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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday September 23rd, 2025

New City of Somerville Charter Signed by Governor Healey;



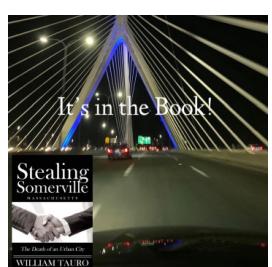
NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



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Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



A formal farewell from
Mayor Katjana Ballantyne



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Somerville's Charter Update:
A Patchwork of
Lost Opportunities



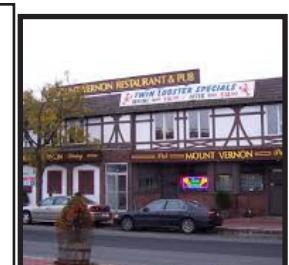
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MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.

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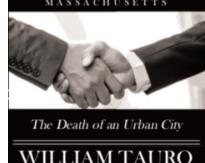
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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
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ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE,
CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF
1978, HEREBY AMENDS
THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS
WITH THE ADDITION OF THE
FOLLOWING:
2025-72 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 48 Glen St, 123 Hillsdale Rd (located on Chetwynd Rd adjacent to 123 Hillsdale Rd), 82 Fellsway W, 74 Washington St.
2025-73 Article V Section 5-11 "Bus Stops" is amended with the addition of the following location: approximately 45 feet on the south side of Somerville Ave between Hawkins St and Warren Ave.
2025-74 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway between Mt. Vernon St and Mt. Pleasant St.
2025-75 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time on the south side of Broadway, east of Mt Pleasant St (to the Boston city line).
2025-76 Article V Section 5-11 "Bus Stops" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the west side of Cross St between Broadway and Cross St Pl, extend existing bus stop by approximately 20 feet.
2025-77 Article V Section 5-11 "Bus

Stops" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the east side of Cross St between Broadway and Brook St, extend existing bus stop by approximately 50 feet.
2025-78 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following locations: Courthouse Parking Only 8:00AM-5:00PM on the west side of Middlesex Ave between Fellsway and Cummings St.
2025-79 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: first space on both sides of the Courthouse parking lot.
2025-80 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 2 hour parking 8:00AM-8:00PM on the north side of Cummings St.
2025-81 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: 415 feet of metered parking on the east side of Middlesex Ave between Cummings St and Fellsway.
2025-82 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: 60 feet of No Parking Any Time on the east side of Middlesex Ave between Foley St and Cummings St.

PROMULGATED: SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
ADVERTISED: SEPTEMBER 23, 2025
SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
OCTOBER 7, 2025
EFFECTIVE: OCTOBER 15, 2025

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly
9/23/25, 9/30/24, 10/7/25



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Somerville/Medford Remembering Alexis M. Killoren



Obituary

Alexis M. Killoren – Of Malden, passed away on Monday, September 15, 2025. She was 36 years young.

Born, raised, and educated in Malden, Alexis was the beloved daughter of Robert J. and Rhonda M. (Abbott) Killoren. She was just one class away from earning her master's degree in Cyber Security from Southern New Hampshire University. Alexis had a natural talent for technology and loved working with computers. If someone needed help with anything electronic, she

was always there with a bright smile and a willingness to lend a hand.

In addition to her technical skills, Alexis was a gifted wood crafter. Her patience and keen eye for detail shone through in every piece she created. Above all, Alexis cherished her role as mother to her beloved daughter, Giada. Being Giada's mom was her greatest pride and joy. Whenever anyone asked about her daughter, Alexis would light up and lovingly boast about all of Giada's accomplishments.

Though her time with us was far too brief, the love, joy, and happiness Alexis shared will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Beloved mother of Giada Killoren. Devoted wife of Justin Shaver. Loving daughter of Robert J. Killoren and Rhonda M. (Abbott) Killoren. Cherished sister of Brittany Ann Killoren and Cassandra Lee Killoren. Dear aunt of Giovanni G. Killoren and Greyson Carlos-Maze Killoren. She was the fur mom to her beloved cat Remy. Also survived by many

loving aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and extended family members.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Wednesday, September 24th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Interment will be private.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Joseph M. Fitzgerald



Obituary

Joseph M. Fitzgerald – Of Somerville, passed away on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. He was 87 years old.

Born, raised and educated in Somerville, he was the son of the late Joseph and Helen G. (Ford) Fitzgerald.

Joe was a long-time member of the Dante Club in Somerville and spent many weekends hanging out with his friends and watching sporting events. Joe also loved spending time at his lake house in NH and enjoyed sitting in the sun and swimming in the lake on hot days. The lake house was truly his happy place. Joe was also an avid golfer who enjoyed playing his

favorite sport well into his 70's with all of his golfing buddies.

Beloved husband of Marilyn R. (Fitzpatrick) Fitzgerald. Devoted father of Donna J. Vallesio and her husband Joseph of Medford, Michael J. Fitzgerald and his partner Frances Lund of Somerville, Stephen Fitzgerald and his partner MaryEllen Hamilton of Tewksbury, and James Fitzgerald and his wife Laurie of Malden. Cherished grandfather of Jeremy Vallesio of Medford, Anthony Vallesio of Tewksbury, Christopher Fitzgerald

of Malden, Caroline Fitzgerald of Malden, Brittni Wilkins and Ashley Mullowney. Dear brother of Doris Malone of Tarpon Springs, FL, Jean Devereaux of Revere, Nancy Mitchell of Malden, and the late Helen Harrington, Mary Cinotta, Rita Lott, Geraldine Robertson, Elaine Bennett, and Teresa Devereaux. Brother-in-law of the late Claire Howard and her late husband Paul and the late Janet Livingston and her late husband William. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling Hours will be held in the

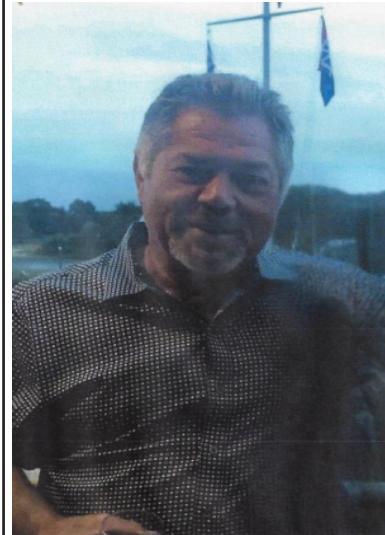
George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Tuesday, September 23rd from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Interment will be held at a later date.

