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VOL.1 NO.329-268

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday July 1st, 2025

## REPRODUCTIVE AND TRANSGENDER CARE PROTECTIONS (S 2538)



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



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### Somerville Fire Department Summer Safety Reminder: Grills Not Allowed on Porches or Balconies



Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page

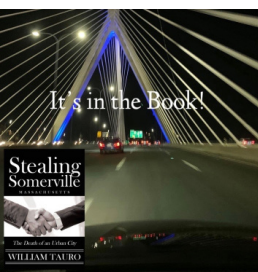
### Local Medford/Somerville Drug Bust



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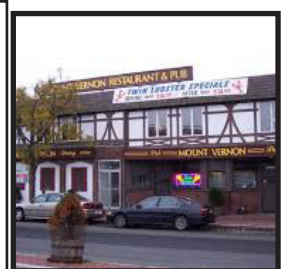


Continued to page 15



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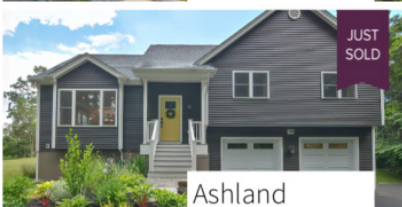
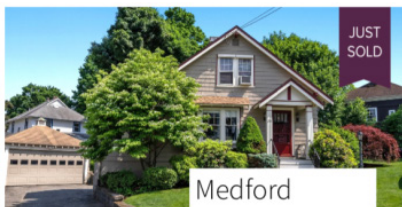
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## Somerville/Medford Remembering Lorraine M. (Frye) Bailot



### Obituary:

Lorraine M. (Frye) Bailot passed away at home surrounded by the love of her family on June 23, 2025, she was 61.

Born and raised in Somerville, daughter of the late Mary (McCormack) and David B. Frye, she was the beloved wife of 38 years to Robert Bailot. Together they raised their family in Everett. Lorraine was a dedicated home health

aide for many years who provided exceptional care to those in need. A hard worker, Lorraine was devoted to her family and enjoyed nothing more than relaxing and celebrating the holidays and spending time with them.

Beloved wife of Robert Bailot of Everett, she was the devoted mother of Robert Bailot, Jr, Brandon Bailot and his wife Alyssa all of Everett. Cherished

grandmother of Audrey Raine. Dear sister of Nancy Gianatasio, Elaine Ennis, David B. Frye, Jr., Cheryl Lochiatto, Daniel Frye and the late Mary-Ann Bastardi and Theresa Mazzeo. She is further survived by many loving nieces and nephews, sisters and brothers – in -law and friends.

Relatives and friends are invited to a Memorial Visitation in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home,

855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Tuesday, July 1st from 2:00PM ~ 4:00PM. A Celebration of Life will continue at the Village Bar and Grill, 38 Norman St, Everett, MA from 5:00PM ~ 8:00PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lorraine's memory can be made to the American Lung Association at <http://www.lung.org>

## Somerville/Medford Remembering Sylvester O'Dell MacDonald



### Obituary:

Sylvester O'Dell MacDonald, a resident of Ciampa Manor Obituary Sylvester O'Dell MacDonald, a resident of Ciampa Manor in Somerville, passed away on June 24, 2025, he was 88. Born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada he was one of twelve children born to Sarah J. (Wallace) and Donald Angus MacDonald. He immigrated to the United States in 1958 and settled in Somerville with his family. He proudly served in the US Army when inducted into service in 1960 during the Vietnam War. As an active member of American Legion Post 19, he joined his fellow veterans every year marching in the Memorial Day parades. Equally proud of his Scottish and Canadian roots,

he learned to play the bagpipes and enjoyed frequent trips back to Nova Scotia for visits and was a member of the Canadian American Club of Watertown.

Devoted to his church, Sylvester was an active parishioner of St. Catherine of Genoa. Known as "Vesty" by his cherished family, he will be remembered for his love of storytelling, dancing and sharing many laughs together.

He is survived by his siblings, Margaret Campbell of PA, Elmer MacDonald and his wife Joan of Nova Scotia, Angus MacDonald of Somerville, Catherine Steele of North Reading, Bernadette Simpson of Somerville, Eugene MacDonald of Ontario, Allan MacDonald and his wife Theresa of Nova Scotia, Theresa Sanderson and her husband Ray of Wakefield and the late Daniel, Francis and Wallace MacDonald. Cherished Uncle to twenty-nine nieces and nephews and many great nieces and nephews. Longtime companion of the late Loretta Fields.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Wednesday morning, July 2 from 8:30AM -9:30AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Catherine of Genoa Church at 10:00AM.

Services will conclude with burial at the Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne Wednesday afternoon at 1:45PM.

