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VOL.1 NO.329-39

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday April 22nd, 2025

SustainaVille Week 2025: Mayor Ballantyne Celebrates Climate Progress, Announces New Policies



Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment present the 3rd Annual

SUSTAINAVILLE WEEK

Continued to page 19

Somerville Veterans Wreath Placing 250th Anniversary of Historical Significance to the Start of American Revolution



Continued to page 5

Medford Police Seeking Information Following Fatal Crash on Route 93 in Medford



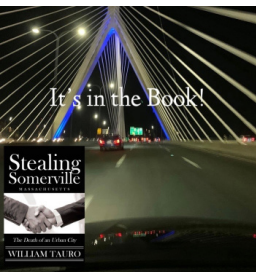
Continued to page 20



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



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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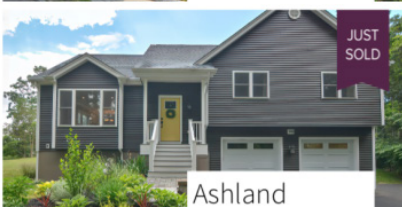
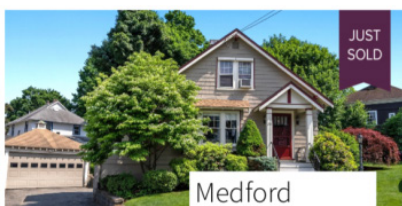
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Joseph M. Doherty



Doherty, Joseph M. – Of Somerville, passed away surrounded by members of his loving family on Monday, April 14, 2025. He was 83 years old.

Born and raised in Somerville, Joe was the loving son of the late

William and Helen (Collins) Doherty. He was the beloved husband of 54 years to Barbara A. (Mulkerrin) Doherty, a native of Callowfeenish, Co. Galway, Ireland.

Devoted father of Anne Marie Gilman and her husband Mark of Dracut, Joseph Doherty and his wife Kursten of Waban, and Christine Doherty of Somerville. Proud and cherished Papa of Tyler Joseph Gilman, Julianne Barbara Gilman, and Sarah Doherty.

Dear brother of Rita Brown and her late husband David, Margie Russell and her husband Joe, and the late Jack Doherty, Marie Doherty, and Bill Doherty and his surviving wife Mary (Kelly) Doherty and the late Agnes (Killilea) Doherty. Joe is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews,

in-laws, cousins, and friends. A longtime and dedicated 40 year employee of John Hancock Life Insurance Company, he was a graduate of Somerville High School and Newbury College. Joe was proud to have served his country in the 1st Cavalry Division of the United States Army in Korea, Japan, and the USA. In addition to his strong work ethic, he was a car enthusiast and had a passion for classic cars from the 50s, 60s, and 70s, with an uncanny ability to name the make and model of any car at a glance. He found great joy in repairing vehicles for friends, neighbors, and anyone in need—never accepting a dime in return. The difference he made in someone's life with a successful repair was all the thanks he needed. Joe also enjoyed his music, espe-

cially fond of 1950s rock and roll, Irish tunes, and anything by his favorite, Elvis Presley. A spirited card player, he never missed an opportunity to sit down for a lively game with friends and family. Above all, Joe was a devoted Catholic and a loving family man. A man of deep faith and devotion to his religion, Joe was a longtime, active parishioner of St. Clement's Parish who often attended mass daily. His greatest joy was spending time with his family, traveling, walking around Castle Island, playing catch, going for car rides and on vacations, but especially spending time with his grandchildren, attending their games, performances, and milestones with pride and affection. Joe's kindness, generosity, quiet, respectful and selfless spirit

touched everyone he met. He will be remembered always with love and admiration. A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.), Somerville, on Wednesday, April 23rd at 10:30 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Clement Church, 64 Warner St., Medford, at 11:30 AM. Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, April 22nd from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Services will conclude at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering Antoinette "Dolly" Frammartino



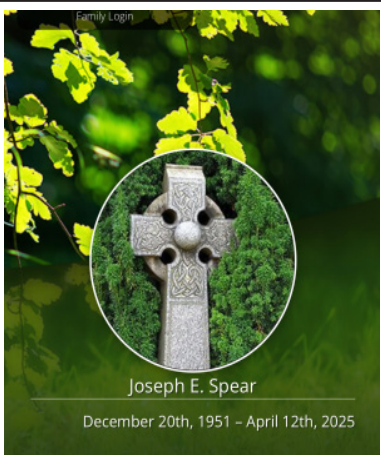
Frammartino, Antoinette "Dolly" (Stewart) of Medford passed away surrounded by her loving family on April 19, 2025, at the age of 89. Devoted wife of the late William I. Frammartino. Loving mother of Darlene DeFrancesco and her husband James, E.J. Frammartino and his wife

Amy, and the late William Frammartino. Cherished grandmother of Mandi Bevans, Krystle De St. Croix, James De-Francesco, Chanel Hickey, Felicia Frammartino and Joseph Frammartino. Beloved sister of Maryann DeFrancisco and her husband Robert and sister-in-law of Angela Driscoll. Also survived by her 8

adored great-grandchildren, nephews Robert and Teddy, and many other loving relatives and friends. Funeral from the Rogers Funeral Home, 380 325 Cambridge Street in Cambridge, on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 9:00 am. Funeral mass at St. Francis Church, Cambridge Street in Cambridge at 10:00 am.