To send a flower arrangement in memory of Joseph Fitzgerald, please click here to visit our sympathy store.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Daniel (Danny) M. Pereira



Obituary

Daniel (Danny) M. Pereira, of Somerville, passed away peacefully after a year-long illness at home surrounded by family on Tuesday, September 17, 2025. He was 63 years old.

Born in Ribeira Grande, São Miguel, Azores, and raised in Somerville, Danny was a bright light in the lives of all who knew him, always bringing a smile to people's faces. He loved spending time

cooking and was an avid fan of the Patriots and Bruins. He was happiest at Squam Lake out on his boat with family and friends.

He was the beloved husband of Joanne Cassell, devoted father of David Pereira, Julie Pereira, and her husband, Patrick Raeke. Danny was the beloved son of the late Artur and Velademira Pereira and dear brother of Estrella Sicari and Carlos Pereira. He is also

survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling Hours will be held at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Tuesday, September 30th, from 4 PM to 7 PM, relatives and friends invited. A Funeral Mass will be held in St. Ann's Church, Somerville, Wednesday October 1st, at 10:00, please meet directly at Church. Burial will follow at

Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. In lieu of flowers, donations in Danny's memory may be made to the Somerville High School Football team at 81 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02145, Attn: Athletics.

To send a flower arrangement in memory of Daniel M. Pereira, please click here to visit our sympathy store.

FINANCIAL RELIEF TO HOSPITALS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS (H 4530)



By Bob Katzen

House 148-1, Senate 39-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey \$234 million supplemental budget that would provide financial relief to hospitals and community health centers across the state.

The bill includes \$199 million in relief

for acute care hospitals, including \$122 million in targeted payments to facilities serving low-income patients and facing the greatest financial distress. Another \$77 million would be transferred to the Health Safety Net Trust Fund, which helps reimburse hospitals and health centers for care provided to uninsured residents. Community health centers would receive

\$35 million, including \$2.5 million directed to the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers for initiatives such as shared services.

"Massachusetts has a healthcare ecosystem that is the envy of other states, and that doesn't happen by accident," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Supporting every resident is part of what it means to be a leader in healthcare access. This funding will help our hospitals and community health centers provide high-quality care in every region, and provide critical services to our veterans, seniors and municipalities."

"This funding will help to ensure that financially strained hospitals and community health centers can continue to serve patients across Massachusetts," said House

Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "As broad fiscal uncertainty and actions taken by the Trump Administration continue to exacerbate the challenges that hospitals are already facing, this supplemental budget is the latest example of the work that we are doing here in Massachusetts to provide targeted support where it is needed most."

"Our hospitals and community health centers continue to step up to care for those most in need despite being under enormous financial pressure," said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), Senate Chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing. "New policies from the federal government will only exacerbate the strain on our health care infrastructure, so for Massachusetts to continue to be a leader in providing exceptional health care, we need to ensure that care is accessible, especially

to our most vulnerable populations. This supplemental budget provides necessary funding to help live up to this goal."

Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) cast the lone vote against the budget. "This \$250,000,000 bailout is due to the failed policies of the Democrats," said Boldyga. "Once again they blamed President Trump but the reality is Democrats allowed 'uninsured' illegal aliens to flood our hospitals. Our healthcare system is now overwhelmed, bankrupt and broke."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

William "Billy" Tauro for Governor





Somerville's Charter Update: A Patchwork of Lost Opportunities



By William Tauro

Somerville's new city charter, fresh off Governor Maura Healey's signature and bound for the November 4 ballot, promises tweaks like clearer budget processes, beefed-up City Council oversight, and exploratory nods to ranked-choice voting and public

campaign financing.

On paper, it's a glow-up from the dusty 1899 version—ditching archaic Latin and mandating decennial reviews sounds progressive enough. But dig deeper, and it's a glaring shortcoming: decades of half-measures since 1871, with fizzled 2008

reviews and token changes like a 2018 name swap from "Board of Aldermen" to "City Council."

This isn't bold reform; it's reactive housekeeping after years of neglect, leaving core power imbalances intact in a mayor-centric system that's stifled real accountability. We

could've modernized this ages ago with visionary updates on ethics, fiscal transparency, and electoral innovation, but instead, we're left with a ballot box Band-Aid that feels like settling for crumbs.

The Hidden Costs: Why "Woke" Ideology Has Undermined Modern Society



By William Tauro

Over the last ten years, the concept of being "woke"—once a straightforward alert to systemic inequalities—has ballooned into a dominant influence across Western cultures. Starting as an effort toward fairness, it has hardened into an inflexible doctrine that curbs open dialogue,

undermines faith in key institutions, and widens social rifts.

Instead of building bridges, this transformation has inflicted deep wounds on schools, professional environments, and everyday conversations.

Silencing Debate and Stifling Independent

Thought
A core harm lies in its clampdown on honest exchange. At universities, guest lecturers challenging mainstream takes on issues like identity or ethnicity often face protests or cancellations, evident in events at places like Yale and UC Berkeley. This environment breeds fear, where students and

faculty self-censor to dodge backlash, ultimately weakening the pursuit of knowledge. Research from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression shows a sharp rise in such disruptions, correlating with declining enrollment in humanities and a broader distrust in higher education.

