



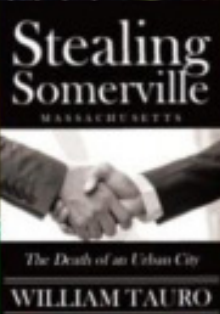




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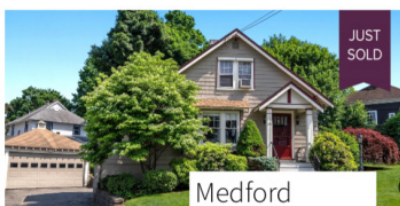
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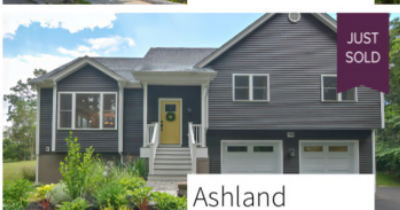
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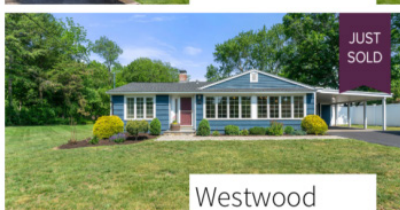
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Diane M. Bettosi



Obituary

Diane M. Bettosi – Of Medford, passed away on Monday, November 3, 2025. She was 69 years young.

Born in Stoneham, she was the beloved daughter of the late Donald R. Bettosi and his wife Shirley, and

the late Ruth (Annal) Bettosi. Diane was known for her warm smile and joyful spirit. She had a heart of gold and always made sure those around her were smiling too. Diane had a strong work ethic and dedicated many years to her career in food service at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, where she was loved by


coworkers and visitors alike for her kindness and cheerful personality. In her spare time, Diane enjoyed knitting and crocheting.

Devoted sister of Donald G. Bettosi of Medford, Frank Bettosi of Dudley, Donna Bettosi of RI and Elizabeth Bettosi. Cherished step

sister of Rita Stevens, Frank Barry and Maria Stevens. Also survived by many loving friends and extended family members.

Diane was laid to rest privately at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Rosanne M. Procopio



Rosanne M. Procopio – Of Somerville, passed away on Sunday, November 2, 2025. She was 82 years old.

Complete obit to be posted.

A Funeral Service will be held on Saturday November 22 in the Paulist

Center 5 Park St., Boston at 10:00AM. A visitation will be held prior to the funeral service in the church from 9:00AM to 10:00AM.

Interment will be private.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Maria Arcangela ‘Angelica’ Paribello (née Vitiello)



Obituary

Maria Arcangela ‘Angelica’ Paribello (née Vitiello), 83, entered into eternal rest surrounded by family on October 30, 2025, in Burlington, Massachusetts. Born on April 3, 1942, in Gaeta, Italy, Maria brought with her the warmth and enduring traditions of her homeland when she made a life in the United States with her family. For 51 years, Maria was a devoted wife to Guido Paribello, and together they made their

home in Somerville, Massachusetts. She was a loving mother to her daughters Teresa Paribello and Rosanna Paribello.

Her family was the heart of her world, and she cherished every moment spent with them. Maria was also a proud and doting grandmother to Dre Sousa, Anthony Anastasia, Colin and Angelica Smith, each of whom brought her immense joy in her later life.

Maria is lovingly remembered by her siblings: Franco Vitiello (Camille), Giovanni Vitiello, Lidia Vitiello (Steven Santoro), Angelo Vitiello (Danica) and cousin Franca Capobianco (Alfredo Buono) of Gaeta, Italy. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews and in-laws in Naples and Rome, Italy. She now joins in eternal rest her beloved parents Antonio and Rosalia (Capobi-

anco) Vitiello and oldest brother Angelino Vitiello. Throughout her life, Maria embraced many roles with grace and dedication. She worked as a seamstress at Forecaster in dining services at Tufts University, and as a homemaker with the elderly. Yet it was in caring for her home and family that she found her greatest fulfillment. Her culinary talents were especially treasured—her cooking and baking were legendary among those who knew her. Sundays were marked by the comforting aroma of her homemade tomato sauce filling the house, a tradition that became a beloved ritual. Maria’s vibrant spirit was evident in the many hobbies she enjoyed. She loved sewing and knitting, taking walks to Davis Square, and traveling—especially returning to Italy and spending summers down the cape. She found joy in simple pleasures: talking on the phone with loved ones, danc-


ing, singing along to favorite tunes, watching Rai or her telenovelas, and treating herself to manicures. She took great pride in decorating for holidays and special occasions. Tiellas, Easter cakes, biscotti, and freshly baked bread could always be smelled up and down Lowell Street. Maria also enjoyed shopping and Sunday dinner with family and friends. Her deep love for animals was clear—she cared for dogs, cats and fed birds in her backyard with leftover bread, honoring her belief that wasting bread was a sin. Her Catholic faith was central to her life. A devout parishioner of St. Catherine’s of Genoa Church, she attended Mass and prayed faithfully. She held deep reverence for Padre Pio, St. Anthony, and the Virgin Mary—who guided her spiritual journey throughout life. Those who knew Maria remember her as kind-hearted and generous with both time and spirit; funny

with impeccable timing; helpful without hesitation; meticulous in all she did; and deeply caring toward everyone around her. Her legacy lives on not only through the feasts she lovingly prepared or the stories she shared but through the values she instilled in those fortunate enough to know her. May Maria Arcangela Paribello’s memory be a blessing and bring comfort to all whose lives she touched

Calling Hours will be held on Wednesday, November 12th in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville from 8:30AM to 10:30AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Catherine Church, 179 Summer St. Somerville at 11:00AM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Lawrence S. Bova



Obituary

Lawrence S. Bova Of Medford, passed away on November 6, 2025. Loving son of the late Anthony and Anna (Gruca) Bova. Devoted to his wife of 58 years, Maryann (Maguire) and daughter, Marie Bova of Stoneham.

Predeceased by his sister, Catherine Eckert (2021), survived by his brother Anthony and his wife Anita Bova, nephew Donald and his wife Christine Bova and niece, Terri Bova-Powell, of Colorado.

Fondly remembered for his advice to his beloved nephews, Richie (and his late wife, Barbara), Charlie (Rochelle),Anthony, Robert, Glenn, Stephen, and John Eckert. His cherished niece, who is always punctual because he taught her how to tell time, Debbie Kasper (and her husband Johnny).

Survived by his extended family, nieces, great nieces and nephews, and great nephew namesake, Dustin Lawrence Frost of Colorado.

He leaves his loving sister-in-law Joannie Riley (her husband Mike), nephew, Michael Riley (his wife Amy, and great nieces, Reese and Maren) of California and nephew, Kenny Riley (and his wife, Tasha) of Texas.


