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VOL.1 NO.329-26

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday December 31st, 2024

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025



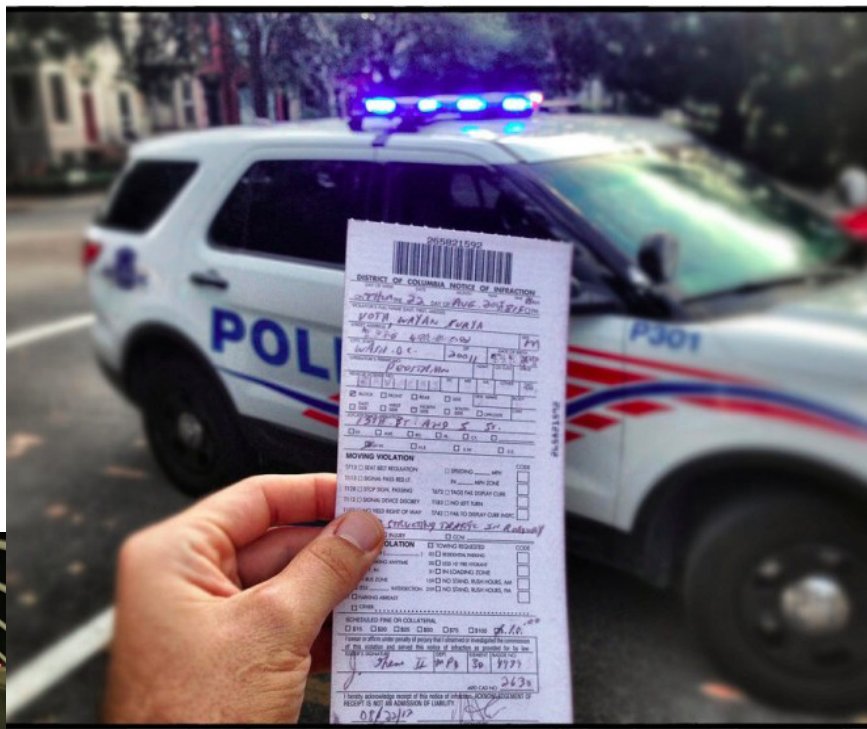
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NEWS TALK OUT  
LOUD/SPEAK UP



### INCREASE FINES FOR VIOLATING HANDICAPPED PARKING (11-20-24)



Continued to page 17

You're Invited: Attend the City of  
Somerville Mid-Term Ceremonies  
and Addresses on Jan. 6



Continued to page 7



Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page



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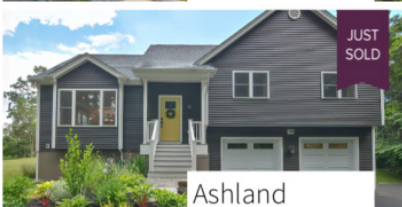
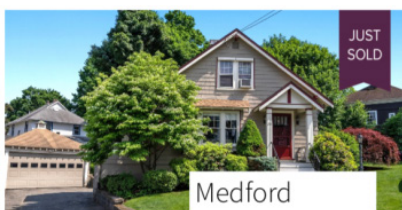
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### Somerville/Medford Remembering James K. Cafferky Jr.



Obituary  
James K. Cafferky Jr.,

affectionately known as Jimmy, passed away peacefully on December 29, 2024, in Medford. He was the beloved son of Carole J. Cafferky and the late James K. Cafferky Sr. Jimmy was a cherished brother to Carolyn Brosnan of Medford, Elizabeth Sudkin of Natick, Christopher Cafferky and his wife

Erin of Medford, John Cafferky and his wife Traci of Winchester, Stephen Cafferky of Somerville, and Jennifer Cafferky of Somerville. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Jimmy was a proud member of Local # 103, Electrical Union, dedicating

40 years to his work. His commitment and contributions to the union were highly valued.

A funeral procession will commence from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, located at 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Saturday morning, January 4,

2025, at 9am, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Raphael Church in Medford at 10:00. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Calling hours will be held on Friday from 4:00 to 7:00. Interment will be private.

### Somerville/Medford Remembering David Elliott Denny



Obituary  
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of David Elliott Denny from cancer on the morning of December 21, 2024. A Senior Design

Engineer at Boston Water and Sewer Commission, David had an insatiable love for learning that led him to additional pursuits as a land surveyor, an enthusiastic volunteer for Habitat for Humanity (for which he was awarded a Golden Hammer), classes toward a nursing degree, and even occasional piano lessons.

David's outsized personality endeared him to friends and family,

whether he was "dropping knowledge" on the nieces and nephews or dipping into his vast reservoir of witticisms to turn the most mundane situations into moments of joy.

He is survived by his mother Debby Titlow (Budd), father Jim Denny (Fran), his sisters Mariah Tinger (Brian), and Merisa Titlow (Sam Eisenstein), but will be missed as well by five nieces and nephews, a wide circle

of friends, colleagues, cousins, and admirers who were touched by his warmth, endless sense of humor, and unwavering optimism.

A celebration of David's life will be held at his beloved Clam Shack on Plum Island in the spring.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity in his honor.

Though David has left this earthly world, his spirit will forever be etched in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. We remember him for his ebullient personality which easily qualified for his favorite phrase of praise: "Stomp down amazing!"

