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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday September 2, 2025

Mayor Ballantyne Announces Opening of Assembly Row Fire Station



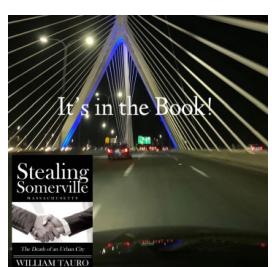
NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Continued to page 19



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



AUDITOR DIANA
DIZOGLIO UNCOVERS
FRAUD IN PUBLIC
BENEFITS



Continued to page 5

75.6 MILLION REBATE TO
HEALTH INSURANCE
CONSUMERS



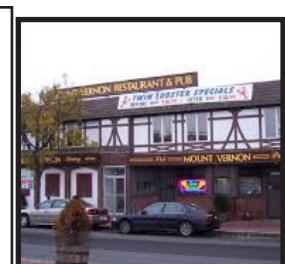
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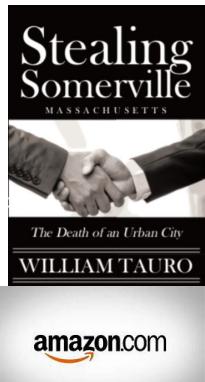
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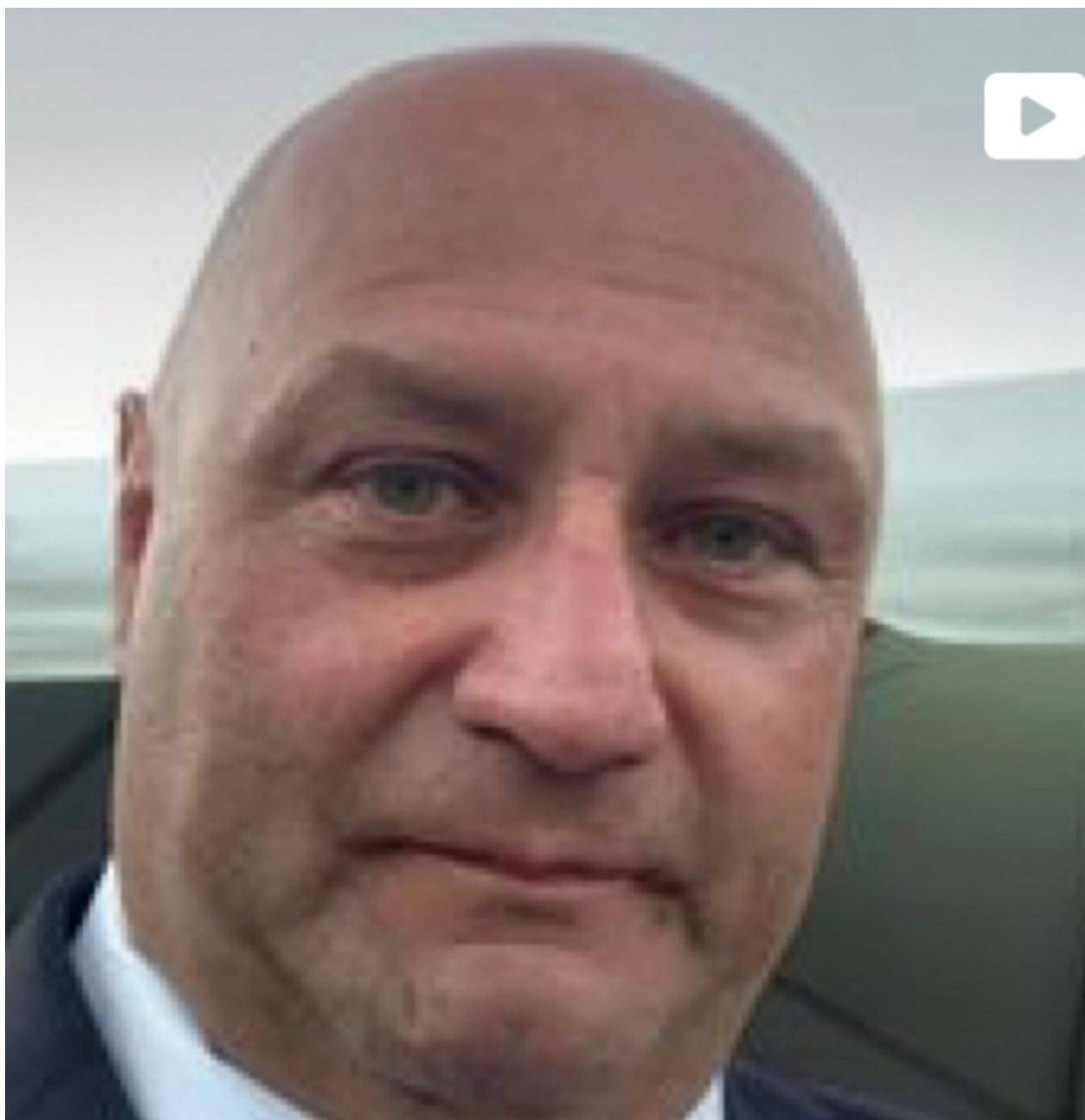




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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Barbara Lois Thornton



Obituary
Barbara Lois Thornton of Somerville passed away peacefully after a coura-

geous battle with a long-term illness.

Barbara was born in Somerville and was a lifelong resident. She worked for many years at a local book-binding company before her retirement.

