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VOL.1 NO.329-34

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday March 4th, 2025

\$425 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (EA) SHELTER SYSTEM (H 61)



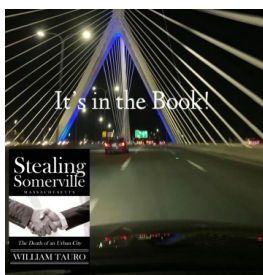
Continued to page 7



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page

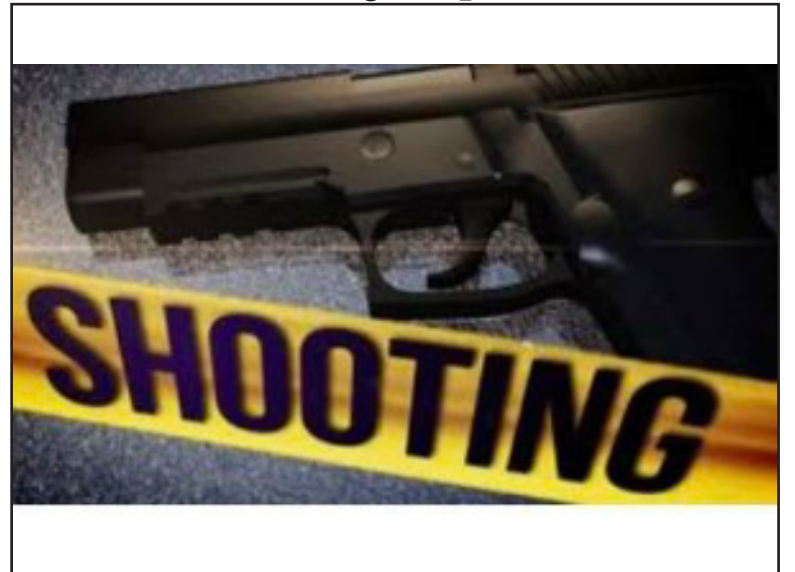


Middlesex District Attorney's Office Investigating Three Shootings Within 12 Hours



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Somerville Police Department Seeking Public's Help in Identifying Shooting Suspects



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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. Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



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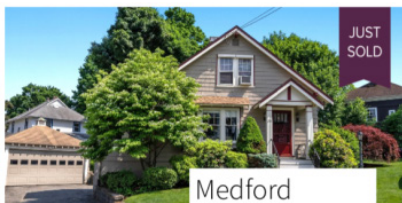
MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

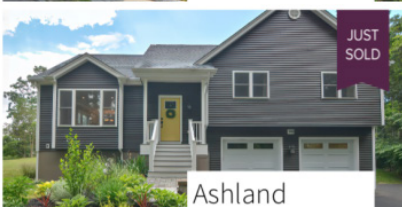
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | Commonwealth
HomeServices | Real Estate



Malden



Medford



Ashland



Westwood

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!

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®
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Patricia Ng Broker Associate
REALTOR®-(617) 818-5736 Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com

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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.
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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
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Somerville/Medford Remembering John T. Connelly



Obituary

John T. Connelly, affectionately known as JC, of Somerville, passed away peacefully at Lahey Hospital in Burlington on February 25, 2025, at the age of 75.

Born in Boston and raised in Somerville, John was the beloved son of the late William F. and Rita (O'Sullivan) Connelly. A proud graduate of St. Clement High School, John spent his life-giving back to the community he loved.

John dedicated many years to public service, first as a member of the Somerville Auxiliary Fire Department, where he worked his way up to the rank of Deputy Chief. His commitment to protecting

others didn't stop there. John continued his career in public safety, serving as a Massachusetts State Firefighter at Cushing Hospital. His dedication to the facility was unwavering, and he remained a devoted member of the team until the hospital closed. During his time there, he was the Union President and an active member of the Massachusetts Retirees Association.

Beyond his work, John was known for his light-hearted spirit and his

love for his family. As the fun and loving uncle, he would spoil his nieces with trips to McDonald's and teach them to eat their vegetables by playfully shooting them into the air. If he wasn't at home with his family, John could often be found cruising around Somerville in his beloved Crown Victoria.

Devoted brother of William Connelly of Somerville, Lawrence Connelly of Malden and William Connelly of Somerville.

Cherished uncle of Stephanie Connelly of Nashua, NH, Jennifer Stewart and her husband Brian of Framingham, Kathleen Ohlson and her husband David of West Chesterfield, NH and Sarah Blackwood and her husband Will of Medford. Dear brother-in-law of Catherine Connelly of Nashua, NH and Mary Connelly of Medford. Also lovingly survived by many loving friends and extended family members.

Services to be announced.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Albert W. Piacentini



Obituary

Albert W. Piacentini-Of Revere, formerly of Somerville, passed away at home peacefully with family surrounding him on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the age of 67. Born and raised in Somerville, he was the beloved son of the late Alfred Piacentini and Carol (Rego) Hayden

Albert worked for the City of Somerville's Department of Public Works,

where he worked as a heavy equipment operator.

Albert cherished his role as a grandfather. His grandchildren brought immense joy to his life, and he treasured every moment spent with them. A true sports fan, Albert followed his beloved Boston teams, always rooting for the Red Sox and the Patriots.

Beloved husband of 46

years to MaryAnn (Calichio) Piacentini.

Devoted father of Christopher Piacentini and his fiancé Natalie Holtgreffe of North Billerica, Derek Piacentini of Revere and Jacquelyn Morin and her husband Matthew of Lynn.

Cherished grandfather of Benjamin, Brianne, Brooke, Aria, Sebastian, Julian, Teresa and Joshua

Dear brother of Patricia Suazo and her husband Omar of Winthrop, and Barbara Watson Palestine, TX. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Services are private

Somerville/Medford Remembering Paul R. Andrews



Paul R. Andrews, 81, of Woburn, MA, passed away on Saturday, March 1st, following a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Born in Cambridge, Paul was the son of the late Anthony and Dorothy (Keefe) Andrews. He graduated high school and went on to serve in the U.S. Army, where he was awarded the Purple Heart for his service. His dedica-

tion to his country was a point of pride throughout his life.

After his service, Paul got his bachelor's degree from UMass Boston. He went on to become the director of the laundry department at Youville hospital in Cambridge.

He was known for his love of working with his hands. When he wasn't working, Paul could often be found tending to his yard, which he meticulously maintained, or lending a helping hand to friends and family with home repairs. His knack for fixing anything earned him the affectionate title of "Mr. Fix-It."

Paul was also an avid family man, and his greatest joy came from spending time with his loved ones, especially his grandchildren. He treasured every moment with them and was deeply involved in their lives.

A proud member of the George Dilboy Post, Paul was a man of service and community. His kindness, work ethic, and love for family will always be remembered.

