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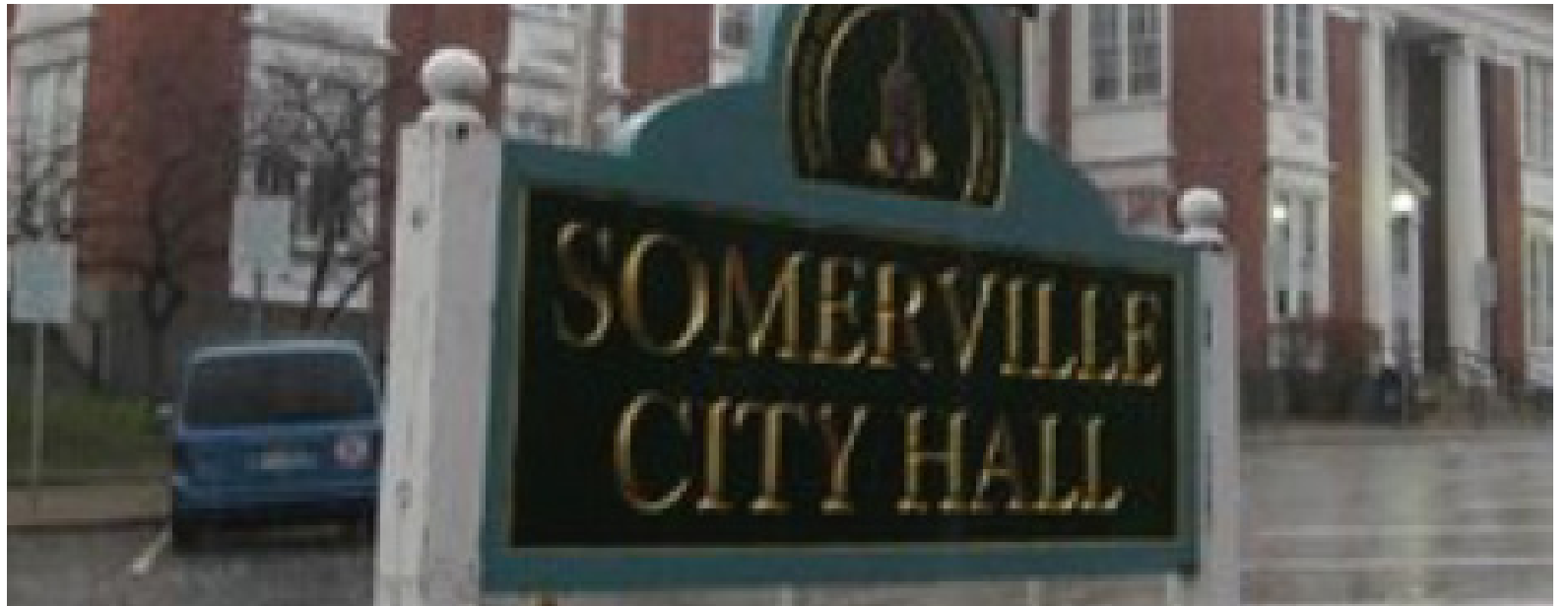
25 Cents

VOL.1 NO.329-260

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday April 29th, 2025

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



Continued to page 11

Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Citizens Concerned Over Growing Gun Violence



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



HEALTH CARE SURROGATE



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



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Continued to page 5



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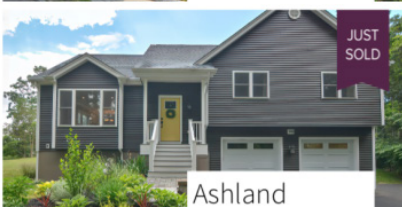
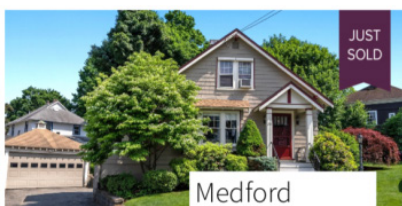
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MARKET ACTIVITY

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

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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
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.



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Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering Sandra L. Saltman



Sandra L. Saltman Website Sandra L. "Cookie" Saltman (Dobbins) passed away on April 21, 2025, surrounded by her loving family at the age of 78. Devoted mother of Cynthia "Cyndi" Saltman and her fiancé John Jepson, and the late Leonard "Leo" Saltman Jr.

