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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday July 22nd, 2025

Too Little, Too Late: Governor Healey's Reactive Response to the Fall River Fire Tragedy



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



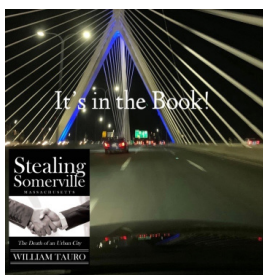
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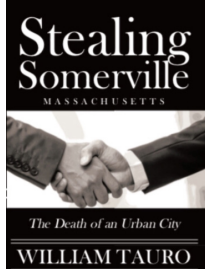


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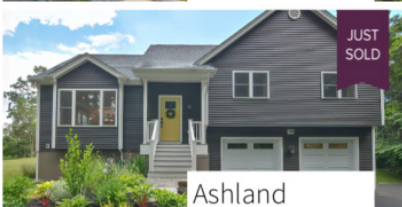
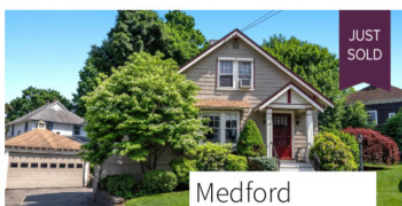
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Salvatore Valente



Obituary

Valente, Salvatore (92), of Somerville, MA passed away surrounded by his entire family on July 14, 2025. He was born on April 28, 1933 in Gaeta, Italy to Damiano and Annina (Macero) Valente.

Around the age of 18, Sal went to find work in Venezuela. He spent five years there working in construction to

provide for his family back in Gaeta. He returned to Italy to continue to help his father on the family farm. At that time he met Anna (Vaudo) Valente and they married on April 22, 1961. Anna immigrated to the United States and Sal joined her in 1962.

Sal worked in the meat packing district in Dorchester (Armour and Colonial) for many years and in the maintenance department at Bentley College for 12 years, retiring in 1998. Although he never received a formal education because of World War II, Sal knew how to fix, build or grow anything.

He took such pride in his garden, growing hundreds of tomato plants, rows and rows of arugula, basil, eggplant and his famous long zucchini that he grew along the top of his garage. No matter who you were, you would always leave his house with a bag of tomatoes from

his garden.

Sal enjoyed tinkering in his garage, basement workshop and garden. He kept every scrap and spare piece of material, saving it, and making something completely unique. His workshop is filled with "Nonno's inventions". Near his workshop you'll find his wine cellar with barrels where he dedicated decades of his life to making "vino" or as we liked to call it, "Nonno Juice" for all to enjoy.

Sal lived for his family, working hard to build a life in America from scratch; buying and renovating the house he lived in with Anna for over 40 years, raising two devoted sons, welcoming a beloved daughter-in-law, and being cherished by five adoring grandchildren. In addition to gardening and tinkering, Sal enjoyed family dinners, sharing stories and singing along to

"musica napolitana". He was a big fan of old cowboy westerns and the WWE. He enjoyed every moment spent with his friends and family, especially his great-grandson, Aaron.

Sal is predeceased by his parents, Damiano and Annina, his sisters Rosa and Rosa and his beloved wife Anna. He is survived by his brother Giovanni of Gaeta, Italy and sister Teresa; his sons; Danny and wife Paula of Malden, Anthony and fiancée Tanya and daughter Lia of Danvers; his granddaughters; Cristina, husband Matt of Glastonbury, CT; Elyse and partner O'Shane of Somerville; Gabriella and fiancé Andrew; Olivia and partner Dylan; his grandson, Daniel and great-grandson, Aaron.

After losing his wife, Anna, in 2023, Sal continued to live an independent, full and joyful life at home with the

unwavering and dedicated support and care of his family, especially Elyse and O'Shane.

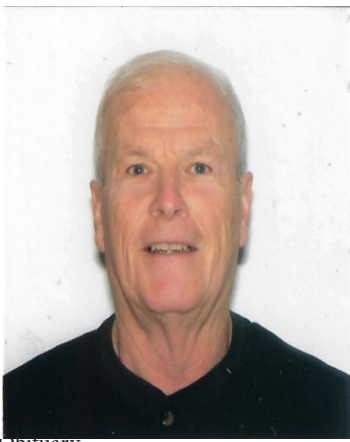
In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Sal's name to Massachusetts General Hospital.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Monday, July 21st 4:00PM ~ 7:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Funeral Procession from the Doherty Funeral Home on Tuesday morning, July 22nd at 9:00AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Raphael Church, Medford at 10:00AM.

Services will conclude with entombment at Holy Cross, Chapel Hill, Mausoleum in Malden.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Joseph "Joey" Byrne



Obituary

Joseph "Joey" Byrne, 73, of Somerville, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on July 15, 2025. Born on November 4, 1951, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Joey lived a life defined by love for family, dedication

to his work, and a joyful spirit that touched everyone he met.

A proud graduate of Somerville High School, Joey went on to serve the city of Somerville as a Letter Carrier for an impressive 37 years. His career was more than just a job—it was a continuation of his father's legacy. Walking the same route his father once did brought him immense pride and purpose. Joey became a beloved figure in the community; his customers looked forward to seeing him each day and deeply missed him when he retired.

Joey was the ultimate family man—devoted, generous, and always ready with a smile or a story. He is survived by his loving wife Patti; his children Michael and wife Felicia, Mark, and

daughter Kerianne; and his cherished grandsons Evan, Benny, and Jake. His siblings Peggy and husband Chet, Linda and husband Dennis, Eileen and husband Ron, and brother Richie with wife Lanie held special places in his heart. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law Johnny Longo and wife Shirley; sister-in-law Jo-An Terrizzi and husband Frank; numerous nieces and nephews who adored him; and lifelong friends Lukey and Patti Lucherini along with their daughter Carolyn, her husband Bobby, and their children Jack, Natalie, and Gabby. Joey's loyal companion Bella was never far from his side.

He was preceded in death by his parents William and Eileen Byrne and his in-laws John and Marie Longo.

Joey's zest for life was evident in everything he did. He loved being outdoors—soaking up the sun at the beach, joyfully handing out candy on Halloween, or helping neighbors clear snow with a smile. A passionate football fan and avid ticket scratcher, he also found great joy in cruising adventures that allowed him to explore new places while spending time with those he loved most.

Known for always having a story to tell—and usually one that left you laughing—Joey had an infectious energy that made people feel welcome wherever he went. His warmth extended beyond family to friends old and new; he had an uncanny ability to make everyone feel like they mattered.

A celebration of Joey's life will be held at a later date where stories will be shared, laughter will echo, and memories will be cherished.

Joseph Byrne: The Richest Man in Town—not because of wealth or possessions—but because of the love he gave so freely to all who knew him. Forever in our hearts—gone but never forgotten.

