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VOL.1 NO.329-226

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday August 13th, 2024

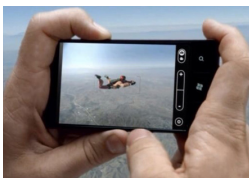
\$5.1 BILLION FOR HOUSING (H 4977)



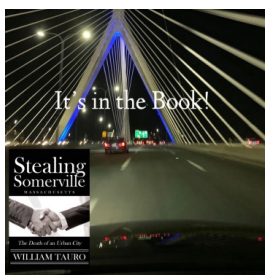
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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



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Somerville



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MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.
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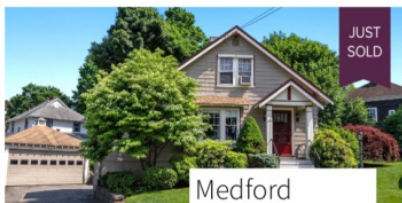
MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

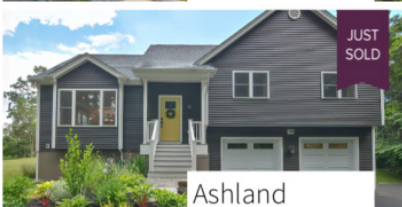
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices | Commonwealth Real Estate



Malden



Medford



Ashland



Westwood

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

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

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 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

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
 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
 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 August M. Hope



Obituary August, Hope M. – Of Somerville, passed away on Monday, August 5, 2024. She was 84 years young.

Born, raised and educated in Somerville, she was the daughter of the late John and Jenny (Diamandis) Gogolos.

Hope's life was a testament to the power of love and happiness. She met her cherished husband, Richard, in a moment that she described as "love at first sight." Their bond was extraordinary; Richard was her world, and their love story was one of deep and enduring connection. Hope was known for her impeccable fashion sense and her love of all things glamorous. Her passion for shopping, especially

for anything that sparked, was well known among her family and friends. Whether it was a dazzling piece of jewelry or a chic new outfit, Hope had a knack for making every moment a little more vibrant. Travel was another of Hope's great loves, with Las Vegas holding a special place in her heart. She delighted in the thrill of the casino and the excitement of trying her luck. These adventures were a cherished part of her life, reflecting her spirited and joyful nature. Hope's greatest joy came from spending time with her family. Her love for them was boundless, and

she will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She was the beloved wife of 62 years to the late Richard E. August who passed away in 2020. Beloved mother of Linda Devereaux of Somerville, Richard "Ricky" August and his wife Linda of NH, and June Green and her husband Christopher of GA. Loving grandmother of Nicholas, Tara, Annie, Collin, Ricky Jr., Brandon and Kasey. Cherished great grandmother of Markie, Issac, Charlotte, Brynlee and Lyra. Dear sister of Mary Lomberakis of Chelsea and the late Tony Gogolos and Steve Gogolos. Also survived by many

loving nieces, nephews and friends. Calling hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville from 12:00PM to 3:00PM. Words of remembrances will be held on Sunday at 2:30PM. Hope will be laid to rest privately with her beloved husband on Monday, August 12th at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Robert R. "Bob" Carney



Obituary Carney, Robert R.- Of Somerville, passed away on Monday, August 5, 2024. He was 84 years old.

Born in Boston and raised in Somerville, he was the son of the late James and Doris L. (Heselton) Carney.

Robert, affectionately known as Bob, was deeply cherished by his family, especially his devoted wife, Mary. His love for family was matched only by his passions outside the home. Bob had an extraordinary knack for movies—he could recall intricate details from any film and would often share his insights with a contagious enthusiasm. When he wasn't immersed in a movie, you could find him enjoying music, singing along to his favorite classic songs with joy and abandon.

An avid reader, Bob believed that any knowledge gained was valuable

and always sought to expand his understanding through books. His keen mind also found a special delight in the television game show "Jeopardy!" where he frequently showcased his impressive ability to answer questions with remarkable speed. Bob's zest for life and the warmth he brought into the lives of those around him will be profoundly missed. He is remembered not just for his interests but for the love and happiness he shared with his family and friends.

