.6 million in spending during three days of debate. The House has already approved a different version and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and sent to the governor.

"[The budget includes] universally free community college and record public higher education investments," said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Senate chair of the Committee on Higher Education. "Significant funding for rural roads and bridges, local public health, K-12 schools, Unrestricted Government Aid, Regional Transit Authorities, food security

and more."

"Today our chamber took a vote of confidence in every Massachusetts resident going to school, raising a family and working to make ends meet," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Today we took a vote for an affordable, competitive and equitable commonwealth, This budget is an investment in our people, and it is an investment in our collective future."

"The fiscal year 2025 budget overwhelmingly passed by the Senate makes transformative investments in education, regional equity and builds upon the commonwealth's workforce economy," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "These historic measures enable residents to remain in the state, solidifying

our economic future for generations to come. The budget is also a balanced and responsible plan, centered on sustainability and regional equity by maximizing revenues and building upon the progress we've already made in key sectors of the state economy. With a transparent and inclusive amendment process, we were able to improve our original budget and make even further strides in our education, economic development, environmental and health and human services priorities."

Although no one voted against the budget, it wasn't without its critics.

"The State Senate seems to have only one thing on their mind: spend more, reform less," said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. The Senate President kicked off that

theme when she proposed new 'free' community college, which would add an unstoppable ballooning mandate for future generations of taxpayers. The Senate's questionable priorities were also reflected in the late hours of last night, as they adopted an amendment to spend \$250,000 on a new state seal and motto, when previous attempts proved unfruitful. What a colossal waste of taxpayer money. There's no other way to view this."

Craney continued, "Senate leadership had a great opportunity to do something beneficial for the state's economic competitiveness, but they failed to act. The income surtax was advertised to the public as a tax just for high income earners making over \$1 million dollars. Then last year, the Legislature added a 'marriage penalty' to impose the \$1 million

dollar income surtax for all 'combined' incomes for married couples. This change in the tax policy penalizes married couples just for being married and significantly lowers the threshold from what tax proponents campaigned on. At a time when Massachusetts is desperate to keep high income earners and productive taxpayers from moving out of state, the State Senate missed probably their most important opportunity to be helpful. They had a great opportunity to strike out the marriage penalty, but instead, they chose to keep taxes high by penalizing families."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



# Endorsements




## For William "Billy" Tauro



















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Our Medford Lions Club gives

to an eye, hearing, or physical hardship student as our HUGE call is geared toward Eye Research and Health facets. Our fine Senior recipient was Rachel Carbone. We were proud to speak of the Lions Founding 105 years ago and the Millions of Dollars raised appx 2 years ago for MassEye Research, Tufts and BU Eye Research, Children's Hospital and the Joslin Clinic, etc.

With Lion Pride,  
Sharon Deyeso, VP  
Usha Sharma, PR



### VETERANS BENEFITS (H 4661)

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a package designed to benefit veterans in the Bay State by broadening the definition of a veteran, increasing tax credits and state benefits for which they are eligible and modernizing the services on which they rely.

Provisions include providing a medical assistance benefit, behavioral health assistance benefit and dental benefit beyond other benefits available to veterans; increasing from

\$2,000 to \$2,250 and then to \$2,500 the annuity for blind, paraplegic or veterans with disabilities; allowing municipalities to annually increase local property tax abatements for veterans in an amount equal to the increase in cost of living determined by the Consumer Price Index for the year; increasing from \$2,000 to \$2,500 the amount of a tax credit for each qualified veteran hired by an employer and for subsequent years of continued employment of each veteran; creating a working group to study and make recommendations on

the use of psychedelics as an alternative therapy for mental health treatments for veterans; and allowing certain veteran's organizations to be approved by the Gaming Commission and their local licensing authority for up to five slot machines on their premises.

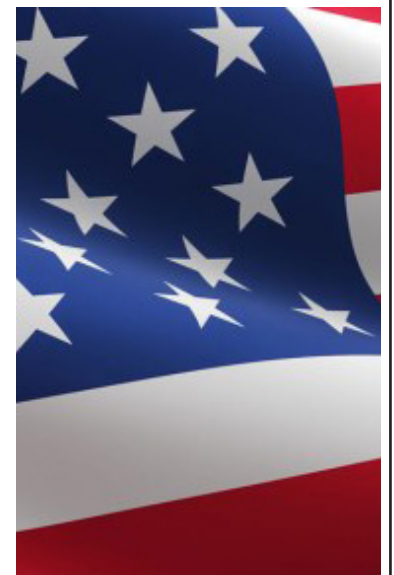
"[The bill] is a transformative package of reforms that will make sure our veterans and their families have access to the benefits, resources and support they deserve," said Gov. Maura Healey.

