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VOL.1 NO.329-272

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday July 29th, 2025

Somerville's Leadership Needs to Face the Facts on Crime



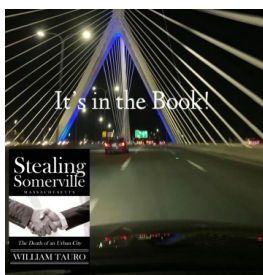
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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



TRAIN POLICE OFFICERS ON THE BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM (S 2565)



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\$300 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4307)



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MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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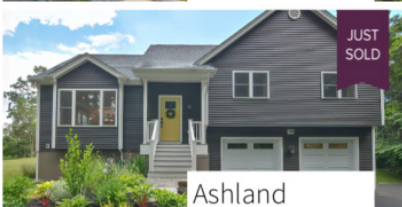
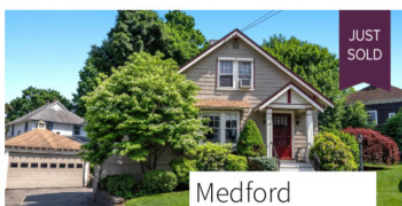
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Yvonne L. (Lamothe) Ross



Obituary
Mrs. Yvonne L. (Lamothe) Ross, passed away peacefully on Monday, July 21,

2025. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Yvonne passed into eternal life at the age of 88 after facing several health challenges with grace and resilience.

Born in Somerville, Massachusetts, on April 16, 1937, Yvonne was the daughter of the late Henry L. and Blanche A. (Boudreau) Lamothe. A lifelong Somervillian for over 88 years, she was a 1955 graduate of Saint Clement's High School. Raised during the Depression era in a loving, close-knit, multi-generational household, she developed a thoughtful consideration for others that permeated every aspect of her life, making new friends with even the most casual of acquaintances wherever she went.

Yvonne devoted herself to her family as a homemaker, a role she embraced with care and purpose. In addition to

managing the home, she supported her family by working as an administrative assistant for local companies in and around Boston, and later as a compassionate home care provider.

Yvonne was a woman of quiet strength and unwavering faith. After her husband Tom's passing, she continued to offer support for the Somerville Community Baptist Church, where her husband had served for over two decades. Her kindness, warm presence, and gentle humor left a lasting impression on all who knew her.

Yvonne is survived by her loving children: Jennifer (Ross) Santoro and her husband, Mark; Jeanne (Ross) Damaso and her husband, George; and Thomas C. Ross and his wife, Kathleen. She was the cherished grandmother of Melissa (Kevin) Pickering, Eric (Melissa) Damaso, Jessica (Stephen) Davis,

and Graham Ross, and the beloved great-grandmother of Emma Pickering, James Damaso, George Pickering, and Evelyn Damaso.

She also leaves behind her treasured sister, Janet Cantelli, and many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends—including the children of their dear lifelong friends, the late Robert and Jacqueline Wagner. Yvonne was preceded in death by her devoted husband of 63 years, Thomas W. Ross, and by her other eight siblings: Henry, Blanche, Eleanor, Eugene, Alfred, Joanne, Ronald, and Elaine.

Her family takes great comfort in knowing that Yvonne and Tom are reunited in eternal life, surrounded by the love of so many who have gone before.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home,

855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Thursday, July 24th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. A Funeral Service will be celebrated in the Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave, Somerville on Friday morning at 10:30AM. Services will conclude with burial at Puritan Lawn Cemetery, Peabody.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Yvonne's memory can be made to her beloved Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave Somerville, MA 02144 or to the American Heart Association at <http://www.heart.org>.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Bruce C. Hamel



Obituary
Bruce C. Hamel – Of Arlington, passed away suddenly on Saturday, July 19, 2025. He was 66 years old.

Born in East Greenbush, NY, Bruce was the devoted son of the late Conrad W. and Pauline F. (Parenteau) Hamel of Florida. From a young age, Bruce developed a deep and lasting passion for music. It wasn't long before he began playing the bass guitar. His musical talent and dedication led him to perform with a variety of bands over the years, including The Billionaires, The Devotions, Kenne-

Highland Klan, The Varmints, The Last Ones and The Shaken Spirits.

A true music enthusiast, Bruce was also an avid record collector. He found great joy in spending his time browsing through record stores, always in search of a rare gem or forgotten classic.

Above all, he enjoyed the time spent with his wife Dianne, especially their Saturday date nights—a tradition that brought them both much happiness.

Beloved husband of 28 years to

Dianne M. (Lucas) Hamel of Arlington. Loving and cherished Fur Dad to CoCo and Benji. Cherished brother of the late Billy Hamel of Florida, Bryan Hamel of Florida, Karen (Picardi) Nelson of New York and David Picardi of Massachusetts. Loving uncle of Todd Nelson of New York, Michael Nelson of New York and Patrick Salvato, Jr. of Somerville. Son in law of the late Michael J Lucas and Barbara A (Joyce) Lucas of Somerville. Also survived by his dear in-law's Patricia A Salvato, Michael Lucas and the late Patrick Salvato Sr all of Somerville.

