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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday June 25th, 2024

## MAYOR BALLANTYNE ANNOUNCES NEW UNION AGREEMENT INCREASING PAY & BENEFITS FOR FIRE ALARM UNIT



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



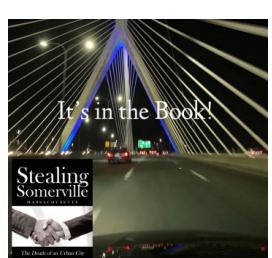
Continued to page 11



Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page

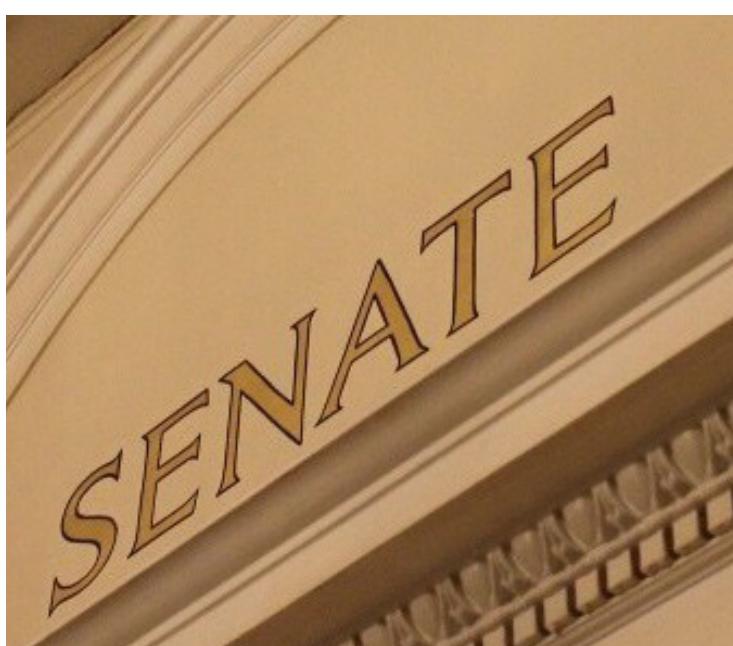


SOMERVILLE INVITED TO  
JOIN FOURTH OF JULY  
COMMUNITY FIREWORKS  
CELEBRATION



Continued to page 10

MATERNAL  
HEALTH



Continued to page 20

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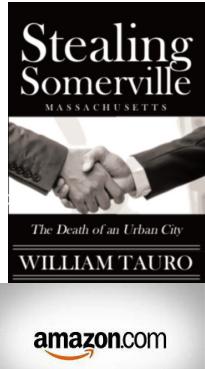


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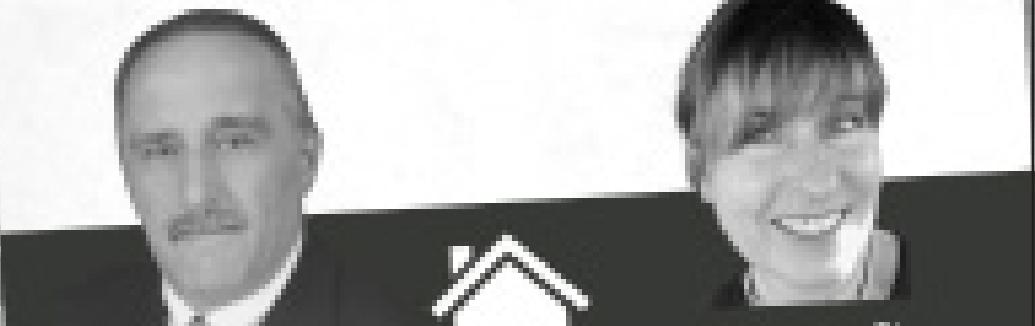
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## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JOHN F. WANDERS III



Obituary

John F. Wanders, III, of Medford, passed away on June 19, 2024, he was 72. Born in Boston, he was the son of the late Margaret (Murray) and John F. Wanders, II.

Beloved husband of Nancy (Blauvelt) Wanders and devoted father of

Brian Wanders.

Complete obituary will be posted soon.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Friday, June 28th from 3:00PM

to 7:00PM, with Words of Remembrance beginning at 6:30PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. A graveside service will be held at Oak Grove Cemetery, 230 Playstead Road, Medford on Saturday, June 29th at 10:00AM – please meet inside the main gate off of Playstead

Road at 9:45AM.

Retired Engineer with the MBTA and longtime member Local 589 Boston Carmen's Union.

## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING RITA M. DI BARTOLO



Obituary

Di Bartolo, Rita M. (Mazzone) – Of Medford, passed away on Sunday, June 23, 2024. She was 90.

Complete obit to be posted.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville on Saturday, July 6th from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Followed by a

prayer service at 12:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Oak Grove

Cemetery.

In lieu of flower's contributions may be made in Rita's name to Alzheimer's association or to <https://www.mspca.org/donate-now/>

## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING VITTORIO "VICTOR" SPADORCIA



Vittorio "Victor" Spadocria passed away peacefully on Friday, June 21, 2024 at the age of 84 in the comfort of his loving family.

Victor was born on June 9, 1940 in Prezza, Italy and then moved to Canada, the North End and

most recently Medford, MA, where he has lived for over 40 years. Victor was the loving son of the late Vito and Michelina (Pasquale) Spadocria. He was a warm, kind, gentle and loyal husband, father, brother, grandfather, uncle and friend who will be truly missed.

As a young man, Victor worked hard as a Union Laborer for 35 years and was devoted to raising his family. He was a member of the Circle Club in Medford, where he enjoyed his time with friends. He was very passionate about planting his vegetable garden every year and enjoyed making the homemade red wine.

Victor was always the life of the party and made sure everyone was eating and enjoying themselves. He was the happiest when everyone was around the dinner table and he had his family together. Most of all, Victor was devoted to his wife, three sons and four grandchildren. He was a loving presence in the everyday lives of his grandchildren, actively supporting their many activities and accomplishments.

Victor was the beloved husband of his beautiful wife Erminia "Irma" (Clark) Spadocria. He was the devoted father of Luigi "Louie" Spadocria, Michelino "Michael" Spadocria and his wife Doreen, and Pasqualino "Pat" Spadocria. Victor was the cherished grandfather of Nico, Trey, Haley and Christian Spadocria, and the dear brother of Lucia Svizzero and her late husband Caesar, the late Agnes Dipietro and her husband Victorio, Ettore Rosatone and his wife Antonia, Maria Svizerro and her husband Domenico, Ottavio Spadocria and his wife Maria, and Bambina Spadocria and her husband Domenico. Victor is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who will deeply miss him.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit Victor's family at the Dello Russo Family Funeral Home, 306 Main St., Medford, on Wednesday, June 26th from 4 through 8 PM. A Funeral Mass will celebrate Victor's eternal life at Saint Clement Church, 60 Warner St, Medford, MA on Thursday, June 27th at 10 AM. Services will conclude with burial at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. As an expression of sympathy please consider making a contribution in Victor's memory to the American Heart Asc., PO BOX 417005, Boston, MA 02241.

## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING DAVID J. MARKS



David J. Marks, Of Somerville and Richlands, NC was born, raised, and educated in Somerville, passed away peacefully at the age of 62 on June 19, 2024.

He was the cherished son of Joan (Dulkowsky) Marks and the late Robert E. Marks, Sr. After graduating from high school, David pursued a career as an electrician, eventually becoming a Foreman in Local 103, where he dedicated 20 years of hard work.