If you wish, in lieu of flowers donations in Sylvester's memory can be made to St. Catherine Church or to a charity of your choice. in Somerville, passed away on June 24, 2025, he was 88. Born and raised in Nova Scotia, Canada he was one of twelve children born to Sarah J. (Wallace) and Donald Angus MacDonald.

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## Somerville/Medford Remembering Noe A. Gutierrez Majano



### Obituary

Noe A. Gutierrez Majano, a resident of Somerville, passed away on June 26, 2025, at the age of 44.

He was a beloved brother and father to Noe Jr. Gutierrez-Lopes and Xiomara Gutierrez-Lopes. Noe was a hardworking man with a passion for the art of land-

scaping. Known for being thoughtful, affectionate, and kind, he was cherished by his loved ones. His outgoing nature and sense of humor always lit up the room. Relatives

and friends are invited to visit in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.), Somerville on Monday, July 7 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.



### REPRODUCTIVE AND TRANSGENDER CARE PROTECTIONS (S 2538)



Senate 37-3 approved and sent to the House legislation that would strengthen health care protections in the Bay State. The bill is designed to fortify protections for people seeking and providing reproductive and transgender care.

The legislation would prohibit state agencies and law enforcement from cooperating with other states or federal investigations into legally protected reproductive or transgender health care provided in Massachusetts. Under the bill, businesses that manage electronic health information would similarly be limited in sharing patient data connected to these services.

Other provisions would allow prescriptions to be issued with the name of a healthcare practice rather than an individual practitioner; exclude certain reproductive and gender-affirming medications from the state's drug monitoring programs; limit third-party access to related medical records; enhance license protections for attorneys and anyone providing reproductive or transgender health care services; and forbid insurance companies from discriminating against or penalizing providers who offer reproductive and transgender health services.

"As we face new, more unpredictable threats from

a hostile federal government that is targeting those engaged in care that is legally protected under Massachusetts law, we must again stand up to defend our autonomy and the rights of Massachusetts residents," said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). "The passage of the [the bill] upholds the Senate's commitment to always keep the health and safety of Massachusetts residents at the forefront of our work."

"With today's vote, Massachusetts is reinforcing its legacy of safeguarding abortion care despite ever-evolving and escalating efforts from a hostile federal administration to empower anti-abortion extremists and undermine access to reproductive health care and our fundamental right to bodily autonomy nationwide," said Rebecca Hart Holder, President of Reproductive Equity Now.

"Abortion and gender-affirming care providers and patients are under escalating attacks, facing lawsuits, harassment and intimidation by hostile states around the country," said Carol Rose, Execu-

tive Director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. "Massachusetts has long recognized that access to these forms of health care is essential - for our health, our families and our bodily autonomy. This legislation builds on our state's already-strong shield law protections in a time of tremendous urgency."

"This bill is looking to solve a problem that doesn't exist and in doing so actually creates problems," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton), one of only three senators to vote against the bill. "For example, the bill prevents the disclosure of health information when requested by other states even during criminal investigations. If a child is raped by a family member and then trafficked to Massachusetts for abortion services, this bill would allow the commonwealth of Massachusetts to prohibit outside agencies from obtaining any information that may be germane to a criminal investigation. The bill also calls into question parental rights and custodial issues regarding minors from out of state who are seeking healthcare services un-

knownst to their parents."

Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton) and Pater Durrant (R-Spencer), the only other members who voted against the proposal, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to explain why they opposed the legislation.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



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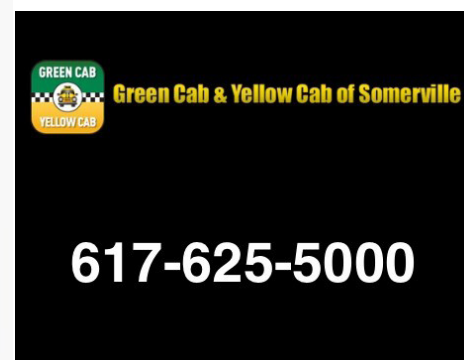
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### ArtBeat 2025: Mayor Ballantyne Invites All to Annual Festival in Davis Square Saturday, July 19



Enjoy 100 local craft and food vendors, music, dance performances, and more

SOMERVILLE—Summer is heating up in Somerville, so we're bringing the cool.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite community members to "ArtBeat 2025: Freeze" on Saturday, July 19, from 12 to 9 p.m. in Davis Square (rain date: Sunday, July 20).

One of the City's largest festivals, ArtBeat transforms Davis Square into a bustling celebration of creativity and community. The festival will feature approximately 100 craft and food vendors, local organizations, and two performance stages showcasing a dynamic mix of music, dance, theater, and interactive activities—all highlighting Somerville's diverse

and vibrant arts scene. Streets will be hopping with vendors and music from 12 to 7 p.m., with music continuing in Seven Hills Park until 9 p.m. Keep cool throughout by filling up your water bottle at the water buggy in Davis Sq., set up your umbrella on the Seven Hills Park lawn, or visit the shade sail by the Elm St. stage.