Calling Hours will be held on Friday, August 1st in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, from 5:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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

Interment will be private.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Frances M. (Rull) Preston



Obituary
Preston, Frances M. (Rull) – Age 103, of Medford, passed away peacefully on July 20,

Beloved wife of the late Henry A. Preston. Devoted mother of Kathleen Clarke and her husband Kevin of Sudbury, Anne Gilman and her husband David of South Carolina, Frances Post and her husband William of Chicago, Maureen Preston of Medford, Daniel Preston of Framingham, and Claire Quinn and her husband Brian of Medway. Cherished grandmother of 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of the late Helen Evans, Joseph Rull, Mary Tinnell, Daniel Rull, Dorothea Hines, John Rull, Edward Rull, and Cecilia Mozel. She is also survived by many loving nieces and

nephews.

Frances was sharp, funny, and full of quick comebacks that always made people laugh. She loved bingo, jelly donuts, and a good cup of coffee. A devoted Red Sox and Bruins fan, she cheered with so much passion in her younger years that she sometimes embarrassed her family at games.

She had a lifelong love of ice cream, especially banana splits, enjoying one final outing for her favorite treat at age 103.

She worked as a telephone operator for 32 years and had a close group of girlfriends who made those years

full of laughter and friendship. One of her favorite stories was getting to listen in when Frank Sinatra was in town. She grew up in South Boston and later raised her family in Harvard Square, where she also helped care for many of her grandchildren.

After living independently until age 102, she spent her final few months living with family in a four-generational household where she was able to see loved ones every day and especially enjoyed the chance to spend time with two of her great-grandchildren.

Visiting hours will be held on Sun-

day, July 27, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.), Somerville. A funeral procession will depart from the funeral home on Monday, July 28, at 10:00 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 AM at St. Joseph Church, 118 High Street, Medford. Interment will follow at Cambridge Cemetery. Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Joanne H. (Murnane) Norton



Obituary
Joanne H. (Murnane) Norton – A lifelong resident of Somerville, passed away peacefully on

Tuesday, July 22, 2025.

She was 86 years old. Born and raised in Somerville, Joanne was the beloved daughter of the late Daniel and Lillian (Rumney) Murnane. She was deeply devoted to her family and especially cherished the time spent with her grandchildren. Whether singing and dancing with them, sharing stories, or simply enjoying their company, Joanne's face would light up with joy whenever they were near.

Joanne had a deep love for the beach, and some of her happiest moments were spent at her

home in Plymouth, with her toes in the sand and the sun warming her face. She found peace in those quiet moments by the ocean, and they remained a treasured part of her life.

At home, Joanne was often found tending to her garden, surrounded by vibrant flowers, or moving about the house with ease, caring for the space she so dearly loved. She was also known for her exceptional cooking—meals made with love that brought people together and created lasting memories.

Beloved wife of the late Thomas

B. Norton. Devoted mother of Thomas Norton and his wife Diane of Stoneham, Lillian Norton-Hunt and her husband John of Somerville, Barry Norton and his wife Peggy of Medford, Allen Norton of Somerville, Allison Norton of Wilmington and the late Joanne E. Norton. Cherished and loving grandmother of 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Dear sister of the late Daniel Murnane, Charles Murnane and Robert Murnane. Also survived by her lifetime friend Elizabeth "Betty" Santos and her beloved nephew Robert Murnane, Jr. and many other nieces and nephews.

Calling Hours will be held on Friday, July 25th in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. Followed by a prayer service at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.



BAN NICOTINE AND TOBACCO (S 1568)

By Bob Katzen

Another proposal before the Public Health Committee would eventually end the sale of all nicotine and tobacco products in the Bay State. The proposal will not take away the right to purchase nicotine and tobacco products from anyone who is already legally able to do so. Instead, the measure would prohibit people under 21 who are not currently old enough to legally purchase nicotine and tobacco products, to ever be lawfully able to

purchase these products in Massachusetts.

“Hundreds of thousands of Americans die from smoking-attributable causes each year, and smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States,” said sponsor Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester). “Massachusetts prides itself on being a national and even world leader in public health, which is why I was proud to file this bill to establish a statewide Nicotine-Free Generation

policy, modeled after local policies already enacted in many Massachusetts cities and towns, including every community that I represent. This bill will not take away the right to purchase nicotine and tobacco products from anyone who is already legally able to do so. Rather, this legislation will protect future generations, who are being targeted by Big Tobacco, from the harms of smoking and create a healthier world for the next generation.”



