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VOL.1 NO.329-239

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday December 10th, 2024

## Three Former Bank Tellers Indicted in Connection with Stealing from Banks Including Somerville



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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



## TEACHER OF THE YEAR



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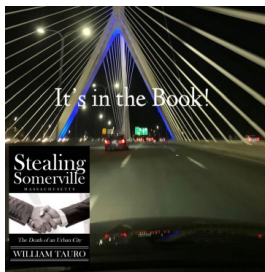
## AUDIT THE LEGISLATURE



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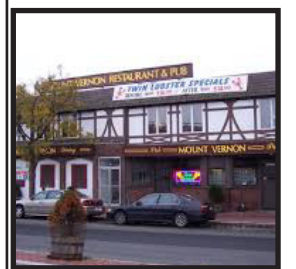


Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page



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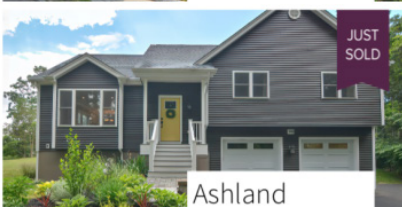
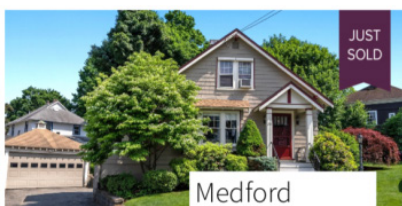
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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 Tax ID 04-6001400

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### Somerville/Medford Remembering Marlene F. (Pitcher) Smithers



**Obituary**  
 Marlene F. (Pitcher) Smithers, a lifelong Somerville resident, passed away on December 6, 2024, she was 82. Born and raised in Somerville, she was the daughter of the late Marion (Logan) and Russell Pitcher. Marlene owned and operated

her own Insurance Agency for many years, the Marlene Smithers Insurance Company in Ball Square and Broadway.

She was the devoted mother of Marnie Smithers and her husband Richard Bertheim and Melanie Smithers. Cher-

ished grandmother of Chanel Powers and the late Michael John Smithers and sister of Russelyne Robbins.

A graveside service will be held for Marlene at Oak Grove Cemetery, 230 Playstead Road, Medford on Tuesday afternoon, De-

ember 10th at 1:30PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend and are asked to meet inside the main gate by 1:15PM.



### Somerville/Medford Remembering Nancy (Tuccio) McCarron



**Obituary**  
 Nancy (Tuccio) McCarron, formerly of Everett, Somerville and Boston's North End, passed away after a long courageous battle with cancer on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. She was 68 years old. The cherished daughter of the late Vincenzo

and Italia (Sarno) Tuccio, Nancy and her siblings were born in Belgium. Then, in 1958 the family immigrated to the US and settled in Boston's North End.

The beloved wife of 49 years to James McCarron, Nancy and Jim were married in St. Leonard's Church and then moved to Somerville to begin a family of their own and later settled in Everett. Nancy will be remembered as a kind, energetic woman who had a great sense of humor. She loved to laugh. She enjoyed tending to the flowers

and plants in her garden and loved music, especially disco and dancing. For over 20 years, Nancy worked as a documents clerk at the South Middlesex Country Registry of Deeds in Cambridge. Above all, she loved nothing more than time spent with her family.

In addition to her beloved husband James, Nancy was the devoted mother of Dina McCarron and James V. McCarron and proud grandmother of Brendan McCarron. Cherished sister of Maria Mancini and her husband Raffaele, and the late Alessio Tuc-

cio. Dear cousin of Anna Gaeta and her husband Anthony, Joseph Gaeta, and Maria Gaeta. Also survived by her loving in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends.

A prayer service will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Tuesday, December 10th at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling hours will be held on Monday, December 9th

from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

If you wish, memorial donations can be made in Nancy's memory to: High Pointe House 360 North Ave. Haverhill, MA 01830



### Somerville/Medford Remembering Mrs. Emilienne Jules



**Obituary**  
 Mrs. Emilienne Jules passed away peacefully at her Cambridge apartment, surrounded by the love of her family, on November 29, 2024, at the remarkable age of 106. Born and raised in Léogâne, Haiti, she was the beloved daughter of the late Jean Baptiste Jules, an Episcopalian priest, and Ogenia B. Jules. Her deep faith and selfless spirit, a beacon of inspiration, defined

her extraordinary life as a mother, grandmother, and avid servant of God.

