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VOL.1 NO.329-279

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday September 16th, 2025

## Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne Is Out



NEWS TALK OUT  
LOUD/SPEAK UP

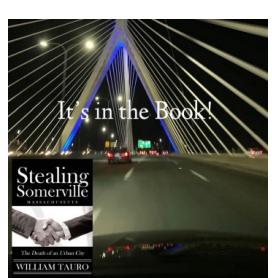


Continued to page 3



## Medford Police Department News Updates

Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page



Continued to page 6

## Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log

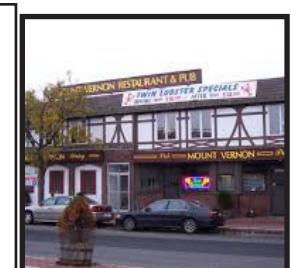


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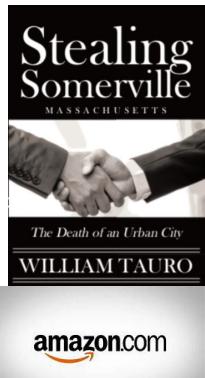
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## Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne Is Out



By William Tauro  
Somerville's preliminary election results show a significant shift, with incumbent Mayor Katjana

Ballantyne earning only 23% of the vote, falling short of advancing to the general election.  
City councilors

Jake Wilson and Willie Burnley emerged as the top contenders, securing 42% and 34% of the votes, respectively, and will compete in

the November runoff. Ballantyne, who took over from long-serving mayor Joe Curtatone after his 18-year tenure, has served

two terms but will conclude her time in office in January.

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Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

Please send both forms and payment to:

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If you have any questions email us at [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
MHS Varsity Softball is a non profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.  
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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
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## Somerville/Medford Remembering Norman R. Furtado



### Obituary

Norman R. Furtado, of Somerville, passed away on September 13, 2025, he was 71. Born in Cambridge and raised in Somerville, he was the son of the late Albertina (Travers) and Antonio Furtado. A graduate of Somerville Trade High School, he would first enlist in the Army where he would serve for three years.

After his honorable discharge, he then enlisted in the Army National Guard where he would serve another 19 years. Continuing his service to our country and community, Norman joined the Department of Veteran's Affairs as a

police officer. Assigned primarily to the West Roxbury VA Campus, he rose through the ranks and retired as a Lieutenant.

A very active member of several local Posts, he was the Past Commander of American Legion Post 19, Past Commander of the DAV Chapter 27 where he was current Junior Vice Commander and Past Member of the VFW Post 529 Board of Directors. Norman could be found proudly representing each at the City's veteran's dedications, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies. He enjoyed fishing, especially saltwater, but above all enjoyed time spent with

family.

The beloved husband of Gale F. Mahan, they were married on 10-10-10. He is the cherished stepfather of Christopher Fusco and Samantha Fusco, both of Somerville and loving grandfather of Shawn Fusco and Sophia Delaney, father of Robert Furtado of Revere and Lisa Furtado of Waltham. He will be especially missed by his K9 companion Jasper. Brother of Tony Furtado and his wife Sara of Medford and John Furtado and his wife Maryann of Marlborough.

Visiting Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855

Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Thursday, September 18th from 3:00PM to 6:00PM. Burial with military honors will be held on Friday, September 19th at the Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne at 10:45AM, those attending please arrive through the cemetery main gate and plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to 10:45AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Norman's memory can be made to the D.A.V. Chapter 27, 616 Broadway #3, Somerville, MA 02145 or to VFW Dilboy Post 529, 351 Summer St, Somerville, MA 02144.

## Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering Carlos Coelho



### Carlos Coelho Obituary

Carlos M. Coelho, age 64, a long-time resident of Billerica, passed away peacefully on September 11, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family.

Carlos was born on February 8, 1961, in São Miguel, Azores, Portugal, the beloved son of the late Guilherme and Maria (Andrade) Coelho. At the age of five, Carlos and his family immigrated to the United States, settling in Cambridge, MA. He attended Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School and also studied at Minuteman Tech in Lexington, where he began shaping the path toward his future.

In December 1981, Carlos married Carol Ann (Oldak) Coelho. Together, they built a warm and loving home in Billerica, where they raised their two children, Kristen and Brandon. His devotion to family was unwavering, and he took great pride in being a supportive husband, a hands-on dad, and later, a deeply adored "G-Pa."

Carlos worked for many years at Aris Auto in Somerville, where his enthusiasm for the job and his larger-than-life personality made a lasting impression on coworkers and customers alike. To know Carlos was to be welcomed into his ever-growing circle of friends and family; he never met a stranger, only future friends.

Known for his signature laugh which was loud, infectious, and full of joy, Carlos brought warmth and energy wherever he went. He was a constant source of laughter and love, especially at family gatherings, where he could always be found singing, dancing, and savoring a well-prepared meal.

Though Billerica was his home for most of his adult life, Carlos's heart always remained in Cambridge. He maintained deep and lasting friendships from his early years and cherished his time spent running along the Charles River, a place that gave him peace and clarity.

Carlos loved life and lived it with passion. Whether he was running, walking, playing pickleball, or tending to his garden, he embraced every day with energy and gratitude. Above all, Carlos found his greatest joy in his family, especially in his role as "G-Pa" to his grandson Theodore, and with great excitement, he looked forward to welcoming his soon-to-be granddaughter, Liliana.

Carlos will be remembered for the love he gave, the laughter he shared, and the light he brought into every life he touched.

Carlos is survived by his wife, Carol Ann (Oldak) Coelho; his daughter Kristen Coelho and Ashleigh Connaghan of Billerica; his son Brandon Coelho and his wife Alison of Nashua, NH; and his cherished grandson, Theodore. He was the dear brother of Eddie Coelho & his wife Kathy of Beverly, Freddy Coelho & his wife Carla

of Raynham, Mary Lou Macedo & her husband Manny of Medford, and the late Larry Coelho, Joe Coelho, Val Coelho, and Cindy Lago. Carlos is also survived by his special nephew Billy Macedo, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rte. 62), Wilmington, on Tuesday, September 16th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., immediately followed by a Funeral Service at 5:00 p.m.

### Services

**VISITATION**  
Tuesday  
September 16, 2025  
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM  
Nichols Funeral Home  
187 Middlesex Ave  
Wilmington, MA 01887

## Somerville/Medford Remembering Peter Trant



### Obituary

Peter Trant- A lifelong resident of Somerville, passed away on Saturday, July 26, 2025. He was 68 years young.