Beloved husband of 50 years to Mary Wright. Devoted step-dad to Jack Wright and his wife Leslie

of Burlington, and the late Joseph and Nancy Wright. Cherished grandfather of Ashley Rodrigues. Dear brother of Donna Gay and her late husband Philip of South Weymouth, Thomas Carney of Albuquerque, NM, J.J Carney of Beverly, Timothy Carney of Malden, Debbie Giorgio and her late husband Joel of Cambridge and the late James and David Carney. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

A prayer service will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) on FRIDAY,

August 9th at 11:00AM. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Calling Hours will be held on Thursday, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Services will conclude with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. If you are unable to attend the services on Friday, the services will be livestream via Zoom

Meeting ID # 259 103 5817 Passcode: md2F0S

Somerville/Medford Remembering John P. "Jack" Brosnahan



Obituary John P. "Jack" Brosnahan, of Somerville, passed away surrounded by the love of his family on August 6, 2024, he was 66. Born in Boston and raised in Charlestown, Jack was one of five children born

to Suzanne (LaPrise) Brosnahan of Charlestown and the late Eugene Brosnahan.

Jack was the beloved husband of nearly 32 years to Patricia A. (Farrell) Brosnahan and the devoted father of Savannah Brosnahan. He was the dear brother of Mary Beth Tucker and her husband James, Valerie Murphy, Suzanne Brosnahan and her partner Robert Delaney, all of Charlestown and the late Barbara Bradford and her surviving husband Rich-

ard of East Boston. Dear brother-in-law of John W. "Jack" Farrell and his wife Terese of Lynnfield, James R. Farrell, Jr. of Quincy and his late wife Karen, Mark D. Farrell of Somerville and the late Kevin M. Farrell and his surviving wife Nancy of Hudson, NH and the late Diane M. Doyle. Jack is further survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jack was a proud veteran, serving in the United States Marine Corps and for many years worked for

the United States Postal Service in the maintenance division of the Central Square branch. He retired early due to health challenges and the last 14 years had been difficult, but his love and devotion to his family was still paramount.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Friday, August 9th from 4PM to 7PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. A Funeral Procession

will be held on Saturday morning from the funeral home at 9AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St Catherine of Genoa Church at 10AM. Services will conclude with burial at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge. If you wish, in lieu of flowers donations in Jack's memory can be made to the Charlestown Boys and Girls Club, 15 Green St, Charlestown, MA 02129.



Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Why Maria Curtatone Shouldn't Be in Office at South Middlesex Registry of Deeds



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

Also illegal.....Maria going around here and talking to employees about the election.....intimidation.....saying how If Billy Tauro

got in it would be a disaster and she's much better and you don't know anything about this job..... constantly doing this in front of everyone.....people are very scared..... Carmel and Michelle help push the effort along with Maria's infor-

ants.....

My reply was: Tell Maria at least for starters I will be treating people with dignity and respect something that she lacked to do in over 12 years. I will also get the job done

bringing the 18 year backlog that has been at the registry of deeds for the past 12 years that she's been in. I will bring it up to current because I will actually show up to work to make sure it's done

Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line:

Illegal Activity at South Middlesex County Registry of Deeds Orchestrated By Maria Curtatone



Our current Register of Deeds Maria Curtatone is committing inappropriate illegal behavior at the registry by meetings with her staff Carmel, Michelle(first assistant) and other employees about advertising and social media for her campaign at the registry while they are on the clock.

She is also utilizing other registry employees during work hours on the taxpayers dime to do her personal errands such as grocery shopping, her personal banking, errands for her campaign such as picking up campaign, signs, flyers, and literature at the printer for her campaign as well as errands such as picking up her children for personal appointments and take them to them to the appointments which is totally illegal. The Secretary of State's office is totally aware of all of this, but sadly they are turning a blind eye, possibly due to political reasons.

On certain occasions, even police detectives have been seen in the building with Maria discussing criminal matters that her and her son are involved in. Employees here are totally afraid of her because if we are caught talking about these issues, she penalizes us by way of her petty demeanor by taking away privileges for them that they deserve. In other words, she just makes everybody's life miserable in here even though the employees in this building a nice people they do their jobs, but she is always looking for a reason to get rid of somebody to put her own personal friends in as she has done many times in the past. Recordings are multiple years in the arrears because she does not know what she's doing and she's never here to organize and make the registry more productive. She is always out of state, out of town, and many times in Italy on her personal vacations while

others are wrecklessly running the show here who also are nothing but a bunch of political hacks collecting a paycheck that couldn't give two craps about the registry. She only started coming back to work every day as soon as you pulled papers and announce your candidacy running against her. That really scared the crap out of her. This madness has to stop.

The Register also has interfered in union elections and union business.....felony

I'd love to meet up with you for lunch one day and discuss these issues together about more illegal activities that goes on here, including destruction of recorded documents and recordings for her and her cronies personal gain. There are so much illegal activity and fraud roaming around here that you could write a second book about it and it would be a best seller.