Calling hours will be held at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway, Somerville, on Wednesday evening, July 23, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. A Funeral Home Service will be held for Joseph at the same location on Thursday morning, July 24th at 11:00 AM. Interment will be private.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Lillian J. DiFraia-Alves



Obituary

Lillian J. DiFraia-Alves, of Wellesley; and a for-

mer longtime Somerville resident, passed away suddenly at home on July 14, 2025, she was 66. Born in Boston and raised in Somerville, Lillian was the cherished daughter of the late Lillian J. (Ivester) and Ralph DiFraia.

A graduate of Somerville High School, she received her hairdressing license

and also served as a nanny in child care for many years.

Lillian is survived by her brothers; James DiFraia and his wife Patti of Somerville, Michael DiFraia and his wife Susan of Malden and her longtime partner and friend, John Fraser of Wellesley. She was the loving aunt of

John DiFraia, Julia DiFraia and her fiancé Jeremey Applewhite and Elizabeth DiFraia, great-aunt of Hadley and Cole Applewhite. Also survived by many cousins.

A graveside service will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 12:00.

Relatives and friends invited.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lillian's memory to St Catherine of Genoa Church, 185 Summer St, Somerville, MA 02143.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Marcia M. Booth



Obituary

Marcia M. Booth – Of Somerville, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 18, 2025, after a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 79 years young.

Born in Boston, she was the beloved

daughter of the late Edward and Maria (Gariotto) Booth. Marcia devoted her life to education and to the betterment of others. She served as a dedicated public school teacher for 25 years in the Framingham School System, where she shaped countless young minds. After retiring from public school teaching, she continued her mission by becoming an educational consultant with Research for Better Teaching. She firmly believed that nurturing and educating children was the foundation for building a better world.

Marcia's passion extended beyond the classroom. She was an outspoken advocate for justice, always using her voice to stand up for those who could not be heard. Her political engagement was a reflection of her strong values and commitment to equity and fairness.

Above all, Marcia was devoted to her family. Time spent with her children and grandchildren was her greatest joy. She cherished witnessing their growth, celebrating their milestones, and encouraging their dreams.

She also had a love for travel, often venturing across the globe with her husband or children. She found wonder in learning about new cultures and embraced the opportunity to broaden her perspective. Yet, no matter how far she traveled, her heart was always at home. Her house was her sanctuary, a place of peace, love, and comfort.

Marcia had a deep passion for music. It was the rhythm to her days and a constant source of comfort and inspiration. Whether she was at home or at work, there was always music

playing in the background, and she could often be found gently humming along to the tune. Though she appreciated all genres, classical music held a special place in her heart. The harmony of instruments weaving together in a symphony brought her immense joy and peace, reminding those around her of the beauty she found in life's simple, yet profound, pleasures.

Marcia will be remembered for her intelligence, warmth, strength, and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched, the students she inspired, and the family she adored.

Beloved wife of 44 years to Robert Fox. Devoted mother of Rebecca E. Booth-Fox and her husband Scott Margerson of Arlington, and Benja-

min J. Fox and his wife Bethany Fox of Shrewsbury. Loving grandmother to Penelope Quince Margerson, Erza R. Fox, and Liam A. Fox. Cherished sister of John E. Lueders-Booth of Cambridge, Carol M. Dolan of North Reading, Elizabeth Collins of Brookline and the late David F. Booth of San Francis, California and Marilyn King of Watertown. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

Services to be announced.



Revolutionary Clinics Shuts Down Somerville Dispensary: End of an Era for Local Cannabis Pioneer



By William Tauro

Somerville's first cannabis dispensary, Revolutionary Clinics (often abbreviated as RevClinics), located at 67 Broadway across from Viny's Superette, has permanently closed its doors as of July 7, 2025. The closure marks the end for what was a trailblazing spot

in the city's recreational and medical marijuana scene, having opened in 2018 as Massachusetts' adult-use market took off. Customers have reported the shop being shuttered for about two weeks, aligning with the official shutdown date, prompting questions and speculation among locals about what led to this sudden end.

The decision to close appears tied to broader financial and operational struggles plaguing Revolutionary Clinics. The company, which operates under Rev Brands, has faced a series of setbacks, including a microbial contamination outbreak at its Fitchburg cultivation facility that forced the uprooting of all plants and a temporary halt in production. This issue

contributed to layoffs affecting about 10% of its 350 employees and the streamlining of brand partnerships, as wholesale cannabis prices hit five-year lows amid industry-wide pressures like high taxes and federal restrictions on deductions.

Further compounding problems, Revolutionary Clinics entered receivership after declaring bankruptcy, with significant debts—including over \$200,000 in back rent for its now-closed Cambridge location—stemming from a landlord lawsuit filed earlier in the year.

Reports from former employees also highlight internal issues, such as unsafe working conditions at the Fitchburg site (including exposure to heavy metals, chemicals, and harmful fungi leading to

illnesses) and allegations of workplace misconduct like harassment and favoritism. The tragic death of a key wholesale employee last year was cited by some as a turning point from which the company never fully recovered.

In the lead-up to the closure, Revolutionary Clinics held a liquidation sale with 50% off all inventory, drawing in bargain hunters but also underscoring the shop's dire straits—much of the stock was reportedly outdated due to the halted grow operations. Customer reactions have been mixed: Some expressed nostalgia for the convenient location, reliable delivery service, and favorites like specific gummy brands, while others welcomed the shutdown,

citing poor employee treatment and health concerns. The Somerville site, which served both medical patients and adult-use customers, directed patrons to the company's Leominster outlet at 130 Pioneer Drive (now rebranded as the Cannabis Outlet) as an alternative.

This closure reflects wider turbulence in Massachusetts' cannabis industry, where oversupply and economic pressures have led to consolidations and shutdowns. For Somerville residents, options like nearby dispensaries in Cambridge or emerging players such as Pluto (which has expanded by acquiring other locations) may fill the gap, but the loss of RevClinics leaves a void in the community's cannabis landscape.

Somerville City Councilman Faces Trespassing Allegations Amid Mayoral Bid Caught On Video



By William Tauro

Somerville, MA – In a bizarre turn of events, City Councilor Willie Burnley Jr., who is currently campaigning for mayor, has been accused of trespassing at Assembly Row, a mixed-use development in Somerville. According to an eyewitness account, Burnley was allegedly caught breaking and entering into a private residence at 333 Great River Road early on a Sunday morning by knocking on the resident's apartment door and opening it. The trespassing was caught on video.

The incident reportedly culminated

in him being escorted off the property, raising questions about his conduct as he seeks higher office.

Burnley, a progressive councilor at-large and vocal advocate for economic, environmental, and social justice, announced his candidacy for mayor in February 2025, challenging incumbent Katjana Ballantyne and fellow Councilor Jake Wilson in what promises to be a competitive race. His platform emphasizes tenant rights, pedestrian safety, and union support, drawing on his background as a former union steward and community organizer. However, this recent allegation could cast a shadow over his campaign, with critics labeling him a "total loser" unfit for leadership.

