

# The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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VOL.1 NO.329-223

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday July 16th, 2024

## MIDDLESEX DA & POLICE INVESTIGATING CAMBRIDGE, MEDFORD AND SOMERVILLE MULTIPLE SHOOTINGS



NEWS TALK OUT  
LOUD/SPEAK UP



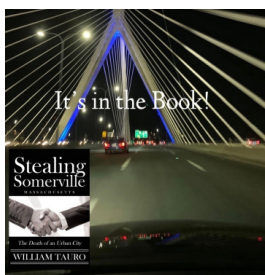
Continued to page 19

### SOMERVILLE PASSES BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 WITH MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN CORE CITY SERVICES AND WORKFORCE EQUITY

### EMAIL SUPPORT FROM DPW COMMISSIONER JILL LATHAN



Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page



Continued to page 17

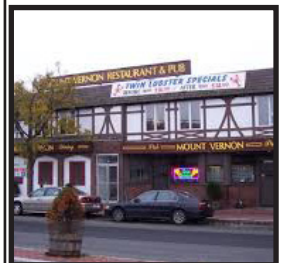


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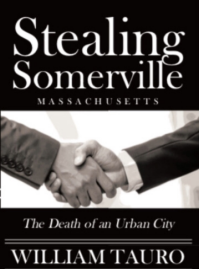
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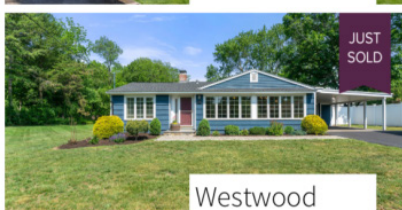
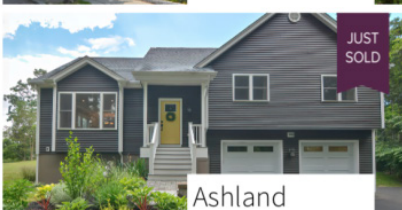
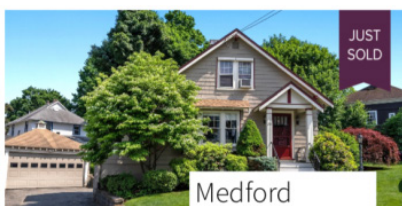
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**MARKET ACTIVITY**

**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)

Winner of the 2018 Chairman's Circle Diamond award, representing the top 1/2 of the top 1% across the nation  
Winner of the 2019 President Circle Award  
Winner of the 2020 Chairman's Circle Gold award, representing the top 2% in Berkshire Hathaway Home Services across the nation





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 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

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 ROBERT E ADAMS



Obituary

Adams, Robert E. – Of Rindge, NH formerly of Somerville, Providence, RI and Florida. passed

away on July 1, 2024. He was 75.

Born and raised Cambridge, he was the son of the late Robert E. and Maria T. (Thomas) Adams. Bob was quite the traveler and a knowledgeable person! His love for driving and exploring from New Hampshire to Florida must have allowed him to see a lot of beautiful scenery along the way.

His fondness for yard sales and casinos suggests he enjoyed both the thrill of finding unique items and a bit of excitement. It's impressive that he was also the go-to person for family history information. He was quite well-informed about his family's background.

He was the devoted son of the late Robert E. Adams and Maria T. (Thomas)

Adams. The beloved brother of Jean M. Adams and her partner Alan Davenport of Rindge, NH, David E. Adams and his wife Mary of Salem, NH and William Adams and his wife Karen of Medford. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

way (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Wednesday July 24th from 10:00AM to 11:30AM. Followed by a prayer service in the funeral home at 11:30AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING ELLEN L. BURKE



Obituary

BURKE, Ellen L. (Cushman) – of Londonderry, NH formerly of Charlestown July 8, 2024. Beloved wife of 56 years to Patrick "Paddy" Burke.

Loving mother of John Burke, Cindy Langone and Cathy Burke. Cherished grandmother of Rachel and Jason Langone.

Dear sister of the late Francis Jr., George, Daniel, James and William Cushman. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Wednesday morning July 17th, at

9AM, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Francis de Sales Church, Charlestown at 10:00.

Relatives and friends invited. Calling hours in the Funeral Home, Tuesday evening 4:00 – 7:00pm.

Interment, Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Ellen's memory to the American Diabetes Association.

### WILLIAM TAURO: I'M A FORMER VICTIM AND I COULD'VE BEEN A STATISTIC!



I'm a former victim and I could've been a statistic!

My thoughts and opinion of the Trump assassination attempt: For the past five years since I first ran and announced that I was running for mayor of Somerville, I had six assassination threats. Four were from crackpots, one was from an official former assistant Middlesex County District Attorney who admitted his actions to law enforcement who went stray and one was from somebody who pleaded guilty to the Middlesex County District Attorney of all charges who is going on trial in late July coming up. It's all public record.

My only reason for posting this is that I take this very seriously. It's mainly because law enforcement advised me in wearing a bulletproof vest for close to three years when attending public gatherings

and I worried for my family safety and wellbeing everyday because I was trying to make a difference in the community. It's not fair!

Now I am a candidate for Southern Middlesex County Registrar of Deeds. No matter your party affiliation, please keep your political conflicts and your opinions at the ballot box. Stop political violence and keep it real.

Sincerely,  
Billy



## SOMERVILLE UNETHICALLY HIRES OUT OF STATE POLITICAL CANDIDATE FOR CITY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

By William Tauro

This is the same lady that our Somerville mayor wants to make Chief Administrative Officer aka CAO for the amount of \$185,466 per year who lives in Rhode Island, and who will be working remotely from Rhode Island on your dime, who is also a candidate for state senate in Rhode Island! She has already started her job since April and we are paying for it!