This is my cell phone number. (xxx)xxxxxxx and I'm sure and appreciate that you will keep this confidential. If need be, we will all come out and testify against her and her immediate staff of cronies.

Anything that you can do to halt what she's doing by stopping all the illegal action is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
XXXXXXXX XXXXXX

Disclaimer: The opinions and views expressed in the commentaries of Somerville/Medford News Weekly, Boston News Group's News Publications belong solely to the authors of those commentaries and do not reflect the views or opinions of The Somerville/Medford News Weekly, Mass Publishing and Boston News Group, it's publications, its staff or publishers.)

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

Dear Billy,

I was told by my registry co-workers and also friends, attorneys and title examiners to reach out to you because you are an expertise in this business straightening people like her out.

A letter to Belmont Residents from Jane Schapiro Regarding William Tauro For Registrar of Deeds

William (Billy) Tauro is an individual of compassion, generosity, ethics and respect.

Billy's parents came from Italy and his father served in the military here. As was true of my Uncle Larry (Navy), Billy's father was in the D Day Invasion.

In Somerville, Massachusetts, all the Veterans statues and plaques were removed and put in storage. As one the those receiving this email bcc said, this is disgraceful.

However, Billy found them and, unless something has changed, these statues and plaques have not been reinstalled.

Several receiving this signed Billy's papers several months

ago, in order for him to run for Registrar of Deeds in South Middlesex County.

He's running as unenrolled.

If you'd like a yard sign (or know someone who might), kindly respond via email to me. When I know the number required, the signs will be delivered to my home.

Following is what I wrote when Billy was running for Mayor of Somerville in 2021. In that election and a more recent one, the city made it very difficult for seniors and those with handicaps to vote:

I'm writing to suggest that on November 2, 2021, when Somerville will have an elec-

tion, you write in the name William (Billy) Tauro and fill in the oval next to his name. The office is for mayor of Somerville.

Billy has been an advocate for the disenfranchised for over twenty years. This includes the elderly, Veterans, the handicapped (physically and mentally), the homeless, the sick and the hungry.

His generosity knows no bounds and he's a person of kindness and ethics, who will put Somerville on an upward path.

Somerville is a city with many fine and decent residents and a long and great history going back to the Revolutionary War.

In today's complicated, topsy turvy world there's too much knee-jerk hatred. Misinformation flies through the internet at breakneck speed and isn't checked out or verified.

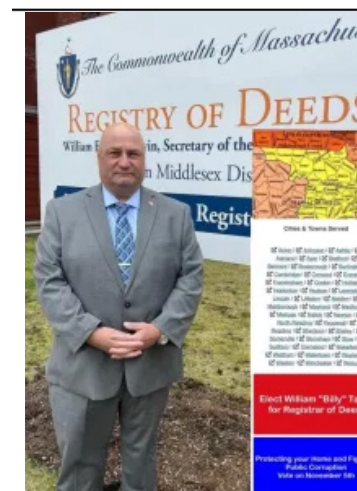
Let's hope that kindness, respect and tolerance enjoy a renaissance. Currently there's a dearth of all three.

Hopefully they'll be a plethora of all three in the foreseeable future.

I hope all those receiving this are doing well.

Take care,

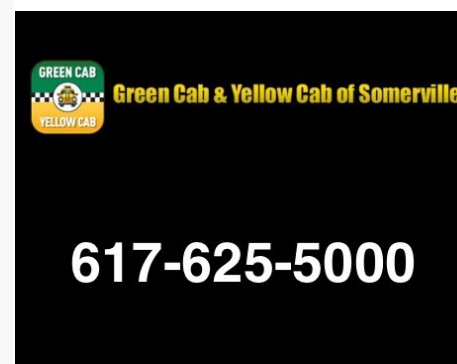
Jane Schapiro



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MVES Awarded Grant to Ease Behavioral Health Crisis



The aging population in Massachusetts is increasing, while at the same time, the number of older adults with behavioral health problems is also rising. Massachusetts is not alone – U.S. officials have described older Americans as facing a behavioral health crisis.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support emotional well-being during the aging journey, Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the state's Behavioral Health Outreach for Aging Populations (BHOAP) program.

“Behavioral health conditions skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those

issues didn't simply vanish when quarantine was lifted, especially for our community's aging population, who are more likely to remain socially isolated,” observed Lisa Gurgone, Chief Executive Officer for MVES. “We're proud to receive the BHOAP grant, which will help our team support those who are in critical need of care.”

