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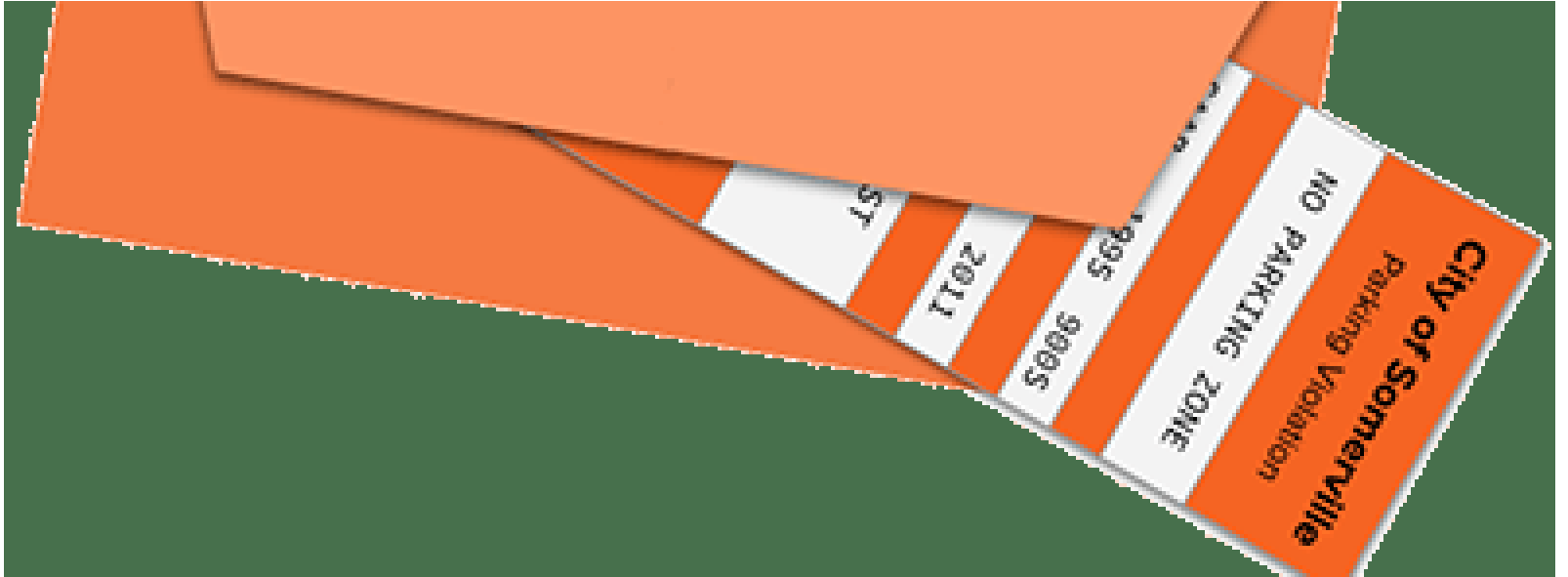
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VOL.1 NO.329-275

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday August 19th, 2025

New Parking Camera Devices Enforce Two-Hour Limits at Manchester-by-the-Sea Beaches May Be Coming To Your City of Town Soon



Continued to page 5



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Fire Department News Updates



Continued to page 11

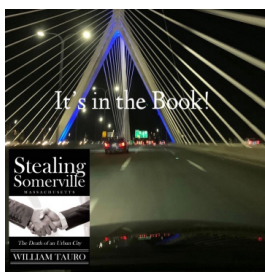
Medford Firefighters Local 1032 News Updates



Continued to page 19



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page

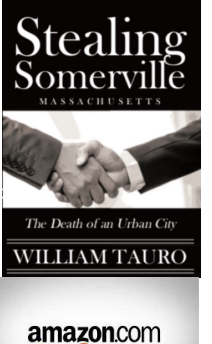


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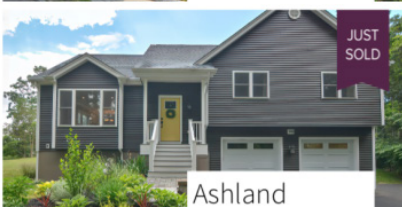
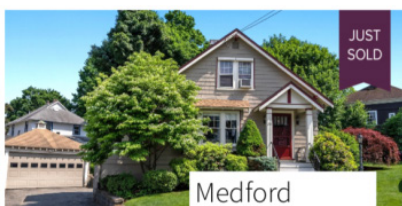
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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Somerville/Medford Remembering MaryLou Priscilla (Stancato) Paduano



Obituary

MaryLou Priscilla (Stancato) Paduano – Of Haver-

hill, formerly of Medford, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 8, 2025 surrounded by her loving family. She was 91 years old. Leaving behind a legacy of love, warmth and devotion to her family.