Your thoughts?

Lammis Vargas announces bid for State Senate District 28

Current Cranston City Council VP seeks to replace outgoing Senator Joshua Miller

From a press release:

Cranston City Council Vice President Lammis Vargas today announced her intent to run for Rhode Island State Senate in District 28. The seat, covering parts of Cranston and Providence, is currently held by Senator Joshua Miller, who has decided not to run for reelection.

“I am a lifelong Rhode Islander and dedicated public servant committed to delivering a high quality of life for the people I represent,” said Vargas. “District 28 deserves a senator who will build on Senator Miller’s strong record of advocating for the health, safety, environment, and education of his constituents. I believe that, with my experience and leadership, I can continue

that advocacy in the State House.”

In her time on the Cranston City Council, Vargas has been a key voice for progressive issues, while also taking the initiative to work with anyone who shares her passion for improving the lives of the residents of Cranston’s Ward 1. In addition to securing funding for accessible playground improvements in Cranston’s city parks and bike racks for Pawtuxet Village, Vargas championed safety in the neighborhood by adding solar-powered radar speed signs to discourage dangerous vehicles. Her advocacy has also included revamping the Nuisance Task Force, promoting strong public schools, the need for more housing, supporting local businesses, and advocating to tighten the requirements for perpetual care of privately owned cemeteries.

Vargas continues to be a powerful voice in support of racial equity and inclusivity in Cranston. As the first woman of color on the city council, she championed city ordinances aimed at increasing diversity on city boards and commissions. An ordinance authored by Vargas brought Cranston’s Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE) policies in line with state standards. Vargas nominated the first person of color to become a municipal judge in the city’s history. She also began the annual tradition of raising the LGBTQ+ pride flag at city hall in June.

Her commitment to the

local environment is evident in her work to better regulate private trash hauling services, reduce plastic waste, and support local clean-up initiatives in the city to continue protecting our rivers and Narragansett Bay.

As a senator, Vargas will employ her skills and experience to ensure the people of Cranston and Providence have their voices heard in the highest corridors of power in our state. She expects to launch a robust and energized campaign over the coming weeks.

Throughout her career, Vargas has served as Senior Policy Advisor to Rhode Island General Treasurer James Diossa, as Deputy Secretary of State and Director of Administration for former Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, and as Deputy State Treasurer and Director of Unclaimed Property under former Treasurer Seth Magaziner. She currently works as the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Somerville, Massachusetts. Vargas is a cancer survivor, daughter of immigrant parents from Colombia, a mother of two, married to a police officer/war veteran, and a Rhode Island College graduate.

Steve Ahlquist is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support my work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber




Proposed Job Title	FY Year
	2025
Chief Administrative Officer	\$185,466
Mayor	\$181,419
Chief of Staff	\$152,798
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs	\$124,373
ARPA Director*	\$124,373
Director of Racial & Social Justice	\$121,935
Digital Innovation Officer	\$105,981
Legislative Liaison 1	\$104,029
Legislative Liaison 2	\$96,107
ARPA Specialist*	\$94,222
ARPA Program Manager 1*	\$91,790
Executive Administrative Aide	\$88,226
ARPA Program Manager 2*	\$88,226
ARPA Program Manager 3*	\$84,800
Administrative Aide	\$73,493

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# MAYOR BALLANTYNE AND CITY COUNCIL INVITE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO THE WARD 5 "SLICE OF THE CITY" MEET-UP EVENT



Connect with the Mayor, city officials, and neighbors over

free pizza, refreshments, and kids' activities at Trum Field playground

SOMERVILLE- Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 5 Councilor Naima Sait, and the City Council invite Somerville

community members to the Ward 5 "Slice of the City" meet-up event on Mon-

day, July 22, at Trum Field playground (1 Franey Road at Cedar Street), from 5 to 7 p.m. This event was originally scheduled for Thursday, May 16, but was postponed due to weather.

The Ward 5 event wraps up the debut of "Slice of the City," a series of family-friendly pizza parties in the parks that offer attendees a new way to con-

nect and engage with city leaders and staff as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks.

Staff on hand will be happy to discuss neighborhood projects, City programs and services, questions or concerns, or your favorite pizza topping. Additional refreshments and activities for children will be provided.

Each "Slice of the City" event prioritizes inclusivity and accessibility, with language assistance available through the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs and accommodations for seniors and individuals with mobility needs.

For more information, please visit [somervillema.gov/slice](http://somervillema.gov/slice).

## \$2.86 BILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE (S 2856)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 40-0, approved a \$2.86 billion economic development package that supporters say would make bold investments in life sciences, climate tech, AI and small businesses, building on Massachusetts' national leadership and creating an environment where businesses and workers thrive.

The House has approved a different version of the measure and a House-Senate conference committee will hammer out a compromise version.

Provisions of the Senate version include \$225 million over five years for the Life Sciences Breakthrough Fund to reauthorize the Life Sciences Initiative; \$200 million for the Clean Energy Investment Fund to facilitate research and development, commercialization and deployment of climate technologies; \$200 million for the Massachusetts Offshore Wind Industry Investment Trust Fund to

support the growth of the offshore wind industry; \$400 million for MassWorks public infrastructure projects that spur economic development and help support job creation; \$100 million for the Rural Development Fund to provide financial assistance for infrastructure and community planning efforts in rural communities; \$100 million for local economic development grants for economic development in cities and towns; and \$90 million to support the redevelopment of underutilized, blighted or abandoned buildings.