Find photos, descriptions, and start times for all ArtBeat performers at [bit.ly/44JqyNy](http://bit.ly/44JqyNy).

This year's theme, "Freeze," invites artists and attendees to creatively explore the many meanings of the word—wheth-

er that's freezing in motion, preserving memories, or simply cooling down on a summer day. The event takes place throughout Davis Square, including Seven Hills Park, Elm Street, and Holland Street, which will be closed to traffic. Admission is free and open to all.

"ArtBeat brings out the very best of Somerville—our creativity, diversity, and our strong sense of community," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Each year, our local artists continue to surprise and inspire us, and I'm excited to see how they bring this year's theme to life."

For all ArtBeat information, please visit: [somerilleartsCouncil.org/events/artbeat-freeze](http://somerilleartsCouncil.org/events/artbeat-freeze).

MBTA Bus Information  
MBTA Buses Routes: 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, and 96 will be rerouted from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please see <http://www.mbta.com> for full detour information.

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### 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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### Local Medford/Somerville Drug Bust



Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Federal, State and Local Partners Lead Investigation Resulting in Seizures of Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Containing Illicit Narcotics

MEDFORD/SOMERVILLE – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, Massachusetts State Police Colonel Geoffrey Noble and Acting Medford Chief of Police Paul Covino have announced charges that are the result of two separate investigations conducted collaboratively with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and other state and federal partners to disrupt large scale drug distribution efforts in Middlesex County.

"These large-scale drug operations are the focus of our investigative work when it comes to addressing the opioid epidemic

that continues to be a persistent public safety and public health priority. Through federal, state and local partnerships, significant resources were dedicated to interrupting these very high level, calculated schemes. Counterfeit pills, in particular, pose a serious risk to public safety and health. Users are intentionally led to believe that they are taking a drug they may be familiar with, but are instead consuming drugs such as Methamphetamine or, in some cases, Fentanyl. Fentanyl is highly lethal and one pill may prove deadly. The result of this work is that thousands of grams of illegal drugs, worth tens of thousands of dollars, have been removed from the streets," said District Attorney Ryan.

On Saturday, June 6, 2025, Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the

Middlesex District Attorney's Office along with the Massachusetts State Police Gaming Enforcement Unit executed a search warrant in connection with an ongoing investigation into a drug trafficking operation where individuals, identified as Claude Pelissier, 37, and Felicia DiPietrantonio, 37 both of Somerville, were allegedly in possession of large amounts of narcotics including fentanyl, suboxone strips and pills, some of which appeared to be packaged for sale. In the search of Felicia DiPietrantonio's home police seized:

52 grams of suspected crack/cocaine, Approximately 68 grams of suspected fentanyl, Suboxone strips, Numerous unidentified pills, Drug paraphernalia to include cutting agents, plastic baggies and a scale. \$5,800 cash

Both Claude Pelissier and Felicia DiPietrantonio have been charged with trafficking cocaine, over 36 grams; trafficking heroin/morphine/opium/fentanyl, in 36 grams or more; possession of a Class B substance; and conspiracy to violate the drug laws. Their arraignment is scheduled for August 25, 2025, in Somerville District Court.

A few days later, on June 10, 2025, at approximately 6:01 a.m., members of the

Middlesex State Police Detective Unit, DEA Portsmouth Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS), United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and the Medford Police Department executed a search warrant in the basement apartment of a residence on Bowdoin Street, Medford. That warrant was the culmination of a two-month long investigation by the various law enforcement agencies.

As a result, John Dinius, 30, of Medford, was arrested for allegedly operating a high-level drug trafficking scheme. Dinius is alleged to have been manufacturing counterfeit pills, mimicking the appearance of actual prescription medications, such as Adderall and Xanax. The pills were actually made from illicit narcotics, including Methamphetamine. That search led to seizure of the following items:

- 571 grams of white bar-shaped pills (Counterfeit Xanax)
- 466 grams of orange oval-shaped pills (Counterfeit Adderall)
- 1454 grams of blue bar-shaped pills (Counterfeit Xanax)
- 80 grams of Cocaine
- 138 grams of Crystal Methamphetamine
- 18 grams of Oxycodone pills
- A mechanically-operated pill press.
- Field testing conducted by

the Massachusetts State Police Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team (CLET) of the pressed/counterfeit pills listed above all tested positive for the presence of Methamphetamine.

Dinius was arraigned in Somerville District Court and charged with trafficking in Methamphetamine over 200 grams; trafficking in Cocaine, 36-100 grams; possession with intent to distribute class B, oxycodone; and conspiracy to violate the drug law. Dinius was ordered held on \$75,000 bail. The next date in this case is July 10, 2025, for a probable cause hearing.