Outside of his profession, David found solace in listening to classic rock at home, where his voice could often be heard singing along. Known for his kindness and humor, he loved spending time with his family, sharing dad jokes and bringing laughter to those around

him.

David's passions extended to the beach and nature, where he found peace and beauty. Upon retiring, he fulfilled his dream of living by the water, building a beautiful home in North Carolina for his family. There, he enjoyed relaxing with his toes in the sand, driving his jeep Wrangler with the top off, and admiring the shoreline.

In addition to his love for the beach, David enjoyed sports, movies, and gardening, embracing the simple joys of life.

David will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him

Beloved husband of 37 years to Catherine "Cathy" (Kippenberger) Marks. The devoted father of David Marks, Jr of Somerville, Ashley Marks of Somerville and Kelliann Marks of Somerville. The cherished and loving son of Joan (Dulkowsky) Marks and the late Robert Marks, Sr. of Somerville. The brother of Robert "Bobby" Marks, Doreen Warren and Richard Marks. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Calling hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Friday, June 28th from 9:00AM to 10:00AM. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

A graveside service will be held at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge at 10:45AM.

Burial at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.



## REVENGE PORN AND TEEN SEXTING (H 4744)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a bill that would prohibit the posting of sexually explicit images of another person online without their permission—commonly referred to as “revenge porn.” The practice is often used by ex-spouses or ex-partners. The measure was recently unanimously approved by the House and Senate.

Massachusetts was one of only two states that did not have a law about this crime. The measure establishes a sentence of up to 2.5 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000; increases the upper limit of the fine for criminal harassment from \$1,000 to \$5,000; allows a victim to petition the court for a harassment prevention order against a person who has violated this statute; and extends the statute of limitations to pursue criminal

charges for certain domestic violence offenses from six years to 15 years.

The measure adds coercive control to the definition of abuse. Coercive control is a nonphysical form of abuse that includes a pattern of behavior intended to threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, control, coerce or compel compliance of a family or household member in a manner that causes the targeted individual to fear physical harm or to have a reduced sense of physical safety or autonomy. Examples of coercive control include threatening to share explicit images, regulating or monitoring a family or household member’s communications and access to services, and isolating a family or household member from friends or relatives.

Another provision changes current law under which minors, under 18 years of

age, who share explicit images of themselves or other minors, can be charged with violating Massachusetts child pornography laws and be required to register with the Sex Offender Registry. The bill allows minors to be diverted to an educational program that would provide them with information about the consequences of posting or transmitting indecent visual depictions of minors.

“This law will save lives and strengthens our efforts to hold accountable those who would engage in abusive, coercive and deeply harmful behavior,” said Gov. Healey. “This is about stopping violence, because nobody deserves to be subjected to threats, abuse or control. We’re grateful … to all of the survivors who bravely came forward to share their powerful stories of pain, fear and trauma to make a difference for generations to come.”

“The inclusion of coercive control in this bill is a vital advancement in safeguarding individuals from abuse,” said Vilma Uribe, Executive Director of the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. “It acknowledges the severe impact of manipulative behaviors and provides crucial protections for victims-survivors. Equally important is the inclusion of media literacy for our youth, empowering them to navigate the digital world responsibly.”

“No person’s life should devolve into chaos because a private photo was shared without their permission, and no person should fear coercion or be threatened with the sharing of such a photo,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “I’m proud that this legislation protects our residents and supports young people

who make a mistake.”

“This legislation modernizes our criminal laws by ensuring that those who share explicit images of others without their consent face punishment, while also educating minors on the dangers of sharing explicit images of themselves rather than imposing upon them some of the criminal justice system’s most severe consequences,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “I’m also incredibly proud of this legislation’s bolstered protections for survivors, including the added consideration of nonphysical forms of abuse for those who are seeking restraining orders from their abusers.

## PROHIBIT SALE OF DOGS, CATS AND RABBITS IN NEW PET STORES (S 2820)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would prohibit pet shops opened after January 1st, 2025 from offering dogs, cats and rabbits for sale. Pet shops existing prior to January 1, 2025 would be exempt from the law.

The new law would allow new pet shops to offer space to an animal rescue or shelter organization to showcase dogs, cats or

rabbits for adoption as long as the pet shop does not have an ownership interest in the animals offered for adoption. The bill imposes a penalty of \$1,000 for a first offense, \$2,500 for a second offense and \$5,000 for a third and subsequent offenses.

“This legislation moving forward marks a significant step towards ending the puppy mill to pet shop pipeline, ensuring the

protection of both animals and consumers alike,” said sponsor Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth). “We are taking a stand against the promotion of animal cruelty, which is often overlooked, and I am confident that we will soon join our neighboring northeastern states in putting a stop to this inhumane practice by law. I am proud to be the primary sponsor of this bill and will continue to tirelessly advocate against the abuse

of animals and for their protection as some of the most vulnerable members of our community.”

“I take the matters of animal welfare and inhumane conditions very seriously,” said Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). Given that puppy mills and other profit-focused animal breeding operations have a demonstrated track record of substandard conditions and disregard for the wellbeing of the

animals, anything we can do to disrupt this industry without harming responsible breeders is action we should take.”

“Typically, pet shops obtain animals from substandard breeding facilities, which results in consumers unknowingly purchasing sick or genetically compromised pets,” said Rep. Natalie Higgins (D-Leominster).

## ILLEGAL FIREWORKS (H 3634)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would amend current law which imposes a fine

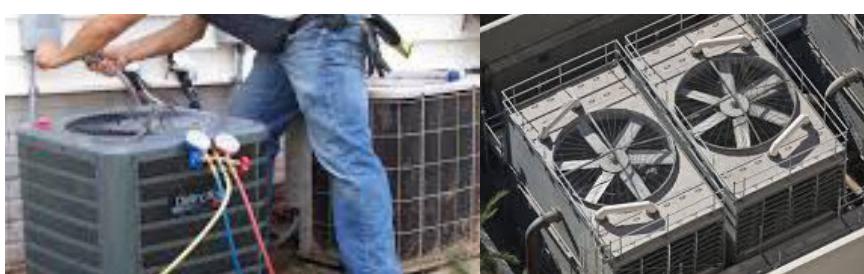
between \$10 and \$100 on anyone convicted of illegal possession or use of fireworks. The bill would increase the penalty, in areas with a population density

of 1,000 or more persons per square mile, to a fine of between \$200 and \$500 and/or a prison sentence or up to six months.

“This has been an issue in my district that needs to be addressed,” said sponsor Rep. Rodney Elliott (D-Lowell). “By increasing fines for illegal fireworks

usage, we not only deter irresponsible behavior but also send a clear message that the safety of our citizens is eminent.”

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## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING MILDRED FRANCES (ALLEN) TEIXEIRA



Mildred Frances (Allen) Teixeira, aged 84, passed away peacefully, with her family by her side, on Saturday, June 15, 2024, after

a courageous fight with cancer.

Millie was a devoted wife for 53 years to her husband, Manny, who passed away in 2012. Millie was a proud and beloved mother, nana, and great grandmother. She will be missed by sons John Teixeira and his wife, Bronwyn of Somerville, James (Jay) Teixeira and his wife, Judith (Judi) of Franklin, and Christopher Teixeira and his wife, Alexis of Somerville; grandchildren Matthew, Tristan, Alexan-

der, Elizabeth, and Peter; and great grandchildren Kai, Elinor, and Lyzander.