A woman of boundless hospitality and kindness, she touched the lives of countless family members and friends. Her home was a sanctuary for all who entered, offering warm meals, a welcoming bed, and a steadfast spirit of love and support. No one ever left her home without a heartfelt benediction prayer, a testament to her unwavering faith, a source of strength and comfort, and care for others. While in Haiti, Emilienne gave birth to John (also known as Edner), a set of twin girls, who soon passed away after birth, a second set of twins where one of the boys passed, but her son Joseph Bellony Loseil of Florida survived, then a third set of twins, her late son Yvon, and his

twin sister Yvette.

In Haiti, Emilienne, lovingly known as Soeur Yeyenne, was a passionate advocate for the vulnerable, championing the needs of those without family or resources. For 38 years, she worked as a senior administrator at an Episcopalian Assisted Living home, where she dedicated herself to the care and dignity of elders with no one else to turn to. Her compassion extended beyond her work, as she was known to nurture and uplift anyone in need.

As the cherished matriarch of her family, she had the privilege of witnessing three generations unfold from her lineage. This allowed her to be the proud mother of 7 children, grandmother of sixteen grandchildren, a great-

grandmother to twenty-three great-grandchildren, and a loving aunt to numerous nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her siblings, she carried their legacy forward with grace and strength.

Mrs. Jules leaves a profound legacy of faith, generosity, and love. She will be greatly missed but lovingly remembered by all fortunate to know her.

She was the devoted mother of Jean E. Prophete of Cambridge, Yvette Verdieu of Somerville and the late Yvone Belony.

Visiting Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Friday, December 20th from 5:00PM – 8:00PM with family remembrances beginning at 6:30PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, December 21st in St. James Episcopal Church, 1991 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140 beginning with viewing from 9AM -10AM, followed by a Funeral Service at 10AM. Once again, relatives and friends invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Emilienne's name can be made to her beloved St. James Church at the address above.





# Three Former Bank Tellers Indicted in Connection with Stealing from Banks Including Somerville

Continued from front page



SOMERVILLE – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has announced that three former bank employees, Yeimaly Moscat, 23, of Boston, Yojairis Suazo, 21, of Boston and Angelica Morales, 31, of Mattapan, have been charged after allegedly stealing money from customers' accounts by processing unauthorized withdrawals at three different Citizens Bank branches.

The investigation indicates that, between September and November of 2022, Yeimaly

Moscat was employed as a bank teller at a Citizens Bank branch in Somerville. During that period it is alleged that Moscat processed a series of 12 unauthorized withdrawals, totaling \$40,900 from victims' bank accounts. During that same time, Yojairis Suazo was employed as a teller at a Citizens Bank in Dorchester. Suazo allegedly processed a series of 15 unauthorized withdrawals totaling \$30,850 from victims' bank accounts.

The stolen funds in question,

in both circumstances, were paid out in counter transactions to suspected associates of Moscat and Suazo. Moscat and Suazo facilitated the transactions by entering the recipients as "Known Customers," even though the individuals at the counter were not the account holders.

A year later, between November and December 2023, Angelica Morales was employed as a teller at a Citizens Bank branch in Milton when she was allegedly recruited to

carry out the same scheme. During this time, Morales allegedly processed a series of five unauthorized withdrawals from victims' bank accounts, totaling \$20,000. The stolen funds were also paid in counter transactions to apparent co-conspirators.

"The allegations in this case are that three defendants, executed a coordinated scheme to steal funds from bank customers. They used their positions of trust to invade accounts and allegedly used their coconspirators to successfully take substantial sums from the bank," said District Attorney Ryan. "The investigators at Citizen's Bank identified the suspicious transactions and brought them to our attention, which has enabled us to seek charges to hold these defendants accountable."

Yeimaly Moscat and Yojairis Suazo were arraigned today in Middlesex Superior Court.

Moscat was arraigned on two counts of Larceny Over \$1200 by Scheme, one count of Embezzlement by a Bank Employee, two counts of conspiracy to commit larceny and one count of attempted larceny. Bail was set at \$1,000, and she was ordered to stay away from all Citizens Bank locations.

Suazo was arraigned on one count of Larceny Over \$1200 by scheme, one count of Embezzlement by a Bank Employee, one count of Conspiracy to commit larceny and one count of attempted larceny. She was released on her own recognition and ordered to stay away from all Citizens Bank locations.

Angelica Morales will be summonsed for arraignment on December 12, 2024.

These charges are allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

This case is being investigated by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, the Somerville Police Department, and the United States Secret Service. The prosecutor assigned to this case is Andrew Ineson.



"On Air with Billy Tauro" Episode 2. Nothing ever filtered, nothing ever watered-down, just the plain true facts! Enjoy!

