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VOL.1 NO.329-232

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday October 1st, 2024

Somerville Central Library to Resume Normal Hours Starting Wednesday, October 2



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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page

School Construction Advisory Group Membership for Winter Hill and Brown Planning Announced

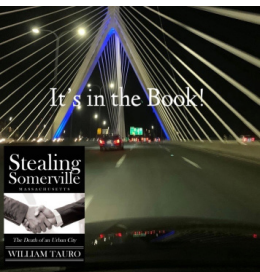


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Letter from the Editor: Somerville Police Officer Assaulted on Broadway



Continued to page 5



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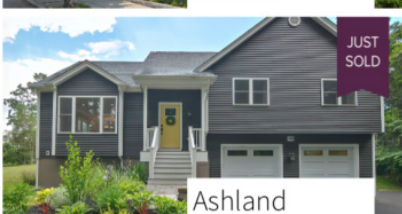
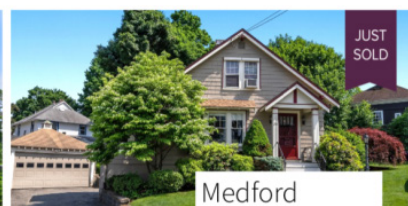
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Richard C. Kinne



Obituary
 Richard C. Kinne, of Somerville passed away suddenly on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, following an operation. He was 59 years old. Richard was the beloved son of the

late Dale R. and Barbara A. (Connor) Kinne.

From a young age, he nurtured a deep passion for the sky and the universe, which ultimately led him to a fulfilling career as an astronomer. His enthusiasm for uncovering the mysteries of the cosmos was contagious; he delighted in sharing his discoveries with those around him.

Later in life, Richard transitioned to teaching at the Kennedy School in

Somerville. His joy came from seeing the wonder in his students' eyes as they learned and grew. He believed in the power of education and dedicated himself to inspiring young minds.

In his downtime, Richard loved relaxing on the couch, watching sci-fi movies with his partner, Morgan. He was also an avid amateur radio enthusiast, hosting the Official Relay Station, where he reported local traffic. His community spirit shone

brightly in all he did.

A longtime parishioner of Arlington Street Church in Boston, Richard met his beloved partner while ringing the bells one Sunday morning—a testament to his belief in connection and community. He was also a devoted cat lover, often sharing his home with feline companions who brought him immense joy.

He was the devoted partner of 13 years to Morgan Johnstone of Somerville.

The beloved brother of Kristen Hall and her husband Earl G. Hall of Rome, NY. Cherished uncle of Morghan and Ethan Hall both of Rome, NY. Loving fur-dad to Odin and Lucas. Also survived by many loving cherished friends and extended family members.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Somerville Veterans Commission Seeking Your Help



I sit on the Veterans Commission for Somerville and we are looking for community support for our

Veterans Day event: food, Anthem singer, goody bags items.... please call me at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

All the best,
 Ellen Sullivan

760.885.1931

TAX AMNESTY PROGRAM

By Bob Katzen
 The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) announced it will administer a tax amnesty program that will run from November 1 through December 30, 2024. The program was part of the fiscal 2025 budget ap-

proved by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Healey on July 29. "I urge individuals and businesses to take this opportunity to voluntarily pay their back taxes and interest beginning November 1," said Geoffrey Snyder, Commissioner of

Revenue. "The program is a significant step to help taxpayers come into compliance, including non-filers." According to the DOR, the amnesty program will allow non-filers and taxpayers with outstanding tax liabilities to catch up on back taxes and save

on penalties. The program aims to bring into compliance those taxpayers who have failed to file returns or have unpaid assessments. Taxpayers who meet certain criteria must request amnesty, file returns and pay outstanding tax and interest liabilities to have eligible penal-

ties waived. Additionally, non-filers or individuals who failed to file required returns with DOR, may benefit from a three-year limited look-back period. For more information and details, go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massa->

\$362 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 5050)

By Bob Katzen
 Gov. Healey signed into law a \$362 million budget to help close out fiscal year 2024 that ended on July 31. Key provisions ratify and fund some 38 collective bargaining agreements

and direct \$228 million in funding for the American Rescue Plan Act Home and Community Based Services before a deadline that would require Massachusetts to return the money to Washington, D.C.

Other provisions include \$20 million to replace lost federal funding for victims of violent crimes; \$29.7 million in early education and care subsidies to ensure providers can maintain access for all

income-eligible families in need of childcare; \$5.6 million for tax abatements for veterans, widows, blind persons and the elderly; \$5.1 million to support increased demand for the Healthy Incentives Program which provides

fresh healthy food options and supports local growers; and \$2.1 million for Women, Infants and Children nutrition services to fully support the current caseload of recipients.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CAMPBELL'S YOUTH COUNCIL

By Bob Katzen
 Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced the creation of the first-ever Youth Council to advise her office about critical issues facing youth and help the council members build skills as leaders and advocates. The council would be comprised of 18 members between the ages of 14-18 from regions

across the state. Supporters say the council will offer their perspective to help inform and advise the Attorney General's Office on issues that affect them, including bias and discrimination, mental health, social media use, anti-bullying, school safety, environmental justice, gun violence prevention and government account-

ability. "Our young people are our next generation of leaders," said Campbell. "Far too often, they are left out of conversations about issues that directly impact them. As a mother of two boys, I am fully committed to addressing the challenges facing our youth, and as your Attorney General, I'm proud to

seek out young voices to inform our work in these spaces." "I'm excited to be part of the ... Youth Council because it provides me with a unique opportunity to learn how the Attorney General and state government address matters that are important to young people," said Youth Council Member Victoria

Mukiibi. "Through my past community involvement, I have come to appreciate the importance of youth engagement. I'm eager to collaborate with my peers to add our voices to the conversations that shape decisions that impact our communities."



