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VOL.1 NO.329-32

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday February 11th, 2025

BROADER BACKGROUND CHECKS (H 57)



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Continued to page 5



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page

GOV. MAURA HEALEY
ANNOUNCES SHE WILL
RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN
2026

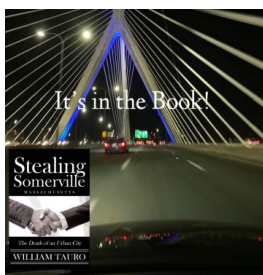
\$425 MILLION
FOR SHELTER SYSTEM
(H 57)



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Continued to page 5



MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.
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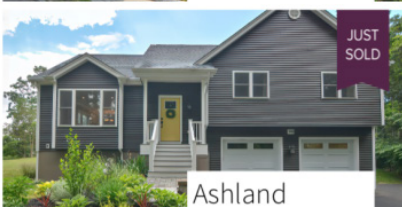
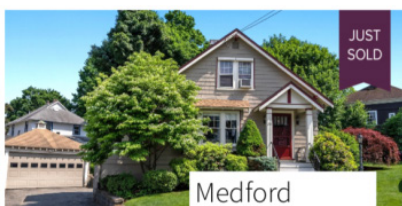
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If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 MHS Varsity Softball is a non-profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
 Tax ID 04-6001400

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Marie Lucille Frongillo (Romano)



Obituary

Marie Lucille Frongillo (Romano), Of Medford, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 82. Born on December 13, 1943, she was the cherished daughter of Salvatore and Rose (Cerio) Romano.

Marie graduated from Somerville High School in 1960 and

went on to have a successful career as a legal secretary at the prestigious Boston law firm Choate, Hall, and Stewart. It was through her late sister-in-law, Rosemary Brown, that Marie met the love of her life, Michael Frongillo. Together, they shared over 61 years of marriage, filled with love, companionship, and unwavering support for one another.

A woman of many talents, Marie was known for her green thumb and deep passion for gardening. She found joy in nurturing plants and creating beautiful outdoor spaces. A dedicated sports fan, she was an ardent follower of the Boston Red Sox and enjoyed watching little

league baseball games. Marie enjoyed watching the football games, cheering along side with her beloved husband.

Marie was a lover of challenges, particularly crossword puzzles and brain teasers, which she enjoyed solving in her spare time. Her culinary skills were legendary, and her home was always a warm, welcoming place where family and friends gathered to enjoy her delicious meals and the love she so freely gave.

Above all, Marie will be remembered for her generous spirit, kindness, and the deep love she shared with her family and friends. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew her, and she will be

deeply missed by all who had the privilege of her presence in their lives.

Beloved wife of 61 years to Michael Frongillo. Devoted mother of Mark Frongillo and his wife Siobhan of Medford, and Kristine Williams and her husband John of Medford. Cherished grandmother of Michael and Megan Frongillo and Mikayla nad Makenzie Williams. Dear sister of the late Concetta "Tina" Ranieri. Her love also extended to her grandpets Sadie, Cooper and Kiki. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral procession will be held on Monday, February 17th from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855

Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Raphael Church, 512 High St., Medford at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held on Sunday from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Marie's name to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Nancy B. Quinlan



Obituary

Nancy B. Quinlan Of Medford, formally of Somerville passed away after a brief illness on Friday, February 7, 2025, at the age of 82. Born in Cambridge, she was the daughter of the late Eli and Irene (Walsh) Marks.

Known affectionately as "Mom" or "Nana" to anyone who met her, she had a gift

for making people feel loved and welcome. Her infectious laughter was her trademark, and her presence could light up any room.

Nancy thoroughly enjoyed cooking and hosting for her friends and family and spending time entertaining.

Nancy also loved spending time with her girlfriends whether it was a day of shopping or having lunch at her favorite restaurants.

Nancy's love for life brought her so much joy.

She enjoyed cruising and going on vacations and travelling to Saranac Lake,

NY to visit her sister and her family.

Her children and grandchildren were her pride and joy. Watching them achieve their dreams filled her heart with happiness.

Nancy had a long career as a lab assistant at Harvard University, where she was known for her work ethic and kindness.

Above all, her family was her greatest treasure, and she took immense pride in their accomplishments.

Beloved mother of Michael Quinlan and his wife Michele of Billerica,

Mark Quinlan and his wife Michele of Medford, Scott Quinlan and his wife Vicki of Medford and Kerry Mahoney and her husband John of Dover, NH. Devoted grandmother of Mikayla, Miranda, Danielle, Ryan, Tyler, Cameron, Kaylee, Jason, Sarah, Shawn, Michael and Melissa. Cherished great-grandmother of 4. Dear sister of Norma Blacker, William Marks and the late Jean Frizzell and Robert Marks. Former wife of the late James Quinlan and long time partner of the late James Buckley. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral procession will be held on Saturday Febru-

ary 15 from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville at 10:00AM.

Followed by a graveside service at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling hours will be held on Friday from 3:00PM to 7:00PM. A prayer service will be conducted in the funeral home at 6:30PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Rose M. (Perkins) Caterino



Obituary

Rose M. (Perkins) Caterino, of Somerville, passed away on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at the age of 84. Born in Cambridge and raised in Somerville, she was the daughter of the late Rose G. (Savina) Perkins.

Rose lived a full and vibrant life, filled with a love for ad-

venture and family. She had a deep passion for traveling, particularly enjoying cruises with her loved ones. The open sea and the joy of exploring new destinations brought her immense happiness. Rose also had a love for trying her luck at the casino, often found playing the slots or enjoying a game of bingo.

