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VOL.1 NO.329-32

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday February 18th, 2025

Somerville Achieves AAA Bond Rating for Third Consecutive Year



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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



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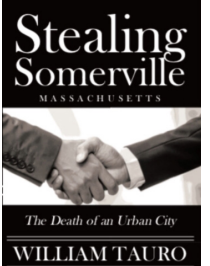


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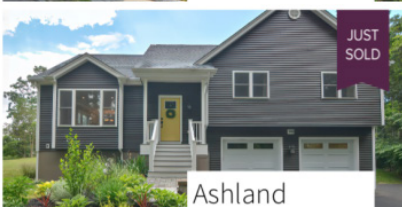
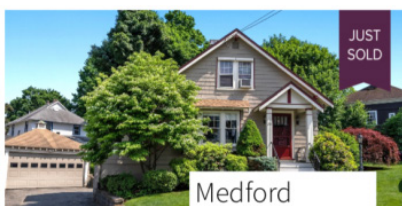
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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Please send both forms and payment to:

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 Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 MHS Varsity Softball is a non profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Scott Gamble



Scott Gamble Obituary
Obituary published on
Legacy.com by Dello
Russo Funeral Home –

Medford on Feb. 14, 2025.
Publish in a newspaper

Scott G. Gamble of Medford passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family at the Melrose-Wakefield Hospital on February 12th. He was 72. Born in Boston and raised in Cambridge, he was the late Robert and Helen Gamble.

Scott was a loving partner, stepfather, “Grampy,” brother, brother-in-law and friend. As a young man he worked as a corrections officer at MCI

– Concord and as a police officer in New Mexico, before beginning a 31 year career as an officer of the Somerville Police Department. He studied at Bunker Hill Community College, where he got his associates degree. In his free time, Scott was attentive to his exercise routine and to keeping his skills honed at the firing range. He was dedicated to his church and attended Mass daily. In the community, Scott was a member of the Shriners and the Masons. He enjoyed vacationing

and spending time with his family. The beloved life partner of Maria C. Martins of Medford, he was a devoted stepfather to Tiffany DeMachi and her husband Michael, Mario Martins, Jr. and his wife Elisha, and Joey Martins. He was a loving Grampy to Ariana, Domenic, and Autumn. He was a dear brother to Keith Gamble and a dear “brother-in-law” to Gary and Denise Grosse. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit at the Dello Russo Funeral

Home, 306 Main St., Medford, Monday, February 17 from 3-6 PM and again on Tuesday, February 18 at 9 AM, followed by a Mass of Christian burial celebrated in Saint Joseph Church, 118 High Street, Medford at 10 AM. Services will conclude with burial at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Scott’s name to the Alzheimer’s Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham, MA 02452.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Kathleen M. Murphy



Obituary
Kathleen M. Murphy, It is with deep sadness that our family shares the news of the passing of Kathleen M.

Murphy, age 73, of Stoneham, MA on December 17, 2024. She was born on August 6, 1951 in Somerville, MA and was the beloved daughter of the late Eugene J. and Margaret A. Murphy.

She is survived by her twin sister Mary Murphy McClelland of California, a niece Marrah McClelland, and three nephews: Keith, Sean, and Christopher McClelland. She also

leaves many other family members and friends who will dearly miss her kindness and generosity.

Kathleen received a bachelor’s degree in English from Boston College (’87) and was a dedicated Boston College employee for 36 years in her position as a Gift Processing Specialist in the Office of University Advancement. She loved her family and eagerly took on the task of doing extensive genealogy

research; she was always happy to share her findings with family members. In recent years, Kathleen was deeply concerned about the plight of the homeless and devoted her time collecting and distributing clothing and other essential items for those in need.

Family and friends will be invited to a Memorial Service celebrating Kathleen’s life to be held at a future date. In remembrance of

Kathleen’s life, our family asks that a charitable donation be made to the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless by contacting Celinet Sanchez celinet@mahomeless.org at (781) 595-7570 ext. 14.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, February 21 at Holy Cross Cemetery, 175 Broadway, Malden at 11:00AM. Please meet directly inside the main gate.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Melvin R. Caton



Obituary
Melvin R. Caton, of Cambridge, passed away on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, following a brief illness at the age of 68. Born in Cambridge, he was the cherished son of Melvin L. and Lillian (Perry) Caton.

Survived by his wife of 46 years, Jo Ann Branco. Devoted father of Jennifer Gaspar and her husband, Timothy of Franklin, and Melvin “Mel” Caton and his fiancé, Kelsey Watkins of Malden. Cherished grandfather of Jordan, Nicholas, Lillian, Charlotte and Amelia. Dear brother of the late Ronald “Ronnie” Caton. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, friends and extended family members.