### INCREASE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS IN CONSTRUCTION

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed an Executive Order to increase the participation of women and historically underrepresented groups in construction.

The Executive Order establishes a Diverse and Equitable Construction Workforce Participation Committee to facilitate interagency collaboration on this work. It also identifies and encourages best practices for state agencies to encourage equitable workforce participation in construction, such as utilizing registered apprentices, hiring local businesses and those with a record of hiring women and underrepresented groups, and encouraging contractors to provide supportive services like childcare. The committee will also work with state agencies on data collection to measure the workforce participation of women and underrepresented groups.

that we increase access to this field for women and historically underrepresented groups. Not only is it good for these workers and their families, but it's also good for our employers and our economy as a whole."

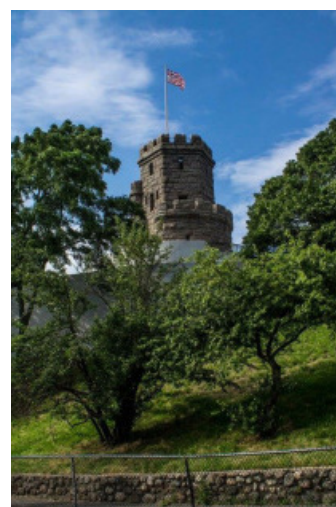
“Here in Massachusetts, we know that we get the best results when our workforce reflects the rich diversity of the people of our state,” said Gov. Healey. “The construction industry offers good-paying jobs and benefits that sustain families, and it's important

to Prospect Hill Park. The event features remarks from local officials, historical reenactments, and a ceremonial parade led by the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts and Revolutionary War reenactors. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend this tradition celebrating Somerville's central role in America's founding story.

For more information on the Prospect Hill Flag raising, please contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager at the Somerville Museum via email at [grace@somervillemuseum.org](mailto:grace@somervillemuseum.org).

When: Monday, January 1, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Where: Starting at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave) and proceeding

### City of Somerville Commemorates the 249th Prospect Hill Flag Raising on January 1, 2025



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Museum are inviting community members to commemorate an iconic moment in American history at the 249th Annual Prospect Hill Flag Raising on January 1, 2025. On this date in 1776, General George Washington raised the first American flag atop Prospect Hill,

marking a pivotal moment in the Revolutionary War. Each New Year's Day, the City honors this legacy with a community celebration.

When: Monday, January 1, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: Starting at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave) and proceeding

to Prospect Hill Park. The event features remarks from local officials, historical reenactments, and a ceremonial parade led by the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts and Revolutionary War reenactors. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend this tradition celebrating Somerville's

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### OPIOID CRISIS (H 5143)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law legislation that supporters say would expand non-opioid pain treatments; establish licenses for recovery coaches; support pregnant women and their children who have been exposed to substances; and vastly expand access to opioid-reversal drugs.

Other provisions mandate that all health plans cover opioid reversal drugs such as Naloxone and Narcan—without cost-sharing or prior authorization; require hospitals and substance use treatment facilities to educate

patients on opioid reversal drugs and prescribe or dispense at least two doses to at-risk patients upon discharge; require pharmacies in areas with high incidences of overdoses to maintain a sufficient and consistent supply of opioid reversal drugs while also requiring them to stock both over the counter and prescription versions.

The bill includes several new insurance provisions, including a prohibition on life insurance companies from limiting or refusing coverage to a person solely because they obtained an opioid-reversal drug, and a prohibition on

medical malpractice insurers from discriminating against health care practitioners who provide harm reduction services. The bill also updates requirements for insurance providers to ensure adequate coverage and access to pain management services including non-opioid treatments and expands access to non-opioid pain treatment by incorporating non-opioid alternatives into provider training.

“Over the course of my career, I’ve been motivated by those who have tragically lost loved ones to the opioid crisis that is impacting all of our communities,” said

Gov. Healey. Their stories have served as important reminders of the urgent need to increase treatment, prevention and recovery services to save lives,” said Governor Healey. “I’m proud to sign this bill that will expand access to life-saving overdose reversal medications and coaching throughout the recovery process.”

“This important legislation reflects an approach to substance use disorder that emphasizes recovery, compassion and evidence-based care,” said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. “The measures included in this bill

will help break down barriers to care and push back against the stigma that hinders far too many from seeking effective treatment and moving toward recovery. Notably, this model of care affirms that the commonwealth is committed to treating substance use disorder as a public health issue, not as a moral failing. It recognizes that with the right support, individuals can reclaim their lives, families can heal and communities can thrive.”

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

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

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### Save the Date: Somerville Sharing Public Safety for All Final Reports With Community on Tuesday, February 4



Reports from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and the Anti-Violence Working Group will be Posted Online Starting Tuesday, January 28

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) are inviting all to join a community event presenting the completed reports from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and Anti-Violence Working Group on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 (rain date Thursday, February 6) at Somerville High

School (81 Highland Ave).

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m., and constituents are invited to join members from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and Anti-Violence Working Group for a discussion of their findings, a Q&A about the course of their work, and an overview of next steps in the process. Free snacks and refreshments will be provided. In advance of the event, each report will be shared on January 28, 2025, via the PSFA webpage.