Somerville’s Leadership Needs to Face the Facts on Crime

By William Tauro

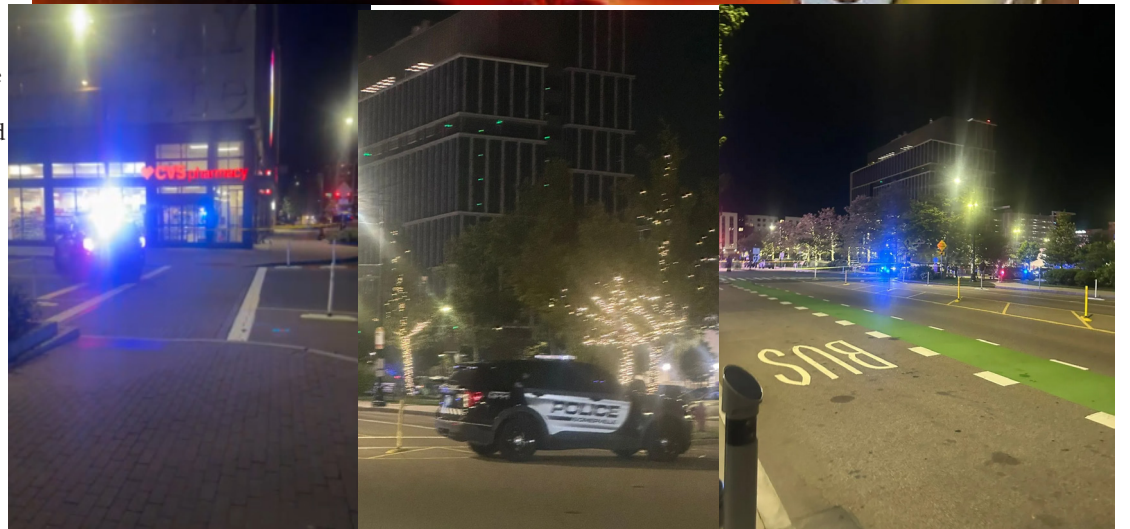
Let’s talk about what’s really happening in Somerville. The folks up at City Hall, from the mayor to the city councilors, keep insisting that our city is a crime-free utopia. No crime in Somerville? Please. Tell that to the residents who heard gunshots ringing out at Assembly Row last night around 10 PM, right in the middle of a busy shopping area. Tell that to the employees at CVS, staring at their shot-out windows, wondering what’s next. A large police presence swarmed the scene, and for good reason—bullets were flying while families were out shopping.

This isn’t an isolated incident, either. We’ve seen reports of shootings, assaults, and break-ins across the city, yet our leaders seem content to bury their heads in the sand.

The Somerville Police Department is doing what they can, but they need support from City Hall—real action, not empty promises or denial.

I want to hear from you, the people of Somerville. Do you feel safe walking the streets at night? Are you confident in the city’s leadership to address these issues? Or are you as frustrated as I am with the disconnect between what we’re told and what we’re seeing? It’s time for our mayor and councilors to stop pretending everything’s fine and start tackling the crime problem head-on.

Drop your thoughts below or reach out to me directly. Let’s demand accountability and a safer Somerville—because ignoring the problem won’t make it go away.



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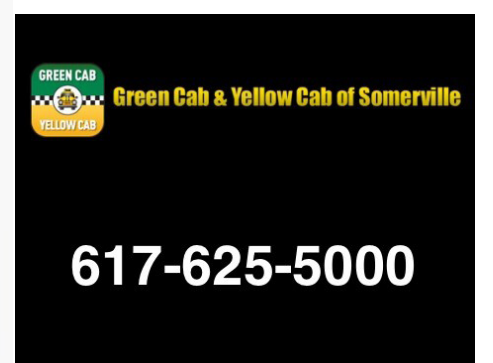
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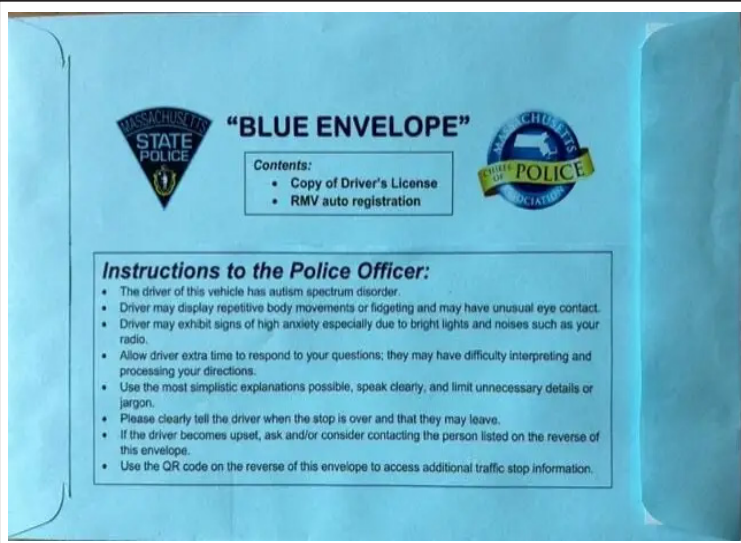


Office (617)625-0386 Cell (617)257-6394 Dave Sidoti





AUTISM AND POLICE STOPS (S 2565)



By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. The measure, dubbed the "Blue Envelope Bill" would create a program giving people with the disorder the option to be given a special blue envelope that holds the person's driver's license,

vehicle registration and insurance cards.

On the outside of the envelope there would be specific instructions for police officers on the driver's diagnosis, impairments, triggers, emergency contact information and best practices for communicating. The bill is designed to enable the driver to quickly and easily hand the envelope to a police officer during a traffic stop.

"The Blue Envelope Bill makes our commonwealth a safer place for people who are neurodiverse," said Senate sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "It moves us closer to equal opportunity and access for people of all abilities."