A firefighter in Medford for over thirty years, he climbed the ranks to Deputy with his unwavering work ethic. Back at the firehouse, you could find him initiating a round of street name flash cards for everyone to memorize locations and

quickly answer the call, when the alarm sounded.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, November 13th at 10:00 am at Oak Grove Cemetery, 230 Playstead Road, Medford. Please meet directly at the main gate.

A life lived with the most generous of hearts, please remember Larry by donating to the charity of your choice.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Monica M. (Campo) Stepanian



Obituary

Monica M. (Campo) Stepanian – Of Somerville, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Friday, November 7, 2025. She was 58 years young.

Born, raised, and educated in Somerville, she was the beloved daughter of the late Robert V. and Joan M. (Burke) Campo. Monica was a kind and compas-

sionate soul who found great joy in helping others. Seeing someone smile or hearing a simple thank you made her heart full.

Monica was also a talented figure skater. When she was on the ice, she felt truly at home; as if the rest of the world faded away. Beyond skating, she had a deep love for her family, especially her two boys, who were the light of her

life and her greatest joy. She was an avid Boston Bruins fan and a gifted cook who loved bringing people together around a good meal.

Beloved mother of Richard Stepanian Jr., and Thomas Stepanian. Wife of Richard Stepanian. Cherished sister of Joan M. McKenna and her late husband Michael of Somerville, and the late

Robert V. Campo Jr., Christopher J. Campo, James M. Campo. The loving aunt of Kevin McKenna, Sean McKenna, Marc McKenna, Michael McKenna, the late Denis McKenna, Nicole Campo, Michael Campo and many other nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in the spring.





Somerville Police Department News Updates

Members of the Somerville Police Department were honored to help serve the veterans of the Mass Bay Veterans Shelter at 2 North Street, giving back to those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

We've built a strong relationship with the shelter over the years, and we remain committed to supporting our veterans and our community in any way we can.



Medford Firefighters Local 1032 News Updates

Medford Local 1032 are proud to induct 5 new members into our union. Fire fighters Matt Santos, Liam Brennan, Brian Paone, Cole Brennan and Paul Covelle. We will be also swearing in 3 others members at next union meeting due to working their 24 hour shift they could not make it.

FF James Davey, Nick Grassia, and Tony Ortiz) welcome to the best family in the world and best job in the world. We promise to have you and your families back forever...Local 1032



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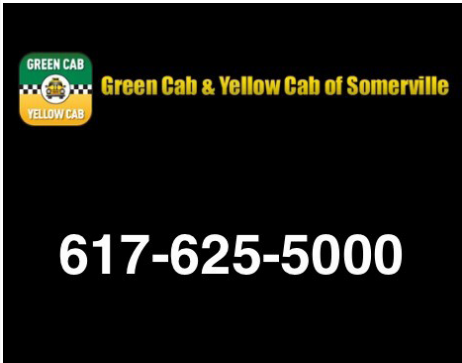
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HOME CARE (H 4706)

By Bob Katzen

The House 153-1, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would establish a licensure process for home care agencies that supporters say will ensure that consumers receive quality non-medical services, and that home care workers are protected.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) would implement the licensure process and have the authority to approve licenses, survey and investigate home care agencies and impose fines. The measure also would require EOHHS to conduct a suitability review for all licensure applicants, including for all individuals with at least a 5 percent ownership interest in the agency; review applicants to ensure that they have sufficient financial capacity to provide a minimum standard of care; and require EOHHS to publish a list of all licensed home care agencies on its website.

Other provisions require minimum standards for home care workers by mandating several background

screening checks on them; training and competency requirements for home care workers including confidentiality and privacy rights of home care consumers; infection control and communicable diseases; handling of emergencies, including safety and falls prevention; identifying and reporting suspected abuse, neglect or theft; and understanding Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, including person-centered care, activities of daily living, safety and dementia-related behaviors and communication.

The legislation implements workforce protections for employees including establishing procedures to ensure home care workers have safe working conditions, adequate training and a process for submitting complaints; requiring licensed home care agencies to have coverage for worker’s compensation and liability insurance; creation of the Home Care Worker and Consumer Abuse Stakeholder Advisory Committee to study and make recommendations on standards and procedures for addressing abusive treatment, including physical, verbal,

mental abuse and bullying of home care workers, personal care assistants, home care consumers and family members; and informing home care workers of potentially unsafe working environments.

“This legislation could not have been passed at a more critical time,” said Rep. Tom Stanley (D-Waltham), House Chair of the Committee on Aging and Independence. “With our aging population expected to grow exponentially in the coming years and the number of family caregivers shrinking, the demand for home care will subsequently increase. It is critical for the commonwealth to have the proper standards and protections in place for home care agencies to ensure consumers receive quality care and our dedicated home care workers are properly trained and supported in the field.”

“With persistent staffing shortages and projections of growing need, urgent legislative action is needed to establish improved oversight over home care agency employers, better prepare to meet future care

demands and to reduce the far-too-common abuse and workplace bullying of home care workers and/or their consumer clients,” said Cari Medina, Executive Vice President of 1199SEIU, the union which represents more than 60,000 home care worker members. “[We] strongly support this bill to establish a new state process for the licensure of Massachusetts home care agencies, to implement improved operational standards for these agencies and to direct the adoption of new minimum standards and operational procedures for addressing abusive treatment and bullying of home care workers and/or their consumers.”

Betsey Crimmins, Executive Director of Mass Aging Access, said that Mass Aging Access and its statewide network of 24 Aging Services Access Points strongly support the bill.

“Massachusetts does not license non-medical home care services, even though these services are essential to helping older adults and people with disabilities live safely and independently in their own homes, resulting

in better health outcomes and an improved quality of life,” said Crimmins. “The passage of [this legislation] will fill longstanding gaps in the commonwealth’s current system, bring Massachusetts in line with the majority of other states and strengthen our long-term services and supports network.”

Rep. John Gaskey (R-Carver), the only representative to vote against the bill, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him why he opposed the measure.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill. A “No” vote is against it.)

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

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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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.





Somerville/Medford Remembering Dennis Connolly



**Obituary**  
Dennis Connolly- Of Medford, passed away on Sunday, November 9, 2025. He was 79 years old.

A funeral mass will be celebrated in St. Raphael Church, 512 High St. Medford on Friday, November 14th at 10:00AM. Please meet directly at church.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder house Sq.) Somerville on Thursday, November 13th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Dennis’ name Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

PROHIBIT REVOCATION OF, DENIAL OF OR REFUSAL TO RENEW A STATE-ISSUED PROFESSIONAL LICENSE AS A RESULT OF STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT DELINQUENCY (S 2139)

By Bob Katzen

The State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee’s hearing included a proposed measure that would repeal the state’s current law that allows for professional licenses to be revoked from, denied to or refused to be renewed for individuals due to

a delinquent student loan. Under the terms of the proposed measure, with the exception of the Division of Banks, no state board of registration or agency would be permitted to revoke, deny or refuse to renew any professional license.