Letter from the Editor: Somerville Police Officer Assaulted on Broadway

Continued from front page



Your thoughts?

By William Tauro

At about 11:30 AM today Thursday, September 26th, I was stopped at the red light at the intersection on Broadway at Franklin Street waiting for the light to turn green when I noticed a Somerville Police Officer

beginning to physically struggle with a homeless man at the corner in front of the Amigo's Market.

I witnessed the man swing at the officer attempting to slug him. It appears to me that he got a good punch into the officer. I immediately pulled over and asked the police officer if I can assist

him in anyway. Immediately the homeless man began to continue fighting with the officer as the officer began to take him to the ground while the homeless man was still fighting and resisting arrest as the officer continued shouting commands to get on the ground.

A second officer, a Somerville Police Sargent arrived at the scene and again the man was still continuing resisting arrest until they got him with his hands behind his back and handcuffed him.

Apparently the intoxicated homeless man was urinating in front of the variety store in front of everyone when

the officer approach him and shouted "What are you doing?" The man then showed his unbuttoned penis to the police officer. That's when the man swung at the police officer and the rest is as I stated.

The sad part is this guy will get away with this. Our current administration here in Somerville has no backbone. They don't know how to handle and treat or save these dozens of intoxicated homeless people that roam the streets of Somerville every day and night. Our current administration failed them and our city miserably in all areas and just leaves these homeless people on the street and expects them to

fend for themselves instead of trying to do the right thing get them the proper treatment and assistance that they really need.

All the while this continues to go on right in front our residents of Somerville, including in direct view of our children have to witnesses this monstrosity everyday, after day, after day!

As for our police officers, they become helpless victims themselves who are ordered and instructed not to do a thing about this situation. Especially where something like this resulted in an assault of a Somerville Police Officer.

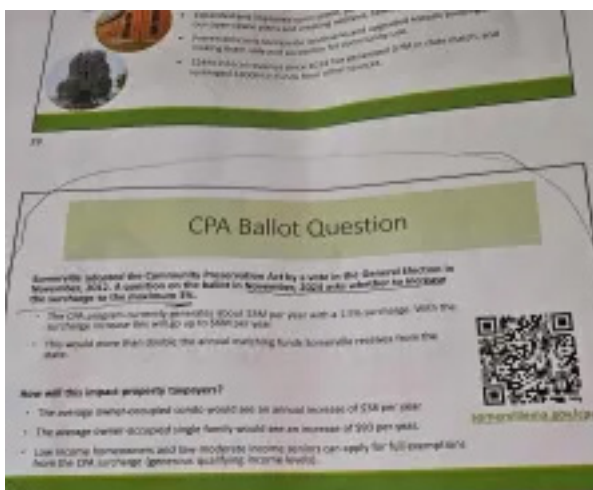
Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line:

November ballot Question to double the CPA your property taxes from 1.5% to 3%

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

Hey, Did you hear there's a question on the November ballot to double the CPA your property taxes from 1.5% to 3%? Seem the Administration is trying to slide this one in.

When asking the Counsel At Large, we were told it's up to the voters to educate themselves. When you drive through other Cities like Medford and Stoneham you see signs like Vote No on #3 but no one in Somerville knows about it.



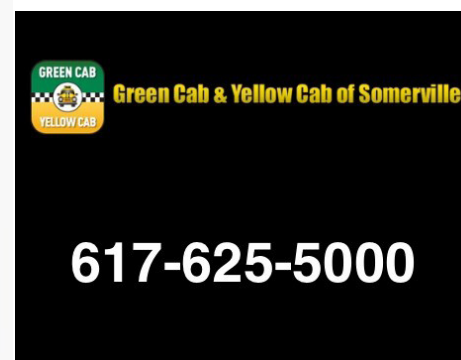
Congratulations Somerville High School Boys Varsity Soccer Team for their Saturday Win vs Haverhill.



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USE INTEREST FROM STATE'S "RAIN DAY FUND" TO LEVERAGE FEDERAL FUNDS (\$ 2954)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey signed into law legislation that would leverage the interest from the state's Rainy Day Fund to better compete for federal dollars, to ensure the state receives the maximum possible share of federal funds and to pay down the state's long term debt liabilities. The Rainy Day Fund currently has a historic balance of \$8.2 billion.

Supporters said the bill would require the state comptroller to transfer interest from the Rainy Day Fund to the Common-

wealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund on a quarterly basis if the Rainy Day balance contains a healthy amount of money. The Secretary of Administration and Finance would then pursue federal funds for infrastructure, resiliency and economic development.