Melvin was a passionate sports enthusiast, with a special love for hockey,

particularly the Boston Bruins. His devotion to the sport extended beyond simply being a fan—he devoted over 30 years of his life coaching youth hockey in both Cambridge and Somerville. His dedication to the game and to his community made a lasting impact.

Melvin found great joy in attending sports memorabilia shows with his friends, a hobby that allowed him to continue to celebrate his love for the sport in every way possible.

Outside of hockey, Melvin treasured spending time with his beloved wife, Jo Ann. Together, they traveled and made countless memories, but enjoyed spending their weekends following their grandchildren to their sporting events.

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

A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) on Tuesday, February 18th at

11:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford St., Somerville at 12:30AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Nick Strong Foundation

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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Message from SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT to parents on Commitment to the LGBTQ+ Community. Your Thoughts?

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

Subject: Commitment to the LGBTQ+ Community From SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

To:
Date Today at 10:33 AM
A message from SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear SPS Families,

In recent days, I have heard from community members who are concerned about federal policy changes related to LGBTQ+ rights. I recognize that these changes may create uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Please know that Somerville Public Schools remains a safe and inclusive environment for you and your family.

As a district, we are committed to ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality education free from discrimination, harassment, or exclusion, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. We will continue to uphold district policies, state laws, and federal protections designed to safeguard students' rights.

As policies continue to evolve at the national level, we will continue to review each one carefully. We will do so in a way that aligns with our core values, and do our utmost to ensure that LGBTQ+ students continue to experience safety and belonging in our schools. SPS has long-established systems in place to ensure LGBTQ+ students and staff experience safety and belonging in our schools.

These systems include:
Affinity Groups for Staff: Spaces where LGBTQ+ staff can connect and receive support.
GSA (Gender & Sexuality Alliance) Clubs: Available in four of our six K-8 schools to provide LGBTQ+ students and allies a space to build community.

Professional Development: Ongoing district-wide training for educators on best practices for supporting LGBTQ+ students and staff.
Inclusive Health Curriculum: Instruction that is gender-neutral and addresses gender roles, gender expression, and the importance of respect and understanding.
Restorative Practices: School-based approaches that foster dialogue, repair harm, and promote inclusivity in response to incidents of bias.
Collaboration with City Partners: To ensure students and families have access to broader community resources and support.

We are continuously working to strengthen these efforts so that all students, families, and staff feel welcome in our schools. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your school-based counselors, should your child need additional social or emotional support.

Above all, please know that you are not alone. Our district is here to support every student and family, and we will continue to work together to create schools where all children feel safe, valued, and empowered to thrive.

In partnership,
Superintendent Rubén Carmona

Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Somerville's Broadway Bus Lane Should Go As Well

Your thoughts?

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

Hi Billy,
How you doin'?

The City of Boston is removing the bus lane on Boylston St. The bus and bike lanes on busy streets


in Boston and Somerville has to go. Imagine what it cost the Boston taxpayers to add the bus lane (against many taxpayers' and business owners' wishes) then remove it and put the parking back.

The bus lane on Broadway in Somerville makes no sense. It also creates gridlock, frustrates drivers,


and there is no place to park. It would be nice to see Somerville follow suit.

These so-called progressives have no common sense! Anyhow I thought you would be happy to read this. I sure was!

Thanks,
A frustrated resident



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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12-MONTH RESIDENCY REQUIRED (S 15)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 6-32, rejected an amendment that would require that 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 their application. The applicant must also provide an acceptable form of verification such as tax returns; a MA REAL-ID; a utility bill; a 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.

Amendment supporters said the amendment is fair and reasonable and makes it easy to prove a 12-month residency.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor

of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on the defeat of his amendment.

Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont) said the amendment is unconstitutional and immoral. He said that the U.S. Supreme Court and the state's

Supreme Judicial Court have ruled that a state cannot discriminate against people who have not lived in the state very long.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SHELTER PROGRAM (S 15)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 6-32, rejected an amendment that would have required an independent review of the emergency assistance housing program by the Inspector General, to help identify savings and potential cost recovery.

"Two things about the emergency assistance shelter system are clear. First, the costs have skyrocketed

well beyond the point of sustainability, and second, we would benefit from fresh eyes and an independent review of the system to help improve the program's financial sustainability and effectiveness," said amendment sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). "We need this review, particularly as additional changes are made to further restrict access to the system, even as we have

not seen any cost savings by prior access restriction changes, perhaps because those further imposed rules and restrictions raise administrative costs. The Inspector General and his team are trained experts in this type of work, and it is squarely within their jurisdiction to do the work described in this amendment."

Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) said the Inspec-

tor General's office is an independent body not beholden to the Legislature and already has the power to inspect any state agency. He said that it is not the role of the Legislature to direct the Inspector General on what to inspect.

(A "Yes" vote is for requiring the review. A "No" vote is against requiring it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

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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for any and all details.