Under current state law, a borrower’s state-issued professional license cannot

be revoked from, denied to or refuse to be renewed for only a borrower who is in default on an education loan. It does not exempt students who are delinquent but have not yet defaulted.

Many professionals including electricians, plumbers, accountants, real estate appraisers, real estate brokers and

massage therapists are required to be licensed by the state.

“This is a commonsense bill that would extend those unemployment protections to individuals who are behind on their student loan payments,” said sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “It ensures they don’t fall further behind,

or risk defaulting, if their professional license is at risk of being withheld.”

BREASTFEEDING AND JURY DUTY (H 2021)

By Bob Katzen

The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on legislation that would exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury duty.

Supporters said that current law only allows breastfeeding mothers to delay jury duty up to one year with a medical exemption.


“Jury duty is a civic

responsibility that is a crucial component of our justice system and democracy,” said sponsor Rep. Steven Ultrino (D-Malden). “But breastfeeding parents should not have to jump through excessive

administrative hoops simply to request an exemption or postponement. Currently, breastfeeding parents are not guaranteed opportunity for postponement or a hardship transfer to a more convenient

location to complete their juror service. This bill will ensure that our court system becomes more family-friendly and does not pose an undue burden on new parents and their infants.”

Somerville’s Hazardous and Yard Waste Pickup Deadlines Approaching



Last day for hazardous waste drop-off Saturday 11/8

Last week for yard waste

pickup 12/8-12/12

SOMERVILLE – The Somerville Department of Public Works (DPW) wishes to remind residents that the last days for hazardous and yard waste collection this season are quickly approaching. DPW collection of these materials will resume in Spring 2026 as per the usual seasonal cycle.

Hazardous Waste

The last day to drop off hazardous waste this fall at the DPW yard (1 Franey Road) is Saturday, November 8, 2025. Drop-offs will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Accepted hazardous waste materials include motor oil, aerosol paint, household cleaning chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and more. Proof of residence

such as a driver’s license or utility bill is required. Waste materials should be placed in sturdy boxes and not in loose or plastic bags. For more information on materials accepted and how to safely prep them, visit [somervillema.gov/HazWaste](http://somervillema.gov/HazWaste) or download the Somerville Waste Wizard ([somervillema.gov/wastewizard](http://somervillema.gov/wastewizard)) app for Android or Apple phones.

Yard Waste

The week for yard waste collection will be Monday to Friday, December 8-12, 2025. Yard waste can be left out for pickup by DPW on residents’ scheduled trash collection days. Please note: yard waste cannot be collected if it is put in plastic bags.

To learn more, please visit [somervillema.gov/trash](http://somervillema.gov/trash) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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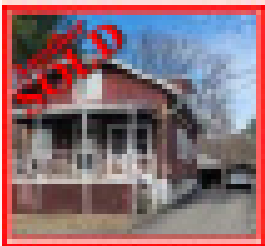
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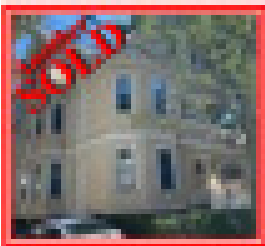
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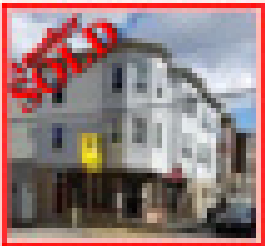
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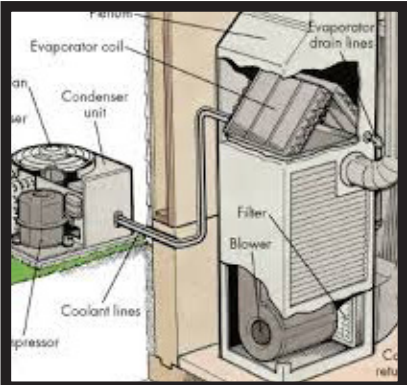
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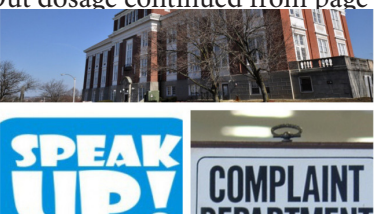
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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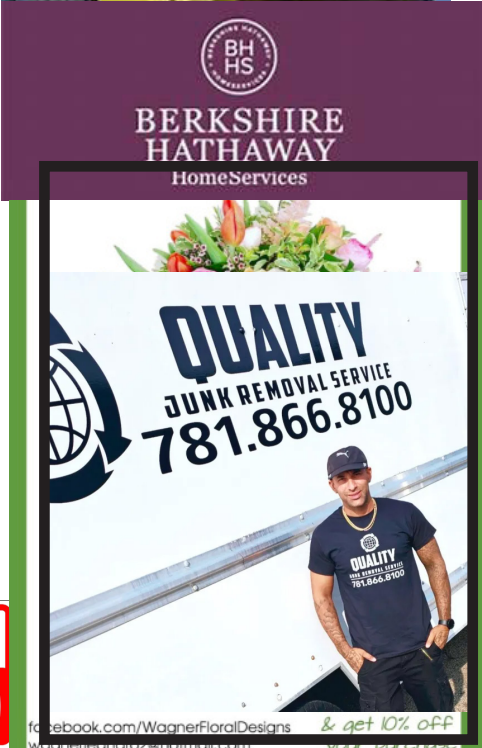
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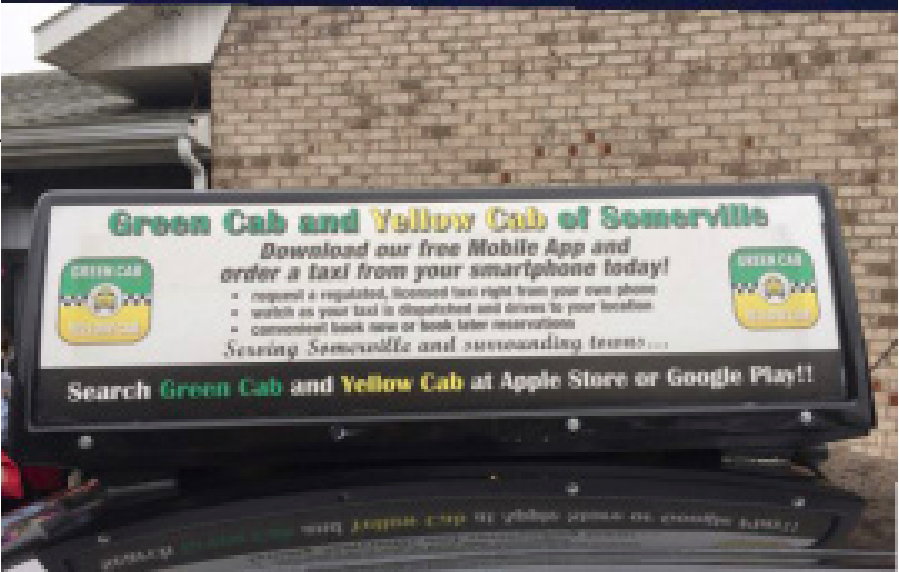