Born in Everett, she was the daughter of the late Paul A. and Mary P. (Fabiano) Stancato. MaryLou devoted her life to her family as a loving and dedicated stay-at-home mom. She found her greatest joy in raising her chil-

dren and cherished every moment spent with them. Her pride and love for her family grew even more with the arrival of her grandchildren, whose accomplishments she celebrated with boundless joy and pride.

Although mom and nana is gone, she will live in our hearts forever.

Beloved wife of the late Donald T. Paduano. Devoted mother of Pamela Ruane and her husband Scott of

Haverhill, Donald “Donny” Paduano of Somerville. Loving grandmother of Patrick Thomas Ruane and Sean Ruane. Cherished dog mom to Oreo. Dear sister of 10 siblings. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Monday, August 18th from 11:00AM to 12:00PM. Followed by a

prayer service in the funeral home at 12:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

Somerville/Medford Remembering David J. Desmond



Obituary

David J. Desmond, a life long Somerville resident, passed away at home on August 9, 2025, he was just 45 years young. David was born in Boston the cherished son of Mary Lou Johnson of Arlington and the dear brother of

the late Daniel R. Johnson, who passed away in March of last year.

Complete obituary and services to be posted.

Visiting Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty

Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Monday, August 25th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

If you wish, donations in David’s memory can be made to Supportive Liv-

ing, Inc. c/o Development Office, 9 Oakland Street, Lexington, MA 02420 or online at <https://www.supportivelivinginc.org/giving-page-3> .. Or to a charity of your choice

City of Somerville Staff Member Honored by Massachusetts House of Representatives for Decades of Service



SOMERVILLE, MA– On Friday, July 25, Somerville’s own Bonny Carroll was awarded a special citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives for her work as a dedicated leader in tobacco prevention and longtime champion for youth and families in

Somerville.

A lifelong Somerville resident, Carroll serves as the City’s Director of Tobacco Control in the Health and Human Services Department. Her work has been instrumental in shaping tobacco prevention efforts across the city. Bonny’s legacy continues to inspire colleagues, youth, and community members alike. Her decades of service have shaped policies, strengthened partnerships, and uplifted lives throughout Somerville and the State.

“It’s always moving to see our

City staff recognized for their work,” said Mayor Katjana Ballyntyne.

“It speaks to the real impact they make every day. Bonny’s work is a model of what compassionate, community-driven service looks like.”

“I was so honored to award a citation to Bonny Carroll for dedicating over two decades of service to advancing the health and wellbeing of youth and families in Somerville and across Massachusetts,” said Representative Barber. “Her tireless advocacy and unwavering commitment to protecting youth from nico-

tine addiction have made our community stronger and ensured a healthy path for future generations.”

Carroll was previously recognized with an appreciation award during the Somerville Cares About Prevention (SCAP) Annual Celebration on May 29. This is an annual event where Somerville Positive Forces youth leaders and community members gather to celebrate efforts supporting the health and wellbeing of young Somerville residents.

“Bonny has poured her heart into building a healthier city,”

said Lovelee Heller-Bottari, SCAP Program Director, who presented the award. “She leads with integrity, warmth, and an unwavering determination to make a difference. Her impact can be seen in our city’s tobacco policies, and it is felt in the lives of countless individuals and families who have been touched by her care and determination.”

For more information on Somerville’s Prevention Programs, please contact Director of Prevention Services Tina Los at tlos@somervillema.gov.

Somerville Fire Department News Updates

Five new Somerville firefighters graduated from the Boston Fire Academy on Wednesday, August 13.

They are pictured left to right with Chief Breen (center): Kevin McGuirk, Norberto Maldonado, Nolan Carrier, Nicholas Cantone and Mitzschael Myrthil. Chief Breen attended the ceremony and handed out their assignments.





New Parking Camera Devices Enforce Two-Hour Limits at Manchester-by-the-Sea Beaches May Be Coming To Your City of Town Soon

By William Tauro

Manchester-by-the-Sea, a picturesque coastal town in Massachusetts, is embracing cutting-edge technology to manage parking at its popular beaches. New automated parking camera devices are now in use, designed to enforce the town's two-hour parking limit with precision.