Visiting hours at the funeral home in Cambridge on Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 3:00 to 8:00 pm. The internment will be at the Cambridge Cemetery,

Somerville/Medford Remembering Joseph E. Spear



Obituary for Joseph E. Spear Joseph Edward Spear Sr., of Somerville, passed away on April 14, 2025. He was the beloved husband of Maureen Spear (Moe Souza) and the beloved father of Joseph Spear Jr. and Michael Spear, both of Somerville. He was the beloved "Papa" to Kelsie, Savannah, and

Cameron Spear, and always carried the memory of his late granddaughter, Tina Marie Spear, with him always. In recent years, Joseph spent more time surrounded by family, and those moments became especially meaningful to him and to those closest to him. He was the beloved brother of Gale Curran of Wilmington and

the late Charles Spear, and the son of the late Marion (Spear) Trimble. He is also survived by 13 nieces and nephews who will remember him fondly. Joseph will be remembered with love and gratitude by those who knew him. Keefe Funeral Home – Arlington

5 Chestnut St. Arlington, MA 02474 Friday, April 18th, 2025 4:00pm – 6:00pm

LIQUOR LICENSE SUSPENSION (H 390)

By Bob Katzen Current law suspends the liquor license of and closes down for a period of time, any package store that is found guilty of selling to a minor or an intoxicated individual. However, in big box stores, supermarkets, gas stations and other places in which liquor sales are not their primary business, a violation results only in the closing of the liquor department. A bill, sponsored by Rep. Steven Howitt (R-Seekonk) and heard by the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, would amend current law so that the entire establishment is closed down. Supporters said current law creates an unfair disadvantage to the liquor stores and argued the bill levels the playing field. "As licenses to sell alcohol have expanded into big box stores and supermarkets, the small, in most cases, family owned 'packies' have suffered," said Howitt. "If any liquor store is caught selling to a minor, they may face closure for a few days, not the case for liquor-selling big box stores, gas stations and supermarkets. Should this occur in one of these retailers, only the alcohol department is shut down for a suspension period." Howitt continued, "This bill would shut down the whole business, just as a liquor store. It would also ensure that these big stores would be mindful, as small liquor stores are, that this is serious business, not just a small additional merchandise department in their stores."

LIFE INSURANCE

By Bob Katzen Senators who purchase a health insurance policy from the state are also required to buy the state's basic \$5,000 life insurance policy. The costs for employees are based on age and whether the employee is a smoker or non-smoker. They range from 4 cents to \$2.49 per month. The same 20/80 25/75 formula used for health insurance also applies to this life insurance. Senators also have the option to buy additional life insurance with a value of up to eight times their salary – up to a maximum of \$1.5 million. The entire premium for the optional insurance is paid by the senator.





Somerville Veterans Wreath Placing 250th Anniversary of Historical Significance to the Start of American Revolution

This past Friday April 18th, a group of Somerville veterans placed American flags and remembrance wreaths at 4 sites around the city commemorating the 250th anniversary of historical occurrences that took place on April 18th and 19th, 1775 at those locations in recognition of their significance to the start of the American Revolution.

The 4 sites are located on Washington street by the Holiday Inn (where

Paul Revere was briefly captured but then escaped from British soldiers at the start of his midnight ride). On top of Winter Hill at the corner of Broadway and Main Street (site of Paul Revere Park). 139 Elm street at the corner of Willow ave (site of a deadly battle between Patriots and British soldiers on their retreat from Lexington and Concord) and at 197 Washington street (where 65 year old patriot James Miller proclaimed "I'm too old to run" before

being shot 13 times by the retreating British).

Somerville has a long and proud history of fighting and sacrifice throughout all of our nations wars, and we thank these veterans for truly never forgetting those who contributed to the battles in our fight for liberty and freedom, even before the birth of our Republic.



Medford Police Department Updates

Today marks a remarkable milestone in the career of a truly dedicated leader, Captain Carl Brooks! Over five short years, he has risen straight up through the ranks, serving as an inspiration to his colleagues and community alike.

From a traffic reconstruction officer in the patrol division to his role as patrol sergeant, and ultimately as lieutenant night shift commander, his journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. With 28 years of service in the patrol division, he has not only shown what it means to be a dedicated officer but

also exemplified the values of professionalism and integrity.

As he steps into his role as the commander of the Bureau of Professional Standards, Development, and Training, there is no doubt that he will lead with the same passion and dedication that has defined his career.

Thank you and congratulations once again, Captain Brooks! Here's to your continued success and to the bright future ahead!



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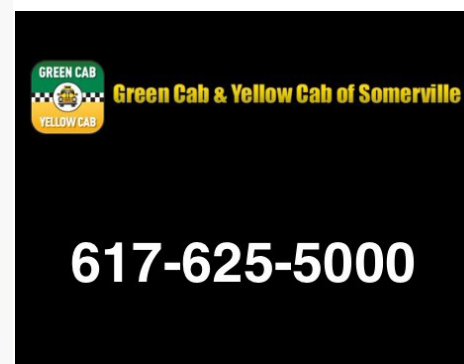
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Somerville Street Sweeping, Yard Waste Pickup, and Hazardous Waste Drop-off Begin in April



SOMERVILLE- Spring has sprung, and with it, essential seasonal services for our residents. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Parking Department, and the Department of Public Works want to remind everyone of important upcoming services.