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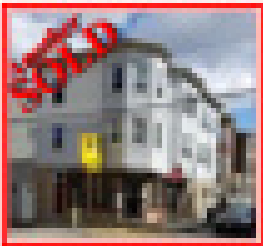


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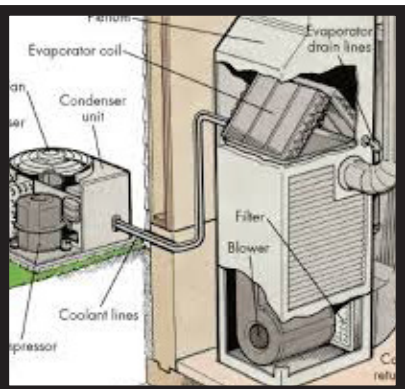
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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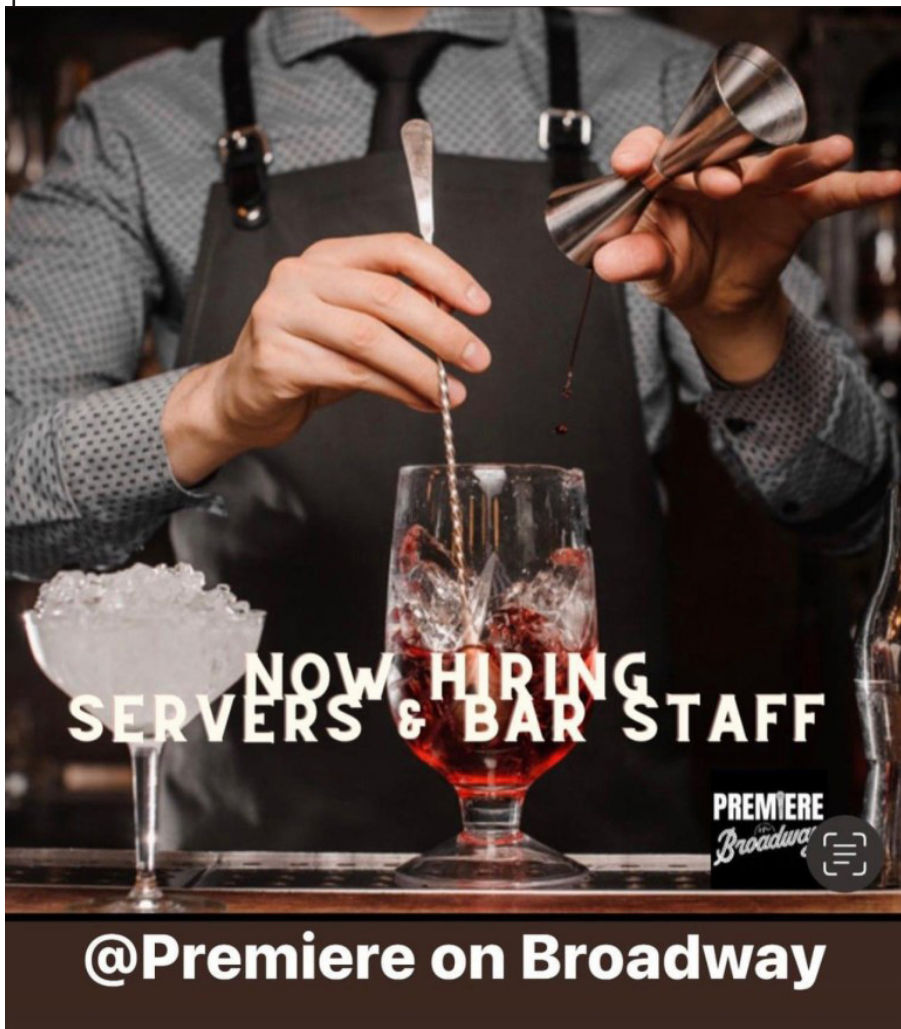
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## RIGHT TURN ON RED (S 1715)

By Bob Katzen

Another bill heard by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee would prohibit vehicles from turning right on a red or stop signal.

“Eliminating right turns on red improves pedestrian safety by reducing conflicts between turning vehicles and people crossing the street, especially protecting children, seniors and individuals with disabilities,” said sponsor Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester). “It supports walkable, equitable communities with minimal impact on traffic flow while addressing risks from distracted or rushed driving.”

## Somerville’s Nicotine-Free Generation Policy Begins as New Sales Regulations In Effect



SOMERVILLE – This spring, Somerville’s Board of Health (BOH) voted for the City to join a growing national movement to create a Nicotine-Free generation by adopting new public health regulations limiting the sale of nicotine products, which went into effect May 1.

The updated rules, adopted unanimously by the Somerville Board of Health on March 25, mark the start of a major local effort to prevent nicotine addiction, especially among youth.

Under the new regulations: Somerville will begin implementing a Nicotine-Free Generation policy. Anyone born on or after January 1, 2005, will be permanently ineligible to purchase tobacco or nicotine products in the city, even once they turn 21.