Rep. Gerard Cassidy (D-Brockton), House Chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, called the measure a historic piece of legislation that addresses critical quality of life issues faced every day by veterans. "It is important that we continue to honor those who served our country, and this bill highlights our commitment to their wellbeing," said Cassidy.

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


Rep. Christine Barber Yes  
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep.

Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes



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### 2024 – 77 MILE CHARITY RIDE

Hello Everyone,

On May 9th marks Scott's 30th anniversary of his passing. Those of you that knew Scott, he was a very humble man. This year Team Scott will be riding 77 miles in honor of my 77th birthday. I will be joined by Billy Goodwin, Kevin Guinee and Henry Shelley.

With all of your generous support through the years we have raised \$475,000. My goal this

year with your generous support is to raise \$25,000.

The MSUD Family Support Group, of which I am a Director, has made research a top priority. We hope in the not too distant future to have some promising news. I have no idea what God's plan is for me, but I will continue riding and trying to make a difference to all children and adults with MSUD in Scotts memory.

I would be remiss if I didn't give a special shout out to our friend Charlie O'Rouke. He has been helping raise research money through a Golf Tournament for 20 years and now sells chances for our annual 50/50 raffle. As I get older my faith in God, my family and you my friends are a blessing to me. God bless you all and thank you for your continued generous support. Sincerely, Butch

P.S. – If you care to use your credit card or PayPal for donations, please go to the MSUD Family Support Group and go to Donations and scroll down to the Scott Foster Memorial Bike Ride.

For checks you can make them out to Scott Foster Research Fund and mail to me at: Butch Foster 199 Surf Drive Falmouth, MA 02540



### “BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE SENATE BUDGET DEBATE”

By Bob Katzen

Of the 1,100 amendments filed by senators, only 41 came to a roll call vote. Many others were simply approved or rejected one at a time on voice votes, some with debate and some without debate.

To move things along even faster, the Senate also did its usual “bundling” of many

amendments. Instead of acting on each amendment one at a time, hundreds of the proposed amendments are bundled and put into two piles—one pile that will be approved and the other that will be rejected, without a roll call, on voice votes where it is impossible to tell which way a senator votes.

Senate President Karen Spilka, or the senator who

is filling in for her at the podium, orchestrates the approval and rejection of the bundled amendments with a simple: “All those in favor say ‘Aye,’ those opposed say ‘No.’ The Ayes have it and the amendments are approved.” Or: “All those in favor say ‘Aye,’ those opposed say ‘No.’ The No's have it and the amendments are rejected.”

Senators don't actually vote

Yes or No, and, in fact, they don't say a word. The outcome was predetermined earlier behind closed doors.

Supporters of the system say that any senator who sponsored an amendment that is in the “No” pile can bring it to the floor and ask for an up or down vote on the amendment itself. They say this system has worked well for many years.

Opponents say that rarely, if ever, does a member bring his or her amendment to the floor for an up-or-down vote because that is not the way the game is played. It is an “expected tradition” that you accept the fate of your amendment as determined by Democratic leaders.

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### SALES TAX HOLIDAY (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would establish a 2-week sales tax holiday, from August 6, 2024 to August 19, 2024, allowing consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 without paying the state's 6.25 percent sales tax. State law currently calls for a 2-day

sales tax holiday every year. "There is no doubt that Massachusetts residents and small businesses are feeling the weight of inflation," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "By giving a 2-week tax reprieve through an extended sales tax holiday, we provided families and individuals

an opportunity to make purchases without the added burden of taxes which also helps small businesses." Amendment opponents said the Legislature has provided extensive tax relief in recent years and argued the 2-week holiday would cost \$210 million which the state cannot

afford. They noted that current state law already provides a 2-day sales tax holiday annually. They noted that extending the holiday is more of a feel-good policy that does little to help families. They noted the extension would actually generate little additional revenue for stores because consumers typically buy the products

even without the tax-free days.

