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VOL.1 NO.329-225

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday July 30th, 2024

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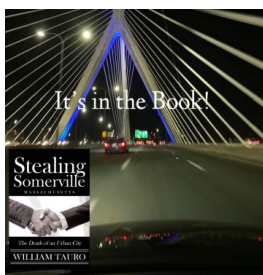
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NEWS TALK OUT  
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page



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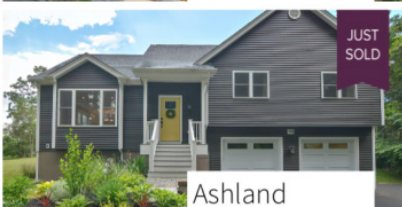
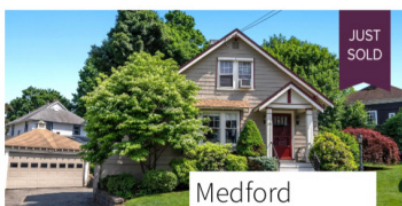
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**WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...**

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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send us an email or give us call!

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

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

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Please send both forms and payment to:

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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 JOHN “JACK” MACDONALD



Obituary John “Jack” MacDonald, a longtime Somerville resident,

passed away at home surrounded by the love of his family on July 24, 2024. He was 87. Born in Somerville, raised in Cambridge he was the son of Margaret (Deely) and John MacDonald.

Jack graduated from St. John’s High School in Cambridge and went on to further his education at Boston College, Anna Maria College and received his master’s degree from Suffolk University. An honorably discharged veteran, Jack served in the United States Navy during Vietnam. Following his Naval service, he began a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, first as a patrolman with the Somerville Police

Department, then with the Metropolitan District Commission Police Department and retired as a Lieutenant with Massachusetts State Police. Jack loved his time spent on the “Mets”

An avid golfer, he spent many days on the links here in Massachusetts and in Florida where he and his beloved wife, Deanna would escape the winter. Together they would take the drive down every year as “snowbirds”. He was able to enjoy 27 years of retirement. Above all, Jack enjoyed time spent with family and especially his grandchildren.

The beloved husband of

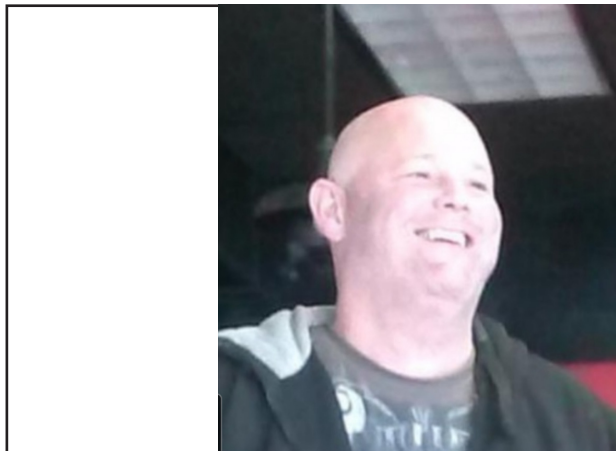
Deanna (Maffeo) MacDonald, together they would have celebrated 59 years of marriage in September. He was the devoted father of Christina MacDonald and her wife Michelle Langwider of Maynard and Kathleen MacDonald of Grafton. Cherished grandfather of John MacDonald Giallorenzo, Oriah MacDonald Colarullo and Anthony John “AJ” MacDonald Colarullo, IV. Dear brother of Shirley Hughes of Reading, Patricia Gualtieri and her husband Salvatore of Billerica and Robert MacDonald and his wife Carol of Maryland. Jack is further survived by his special nephew, Robert “Bobby” Gagliotti, II as well as many loving nieces, nephews and grand-

nieces and grandnephews.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford Street, Somerville on Friday August 2nd at 11 AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. A celebration of Jack’s life will immediately follow at the Mount Vernon Restaurant, 14 Broadway, Somerville.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jack’s memory can be made to Dana Farber at <https://www.dana-farber.org/how-you-can-help/ways-to-give> or to the Disabled American Veterans at <http://www.dav.org>

