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VOL.1 NO.329-282

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday October 14th, 2025

## BAN MASK USE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT



Continued to page 19



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP

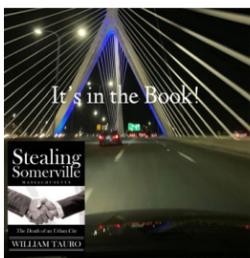


### EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION FOR ABUSE VICTIMS

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Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



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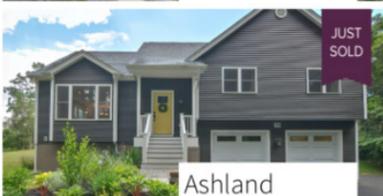
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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Patricia Ng Broker Associate REALTOR®-(617) 818-5736Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com

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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL 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: Court-house 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 metered parking on the west side of Middlesex Ave between Cummings St and McGrath.

2025-83 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: 2 hour parking 8:00AM-8:00PM on the

north side of McGrath Hwy between Middlesex Ave and Marginal Rd.

2025-84 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: four spaces of Somerville Fire Department Vehicle Parking Only on the west side of Middlesex Ave between Foley St and Mystic Ave.

2025-85 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: 105 feet of metered parking on the east side of Middlesex Ave between Foley St and Cummings St.

2025-86 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" 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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### \$1.5 MILLION FOR SEWER RATE RELIEF (H 4240)

By Bob Katzen

The House 143-11, override Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$1.5 million for the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund which

was established in 1993 to help reduce the rising costs of sewer services in the Bay State.

Override supporters said this fund has helped, and

continues to help, thousands of people pay for expensive sewer costs.

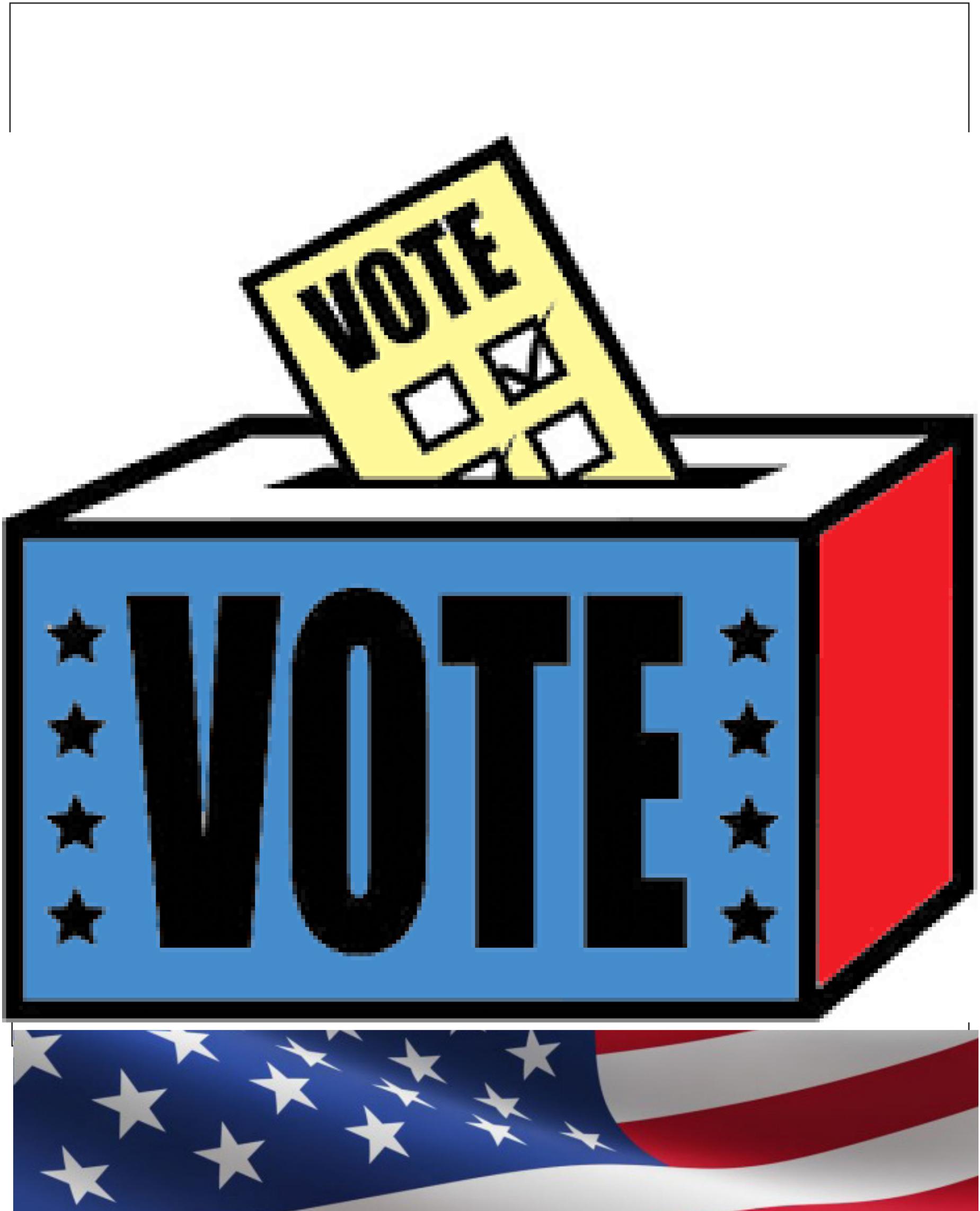
In her veto message, Gov. Healy said, "I am vetoing this item to an amount