“Ensuring public safety in Somerville means listening to our community, embracing transparency, and working collaboratively toward meaningful change,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I encourage all residents to join us on February 4 to hear directly from the dedicated members of our

task forces and working group. Their reports reflect months of thoughtful engagement, research, and a shared commitment to making Somerville safer and more equitable for all.”

Submit questions to the Task Forces/Working Group

Ahead of the Public Safety for All Report Release Event, community members will have the opportunity to submit questions directly to the members of the Task Forces/Working Group. Beginning at 9 a.m. on January 28, 2025, there will be a form for constituents to submit questions for the Q&A portion of the meeting on the PSFA webpage.

RSJ encourages community members to consider submitting a question to be discussed by the Task Forces/Working Group members live at the Report

Release Event. There will be an opportunity for community members to ask questions live during the meeting but submitting questions in advance is recommended.

About the Public Safety for All Initiative Task Forces

The Public Safety for All, Civilian Oversight, and the Anti-Violence Task Forces, each comprised of residents, subject matter experts, and City Council members, began their work in late Spring 2023.

The Public Safety for All Task Force was tasked with focusing on two key areas: Drafting recommendations that will inform the adoption of an alternative, co-response, and/or unarmed response model to address calls for service and

identified public safety needs in Somerville. Drafting recommendations that will help and improve Somerville’s public safety infrastructure at large. The Civilian Oversight Task Force was tasked with producing recommendations for the City’s first-ever civilian oversight entity, including its powers, duties, composition, and more. The Anti-Violence Working Group was tasked with producing recommendations that specifically focused on mitigating four types of violence in the City: gun violence, gang violence, domestic violence, and traffic violence.

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Where: Starting at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave) and proceeding to Prospect Hill Park  
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For more information on the Prospect Hill Flag raising, please contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager at the Somerville Museum via email at [atgrace@somervillemuseum.org](mailto:atgrace@somervillemuseum.org).

### 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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### INCREASE FINES FOR VIOLATING HANDICAPPED PARKING (H 3261)

By Bob Katzen

On February 22, 2024, the House gave initial approval to a proposal that would allow cities and towns to increase the current \$300 maximum fine for parking illegally in a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities. That \$300 fine is set by the state and goes into the

municipalities' General Fund. The measure would allow cities and towns to impose an additional \$450 fine – making the total fine \$750. The additional \$450 would be placed into a specialized local account to be used for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades in the city or town where the violation occurred. The

original \$300 fine would still go into the community's General Fund.

Supporters said that across the state, cities and towns have plans to make their communities more accessible but oftentimes a lack of funding prevents them from enacting their

plans. They noted that this bill allows them to place some of the financial burden on the backs of those who violate the laws that exist to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

Sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Athol) did not respond to repeated

requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him if he thinks BTR is violating House rules by holding up the measure and if he would move to discharge his bill from the committee.

### BLOOD BANKS (S 2994)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved and sent to the House legislation that would allow organizations registered as blood establishments with the federal United States Food and Drug Administration, to maintain a

blood bank if the bank is approved by the Massachusetts Commissioner of the Department of Public Health and the Public Health Council.

Supporters said there

are a number of blood banks that operate nationally that currently supply Massachusetts hospitals but may not draw or store blood here. They argued that this legislation is intended to address that inefficiency. Currently only the Red Cross, Cen-

ter for Blood Research and hospitals are permitted to draw and store blood in the Bay State.

“This bill simply allows FDA-approved facilities in Massachusetts to accept

blood donations,” said sponsor Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover). “This commonsense initiative will expand access and capacity, benefitting hospitals and patients alike.”

### You're Invited: Attend the City of Somerville Mid-Term Ceremonies and Addresses on Jan. 6

The City of Somerville warmly invites community members to attend its Mid-Term Ceremonies and Addresses on Monday, January 6, in the City Hall Council Chamber (93 Highland Ave.). Speeches will begin at approximately at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Ballantyne will deliver her Mayoral

Mid-Term State of the City Address, reflecting on her second term, recent community initiatives, and plans for the year ahead. The incoming leaders of the City Council and School Committee will also share their priorities. Organizational meetings of the City Council and School Committee will

precede the ceremonies. Community members are encouraged to attend in person or tune in live through the City's cable and educational access channels, online at somervillema.gov, or on-demand afterward on CityTV's YouTube channel at youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV.



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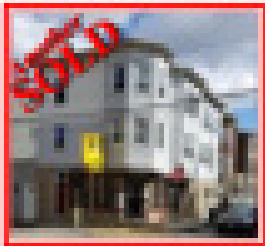


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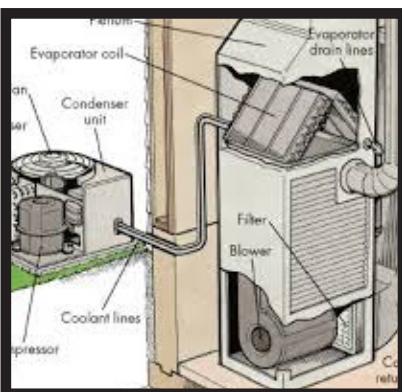
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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## COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES (H 5139)

By Bob Katzen

The House approved and sent to the Senate a new version of legislation, originally sponsored by Gov. Maura Healey, that would prevent commercial drivers from losing their licenses due to passenger vehicle offenses they committed prior to September 30, 2005.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles recently notified hundreds of bus and truck drivers that they were ineligible for commercial licenses due to at least two past major offenses, blindsiding many motorists who for years thought their infrac-

tions were behind them.