Millie and her husband, Manny, loved to travel, especially cruising, and were often accompanied by their grandchildren.

Mildred loved the city of Somerville and especially treasured her neighborhood friends as well as friends throughout the city. She was a Cub Scout leader for many years serving Pack 7 out of St. Anthony's Church.

She also was active as a Somerville High School Band parent supporting her boys and the band during football season, band trips, and competitions.

As secretary of St. Anthony Parish and Administrator of St. Anthony School in Somerville for many years, Millie touched the lives of many families making a positive and lasting impact on them. She loved God and her church and when she became ill, she fearlessly

put herself in His hands determined to fight "as long as God wants me to."

Visitation will be Thursday, June 27, 2024, from 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM at George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Square) Somerville, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Ann Church, Somerville at 10:00 AM. Relatives and friends are invited. Interment at Mt. Calvary (Old Calvary) Cemetery, Roslindale.

## TWO INDIVIDUALS AT A BLUEBIKES STATION TO GET BIKES



Enjoy biking? Join the City's Mobility division for a pop-up event: try out BlueBikes (e-bikes too!), learn about current Mobility projects in the city, and register for an-

nual and income-eligible BlueBikes memberships.

This event will be held on Wednesday, June 26, on the Community Path at Lowell St. from 5:30 to

7:30 p.m. For any questions, email [transportation@somervillema.gov](mailto:transportation@somervillema.gov).

Photo courtesy of BlueBikes.



## MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

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

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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.

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Thank you for your continued support.



## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING PALMACCI, PATRICIA L. (BEARS)



Palmacci, Patricia L. (Bears)- Of Somerville, passed away at home on Friday, June 21, 2024. She was 84 years old.

Complete obit to be posted.

A Funeral Procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home will be held on Monday, July 1st at 9:30 AM. Followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Clement

Church, 64 Warner St., Medford at 10:30 AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held

on Sunday, June 30th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, MA.

Interment will be private.

## REQUIRE REPORTING (S 2830)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 4-35, rejected an amendment that would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to report annually to the House, the Senate and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on any in-

creased rates of recycling that can be attributed to the provisions of the new plastics law.

“Creating a reporting system for the progress of this bill would give us an opportunity to evaluate the efficacy of the legislation over time,” said Sen.

Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) who voted for the amendment. “Reporting this data serves as a metric to tell us if this bill has done what it was purported to do. These are reasons why I voted in favor of this amendment.”

“The DEP already pub-

lishes an extensive report on waste management,” said Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham), who voted against the amendment. “They diligently produce annual reports, including a Recycling Market Development Action Plan. These reports are publicly available on the DEP

website.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## FREE WEIGHTS IN PRISONS (H 2422)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a measure that would require superintendents of medium- and maximum-security prisons to block inmates from

accessing free weights or any other exercise equipment that is not secured.

Sponsor Rep. Steven Xiarhos (R-Barnstable) said the bill is named “Matt’s Law” in honor of Cor-

rections Officer Matthew Tidman, who was brutally assaulted in 2022 by a prison inmate who used free weights from a prison gym facility as a weapon.

“I am proud to have filed

the bill … this session and I believe its protections are necessary to keep our correction officers safe at work,” said Xiarhos. “These brave men and women risk their safety for us every day and it is

important for us to have their back.”

## CITIES AND TOWNS (H 3396)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would require that cities and towns include a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) element in their master plans. Sponsors say that TDM studies policies aimed at giving people effective, reliable

transportation options, often by spreading travel across modes, locations, routes and times of day.

The measure also emphasizes collaboration with Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) to reduce congestion and improve mobility.

Supporters said that TDM and TMA options can help improve transportation equity by allocating resources to under-served groups, including non-drivers and reduce negative impacts from driving, such as congestion, noise, air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. They argued that implementing

TDM policies is often less expensive for cities and towns than car-centric options such as expanding roads and parking facilities.

“Massachusetts has some of the worst traffic congestion in the world. Too often, transportation planning is done on a

project-by-project basis rather than as part of a holistic, municipality or regional basis,” said sponsor Rep. Steven Owens (D-Watertown). “[My bill] fixes that.”

## THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

“The clerk will modify the members and tell them that a roll call is in progress.”

—The closed captioning words that appeared on the screen of the live coverage online of the House of Representatives when the speaker announced, “The clerk will NOTIFY the members and tell them that a roll call is in progress.”

“Y'all can stand and clap for that.”

—Freshman Rep. Christopher Worrell (D-Boston) during his inaugural

speech on the House floor, referring to the May birth of his second daughter.

“One of our most important natural resources is right beneath our feet — soil. Protecting soil quality is essential to stewarding our ecosystems and sustaining Massachusetts’ agricultural industry. Healthy soil is the foundation for climate resilient communities. Implementing thoughtful land management strategies is vital to maintaining biodiversity, promoting water quality and reducing carbon in

the atmosphere.”  
—Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announcing the awarding of more than \$1 million in grants to organizations to promote and protect Massachusetts’ soil health.

“While the law prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodation, we sadly see LGBTQIA+ individuals and others denied basic rights simply because of how they express or identify themselves. I, along with my office, will

continue to educate people about their rights and protections under law as we seek to create safe and equitable spaces for all.”

—Attorney General Andrea Campbell upon releasing an updated ‘Protections Against Discrimination in Places of Public Accommodations Guide’ to help ensure compliance with existing law and educate the public about their rights in public spaces, including gender-specific spaces like men’s and women’s restrooms. The guide has been updated to include information about

how the law protects those who identify as nonbinary and/or transgender.

“Our Bureau of Special Investigations examiners are making government work better by identifying fraud, waste and abuse of tax dollars so that residents actually in need have access to support and services.”

—State Auditor Diana DiZoglio on her office identifying more than \$2 million in public benefit fraud in the third quarter of fiscal 2024.