The account of the incident, shared by a resident, describes Burnley knocking on doors in the hallway of the building before being confronted. "He kind of shit himself when I caught him," the resident claimed, adding that Burnley was promptly removed from the premises.

Assembly Row, known for its shops, restaurants, and residential units, includes private areas where unauthorized entry could constitute a violation of property laws. While it's unclear if Burnley was canvassing for votes or had another purpose, the accusation frames the event as an unauthorized intrusion into a private space.

In Massachusetts, such actions fall under the state's laws on trespassing and breaking and entering, which carry varying penalties depending on the severity. Criminal trespass, defined as entering or remaining on property without permission after notice against it, is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$100, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both. This applies to situations where no further criminal intent is proven, such as simple unauthorized presence on private land or in a building.

More seriously, breaking and entering—often charged when there's evidence of forced entry or intent to commit a crime—can escalate

to felony levels. For breaking and entering with intent to commit a misdemeanor, penalties include up to 6 months in jail and a fine of up to \$200. If the intent involves a felony, such as theft, punishments are harsher: up to 20 years in state prison for nighttime offenses or up to 10 years for daytime ones. In this case, if the allegations hold, authorities would need to determine whether Burnley's actions met the threshold for breaking and entering, which requires proof of "breaking" (like opening a closed door) and "entering" with criminal intent.

The resident's post expressed outrage, questioning how Somerville could elect someone involved in such an incident to city council and now aspire to mayor. "Somerville is totally gone and deserves better!" they wrote, highlighting broader dissatisfaction with local leadership.

Burnley's campaign has not yet publicly responded to the claims, but supporters point to his legislative achievements, including laws

expanding tenant protections and cyclist infrastructure, as evidence of his commitment to the community.

As the mayoral race heats up ahead of the September primary, this incident—if substantiated—could influence voter perceptions. Political observers note that while minor infractions like trespassing rarely derail campaigns, allegations of breaking into a private residence might alienate residents concerned about safety and ethics. For now, the story serves as a reminder of the scrutiny public figures face, especially in a tight-knit city like Somerville.

Burnley's team emphasizes his vision for a "safer, stronger Somerville," but opponents may seize on this to argue for change. Voters will ultimately decide if this alleged misstep disqualifies him from the top job.

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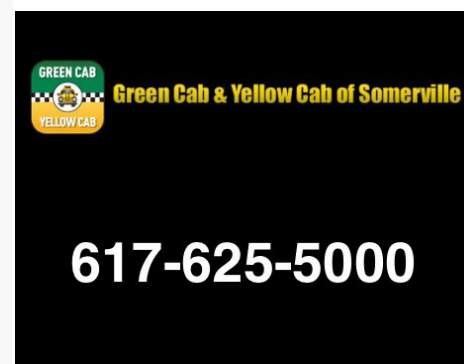
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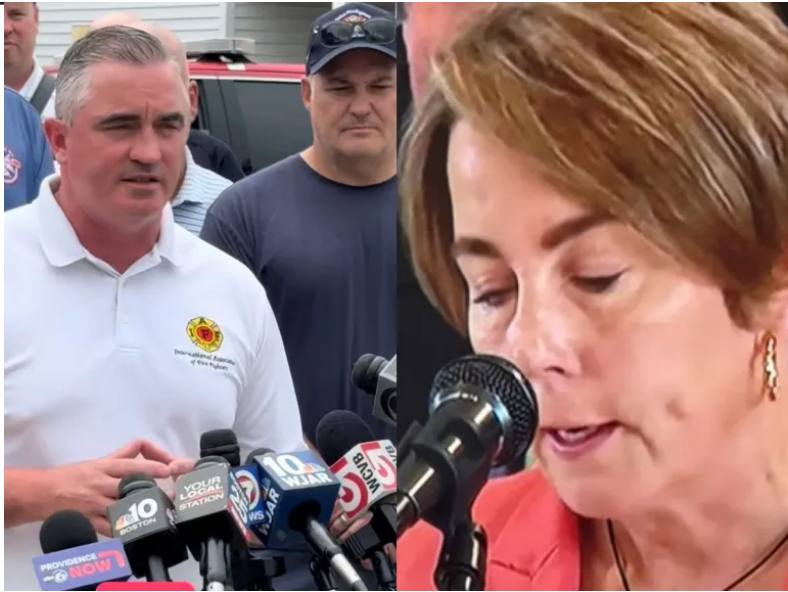


Office (617)625-0386 Cell (617)257-6394 Dave Sidoti





Too Little, Too Late: Governor Healey's Reactive Response to the Fall River Fire Tragedy



By William Tauro

Folks, let's cut right to the chase—today's press conference by Governor Maura Healey in Fall River was nothing short of a day late and a dollar short. On July 22, 2025, just over a week after the heartbreaking fire at Gabriel House assisted living facility claimed 10 lives and hospitalized dozens more, the Governor finally stepped up to announce \$1.2 million in state funding to help the city beef up its fire department.

This money, we're told, will cover overtime costs and allow for hiring more emergency responders to reduce reliance on exhausted crews. Sounds good on paper, right? But here's the harsh reality: This is reactive politics at its worst, and it's a slap in the face to the families still grieving and the first responders who risked everything that night.

Don't get me wrong—I'm all for supporting our firefighters. Fall River Fire Chief Jeffrey Bacon made it clear that this cash

infusion will help stabilize staffing levels, especially after the city scrambled to increase manpower just days post-tragedy. But why, Governor Healey, did it take a catastrophe of this magnitude to loosen the purse strings? Massachusetts has known for years that our assisted living facilities and local fire departments are stretched thin. Aging infrastructure, understaffed crews, and lax oversight in places like Gabriel House—where questions about sprinkler systems, evacuation plans, and basic safety protocols

are still swirling—should have been red flags screaming for preventive action.

Instead, we waited for the flames to engulf vulnerable seniors before rolling out these "immediate measures." Last week's announcements about statewide fire safety surveys and mandatory evacuation postings were a start, but they ring hollow without the upfront investment to make them meaningful. That \$1.2 million could have funded proactive inspections, upgraded equipment, or even grants for facilities to install modern fire suppression systems long before July 13. Imagine if those resources had been allocated months or years ago—lives might have been saved, families spared unimaginable pain, and our heroes in uniform not pushed to their breaking point.

This isn't just about Fall River; it's a statewide

embarrassment. From Somerville to Springfield, communities are dealing with similar risks in elder care homes, and band-aid fixes after the fact won't cut it. Governor Healey, you've got the power and the budget surplus—use it wisely before the next tragedy strikes. Prevention isn't optional; it's a moral imperative. The people of Massachusetts deserve better than condolences and catch-up funding. Let's demand real leadership that puts safety first, not last.

Your thoughts on Governor Maura Healey's negligence? Maybe she was too busy worrying about housing illegal immigrants all this time?