"The Blue Envelope Bill would be a game changer for our family and for so many Massachusetts residents," said Ilyse Levine-Kanji, an Executive Committee member of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts. "Like many people with autism, my 27-year-old son Sam does not have any physical characteristics that indicate he has autism. In a stressful situation, where split second decisions must be made, I'm relieved that a police officer could see a blue envelope

in Sam's car and immediately understand that any unusual behavior or speech pattern is a result of his autism. This bill could thereby dramatically decrease the possibility of a tragic misunderstanding."

"Massachusetts police officers conduct thousands of traffic stops each year," said Tyrone Parham, UMass Amherst Chief of Police. "While most of these interactions are relatively 'routine,' officers do not know who they are interacting with before the traffic stop so they proceed with caution. Each driver reacts differently when they are pulled over by the police. As a number of communities across the commonwealth have already rolled out the current voluntary Blue Envelope Program, I've heard nothing but

successes from both the police and motorists. The early rollout prior to the law being in effect shows the commitment and importance of this initiative, and the passage of this legislation is instrumental to continuing to bridge the communication gap for both motorists and police officers."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

Congratulations to The Medford VFW on its new Installation of Commander Steve McLaughlin as he takes charge.

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

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

for any and all details.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Somerville Urgent: Rent Control hearings and more



While you are all enjoying your summer, we thought that you might be interested in what is happening at the State House and Somerville City Hall.

Effective Aug 1, 2025, rental property owners must pick up, with a small few exceptions, the entire broker's fee when they use a Licensed Real Estate Broker to rent their apartments. This was sneaked into the budget bill without our knowledge by the Governor and Somerville's Legislative Delegation.

Tuesday, July 29, there is a hearing at the state

house that would bring rent control back to any community that votes for it either by ballot initiative or through that community's governing body.

The legislation can be found here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1447>

List of committee members <https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J10/194>

WE URGE you to at least submit written testimony against it!

If this passes and rents are frozen or lowered we will all see a reduction in the value of our buildings. This will force cities to cut essential services like police, fire and schools.

The other bill at the State House would make it illegal to rent an apartment more than 90 days in advance. If this passes, tenants will be scrambling at the last minute in August to find housing for Sept 1st.

Somerville Updates:
For the condo conversion ordinance already

in place, there is a push to extend the notification period from 1 year to 2 years and increase on moving expenses paid out to displaced tenants.

Your property is at risk of losing value. Your rents could be frozen or lowered.

We urge you to join us and speak up to protect your investment for yourself, your family, and your children.

CHANGE ARCHAIC LANGUAGE REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (S 2563)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 40-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would modernize and remove archaic language in state laws to reflect the evolution of terminology relating to persons with disabilities.

Changes include replacing "handicapped persons" with "persons with disabilities," replacing "the mentally retarded" with "persons

with an intellectual disability," replacing "retarded children" with "children with an intellectual disability" and replacing "disabled American veterans" with "American veterans with disabilities."

"Words are important," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), chief sponsor of the bill. "Language changes. We should use language that respects the people it refers to and listen to them. Fifteen years ago, a friend told Rep. Denise

Provost and me how disrespected she felt being called 'handicapped.' We filed a bill to remove ten sections of the general laws that used that word. Over the years, we have found nearly 400 sections with offensive words, including the r-word."

Melissa Reilly, an advocate for people with disabilities and former policy advisor to Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough), said the bill is really important because all

people with disabilities should be treated well and respected by others and not mocked or judged or bullied by others for their disabilities. "We are all unique and deserve respect, we do not want to be known as the 'r-word.'" said Reilly.

Maura Sullivan, CEO of the Arc of Massachusetts, said the bill has been a long-time priority for The Arc and its community. "Today's vote sends a clear message in an important moment—such language

has no place in our laws or in our society," said Sullivan. "At this moment when disability rights are being threatened, we must show up every day to reaffirm our commitment to uplifting and valuing this community. This bill does just that."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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Medford Fishing Derby

The Medford Police Department and Medford Recreation are teaming up to bring back the Wright's Pond Junior Fishing Derby on Monday, August 25, 2025!

Families are invited to spend the morning fishing, followed by food and fun at the bathhouse — including popcorn, freeze pops, hot dogs, and more!

Location: Wright's Pond
Check-In: 8:30-9:00 AM
Fishing: 9:00-11:00 AM
Food: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

FREE event - tackle and food provided!

Please bring your own fishing rod if you have one. Limited rods will be available, and

you must sign up if you need one. We'll maintain a waitlist and work with local vendors to provide more if needed.

This is a family-friendly event! Children 16 & under must have adult supervision. MA Freshwater Fishing Licenses are required for guardians and juniors ages 15+. (Free for ages 15-17.)