Street Sweeping to Resume April 1

Regular street sweeping schedules officially resume Tuesday, April 1, and will continue through December 31, 2025. This essential public works program not only keeps our city cleaner, but reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains.

Residents and community members can check street signs to know when parking is unavailable due to sweeping. A recurring pattern was chosen in order to allow residents to plan ahead.

On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. For more information regarding street sweeping proce-

dures, visit parksomerville.com or call 311 (617-666-3311).

The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the street sweeping schedule in areas where they park. The best way to do this is to read the signs on the street when you park. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/sweeping.

Yard Waste Pickup Begins April 14

Yard waste pickup begins Monday, April 14, and runs through December 12. During collection week, yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup

day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Tree branches should be tied into 3ft x 3ft bundles. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/yardwaste.

Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste April Through November

Somerville residents can drop-off household hazardous waste on the second Saturday of each month, April through November, from 9 a.m. to noon at the DPW yard (1 Franey Rd.). Accepted materials include motor oil, aerosol paint, household cleaning chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and more. Proof of residency is required. For more information and how to prep materials, visit somervillema.gov/recycling.

Sign Up for Reminders

You can use the Somerville Waste Wizard below to find out your next street sweep, yard waste pickup, or upcoming household hazardous waste drop-off. Sign up to receive complimentary street sweeping notifications via a method of your choice by selecting "Sign Up for Reminders" at somervillema.gov/departments/sweeping

For street sweeping, please remember that this is a courtesy service that may experience technical problems; it remains the drivers' responsibility to follow the posted signs and move their vehicle on time.

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<https://bit.ly/policeposting>

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.

Best of luck and we can't wait to see all the good things that you will bring to the VFW under your guidance and leadership!

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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.



“Slice of the City” Pop-Up Series Returns to Somerville Wards This May

Connect with Mayor, City Officials, and neighbors over free pizza, refreshments, and kids’ activities in a Somerville park near you

SOMERVILLE– Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City Council are excited to announce the return of “Slice of the City,” a pop-up event series that aims to bring City Hall to local green spaces for evenings of pizza, conversation, and community connection.

The series consists of seven early evening, drop-in style meetups taking place at

parks and playgrounds in each of Somerville’s seven wards. All events will run from 5 to 7 p.m. throughout the month of May.

The drop-in style gatherings are an opportunity to mingle with Mayor Ballantyne, your Ward and At-Large City Councilors, School Committee members, and State Delegation representatives, as well as City staff and neighbors.

“As a public servant, Slice of the City has been a great new way to connect with constituents” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “It’s a chance to share a slice,

share a story, and further build community in a place we all call home. I can’t wait to see familiar faces and meet new neighbors this May.”

Staff on hand will be happy to discuss neighborhood projects, City programs and services, questions or concerns, or your favorite pizza topping. Members of our 311 team will also be in attendance to intake service requests. Meanwhile, kid’s activities, refreshments and pizza will be provided.

Slice of the City Schedule Visit [ville to look up your ward. In the event of inclement weather, events will be rescheduled to a later date:](http://somervillema.gov/mysomer-</p></div>
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Thursday, May 1: Ward 1 at Chuckie Harris Park (17 Cross St. East)

Monday, May 5: Ward 4 at Healey Schoolyard (5 Meacham St.)

Tuesday, May 6: Ward 5 at Trum Field Playground (1 Franey Rd. At Cedar St.)

Monday, May 12: Ward 3 at Prospect Hill Park (68 Munroe St.)

Tuesday, May 13: Ward 6 at Powderhouse Park (850 Broadway, Powderhouse side)

Tuesday, May 20: Ward 7 at Lou Ann David Park (1060 Broadway)

Wednesday, May 21: Ward 2 at Lincoln Park (290 Washington St., near Argenziano entrance)

For all event information and updates, visit somervillema.gov/slice.

CONSOLIDATED EDUCATION AMENDMENT (H 4005)

By Bob Katzen

The House 151-4, approved a consolidated amendment adding \$46.2 in education funding to the \$1.3 billion supplemental budget. Much of the funding was for education projects and programs proposed by individual representatives

for their local districts.

“This consolidated amendment provides critical funding for a variety of education-related programs and projects at both the state and municipal levels, including \$15 million to assist communities with regional school transportation costs,” said

Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “These initiatives are funded with excess ... surtax revenues, which is in keeping with the will of the voters to use this money to supplement spending for education and transportation-related initiatives.”

Amendment opponents

said that the amendment was full of pork barrel spending proposed by representatives for projects in their own district. They noted that the money should be used for education projects for all cities and towns, including fully funding special education costs for all the cities and towns in the

state.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$46.2 million. A “No” vote is against it.)

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

CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENT (H 4005)

By Bob Katzen

The House 134-20, approved a consolidated amendment adding \$28.8 million in transportation funding to the \$1.3 billion supplemental budget. Much of the funding was for transportation projects and programs proposed by individual representatives for their local districts.