As always our gift cards will be available through our website, over the phone and in person. Starting Tuesday, for every gift card purchase over \$100, we will add an additional \$20 gift card as a way to thank you for your support.

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

our best to help. Whether it be recipe ideas with random things you might have purchased or if you run out of something that you need that we can help with please don't hesitate to ask.

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Somerville Achieves AAA Bond Rating for Third Consecutive Year

City Again Earns Highest Long-Term Debt Rating from S&P Global Ratings

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is proud to announce that for the third year in a row, the City of Somerville has received the highest possible long-term debt rating of ‘AAA’ from S&P Global Ratings. This rating reaffirms the City’s financial strength and ensures lower borrowing costs for critical infrastructure investments that benefit residents.

“Securing a AAA bond rating for the third consecutive year is a powerful affirmation of Somerville’s financial management and our commitment to responsible, forward-thinking investments,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “This rating isn’t just about strong numbers, it’s about delivering real benefits to our residents, ensuring

we can invest in schools, roads, affordable housing, and climate resilience for less, which stretches our taxpayer dollars further. I want to thank Finance Director Ed Bean and our dedicated public servants for their steadfast commitment to working with my administration to keep Somerville on solid financial ground.”

Somerville’s Financial Strength Recognized S&P’s report for 2025 underscores Somerville’s expanding tax base, strong economic outlook, and disciplined budgeting as key factors in securing another AAA rating.

The 2025 S&P report highlights Somerville’s: Growing property tax base driven by residential stability and regional demand for life sciences space and housing Consistently positive financial performance,

with revenue outpacing expenses and budget surpluses increasing reserves Strong liquidity and available reserves, exceeding most comparably rated municipalities Long-range planning focus, incorporating sustainability, climate risk mitigation, and cybersecurity protections Debt and pension management efforts, including a plan to fully fund pension liabilities by 2033 and a \$29.3 million OPEB trust

Somerville’s 2025 budget of \$397 million represents a 7% increase from the previous year, aligning with recent financial trends. Despite a slowdown in certain projects due to interest rates, large-scale development remains on track, and the City continues to take a financially conservative approach to budgeting.

AAA Rating Ensures More Affordable Investments for Residents The AAA rating secures the City’s ability to borrow at the most favorable interest rates, making key public projects more affordable. This includes: School renovations and new construction Infrastructure improvements, including roadwork, bike lanes, and transit access Affordable housing initiatives Sustainability and climate resilience projects Investments in municipal structures and facilities like fire stations, parks, and playgrounds

The AAA rating also enhances Somerville’s attractiveness to investors, reinforcing its reputation as a secure and thriving economic hub in Greater Boston. This strong financial standing will continue to support the

City’s vision for sustainable growth and equitable development that creates jobs, housing, and tax revenues that fund community needs and goals, as outlined in SomerVision 2040 and the Somerville Climate Forward Plan. ### Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

INVESTIGATE SECURITY LAPSES AND SHORTCOMINGS (S Senate 6-32

By Bob Katzen

INVESTIGATE SECURITY LAPSES AND SHORTCOMINGS (S Senate 6-32, rejected an amendment that would require the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight to investigate the emergency housing assistance program’s security lapses and shortcomings

which amendment supporters say have compromised public safety, health and security.

“There are still so many unanswered questions about the emergency shelter system,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “We still don’t have answers on the process to admit fami-

lies into shelters, where money is being spent and how public safety issues are addressed. The purpose of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight is to audit the performance of legislative programs, like the emergency shelter system. This amendment would have provided transparency to both the Legislature and

the public and it is unfortunate that it was not passed.” Amendment opponents said it’s not the job of senators to direct a Senate committee on how to do its job. They noted that the bill itself already makes safety reform a priority and includes background checks.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

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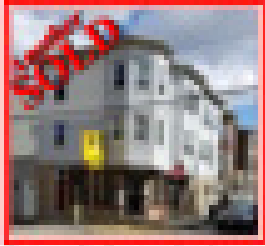


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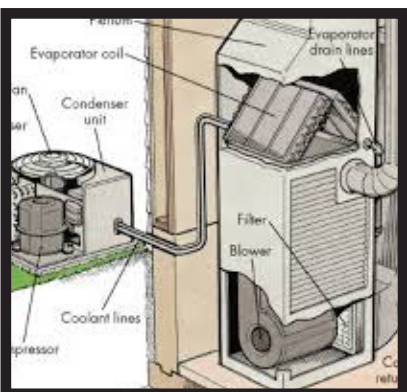
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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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\$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 Police Department Weekly Crime Log