Other provisions include \$115 million for the Massachusetts Tech Hub to establish key industry consortia across the state; \$100 million for the Applied AI Hub program to facilitate the application of AI; \$99 million for flexible grants to support advanced manufacturing initiatives; \$25 million for capital grants to advance research, commercialization and training in robotics; \$25 million through MassVentures for small business technology

grants to help early-stage companies commercialize new technologies; \$35 million for grants to Community Development Financial Institutions to help disadvantaged and underserved businesses; and \$10 million for Biz-M-Power matching grants to small businesses with capital needs.

Non-fiscal provisions include new laws to allow local communities to opt-in and allow bars and restaurants in the city or town to responsibly offer happy-hour drink discounts; allow local breweries and distilleries to sell their products alongside local wineries at farmers markets; increase opportunities for a more diverse public sector teaching force; and raise from 17 to 18 the age at which persons can be tried as a juvenile. The hike would apply to many crimes for which 18-year-olds would be tried as juveniles instead of as adults but would not change existing law that allows 18-year-olds charged with the most serious offenses, including first- or second-degree murder, to be

prosecuted and sentenced as adults.

"Massachusetts is home to great talent, industry and education, but we must act now to remain competitive in a changing global and national economy," said Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover), Senate Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. "This economic development bill bolsters our state's competitiveness by strengthening sectors we already excel in and creating pathways to secure the lead in emerging fields."

"Life sciences and climate technology are synonymous with Massachusetts because of the past decade of strong investment," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "The Senate's action today ensures that we build on that leadership in the coming decade, amplifying the diverse and thriving economic ecosystem that enables people to stay in our state to build careers and families."

"I'm excited the Senate has created long-term investments in key sectors of our state's economy by passing this economic development bond bill," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "With ambitious initiatives in life sciences, robotics, artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge disciplines, we lay a strong foundation for the new and global economy for generations to come. While we look to the future, the bill also reinforces the traditional economic drivers of the commonwealth, notably small business, education and advanced manufacturing."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

## 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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"Without all of the hustle and bustle of heading into Boston, why not just head locally right in Winchester at TAVOLA RESTAURANT where a little piece of Italy is waiting for you!"

"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.



EMAIL SUPPORT FROM DPW COMMISSIONER JILL LATHAN Continued from front page



By William Tauro

Please read this email below that was sent to all city employees regarding what Somerville DPW Commissioner Jill Lathan wrote in support of our members at the DPW. Also see the Photo on the windows of DPW Commissioner Jill Lathan who recognizes and understands that there is a big problem in Somerville.

Please read this email that DPW Commissioner wrote in support of our

members at the DPW.

Also see the Photo on the windows of DPW Commissioner Jill Lathan.

Dear Members,

Subject: Critical Mass

I wanted to forward this over to you so see that Jill is incredibly supportive and furious over the lack of support for the DPW workers.

From: Jill Lathan  
Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 3:24 PM  
To: Ben Waldrip ; Danielle Palazzo ; Eric Weisman ; Jeffrey Barbieri ; Julie Spurr-Knight ; Matthew Bennett ; Michael Bowler  
Subject: Last Week.....

This was included in the Mayor report last week:

Critical Mass!

DPW is at critical mass

with employees rapidly leaving for higher pay elsewhere, retirements, workman comp, and extend FMLA. Our rank and file are decimated and exhausted. We are even having employees turn down OT due to fatigue. For an operational department that is in peak season for events, road/sidewalk repair, tree trims, landscaping, building repairs/projects, school readiness projects, moves, etc. we are literally hanging on by a thread. Our lack of a union contract is untenable. In the next few weeks, I am losing a newly hired tree worker, HWY worker, and another fleet mechanic all because of low wages. All say when they leave they like working for Somerville DPW but can't afford to stay.

This current state of affairs has destroyed employee morale and is forcing us to be a department that

will need to increase our contracted work for essential services in FY25. I understand the contract negotiations are ongoing. However, I need to clearly communicate the dire straits we are heading into too. DPW has worked really hard to renovate, rejuvenise, and reconstruct the culture here. It has taken over 3 years of intentional due diligence and authentic investment in our crews to get them to actually believe that DPW leadership cares about them.

That teamwork and commitment to a common goal can only go so far. When these dedicated working-class individuals start turning down OT due to over tiredness, that is a problem. When I see my crews with their heads down just going through the motions, that is a problem. When we start having work stoppage

issues and projects that cannot get done, that will be a problem. At DPW we take pride in the work we do for this city. However, if we continue on this path with no significant contract resolution then our only option will be to hire more contractors, which will reinforce employee's belief that the City doesn't really care about them. A costly outcome both fiscally and organizationally.

Jill Lathan C.P.R.E., L.C.S.W.

City of Somerville DPW Commissioner

1 Franey Road

Somerville, MA 02145

Office: (617) 625-6600 ext. 5110

Fax: (617) 623-7649

Email: [jlathan@somervillema.gov](mailto:jlathan@somervillema.gov)

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR NINE INCOME-RESTRICTED APARTMENTS AT 154 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE



Application Period Closes at 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2024

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) are pleased to announce that applications are currently being accepted for nine (9) income-restricted apartments at The Guild, located at 154 Broadway. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 1.

The Guild consists of nine inclu-

sionary rental units designated for households making at or below 50% AMI, 80% AMI or 110% AMI (Area Median Income). Please note that no utilities included in rent. All utilities are paid for by the tenant (gas is not a utility at this property).

All applications will be reviewed by Maloney Properties. To download an application and learn more, please visit The Guild's website.

Please see below for more information on the units available.