Beloved husband of 45 years to Constance "Connie" (Dempsey) Andrews. Devoted father of Beverly DeFlumeri and her husband Edward of Billerica, and Colleen Collins and her husband Kevin of

Billerica. Cherished grandfather of Nicholas DeFlumeri, Brianna DeFlumeri and Ayla Ray. Dear brother of Herbert Andrews and Katherine Andrews and the late Richard Andrews, Dorothea Payzant, Anthony Andrews and Daniel Andrews. Also survived by many loving cousins, nieces and nephews. As well as his best friend of over 55 years, Thomas Barry and Ayla's father, Jeremy Ray.

A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Thursday, March 6th at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated

in St. Joseph Church, 264 Washington St., Somerville at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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

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

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made in Paul's name to VA Bedford Healthcare System CDCE (135) 200 Springs Road Bedford, Mass 01730

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Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



Crime Log
2/18/25 – 2/24/25

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

Shots Fired
25010429: On 2/25/25 at approximately 12:05 AM, Somerville Police responded to the area of Broadway and Alewife Brook Parkway for a report of shots fired. On scene, officers recovered several shell casings.

Investigation is ongoing at this time.

Assault
25010085: On 2/23/25 at approximately 2:01 AM, Somerville Police responded to Nashua St for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was at a business on Broadway and was punched in the face by a bouncer. The victim suffered injuries to his eye

and nose.

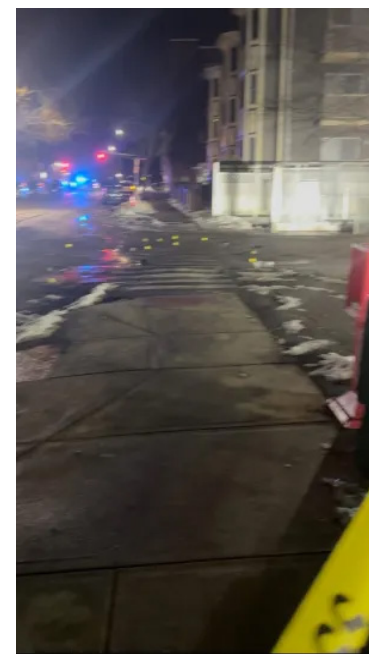
Residential Breaking and Entering
25009680: On 2/21/25 at approximately 1:25 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Paulina St for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the residents who stated they left the apartment to watch a hockey game and when they returned, observed the apartment in disarray. Nothing was reported missing.

Residential Breaking and

Entering
25010202: On 2/23/25 at approximately 7:48 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Walnut St for report of a breaking and entering in progress. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was in his room and heard his dog barking. He then observed a male party inside the apartment who then fled out a window. The victim reported a small container with loose change and jewelry was stolen.

Other Crimes:

- 3 Bike Thefts
- 2 Car Breaks
- 2 MV Vandalisms
- 1 Package Theft
- 1 MV Theft



Somerville Police Department Seeking Public’s Help in Identifying Shooting Suspects



The Somerville Police Department, in cooperation with other law enforcement partners, are actively investigating a shooting incident that occurred on Tuesday, February 25th, at approximately 12:05 AM.

The SPD received two 911 calls for shots fired on Broadway, between North St. and Alewife Brook Parkway. Upon arrival, police discovered numerous shell casings and ballistic damage to fixed

objects and vehicles. Police learned that the occupants of a vehicle stopped on Broadway and then shot at an individual who was on foot. There are no injuries reported and the matter remains under

investigation. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Somerville Police at 617.625.1212.

\$5.5 MILLION TO EXPAND STUDENTS’ BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

By Bob Katzen

The Healey Administration announced that it is awarding \$5.5 million in grants to 60 school districts, educational collaboratives and charter

schools across Massachusetts to improve student access to behavioral and mental health services and support.

Supporters said this funding can be used to create

or expand comprehensive, integrated systems of student support and aims, through collaboration with families and educators, to build strong local school partnerships with community-based mental health

agencies and/or providers.

“Our educators are working to create safe and healthy learning environments that are joyful, engaging and equitable for every child,” said Elementary and Secondary Education Acting Commissioner Russell Johnston. “These grants will help provide student supports that advance that important work.”

BAY STATE SCORES BIG ON ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey announced that a third of students who graduated from Massachusetts public high schools in 2024 scored a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam, the state’s highest percentage ever and the highest in the nation for the second year in a row, according to

results released by the College Board. A score of 3 out of 5 on an AP exam shows a student’s ability to complete work for an introductory college-level course in that subject area. Most colleges will award students credit for AP scores of 3 or higher when enrolling in college.

“Congratulations to the Mas-

sachusetts students whose AP scores yet again were the highest in the nation – and the highest in state history,” said Gov. Healey. “To see the AP success rate for the graduating class rise above where it was for the classes before COVID is a true testament to the work of Massachusetts students and educators and to the state’s

investments that have made AP exams more affordable. Massachusetts students can accomplish amazing things when they are encouraged to participate and given the support they need.”

“This is great news both for the members of the class of 2024 and for the students who follow them,” said Lt.

Gov. Kim Driscoll. “These students, their teachers and their families have shown what’s possible, and now more students than ever before will have a jump start on what it takes to succeed in college.”

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Somerville Unveils First-Ever Cultural Capacity Plan, A Roadmap for a Thriving, Inclusive Arts Community



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, in partnership with the Somerville Arts Council and an extensive network of artists, cultural workers, and community members, is proud to announce the release of the Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan (SCCP), the City’s first-ever comprehensive plan to strengthen, support, and sustain Somerville’s vibrant arts and culture ecosystem.

“This plan is a commitment to our artists, our cultural spaces, and our identity as a city that values creativity and inclusion for all,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “Fostering our vibrant arts and culture scene is essential to Somerville’s civic, economic, and creative vitality. With this plan, we are striving to ensure that we’re not only protecting what

we have but also building long-term support structures so our creative community can thrive for generations to come.”

Years in the making, the plan is the result of deep community collaboration and inclusive leadership, ensuring that Somerville’s artists, performers, and cultural organizations—particularly those from historically underrepresented backgrounds—have a seat at the table in shaping the city’s creative future.

Through extensive engagement, the SCCP identifies the challenges facing the arts community and lays out a bold, actionable strategy to preserve affordability, expand support, and foster cultural connections across the city.

The SCCP focuses on five core objectives: Preserving and developing affordable spaces for artistic and cultural production. Increasing funding and support for the arts sector. Strengthening connections and amplifying voices within the arts community. Catalyzing new initiatives led by artists and cultural leaders. Embedding arts and culture priorities into

City policy and planning.

Putting these objectives into immediate action, the City is inviting Somerville musicians to two community meetings in March 2025, designed to specifically address challenges and opportunities within our local music ecosystem. Whether your priority is securing performance venues, affordable rehearsal spaces, recording facilities, or building stronger support networks, your voice matters. Meeting details will be shared as soon as possible.