Somerville Lions Club Presents Donation to Somerville Youth & Recreation Foundation (SYRF)



On Wednesday, 10 September 2025, Mr. Gene Brune, the Organizer of this year's 2025 Somerville Lion's Club Awards Night, along with President Mr. Liam Seward, Secretary Mr. Larry Murphy, presenting a Financial Donation to Mr. David M. Mangan President of the Somerville Youth & Recreation Foundation (SYRF). The Somerville Youth Recre-

ation Foundation (SYRF) is a Non-profit foundation and was formed exclusively in 2006 for charitable purposes. The principal objective is to elicit funding through solicitation and fund raising to support the educational, social, and sporting development of the youth in Somerville. Your contribution provides our youth with opportunities that guide their activity

needs, interests, and aspirations for the future. These include special needs, recreational and educational programs, events, and academic scholarships. The SYRF web site may be viewed at <http://SomervilleYouthRecF.org>

If you would like more information, please call Mr. David Mangan at the Somerville Youth & Recreation Foundation (SYRF)

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Join the Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee



Apply by October 20

SOMERVILLE – Are you passionate about assisting high school students as they pursue higher education?

The City of Somerville is seeking one new volunteer member to join the Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee.

What is the Municipal Scholarship Committee?

The mission of the committee is to award scholarships to high school

graduates to use toward their higher education expenses. The funding for the scholarships comes from voluntary contributions made by Somerville taxpayers. Scholarship Committee members develop a meeting schedule, review redacted scholarship applications, set criteria for scholarship awards, and make award recommendations.

Who Can Join?

All Somerville residents are invited to apply. Desired qualifications include:

Willingness to spend time individually evaluating and reviewing anonymous scholarship applications based on materials that will be supplied to

you.

Openness to learning a numerical rating system and submitting written notes to keep in files to document process and decisions that were made.

Ability to work with other reviewers in a team environment, in-person and/or remotely.

Openness in revealing any conflict of interest with potential scholarship applicants.

Understanding the need for fairness, objectivity and nondiscrimination within the scholarship selection process.

Ability to recognize a need to modify scholarship criteria and other aspects of the award process, if

required, and make recommendations for change.

Ability to focus on the specific Committee selection criteria in determining the award winners.

Using Committee selection criteria, make recommendations on recipients for scholarship for final approval by the mayor.

What is the Time Commitment?

The Municipal Scholarship Committee meets once a month during the day or evening from October through April or May. Additional time to meet during the application-to-award process, January through May/June, is required.

What is the Appointment Process?

Members are appointed by the Mayor.

How Do I Apply?

A letter of interest can be sent via email to ldubuque@somervillema.gov with 'Scholarship Committee' in the Subject Line by Monday, October 20, 2025. Please include your full name, address, and telephone number with your inquiry.

For questions, accommodations, or more information, contact the Treasury at (617) 625-6600 ext. 3510 or Linda Dubuque at ldubuque@somervillema.gov.

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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.

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Thank you for your continued support.



\$9 MILLION IN LITERACY LAUNCH GRANTS

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey announced that the state is awarding over \$9 million in Partnership for Reading Success – Massachusetts (PRISM) continuation grants to 15 school districts as part of her Literacy Launch initiative. These grants enable districts to implement high-quality, evidence-based reading instruction

through literacy materials, technical support, coaching and professional development.

“Literacy Launch is a historic investment in early literacy for our students,” said Healey. “These continuation grants represent our commitment to make sure all of our students can read and read well.”

“Ensuring every student has access to high-quality, evidence-based instruction in early literacy is essential for Massachusetts families,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Through PRISM continuation grants, we are providing children the support they need to excel and thrive in the future.”

“Culturally and linguisti-

cally sustaining practices and evidence-based early literacy are fundamental to achieving excellence and equity in education,” said Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. “The PRISM 1 program will continue to help districts improve literacy programming, ensuring that our youngest learners build a strong literacy foundation that

will support their success throughout their education.”

EXPAND NICKY’S LAW (S 165)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved and sent to the House legislation that would expand current law by including day habilitation programs contracted by MassHealth in the existing statewide registry that prevents individuals with substantiated abuse allegations from being hired in care positions.

Supporters said the bill

would expand “Nicky’s Law” which was proposed by Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury) and signed into law in 2020 by former Gov. Baker. Nicky’s Law, established a registry of care providers found guilty of registerable abuse after Nicky Chan, a young man with a disability, was abused by an employee at a day program he attended.

“Because no registry existed,

ness who never reported the abuse, were able to find employment at another agency,” said Moore. “This new bill will ensure no individual with a disability will be subject to abuse while receiving services from a MassHealth day habilitation program.”

“Placing your trust in a caretaker to ensure the safety and wellbeing of a child, parent, family member, or loved one with a disability is hard,”

continued Moore. “When that trust is violated, it can feel like the ultimate betrayal of not only the caretaker who did it, but also the system that allowed it to happen. This legislation represents another step toward making sure Nicky’s story does not happen to anyone else.”

“When Nicky’s Law was first passed, it was about creating protections and accountability for some of our most

vulnerable residents,” said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester), Senate Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. “By expanding these safeguards to include day habilitation programs, we are making sure that no one falls through the cracks.”

FENTANYL TEST STRIPS (S 1057)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that would exclude fentanyl test strips and fentanyl drug testing equipment from the definition of drug paraphernalia.

It also includes a Good Samaritan Law that would provide that anyone who, in good faith, provides, administers or utilizes fentanyl test strips or fentanyl drug testing equipment

shall not be subject to any criminal or civil liability or any professional disciplinary action.