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### Somerville Community Votes to Increase Community Preservation Act Funding



A 3% surcharge will boost funding for affordable housing, open space, historic preservation projects, and more

SOMERVILLE- In a resounding show of community spirit and vision, Somerville residents have voted to double the Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge from 1.5% to 3%. This landmark decision will increase funding for vital projects, helping to create a more affordable, greener, and culturally rich Somerville.

Appearing as Question 6 on the November 2024 ballot, the measure received overwhelming support, with 25,282 residents voting in favor. The new funding will be a game-changer for critical initiatives, from affordable housing and open space improvements to the preservation of Somerville's unique historical assets and the creation of vibrant recreational spaces.

"This is Somerville at its finest," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Our residents have shown their unwavering commitment to equity, sustainability, and community. By doubling our CPA funding, we are doubling down on a future that honors our history while paving the way for progress. I can't wait to see the incredible projects we'll bring to life together."

The updated surcharge will take effect in FY2026, starting July 1, 2025. Low-income property owners and low-to-moderate-income seniors may apply for annual exemptions, ensuring equitable access to this initiative.

A Decade of Transformative Change

Since its adoption in 2014, the CPA has fueled over \$35 million in transformative projects citywide.

Recent highlights include:

The restoration of the Somerville City Hall clock tower and roof, preserving a treasured landmark.

The creation of Henry Hansen Park, a vibrant green space near Magoun Square.

A \$1.4 million contribution to the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust, advancing housing equity and stability.

With the new funding, Somerville is

poised to accelerate these successes, making a meaningful impact across every neighborhood.

Learn More

Explore the Community Preservation Act's past achievements and future possibilities on the CPA page of the City of Somerville website.

To learn more about the CPA and the projects it funds, visit the Community Preservation Act page on the City of Somerville website.

### Join the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust



SOMERVILLE - The City of Somerville is seeking a new member to join the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust (SAHT) in a volunteer role. This vacancy is for a representative of a Somerville nonprofit organization whose primary mission is affordable hous-

ing. If you're passionate about advancing affordable housing in our community, this is a great opportunity to make an impact.

What is the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust? The SAHT is dedicated to creating and preserving affordable homes for renters and prospective owners with low and moderate incomes in Somerville. Through a public process, Trustees evaluate project and program proposals and approve funding allocations to help increase the supply of affordable housing in our city.

Who Can Join? Eligible applicants for the cur-

rent vacancy must be affiliated with a Somerville-based nonprofit organization focused on affordable housing. This includes employees or board members of qualifying organizations.

What is the Time Commitment? The Trust meets virtually on the second Thursday of each month at 5:15 p.m., with meetings typically lasting around 1.5 hours. Additional time for review of documents and occasional special meetings may be needed, for an estimated total of 4 hours per month.

What is the Appointment

Process? Members are appointed to two-year terms in a volunteer capacity. The SAHT is composed of nine Trustees, with six members appointed by the Mayor after a review by the Appointments Advisory Committee. Three members serve in an ex-officio capacity.

How Do I Apply? Applications are due by December 20, 2024. Please submit a resume, cover letter, and any relevant supplemental materials.

Where to Apply: Applications can be sent via email or U.S. Mail to:

Email: pgoldstein@somervillema.gov  
Mail: Paul Goldstein, City of Somerville, OSPCD Housing Division, 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145

For questions or more information, contact Paul Goldstein at pgoldstein@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2587.

### 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.

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If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families please reach out and we will do

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Thank you for your continued support.



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey announced that that Luisa Sparrow, a special education teacher for fifth- and sixth-grade students at the Oliver Hazard Perry School in South Boston, is the 2025 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

The Massachusetts Teacher of the Year is the state's top award for educators and annually recognizes excellence in teaching across Massachusetts through the selection of a teacher who exemplifies the dedication, commitment and positive contributions of educators statewide. The award is sponsored by Wellpoint, a Woburn-based health

benefits company which is giving a \$10,000 grant to Sparrow's school.

"My mom was a school nurse and my stepdad was a public school teacher, so I have a deep appreciation for the incredible work that our educators and staff do day in and day out for their students," said Gov. Healey. "It was so special to have the opportunity to congratulate and celebrate Ms. Sparrow today for her commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment that helps all of her students grow and succeed together."

"Ms. Sparrow is an example of the exceptional educators we have in Mas-

sachusetts who go above and beyond to support all of their students and foster an inclusive learning environment," said Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler. "It's a pleasure to celebrate with her, her dedicated team, students and school community today."