“The SCCP is the culmination of years of listening, learning, and collaborating with our city’s creative voices,” said Gregory Jenkins, Executive Director of the Somerville Arts Council. “It is a reflection of the passion and dedication of our artists and cultural workers, and a tool to ensure that Somerville remains a place where the arts can flourish.”

The Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan is now available online at: somervilleartscouncil.org/culturalcapacity and voice.somervillema.gov/cultural-capacity-plan

The plan was informed by extensive public engagement. Outreach included community conversations led by Cultural Capacity Ambassadors, a group of artists and cultural leaders dedicated to ensuring an inclusive process. Their experiences and insights were critical in shaping the final plan.

Cultural Ambassador Catherine Nakato shared: “Being a Cultural Ambassador for the Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan has been an incredibly rewarding experience. The process was not only inclusive but also deeply intentional in ensuring that artists and cultural workers from diverse backgrounds had a voice. Through this initiative, I’ve seen firsthand how collaboration and thoughtful planning can lead to actionable change. I’m hopeful that this plan will not just serve as a roadmap but as a catalyst for empowering artists, fostering community connections, and preserving the cultural identity of Somerville.”

Cultural Ambassador Ajda Snyder, shared: “As a Somerville resident, I am thankful to live in a city that is forward-thinking and proactively supportive of the arts enough to

create something like the Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan. As a musician/artist, the plan and its creation process have made me feel seen, valued, and included. It is detailed, thorough, and nuanced yet dynamic and nimble, providing a roadmap for a successful partnership between city and community to preserve, protect, and bolster arts and culture in Somerville.”

Participant and local business owner Ethan Dussault, added: “The creation of the Fabrication District and the Arts and Creative Enterprise requirements in the City’s zoning ordinance along with the Somerville Arts Space Risk Assessment document have proven to be invaluable tools for me as an arts advocate and as an owner/operator of a creative small business. Without them, folks like me may have already been displaced from the metro area. The new Cultural Capacity Plan is a welcome addition to this toolkit and it further exemplifies Somerville’s leadership in the preservation and expansion of arts and cultural space.

For more information about the SCCP and upcoming opportunities for engagement, visit: somervilleartscouncil.org

Somerville/Medford Remembering Jerry “Jay” Denovellis



Obituary

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Jerry “Jay” Denovellis, age 58, of Saugus. He left this world peacefully on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, surrounded by his loving family,

after a brief battle with cancer.

Born in Malden, and raised in Somerville, Jerry was the cherished son of Charlene DeRosa and the late Jerry M. Denovellis.

A laborer by trade, Jerry was employed by Barletta Engineering / Heavy Division and was a member of LiUNA Local 22. In addition to his primary job, he spent many evenings at Leone’s Subs & Pizza, where he was employed for over forty years.

Jerry was deeply devoted to his family, and he cherished every moment spent with his children. He took immense pride in their

accomplishments, always celebrating their successes with love and encouragement. An avid lover of the outdoors, Jerry enjoyed spending time in his yard, making sure everything was just right. Whether it was a personal project or helping a friend, he was always willing to lend a hand.

A constant companion to Jerry was his beloved cup of coffee, which you could find in his hand wherever he went. Whether working in the yard or spending time with his loved ones, his coffee was never far from reach.

Beloved husband of June E. (Donnelly) Denovellis, with whom he

shared 33 years of marriage. Devoted father of Victoria Denovellis, Charles Denovellis, and Christopher Denovellis all of Saugus. Loving son of Charlene DeRosa and the late Jerry M. Denovellis. Cherished brother of Diana Santilli of Winthrop. Also lovingly survived by his aunts, Arlene DeRosa Dascher and Lucille Cirino, along with many nieces and nephews, both by blood and by love, too numerous to mention.

A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home on Friday, March 7th at 10:00AM. Followed by a funeral service celebrated in Somerville Community Baptist Church,

31 College Ave. Somerville at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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

Interment will be private.

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

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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them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

State of A Tavola:

A Tavola’s outdoor patio dining is open for business! Take-out and delivery is also available! (with-in a small radius of A Tavola).

A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social media channels. Please stay tuned

for any and all details.

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

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

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

A Tavola Restaurant Winchester outdoor patio dining is open for business & takeout orders: (781)729-1040 34 Church St Winchester

Thank you for your continued support.



\$425 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (EA) SHELTER SYSTEM (H 61)

By Bob Katzen

The House 127-23, Senate 32-7, approved and Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that includes \$425 million to fund the state's emergency shelter system and make some changes to tighten eligibility for it.

The vote was almost strictly along party lines with all Republicans voting against it and all but four Democrats voting for it. The Democrats say the measure makes major reforms. The Republicans say while the bill includes some reforms they have long sought, it does not go far enough, and they all voted against it.

The bill allows families to stay for up to six months in shelters and grants the Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities the authority to grant hardship exemption waivers to families with young children, to families at risk of domestic violence, or other individuals

in vulnerable circumstances, to lengthen their stay in shelters. It also caps capacity in the system at 4,000 families for the period Dec. 31, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2026. There were more than 6,000 families relying on the system at the end of January.

Another provision provides that benefits be given to families consisting entirely of residents of the commonwealth who are citizens of the United States or persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing in the United States under the color of law, except in cases where a child in the family is a citizen of the United States, a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence or a person permanently residing in the United States under color of law.

"This supplemental budget includes critical improvements that I proposed to reduce the taxpayer costs of the family shelter system and make it safer

for residents and our communities," said Gov. Healey. "We all know that urgent action is needed to lower the cost of the system and make sure it is a viable, safe and temporary option for Massachusetts families who have fallen on hard times."

"We struck a balance between our fiscal responsibility to Massachusetts taxpayers and our moral obligation to moms, dads and kids who are in a difficult moment," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "We prioritize Massachusetts families in need, ensure transparency in the program, and take strong steps to ensure the safety of those in shelter."

"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 train-

ing 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."

"I voted against the latest version of the \$425 million supplemental budget because it represents an unsustainable expansion of the shelter system without accountability or a tangible long-term plan," said Sen. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton). "This budget is fiscally irresponsible and fails to prioritize homeless veterans, seniors and vulnerable families in Massachusetts who are still struggling to find shelter. We need practical solutions that prioritize our most vulnerable residents first."

"The Emergency Shelter System is broken in very significant

ways," said Rep. John Gaskey (R-Carver). "House Republicans attempted to ensure the system was for Massachusetts families and veterans but Democrats are more concerned with the criminal illegal aliens they have welcomed and protected while many rape, murder and steal.

(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 Uytterhoeven Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ADOPT JOINT HOUSE-SENATE RULES FOR 2025-2026 SESSION (H 206)

By Bob Katzen

The House 128-23, adopted joint House-Senate rules on how the Legislature operates for the 2025-2026 session. The Senate has already approved its own version of joint rules and the House version now goes to the Senate for consideration.

The vote was strictly along party lines with all Democrats voting for the package and all Republicans voting against it.