Assault
25006942: On 2/7/25 at approximately 12:58 AM, Somerville Police responded to Assembly Row for a fight. Upon arrival, officers observed an unconscious male on the ground suffering from multiple injuries. Officers spoke with several witnesses who stated the victim was involved in a fight with two males and one female. During the fight,

the suspects repeatedly punched and kicked the victim then fled the area.
Arrest
25007158: On 2/8/25 at approximately 2:50 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Somerville Ave for report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was sleeping and awoke to a male party

opening the door to her back porch. The victim screamed and the suspect fled the area. Officers were given a description of the suspect and located him nearby shortly after. He was placed under arrest.
Other Crimes:
• 2 MV Vandalisms
• 2 Vandalisms
• 1 Package Theft
• 1 MV Theft



Crime Log
2/4/25 – 2/10/25

[HTTPS://WWW.SOMERVILLEPD.COM/PUBLIC-SAFETY-NEWS](https://www.somervillepd.com/public-safety-news)

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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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BROADER BACKGROUND CHECKS (S 16)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 38-0, approved an amendment that would require the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, in conjunction with the Mas-

sachusetts State Police, to study the feasibility of conducting a National Crime Information Center background check for each adult or beneficiary applying for the emergency shelter program.

“It should be our goal to verify that individuals with violent criminal backgrounds are not endangering others in our temporary emergency shelter system,” said

amendment sponsor Sen. Michael Moore (D-Millbury). “If adopted, this amendment would help us review each applicant’s history more thoroughly, including offenses from outside of the common-

wealth.”
(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

PRIORITY TO BAY STATE RESIDENTS (S 15)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 8-30, rejected an amendment that would require that the state prioritize giving long term shelter to legal Massachusetts residents whose initial cause of homelessness and application for shelter occurred while they were residing legally in Massa-

chusetts.”
Amendment supporters said it is fair to give Bay State residents priority over people who recently came here from other states.

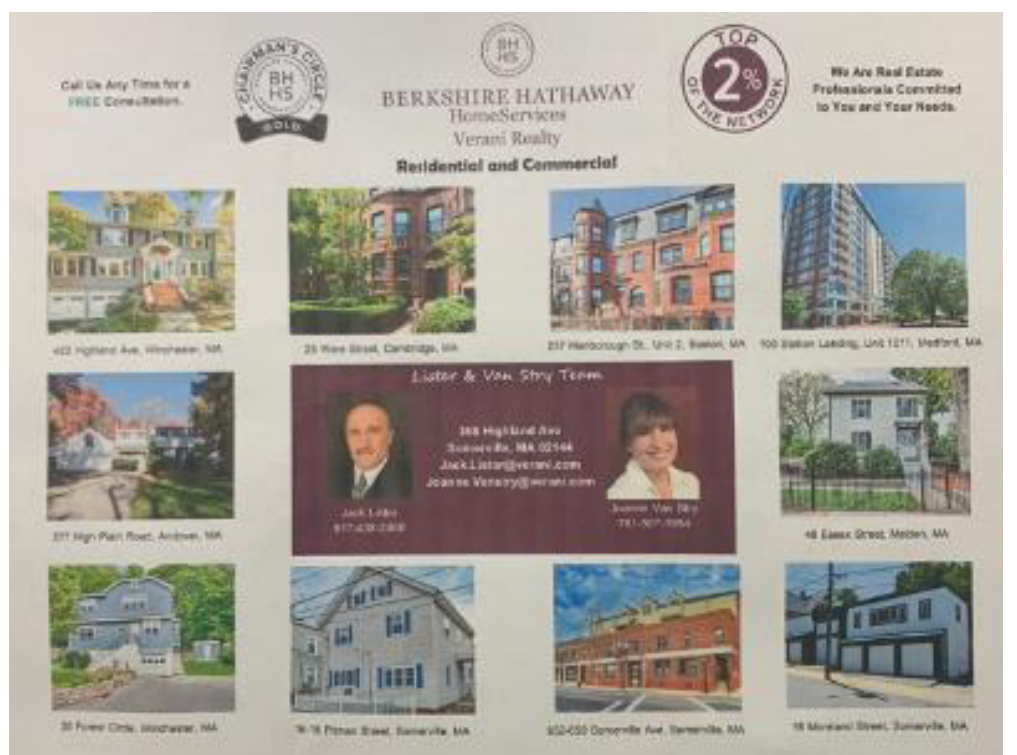
Sen. Peter Durant (R-Spencer), the sponsor of the amendment, did not

respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on the defeat of his amendment.

Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) said the amendment is extremely broad and applies not only to emergency assistance but to all state-funded hous-

ing programs. He noted it could cause confusion and negatively impact residents at state housing. He asked senators to Imagine a single mother with a child fleeing a domestic violence situation in a neighboring state. This would prohibit them from seeking safe shelter in Massachusetts.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment giving priority to Massachusetts residents. A “No” vote is against giving priority.)
Sen. Patricia Jehlen No



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, 1942, she was the cherished daughter of Salvatore and Rose (Serio) Romano.

Marie graduated from Somer-

ville 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, the Patriots and loved watching little league baseball.

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 and 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.