"From day one of our administration, we've been committed to competing aggressively to win more federal investments in Massachusetts," said Gov. Healey. "We know that every federal dollar we pull in is vital to repairing our bridges and roads, im-

proving transportation infrastructure in all parts of the state, leading the clean energy revolution, and supporting our workforce at every step. With this legislation, we will be able to provide unprecedented tools for our communities to seek the federal support they need."

"We are constantly competing with 49 other states for our share of limited federal dollars," said Rep. Matt Muratore (R-Plymouth). "Leveraging the interest on our Rainy Day Fund will give us a significant advantage by better positioning Massachusetts

to successfully secure much-needed federal dollars that will help pay for a wide range of infrastructure projects."

"This legislation puts Massachusetts in a position to take full advantage of federal grant opportunities to ensure we don't leave a single dollar on the table," said Sen. John Cronin (D-Fitchburg). "This bill will help our commonwealth partner with the federal government to meet our challenges and build for the future."

"Remaining competitive, equitable and afford-

able as a commonwealth means thinking creatively about our state's finances and seizing opportunities," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "We have been fiscally prudent in building up the largest rainy day fund in Massachusetts' history, and with the governor's signature, our communities will now be able to leverage our robust interest earnings to compete for federal dollars to fund transformative projects."

\$5 MILLION FOR FIREFIGHTER SAFETY GRANTS

By Bob Katzen

The Healey administration announced that \$5 million in grant are available to support the purchase of firefighter turnout gear, fire suppression equipment, and other related

items by local cities and towns.

"Modern firefighters do much more than fight fires," said State Fire Marshal Jon Davine. "They perform technical rescues, mitigate the release of haz-

ardous materials and treat traumatic injuries. Many of their day-to-day activities expose them to carcinogens and other health hazards. These grants give local fire departments the flexibility to purchase the safety equipment that will

best serve their needs, from small rural towns to large urban areas. It's an investment in the safety of our firefighters and all our communities."



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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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.

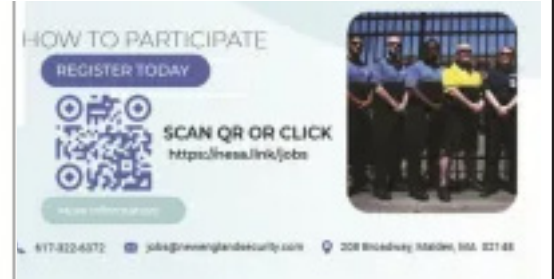
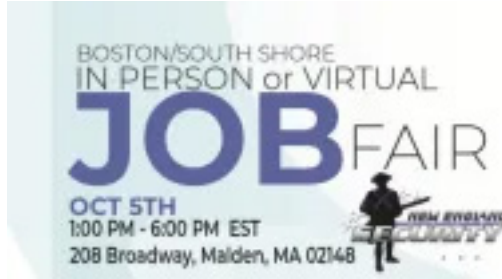


WE ARE HIRING

We are excited to announce that New England Security will be hosting a Job Fair on Saturday, October 5th, 2024.

We need your help to

spread the word! If you know any friends, family, or acquaintances who may be interested in joining the best security team in Massachusetts, we'd love to meet them at our event.



Somerville Launches Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Project with Oct 9 Virtual Community Meeting

City will offer a variety of ways to get involved in this redesign of Pearl Street (McGrath Highway to Medford) which aims to increase safety.

SOMERVILLE—As part of the City's intensive efforts to improve street safety for all, community engagement and design for the City's reconstruction of Western Pearl Street is getting underway. All are invited to help inform this project which will bring increased safety, accessibility, and sustainability to Pearl Street between McGrath Highway and Medford Street.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin, and City Staff invite you to participate in a range of feedback opportunities launching this October.

The process kicks-off with a virtual community meeting on Wednesday, October 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Visit somervillema.gov/westernpearl to attend. At this meeting, City staff will introduce the project and

provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences. Public feedback opportunities on both the initial planning and then the design of the project will continue over the coming year.

More information about this project and opportunities to get involved are included below.

Project Overview and Timeline
As part of our Pavement and Sidewalk Management program, the City plans to reconstruct sidewalks and repave Pearl Street from McGrath Highway to Medford Street. This reconstruction provides an opportunity to redesign the street to increase safety, improve accessibility, and deliver a more comfortable experience by:

- Reconstructing sidewalks and adding accessible curb ramps at all crosswalks
- Installing traffic calming safety features such as raised

crosswalks, raised intersections, and curb extensions.

Introducing protected bicycle facilities

Marking "Clear Corners" at each intersection to increase visibility

Supporting current street trees and identifying locations for new plantings

How to Get Involved
The City plans to engage community members and develop the new design between fall 2024 and fall 2025. Reconstruction is currently anticipated to take place between 2026 and 2027.

There will be a mix of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities throughout the design process, including:

- Online and in-person surveys
- Community meetings for the general public, Kennedy school community, and more

Street outreach with neighborhood pop-ups and tabling at community events

Direct outreach to local businesses

"Office hours" drop-in events

The first event is a virtual community meeting on Wednesday, October 9, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Attend the meeting, learn more about the project by visiting somervillema.gov/westernpearl.