These devices, spotted along beachfront areas, are changing how parking regulations are monitored, ensuring compliance while sparking conversation among locals and visitors.

The cameras, equipped with advanced license plate recognition (LPR) technology, automatically scan parked vehicles and track their duration in designated two-hour zones. Once a vehicle exceeds the two-hour limit, the system issues a citation without the need for manual intervention by parking enforcement officers.

This technology, similar to systems like CITYSCANNER® used elsewhere, relies on high-precision GPS and LPR to document

violations accurately. The cameras capture geodata, timestamps, and photographic evidence, ensuring citations are issued only when a vehicle has overstayed its allotted time.

Local authorities say the devices aim to increase parking turnover, ensuring more visitors can access beachfront parking during peak summer months. "The goal is to keep spaces available for everyone enjoying our beaches," a town official noted. The automated system also reduces the need for labor-intensive patrols, allowing enforcement to cover more ground efficiently. Unlike traditional methods, these cameras operate 24/7, regardless of weather, making enforcement consistent and reliable.

However, the introduction of these devices has raised concerns among some beachgoers. Critics argue the system feels impersonal and worry about potential errors, such as misread license plates or disputes over timing. Others see it as a necessary step to manage overcrowding, especially during tourist season. Unlike

speed camera citations, which can sometimes be contested due to signage or calibration issues, parking camera citations rely on clear evidence of time spent in a spot, making appeals trickier but not impossible.

Sadly I did notice that they are made of a cheap flimsy material and mounted very poorly into the ground and easy to push and tip them over.

Manchester-by-the-Sea's adoption of this technology reflects a broader trend toward digital parking enforcement, seen in cities like Manchester, New Hampshire, and Newport, Wales, where similar systems have boosted compliance and revenue. For now, beach visitors are advised to set timers and adhere to the two-hour limit to avoid a surprise ticket. As these devices become more common, they're reshaping parking habits—one scan at a time.



Early Morning Stabbing In Davis Square Somerville

At approximately 8:34 AM Monday, SPD 911 received a call for a possible stabbing at the MBTA Davis Sq Red line stop. Upon arrival, responding Officers discovered one male suffering from an apparent stab wound.

The victim was transported to the hospital

with non-life threatening injuries. SPD along with MBTA officers made an arrest for the assault shortly thereafter. The incident occurred on MBTA property and the MBTA Transit Police Department is the lead agency. This remains an active investigation.



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Mayor Ballantyne Invites the Community to the Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival in Union Square

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council, in partnership with producer Yvette Wilks of Wilks Productions Consultancy, invite community members to the eleventh annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival on Saturday, August 23, (rain date: August 24), from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Union Square Plaza.

Evolution of Hip Hop is an annual ArtsUnion festival and is free for all to attend. This year’s event is building an intergenerational community of those who love music, beats and storytelling, which are part of the many components of Hip Hop.

Here’s what to expect:
Musical performances

begin at 4 p.m.: Enjoy the sounds of Latin hip hop band FM Collective will be headlining the evening with performances by Dro Casso, and more. Stay tuned as artists continue to be added to the line-up. Photo opportunities with a collection of vintage cars provided by Gregory Smith of Show Riders and Ultimate Entertainment group
Visual artists and craft vendors
Community tabling: Meet, greet, and get information from local community groups

“The festival was created to provide a platform for our youth and upcoming artists and to help remove the stigma associated with Hip Hop,” said event producer Yvette Wilks.



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

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

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them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

State of A Tavola:

A Tavola’s outdoor patio dining is open for business! Take-out and delivery is also available! (with-in a small radius of A Tavola).

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

for any and all details.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Somerville Seeks Polling Place Workers for Preliminary Election Tuesday, September 16



SOMERVILLE- The City of Somerville is seeking polling place workers and standby poll workers for the upcoming Preliminary Election on Tuesday, September 16. Many poll workers are needed to support operations and conduct a successful election.

Earn \$240 for the workday, 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General Duties
Poll worker must be ready

to step in as needed on Election Day: Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after the polls close at 8 p.m., with a two-hour break. Poll workers would serve in the following role:

Inspectors – Check off names as voters check in, assist at the voting machine, or staff the demon-

stration table. Inspectors also help set up and break down the precinct. The compensation is \$240 per day.