Mrs. Sandra L. Saltman
Category: Obituaries Published: April 22, 2025

Cherished grandmother of Kelsie Miller Saltman,

Shayne Miller Saltman, Tyler Carvello, Matthew Miller, and Megan Miller. Adored great-grandmother of Renata Gallo. Beloved sister of James Moore, Alfred Moore, Ruth Yarasitis, Colleen Moynihan, and the late Gail Martignetti and Charlotte Galvin. Also survived by her grand pup Harley, as well as many nieces, nephews,

other loving relatives and friends. Funeral from the Rogers Funeral Home, 380 Cambridge St., in Cambridge on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 9:00 am. Funeral mass at St. Joseph's Church, 264 Washington Street (Union Square), in Somerville at 10:00 am. Visiting hours at the funeral home in Cambridge

on Sunday, April 27, 2025, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The interment will be at the Cambridge Cemetery.

Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering Marguerite "Doris" Magliozzi



Marguerite D. Magliozzi Website Marguerite "Doris" Magliozzi (Coelho) of Cambridge, passed away on April 24, 2025, at the age of 95.

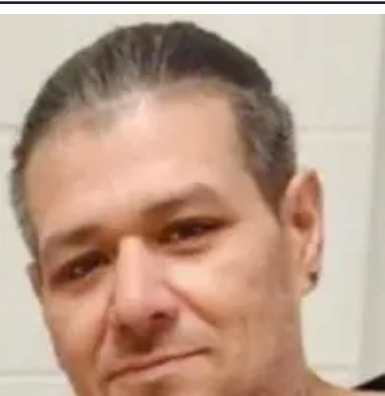
Devoted wife of the late Cosmo "Simmie" Magliozzi. Loving mother of Timothy Magliozzi and his wife

Zelia, Bryan Magliozzi and his partner Angela Peri, Daniel Magliozzi and his wife Lisa, Paul Magliozzi and his late wife Mary, Raymond Magliozzi, and the late Anthony Magliozzi. Cherished grandmother of Lexi, Tj, Rocco, Devan, Danielle, Ronald, and Kristine Magliozzi.

Marguerite was predeceased by her siblings, but is also survived by nieces, nephews, and many other loving relatives and friends. Visiting hours at the Rogers Funeral Home, 380 Cambridge Street in Cambridge on Monday, April 28, 2025, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

Funeral from the Rogers Funeral Home, 380 Cambridge Street in Cambridge on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 9:00 am. Funeral Mass to follow at the Sacred Heart Church, 49 Sixth Street in Cambridge at 10:00 am. The interment will be at the Cambridge Cemetery.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Mario Medeiros



Obituary
Mario Medeiros, of Somerville, passed away surround-

ed by his loving family on April 25th, 2025. He was 45 years old. He was the cherished son of Carol Medeiros and Stepdad Victor Colocho. He is survived by his children, Enilyse, Mario Jr (Chino), Emma, and Joshua Medeiros; his former wife, Darlene; and his precious new grandson, Apollo.

He was the beloved brother of Stacey Velasquez and her husband, Jesus, and nephew of Joseph Medeiros of Peabody and Corinne and Carlos Gavino of Virginia Beach, VA. Mario is survived by many loving nieces, nephews, in-laws, cousins and friends. Born and raised in Somerville, Mario was a man of

character. Mario was a good friend and has a profound impact on everyone who knew him. A beloved employee of Big Night Live and an all-around handyman, Mario took care of those he loved and helped those in need. He was a car enthusiast and enjoyed spending time in the garage, especially teaching his kids how to fix things or repairing vehicles for friends.

Mario's kindness, generosity, laughter and selfless spirit touched everyone he met. He will be deeply missed and always loved. Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Thursday, May 1st from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Interment will be private.

PARKING SPACES

By Bob Katzen

Office Building.

Legislators are entitled to a parking space inside the Statehouse garage or at the nearby McCormack State

For 2025, the first \$325 in monthly value of the space is a tax-free benefit under federal and state

guidelines that apply to all public and private employees, not just state legislators. Any value of the space above this amount is treated as taxable income.

The value of the parking spaces in 2025 was determined by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to be \$477 per month. Based

on that figure, legislators would be taxed on the excess \$152 monthly by the Internal Revenue Service and the state.

TOTAL SALARY FOR REPRESENTATIVES

By Bob Katzen

Here is the total annual salary for local representa-

tives including the three categories of base pay, stipends and general expense pay allowance.

Rep. Christine Barber \$126,906.23
Rep. Mike Connolly \$112,251.34
Rep. Paul Donato \$156,814.19

Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven \$104,475.27

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Woman Sets Up Blankets In Makeshift Maternity Ward in Star Market Ladies Room for Her Dog to Give Birth

By William Tauro

On Wednesday morning about 9:15 AM a woman walked into the Porter Square Star Market with two dogs and a blanket. She proceeded to enter the ladies restroom and was noticed by store employees and that she hadn't come out of the for a while with the two dogs.