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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Disgraced Law Enforcement At It's Best



By William Tauro

Disgraced Law Enforcement Figures: Michael Proctor and Brian Higgins as Symbols of Systemic Failures

In the high-profile Karen Read murder case, two law enforcement officials—former Massachusetts State Police Detective Michael Proctor and ATF Agent Brian Higgins—have become focal points of public outrage, embodying what many see as profound letdowns in the American justice system. Proctor, the lead investigator, was fired in March 2025 following revelations of misconduct, while Higgins, a federal agent and key witness, faces accusations of bias, evidence tampering, and abuse of power.

Their actions have sparked widespread debate about accountabil-

ity, bias, and corruption in policing, with public opinion largely condemning them as undermining trust in law enforcement.

Michael Proctor's fall from grace began during Read's first trial, where his derogatory text messages about the defendant surfaced. He referred to Read using vile slurs, mocked her medical condition, and expressed hopes that she would "kill herself," all while leading the investigation into the death of Boston Police Officer John O'Keefe.

These messages, shared with colleagues and family, revealed deep-seated bias and unprofessionalism, including attempts to influence the medical examiner's ruling on O'Keefe's cause of death.

Suspended without pay in July 2024 and terminated after a trial board

hearing, Proctor's conduct has tainted multiple cases, prompting defense attorneys to demand preservation of evidence in his other investigations. Critics argue his actions exemplify misogyny and corruption within state police, eroding public faith in impartial justice.

Brian Higgins, an ATF agent (not DEA, as sometimes misreported), testified in the Read trial about flirtatious texts exchanged with Read weeks before O'Keefe's death, raising questions about his objectivity. Allegations against him include destroying evidence, lying under oath, and colluding in a cover-up, with some theories implicating him in O'Keefe's death during a drunken altercation at a party hosted by fellow officer Brian Albert. A recent

video surfaced showing Higgins allegedly abusing his authority during a raid on a Cape Cod gun shop, further damaging his reputation as a "decorated dude" and prompting calls for his dismissal.

Despite federal investigations clearing some aspects, Higgins' ties to local police and perceived favoritism have fueled suspicions of institutional protectionism.

Both men are viewed by many as profound disappointments to the justice system, prioritizing personal biases and loyalties over ethical duty. Proctor's firing highlights failures in state-level oversight, while Higgins' ongoing role raises concerns about federal accountability.

Public opinion, particularly on platforms like X, is overwhelmingly critical: Users decry Proctor as a "misogynistic pig"

whose bias framed Read, with protests demanding action against him and his supervisors. For Higgins, sentiments range from calling him "corrupt" and "needy" to theorizing his involvement in a larger conspiracy, with some labeling him a "boogeyman" shielded by connections. A minority defend them, citing unblemished records or contextual excuses, but the dominant narrative portrays them as eroding justice's integrity.

As Read's retrial looms, these cases underscore calls for reform, with ongoing federal probes potentially exposing more. For now, Proctor and Higgins symbolize how individual failings can betray public trust in the very institutions meant to uphold justice.

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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



Heres Your Weekly Dosage of Somerville News Weeklys Newstalk Shoutout/Speakup Loud

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Join Somerville’s National Night Out on August 5 for an Evening of Family-Friendly Fun



Explore local vendors, hop on a bounce house, enjoy music, food, and more

SOMERVILLE– Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Police Department, and Somerville Parks and Recreation invite Somerville residents to a fun-filled evening of community connection at Somerville’s annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 5, at Dilboy Stadium (110 Alewife Brook Parkway) from 5 to 8 p.m. (rain date: Wednesday, August 6).

The free event will feature a diverse array of family-friendly activities and entertainment including:
Bounce houses
Obstacle course
Face painting
Dunk tank
Touch-a-truck
DJ
Pizza
Raffles (free to enter)
Lawn games

Local vendors and community resources

“It’s always a pleasure to see such a great turnout by our community at National Night Out,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “This event is a wonderful way to get together, meet members of our Police Department, enjoy fun activities, and check out local vendors and resources.”


Additionally, the first 300 school-aged kids or teens to arrive will receive a free backpack and school supplies to get ready for the upcoming school year.

National Night Out is a nationwide initiative promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

For more information, please visit somervillema.gov/calendar.

Suzanne Rinfret, Director Somerville/Medford News Weekly 5/13, 5/20, 5/27

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 implement-

ing 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.



BAN SMOKING IN CARS WITH CHILDREN (H 2443)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Health Committee held a hearing on a measure that would prohibit smoking in any motor vehicle in which there is a child who is required to be in a child passenger restraint. Under Massachusetts law, children must use a restraint until they are at least eight years old or at least 57 inches tall. The measure

imposes a \$100 fine on drivers who violate the smoking ban.

The proposal also prohibits a police officer from searching a motor vehicle, its contents, the driver or a passenger solely because of a violation of this law. It also prohibits the violation from being used as evidence of contributory negligence by the driver in any civil action and requires

officers, for 90 days after the new law is in effect, to give only a warning and not a citation to a driver who violates this law.

Supporters say that second-hand smoke causes respiratory problems, ear infections and mental health disorders including depression. They note it can also make a child's asthma worse. They argue that

the only effective way to fully protect non-smokers from harm is to eliminate smoking in enclosed spaces including homes, worksites, public spaces and vehicles.

"I filed this because we need to protect young children who are the most vulnerable to second-hand smoke," said sponsor Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro). "It's interest-

ing that in the middle schools I have visited that students have chosen this for their civics projects. Even though I have not gotten it through in previous sessions I think it's important so I will keep pushing it."

DRINK SPIKING (S 293)

By Bob Katzen

The Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure held a hearing on a proposal that would require establishments that serve

alcohol to be consumed on the premises to, upon request, provide a lid with a customer's drink. The measure also requires the establishment to post a notice, in a prominent and conspicuous location, in-

forming patrons that lids are available.

"Drink spiking continues to be an alarming risk for people going out, especially as drugs are increasingly easy to administer

undetected and many victims are often unable to remember what happened to them until hours later, if at all," said sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). "It is imperative that we do all we can to prevent

these terrible incidents and ensure that establishments are providing drink covers and making patrons aware is an important step in the right direction."

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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).



Medford VFW #1012 Karaoke Night

Medford VFW #1012 located at 114 Mystic Avenue in Medford is having karaoke on 7/24 and 8/21, 8:00 PM till 12:00 PM!

Somerville's own Scotty Lombardo will be the DJ so don't miss it!



Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



Crime Log
7/8/25 - 7/14/25

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

Residential Breaking & Entering
25040107: On 7/10/25 at approximately 11:06 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Grove St for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officer spoke

with the victim who stated she left her home and when she returned, noticed the back door ajar and items in the bathroom were displaced. The victim also reported cash was stolen.