“This consolidated amendment includes funding for multiple transportation-related initiatives across the state, providing cities and towns with the funding needed to carry out essential transportation infrastructure repairs and maintenance,” said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “When the voters approved the [surtax] amendment in 2022, they

were clear that these revenues should be spent only on transportation and education, and this consolidated amendment upholds the will of the voters.”

“We are seeing the necessity for overrides pop up all across the commonwealth and in multiple towns of the 6th Plymouth District, dominated mostly by school

operational budgets,” said Rep. Ken Swezey (R-Hanson). “I believe that the ... funds would have been best used on education in the dire situation we find ourselves in rather than the disproportionate amount we funneled to transportation and the MBTA.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$28.8 million. A “No” vote is

against it.)

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

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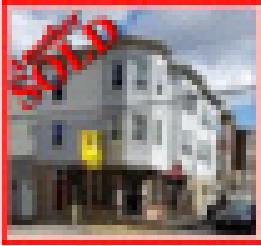


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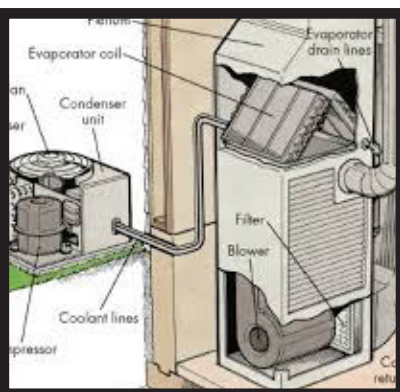
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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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Somerville Fire Department Strong!

Yesterday Rescue 1 and Ladder 2 took advantage of the good weather and conducted drills at Assembly Row.

The drill pictured here consisted of lowering a stokes basket with an attendant. These skills are important for evacuating workers or persons from heights with limited access. Group 1 was on duty.





Somerville Invited to Open House Sharing Western Pearl Street Concept Design Options on Wednesday, May 7



Community Engagement will Help Shape New Design Prioritizing Safety and Accessibility of Gilman Square Neighborhood Street

SOMERVILLE – The western segment of Pearl Street (between McGrath Highway and Medford Street) sits in the center of the Gilman Square Neighborhood not far from Somerville High School, the MBTA Green Line Station, Community Path, and Ed Leathers Park. It is home to many residents, a variety of local businesses, and serves many different purposes.

Currently, some of the sidewalks are in poor condition with cracked concrete panels and the roadway needs to be repaved. Fortunately, this part of Pearl Street is prioritized for reconstruction through Somerville's Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program (somerillema.gov/paving). However, instead of just rebuilding the street as is, the City is looking to

reimagine it—prioritizing safety and accessibility.

Like many streets in Somerville, Pearl Street is relatively narrow, meaning we have limited space with which to meet a wide range of community needs from safer crossings and protected bicycle facilities to better bus stops and curbside access for motor vehicles. This is why community engagement is critical to the success of the project and has informed the initial concept designs.

Learn More About the Design at May 7 Community Open House
The City gathered feedback from community members about their safety concerns and priorities for the street through community meetings and events, surveys, on-street outreach, and small business visits in the fall of 2024.

As a next step in the process, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin, and City staff are excited to invite community members to come to an open house to learn more about the project, review the preliminary concept design options, and share their input.

When: Wednesday, May 7 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. (Inclement weather date: May 8)
Where: Ed Leathers Park between Skilton Ave. and Walnut St.

At the outdoor 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. Pizza will be provided.

If community members cannot attend, there will be multiple other ways to share feedback such as through an online feedback survey, a virtual office hour, a street outreach pop-up, and more.

Visit somerillema.gov/westernpearl for more details.

More About the Project
Along with new sidewalks and new street pavement, the Western Pearl Street Reconstruction Project will bring a range of safety and accessibility improvements including but not limited to:

Crosswalk improvements
When the City reconstructs the street, new crossings can be installed, raised crosswalks or intersections can be incorporated, and all crossings will have accessible curb ramps. The City also incorporates "Clear Corners" where parking is restricted within 20 feet of a crossing. Parked vehicles near crosswalks can block views of people crossing the street. By ensuring vehicles aren't parked too close, the City can increase visibility for all users and reduce the likelihood of crashes.

Protected bike lanes

Protected bike lanes separate people biking from motor vehicle traffic. They increase comfort for people of all ages and abilities biking, reduce overall crash and injury risk, eliminate the threat of "dooring" from parking vehicles, and reduce potential conflicts with people driving and biking.

Western Pearl Street is designated in the City's Bicycle Network Plan for protected bike lanes in both directions. However, due to its narrow nature, the City would either have to remove all curbside access or make the street one-way the street for motor vehicles. During outreach last fall, the City asked community members if they preferred options that either explored two-way bicycle travel with no curb access or designs that made the street one way for bikes or cars to preserve curb access on one side for some parking, expanded bus stops, shorter crossings, or tree bump-outs. The City plans to present concept design options informed by the community's feedback.

Trees
The City aims to install new trees and create more space for existing trees to increase the health and longevity.

Bus-rider experience improvements
The MBTA Route 80 bus currently travels on Western Pearl Street. We are exploring ways to create more waiting space at bus stops and reduce

bus delay by allowing buses to stop in the travel lane rather than having to pull over and pull back into traffic. As part of Bus Network Redesign, the MBTA is planning to remove the Route 80 from Pearl Street, however, there is no schedule at this time for this change.