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING EDWARD VINCENT YEO



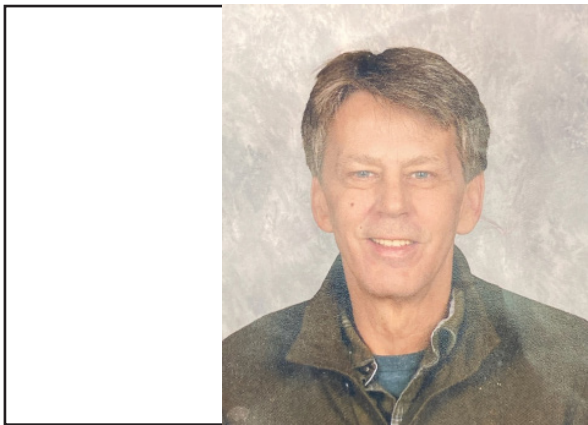
Obituary

Edward Vincent Yeo, 60, a longtime resident of Somerville, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2024. Edward will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

He is survived by his three children, David Yeo, Kristen Yeo, and Ryan Yeo, as well as his siblings: John Yeo, Raymond Jones, Carol Pacheco, Mildred Busi, Robin Lungo, and April Killoren. A private service will be held by the family.



### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JOHN WILLIAMS



John Williams, a lifelong resident of Somerville, MA and a US Army veteran, passed away recently.

He was the son of the late John P. Whitney Williams and Helen J. Williams. John is survived by his daughters Kellyanne Williams and Melissa Amy Williams Haynes, both of Medfield,

MA. He was a loving grandfather to Genevieve, Haynes, Shea Haynes, and Elliot Haynes, all of Medfield. John is also survived by his siblings Dorothy Freeman of Florida, Donna Greene of New Hampshire, Mary Killoren of Billerica, MA, and Donald W. Williams of Revere, MA, as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family has requested the services to be private. John’s burial will be at Bourne National Veteran’s Cemetery.

May he rest in peace.

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING MORRIS ZAKHARI RIZKALLAH



Obituary

After not being able to eat or drink for days, his last discernible word was

“Hallelujah”

Dad lost his mother at the age of 16, and his father (a hard-working pickle-seller) at the age of 19. Dad was the youngest of 5 children. Dad sang “Ana Mish Waheed” (I am not alone) at his Father’s Funeral.

At the age of 14, poverty forced Dad into vocational-technical school (instead of high school), but he academically excelled to the point that he was scholarshiped to an Engineering college (rare for vo-tech students).

Dad married Mom (a chemistry teacher) at age 26, and they had two boys. In 1975, Mom’s risk-taking faith propelled them to immigrate to the U.S. Dad worked as a Mechanical (Ammunitions-Design) Engineer with the United States Army in New Jersey.

In 1983, feeling the need to improve his income so that he could educate his two boys, Dad bought one motel (eventually two) in Port Jervis, New York – which he and Mom operated until 2010.

By 1985, Dad obtained his Master’s degree in Business Administration and they added a daughter to the family.

Dad was a flag-waving U.S. patriot. In 1998, while still running two motels, Dad became a paid FBI interpreter focused on anti-terrorism eavesdropping (work he said he would have done for free – because the terrorism threat against the U.S. was so imminent).

Dad had a stroke in 2000, and he could not interpret after that.

Prior to his stroke, dad was exceptional. He was a math-wizard, a language-wizard (fluent in English, German, and Arabic), author of 3 Christian books, talented in all aspects of building construction, and very generous (he even once bought a building for a church in Egypt). He was an inspiring

leader and hero to many.

Dad is survived by his wife- Nadia Rizkallah, his children- Matta and Laura Rizkallah, Mouhab and Laura Rizkallah, Christine and Randall Snyder, and his 13 grandchildren, Isaac, Jacob, Alice, Lydia, Leah, Luke, Samuel, Nathan, Thomas, Sophia, Gideon, Annaviolet, and Matthew.

Dad sculpted us to live joyous, sophisticated, generous, and wise lives.

But the single-most important thing to him was always very clear –

Our ever-praising souls – “Hallelujah!”



# REGISTRAR MARIA CURTATONE AND SON IN SOMERVILLE DISTRICT COURT AGAIN

Continued from front page

By William Tauro

Just shy of three years ago coming up in a few days, Maria Curtatone, her daughter and their friends were accused of destruction of property for destroying Billy Tauro political campaign signs and defacing Somerville/Medford News Weekly newspaper boxes causing a criminal complaint taken out against Curtatone's daughter. The incident was even caught on videotape surveillance from local shops in the perimeter area.