When she finally came out of the ladies restroom, store employees approached her and asked her "where are the dogs and are they still in the ladies room?" The lady replied "yes I set up blankets on the restroom floor because one of the dogs are pregnant and ready to have a litter of puppies."

Store employees immedi-

ately after replying "you can't do that we are going to call the police" "you have to get them out of there immediately!" The lady went back into the ladies room, stayed in there for about ten more minutes then later left the restroom and store with her two dogs and the blanket. No puppies were found.



Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Citizens Concerned Over Growing Gun Violence In Somerville



within 100 feet of TWO city parks-Chuckie Harris and ESCA park.

What is going on and what is the Somerville PD doing about it, I don't see directed patrols anymore (NOT lashing out at them much respect and appreciation for the women and men of the SPD) but the City Council's anti-police rhetoric and concerning apparent direct control over them often times superseding laws of our Commonwealth of MA.

It's crazy the mystic shootings (multiple) are nonstop and I fear for the

summer bigtime, makes me yearn for the days of Good times emporium again makes that look like child's play.

Last night shots were fired down near Gauchos on Lower Broadway las well.

I appreciate your time Billy as always you are an asset to our community and still serve the people daily!!! This city is going to hell , it may be too late indeed!

Best,

A Concerned Somerville Citizen

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

Billy!!!!!! Hope you are well sir!

Just another lifelong very

concerned citizen and parent absolutely fed up and livid about the continued gun violence in this city and in particular East Somerville.

Last month on St. Pats

Day 7 gun shots fired in @ Cross St. East and Blakeley Avenue-once again you stopped by when our friend Joe called you while we ate our St Pats Day meal together at 230PM in broad daylight AND

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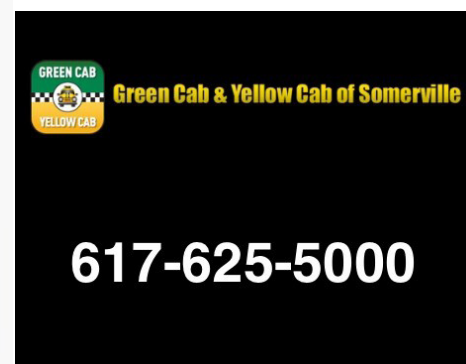
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Billy Goodspeed



Billy Goodspeed, of Somerville, passed away in the early hours of Monday, April 28, 2025. Born October 22, 1980, Billy was a lifelong sports fan,

especially of wrestling.

He loved turning sports into family events, like the many memorable Super Bowl parties and WrestleManias with his kids. He also loved finding new favorite restaurants, reading, watching the night sky from his balcony, and discussing the unknown.

His primary joy, though, was spending time with his children and grandson.

He is survived by his

beloved children, Dylan, Logan, Cheyanne Goodspeed and their mother Jen S Goodspeed ; his grandson Grayson Goodspeed; his parents Karen & Dennis McCarthy; his brother & sister-in-law Shawn & Nora Goodspeed; his sister Jenn A Goodspeed and her long-time companion, Dave Ruf; his nephew Carter Ruf; his nieces Freyja and Eliza Goodspeed; and his cats, Pickles, Punky, and Peppers. He is pre-

deceased by his father, Roland Goodspeed, and his two legs.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, May 2nd, 2025, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, located at 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) in Somerville. A Funeral Home Service will follow at 6:30 PM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, consider making a donation to the National

Alliance on Mental Illness Massachusetts, 331 Montvale Avenue, Woburn, MA 01801. <https://namimass.org/donate>

Somerville Community Invited to Tufts Street Reconstruction Kick-off Meeting



Virtual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, will give residents opportunity to learn what to expect

during upcoming construction, review the new street design, and ask City staff questions.

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward One Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, and City staff are inviting the community to join a virtual community meeting about upcoming construction and safety improvements on Tufts Street.

The event will take place Wednesday, May 14, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Visit somervillema.gov/tuftsstreet to learn more and attend the meeting.

During the meeting, staff from the City’s Engineering Division will present information about the project including:

A brief review of the proj-

ect objectives and final design

An overview of the construction process, expected impacts, and preliminary schedule of work

How residents can stay informed as work progress

Following the event, a recorded presentation will be available on the project website. Construction is currently expected to

begin in either late June or July. Schedules are subject to change due to weather or other factors.

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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State of A Tavola:

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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.

Somerville Police Department Completes RAD Women’s Self Defense Class

The Somerville Police Department completed a RAD Women’s Self Defense class on April 14, 2025 at the police department.