For those who are unable to attend the services for Marie, you may stream the funeral mass from <https://www.facebook.com/SaintRaphaelParishMedford/>



REQUIRE ROLL CALL ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BILLS (S 15)

By Bob Katzen	“Constituents frequently ask how I have voted on major bills and how my colleagues have voted,” said amendment sponsor Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy) “This amendment sought to ensure the people we	represent know how we vote on important matters like conference committee reports.”	Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) said this new rule is not necessary because members already	have the opportunity to ask for a roll call vote when a conference committee bill comes before the Senate for a vote.	A “No” vote is against it.)
The Senate 9-29, rejected an amendment that would require that a roll call vote be held on all conference committee versions of a bill.				(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment requiring a roll call vote.	

BEWARE OF EZDRIVEMA SCAM

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

XPAND CONFLICT OF INTEREST BAN (S 15)

By Bob Katzen	corporation or association any immunity, exemption, privilege or benefit or any measure providing for the creation of, or directly affecting any, contractual relations between the corporation or association and the state.”	of a legislator.	“Public service needs to be as far removed from unfair financial incentives and advantages as possible,” said amendment sponsor Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). “The commonwealth already prohibits legislators from buying stock based on the information they learn	through their work at the Statehouse, but this amendment, which the Senate adopted on a unanimous roll call vote, will also prohibit legislators using this information to sell stock and will restrict their family members from making similar financial transactions based on knowledge legislators have gained as a result of	their positions.”
The Senate 38-0, approved an amendment to a rule that would prohibit legislators from purchasing, directly or indirectly, the stock or other securities of any corporation or association, knowing that there is pending before the Legislature any measure specially “granting the	The amendment would expand the ban to include any immediate family member				(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment expanding the ban to apply to immediate family members.)
					Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

AG CAMPBELL JOINS LAWSUIT TARGETING ELON MUSK

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell, along with twelve other Attorneys General, filed a lawsuit challenging the exercise of executive power by Elon Musk. The lawsuit argues that President Trump has violated the United States Constitution by creating a new federal Department without Congressional approval and by granting Musk sweeping powers over the entire federal government	without seeking the advice and consent of the Senate.	for crucial needs such as healthcare, education and more.”	cal year 2024, including \$19.56 million in criminal actions and \$40.6 million in civil actions.	able and securing justice for victims of fraud and other offenses. Whether through civil enforcement, asset recovery or criminal prosecution, our office will continue to aggressively pursue those who seek to defraud the government and exploit the public.”
	“The President cannot create a new department to restructure the federal government and certainly cannot give unchecked power to a billionaire friend without Congressional action,” said Campbell. “Our lawsuit seeks to put an end to the ongoing corruption and abuse of power at DOGE that threatens funding	U.S. ATTORNEY LEAH FOLEY’S OFFICE COLLECTS MORE THAN \$60 MILLION IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS – United States Attorney Leah Foley announced that the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts collected \$60.17 million in criminal and civil actions in fis-	“The American people deserve a government that is both accountable and effective in protecting their hard-earned tax dollars,” said Foley. “These substantial recoveries reflect our unwavering commitment to protecting taxpayer dollars, holding wrongdoers account-	

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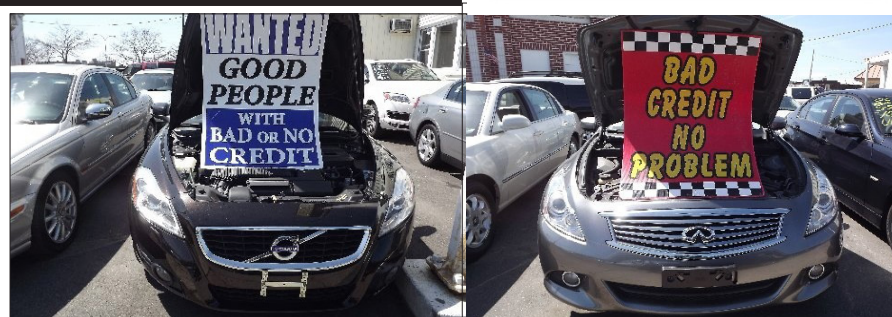
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ADOPT JOINT HOUSE-SENATE RULES FOR 2025-2026 SESSION (S 15)



By Bob Katzen

The Senate 39-0, adopted and sent to the House

for consideration joint House-Senate rules for the 2025-2026 session.

Provisions include increasing the time for notifying the public about joint committee hearings from 72 hours to five days; requiring that all first meetings of a conference committee be open to the public and media; requiring at least one full day between a conference committee report filing and a legislative vote on the report; requiring sponsors of all bills to submit bill summaries which must

be made publicly available alongside the bill text; changing the name of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to the Committee on Climate, Utilities and Energy; the Committee on Elder Affairs to the Committee on Aging and Independence; and the Committee on Agriculture to the Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries.