The legislation expands a 2024 law that provided criminal and civil liability protections for those in the harm reduction community who provide or use fentanyl test strips in good faith. The bill would expand the liability protections beyond those just in the harm reduction community and ensure police

officers and others who seek to distribute the tests or others acting in good faith are afforded legal protection.

Supporters said that under current law, selling or distributing these items could be a crime. As a result, police departments and others who are interested in distributing fentanyl test strips are concerned that doing so would subject them to criminal or civil liability. They noted that

Massachusetts already has a similar Good Samaritan law to shield people from liability anyone who administers naloxone, an opioid antagonist which is used as an emergency treatment used for the complete or partial reversal of an opioid overdose.

“Fentanyl test strips are inexpensive, easy to use, and, most importantly, they are an evidence-based tool that saves lives,” said Senate Majority Leader Cindy

Creem (D-Newton), the sponsor of the measure. “By making them widely available, Massachusetts can give people one more way to prevent overdoses and protect families from tragedy.”

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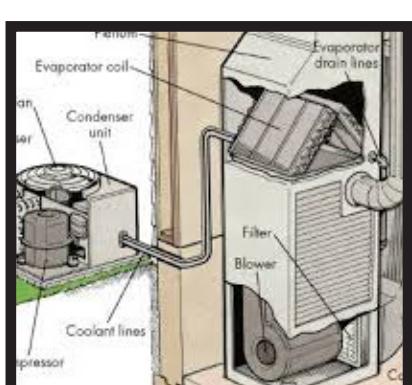
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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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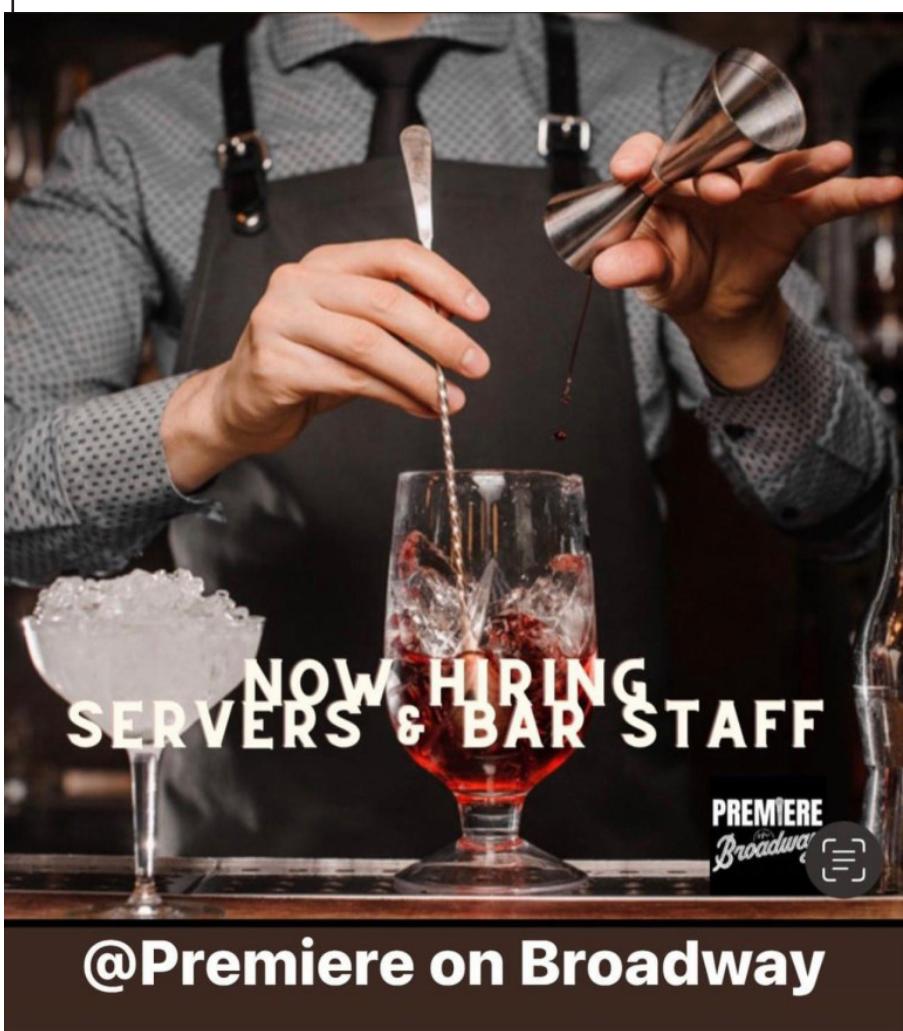


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MOVE 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION DATE TO SEPTEMBER 1 (H 4531)

By Bob Katzen

The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Healey legislation setting next year's state primary election date for Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Supporters said this action is a standard step in the lead up to an election year to ensure the primary

date complies with state and federal requirements. It ensures that local clerks are given necessary time to send and process vote-by-mail ballots for Massachusetts residents, and gives election officials the ability to meet a required federal timeline for sending ballots to military servicemembers and citizens overseas.

"Given the calendar, holidays, requirements that we allow time for overseas ballots, including for members of the military, and to allow time for the printing of ballots, setting a date can sometimes be difficult," said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy), Senate Chair of the Committee on Election Laws. "This legislation will put the commonwealth in position to meet

these obligations and run another smooth, safe and secure primary election on September 1, 2026. Now, more than ever, our democratic process must remain steadfast in the face of unprecedented federal uncertainty."

"It is always important to be proactive in setting the primary election to ensure we select a date that

encourages voter participation," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "I am glad that we settled the date a year in advance, giving voters ample time for public awareness and giving our hard-working election administrators ample time to prepare."