"My students, just like all others with significant disabilities, deserve the opportunity to learn alongside their neurotypical peers not because they are able to do many of the same tasks, but simply because everyone deserves a chance to belong," Sparrow said upon accepting the award.



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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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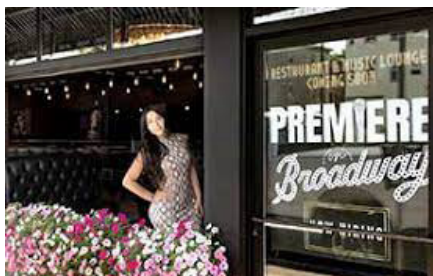
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HENRY HANSEN PARK RIBBON CUTTING

Please join us as we rededicate Henry Hansen Park, honoring Somerville native Sgt. Henry Hansen, and all Somerville veterans.

Sgt. Hansen served in the 5th Marine Division on Iwo Jima, helped raise the first flag on Mt. Suribachi and died in battle six days later.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th 9:00 - 10:00 AM

70 Partridge Avenue, at the corner of Medford Street



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 5 City Councilor Naima Sait, Director of Veterans Services Jerome Thomas, and honored guests invite you to this much anticipated event.

Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this event, please contact 311 (617-666-3311) in advance. The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at somervillema.gov/ContactSomerville or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event. For more information contact Ann Franzen: AFranzen@somervillema.gov

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Instant Shoe and Luggage Repair is located on the corner of Broadway and Mt. Vernon Street, just before the I-93 overpass and only a few blocks from Sullivan Station.

Instant specializes in repairing zippers, on luggage and hand bags, as well as shoe repair services such as stretching, resoling, and re-heeling. The store also stocks items ranging from blankets, to perfumes, jeans, belts, jackets and socks



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## City of Somerville Unveils First-of-Its-Kind Guide to Transforming Private Land into Public Spaces



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City’s Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF) Division, is announcing the release of the Civic Space Design Guide, that provides a framework for developers and municipalities to collaborate to create Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) that serve and welcome all Somerville residents and visitors.

“Somerville is leading by example with this guide, which represents our commitment to innovation in public space and community building,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “The Civic Space Design Guide is the first of its kind, a resource that not only elevates how development can contribute to our city but also sets a standard we hope other municipalities will adopt. We’re creating spaces that are welcoming to everyone and enhancing the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit Somerville.”

While Somerville’s dense settlement limits opportunities to buy and create new open spaces, development areas offer substantial potential for increasing open space through POPS. These spaces, which have been utilized in urban areas across the United States since the 1960s, can provide valuable public areas within private developments.

However, research has shown that POPS can sometimes feel exclusionary or unwelcoming due to factors like security presence, lack of family-friendly amenities, or designs that disconnect these areas from broader civic spaces. The Civic Space Design Guide addresses these challenges by establishing clear principles for POPS that ensure accessibility, inclusivity, and integration with Somerville’s public space network.

“Because open space is so crucial to the vitality of Somerville and all cities, we cannot afford to create what we call ‘latte parks,’ which are spaces where people feel they need to buy an expensive drink to belong,” said PSUF Director Luisa Oliveira. “Our guide emphasizes that even when a developer is designing a parcel in front of their building, that space must serve the entire community as part of Somerville’s larger network of parks and civic areas. POPS in Somerville must be read as genuinely public, inclusive spaces designed for the diverse needs of our residents.”

The City recently celebrated the opening of a new POPS space, Boynton Yards Park, which features thoughtfully designed amenities to create an inviting public gathering space for neighborhood residents, workers, and visitors alike. Click here for photos of the ribbon cutting ceremony and the finished park.

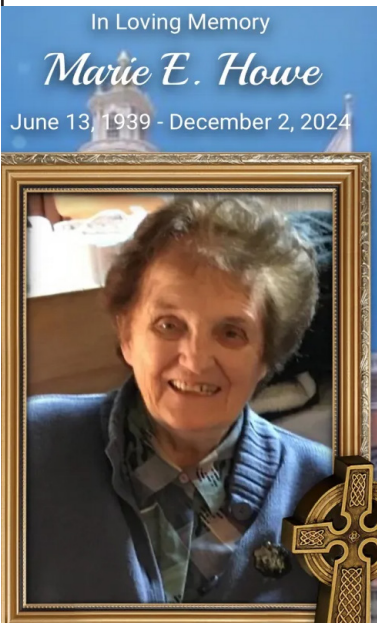
The guide serves as a resource for developers, design consultants, and the community, reinforcing the City’s commitment to creating meaningful public spaces as part of its broader SomerVision 2040 goals, which include adding over 100 acres of open space across Somerville. It complements the Somerville Zoning Ordinance by clearly defining PSUF’s role as a partner in the design and construction process, ensuring POPS are vibrant, high-quality spaces that serve the public.