Barbara was the former wife of Tech Sargent USAF William A. Thorn-

ton (deceased).

She was the daughter of William Ronayne and Isabel (Dineen) Ronayne (deceased) of Somerville.

Survived by brother Richard Ronayne (deceased), sister of Rita (Richard) Humphrey of Tewksbury, MA.

Mother of Donna (Greg) Rushall of San Diego, CA

Grandmother of Jennifer Kay Rushall and David William Rushall of San Diego, CA. Great-grandmother of Jayden Rushall of San Diego, CA. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Barbara was always stylish

and polished. She enjoyed traveling to England, the Philippines and Guam while her husband was in the United States Airforce.

A private service will be held for family to honor her memory.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Lorraine F. Erb-Grande



Obituary
Lorraine F. Erb-Grande – of Somerville passed away

on August 28, 2025, at the age of 90. She was the daughter of the late James and Doris (King) Rumson of Somerville. A lifelong resident of Somerville, she worked as a Court Officer at the Cambridge Courthouse for many years before her retirement. She was a member of the American Legion Post 377 and Post 19. A member of the George Dilboy VFW

Post in Davis Square. She loved spending time with her kids, eight grandchildren and her sixteen great-grandchildren.

She is the sister of the late Serena (Willis) Coffey and the late Jean (Barton) Kippenberger. Beloved mother the late Debra (Erb) Saverse, and her late husband, James Saverse of Somerville. Her daughter,

Gale Erb; her son, James Erb; his wife, Maria all of Somerville, her son, Gary Erb; and his wife, Julie of Methuen. She also has many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) on Friday, Septmeber 5th

from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. Followed by a prayer service in the funeral home at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Puritan Lawn Cemetery, Peabody.

Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering Alfred C. Carfagna Jr.



Obituary for Alfred (Chuck) C. Carfagna Jr.

Alfred C. Carfagna Jr., a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, cherished brother, uncle, and United States Army veteran, passed away peacefully surrounded

by family and friends on August 29th at Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH. He was 73. Born on December 29th, 1951, in Cambridge, MA, Chuck lived a life defined by service, dedication, and love for his family. He proudly served his country in the

U.S. Army for 24 years, carrying with him the values of honor, courage, and commitment that shaped the rest of his life.

Chuck was the beloved husband of Linda Carfagna, with whom he built a life filled with love, laughter, and shared nearly 30 years. As a stepmother, Linda became part of the lives of his children, and together they embraced the joys and challenges of a blended family. Chuck was a proud grandfather to eleven grandchildren, each of whom brought him immense joy and pride. To his nieces, nephews, and extended family, he was a steady source of warmth, humor, and wisdom.

Those who knew Chuck will remember his generosity, his unwavering support for

those he loved, and the way he lit up any room with his presence. Whether sharing stories of his service, offering guidance to his children and grandchildren, or enjoying a not-so-quiet family game night, he lived his life with dignity and heart.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; his three children, Christopher and his wife, Amy; Allison and her husband, George; and Jennifer; his eleven grandchildren, Robyn, Rileigh, Brandon, Elizabeth, Alexis, Mario Jr., Brady, Dominic, Brianna, Khloe, and Sophya; his sister, Paulette; his brother, Robert; and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred Sr. and Theresa Carmody, and his brother, Michael.

Services to honor and celebrate his life will be held on 9/12 at 1pm at The Cremation Society of New Hampshire, 172 King St. Boscowen, NH with internment to follow at New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscowen, NH 03303.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Chuck leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and strength. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered in the hearts of all who knew him.

William “Billy” Tauro for Governor





AUDITOR DIANA DIZOGLIO UNCOVERS FRAUD IN PUBLIC BENEFITS



By Bob Katzen

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio released a Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) report that uncovered \$4.8 million of public benefit fraud in the final quarter of fiscal year 2025. BSI's goal is to help make government work better by investigating fraud, abuse and illegal acts

involving public assistance benefits across the state.

BSI investigated a total of 1,153 cases and there were overpayments in 143 cases including fraud uncovered when paying for benefits for MassHealth/Medicaid \$3,812,331; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \$690,138; Personal Care Attendant \$145,638;

Department of Early Education and Care \$134,526; Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children \$23,179; Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children \$8,568.

"Public benefit fraud can impact the lives of everyday people across Massachusetts who rely on these

programs and services to access care or purchase food," said DiZoglio. "That is why the work of our fraud examiners is critical to help ensure these services and programs are operating efficiently and reliably for all who need them."

BAN THE USE OF TINTED LICENSE PLATE COVERS (H 4029)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would prohibit the use of tinted or smoked license plate covers, along with any bracket, frame or covering that alters or obscures the license plate's

visibility. Specifically, the bill prohibits anything that obscures the license plate; the color of the license plate; the name or abbreviated name of the state; or any character or characters, decal, stamp or other device indicating the month or year in which

the vehicle's registration expires.

"I filed this bill after working with constituents who were concerned that tinted license plate covers may seem harmless, but in reality they make it harder for tolling sys-

tems, accident investigators and law enforcement officers to do their jobs," said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). "With Massachusetts now relying on electronic tolling infrastructure, it's critical that plates remain clear and fully legible. This

legislation is about fairness, safety, and ensuring our transportation system works the way it's supposed to."