Residential Breaking & Enter-

ing
25040457: On 7/12/25 at approximately 4:58 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Aberdeen St for report of a suspicious person. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a neighbor who stated he observed a male party entering a property that's under construction then leaving in a vehicle full of items. Officers canvassed the area, located the vehicle and identified the suspect.

Arrest
25040783: On 7/13/25 at

approximately 11:28 AM, Somerville Police responded Washington St for report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, officers observed a male party suffering from a non-life threatening stab wound to his stomach. He stated he got into an altercation with a male party then noticed he was stabbed. The male suspect fled the area in a vehicle and later came into the station where was placed under arrest.

Assault
25041165: On 7/14/25 at approximately 8:27 PM, Somerville Police took a report from

a male party involving a road rage incident. He stated that around 2:10 AM, he got involved in a traffic altercation at a parking lot on McGrath Hwy. During the altercation, a passenger from the other vehicle slammed her car door against the victim's car then punched him.

- Other Crimes:**
- 1 MV Vandalism
 - 2 MV Thefts
 - 2 Bike Thefts
 - 4 Package Thefts
 - 4 Car Breaks

City of Somerville Side Walk Trees—Can They Be Saved?



By Judy Locchi Jacobs

A neighbor and I were talking about the condition of the sidewalk trees in our neighborhood in early June. She pointed out black spots on the foliage scattered on our street and sidewalks. I was aware that we have a city arborist and tried to reach the arborist without success. So I contacted Councilman Matt McLaughlin from Ward 1. Over the years, we had become acquainted and I always find Matt to be responsive and helpful. So he reached out to the

city arborist to let him know what the issue was with our sidewalk trees.

The photo above is the same trees that have lined our street and our neighborhood in Ward 7. The sidewalk trees begin at the base of Mead Street. Adjacent streets are Cameron Avenue, Claremon Street and Moore Street.

I can only conclude that my experience dealing with the city arborists was disappointing. Their emails were vague, no mention of their willingness to discuss

the trees in person with neighbors and provide an answer to restore the health of the trees. The last reply suggested that the sidewalk trees may swing back on their own, or be removed from Mead Street and new trees will be planted. Here is my overall impression: I am concerned that our city trees are not being maintained as needed. If the trees were checked on a routine basis, treated as needed throughout our city, we would not be dealing with this problem. There must be sufficient funds to cover a budget for the arborists' work on sidewalk trees. If asked, would anyone share how much it costs the taxpayers to remove and replace sidewalk trees? Can we ask for an audit? While we are at it, can we inquire what the city budget is overall and how much money collected from our yearly taxes is being invested in our community to make our city a thriving community? What about all the new condo development going on throughout Somerville?

My questions for the arborists: How many are on staff maintaining sidewalk trees? Are they experienced certified arborists? How often are they checking all of our sidewalk trees throughout the city? Did they check to see if the trees were invasive? It turns out - they are. The arborist argument is legitimate, yet it continues to beg the question -What will become of the trees on Mead Street? Will they all be uprooted? If so, which species of tree will be planted in their place?

Those are just some of the questions we should demand answers for. We as taxpayers are the owners of the sidewalk trees.

If your street is experiencing the same issues as our neighborhood, please leave a comment. Or you can find me on the Facebook Somerville Community Page. I have had 26 comments discussing this problem as of this

afternoon.

I have a 150 year old European Copper beech tree and hired an arborist to treat the tree of bleeding canker disease. A few years ago, nematodes (ground worms) had embedded into the roots of the beech. I hired an arborist and the tree has recovered, yet it is temporary. The treatments will be ongoing. It's still standing strong and has been in our family for nearly 100 years. Somerville was once a dairy farm, we inherited the tree. I have learned a great deal about caring for the beech tree and why it is important to have inspections on our sidewalk trees early on, before the diseases set in. I can still recall being in the backyard covered in mud and finding tree frogs as a 5 year old. Those of us who love our trees consider them members of our family. They deserve the same attention and care. Please leave a comment if you are having the same issues with your sidewalk trees.

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

2025-61 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 446 Medford St, 51 Preston Rd.

2025-62 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time on the west side of Grand Union Boulevard opposite 455 Grand Union Boulevard, from approximately 60 feet north of Foley St to approximately 100 feet north of Foley St.

2025-63 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: east side of Tennyson St, from approximately 20 ft. south of Medford St to approximately 40 ft. south of Medford St (public).

2025-64 Article C Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: west side of Sycamore St, from approximately 22 ft. north of Medford St to approximately 42 ft. north of Medford St.

2025-65 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: extending the Central Hill curbside management pilot until June 30, 2026 - Approximately 15 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, from opposite Putnam St to the City Hall driveway, regulated as City Hall or School

Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri;
 Approximately 12 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, between the entrance and exit to the Somerville High School Drive-way, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking
 Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri; Approximately 7 parking spaces on the west side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking
 Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit;
 Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit;
 Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east side of School St, between Highland Ave and opposite Madison St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit.
 2025-66 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time on east side of Walnut St from 25 ft north of Bow St to 40 ft north of Bow St, at 17 Bow St.
 2025-67 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time on west side of Walnut St from 20 ft north of Bow St to 35 ft north of Bow St, at 4 Walnut St.

2025-68 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the

addition of the following location: the east side of Bow St from 5 ft north of Walnut St to 45 ft northwest of Walnut St (public).
 2025-69 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time at 22 Bow St, on the west side of Bow St from 25 ft south of Walnut St to 45 ft south of Walnut St.
 2025-70 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: 30 Bow St, on the west side of Bow St from 30 ft north of Walnut St to 60 ft north of Walnut St.
 2025-71 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No Parking Any Time on the north side of Somerville Ave from 100 ft to 195 ft west of Central St, between 551 and 559 Somerville Ave.

PROMULGATED: JUNE 12, 2025
 ADVERTISED: JULY 8, 2025
 JULY 15, 2025
 JULY 22, 2025
 EFFECTIVE: JULY 30, 2025

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly
 07/08/25, 07/15/25, 07/22/25



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MWYC Fishin with a Mission

Hello All

It's that time of year when Mystic Wellington Yacht Club will once again be partnering with the Mass Bass Fishing Federation and the My Little Buddy's Boat Autism Awareness Charity to host the 13th Annual Fishin with a Mission Autism Awareness Weekend at MWYC.

We remain committed to continue to help and aid the great schools like the New England Center for Children, The Nashoba Learning Group and the Boston Higashi School that specialize in Autism care

On Sunday, July 27th, we will be inviting hundreds of children afflicted with autism and their families to our facility to enjoy a great day of summer activities such fishing, boat rides, water slide, barbecue and many other summer activities that many of these children and their families have never had an opportunity to experience! Please join us!

To also help this great cause we will be hosting 2 great fishing tournaments! On Saturday, July 26th to help raise money for the schools, that I have previously mentioned. We will be hosting a "Virtual Salt Water Striped Bass Fishing Tournament". This event is designed to have some of the great anglers in and around New England compete to determine who will be this year's Salt Water Striped Bass Fishing Champion with all the proceeds of the

tournament being donated to the "My Little Buddy's Boat." A 501(c)3 Autism Awareness Charity.