Registration is required: https://medford-ma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=31249



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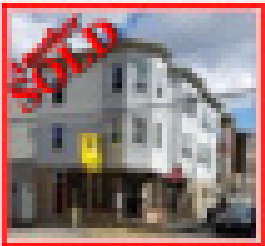


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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



Crime Log
7/15/25 - 7/21/25

<https://www.somervillepd.com/public-safety-news>

<p>Shots Fired 25043372: On 7/22/25 at approximately 9:30 PM, Somerville Police responded to Grand Union Blvd in Assembly Row for a report</p>	<p>of shots fired. Officers spoke with a male party who stated his vehicle was struck by multiple rounds of gunfire. Numerous shell casings were recovered. No injuries were reported.</p> <p>Shots Fired 25042069: On 7/18/25 at approximately 12:28 AM, Somerville Police responded to 40 River Rd for a report of multiple shots fired and a vehicle fleeing the area. On scene, officers recovered 34 shell casings consisting of three different calibers. No injuries were reported.</p> <p>Commercial Breaking & Entering 25041449: On 7/15/25 at approximately 11:20 PM,</p>	<p>Somerville Police responded to a business on Somerville Ave for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers observed the front window shattered and numerous merchandise products scattered along the street.</p> <p>Assault 25041512: On 7/16/25 at approximately 8:04 AM, Somerville Police took a report from a male party regarding a past assault. He stated that around 7:30 AM, he got involved in a traffic altercation with a bicyclist. During the altercation, the bicyclist brandished a knife at him.</p> <p>Assault 25041319: On 7/15/25 at</p>	<p>approximately 12:45 PM, Somerville Police responded to Holland St for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was approached by a male party who began to yell profanities at him then pushed him.</p> <p>Residential Breaking & Entering 25043174: On 7/22/25 at approximately 8:05 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Broadway for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated the house is under construction and a fridge was stolen.</p> <p>Assault</p>	<p>25043208: On 7/22/25 at approximately 9:39 AM, Somerville Police responded to a business in Davis Sq for a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she got into an altercation with a female party. During the altercation, the female punched her in the face. Officers identified the suspect.</p> <p>Other Crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Bike Thefts • 3 MV Vandalisms • 8 Car Breaks • 3 MV Thefts
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FREEZE COLLEGE TUITION AND FEES (H 1463)

By Bob Katzen

Another bill before the Higher Education Committee would freeze the tuition and fees at all state colleges.

“I filed this important legislation because I believe the leadership of our public colleges and universities have utterly failed [to] reimagine how they fund

their respective schools,” said sponsor Rep. Jeffrey Turco (D-Winthrop). “They continue to raise costs on working class students, drive up student loan balances and

then join in calls to create student loan forgiveness programs. Instead, they could follow the lead of Purdue University, Indiana’s largest public university and freeze tuition

and fees for the past 14 years. Real leadership can make this happen. In the absence of real leadership, this legislation is needed.”

FREE PUBLIC COLLEGE TUITION (H 1428)

By Bob Katzen

Legislation heard by the Higher Education Committee would allow chil-

dren 18 or older who are being raised by their grandparents or other relatives, except parents, to have their tuition and

fees waived if attending a state college.

“The bill is to allow children who are raised

by their grandparents or other relative to be able to take advantage of the same benefit of free tuition and fees as those in custody of

the Department of Families and Children,” said sponsor Rep. Paul Donato (D-Medford).

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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/Medford Remembering Bridget (Moran) Travers



Obituary
Bridget (Moran) Travers, 75, of Somerville, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on July 27,2025.

Born on April 21, 1950, in Geevagh, County Sligo, Ireland, Bridget brought with her a rich Irish spirit, a sharp wit, and a deep devotion to her Catholic faith. After immigrating to the United States, in the early 70's, she made a home in Somerville with her beloved husband, Tony. They shared over 50 beautiful years of marriage.

A natural caregiver and dedicated professional, Bridget worked as both a student nurse in Dublin Ireland, and a teacher's assistant in Somerville — two roles that reflected her compassion, strength, and deep commitment to helping others.

She was a proud and loving mother to three daughters, Josephine Ava-

kian and her husband Joseph of Somerville, Jennifer McGrath and her husband Daniel of North Andover, and Jessica Juskiewicz and her husband Michael of Groton. She was preceded in death by her beloved infant son, Patrick. A cherished grandmother to Grace McGrath, Ethan McGrath, Claire McGrath, and Thomas Juskiewicz. She is survived by her loving siblings, Kathleen (Moran) Barrington of England, Ann (Moran) McTiernan of Leitrim Ireland and Padraig Moran of Sligo Ireland. She was preceded in death by her brother James Moran of England and her sister Josephine (Moran) Lydon of Brighton MA.

Her home was always filled with laughter, love, and the sound of Irish

music. Bridget was known for her quick wit and her love of storytelling; she had a joke ready for every occasion and delighted in making people laugh.

Summers spent in Ireland with her family were among her greatest joys a time to reconnect with her roots and share the beauty of her homeland with her daughters. Bridget's faith was the cornerstone of her life. A devout Catholic, she lived her values daily with grace, humility, and kindness.

She leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and deep faith. She will be missed beyond words and remembered always.

A funeral procession will be held

from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Monday, August 4 at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Benedict Church, Somerville at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be Sunday from 2:00PM to 5:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bridget's to the Parkinson's Foundation and the American Parkinson Disease Association.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Elaine Whalen



Obituary
Elaine Whalen - Of Somerville, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer on Friday, July 25, 2025. She was 80 years old.