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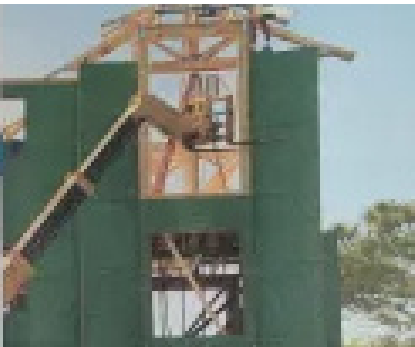

Instant specializes in repairing zippers, on luggage and hand bags, as well as shoe repair services such as stretching, resoling, and re-heeling. The store also stocks items ranging from blankets, to perfumes, jeans, belts, jackets and socks






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RECORDING OR BROADCASTING WHILE DRIVING

By Bob Katzen

PROHIBIT The Transportation Committee’s agenda also included a bill, known as Charlie’s Law, which would prohibit anyone from video recording or broadcasting live while driving a vehicle.

“I filed this legislation to honor

my constituent, Charlie Braun of Northampton – a beloved partner, father, grandfather and community member – who was struck and killed by a motor vehicle while riding his bicycle,” said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “Reports indicate that the driver of the vehicle was engaged in a FaceTime conversation while

driving. Charlie’s tragic death underscored a gap that remains in our distracted driving laws, one that this bill seeks to close.”

Comerford continued, “In recent years, there has been a rapid rise in what’s known as ‘vlogging,’ or video recording or live broadcasting, while behind the wheel. A 2021 report from

State Farm’s Auto Insurance Research Department found that between 2015 and 2020, the number of drivers recording videos while driving more than doubled, from 10 percent to nearly one in four. The data are particularly troubling among younger drivers: 44 percent of drivers aged 18 to 29 and 37 percent of those aged 30 to 39,

reported recording videos while driving. Other states, including Georgia, Arizona, Tennessee and Utah, have taken action to explicitly prohibit this behavior. Massachusetts should do the same.”

GRADUATE STUDENTS AND FAMILY LEAVE AND UNEMPLOYMENT (S 747)

By Bob Katzen

The Financial Services Committee held a hearing on a measure that would strike the exclusion of graduate student workers from the definition of “employee” in order to allow for gradu-

ate student workers to have access to paid family and medical leave and unemployment insurance.

“Graduate students are workers, plain and simple, oftentimes with families,

mortgage and the same health, economic and life challenges that most working people face,” said sponsor Sen. Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough). “They put in long hours and perform critical work. Despite the fact that they are working

for educational institutions with abundant endowments, many don’t have the same paid family and medical leave and unemployment insurance benefits that are afforded other hard-working people in the commonwealth. This bill would right-

fully close that loophole and allow them the same rights as everyone else.”





## Join the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities



SOMERVILLE – The City of

Somerville is seeking three (3) new members to join the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD). If you're passionate about making sure the vital protections in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals with disabilities are preserved, this is a great opportunity to make an impact.

What is the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities?  
The Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to ensuring equity and inclusion for Somerville residents, workers, and visitors. The SCPD works closely with

the City's Department of Racial and Social Justice and ADA Coordinator to carry out its mission and ensure all are welcomed.

**Who Can Join?**  
Eligible applicants for the current vacancies must be residents of Somerville and identify as a person with a disability or a family member of a person with a disability.

**What is the Time Commitment?**  
Currently, the SCPD conducts hybrid meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., with meetings typically lasting around two

hours. Additional time for review of documents and occasional special meetings may be needed, for an estimated additional three hours per month. These are volunteer positions.

What is the Appointment Process? Members are appointed to three-year terms in a volunteer capacity. The SCPD is composed of 12 commissioners, with all members appointed by the Mayor following an interview panel.

How Do I Apply?  
Applications via the jotform: form.  
jotform.com/252803350912148

should include contact information and a letter of intent. Resumes are helpful but not required. All applications must be received by Wednesday, November 26.

To apply, please visit: [form.jotform.com/252803350912148](http://form.jotform.com/252803350912148)

For questions about the process, the application, or more information, please contact Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator, [ADA@somervillema.gov](mailto:ADA@somervillema.gov) or 617-625-6600 x 2059.

## Somerville Adds 10 Inclusive Swings at Playgrounds Citywide; Ribbon Cutting 11/17



Ribbon cutting for final swing installation at Hoyt Playground on Monday, November 17, at 10 a.m.

SOMERVILLE – Mayor  
Katjana Ballantyne, and the

Somerville Parks and Urban Forestry Division (PSUF) are inviting community members to a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of an important accessibility project bringing 10 new inclusive swings to playgrounds across Somerville, increasing the percentage of City parks with inclusive swings from 39% to 83%.

The ribbon cutting will be held on Monday, November 17, at 10 a.m. at Hoyt Sullivan Playground (117 Central St.). In the event of inclement weather, the ribbon-cutting ceremony

will be held on Thursday, November 20, at 3 p.m.

“Somerville is committed to ensuring that all children can play, grow, and connect in our public spaces,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “By expanding inclusive play opportunities citywide, we’re strengthening accessibility and belonging for every family. I want to thank the Commission for Persons with Disabilities for advocating for this project and our Public Space, Racial and Social Justice, and Public Works teams for making it happen.”

**About the Project**  
Initiated and funded by the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the inclusive swing installation was led by PSUF in collaboration with the City's Department of Racial and Social Justice and the Department of Public Works.

Informed by survey input from the disability community, the project prioritized sites where there were no existing inclusive swings, duplicate infant swings, or opportunities

to safely retrofit playgrounds with appropriate surfacing and fall zones.

The new swings meet modern safety standards and third-party conformance testing. Designed for children ages 2 to 12, they include a hard harness and an additional belt harness option for younger users that requires adult supervision.

Caregivers of Somerville children who require a belt harness may contact Meg Koglin at [mkoglin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mkoglin@somervillema.gov) or by calling 311.