Above all, Rose cherished her family. Her greatest pride and joy were her children, grandchildren, and beloved great-granddaughter. Her face would light up every time she was surrounded by her family, and they were the center of her world. Rose was also known for her cooking; her family eagerly awaited the

holidays, where she would prepare all of their favorite dishes with love and care. She will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, and the love she shared with everyone who knew her. Rose's legacy will live on through her cherished family and the memories they hold dear.

Beloved wife of the late Angelo "Sonny" Caterino. Devoted mother of Linda Caterino of Somerville, Anthony "Tony" Caterino and his wife Danielle of Medford, and Brian Caterino and his wife Laurieann of Daytona Beach, Fla. Cherished grandmother of Kristin Tuccinardi and her husband Anthony of Somerville, Nicholas

Caterino and his fiance Lauren Clark of Whiteman, and Matthew Caterino and his girlfriend Rachel Rizzo of Hopedale. Loving great-grandmother of Ava Tuccinardi. Dear sister of the late Jean Barrett. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral procession will be held on Friday, February 14th from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Anthony Church 12 Properzi Way, Somerville at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held on Thursday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

In lieu of flower's memorial contributions may be made in Rose's name to the American Heart Association PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284 American Heart Association PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 7528 or The National Kidney Foundation..



BROADER BACKGROUND CHECKS (H 57)



The House 26-125, rejected an amendment that would expand the background checks that the state must conduct on emergency assistance shelter applicants by mandating universal criminal background checks that include criminal records at

the state, federal and international levels; immigration or residency status; and presence on international or domestic criminal watch lists.

“While the underlying bill requires individuals apply-

ing for emergency assistance housing benefits to disclose prior criminal convictions and calls for CORI checks to be conducted prior to placement, these checks are limited to crimes committed in Massachusetts,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “If we are serious about keeping dangerous criminals out of the shelter system, then we need to strengthen the background check requirement and mandate more comprehensive universal background checks that will disclose criminal

records not only at the state level, but also at the federal and international levels.”

Rep. Michael Day (D-Stoneham) said that the amendment was an attempted Republican “backdoor” to “strangle our emergency shelter law altogether and kill it from within.” He said the background checks the amendment would require would also check the education backgrounds of applicants, credit scores and financial information.

“Now we want to find out

the credit-worthiness of a young family applying for emergency shelter,” said Day. He sarcastically asked if this credit check was going to make the shelters and residents safer — finding out what Kohl’s thinks about their ability to get a credit card.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the broader background checks. A “No” vote is against them.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Paul Donato No
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven No

\$425 MILLION FOR SHELTER SYSTEM (H 57)

By Bob Katzen

The House 126-26, approved and sent to the Senate a fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that includes \$425 million to fund the state’s family shelter system and make some changes to tighten eligibility. The vote was almost strictly along party lines with all Republicans voting against it and all but two Democrats voting for it. The Democrats say the measure makes major reforms while the GOP says the bill does not go far enough.

“From the beginning of the shelter system crisis, the House has worked to reform the emergency assistance program to ensure that it remains financially viable,” said House

Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “That’s why the House led the effort to cap the maximum length of stay, and to require job training programs for folks in the shelter system, reforms that this supplemental budget builds on. By creating stricter eligibility requirements, along with increased security measures, this supplemental budget is the latest iteration of the House’s continued commitment to protecting vulnerable children and families in Massachusetts in a fiscally sustainable manner.”

“Over the past several years, as the population of the emergency shelter system has grown, the House has attempted to uphold the commonwealth’s right to shelter law while

also being mindful of the long-term fiscal sustainability of the program,” said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. “The reforms contained in this bill will ensure that right to shelter is maintained by further capping the length of stay and verifying eligibility, while also enacting stricter background checks on those who enter the shelter system to better protect the families who need these services the most.”

“I voted against [the bill] because Massachusetts cannot continue pouring taxpayer money into the emergency shelter system without implementing real, lasting reforms,” said Rep. Steven Xiarhos (R-

Barnstable). “As a former police officer with 40 years of experience, I know firsthand how proper criminal background checks should be conducted, and the simple CORI check outlined in this bill doesn’t even come close. Without comprehensive background screenings at the state, federal and international levels, we risk compromising public safety and failing to protect the communities we serve.”

“Though there were some small reforms to the shelter system, they were only temporary and fell far short of what was necessary to address the problems associated with the program,” said Rep. Joseph McKenna (R-Sutton). “Without substantial

and permanent reforms, many of which were proposed by Republican amendments that were unfortunately rejected out of hand without even cursory consideration, this was not a bill that will adequately address the long-term financial stability of the EA shelter program, so was not a bill I could support.”

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

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

Black History Month Event In Somerville



Black History Month Event In Somerville
February 11, 2025 the-somervillenewsweekly
Leave a comment Edit

The annual Community Gospel Choir Concert in honor of Black History Month will take place Sunday, February 23, 5 pm

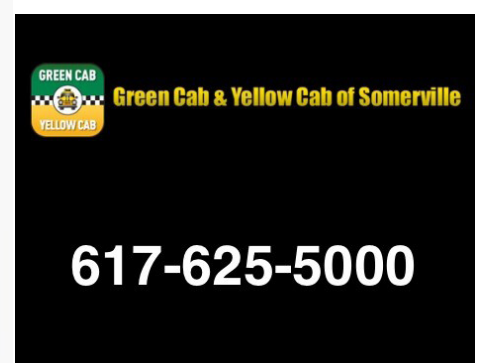
at the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Avenue, Davis Square in Somerville.

This event is free and all ages are welcome.