To apply, please email Human Resources at hradmin@somervillema.gov. Applicants will be contacted and hired as needed up until Election Day.

To learn more, please con-

tact the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

By Bob Katzen

“Massachusetts has over 25,000 culverts, most of which are undersized. By replacing these outdated culverts with larger, safer structures, we can better prepare our communities for severe weather. Investing in these projects now will save our cities and towns money on disaster recovery in the future.”

— Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announcing \$2.9 million in grants to support ecological restoration proj-

ects across Massachusetts to strengthen resilience against extreme weather events, improve water quality, reduce flood risk and restore crucial wildlife habitat.

“Our audit identified a number of issues that undermine and negatively impact the Cannabis Control Commission’s mission to equitably and effectively oversee the cannabis industry in Massachusetts. Our team appreciates the commission’s cooperation throughout this audit, which serves to identify areas for needed improvements to better

serve the residents of the commonwealth. We encourage the Cannabis Control Commission to adopt our office’s recommendations for improvement and will be revisiting the commission’s progress in roughly six months as part of our post-audit review.”

— Auditor Diana DiZoglio upon releasing an audit of the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) — the independent agency responsible for developing and enforcing regulations over the marijuana industry in Massachusetts. Among the audit’s findings is that the CCC’s

mismanagement of prorated fees for license extensions resulted in revenue loss, procedural inequity, noncompliance with state regulations and the appearance of potential favoritism and/or impropriety with respect to some being required to pay fees, while others inexplicably did not need to do so.

“Massachusetts is narrowing the digital divide by working with communities to deliver digital training and education services to residents statewide. The Municipal Implementation Program offers a road map to local

leaders through a planning exercise and puts dollars on the table to implement the communities’ top priorities to close the digital divide.”
— Massachusetts Interim Economic Development Secretary Ashley Stolba announcing \$555,747 in grants as part of the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program designed to support a broad range of activities across the state including expanding digital literacy instruction, digital education and access, digital navigation services, laptop and tablet distribution and public Wi-Fi networks.

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://medfordma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=31249



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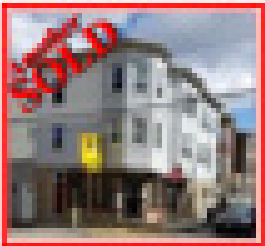


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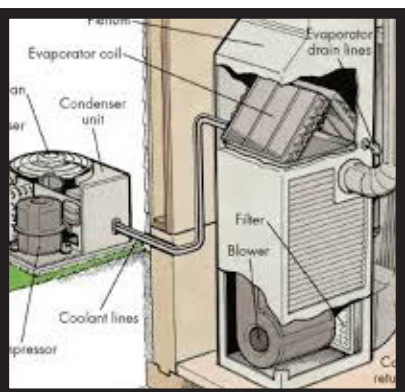
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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Lyft Driver Arrested in Somerville After Alleged Sexual Assault on Passenger

SOMERVILLE – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Somerville Chief of Police Shumeane Benford have confirmed that Luis Carlos Ramos Teixeira, age 27, of Brockton has been charged with rape and indecent assault and battery on a person over fourteen. The defendant, a Lyft driver, is alleged to have sexually assaulted a female passenger over the weekend.

On August 9, Somerville Police Detectives responded to a local hospital to speak with an adult woman who disclosed that she had been sexually assaulted by a Lyft driver in Somerville. After interviewing the victim, police were able to identify the suspect as Luis Carlos Ramos Teixeira. Teixeira was alleged to have picked up the victim at a Boston location and brought her home to Somerville where he allegedly got into the back seat of the vehicle and sexually assaulted the victim.

On Sunday, August 10, 2025, Somerville Detectives along with the members of the Massachusetts State Police and Brockton Police located Teixeira in Brockton where he was arrested on a warrant.

He was arraigned Monday in Somerville District Court and ordered held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing scheduled for Friday.



Shumeane Benford
Chief of Police

City of Somerville Police Department

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Somerville, MA 02143-1307
(617) 625-1600
www.somervillepd.com



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Mayor and Somerville Homeless Coalition Activate Emergency Fund for Somerville Fire Victims; Call for Community Donations



SOMERVILLE- You can help. On Sunday, August 10, 18 Somerville residents including three children, as well as pets, were displaced by a fire on Powderhouse Boulevard that left nine apartments at Clarendon Hill Housing uninhabitable.