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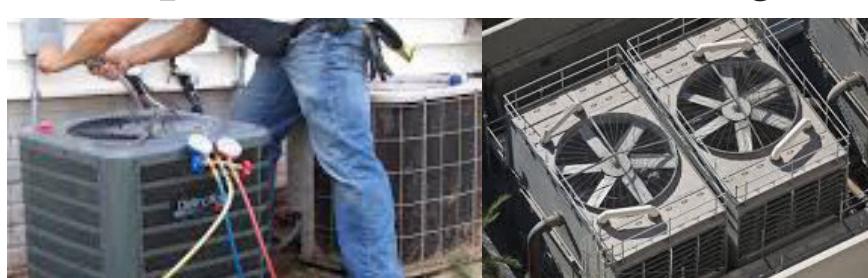
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This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES on Beacon Hill

Quotable Quotes



TALES FROM SPIN CITY – Two of former Gov. Charlie Baker's administration officials, Brian Shortsleeve and Mike Kennealy, both vying for the Republican party's nod to run against incumbent Democrat Gov. Maura Healey in 2026, participated in a debate on Friday, August 22nd. Shortsleeve served as Chief Administrator head of the MBTA while Kennealy was

Baker's Secretary of Housing and Economic Development.

Who won the debate? It depends on who you ask.

The answer from Republican Brian Shortsleeve's campaign:

"Marine Corps Veteran, successful business leader and proven government reformer Brian Shortsleeve, Republican candidate for governor, delivered a commanding performance during the one-hour live debate."

"We don't need a Healey lite," said Shortsleeve, referring to his GOP opponent Mike Kennealy. "We need a Marine who will put the people of Massachusetts first. The people of Massachusetts are tired of empty promises and rising costs. I'm running to bring real-world leadership to Beacon Hill, cut waste and restore common sense to state government. We

can't afford another four years of top-down mandates, endless benefits for illegal immigrants, rising utility costs and economic mismanagement."

The answer from Republican Mike Kennealy's campaign:

"Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Kennealy emerged as the clear winner in the first primary debate of the election cycle."

"We already knew that Mike Kennealy is the only candidate capable of taking on and defeating Maura Healey," said Ben Hincher, Kennealy's campaign manager, "Tonight, anyone tuning into this race for the first time saw the truth: Mike Kennealy is running against Maura Healey, while his opponent is running against Mike Kennealy. Mike laid out a clear, common-sense agenda: ending Massachusetts' sanctuary state policies, cutting the green

gimmicks that have driven up our electric bills and restoring affordability for families across the commonwealth. He showed voters that he will bring pragmatic, principled and commonsense leadership back to Beacon Hill."

The answer from Democrat Gov. Maura Healey's campaign:

"Two Trump-supporting Republican candidates for governor held a 'debate' on an August Friday afternoon."

"You know that the MassGOP is embarrassed by their own candidates when they schedule their first debate for 5 p.m. on a summer Friday," said Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Steve Kerrigan. "It's just the latest sign that Kennealy's and Shortsleeve's candidacies are failing, along with their fundraising numbers. The only thing that was more blurry than the debate's livestream was the

candidates' plans to stand up to Donald Trump. Not once did they mention his devastating cuts to lifesaving research funding, his plans to kick hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents off their health care or his tariffs that are raising costs for everyone."

Kerrigan continued, "The Republican candidates for governor yet again showed that they're afraid to stand up to Donald Trump and won't stand for the people of Massachusetts. One thing is for sure after tonight: Gov. Maura Healey is the only candidate who will make life easier for people, lower the cost of housing, health care and energy and stand up to Donald Trump when he hurts our state."

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

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

State of A Tavola:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



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



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

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

General Duties
Poll worker must be ready

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

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

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

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

To learn more, please con-

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

CHANGE LANGUAGE IN LAW THAT CREATED COUNCILS ON AGING (H 4301)



By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would change some language in the 50-year-old

law that created Councils on Aging in local cities and towns. Changes include deleting language that refers to “problems of the aging” and replacing

it with “the needs of older adults;” deleting language that calls workers “clerks” and replacing it with language that calls workers “staff;” and adding “and delivering services” to the language in the bill which gives the council the authority to “carry out programs.”

Supporters said the bill modernizes the language

in a 50-year-old law that created Councils on Aging at a time when there were very few senior centers. They noted that the number of Councils on Aging and senior centers has grown to 350 and said the bill updates the statute to reflect the modern functioning of these critical centers.

Rep. Kate Donaghue (D-Westborough), the

sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to comment on passage of her proposal and whether she thinks it will make it through the Legislature in the 2025-2026 session. The bill was given initial approval by the House in the 2023-2024 session but died when the House took no further action on it.