Born and raised in Somerville, Peter was the beloved son of the late Raymond F. and Mary V. (Coughlin) Trant. Known for his incredible tech skills and sharp mind, Peter was the go-to person when something needed fixing or when someone had a question no one else could answer. Friends and family often joked, "Call Peter—he'll fix it," because he truly could MacGyver anything.

Peter worked at Somerville Hospital 43 years. It was the only job he ever had and loved it. After retirement he got to spend more time on his love for movies, often

watching them side-by-side with his cherished wife, Nichole. Their movie nights were one of his favorite pastimes. He was also an avid sports fan and took great joy in cheering on his favorite Boston teams. If there was a game on, you could count on Peter being in front of the TV, fully immersed and passionately rooting for a win.

In addition to his many talents, Peter was an exceptional cook. Every meal he prepared was met with compliments, and his culinary skills brought joy to many gatherings.

Beloved husband of 33 years to Nichole (Allerhand) Trant. Devoted father of Katy Trant, Josh Bey and his wife Lindsay and Seth Bay and his wife Jamie. Cherished

grandfather of Skyler Bey, Alexa Bey, Kristen Bey, Julia Bey, Jasmine Randall, and Isabella Randall. Loving brother of Robert Trant and his wife Patricia, Maureen Bernier, Raymond Trant and his wife Linda, George Trant, Charles Trant and his wife Diane, David Trant and his wife Qingmei, James Trant and his wife Karen, Joseph Trant and his wife Barbara, Virginia Annecchiarico and her husband Claudio, Christopher Trant and his wife Patricia and Paul Trant and his wife Linda. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces, and nephews.

Late U.S. Navy Veteran.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broad-

way (Powder House SQ.) Somerville on Wednesday, September 17th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on Thursday, September 18th in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford St., Somerville at 10:00AM. Please meet directly at church.

Services will conclude with burial at Massachusetts National Cemetery, Winchendon at 1:00PM. Please meet directly at the chapel and park in the rear of the building

In lieu of flower's memorial contributions may be made in Peter's name to American Red Cross PO Box 37839 Boone, IA 50037-0839

## Somerville/Medford Remembering BRUCE E. ROLLINS



### OBITUARY OF BRUCE E. ROLLINS

Bruce E. Rollins, age 78, passed away suddenly at his home in Woburn on September 9, 2025. He was the devoted husband of Maria (Nunes) Rollins, with whom he had shared 18 incredible years of his life.

Born in Boston, MA on July 22, 1947, he was a son of the late Charles E. and Evelyn (Austin) Rollins. Bruce was raised in Somerville, MA and graduated with the Somerville High School, Class of 1965. Following his education, he gained certification as a mechanic, and did that for many years prior to taking his position as a truck driver at Homens. He was also a lifelong member of the Somerville Masonic Lodge, and was proud to be a dedicated and beloved brother.

In his free time, Bruce enjoyed going down to the Woburn Gun Club, where he was

a member for many years. What he loved more than his gun collection though, was being on the open road, especially from the seat of his Harley. Riding was more than just a pastime—it was his freedom, his peace, and his way of getting to his favorite local breakfast diners. The love he had for old school, quality diners and being on his bike was what brought him to meet the love of his life, Maria. When he rolled up to her cousin's diner that she was working at, Bruce's quick wit, dry sarcasm, and engaging, lovable nature won her over easily. It wasn't long before the two were spending time together and going on dates, and not long after that, they were almost inseparable. In their 18 years together, they shared countless laughs, made lifelong memories, and were a constant and unwavering support for one another.

Spending time with Maria, his friends, and his family was incredibly important to Bruce. He

lived for any opportunity to have the people he loved most together at his home, out for group dinners, or out on the bike. He had a deep-rooted compassion, love, and loyalty towards everyone in his life—including the many Dobermanns he and Maria had over the years. When he first got sick, their most recent dog Zoë became his constant companion. Whether she was riding shotgun on his daily drive to dunkin' or just curling up on the couch in his lap, she was always there to be a comfort to Bruce. More than anything, Bruce was devoted to his beloved wife, family, and friends. He leaves behind a legacy of steadfast loyalty, a sharp and endearing sense of humor, and an unshakable commitment to anyone lucky enough to know him.

Along with his adoring wife, Maria, Bruce is survived by his son, Bruce Rollins, Jr. of Woburn; his loving nieces and nephews, Richard Rollins and his wife Laura of South Carolina, Virginia Rollins-St. Martin and her

husband Bill of South Carolina, and Charles Rollins and his partner Allison of Burlington; his siblings-in-law, Lucy, Christine, Tony, and Virgil; his best friends and supporters, Victor Vieira, Billy Chambers, and Bobby Potaris; his devoted four-legged companion, Zoë, as well as many other dear relatives and cherished friends.

Bruce was the father of the late Barry Rollins, who passed in 2022.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend visitation on Sunday, September 14th from 3 pm until 6 pm at the Edward V. Sullivan Funeral Home, 43 Winn St., Burlington. His funeral service will be held in the funeral home at 6pm.

An expression of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, donations in Bruce's honor may be made to an animal rescue shelter of your choice.

## William "Billy" Tauro for Governor





## Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



### Crime Log

9/2/25 – 9/8/25

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

#### Residential Breaking & Entering

25054381: On 9/3/25 at approximately 5:59 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Quincy St for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was sleeping and awoke to an individual standing over him. The suspect then fled out of the

house. Nothing was reported missing.

#### Residential Breaking & Entering

25054261: On 9/2/25 at approximately 4:13 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Wallace St for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a lock

on his door was damaged and he believes someone broke into his home. Nothing was reported missing.

#### Commercial Breaking & Entering

25054457: On 9/3/25 at approximately 11:12 AM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Columbia St for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the owner who stated the business is permanently closed and when he entered, observed two males sleeping inside. Nothing was reported missing.

#### Residential Breaking & Entering

25055243: On 9/6/25 at

approximately 11:23 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Alewife Brook Pkwy for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated he entered his mother's apartment and noticed that several pieces of jewelry were missing.

#### Assault

25055363: On 9/6/25 at approximately 7:47 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Canal St for a shoplifting. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a group of juveniles entered the store and proceeded to steal various items. Two of the juveniles then assaulted the clerk while

leaving.

#### Assault

25055467: On 9/7/25 at approximately 3:50 AM, Somerville Police responded to Davis Sq for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was walking through Davis Sq and a male party began throwing bricks at him then hit him in the head with a stick.