(A "Yes" vote is for the 2-week sales tax holiday. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

### JOIN THE SOMERVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OR COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



The Somerville Human Rights Commission and Commission for Women are seeking new volunteer members, and all Somerville residents are invited to apply.

The Human Rights Commission is seeking five members, four seats with 3-year terms and one with a 2-year term. The Commis-

sion works with the City's Office of Racial and Social Justice to help end unlawful discrimination. Learn more about the Human Rights Commission and apply by September 30.

The Somerville Commission for Women is seeking two new members. The Commission works with the City's Office of Racial and Social

Justice to address women's issues in Somerville. Learn more about the Commission for Women and apply by September 30.

Neither of these quite right for you? Check somervillema.gov/BeSomerville to stay up to date on opportunities with all of our boards and commissions.

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

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# SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING REVEREND DR. FLORENCE (NOTTAGE) KING

Reverend Dr. Florence (Nottage) King, D.Min., native of Nassau, Bahamas and resident of Medford, Massachusetts was born on September 25, 1941. She was the daughter of the late John and Ophelia (Allen) Nottage. Rev. King's family immigrated to the U.S. where she became a naturalized citizen who attended school in Cambridge, MA. She peacefully passed away on May 10, 2024, in her home surrounded by her daughters.

In November, 1961, Florence married her high school sweetheart, Paul "Arnold" King (deceased) at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cambridge MA. Paul and Florence were blessed with three children: Cheryl King (deceased), Paula King of Medford, MA, and Pamela (King) Nigro of Medford, MA. Rev. King was affectionately referred to as "Grandma" to her three grandchildren and adored by her two great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. Florence King was an American Baptist Minister and a pioneer woman minister in many of the churches of Massachusetts, a graduate of Andover-Newton Theological Seminary at Yale Divinity School where she received her Masters of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry in Theology. She was ordained at First Baptist Church, Malden, MA on September 25th 1, 1988.

Rev. King has received numerous awards and citations for her dedicated church service and charitable work. She was a board member with the Mystic Valley Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) and served as an Affiliate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Medford. She served many years with Messiah Baptist Church in Brockton, MA and served as an interim minister in Mashpee, Gloucester, and Arlington where she trained, preached, and guided many aspiring ministers to accept their calling. She was also an active member and former President of the West Medford Senior Club of Medford and former President of the

NAACP Medford Branch. In 2012, she received her life membership from the Mystic Valley Branch of the NAACP. She pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) and proudly wears the pink and green colors.

Rev. King graduated from Cambridge High and Latin High School and was a member of the National Honor Society. She met her then high school sweetheart and former husband, Paul, who attended Cambridge Rindge High School. After graduating high school, she furthered her education at Boston State College (later merged into UMASS Boston) and received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and Psychology. From there, she received her Master of Education from Cambridge College of Arts and Technology. Education was always a high priority for Rev. King, and she always excelled in her studies. Her education was so vital to her that she even attended classes at night while working full time and caring for her young children.

Rev. King accepted Christ at an early age, where she attended Rush A.M.E Zion Church in Cambridge, MA. She was active in the Children's Junior Choir, Sunday School, and Youth Fellowship. Once married, she became a member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cambridge, MA. Later she united with Shiloh Baptist Church in West Medford, MA, and became Associate Pastor. She was also affiliated with numerous other churches, including St. Raphael's Parish in Medford, MA, and Messiah Baptist Church in Brockton, MA, serving in various ministerial capacities and as a member of the choir.

She is fondly remembered for her love of life. She enjoyed time with family and friends. She embraced her relationship with the community. She was committed to ministry and service to others. She had a great sense of humor and she would even visit hospitals dressed in different characters like Miss Piggy to spread

cheer to the patients as part of her "Clown" Ministry. She also had her own business that was recognized in "Who's Who" as an Event Consultant known as "Parties Planned by Florence: Be a guest at your own party." Most importantly, she always made time for a candid picture!