Nicotine pouches can now only be sold in adult-only retail stores. Retailers who do not meet this standard must remove pouches from their shelves immediately.

“The Nicotine-Free Generation policy isn’t about taking away rights, it’s about giving young people the freedom to grow up without the grip of nicotine,” said Bhavika Kalia, a member of Somerville Positive Forces. “It’s about bold action today to protect the well-being of those who will lead our communities tomorrow.”

The Somerville Board of Health encourages retailers and community members to familiarize themselves with the new rules. These changes reflect the City’s continued commitment to a healthier, addiction-free future for its residents. These regulations follow years of local and statewide efforts to reduce access to harmful products, including Massachusetts’ 2024 ban on menthol-mimicking tobacco products.

For more information, contact Six City Tobacco Control Director Bonny Carroll at bcarroll@somervillema.gov, or visit somervillema.gov/prevention.





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### SALES TAX HOLIDAY (S 2530 and H 4220) Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10

By Bob Katzen

The House and Senate approved measures designating Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10 as a sales tax holiday weekend for the Bay State, allowing consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 without paying the state’s 6.25 percent sales tax. State law currently calls for a 2-day sales tax holiday every year. This bill simply sets the specific dates.

“The sales tax holiday is a wonderful opportunity for our residents to get out into their communities, support local businesses, get their kids ready for school in fall or make a purchase that they’ve been putting off,” said co-sponsor Sen. Adam Gómez (D-Springfield), Senate Chair of the Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses. “I am glad that our leaders here in the Legislature have been able to work

and get this done again for our residents this year, and I look forward to hearing how residents are able to make the most of the tax reprieve.”

“I was proud to sponsor the legislation establishing this year’s sales tax holiday that helps boost our economy and provides support and relief for our residents and small businesses,” said co-sponsor Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall River), House Chair of the

Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. “This is an important weekend that helps bolster our economy and I applaud my colleagues in passing this legislation to provide individuals, families and businesses across the commonwealth with some relief.”

“Lowering costs for Massachusetts residents and supporting local businesses is critical for our

communities in this time of economic uncertainty,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

“This year’s temporary suspension of the sales tax will bring consumers needed economic relief while boosting revenue for small businesses and retailers,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).



### TAX CREDIT FOR CARING FOR ELDERLY OR DISABLED (H 3018)

By Bob Katzen

A bill heard by the Revenue Committee would provide up to a \$600 state income tax credit to any Massachusetts resident who care for an elderly or totally disabled relative with Alzheimer's disease

in the person's home.

Taxpayers are eligible if they provide more than half of the support for a relative age 70 or older or a totally disabled relative with Alzheimer's disease; if their income is less than \$20,000 for a single

filer or less than \$35,000 for a joint filer; and if the cared-for relative lives with the taxpayer for more than six months of the tax year.

"Caring for an aging parent or a loved one with Alzheimer's can be

emotionally and financially overwhelming," said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). "This bill provides a modest but meaningful tax credit to help families offset the high costs of home care, and to support those who are making great per-

sonal sacrifices to care for someone they love in the comfort and dignity of their own home."

### EXPAND THE BOTTLE BILL (S 2245)

By Bob Katzen

The Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy's hearing included a measure that would expand the bottle bill to include containers as small as nips and as large as one gallon; more types of beverages such as water, energy drinks and

iced tea; an increase in the deposit from 5 cents to 10 cents; an increase in the handling fees paid to retailers and redemption centers; an exemption for retailers of less than 2,000 square feet from the requirement of accepting containers for redemption; and a provision that would direct unclaimed

deposits in excess of \$70 million to the re-established Clean Environment Fund, to be used for administering the deposit system and for programs related to solid waste management and environmental protection.

Sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton) said

the bill will modernize the bottle deposit system so that it better reflects the beverages we consume today. "By including more types of containers, raising the deposit and supporting retailers with higher handling fees ... we can recycle billions more bottles and cans each year. This will reduce

litter in our communities, slash emissions, save cities and towns millions in waste removal costs and create jobs across the state."

### BAN OPEN CONTAINERS OF MARIJUANA IN MOTOR VEHICLES (H 186)

By Bob Katzen

The Cannabis Policy Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would establish a \$100 to \$500 civil penalty for a

driver possessing an open container of marijuana or marijuana-infused edibles in the passenger area of a motor vehicle — similar to the state's open alcohol container law. The mea-

sure also creates exemptions for certain vehicles including limousines and RVs.

"I filed this bill with hopes

of creating more structure and regulation within the developing industry," said sponsor Rep. Marcus Vaughan (R-Wrentham). "I feel while this is a great addition to the com-

monwealth's economic standpoint there needs to be more awareness on the public health side to promote safety."