#### Other Crimes:

- 3 Vandalisms
- 2 Package Theft
- 8 Bike Thefts
- 5 Car Breaks
- 2 Moped Thefts
- 2 MV Thefts

## Mayor Ballantyne Announces Community Meeting on Davis Square Area Public Safety and Homelessness



Meeting Scheduled for Monday, October 6, at 6 p.m.

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne,

Somerville Police Chief Shumeane Benford, and the Somerville Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) invite community members to a neighborhood meeting on Monday, October 6, to discuss public safety and homelessness in the Davis Square/Seven Hills area.

All members of the community, including individuals and businesses, are invited to attend.

#### Meeting Details:

Date: Monday, October 6  
Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave., in the Sanctuary

Livestream: This meeting will also be livestreamed on City YouTube at [youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV](https://www.youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV).

Submit questions in advance: For people watching the livestream, questions may be submitted in advance to davis-

[safetymeeting@somervillema.gov](mailto:safetymeeting@somervillema.gov). Please submit by Friday, October 3.

Attendees will receive updates from Mayor Ballantyne, Chief Shumeane, and City staff – including from HHS, Emergency Management, and 311 – followed by an open Q&A for community questions.

A note on space capacity: This year's meeting will be held in the sanc-

tuary of the church that holds more people than the church's community room, which overflowed for last year's Davis Public Safety meeting. The space could still reach capacity, and the livestream is being offered for those who choose to watch from home and submit questions in advance.

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## Medford Police Department News Updates

Today we were proud to welcome Officer Chanthan Neang to the Medford Police Department.

Officer Neang brings experience from the UMass Medical Center Police Department and will now begin our Field Training Program before stepping out on solo patrol. Please join us in congratulating and warmly welcoming Officer Neang to the team!



## 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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them out!" Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

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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.



## SIMPLE LANGUAGE ON THE STATE'S WEBSITE (H 3378)

By Bob Katzen

Another bill before the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee would require the state's chief digital officer to improve the web sites and services for state executive offices and agencies by requiring the use of plain and simple language consistent with the average reading comprehension level of Massachusetts, as deter-

mined by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.

"This bill was inspired by a conversation I had with a constituent who retired from working in a state agency," said sponsor Rep. David LeBoeuf (D-Worcester). "In his work, he noticed many of the forms, web portals and other resources used technical legal terms. This can inadvertently lead to residents

filling them out inaccurately or not fully comprehending particular requirements. This bill would encourage greater partnerships between our technical services teams and state agencies to enhance user experience of online forms and find ways to make these improved forms available in alternative ways to individuals without internet access."

"This bill seeks to clarify

language used by government offices for the common person here in Massachusetts that may not understand the phraseology used by the university crowd that our current website design caters to," said Rep. John Gaskey (R-Carver) who signed on as one of the co-sponsors of the bill. "As more and more functions continue to become web centric, we are leaving people that do not 'live' online behind and

by simplifying design and language, and offering an analog alternative ensures that all people can find and do what they need to on government sites. Remember, we are by the people and for the people."

## Somerville/Medford Remembering Angel M. Ryan



### Obituary

Angel M. Ryan – A lifelong resident of Somerville, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, September 15, 2025. She was 72 years old.

Born in Cambridge and raised and educated in Somerville, Angel was the beloved daughter of the late John and Sue (Page) Ryan. She dedicated much of her time as an avid spokesperson for the homeless, always advocating for those in need. She was a natural

storyteller and loved to tell jokes, often leaving family and friends laughing so hard that tears would stream down their faces. Spending time with her loved ones, especially her cherished grandchildren, brought her endless happiness and was the highlight of her days.

Angel found peace and tranquility in her travels, especially to Old Orchard Beach and the White Mountains, where she enjoyed the beauty and calm of nature.

Beloved mother of Nicole Ryan of Somerville and the late Jason Ryan. Devoted grandmother of Kia Ryan, Kyle Hodge, Kylee Hodge, Kyla Hodge, Jacob Teage, Mia Miller and Christian O'Malley. Loving great grandmother of Kylen Hodge. Cherished sister of Richard Ryan and his late wife Maria of Hudson, Sharon Ryan and her longtime partner Stephen Bunker of Barrington, NH, Linda Taylor and her late husband Gary of Billerica,

Susanne Marks of Somerville, Patricia Jacome and her Husband Michael of Revere and the late John "Skippy" Ryan and his surviving wife Cheryl. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

## MBTA COMMUNITIES ACT (H 4000)

By Bob Katzen

House 30-126, rejected an amendment to the current law, known as the MBTA Communities Act, which according to the state's website, requires that an MBTA community "must have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria including minimum gross density of 15 units per acre; and a location not

more than 1/2 mile from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station. No age restrictions can be applied and the district must be suitable for families with children."

Cities or towns that do not comply with the MBTA law are in danger of losing various state grants. The amendment would put the law on hold and not enforce it again until December 31, 2026.

Amendment sponsor Rep. Ken Sweezey (R-Hanson) said the law should be put on hold in order to allow public hearings on several bills filed to deal with this emergency. "[The] amendment addresses the emergency created by unfair enforcement of the MBTA Communities Act by this administration," said Sweezey. "There are over 20 bills filed pertaining to revisions to the law. I support the public hearing

process and look forward to the work we continue to do to help our towns but wish more consideration would have been given to granting temporary relief through this amendment."

Rep Danielle Gregoire (R-Hanson) said the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the MBTA Communities Act is the law of the land and is constitutional. She said that 95 percent of communities subject to this law are in compliance

or interim compliance. She noted that this law is reasonable and mandates zoning changes but it does not mandate that anyone build anything.

(A "Yes" vote is for the delay until December 31, 2025. A "No" vote is against the delay.)