Central to the behavioral health crisis is the need for treatment. While an estimated 1 in 4 older Americans has a behavioral health condition not associated with normal aging, less than 33 percent of this population receives services to address their diagnosis. Within Massachusetts, BHOAP aims to

address this problem.

More than half of those enrolled in Mystic Valley Elder Services' home care programs reported having a behavioral health diagnosis, and MVES has identified an increase in diagnoses over the past decade. The BHOAP grant enables MVES to build on its existing outreach efforts and work to overcome barriers to care, including:

- Coping with other chronic illnesses and physical frailty
- Transportation limitations
- Cost of care
- Social isolation
- Technological barriers
- Cultural differences in approaches to behavioral care
- Societal and/or generational stigma

“Stigma is a major obstacle to any individual receiving treatment, but it can be a barrier that's especially difficult for the aging population,” explained Lisa Felci Jimenez, MVES Director of Clinical Services. “People dismiss these issues by saying, you're just lonely or you just worry too much. Part of our team's mission is to overcome these misconceptions and ensure people receive the care they need. Depression and anxiety are not an inevitable part of the aging process.”

MVES has provided access to behavioral health services through its Complex Care team since 2005. The BHOAP grant empowers MVES to expand its Complex Care team and better serve the aging population in Medford and the 10 other communities in its service area.

The Complex Care team focuses on increasing access to home- and community-based counseling to address a wide range of issues including hoarding, depression, anxiety, adjustment to loss, substance abuse

and more. They develop a personalized plan for each individual, connecting them to the care they need and monitoring each case over time. By working closely with other departments at MVES, the team ensures the individual receives any other support they need, such as transportation assistance or social engagement.

The Complex Care team also offers bilingual support and works to build awareness and partnership throughout the community.

“Our team ensures health providers and community organizations are aware that MVES offers a range of services to support aging and that behavioral health is a key part of our offerings,” explained Jennifer Shackleton, MVES Complex Care Team Manager. “We want to improve that 33 percent of older adults who are receiving the treatment they need. The best way to do that is together, as a community.”

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.



Annual Winter Hill Yacht Club WHYC VETERANS CRUISE Somerville

Please Come Join Us For Our Complimentary Annual Salute to Our Veterans in Somerville. This is a tradition that we've been doing for many years for our veterans!

Hello all military veterans of all branches of service from any city or town! Please come and join us on our Annual Winter Hill Yacht Club WHYC VETERANS CRUISE to salute our veterans on Sunday September 8th for a day of fun on the water!

We will be starting off with a

light complimentary breakfast at 9:30AM.

Then at 11:00AM we will hit the high seas in an all volunteered flotilla convoy of boats under police escort by Mass State Police and Mass Environmental Police boats heading out to the USS Constitution.

Then we will set a heading out the Castle Island to view a wonderful spray display from fire boats.

After the fire boats display, we will be setting our course back to Winter Hill Yacht

Club for our Complimentary Annual Old Fashioned WHYC Veterans Cruise Bar-b-que Lunch!

Reservations are required. (Please Veterans Only) Please call Ken Webber before August 30th with your RSVP at (617)962-3671.

Winter Hill Yacht Club
500 Artison Way
Somerville Ma 02145

2024 VETERANS CRUISE

Please join us for a cruise around Boston Harbor to Honor Veterans



Winter Hill Yacht Club
500 Artison Way
Somerville, MA

★ FOR VETERANS FROM ALL SERVICES

★ LIGHT BREAKFAST AND BBQ LUNCH

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

You Must call Ken to register before Friday August 30th. We need a head count for food and boats.

Must call to register with Ken Webber 617-962-3671
Sunday, September 8th @ 9:30 am

Please car pool, limited free parking but plenty of parking in garages. (you are responsible to pay for)

Sponsored by Chelsea Rotary Club & Winter Hill Yacht Club

These are private vessels and are not wheelchair/handicap accessible.

Somerville Resident Margaret Klessens Turns 100

Margaret Klessens is 100 years young on August 17th 2024. She is a World War II Army Veteran born and raised in Charlestown Mass. She moved to Somerville in 1962 where she raised her family.

She's a Charlestown School Girls member, a member of the Charlestown American Legion and DAV and served as the Grand Marshal of the Bunker Hill Day Parade in June 2022.



\$5.1 BILLION FOR HOUSING (H 4977)

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The House 128-24, Senate 37-2, approved and Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a housing bill that would authorize \$5.1 billion in borrowing to spur housing production in the Bay State.