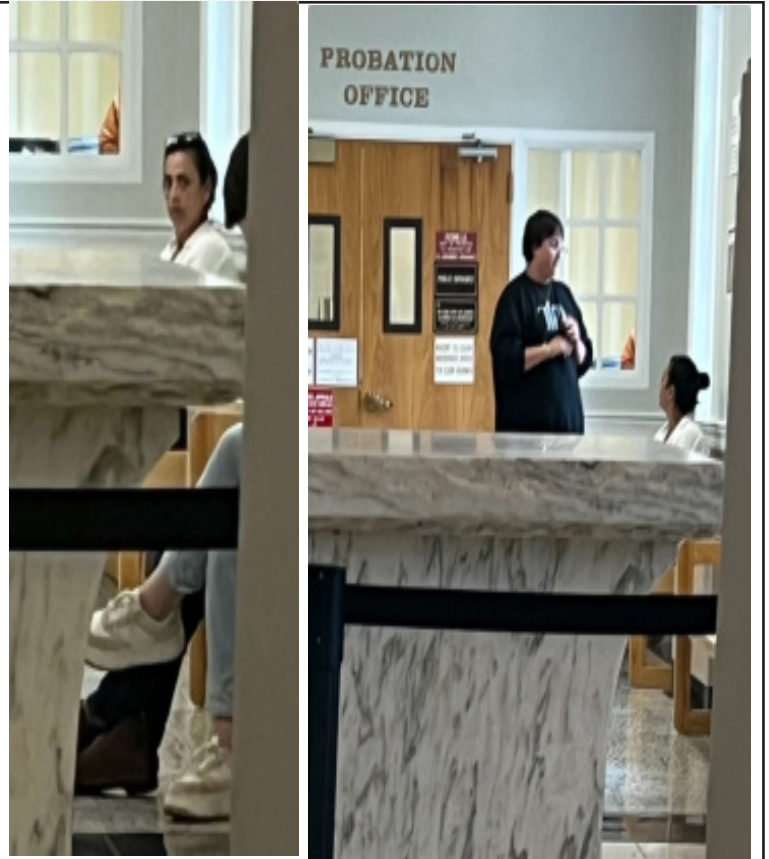
So here we are again three years after and where is Maria Curtatone and her son today, sitting in Somerville District Court with charges being sought against them by neighbors and parents of SHS students for stalking, harassment and threatening videotape and Instagram posted recordings of them as well as going on a Instagram rampage for parents and students having Billy Tauro political campaign signs up!

Maria Curtatone and William Tauro are facing off in the upcoming Novem-

ber 5th election for Registrar of Deeds for Southern Middlesex County.

Read story below about Curtatone destruction of property charges that was written three years ago:

Charges Sought on Registrar of Deeds Maria Curtatone's Daughter and Friends for Destruction of Tauro Campaign Signs | The Somerville/Medford News Weekly



## NEWS 'BOUT TOWN...PICK OF THE WEEK..MEDFORD



I truly saw Man's second best friend this week, Kolin Burgoyne, owner of Colleen's fine, popular Ice Cream, Medford SQ!! I had eye surgery this week and while telling him I could not lift, he added he would like to lift the heavy mulch for me on the isle dedicated to my family...bags of 40 lbs! Nice moment in a busy store and home schedule... I began adorning this isle four years ago

hoping to have a nice view

for ALL and enhancing the stores about it.

Undoubtedly, this young man took over a business in a sad note and vitalized the site and the name COLLEEN we remember with his fine ice cream and food. No, cities do not have to be divided....try some volunteerism or visits to small stores

....and COLLEEN'S!!

Course, cannot forget #1 a friend's pooch who keeps

me company sometimes.... HA

Sharon Deyeso  
Longtime , concerned resident."



## RE-ENTRY INTO SOCIETY FOR JAILED PRISONERS (S 2883)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that would provide a Massachusetts identification card to incarcerated individuals who will soon be released from prison and will be re-entering society.

Supporters said the pro-

posal codifies the Healey administration's efforts to provide identification to citizens returning to society. They noted that many people returning to society will do so without any means of proving who they are, which presents a significant challenge when accessing government assistance programs that

help people secure housing, food, employment and various other basic needs. They argued that denying individuals this support is setting them up for failure and making it more likely that they will recidivate.

"I am proud to be the lead sponsor of this bill that

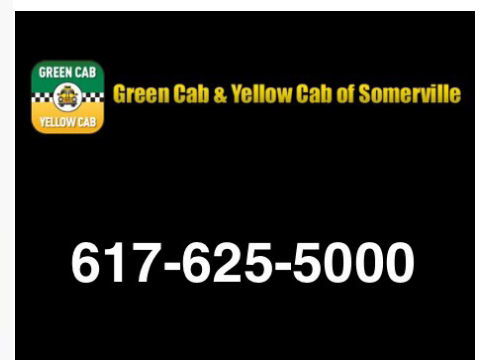
will give returning citizens access to the services and support they need to move on to the next chapter of their lives and succeed in our state," said Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). "When an individual leaves incarceration, they deserve the chance to provide for themselves and their families without

any obstacles in front of them. I am committed to getting this commonsense policy over the finish line to ensure we give every Massachusetts resident the opportunity to thrive."