Parking regulation changes
There can be trade-offs between safe, sustainable transportation options and parking given the limited space on the City's streets. At the same time, many residents, health service providers, and business operators currently rely on (and will continue to rely on) access to parking. Within this in mind, the City is looking at creative ways to approach regulating curb use in the project and area and aims to work with local businesses, community service providers and neighbors on strategies that make the best use of limited parking resources.

More about Somerville's Commitment to Vision Zero
In 2017, Somerville formally adopted Vision Zero as part of the City's strategy and planning process. Vision Zero is a worldwide advocacy campaign focused on reducing and eliminating transportation injuries and fatalities.

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Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log 4/8/25 – 4/14/25

Crime Log
4/8/25 – 4/14/25

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

ville Police responded to Davis Sq for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into an altercation with a male in a vehicle. The male suspect then exited the vehicle and struck the victim with a baseball bat.

Residential Breaking and Entering
25019415: On 4/10/25 at approximately 8:30 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence in Davis Sq for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated his house keys were stolen from inside his apartment.

Assault
25020131: On 4/13/25 at approximately 9:30 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for a report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a group of teens came in and began causing a disturbance. As the teens were exiting, one of them slapped the victim.

Residential Breaking and Entering
25010138: On 4/13/25 at approximately 9:59 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Warner St for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the residents who stated they left their apartment and when they returned, observed a window open and jewelry and cash missing.

Assault
25020371: On 4/14/25 at approximately 7:36 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for a report of threats. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into an argument with a male party known to him. During the argument, the male party brandished a knife and pointed it at the victim.

Other Crimes:

- 1 Moped Theft
- 4 Bike Thefts
- 6 Package Thefts
- 3 MV Vandalisms

Arrest
25019004: On 4/8/25 at approximately 12:57 PM, Somerville Police responded to 165 Broadway for a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she got into an argument with a male party.

During the argument, the male punched her in the face. Officers located the male nearby and he was placed under arrest.

Assault
25019600: On 4/10/25 at approximately 11:15 PM, Somerville



Honoring Memorial Day in Somerville: Parade and Ceremony of Remembrance on May 25



Community encouraged to sign up as parade participants and volunteers

SOMERVILLE— Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville De-

partment of Veterans’ Services are announcing that Somerville’s Memorial Day parade will be held on Sunday, May 25.

The parade will step off at 11 a.m. from Davis Square, proceeding west on Holland Street through Teele Square and onto Broadway, ending at the Veterans Cemetery between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street. This year’s

Grand Marshal is Somerville resident and Medal of Honor recipient Thomas G. Kelley.

The City’s annual remembrance ceremony will immediately follow at the Somerville Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country. The ceremony will feature remarks by Mayor Ballantyne and Director of

Veterans’ Services Jerome Thomas.

Sign Up to Join the Parade or Volunteer

Somerville community groups, organizations, and local businesses are encouraged to participate and march along with local Veterans and first responders, as well as volunteers to help the parade run smoothly.

To sign up to participate, or volunteer, please complete a brief form at somervillema.gov/memorialday or call 617-625-6600 x 4700. The deadline to register as a parade participant is Friday, May 2.

Please contact the Somerville Department of Veterans’ Services at veterans@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 x 4700 with questions.

Somerville PorchFest 2025: Important Safety & Event Updates

SOMERVILLE— The Somerville Arts Council is excited to announce PorchFest 2025, the citywide live music event, is returning on Saturday, May 10, from 12 to 6 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, May 11).

To ensure a safe, enjoyable, and well-organized experience for all, this year’s event will feature new safety measures and structural updates designed to enhance the day for both performers and residents. All information is available on somervillearts council.org/porchfest

Key Updates & Changes for 2025:

Application Process & Deadline: Deadline to submit an application is Thursday, April 10, at 11:59 p.m. Applying does not guarantee participation.

Event Map to Be Issued Early: A map of the bands and their locations will be available several weeks before the event to make it easier for residents, businesses, and participants to plan ahead.

Street Limitations: Streets and locations identified

by the Somerville Fire and Engineering Departments as being part of a key safety route will not be able to host performances. These safety routes have been identified to ensure safe pedestrian and traffic flow as well as emergency vehicle travel. Residents on safety routes are encouraged to partner with neighbors on a nearby designated street.

Block Party Submissions: Block parties must also apply through Citizen Serve to request a block party permit. Applications will be open March 10 – April 10 and will be reviewed based on the street safety restrictions noted above.

Emergency Management Plan: The Mayor’s Office has convened an Emergency Management Team to oversee a central command station on Porchfest. This team includes the Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW, Emergency Management Department, and Arts Council.

Ambassador Volunteer Program: Volunteers will be stationed throughout event zones to assist visitors, direct people to porta-potty locations, monitor safety,

and serve as points of contact.

Official PorchFest Badges: Approved porches will receive an official PorchFest badge that must be displayed on the day of the event. Ambassadors will help ensure compliance.

Additional Information:

Schedule: Performances will take place in three two-hour zones across the city: West of Willow Street: 12–2 p.m. Willow to Central Street: 2–4 p.m. East of Central Street: 4–6 p.m.