Born and raised in Somerville, Elaine

was the devoted daughter of the late Damiano and Silvia (DiPerna) DiMille. A lifelong resident of the city she loved, Elaine lived a life marked by creativity, dedication, and deep devotion to her family.

Elaine had a love for travel and found great joy in exploring new places, especially alongside her beloved husband. Whether near or far, she cherished the experience of discovering something new and making memories with those she loved.

A talented and meticulous crafter, Elaine had an eye for beauty and detail. If she saw something she liked, she would spend countless hours perfecting the details from the first spot of glue to the final ribbon. Holidays and occasions were her time to shine and she never missed a moment to make a batch of her custom chocolate pops and bars. Her creativity was endless.

Elaine was also a phenomenal cook and kept the tradition alive utilizing many of her mother's favorite recipes. Her kitchen was often filled with the warmth of her cooking and the laughter of those she loved. Many of her favorite memories were spent entertaining family and friends over an abundant spread of appetizers, meals, and desserts. Her philosophy was all are welcome at the table.

Above all, Elaine was a devoted mother and an even prouder grandmother. She spoke with glowing pride about her children and grandchildren, celebrating every milestone and accomplishment with joy and love. Her family was the center of her world.

Elaine also gave back to her community through service. She was a dedicated Vice President of the Pope School PTA and worked as a lunch aide at St. Ann School. Her profession as a book keeper lasted for many years before moving on

to a more heartfelt career as a nanny. Over the years she cared for more than 20 children including some of which she was fortunate to form lifelong bonds starting from early childhood into adulthood. Many of these friendships were life-lasting.

Beloved wife of Kevin E. Whalen. Devoted mother of James Whalen and his wife Rene of Cumberland, RI and Scott Whalen and his wife Kim of Wrentham. Cherished grandmother of Courtney, Ryan, Jaclyn, Kenzie and Brody. Dear sister of Daniel DiMille and his wife Pam of Johnston, RI and the late Anne Gavin and her husband Robert, and Nicholas DiMille and his wife Rosemary Norten DiMille. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral procession will be held on Saturday, August 2nd from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville at 9:00AM. Followed by funeral mass

that will be celebrated in St. Catherine Church, 179 Summer St., Somerville at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held on Friday, August 1st from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

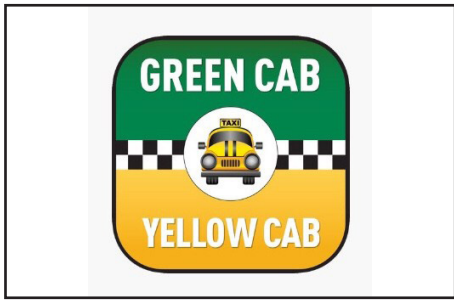
Services will conclude with entombment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Elaine's name to Dana Farber Yawkey 9, Infusion and Breast Oncology Department, 450 Brookline Ave, Boston, MA 02215.

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DOCUMENTARY "SHADOWS ON THE HILL" CREATES GOFUNDME PAGE



By Bob Katzen

By Aaron Singer, the producer and director of "Shadows on the Hill," an upcoming documentary that he says asks why common-sense bills don't pass the Massachusetts Legislature, announced the unveiling of his GoFundMe website to raise money for the production.

"I'm making this movie because local media has failed to draw critical attention to a Statehouse that routinely ignores the public's will," Singer told Beacon Hill Roll Call. "Voters largely don't understand how Beacon Hill lawmaking actually works. If they did, they'd stop lobbying their representatives and start showing up at Speaker Mariano's office [because] that's where the monied interests go."

Singer continued, "I invite current and former staffers, reporters, lobbyists and lawmakers who understand this broken system to share their story. If you've seen firsthand how power is hoarded and democracy is undermined, join me and others in calling it out."

The project's website is <http://www.shadowsdoc.com> which includes links to the GoFundMe fundraiser.

House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call

asking for his reaction to the making of the documentary.

DIVEST STATE RETIREMENT FUNDS FROM COMPANIES THAT SELL WEAPONS TO ISRAEL (H 2984) – The Public Service Committee held a hearing on legislation that would require the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board to divest direct investments with companies selling weapons to the State of Israel, unless the company announces within 30 days of the effective date of this bill, if it becomes law, that it will not renew or enter into contracts for weapon sales to the State of Israel.

"While I support Israel's right to exist and to defend itself, the war on Gaza has exceeded all legitimate bounds and has widely been condemned as a genocide," said Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge), a co-sponsor of the bill. "A ceasefire is long overdue, and yet the massacre of Palestinians continues with support from the United States government and weapons manufacturers. I am co-sponsoring this legislation to help do my part to ensure our state government is not complicit in Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and crimes against humanity in Gaza."

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville), the chief sponsor of the bill did not respond to repeated requests

by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to explain why she filed the bill. Two other co-sponsors, Reps. Natalie Higgins (D-Leominster) and Samantha Montano (D-Boston) did not respond to the same request.

DIVEST STATE RETIREMENT FUNDS FROM FIREARMS COMPANIES (S 1869) – Another measure heard by the Public Service Committee would require the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board to divest direct investments with companies that derive more than 15 percent of revenues from the sale or manufacture of ammunition, firearms or firearm accessories used for civilian purposes.