Rep. Christine Barber No  
Rep. Mike Connolly No  
Rep. Paul Donato No  
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Didn't  
Vote

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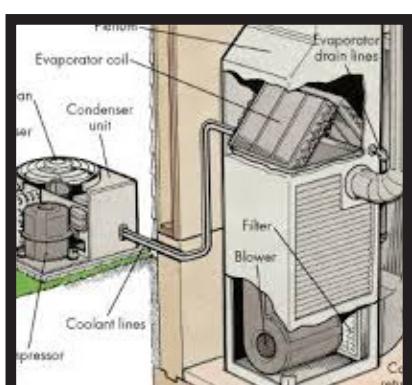
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## The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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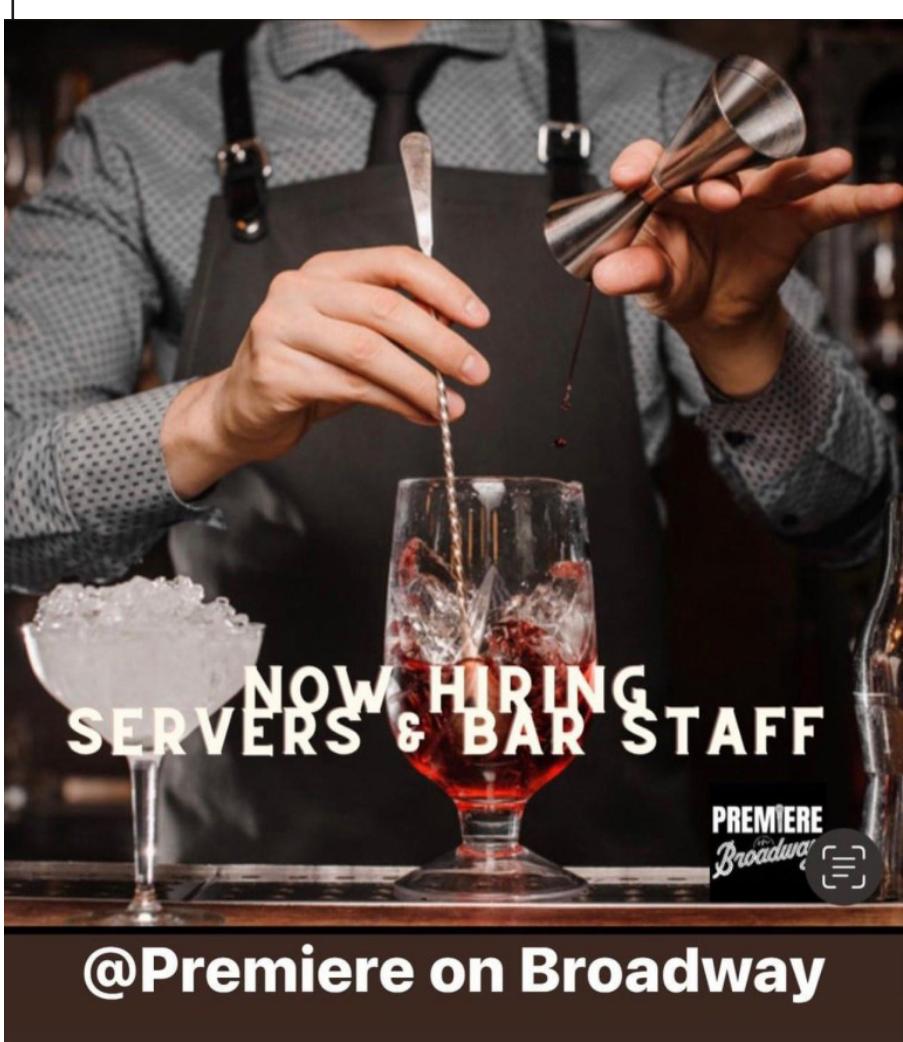


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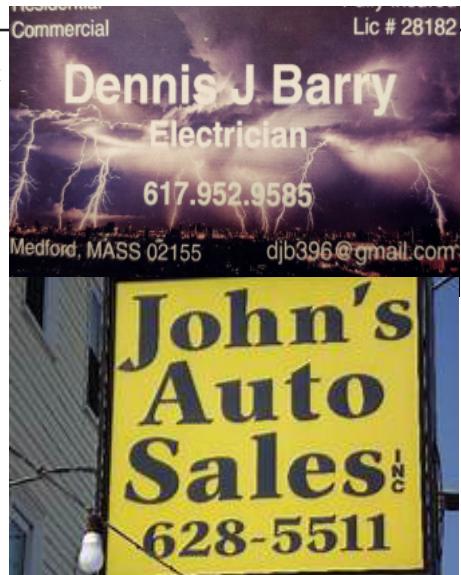
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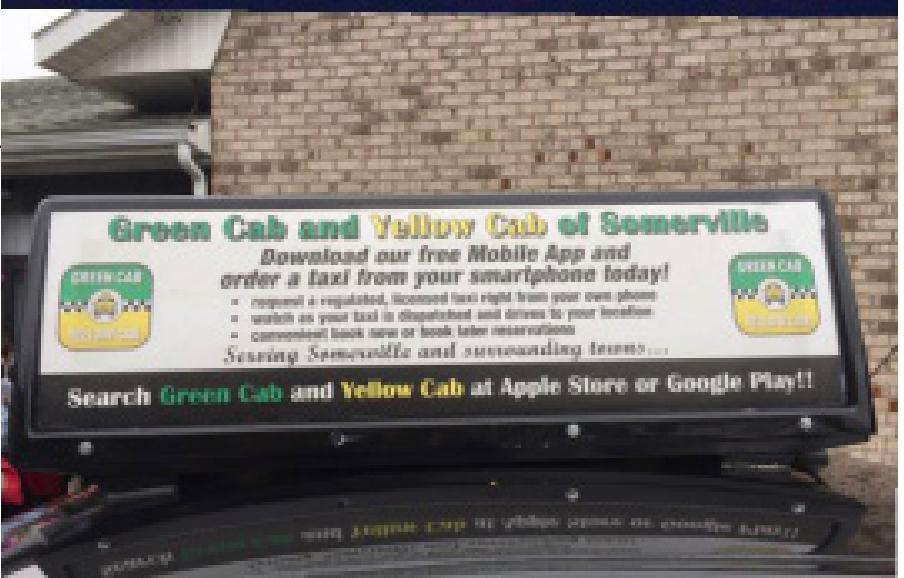
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## REMOVE FOOD DYES FROM SCHOOL FOOD (S 1531)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Health Committee held a hearing on legislation that would prohibit public schools from selling food which contains any food dyes. A

school would be permitted to sell any products that might contain any food dye only if the sale of the items takes place away from a school's premises, occurs on a school's premises at least one-half hour

after the end of the school day or is at booster sales, concession stands or other school-related events.

"Removing food dyes from the public school setting is a step toward en-

suring the whole child is considered when it comes to education," said sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Spencer). "Science continues to show the harmful impact of food dyes on children, especially when

it comes to their ability to focus which is crucial to learning. The impact of this change would be minor to school districts but major for students who are impacted by these harmful chemicals."

## STUDENT ID CARDS AND SUICIDE LINE (H 2221)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would require that newly printed student ID cards for public school students in grades 6-12 and students in public colleges, include the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone numbers and text message numbers.