The Civic Space Design Guide is available to the public on the SomerVoice page: [voice.somervillema.gov/pops](http://voice.somervillema.gov/pops), where visitors can access the policy document and an interactive map of POPS in Somerville.





### Somerville/Medford Remembering Marie E Howe



Obituary Marie E Howe – Of Malden formerly of Somerville December 2, 2024.

As Massachusetts completes

the celebration of Irish American Heritage Month and Women’s History Month in March, here’s a special shout-out to former Massachusetts State Representative Marie E. Howe, a notable Irish-American woman.

A lifelong resident of Somerville, Howe was elected to the House of Representatives from the 31st Middlesex District, holding office from 1965 to 1988. While in office, Marie also served on the Commerce and Labor, Rules, and Ways and Means Committees. She was instrumental in supporting a stronger Lemon Law to make sure consumers got fair treatment when purchasing automobiles.

Marie was also a trailblazer in terms of women’s equality.

In April 1975, Representative Howe and State Representative Lois Pines served as co-chairs of the newly formed Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, during a time when there were 16 women total in the House and Senate.

Today there are more than 60 legislators in the Massachusetts Caucus of Women. Among the pressing issues of that time was the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Massachusetts, and more locally, the right of women to have equal pay, equal opportunities and equal decision-making duties at the State House.

Representative Howe’s longstanding commitment to peace and justice in Northern Ireland is one of the hallmarks of her illustri-

ous career. The daughter of Irish immigrants from Cork and Armagh, Howe objected to the poor treatment of Northern Ireland nationalists at the hands of the British Government during the 1970s and 1980s and was quick to protest against British officials who came to town, including a visit from the Royal Family and a visit of a British Tall Ship. She worked closely with Amnesty International and local groups concerned about the Northern Ireland troubles. In 1979 she introduced a House Resolution calling upon the Governor to declare March 17 as Human Rights Day in Ireland.

Howe was also a strong supporter of human rights in Sri Lanka, and in 1981 filed a resolution on behalf

of Sri Lanka Tamils living in Somerville.

Marie Howe’s papers from her legislative career are at the Massachusetts State Library in the State House. The papers in the collection consist primarily of correspondence relating to her official duties in the legislature, as well as materials on Northern Ireland and Sri Lanka and her investigation into problems on the MBTA red line.

Visiting hours for Marie will be held Tuesday morning, December 10, 2024, in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford St. Somerville from 9:00am to 11:00am, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00. Relatives and friends invited.



### Our Lady of the Assumption School Christmas Craft Fair



### 2024 Toys For Local Children Event



Please Join us For Toys for Local Children 2024! December 7th, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the George Dilboy Post. There will be dinner, music and raffles. Tickets \$20.00 . Tickets can be purchased by using our vemo @toys-forlocalchildren. Please inbox me and we will get this done we will have a fun night that night! Thank you.



## Join the Somerville Mayor's Appointments Advisory Committee



SOMERVILLE – Are you passionate about community engagement and civic responsibility? The Mayor's Appointments Advisory Committee (AAC) is seeking two volunteers to join its efforts in ensuring fair, informed, and nonpartisan recommendations for appointments to Somerville's regulatory and decision-making boards and commissions.

**About the AAC**  
The AAC is a five-member volunteer body tasked

with reviewing applications and recommending candidates for open seats on 14 critical boards and commissions in Somerville, including:

- Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Board of Health
- Condominium Review Board
- Conservation Commission
- Design Review Committee
- Ethics Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Authority Board
- Job Creation and Retention Trust Board
- Licensing Commission
- Planning Board
- Redevelopment Authority
- Traffic Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals

The AAC does not oversee reappointments but plays a key role in ensuring new appointees are well-suited to their roles.

### Responsibilities and Commitment

When there is an open seat on a board or commission, the AAC meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00–9:00 p.m. via virtual platforms. Members review applications and background materials, interview finalists, and recommend two candidates per vacancy to the Mayor. Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

### Why Join the AAC?

This is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful

contribution to Somerville's future by helping shape the leadership of its boards and commissions. Your work will ensure these bodies are staffed with individuals who bring the expertise, dedication, and perspective needed to serve the city effectively.