CAR RENTALS (S 2367)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters said would align the Bay State with the majority of other states by updating car rental insurance requirements to maintain liability coverage on a secondary basis, making rental companies responsible only if the renter is uninsured or underinsured.

If a lessee or operator of a leased vehicle already has a valid liability policy or equivalent financial security meeting the state minimum requirements, the lessor's coverage obligation is considered satisfied.

Supporters said that by shifting primary liability to the renter's personal auto insurance, the legislation helps make car rentals more affordable and accessible for Massachusetts residents, reducing

costs while maintaining necessary protections.

"When friends visited me on Cape Cod this summer, they were stunned at just how expensive it was to rent even a small sedan for the weekend," said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "And they're not wrong — rental car prices in Massachusetts are higher than almost anywhere else in the country, in part because we've kept

an outdated insurance requirement on the books. We're one of the only states where rental companies, not your own insurance, are required to carry primary coverage, and the cost of that policy gets passed right along to consumers."

Cyr continued, "By aligning Massachusetts with the rest of the country, we're helping lower rental car prices for families, travelers and anyone who needs to rent a car in

a pinch. I'm proud the Senate has taken this step to make life just a little more affordable for our residents and visitors."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



Somerville Public Library Invites Community Input for Strategic Plan



Take the Library Survey by October 15

SOMERVILLE – The Somerville Public Library is asking for community feedback to help shape its next five-year strategic plan.

Residents, workers, and visitors are invited to share their ideas for how the Library can best develop its collections, programs, services, and spaces.

The survey is open through

Tuesday, October 15, 2025, takes about five minutes to complete, and is voluntary and anonymous.

Participants can take the survey online at tinyurl.com/58vmk4vw or com-

plete a paper copy at any Somerville Public Library location.

For more information about Somerville Public Library programs and services, visit somervillepubliclibrary.org.

Mayor Ballantyne Invites Somerville Community to Western Pearl Street Open House Featuring Updated Design on Saturday, Oct. 4



Project, informed by community feedback, aims to improve key Gilman Square street

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is working to make the western segment of Pearl Street between McGrath Highway and Medford Street safer and more accessible by redesigning and reconstructing the street. The project will include improved crosswalks, new trees, protected bike lanes, better bus stops, and traffic calming on Pearl

Street and in the nearby area.

This past spring, the City presented multiple design options to the community and gathered feedback from neighbors, students, local business owners and managers, community group representatives, and city advisory committee members.

City staff have spent the past few months reviewing all the community feedback and data collected, identifying the option most aligned with that feedback, and advancing the design.

As a next step in the process, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin, and City staff are excited to invite community members to come to an open house to learn more about the updated design and

share their input.

When:
Saturday, October 4,
from 12 to 2 p.m.

Where:
Ed Leathers Park between Skilton Avenue and Walnut Street

Inclement weather location:
Somerville High School Atrium, 81 Highland Avenue.

If there is inclement weather in the forecast, the City will update the project website approximately 48 hours ahead of time.

At the open house, community members can explore different sta-

tions describing aspects of the design and talk directly to the project team about their questions and comments. Pizza will be provided.

If community members cannot attend the open house, there will be multiple other ways to share feedback such as through an online feedback survey, virtual office hours, a street outreach pop-up, tabling at SomerStreets Monster Mash, and more.

Visit somervillema.gov/westernpearl to learn more.

Later this fall, the project team will present the updated design to community members to gather additional input before finalizing the design over the winter and preparing for

construction between 2026 and 2027.

More About the Project

The City has prioritized this segment of Pearl Street for sidewalk reconstruction and repaving (a Complete Street reconstruction) as part of the Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program (somervillema.gov/paving).

With the opportunity to redesign the street, the City looks to enhance transportation safety to fulfill Vision Zero goals, improve accessibility as part of the Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan, and carry out the vision for bicycle facilities for people of all ages and abilities as part of the Somerville Bicycle Network Plan.

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A formal farewell from Mayor Katjana Ballantyne



Thank you!
It has been an honor to serve as your Mayor. I am deeply proud of the many things that we've accomplished together in four short years, and we

have accomplished much together for Somerville! My administration led our recovery from COVID. We made more affordable housing and good jobs, with fair pay. Our reforms

and fiscal management earned Somerville's first Triple A bond rating, just renewed for the third year in a row.

We stopped the displacement of many residents, families, businesses, and artists, through the work of the Anti-Displacement Task Force that we created. We've also led the nation in combating climate change and restoring our urban ecosystem. We created the economic development agreements and new zoning for my new, "Tough Tech" In-

novation Hub, with Somernova, and we set the benchmark for negotiated, community benefits and labor agreements. And we negotiated local union contracts that created fair pay and pay equity that union leadership have called "the best contracts we've ever received." I thank my family and friends, my many other supporters, and every Somerville resident and community member who answered my call to be present at numerous meetings and workshops to make this historic

progress happen! Including many union locals and local community groups, as well as our dedicated Somerville City employees and staff. We accomplished all of this and much more together, while we figuratively and literally built the foundations for a Somerville where we can all thrive together long into the future.

Thank you all again, and
Sincerely,
Mayor Katjana Ballantyne



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



PUBLIC TAVERN AT 565 BROADWAY SOMERVILLE IS NOW OPEN!