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REDUCE FUNDING FROM \$425 MILLION TO \$200 MILLION

By Bob Katzen

The House 26-126 rejected an amendment that would reduce funding for the emergency assistance shelter program from \$425 million to \$200 million.

“The emergency assistance shelter program continues to cost the state’s taxpayers approximately \$1 billion annually, which is not sustainable without implementing sub-

stantive reforms to help reduce costs and promote greater transparency,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “The State Auditor is currently conducting a comprehensive audit of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, including the emergency shelter system, which should help to identify ways to improve efficiency, while recent changes in immi-

gration laws at the federal level should help to lower costs by reducing the number of people coming to Massachusetts seeking shelter. By reducing the shelter program’s funding allocation to \$200 million, the state can continue to provide core services to Massachusetts residents in need while allowing additional time to see how the recent changes will impact enrollment.”

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston) said he is under no illusion that if the House approves this reduction, the Republicans will actually vote for the bill itself. He noted that reforms we’re implementing in the bill are major and the House needs to give the Healey administration time to see these through. He argued that the bill allows the state to get through the remainder of the fiscal year, and dur-

ing the upcoming fiscal 2026 budget debate in April we can see how the reforms are going and if we have to make changes.

(A “Yes” vote is for the reduction to \$200 million. A “No” vote is against the reduction.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Paul Donato No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

Somerville/Medford Remembering Vera Marie D’Angeli (Jennings)



It is with great sadness Vera Marie D’Angeli (Jen-

nings) passed away peacefully on February 5, 2025. Vera was predeceased by her parents Evelyn and Harold Jennings.

Beloved wife of the late Elidio D’Angeli. Loving mother of Ronald, Cynthia, Cheryl and Christine. She is the beloved

Grandmother of ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Dear sister of Glendon and Donald and predeceased by Dorothy, Norma, Vernon and Jimmy Jennings. She also has several nieces and nephews. Born in 1936 in Martinon, St. John, New Brunswick,

Canada. She moved to Medford / Somerville Ma. after marrying Elidio D’Angeli. She worked for Somerville Lumber until they closed and then became a crossing guard for the East Somerville Community School filling her days with joy. She spent her free time enjoying her

grandchildren and great grand children. She will be forever in our hearts and missed by all who knew her. Heaven has been blessed with an angel.

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Maffa Way Mystic Ave Public Information Meetings Feb 24 and Feb 26th

” Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements Project Public Information Meetings

What is happening?

MassDOT is hosting two in-person Public Information Meetings on February 24 in Charlestown and February 26 in Somerville. The project team will provide an overview of upcoming revisions to traffic alignments, bike paths and bus lanes at Lombardi Street, as well as an update on plans for Phase 2 construction and the Orange Line shutdown in May 2025. The meetings will feature a presentation after which attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Identical information will be presented at each meeting.

How will this affect you?

The Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements Project is replacing two deteriorated bridge superstructures that carry vehicles and pedestrians over the MBTA's Orange Line and Commuter Rail in Boston and Somerville. This construction project will also improve public safety and the reliability of critical infrastructure in a high-traffic corridor. Visit <http://www.mass.gov/MaffaMystic> for more information.



Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements Project

Public Information Meetings

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Charlestown

When
February 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Where
Schraff's City Center, Café (1st Floor)
529 Main Street
Charlestown, MA 02129

Somerville

When
February 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Where
Somerville Central Public Library
79 Highland Ave,
Somerville, MA 02143



In the event of inclement weather, a cancellation notice will be posted at www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events.



To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. To request such services, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-368-8580 or MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. For adequate time to process such request, please make them as early as possible, ideally 10-15 days prior to the event.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to: MassDOTMaffaMystic@dot.state.ma.us
Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: MAJOR PROJECTS, DOT PROJECT NO. 119537

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CONCERTS CELEBRATE THEIR 20TH YEAR

By Barbara Allys

“I love getting people of different ages and backgrounds together to sing,” says Stacie Clayton, founder and director of the annual Community Gospel Choir concerts, which have been held in honor of Black History Month almost every February since 2005.

The singers in these joyful, spirited concerts are of all races and backgrounds, and come from Somerville, Medford, Cambridge, Boston and other local communities. The only requirements for performing in these yearly concerts are the enjoyment of singing with other people and a love for gospel music.

Clayton, who is originally from Jamaica and came to the U.S. at age 18, has helped lead the weekly music program at the Somerville Community Baptist Church since 1994. She explains that in order to reach a wide audience, the Community Gospel concerts have been held in a variety of locations over the years, including Tufts University, Med-

ford's Chevalier Theater, and at churches in Medford, Norwood, and other nearby towns. “This event is free and entertaining for all ages,” Clayton says.

This year's Community Gospel Choir concert will take place Sunday, February 23, 5 pm at the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Avenue, two blocks

from the Davis Square T-station. The theme of this year's concert is “Heaven.” The singers will be accompanied by an ensemble of professional jazz musicians and the concert will be emceed by Medford's former Poet Laureate Terry E. Carter. For more information, see <http://www.ilovescbc.org>

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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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\$108 MILLION FOR MASSACHUSETTS IN SETTLEMENT WITH PURDUE PHARMA

Bob Katzen Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced that she, along with a bipartisan coalition of states and other parties, has reached a \$7.4 billion settlement in principle with members of the Sackler family and their company, Purdue Pharma for their instrumental role in creating the opioid crisis. Up to \$108 million of the settlement funds will be distributed to Massachusetts. The suit says that under the Sacklers' leadership, Purdue invented, manufactured and aggressively marketed opioid products for decades, perpetuating waves of addiction and overdose deaths

across the commonwealth and country. "The Sackler family will forever be remembered as a symbol of greed, profiting off pain to destroy countless lives across the commonwealth and country," said Campbell. "While this settlement cannot bring back the lives lost, it will bring in much-needed funds to begin to remediate the damage and ensure that the Sacklers can be held accountable for the lasting devastation they have caused. I am incredibly grateful to the families who turned their pain into purpose to inform our work in this space."





Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: America's Favorite Teacher

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

Thank you for taking the time to learn about my story.

Local teacher here! I entered the 'America's Favorite Teacher' contest run by Reader's Digest this past fall after seeing the contest advertised online.

After submitting my initial application, I then was hand selected months later (along with 19 other teachers across the USA) to run officially for the grand prize: 25k, trip to Hawaii, a spread in RD and Bill Nye, America's favorite science teacher will meet my students.

I spent a year teaching in Madrid. Upon my return, I received tenureship working

at Littleton Public Schools as a Spanish teacher. Now, I find even more joy as an ESL teacher in Boston. As a language teacher, I have the privilege of being responsible for facilitating the most human need: to be understood. Language is wonderful to teach and even more wonderful to learn: we celebrate language learners when they don't use the correct verb, conjugate incorrectly, etc. Language education values imperfection and in imperfection, we see growth. "Perfection is the enemy of progress" rings true in many sentiments but especially when acquiring a new language. For me, language is exchanging information that is communicated by one and interpreted by another. However one arrives to getting his or hers point across – that is successful language learning!

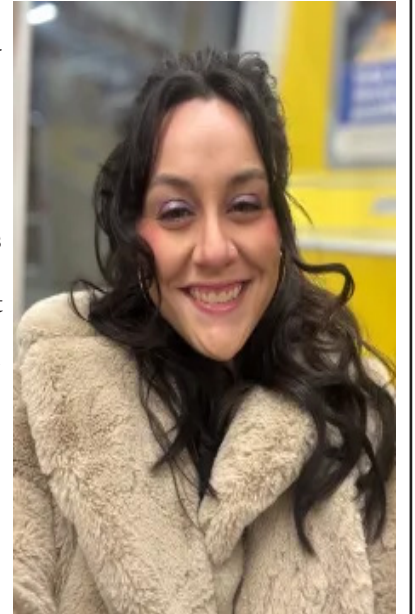
This contest is great opportunity for a local educator to be highlighted. It also highlights the top tier education I received attending public school in Massachusetts. I always knew I wanted to work in the public school system: I believe when as a community we are united and share common values, our youngest citizens learn the skills to become global citizens. Schools are pillars of communities and it is an honor to have served many communities near and far.

Having a Massachusetts teacher in this national contest demonstrates the rigorous standards we have for ourselves and our dedication to our craft. We notoriously have one of the best public education systems in the country. The commitment

demonstrated by educators ensures we continue learning, growing, teaching and supporting. Teaching is not just the content area: it is the connections we foster with our students, families, co-workers and ourselves. Our role is to support the growth of our students and provide them with skills to make informed decisions about themselves, the decisions they make and the information they receive.

Please take a peek at my profile on the linked site above and let me know what you think!

Jacqui Duffy



DON'T MISS THIS EVENT – Join Massachusetts energy leaders in government, industry and advocacy at the MCLE in Boston on March 26

By Bob Katzen

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT – Join Massachusetts energy leaders in government, industry and advocacy at the MCLE in Boston on

March 26 for an important discussion about the state's energy policy and its goals for a net-zero future, hosted by the State House News Service. With the return of a new Trump administration and policies

hindering wind power development, the state's plan to expand its offshore wind portfolio faces uncertainty.

While solar power offers poten-

tial, its scalability is limited by grid capacity issues and requires substantial investment. Other promising technologies like fusion and low-carbon hydrogen have yet to be implemented in the com-

monwealth. Tickets/more info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/power-interruption-tickets-1219762716119?aff=oddtcreator>

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\$850,000 TO HELP YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

By Bob Katzen
Gov. Healey announced more than \$850,000 in grants to fund several organizations that provide job training, employment placement and post placement services for 119 young adults with disabilities.

“We are building a strong workforce in Massachusetts, and this includes providing opportunities and training for individuals who face barriers to employment,” said Gov. Healey. “These grants will help develop and fulfill the

immense potential of this segment of our workforce as we create an economy for today and tomorrow.”

“The Healey-Driscoll Administration is committed to working with partners to increase access, break down barriers and create

pathways to meaningful employment including for individuals with disabilities,” said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones. “We appreciate the partnership with awarded organizations as we work together to strengthen employment

outcomes, foster inclusivity and advance economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts’ workforce.”

GOV. MAURA HEALEY ANNOUNCES SHE WILL RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN 2026

By Bob Katzen
In a radio interview on WGBH Radio (89.7 FM) with talk show hosts Jim Braude and Margery Eagan, Gov. Healey said she plans to run for reelection in 2026.