Provisions include requiring joint committees to provide and then post online plain-language summaries of all bills in time for their hear-

ings; requiring committees, when reporting a bill favorably, to provide a document showing any changes made by the committee to the underlying bill and any changes the bill makes to existing law; and requiring all testimony given to committees to be made publicly available in a manner to be determined by each committee.

Other provisions include prohibiting committee members from participating in a hearing remotely and requiring that they be physically present at a hearing in order to participate; allowing the public to testify remotely at a hearing; requiring how each individual member

votes on polls conducted by the committees to be posted online; and extending the time allowed for formal sessions in the first year of the session from the current third Wednesday in November to the third Wednesday in December.

The second year of formal sessions will continue to end on July 31, but under the new rules, the House and Senate would be allowed to return to a formal session to act on reports of conference committees formed by July 31, budget bills and gubernatorial actions including vetoes of items in conference reports.

"There are many things in our rules package that align closely with the Senate proposals," said Majority Leader Rep. Mike Moran (D-Boston). "The House went even further to alleviate the logjam of bills at the end of the session by requiring that bills be voted out of committee in a timely manner after a public hearing. And our constituents will know exactly how the members of a committee handle the bill process when we post hearing attendance and committee votes online. These are meaningful reforms."

"I opposed the Joint Rules package because it did not go far enough in reforming

the legislative process to improve transparency and public access," said Rep. Steven Xiarhos (R-Barnstable). "We need stronger measures to prevent last-minute legislating behind closed doors and to guarantee a more open, deliberative process."

(A "Yes" vote is for the new joint rules. A "No" vote is against them.)

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

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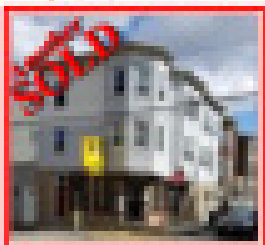


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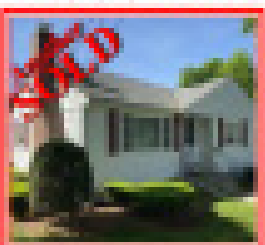
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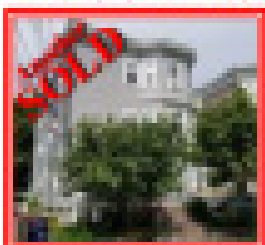
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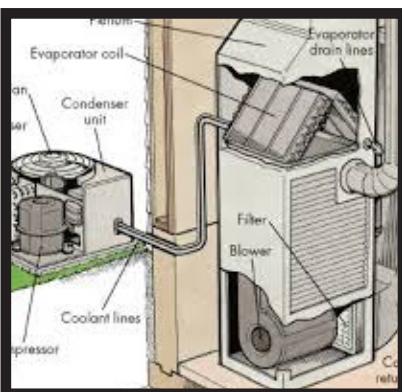
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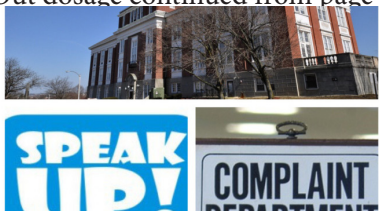
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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Somerville/Medford Remembering John M. Feeney

Obituary
John M. Feeney of Somerville passed away at home on Monday, February 24, 2025. He was 71 years young.

Born in Queens, New

York, he was the beloved son of the late John M. and Mary R. (Fitzgerald) Feeney.

Complete obit to be posted.



Somerville Seeks Community Input on CPA Priorities; Annual Review Survey Open Through March 31

Public hearing scheduled for March 26 as CPA Committee prepares for FY26 funding round

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is inviting residents to help shape the future of Community Preservation Act (CPA) investments by participating in the CPA Annual Review process. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has launched a survey to gather public

input on community needs and priorities for CPA funding. The survey is open through March 31, 2025, and can be accessed at this link.

Additionally, the CPC will host its Annual Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 26, via Zoom to hear directly from residents. Community members can register for the meeting here. The feedback collected during the review period will help

guide the allocation of CPA funds for Fiscal Year 2026.

This year's review is particularly important as the City prepares to strategically leverage additional CPA revenue. In November 2024, Somerville voters approved a ballot measure increasing the local CPA property tax surcharge from 1.5% to 3%. With this increase set to take effect, the CPC is looking for fresh

community perspectives on how best to invest these additional funds alongside other economic considerations.

Since Somerville adopted the CPA in 2012, the program has funded nearly 100 projects across affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space and recreation. Community input has always been a vital part of the CPA process, ensuring

that funding aligns with residents' evolving needs and priorities.

Residents are encouraged to complete the CPA Annual Review survey by March 31 and attend the public hearing on March 26 to share their thoughts.

For more information, visit somervillema.gov/cpa.



Help Test a New, Non-Toxic Approach to Rat Control in Somerville

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is looking for community members to help test an innovative, non-toxic approach to reducing the local rat population.

In partnership with the Cambridge Public Health Department and Cambridge Inspectional Services, Somerville is participating in a Rodent Fertility Control Study using Evolve, a hormonal fertility control product designed to humanely curb rat reproduction.

This study aims to determine whether Evolve is an effective long-term solution in dense urban areas like Somerville while reducing reliance on traditional rat poisons, which can harm other wildlife such as birds, cats, and foxes.

The City is seeking residents and property owners in the Lincoln Park area to participate in the study by allowing bait stations containing the fertility control product to be placed on their property at no cost or

volunteering to join the field team.

How You Can Help
There are two ways for residents to get involved:

Enroll Your Property: If you live in the Lincoln Park area, you can participate by allowing bait stations to be placed on your property. There is no cost to enroll.

Volunteer for the Field Team: Field volunteers help City staff

deploy bait stations, collect rat activity data, and help with outreach to neighbors in our study area.

This study builds on existing rodent control strategies in Somerville, which include active surveillance, improved waste containment, and habitat reduction. By testing this non-toxic method, the City hopes to develop a safer, more effective approach to managing urban rat populations.

Sign Up or Learn More
To enroll your property, volunteer for the field team, or learn more about the study, please contact aprivett@somervillema.gov.



\$1 MILLION IN INNOVATION CAREER PATHWAYS GRANTS

By Bob Katzen

The Healey Administration announced \$1 million in Innovation Career Pathway grants to 29 school districts. This funding enables districts to plan and implement pathway programs that provide students with coursework and experi-

ence in high-demand STEM industries before they graduate high school, including in health care, technology, manufacturing, life sciences and environmental sustainability.

“Our administration has invested in Innovation Career Pathways, Early College programs and

career technical education opportunities because we know they allow students to explore careers and make critical connections with local businesses and mentors,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “I am grateful to the administrators, educators, employers and community partners who make these programs pos-

sible.”