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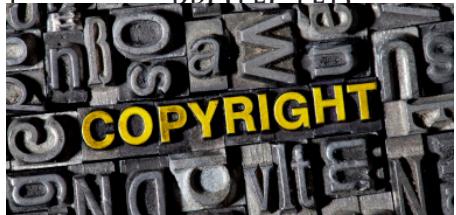
## The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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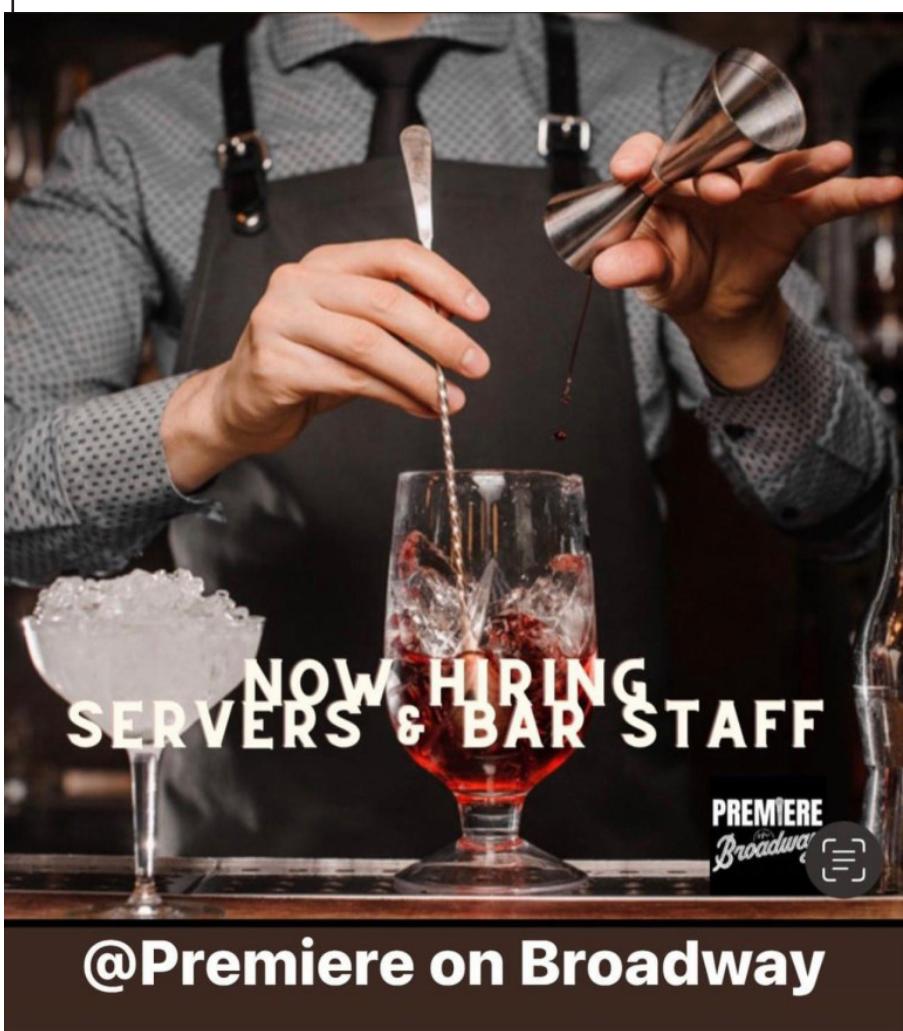


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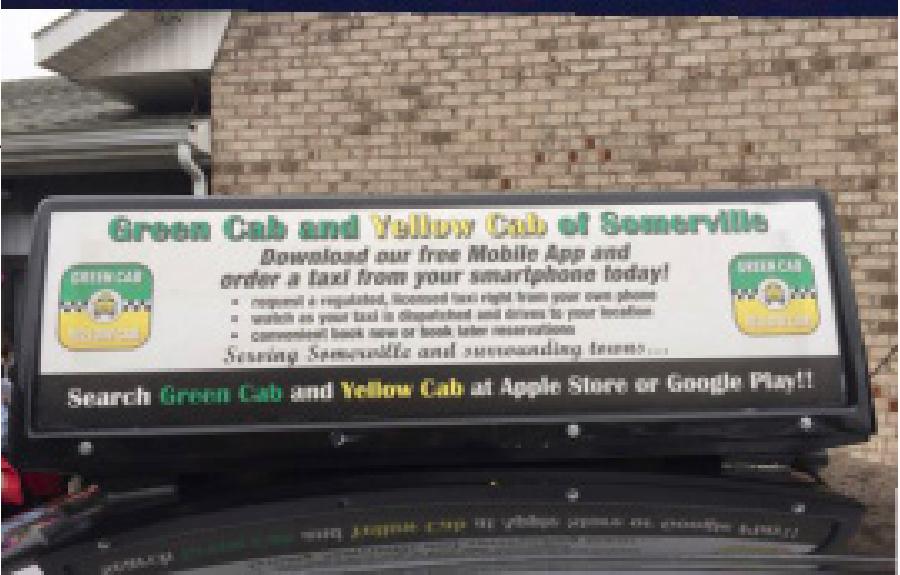
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SOMERVILLE HOSTING TUFTS STREET RECONSTRUCTION  
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

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

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward One Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, and City of Somerville

staff invite you to a community open house to learn about the updated design for transportation safety improvements on Tufts Street.

The event will take place Wednesday, July 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Glen Park Playground. If there is inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled to July

11.

The outdoor open house will feature multiple stations describing different aspects of the street reconstruction project including an upcoming wall mural. Drop-in anytime during the event to review materials and talk with the project team about your feedback, questions, and ideas.

Following the event, a recorded presentation and information about the updated design will be available on the project website.

Other opportunities for community members to share feedback will include an online survey, a street

outreach pop-up planned for July 23 from 5 to 7 p.m., and virtual office hours with Mobility Division staff on July 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For details on these engagement opportunities, visit somervillema.gov/tuftsstreet.

About the Tufts Street Reconstruction Project

The City is repaving Tufts Street and reconstructing its sidewalks as part of the citywide Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program. This presents an opportunity to redesign the street to make it safer for everyone. Tufts Street is designated as a "Neighborhood" in the Somerville

Bicycle Network Plan, which is a walk and bike friendly street designed to lower vehicle volumes and speeds.

After gathering feedback on the concept design from community members in the fall, and processing data collection on soil analysis, parking utilization, and incorporating input from emergency services, the City has developed an updated design proposal. City staff will share the updated design for the street as part of our upcoming open house. Updated design information will also be shared on the project website at somervillema.gov/tuftsstreet.

Questions and comments can be submitted and by calling 311 (617-666-3311). transportation@somervillema.gov and by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

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 serious injuries from our roadways. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2025 and continue through 2026. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change.

SOMERVILLE INVITED TO JOIN FOURTH OF JULY  
COMMUNITY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

Continued from front page

Community Party Including Music, Food, and Fireworks Will Begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 27

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is inviting Somerville to kick off their Fourth of July festivities by joining Somerville's annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Trum Field (541 Broadway) on Thursday, June 27 (rain date Friday, June 28).

The celebration begins at 6 p.m. and will include food by Italian Wizard and Dos Manos Kitchen

along with music by DJ Philip Tan and funk band Search Party. Somerville High School graduate Britney Flores will sing the Star-Spangled Banner to lead into the fireworks countdown by Mayor Ballantyne. Fireworks will begin at approximately 9 p.m.

Public Safety and Street Closures

As the city prepares for this event, streets will be closed at the following times:

Franey Rd. from Cedar St. to Charles Ryan Rd., will be closed

from 3:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. Broadway from Maguon Sq. to Ball Sq. will be closed from 4:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Cedar St. from Morrison Avenue to Broadway will be closed from 4:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.

From 4:30 to 6 p.m., residents have access to Cedar St & Charles Ryan Rd. No access to Franey Rd.

The following parking restrictions will be in effect for this event:

No parking around Trum Field Charles Ryan Road, from Cedar St to Broadway, 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.

(eastbound side). Broadway, from Medford St to Boston Ave, 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. (westbound side).

Cedar Street, from Morrison Ave to Broadway, 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. (both sides).

MBTA Buses 80 & 89 rerouted from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. See www.mta.com for full detour information.

Due to the large crowds and loud noise associated with the fireworks celebration, the City recommends

that attendees leave pets at home and not bring unnecessary bags or backpacks. All bags and backpacks are subject to inspection.

For more information on the Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration, please call 311 (617-666-3311 outside Somerville), or visit somervillema.gov. For information about events, go to somervillearts council.org/somerstreets or contact Larizza Menjivar, Events Coordinator, at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2998 or imenjivar@somervillema.gov.

## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING PALMACCI, PATRICIA L. (BEARS)



Palmacci, Patricia L. (Bears)- Of Somerville, passed away at home on Friday, June 21, 2024. She was 84 years old.

Complete obit to be posted.