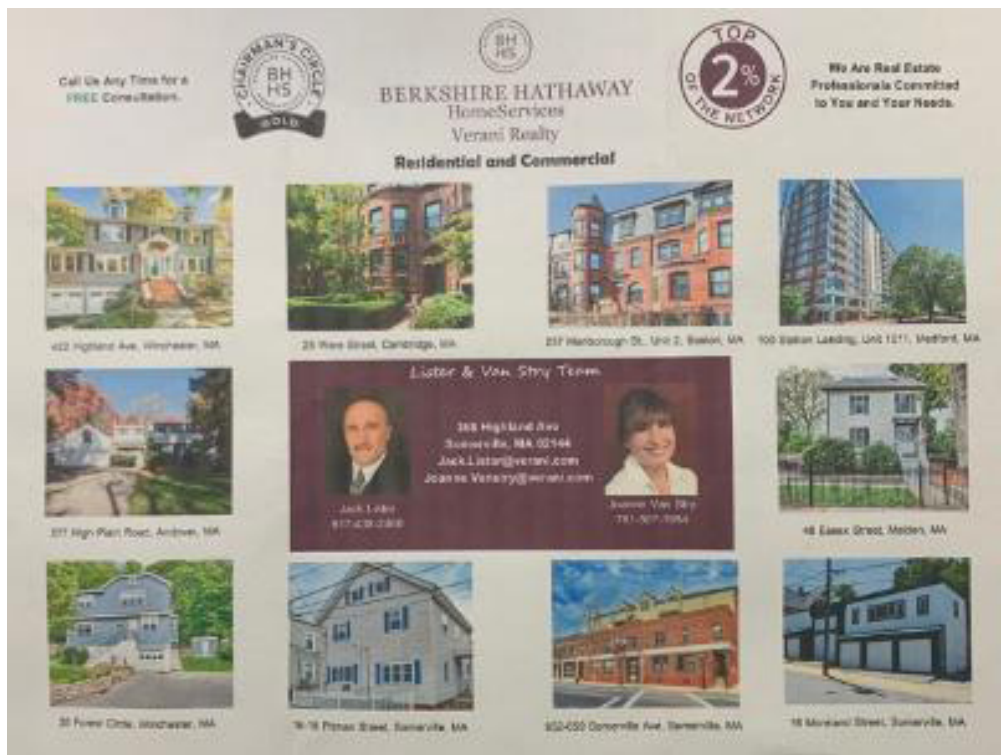
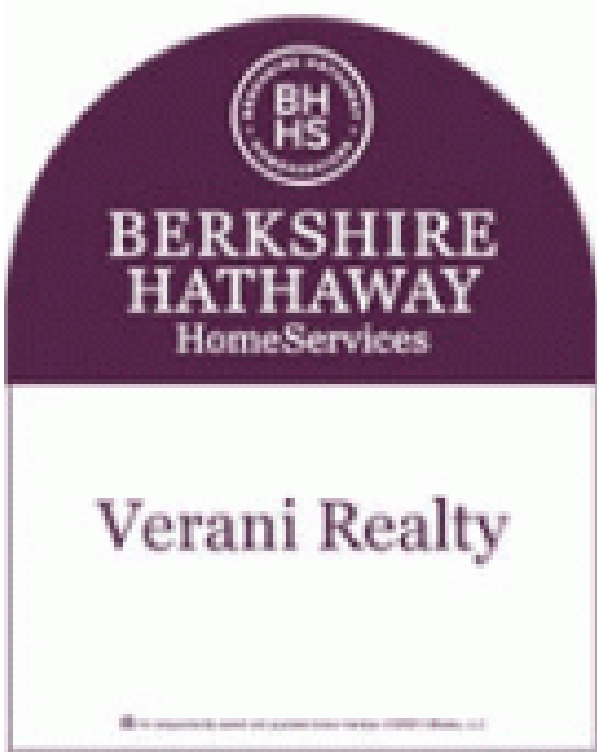
“There’s a heck of a lot more to do, she said. “And so I plan to run for reelection. I’m really proud of the record so far.”
The Massachusetts Republican Party released

a statement saying they were “confident that voters will reject another four years of the Healey-Driscoll Administration and elect a common-sense Republican.”

“We are actively engag-

ing with several Republicans who would all make strong candidates, and we are confident we will have a formidable challenger ready to take on Healey and restore prosperity to the commonwealth,” Massachusetts Republican

Party Chair Amy Carnevale said.



Our Lady of the Assumption School Christmas Craft Fair

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By Bob Katzen
Gov. Healey signed into law a bill establishing February 4th as Rosa Parks in recognition of the historic civil rights leader.

“Rosa Parks’ bravery on that Montgomery bus was not just a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement—it was a lesson in courage, dignity and the power of standing up for what is right,” said co-sponsor Rep. Kip Diggs (D-Barnstable).

“February 4th is the birthday of Rosa Parks, so it will be a great reminder to all those within the commonwealth to reflect on the role she played in raising international awareness of the struggles for civil rights,” said co-sponsor Rep. Mike Kushmerek (D-Fitchburg).





ATTORNEY GENERAL CAMPBELL ON PROTECTING ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

By Bob Katzen

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell and a coalition of twelve other attorneys general issued a statement reaffirming their commitment to protecting access to gender-affirming care follow-

ing a recent executive order by the Trump Administration.

“As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of health-care policies that respect the dignity and rights of all people,” read the statement. “Health care decisions

should be made by patients, families and doctors, not by a politician trying to use his power to restrict your freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, life-saving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves.”

The statement continued, “The Trump Administration’s recent executive order is wrong on the science and the law. Despite what the Trump Administration has suggested, there is no connection between “female genital mutilation” and gender-affirming care,

and no federal law makes gender-affirming care unlawful. President Trump cannot change that by executive order.”

BEWARE OF EZDRIVEMA SCAM

By Bob Katzen

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is once again reminding customers to be mindful of text

message-based scams, also known as smishing. The scammers are claiming to represent the tolling agency and requesting payment for unpaid tolls.

MassDOT urges customers to be cautious about email, text and phone scams demanding payment of outstanding toll balances. Some attempts have been made to trick customers

into sharing credit card numbers and other sensitive information by directing them to a website to pay their outstanding balances. MassDOT strongly encourages customers not to

click the link contained in those messages.