The line directs all callers to trained call takers who are available to provide free, confidential emotional support for those in crisis.

The measure allows schools that have a supply of unissued student identification cards that do not comply with this new requirement, to issue

the old student identification cards to students until the remaining supply is depleted.

In 2024, the House and Senate approved different versions of this bill, but the legislative session ended before the two sides could agree on a version.

"Making suicide prevention

resources more available and accessible will help ensure that every student is aware of the free, confidential resources that are available to them at any time," said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). "Since the 988 hotline was implemented in 2021, there has been massive increases in calls and texts — clearly showcas-

ing the benefits and lifesaving support the hotline provides. Supporting this initiative is an essential part of providing young people with equitable access to critical resources, promoting help-seeking behaviors and de-stigmatizing mental health."



## Somerville Fire Department News Updates



The Somerville Fire Department offers its condolences to the family and friends of retired Acting Chief William J. Fitzgerald, who passed away on

September 13. Chief Fitzgerald was appointed on July 7, 1947 and retired on February 1, 1987.



## Somerville Firefighters Local 76 News Updates

Congratulations to Deputy Chief Mike Avery on his recent retirement from the Somerville Fire Department.

Mike joined the department in 1988 and moved up through the ranks as a Lieutenant of Engine 7 and Captain of Tower 1 before being promoted to Deputy of Fire Prevention and retiring as the Deputy Chief of Group 1.

Mike is a life long Somerville resident and a very active member of the Community, always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need.

(As posted on Somerville Firefighters Local 76)



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## Somerville Hosting Annual Health & Wellness Day for Veterans & Community on Saturday, September 20



Mayor Ballantyne invites all to enjoy wellness resources, fitness demos, bounce house & kids activities, free snacks, and more

SOMERVILLE – Mayor

Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services invite the community to join the 4th Annual Health and Wellness Day on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lincoln Park (290 Washington St.)

"I'm looking forward to members of our community of all backgrounds joining this event in honor of our Veterans who have given so much of themselves to keep us safe."

Health and Wellness Day is one small way we can give back, by making sure not only that Veterans, first responders, and their families have access to the resources, care, and support they deserve, but that we have a chance for all of us to come together as a community to celebrate health, healing, and connection," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

The Health and Wellness Day is open to the entire community, with

something for everyone to enjoy while learning more about local supports available for physical, mental, and family well-being.

This free, family-friendly event is designed to promote wellness for all ages and to connect Veterans, first responders, and their families with health and wellness resources.

Attendees will enjoy a range of activities, including:

Wellness education and

resource tables  
Fitness classes such as yoga, Zumba, and strengthening  
Chair massages  
Children's activities including a bounce house and face painting  
Free healthy snacks

For questions or more information, please contact the Department of Veterans' Services at 617-625-6600 x 4700 or veterans@somervillema.gov.



## 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!



## Fire Department to Conduct Annual Hydrant Inspections September 15-27



Inspection program keeps hydrants citywide ready in case of fire; Temporary water discoloration may occur, but water is safe to drink

SOMERVILLE- The Somerville Fire Department will begin the annual inspection and flushing of all fire hy-

drants citywide on Monday, September 15, 2025, concluding on or around Saturday, September 27, 2025. This annual maintenance program helps keep our community safe by helping to ensure hydrants will work properly when needed to put out a fire.

This inspection and testing program will take approximately two weeks to complete. Work will be conducted Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and if necessary, in the evening, from 6:15 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. Firefighters will check the mechanical opera-

tion of each hydrant, as well as briefly flush water from the hydrants. Feel free to thank our brave fire fighters for their year-round service when you see them out for this effort.

In most cases, community members will not notice any changes to their water service.

However, in some cases you may experience a temporary, slight drop in water pressure and/or discolored water: Though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. If discoloration occurs, you can open the cold tap nearest

the water meter—such as a basement sink or a ground-floor sink—to full flow until the water runs clear. In some situations, this may take 5 to 10 minutes.

Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics.

If you happen to wash laundry while the water is discolored, don't dry those items.

If any rust stains appear on wet laundry, those items should not be dried, and you can call 311 (617-666-3311) for a free bottle of rust remover.

The Water Department also conducts additional water main flushing and maintenance year-round. Visit somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing to see hydrant flushing schedules by street. The schedules are typically updated weekly.

Hydrant inspection and flushing schedules are subject to change based on weather and other factors.

Anyone with questions regarding hydrant maintenance can contact 311 (617-666-3311).

## Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: More Somerville Businesses Leaving Dodge Because Of No Parking

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

Hey, I just heard a rumor that Masshole Donuts in Somerville is moving to Medford in the new Great American Beer Hall parking located on Mystic Avenue in Medford's parking lot. Sad.. Medford has more parking than Somerville.

I hate the city life but sad to see another Somerville business lost and moving to next door in Medford with parking! That ridiculous excuse of a Somerville mayor should be embarrassed and ashamed of herself!

Carlos, Life long Somerville Resident



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The makers of "Premiere on Broadway" now brings you another Somerville hotspot! Public Tavern at 565 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145 is now open! Only on Broadway in Somerville! A great place for all! It's a great place to sit down, have a few adult beverages, enjoy your favorite game and enjoy some good food, and some friendly local conversation!



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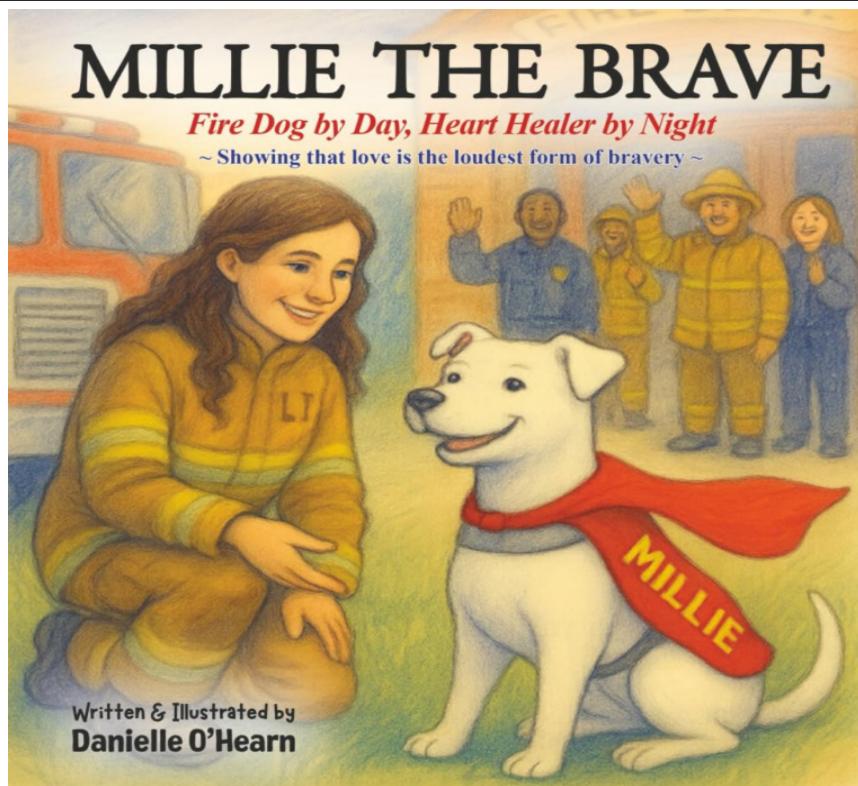
Hey Billy