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

Policy Background
The City's efforts to increase safety on our streets are guided by our goals to both keep community members physically safe as well as to achieve our climate action goal to shift more trips to sustainable modes of travel like public transit, walking, biking, and rolling. You

can learn more about this work in the plans below.

Somerville's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic fatalities and reduce severe injuries within our transportation system

The Somerville Bicycle Network Plan which aims to create bike facilities for people of all ages and abilities to safely get around the City

The City's Climate Forward Plan to reduce carbon emissions and increase active and sustainable transportation options.

Somerville's recently passed Safe Streets Ordinance reaffirms the City's commitment to accelerating work toward these goals through the implementation of forward-looking design and safety practices.

Join the Somerville Arts Council Board Applications Due Thursday, October 10

SOMERVILLE – The Somerville Arts Council is actively seeking three to four dedicated community members to join its Board. This is an exciting opportunity for individuals with a passion for the arts to support and strengthen the vibrant cultural landscape of our city.

What is the Somerville Arts Council Board?

The Somerville Arts Council Board plays a crucial role in cultivating and celebrating the creative expressions of the Somerville community. The Board provides guidance on the City's arts community, advises on the work and policies of the Arts Council, and engages in networking. From September through December, members participate in the adjudication process for a local

grant-making program to support arts and culture initiatives within the community. Who Can Join? We are seeking artists or members of the general public with a strong interest in the arts, particularly those with experience in music, literature, or public art. Any Somerville resident with a passion for supporting the arts is encouraged to apply.

What is the Time Commitment? The Board meets in person on the second Wednesday of each month. There are two additional meetings each year concerning the grant program. Members serve a term of up to three years in a volunteer capacity. How Are Members Appointed? Members are appointed by the

Mayor of Somerville. How Do I Apply? Please submit a brief statement of interest explaining why you would like to join the Board and how you feel you can contribute to its work by Thursday, October 10. We welcome applications from all Somerville residents with diverse experiences, skills, and perspectives.

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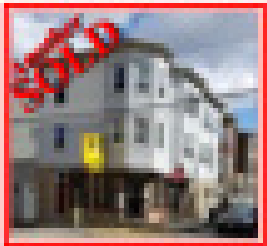


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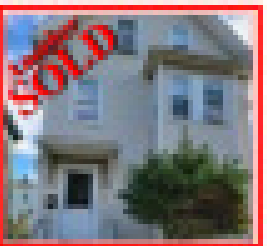
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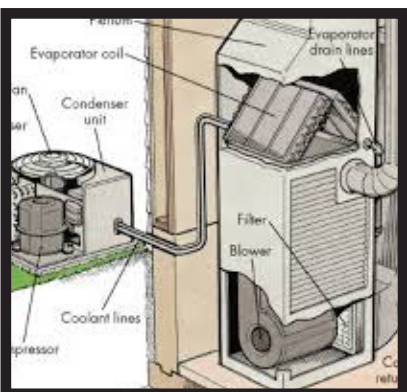
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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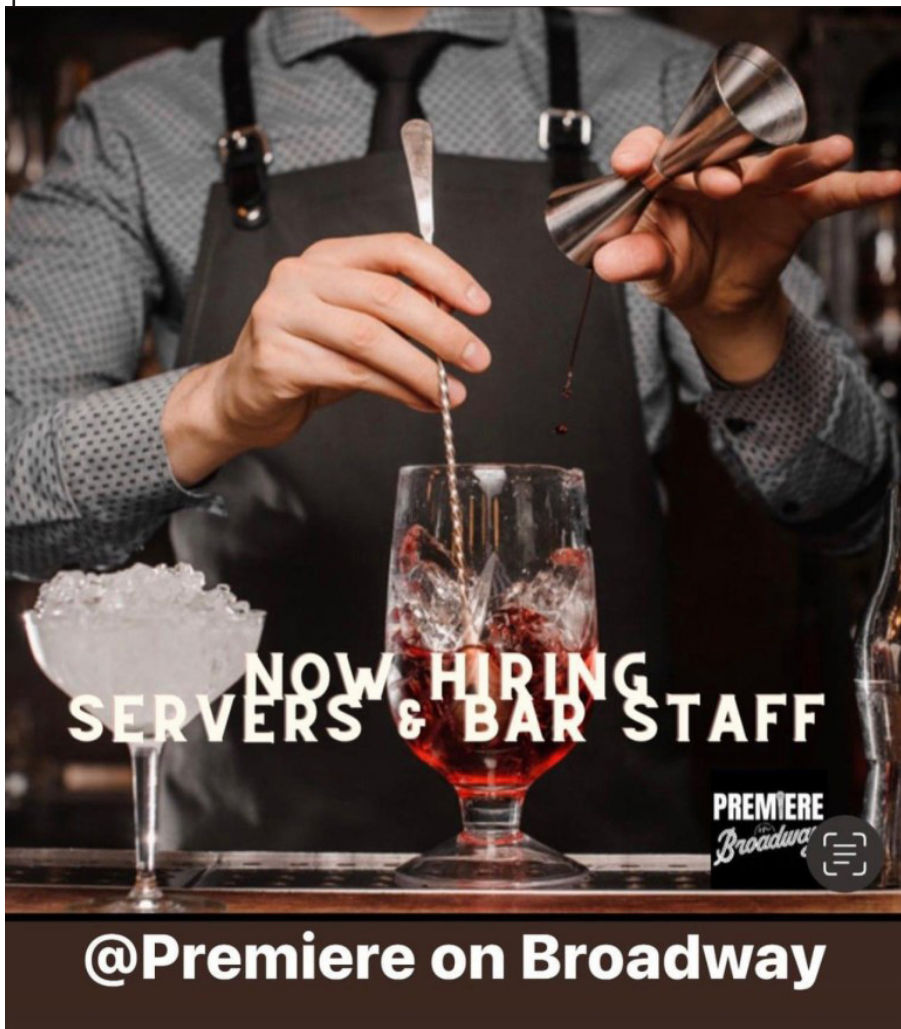
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FOSTER HOMES AND DOGS (H 4911)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved a House-approved 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. The bill also updates animal cruelty and abuse reporting regulation for human services employees or contractors.