12-MONTH RESIDENCY REQUIRED (H 57)

By Bob Katzen

The House 26-126, rejected an amendment that would require that in order to be eligible for benefits under the emergency assistance shelter program, an applicant must have resided in Massachusetts for twelve consecutive months immediately prior to the date of application. The applicant must also provide an acceptable form of verifica-

tion such as tax returns; a MA REAL-ID; a utility bill, lease or mortgage; or pay stubs showing Massachusetts employment. The residency requirement would not apply to victims of domestic violence or to any person whose living situation has been affected by a fire or other natural disaster that occurred in the Bay State.

“The original Right to Shelter

law was implemented more than 40 years ago to help provide housing assistance for Massachusetts residents in need, particularly pregnant women and children,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “Over the last two years, the scope of the program has expanded to the point that people are coming to Massachusetts from other states seeking assistance,

which is not in keeping with the original intent of the law. This amendment will restore the focus of the law to prioritize Massachusetts residents in need of housing services.”

Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley) said that we are talking about families with children and to place further restrictions on this program during the cold winter months is cruel.

She noted that the bill already places more significant verification requirements regarding residency.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the 12-month residency requirement. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Mike Connolly No Rep. Paul Donato No Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

This Week’s QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

By Bob Katzen

“The loss of these three workers is not just a statistic. It is a devastating reminder of the human cost of inadequate safety practices.”

— Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) Executive Director Tatiana Sofia Begault on recent reports that three Massachusetts workers died in less than two weeks.

“The history of Black Americans is deeply woven into the patchwork fabric and rich

legacy of our country. A people who survived the torment of enslavement and consistently seek to lead this nation forward. A people who are the conscience of America and stand as a beacon of the great possibility of our democracy. To know the history of Black people in America is to understand our history is a testament to the enduring pursuit of America’s ideals.”

— Tanisha Sullivan, Chair of the Governor’s Black Empowerment Advisory Council at a celebration of Black History Month at the Statehouse.

“This bill is vital because it

addresses the pressing issue of allowing male athletes to compete in girls’ school sports when there is no equivalent boys’ team or when a boy identifies as a girl. [The bill] would give athletes and coaches the legal right to opt out of competitions against the opposite sex without fear of discipline.”

— Statement by the Massachusetts Family Institute (MFI).

“It sickens me to see that any legislator in Massachusetts would partner with this organization to incite fearmongering and disinformation at the expense of children.”

— Tanya Neslusan, Executive

Director of Mass Equality on what it calls MFI’s activities to promote discriminatory bills impacting transgender youth and anti-LGBTQ policies at the state and local level by engaging in disinformation campaigns and encouraging hateful propaganda against the LGBTQ communities across the state.

“I think after witnessing last year’s coin toss, and to my knowledge — and please correct me if I’m wrong — there was no problem with betting integrity that took place. I looked in all the jurisdictions and I Googled as many news articles as I could to see if any

betting integrity [issues] took place. There are other prop bets, like the Gatorade color over the coach, the national anthem length, and we, of course, decided we didn’t want to go that far. But I think the coin toss is something we should be revisiting.”

— Massachusetts Gaming Commissioner Brad Hill on the commission’s 3-2 vote to allow sports betting companies in the Bay State to offer wagers on the Super Bowl opening coin toss.

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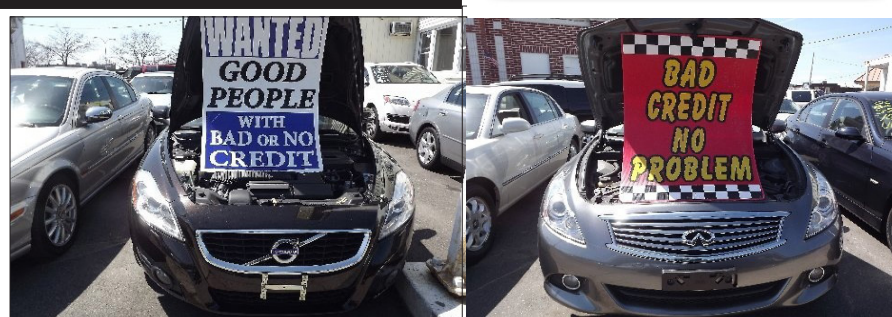
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Margaret (Rebello) Testa



Obituary

Testa, Margaret (Rebello)
– Of Loxley, Alabama
formerly of Medford and

Cambridge, passed away on Sunday, February 2, 2025. She was 83.

Margaret was a loving grandmother who cherished the moments spent with her grandchildren, especially during their weekly visits. She found joy in simple pleasures, like dining out at the 99 Restaurant, where the laughter and togetherness of her family made every meal special. Above all, Margaret treasured being

at home, surrounded by the warmth of her loved ones. For her, home was truly where her heart was.

Beloved mother of John J. Bower and his wife Melissa of Loxley, Alabama and Lisa Bower NH. Devoted grandmother of 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of the Anthony Rebello of NC, and the late Dorothy Hoxie, Walter Rebello, William Rebello and Ann Marie Rebello. Also

survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Thursday, February 13th from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. Followed by a prayer service in the funeral home at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with interment at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

In lieu of flower's donations may be made in Margaret's name to George L. Doherty Funeral Home or to Brookside Funeral Home 3360 Brookside Dr. Millbrook, AL 36054 to help assist with the funeral expenses.

Somerville/Medford Remembering David Meichle



Obituary

David Meichle passed away unexpectedly January 31, 2025 at the age of 37. He is survived by his parents, Linda Barton, and Michael Meichle (Kathy), brother John Meichle (Stacy), niece Isabelle Meichle, grandmother Lois Barton, uncles

Kim Meichle and Mark Barton (Patricia), aunts Deborah Meichle Brucker (Tom), Sonja Meichle Johnson (Dave), and various cousins.