After weeks of hard work, these ladies completed the Simulation where they were able to demonstrate everything they

have learned. If you are interested in our RAD program or would like to learn more, please reach out to us at RAD@police.somerville.ma.us



Insurance for Representatives

By Bob Katzen

HEALTH INSURANCE – Representatives are eligible to choose from 11 health insurance plans offered by the state’s Group Insurance Commission, which manages the plans for 259,929 individuals—current and retired state workers, as well as certain municipal workers and their dependents.

Representatives elected on or before July 1, 2003, pay 20 percent of the total premium and the state pays 80 percent. Those elected to their first term on or after July 1, 2003 pay 25 percent while the state picks up only

75 percent. State and federal privacy regulations protect this information and it is not possible to obtain records about which plans individual legislators have purchased. The out-of-pocket monthly premiums paid by representatives for family plans range from \$369.98 to \$655.62 per month. For individual plans, they pay from \$149.82 to \$300.64 per month.

LIFE INSURANCE – Representatives 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 per month to \$2.49 per month. The same 20/80 25/75 formula used for health insurance also applies to this life insurance. Representatives 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 representative.

LONG-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE SPENDING ACCOUNT – Representatives also have the option to open

a Health Care Spending Account (HCSA) and Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP), and to buy long-term disability insurance. The HCSA allows representatives to set aside funds to pay for out-of-pocket health care expenses with before-tax dollars while the DCAP allows them to set aside funds to pay for certain dependent care expenses with before-tax dollars. This participation reduces their federal and state income taxes. The entire premium for long-term disability is paid by representatives.

DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE – Representatives are eligible

to choose one of two dental/vision insurance plans. Current monthly employee premium costs paid by representatives for family plans range from \$15.16 to \$20.52, while individual plans range from \$4.91 to \$6.64. All representatives pay 15 percent of the premium and the state pays 85 percent.

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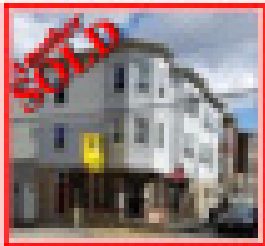


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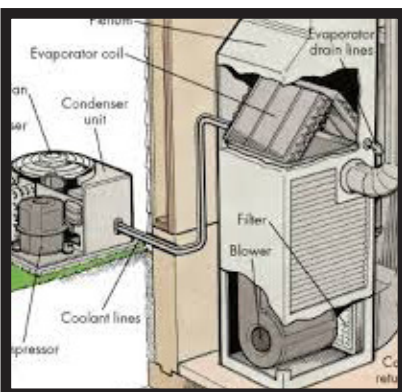
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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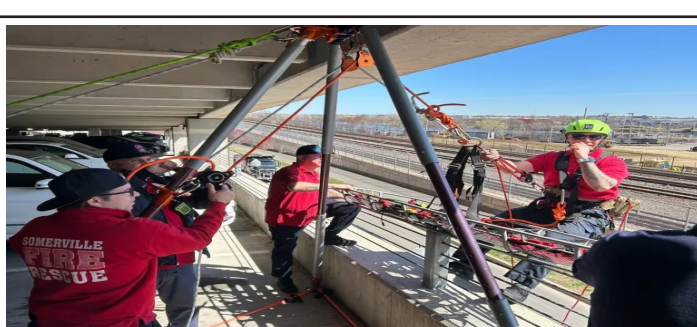
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<p>THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING: 2025-54 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the</p>	<p>addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time at 19 Gorham St. 2025-55 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time at 34 Gorham St. 2025-56 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amend-</p>	<p>ed with the addition of the following location: the north side of Broadway, west of North St for 25 ft (amending 2025-8). 2025-57 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 50 feet east of North St to approxi-</p>	<p>mately 70 feet east of North St (one metered space) (amending 2025-10). 2025-58 2025-11 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: on the north side of Broadway, from approximately 45 feet west of Barton St to approximately 25 feet west of Barton St, convert the</p>	<p>7am-6pm loading zone to a 24 hour loading zone. PROMULGATED: APRIL 10, 2025 ADVERTISED: APRIL 22, 2025 APRIL 29, 2025 MAY 6, 2025 EFFECTIVE: MAY 14, 2025</p> <p>Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/22/25, 04/29/25, 05/06/25</p>
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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 (somervillema.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 ques-

tions 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 somervillema.gov/western-pearl 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, to have bicycle travel in each direction, 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.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Jane M. (Ward) Doherty



Obituary
 Jane M. (Ward) Doherty, of Medford, passed away surrounded by the love of her family on Easter Sunday, she was 72.