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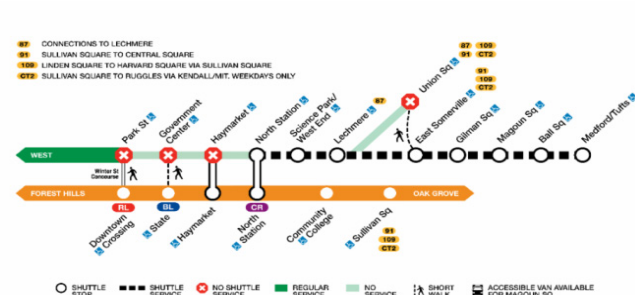
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Green Line Will Be Suspended Between Park Street and Union Square, Medford/ Tufts from November 4 at 8 PM Through November 13



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This service change is taking place to continue work to install Green Line Train Protection System infrastructure.

BOSTON – The MBTA is today reminding riders that Green Line service will be suspended between Park Street and Union Square as well as Medford/ Tufts beginning at approximately 8 PM through the end of service on Tuesday, November 4, and continuing for the following nine days, November 5 – 13.

The MBTA will perform continued

change.

Free and accessible shuttle bus service will replace trains between North Station and Medford/Tufts.

Riders using the shuttles buses should budget ample extra travel time. For example, a rider travelling to Park St from Medford/Tufts should budget at least an additional 45 minutes of travel in additional to their regular commute.

There will be no shuttle bus service between Park Street and North Station. Riders can instead utilize parallel Orange Line service between North Station and Downtown Crossing for service through the downtown area.

Riders are reminded that Orange Line / Green Line connections can be made via the Winter Street Concourse, which connects Park Street and Downtown Crossing.

Riders should note there will be no shuttle bus service to Union Square.

Green Line Union Square Branch riders can instead use area bus routes:

Route 109 is the best alternative for riders. As a Frequent Bus Route operating every 15 minutes or better, the 109 operates between Union Square and East Somerville on the Medford Branch. Route 109 also connects to Sullivan Square on the Orange Line and to Harvard on the Red Line for a faster travel time to downtown Boston.

Riders may also utilize Route 91 between Union Square and East Somerville on the Medford Branch. The 91 also connects to Sullivan Square on the Orange Line and Central on the Red Line for a faster travel time to downtown Boston.

Riders may also utilize Route 87 between Union Square and Lechmere.

Accessible van service will be available at Magoun Square. Riders can request this service by seeing onsite personnel.

Cleveland Circle Branch riders should note that C Branch service will begin and terminate at Kenmore during this service change.

More information is also available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/GreenLine or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook / TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.





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!



MORE SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES (S 2709)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would provide enhanced safety, stability and educational opportunities for military families, and position the Bay State for greater federal defense investment and economic growth around its six military bases.

The bill would guarantee that a child of a military family would retain a seat in the classroom at their current school in Massachusetts, even if their parent or guardian is temporarily transferred elsewhere on official orders. If a military family moves permanently and arrives in a Massachusetts community, the bill also requires a timely and seamless transition for students who receive special education services.

Other provisions allow certain information from the military to be admissible as evidence in state courts for people seeking temporary domestic violence restraining orders; allow for federal judges to transfer juvenile cases to Massachusetts courts for offenses that occur on military bases; and direct National Guard leadership to track and report suicide data among veterans of the Massachusetts National Guard.

Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), Senate Chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, said the bill bolsters the way that Massachusetts cares for its military families and in turn helps improve our Department of Defense scorecard to maintain critical federal military investments in our state.

“As we approach Veterans Day, I am incredibly proud to be a part of a legislative body that prioritizes not only our veterans and servicemembers but also our military families as well,” said Velis. “At the end of the day, my focus as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs continues to be on ensuring that our commonwealth is not only the very best state for a veteran to call home, but also a welcoming and supportive home for our active-duty service members and their families.”

“I’m proud that Massachusetts continues to seek out ways to support our active military members and veterans and their families,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “In advance of Veterans Day, it was important that the Senate

reinforce our commitment to meeting veterans, active military members and their families where they are and provide support to those who have served and are serving our nation.”

“Military families very often face difficult situations when parents are called to duty, never knowing when or where their service to our country will take them,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “This bill will help create a more stable environment for military serving families by ensuring continuous education and a smooth transition for special education services when changing school districts.”

“I have seen firsthand the power of legislation that seeks to improve the lives of

our military and military-connected families,” said Jeffrey Chin, Executive Director of Blue Star Families of New England. “[The bill] will provide our military families a vital component that has all too often been missing in their ability to properly provide educational resources for their children. These families are often required to move to various duty stations as part of their duty and lifestyle, and this legislation will allow our military families to access the same choices that non-military families have available to them with regard to schools and access to appropriate educational resources for their children.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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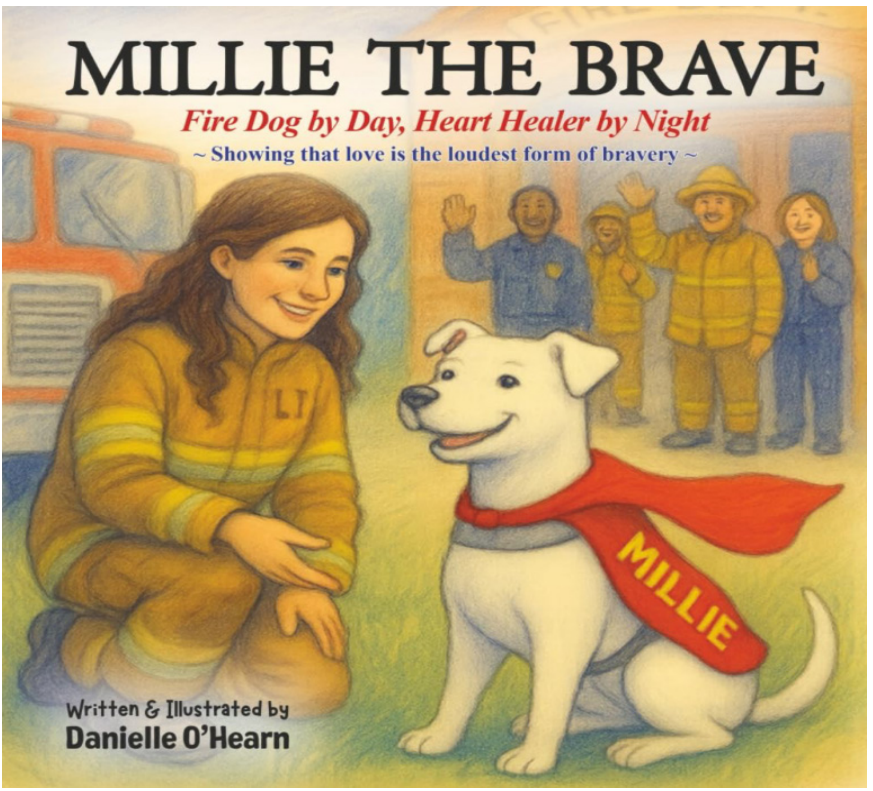
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Hey Billy  
My name is Danielle we've met a few times before, I'm a firefighter in Somerville. I just came out with a children's book.