“Over time, the relevance and predictive value of these older offenses has diminished, particularly for those drivers who have remained offense-free since,” said Healey. “In most circumstances, a commercial driver who meets the safety requirements of federal law should not be disqualified from driving due solely to passenger vehicle offenses that occurred 19 or more years ago. She noted her bill would remove consideration of pre-September 30, 2005 passenger vehicle offenses from our disqualification law, except for multiple

instances of operating under the influence.

\$3.2 MILLION FOR MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL COMMUNITIES – The Healey Administration announced the awarding of \$3.2 million in grants for projects that proponents say will support the economic vitality, tourism and ecosystem health of the Bay State’s waterfront and harbors, while helping the state reach its ambitious climate resiliency goals.

“Coastal communities play a critical role in our economy,” said Gov. Healey. “The ... Grants help cities and towns

make infrastructure improvements to prepare for extreme weather caused by climate change while also investing in important blue economy businesses, commercial fishing operations and tourist and recreational enterprises.”

“These investments will support a range of critical initiatives, from coastal resilience and dredging projects to pier infrastructure enhancements that protect our shorelines,” said Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao. “By funding these efforts, we’re ensuring a safer and more enduring future for our coasts from

the North Shore to the Cape and Islands.”

“Maritime communities are important centers of economic activity, drawing many visitors each year and supporting the coastal industries that have been integral to our state’s economy,” said Undersecretary of Economic Foundations Ashley Stolba. “We are proud to fund these projects and look forward to their lasting impact on the future generations of these towns.”



### Take the 2025 Police Officer Exam

Interested in a role helping to protect your community? Take the 2025 Police Officer Exam. Applications are being	accepted through Tuesday, January 28. A passing score will put you on an eligible list to	fill officer vacancies in municipalities statewide. Learn more and see key dates. 2025 Municipal Police Officer, MBTA Transit	Police Officer and State Trooper Examination   Mass.gov <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2025-munic-">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2025-munic-</a>	ipal-police-officer-mbta-transit-police-officer-and-state-trooper-examination
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### STUDENT ID CARDS AND SUICIDE LINE (S 3001)

<p>By Bob Katzen</p> <p>The Senate approved a House-approved bill that would require that student ID cards include the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone numbers and text message numbers.</p> <p>“This is a critical step in increasing information and access to life saving support and resources, while working to eliminate the mental health</p>	<p>stigma those in crisis fear and face,” said co-sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (Framingham). “At one point or another, we have all faced the difficulty of not knowing where to turn for help or assistance ... I am forever thankful to the MetroWest Regional Coalition for Suicide Prevention for first bringing the idea of this legislation to my attention and to Ashland High School for modeling similar poli-</p>	<p>cies. 988 is a supportive resource, and I encourage anyone who faces times of crisis to use this hotline to access compassionate support.”</p> <p>“This is a simple proposal that can have critical impact, ensuring our students are equipped with the 988 Behavioral Help Line on their Student IDs,” said House co-sponsor Rep. Natalie Higgins (D-Leominster). “This will</p>	<p>ensure that they, and their friends, know a trusted mental health resource in a time of need.”</p> <p>Supporters noted that while suicide is a leading cause of death for people of all ages in the United States, young people are particularly at risk. They said that according to a study published by the National Center for Health Statistics at the end of last year, suicide was</p>	<p>the second leading cause of death for Americans aged 15-24, representing a 56 percent increase in the previous decade. They argued that there are significant disparities in these numbers, with LGBTQ+ youth being at greater risk, and Black youth seeing a 73 percent increase in youth suicide rates in that same time period.</p>
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### AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE DISCOUNTS (H 5133)

By Bob Katzen

The House approved and sent to the Senate legislation waiving, for six years, until 2030, a law that requires businesses and groups to have a 35 percent participation rate in order to qualify for group auto and home insurance discount rates. The measure permits groups with less than the 35 percent participation to take advantage of group rates, which supporters said will save members between 5 percent and 8 percent. The law has been waived since 1997. The 35 percent requirement was first included in a 1973 law.

Supporters said if the bill is not approved, insurance discounts for 322,000 vehicles and 142,000 homes in the Bay State would disappear on January 1, 2025 and consumers will pay millions of dollars more for insurance.

Reps. Dan Cahill (D-Lynn) and Tom Walsh (D-Peabody) sponsors of the measure did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to comment on their bill.