consistent with my House [budget] recommendation."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

### Remember To Vote In Novermber





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Thank you for your continued support.



### SUNSCREEN LOTION (H 600)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would allow any person, including students, parents and school personnel, to possess and use a topical sunscreen product without a physician's note or prescription while on school prop-

erty or at a school-related event or activity, to avoid overexposure to the sun.

"Exposure to sun during childhood and adolescence is a significant risk factor for skin cancer later in life," said sponsor Rep. Kate Hogan (D-Stow). "Regular use of sunscreen

substantially reduces the risk associated with the sun's ultraviolet rays. Outdated policies treat sunscreen as an over-the-counter medication requiring medical authorization. This antiquated policy creates barriers to a basic, preventative health practice."

Hogan continued, "[My bill] ensures that sunscreen is not to be treated as medication for the purposes of school policy and that sunscreen can be used, without imposing on school staff. The bill also gives school districts the opportunity to incorporate sun safety education into their wellness efforts,

which will foster lifelong healthy habits. This legislation is particularly important as outdoor school activities such as recess, athletics, field days and field trips expose students to the sun. Enabling access to sunscreen is a common sense and evidence-based step that supports student health."

### 700,000 FOR CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY (H 4240)

By Bob Katzen

The House 148-7, override Gov. Healey's \$700,000 veto reduction (from \$6,200,000 million to \$5,500,000 million) in funding for the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in North Grafton.

Override supporters said that the funding is important to Cummings and its four-year academic programs which offer a degree in veterinary medicine. They noted that the school conducts groundbreaking research that benefits animals and people and also has hospitals

that treat an estimated 28,000 animals annually ranging from cats and dogs to pet rabbits, parrots, iguanas and fish.

In her veto message, Gov. Healey said, "I am vetoing this item to an amount consistent with my House [budget] recommendation." Some supporters

of the veto questioned whether the state should be providing millions of dollars to a private university.

(A "Yes" vote is for spending the \$700,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep.

Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

### \$1.5 MILLION FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES (H 4240)

By Bob Katzen

House 139-16, override Gov. Healey's \$1,530,735 veto reduction (from \$39,250,384 to 37,719,649) in early intervention ser-

vices.

Override supporters said the \$1,530,735 cut will hurt this program which helps infants and toddlers (from birth to 3 years old)

who have developmental delays or are at risk of a developmental delay.

In her veto message, Gov. Healey said, "I am reducing this item to align with

current utilization trends."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1,530,735. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes

Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

### \$2.5 MILLION FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE (H 4240)

By Bob Katzen

The House 147-8, override Gov. Healey's \$2.5 million veto reduction (from 8,864,721 to \$6,364,721) in programs for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

Override supporters said the cut will hurt the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services which oversees the statewide system of prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery support services

for individuals, families and communities affected by substance addiction.