“We want to support our public schools to enable students to see the connection between what they are learning and what they will need to know in the future,” said Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. “Today’s Innovation Career Pathways invest-

ment promotes engaging STEM experiences for students, while deepening local connections with employers and future career opportunities.”

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Silvano Garcia-Martinez



Obituary
Silvano Garcia-Martinez – Of Somerville, passed away on Sunday, March 2, 2025, at the age of 55.

Silvano Martinez-Garcia, born in El Salvador to Concepcion Martinez and Elida Garcia, was a devoted family man who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Silvano's greatest joy came from spending time with his loved ones, especially on long car rides where laughter and conversation filled the air.

A lover of the simple things in life, Silvano could often be found enjoying an ice-cold Coca-Cola or immersed in his favorite pastime, playing Candy Crush. Every

Sunday, he would take to the water for his cherished fishing trips, a hobby that brought him peace and tranquility.

Beloved husband of 36 years to Ernestina M. Yanes. Devoted father of Nelson Alexander Garcia, Luis Angel Garcia and his partner Ana Maria Lopez, Yessenia Garcia, Cristian Manuel Garcia and Carolina Elizabeth Hernandez and her husband Edwin. Cherished grandfather of Alyanna Garcia-Lopez, Jonathan Hernandez and Sofia Hernandez. Dear brother

of Virgilio Garcia-Martinez and the late Ismael Garcia-Martinez, and Angel Garcia-Matinez. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, in-law and extended family members.

A funeral procession will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) on Tuesday, March 11th at 10:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Benedict Church, Somerville at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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

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

Somerville/Medford Remembering John Charles Doherty



Obituary
John Charles Doherty, originally of Somerville, MA, passed away on March 2, 2025, at home, surrounded by the love of his family. For many years, John fought long

and hard against several medically complex illnesses in order to be there for his family. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Judith Doherty. He was the proud father of two sons and one daughter, Connor Doherty, Seamus Doherty and Kerry Doherty. He is also survived by his four beloved grandchildren-Caitlin, Anja, Liam, and Gavin.

John was the only child of two Irish immigrants that taught him the value of hard work, family and living a life of integrity. After graduating from Boston College and then Harvard Law School, he

moved to Yonkers, New York to begin his legal career and meet his wife Judith. After a few years, John decided to move back to his hometown to become a practicing attorney for Mass Housing and Finance in Boston. He worked long hours so he could build a wonderful life and home for his family. Taking care of his family gave him purpose and brought him the most happiness in life.

One of his greatest pleasures in life was being outside in nature. He spent many hours taking care of his land and animals (sheep, as

well as his dogs!) at his beloved home in Heath, Massachusetts. He took immense pride in the health and wellness of his animals. So much so, that he spent many hours (day and night) bottle feeding the lambs that had lost their mothers. His compassion and empathy for humans and animals alike, is what made him such a special human being.

John is deeply loved by his wife and children. His humor, warmth and kindness will be profoundly missed by all those that knew and cared for him. His generous nature

and altruism left an indelible mark on all.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Tuesday, March 11th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

A prayer service will be held in the funeral home at 6:30PM.

Interment will take place at a later date.

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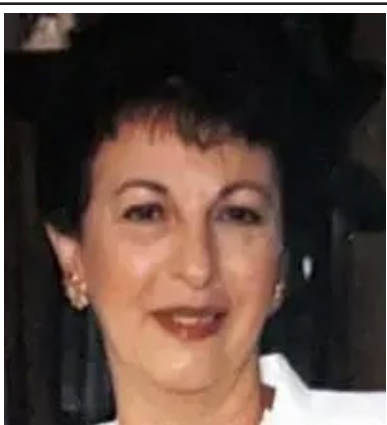
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Marie Lucille Frongillo (Romano)



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, 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/>



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.

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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:

2025-2 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 210 feet east of Alewife Brook Parkway (previously an MBTA bus stop).

2025-3 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2-hour parking except by permit on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 245 feet east of Alewife Brook Parkway to approximately 265 feet east of Alewife Brook Parkway (previously an MBTA bus stop).

2025-4 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, from approximately 330 feet east of Alewife Brook Parkway (previously 390 feet east of Alewife Brook Parkway (previously metered parking).

2025-5 Article V Section 5-11 "Bus Stops" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 380 feet east of Alewife Brook Parkway to approximately 440 feet east of Alewife Brook Parkway (previously 10 feet of two-hour parking except by permit and approximately 50 feet of no stopping anytime).

2025-6 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 160 feet west of North St to approximately 120 feet west of North St (previously two metered spaces).

2025-7 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, from approximately 60 feet west of Waterhouse St to approximately 25 feet west of Waterhouse St (previously two metered spaces).

2025-8 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: two metered spaces on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 80 feet west of North St to approximately 40 feet west of North St (previously an MBTA bus stop).

2025-9 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 40 feet west of North St to approximately 10 feet west of North St (previously an MBTA bus stop).

2025-10 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following

location: north side of Broadway, approximately 50 ft east of North St to approximately 70 ft east of North St (previously a metered space).

2025-11 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: 24/7 loading zone on the north side of Broadway, approximately 65 ft west of Barton St to approximately 45 ft west of Barton St (previously a metered space).

2025-12 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, approximately 9- ft west of Garrison Ave to approximately 30 ft west of Garrison Ave (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-13 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the north side of Broadway, approximately 80 ft west of Belknap St to approximately 45 ft west of Belknap St (previously an MBTA bus stop).

2025-14 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, approximately 45 ft west of Belknap St to 30 ft west of Belknap St (previously an MBTA bus stop).

2025-15 Article V Section 5-11 "Bus Stops" is amended with the addition of the following location: north side of Broadway, approximately 10 ft east of Belknap St to approximately 60 ft east of Belknap St (previously 20 ft of no parking any time and 30 ft of 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-16 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, approximately 125 ft west of Farragut Ave to approximately 30 ft west of Farragut Ave (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-17 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, approximately 45 ft west of Russell Rd to approximately 30 ft west of Russell Rd (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-18 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, approximately 30 ft east of Farragut Ave to approximately 55 ft east of Farragut Ave (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-19 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, approximately 55 ft west of Endicott Ave to approximately 30 ft west of Endicott Ave (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-20 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, approximately 115 ft west of Watson St to approximately 30 ft west of Watson St (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-21 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, approximately 30 ft east of Watson St to approximately 130 ft east of Watson St (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-22 Article V Section 5-11 "Bus Stops" is amended with the addition of the following location:

south side of Broadway, approximately 55 ft west of Weston Ave to approximately 45 ft west of Weston Ave (previously a metered space).

2025-23 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations" is amended with the addition of the following location: three spaces on the north side of Broadway, approximately 85 ft west of Hill St to approximately 50 ft west of Hill St (previously 40 ft of MBTA bus stop and 15 ft of 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-24 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: north side of Broadway, approximately 30 ft east of Hill St to approximately 50 ft east of Hill St (previously a metered space).