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### FOR SALE BY OWNER- AFFORDABLE RESALE OPPORTUNITY!

6 Overlook Dr. Unit 302, Andover, MA 01810. Open house August 3rd from 11:30-1:00. Please read listing. This is an affordable resale unit. One household member must be 62+ and a full application must be completed to ensure all household members meet the income requirements.

Call Janet @ (978) 984-2038 for more information and to schedule a showing. Located in Andover, Riverside Woods is a 62+ community privately set along wooded conservation trails to the Merrimack River. Built by Pulte Homes, the

development is comprised of 186 low rise, townhome and detached single family home units. This unit is a garden style in Building 2, which is elevated with 4 floors and 36 units. Units feature a contemporary kitchen, in unit laundry, convenient gas cooking and dishwasher. High quality and low maintenance. This community also offers easy access to major highways, great restaurants, coffee shops, Stop & Shop, Whole Foods, and more. This unit is 6 Overlook Drive unit 302. It has upgraded countertops and hardwood flooring, is very energy efficient with

large windows and lots of sun. \*Must meet income requirements\* Income limits: 1 person \$112,560, 2 persons \$128,640, 3 persons 144,720. \*One household member must be 62+. \*Pets allowed. \*Priority to Andover residents & whoever completes the application in its entirety- application can be found at the link below\* For more information regarding eligibility please visit <https://www.andoverclt.org/available-homes/riverside-woods-2-bedroom>



### PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS, COSTS AND TRANSPARENCY (H 4910)

By Bob Katzen

The House 158-0, approved a bill that supporters say would make major changes and reforms to the state's pharmaceutical system by lowering the cost of drugs at the pharmacy counter and improving oversight of the pharmaceutical industry. They said the measure protects patients and independent pharmacists by regulating the pharmacy

benefit manager (PBM) industry; banning many of the industry's worst business practices; and reducing or eliminating co-pays for certain chronic conditions.

"Many folks in Massachusetts face cost barriers in access to the medications they are prescribed, especially for many of our most vulnerable residents who live with chronic disease," said House Speaker Ron Mariano

(D-Quincy). "This bill aims to reduce the out-of-pocket cost of certain lifesaving drugs and ban certain business practices that are commonly used by PBMs to increase their own profits at the expense of patients."

"[The bill] would go a long way toward helping people in Massachusetts living with diabetes and other chronic conditions by reducing barriers to care, improving

access to lifesaving and life-sustaining medication and reducing out-of-pocket costs for prescriptions," said Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition Board Chair, Hunter Limbaugh. "We are encouraged by its progress and will continue to advocate for our most vulnerable neighbors by working with the Massachusetts Legislature all the way to the governor's desk."

The Senate has already ap-

proved a different version of the bill and a House-Senate conference committee will try to hammer out a compromise version.

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes  
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes  
Rep. Paul Donato Yes  
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven 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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"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.



THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

By Bob Katzen

“Expanding our forest canopy is one piece of the larger puzzle to combatting climate change in Massachusetts. With continuous heat waves leading to higher energy bills and greater greenhouse gas emissions, our Greening the Gateway Cities Program leverages our state resources and engages residents to help plant trees and enhance public health. Reducing the urban heat island effect is a top priority, and our non-profit partnerships ... will help cool our neighborhoods, towns and cities.”

— Rebecca Tepper, Secretary of the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on awarding \$1 million in grants to support tree planting in Gateway Cities across the state.

“This collaborative initiative strives to increase the parole system’s transparency while supporting individuals as they navigate the reentry process and plan for a successful return to the community. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security is grateful to our many partners in this effort and reaffirms our shared commitment to advancing innovative programs that enhance public

safety, reduce recidivism and build safer communities.”

—Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy on the launch of a pilot program to educate and support incarcerated individuals through the parole process.

“We are excited to launch the Massachusetts Ice Cream Trail, a delicious route that highlights the incredible diversity of our dairy farms and ice cream shops. Massachusetts has a vibrant agricultural sector that thrives thanks to the hardworking farmers who diligently support our communities. This new tourism trail is designed to

invite residents and visitors to experience our creative dessert offerings at traditional parlors, innovative shops and local farm stands.”