ALLOW ELECTRONIC RECEIPT FOR DELIVERY OF FUEL OILS AND

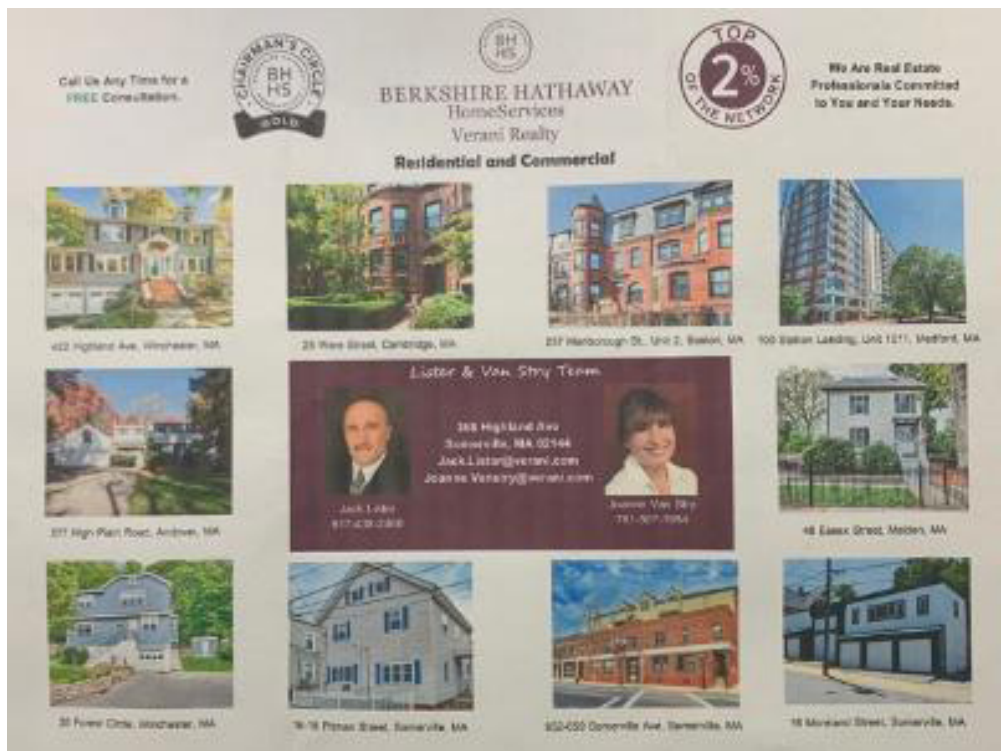
PROPANE (H 4132) – The Senate approved a House-approved bill that would allow companies to send customers an electronic delivery receipt for the bulk sale of fuel oils and propane.

“This legislation modernizes the receipt system by allowing the vendor of bulk sale deliveries to utilize an electronic receipt, ticket or other form of recorded representation for the purchaser to review the sale item,” said House sponsor Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). “Massachusetts is one of the last states to update this antiquated system of delivery of re-

ceipts/invoices from bulk sales. In today’s world of technology, it only makes sense that the delivery of receipts/invoices can be safely and efficiently transmitted to the consumer without having to leave a paper bill at the door or mailbox. Many, if not most businesses, already operate this way and there is no good reason not to advance bulk sales in this direction as well particularly as the consumer would have a choice in the method of delivery.”

Supporters also noted that customers frequently complain about the current practice of the

company leaving bags with receipts on their doorknobs or in their mailboxes. They said leaving the receipts in a USPS mailbox is not permitted by law and also leaves consumers vulnerable to identity fraud. They also pointed out that leaving a plastic bag which might remain on the doorknob for several days is a clear signal to would-be criminals that the homeowner is not home and might be traveling.



### 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 Dilbooy 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.



### Somerville Community Encouraged to Prepare Now for Snow Season



Park on the Even Side During Winter 2024-2025 Snow Emergencies, Unless Otherwise Posted

SOMERVILLE- The City of Somerville is encouraging the community to get ready now for potential snowstorms by signing up for City Alerts and reviewing protocols for snow emergencies. Preparing now will help keep the community safe, as well as reduce ticketing or towing for snow emergency parking violations and ticketing for failure to follow shoveling requirements.

All information below can also be found at [somer villema.gov/snow](http://somer villema.gov/snow).

#### Alerts

Snow emergencies are announced in various ways, including through phone, text, and email alerts. Those who live, work, or own a business or property in Somerville are urged

to sign up for City Alerts. Alerts are also available in multiple languages. Sign up at [somer villema.gov/alerts](http://somer villema.gov/alerts).

In addition to Somerville City Alerts, snow emergencies are announced the following ways:

- City website: [somer villema.gov](http://somer villema.gov)
- City social media feeds: [somer villema.gov/social](http://somer villema.gov/social)
- City TV: [somer villema.gov/somer ville-city-tv](http://somer villema.gov/somer ville-city-tv)
- Flashing blue lights at major intersections
- Information is shared with local media
- Street Parking

Because this winter begins in an even-numbered year, snow emergency parking is on the even side of the street all winter. There are a small number of exceptions to the park even rule, which will be noted by signs on that street.

Once a snow emergency is declared, everyone has four hours to move their car to the even-numbered side of the street, or to municipal lots that are available for use during a snow emergency. Parking is not allowed in school lots during snow emergencies.

Parking is allowed at meters on the even-numbered side of the street during a snow emergency, as long

as there is no sign stating otherwise. Meters and time-parking rules are not enforced during snow emergencies. The City does not enforce an ordinance prohibiting cars from being parked in the same spot for more than 48 hours during snow emergencies.