2025-25 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: 24/7 loading zone on the north side of Broadway, approximately 85 ft east of Hill St to approximately 125 ft east of Hill St (previously two metered spaces).

2025-26 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, approximately 125 ft east of Hill St to approximately 170 ft east of Hill St (previously a loading zone).

2025-27 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Broadway, approximately 70 ft west of Curtis St to approximately 5 ft west of Curtis St (previously an MBTA bus stop).

2025-28 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, approximately 35 ft east of Weston Ave to approximately 55 ft east of Weston Ave (previously a metered space).

2025-29 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, approximately 185 ft west of Clarendon Ave to approximately 165 ft west of Clarendon Ave (previously a handicapped parking space).

2025-30 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, approximately 165 ft west of Clarendon Ave to approximately 30 ft west of Clarendon Ave (previously 6 metered spaces).

2025-31 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Clarendon Ave, approximately 20 ft south of Broadway to approximately 150 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-32 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Clarendon Ave, approximately 85 ft south of Broadway to approximately 125 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-33 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Hill St, approximately 60 ft north of Broadway to approximately 110 ft north of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-34 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and

Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Hill St, approximately 30 ft north of Broadway to approximately 105 ft north of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-35 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Dickson St, approximately 35 ft north of Broadway to approximately 145 ft north of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-36 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Dickson St, approximately 40 ft north of Broadway to approximately 115 ft north of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-37 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Endicott Ave, approximately 35 ft south of Broadway to approximately 145 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-38 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Endicott Ave, approximately 35 ft south of Broadway to approximately 145 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-39 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Watson St, approximately 35 ft north of Broadway to approximately 130 ft north of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-40 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Watson St, approximately 35 ft north of Broadway to approximately 150 ft north of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-41 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Farragut Ave, approximately 30 ft south of Broadway to approximately 145 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-42 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Farragut Ave, approximately 35 ft south of Broadway to approximately 120 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-43 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the east side of Garrison Ave, approximately 35 ft south of Broadway to approximately 150 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

2025-44 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Garrison Ave, approximately 35 ft south of Broadway to approximately 50 ft south of Broadway (previously No Parking Any Time).

2025-45 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the west side of Garrison Ave, approximately 110 ft south of Broadway to approximately 150 ft south of Broadway (previously resident permit parking).

PROMULGATED: JANUARY 9, 2025

ADVERTISED: FEBRUARY 25, 2025

MARCH 4, 2025, MARCH 11, 2025

EFFECTIVE: MARCH 19, 2025

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 02/25/25, 03/04/25, 03/11/25

2025-46 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 7A Carter Terrace, 80 Partridge Ave, 82 Partridge Ave.

2025-47 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the west side of Middlesex Ave nearest 74 Middlesex Ave, approximately 65 ft south of McGrath Hwy to approximately 95 ft south of McGrath Hwy (previously metered parking).

2025-48 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: loading zone on the west side of Middlesex Avenue nearest 74 Middlesex Avenue, approximately 95 feet south of McGrath Hwy to approximately 140 feet south of McGrath Hwy (previously metered parking).

2025-49 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the west side of Middlesex Avenue nearest 74 Middlesex Avenue, approximately 140 feet south of McGrath Hwy to approximately 20 feet north of Foley St (previously metered parking).

2025-50 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour except by permit parking on the north side of McGrath Hwy opposite the McGrath Hwy frontage of 74 Middlesex Ave, from Middlesex Ave to Marginal Road.

2025-51 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: loading zone on the south side of McGrath Hwy nearest the McGrath Hwy frontage of 74 Middlesex Ave, approximately 70 feet west of Middlesex Ave to approximately 115 feet west of Middlesex Ave (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

2025-52 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations" is amended with the addition of the following location: metered parking on the south side of McGrath Hwy nearest the McGrath Hwy frontage of 74 Middlesex Ave, approximately 115 feet west of Middlesex Ave to approximately 205 feet west of Middlesex Ave (previously 2 hour except by permit parking).

PROMULGATED: FEBRUARY 13, 2025
ADVERTISED: FEBRUARY 25, 2025, MARCH 4, 2025, MARCH 11, 2025
EFFECTIVE: MARCH 19, 2025

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 02/25/25, 03/04/25, 03/11/25

PUBLIC TAVERN AT 565 BROADWAY SOMERVILLE IS NOW OPEN!



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



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Learn About Somerville's Upcoming Consolidated Affordable Housing Waitlist at March Information Sessions



First info session will be held Tuesday, March 18 at 6 p.m. All community members are welcome.

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is launching a Consolidated Rental Waitlist to simplify the application process for income-restricted rental units. To help residents navigate the new system, the Housing Division will host a series of information sessions in March. To reach the most The

sessions will alternate between virtual and in-person meetings.

“We are committed to making the search for affordable housing as clear and straightforward as possible,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “This waitlist will simplify the process and reduce barriers for residents.”

The Consolidated Waitlist allows individuals and families to apply for multiple affordable rental opportunities with a single application. The application period opens in April 2025.

Information Sessions To make these sessions as accessible and convenient as possible, they are scheduled at a variety of times and

formats, including in-person, virtual, and hybrid options, to accommodate different schedules and needs. Interpretation in Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole (Mandarin, Cantonese, Nepali, and ASL available upon request).

Date/Time	Location
Date: Tuesday, March 18 Time: 6 p.m.	Argenziano School Cafeteria (290 Washington St.)
Date: Thursday, March 20 Time: 12 p.m.	City Council Chambers at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) & Zoom
Date: Saturday, March 22 Time: 9 a.m.	Zoom

Zoom
Date: Monday, March 24
Time: 6 p.m.
East Somerville Community School Auditorium (50 Cross St.)
Date: Wednesday, March 26
Time: 6 p.m.

West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria, (177 Powder House Blvd.)

Multilingual resources and application support will be available throughout the application period. More details will be posted at somervillema.gov/inclusionary. To sign up for updates, click the green box labeled “Affordable Housing Alerts: Sign Up Now?”

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Join Open House Sharing Somerville Elm-Beacon Connector Project Design Plans on Monday, March 10



Project aims to improve safety on streets that serve as key connections to civic life

SOMERVILLE – If you want to see how people move around Somerville, visiting Elm Street by the Kennedy School on any weekday morning would be a good place to start.

Standing on the corner of Elm Street and Hancock Street, you'd see younger children arriving at school with their caregivers and older students making the trip on their own. Mixed with the students are harried commuters rushing to the Red Line or commuter rail, or waiting for the 87 to take them to Union Square, and people out running morning errands at the Porter Square shopping center. You'd also see people biking toward Beacon Street—to work in Kendall Square and beyond.

Unfortunately, Elm Street along with nearby Somerville Avenue and Beacon Street are high-crash streets for people walking and riding bikes. Fortunately, the City's upcoming Elm-Beacon

Connector project aims to improve safety for everyone.