My name is Danielle we've met a few  
times before, I'm a firefighter in Somer-  
ville. I just came out with a children's  
book.

It's about my dog Millie it was a real life,  
first responder therapy, dog and rescue  
and her adventures in firefighting and be-  
ing a therapy dog. I know you have a huge  
following. Any shout out about the book  
would be greatly appreciated.! It's available  
currently on Amazon and hopefully in  
bookstore soon.! Thanks Billy !

Here's the link the title is  
Millie the brave

<https://a.co/d/9cCS8Lp>



## Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: somerville Has Gotten Out of Hand!

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

Hey Billy....

Want something for your front page news?  
These photos were taken at 4 am this morning  
outside everyone's bedroom window. I have  
videos as well that I will send to you.

These two showed up to repaint a cross-walk.  
Is this triple-time and a half? What the heck is  
going on?

Interesting timing since I continue to demand  
a new water meter without results. I also at-  
tempted to make a payment and their system  
tried to charge me \$1900.

Who is their software engineer and what is their  
salary? Luckily, it was cancelled out. One of  
their staff sent me a cancelation immediately. At  
least someone in city hall is doing their job.

SPD showed up after I called to report the loud  
noise created by whoever this was since I could  
not identify the trucks.

Thank you to the officer from SPD who showed  
up and shut this down.

More pictures and videos to follow.

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## ALLOW DEBATE AND VOTE ON 2034 GAS CAR BAN (H 4000)

By Bob Katzen

House 132-25, supported the ruling of the chair that prohibited admission to the House for debate and a vote, an amendment that would prevent the state from banning all gas-powered cars by 2035.

The chair ruled that the amendment should not be allowed for consideration because the House has already rejected an amendment to postpone the ban and this amendment to prevent the ban outright exceeds the amendment to postpone. They noted under House rules consideration of the amendment to ban is not allowed to be considered.

"The chair had ruled that the underlying amendment should not be taken up because the House had already rejected an amendment that would have delayed the enforcement of the [ban]," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "I voted against the chair's ruling so that the underlying amendment could at least be taken up for consideration by the House."

Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Braintree) said the ruling of the chair is correct and that a delay in the ban and prevention of the ban are similar and under House rules only one can be considered.

(A "Yes" vote is for the ruling of the chair that prohibits the admission to the House for debate and a vote, an amendment that

would prevent the state from banning all gas-powered cars by 2035. A "No" vote is against the ruling of the chair and favors allowing the House to consider the amendment.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Utterhoeven Yes

## Somerville to Host Public Forums on State's Draft Cannabis Social Consumption Licenses



Mayor Ballantyne & Economic Development Office Invite Businesses & Community Members to Discuss City's Approach to Coming New Regulations

SOMERVILLE— The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) recently drafted three types of licenses

allowing for the "social consumption" of cannabis by adults 21 and older in

approved venues, similar to those allowing for alcohol consumption. Once these regulations are finalized, communities will be able to choose whether they opt into the new rules.

In the coming months, the City will be reviewing the CCC's regulations and is proactively seeking public feedback to help shape Somerville's approach to cannabis social consumption. These licenses will create new opportunities for individuals and businesses to consume or serve cannabis in accordance with CCC regulations and guidelines. To inform Somerville's approach, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City's Economic Development division invite local businesses and residents to

participate in upcoming forums to learn about and discuss options.

For more information on cannabis social consumption, please visit: [somervillema.gov/social-consumption](http://somervillema.gov/social-consumption)

The City is hosting public forums for potential business operators and the public throughout the fall, beginning on September 30.

Community Outreach Schedule:

Virtual forums for business operators interested in opening a cannabis social consumption establishment in Somerville:

Tuesday, September 30, at 11 a.m. online via Zoom

6 p.m.

Virtual forum for the public to learn more and share thoughts about cannabis social consumption:

Monday, November 17, at 7 p.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 859 2351 6298

URL: [bit.ly/47dgD4x](http://bit.ly/47dgD4x)

In-person forums for the public to learn more and share your thoughts about cannabis social consumption:

Wednesday, October 29, at West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.), 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 6,

East Somerville Commu-

nity School (50 Cross St.),

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## Somerville's Ignite: Global Street Food & Fire Festival Returns 9/27



Mayor Ballantyne & the Somerville Arts Council invite Community for globe-hopping celebration of food, arts, performance, and fire artistry

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite the community to Ignite: A Global Street Food & Fire Festival on Saturday, September 27, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Union Square

Plaza (rain date Sunday, September 28). This free community celebration will feature a unique selection of global foods, cultural performances, interactive activities, and the excitement of fire artistry.

“Ignite is one of Somerville’s most vibrant celebrations of culture, food, and creativity,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “It showcases the incredible talent, entrepreneurship, and

diversity of our community while also bringing neighbors together for an unforgettable experience.”

This year’s festival has been reimagined to offer more opportunities for hands-on engagement. Attendees can take part in free micro-cooking classes from 4 to 5:30 p.m., led by instructors representing Bangladesh, Puerto Rico, Laos, and Haiti. Interactive activities include flag-making, tarot readings with Madame Anderson, Arabic calligraphy, face painting, and more.

The festival’s diverse food vendors include MOLU Ghanaian Cuisine, Dos Manos Kitchen, Matki Artisanal Khulfi, Sinta Filipino, Masala Square, Siam Ginger, Gracie’s Ice Cream, and Arepa La Mazorca. Festival goers can also “test your nose” at the Nibble table, add to a

Global Food Map, and cheer on (or join in) the popular curry-eating contest hosted by Masala Square.