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**This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill**



By Bob Katzen

“Investing in clean energy to modernize our schools is one of the smartest steps we can take to create healthier, safer learning environments for our students and educators. By improving energy efficiency, we lower costs, reduce harmful pollution and free up valuable resources to support teachers and educational programs. This is an investment in our communities and the well-being of the next generation.”

— Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announcing that the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center awarded more than \$52 million in grants to help upgrade public school facilities through the Green School Works program, which aims to make K-12 public school buildings more energy-efficient, lower costs for school districts, reduce pollution and create

safer and healthier learning environments for students and educators.

“Good nutrition is a cornerstone of health, year-round. Programs like SUN Bucks let children focus on learning, playing and just being kids, rather than where their next meal will come from when school is closed.”

— Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh announcing the SUN Bucks program which provides grocery money to eligible low-income Massachusetts families with school-aged children in the summer months to buy food when schools are closed. The program started in June 2024 and last year served 584,441 Massachusetts children.

“We’re working on every front to lower costs, from cutting taxes, to building more housing, to lowering your energy bill. Our legislation gets charges off bills, lowers overall energy costs and prevents big price

swings that families and businesses can’t afford. We’re putting savings back in people’s pockets while continuing to move Massachusetts toward greater energy independence.”

—Gov. Healey testifying at a hearing on her legislation that she calls “The Energy Affordability, Independence and Innovation Act,” which she says will lower energy bills and bring more energy into Massachusetts.

“Today’s hearing is political theater. It’s the governor trying to deflect blame as she heads into an election year. The Healey administration wants credit for tackling energy costs, but their bill just recycles the same failed mandates that created the crisis in the first place.”

—Paul Craney, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, commenting on Healey’s bill.

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### Somerville Fire Department Summer Safety Reminder: Grills Not Allowed on Porches or Balconies



Two-thirds of grilling fires in Massachusetts occur between May and September

SOMERVILLE—With summer in full swing, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville Fire Chief Charles Breen are reminding community members to safely use and store grilling equipment to help prevent outdoor fires this summer. Most important, grills and smokers are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, or roofs.

Remember to call 911 if you see uncontained flames or smoke. Outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and

chimineas are also always prohibited in the City in all locations.

“Somerville is a very densely populated city and a fire resulting from improper use of a barbeque grill could impact you and many of your neighbors,” said Chief Breen. “Complying with safety tips and regulations helps to keep us all safe.”

Somerville has a lot of older housing, mostly constructed of wood-frame units built closely together. With the density of buildings in the city, outdoor fires can easily spread to homes and other properties. About two-thirds of grilling fires in Massachusetts occur between May and September, and outdoor cooking fires cause serious injuries and property damage every year across the state.

“Grilling is a fun summer activity to share with fam-

ily, friends, and neighbors, but it’s important to keep safety in mind. Most grill fires are easily preventable with proper precautions,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “We can all take some simple, yet important steps this summer to help prevent fires in our community.”

#### Safe Cooking

Charcoal, wood, electric, and propane grills are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, roofs, or decks with a roof, overhang, or wall. This includes grills, hibachis, barbecues, and smokers. Grilling should only be done outdoors, at ground level, 10 feet from structures, and never under overhangs or branches. All cooking fires should be on a charcoal briquette grill or propane gas grill. Never leave a grill burning unattended.

Keep children and pets away from grills, matches or lighters, and lighter

fluid. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.

**Safe Storage and Cleanup**  
Always clean your grill after use to help prevent grease fires. Make sure it is cooled completely before storing.

Propane tanks cannot be stored in or on residential buildings.

Dispose of ashes from grills in a metal can, douse them with water, and cover with a tight-fitting lid. Ashes can remain hot enough to ignite combustibles long after the fire goes out. Never dump them outdoors or place them inside a building or in the trash, and never place them in a combustible container or paper bag.

To report improper use of a grill or outdoor burning violations, call the Fire Department at 617-623-1500.

For more grilling safety information, visit the Commonwealth’s Grilling Safety webpage at [mass.gov/info-details/grilling-safety](http://mass.gov/info-details/grilling-safety).

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### BAN USE OF CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS (S 381)

By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee held a hearing on several bills which would ban student use of cell phones during classes except

when expressly directed by a teacher.

“An increasing number of countries, states and municipalities have banned mobile phones in schools,”

said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy) who filed one of the proposals. He noted that he filed the measure, to ensure that the commonwealth protects children in classrooms and

optimizes the learning environment for students.”

### Somerville Mobile Farmers Market Returns Thursday, July 10



Mobile Market Bring Fresh, Affordable Local Produce to Locations Across the City

SOMERVILLE – Get your recipes ready, the Somerville Mobile Farmers Market returns on Thursday, July 10 for the 2025 season. The market will be open Thursdays through Saturdays, and will run through November 1.

All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons.