“These changes would provide more opportunity to residents to participate in the Legislature’s work, encourage greater insight

into bills being considered by the Legislature and provide more transparency on legislators’ positions on issues that impact Massachusetts residents,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

“This comprehensive rule proposal was a collaborative effort that makes the work we do here in the Senate more transparent, more efficient and respectful to the needs of members and residents,” said Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem), Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules. “We

are proud of the Senate’s work, and we want people to know what is going on in The People’s House. These measures take meaningful steps towards a more transparent Legislature and allow for more access to information by members of the public about our work, including easier participation.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the rules package.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

MORE TIME TO READ CONFERENCE COMMITTEE BILLS (S 15)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 5-33, rejected an amendment that would allow members 48 hours to read the conference committee version of a bill. A conference version of a bill is the compromise version that is hammered out by a joint House-Senate committee when the House and Senate ap-

prove different versions of legislation.

“I voted for this amendment ... because it ensures that both the appointed conference committee members and the public have sufficient time to understand and evaluate complex bills before they are voted on,” said Sen. Kelly Dooner (R-

Taunton). “By setting a clear deadline and allowing more time to analyze the final conference report, this change promotes transparency to the public and helps prevent the Legislature from acting without proper deliberation and input from our communities.”

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-

Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on the defeat of his amendment.

Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) said the bill itself already allows one calendar day for members to read a conference committee bill

and argued that it is a sufficient amount of time.

(A “Yes” vote is for the 48 hours. A “No” vote is against the 48 hours.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

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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:

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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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The Joe Vig Top 40 www.joevigtop40.com

By Joe Viglione

Hummingbird Syndicate will be at the Tavern at the End of the World in Boston with Low Spark on March 9th at 4:30 pm 5pm – 6pm Hummingbird Syndicate 6:20pm – 7:30pm Low Sparks. Hear 5 minutes of pure Pop with “Gracefully” from Lynn Shipley, Steve Gilligan, Jon Macey and the gang. You tube here: <https://youtu.be/kd7cH79K0wA> It’s a gorgeous video and a classy, memorable guitar line that Macey has been known for from his days in Fox Pass, Mercury Records’ Tom Dickie and the Desires and Macey’s Parade.

As for Low Spark: Lucky Girl EP Short review by Joe Viglione

Released on November 15, 2014 the Lucky Girl EP by Low Sparks is smart pop with bursts of melodic energy that delights. “I Just Want You Back” is five minutes and six seconds of a wonderful musical excursion, kinda like a sequel to the Rolling Stones’ “Wild Horses.” A slow groove with pensive vocals and music that would make Gram Parsons proud. “No Getting Over You” is reminiscent of Emmit Rhodes, “I Just Want You Back” is five minutes and six seconds of a wonderful musical excursion, kinda like a sequel to the Rolling Stones’ “Wild Horses.” A slow groove with pensive vocals and music

that would make Gram Parsons proud. “No Getting Over You” is reminiscent of Emmit Rhodes, while New Year’s Day and its chorus of “just let go” would be welcome on any post-Lou Reed Velvet Underground album from Doug Yule. Thanks to Bandcamp where I found this <https://lowsparks.bandcamp.com/track/new-years-day>

If you want some spectacular reggae, listen to HONEY B Clocking in at 4:20 Honey B’s “Happy For You” is a delightful, uptempo positive look at life. The kaleidoscope, callypso, cosmic cheerful sounds would put anyone in a good mood.

Produced by Issachar Muzik and featuring the legendary Roots Radics founding members Honey B’s voice propels the celebration. This isn’t Millie Small’s 2 minute opera “My Boy Lollipop” with Chris Blackwell of Island Records’ insight, the almost four and a half minutes go by just as quickly as Small’s definitive and iconic 60’s hit. You’ll find “Happy for You” on repeat, just as “My Boy Lollipop” was...and still is. Joe Viglione 7:13 pm 2-17-25 <http://www.joevigtop40.com>

FROM PATRICK MANIAN OF MOBILE STEAM UNIT PEACE AND QUIET

Patrick Manian’s solo project, including “Peace and Quiet” is a marvelous travel to a dreamy landscape. Five minutes and thirteen seconds of an exotic world peopled by multiple sounds that cascade alongside Patrick’s science-fiction vocals. Released on: 2025-02-11 the guitar and percussive feelings melt into the lyrics which quickly find themselves swirling with other voices and by the 2:15 mark threads of keyboards building – not to a crescendo, but to soothing, oozing thoughts inside the perpetual mellow mood.

joe viglione review, 4:29 pm Feb 17, 2025 Babygirl, Nicole Kidman

Age Gap relationships a big thing nowadays, especially on YouTube with Cher, Mick Jagger, Rupert Murdoch and so many others dating people they love that are...well, people, where age doesn’t matter. A handsome young intern – Samuel (Harris Dickson,) plays mental games with a CEO (Romy) played by Nicole Kidman. “Incredibly inappropriate” is the catchphrase from Samuel, whose competition is Antonio Banderas as Jacob. On IMDB everyone has a first name only, and what could have been devolves into a long, drawn-out watered down Fatal Attraction. When Antonio and Harris (or Samuel and Jacob, how Biblical) get into fisti-

cuffs the first thought that came to my mind was...threesome. Unfortunately they all don’t jump into bed (good idea for a sequel) and it just kind of fizzles away. If mind games and good looking people are on your menu for a nice night out...or nice night at home streaming, well, Babygirl is your cheap fling at the movies.