Also, on Sunday, July 27th, a Fresh Water Bass Tournament will be held! This is when some of the areas great Fresh Water anglers compete and show off their great skills. At 2p.m. all are welcome to watch the great fish weigh in and see who will reign the title of this year's Fresh Water Bass Tournament Champion! Again, with all proceeds going to the "My Little Buddy's Boat Autism Awareness Charity"

Since our event began, hundreds of autistic children have attended our event with their families. Our hope is that we can continue to create Autism awareness and still be able to offer aid to these great schools that perform such magnificent work!

As you can see, there are many ways you can help this great cause! The Salt Water Striped Bass "Virtual" Fishing Tournament is a fun way to help raise money for this cause! The event is open to all! Whether you are an avid fishing angler or a weekend warrior trying it out for the first time, this is the summer event not to be missed! Using your cell phone simply download the Fishdonkey app., click on the Fishin with a Mission Tournament Event and register! You are ready to go! The event begins at midnight of July 26th and you have until 2pm on

Saturday to catch your biggest striped bass, take a picture of it on a commercially made tape measure and upload the picture to the app. Then safely release the fish. With the app you will be able to check a leader board throughout the tournament to see who's in the lead with the biggest fish! The "Virtual" Tournament is a lot of fun! Of course, all Federal and State fishing guidelines must be followed. There are incredible prizes for winners of the biggest fish! 1st place - \$1000, 2nd place - \$600 and 3rd place - \$400 But the best part is by being part of this event you are helping some great kids dealing with Autism!

If you can't fish the tournament but would still like to make a donation to this great cause, please do so by making your donations payable to My Little Buddy's Boat Inc. c/o Mystic Wellington Yacht Club Inc., P.O. Box 235, Medford, MA 02155. The charity is a 501c3 non-profit charitable organization.

If you have any questions, please let us know and we would be more than happy to help you become part of this event! This event is open to everyone so please help us get the word out by sharing the attached flyers on your social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc...

Thank you
Joe DiGirolamo
Commodore

13th ANNUAL! AUTISM AWARENESS EVENT
Fishin' with a Mission!
 KIDS COME FREE! ADULTS - \$20 DONATION FEE
SUNDAY JULY 27th 10AM-4PM
 Mystic Wellington Yacht Club
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 Fun activities: Kids Boat Rides, Music, Games & Prizes, Fishing, Barbeque, Bouncy Hut, Water Slide, Firetrucks
 Official Motor Sponsor: MERCURY
 mylittlebuddysboat.com

Fishin' with a Mission!
Saturday, July 26th
 12am (midnight) to 2pm
Catch: Longest Striped Bass
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 mylittlebuddysboat.com

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DON'T MISS THIS CIVIL RIGHTS EVENT

By Bob Katzen

Federal policy shifts are testing protections for immigrants, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities and others—even in states like Massachusetts.

As fundamental rights face new threats, what can be done at all levels of government to safeguard vulnerable communities?

Join advocates, experts and leaders for a timely forum on the future of

civil rights in Massachusetts hosted by MASSte-rList and the State House News Service on July 28 at the MCLE Conference Center in Boston. Doors open for networking and refreshments at 8 a.m. The program will run from 9

a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/civil-rights-ma>



UPDATE ON BALLANTYNE'S SUIT AGAINST TRUMP, ET AL. Hearing held on preliminary injunction over federal funding

Represented by Lawyers for Civil Rights, the proceeding was held July 17, 2025 on a motion for a preliminary injunction asking a federal court to block the Trump Administration's attempts to strip sanctuary cities of federal funding because they refuse to be coerced into participating in the Administration's mass deportation efforts.

This was following a formal notice issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), designating such cities as jurisdictions that must change their policies "immediately" or face consequences.

"The President cannot use federal funding as a weapon to force local governments to undermine public safety

and participate in his mass deportation efforts," said Oren Sellstrom, Litigation Director of Lawyers for Civil Rights. "By today's preliminary injunction motion, we seek to protect sanctuary and welcoming cities, so they can continue to make public safety decisions that are in the best interests of their residents."

"Today's hearing was an important step, and I will continue to stand up for our community — for our rights, our safety, and our shared wellbeing," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "When critical funding is at risk by unlawful means, it's not just about dollars — it's about the services, support, and the future our residents deserve — as well as the fundamental, constitutional rights of all."

The lawsuit was filed with the pro bono support of Lawyers for Civil Rights in

February 2025, asserting that the Administration's heavy-handed tactics—threatening to "de-fund" and prosecute cities for failing to bend to the President's will—violate their Constitutional rights. The June 3 motion asks the court to enjoin any such attempts while the lawsuit proceeds.

Somerville has identified as a sanctuary cities since 1987 recognizing that victims and witnesses are less likely to report crimes if they know that local police are working in concert with federal immigration authorities. By avoiding that entanglement, sanctuary cities improve public safety and quality of life not just for immigrant residents, but for all residents and community members.

Since his inauguration, President

Trump has issued a series of Executive Orders threatening to cut off federal funds to sanctuary cities; the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has warned of criminal and civil prosecutions against them while purporting to freeze all DOJ funding; and the Department of Transportation (DOT) has said it will de-prioritize transportation funding to sanctuary cities, among other actions taken by the Administration. Most recently, on May 29, 2025, DHS published a list of jurisdictions, including Somerville, that it claims "obstruct the enforcement of Federal immigration laws" and warned that they must "immediately review and revise their policies" or face consequences.

Somerville received approximately \$19.4 million in federal funds to sup-

port a variety of community and public safety services in fiscal year 2024, including roadway safety initiatives, homelessness prevention services, and efforts to address and reduce youth tobacco usage and alcohol consumption.

The case is City of Chelsea and City of Somerville v. Trump et al., 1:25-cv-10442 (D. Mass.).

Lawyers for Civil Rights: Oren Sellstrom, osellstrom@lawyersforcivilrights.org

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BAN USE OF CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS (S 2549)



By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee has recommended passage of a bill which would ban student use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices during classes. The

measure would require all public schools and districts in Massachusetts to implement, by the start of the 2026-2027 school year, policies for student use of these devices on school grounds and during school-sponsored activities.

The policy may include exceptions for school and student health and safety; students with disabilities; student time spent off campus traveling to or from other learning opportunities; multilingual learners; permission from a teacher or other staff member; emergencies; and any other reasonable exception.

The policy must include methods for parents and students to be able to contact one another during the school day if necessary;

enforcement provisions; and may differ for students in different grade levels.