Water damage impacted ad-

ditional neighboring units as well. Fortunately, after multiple rescues, everyone got out safely, but significant challenges remain for our neighbors who now face replacing their ruined belongings from prescriptions and personal products, to beds, food in their pantries, and school clothes and supplies.

Fortunately, the Somerville Housing Authority is working swiftly to rehouse these residents, and City departments and partners are coordinating temporary shelter and supports while those units are readied, but your help is needed as our neighbors rebuild their lives.

Most have lost all or most of their belongings. If you are able, please donate to the Somerville Homeless Coalition's EMERGENCY FUND to both help them put their lives back together and to let them know their community cares. Donations of any size will help. An outpouring of support for victims of the recent Wheatland fire to this fund made all the difference in helping them back on their feet.

The fund is designed to provide immediate relief to the affected residents and will help other neighbors in need as they face future emergencies. Your financial

donation will support a range of needs from meals, household products, and transportation to pet supplies, shoes, and more.

“Once again our brave firefighters were there to save lives, and now the work of recovery begins,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “As our staff surge supports, the community can become part of the caring response by supporting the Somerville Homeless Coalition Emergency Fund, which can quickly provide the kind of direct help to individuals that makes all the difference in a crisis.”

HOW TO DONATE

You can donate at bit.ly/SHCE-emergencyFund and select “Emergency Fund” to support these families, students, and residents.

No donation is too small.

Only financial donations are sought at this time.



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 Community Invited to Take Survey on New PK-8 School Building Options



The City of Somerville is planning to build a new

PK-8 public school building, and the Construction Advisory Group (CAG), Mayor Ballantyne, and Somerville Public Schools want to hear from you.

To inform their recommendation to the Mayor on the location and scope of the project, members of the CAG worked with an urban planning firm

and City staff to develop a 10-minute survey to gather perspective from across the Somerville community. This outreach is part of the Mayor's commitment to ensure community voices are heard on this important decision.

"Building a new school for our students is a generational investment in our

city's future," said Mayor Ballantyne. "As we work toward this goal, there are critical decisions to make. We want to make sure the full community can weigh in on these decisions, share their perspective, and support the critical work the CAG has been doing. I'd like to invite the full community to participate in this survey."

To learn more about the project, visit somervillema.gov/newpkto8.

Take the survey:

Somerville School Building Project: Community Survey

\$46 MILION FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

By Bob Katzen

The Healey Administration announced a package of \$46 million for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure to support the buildout of EV chargers across Massachusetts. Supporters said that the funding will help address gaps identified

by the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council, including the need for more chargers along secondary corridors and to support medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

"We're making it easier for everyone to get around as more Massachusetts residents choose to drive

electric," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tupper. "Not only are these vehicles fun to drive but they are typically less expensive to maintain than their gas- and diesel-powered counterparts. We are committed to building a cleaner environment and vibrant economy for

everyone."

"Expanding our robust network of public EV chargers will enable electrification of passenger vehicles as well as highly polluting medium- and heavy-duty vans and trucks," said Mass Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

Commissioner Bonnie Heiple. "This funding allows MassDEP to cut air and noise pollution in communities across the state — driving real change for a healthier Massachusetts."

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Ballantyne Administration Strengthens Tree Preservation Ordinance to Better Protect Urban Canopy



SOMERVILLE — The City of Somerville's Department of Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF) is sharing updates to its Tree Preservation Ordinance, reinforcing the City's commitment to protecting trees on both public and private land. The

amended ordinance, approved by the City Council on May 15, 2025, includes strengthened requirements for tree removal and new protections for significant trees affected by construction.

Under the new ordinance, owner-occupants of one- to three-family homes with a residential exemption must now partially offset the loss when they remove a tree. In the past, these homeowners did not have to provide any mitigation. Now, they must meet 10% of the standard

replanting or payment requirement. This is a significant reduction—currently \$60 per caliper inch of tree removed instead of the standard \$600 per caliper inch.

Since 2019, Somerville has required permits for the removal of noninvasive trees measuring 8 inches or more in diameter at breast height (DBH). The updated ordinance maintains that requirement and now also strengthens the standards for how significant public and private trees must be protected during construction. Contractors must follow a tree protection plan using industry-standard practices before work begins and maintain protections throughout the construction process. The City's Tree Warden has the authority to require modifications to ensure compliance.