In her veto message, Gov. Healey said, "I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary to support

continued programming. This operating funding overlaps with significant alternative funding sources to support expansions in low-threshold housing units and related supports."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$2.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

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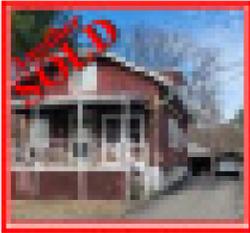


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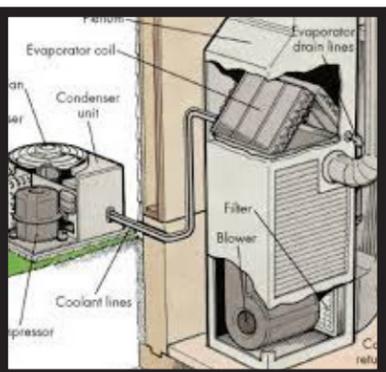
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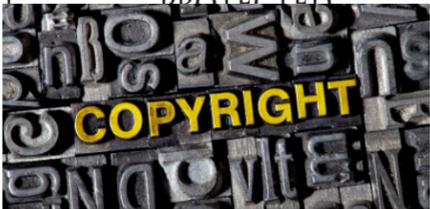
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Here's your weekly News Talk Shout Out dosage continued from page 2



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

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## SomerStreets Closes Out 2025 Season with Spooky “Monster Mash”



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite community members to close

out the 2025 SomerStreets season with a festive and spooky Monster Mash on Sunday, October 19, from 2 to 6 p.m. on Somerville Avenue (School St. to Washington St.). In the event of rain, festivities will take place on Sunday, October 26.

Highlights include:

- Community Halloween Parade led by School of Honk (3:30 p.m.)
- Performances by the Wicked Awesome Dancing Witches of Greater Boston
- Pumpkin carving with Somerville Recreation
- Haunted house and cardboard creations by Monano Arts
- Arts activities with Dani Folds and Culichi Arts
- Performances and movement activities by Cate the Great, Just Felice, Event-Them, and Parkour
- Live music curated by Mass Ave Music at Somerville Ave. & Church St. stage
- Union Square Stage performances by Pluto’s Return, Madalena Silva, and a Vinyl session by NXN – bring your own vinyl

to be spinned!

Food and Vendors:

- Local favorites including Dos Manos Kitchen, Gracie’s Ice Cream, fried dough, and Nibble Kitchen and Makalu Boston
- Artisan goods and vintage finds curated by Blue Bandana Relics and Tiny Turns Paperie

Getting Here & Road Closures:

Somerville Ave. (School St. to Washington St.) closed to all vehicular traffic from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Limited parking available; walking, biking, or transit strongly encouraged

Accessible parking on School St. by Somerville Ave.

MBTA buses rerouted; check MBTA.com for service updates

For more information about SomerStreets, visit somervilleartscouncil.org.

## SALES TAX ON DIGITAL ADVERTISING SERVICES (H 3208)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would impose a 6.25 percent sales tax on digital advertising services that target users in Massachusetts, using tools like IP address or geo-

location. The tax would only apply to companies that make more than \$2.5 million a year from digital ads aimed at Bay State residents.

The funds would be used to

support three key areas: local access TV stations; mental health and safe social media use; and research on artificial intelligence in education.

“Digital advertising brings in

billions of dollars from Massachusetts each year, yet not a single cent is going back to the communities being targeted,” said sponsor Rep. Francisco Paulino (D-Methuen). “Local media outlets, especially com-

munity stations, are struggling to survive while Big Tech keeps growing. This bill is about fairness. If you’re profiting from our residents, you should help fund the programs that serve them.”





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### 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!



### Make Your Voting Plan: Somerville Municipal Election on 11/4



SOMERVILLE- On Tuesday, November 4, 2025, the City of Somerville will hold its Municipal Election. Offices on the ballot include Mayor, Councilor At Large, Ward Councilors, and School Committee members. Local ballot questions also include a question asking

voters to accept or reject the proposed new City Charter and a question on whether to extend the Mayoral term from 2 to 4 years starting no earlier than 2028.

The municipal election is open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on Election Day. Below are reminders as you prepare for November 4.