Vehicles may be ticketed and towed if in violation of snow emergency parking rules.

#### Municipal Lot Parking

Municipal lots are available for parking during snow emergencies. Once the emergency is lifted, all cars must be moved from the lots within two hours.

For the 2024-2025 snow season the following lots are available for parking:

#### Municipal Buildings

City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)  
All metered municipal parking lots  
Municipal Parking Lots

- Buena Vista Lot, Buena Vista Road (via Holland St. or Meacham Rd.)
- Cutter Square Lot (Elm St./Summer St. at Cutter Ave.)
- Day Street Lot (Day St.)
- Dilboy Pool Lot (110 Alewife Brook Pkwy.)
- Foss Park Lot (Foss Park at Broad-

- way)
- Grove Street Lot A (Grove St. at Highland Ave., referred to as "Rite Aid Lot")
- Grove Street Lot B (Grove St. east side, between Highland Ave. & Elm St., "Grove Street Lot")
- Magoun Square Lot (Broadway at Medford St.)
- Mount Vernon St. Lot (Broadway between Mount Vernon St. and Mt. Pleasant St.)
- Union Square Lot (off Washington St., entrance at Washington St./Bonner Ave.)
- Founder's Ice Arena (Rear - 581 Somerville Ave.)
- Winter Hill Lot A (Broadway, north side between Fellsway West and Wheatland St.)
- Winter Hill Lot B (Broadway, north side)
- Again, parking is not allowed in school lots during snow emergencies.

#### Snow Shoveling Support Program

The Somerville Youth Shoveling program returns for the 2024-2025 snow season. This is a paid opportunity for youth to help local seniors and homeowners with disabilities or medical conditions after a snowstorm.

Seniors interested in signing up to receive the service can contact Debby Higgins at the Somerville Council on Aging by emailing

[dhiggins@somer villema.gov](mailto:dhiggins@somer villema.gov) or calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. Youth looking to sign up can contact Youth Services Coordinator Dan Harris by emailing [dharris@somer villema.gov](mailto:dharris@somer villema.gov) or calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2406.

#### Snow Shoveling Requirements

Property owners are responsible for removing ice and snow from sidewalks and accessible ramps that abut their property. The City places buckets of sand where possible in neighborhoods, which may be used to prevent slipping on your public walkways.

To comply with all city shoveling rules:

- Sidewalks need to be cleared within six daylight hours after the snow stops.
- Shovel a path at least 36 inches wide and down to the pavement on sidewalks and ramps.
- Do not shovel snow onto city streets unless the temperature is 40 degrees or higher, it is during daylight hours, and snow and ice are broken up and spread evenly on the street so they will melt quickly. These rules apply to all snowfall, not just when a snow emergency is declared. Failure to comply with the above rules may result in increasing fines issued daily until the walkway is clear.

### Learn About Rodent Control at a Virtual Information Session

The City's Inspectional Services Department and the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs invite community members to attend a virtual workshop about rodents on Thursday, January 9, from 5 to 6 p.m. online via Zoom.

Attendees will learn about

identifying if rats are on your property, rodent control methods, tips for prevention, and City resources that can help. Interpretation into Spanish will be available. Learn more and attend or get tips now at [somer villema.gov/rodentsaway](http://somer villema.gov/rodentsaway).



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### REAL ID



By Bob Katzen

The Registry of Motor Vehicles reminds Bay State residents that beginning on May 7, 2025, people traveling by plane domestically or entering certain federal facilities will need a Regis-

try-issued REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID, or a valid passport.

The Registry strongly encourages everyone seeking a REAL ID-compliant license or ID

card to go online at Mass.Gov/REALID to learn what documents are needed for a required in-person appointment. Appointments to upgrade to REAL ID are available now, and several RMV service centers offer Saturday appoint-

ments. Customers who already have a compliant credential may renew online as long as they have not had a name change.

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### Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne Delivering “State of the City” Address on Monday, January 6



Incoming City Council President & School Com-

mittee Chairperson Will Also Share Addresses with Community

SOMERVILLE – Join the City of Somerville for its Mid-Term Ceremonies and Addresses featuring Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the incoming City Council President, and the incoming Chairperson of the Somerville School

Committee. When: Monday, January 6, 2025. Speeches begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. Where: City Council Chamber, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) Mayor Ballantyne will deliver her Mayoral Mid-Term State of the City Address, reflecting on her second term, recent com-

munity initiatives, and plans for the year ahead. The incoming leaders of the City Council and School Committee will also share their priorities. Organizational meetings of the City Council and School Committee will begin at 5 p.m., with addresses to follow, starting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to attend in person or tune in live through the City’s cable and educational access channels, online at somervillema.gov, or on-demand afterward on CityTV’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV.

### Save the Date: Somerville Public Safety for All Reports to be Shared With Community on Feb. 4

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite community members to attend an event presenting the completed reports from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and Anti-Violence Working Group on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 (rain date February 6) at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave) at 6:30 p.m. Each task force, comprised of residents, subject matter experts, and City Council members, will


highlight their findings and recommendations aimed at enhancing public safety and fostering stronger community connections across Somerville. “Ensuring public safety in Somerville means listening to our community, embracing transparency, and working collaboratively toward meaningful change,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I encourage all residents to join us on February 4 to hear directly from the dedicated members of our task forces and working group. Their

reports reflect months of thoughtful engagement, research, and a shared commitment to making Somerville safer and more equitable for all.” Reports will be available on Tuesday, January 28, at somervillema.gov/psfa, along with a form where community members can submit questions directly to Task Force/Working Group members ahead of the event.