—Gov. Healey announcing the launch of the Massachusetts Ice Cream Trail, an initiative celebrating the rich history of ice cream making in the Bay State and encouraging residents and visitors to explore the flavors and experiences offered by more than 100 ice cream destinations across the state.

“Gov. Maura Healey, Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka are making policy choices that come with

significant economic costs to the taxpayers. While they signal with their lack of policy reforms that the state can afford to cover the financial costs for the world’s migrants, the center’s study shines a light on what their lack of action is costing the taxpayers. Massachusetts taxpayers better be ready for the fiscal time bomb our governor and Statehouse leaders have set us up for.

—Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, commenting on a new study examining the economic cost to Massachusetts taxpayers for the state’s migrant and illegal immigration crisis.

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

inclusionary 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	1	1	1,123	50%	\$874
Unit Size	Three-Bedroom	Studio	51-80%	50%	\$1,418
Square Feet	385-440	440	81-110%	50%	\$2,088
AMI	50%	81-110%			
Rent	\$748	\$2,088			

# Built Out for Mobility Impairments	1
# Built Out for Hearing Impairments	3
Studio	385-440
50%	\$748

1	Three-Bedroom	1,121	81-110%	\$2,884
Minimum Income Limits for 50% AMI	Unit Size	AMI	Household	Studio
50%	50%	\$21,442	Three-Bedroom	50%
\$32,163	Maximum Income Limits (Set by HUD, Based on Household Size and AMI	Household Size	50% AMI	51-80% AMI
	81-110% AMI	1	\$57,100	\$57,101-\$91,200

\$91,201-\$125,164	2	\$65,300	\$65,301-\$104,200	\$104,201-\$143,616
\$73,450	\$73,451-\$117,250	\$117,251-\$161,568	\$81,600	\$81,601-\$130,250
\$130,251-\$179,520	\$88,150	\$88,151-\$140,700	\$140,701-\$193,882	\$94,700
\$94,701-\$151,100	\$151,101-\$208,243	**2024 Area Media Income for the Boston, Quincy, Cambridge, Quincy, MA-NH MSA		

HEALEY SIGNS FIREARMS CHANGES (H 4885)

Continued from front page



By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law a bill that would change some of the state’s gun laws.

Provisions include cracking down on untraceable “ghost guns,” banning firearms in additional

public spaces like schools, polling places and government buildings; expanding the 2018 “red flag” law that allows school administrators and licensed health care providers to petition a court to temporarily take firearms away from someone deemed a threat to themselves or others; closing loopholes that allow the modification of legal firearms into illegal automatic weapons; and providing a legacy clause so all firearms legally owned and registered in Massachusetts as of the effective date of the bill will continue to be legal

and may be bought and sold within the state.

“Massachusetts is proud of our strong gun laws, but there is always more work to be done to keep our communities safe from violence,” said Gov. Healey. “This legislation updates our firearms laws in response to the Supreme Court’s misguided Bruen decision. It cracks down on ghost guns and 3-D printed weapons, which I have long advocated for, enhances our ability to prevent guns from falling into dangerous hands and invests in our communi-

ties to address the root causes of violence. This law will save lives.”

“This legislation reflects the input of many, including law enforcement officials, community advocates, gun owners and healthcare workers,” said Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). “It provides the tools needed to better protect our residents from the epidemic of gun violence and to prevent future tragedies. With support from both chambers and the governor’s signature today, Massachusetts can once again stand proudly

by its record as a national leader on gun safety and more importantly, we will save countless lives.”

“Massachusetts has taken a huge step forward today towards keeping our communities safer from gun violence,” said Ruth Zakarin, CEO of the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. “There is no one size fits all solution to the gun violence crisis that plagues our nation, and we appreciate the comprehensive, multifaceted approach that this bill takes towards ending this epidemic.”



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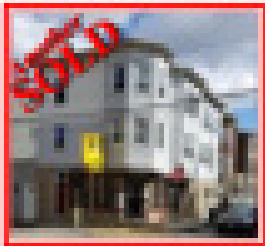


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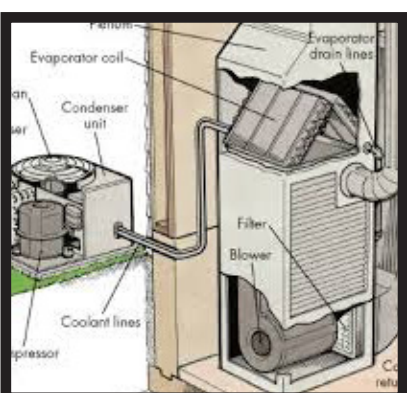
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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## JOIN SOMERVILLE'S ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT TO ENJOY FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, FOOD, AND MORE

Browse Over 40 Local Vendors, Hop on a Bounce House, or Cool Down on a Water Slide on Tuesday August 6, starting at 5 p.m.