Register to Vote in the Municipal Election by Friday, October 24

You can register one of three ways:

Online at [somervillema.gov/register2vote](http://somervillema.gov/register2vote)

In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)

By 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, October 24, at midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked by October 24.

Vote Early at City Hall, October 28-30

Vote early in the Municipal Election in the lower level of City Hall from Tuesday, October 28, through Thursday, October 30. The schedule is as follows:

October 28 – Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

October 29 – Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

October 30 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

How to Vote in the Municipal Election by Mail

Vote by Mail application deadline:

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. by Tuesday, November 4

A postmark alone is not sufficient; it must arrive at the Elections Office by the deadline.

Where to get an application:

Download an application or fill it out online at [somervillema.gov/votembymail](http://somervillema.gov/votembymail),

pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or

request one be mailed to you by calling 311 or calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail.

Vote by Mail deadline:

Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 4.

A postmark alone is not sufficient; it must arrive at the Elections Office by the deadline.

Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state's website.

How to return your application and ballot:

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](mailto:vote@somervillema.gov) or faxed to 617-625-5643.

Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

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 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.

Sample Ballots and Ballot Questions Information

Once ready, closer to the election, Sample ballots will be available on [somervillema.gov/elections](http://somervillema.gov/elections)

The text of all local ballot questions will be included on the sample ballots when available

Information on the ballot questions on the proposed charter and mayoral term can be found at [somervillema.gov/charterreview](http://somervillema.gov/charterreview)

For more information about voting in Somerville, go to [somervillema.gov/elections](http://somervillema.gov/elections).

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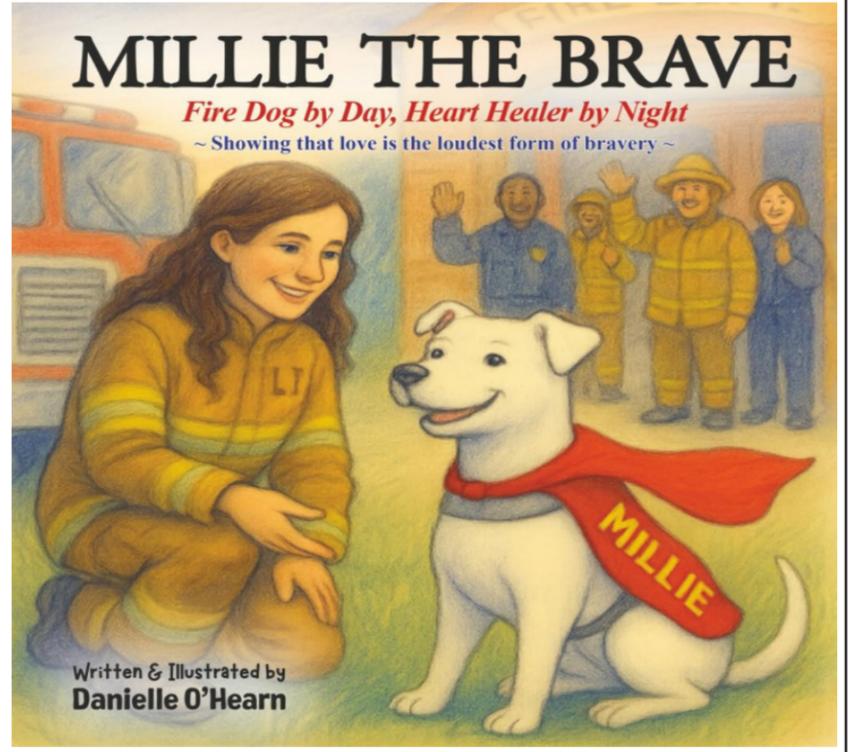
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

Hey Billy My name is Danielle we've met a few times before, I'm a firefighter in Somerville. 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 being 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



EXEMPT RESIDENTIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS FROM THE SALES TAX (S 1982)

By Bob Katzen

This bill would exempt home security systems from the state's 6.25 percent sales tax.

"[The] bill provides a sales tax exemption for residential security systems and related equipment, such as wiring devices and appliances used for access control, surveillance and alarm

systems," said sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "This bill incentivizes and encourages homeowners to more affordably protect their most valuable investment—their homes."