### How to Apply

Submit the following materials:

- A resume
  - A cover letter
  - A statement of interest
- Applications can be submitted:

**Online:** [somervillema.gov/besomerville](http://somervillema.gov/besomerville)  
**By email:** Send to [careers@somervillema.gov](mailto:careers@somervillema.gov) with the subject line "AAC

**Member Application**  
By mail: Address to City Hall, Attn: HR – Kristen Hill, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143  
Applications must be received by Friday, January 17, 2025.

**Questions?**  
Contact Kristen Hill, Recruitment & Retention Manager:

**Email:** [KHill@somervillema.gov](mailto:KHill@somervillema.gov)  
**Phone:** 617-625-6600  
Join us in fostering a more equitable and effective government for Somerville! Apply today to make a difference.

## Donate to Local Holiday Gift Drives at City Buildings Through Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024



City supporting two local holiday gift drives for children and teens

SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announces the City's annual support of local holiday gift and toy donation drives. In the giving spirit of the season, the City is placing toy and gift donation collection boxes at City buildings, libraries, and firehouses from Tuesday, De-

ember 3, through Wednesday, December 18. Donated gifts will support two community gift drives for families in need of gifts for children and teens this holiday season.

All gifts will be distributed to families by two local efforts: Toys for Local Children, a long-standing local charity that organizes annual holiday gift drives, and The Somerville Toy Drive, an initiative organized by community members (including the organizers of last year's MAMAS Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville annual gift drive as well as other residents). More information on their gift drives and other ways to help can be found at [toysforlocalchildren.org](http://toysforlocalchildren.org) or via email at [somervilletoydrive@gmail.com](mailto:somervilletoydrive@gmail.com).

### What to Donate:

To donate, please bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children as well as age-appropriate gifts for teens. Please donate only new items. Gifts are needed for all ages from infants to age 14. Gifts are especially welcome for ages 0-2 years and 8-14.

### Where to Donate:

Donate at the following Somerville City buildings, libraries, and Firehouses. Collection boxes will be in place from Tuesday, December 3, through Wednesday, December 18, 4:30 p.m.:

City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue,

- Welcome Desk, 1st floor, and Mayor's Office, 2nd floor
- Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue
- Somerville East Library, 115 Broadway
- Somerville West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue
- City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Street
- Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Building, One Franey Road
- Council on Aging Offices, 167 Holland Street
- Somerville Police Headquarters lobby, 220 Washington Street
- Fire Stations:
  - Somerville Fire Department Headquarters, 266 Broadway
  - Highland Ave. Station, 265 Highland Avenue
  - Union Square Station, 255 Somerville Avenue
  - Teele Square Station, 6 Newbury

Street (corner of Holland Street)  
Lowell Street Station, 651 Somerville Avenue (corner of Lowell Street)  
Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).

## PUBLIC TAVERN AT 565 BROADWAY SOMERVILLE IS NOW OPEN!



The makers of "Premiere on Broadway" now brings you another Somerville hotspot! Public Tavern at 565 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145 is now open! Only on Broadway in Somerville! A great place for all! It's a great place to sit down, have a few adult beverages, enjoy your favorite game and enjoy some good food, and some friendly local conversation!



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### \$5 MILLION TO PROTECT FOREST LANDS



By Bob Katzen

The Healey Administration announced more than \$5 million in grants to protect forest land which will be managed as reserves. These projects are designed to fight climate change and allow forests to mature, strengthening how these habitats

store carbon. The grant program, a result of the Forest as Climate Solutions Initiative, aims to designate 10 percent of Massachusetts forests as reserves, where active management is limited and natural processes play out.

“Forests are our best natural carbon sinks,” said Energy and En-

vironmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “As trees age, they absorb and store more carbon dioxide – crucial in helping us fight climate change. By supporting community and land trust efforts to limit land conversion and increase permanent land conservation, we are preserving forests for generations

to come.”

“Few things are more important than protecting our environment, and I’m elated that our state is preserving these beautiful pieces of land in Ashland and around the entire commonwealth,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

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### Public Hearing on Draft Somerville Armory Master Plan, Dec. 10



SOMERVILLE—All interested community members are invited to attend and speak at a virtual Public Hearing before the Somerville City Council’s Finance Committee on Tuesday, December 10, at 6 p.m. online via Zoom. The meeting agenda and link to join are posted at

somervillema.legistar.com.

Community members will have the opportunity to provide input on the draft plan developed via community process. It proposes plans for how to best preserve and envision a future for the Armory building, located at 191 Highland Ave., as a thriving community arts center for years to come.

To learn more and review the draft plan, please visit [voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan](http://voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan).

This hearing will be conducted through remote participation via Zoom. There are two ways to participate:

Join online: To attend and be heard, follow the link below to register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar when it starts.