"It is crucial that we take a stand against gun violence, which is now the leading cause of death for children ages one to 19," said sponsor State Treasurer Deb Goldberg. "This bill takes a fiscally responsible approach in divesting from an industry that has repeatedly refused to work toward protecting our communities."

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YELLOW ENVELOPE PROGRAM (S 2565)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would create a "Yellow Envelope Program," that would give drivers 62 and older, who have a chronic illness, the option to be given a special yellow envelope that holds a recent photograph, the driver's name, emergency contact information, physicians' names and contact information, medical conditions,

recent surgeries, allergies, medications and any other information the Registrar decides is relevant information to emergency responders in the case of emergency.

Amendment supporters say that this program would be in addition to the Blue Envelope Program and would be helpful in many situations. They note that 22 other states have this program.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (D-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his amendment. Beacon Hill Roll Call also did not receive a response from any of the other four senators who voted for the amendment: Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton), Peter Durant (R-Spencer), Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton

and Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth).

Amendment opponents say that the bill should not be attached as an amendment to the Blue Envelope Bill but rather should be considered on its own at a public hearing,

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), the Senate chair of the Transportation Committee, did not respond to repeated requests

by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his opposition to the amendment.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

\$300 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4307)

Your thoughts on how much of this will be used on wasteful spending before it reaches where it's originally supposed to go?

By Bob Katzen

House 157-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$1.2 billion transportation bond bill that includes authorizing \$300 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state — a 50 percent increase over last year's funding. The measure provides that \$200 million be distributed to all cities and towns based on the standard Chapter 90 Program distribution formula while \$100 million would be distributed to all municipalities based solely on road mileage.

The \$1.2 billion package also includes \$885 million for other transportation-related projects including \$500 million for the Life-cycle Asset Management Program which supports non-federally aided roads and targets the Bay State pavement and bridges that are in the worst condition; \$200 million for a culvert and small bridge repair program to aid municipalities for local culverts and small bridges under 20 feet that are in a state of disrepair or require replacement; and \$185 million for capital projects to reduce congestion hotspots, funding that will be available for a myriad of projects such as shared use paths, intersection improvements, railroad grade crossings and sidewalks.

"The federal funding uncertainty from Washington, D.C. is very real," said Rep. James Arciero (D-Westford), House Chair of the Committee on Transportation. "The House is proceeding with caution while balancing the significant transportation needs of our cities and towns. This bill leverages the Legislature's increased appropriations to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. These strategic appropriations expanded our borrowing capacity to allow for additional transportation funding for cities and towns."

"This legislation strikes a balance between increasing funding for municipal roadways and transportation-related projects while maintaining outstanding fiscal

responsibility," said Rep. Michael Finn (D-West Springfield), House Chair of the Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. "Our decision to continue giving the governor the authority to utilize either general or special obligation bonds enables us to capitalize on competitive interest rates, save money long term and preserve general obligation bond capacity for the commonwealth's most pressing needs."


"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the commonwealth's public transportation, roads and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ron Mariano

(D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for local infrastructure repairs that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for projects that will address congestion hotspots across the commonwealth."

"The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) and local leaders across the state are deeply grateful that legislators appreciate the importance of this program to the quality of life and economic development in our communities," said MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine. "Chapter 90 is a program that benefits all 351 cities and towns in the state, and a 50 percent increase in funding would have a substantial impact in all corners of the commonwealth."

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TRAIN POLICE OFFICERS ON THE BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM (S 2565)



By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would require all police officers in Massachusetts to complete training every five years on the Blue Envelope Program.

“People on the autism spectrum can face unique challenges during stressful situations, such as traffic stops,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). “The Blue Envelope program will

help officers instantly understand if a driver might require a different approach, and my amendment will ensure that all law enforcement officials in the commonwealth have the training they need to better understand

these individuals and how to keep everyone safer on the road with training refreshers every five years.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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Medford Dispatcher Recognized For Outstanding Response

By William Tauro

Medford Police officers and dispatchers on Wednesday morning, Dispatcher AnnMarie Giordano was recognized by Dispatch Supervisor Mike Salvi for her outstanding response.

Dispatcher Giordano remained on the line with a distressed caller, offering calm, compassionate

support during an incredibly difficult moment. She continued to assist the individual in person when they arrived at the police station, providing comfort and reassurance.

Her professionalism, empathy, and dedication are a true reflection of the exceptional service our dispatch team provides every day. Thank you, Dispatcher Giordano, for

going above and beyond. Job well done.

Medford dispatch without a contract for 3 years.