A Funeral Procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home will be held on Monday, July 1st at 9:30 AM. Followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Clement Church,

64 Warner St., Medford at 10:30 AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be

held on Sunday, June 30th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, MA.

Interment will be private.



## MAYOR BALLANTYNE ANNOUNCES NEW UNION AGREEMENT INCREASING PAY & BENEFITS FOR FIRE ALARM UNIT

Continued from front page



Improved wages and benefits codified in new union contract

SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne on behalf of the City of Somerville has reached a new agreement with the union representing its Fire Alarm Operators for a new contract, providing improved wages and benefits for a valued set of City workers.

The City's Fire Alarm Unit provides 24/7 dispatch for the Somerville Fire Department, and its contract

is negotiated by Somerville Firefighters Local 76. The new three-year contract will cover the City's 2024 fiscal year (FY24: July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), as well as FY2025 and FY2026.

A package of improvements for existing employees start with a 9% cost of living increase over the life of the contract (equaling a 3% cost of living increase each year of the contract retroactive to July 1, 2023). Additional stipends and step increases will further build wages and include new base wage increases for employees with 10- and 20-years of service, as well as additional increases to existing longevity stipends that recognize length of service.

In addition, the City has

agreed to a significant increase of 24% to the starting salary of new employees that better aligns the City's starting salary for these positions with those seen in the market, which will make Fire Alarm Unit jobs more competitive and help improve the City's recruitment and retention efforts for these positions. This change for new hires brings their salaries more inline with theayscale that applies to existing fire alarm operators.

"We approach all of our labor negotiations with a deep appreciation for the work our union employees do for the people of Somerville, and we try to make sure to sign contracts that allow all city employees to move forward together," said Somerville Mayor Katjana

Ballantyne. "The Fire Alarm Unit answers calls that save people's lives. It provides an essential service, and this new contract adds important compensation and benefits improvements so that Fire Alarm service can continue to be a rewarding career."

A significant new benefit introduced in the contract is an eight-week paid family and medical leave program. This means employees requiring leave for needs such as family health issues or maternity and paternity leave would have access to 8 weeks of paid leave above and beyond standard sick, vacation, and personal time. The new benefit will reduce the likelihood that employees will face unpaid leave if their available accruals are not sufficient. The Fire Alarm Unit

is the second bargaining unit to enter the program, joining the City's custodial workers.

The new contract also adds an additional week of vacation when an employee reaches 25 years of service, and compensation for the Juneteenth National Holiday.

Finally, the new agreement establishes a new work schedule designed to increase staffing flexibility along with a rolling vacation day accrual system, which will help the City better track and account for this benefit.

The Fire Alarm Unit has voted to accept the new contract, leaving only the City Council to fund the cost of the contract before it takes effect.

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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:

2024-26 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended as follows: Fire Lane on Laurel St., running from the corner of Greene St. down the odd side in a southerly direction for a distance of 20 ft.

2024-27 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time at 42 Liberty Ave.

2024-28 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the north side of Otis St, from 20 ft to 30 ft east of McGrath Hwy and nearest the Otis Street pedestrian bridge, convert 10 ft of residential permit parking to no parking any time.

2024-29 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Glen St, from 20 ft to 40 ft south of Broadway and nearest 6 Glen St, convert 20 ft of metered parking to no parking any time.

2024-30 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking

Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on

the west side of Glen St, from 20 ft to 30 ft north of Pearl St and nearest the East Somerville

Community School, convert 10 ft of residential permit parking to no parking any time.

2024-31 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on

the east side of Glen St, from 20 ft to 30 ft south of Pearl St and nearest 98 Pearl St, convert 10 ft

of residential permit parking to no parking any time.

2024-32 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on

the west side of Glen St, from 20 ft to 40 ft north of Oliver St and nearest 113 Glen St, convert

20 ft of residential permit parking to no parking any time.

2024-33 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on

the east side of Glen St, from 20 ft to 30 ft south of Oliver St and nearest the Capuano Early

Childhood Center, convert 10 ft of school drop-off Monday-Friday 7:00am-4:30pm/ residential

permit parking all other times, to no parking any time.

2024-34 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on

the west side of Glen St from 20 ft to 40 ft north of Tufts St nearest 39 Tufts St, convert 20 ft of

residential permit parking to no parking any time.

2024-35 Article VI Section 6-1 "One-Way Streets" is amended as follows: allow two-way travel

for people riding bicycles on Glen St. between Tufts St. and Broadway.

2024-36 Article VI Section 6-1 "One-Way

Streets" is amended as follows: allow two-way travel

for people riding bicycles on Otis Street between McGrath Hwy and Cross Street.

2024-37 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on

the west side of Florence St nearest 4 Florence St from approximately 60 feet north of

Washington St to approximately 20 feet north of Washington St, convert the existing Permit

Parking to Two-Hour Parking Except by Permit from 8am to 2:30am.

2024-38 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on

the east side of Florence St nearest 9 Florence St from approximately 40 feet north of

Washington St to approximately 20 feet north of Washington St, convert the existing Permit

Parking to Two-Hour Parking Except by Permit from 8am to 2:30am.

2024-39 Article XV Section 15-2.1 "Residential Permit Parking" Schedule W "Locations

Prohibited the Issuance of Parking Permits" is amended with the addition of the following

locations: 13 Allen St, 21 Allen St, 71 Bow St, 595 Broadway, 24 Mount Pleasant St, 118

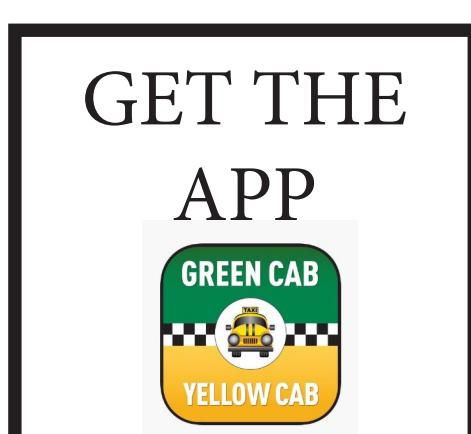
Prospect St, 121 Prospect St, 115 Thurston St, 13 Warwick St.

PROMULGATED: MAY 23, 2024

ADVERTISED: JUNE 11, 2024, JUNE 18, 2024, JUNE 25, 2024 EFFECTIVE: JULY 3, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly  
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## BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS AND MORE (S 2830)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 38-2, approved a bill that would ban single-use plastic bags; make straws and plastic utensils available by request only; require stores to charge 10 cents for recycled paper bags with 5 cents retained by the retailer and 5 cents used to fund environmental protection measures; make it easier to recycle; create a statewide program for recycling large plastic objects including car seats; prohibit single-use plastic bottle purchases by state agencies; require do-not-flush labeling for non-flushable wipes made of plastic; and implement statewide composting.

"From microplastics in our blood to plastic bags in our

waterways to greenhouse gases in our air, plastics pollute and harm our people and planet," said Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment. "The Plastics Reduction Act will prevent billions of single-use plastic bags, bottles, cutlery and wipes from clogging up our environment, pipes and landfills each year. This is a major win for our climate, our wildlife and our health."

"Nothing we use for just a few minutes should pollute the environment for decades," said Janet Domenitz, Executive Director of MASSPIRG. "Getting rid of single use plastic bags, food ware and more will reduce plastic waste, cut down on litter and make a cleaner,

greener future for everyone."