Dave was a research physicist who earned his PhD at University of Maryland, after completing his undergraduate physics training at Lawrence University. He worked for several companies in the Cambridge-Somerville area from 2015 to the present. He loved technical challenges and

reveled in high end instrumentation design for new technologies.

David loved music passionately. He studied the french horn at the Lawrence University Conservatory. He adored playing the horn in any situation; he was active in several orchestras and brass ensembles in the Boston metro area. Music was, in many ways, his greatest source of joy. He felt a deep connection to the music, and to the musicians he shared it with.

An avid traveler, Dave embraced adventure. He was a lifelong sailor. He grew up sailing in the Great Lakes, and later sailed his cherished small sailboat Dolce in the Boston and Cape Cod area. By plane, he traveled to China, Japan, Germany, Austria, Abu Dhabi, Jordan, Peru, Switzerland, and all over Europe and the United States. Always a dreamer, Dave had a deep desire to learn to fly, and he spent countless hours in flight simulators. Dave

also enjoyed ice skating and played hockey.

There will be a celebration of his life in Boston at George Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway, Somerville, MA, on March 16 from 1-4 PM. This summer, his ashes will be scattered in Rochester in a separate ceremony.

Donations in his memory can be made to Hochstein School of Music in Rochester, or to Lawrence University in Appleton WI

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It's Time to Fill Out – And Return! — the 2025 Somerville Census Form



SOMERVILLE– All Somerville residents should be on the lookout for the 2025 annual City of Somerville census in their mailbox. The 2025 census form also includes an application to vote by mail in Somerville's preliminary and City elections this year.

High census participation

provides an accurate population count, which helps the City plan municipal services, apply for grants, and adapt as the population changes. The Elections Department also uses the census to help keep voting rolls up to date.

It's easy to take part in the census. Just fill out the short form,

be sure to sign and date the form, and then return it one of three ways:

mail it back in the provided postage-paid return envelope,

scan the form and email is to census@somervillema.gov, or

drop it off in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.).

Please contact 311 (617-666-3311) with any questions.

REQUIRE BOATER SAFETY PROGRAM AND TEST (S 3011)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law a bill requiring anyone operating a boat in the state's waters to take a state-sponsored boater safety course and then pass a boater safety exam.

The bill, known as the Hanson-Milone Act, is

named after David Hanson who lost his life in a boating accident in 2010 and Paul Milone, the late harbormaster from Weymouth who was an advocate for boat safety. Both families were strong advocates for passage of the measure and attended the signing ceremony.

"I am so proud to see the Hanson-Milone Act finally become law," said sponsor Rep. Kathy LaNatra (D-Kingston). "Massachusetts is home to some of the most beautiful waterways in the world, but too often, a day of fun on the water ends in tragedy because someone operates a boat without

proper safety training. This legislation establishes a straightforward program to make sure anyone operating a boat in the commonwealth has the necessary safety knowledge to keep themselves and others safe ... I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Hanson and Milone families for

their relentless dedication and advocacy for this life-saving legislation."

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REQUIRE REPORTS (H 57)

<p>By Bob Katzen</p> <p>The House 152-0, approved an amendment that would require the Healey administration to report the number of families exiting the emergency</p>	<p>assistance housing program each week because of a durational limit.</p> <p>“This data will reveal whether families are leaving because they’ve secured stable housing</p>	<p>or due to the system’s time constraints,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Michael Finn (D-West Springfield) It will determine if current resources are effectively helping families regain stability in</p>	<p>a quick and efficient manner, or if future adjustments to the system are needed.”</p> <p>(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)</p>	<p>Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes</p>
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Joan M. Marks

	<p>Obituary Joan M. Marks of Somerville passed away on February 3, 2025, at the age of 84. She was the beloved wife of the late Robert E. Marks. Joan was a devoted mother to Robert Marks</p>	<p>and his wife Christine, Doreen Warren, Richard Marks, and the late David J. Marks, whose surviving wife is Catherine Marks. She is also survived by many grandchildren and great grandchildren.</p>	<p>A graveside funeral service will be held for Joan on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 11:00am at the Mt. Auburn Cemetery, located at 580 Mt. Auburn St. in Cambridge, MA.</p>	<p>Services are under the direction of the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, MA 02144.</p>
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Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square
Give what you can, Take what you need
Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group!
The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming.
Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

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

Blessing Backpack Checklist

<p>BASICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat) <input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf <p>FOOD & DRINK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee <input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink <input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky <input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers <input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars <input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards <p>HELP THEM CONNECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen <input type="checkbox"/> Stationary <input type="checkbox"/> Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card 	<p>TOILETRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick <input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer <input type="checkbox"/> Comb <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit <p>SURVIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter <input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool <p>TREATS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs <input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped) <input type="checkbox"/> Mints <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum <p>SPLURGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card <input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag
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RULING OF THE CHAIR ON ICE DETAINER AMENDMENT(H 57)

By Bob Katzen

The House 128-24, supported the ruling of the chair that a proposed amendment that would have required the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to collaborate with ICE regarding detainers issued for dangerous criminal aliens, was beyond the scope of the shelter bill and should not be allowed on the House floor for debate.

Rep. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica), the sponsor of the amendment said that the amendment would make it clear that we want these monsters off the streets and will take proactive actions to protect Massachusetts residents.