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

and Rottweilers.

“This legislation will open the door for seemingly countless additional families to potentially become foster families addressing the great need for emergency, short-term and permanent supportive housing for the common-

wealth’s children,” said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). “From my work as the co-chair of the bipartisan Protecting Animal Welfare Caucus and my own personal experience of becoming a pre-adoptive foster parent, I know the power of this legislation.”

The bill needs final approval in the House and Senate before it goes to Gov. Healey for her signature.

12.4 MILLION FOR ROAD SAFETY

By Bob Katzen

The Healey administration announced it has awarded some \$12.4 million in federal traffic safety funds for programs to promote safer roads in across the state.

“These programs, taken together, represent a holistic approach to addressing road safety concerns,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “No one agency or approach can resolve these issues, but the combination of preven-

tion, enforcement, education and outreach initiatives funded through these grants will ensure safer roads for all in Massachusetts.”

“The initiatives funded through these grant programs will

ensure that drivers in communities across the state are better informed and safer behind the wheel,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “These grants promote strong partnerships between nonprofits, community mem-

bers and public safety officials. Those relationships are key to our public safety strategy.”



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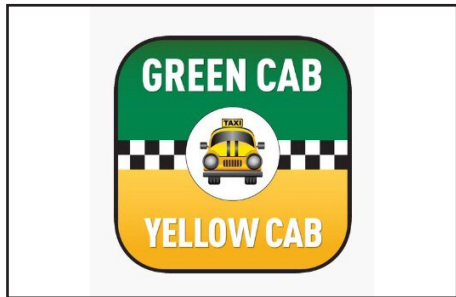
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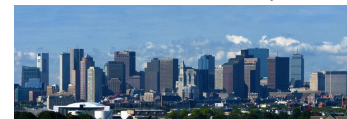
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Driving School Vehicle Collision Ends Up As Rollover

By William Tauro

Somerville and Medford Police officers were dispatched to an accident that happened earlier Friday afternoon, September 20th at 459 Broadway next to the intersection of Braemire Road and Broadway near the Somerville and Medford line.

The Student Driver School Vehicle rolled over onto its roof after the collision.

According to witnesses at the scene, the sole passenger got out of the vehicle after the crash and she appeared to be fine. She was later placed into the ambulance and transported to an area hospital to be checked out.



Somerville Central Library to Resume Normal Hours Starting Wednesday, October 2

Continued from front page



New Security Measures and Expanded Support Resources Implemented to Support Safe Environment for Patrons and Staff

SOMERVILLE – The Central Branch of the Somerville Public Library will resume its regular hours

of operation beginning Wednesday, October 2.

“The Central Library will be back to its normal hours next week as planned, and new supports in place will help us foster a safe and positive environment for everyone,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “We appreciate the dedication of our librarians and staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure the library remains a welcoming space.”

Updated Safety Measures The return to regular

hours comes with two important new resources aimed at creating a safe and supportive library environment. Security cameras have been installed in strategic locations in the library, and a professional security company trained in de-escalation will provide an on-site guard at targeted hours. The City selected Internal Security Associates as our new security vendor. They have extensive experience working with youth and in public spaces, including schools and libraries. Additionally, the security

personnel are trained in CPR and first-aid, ensuring an extra layer of safety for library staff and visitors.

In addition to these safety measures, additional programming is also planned for the coming weeks for all ages including crafts, music and more. The City also continues its efforts to enhance support services at the Central Library. As part of ongoing planning for broader library needs, the City is in the final stages of the hiring process for an on-site social

worker to serve library patrons. This professional will provide direct support to vulnerable members of the community and will further enhance the supportive environment at the library.

For more information on the Central Library’s operating hours and services, please visit somervillepubliclibrary.org or contact the library at (617) 623-5000 ext. 2900.