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>



CHANGE ARCHAIC LANGUAGE REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (H 4704)

By Bob Katzen

The House 152-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would modernize and remove archaic language in state laws to reflect the evolution of terminology relating to persons with disabilities. The Senate has already approved a different version of the measure, and the House version now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Changes include replacing “handicapped persons” with “persons with disabilities;” replacing “the mentally retarded” with “persons with an intellectual disability;” replacing “retarded children” with “children with an intellectual disability;” and replacing “disabled American veterans” with “American veterans with disabilities.”

“As lawmakers, we know that words matter,” said Speaker of the House Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “This legislation is our latest effort to ensure that our state laws do not use antiquated words that carry negative connotations, words that also serve as a reminder of past injustices.”

“Removing out-of-date and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws to describe people with disabilities is an important step in ensuring that our values are also reflected in our statutes,”

said Rep. Jay Livingstone (D-Boston), House Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. “As legislators, it is our job to help make sure that people with intellectual or developmental disabilities feel included, accepted and embraced for who they are, and this is an important step in doing so.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Conolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytendaele Yes

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Join the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is seeking one new youth member to join

the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee. If you're passionate about protecting and cultivating our local urban forest, this is a great opportunity to make an impact.

**What is the Urban Forestry Committee?**  
The Urban Forestry Committee provides public guidance, builds support, and engages in outreach to help protect and cultivate all of Somerville's trees citywide, which is called our urban forest. We are your concerned neighbors, advocates, environmental professionals, and community partners working together to foster an equitable urban forest. Together

we will grow a healthy and resilient forest for the future.

**Who Can Join?**  
Any Somerville youth between the ages of 14 and 17 may apply for this vacancy.

**What is the Time Commitment?**  
The committee meets virtually once per month, typically on the third Thursday of the month, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Committee members occasionally develop educational materials, prepare and conduct community presentations, attend site visits, or support City staff during Arbor Day celebrations. Overall

time commitment is expected to be 2-5 hours per month.

**What is the Appointment Process?**  
Committee members are selected by the Mayor and appointed by the City Council.

**How Do I Apply?**  
To apply, please submit a brief statement of interest by the end of the day on Monday, December 1, 2025. Your statement can simply be a paragraph on what inspires you to want to join and why you feel you would be a good addition to the committee.

**Where to Apply:**  
Apply via email or U.S. Mail to:  
Email: vboukili@somervillema.gov  
Mail: Attn: Vanessa Boukili, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02145  
Drop off: At the City Hall Welcome Desk, in the main entrance of City Hall, in a sealed envelope addressed to Vanessa Boukili, Public Space and Urban Forestry

For questions or more information, contact Vanessa Boukili at vboukili@somervillema.gov or by calling 617-625-6600 x 2516 or call 311 (617-666-3311).

GUARD MEMBERS MUST FOLLOW ONLY LAWFUL ORDERS (S 2675)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 38-0, approved an amendment that would require that Massachusetts National Guard service members undergo training on their obligation to follow only lawful orders and that they receive guidance on

how to respond to orders that violate Americans' constitutional or statutory rights.

"National Guard troops across the country are being asked to violate the sovereignty of other states and the constitutional rights of ordinary Americans

by a president who wants to use them like pawns in his game of intimidation," said amendment sponsor Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). "This amendment is simple. By creating a comprehensive training curriculum for servicemembers, Massachusetts is empowering our National

Guard with the knowledge they need to determine, in the event that they are federalized, whether the orders they receive are lawful. The rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution are non-negotiable – the commonwealth of Massachusetts will not let our

Guard be illegally used against its own people."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

DUTIES OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL (S 2675)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 38-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would clarify the duties of the state's Adjutant General. The measure provides that the Adjutant General, Massachusetts' highest-ranking military office, has command of all troops in the state National Guard while carrying out the orders of the governor. The bill

also brings state laws about the National Guard chain of command into line with the model used by the vast majority of other states.

"The legislation currently before us ... seeks to make a technical change to streamline our National Guard's chain of command structure and bring Massachusetts in line with the vast majority of our sister states," said Sen. John

Velis (D-Westfield). "As currently written, [Massachusetts law] states that the Adjutant General shall not personally exercise command of troops."

Velis continued, "This legislation clarifies that the Adjutant General, in carrying out the policies and orders of the governor, has command of all Massachusetts National Guard troops — ensuring that the leadership of the Guard is

unified and capable of implementing directives with precision. Currently, the Adjutant General lacks the clear statutory authority to personally command our troops during state missions. This gap can cause confusion in command structure and limits the Adjutant General from enforcing the Massachusetts code of military justice."

"It [is] important to make a

technical clarification to the command structure of the Massachusetts National Guard that brings us in line with most other states," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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Somerville’s Newest Art Installation is Alive and Made From Your Neighbors’ Stories



Living art installation at Lou Ann David Park Will be on view (and growing) through Spring 2026. Community invited to public reception on Saturday, November 8

SOMERVILLE – A new public artwork in Somerville being

installed this week will soon literally be growing in Somerville’s Lou Ann David Park. Local artist Anna Fubini gathered the voices of Somerville residents through a writing process centered on themes of impermanence, transformation, renewal, and resilience. Her artwork, Letters Rewoven, transforms participants’ writings into paper pulp mixed with wildflower seeds that covers the sculpture’s panels. As the installation weathers and decomposes, the seeds will sprout, symbolizing regeneration and the cyclical nature of community and change.

To celebrate the installation, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council, are pleased to invite community members to a small public reception. The gathering will take place on Saturday, November 8, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Lou Ann David Park (1060 Broadway). Letters Rewoven will remain on view through Spring 2026.

About Letters Rewoven  
Developed by Fubini in collaboration with Brenda M. Echeverry, Expressive Arts Therapist at Art and Soul Clinic, Letters Rewoven challenges traditional ideas of permanence in public art by embracing organic transformation. As it fades, Letters Rewoven gives rise to new life, enriching the surrounding landscape both physically and

symbolically.

This installation was commissioned through the Temporary Public Art by Emerging Artists Program, a grant initiative of the Somerville Arts Council funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) Making It Public Program. The program supports early-career artists in gaining hands-on public art experience while enriching Somerville’s parks and public spaces with new creative voices.

For more information about Letters Rewoven and opportunities to contribute writing to the project, visit [annafubini.com](http://annafubini.com).

About the Artist  
Anna Fubini is an artist, community arts educator, and arts administrator working in experimental fiber and mixed media to create large-scale sculptural installations. Her work juxtaposes opposing materials, found objects, and subverted surface design techniques to explore themes of duality, contradiction, and deconstruction—particularly in relation to societal norms and gender binaries.