He urged members to oppose the ruling of the chair so that his amendment can be debated and voted upon. "It is simply outrageous that this amendment was ruled out of scope as it pertained

to the operations of the shelter system which was the exact scope of the underlying bill," said Lombardo. "The reality is that the majority party realized it would be a terrible amendment for them to vote against so instead, they ruled it out of scope to prevent political embarrassment."

Rep. Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough) supported the ruling of the chair that this amendment is beyond the scope

of this narrowly tailored funding bill. She added that there are several pieces of legislation that have been filed this session that will deal with this issue and the House can debate the issue at that time.

(A "Yes" vote supports the ruling of the chair that prohibits the amendment from being debated and voted upon on by the House. A "No" vote is against the ruling and favors the amendment being

debated and voted upon.)

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

Somerville Community Invited to Participate in School Building Community Feedback Survey



Survey will help inform size, scope, and location of new PK-8 school

SOMERVILLE- The City is in the process of planning for Somerville's next new PK-8 (Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade) public school building. Due to the broad and significant impacts, both the City and Somerville Public Schools are committed to a robust and inclusive community-wide engagement process as various

options for this project are evaluated.

As the next step in this engagement process, all Somerville residents and members of the Somerville Public Schools community are invited to participate in a brief, 5-minute survey.

Survey participants will be asked to share their perspective on what is most important when it comes to the size, location, and features of our schools including features used by students from all schools and by residents as well. Participants will also be asked for their perspective on funding a future school building project as well as other municipal investment priorities.

The results of this survey

will help inform decisions about the size, scope, and location of the school building project. This data will be used by City staff and shared with the members of the Construction Advisory Group (somervillema.gov/cag), which has been tasked with developing a recommendation to the Mayor on both the location and scope of a renovated or new school.

To learn more and take the survey in either English, Spanish, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, or Nepali, visit somervillema.gov/school-buildingsurvey. For general assistance in taking the survey or interpretation support for other languages, please contact 311 (617-666-3311).

About the School Building Project

The City of Somerville is working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to deliver a state-of-the-art school building project for students. This project would address the needs of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS) and potentially the Brown School.

While current and future WHCIS and Brown families will be the most directly affected, this project is a major commitment for the City and will have potential benefits and impacts for all Somerville's schools and residents.

Given the wide-ranging implications of decisions

about the size, scope, and location of this school, it is important to hear as many voices as possible, including underrepresented families, families of incoming 0-5 year-olds, the full SPS community, and the broader Somerville community. The currently active community feedback survey is the next phase of this engagement process.

Meanwhile, the state has recently advanced the City's funding proposal. The City can now start a formal procurement process to hire an Owner's Project Manager to oversee the project, and then a Design/Architecture firm.

More about the project including an anticipated timeline is available at somervillema.gov/msba.

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MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS (S 2491)

By Bob Katzen

On October 26, 2023, the Senate 38-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would require all prisons, homeless shelters and K-12 schools to maintain free menstrual products, including sanitary napkins, tampons

and underwear liners in private and public restrooms and to make them available in a “convenient manner that does not stigmatize any persons seeking the products.” The House took no action on the bill and it died.

Supporters said that according

to the Massachusetts Menstrual Equity Coalition, approximately one in seven children in Massachusetts is living in poverty and struggles to pay for menstrual products. They argued that research shows that the inability to access menstrual products affects students’ class attendance.

They also noted that women facing homelessness or who are incarcerated face high barriers to access, with Massachusetts shelters reporting that menstrual products are among the least donated items. They argued that restricted access in shelters and prisons means that products can

be used as bargaining chips and tools of control for people in vulnerable circumstances. Last week, sponsor Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville) told Beacon Hill Roll Call, “I refiled the bill and am hopeful for its passage.”

CELEBRATE” UNCLAIMED PROPERTY DAY

By Bob Katzen

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg announced that February 1 is National Unclaimed Property Day. She urges all residents to go to findmass-money.gov or call 888-344-MASS (6277) to see if they

can claim any of the \$3.4 billion the state is holding in unclaimed money.

Unclaimed property includes forgotten savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends and

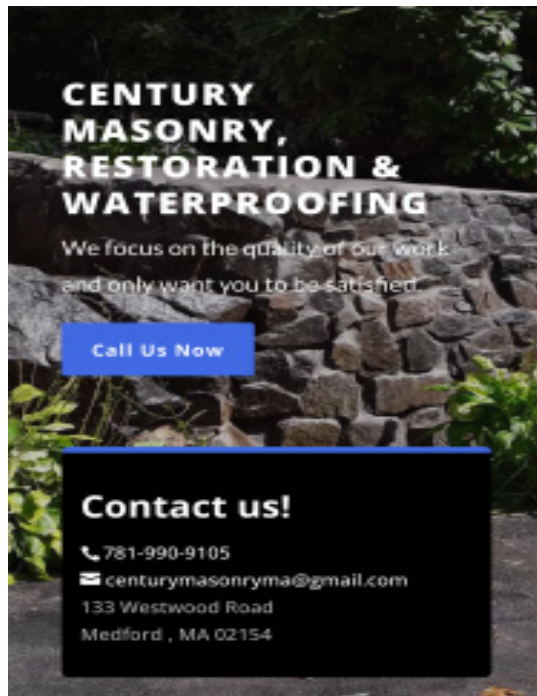
the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. Most accounts are considered abandoned and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity. There is no time limit for a person to recover their property and, in many cases, claimants will receive

interest. In 2024, Treasury processed over 131,000 claims and returned \$191 million in property to its rightful owners. “It’s Unclaimed Property Day, so take a minute to check for your name or a family member, a friend, and

even a business that might be listed,” said Goldberg. “Our team is ready, willing and able to walk you through the process and reunite you with your property.

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