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Join the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee

<p>SOMERVILLE – The Somerville Urban Forestry Committee is seeking two new members to help shape the future of our city’s urban canopy! We have one open position for a youth member (ages 14-17 at the time of appointment) and another position open to any resident passionate about urban forestry and public green spaces.</p>	<p>shrubs on public grounds and public ways.</p>	<p>Supporting public education and outreach on urban forestry. Providing comments during city permitting review processes. Developing educational materials, conducting community presentations, attending site visits, and supporting Arbor Day celebrations.</p>	<p>The Committee meets virtually once per month, typically on the third Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Additional commitments, such as developing educational materials or attending community events, may occasionally be required. The estimated time commitment is 2-5 hours per month.</p>	<p>Applications are due by the end of the day on Friday, October 25, 2024. Youth Member: Please submit a brief statement of interest. General Member: Please submit a statement of interest and a resume.</p>
<p>What is the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee? The Urban Forestry Committee advises the City of Somerville on the management and maintenance of all existing and new trees and</p>	<p>The Committee collaborates closely with the Mayor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and the Department of Public Works to provide input on policies and plans related to urban forestry.</p>	<p>Who Can Join? We are seeking one youth member (14-17 years old) and one general member with a passion for urban forestry. All Somerville residents are welcome to apply.</p>	<p>How Are Members Appointed? Members are selected by the Mayor and appointed by the City Council.</p>	<p>Where to Apply: Applications may be submitted via email or U.S. Mail to: Email: Vanessa Boukili at vboukili@somervillema.gov Mail: Vanessa Boukili, City of Somerville OSPCD, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02145</p>
	<p>Responsibilities include: Reviewing and advising on the health, maintenance, and protection of existing trees and shrubs. Updating information in the tree inventory.</p>	<p>What is the Time Commitment?</p>	<p>How Do I Apply?</p>	

USE INTEREST FROM STATE’S “RAIN DAY FUND” TO LEVERAGE FEDERAL FUNDS (\$ 2954)

<p>By Bob Katzen</p> <p>The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey legislation that would leverage the interest from the state’s Rainy Day Fund to better compete for federal dollars, to ensure the state receives the maximum possible share of federal funds and to pay down the state’s long term debt liabilities. The Rainy Day Fund currently has a historic balance of \$8.2 billion.</p>	<p>transfer interest from the Rainy Day Fund to the Commonwealth Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund on a quarterly basis if the Rainy Day balance contains a healthy amount of money. The Secretary of Administration and Finance would then pursue federal funds for infrastructure, resiliency and economic development.</p>	<p>ham), Chair of the House Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight.</p>	<p>as a competitive economy.”</p>	<p>“Ensuring that the commonwealth is able to aggressively compete for the federal funding being made available to states is critical,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “The projects and investments that will be funded across the United States because of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act will transform this country and create a significant number of jobs in the process. It’s vital that Massachusetts does everything that it can to share in that prosperity.”</p>
<p>Supporters said the bill would require the state comptroller to</p>	<p>“This final legislation ... increases our commonwealth’s ability to compete for federal funds while also paying down our debt obligations,” said Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framing-</p>	<p>“The needs of the public are ever-changing when it comes to the infrastructure of the state, and to be able to keep up with the needs of our residents is imperative when it comes to accomplishing important public purposes,” said Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth). “Public safety and convenience will ensure that the roles that we all have continue to operate smoothly and keep Massachusetts on the national stage</p>	<p>“Remaining competitive, equitable and affordable as a commonwealth means thinking creatively about our state’s finances and seizing opportunities,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “We have been fiscally prudent in building up the largest rainy day funds in Massachusetts’ history, which allows us to leverage our robust interest earnings to compete for federal dollars that will help us strengthen our infrastructure.”</p>	

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School Construction Advisory Group Membership for Winter Hill and Brown Planning Announced

Continued from front page



Advisory Group meetings and broad public process to launch in October; First meeting is Oct. 8

SOMERVILLE- Mayor Katjana Balantyne is announcing the members of the Somerville School Construction Advisory Group. Over the course of an in-depth process, members will develop a recommendation to the Mayor on both the location and scope of a renovated or new school to meet the needs of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and potentially the Benjamin G. Brown School.

Advisory Group meetings will be open to the public and will be accompanied by a broader public process designed to gather input from parents, guardians, teachers, and the community at large. Both the Advisory Group and the broader public process will launch in October and is expected to conclude in fall 2025.

Core questions to be reviewed by the Construction Advisory Group include:

If we build a new school rather than renovate the old Winter Hill School, should the school be located at the Winter Hill site at Sycamore Street, or elsewhere?

Will the Brown School be included in a joint school, or, if not, how should we plan for the future of the Brown?

What do these choices mean for the Somerville Public Schools and City as a whole?

Information to be reviewed by the Construction Advisory Group includes:

Information about the culture, demographics, current conditions, enrollment, capacity, programs, space needs, curriculum requirements, and school and building programs at the Winter Hill Community Innovation School, the Brown School, and – as relevant – other district schools

Community input collected via multiple methods by Winter Hill students, the Somerville Public Schools, and the broader community process

Current and potential school travel and transportation information

Overview of Somerville municipal finance, including operating and capital budgets, revenue generation, general fund capital needs, Climate Forward sustainability goals for school buildings, affordability issues, and debt exclusion override mechanisms

Other City and School fiscal, infrastructure, and building priorities, including capital investments, logistics, etc.