And still in limbo with Congress to recognize 911 dispatchers as first responders so we get a better quality of life



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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

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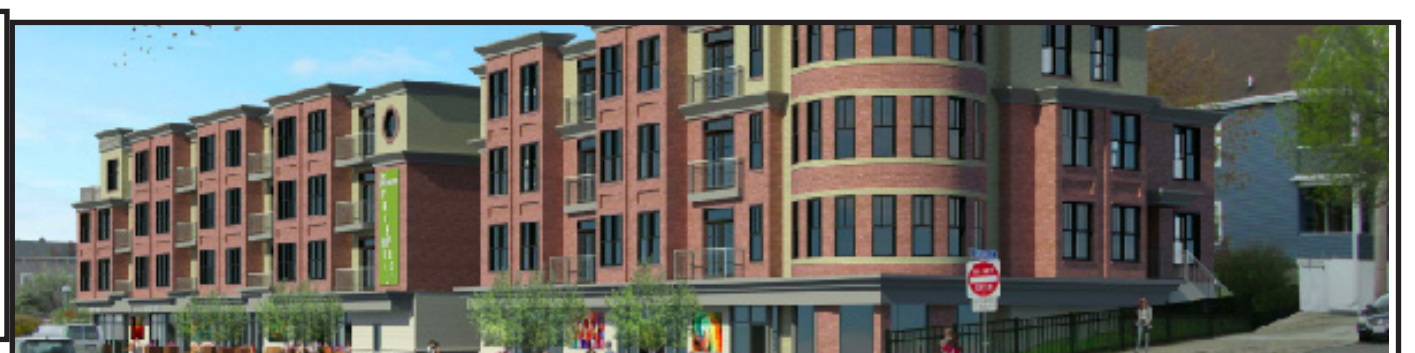
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Somer Fest Returns August 2 to Celebrate BIPOC Creativity, Culture & Community



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.

PROHIBIT ONLINE TOBACCO SALES (H 2482)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Health Committee held a hearing on a measure that would prohibit the online sale of any tobacco products by re-

quiring any sale of tobacco to be done in-person with both the buyer and seller physically present at the time and location of the purchase. The buyer’s age would have to be verified

at the time of purchase through a valid government-issued photo ID.

“I filed [the bill] to close a dangerous loophole that allows minors to access

nicotine products online without meaningful age verification,” said sponsor Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick). “By requiring all tobacco sales to occur in person, this bill strength-

ens safeguards and reaffirms Massachusetts’ commitment to protecting young people from addiction.”

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REPEAL ARCHAIC LAWS (S 2564)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 40-0, approved and sent to the House legislation that would abolish some archaic laws that are still on the books in Massachusetts. These laws include prohibiting adultery, sodomy, blasphemy, “common nightwalking” and being a vagabond.

The measure also establishes a Permanent Law Revision Commission to examine the state’s laws and judicial decisions; identify defects and anachronisms in the law; and recommend needed

reforms to align with modern conditions.

“When dusty and dangerous relics of a bygone era darken our laws, it creates the potential for real harm to residents today,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “We are on a path to making our laws better represent who we are in 21st-century Massachusetts. With a White House that glorifies—and seemingly longs for—the days when many Americans were discriminated against because of who they are, now is the time to make sure our

state laws respect and support the rights and dignity of our residents.”

Chief sponsor Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont) said the bill would bring Bay State laws into the 21st century and align them with the fundamental principles of freedom built into our Constitution. “The bill would remove archaic laws that intrude on an individual’s privacy regarding sexual activity,” said Brownsberger. “[It] would remove existing statutes that criminalize sodomy and so-called ‘unnatural’

acts between consenting adults and make Massachusetts laws more inclusive of individuals who are LGBTQIA+. In some cases, the language that this bill would strike from the General Laws dates back into the 1800s.”

“This legislation is about respect and dignity—plain and simple,” said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester), Senate Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. “Removing archaic language and striking outdated laws sends a

powerful message that Massachusetts stands with and uplifts people of all abilities, and all those who have been marginalized by harmful language and policies. Our laws should reflect our values. Today we took an important step toward justice and our committee knows there is more work to be done.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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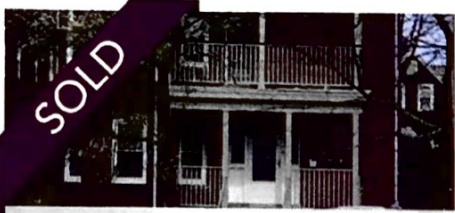
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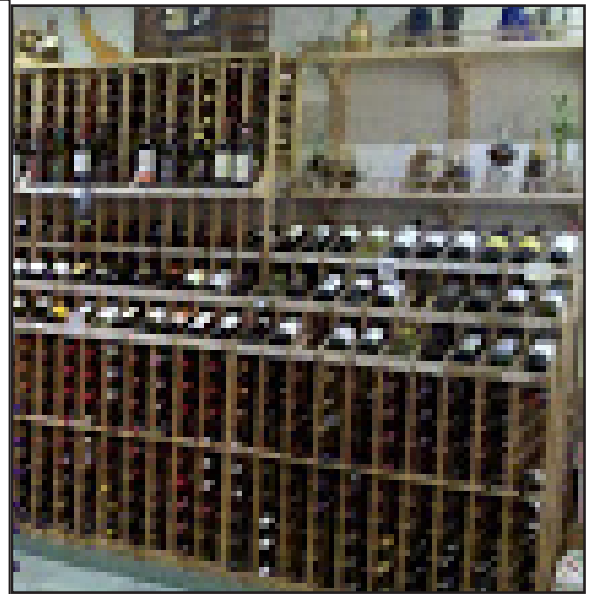


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