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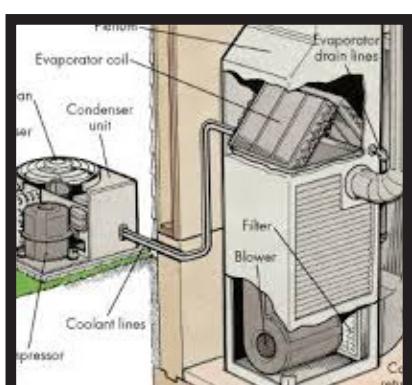
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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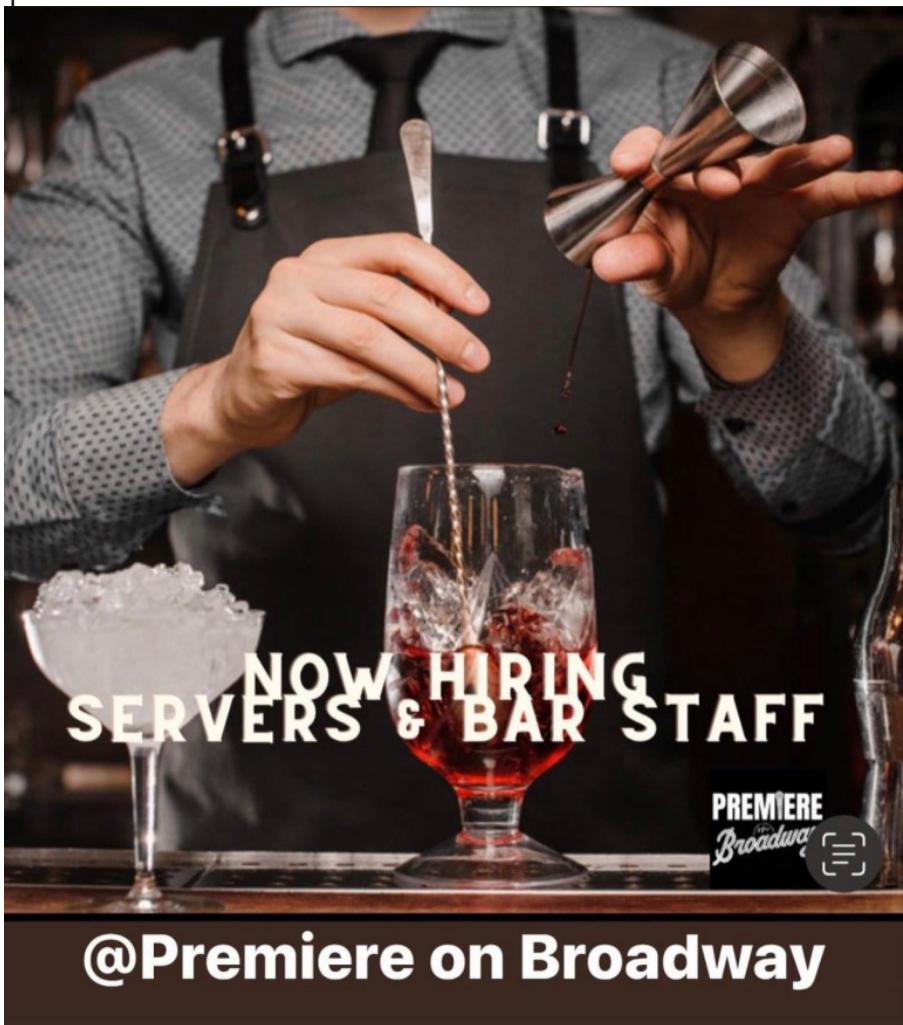
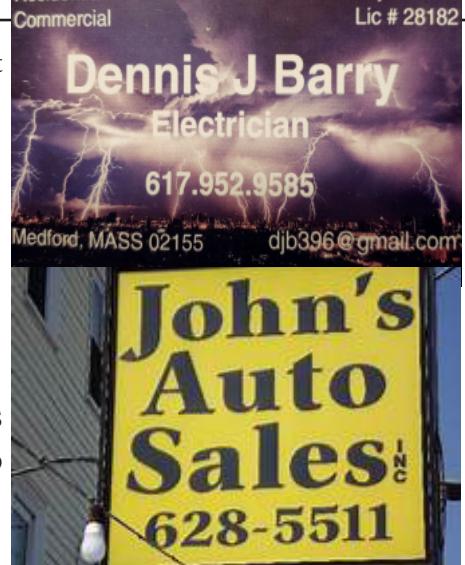


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MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND
VETERANS SUICIDE AWARENESS AND REMEMBRANCE DAY (H 3388)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would establish September 22nd as Military Service Members and Veterans

Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day. The day would acknowledge that suicide is an epidemic among service members and veterans and works to foster awareness and

call for suicide prevention measures and support. "We brought forward this veteran suicide remembrance and awareness bill in direct response to

the tragedies that have left holes in the fabric of our communities and in order to build awareness to prevent future tragedy," said bill sponsor Rep. Joan Meschino (D-Hull). "[The

bill] is an important step in offering support to both our active service members and veterans."

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Mayor Ballantyne and Somerville Veterans' Services to Host 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Annual ceremony to honor lives lost and those who served

SOMERVILLE—To mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services invite all

community members to a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Thursday, September 11, at 6 p.m. in Davis Square.

The observance will honor all victims of 9/11 as well as first responders, workers, and volunteers who rushed to the scene to save lives or

to later help carry out the dangerous cleanup. It will include a moment of silence and feature an invocation and benediction by Father Paul Coughlin as well as remarks by Mayor Ballantyne and Veterans Director Jerome Thomas.

A bagpipe tribute including "Amazing Grace" will follow, and attendees will be given individual roses to place on the 9/11 Memorial. The ceremony will be framed by the presentation of and retiring of the colors (national, state, and unit flags) by the Honor Guards of the Somerville

Police and Somerville Fire Department.

For more information, please email veterans@somervillema.gov or contact 311 at 617-666-3311.

BAY STATE HIRES COMPANY TO RUN THE UPCOMING ONLINE LOTTERY

By Bob Katzen

The State Lottery Commission voted to approve a five-year contract for the company that next summer in 2026 will launch an online version of the Lottery that allows people to place bets online.