Supporters say that students perform better academically when they are not distracted by cell phones and other personal devices during school hours. They cite one study that links cell phone use with increased stress, anxiety and depression; poorer sleep; and decreased self-esteem. They note that another study showed that students not using their cell phones wrote down 62 percent more in their notes, were able to recall more detailed information and scored a full letter grade and a half higher on their tests. They note that less time on screens encourages face to face interactions which can help increase meaningful relationships with peers, develop emotion-

al intelligence, create more of a community within a school and lead to less bullying.

Education Committee Senate chair Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester) said he expects the bill to be up in the Senate for debate and a vote by the end of July.

“There are a myriad of negative effects linked to the growing issue of student cell phone usage at school and in the classroom, including diminished academic performance, poorer mental health, worse relationship building and social skills, reduced safety during emergencies, and more,” said Lewis. “According to Pew Research, 72 percent of high school teachers find cell phones a ‘major problem’ in the classroom; and numerous studies have shown the many benefits to

student learning and growth by removing cell phones from their educational environment.”

Lewis continued, “We have growing support for action from teachers, students, advocates and state leaders such as Gov. Healey, Senate President Spilka and Attorney General Campbell, and I am very hopeful to see quick movement on this bill as it continues through the legislative process.”

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Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square. Give what you can, Take what you need. Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group! The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming. Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

homeless and less fortunate. A “Somerville Blessing Boxes” Facebook page has been established keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free to join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville. One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square. “Give what you can, Take what you need.” Much thanks and appreciation, Frank Santangelo

Blessing Backpack Checklist

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<input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick
<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarf	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer
FOOD & DRINK	<input type="checkbox"/> Comb
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	SURVIVAL
<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	TREATS:
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	<input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates
<input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs
HELP THEM CONNECT	<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	SPLURGE:
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card	<input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag

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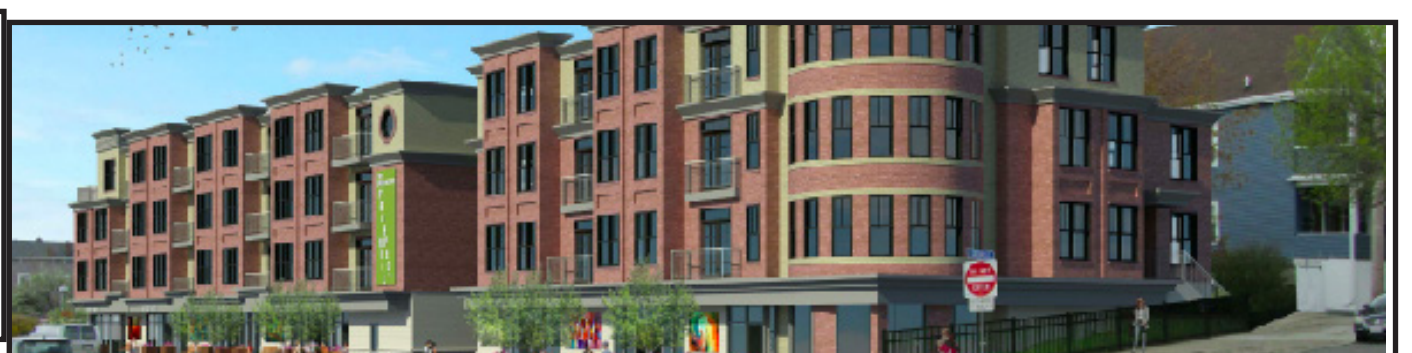
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Somer Fest Returns August 2 to Celebrate BIPOC Creativity, Culture & Community



Enjoy live performances, an artisan market, food, activities, and more at Seven Hills Park

SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council,

in proud partnership with Citixen Joy, invite community members to Somer Fest, a flagship community festival celebrating the talent, culture, and entrepreneurial spirit of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) performers and vendors.

Back for the first time since 2022, Somer Fest will take place on Saturday, August 2, at Seven Hills Park, located just behind the Davis Square MBTA station, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, August 3). This event is free and open to all.

“I’m so excited to welcome Somer Fest back to our

city,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “Its return brings fresh energy to our summer and creates a meaningful and inclusive space to celebrate the artists, entrepreneurs, and communities who help make Somerville such a dynamic and inclusive place to live.”

Produced by the Somerville Arts Council in collaboration with Citixen Joy, this open-air festival is designed to uplift local creativity, spark connection, and build an inclusive cultural experience for all.

“At Citixen Joy, we are committed to building

joy-centered spaces where culture and commerce meet,” said Stephond Goler, founder and producer of Citixen Joy. “Somer Fest is our vision for an inclusive, future-forward community festival — one that celebrates not only where we’ve been but where we are going.”

Somer Fest 2025 features a dynamic lineup of performers including hip-hop artist Bille, soulful sounds from Mada Silva, and more. Attendees can enjoy a curated artisan market, food from Dos Manos Kitchen, and interactive experiences and activities for all ages.

Follow @citixenjoy and use #SomerFest2025 on Instagram and TikTok for artist reveals, behind-the-scenes content, and event updates.

For more event information, visit somervillearts council.org/events/somer-fest.

About Citixen Joy: Citixen Joy is a Boston-based event production company specializing in pop-up concerts and creative activations in underutilized spaces. With a focus on cultural equity and community engagement, Citixen Joy is redefining how and where we experience the arts.

Somerville PD Welcomes Three New Police Officers

City of Somerville Mayor, Katjana Ballantyne, and the Somerville Police Department would like to welcome three new police officers. Officer Dayquan Goodnow, Officer Victor Souza, and Officer Benjy Antoine recently transferred and were sworn in on Monday, July 14th.

Chief Shumeane Benford and Mayor Ballantyne were present for the ceremony. Best of luck for a safe and successful career!

(From left to right: Mayor Ballantyne, Officer Goodnow, Officer Souza, Officer Antoine, Chief Benford)



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Somerville/Medford Remembering William Latta



**William J. Latta,
Sr.
July 17, 2025**

William Latta Obituary
Obituary published on
Legacy.com by Farmer & Dee
Funeral Home on Jul. 18,
2025.
Publish in a newspaper

William J. Latta, Sr.
Retired Tewksbury Police
Officer
William J. "Bill" Latta, Sr., age
78, a resident of Tewksbury
for over 70 years, passed away
at Lowell General Hospital on
Thursday, July 17, 2025.

He was the beloved hus-
band of the late Thersea L.
(Langley) St. John-Latta, who
passed away on February 1,
2018.

Born in Somerville on
November 2, 1946, he was
the son of Esther J. (Reale)
Latta, who survives him, of
Tewksbury and the late John
F. Latta.

Bill was raised in Tewksbury
and graduated from Tewks-
bury Memorial High School.
Later in life, he attended col-

lege and received a bachelor's
degree in criminal justice.
In 1975, he began his career
in law enforcement and
served as a member of the
Tewksbury Police Depart-
ment for 27 years until retir-
ing in 2002.

Bill and his late wife loved the
ocean and boating. They were
longtime members of the
Winter Hill Yacht Club.