Fubini holds a Bachelor of Science in Studio Art and Gender Studies from Skidmore College (2015) and a Master of Science in Arts Administration from Boston University (2023).

Honor Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience on November 20


Each year, Somerville gathers to remember the transgender and gender-diverse individuals whose lives have been lost to anti-trans violence, and to honor the strength and resilience of the trans community.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Health and Human Services invite community members to attend Somerville’s annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience on Thursday, November 20, at the Council on Aging (167 Holland St) from 5 to 6 p.m.

The program will include remarks from Mayor Ballantyne, members of the Somerville LGBTQ+ community, and the City’s LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator. The event is free

and open to all, and live ASL interpretation will be provided.

For more information about LGBTQ+ programming, events, and resources, please email [lgbtqservices@somervillema.gov](mailto:lgbtqservices@somervillema.gov), or visit [somervillema.gov/lgbtqservices](http://somervillema.gov/lgbtqservices).



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Somerville Ave. (Park St. to Lowell St.) Travel Lanes Closed 11/13 Starting at 4 p.m.



Detours will be in place to facilitate final phases of intersection safety improvement project.

SOMERVILLE – Beginning Thursday, November 13, at approximately 4 p.m., City contractors plan to mill (remove the top few layers of asphalt) the roadway surface at the intersection of Somerville Avenue and Central Street in preparation for paving.

During this work, Somerville Avenue between Lowell Street and Park Street will be closed to motor vehicle traffic in both directions.

Schedule, Detour Routes, and Other Construction Impacts  
Milling is expected to begin Thursday, November 13, at approximately 4 p.m. and end at approximately midnight. This schedule is subject to change due to weather or other factors.

While this work is underway:  
Somerville Avenue (Park Street to Lowell Street) will be closed to motor vehicles. Detours will be in place for both east and west-bound traffic. Please observe posted signage.  
\$ Eastbound traffic (toward Union Square) will be directed left on Lowell Street, right on Summer Street, and right on School Street to return to Somerville Avenue.  
\$ Westbound traffic (toward Porter Square) will be directed left on Street and right on Beacon Street to return to Somerville Avenue.  
\$ Access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and local residents.  
\$ Sidewalks in both directions will remain open.  
\$ MBTA buses will be able to proceed in both directions at all times.

Elevated noise levels and light from construction equipment and vehicles is anticipated. Temporary on-street parking restrictions will be in place. Please observe posted signage.

Paving of the roadway is expected to follow approximately 5-10 days after milling. Additional notification will be provided to residents once the paving schedule has been confirmed.

For more information including full detour maps, please visit [somervillema.gov/somcentralpave](http://somervillema.gov/somcentralpave).

More About Work at This Intersection  
The City of Somerville is working to make the intersection of Somerville Avenue and Central Street safer for everyone traveling through it

by installing a new raised crosswalk and other traffic calming ([somervillema.gov/trafficcalming](http://somervillema.gov/trafficcalming)) features.

The new design also includes improved bus stops to streamline service and provided a dedicated waiting area for people taking the bus. Short segments of protected bike lanes will also be installed near bus stops on both sides of the street to increase safety.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING (S 531)

By Bob Katzen

The Elections Laws Committee held a hearing on legislation that would allow any city or town to adopt and implement ranked choice voting for local elections just by approving a local bylaw to do so — without having to go through the current process which requires a city or town to first pass a local home rule petition and then requires approval by the

Legislature.

Under current law, any municipality seeking to adopt ranked choice voting for local elections must go through this lengthy and uncertain process. The bill will empower communities to adopt ranked choice voting without having to do so.

Ranked choice voting is a system under which voters rank one or more candidates

in order of preference. If one candidate receives more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, that candidate would be declared the winner and no other rounds would be necessary. If no candidate receives a majority of first-place votes, the candidate that receives the least number of first-choice votes is eliminated. The second choice of the voters who supported the eliminated candidate now becomes their first choice and

is added to the totals of the remaining candidates. The same process is repeated, if necessary, until a candidate is the first choice of a majority of voters.

“Ranked choice voting empowers voters and enhances ballot access, improving representative democracy,” said sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). “It supports positive campaigns and bolsters voters’ confidence in our electoral

system. Massachusetts voters understand and support ranked choice voting, especially for their local elections. I’m proud to sponsor the bill to clear the red tape preventing municipalities from implementing the election system that voters want for their communities.”

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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

<b>BASICS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>___ Wool beanie {hat}</li><li>___ Smart wool socks</li><li>___ Gloves</li><li>___ Scarf</li></ul>	<b>TOILETRIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>___ Multi-purpose wipes</li><li>___ Chapstick</li><li>___ Facial wipes</li><li>___ Moisturizer</li><li>___ Comb</li><li>___ Toothbrush &amp; tooth paste</li><li>___ Grooming kit</li></ul>
<b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>___ Quality instant coffee</li><li>___ Tea</li><li>___ Energy drink</li><li>___ Beef jerky</li><li>___ Dried fruit</li><li>___ Fruit leathers</li><li>___ Trail mix</li><li>___ Nuts</li><li>___ Granola bars</li><li>___ Protein powder packets</li><li>___ Restaurant gift cards</li></ul>	<b>SURVIVAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>___ First aid kit</li><li>___ Water bottle with built in filter</li><li>___ Heat-pack</li><li>___ Multi-purpose tool</li></ul>
<b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>___ Journal &amp; pen</li><li>___ Stationary</li><li>___ Stamps</li><li>___ Pre-paid phone card</li></ul>	<b>TREATS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>___ Chocolates</li><li>___ Fruit snacks</li><li>___ Cookie snack packs</li><li>___ Candy {individually wrapped}</li><li>___ Mints</li><li>___ Chewing gum</li></ul>
	<b>SPLURGE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>___ Starbucks gift card</li><li>___ Compact reusable bag</li></ul>

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DECEASED ANIMALS ON STATE HIGHWAYS (H 3678)

By Bob Katzen

The Transportation Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would require any State Department of Transportation highway employees who find deceased dogs or cats with identification, to either attempt to directly contact the owner or to notify local animal control officers or the police department.

“When a pet is hit on a highway and has a collar or microchip, the family

should be notified,” said sponsor Rep. Richard Haggerty (D-Woburn). “Right now, there’s no requirement for that to happen, leaving families wondering what happened to their beloved pets. This bill would give them answers and closure.”

BILL RUSSELL AND BOB COUSY HIGHWAY (H 3727) – Legislation that would name the portion of the Massachusetts Turnpike between Boston and Worcester, “The Bill Russell and Bob Cousy Highway,” was also

before the Transportation Committee.