Born on Easter Sunday in 1953 and raised in Somerville, she was the daughter of the late Cathleen “Babe” (Dooley) and William F. Ward and the beloved wife of the

late Brian P. Doherty.
 Jane was the devoted mother of Derek Doherty of Medford and David Doherty and his wife Stephanie of Wilmington and cherished grandmother of Madalyn and Brian Doherty.

Dear sister of Nancy (Ward) Natale and her husband Ed of Methuen and the late Cathleen Ward and William F. Ward, Jr. and a cherished aunt of several loved nieces and nephews.

Jane bravely battled breast cancer for 13 years, despite the challenges she and her family would face, she continued making memories and sharing adventures. She out fished the entire family. Her trophy brown trout from Colebrook NH hung on the living room wall for years, a stark reminder

to anyone walking by of her bragging rights. She danced to doowop until the early morning hours and spent many Sunday nights naming that tune with Dad, Lynn and Terry. Most nights Terry was on the losing end and would have to tuck a 20 behind the picture in the kitchen wall.

She was a hockey mom and drove all over kingdom come taking me and my brother to games. We stargazed down the point at our camp in Maine. We would go to old Orchard every year and get a new Wanted poster of me and my brother. She drove me and my friends all the way to Pennsylvania just to go to rollerblading camp. She even housed a couple of Canadian hockey players when my brother played Medford Rec. when we were kids. She loved animals and had lots of them, but

particularly loved her two cats Gus and Stupid dearly.

Later in life she went by Nana. She loved Brian and Maddy with all of her heart and became a fixture at the local hockey rink. So much so that Brian’s entire team referred to her as Nana Doherty.

She lived every day to the fullest. She enjoyed the little things. She had a bucket list and she finished it all. She flew all over the place and cruised the high seas. She loved to take photos. Her Somerville toughness showed through in her fight and she lived life on her terms. She battled Cancer and SHE WON. Over and over again. In the end she was just tired and that was HER decision. I can only dream of having her courage.

She was an inspiration to us all and we should all live by her example. Live in the moment. Enjoy the little things and live every day like it was your last.

Honoring Jane, relatives and friends are invited to attend Visiting Hours in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Friday, April 25th from 4PM-7PM and to a Funeral Mass to be celebrated on Saturday morning, April 26th in St. Joseph Church, 118 High St. Medford at 10AM, all are asked to please meet at church.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jane’s memory can be made to METAVIVOR, in support of Metastatic Breast Cancer Research, Support and Awareness at <http://www.metavivor.org>.



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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PROTECT SURVIVORS OF SPOUSAL ABUSE FROM ALIMONY PAYMENTS (S 1236)



By Bob Katzen

Would give the courts the authority to terminate alimony payments and deny future alimony petitions if the spouse receiving the payments has been convicted of spousal abuse.

The bill defines "abuse" as including "attempting to cause or

causing physical harm, placing a spouse in fear of imminent serious physical harm and causing a spouse to engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, threat or duress."

"Every year, more than 12 million people in the U.S. experience violence by an intimate partner," said sponsor Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-

Ludlow). "Yet, in Massachusetts, it is possible for survivors of spousal abuse, who have already taken the near impossible step of leaving an abusive marriage, to be required to pay alimony to their abuser after they escape that relationship." He noted that he filed the measure to ensure that survivors are protected from further abuse.

DISABLED ADULTS AND CHILD CUSTODY (S 1164)

By Bob Katzen

Would prevent a parent's disability to be considered a negative factor in determining custody or parenting time with a child unless there is specific evidence that there is a link with the parent's disability and a child's alleged harm. It must

also show that this harm cannot be prevented or alleviated by accommodation.

"Parents with disabilities sometimes lose custody of their children due to their disabilities," said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). "This bill seeks to address this issue by requiring

courts to find evidence of any harms when making custody decisions, explained in writing, and requiring supportive measures when appropriate that can be taken to avoid harm to the parents and their children. It will potentially help keep families together."

REPRESENTATIVES ARE NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR PER DIEMS

By Bob Katzen

Legislators are no longer entitled to collect "per diems" to reimburse them for mileage, meals and lodging expenses for

travel from their home to the Statehouse. These reimbursements were discontinued in 2017.

They were not taxable income

and ranged from \$10 per day for legislators who reside in the greater Boston area to \$82 for Western Massachusetts lawmakers and \$100 for those in Nantucket.