Event Guidelines & Rules: To keep PorchFest safe and enjoyable for all, please follow these rules: Be respectful of porch hosts, neighbors, and residents—do not loiter on non-PorchFest properties Public alcohol consumption is prohibited Use public transportation to reduce traffic and parking congestion Stay on sidewalks to allow cars to pass safely Use designated porta-potties Tip the bands (cash or digital) to

support local musicians

The updates to Porchfest’s safety and organization were shaped with help from the Porchfest Committee, composed of five members of the Somerville community including a business owner, a resident, a musician, a Department of Public Works representative, and a member of the Arts Council staff.

“PorchFest is one of Somerville’s most popular events, and to keep it going strong, we’ve made some important safety and sustainability updates,” said SAC Director Gregory Jenkins. “We’re limiting performances on key emergency routes and refining the application process to ensure the event stays safe and accessible for everyone. These changes will help PorchFest thrive for years to come, and we need the community’s support to make it happen. I also want to thank the PorchFest Committee for their help creating these recommendations, and everyone who helps bring this amazing event to life.”

History of Porchfest In 2011, the Somerville Arts Council launched PorchFest, a citywide community music

event that invites residents to celebrate local musicians by hosting mini-concerts on their porches and stoops, or driveways and yards. Think of it like Somerville Open Studios, but for musicians. Rather than a traditional festival, PorchFest brings neighbors together to share and enjoy live music ringing out from porches across the city.



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Public Announcement: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Public

Announcement of Invitation For Bid

Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc. Head Start Program Attention: Vended Meals Companies

The above institution is soliciting invitations for bids for vended meals to their Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) program sites. The Vendor would provide meal services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs policies and guidelines. The meals provided include breakfast and lunch for 183 children, pm snack for approximately 120 children, and lunch for 34 adults across 4 child care sites in Somerville and Cambridge. Minimum of one hot meal per day.

Vendors and/or their representatives may submit bids to:

Name of Institution: Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.

Attn: Jessie Leonard, Head Start Director

Institution's mailing/email address: 66-70 Union Square, Ste 104

A bid packet will be available by email at jleonard@caasomerville.org to all potential bidders by April 22, 2025. Bidders are instructed to only respond to the specifications outlined in the bid packet, additional criteria will not be considered as part of the bid review.

Potential bidders should email questions to Jessie Leonard at jleonard@caasomerville.org by May 2, 2025. The institution will email its response to these questions by May 9, 2025. All questions will be answered in writing only.

All bids must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on May 23, 2025.

All bids are subject to review by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office for Food and Nutrition Programs, 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA, 02149.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

April, 2025

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/22/2025



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Applications Now Open for the Somerville Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program



Local Youth Can Apply for Summer Jobs at More Than 20 City Departments Now Through Wednesday, April 30

SOMERVILLE- The City of Somerville is now accepting applications for the 2025

Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program, a six-week paid career readiness initiative for Somerville youth ages 14 through the summer of high school graduation.

This program offers teens the chance to explore potential career paths, build workplace and interpersonal skills, and connect with their community. Participants will work up to 20 hours per week from July 7 through August 15 in a variety of roles across more than 20 City departments and local organizations.

“Our young people are talented, capable, and full of potential,”

said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “This program gives them the tools to step confidently into the workforce while making a real impact right here in their community. I can’t wait to welcome this summer’s new class of changemakers.”

Work opportunities are available with the Parks and Recreation Department, Somerville Public Schools, the Department of Public Works, Library, Police and Fire Departments, Department of Racial and Social Justice, and more. A limited number of placements are also available with non-profit and private-sector partners

throughout the city.

The City is accepting applications now through April 30, 2025. Interested applicants should complete the online application.

After submitting the form, applicants will receive a confirmation email that their application has been received.

For questions, please contact summerjobs@somervillema.gov.

About the Mayor’s Jobs Programs In addition to the summer

program, the Mayor’s School Year Jobs Program supports teens with a mix of project-based work and weekly professional development. During the school year, participants take part in two hours of job-readiness workshops and complete six hours of work weekly within City departments.

Both programs aim to equip young people with the tools, experiences, and confidence to thrive in future academic and career endeavors.

Somerville Installs Nation’s First Outdoor Dual Sharps Disposal Kiosk

The City of Somerville has installed the nation’s first outdoor dual sharps disposal kiosk at Seven Hills Park, behind the Davis Square MBTA station. This innovative installation supports the

City’s harm reduction and public safety goals by offering a discreet way to safely dispose of sharps that is accessible by foot, bike, and car.

Unlike traditional indoor drop boxes, the kiosk can accommodate both sealed containers and individual sharps. More outdoor kiosks are planned near the East and West Branch Libraries.



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FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROGRAM (S 765)

By Bob Katzen

The Financial Services Committee held a hearing on a bill that would create a Massachusetts Foreclosure Prevention Program to assist homeowners in avoiding foreclosure through supervised pre-foreclosure conferences between creditors and

borrowers regarding foreclosure alternatives.

Conferences would result in a report, and foreclosures can only proceed with a Certificate of Compliance, contingent on a creditor's good-faith efforts to negotiate. Judicial enforcement provisions allow sanctions against

non-compliant creditors, including interest tolling, penalties or dismissal of foreclosure actions. The program would be funded by the Foreclosure Prevention Fund, supported by creditor fees to cover administrative costs such as conference monitors and outreach initiatives.