Together they enjoyed cruis-
ing the coastlines of Maine
and Cape Cod aboard their
boat "Rowmantic"

In addition, he had a passion
for drawing, painting, wood-
working, and was known as a
"Jack of All Trades"

Besides his mother, he is
survived by his four children,
James E. Latta and his wife
Donna, of Lowell, Wendy

A. Latta, of Portland, OR,
Christine M. Latta and her
companion, Michael Lam-
bert, of Lawrence, William
J. Latta, Jr., of Lowell, and
their mother, Maureen A.
(Murray) Latta, of Billerica:
his grandchildren, Cameron,
Keagan and Courtney Latta,
and McKaleigh and Shaelynn
Latta. Bill was the brother
of John F. Latta, Jr. and his
wife Veronica, of Tewksbury,
Kathy Murphy and her hus-
band Thomas, of Wolfeboro,
NH and Karen Indelicato and
her husband Guy, of Tewks-
bury.

He leaves his longtime com-
panion, Valerie Bowen, of
Tewksbury and many nieces,
nephews, extended family
members and friends.

Calling hours are Wednesday,

July 23, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
at the Farmer & Dee Funeral
Home, 16 Lee Street, Tewks-
bury. His funeral procession
will begin on Thursday, July
24, at 9 a.m. at the funeral
home, followed by his Fu-
neral Mass at 10 a.m. at St.
William's Church, 1351 Main
Street, Tewksbury. Services
will conclude with interment
at St. Mary Cemetery, 90
River Road, Tewksbury. In
lieu of flowers, donations in
his memory may be made to
the Tewksbury Community
Food Pantry at <http://www.tewksburypantry.org>

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Porter Square - 6 Family - \$2.7M



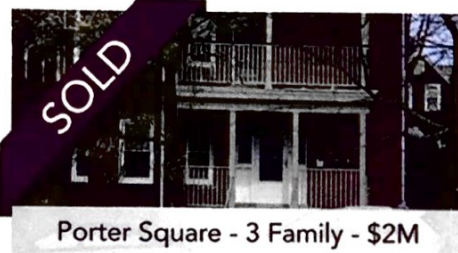
Porter Square - 4 Family - \$2.1M



Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$2M



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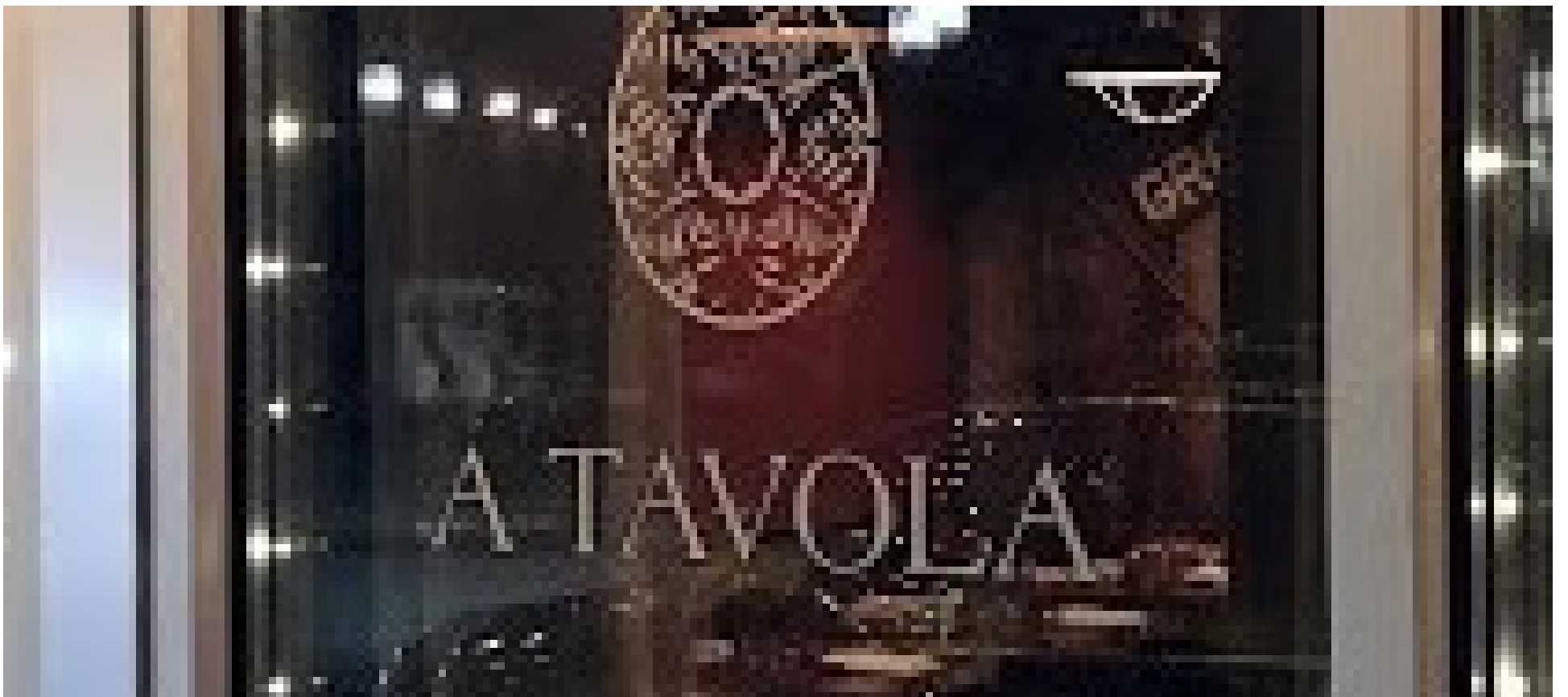
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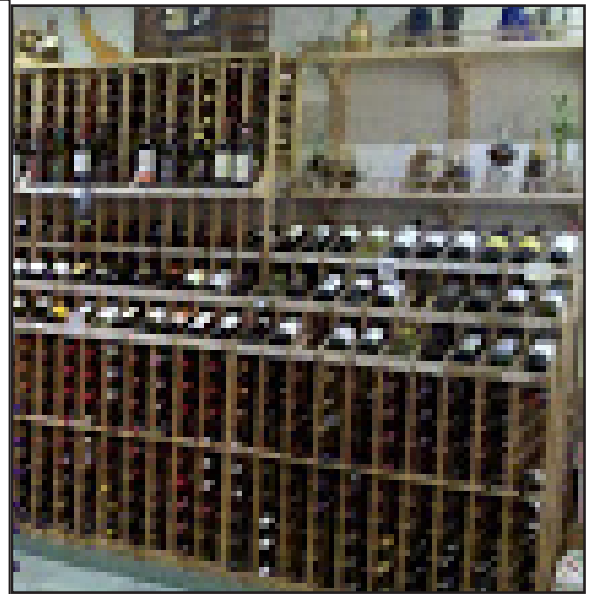


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