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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 Police Department Weekly Crime Log

Arrest 25020761: On 4/16/25 at approximately 6:28 PM, Somerville Police responded to YMCA for a weapons call. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he got into a physical altercation with

another male. After the altercation, the male suspect pointed a firearm at the victim's door. Officers then conducted a search of the suspects room and located a semi-auto handgun with a defaced serial number and .45 caliber ammo.

The suspect was then placed under arrest.

Shots Fired

25021027: On 4/17/25 at approximately 10:58 PM, Somerville Police

responded to the area of 17 Webster St for a report of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers located one spent shell casing at the corner of Cutter St & Webster St. There were no injuries reported.

Other Crimes:

- 1 Moped Theft
- 2 Car Breaks
- 1 Package Theft
- 1 MV Theft
- 1 Bike Theft
- 1 Vandalism

This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

By Bob Katzen

"Massachusetts has some of the most beautiful state parks in the country, and it takes all of us to preserve them for generations to come. In honor of Earth Day, it's nice to get outside and celebrate our natural spaces."

—Gov. Maura Healey who along with First Lady Joanna Lydgate, visited Torbert MacDonald State Park in Medford to celebrate Earth Day.

"Massachusetts is hemorrhaging private sector jobs, and the Healey administration's answer is to bloat the government at a time when our state's fiscal wellbeing is in a very tenuous position. This isn't job growth—it's

political insulation, and taxpayers are the ones footing the bill."

—Paul Craney, executive director of the Mass Fiscal Alliance on newly released employment data which he says revealed a net loss of 24,800 private sector jobs over the last year.

"When employers violate our laws, including through wage theft and untimely payments, workers are unfairly harmed, exploited and financially deprived. My office will continue to enforce our laws to protect and empower workers, reminding employers that Massachusetts is serious about workers' rights."

—Attorney General Andrea Campbell announcing that Swissport, a North

Carolina-based airport services company that employs workers at Boston's Logan Airport, will pay \$3.1 million in restitution and penalties to resolve allegations, including failure to make timely payments and pay overtime to more than 2,000 airport workers.

"The persistent increase in antisemitic incidents over the past five years is a stark reminder that antisemitism continues to impact our communities. Particularly concerning is the continued proliferation of extremist incidents and the rise of attacks against Orthodox Jews. The alarming manifestations of antisemitism in 2024 instill fear and are reminders that much work remains to be done."

— Samantha Joseph, Anti-Defamation League New England's Regional Director, on the group's annual audit of antisemitic incidents reporting a total of 638 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism in 2024 within the five-state region of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. She said that this is the fifth year in a row that antisemitic incidents increased and broke the previous all-time high in 2023.

"MAGA Mike Kennealy is quickly proving that he is not ready for prime time. The fact that Mike Kennealy admits that he didn't even make a choice for President in three of the most consequential elections of our lifetime

is a sad statement on his leadership." — Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Steve Kerrigan on Republican candidate for governor Mike Kennealy's acknowledgement that he did not vote for a president in the last three elections in 2016, 2020 and 2024, when Donald Trump was on the ballot.

"If the MassDems care about strong leadership on issues like housing, the migrant crisis and the economy, their options are support Mike Kennealy or recruit a primary challenger to Maura Healey. She has failed miserably on all of the issues Massachusetts residents care about." — Ben Hinchey, campaign manager

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Congratulations to the Somerville Police Department and thank you for a job well done!



The Somerville Police Department collected \$1,400.00 along with seven dresses from members of the Police Department.

Keezer's and Men's Wear-

house each donated two suits, and barbershops & hairdressers throughout the City of Somerville's business community donated two dozen haircuts. These donations were delivered yesterday to the

Somerville High School and will be used to support our Seniors and their Prom. Thank you to all that donated to help make the 2025 Senior Prom a success!

REPRESENTATIVES WHO LIVE 50 MILES FROM THE STATEHOUSE ARE NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO PAY A REDUCED OR NO FEDERAL INCOME TAX \ON THEIR LEGISLATIVE SALAR

By Bob Katzen

For many years until recently, representatives who live more than 50 miles from the Statehouse were eligible for a special federal tax break. A 1981 federal law allowed them to write off a daily expense allowance when filing their federal income tax return. The complicated system determined a daily

amount, ostensibly for meals, lodging and other expenses incurred in the course of their jobs, which can be deducted for every "legislative day."

Under the Massachusetts Legislature's system and schedule, every day of the year qualifies as a legislative day. The Legislature does not formally "pro-rogue" (end an annual

session) until the next annual session begins. This allowed representatives to take the deduction for all 365 days regardless of whether the Legislature is actually meeting or not. Representatives did not even have to travel to the Statehouse to qualify for the daily deduction.