"In Massachusetts, we take pride in being a leader when it comes to protecting our environment and people's health, and this bill continues that leadership," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Limiting our plastics use means less trash in our waterways and on our streets, and giving our kids the green, clean planet they deserve to inherit. This is a crucial part of achieving the commonwealth's climate goals."

"It's burdensome on small businesses and creates increased cost at the grocery store and everyday living for consumers by having to pay an additional tax on paper bags and reusable

bags," said Sen. Ryan Fatman (R-Sutton), one of two senators who voted against the bill. "It also has no chance of passing through the Legislature because it's unrealistic and out of touch."

"I think it's important to understand that when we talk about the pollution that occurs throughout the world, that we understand where this comes from," said Sen. Peter Durant (R-Spencer), the other senator who voted against the bill. "Over 70 percent of all plastic pollution in the world today comes from Asia. The United States accounts for approximately 4 percent of the pollution, which is too much, I can give you that. I oppose this bill because the question becomes,

what is the cost to benefit ratio that we're talking about here? To what end do we want to cause businesses to cause families in Massachusetts, to expend more for a diminishing return?"

Durant continued, "This is going to cost the consumers of Massachusetts more, in a state that already has an incredible cost of living and in a state where we're trying to make it more affordable to be here. I think this is something that ends up being a little bit too much, too much for us to bear."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

## MAKE PAPER BAG FEE OPTIONAL (S 2830)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 8-30, rejected an amendment that would make the up to 10 cent fee for paper bags optional for retailers to charge. The amendment would replace a section of the bill that requires stores to charge 10 cents for recycled paper bags with 5 cents retained by

the retailer and 5 cents used to fund environmental protection measures.

Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) said he "voted in favor of [the] amendment because it helps consumers and small business owners save money at a time when inflation is causing hardships for families and businesses

alike."

"I voted yes ... because we have spent almost four years fighting inflation," said Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). "Just when prices are starting to stabilize, why would we impose a mandated cost increase on retail products? I believe we should leave it up to the retailer

to decide if it makes sense to impose a fee on carry-out paper bags."

"A nominal paper bag fee that business owners can customize will incentivize customers to bring reusable bags and advances the bill's waste reduction goals," said Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham) who opposed the amend-

ment. "This fee is optional for small businesses, building in flexibility for business owners who need it most."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

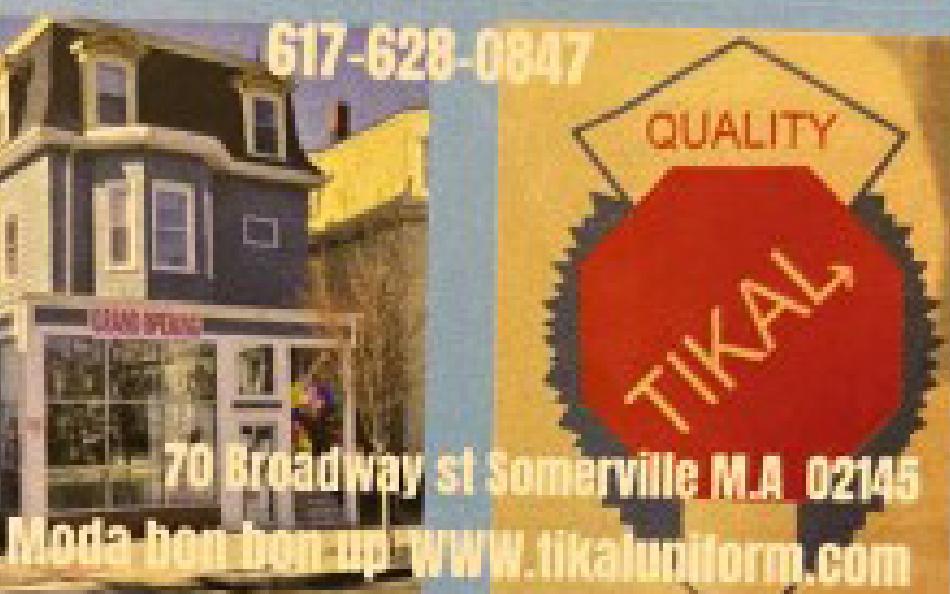
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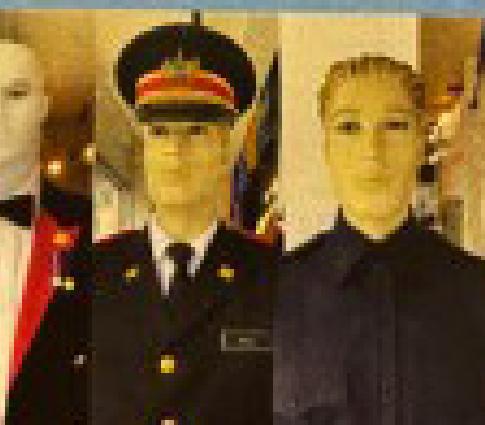
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## EXPAND NERO'S LAW (H 2423)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to another Xiarhos proposal that would expand Nero's Law, passed in 2022, that requires EMS personnel to provide basic emergency treatment to a police dog and use an ambulance to transport the dog injured in the line of

duty to a veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital,

if there are not people requiring emergency medical treatment or transport at that time. That law was passed following the tragic death of Yarmouth Police Sgt. Sean Gannon who was shot and killed in the line of duty.

His K-9 partner Nero was severely injured and had to be rushed to the animal hospital in the back of a police cruiser. Nero survived.

The bill permits not just basic emergency medical treatment, but also advanced life support care as an option by those prop-

erly trained, if available and necessary.

"We passed Nero's Law a couple of years ago in honor of K-9 Nero, and as a lasting tribute to fallen Yarmouth Police Sgt. Sean Gannon, who was killed in the line of duty in the same incident where Nero was injured," said Xiar-

hos. "Law enforcement depends on police dogs to keep the public safe in dangerous situations. It's the least we can do to make sure that these dogs receive proper emergency medical care if they are injured through their work."

## APPLY NOW FOR SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FUNDS



SOMERVILLE – Applications are now open for Somerville Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to support open space/recreation and historic preservation projects.

Applicants should note the following deadlines:

Sunday, July 14, 2024: Eligibility Determination Form Due  
The Eligibility Determination

form allows the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to determine if a proposed project qualifies for CPA funds. The CPC will contact applicants to let them know whether their proposal is eligible. Projects that do qualify will then be invited to enter the full application process.  
Friday, August 30: HPC Advisory Review Request Form required for all Historic Preser-

vation projects  
Sunday, September 15, 2024:  
Full Application Due

All application instructions and forms are available at somervillema.gov/CPA. Please contact Roberta Cameron, Community Preservation Act Manager, with questions at rcameron@somer-

villema.gov.  
vation Act  
Since its adoption in 2012, the Somerville CPA program has supported over 50 unique housing, historic, and open space/recreation projects or programs through awards of more than \$35 million, including \$5 million in matching funds from the State.

About the Community Preser-

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## REQUIRE ADAPTIVE BEAM HEADLIGHT TECHNOLOGY (H 3419)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would require all new automobiles sold in the state after January 1, 2026 to be equipped with adaptive beam headlight technology which is currently used in other parts of the world including Europe, China and Canada.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Adaptive Driving Beam Headlight Systems (ADB) use automatic headlight beam switching technology to shine less light on occupied areas of the road and more light on unoccupied areas. The adaptive beam is particu-

larly useful for distance illumination of pedestrians, animals and objects without reducing the visibility of drivers in other vehicles.