Supporters said the package makes crucial policy changes with the goal of building new housing, accelerating the rehabilitation of existing housing, reducing barriers to development and promoting affordable housing.

They noted that key provisions include allowing accessory dwelling units, investment in modernizing the

state's public housing system, boosts to programs that support first-time homebuyers and homeownership, incentives to build more housing for low to moderate-income residents, support for the conversion of vacant commercial space to housing and support for sustainable and green housing initiatives.

"The Affordable Homes Act creates homes for every kind of household, at every stage of life and unlocks the potential in our neighborhoods," said Gov. Healey. "Today we are taking an unprecedented step forward in building a stronger Massachusetts where everyone can afford to live."

"The Affordable Homes Act is the first, major critical step needed in addressing our housing crisis," said Rep. James Arciero (D-Littleton), House Chair of the Committee on Housing. "It reduces barriers for individuals seeking affordable home options, increases housing production and inventory and creates more tools in the toolbox to help cities and towns offer more affordable housing options. This encompassing bill showcases critical input from our state and local officials, community stakeholders, advocates and residents."

"If Massachusetts leaders

declare 'Mission Accomplished' on the housing crisis, they'll be abandoning millions of Massachusetts residents to a broken housing market that is driving families into homelessness and pushing workers out of our state," said Carolyn Chou, Director of Homes for All Mass. "The housing bond bill includes meaningful funding to support public housing and build new affordable housing, but legislators failed to include any tools to help renters who are facing enormous rent hikes and eviction today."

"Passing a major massive, complicated measure like this without even an abbre-

viated opportunity to read what was in the bill was not something I was willing to embrace," said Rep. Matt Muratore (R-Plymouth). "This bill was passed on August 1st around 9 a.m. after being in session since July 31st at noon. We had very little time to review."

(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

\$800,000 FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD PROGRAMS (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$800,000 (reducing funding from \$12.7 million to \$11.9 million) for the Department of Agriculture. The veto includes

cuts of \$100,000 from the Massachusetts Food Trust Program; another \$100,000 from the Buy Local effort; and the entire \$250,000 for local food policy councils.

The Senate did not act on

the veto so the veto stands and the \$800,000 was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary," said Gov. Healey. "I am reducing two earmarks to amounts

more consistent with my House [budget] recommendation and eliminating one program earmark that was intended to be a one-year program.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$800,000. A "No" vote is

against it.)

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



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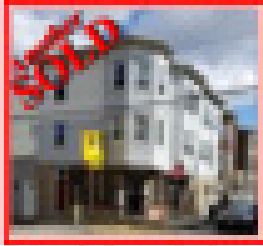


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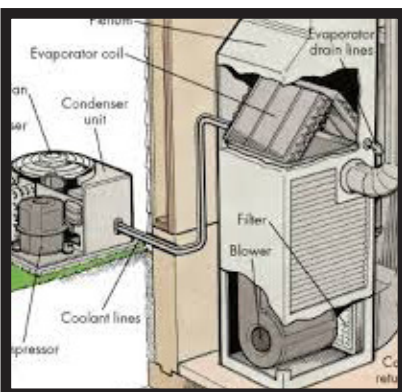
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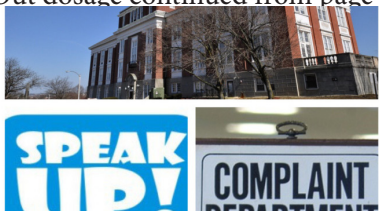
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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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VOTER REGISTRATION LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE STATE PRIMARY

<p>VOTER REGISTRATION -----8:30 a.m. -----4:30 p.m.</p> <p>LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR THE STATE PRIMARY THURSDAY -----8:30 a.m. -----7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024</p> <p>FRIDAY -----8:30 a.m. -----12:30 p.m.</p> <p>The deadline for in person registration is Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 5:00pm at City Hall or online by midnight Saturday night, August 24, 2024</p> <p>Election Department: Somerville City Hall Hours MONDAY, TUESDAY, & WEDNESDAY ---</p>	<p>-----8:30 a.m. -----4:30 p.m.</p> <p>THURSDAY -----8:30 a.m. -----7:30 p.m.</p> <p>FRIDAY -----8:30 a.m. -----12:30 p.m.</p> <p>To request a voter registration form CALL 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 for a Voter Mail-In Registration form Download a Mail-In Voter Registration form from the City Website and mail to the Elections Department Register Online by visiting the City Website</p>	<p>All mail-in voter registration forms must be post-marked by 08/24/24.</p> <p>The City of Somerville does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, national origin, sexual preference, disability, or any other protected category in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request</p> <p>Somerville/Medford News Weekly 08/13/2024</p>
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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/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, x.com/honkfest/, and 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. For further information: honkfest.org, honkfest.org/contact/, info@honkfest.org, 781-285-8639.