The amount of the deduction was based on

the federal per diem for Massachusetts. It varied from year to year. The daily per diem for representatives for fiscal year 2023, the last year this deduction was allowed, varied in different parts of the state and was seasonal. It ranged from \$98 per day to \$459 per day or between \$35,770 and \$167,535 annually.

Beacon Hill Roll Call's research indicated that in fiscal year 2023, 41 of the state's 160 representatives lived more than 50 miles from the Statehouse, qualified for this deduction and were eligible to pay a reduced or no federal income tax on their legislative salaries.

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HEALTH CARE SURROGATE

By Bob Katzen

Would create a process for handling the care of incapacitated patients who don't have a health care proxy. The measure would allow attending physicians to appoint surrogate decision makers and identifies several candidates for that role, including the incapacitated patient's spouse, unless legally separated, parent, adult child or adult sibling.

Under current law, Massachusetts health care providers must go through the difficult process of seeking a judicially appointed medical guardian before even routine decisions about care can be made. Then, after a medical guardian is appointed, some decisions, including those related to transfers to nursing facilities, require additional judicial approval. These

cumbersome processes are a disservice to incapacitated patients, whose care can be delayed by weeks.

A surrogate would not be empowered to make decisions about transferring the patient to an inpatient mental health facility nor be able to make any "extraordinary" decisions about life support, sterilization and abortion. Those decisions would continue to be deter-

mined by a court.

"Massachusetts is one of only four states without a statute allowing for the appointment of a health care surrogate when an incapacitated patient does not have a designated proxy," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Cream. "[The bill] would create a more practical process for making medical decisions in such cases, while preserving important safe-

guards. Certain decisions would still require additional judicial approval, ensuring continued oversight. The bill strikes a careful balance by allowing timely care decisions to be made in the patient's best interest, while respecting their rights and aligning as closely as possible with their known values and wishes."

DIGITAL ASSETS OF THE DECEASED (S 1048)

By Bob Katzen

Would establish regulations over what happens to a decedent's digital assets including social media, e-mail and online accounts.

Supporters said that people are unlikely to specifically designate control over these assets in a will, and companies have a patchwork of different policies on the subject or no policies at all. They noted that this often gives companies discretion over whether to provide access to an

account, and family members can be left with no ability to retrieve important information, particularly in the event of an unexpected death.

"At the moment, there is legal uncertainty about what happens to a person's digital assets—

their email, social media and other online accounts—when they pass away," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Cream (D-Newton). "[The bill] would make it easy to determine who, if anyone, should have access to a deceased person's online accounts. It would also establish proce-

dures and safeguards to prevent inappropriate disclosure of the deceased's private communications. The legislation protects privacy while also ensuring that there is clarity about who may access the digital assets of someone who has died."

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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

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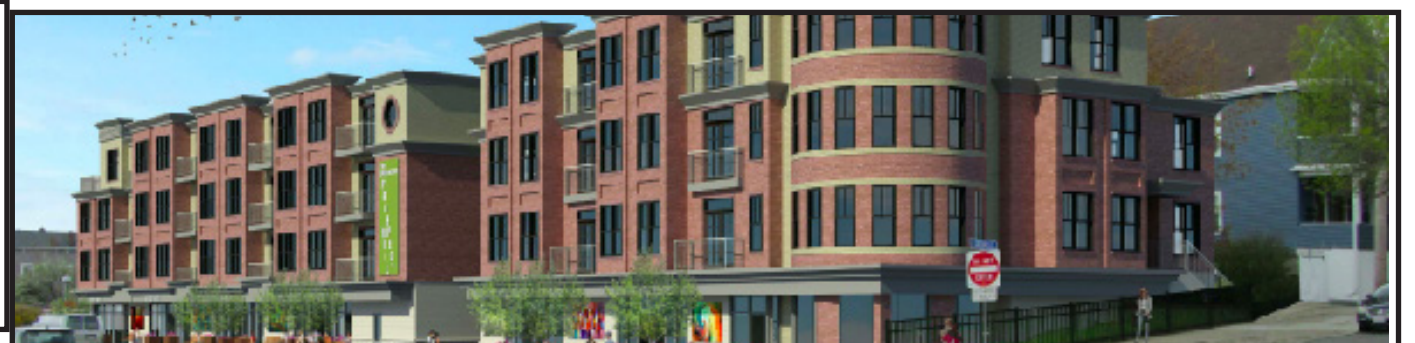
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REAL ID

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."