"With Massachusetts foreclosures on the rise, updated state laws that better protect homeowners are long overdue," said sponsor Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "In the Pioneer Valley, more than half of all renters are 'cost burdened,' spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing. This

trend is even worse for communities of color in the region, such as Springfield where we continue to face serious housing stability challenges."

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROGRAM (S 765)

By Bob Katzen

The Elder Affairs Committee's hearing included legislation that would require the state treasurer to develop and periodically review and update model

curriculum to support seniors' financial literacy and stability, in consultation with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Massachusetts Councils on Aging and AARP

Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts is among the three states where older people are most likely to be financially insecure," said sponsor Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville).

"Older people are the fastest group of unhoused people, and among the most likely victims of scams."

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Zefram Cochrane – the Star Trek Character That Got Away A second look from Joe Viglione

The fictional character Zefram Cochrane from Star Trek did not get what was owed him. “Metamorphosis” is the ninth episode of the second season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek.

Written by Gene L. Coon and directed by Ralph Senensky, it was first broadcast on November 10, 1967. (from Wikipedia.) A brilliant idea, perhaps marred by a low budget, what is obvious is the lack of interest Kirk and Spock have in the inventor of Warp drive. This could have easily been a two-parter if handled correctly, AND could have been the first Star Trek motion picture, if – perhaps – The Return to Talos IV beat it to the punch. Alas, we got the ridiculous Robert Wise-directed pageantry (with Star Trek: the Motion Picture) when the Wrath of Khan proved that going back to the original TV show ideas and extrapolation

on those themes resulted in success. Wrath of Khan, Search for Spock and The Voyage Home Films 2, 3, and 4, along with 6 (The Undiscovered Country) and 8 (First Contact) are the most brilliant and compelling of the Trek films. That Star Trek didn’t delve into Cochrane, the Talosians, the City on the Edge of Forever (where Joan Collins’ character could have been rescued and retrieved) and so many other great stories from the original series is... oh well, Hollywood doesn’t always get it right.

Glenn Corbett had those dreamy eyes of film star Jeffrey Hunter (from the first pilot, the Cage) but both actors were not utilized to their fullest in either of their respective Trek episodes. However, the episodes do exist and The Cage is still one of my all-time favorite movies. Corbett’s isolation in his Trek episode- Metamorphosis – is

likened to that of Twilight Zone #1 “Where Is Everybody?” starring Earl Holliman and Twilight Zone #7, Jack Warden as Corri in “The Lonely” – the seventh episode of the American television anthology series The Twilight Zone. It originally aired on November 13, 1959, on CBS. In both episodes the men are totally alone, a world of people evaporated, kinda sorta. Kirk himself was found in a sort of lonely vacuum in “The Tholian Web” – the ninth episode of the third season of the American science fiction television series Star Trek.

Star Trek – as hinted above – also had two other men isolated: film star Jeffrey Hunter (though he had Susan Oliver with him, he thought she was a dream at first, and – thus – was by himself,) and Glenn Corbett alone in Metamorphosis with a gaseous alien with him for 150 years, well...The Lonely

indeed. Many Twilight Zone actors would appear in Star Trek, including William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and DeForest Kelly and George Takei. Both Twilight Zone and Star Trek were drenched deep in the imagination and there are slight parallels to both programs... just slight.

James Cromwell as Cochrane in the Next Generation film – First Contact – is an embarrassment and does much damage to the character. Look at the brilliant acting of Alice Krige as the Borg queen and Cromwell as this great unrealized idea of Zefram Cochrane. As with Gregg Corbett the unique idea of the creation of Warp drive is not explored, the two men playing Cochrane do not exploit his science. Corbett, as handsome as he is, plays the part stiff and with no clue about his stature and relevance. Cromwell just looks drunk and out of place.

What a pity because IF the original Star Trek Metamorphosis had Zefram Cochrane go to the enterprise and become a repeating character, from one and a half centuries before, and brought that character to the first film, or the extremely faulty fifth film, Star Trek would be even more of a success today. It is not even arguable. Instead of exploring strange new worlds, they should have been exploring character development. It’s less expensive and more rewarding.

Joe Viglione explores Star Trek, Beatles, James Bond 007, music and more on his substack Free subscriptions to his writings <https://joeviglione.substack.com/p/zefram-cochrane-the-star-trek-character>

Zefram Cochrane – the Star Trek Character That Got Away

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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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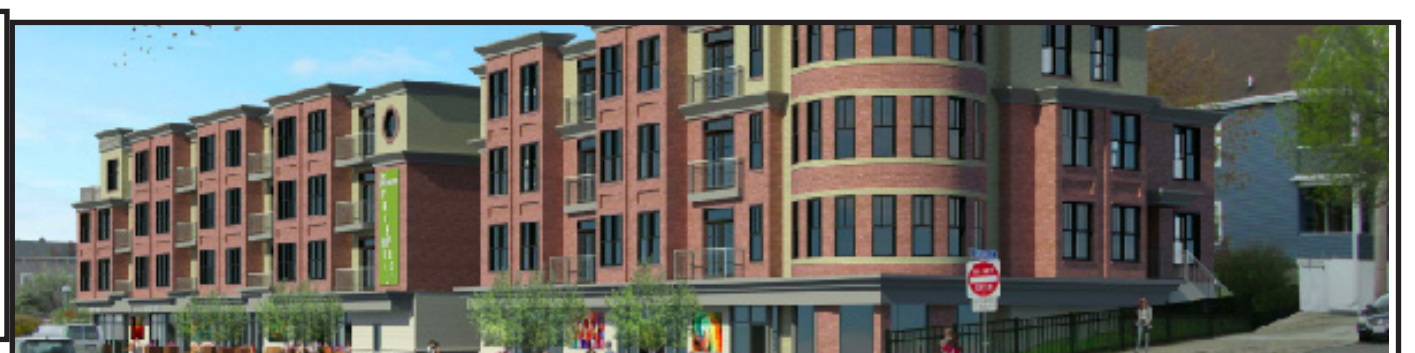
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REAL ID