Rev. King was involved in many organizations and affiliations:  
 \* Ministers Council, American Baptist Churches/USA (ABC/USA) - Life Member  
 \* First Woman President, Medford Branch NAACP - Life member  
 \* AARP, Chapter 1132 Mystic, Medford - Past President  
 \* Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Psi Omega Chapter  
 \* Northern Baptist Education Society - Board Member  
 \* Old Colony Association ABC of MA - Past moderator  
 \* Council of Churches - Board member MA  
 \* West Medford Community Center - Board member and Senior Club President

Photo: Left to remember her life and mourn her passing are her daughters: Paula Marie King and Pamela Arnette (King) Nigro, both of Medford, MA;  
 Three grandchildren: Dr. Jessica Charles-LaRose MD, MBA and her husband Gregory Alan LaRose, Alexander Christopher Nigro, and Teya Alycea Nigro; and two great-grandchildren: Willow Paisley LaRose and Gracyn Sophia LaRose. She is survived by her siblings: Elizabeth (Nottage) Simmons, and Lila Ann (Nottage) Reid and her husband Darius Reid. She was preceded in death by her parents Ophelia (Allen) Nottage, John Nottage (Lila Mac), daughter Cheryl Anne King, Former Husband Paul A. King, Brother-in-law Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Simmons. She is survived by a host of cherished nieces and nephews, in-laws, cousins, extended family, church family and dear friends.



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## 2024 SOMERSTREETS FESTIVAL SEASON TO KICK OFF WITH CARNAVAL CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2



SomerStreets: Carnival returns for the 14th year to East Somerville on Sunday, June 2, from 2 to 6 p.m.

SOMERVILLE – Somerville is invited to get their dancing shoes on as the 2024 SomerStreets: Carnival returns Sunday, June 2, from 2 to 6 p.m. (rain date Sunday, June 9) to kick off the 2024 SomerStreets season, which will include a series of four neigh-

borhood street festivals across Somerville.

SomerStreets: Carnival celebrates the East Broadway Business District and community with food, music, and activities from around the world. Programming will extend along East Broadway from Kensington Avenue to Pennsylvania Ave.

The event will kick off at 2 p.m. with a parade starting at Garfield and Broadway. Attendees can shop more than 30 artisan vendors, view performances from Grooversity and Sinha Capoeira, enjoy food from 18 neighborhood restaurants and join an interactive dance class with Samba Viva! There will also be plenty of family friendly fun including Somerville's Let's Get Truckin', Parkour, and other activities.

SomerStreets: Carnival is organized by

East Somerville Main Streets in collaboration with the Somerville Arts Council. SomerStreets is the City of Somerville's take on the Open Streets concept, closing busy city streets to vehicles, and opening them up for walking, dancing, and other activities.

Mark your calendar for the next three SomerStreets festivals as well:

Sunday, August 4: SomerStreets: Strike up the Band along Highland Avenue  
 Saturday, September 4: SomerStreets: Gilman Arts and Music Festival  
 Sunday, October 20: SomerStreets: Monster Mash along Somerville Avenue

Road Closures and Bus Detours for Somerstreets: Carnival:

To ensure public safety at the event, several road closures and parking bans will be in effect on Broadway between McGrath

Highway and Pennsylvania Avenue: For more information about road closures contact 311 (617-666-3311).

Broadway between McGrath Highway and Pennsylvania Avenue closed to all vehicular traffic.

No parking on either side of the street from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents who live on the west side of Broadway will be detoured onto Broadway at Pennsylvania Ave. Residents who live on the east side of Broadway will be detoured onto Pearl St. MBTA buses will be rerouted from 12 to 8 p.m. For full detour information, visit mbta.com.

For information on how to participate in any of the SomerStreets events, go to somervilleartscouncil.org/somerstreets or contact Iaritza Menjivar, Events Coordinator, at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2998 or imenjivar@somervillema.gov.

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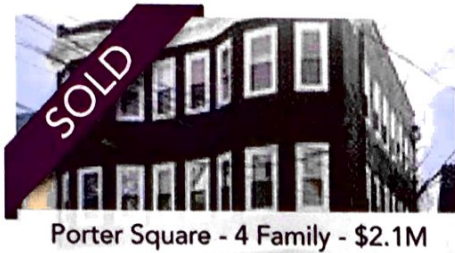
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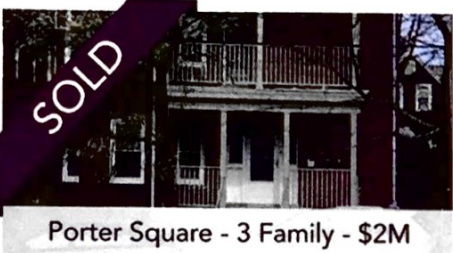
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Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



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