Members

Members selected to date for the Construction Advisory Group include the following. Remaining positions including for teachers, students, and potentially additional community group representatives, will be shared when filled.

Winter Hill Parent Representatives (selected via open call process)

Cassie Walston (PTA)

Matthew Daniels

Brown School Parent Representatives (selected via open call process)

Ryan Williams (PTA)

Marta Guerra Pastrian

Somerville Public School District Parent Representatives (selected via open call process)

Emily Miyares

Matthew Roberts

City Council Representative (recommended by City Council President)

Kristen Strezo

School Committee Representative (recommended by School Committee Chair)

Andre Green

Community Group Representatives (recommended by respective groups)

Green New Deal for Somerville Schools: Corey Donahue

Padres Latinos: Paula Magnelli and Gandhi Aldana

Business Community Representative (recommended by Somerville Chamber of Commerce)

Adam Portnoy

Jack Connolly (alternate)

Construction Advisory Group Meeting, October 8

The first meeting of the Advisory Group will be in person. All meetings will be open to the public and will include a designated comment period toward the end of the meeting. Future meetings will be either virtual or in person.

Meetings will be videotaped by the City's GovTV team and made available for later viewing. For links and updates, see <http://www.somervillema.gov/WH-CIS> or somervillema.gov/cag.

Date: Tuesday, October 8th from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Somerville High School, 81 Highland Avenue, Room 205

Background

In April 2023, the City submitted individual applications for major grant support from the state. The requests were to receive funding to renovate or rebuild both the Winter Hill and the Brown schools. In December 2023, the Winter Hill school was accepted into the Eligibility Phase of the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) grant program.

The grant program could potentially provide significant state funding for renovation or construction of a new school. Although the Brown School was not individually accepted into the program, the MSBA expressed willingness to consider a single project that accommodates both the Winter Hill

and Brown school populations.

Both the Advisory Group and the broader public process aim to ensure that the full community has an opportunity to weigh in on a decision that impacts current students, future students, and the community at large. Community input will be sought via multilingual outreach and a range of methods and opportunities for input.

The MSBA process involves a timeline set by the state. The Advisory Group and broader public process will fit into this existing MSBA timeline, and will not delay the school building process. The anticipated fall 2025 conclusion of the Advisory Group and public process is based on the current estimate of the MSBA timeline. If the MSBA schedule changes, the Advisory Group process could accelerate or have more time accordingly.

More information

For more information on the Winter Hill Community Innovation School construction project, the MSBA process, and related information, please visit somervillema.gov/WHCIS. Updates related to the work of the Advisory Group and community input opportunities will be shared via City and School channels, and the somervillema.gov/WHCIS web pages. Watch for our new school building project website coming soon. Sign up for the City e-newsletter at somervillema.gov/subscribe.

Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



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

homeless and less fortunate. A "Somerville Blessing Boxes" Facebook page has been established 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

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Join Somerville's 2024 Community Meetings Series to Learn About Latest City Initiatives from Mayor Ballantyne and City Staff