By Bob Katzen

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

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

The Registry strongly encourages everyone seeking a REAL ID-compliant license or ID card to go on-

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

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

"May 7th is almost here, and we remind everyone to check your wallets and

make sure you and your family members have the credentials that you need, depending on your travel plans," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. "We want to make sure everyone is cleared for takeoff."

SustainaVille Week 2025: Mayor Ballantyne Celebrates Climate Progress, Announces New Policies



Free, Family-Friendly Events May 3-9 Highlight Local Sustainability Efforts

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invites residents to celebrate SustainaVille Week 2025, a weeklong series of free events from May 3-9 showcasing Somerville's climate progress and engaging the community in the next steps toward a carbon net-negative future.

"We are building a thriving, resilient, and sustainable Somerville," said Mayor Ballantyne.

"This SustainaVille Week, we celebrate how far we've come, and recommit to leading with bold, inclusive action rooted in justice, compassion, and equity." Climate Forward Dashboard Launched This year's celebration coincides with the release of a new public dashboard tracking real-time progress on all 77 actions in the City's updated climate action plan, Climate Forward 2024. Already, the City has begun work on 60% of the plan's actions in just one year. Explore the dashboard: somervillema.gov/climatedashboard Key Climate Policy Updates In alignment with Climate Forward, the City is launching its first curbside food waste collection pilot, prioritizing neighborhoods with high rodent complaints. More details will be announced in the coming months.

The Administration has also

proposed the first update in 25 years to the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change (CEUCC). The ordinance, unanimously advanced by the City Council's Open Space, Environment, and Energy Committee, would nearly double the Commission's size and expand representation to include youth and Somerville Public Schools. "When I imagine Somerville in 2050, I see a vibrant, healthy community. This updated Commission will help get us there," said Mayor Ballantyne. SustainaVille Week 2025 Events All events are free and open to the public. Full event details: somervillema.gov/sustainaville-week LeGUp Consortium: HEET Kickstart Panel Date/Time: Monday, April 28 | 1-2 PM Where: Virtual Panel About: Panel discussion of Somerville's networked geothermal study. RSVP for stream

link. Climate Convening 2025 Date/Time: Saturday, May 3 | 4:30-6:30 PM (Rain date: May 4) Where: Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave About: Gathering of local climate and environmental justice advocates. Bilingual Learn to Bike Workshop Date/Time: Monday, May 5 | 6-8 p.m. Where: 24 Dane Street About: Beginner-friendly bike skills + group ride. Bluebikes and pizza provided! Instruction in English and Spanish. SustainaVille Sips: Home Electrification & Retrofits Date/Time: Wednesday, May 7 | 6-8 p.m. Where: West Branch Library, 40 College Ave About: Peer-to-peer event with Somerville's Net Zero Heroes +

refreshments. E-Mobility Expo Date/Time: Friday, May 9 | 12-6 p.m. Where: Davis Square, 44 Day Street Parking Lot About: Try out e-bikes, EVs, and more. Learn how Somerville is electrifying transportation. CEUCC Public Meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, May 13 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. Where: City Hall Annex & Hybrid About: Public meeting on Somerville's energy and climate planning. The complete plan can be viewed on somervillema.gov/climateforward. For questions, please contact Naomi Gross, Community Engagement Specialist, ngross@somervillema.gov.

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Medford Police Seeking Information Following Fatal Crash on Route 93 in Medford


MEDFORD – The Middlesex District Attorney’s Office and Massachusetts State Police are investigating a fatal crash that occurred around 6:30 p.m. on April 17, on Route 93 North in the area of the Roosevelt Circle exit in Medford. The preliminary information suggests that a black Toyota Camry may have been operating erratically prior to the multi-car crash.

The other involved vehicles include a gray Subaru Forester, a blue Ford Explorer, a brown Honda Odyssey minivan and a gray Ford F-350 dump truck pulling a trailer. The operator of the truck, Fredis Saravia-Corvera, 34, was pronounced dead on scene. An additional passenger in the Honda Odyssey


was transported to an area hospital with non-life threatening injuries. All other operators and occupants remained on scene.

As part of the ongoing investigation into the cause of the crash, investigators are asking anyone who witnessed the crash, or any activity of these vehicles prior to the incident, to contact the Massachusetts State Police Barracks in Medford at 781-396-0100.

This is an active and ongoing investigation being conducted by the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office, the Massachusetts State Police and the Massachusetts State Police Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Section.



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