Fire Department to Conduct Hydrant Flushing August 12-24



Citywide hydrant maintenance keeps hydrants ready in case of fire;

Temporary water discoloration may occur but water is safe to drink

SOMERVILLE- The Somerville Fire Department will begin the annual inspection and flushing of all fire hydrants citywide on Monday, August 12, 2024,

and conclude on Saturday, August 24, 2024. This annual fire hydrant maintenance program helps keep our community safe by helping to ensure hydrants will work properly in the event of a fire.

Firefighters will be conducting brief flushing of water from the hydrants as well as a check of the mechanical operation of each hydrant. The inspection and testing program will take approximately two weeks to complete. Inspec-

tions and testing will be conducted Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and if necessary, in the evening, from 6:15 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.

In most cases, residents will not notice any changes to their water service.

However, in some cases you may experience a temporary, slight drop in water pressure and/or discolored water:

In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink.

If discoloration occurs, if you like, you can open the cold tap nearest the water meter—usually a basement sink—to

full flow until the water runs clear. In some situations, this may take 5 to 10 minutes.

Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics.

If you happen to do laundry while the water is discolored, don't dry those items!

If any rust stains appear on wet laundry, again, it should not be dried, and residents can call 311 (617-666-3311) for a free bottle of rust remover.

The Water Department also conducts

additional hydrant testing and maintenance year-round.

For hydrant flushing schedules by street, which are usually updated daily or weekly, please visit <http://www.somervillema.gov/hydrant-flushing>.

Please understand that schedules may be subject to change based on weather and other factors.

Anyone with questions regarding hydrant maintenance may contact 311 or the Somerville Fire Department at 617-623-1700.

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\$1.5 MILLION FOR WATER AND SEWER RELIEF (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen	sets Sewer Rate Relief Fund which was established in 1993 to help reduce the rising costs of sewer services in the Bay State.	The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1.5 million was eliminated.	"I am vetoing this item to an amount consistent with my House [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey.	(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.) Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep.
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\$5 MILLION FOR FOOD SECURITY (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen	created to ensure that individuals and families have access to food, especially food that is produced locally, and equitable access to food. The program also seeks to ensure that farmers, fisherman and other local food producers are better	connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply and distribution disruption. The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$5 million was eliminated.	"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary due to the availability of alternative resources," said Gov. Healey. (A "Yes" vote is for the \$5 mil-	lion. A "No" vote is against it.) Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes
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Join Somerville's Community Preservation Committee

Applications for two general public volunteer members due Friday, August 30	proved by City Council. Another four volunteer members are appointed by the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Historical Preservation Commission, and the Housing Authority. Finally, one staff member represents the City's Public Space and Urban Forestry Division.	Listen to community feedback	One will have a two-year term running through December 31, 2026, and the other will have a three-year term running through December 31, 2027. Both will have the option to renew for an additional three-year term. The CPC typically meets once per month on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.	are a qualified candidate will be posted on the City website for public review for at least 3 weeks, beginning in September. All community members are invited to provide feedback on candidates during this time.
SOMERVILLE- The City of Somerville is currently seeking two general public volunteer members for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). All Somerville residents are welcome to apply.	What abilities are needed?	Be fair and objective	How to Apply:	For questions, please contact Roberta Cameron at rcameron@somervillema.gov .
The CPC identifies funding priorities for approximately \$3 million per year in affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space projects through Community Preservation Act (CPA) revenues.	Being an effective committee member will require that you:	The City seeks to create a balanced committee with candidates who:	Interested residents can apply by completing the online application form by 4 p.m. on Friday, August 30, 2024.	To learn more about the Community Preservation Committee, please visit somervillema.gov/cpa .
The committee consists of nine members: Four volunteer members from the general public are appointed by the Mayor and ap-	Become familiar with the City's CPA program	Support all three programmatic areas of the CPA: affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space and outdoor recreation AND	Please note that if you choose to apply for the Community Preservation Committee, your name and a brief summary describing why you	
	Attend meetings regularly	Have demonstrated a commitment to at least one of these areas		
	Help to share information about the CPA program	Come from diverse demographic backgrounds		
		Represent all geographic areas of the City		
		Duration and Time Commitment:		

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Fire Department to Conduct Hydrant Flushing August 12-24



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However, in some cases you may experience a temporary, slight drop in water pressure and/or discolored water:

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until the water runs clear. In some situations, this may take 5 to 10 minutes.