It was a unanimous vote to authorize the Lottery's Executive Director Mark

William Bracken to enter into a deal for "a full-service iLottery platform and related services" with Aristocrat Interactive – a Malta-based company which had been recommended by the procurement team that reviewed five responses the Lottery got to its solicitation. Malta is an island country in Southern Europe located in the Mediterranean Sea, between Sicily and North

Africa.

"This is a huge milestone," said Lottery Commissioner Meghan Liddy. "I've been around for a while. The years passed by quickly, but at times it did not seem like a quick process at all, and it was a very arduous process to get this done. Just huge congratulations to the team."

Bracken said, "You know, we're saying summer of '26 ... Summer, obviously, has the summer months. I would love it to be early summer of '26 as opposed to late summer of '26. We'd love to get in the marketplace, meet our players where they are, you know, hopefully bring on some new players that aren't exposed or aren't in love with the products of our traditional retail

because, like we've said before, online Lottery really is a different product line."

The House and Senate approved creation of an online Lottery authorization in the fiscal year 2025 budget that Gov. Maura Healey signed in 2024.

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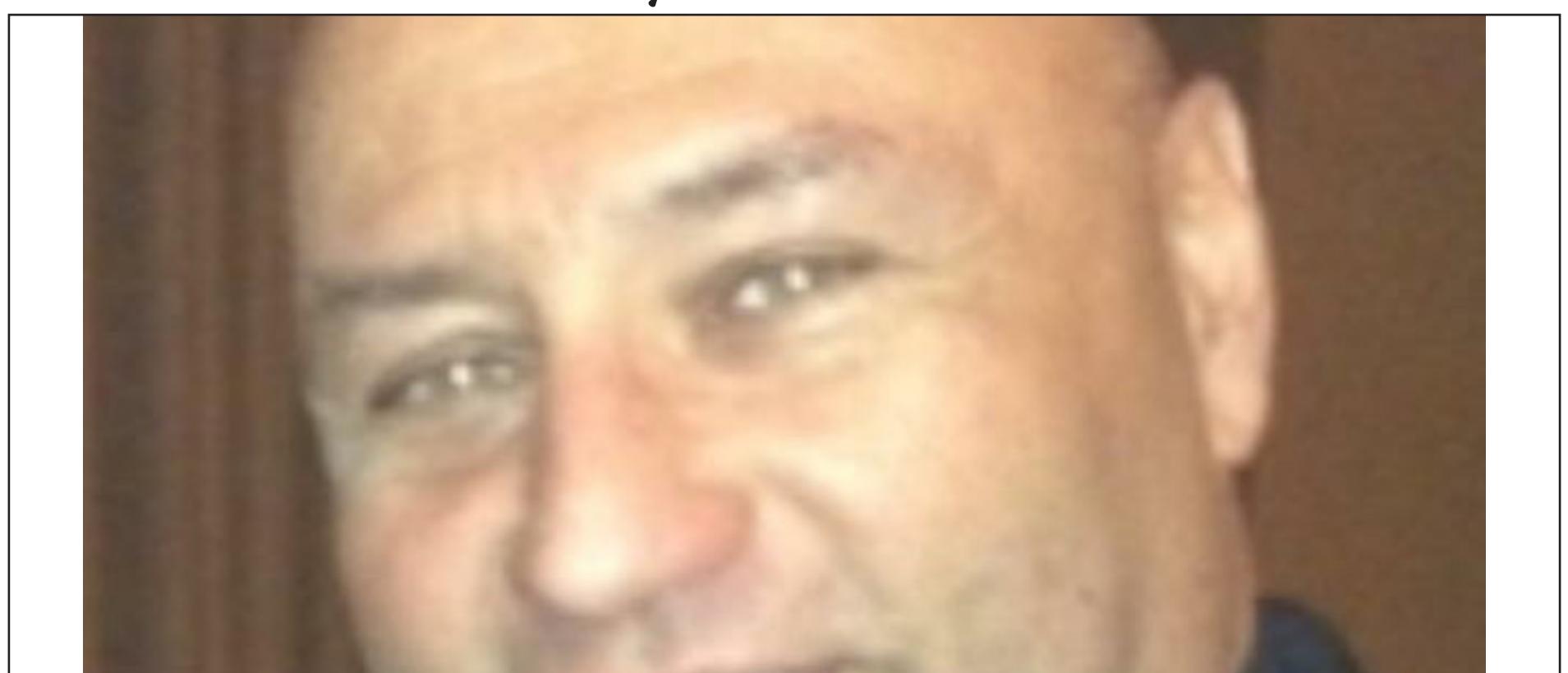
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The logo for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, featuring a circular emblem with the letters "BH" and "HS" inside, with "BERKSHIRE" and "HATHAWAY" stacked above "HomeServices" in a serif font.

William “Billy” Tauro For Governor





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!



William 'Billy' Tauro for Governor



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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Ballantyne Administration Launching Free Block Party Play Kits

SOMERVILLE – This year, Somerville block parties are getting even more fun. Funded by Mayor Ballantyne's FY26 budget, the Block Party Play Kits are free, borrowable kits filled with games and equipment to help neighbors turn their street into a playground.

Residents who apply for a block party license can now also request a Play Kit to bring added energy and entertainment to their neighborhood gathering. The kits are available at no cost, delivered and set up by the City's vendor Knucklebones, and then picked up after the party.

Each kit includes a rotating mix of equipment to encourage all-ages play and neighborly connection.