Live performances throughout the day will highlight cultures from around the world. The schedule includes Brinca Piranga’s joyful Bumba Meu Boi dance from Brazil, Pumawari Tusuy (Peruvian folk dance), KS Dance Studio (Haitian dance), Tierra del Sol (Mexican folk dance), and global dance sets with DJ Philip Tan. The Boston Circus Guild will close the night with its dazzling fire-throwing and fire-twirling spectacle, joined by roving dancers, circus artists, and towering bird puppets.

**About Nibble**  
Ignite is produced by Nibble, a Somerville Arts Council initiative that includes Nibble Kitchen Restaurant at Bow Market and the Nibble

Culinary Entrepreneurship Program. Nibble provides opportunities for predominantly female and immigrant food entrepreneurs to test restaurant concepts in a supportive, low-risk environment while fostering cultural exchange and economic development.

**Logistics**  
Parking is limited; attendees are encouraged to take public transportation. Entry is free, but festivalgoers are encouraged to support food vendors and local businesses.

For more information, please visit [somervillearts.org/artsunion/ignite](http://somervillearts.org/artsunion/ignite).

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## Monday 9/22 Deadline to Take School Building Survey on New PK-8 School Project



Survey will help inform Community Advisory Group's Recommendations to Mayor Ballantyne on Location and Scope of the Project

SOMERVILLE- 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.

To learn more about the project and take the survey please visit [somervillema.gov/newpkto8](http://somervillema.gov/newpkto8). The deadline to complete the survey is 11:59 p.m. on Monday, September 22.

The survey is available in either English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, or Nepali, visit [somervillema.gov/newpkto8](http://somervillema.gov/newpkto8). For general assistance in taking the survey or interpretation support for other languages, please contact 311 (617-666-3311).

Through the survey, community members can provide input on key decisions including whether the new school should be located on the Winter Hill School Community Innovation School's (WHCIS) former Sycamore Street site or on a portion of Trum Field, and if the new school should meet the needs of the Benjamin G. Brown School community in addition to the needs of WHCIS. Participants can also share their perspective on what matters most for the new school as well as what other city funding priorities are most important to them.

About the School Building Project and Construction Advisory Group

Since 2023, the City of Somerville has

been working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to deliver a state-of-the-art school building project for students. The project is progressing on time and according to MSBA schedules. Construction of the new school is projected to be completed by late 2031 barring unforeseen circumstances.

The new school will address the needs of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS) Community. The MSBA rejected a request to also renovate the Benjamin G. Brown School, but did offer the City the opportunity to address the needs of the Brown School within this school building project.

In response, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne convened a School Construction Advisory Group (CAG) made up of parents, residents, and elected officials to make a recommendation to her on the whether the school should address the needs of the Brown School in addition to WHCIS and where the new school should be located. The CAG is currently expected to deliver their recommendation to the Mayor in November 2025.

Meanwhile, in December 2024, the City's funding proposal to the state passed a critical milestone: Somerville received approval to hire the project team. This team will

work with City staff to design and build the new school.

In May, the City hired an Owner's Project Manager and is now working to choose an architecture firm to design the project.

More about the project including an anticipated timeline is available at [somervillema.gov/newpkto8](http://somervillema.gov/newpkto8).

About the MSBA

The MSBA strives to work with local communities to create affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient schools across Massachusetts. Since its 2004 inception, the Authority has made over 1,750 site visits to more than 250 school districts as part of its due diligence process and has made over \$16.7 billion in reimbursements for school construction projects.

About the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and Brown School

The Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS) and the Brown School are the two oldest school buildings in the Somerville Public Schools.

Students and staff from the WHCIS were displaced from the Sycamore Street building in June 2023, and the old building cannot be reused. All WHCIS

students are now attending classes at their interim location at the Edgerly Education Center in East Somerville.

The Brown School, the district's only K-5 school, is the oldest school building in the district (built in 1900) and will require major renovation in the future.

Learn More

Throughout the community engagement process, design, and construction of Somerville's next school building, information about the project, and additional opportunities to get involved will be shared widely through City and Somerville Public Schools channels.

For more information on the project visit [somervillema.gov/newpkto8](http://somervillema.gov/newpkto8).

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).

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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 to 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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#### BASICS:

- Wool beanie (hat)
- Smart wool socks
- Gloves
- Scarf

#### TOILETRIES:

- Multi-purpose wipes
- Chapstick
- Facial wipes
- Moisturizer
- Comb
- Toothbrush & tooth paste
- Grooming kit

#### SURVIVAL:

- First aid kit
- Water bottle with built in filter
- Heat-pack
- Multi-purpose tool

#### TREATS:

- Chocolates
- Fruit snacks
- Cookie snack packs
- Candy (individually wrapped)
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- Chewing gum

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## \$10 MILLION FOR CITIES AND TOWNS (H 4000)

By Bob Katzen

House 26-130, rejected an amendment that would repeal the state's 2023 No-Cost Calls Law, which provides \$10 million to fund unlimited phone calls for inmates at county and state correctional facilities, and would redirect the \$10 million to support unrestricted local aid for cities and towns. The amendment would also establish a commission to study and

develop recommendations for a fiscally constrained and sustainable alternative to the No-Cost Calls Law.

"The state's sheriffs have collectively raised concerns about the No-Cost Calls Program's rising costs, which Norfolk County Sheriff Patrick McDermott recently testified has already cost taxpayers \$12.5 million this fiscal year," said sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North

Reading). "By redirecting the money allocated to this program to unrestricted general government aid, we can assist our cities and towns that are struggling to pay for essential municipal programs and services. I also believe it's critical to have a commission study the No-Cost Calls Program to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used more efficiently and effectively."

Rep. Michael Day (D-Stoneham) said that the No-Cost Calls Law works because when prisoners are able to communicate with their families, to talk outside of the walls, it results in better success rates and less recidivism. He argued that this \$10 million is well-spent and means we have to spend less money on our criminal justice system.

(A "Yes" vote is for redirect-

ing the \$10 million to fund unlimited phone calls to instead fund \$10 million in unrestricted local aid for cities and towns. A "No" vote is for keeping the \$10 million funding for the No-Cost Calls Law.)

Rep. Christine Barber No  
Rep. Mike Connolly No Rep.  
Paul Donato No Rep. Erika  
Uyterhoeven Didn't Vote

### Statement from Mayor Katjana Ballantyne on Local ICE Activity



September 12, 2025

These are profoundly difficult times for all in our community. I recognize the fear and suffering that residents are experiencing as federal immigration enforcement activities have increased in Somerville, the greater Boston area, and the nation. As an immigrant myself, I understand this fear personally.