As a CNN report noted, "Imagine if you could drive at night with your high beams on all the time, bathing the road ahead in bright light but without ever blinding other drivers." That's what ADB accomplishes."

"The legislation seeks to address the problem with overly bright headlights," said sponsor Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton). "There are no shortage of news articles that speak to the growing problem of overly bright headlights on the high-

ways of Massachusetts. While they improve driver safety in some respects, they also blind oncoming traffic, which does not help with road safety. A solution is adaptive headlight technology or smart headlights.

"The American Automobile Association research found ADBs illuminate the road 86 percent better than current headlight technology but without the glare," continued Sabadosa. "Smart headlights make about 5,000 adjustments per second to curve light around the part of the road already lit up by an oncoming car. So, there's no direct beam in the other driver's face."



### Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square. Give what you can, Take what you need. Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group! The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming. It's 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 to keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free to join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville. One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square. "Give what you can, Take what you need." Much thanks and appreciation, Frank Santangelo

#### Blessing Backpack Checklist

##### BASICS:

- Wool beanie (hat)
- Smart wool socks
- Gloves
- Scarf

##### FOOD & DRINK

- Quality instant coffee
- Tea
- Energy drink
- Beef jerky
- Dried fruit
- Fruit leathers
- Trail mix
- Nuts
- Granola bars
- Protein powder packets
- Restaurant gift cards

##### HELP THEM CONNECT

- Journal & pen
- Stationery
- Stamps
- Pre-paid phone card

##### TOILETRIES

- Multi-purpose wipes
- Chapstick
- Facial wipes
- Moisturizer
- Comb
- Toothbrush & tooth paste
- Grooming kit

##### SURVIVAL

- First aid kit
- Water bottle with built in filter
- Heat-pack
- Multi-purpose tool

##### TREATS:

- Chocolates
- Fruit snacks
- Cookie snack packs
- Candy (individually wrapped)
- Mints
- Chewing gum

##### SPLURGE:

- Starbucks gift card
- Compact reusable bag

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## SOMERVILLE CELEBRATING FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NIBBLE KITCHEN RESTAURANT AND BUSINESS INCUBATOR COMMUNITY INVITED TO JOIN NIBBLEFEST CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, JUNE 30, FROM 12-4 P.M. AT BOW MARKET



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council are inviting the community to NibbleFest, a celebration of Nibble Kitchen's five-year anniversary at Bow Market, on Sunday, June 30, from 12-4 p.m. at Bow Market (entrance by 345 Somerville Ave).

To celebrate five fantastic years, Nibble Kitchen will host pop-ups from some of their favorite Chefs-in-Residence, past and present. In addition to delicious food, there will be live music courtesy of Juan Carlos Ruiz, and activities including the Test Your Nose! game, and face painting.

Culinary Pop-Ups at NibbleFest are scheduled to include:

Boukan'nen Afro-Haitian Cuisine  
Brazil Green (serving vegetarian and vegan food)  
Elena's Bakeshop (Columbian baked goods and sandwiches)  
BanglaAdda Bengali Cuisine  
Petra Jordanian Cuisine  
Riti's Kulfi Ice Cream  
Taquisimo Tacos  
Nagomi Bento  
Carolicious Gourmet  
Upcoming Nibble Events  
Now – October 26: Find Nibble Kitchen at the Union Square Farmers' Market every other week (66-70 Union Square Plaza, from 9am to 1pm); Nibble Kitchen will feature two vendors every other week.

June 27: Nibble graduate Edwin Orellana will be selling his gourmet Salvadoran pupusas at the Somerville Fireworks Fourth of July celebration (Trum Field, from 6:30 to 10pm). Edwin developed his Dos Manos pupusa

business when in the Nibble program.

July 13: Find Nibble Kitchen at ArtBeat (Davis Sq., 11am-10pm), one of the largest festivals of the season. Our Nibble staff and chefs will be at the center of the festival on the main Traffic Island, better known as Nibble Island!

The Somerville Arts Council and the Launch of Nibble Nibble was launched a decade ago, as part of Somerville Arts Council's ArtsUnion initiative, which has transformed Union Square, Somerville through innovative cultural economic development work. Nibble started with Union Square international market tours; next came a blog and then a book. We then added cooking classes, and a culinary entrepreneurship program. Next came Nibble Kitchen, which is located in the heart of Union Square, where our Nibble work all began.

About Nibble Kitchen- Global Eats by Local Peeps!  
Nibble is a Somerville Arts Council/City of Somerville initiative that celebrates cultural diversity through food and promotes economic development. Five years ago, Nibble expanded to launch a brick-and-mortar restaurant and business incubator called Nibble Kitchen, which offers a rotating global menu featuring chefs from Somerville's diverse community.

Nibble Kitchen also offers cooking classes to the public, and serves as home base for Nibble chefs vending at the Union Square Farmers Market and Somerville Arts Council festivals. All chefs at Nibble Kitchen are graduates of the Nibble Entrepreneurship Program. Go to <http://www.nibblesomerville.com> for the restaurant schedule, entrepreneur profiles, and much more information about the program.

Nibble and Economic Development  
Since the inception of the Nibble program ten years ago, Nibble graduates have opened a total of six restaurants, including three at Bow Market: Carolicious Gourmet, Taquisimo, and Nagomi's Bento (to open within the next two months), as well as 10 food businesses. These restaurants and food businesses employ over thirty employees, creating an economic ecosystem that supports Somerville's diverse population.

Other Nibble participants past and present derive income vending at Nibble Kitchen, as well as vending at Festivals and Farmers Markets, and teaching cooking classes. Nibble also plays a significant role in placemaking by propelling culinary tourism and ensuring that Somerville stays diverse and delicious.

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## MATERNAL HEALTH

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The House 153-0, approved and sent to the Senate a maternal health bill that would require certified professional midwives and lactation consultants to be licensed; encourage the creation of more freestanding birth centers; expand access to postpartum depression screenings; and raise awareness of pregnancy loss and perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

"Today, I feel proud to stand with my colleagues in recognition of the autonomy of all birthing people to make important decisions about where they give birth – whether in

a hospital, at home or in a birthing center – and ensure that all parents feel strong, empowered and in charge of their health at such a formative time in their lives," said Rep. Kay Khan (D-Newton), a sponsor of the bill. "In passing this historic maternal health package, we have further elevated the midwifery model of care and moved mountains toward addressing the needs of all birthing people in the commonwealth, regardless of their race, ethnicity or socio-economic status."

"Today we are making a commitment to ensuring that every mother receives the care and support they need before,

during and after childbirth," said Rep. Pat Haddad (D-Somerset), a sponsor of the bill. "We are taking steps to eliminate the causes of infant mortality and improving maternal health outcomes of pregnancies for all birthing persons. This legislation tackles the root causes of maternal deaths and delivery complications."

"[The bill] is a significant legislative step in addressing perinatal mood disorders in Massachusetts," said Rep. Jim O'Day (D-West Boylston). "This bill provides crucial support for new parents by improving access to comprehensive mental health care

during the perinatal period. By focusing on early detection and intervention, we can ensure better health outcomes for both parents and their babies. This legislation is vital for fostering healthier families and communities, particularly for those most vulnerable to perinatal mood disorders."