As before, emergency tree removals, including dead, dying, or hazardous trees certified by an arborist, remain exempt from the tree removal permit process. Permits are still not required for removal of trees under 8 inches DBH or invasive species under 24 inches DBH, with the exception of Tree of Heaven, which is always exempt regardless of size.

The updated ordinance was proposed by the City's Urban Forestry Committee and shaped by public input during a series of City Council meetings in spring 2025.

To learn more about the requirements, apply for a permit, and learn more visit: somervillema.gov/tree-removal-guidelines or email trees@somervillema.gov.

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FIRST RESPONDERS MUST HAVE NARCAN AVAILABLE (S 1410)

By Bob Katzen

The Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery will hold a hearing on September 15 on legislation that would require government entities to supply first responders with Narcan, also known

by its generic name naloxone, or another opioid antagonist which is used as an emergency treatment used for the complete or partial reversal of an opioid overdose.

The bill also incorporates existing Department of

Public Health-regulated naloxone training into the first-aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training first responders already undergo.

Sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) said the bill would require the opioid

antagonist to be carried either by the responder or in their emergency response vehicle, or both. "Delays in the administration of opioid antagonists can be deadly," said Lovely. "We cannot be sure which category of first responder will be the first to arrive

on the scene, and training and providing all first responders with opioid antagonists will ensure we are able to effectively treat overdoses and save lives."

Medford Police Department News Updates

On Friday, two of our patrol officers officially stepped into leadership roles as they were promoted to the rank of sergeant. Please join us in congratulating Sergeant Chris Kelly and Sergeant Rich Iozza!

Sergeant Kelly has proudly served with the Medford Police Department for the past 11 years. He spent much of that time in our Detective Unit, where his dedication and investigative skills helped solve numerous cases and support victims in our community.

Sergeant Iozza, formerly our most senior patrol officer, has dedicated more than 30 years to the Medford Police Department. In recent years, he has served in our Traffic Division, working tirelessly to improve roadway safety and keep our streets safe for all.

We thank both of these outstanding officers for their years of service and look forward to their continued leadership in their new roles.



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Somerville Planning Board Adopts Ballantyne Administration's Transformative Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan



2900-5700 housing units, up to \$17M in annual tax revenue among potential benefits

Plan sets vision for housing, job, revenue, and public space improvements through sustainable growth

SOMERVILLE, MA – By unanimous vote, the Somerville Planning Board at their July meeting adopted the Ballantyne Administration's Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan, marking a significant milestone in the City's efforts to guide sustainable development

in one of its most rapidly evolving neighborhoods. Once fully implemented, the neighborhood plan offers the potential of up to 2,900 to 5,700 new residential units — includ-

ing roughly 580 to 1,100 affordable units — and an estimated up to \$17 million in annual tax revenues among other community benefits.

"This plan represents a pivotal moment for our community," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Assembly Square has incredible potential to become a model for inclusive, sustainable development that serves both our residents and the broader region. By adopting this shared vision for a thriving, equitable Somerville, we are creating a path to adding much-needed housing including affordable units, new jobs, more access to nature, and to generating vital tax revenues to help fund our community's needs and priorities."

The plan is the result of years of collaborative work by residents, stakeholders, and City leadership and staff to establish a long-term vision for Assembly Square's future. It serves as both a master plan and will become a zoning recommendation that will shape development decisions in the approximately 140-acre East Somerville site along the Mystic River.

The neighborhood, formerly an industrial site, now includes the

successful Assembly Row mixed-use complex featuring offices, shopping, and housing alongside longer-standing retail and light industrial spaces. That transformation is the successful result of intensive community-shaped discussions and goal setting as well that began in the late 1990s. More recently, Assembly was designated a Transformational Area in SomerVision2040, the City's comprehensive plan, with significant potential for growth.

The new plan emphasizes realizing Assembly Square's full promise as a major regional destination, job engine, revenue creator, and housing generator. The plan also addresses critical infrastructure needs to support expected growth while ensuring development aligns with community values and long-term sustainability goals.

The planning process included extensive community engagement through community meetings, public presentations, polls and surveys, and feedback sessions that spanned several years. The Planning Board reviewed multiple drafts before adopting the final version, which incorporates revisions based on public input and technical analysis.