# of Units	3
Unit Size	356-448
Square Feet	51-80%
AMI	\$1,418
Rent	1
# Built Out for Mobility Impair-	Studio
	440
	81-110%

ments	\$2,088
# Built Out for Hearing Impair-	1
ments	Three-Bedroom
3	1,121
Studio	81-110%
385-440	\$2,884
50%	
\$748	

1	
1	
Three-Bedroom	
1,123	
50%	
\$874	
3	

3	
Studio	
356-448	
51-80%	
\$1,418	
1	
Studio	
440	
81-110%	

1	\$57,100
2	\$57,101-\$91,200
3	\$91,201-\$125,164
4	\$65,300
5	\$65,301-\$104,200
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HOSPITAL HELIPADS (H 2400)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would ban non-emergency aircraft from practicing training maneuvers, including simulated landings, practice approaches,

turns about a point and power off turns, within a two nautical mile vicinity of a hospital with a helipad. Aircraft would be allowed to fly directly over the helipad as long as they are not performing these maneuvers and are flying

at an altitude of over 2,000 feet.

“As a representative from a district with a hospital that operates a helipad, I filed this bill after much input from the public,” said sponsor Rep. Dan

Sena (D-Acton). “I heard from constituents that recreational aircraft often utilized the helipad for training flights and maneuvers that were completely unrelated to the operation of the hospital, which had a significant impact on

those in the area. This bill is designed to ensure that hospital helipads are kept open and safe to ensure they are always prepared for an emergency and free of interference.”



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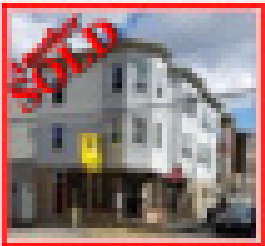


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Here's your weekly News Talk Shout Out dosage continued from page 2



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REDUCE THE SHORTAGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS (H 4842)



By Bob Katzen

The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that supporters say would streamline the process for foreign-trained dentists to obtain a dental hygienist license in the Bay State.

Massachusetts would only license the dentist as a dental hygienist if it determines that competency requirements in the foreign country are equal to those required of applicants in

the Bay State.

“This proposal would benefit immigrants who are foreign-trained dentists, providing them with an accelerated pathway towards a hygiene license and helping to alleviate the labor shortage in the field of dentistry,” said sponsor Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy).

“Massachusetts continues to contend with a shortage of qualified dental hygienists, and this bill would create a new pipeline for foreign-trained dentists to help stem the workforce shortage,” said Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) President Dr. Abe Abdul. “Oral health is critical to overall health. Increasing the number of dental care

providers translates into less wait times and greater availability of appointments for patients, allowing them to receive high-quality care.

“The Massachusetts Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) is excited to collaborate with the MDS on crucial language in the legislation that enables foreign-trained dentists to take required exams and apply for dental hygiene licenses, said MDHA President Amanda Berthiaume. “We are committed to supporting these new hygienists by providing them with opportunities, through an MDHA membership, to help them succeed. This legislation is a first step in addressing the dental professional shortage in Massachusetts.”

THIS WEEK’S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BROADWAY- BY THE NUMBERS EDITION

By Bob Katzen

Last week marked the 1-year anniversary of a bill signed into law in 2023 that allows undocumented/illegal immigrants to apply for a learner’s permit and Massachusetts standard driver’s license.

The law requires an applicant “without legal presence” in the United States to provide the Registry of Motor Vehicles with a foreign passport and at least one of five other documents: a driver’s license from another state, a foreign driver’s license, a

birth certificate, a foreign national identification card or a marriage certificate or divorce decree from any U.S. state. Here are the numbers:

183,825 —Number of new learner’s permits issued from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024 — an increase of 113,441 over the 70,384 issued in the same time period from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023.

128,075 —Number of new driver’s licenses issued from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024 — an increase of \$72,926 over

the 55,149 issued in the same time period from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023

35 —Number of languages in which people are tested to obtain learner’s permits.

100 —Number of languages in which in-person and phone assistance is available.

250 —Number of new employees hired to handle the thousands of additional applications for learner’s permits and driver’s licenses.

Quotable Quotes





# HONK! FESTIVAL 2024: 19TH ANNUAL — SAVE THE DATES, OCTOBER 4-6, 2024



[photo credit: Michael Nosal]

NINETEENTH ANNUAL Festival of Activist Street Bands

SAVE THE DATES October 4-6, 2024

(rain or shine) primarily based in the vicinity of Davis Square, Somerville and Harvard Square, Cambridge

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

(Somerville & Cambridge, MA) By early September, the wheels will be set in full motion for HONK! Festival 2024, this year to be held from October 4-6, with HONK! outdoor band concerts held throughout Davis Square and nearby neighborhoods on that Friday thru Saturday.

Then on to the vast “Reclaim

the Streets for Horns, Bikes, and Feet” Parade, as it wends its way from Davis Square to Harvard Square on Sunday October 6th, to participate in Harvard Square’s 45th annual Oktoberfest.

The entire Festival is inspired by a commitment to social change through music, embodied in the powerful upbeat music generated by activist street bands who have traveled from near and far to participate in our annual HONK! Because after all, this is where the HONK! movement all started back in 2006, spawning many a HONK! since then, and warranting its own wiki toboot: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/)

HONK!

The Somerville-based HONK! Committee — spurred on by members of HONK!’s host band and HONK! movement founder, the Good Trouble Brass Band (fka The Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band) — is working fast and furiously to solidify plans for this year’s 19th annual HONK! with periodic updates posted on [honkfest.org](http://honkfest.org), [x.com/honkfest/](https://x.com/honkfest/), and [facebook.com/honkfestival](https://facebook.com/honkfestival).

At this early stage of the organizing game, the HONK! Festival Committee would like to give special thanks to

the City of Somerville, the Somerville Arts Council, and the Davis Square and Harvard Square businesses for their continuing support.

Basic listings information: HONK! Festival 19th Annual Festival of Activist Street Bands. October 4-6, 2024 Held throughout Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston neighborhoods.