Let me be clear about our commitment: Somerville will continue to do everything within our legal authority to support all residents. We are providing Know Your Rights trainings, connecting families to legal services, helping with guardianship preparations, and offering wraparound supports for those impacted by detentions and their families. We maintain our lawful sanctuary policies because they keep our entire community safer. We are stepping up to meet the needs of our community in a time of crisis.

To those who are afraid: we see you, we stand with you, and we will continue using every legal tool available to support you. Our values of

inclusion and justice remain unwavering, especially during these uncertain times. Our call for humane immigration reform that respects the dignity and the contributions of immigrants stands firm.

Below are some supports and information that may be helpful to you:

The MA Attorney General's Guidance: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: ICE Enforcement, A Guide for Immigrants, Families, and Communities can be found here.

For help finding a loved one who has been detained, the National Immigration Law Center put together a step-by-step guide which can be

found here.

Individual supports: The City of Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) is able to support people who live or work in Somerville with referrals to city, state, and non-profit services; referrals to immigration legal services; and provision of resources and information including Know Your Rights information. To connect with SOIA, email SOIA@somervillema.gov or visit SOIA's website for more ways to contact.

Information and general resources: The City and Schools also maintain a Know Your Rights resources page at <http://www.somervillema.gov>.

[gov/onesomerville](http://gov/onesomerville).

For businesses owners: The City's Economic Development Division is able to provide businesses with information and resources on business owners' rights and responsibilities. To contact the Economic Development division, email [economicdevelopment@somervillema.gov](mailto:economicdevelopment@somervillema.gov).

Somerville Public Schools: SPS staff are ready to assist families and connect them to resources, services, and to help answer questions. Please reach out to school staff, teachers, liaisons, or counselors for assistance.

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## Mayor Ballantyne Introducing Home Rule Petition to Expand Procurement Opportunities for Disadvantaged Businesses



SOMERVILLE— Today, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne will introduce a Home Rule Petition to City Council that seeks to make it easier for certified disadvantaged businesses to compete for

City contracts, advancing Somerville's commitment to equity and economic inclusion. This petition builds on a recommendation of the disparity study conducted in partnership with the City of Brookline and Griffin & Strong, P.C.

"This proposal is about equity as much as it is about efficiency," said Mayor Ballantyne. "When small, diverse, and disadvantaged businesses have a fair chance to compete for City work, our local

economy grows stronger, our communities thrive, and City government better reflects the values of inclusion that define Somerville."

The petition would raise the thresholds under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B specifically for City contracts with certified disadvantaged, diverse, or small and local business enterprises. Eligible businesses are those formally certified by the Commonwealth's Supplier

Diversity Office, by the City of Boston, or by the City of Somerville.

Under the proposed legislation: The City could use sound business practices for contracts up to \$20,000 (up from the current \$10,000).

The City could request at least three written quotes for contracts up to \$250,000 (up from the current \$50,000).

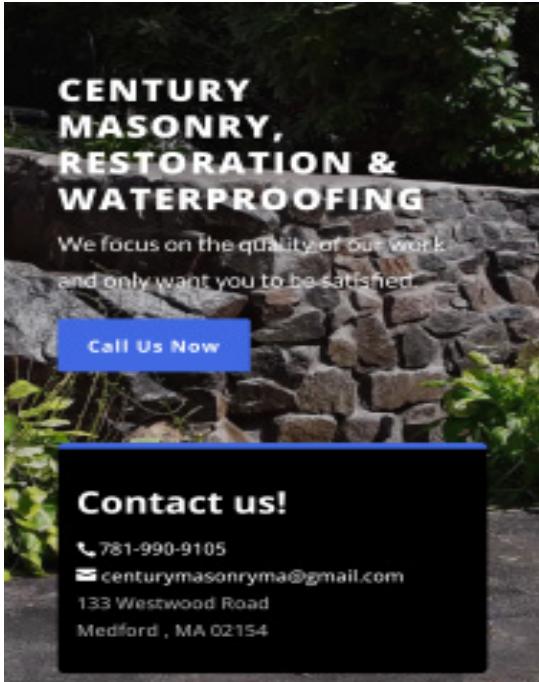
By raising these thresh-

olds, the petition simplifies the bidding and quote process, reducing barriers for smaller and disadvantaged businesses and expanding opportunities for underrepresented vendors to partner with the City.

If approved by the City Council, the Home Rule Petition will move to the State Legislature for consideration.

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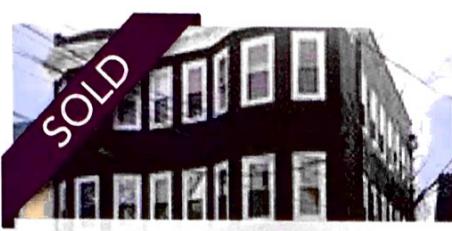
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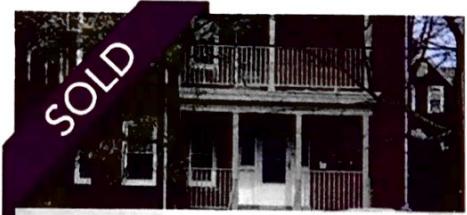
Porter Square - 4 Family - \$2.1M



Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



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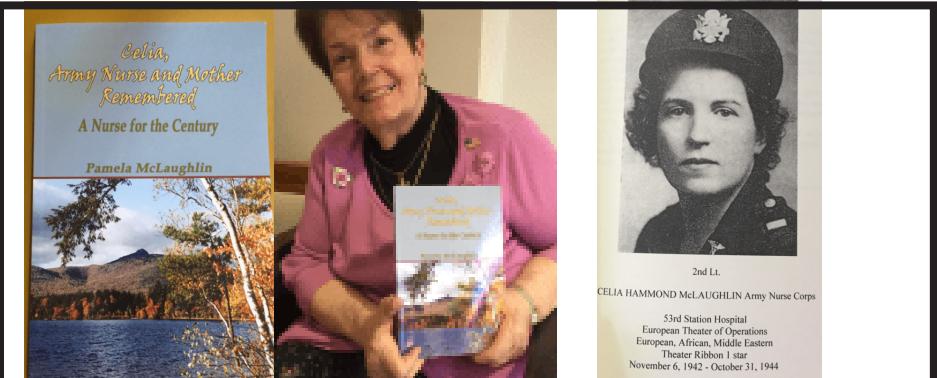
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