Here’s where you can find the

mobile market this summer and fall:

Thursdays, 4–6 p.m.  
Clarendon Hill Towers, 1366 Broadway

Fridays, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Council on Aging, 167 Holland Street

Fridays, 2:30–4:30 p.m.  
Somerville Public Library –

East Branch, 115 Broadway  
Saturdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Mystic Housing Development, 25B Memorial Road

For the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market’s website at [somervillemobilefarmersmarket.org](http://somervillemobilefarmersmarket.org).

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### DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS (H 4124)

By Bob Katzen

The Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security held a hearing on a measure that would ban prisons from prohibiting

an inmate from playing Dungeons and Dragons or other role-playing games. "Current law allows correctional facilities to ban role-playing games like

Dungeons and Dragons under the misguided belief that they promote gang activity or inappropriate behavior," said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). "This restriction

is not only baseless, but it echoes the outdated paranoia of the 1980s 'Satanic Panic.' Denying incarcerated individuals the opportunity to engage in creative, collaborative

and mentally stimulating games is an unreasonable infringement on their free time and rehabilitation potential."

### REGULATE DOCUMENTS REQUESTS (S 2538)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would require the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promulgate regulations related to document requests made by other states and the federal government and maintain a database of the requests. The amendment would also require HHS to provide a record of the

requests to the House and Senate Clerks. "The top priority we should all have is the safety of our friends, family and neighbors" said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth) who voted for the amendment. "I will continue to work to ensure that the rights and protections that these individuals have are

safeguarded by the Legislature and that everyone has access to their right to proper healthcare without interference from other states or legislative bodies." Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to

explain why he proposed the amendment. "I voted against [the amendment] because, while I agreed with the intent [of the amendment], I didn't believe it could be implemented without a lot of further research to make it possible to implement as written," said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). "Having

not spoken with HHS, we couldn't do that in time to redraft it." (A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.) Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

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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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<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	<b>SURVIVAL</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter
<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool
<input type="checkbox"/> Nuts	<b>TREATS:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	<input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates
<input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs
<b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped)
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
<input type="checkbox"/> Stationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum
<input type="checkbox"/> Stamps	<b>SPLURGE:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card	<input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag

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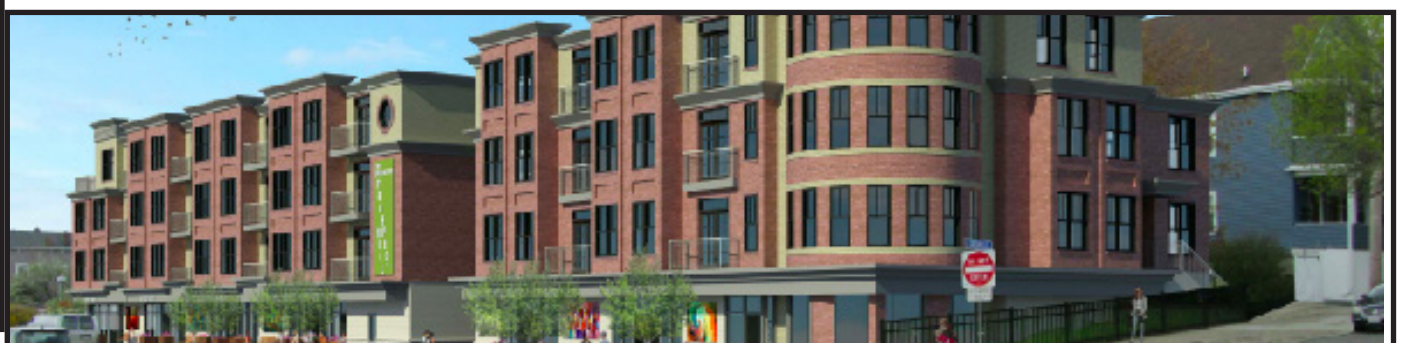
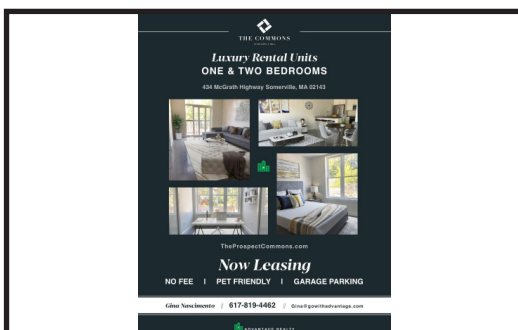
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### GOV. HEALEY SIGNS \$1.3 BILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION PACKAGE (H 4227)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a \$1.3 billion fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that uses funds generated from the surtax imposed on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually, to fund \$593 million for education-related projects and \$716 million for transportation-related ones.

The surtax was created by voters in November 2022 when they voted for a constitutional amendment, dubbed by supporters as the "Fair Share Amendment," that allows a graduated income tax in Massachusetts and imposes an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually.