Outdoors rain or shine. Free and open to all; if interested in volunteering, contact [volunteer@honkfest.org](mailto:volunteer@honkfest.org).

For further information: [honkfest.org](http://honkfest.org), [facebook.com/honkfestival](https://facebook.com/honkfestival), [info@honkfest.org](mailto:info@honkfest.org), 781-285-8639.

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SOMERVILLE—The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market is gearing up for the 2024 season selling fresh produce across the city on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, July 11 through October 26. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced low to make healthy, fresh foods affordable and accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit cards, SNAP,

Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons.

Here’s where you can find the mobile market this summer and fall:

Thursday afternoons, 4–6 p.m.: Clarendon Hill Towers, 1372 Broadway

Friday mornings, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Council on Aging, 167 Holland St.

Friday afternoons, 2:30–4:30 p.m.: Somerville Public Library East Branch, 115 Broadway (new location)

Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Mystic Housing Development, 25 Memorial Road

For more information and to see what’s in stock each week, visit the market website at [somervillema.gov/farmersmarket](http://somervillema.gov/farmersmarket).

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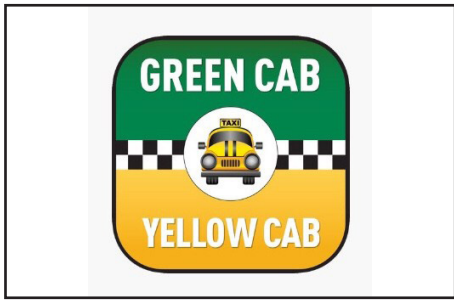


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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE HONORING 2024 DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH**



Free Activities for All Ages and Abilities Planned Throughout July

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Commission for Persons With Disabilities (SCPD) are announcing a series of events throughout July to recognize and celebrate Disability Pride Month.

This month-long celebration will feature a variety of activities designed to raise awareness, celebrate the contributions of individuals with disabilities, and foster an inclusive community spirit.

“We are very thankful to Mayor Ballantyne and the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) who have supported us in facilitating these events as we celebrate Disability Pride Month this July,” shared Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities Chair Holly Simione. “We are excited to embrace the diversity and rich contributions of people with disabilities and have fun learning together.”

All residents are invited to participate and join in celebrating the diverse abilities and achievements of our community members.

Schedule of Events:  
Somerville Commission for Persons with

Disabilities Monthly Public Meeting  
Date/Time: Tuesday, July 9, 7 – 9 p.m.  
Location: Tufts Administration Building Conference Room (2nd floor, Room 203M), 167 Holland St. For more information about the monthly meetings, visit the SCPD website.

About: Join the monthly public SCPD meeting where accessible recreation and parking will be discussed. The commission welcomes you to join our meeting – we value input from Somerville residents.

“How to Train Your Dragon” Screening  
Date/Time: Wednesday, July 10, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Location: West Library Branch (40 College Ave)

About: Enjoy a screening of “How to Train Your Dragon” with treats and prizes. Space is limited and registration is required in advance. RSVP here.

Disability Pride Flag Raising  
Date/Time: Thursday, July 11, 5 – 6 p.m.

Location: City Hall Plaza (93 Highland Ave)

About: Join the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Mayor Ballantyne to raise the Disability Pride flag above Somerville’s City Hall. Light refreshments will be served following the flag raising.

SCPD ArtBeat Booth  
Date/Time: Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Location: ArtBeat, Davis Square  
About: Visit the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities’ booth at ArtBeat to participate in a multi-sensory community art project, share a pride story, and decode secrets and get a custom cup with your name in Braille. Stop by for free books, prizes, and your very own Disability Pride tote bag!

“CODA” Screening and Discussion  
Date/Time: Wednesday, July 24, 1 p.m.

Location: Somerville Council on Aging (167 Holland St.)

About: Attend a Council on Aging screening of the film “CODA,” followed by a discussion with members of the Disability Commission.

RSVP by calling Debby at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or emailing at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Disability Pride Family Day  
Date/Time: Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: West Library Children’s Room (3rd Floor)

About: Join us for live readings of stories that celebrate disability read by members from the Disability Commission, bracelet-making, and painting messages on river rocks.

Attendees will receive treats, prizes, books, and a tote bag. Activities are inclusive for all ages and abilities.

RSVP here

Book readings for grades K-3 will take place at 10 a.m., 10:20 a.m., 10:40 a.m., and 11 a.m.

Book readings for grades 4-6 will occur at 11:30 a.m. and 11:50 a.m.

Evening Book Reading by Local Authors with Disabilities  
Date/Time: Monday, July 29, 7 – 9 p.m.

Location: West Branch Library  
About: Join an evening of readings by local authors with disabilities. For more details on the events and to register RSVP here.

About Disability Pride Month  
Disability Pride Month is celebrated in July to honor the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26th, 1990.

The month aims to promote visibility and mainstream awareness of the positive pride felt by people with disabilities.

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### REDUCE SHORT-TERM CAPITAL GAINS TAX (S 2856)

Bob Katzen

The Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would reduce the short term capital gains tax from 8.5 percent to 5 percent over a three year period from 2025 to 2027. "We have the highest short term capital gains

tax in the Northeast and amongst the highest in the nation," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) who supported the amendment. "Lowering it could help business investment and actually provide economic activity."

Amendment opponents

said the Legislature recently passed, and Gov. Maura Healey signed into law, the largest tax cut in state history. They noted that the tax cut package included a reduction in the short-term capital gains tax.

"Only last year, we passed

significant tax reductions," said Sen. Pat Jehlen.(D-Somerville). "We don't yet know all the impact. We need enough revenue to meet our needs for housing and transportation. Those investments are much more important than tax cuts for our economic future."