EXTRA PAY FOR 108 REPRESENTATIVES

By Bob Katzen

One hundred and eight of the state's 160 representatives receive an additional stipend, ranging from \$7,776.07 to \$119,631.81, above the \$82,044.31 base salary, for their positions in the Democratic and Republican leadership, as committee chairs, vice chairs and the ranking Republican on some committees. The stipend is increased or decreased every two years based on data from the BEA that measures the quarterly change in salaries and wages.

House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy)

the top Democrat, earns the highest stipend of any representatives: \$119,631.81. House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading), the top Republican, earns an \$89,723.85 stipend.

Here are the top five representatives who are paid the highest salaries including the three categories of base pay, stipends and general expense pay allowance:

Reps. Ronald Mariano (D-Quincy) \$224,107.08; Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston) \$201,676.11; Bradley Jones (R-North Reading) \$194,199.12; Mi-

chael Moran (D-Brighton) \$194,199.12; and Kate Hogan (D-Stow) \$179,245.15.

The 34 representatives who receive the lowest salary of \$104,475.27 are:

Reps. James Arena-DeRosa (D-Holliston); Michelle Badger (D-Plymouth); Michael Chaisson (R-Foxboro); Manny Cruz (D-Salem); David DeCoste (R-Norwell); Rodney Elliott (D-Lowell); Dennis Gallagher (D-Bridgewater); Colleen Garry (D-Dracut); John Gaskey (R-Carver); Ryan Hamilton (D-Methuen); Tara Hong (D-Lowell);

Vanna Howard (D-Lowell); Kristin Kassner (D-Hamilton); Patrick Kearney (D-Scituate); David LeBoeuf (D-Worcester); Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica); Bill MacGregor (D-Boston); Joan Meschino (D-Hull); John Moran (D-South End); Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen); Bridget Plouffe (D-Brockton); Sean Reid (D-Lynn); Amy Sanguolo (D-Newton); Margaret Scarsdale (D-Pepperell); Gregory Schwartz (D-Newton); Danillo Sena (D-Acton); Dawne Shand (D-Newburyport); Priscila Sousa (D-Framingham); Alyson Sullivan-Almeida (R-Abington);

Kenneth Sweezey (R-Hanson); Joshua Tarsky (D-Needham); Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville); Marcus Vaughn (R-Wrentham); and Richard Wells (D-Milton).

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NEW HIGHER \$82,044 BASE SALARY FOR REPRESENTATIVES

By Bob Katzen

The base salary for the state's 160 state representatives rose from \$73,655 for the 2023-2024 session to \$82,044 for the 2025-2026 session. That's an 11.39 percent hike which means an additional \$8,389 per representative. The estimated price tag for the hikes is \$1,342,240.

Gov. Maura Healey announced these hikes in January. Under state law, Legislative salaries are up for adjustment in January every two years, either up or down, under a 1998 constitutional amendment approved by a better than two-

to-one margin by voters. It requires that every two years the salaries of the governor, the other five constitutional statewide officers and the state's 160 representatives be increased or decreased based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) that measures the quarterly change in salaries and wages.

It also requires that the same formula be used every two years to increase or decrease the stipends that 108 representatives receive for their service in Democratic or Republican leadership positions, as committee chairs or vice chairs and as the ranking Republican on

some committees.

Representatives' base salaries were \$46,410 when the voters approved the automatic pay adjustments in 1998. Since that time, the salaries have been increased every two years except for a \$306 pay cut for the 2011-2012 session; an \$1,100 pay cut for the 2013-2014 session; and a salary freeze for the 2015-2016 legislative session.

The new \$82,044 salary means that the base House salary has been raised \$35,634 or 76.7 percent, since the mandated salary adjustment became part of the state constitution in

1998.

\$22,430.96 OR \$29,907.95 FOR GENERAL EXPENSES – Each representative also receives an annual general expense pay allowance of \$22,430.96 for members who live within a 50-mile radius of the Statehouse and \$29,907.95 for those who are located outside of that radius.

This separate, flat rate expense allowance is taxable as income. It is designed to pay for some of the costs of representatives' district offices and other expenses including contributions to local civic groups and the printing and mailing of

newsletters. Representatives are not required to submit an accounting of how they spend the money, but they are allowed to deduct any expenses, permitted under federal law, from their gross income on their federal and state tax return.

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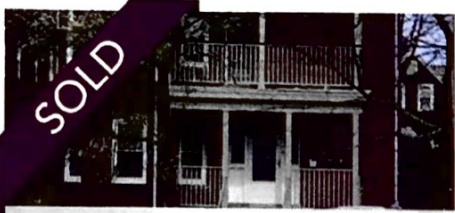
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