Key elements of the adopted plan include:

Framework for walkable mixed-use development that balances residential (approximately 40% of built area), and commercial (around 60%) uses to create a complete community

Provisions for affordable housing integration throughout the neighborhood at 20% of the total new units (equaling roughly 580 to more than 1,000 affordable units)

Significant opportunities for growing large, small, and micro businesses to strengthen the community's job and tax base and neighborhood vibrancy

Guidelines for sustainable development practices and climate resilience

Strategies for preserving and enhancing public spaces, such as Baxter Park, and creating community amenities on approximately 28 acres totaling roughly 20% of the land

Infrastructure improvements to support population growth, mobility and transit access, and connectivity

A roadmap for coordinated improvements that will benefit both new and existing residents.

The plan builds on Assembly Square's existing assets, including its proximity to public transportation via the MBTA Assembly Orange Line station and its growing business cluster, while addressing challenges related to traffic, infrastructure capacity, and community services.

"It's great to have a new neighborhood plan in place that acknowledges the changes in development and economics since the first plan in 2000 and the master plan from 2004. This was a fun process and involved so many engaged and truly caring neighborhood residents that we're excited to facilitate the future growth and amenities for them," said Senior Planner and project lead Sarah Lewis.

Community members can access the full adopted plan and related documents through the city's SomerVoice platform at voice.somervillema.gov/assemblynpn.

The Ballantyne administration is committed to creating inclusive, sustainable communities that serve residents across all neighborhoods. For more information about city planning initiatives, visit voice.somervillema.gov.

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Somerville Voting Information for City Preliminary Election



SOMERVILLE- On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, the City of Somerville will hold its City Preliminary Election, which will narrow the candidate pool before the Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 4.

The offices on the ballot for this election include:

- Mayor
- Councilor At Large
- Councilor – Ward 7
- School Committee – Ward 3

The preliminary election is

open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on Preliminary Election Day.

Register to Vote in the Preliminary by Friday, September 5
 You can register one of three ways:
 Online at somervillema.gov/registertovote,
 In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
 Via phone by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. Or by calling 311 (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections.

The registration deadline is Friday, September 5, at midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked by September 5.

Vote Early at City Hall, September 9-11

Vote early in the Preliminary Election in the lower level of City Hall from Tuesday, September 9, through Thursday, September 11. The schedule is as follows:

- September 9 – Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- September 10 – Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- September 11 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

How to Vote in the Preliminary Election by Mail

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. (not postmarked) by Tuesday, September 9
 Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/votebymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 16.
 Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their

ballot in the mail. Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the City no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state's website.

How to return your application and ballot:

- o Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:
 - § City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
 - § East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.
 - § In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.
 - § In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
 - § Behind the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave.
 - § In front of the Igreja Presbiteriana De Boston Church, 212 School St.
 - § In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St.
 - § In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

- § In front of Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St.
- § In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.
- § In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall
 Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143
 Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

For more information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.

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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

BASICS:	TOILETRIES
<input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat)	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes
<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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LANDLORD MUST PAY REAL ESTATE BROKER'S FEE

By Bob Katzen

A new law that took effect on August 1 requires landlords, instead of renters, to cover the cost of broker fees unless a renter is the one to hire the broker first. The law was part of the \$60.9 billion fiscal 2026 that was signed by Gov. Maura Healey in July.

“This is about saving you money, thousands of dollars you can now spend

on whatever you need or put it away for the future,” said Healey. “And this is just one way I’m lowering costs and getting after high housing prices.”

“Between first and last month’s rent, a security deposit and a broker’s fee — moving to a new apartment was breaking the bank for far too many Massachusetts residents,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.



Medford Firefighters Local 1032 News Updates

At about 6:15 this past Wednesday morning Medford Fire received multiple calls from neighbors for a fire at 134 Fern Rd. The responding companies could see the smoke from across the city. A 2nd alarm was struck by command immediately. Companies from Medford, Arlington, Malden, and Somerville worked all morning in the heat. Unfortunately the house was severely damaged but thankfully none of the residents or firefighters were hurt. (Videos taken by neighbors)



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Ballantyne Administration Brings Braille & Raised Text Street Signs to 200 Somerville Intersections



Crosswalk sign initiative brings more accessible street navigation Somerville residents

SOMERVILLE— Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is pleased to announce that more accessible signage is coming

to streets around Somerville. As part of ongoing work to make Somerville's streets safer and more accessible, the City will be installing new signage featuring braille and raised text at intersections around Somerville. A total of 200 new signs will be installed

at crosswalks with pedestrian signals and accessible push buttons to make them easier to navigate for people with visual impairments.