(A "Yes" vote is for the reduction in the short-term capital gains tax. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

### JUVENILE JUSTICE AGE (S 2856)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 31-9, approved an amendment that would raise from 17 to 18 the age at which a person can be tried as a juvenile. The hike would apply to many crimes for which 18-year-olds would be tried as juveniles instead of as adults.

The amendment would not change existing law that allows 18-year-olds charged with the most serious offenses, including first- or second-degree murder, to be prosecuted and sentenced as adults. Similarly, a juvenile 18 or younger could be charged as an adult for any felony if the he or she had been previously committed in the Department of Youth Services, committed

an offense that involves serious bodily harm or violated certain firearm laws.

"We will never achieve racial equity in Massachusetts without addressing the systemic biases in our systems, including our criminal legal system—and giving our children a fair shot at life from birth onward," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "By raising the age today, I am proud that the Senate is making the commonwealth a fairer place for young people who should not be judged for their whole life by a mistake they made as an 18-year-old."

"As the former Senate Chair of the Joint Task Force on Emerg-

ing Adults in the Massachusetts Criminal Justice System, I heard from stakeholders across the juvenile and criminal justice systems about the countless public safety benefits of raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction," said Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "Including 18-year-olds in the juvenile system will help ensure all high-schoolers have access to the high-quality rehabilitative programming available through the Department of Youth Services, which will help reduce recidivism and have a long-term positive impact on public safety."

"This amendment to an Economic Development bill sought to raise the juvenile age of criminal prosecution to 19

years old," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) who opposed the amendment. "First, criminal justice policy shouldn't be snuck into an economic development bill. Second, the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Trial Court identified numerous concerns about raising the juvenile age ... including increased financial costs to the court system; increased delays with justice in the juvenile court, including child welfare and protection cases that are already backlogged by 13,000 cases; and concerns about the mixing of minors and "emerging adults" in a juvenile detention center causing challenges with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act which is supposed to prevent children from being in

'sight and sound' contact with adults."


Fattman continued, ["There are] concerns from numerous law enforcement agencies that raising the juvenile age of criminality emboldens young people to commit crime, as other offenders may use this law to make young people pawns in the dangerous criminal activity in which the older adults engage.

(A "Yes" vote is for raising the age to 18. A "No" vote is against raising it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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### PRESERVE SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS FOR DISABLED SENIORS (H 4841)

By Bob Katzen

The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would restore the ability of disabled seniors to receive support from special needs pooled trusts for care and needs that are not covered by

MassHealth. Sponsor Rep. Kate Hogan (D-Stow) said she filed the legislation in response to a new MassHealth regulation that eliminated this support for seniors.

“Pooled trusts allow persons with disabilities

to maintain dignity and quality of life when confined to a nursing home or receiving home care,” said Hogan. “The trusts help provide for companion services, uninsured medical care, dental and pharmacy care, transportation, clothing, personal

needs and household items, assisted living and many other kinds of support that MassHealth does not provide. Current MassHealth regulations penalize disabled seniors over 65 for using pooled trusts since they are counted in determin-

ing eligibility. This legislation would allow this vulnerable population to use the exemption for the purposes of determining MassHealth eligibility.”

### EQUAL ACCOMMODATION IN PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (H 923)

By Bob Katzen

The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would require the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to annually report on progress made toward Title IX compliance in its recreational facilities across the state. Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex and gender

discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Supporters noted that DCR maintains ownership of dozens of ice rinks and swimming facilities across the state, many of which have been leased to private companies or municipalities to operate. They said these publicly owned facilities host competitions for

hockey leagues, swim teams and figure skating programs while also providing a venue for offerings such as water aerobics classes and public skating.

They argued that Title IX requires “locker room equity” which means having appropriate changing and showering facilities to comply with Title IX equality requirements. They said that many DCR facili-

ties were built decades ago, before Title IX, and prior to the growth in popularity of women’s sports.

“With Title IX celebrating its 50th year anniversary last year, we are long overdue in ensuring that all athletes have access to equal accommodations at our state-owned rinks and pools,” said bill sponsor Rep. Walsh (D-Peabody). “This bill will encourage

compliance with federal law and the basic fairness of locker room equity will allow and encourage more girls and women to participate in the sports programming offered at DCR-owned facilities.”

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# SOMERVILLE PASSES BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 WITH MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN CORE CITY SERVICES AND WORKFORCE EQUITY

Continued from front page



firming our resources and dedicated staff can continue driving our community forward,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I’m grateful for the invaluable support of our City Council. Along with all of our fantastic public servants, I’m ready roll up my sleeves and get to work implementing our new budget.”

**\$360 Million Budget**  
Additionally Delivers on City’s Ongoing Commitment to Social Progress and Helping Most Vulnerable Community Members

tion’s proposed \$360 million Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget, delivering on Mayor Katjana Ballantyne’s key investments in schools, City services, and workforce equity.