Possible items include:
Giant Jenga and Connect Four
Cornhole

Scooters, PlasmaCars, and stilts
Basketball hoops and street hockey
Parachutes, jump ropes, hula hoops, and balance games

Spikeball, tether tennis, and more

"Block parties are one of the best ways to build community on your street," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "By adding free Play Kits, we're giving residents even more tools to create joyful, welcoming spaces where kids and adults alike can come together, play, and connect."

How it works:
Request a Play Kit when applying for your block party license through Citizenserve: somervillema.gov/blockparties

Play Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be requested at least three weeks in advance.

Kits are available for 1–5 hours on the day of your party.

Whether it's your first block party or your fifteenth, Somerville invites residents to take advantage of this new program and bring some extra fun to their street this summer.

For more information and to apply, visit: somervillema.gov/blockparties.



Somerville Annual Fall Festival Returns September 13

Mayor Ballantyne and Rec Department invite community to annual fall celebration

SOMERVILLE – Welcome the fall season with a day of fun for the whole family. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville's Parks and Recreation Department invite community members to the Fall Festival on Saturday, September 13, at Conway Park (560 Somerville

Ave.) from 1 to 4 p.m.

Enjoy bounce houses, music, and array of fall-themed activities including pumpkin decorating, face painting, music, and more.

This event is free to attend. In the event of rain, activities will move indoors to Founders Memorial Rink (8 Gardent Ct.).

To learn more about the wide range of programming offered by the City of Somerville Recreation Department, please visit somervillema.myrec.com.



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MOTOR VEHICLE BATTERIES (H 2652)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would require that motor vehicle repair and storage

facilities display a notice that informs the public and first responders of the presence of motor vehicle batteries on the premises.

"This legislation will put safety first in the event of a fire on a property where lithium-ion batteries are present," said sponsor Rep. Mike Kushmerek

(D-Fitchburg). "These batteries are notoriously dangerous and difficult to extinguish. By having identifying signs on location where the batteries

are present, it allows for more situational awareness for first responders who may be responding."

75.6 MILLION REBATE TO HEALTH INSURANCE CONSUMERS

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey announced that five of the state's health insurance carriers will return \$75.6 million to over 350,000 people covered by individual and small employer healthcare plans in Massachusetts under the state's enforcement of the Massachusetts health laws. The five carriers are Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts HMO Blue; Fallon Community Health Plan; Harvard Pilgrim Health Care; Mass General Brigham Health Plan;

and UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company.

Massachusetts has the country's strictest Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) law, requiring the state's health insurance carriers to spend at least 88 percent of premiums on health care services for individuals and small groups—setting a higher bar than the federal standard of 85 percent. When an insurance carrier's average MLR over a three-year period falls below the required threshold, it is required to rebate a portion of premium

payments to individuals and small employers. The rebates reflect a portion of the difference between what the insurance carriers charged in premiums and what they actually spent on health care costs.

"Massachusetts has strong laws in place to make sure that the money that you are paying for health care actually goes to covering high-quality services," said Gov. Healey. "That's why we are able to approve over \$75 million back to consumers and businesses. This is just the latest ac-

tion we are taking to lower the cost of health care, housing and energy that people are facing every day."

"These rebates are more than just numbers—they're dollars back in the pockets of families and small business owners across the commonwealth," said Division of Insurance Commissioner Michael Caljouw. "The enforcement of this law is part of our larger strategy of protecting Massachusetts health care consumers and encourag-

ing insurers to be more efficient, reduce administrative overhead and focus on cost-effective ways to deliver care."

The exact amounts of the 2025 rebates depend on the carrier and the premium paid by individual and small group purchasers.

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Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering Alfred C. Carfagna Jr.



Obituary for Alfred (Chuck) C. Carfagna Jr.

Alfred C. Carfagna Jr., a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather, cherished brother, uncle, and United States Army veteran, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on August 29th at Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH. He was 73.

Born on December 29th, 1951, in Cambridge, MA, Chuck lived a life defined by service, dedication, and love for his family. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for 24 years, carrying with him the values of honor, courage, and commitment that shaped the rest of his life.

Chuck was the beloved husband of Linda Carfagna, with whom he built a life filled with love, laughter, and shared nearly 30 years. As a stepmother, Linda became

part of the lives of his children, and together they embraced the joys and challenges of a blended family. Chuck was a proud grandfather to eleven grandchildren, each of whom brought him immense joy and pride. To his nieces, nephews, and extended family, he was a steady source of warmth, humor, and wisdom.

Those who knew Chuck will remember his generosity, his unwavering support for those he loved, and the way he lit up any room with his presence. Whether sharing stories of his service, offering guidance to his children and grandchildren, or enjoying a not-so-quiet family game night, he lived his life with dignity and heart.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; his three children, Christopher and his wife, Amy; Allison and her husband, George; and Jennifer; his eleven grandchildren, Robyn, Raleigh, Brandon, Elizabeth, Alexis, Mario Jr., Brady,

Dominic, Brianna, Khloe, and Sophya; his sister, Paulette; his brother, Robert; and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred Sr. and Theresa Carmody, and his brother, Michael.

Services to honor and celebrate his life will be held on 9/12 at 1pm at The Cremation Society of New Hampshire, 172 King St. Boscowen, NH with internment to follow at New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, 110 Daniel Webster Hwy, Boscowen, NH 03303.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Community Hospice House in Merrimack, NH or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Chuck leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and strength. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered in the hearts of all who knew him.