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If any rust stains appear on wet laundry, again, it should not be dried, and residents can call 311 (617-666-3311) for a free bottle of rust remover.

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ducts additional hydrant testing and maintenance year-round.

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Please understand that schedules may be subject to change based on weather and other factors.

Anyone with questions regarding hydrant maintenance may contact 311 or the Somerville Fire Department at 617-623-1700.

JOIN THE SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION



Applications for Open Seat for Alternate Member Due Monday, August 26, 2024

SOMERVILLE - The City of Somerville is currently seeking applicants for one open alternate position on the Somerville Licensing Commission.

We welcome applications from all Somerville residents ages 18 or older who meet the qualifications detailed below.

What is the Somerville Licensing Commission?

The Licensing Commission reviews and issues a range of licenses in Somerville. These

include licenses to operate restaurants (both with and without alcohol service), liquor stores, private clubs, hotels, entertainment venues, and more. It also includes one-day special alcohol licenses, recreational marijuana retail licenses, and public and private outdoor dining licenses. In addition, the Licensing Commission develops license rules

and regulations and addresses complaints regarding these licenses.

For more information on the responsibilities of the Somerville Licensing Commission, visit: somervillema.gov/departments/licensing-commission.

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Prevent West Nile Virus as First Human Case Confirmed in Massachusetts

Continued from front page



As the risk of disease rises, continue to protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks this season.

SOMERVILLE-
The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced the first positive human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) and first animal case of Eastern

Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in the state. Somerville and some surrounding communities are considered to be at moderate risk for WNV.

While WNV and EEE can infect people of all ages, people over 50 are at higher risk for severe WNV, and people under 15 are particularly vulnerable to EEE. WNV and EEE symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness.

DPH recommends the following precautions to protect against mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply insect repellent when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol, (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under 2 months old and should be used in

concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years old. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear and should not be applied to the skin.

Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk increases, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning. If you are outdoors and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up,

and/or wearing repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items holding water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools, and frequently change the water in bird-baths. Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after

heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas.

Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for animal use and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE.

If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

For more information, go to mass.gov/dph/mosquito or call the Massachusetts DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

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

<p>BASICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat) <input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf <p>FOOD & DRINK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee <input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink <input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky <input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers <input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars <input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards <p>HELP THEM CONNECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen <input type="checkbox"/> Stationary <input type="checkbox"/> Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card 	<p>TOILETRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick <input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer <input type="checkbox"/> Comb <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit <p>SURVIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter <input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool <p>TREATS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs <input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped) <input type="checkbox"/> Mints <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum <p>SPLURGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card <input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag
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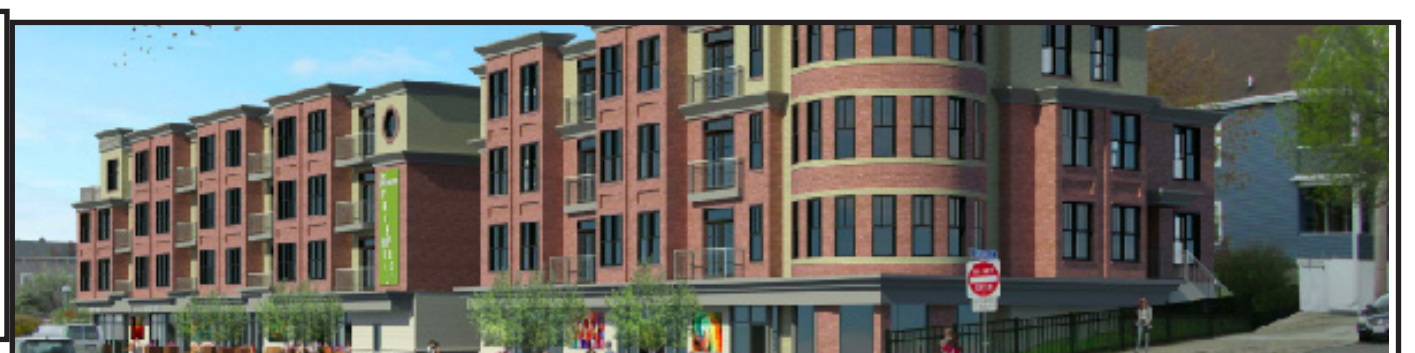
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Somerville Voting Information for State of Massachusetts Primary Elections



SOMERVILLE – On Tuesday, September 3, 2024 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will hold its State Primary Elections.