As a next step, Mayor Katjana Balantyne, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, Ward 5 Councilor Naima Sait, Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, and City Staff are excited to invite all community members to come to an open house to learn more about the effort, see community feedback and data gathered, review the preliminary design and share their input at a project open house.

When? Monday, March 10, between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Where? John F. Kennedy School at 5 Cherry Street

“Our Vision

Zero approach reminds us that crashes such as those we have experienced in our city are not acceptable or inevitable. As a City, we're working daily to prevent them by prioritizing safe street design and aggressively investing in traffic calming. This project is another opportunity to take a significant step forward in an area that serves as a critical connection for our community,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

After hearing community feedback about transportation safety concerns and priorities through community meetings, street outreach pop-ups, and feedback surveys, the project

team has developed preliminary plans for the project.

At the open house, community members can explore different stations describing aspects of the design and talk directly to the project team about their questions and comments. If community members cannot attend, there will be multiple other ways to share feedback such as through an online feedback survey, virtual office hours, street outreach pop-ups and more. Visit somervillema.gov/elmbeacon for more details.

ALLOW STATE AUDITOR TO AUDIT THE HOUSE (H 2024)

By Bob Katzen

The House 24-127, rejected an amendment that would require the state auditor, currently Diana DiZoglio, to conduct an annual audit of the House. This requirement was approved by the voters on Question 1 on the November 2024 ballot. The amendment would replace a House rule that the state auditor would recommend a firm to conduct an annual audit of the House and the business manager of the House would

hire that firm.

“In November of 2024, Question 1 was overwhelmingly approved with the support of nearly 72 percent of the state's voters who cast a ballot,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “This amendment would honor the will of the voters by allowing the state auditor to conduct these annual audits of the House in compliance with Question 1.”

“Every city and town in the commonwealth voted for this question to be the law,” said Rep. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica). “Unfortunately, essentially on party lines, the House Democrats defeated the amendment and once again refused to comply with the will of the voters. Beacon Hill Democrats need to end this inter-governmental feud and finally respect the voters and give them the transparency they demand and deserve.”

Rep. Michael Day (D-Stoneham) said this new rule would violate the separation of power in the constitution. He noted that Article 30 says the legislative department shall never exercise the executive and judicial powers, the executive shall never exercise the legislative and judicial powers, and the judicial shall never exercise the legislative and executive powers.

Day also noted that the House rule that requires the House to

hire a firm recommended by the state auditor is sufficient.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment requiring the state auditor to conduct an annual audit. A “No” vote is against the amendment.)

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

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Somerville/Medford Remembering John J. MacDonald



Obituary

John J. MacDonald of Somerville, MA, passed peacefully on February 27th in Wakefield, MA, surrounded by his loved ones.

John was a man of simple joys and great stories. He spent his days listening to the oldies and

dancing, reminiscing about his travels, and indulging in his favorite snack—orange soda always at the top of the list. He never met a phone call he didn't like and could talk for hours, day or night.

John had a deep appreciation for a good home-cooked meal, doodling in his spare time, and

time spent with his nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his sisters, Sheila and her husband, Rick; Diane; Mary; and Laurie, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents, Marion and Norman, and his brothers, Tommy, Paul, and James.

John's spirit and love for his family will be fondly remembered. In his honor, put on a favorite song, enjoy a home-cooked meal, and maybe even pick up the phone—John would have liked that.

A graveside service was held privately at Brookdale Cemetery.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Russellyne H. (Pitcher) Robbins



Obituary

Russellyne H. (Pitcher) Robbins - Of Sudbury, formerly of Medford, passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2025. She was 86 years old.

Born and raised in Somerville, she was the daughter of the late Russell and Marion (Logan) Pitcher.

Devoted mother of Karyn Robbins of Medford and Russellyne "Russy" Welch of Methuen. Beloved grandmother of Tyler Welch, Lauren Bacheller, and Brianna Welch. Cherished great grandmother of 7 great grandchildren. Dear sister of the late Marion R. Lett, Adrienne Gowen, Gail Pacifico, and

Marlene Smithers. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held Thursday March 6th in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) from 9:30AM to 10:30AM. Followed by a prayer service in the funeral home at

10:30AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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

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ADOPT HOUSE RULES FOR 2025-2026 SESSION (H 2024)

By Bob Katzen

The House 128-23, approved a set of House rules under which the House will operate in 2025-2026.

Provisions include requiring, to the extent practicable, summaries provided by committee chairs of bills to be posted online before the House takes them up for a vote; prohibiting committee members from participating in a hearing remotely and requiring that they be physically present at a hearing in order to participate; allowing the public to testify remotely at a hearing; and requiring how each individual member votes on polls conducted by the committees to be posted online.

Other provisions include requiring 72-hours-notice before a hearing can be held; requiring members to be physically present to cast their votes, unless the member has active reserve military duty, a serious health condition or limitations related to a member's pregnancy, including pregnancy loss; and expanding a remote voting option for members for up to 20 weeks of parental leave.

"These critical reforms are representative of the House's strong commitment to the pursuit of a more accessible and efficient Legislature that is responsive to the concerns of our constituents," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "We remain focused on the all-important responsibility of bettering the General Court as an institution, a goal that I know so many of my colleagues are committed to."

ity of bettering the General Court as an institution, a goal that I know so many of my colleagues are committed to."

"Recognizing that there are ways we can make the legislative process more efficient, I am proud of this rules package," said Rep. Bill Galvin (D-Canton), Chair of the Temporary House committee on House Rules. "The reforms ... to govern both branches will help streamline legislative work in the current session, as well as provide the public with a greater understanding of where bills stand in the process."

"The House Republican Caucus offered a series of rules reforms to shed more light on the legislative process and the inner workings of the House, including a proposal to honor the will of the voters by allowing the state Auditor to conduct the annual financial audit of the House, but these ideas were summarily rejected by our Democratic colleagues," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "The new House rules package includes some welcome reforms, but it still falls far short of achieving the full transparency needed to restore the public's confidence in state government, which is why I voted against it."

cess and the inner workings of the House, including a proposal to honor the will of the voters by allowing the state Auditor to conduct the annual financial audit of the House, but these ideas were summarily rejected by our Democratic colleagues," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "The new House rules package includes some welcome reforms, but it still falls far short of achieving the full transparency needed to restore the public's confidence in state government, which is why I voted against it."

"I voted against the House rules package because it fell short of delivering the transparency and accountability the public deserves," said Rep. Steven Xiarhos

(R-Barnstable). "The process should allow for more meaningful debate and input, ensuring all voices are heard rather than consolidating power among a few."

(A "Yes" vote is for the new House rules. A "No" vote is against them.)