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Somerville Voting Information for City Preliminary Election



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

The offices on the ballot for this election include:

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

The preliminary election is

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

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

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

Vote Early at City Hall, September 9-11

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

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

How to Vote in the Preliminary Election by Mail

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. (not postmarked) by Tuesday, September 9

Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/votebymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 16.

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their

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

How to return your application and ballot:

o Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:

§ City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.

§ East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.

§ In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.

§ In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.

§ Behind the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave.

§ In front of the Igreja Presbiteriana De Boston Church, 212 School St.

§ In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St.

§ In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

§ In front of Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St.

§ In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.

§ In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall

Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

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

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Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



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

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

Blessing Backpack Checklist

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- 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

SPLURGE:

- Starbucks gift card
- Compact reusable bag



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Mayor Ballantyne Invites Community Members to Brazilian Flag Raising Ceremony on September 4



SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), in proud partnership with the Brazilian Women's Group, invite community members to celebrate 203 years of Brazilian independence at the third annual Brazil flag raising on

Thursday, September 4, on the City Hall concourse (79 Highland Ave.) at 3 p.m. Rain date: Thursday, September 9.

The event will feature remarks from Mayor Ballantyne, representatives of the Brazilian Women's Group, and SOIA staff. Attend-

ees will enjoy live music and performances of the national anthems of Brazil and the United States, followed by the ceremonial raising of the Brazil flag. Light refreshments and resources from local Brazilian organizations will also be available.

For more information, contact soia@somerville-ma.gov.

Mayor Ballantyne Announces Opening of Assembly Row Fire Station

First new station in half-century is 100% electric and designed with firefighter safety top of mind

SOMERVILLE—Moving season is in full swing in Somerville, not only for residents, but for the Somerville Fire Department, too. You won't catch the usual move-in sights like futons, bean bag chairs, and crates, but instead a new fire crew, new equipment, and a full Fire Engine are moving into Somerville's first new fire station in a half-century.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Fire Chief Charles Breen are pleased to announce the informal opening of the Assembly Row fire station. Though some additional outfitting and organizing is still underway inside, the

station went into service on Wednesday afternoon. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place later in September.

"Minutes matter when it comes to saving lives during a fire, and with the opening of this new fire station, not only the growing Assembly neighborhood but our full city just got safer," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I want to thank our Capital Projects team, planning and development staff, the Fire Department, and our community partner Biomed Realty for collaborating to make this long-needed station a reality – and for creating a space that not only includes leading edge safety features for our firefighters but sets the standard for a 100% fossil-fuel-free facility."

The Assembly Row station is located on the corner of Middle-

sex Avenue and Foley Street in Assembly Square. It will house Engine 2, operated by a crew of 3-4 firefighters, and will primarily serve the growing Assembly Square area and the Ten Hills neighborhood. The approximately 10,000-square-foot station was created via a public-private partnership as part of a larger development owned by BioMed Realty.

A joint project by the City's Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management and Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, along with the Fire Department, the Assembly Row station is Somerville's first newly constructed fire station in roughly 50 years. Fire Headquarters on Broadway was the most recent new station, built in 1974.

"The new fire station will greatly improve response times and provide critical public safety services to the rapidly growing Assembly Square neighborhood," said Chief Charles Breen. "In addition, this state-of-the-art station is proof of the City's commitment to improving the quality of life for our dedicated firefighters."

The Assembly Row station is designed for the safety and wellbeing of the firefighters living and working within. It includes a decontamination area, which has specialized equipment for firefighters to clean protective gear and a dedicated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system to keep contaminants

out of the living areas. The station also has a dayroom and kitchen, a fitness room, and individual bunk rooms.

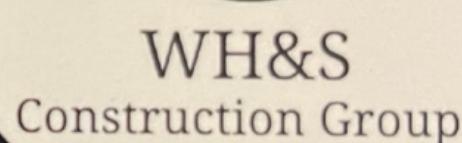
The building itself is completely fossil-fuel-free. It is 100% electric with heating and cooling via variable refrigerant flow (VRF), similar to a ductless mini-split system. Other features include apparatus bays with exhaust systems and carbon monoxide monitors, a backup emergency generator system, the PURVIS Fire Station Alerting System, internet connectivity and Wi-Fi, and ample storage space.

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Somerville Rock + Roll Yard Sale in Union Square September 14



Mayor Ballantyne invites all to City's open-air market featuring eclectic arts & crafts, vinyl records, vintage clothing, and more

SOMERVILLE— Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and The Somerville Arts Council are pleased to announce the return of the Rock + Roll Yard Sale to Union Square Plaza on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 12 to 5 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, September 14). Now in its 18th year in Somerville, this long-running event celebrates creativity, community, and the city's do-it-yourself spirit.

The Rock + Roll Yard sale's creativity, community and support for local artists and small businesses is a perfect example of what makes Somerville unique," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Presented in partnership with Chris and Jennifer Daltry of What Cheer Records, the Rock + Roll Yard Sale will feature a wide range of roughly 50 local vendors offering vinyl records, vintage clothing, handmade goods, art, and

more. Shoppers can expect an eclectic mix of collectibles and creations from independent artists, collectors, and makers.