–[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn\\_cwnmpggeSz-cK23Sarw-7pA](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_cwnmpggeSz-cK23Sarw-7pA)

-This link is also available by visiting [somervillema.legistar.com](http://somervillema.legistar.com) and selecting the link for the December 10 Finance Committee.

Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to the City Council at [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov) or by dropping them off at the City Clerk’s Office at 93 Highland Ave. Comments must be received no later than 12 Noon the day of the Hearing to ensure they are conveyed to the Committee for inclusion with the hearing testimony. Note that the City Council always accepts comments at this address, but we cannot

guarantee that comments received after the deadline will be read prior to the hearing ### Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov)

### \$3 MILLION FOR EDUCATION OF EARLY EDUCATORS (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen

House 154-2, overrode Gov. Healey’s veto of \$3 million (reducing funding from \$8 million to \$5 million) for a program that provides professional development and higher education opportunities and supports for statewide recruitment and training

needs of early educators.

“I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary,” said Healey in her veto message. “Due to substantial resources made available in this budget for MassEducate, critical wrap-around supports for students and new early educator scholarship and loan forgiveness

programs, the portion of funding vetoed here is no longer needed to meet the purpose of this item.”

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$3 million was eliminated.


(A “Yes” vote is for the \$3 million. 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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2024-56 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 23 Knowlton St, 54 Bromfield Rd.  
 2024-57 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: remove the loading zone at 3 Prescott

St (converted to resident permit parking).  
 2024-58 Article VI Section 6-1 "One-way streets" is amended as follows: allow contraflow travel for people riding bicycles on Walnut St between Gilman St and the Community Path.  
 PROMULGATED: NO-

EMBER 14, 2024  
 ADVERTISED: NOVEMBER 26, 2024  
 DECEMBER 3, 2024  
 DECEMBER 10, 2024  
 EFFECTIVE: DECEMBER 18, 2024  
 Somerville/Medford News Weekly 11/26/24, 12/3/24, 12/10/24

### RAISE THE REQUIRED MINIMUM AUTO INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE AND BODILY INJURY (H 5100)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate adopted and sent to the House a Gov. Healey amendment changing the effective date of a new law that increases the minimum amount of liability auto insurance a driver must purchase, from \$5,000 for property damage to \$30,000; and for bodily

injury from \$20,000 per person/\$40,000 per accident to \$25,000/\$50,000. The law approved by the Legislature was scheduled to take effect immediately. Healy's amendment would delay the effective date to July 1, 2025.

Gov. Healey said she supports the increases. "The current amounts have not

been updated in over 30 years and the proposed increases would provide meaningful coverage for those who experience personal injury or property damage due to a motor vehicle accident," said Healey. "But I also recognize that the language as currently drafted would become effective immediately upon my

signature, providing insurance companies inadequate time for implementation. Insurers must update current policies and submit new forms and rates to the Commissioner of Insurance for review and approval before implementing these changes. Based on feedback from industry stakeholders, pushing out the effective date to

July 1, 2025 will ensure that these changes take place in an orderly way."

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## Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



### Crime Log

11/26/24 – 12/2/24

**Shots Fired**  
24075186: On 12/2/24 at approximately 9:46 PM, Somerville Police responded to 500 Mystic Ave for a report of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers observed a vehicle with ballistic damage and located three shell casings nearby. No injuries were reported. Investigation is ongoing.

**Assault**  
24074718: On 11/29/24 at approximately 8:47 PM, Somerville Police responded to 379 Broadway for report of juveniles vandalizing the building.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he observed a group of teens inside the building trashing it and throwing things around. Then teens then began yelling at the victim and threw rocks and other items at him. Officers identified the suspects.

**Assault**  
24074393: On 11/27/24 at approximately 1:16 PM, Somerville Police responded to Davis Sq for report of harassment. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was walking in

Davis Sq and was approached by a male party who began to follow her. She then tried to get away and the suspect grabbed her arm. The victim pulled her arm away and fled the area.

**Other Crimes:**

- 2 Package Thefts
- 2 Bike Thefts
- 1 MV Theft
- 4 Car Breaks
- 1 Vandalism

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### Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



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

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

#### Blessing Backpack Checklist

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

By Bob Katzen

“As soon as we heard the news about Trump’s election, it really sent huge shockwaves through immigrant communities. We heard in the days following the election just so much fear. People are afraid of what’s coming. They’re afraid, for some folks, that they could lose a status, that they could be at risk for being arrested, potentially detained, potentially deported and could be facing family separation.

— Elizabeth Sweet, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), in an interview with the State House

News Service.