SOMERVILLE – On June 20, 2024, the Somerville City Council passed the Ballantyne administra

“Through the FY25 budget, we’re sustaining the historic investments of the past two years while af-

Highlights of the FY25 budget include:  
More than 36 new, net full-time-equivalent positions for Somerville Public Schools  
Funding for union contracts, closing gender gaps, and ensuring fair and competitive wages for City workers.  
New City staff positions to help better meet the needs

our communities. Newly funded roles include: Homelessness Coordinator, to address issues impacting Somerville’s unhoused residents. Wage Theft Coordinator, a role championed by the City Council to help ensure local workers are fully compensated. Civilian Crossing Guard Supervisor, to support safe routes to school. A robust array of programming and service initiatives to help protect our residents’ health, safety and well-being including: Outfit and staffing of new Assembly Row fire station. A curbside composting pilot to advance climate action goals for energy efficient waste management

(funded off budget). A transition away from rodenticide in City and School buildings to safer approaches to rodent control. Additional funding for the Affordable Housing Fund (AHTF): \$3.3M addition to the fund bringing its total to nearly \$30M. The final budget was passed with minor changes to the Mayor’s May 30, 2024, proposal. To read more about the City of Somerville’s FY25 budget, please visit [somervillema.gov/budget](http://somervillema.gov/budget)

## Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square  
Give what you can, Take what you need  
Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group!  
The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming.  
Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

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

### Blessing Backpack Checklist

<b>BASICS:</b>	<b>TOILETRIES</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat)	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick
<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarf	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer
<b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comb
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	<b>SURVIVAL</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter
<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool
<input type="checkbox"/> Nuts	<b>TREATS:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	<input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates
<input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs
<b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped)
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
<input type="checkbox"/> Stationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum
<input type="checkbox"/> Stamps	<b>SPLURGE:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card	<input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag

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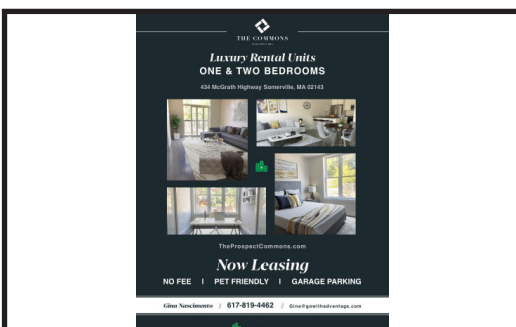
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# MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY MARIAN RYAN, CAMBRIDGE, MEDFORD AND SOMERVILLE POLICE INVESTIGATING MULTIPLE SHOOTINGS, SEEKING INFORMATION Continued from front page



WOBURN – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Cambridge, Medford and Somerville Police Departments have announced ongoing investigations into six separate shootings that have occurred in these communities since June 10, 2024.

“As a result of these shootings multiple homes and vehicles were hit and one person was seriously injured. Every time a gun is illegally fired in our neighborhoods it creates the risk of death or serious injury for innocent people. In these cases officers recovered 60 shell casings resulting from the 60 shots fired in congested areas, this type of chaos creating violence simply cannot go unaddressed. I have assigned multiple prosecutors to work with our police partners to identify the perpetrators. I urge the public

to join us in putting an end to this dangerous behavior by providing any information that they may have to the police.” said District Attorney Ryan

On June 10, at approximately 11:23 p.m. the Somerville Police Department responded to Fennell Street where the homeowner had reported to 911 that his home had been shot at twice. The bullets came through his living room window while he was on the couch. The investigation revealed that a male had approached the home on foot and then fired a gun, loaded with 9 MM ammunition, into the home.

The individual was apprehended a short time later and the firearm was recovered. Detectives learned that the firearm had been stolen in Reading prior to the shooting. The

defendant, Sebastian LePage, 25 of Somerville, was arraigned and held without bail in Somerville District Court on June 14, 2024.

On June 26, Middlesex investigators responded to three separate unrelated shootings.

Around midnight, Somerville Police responded to Summer Street outside of Union Square for reported gunshots. They recovered 33 shell casings from two different caliber weapons. Investigators found bullets lodged in a vehicle and in four homes. The potential use of an automatic weapon is being investigated given the sound of gunshots in rapid succession captured on nearby video.

On the same day, a man was shot inside a vehicle on East Albion Street in Medford. He was transported to an area hospital with non-

life threatening injuries. At 10:37 p.m., Cambridge Police responded to Newtowne Court for reported gunfire. Officers found six casings and one bullet fragment. At the time of the shooting there were two large groups of people in the parking lots. The preliminary information suggests that the guns may have been fired into the air. On July 4, Cambridge police responded to two additional shootings:

At 9:58 p.m., police responded to Clark Street for reported gunshots. Six casings were recovered. Moments later, police responded to Washington Street where 15 casings of a different caliber were recovered. According to witnesses several people and vehicles were in the area at the time of the shootings.

To address the ongoing concerns with the repeated acts of gun violence in our communities Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has filed An Act relative to the reckless discharge of firearms in partnership with Representative Marjorie C. Decker

in order to create a new felony offense that specifically addresses instances where a shooter acts “without regard for the risk of serious bodily injury to another” but shoots intentionally or recklessly and “hereby causes a substantial risk of serious bodily injury.” This bill, currently pending before the legislature, addresses a shortfall in our law where one or more people fire a weapon without regard for the safety of those who are close by and who are put at risk by the reckless or highly dangerous use of deadly force.

The possibility of these shootings being related is being investigated. Any information about these incidents should be reported to Cambridge Police at 617-349-3370, Somerville Police at 617-625-1600 ext. 7250 or Medford Police at 781-391-6767.

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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:

2024-40 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: 29 Rogers Ave.

2024-41 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time at 45 Marshall St.

2024-42 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended as follows: on the east side of Bonner Ave from 20 ft. north of Washington St to 10 ft. south of the

fire hydrant near the driveway for 237 Washington St.

2024-43 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones is amended as follows: 577 Somerville

Ave – loading zone 8am-8pm, resident permit parking all other times.

2024-44 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones is amended as follows: on the east side

of Greenville Street, from 70 ft south to 35 ft south of McGrath Highway and nearest 450 McGrath Highway – loading zone 7am-7pm, resident permit parking all other times.

2024-45 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones is amended as follows: on the west side of Greenville Street, from 35 ft south to 70 ft south of McGrath Highway and nearest 252

Medford Street – loading zone 7am-7pm, resident permit parking all other times.