"This legislation, which is the fourth significant health care bill that the House has passed this session, is the latest example of our ironclad commitment to increasing access to quality, affordable health care for all residents of Massachusetts," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "While the commonwealth's

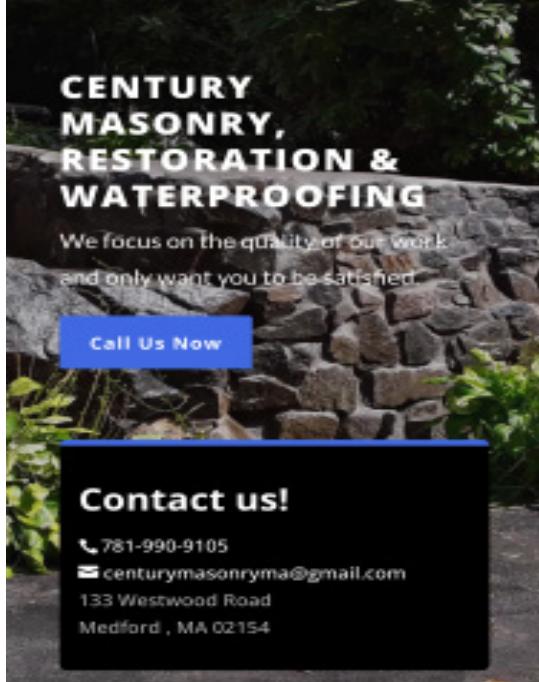
health care system is amongst the best in the world, inequities in maternal health remain prevalent, and certain aspects of care are woefully insufficient. That's why the reforms included in this legislation are so important, as they will help to close racial inequities and improve maternal health care statewide."

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

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

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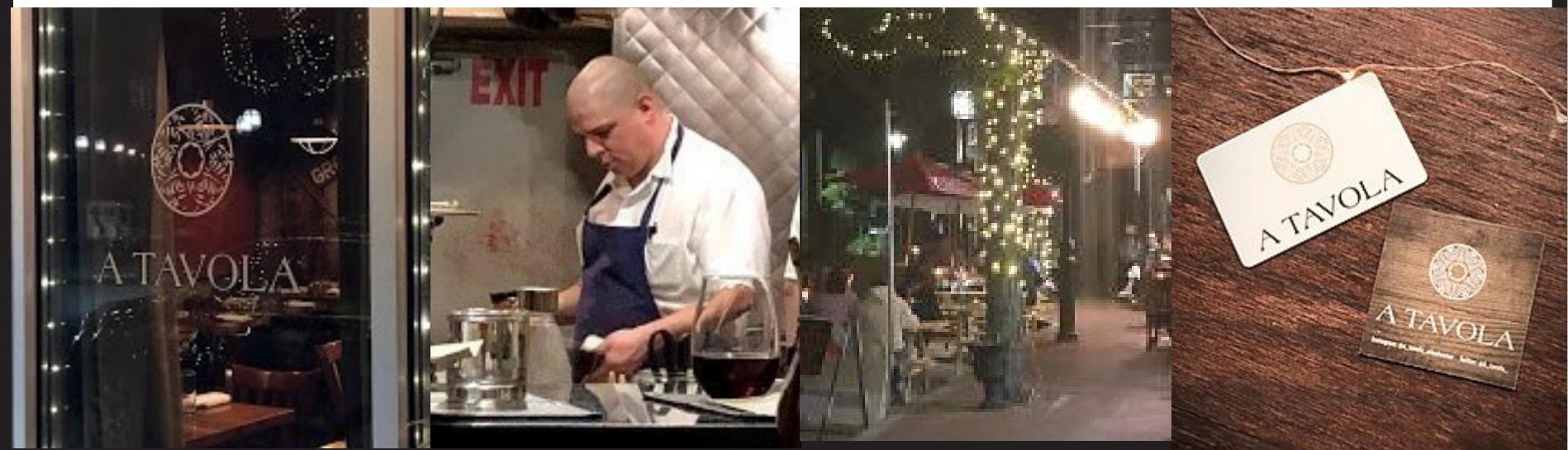
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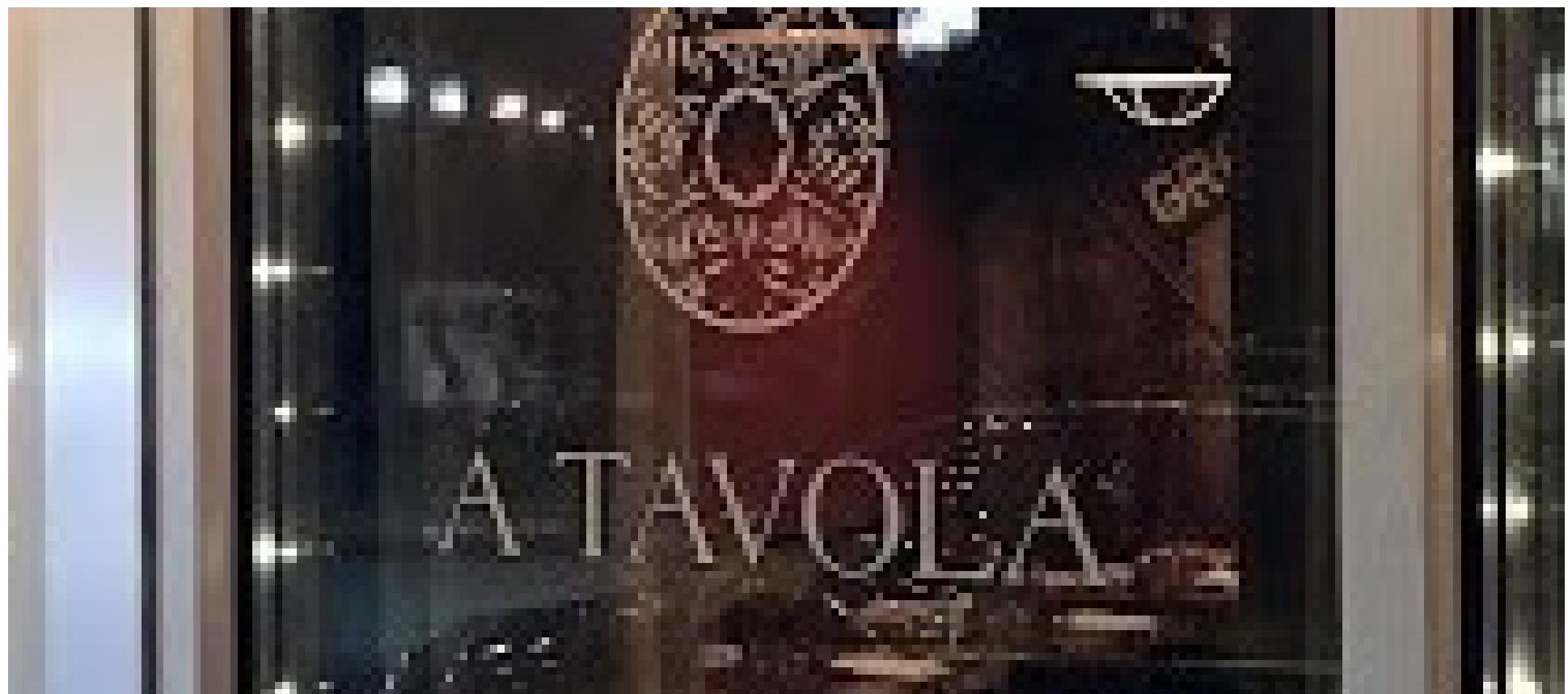
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