SOMERVILLE-Community members looking for a night out this summer can look no further than the City of Somerville's annual National Night Out Event hosted by the Somerville Police Department and the Somerville Office of Parks & Recreation.

The free event, set to take place on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, from 5-8 p.m. at Trum Field (541 Broadway), will include a diverse array of family-friendly activities including:

- Water slides
- Moon bounces
- Face painting
- Balloon animals
- Petting zoo
- DJ
- Pizza
- Raffles (free to enter)
- Lawn games
- Shopping at over 40 local vendors
- Giveaways

Additionally, the first 150 attendees to arrive will receive a free backpack and school supplies to get ready for the upcoming school year.

"National Night Out is a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together, meet our local

police officers, learn about community resources and enjoy a fun-filled evening," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We look forward to seeing everyone there."

National Night Out is a nationwide initiative promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Attendees can register by scanning the QR code on the event flyer or by visiting somervillerec.com. While registration is not required to attend, it is encouraged for prize eligibility.

## SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: SOMERVILLE'S DUMPING GROUND FOR METHADONE PACKS, CONDOMS ETC...



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

Ok Board of Health director Karin Carroll gives out free needles. And also if they bring back 50 needles she gives them 10bucks. Who's money city?

This is what was picked up today West Branch Library. Hundreds of needles picked up by ISD Health.



# 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.

## FOSTER HOMES AND DOGS (H 4911)

By Bob Katzen

The House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that prohibits the Department of Children and Families (DCF) from prohibiting placement of a child in a foster home solely based on the presence of any specific breed of dog in the home.

Supporters said that currently, DCF is allowed to prohibit placement of a child in a home with German Shepherds, Pit Bulls and Rottweilers.

"Current DCF regulations for foster homes impose a blanket ban on certain breeds of dogs," said

sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). "Instead of eliminating countless prospective families, this bill empowers DCF to undertake a holistic review of the family, child and dog to ensure appropriate placement. This bill also amends reporting laws for animal abuse, extending the timeframe in which human services employees or con-

tractors can report animal abuse.

"As co-chair of the Protecting Animal Welfare Caucus ... I am proud to spearhead the passage of this bill in the House. There is an urgent need for supportive foster families in the commonwealth, and this bill will open many loving homes to adoptive and foster children."

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

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

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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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### DNA AND STATUTE OR LIMITATIONS (H 4836)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would amend the law to allow prosecutors to bring rape charges at any time if the perpetrator is identified through DNA evidence collected from a victim. Currently, the 15-year

statute of limitations is a barrier to prosecution of serial offenders, as more than 15 years may elapse before a perpetrator is identified through DNA evidence.

“By eliminating the statute of limitations when DNA evidence is matched to a

perpetrator, this bill will enable more successful prosecution of sexual predators,” said co-sponsor Rep. Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury). “I co-filed this bill ... because every survivor of sexual violence deserves justice, and removing this barrier to prosecution will help

get dangerous predators off the streets.”

“No arbitrary time limit should stand in the way of survivors getting justice for horrific crimes they endure or prevent prosecutors and law enforcement from getting dangerous predators off the

streets,” said co-sponsor Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough). “[This] is an important step toward removing that obstacle that currently stands in the way of justice for so many survivors, and I will keep fighting for them until this bill is law.”

### DOG KENNEL SAFETY – OLLIE’S LAW (H 4919)

By Bob Katzen

The House 159-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that would allow the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to establish rules and regulations for dog kennels in the Bay State, to ensure animal welfare, protect consumers and keep kennel staff safe.

Requirements include, obtaining a license from the municipality, an annual inspection, dog to staff ratio specifications, injury reporting, indoor and outdoor physical facility

requirements, insurance and minimal housing and care requirements.

Supporters said that currently, the state has no oversight of dog daycare or boarding kennels. They argued it is estimated that a dog is injured or killed every nine to ten days in Massachusetts at these kennels. They noted that many families in Massachusetts have suffered the loss or injury of an animal at a dog daycare or kennel that could have been avoided by commonsense regulations over these facilities.