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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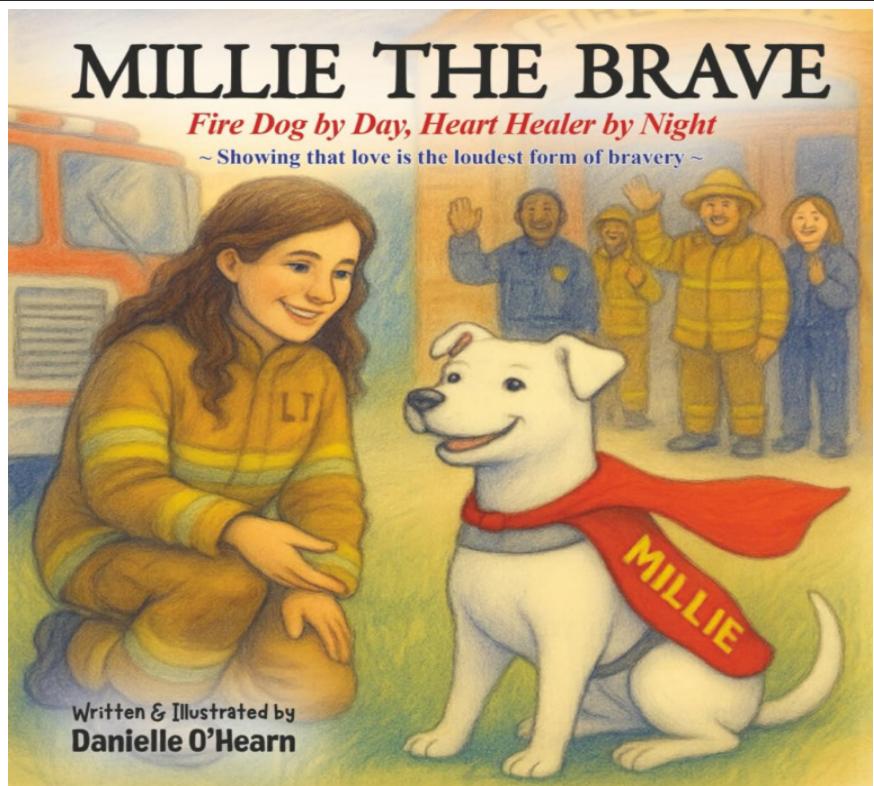
Hey Billy

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.

Our taxes working hard once again.....

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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

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

Zoom ID: 812 9581 3073

URL:
bit.ly/45xhDzh

Monday, October 6, at 6 p.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 848 8412 7712

URL:
bit.ly/45LD5iQ

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 Community School (50 Cross St.),

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

For more information about the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, the state agency that makes the rules for legal cannabis sales in Massachusetts, visit their website at <http://www.masscannabis-control.com>.

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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.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Shannon Mary Ward



Obituary

Shannon Mary Ward had a generous spirit, a love of learning, and a life that took her across the globe. Shannon was born in Madison, Wisconsin, on May 8, 1990, and raised in Sudbury, Massachusetts. She paired her love of music, art, and adventure with a passion for learning that grew into a deep engagement with languages, cultures, and people far beyond her hometown.

Growing up, Shannon's passions were playing the cello, celebrating Halloween, watching and reen-

acting Disney movies, and playing with the family dog, Ruffy. She loved roller coasters, haunted houses, and inner-tubing. She excelled at school, and during the summers, she vacationed visiting family in Canada and Minnesota, hiking in Algonquin Park, and waterskiing on Lake Okanagan.

In high school, Shannon discovered a study-abroad program in India and spent her final semester living in cities across North and South India. That six-month experience changed the trajectory of her life. It was there that she fell in love with language learning—especially Tibetan language, culture, and people.

Shannon went on to earn a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Wellesley College, and later a PhD in Linguistic Anthropology at New York University, mentored by Bambi Schieffelin. As part of her doctoral research, she spent extended periods living in Dharamsala, India; Kathmandu, Nepal; and Xining, China,

where she became part of the Tibetan communities she studied, forming lasting friendships and connections that enriched both her life and her research. Her research centered on bilingual children whose first language is Amdo Tibetan and culminated not only in her dissertation but also in her book, *Amdo Lullaby*, published by the University of Toronto Press in November 2024.

Immediately after graduating with her PhD, Shannon earned a tenure-track faculty position at the University of British Columbia Okanagan as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. She loved teaching and mentoring students, especially international students who she supported in navigating their academic journeys and, in many cases, helped transition to new lives in Canada. Shannon also collaborated widely with colleagues around the world. She presented at conferences from Norway to Hawaii, and remained active in the American Anthropological Association, the

Canadian Anthropological Society, and the Society for Linguistic Anthropology. In Vancouver, she worked closely with the Tibetan community, deepening her research while cherishing the generosity and friendships she encountered there.

Beyond her academic life, Shannon had a quiet, creative side. She loved coffee shops, yoga, art, music, and the companionship of her two beloved cats, Evie and MeiMei. She will be remembered as a brilliant scholar, a generous mentor, a treasured friend, and a thoughtful human with a precious inner beauty.

Shannon achieved impressive professional and personal accomplishments while privately overcoming lifelong challenges with anxiety and depression. Her suffering grew overwhelming in the last six months. She passed away in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 9, 2025.

Shannon will be deeply missed

by all who loved her. Especially her mother, Kim, her brother, Brandon, sister-in-law, Cathy, niece, Alice, nephew, Sam, aunts, uncles and cousins in Canada and the US.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, November 2 at 1:30pm at Saint Matthews United Methodist Church in Acton, Massachusetts. The service will have a livestream and be recorded. Donations may be made to The Tibetan Culture Society of BC, the University of British Columbia Okanagan, or your local pet shelter.

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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

Blessing Backpack Checklist

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)
- Mints
- Chewing gum

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Medford Police Department: MISSING / ENDANGERED PERSON

MISSING / ENDANGERED PERSON

Jason Compere, 29, is currently missing, has known mental health concerns, and may be in need of support.

His last known location was at his home which is in the Fulton Heights near Carr Park on September 16, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. He was last seen wearing a black t-shirt, light blue

sweatshirt, black pants and a black Nike backpack. He may be riding a grey and blue Giant brand mountain bike. He also has a goatee and wears glasses.

If you have seen Jason or have any information on his whereabouts, please contact Medford Police Dispatch at 781-395-1212.