"Bringing our event to Somerville is something we look forward to every year," said Chris and Jennifer Daltry, founders of What Cheer Records. "It means the world to us to see this city continue to grow while still embracing this funky event. Whether you're looking for music, vintage, or handmade items, you'll

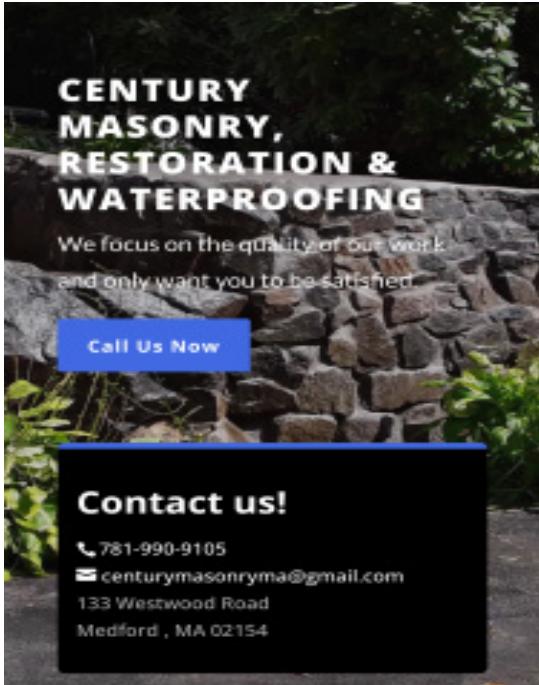
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For updates, follow
@rockandrollyardsale and

@somervilleartscouncil on Instagram, or visit somervilleartscouncil.org/events/rock-and-roll-yard-sale.

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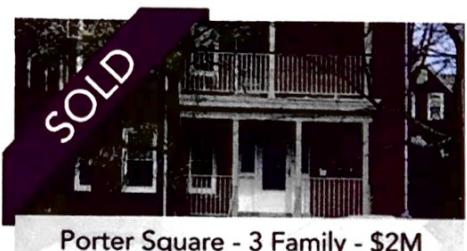
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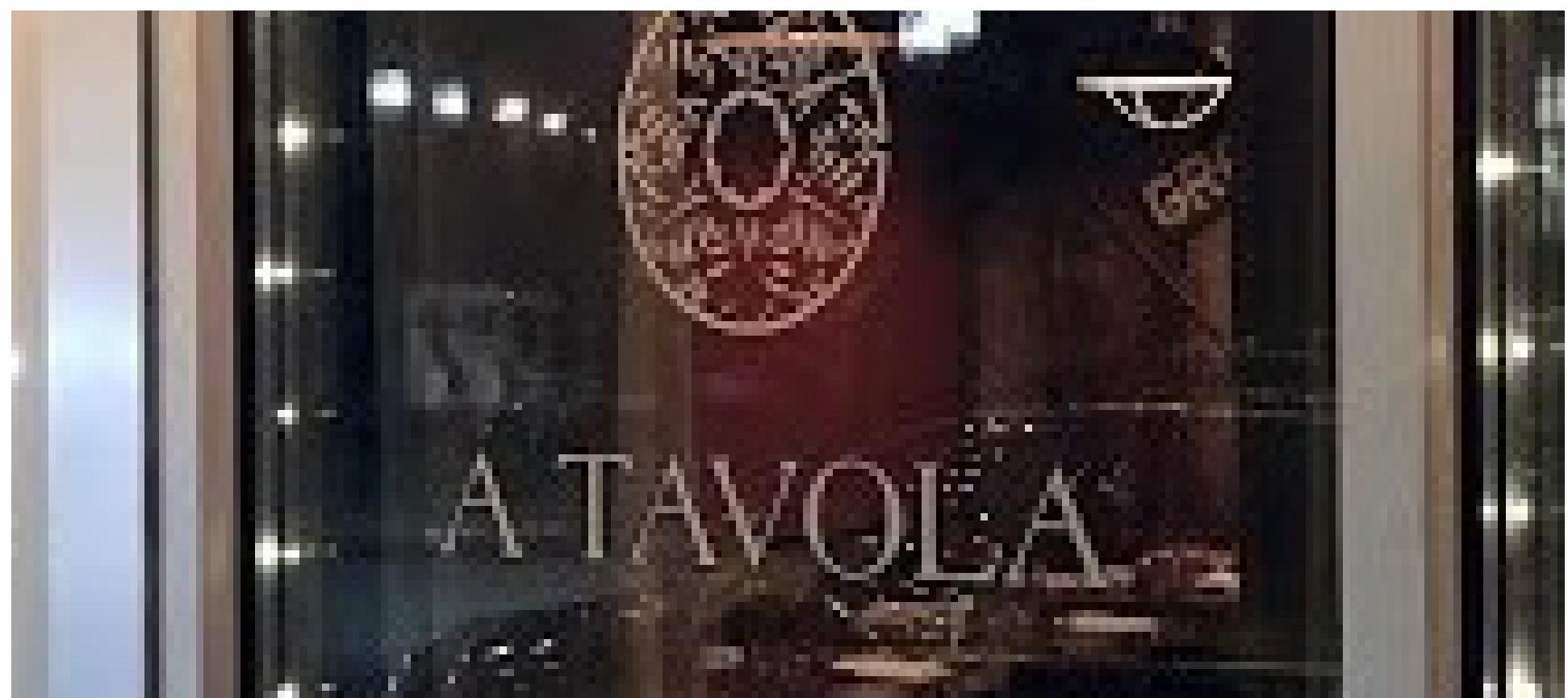
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