“I filed this bill on behalf of my constituent, Amy Baxter, whose 7-month-old puppy was attacked by other dogs at a boarding kennel in my district,” said Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow). “Sadly, Ollie eventually succumbed to his many injuries. People assume these facilities are regulated by the state and have safety protocols in place. Many already do, however, far too many do not, leaving animals and staff at risk. I and the Coalition that was formed, wanted to do everything possible to prevent these types of situations from occurring again. I am

proud of this legislation and know it will make a difference in the lives of pets and consumers.”


(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

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



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### \$1.26 BILLION BOND FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (H 4889)

By Bib Katzen

The House 156-2, Senate 39-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill that would invest in information technology (IT) upgrades, improvements and new projects across state government. The measure authorizes \$1.23 billion in bonded spending and \$400 million in anticipated federal funds.

"Today the Legislature is investing in a safer, more efficient and modernized digital experience for residents and state employees alike," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Our technology infrastructure is a lynchpin for nearly every service and resource our state delivers, and enhancing it is a fundamental step toward increasing access and creating systems that work for everyone."

"I am immensely proud of the dedication and effort demonstrated ... to bring this report to fruition," said Rep. Marcus Vaughn (R-Wrentham). "This achievement stands as a testament to the power of collaboration. By working together, we have shown our shared commitment to serving the best interests of the commonwealth."

"Government spending is wildly out of control and it's fiscally irresponsible to keep passing these boondoggle bills," said Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick), one of only two members to vote against the measure. "We need to reduce spending and taxes in order to lower the cost of living in the commonwealth. The path we're on is unsustainable and will lead to more businesses and taxpayers fleeing the state."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

### WAGE TRANSPARENCY (H 4890)

By Bob Katzen

The House 152-5, Senate 38-2, approved and sent to Gov. Healey a bill, named the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, in honor of the first woman to serve as U.S. Labor Secretary. The measure would require employers with 25 or more employees to disclose a salary range when posting a job position.

The measure also would require employers with 100 or more employees to file annual employment data reports, including information on employee demographics and salaries, with the state.

"The 2016 Equal Pay Act was a huge step forward in closing pay

gaps and it worked," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). "One study from 2020 showed salary history bans alone increased pay by as much as 5 percent increase for all job changers, an 8 percent increase for women and a 13 percent increase for Black workers. This bill takes the next steps in providing more information for job seekers and ensuring that women and people of color enter wage negotiations with more information at their fingertips to secure better offers. With the data collected we'll learn about inequities that persist and be able to identify ways to solve them."

"True progress towards justice and equality demands that we not only

acknowledge the critical importance of wage equity, particularly for women and people of color, but actively strive to achieve it," said Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley (D-Mattapan). "By achieving wage equity, we empower individuals and strengthen our communities, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive and contribute to a more equitable future."

"I voted 'no' on the wage transparency bill because this is just another burden being unfairly placed on small businesses," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "The National Federation of Independent Businesses wanted the threshold to be 100 or more. Small businesses will inevitably be unaware

of this law and receive fines and penalties that are significant, even though they're not operating with malicious intent. Massachusetts is already an increasingly difficult state to operate a business and this well-intentioned bill will only make it more difficult."

"Burdensome regulations and taxes already make Massachusetts one of the least friendly states in the country to run a business," said Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick). "In addition to the cost of compliance, DEI policies, such as so-called salary transparency mandates, crush innovation and stifle talent development. This bill is just the latest attempt to advance a toxic ideology that is destroying free

market enterprise. Beacon Hill is killing small businesses."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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## LONG TERM CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING (\$ 2889)

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 39-0, approved a bill making changes to the state's long term care and assisted living industry which supporters said will take "a powerful step towards delivering the high quality and safe care that Massachusetts seniors deserve by substantially strengthening oversight and enforcement while also requiring facilities to create outbreak plans should a health issue arise."

Provisions include allowing assisted living residences to offer basic health services such as helping a resident administer drops, manage their oxygen or take a home diagnostic test; requiring long-term care facilities to produce infection outbreak response plans; requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) to

inspect facilities every nine to 15 months and authorizing it to restrict or revoke licenses when facilities are failing to provide adequate care or not complying with regulations; allowing for a temporary manager to be appointed to bring floundering facilities into compliance; raising penalties that the attorney general can impose for the abuse and neglect of patients; and creating an LGBTQ+ bill of rights for aging residents to prohibit discrimination based on their LGBTQ+ identity or HIV status.