A total of \$535 million of the \$716 million for transportation will be used for various MBTA projects. Other provisions include \$80 million for

Chapter 90 aid to ensure every city and town receives funding to maintain local roads and bridges; \$16.4 million for municipally owned small bridges and culverts; \$7 million for the improvement and maintenance of unpaved roads; and \$5 million for transportation improvements associated with the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The \$593 million for education includes \$248 million for special education; \$115 million for public higher education infrastructure investments; \$25 million for tutoring to support accelerated literacy growth and success for students in kindergarten through grade 3; \$10 million for English Language Learning Programs; \$10 million to support the Holocaust Museum in Boston; and \$10 million for grants to eligible local school districts for clean energy infrastructure improvements and upgrades.

"I proposed this bill to address two of the most critical needs we have as a state - transportation and education," said Gov. Healey. "For decades, our transportation system has been underinvested in, and Massachusetts residents and businesses have been paying the price. We're delivering an historic infusion of funding to upgrade roads and bridges and finally stabilize the finances at the T. We're also expanding access to the programs that have been proven to support students and help them recover from the learning losses they suffered due to the pandemic, like tutoring and career and technical education."

"As the school year comes to a close, educators and families can head into summer break knowing that significant funding is coming their way that delivers the support they need for special education, childcare and tutoring," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "At the same time,

we're ushering in a new era of modern, reliable transportation across Massachusetts. We look forward to continuing to build on the progress we've been making on transportation and education across the state."

"Ensuring that every Massachusetts resident has access to a safe and reliable public transportation system, and that every student in the commonwealth receives a high-quality education, are two of the most fundamental responsibilities that we have as elected officials," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "The investments being made in this supplemental budget are representative of the commonwealth's continued focus on meeting those responsibilities."

"No matter where you live in Massachusetts, you deserve reliable transportation and an education that opens doors to opportunities," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-

Ashland). "This funding moves us closer to a commonwealth where everyone has access to both. At a time when the federal government's commitment to safe transit and strong public education is in doubt, this legislation makes direct investments in local communities, our school systems and the infrastructure projects that keep Massachusetts moving forward."

### \$800,000 FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for Boys and Girls Clubs by \$800,000 (from \$2.2 million to \$3 million.)

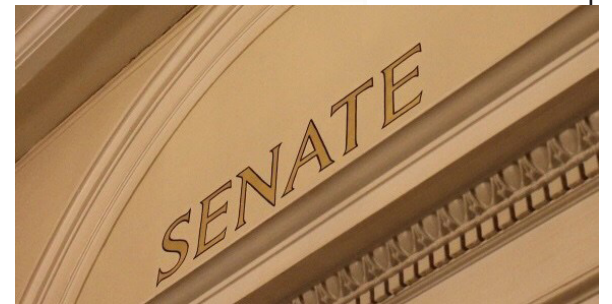
"This funding will support

the Boys and Girls Club's mission of assuring that success is within reach of every young person by providing a safe environment and social, academic and health services that club members may not otherwise receive," said amendment sponsor Sen.

Edward Kennedy (D-Lowell).

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$800,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



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## Jurassic World Rebirth : The Dark Side of Gilligans Island



A Joe Viglione Look Into Things Jurassic

11 Years After Scarlett

Johansson's Science Fiction Blockbuster Lucy, the star delivers on this David Koepp written Journey Into the Depths

The weather started getting rough, The tiny ship was tossed, If not for the courage of the fearless crew Theme from Gilligan's Island

The 7th in the Jurassic World films, Scarlett Johansson takes control of this really innovative David Koepp-penned film. The franchise continues to earn billions of dollars and this entry will add to the gold and platinum. Jonathan Bailey played Fiyero in Wicked

and has a most interesting character here as Dr Henry Loomis, leaving behind former Jurassic Park actor Jeff Goldblum to all things Wicked.

Johansson does not look like her Lucy role from 11 years back, another sci-fi blockbuster, and her pairing with homosexual-in-real-life actor Bailey kind of makes them the Doris Day/Rock Hudson of this era. Neither does Bailey look like his creation in Wicked. The acting is most fluid and Director Gareth James Edwards (who turns 50 on Jo Jo Laine's birthday, July 13) will have a birthday surprise of more than a billion dollars to his brilliant catalogue of sci-

ence fiction films Godzilla (2014), Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (2016), The Creator (2023)

The Matrix truly capitalized on taking elements from old movies and recycling them. Writer Koepp and Director Edwards do not go that far, but Steven Spielberg – Executive Producer – is celebrating Jaws, originally released on June 20, 1975, and the jaws are chomping all over this epic. It is hardly a coincidence.

There are some minor lulls in the picture, very minor, and perhaps put there to make the thrills and spills all the more film-viewing fun, what stands out, though, is after all these sequels, the

film brilliantly stays away from the old and gives something pretty new (\*despite the comments above,) fresh for the series and, as always, exciting.

Read Joe's Substack here: <https://joeviglione.substack.com/p/jurassic-world-rebirth>

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