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

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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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Somerville Families Invited to Enjoy Free Pizza and Start Planning Summer Fun at 2025 Summer Camp and Activities Fair



The 2025 Summer Camp and Activities Fair will take place on Thursday, March 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the East Somerville Community School gymnasium
SOMERVILLE – Mayor Kat-

jana Ballantyne and Superintendent Rubén Carmona are inviting Somerville families to the 2025 Summer Camp & Activities Fair. Families can enjoy free pizza while exploring a variety of local summer camps, recreational programs, and learning opportunities. Representatives from regional camps and organizations including the Somerville YMCA, City of Somerville Recreation Department’s Somertime Program, and the Somerville

Media Center, along with many others, will be in attendance. Language interpreters will also be available on site. The fair will be held on Thursday, March 6, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the East Somerville Community School gymnasium (50 Cross St.) “We are thrilled to once again host the Summer Camp and Activities Fair,” said Chris Hosman, Somerville Promise Director for the City of Somerville. “It is as

much about community building as it is about increasing access to programming.” “The Summer Camp and Activities Fair is a wonderful reminder of how students can continue to grow and learn over the summer months,” says Ruth Santos, Director of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC). “It’s a fun and lively event where families can meet providers face-to-face, ask questions, and find

out more about the great programs available locally.” The Summer Camp and Activities Fair is a collaborative effort between the SFLC of the Somerville Public Schools and Somerville Promise. To learn more about this event, visit the Somerville Hub at <http://www.somervillehub.org> or contact the Somerville Promise Wraparound Services Manager, Lara Versari at (617) 625-6600, x 2346 or lversari@somervillema.gov.

Middlesex District Attorney’s Office Investigating Three Shootings Within 12 Hours



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MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY
15 COMMONWEALTH AVE. WOBURN, MA 01801

Marian T. Ryan
District Attorney



Tel: 781-897-8300
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WOBURN – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has confirmed the ongoing investigation into three shootings that occurred across the communities of Cambridge, Somerville and Belmont within 12 hours.

“We have committed substantial resources over the past several years to address every instance of gun violence in this county through prosecution, prevention and legislative action. These shootings mark the most significant surge in gun violence here since 2022.

The fact that over 50 shots were fired in very densely populated areas, some in the middle of the afternoon, is the type of brazen, dangerous conduct for which those responsible must be held accountable,” said District Attorney Ryan.

On Monday, February 24, 2025, at approximately 2:15 p.m., a Cambridge Police Officer witnessed and immediately responded to a shooting incident in the area of Bishop Allen Drive and Columbia Street. The preliminary investigation sug-

gests that a verbal altercation occurred between two parties who are not known to each other. During the altercation, a male wearing a mask fired multiple gunshots at the other party. No one was injured in the shooting.

Following the incident Cambridge Police were able to identify multiple juveniles suspected to be involved in the incident.

One juvenile male was arraigned yesterday on charges of possession of a large capacity magazine and ammunition. A second juvenile has been charged with assault and battery on a police officer and defacing property for throwing an object at an officer and damaging items in the interview

room at the Cambridge Police Department.

Also on Monday, February 24, 2025, at approximately 9:15 p.m., Belmont Police responded to a call of shots fired on Clark Lane. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim and his son were outside an apartment complex when a vehicle sped by and open fire striking the man in the leg. Police recovered multiple pieces of ballistic evidence at the scene.

A few hours later, just after midnight on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, Somerville Police responded to multiple 911 calls of shots fired in the area of the Clarendon Towers, located on Broadway in Somerville. Upon arrival, officers discovered 47

shell casings and other ballistic evidence. The preliminary investigation suggests that a man, who was possibly targeted, was outside an apartment complex when a vehicle pulled up. Multiple individuals allegedly exited the vehicle and began firing in his direction.

The Middlesex District Attorney’s Office is actively investigating all three incidents in partnership with Cambridge, Belmont and Somerville Police in addition to the Massachusetts State Police. Investigators are asking anyone with any information to contact their local police department or the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the District Attorney’s Office at 781-897-6600.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Joan A. Farren (McLaughlin)



Obituary
Joan A. Farren (McLaughlin) of Medford born on July 17, 1940

passed away peacefully on March 2, 2025 surrounded by her loving family. She was the heart of her family, always offering love, wisdom, and unwavering support.

Joan married her beloved husband Bob and together they built a beautiful family filled with love, laughter and many traditions. Joan found great joy in spending time with her family and friends.

Joan graduated from Catherine Laboure School of Nursing and began her career as an IV nurse at Lawrence Memorial and Winchester

Hospitals and remained dedicated as a community outreach nurse with Hallmark Health. As a lifelong learner who valued education, Joan went back to school and earned her BSN from Regis College. Her nursing career spanned over 40 years and her legacy of care and compassion will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She was preceded in death by her cherished husband, Robert C. Farren Sr. and her mother, Mary McLaughlin. She was a loving mother to her children Sheila Spsychalski and her husband Lou of

Danvers, Robert Farren Jr. and his wife Wendy of Medford, Thomas Farren and his wife Georgette of Medford, Joanie Mackey and her husband Bruce of Lynnfield and Kevin Farren and his wife Brenda of Woburn. Loving Nana of Elizabeth, Caitlyn, Tommy, Rachel, Joseph, Colleen, Tyler, Reese, Louie, Jack and Devin. Grand Nana to Paige, Brynn, Tara, Ella and Ava. Loving sister of the late Jean Kane, Mary Ellis and James McLaughlin. Survived by her sister-in-law Fran McLaughlin and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends

A funeral procession will commence from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, located at 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) in Somerville, on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at 8:30 am. This will be followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Raphael Church in Medford at 9:30 am.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Calling hours will be held on Friday from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

Interment will take place at Oak Grove Cemetery.

HOUSE AND SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP TEAMS APPOINTED

By Bob Katzen

House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) and Senate President Karen Spilka announced their leadership teams for the 2025-2026 legislative session.

The vast majority of the House leadership team remains the same including Rep. Mi-

chael Moran of Brighton as majority leader; Rep. Kate Hogan of Stow as speaker pro tempore; Rep. Alice Peisch of Wellesley as assistant majority leader; Rep. Frank Moran of Lawrence as second assistant majority leader; Rep. Danielle Gregoire of Marlborough as First Division chair and Rep. James O'Day of West Boylston as Fourth Division chair.

Mariano added two members to leadership positions: Rep. Paul Donato of Medford moves up into the second assistant majority leader post vacated when Rep. Sarah Peake left to work for the Healey administration; Rep. Jeff Roy of Franklin took Donato's former position as Second Division chair and Rep. Carlos Gonzalez of Springfield got the Third Division chair job previously filled by

retired Rep. Ruth Balsler.

Over in the Senate, Spilka kept her entire current leadership team intact including Sen. Cindy Creem of Newton as majority leader; Belmont's Sen. William Brownsberger as president pro tempore; Sens. Joan Lovely of Salem, Michael Barrett of Lexington and Sal DiDomenico of Everett will return as assistant

majority leaders; West Roxbury's Sen. Michael Rush

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