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### Somerville Opens Overnight Warming Center for 2025 Winter Season



Center Provides Hot Meals, Bathrooms, and Safe Sleeping Spaces for Residents Experiencing Homelessness

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, together with the Somerville Office of Health and Human Services (HHS), is announcing the opening of the 2025 Overnight Warming Center to support adults experiencing homelessness.

Since opening on December 9, the warming center has already welcomed almost 30 guests and is operating successfully. Clients are accessing hot meals, safe sleeping spaces, and essential services, ensuring they receive the care and support they need.

The Warming Center will operate seven nights a week from 6:45 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.).

The center will remain open through Sunday, April 13, 2025. Community members interested in supporting the warming center can donate supplies. The center is currently in need of unused socks and cold-weather treats such as hot chocolate, assorted chocolates, and packaged cookies. To learn more, please email [warmingcenter@somervillema.gov](mailto:warmingcenter@somervillema.gov). The warming center is only available to adults experienc-

ing homelessness. Families or individuals with children seeking shelter should contact the Somerville Office of Housing Stability at 617-625-6600, Ext. 2581, for referrals to family-specific resources and shelters.

Community members interested in learning more about the Somerville Overnight Warming Center, visit [somervillema.gov/warmingcenter](http://somervillema.gov/warmingcenter) or email [warmingcenter@somervillema.gov](mailto:warmingcenter@somervillema.gov).

### Legal Ad Notice

THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING: 2024-59 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: 120 Walnut

St. 2024-60 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: loading zone at 211-213 Highland Ave (approximately 70 ft) from 8:00am-2:30am, resident permit parking from 2:30am-8:00am. 2024-61 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the

following location: loading zone on the east side of Tufts Street nearest 19/23 Tufts Street (approximately 40 ft) from 8:00am-8:00pm, resident permit parking from 8:00pm-8:00am. 2024-62 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: loading zone on the east side of Tufts Street nearest 45/47 Tufts Street (approximately 40 ft) from

8:00am-8:00pm, resident permit parking from 8:00pm-8:00am. 2024-63 Article VI Section 6-1 "One-Way Streets" is amended as follows: allow two-way travel for people riding bicycles on Hawkins Street between Washington Street and Somerville Avenue.

PROMULGATED: DECEMBER 12, 2024  
ADVERTISED: DECEMBER 24, 2024

DECEMBER 31, 2024  
JANUARY 7, 2024  
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 15, 2024

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 12/24/24, 12/31/24, 01/07/25



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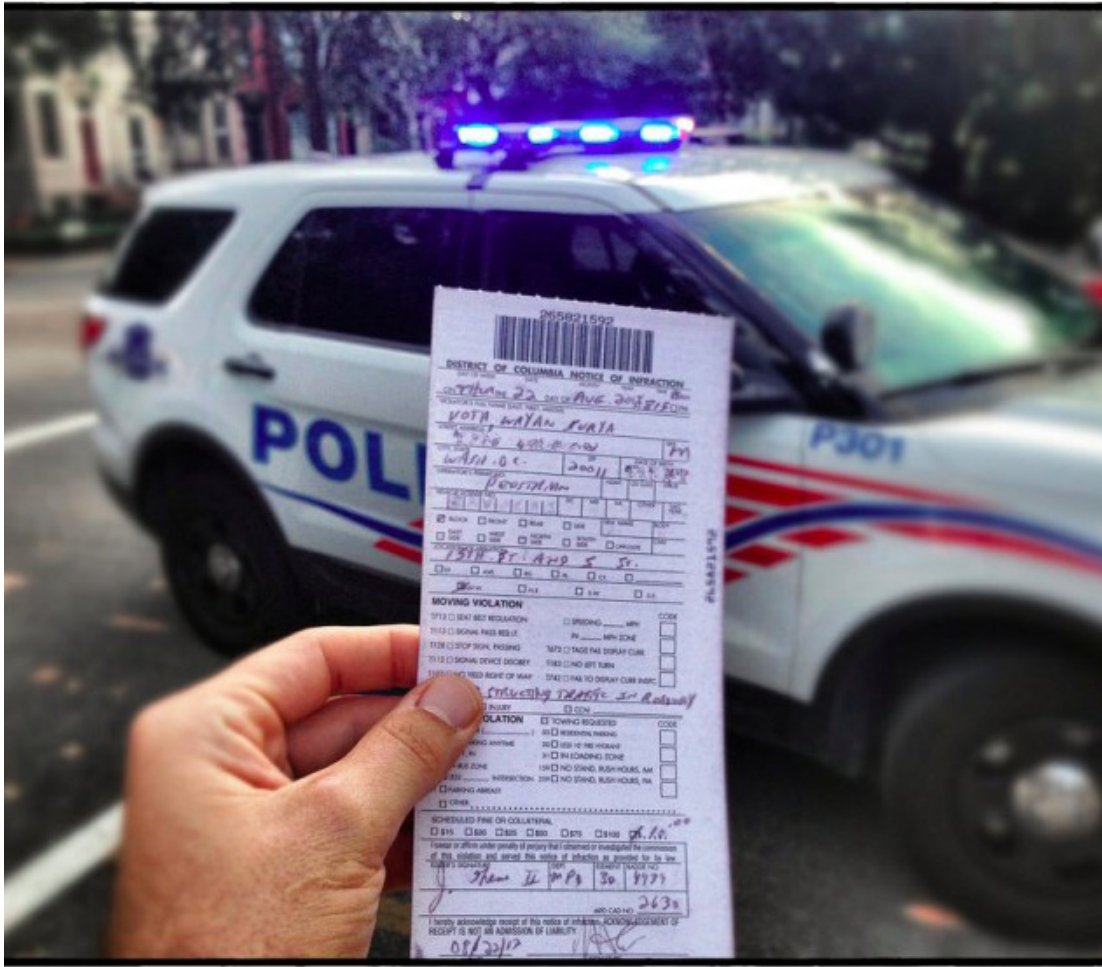
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# INCREASE FINES FOR VIOLATING HANDICAPPED PARKING (H 3261)