Zach Kaas & The Macrocosmonauts have a truly post-psychedelic video with “Stock Tips.” It’s a driving well-played song with unique splashes of pop/jazz and musical diversions that keep your attention. Music, Lyrics & Visuals by Zach Kaas Mixed and Mastered by Jason Felitto at My Lady On Fire (Brighton, MA)

Chicago, Live at 55, DVD/Blu Ray on Mercury Studios (the old Eagle Rock) is a very Las Vegas look at the venerable band that delivered hit after hit throughout the decades. From the press release: Chicago, the legendary Rock & Roll Hall of Fame band with more than 100 million albums sold worldwide, are captured in this 2½ hour event recorded this past November at Ovation Hall at the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City, NJ in front of a live audience of 10,000 fans over two nights. The film, produced by Award Winning Producer Barry Summers as part of the critically acclaimed Decades Rock Live concert series, features the band who play

songs from the album, including some never-before-performed songs as well as “unplugged” versions of some of Chicago’s classic tunes. Joined by special guests Robin Thicke, Chris Daughtry, Steve Vai, VoicePlay, Judith Hill, Robert Randolph and Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, each performance is visualized in vibrant video and animation.

Joe Vig’s thoughts: “Hard to Say I’m Sorry” is picture perfect, like the hit single. From the 1982 film Summer Lovers, which could have been much more (don’t blame the song, it fits in perfectly) flawless guitar, flawless vocals, this professional band knows its audience and how to deliver. Not for fans of the Velvet Underground who will find this ostentatious and grandiose, nor will Deep Purple’s Appreciation Society run to these sounds, but Chicago’s success was always playing to a mainstream audience, different audiences through the 60s, 70s, 80s, but always the mainstream in those audiences. Good for them. Well done, and a supreme delight for their vast fan base.

E mail Demodeal@yahoo.com if you have music new or old and maybe you’ll get on the JoeVigTop40!!!

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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

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<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	SURVIVAL
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<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	TREATS:
<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
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<input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
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<input type="checkbox"/> Stamps	SPLURGE:
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The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from contractors for the SHA Job No. 2501: (AMP-1) Mystic View Apartments Asphalt Shingle Roof Replacement Phase 4, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville MA, in accordance with the documents prepared by EHA Design, Inc. The Project consists of, but is not limited to: Furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the complete replacement of the shingle roofing at (AMP-1) Mystic View Apartments Asphalt Shingle Roof Replacement Phase 4, located on 5-15-25 River Road and 10-20-30

River Road, Somerville, MA 02145. The work is estimated to cost: \$430,000.00. All bidding "Requests For Information" (RFI's) shall be forwarded to Peterd@ehadesign.com by Friday, February 28, 2025 for general bids. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149. & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive and federal wage rates established by the Davis Bacon Wage Act and the Provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended. The higher of the two rates shall be paid. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights

Act of 1964 and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an online bidder. All bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com, by the date and time specified. General Bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for the category of Roofing, and general bids must be accompanied by a DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility, and Update

Statement. General Bids will be received electronically at www.biddocsonline.com until 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 6, 2025, and publicly opened online, forthwith. General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. A one hundred percent (100%) Payment Bond will also be required. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433

Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167). A pre-bid conference / site visit will be held at the rear Modernization Office of the SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, Massachusetts 02145, on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 1:00pm. It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders attend. Somerville/Medford News Weekly 02/18/2025, 02/25/2025

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/schoolbuildingsurvey. 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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Somerville/Medford Remembering Dorothy Flora (DiTullo) Capone



Dorothy Flora (DiTullo) Capone – Of Tewksbury, formerly of Woburn, passed away on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. She was 94 years old. Complete obituary to be posted. A private service was held

and Dorothy was laid to rest with her beloved husband.