RACE: BLACK
SEX: MALE
AGE: 29
HEIGHT: 6'3"
WEIGHT: 220LBS
HAIR: BLACK BRAIDED
EYES: BROWN

LAST SEEN: 9/16/2025 AT 11:30AM NEAR CARR PARK

CLOTHING DESCRIPTION:
BLACK PANTS, BLACK T-SHIRT,
BLACK NIKE BACKPACK, AND A
LIGHT BLUE SWEATSHIRT. HE
HAS BLACK GLASSES AND A
GOATEE. MAY BE RIDING A
BICYCLE.

PLEASE CONTACT THE MEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
AT 781-395-1212 IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION
REGARDING THIS INDIVIDUAL'S WHEREABOUTS



MISSING PERSON
JASON COMPERE

New City of Somerville Charter Signed by Governor Healey;



Charter and Mayoral Term to Appear on November 4th Ballot

Greater transparency, enhanced public engagement, strengthened City Council oversight, a change in Mayor term length, and a pathway to ranked choice voting, as well as other modernizations now await approval by voters on November ballot

SOMERVILLE – Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey signed the proposed new City of Somerville Charter today, Sept. 9, and now the joint efforts of Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City Council, and the Charter Review Committee to update the charter are ready for voter approval. Two November 4, 2025, ballot questions will allow voters to decide whether to accept the charter and whether to extend the

Mayoral term.

If the charter is approved by voters, a range of updates would go into effect immediately including that bodies will be created to develop plans to implement ranked choice voting (which allows voters to rank multiple candidates rather than vote for only one) and to explore public financing of election campaigns. If the separate Mayoral term question laid out in the charter passes, the Somerville Mayor would serve a term of 4 years rather than the current 2-year term, and the change would go into effect no earlier than the 2028 term. The approved charter proposal can be read at somervillema.gov/charter-review.

Key changes in the updated charter include (but are not limited to):

Improving readability by removing Latin and updating outdated 1899 verbiage
Bringing charter requirements in line with modern practices
Increasing the oversight power of the City Council in the areas of confirmation of department heads and board and commission members, annual audit reporting, allowing for the provision of Council legal counsel, and explicit authority to hire Council staff.
Adjusting and codifying budget timelines

and processes including requiring: a community budget hearing before budget preparation; an annual joint meeting of the City Council and School Committee, called by the Mayor, to review the financial condition of the city; and, a public hearing on the proposed budget before the City Council takes action. Requiring a review of the charter, the code of ordinances, and the city's boards and commissions every 10 years.

Many existing charter components remain unchanged, including retaining: The current form of government, with the Mayor serving as the chief executive officer, with the power to appoint department heads, enforce ordinances, and manage the day-to-day operations of the city, and the City Council serving as the legislative branch. The composition of the City Council and the School Committee, and the Mayor and City Council President serving by virtue of their offices. A 2-year term of office for all elected officials.
“These charter reforms represent a major step forward for Somerville – increasing transparency, strengthening democracy, and ensuring the shape of our city government reflects our community values,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I’m grateful to

Sen. Jehlen, Rep. Barber, and our entire legislative delegation for shepherding this through the Legislature, Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin for championing charter reform throughout, and Governor Healey for finalizing this decades-long effort. This achievement reflects the power of inclusive leadership and community voices working together to shape Somerville’s future.”

“This charter now reflects the times we live in and gives us a modern framework,” stated Councilor Matt McLaughlin. “This was a deeply democratic and inclusive process involving residents volunteering extensively and gathering input from thousands to draft this charter. It provides crucial improvements, from clear, modern language to addressing the balance of power between the Mayor and City Council in areas like the budget and appointments. Ultimately, this approved charter is light years better.”

The majority of changes are the direct outcome of recommendations by the Charter Review Committee, composed of residents and elected officials. The Council and City then collaborated to transform those proposals into new charter language.

Bringing an 1899 charter into the 21st century

The City’s charter was initially established in 1871, the same year Somerville was incorporated as a City. Since a more substantial update in 1899, it has undergone only targeted revisions. More recently charter review was launched in 2008. A 2018 City Council initiative modernized the name “Board of Aldermen” to “City Council.” In 2019, then Councilor Ballantyne initiated an update to shift oversight of the Committee Clerks from the Administration to the City Council to streamline management and improve workflows. In 2021, then Councilor Ballantyne also led the Council in submitting a special act to amend the charter to use gender-neutral language.

Full charter review began in 2020, when former Mayor Joe Curtatone and then City Council President Matt McLaughlin (now Ward 1 Councilor) jointly launched the latest comprehensive review. The Charter Review Committee established as a result met for 16 months and issued a range of recommendations in August 2022. The Ballantyne Administration and City Council then jointly updated the charter to ensure it met legal standards. The Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston provided critical expertise and support. To view the charter language and more information, visit: somervillema.gov/charterreview

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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).