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### \$300,000 FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE BLIND (H 4240)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-0, overrode Gov. Healey's \$300,000 veto reduction (from 8,864,721 to 8,564,721) in programs for the blind.

Override supporters said this funding is important to help the thousands of blind people in the state live better lives, whether they are experiencing current vision loss or have been

blind since their youth.

In her veto message, Gov. Healey said, "I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary. This reduction is not expected to impact planned

programming."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$300,000. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep.

Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyerhoven Yes

### This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES on Beacon Hill

## Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

"The Trump Administration's portrayal of Portland as 'war ravaged' and 'under attack' is inaccurate and inflammatory. By sending in the National Guard, the President is provoking

disorder where it otherwise does not exist. These actions attempt to instill fear in our communities and silence dissent. I stand firmly with Oregon in resisting this egregious abuse of power."

—Attorney General Andrea Campbell joining a coalition of 24 attorneys general and governors in submitting a brief in support of Oregon's challenge to the Trump Administration's attempt to use the military for civil law enforcement.

"Today's event showed just how prevalent PFAS is in many products we use in our daily lives, from cookware to kid's car seats. But we also showed that there are alternatives. Thank-

fully, more information on the harmful impacts of these chemicals, combined with the passage of state laws banning or restricting them, means that PFAS-free versions of many products are now available."

—Deirdre Cummings, Legislative Director for MASSPIRG, at a Statehouse rally against dangerous per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The event included a "show and tell" of common products containing PFAS, such as cookware and child car seats, make-up and personal care products, fabric sprays, paint, outdoor gear and clothing; and similar products that do not.

"Boston Logan Airport is often the first and last

impression that millions of travelers have of Massachusetts, and now, thanks to this new program, it's also one of the most welcoming. We want everyone who travels through Logan to know that we prioritize mental health here in Massachusetts."

—Gov. Healey announcing that passengers at Logan can look forward to meeting some furry friends, thanks to a new program called "BOS PAWS." In partnership with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Massport is introducing trained therapy dogs to the airport to help reduce stress and enhance the overall travel experience.

"Beyond acknowledging the world-class education UMass Lowell provides,

these rankings speak to the university's impressive return on investment, which reflects academics as well a commitment to giving students opportunities for meaningful career-connected experiences that serve as a launchpad for their professional lives."

—UMass Lowell Chancellor Julie Chen on the Wall Street Journal rating UMass Lowell the best public higher-ed institution in Massachusetts, the state's number 1 best value school and Number 1 among all colleges and universities in Massachusetts in fostering social mobility among students.

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#### BID ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites e-bids from DCAM Certified General Contractor in Waterproofing for Building Envelope Concrete Repairs at the (200-2) Mystic River Apartments Development, 30 Memorial Road in Somerville, Massachusetts EOHLIC No. 274172, in accordance with the documents prepared by SOCOTEC AE Consulting Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts. The Project consists of: Concrete repairs to existing Precast Concrete Modular Addition Structures; including but not limited to window sealants replacements, patching of delaminated and spalled concrete, crack repair, and painting and coating of the precast concrete elevations. The work is estimated to cost \$412,750.00 including Alternates. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates

as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by DCAMM pursuant to M.G.L.c. 149 Section 44D. The General Bidder must be certified eligible in the DCAMM Prime/General category in 'WATERPROOFING'. Filed sub-bidders must be certified by DCAMM pursuant to M.G.L.c. 149 Section 44D. The Filed sub-Bidder must be certified eligible in the DCAMM Filed Sub-Bid categories of 'PAINTING' Bid Forms and Contract Documents are available online after Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 2:00 PM at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com). Enter Project Code 871048 in the project locator box and select "Acquire Documents" to download documents. All plan holders must have an active online account on [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) to acquire documents and to receive project notifications. Addenda, if issued, will be posted to the Projectdog website and shall be accompanied by e-mail notification to every individual or firm on record as having received the Contract Documents. This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. Tutorials and Instructions are available

online at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com). For assistance, contact Projectdog Inc. at 978.499.9014. Filed Sub Bids for this project will be accepted from eligible bidders until Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM and will be publicly opened, forthwith online. General Bids for this project will be accepted from eligible bidders until Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 4:00 PM and will be publicly opened, forthwith online. General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), formerly known as SOMWBA. The combined participation benchmark