2024-46 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the south side of Washington Street, from 175 ft west to 60 ft west of Calvin Street and nearest 376 Washington Street, retain the existing 2 hour parking except by permit regulations for this 115 ft length of curb (amending 2023-73 and 2023-74).

2024-47 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: extending the Central Hill curb-side management pilot until June 30, 2025 – Approximately 15 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, from opposite Putnam St to the City Hall driveway, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri;

Approximately 12 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, between the entrance and exit to the Somerville High School Driveway, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking

Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri; Approximately 7 parking spaces on the west side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit;

Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit; Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east

side of School St, between Highland Ave and opposite Madison St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit.

PROMULGATED: JUNE 27, 2024

ADVERTISED: JULY 9, 2024

JULY 16, 2024

JULY 23, 2024

EFFECTIVE: JULY 31, 2024

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 07/09/24, 07/16/24, 07/23/24



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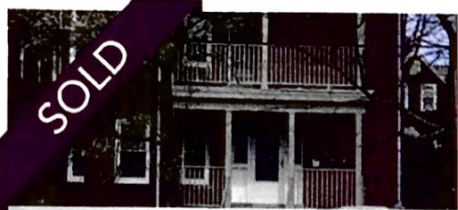
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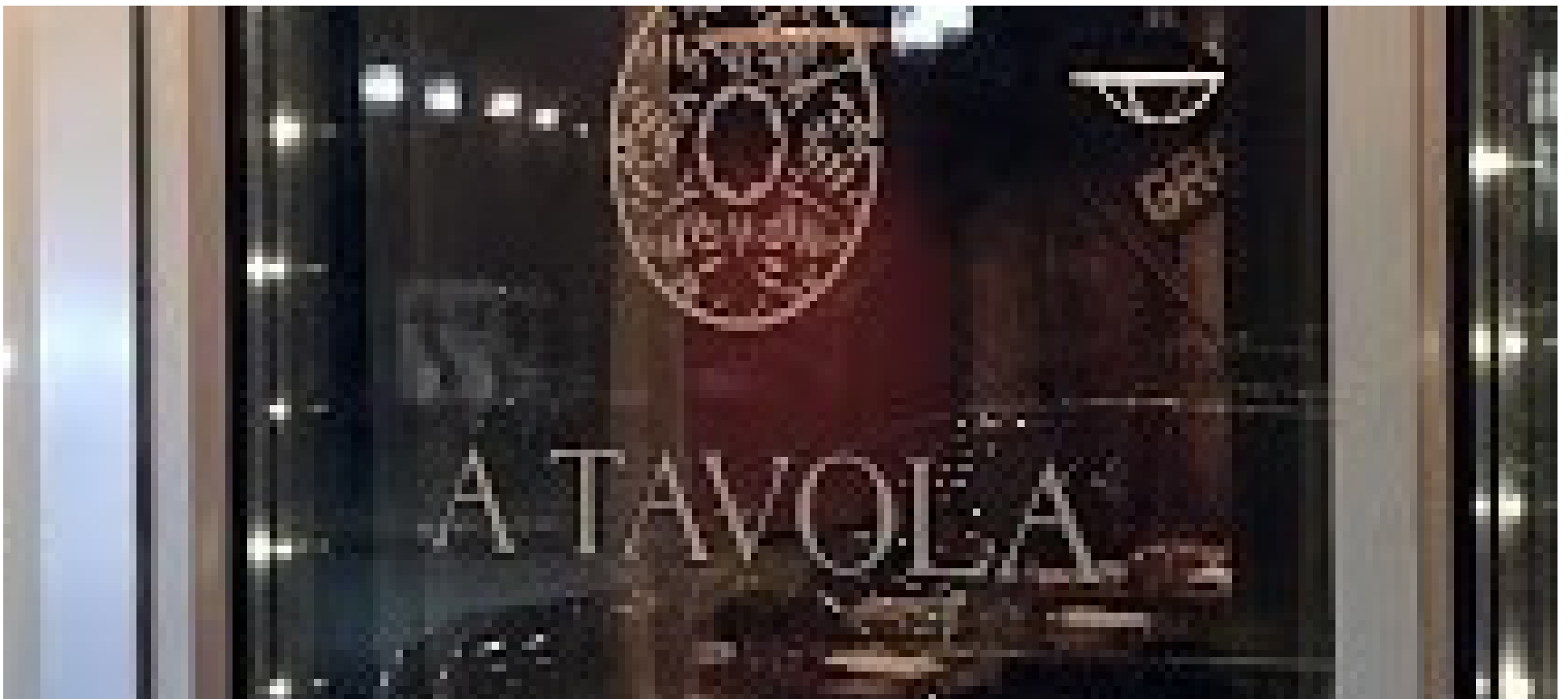
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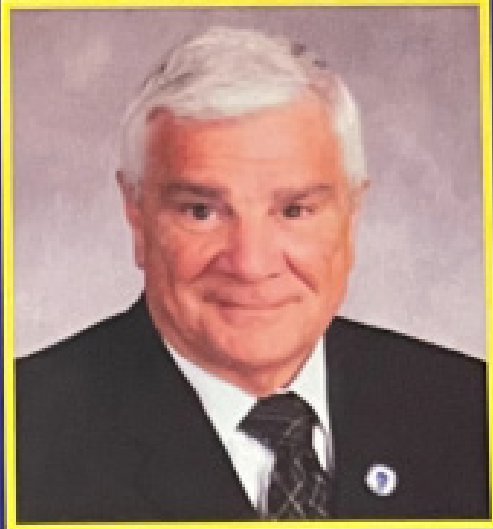


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