The offices on the ballot for this election include:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative
- Governor’s Councillor
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Register of Deeds
- Clerk of Courts

The primary election is open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on Election Day.

Register to Vote by Saturday, August 24
 You can register one of three ways:
 Online at somervillema.gov/register,
 In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
 Via phone by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. Or by calling 311 (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections.

The registration deadline is Saturday August 24, at midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be post-marked by August 24.

Vote Early at City Hall, August 24 – 30
 Vote early in the lower level of City Hall from Saturday, August 24, through Friday, August 30. The schedule is as follows:
 August 24 – Saturday 9 a.m. to

5 p.m.
 August 25 – Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 August 26 – Monday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 August 27 – Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 August 28 – Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 August 29 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 August 30 – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

How to Vote by Mail

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. (not postmarked) by Monday, August 26
 Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/votebymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 3.
 Eligible voters who submit valid

applications will receive their ballot in the mail. Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the City no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state’s website.

How to return your application and ballot:

Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:
 City Hall concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
 East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.
 In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.
 In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
 In front of the Igreja Presbiteriana De Boston Church, 212 School St.
 In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St.
 In front of the Armory, 191

Highland Ave.
 In front of Dilbooy Post, 351 Summer St.
 In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.
 In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall
 Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143
 Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

For all information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.

DISABILITY PENSION FOR POLICE OFFICERS (S 2887)

August 13, 2024 the somervillenewsweekly Leave a comment
 By Bob Katzen

The Senate 40-0, approved and Gov. Healey signed into law legislation that would provide police officers who have suffered a violent act injury, 100 percent regular compensation and pension

benefits, until they reach the age of mandatory retirement. Violent act injury is defined as “a serious and permanent personal bodily injury sustained as a direct and proximate result of a violent attack upon a person by means of a dangerous weapon, including a firearm, knife, automobile, explosive device or other dangerous weapon.”

Supporters said that under current law, a first responder forced to retire due to a violent act injury can only receive benefits through the local retirement board via the home rule legislative process. They said this process is onerous and has resulted in disparate benefits being granted on a case-by-case basis.

“Our first responders go above and beyond to keep our communities safe and respond to emergencies,” said Gov. Healey. “That’s why it’s critical that we support them when they experience emergencies of their own. This legislation ensures that first responders who are injured in the line of duty have access to the

pay and health care, including mental health care, that they need to support their families and their road to recovery.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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. COMMUNITY NOTICE: VOTE BY MAIL APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION FROM COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS STARTING TO ARRIVE IN MAILBOXES



SOMERVILLE- The City of Somerville is alerting all registered voters that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has begun mailing a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid Vote by Mail application to every registered voter before each statewide election. If you have already applied to vote by mail for the upcoming election, you will not receive an additional application.

Voters who prefer to apply online may do so at VoteIn-MA.com.

Using the Application To request a ballot for the next statewide election or all elections this year, simply mark your selections, sign the application, and drop it in the mail.

If printing is not an option, any signed request will suffice. You may also send a signed letter to your local election office to request your ballot.

Application Deadlines Your mail-in application must reach your local election officials by 5 p.m. on the 5th business day before the

election. Regardless of the postmark date, your application must be at the local election office by the deadline.

2024 Application Deadlines:
September 3 State Primaries: 5 p.m., Monday, August 26.
November 5th State Election: 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 29.

The City of Somerville Elections Office will be sharing more voting information for the 2024 Presidential Election, including voting hours and ballot box locations, in the coming weeks on all City communications channels.

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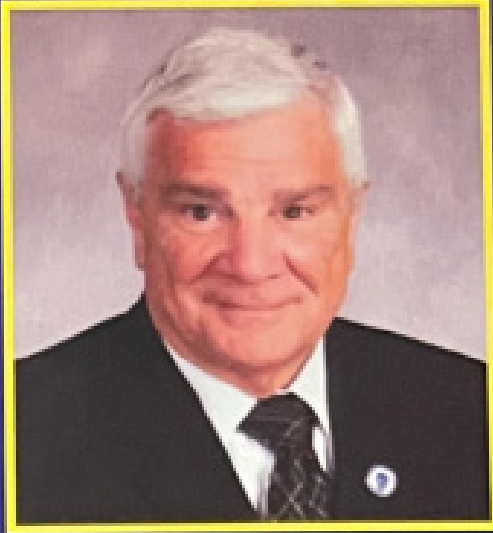


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