#### ADVERTISEMENT 2 of 2

reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLIC ([david.mcclave@mass.gov](mailto:david.mcclave@mass.gov)) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED. The successful bidder will be required

to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material (Payment) Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract sum. Bonds shall be obtained from a surety licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the form shall be satisfactory to the Somerville Housing Authority. The cost of such bonds shall be included in the bid price. Attention is directed to the Department of Labor Standards (DLS), a copy of which is included in the Contract Documents, and will be made a part of the Contract. The Awarding Authority is exempt from sales and federal excise tax to the extent permitted under law. Bidders should not include such taxes in figuring or in references to any bid. Bidding procedures and award of the Contract and Subcontracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 149, Sections 44A through 44J inclusive, of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including all current amendments; and the guidelines established by the Deputy Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Assets Management (DCAMM), dated June 30, 1981. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive any irregularities in or to reject any and all bids, if it be in the public interest to do so, and

to act upon the bids and make its award in any lawful manner. All questions and requests for interpretations must be submitted in writing via e-mail to [parul.belsare@socotec.us](mailto:parul.belsare@socotec.us) by the General Bidders until Friday, October 10, 2025, at 4:00 PM. PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Date and Time: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10:00 AM Address: 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145.

Meet at the main entrance of the Administration Building. Attendance at this pre-bid conference is strongly recommended for parties submitting a bid

Brian Langton  
Somerville Housing Authority

Somerville/Medford News Weekly  
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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: Everett-Somerville – Mystic River Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge

Project File No. 612004

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design of the Mystic River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge in Everett and Somerville, MA.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 21st, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed design for the Mystic River Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing the Mystic River and connecting the path networks on the Somerville and Everett sides of the river. The bridge will connect the DCR Draw Seven Park to the Gateway Park trail and public boardwalk at the Encore Resort. The Mystic River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge will provide a vital missing

link between the communities of Everett and Somerville, linking mixed use paths with local amenities including Draw Seven Park, Assembly Row and the Lower Broadway District. The bridge will provide a reliable and safe crossing alternative for bicycle users and pedestrians who wish to utilize the trail networks, access public transportation, and these communities.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 612004. Statements and

exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or post-marked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email

(MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at on the internet at https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events. JONATHAN GULLIVER CARRIE E. LAVALLEE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR CHIEF ENGINEER

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### Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



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

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

#### Blessing Backpack Checklist

<b>BASICS:</b>	<b>TOILETRIES</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat)	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick
<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarf	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer
<b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comb
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	<b>SURVIVAL</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter
<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool
<input type="checkbox"/> Nuts	<b>TREATS:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	<input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates
<input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs
<b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped)
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
<input type="checkbox"/> Stationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum
<input type="checkbox"/> Stamps	<b>SPLURGE:</b>
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### RENAME COLUMBUS DAY (S 2113)

By Bob Katzen

A bill filed by Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) would designate the second Monday in October, now known as Columbus Day, as Indigenous Peoples Day and recommend appropriate exercises in schools to acknowledge the history of genocide and discrimination against Indigenous people.

The State Administration Committee held a hearing on the proposal on June 4 but has not yet taken action on the measure. This year, Columbus Day is on October 13 so any name change, if approved, would have to wait until 2026 to take effect.

“Christopher Columbus did not discover the Americas,” says Comerford. “That long-perpetuated myth — rooted in

racism and violence — has allowed generations to credit a European man with discovering a land already teeming with societies. Indigenous communities and tribal nations in the commonwealth and across the United States call us to act. It is thanks to their courageous truth-telling that we recognize Columbus’ legacy of colonization as one not worthy of memorialization or celebration.”

She continued, “Massachusetts remains one of only 15 states that still singularly observes the second Monday in October as Columbus Day. Currently, 35 U.S. states and territories have chosen a different path — recognizing Native American or Indigenous Peoples Day solely or in conjunction with Columbus Day, or by moving away from the holiday altogether. In

2021, Former President Joe Biden became the first U.S. president to formally recognize Indigenous Peoples Day. It’s time for Massachusetts to do the same. Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day is an act of respect, recognition, and reconciliation. It honors the first stewards of this land — past, present, and future.”