“Massachusetts residents have been kept in the dark about the conditions within emergency housing shelters for migrants. The shocking stories coming to light underscore just one reason why the Healey-Driscoll Administration needs to put an end to its open door policy welcoming migrants.”

—Mass GOP Chair Amy Carnevale on reports that Jon Fetherston, the former Director of a Massachusetts migrant shelter, has come forward as a whistleblower, exposing deeply disturbing and inhumane incidents within the state’s emergency shelter system.

“The survey’s findings

highlight just how prevalent speeding is, especially among drivers who take other risks behind the wheel. Enforcement, community outreach and education continue to be absolutely critical to curbing a wide range of risky driving behaviors and ultimately lowering the number of traffic crash fatalities in the U.S.”

—Mark Schieldrop, spokesperson for AAA, on its study that a higher proportion of American drivers admit to speeding, driving distracted and engaging in other risky behaviors than those who steadfastly follow the rules of the road.

“The latest revenue numbers offer clear evidence

that the ultra-wealthy are remaining in Massachusetts and paying more in state taxes. Because the ultra-rich are finally paying closer to their fair share of state taxes, Massachusetts can afford to invest in the well-educated workforce and reliable transportation system our economy depends on. Thanks to the voters who amended our Constitution to establish a fairer tax system, we can make Massachusetts more affordable for working families and start building an economy that works for everyone.”

— Andrew Farnitano, spokesperson for the Raise Up Massachusetts coalition, which led the campaign to pass the 2022 ballot question which

imposed an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers’ earnings of more than \$1 million annually.

### Quotable Quotes



### UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

By Bob Katzen

The Massachusetts Campaign for Single Payer Health Care (Mass-Care) announced the official results of its Question 6 (or 7), depending on the

district, which was on the November ballot in eleven state representative districts. The question was approved in all eleven districts with an average Yes vote of 64 percent.

The ballot question specifically asked, “Shall the representative for this district be instructed to vote for legislation to create a single-payer system of universal health care that provides all Mas-

sachusetts residents with comprehensive health care coverage including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities and services and eliminates the role of insurance

companies in health care by creating an insurance trust fund that is publicly administered?”

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### Wicked Wizard Review By Joe Viglione

The two hours and forty minutes of Wicked will entertain most fans of Wizard Of Oz creator L. Frank Baum's characters... so much so that it could have been five hours long, and this film would captivate still.

Where director Sam Raimi's 2013 Oz the Great and Powerful (James Franco, Rachel Weisz) was fun for ten minutes, did good box office, but was unmemorable, director Jon Chu (Crazy Rich Asians) hits the audience marvelously the moment the film opens – and just escalates – returning us to Oz in a way no film has done since the 1939 MGM classic most of the planet knows and loves. That's 85 years if you are counting. Not Michael Jackson and Diana Ross in 1978's The Wiz, not Disney's 1985 Return to Oz, not the 2007 TV mini-series Tin Man, the 2011 TV series The Witches of Oz, and a plethora of animated stories. Many that tried, and many that failed until American novelist

Gregory Maguire started his series of books...and the eventual stage play of his Wicked.

With Maguire's vision, and director Chu's interpretation – along with terrific acting, we finally return to the real Oz created by Judy Garland's immortal classic.

The sets are vivid and beautiful, and for those not fond of musicals, remember, the original Wizard of Oz was a musical that didn't feel like a musical, and the same goes for Wicked. It's a story with music in it. Jeff Goldblum is very special as the Wizard and the effects in the Wizard's lair are what we want and what we who treasure the original film need.

But for this critic it is the chance to go back to a world that we, as children, would watch again and again, year after year, as the film graced the TV screen of the generations of kids from the 1950s to today. Wiz-

ard of Oz became a TV institution with only Mary Martin's Peter Pan (1960) causing similar excitement, but not enduring as it was basically a play put on television. That Peter Pan was fun for kids growing up in the 60s, but Oz, as a television feature, created memories. Jon Chu's direction and emphasis on making it colorful and real brings back those memories in a big way, and in a good way. He's finally brought us back to Oz in a film that will make those who love the 1939 classic feel right at home.

Jon M. Chu directed the PG "Wicked," which stars Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Jeff Goldblum, Michelle Yeoh and Jonathan Bailey.



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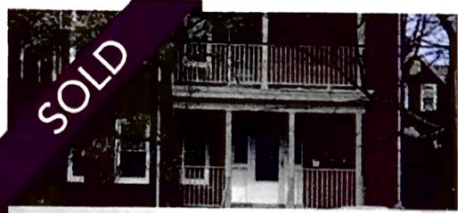
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