By Bob Katzen

On February 22, 2024, the House gave initial approval to a proposal that would allow cities and towns to increase the current \$300 maximum fine for parking illegally in a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities. That \$300 fine is set by the state and goes into the municipalities' General Fund. The measure would allow cities and towns to impose an additional \$450 fine – making the total fine \$750. The additional \$450 would be placed into a specialized local account to be used for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades in the city or town where the violation occurred. The original \$300 fine would still go into the community's General Fund.

Supporters said that across the state, cities and towns have plans to make their communities more accessible but oftentimes a lack of funding prevents them from enacting their plans. They noted that this bill allows them to place some of the financial burden on the backs of those who violate the laws that exist to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

Sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Athol) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him if he thinks BTR is violating House rules by holding up the measure and if he would move to discharge his bill from the committee.

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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
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag

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## Use Sand for Better Traction on Icy Surfaces This Winter

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corrosive than salt-based ice melt, helps maintain the conditions of our sidewalks and other infrastructure. For our full Winter Guide, visit [somer villema.gov/snow](http://somer villema.gov/snow).

Sand increases traction on icy surfaces and, since it is less



## This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

By Bob Katzen

Special Snowplow Edition

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced the winners of the third annual "Name A Snowplow" contest for elementary and middle school students in Massachusetts.

The contest received entries from public school classrooms located all across the state to name the 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service during this 2024-2025 winter season. The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season.

"Maintaining safe and clear roads across Massachusetts during winter is no easy task," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "We appreciate how educators

are engaging their students in this fun competition that honors this vital public service. Congratulations to the winning classrooms, and we look forward to seeing your snowplows out in the field."

"This contest is a great way for schools across the state to connect with the crews who work tirelessly to keep our roads clear each winter," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "Thank you to everyone who took part in this contest, and congratulations to our winners."

Here are the 12 winning names and the schools that submitted them:

"Control-Salt-Delete"

—Swift River School, kindergarten

New Salem, MA

"Abomindable Plowman"

—Brophy Elementary School, 4th grade

Framingham, MA

"Snow Force One"

—Great Oak Elementary School, kindergarten

Danvers, MA

"Taylor Drift"

—Dighton Elementary School, 1st grade

Dighton, MA

"Ice S'now More"

—St. Mary of the Hills School, 4th grade

Milton, MA

"Snowana"

—Morris Elementary School, 4th grade

Lenox, MA

"Ice Ice Baby"

—Pine Cobble School, 5th grade

Williamstown, MA

"It's Snow Problem"

—Paul R. Baird Middle School, 6th grade

Ludlow, MA

"Mac 'N Freeze"

—Oak Street Elementary School, 5th grade

Franklin, MA

"Blizzard Buster"

—North Andover Middle School, 7th grade

North Andover, MA

"C 3 P Snow"

—St. Mary's Catholic School, 5th grade

Mansfield, MA

"Meltin' John"

—Manville School, 8th grade

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### COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES (S 3002) –

The Senate approved a House-approved proposal, originally sponsored by Gov. Healey, which would prevent commercial drivers from losing their licenses due to passenger vehicle offenses they committed prior to September 30, 2005.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles recently notified hundreds of bus and truck drivers that they were ineligible for commercial licenses due to at least two past major offenses, blindsiding many motorists who for years thought

their infractions were behind them.

“Over time, the relevance and predictive value of these older offenses has diminished, particularly for those drivers who have remained offense-free since,” said Healey. “In most circumstances, a commercial driver who meets the safety requirements of federal law should not be disqualified from driving due solely to passenger vehicle offenses that occurred 19 or more years ago.” She noted her bill would remove consid-

eration of pre-September 30, 2005 passenger vehicle offenses from our disqualification law, except for multiple instances of operating under the influence.

By Bob Katzen

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[Joanne.Vanstry@verani.com](mailto:Joanne.Vanstry@verani.com)

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