### BAN MASK USE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT (HD 4886)

By Bob Katzen

Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro) has filed a bill that would prohibit police and other law enforcement officers from wearing masks or personal disguises while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties. The measure was referred to the Judiciary Committee and the date

for a public hearing on the proposal has not yet been set.

“Reports are on the rise and becoming increasingly alarming of masked, non-identifying individuals and groups approaching and disappearing people throughout the country,” said Hawkins. “This behavior erodes public trust, which ul-

timately puts everyone, including law enforcement officers, at risk. It’s unscrupulous, unethical and leads to further threats to democracy, deeply harming our communities. The traumatic experience of unwarranted and aggressive approaches by masked strangers, especially for women and girls, has proven terrifying. Often, they are in unmarked

vehicles, stalking our neighborhoods and failing to produce a valid judicial warrant or explanation.”

Hawkins continued, “Spokespersons for ICE and the current administration have tried to frame our bill as an attempt to grant sanctuary to dangerous criminals and intentionally put law enforcement personnel

in harm’s way. The truth is contrary. This bill is a step toward mending the divide and fostering trust between law enforcement officers and the public. With transparency, identification and reason, there should be no need for disguises while performing their duties to the communities they serve.”

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## Ribbon Cutting for Central Hill Veterans Vietnam & Korean Wars Memorial on 10/16

SOMERVILLE— Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen invite community members to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the reinstallation of the Vietnam and Korean Wars Memorials on Central Hill.

The ceremony, co-hosted by and the Somerville Department of Veterans' Services and Public Space and Urban Forestry Division, will take place on Thursday, October 16, from 1 to 2 p.m., on the lawn in front of Somer-

ville High School (81 Highland Ave.). The rain date is Tuesday, October 21, from 11 a.m. to noon.

"I want to thank the veterans and community members who developed a vision for this memorial that not only respectfully honors our fellow community members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of our nation but also creates a peaceful contemplative space to remember and reflect," said Mayor Ballantyne.

The Central Hill Veterans

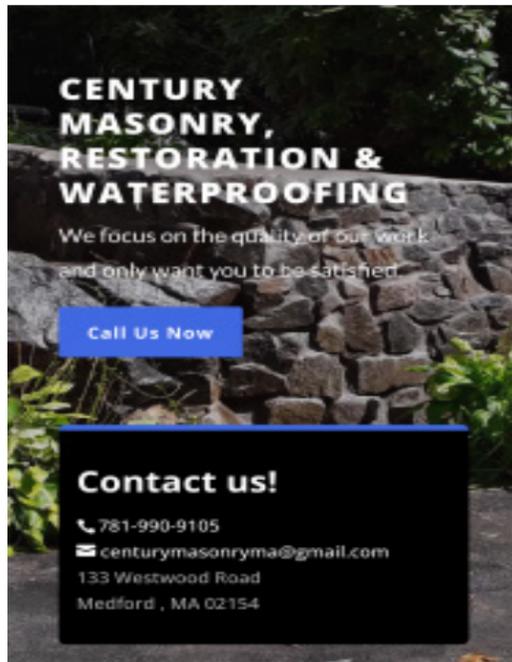
Memorials restoration project was a component of the new Somerville High School campus design. Coming out of an extensive community process, the vision for the site includes a memorial walk with reflective spaces honoring veterans in chronological order.

To learn more, visit [voice.somervillema.gov/central-hill-memorials](http://voice.somervillema.gov/central-hill-memorials).