"Today the Senate took an important step forward to ensure that our aging residents have safe, equitable and high quality care," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "It is far too common—and unacceptable—for residents in assisted living facilities

to receive subpar care. By boosting transparency and accountability, the Senate is continuing to create a compassionate commonwealth where all residents can age with dignity."

Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs, said the bill will improve care and stability in nursing homes and assisted living residences. "The pandemic revealed starkly the lack of nursing home preparedness for the spread of fatal diseases," said Jehlen. "Many of us knew someone or relatives of someone who passed during that disaster."

"Even homes with consistently high ratings lost many residents," continued Jehlen. "This bill offers measures to address issues in nursing homes and

assisted living facilities; issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community when looking for care; bariatric care; and pooled trusts. It also ensures facilities that are not compliant with safe standards face consequences and are held responsible."

The House has already approved a different version of the bill and a conference committee will attempt to hammer out a compromise version.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



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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

<p><b>BASICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gloves</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Scarf</li> </ul> <p><b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nuts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards</li> </ul> <p><b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Journal &amp; pen</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stationary</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stamps</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card</li> </ul>	<p><b>TOILETRIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Comb</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush &amp; tooth paste</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit</li> </ul> <p><b>SURVIVAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool</li> </ul> <p><b>TREATS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mints</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum</li> </ul> <p><b>SPLURGE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag</li> </ul>
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Our wonderful Resident Services Coordinators, Jessie and Wes, create fantastic recreational activities for our summertime enjoyment.

This delightful Food Truck Festival Event is a separate event from the Clarendon Hill Towers Weekly Summer Music Series, also meticulously coordinated by Jessie and Wes.

Of course, all events always feature the upbeat music selected by professional Master of Ceremonies, Jeff Lyons. Many thanks to everybody who participated in making this event possible and such a terrific success!

Article by Karen Glover



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## BAN ELEPHANTS AND OTHER ANIMALS (H 4915)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that effective January 1, 2025, would ban elephants, bears, lions, tigers, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs and other wild animals from being used in traveling circuses and other traveling shows in Massachusetts where they would be used to perform tricks, give rides or otherwise participate as an accompaniment for the entertainment of a live audience.

Violators would be fined between \$500 and \$10,000. The ban would not apply to zoos or to performances that take place at other non-mobile, permanent facilities if the covered animal is a resident animal at the same facility in which the performance takes place.

“Massachusetts has long been a leader in promoting animal welfare by enacting laws to protect animals from abuse and neglect, but most of our current laws apply to domestic animals and common

household pets,” said co-sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “[The measure] would extend these same protections to exotic animals that are used in traveling exhibits and shows. These animals are often subject to cruel and inhumane treatment, including prolonged periods of confinement and other forms of neglect and abuse, all to provide entertainment. Several communities in Massachusetts have already implemented local bans, but a statewide ban on traveling animal acts is long overdue.”

“I was deeply moved by the compelling evidence and public sentiment against the use of wild animals in traveling acts,” said co-sponsor Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall River). “After taking a safari in Africa in 2019 ... seeing these animals in their natural state highlighted the unnatural inhumane treatment these animals face in traveling acts. Now, as a sponsor of this legislation, I feel a strong obligation to ensure we bring about significant change. With over two-thirds of Mas-

sachusetts voters in favor of banning wild animal acts, it’s clear our constituents desire a future free of animal exploitation for entertainment. This bill, that has finally passed the House after 23 years of being filed, embodies that sentiment, underscoring our commitment to the humane treatment of animals.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

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

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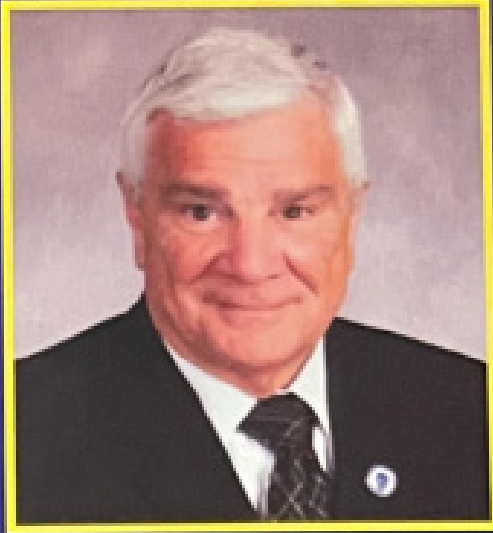
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