<p>August 26, 2024 thesomerville-newsweekly Leave a comment</p>	<p>ute open Q&A.</p>	<p>Date: Monday, September 23</p>	<p>Ward 1 (East Somerville, Assembly Sq., and more):</p>	<p>All Ward Virtual Meeting:</p>
<p>Meetings for all seven wards will be held Mid-September through Mid-October</p>	<p>All Ward meetings will be held in person and one all-virtual, all-ward meeting will be held on Zoom and will be accessible online or by any phone. Two additional, all-ward meetings will take place in person: one in Portuguese and one in Spanish. All in-person meetings will be recorded for later on-demand or TV viewing.</p>	<p>Location: Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Ave.</p>	<p>Date: Tuesday, October 8</p>	<p>Date: Monday, October 21</p>
<p>SOMERVILLE-Community members are invited to join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville City Council at the 2024 City Hall Community Meetings. Join us to get an overview of the latest City news, learn more about City programs and initiatives, meet your neighbors, find ways to get involved, and talk with elected officials and City staff.</p>	<p>Fall 2024 Community Meeting Schedule</p>	<p>Ward 7 (West Somerville, Teele Sq., and more):</p>	<p>Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.</p>	<p>Location: Online via Zoom with interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese, as well as other languages by request. You may join online or call in on any phone.</p>
<p>The in-person meetings kick off with a social half-hour with free pizza and kid-friendly, healthy snacks, where you can chat one-on-one with elected officials including the Mayor and your Ward City Councilor or At-Large City Councilors as well as staff about issues important to you.</p>	<p>Meetings run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with refreshments and meet-and-greets starting at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Date: Tuesday, September 24</p>	<p>Ward 6 (Greater Davis Sq. neighborhood and more):</p>	<p>Details: For sign-in information, please visit http://www.somervillema.gov/communitymeetings or call 311 at 617-666-3311.</p>
<p>Mayor Ballantyne and City staff will then share updates on projects in your neighborhood, citywide initiatives, and a look at neighborhood crime stats followed by a roughly 20-min-</p>	<p>Unsure about which ward you live in? Find out with the MySomerville address lookup tool at http://www.somervillema.gov/mysomerville.</p>	<p>Location: West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria, 177 Powder House Blvd.</p>	<p>Date: Wednesday, October 9</p>	<p>Interpretation into your language is available for all meetings upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311 at 617-666-3311. Interpretation availability is also being advertised in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, Nepali, Mandarin, and Cantonese.</p>
	<p>Ward 4 (Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and more):</p>	<p>All Ward Meeting in Portuguese:</p>	<p>Location: Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.</p>	
	<p>Date: Wednesday, September 18</p>	<p>Date: Monday, September 30</p>	<p>Date: Tuesday, October 15</p>	
	<p>Location: Healey School Cafeteria, 5 Meacham St.</p>	<p>Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.</p>	<p>Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.</p>	
	<p>Ward 3 (N. Union Sq., Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central Hill, and more):</p>	<p>Details: This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Portuguese language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCidade.</p>	<p>Details: This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Spanish language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCiudad.</p>	
	<p>Date: Wednesday, September 18</p>	<p>Ward 5 (Magoun Sq., NE Ball Sq., Cedar & Lowell St. areas, NW Porter Sq., and more):</p>	<p>Ward 2 (S. Union Sq., Perry and Lincoln Park neighborhoods, Beacon St. area, and more):</p>	<p>For more information about the Community Meetings and to attend virtually, visit somervillema.gov/communitymeetings. With any questions, please contact Kristine McNulty at kmcnulty@somervillema.gov.</p>
	<p>Location: Healey School Cafeteria, 5 Meacham St.</p>	<p>Date: Tuesday, October 1</p>	<p>Date: Wednesday, October 16</p>	
	<p>Ward 3 (N. Union Sq., Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central Hill, and more):</p>	<p>Location: Kennedy School Cafeteria, 5 Cherry St.</p>	<p>Location: Argenziano School Cafeteria, 290 Washington St.</p>	

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<p>THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:</p>	<p>2024-48 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended as follows: Fire lane on School St. from the south curb cut of the driveway at 105 School St. for a distance of 48 ft. in a southerly direction to the south curb cut of the driveway at 107 School St.</p>	<p>"Safety Zones" is amended as follows: Fire lane in front of 93 School St, running in a southerly direction from the south front gate post for a distance of 50 ft. to the telephone pole.</p>	<p>ADVERTISED: SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, OCTOBER 1, 2024, OCTOBER 8, 2024</p>	
	<p>2024-49 Article V Section 5-10</p>	<p>PROMULGATED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2024</p>	<p>EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 16, 2024</p>	
			<p>Somerville/Medford News Weekly 09/24/2024, 10/01/24, 10/08/2024</p>	

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Megalopolis Review by Marco Cuda

Megalopolis is a fun, yet tiring, memorable film with a good heart.

Megalopolis is a movie that at times comes off as random and after two and a quarter hours it doesn't get old but it can be tiring. For a movie that struggles to find or stay on a single narrative at any given time, it doesn't exactly find any lulls but it feels like it will never end.

It's a movie that has grand scenes like a wedding and a virgin auction in Madison Square Garden, or a satellite crashing into Earth, but it's a movie that struggles to turn it all into one story. When I left the theater I asked myself how many movies could that all have been? But, to the credit of Megalopolis, it doesn't obscure the overall message of the film. This is the main reason I think I left the theatre a little confused, but with a good feeling in my stomach.

Adam Driver and Nathalie Em-

manuel pair well together but the lack of single narrative in the film makes it hard to make sense of their performance throughout the movie. Sometimes it's a movie about rivalry and sometimes it's a movie about a dramatic relationship but the film never takes a side. The suspense never culminates and neither does the drama because the movie goes in too many different directions.

Shia LaBeouf has a good performance and so does Audrey Plaza. I thought Giancarlo Esposito, character had surprising depth for a role that come off as shallow by the end of the film and Voight was the star of the show whenever he was onscreen. They all shared the same problem which they were all stars in their role during a disjointed motion picture. The cast lacked cohesiveness in a way that reflected the film itself.

My own interpretation of Mega-

opolis is that it was an ultimately optimistic film that went in too many directions as a movie. I felt during the movie – and thought by the end – that it shouldn't be taken too seriously although it can be quite dramatic at times. The message of Megalopolis is worth it but the movie as a whole has some unintentionally funny moments and there's a charm and humor that could go missed if a viewer goes in taking the film too seriously altogether. For these reasons, I actually think the Megalopolis might appeal more to younger viewers, if only it were about forty minutes shorter. For me, I enjoyed the optimism of the film but I typically prefer a more cohesive storyline



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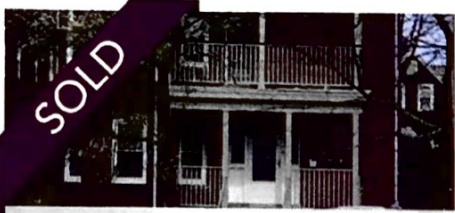
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