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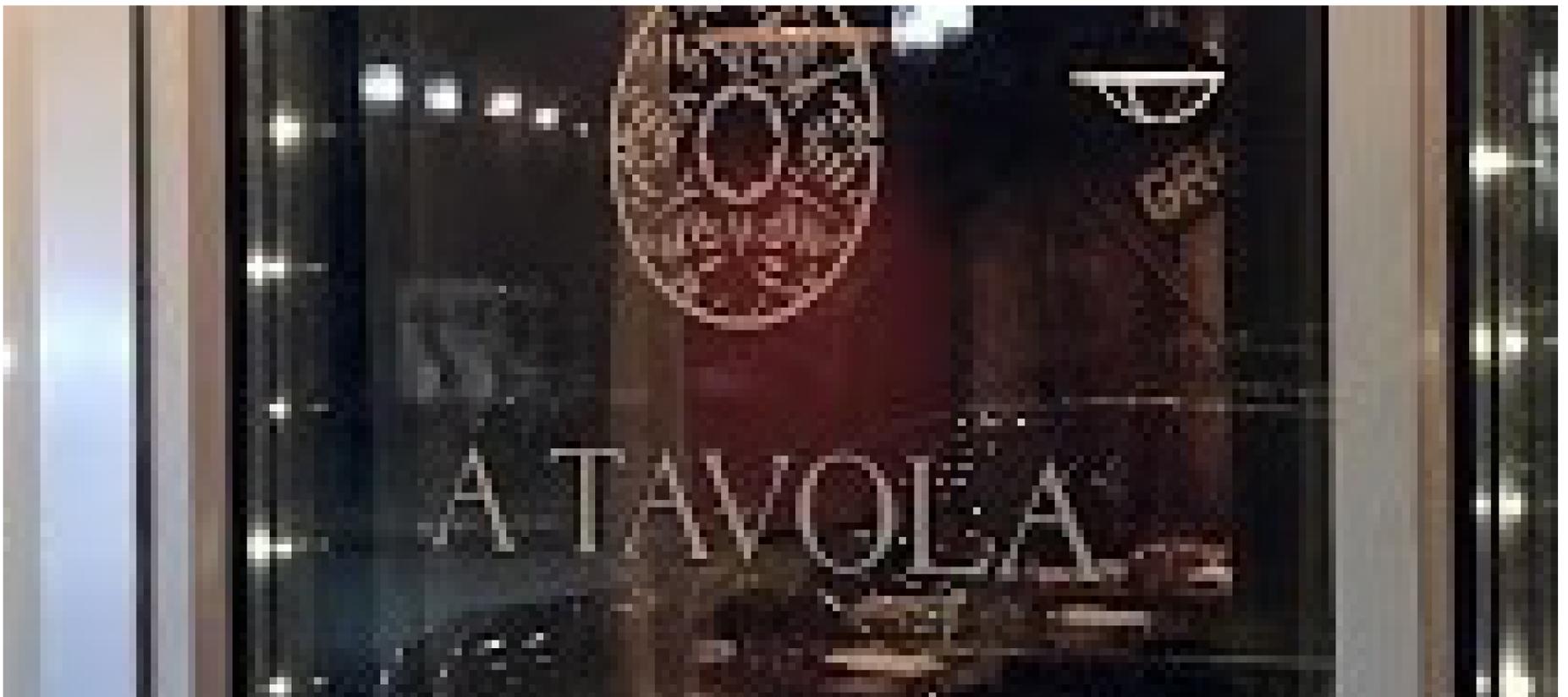
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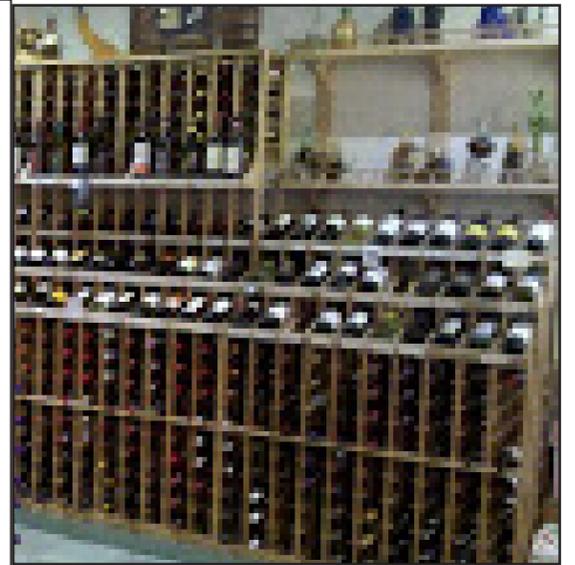


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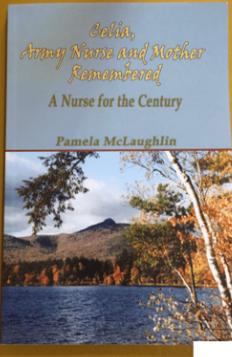
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