QUOTABLE QUOTES Beacon Hill

By Bob QUOTABLE QUOTES – BY THE DOLLAR EDITION The state's Office of Campaign and Political Finance released figures showing that committees that supported or opposed the five questions on the	November 5 ballot spent a total of \$25.2 million. Here is the breakdown: Question 1 (passed): Give State Auditor the Authority to Audit the Legislature Supporters: \$414,808 Opponents: \$0	Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement Supporters: \$950,000 Opponents: \$5,318,258	Supporters: \$7,259,067 Opponents: \$0	Question 5 (failed) Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers Supporters: \$889,526 Opponents: \$2,515,568
	Question 2 (passed):	Question 3 (passed) Unionization for Uber, Lyft and other Transportation Network Drivers	Question 4 (failed) Limited Legalization and Regulation of Some Natural Psychedelic Substances Supporters: \$7,723,405 Opponents: \$128,803	

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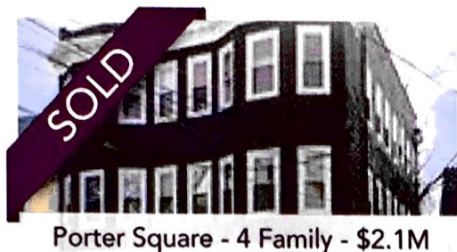
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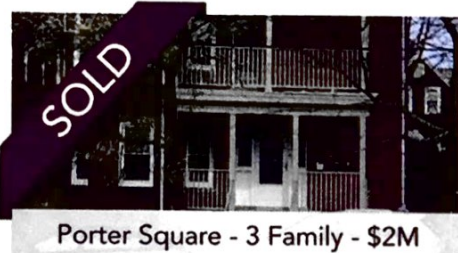
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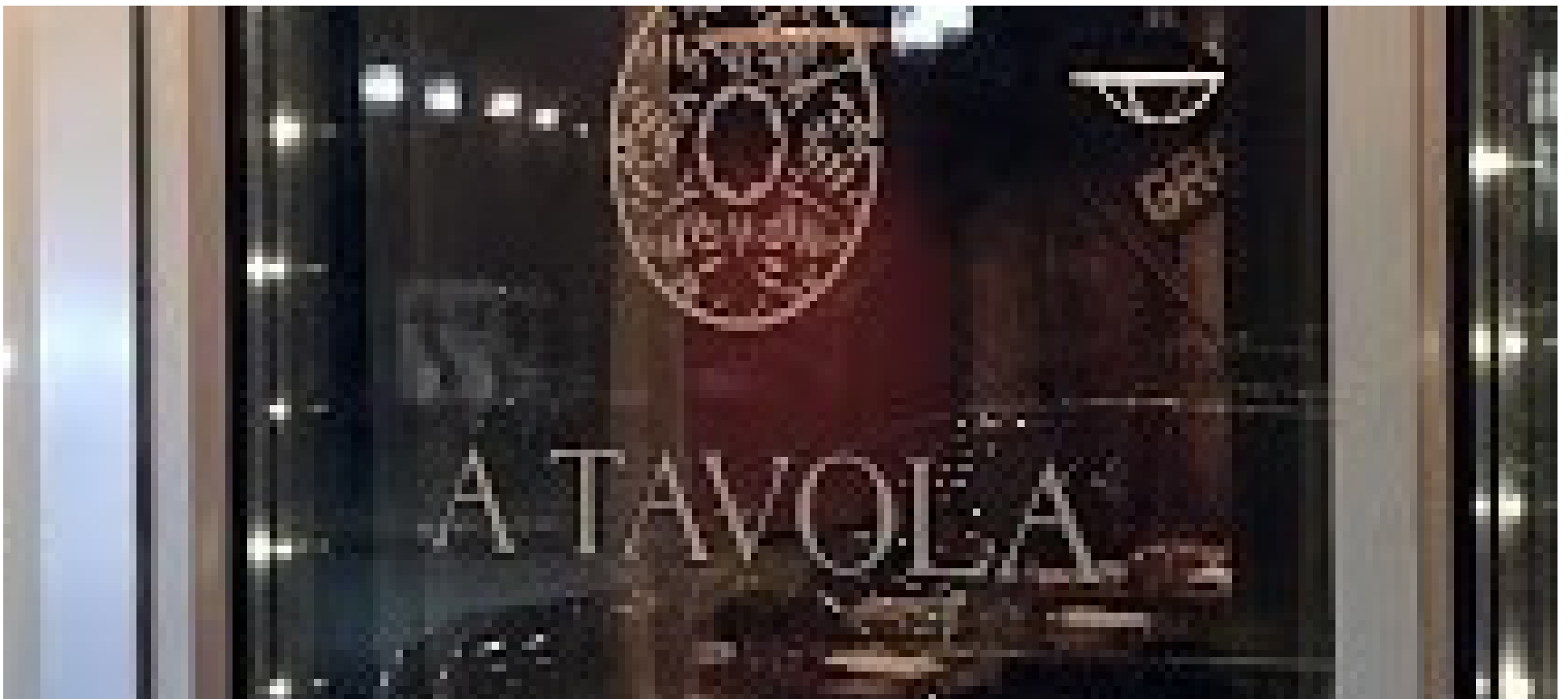
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