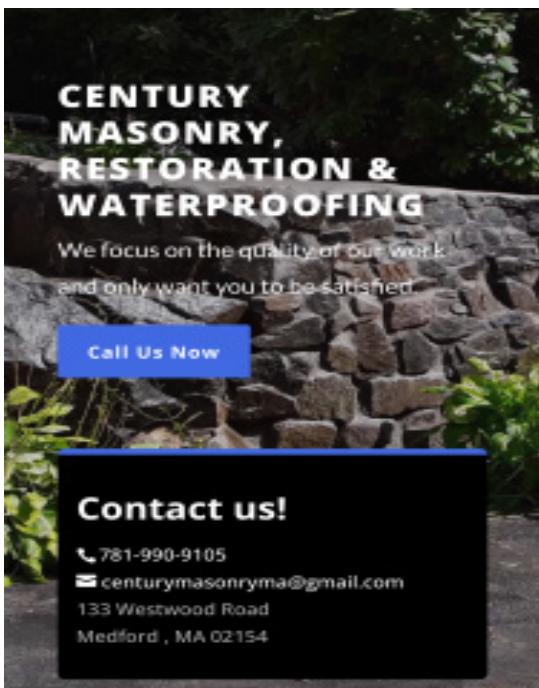
By raising these thresh-

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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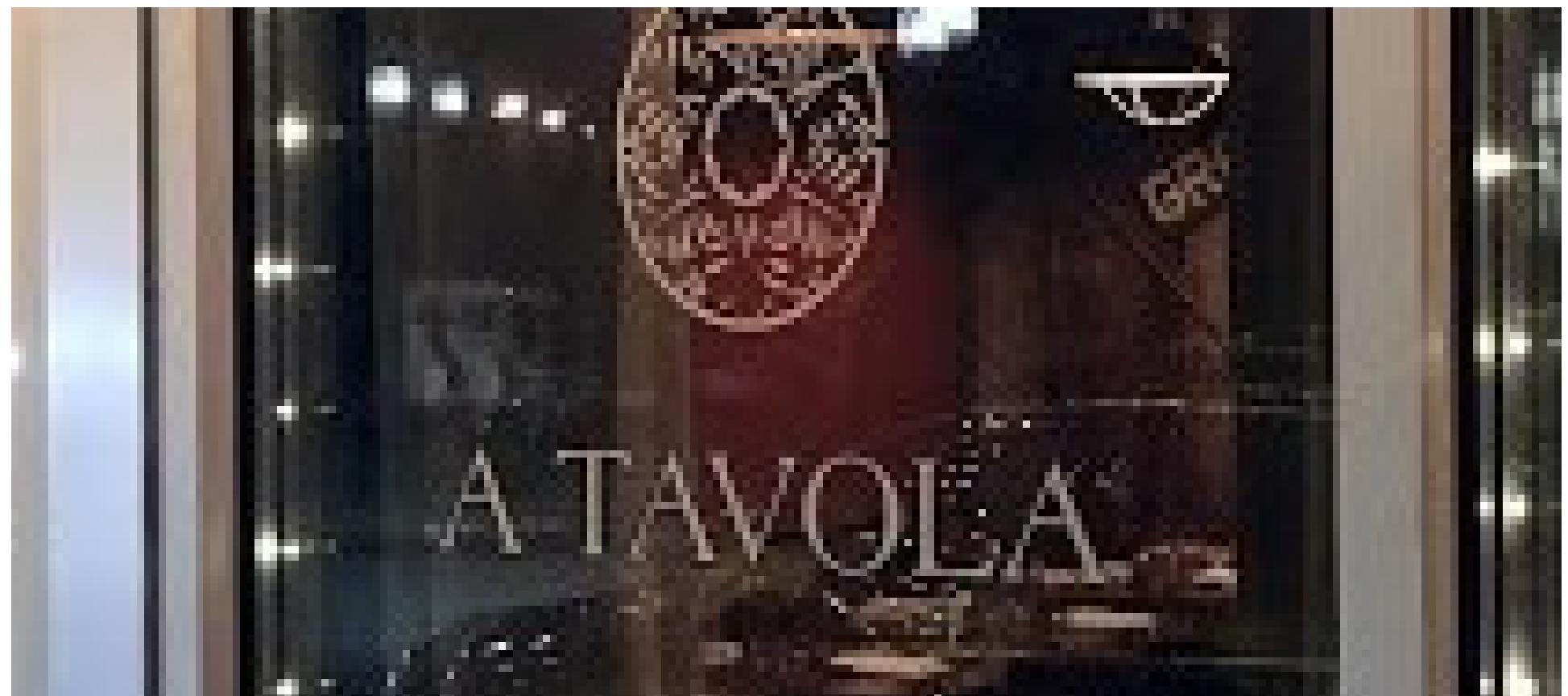
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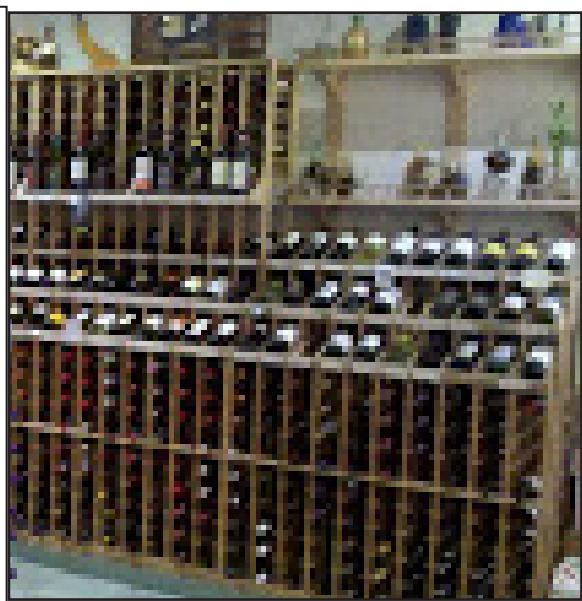


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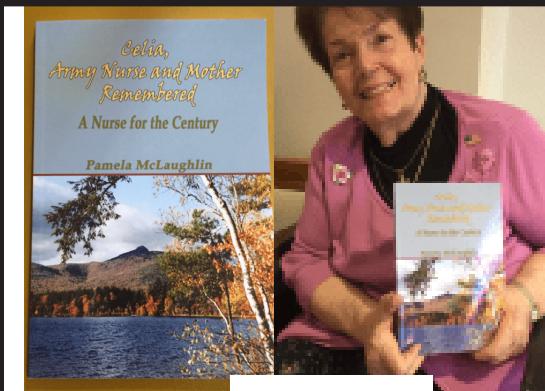


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