“Making our streets work for everyone means designing them in ways that are inclusive of all the different

ways people receive and process the information they need to move around the city safely and comfortably,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “This is another great example of teams working across departments to deliver important services to our community. I especially want to thank our Parking, Engineering, Mobility, and ADA staff for collaborating to make our streets more accessible.”

The new signage will alert people walking or wheeling to the presence of a button they can push to activate an audible and

vibrotactile (vibrating to enable perception through touch) signal that lets them know when the walk signal is active and it is safe to cross the street. Where possible the new signs will also include street names in braille and raised text. This makes street name information accessible for people who are blind or visually impaired and unable to read street names posted on traditional signage providing important wayfinding information.

“Having new signage and updated walk signals not only increases accessibility

for persons with disabilities but everyone who wishes to access our streets and crosswalks safely. It's improvements such as these that make Somerville truly accessible and inclusive for all.” said Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator

Crews are already installing the 200 new signs around the city and expect to complete this project over the coming weeks. Click here for photos of new signage.

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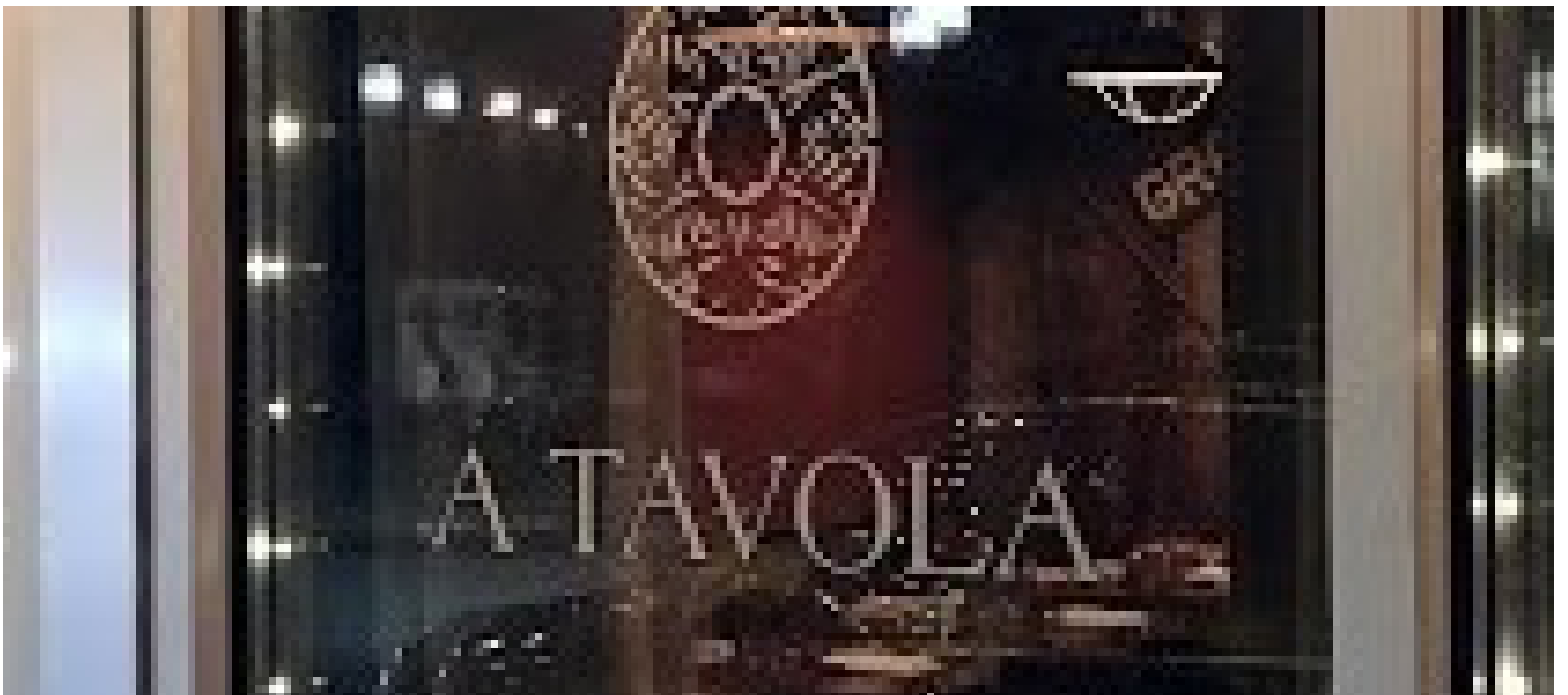
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