“I believe we should pay homage to celebrated Boston Celtics teammates and NBA champions, Bob Cousy and the late Bill Russell, who were not only exceptional athletes who brought many championships home to Boston, but who were also two great pillars of our community here in the commonwealth,” said sponsor Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick).

Linsky continued, “Bill Russell, as the

first Black coach in the NBA, was a frequent target of racially motivated harassment and abuse. Even as he received death threats and hate crimes from his own fan base, he courageously continued to pioneer player activism. Russell marched alongside civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers, and continued to fight for civil rights his entire life. Bob Cousy was also much more than a basketball player. He played a tremendous role in organizing the first player’s union in the

NBA which helped kickstart a new era of player empowerment in sports. Russell and Cousy both risked their careers and their lives to fight for what they believed in, and we should continue to honor them for their incredible work for our community.

LIFE INSURANCE (S 760)

By Bob Katzen

Another bill heard by the Financial Services Committee would allow the holder of a life insurance policy to update their beneficiaries using an online tool if one is provided by the life insurance company,

as long as the company takes reasonable steps to verify that the identity of the requester matches the holder of the policy. This bill would abolish a current law that requires all beneficiary changes to be made in person, with a “wet” signature and witness present.

“Technology has significantly developed since life insurance beneficiary practices were set in the commonwealth,” said sponsor Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover). “Many life insurance companies are now able to accept requests to change design-

nated beneficiaries under life or endowment insurance policies, and this bill brings our legislation up to speed with the industry. While we move toward more technologically advanced processes, we can maintain safety and identity verification in similarly advanced ways.

This bill will help make this process more convenient and time-efficient for all parties.”

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This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES on Beacon Hill

By Bob Katzen

To no one's surprise, Gov. Maura Healey and President Donald Trump had sharply different views of last week's elections. Here are some of their post-election quotes.

"[The elections were] a resounding rejection of Donald Trump."  
—Gov. Healey.

"The results yesterday, across the board — it's a referendum on Donald Trump. People are not happy with how he's handling the economy. They're not happy about the fact that under his presidency, prices continue to go up. People struggle with affordability all around this country, and he hasn't delivered on

what he promised to and that's what last night was about."  
—Gov. Healey.

"It's pretty clear what's happening. [Donald Trump], your boss, your leader-in-chief, is taking you all down ... and you got midterms next year. Read the room. This isn't working for people."  
—Gov. Healey.

"After last night's results, the decision facing all Americans could not be more clear. We have a choice between communism and common sense."  
—President Trump.

"If you want to see what Congressional Democrats wish to do to America, just look at the result of yesterday's election in

New York, where their party installed a communist as the mayor of the largest city in the nation."  
—President Trump.

"Last night I think, if you read the pollsters — the shutdown was a big factor for Republicans. They say that I wasn't on the ballot was the biggest factor."  
—President Trump.

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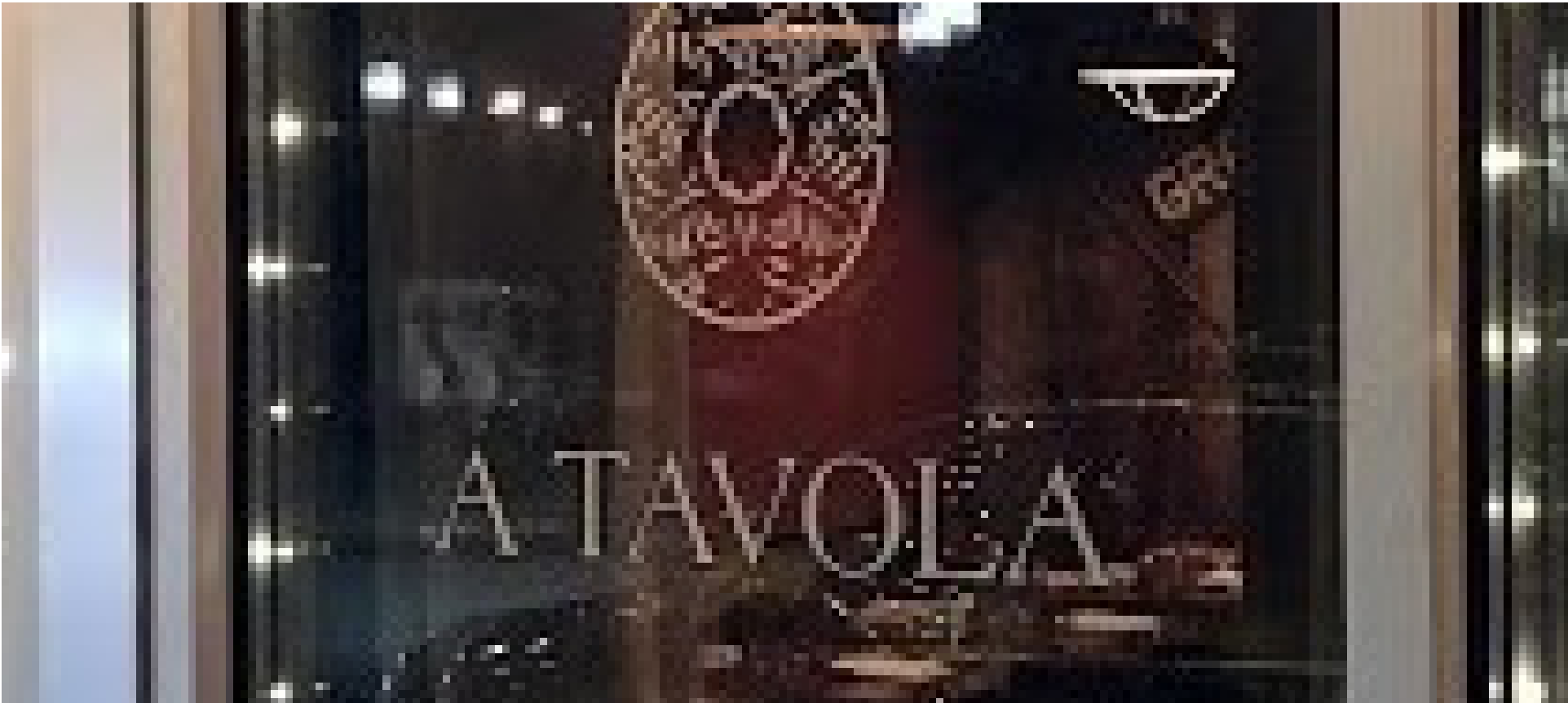
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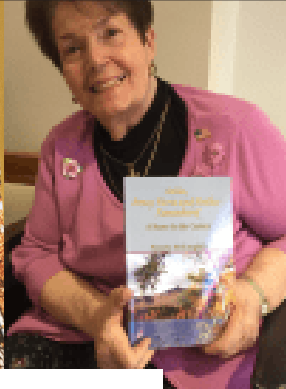
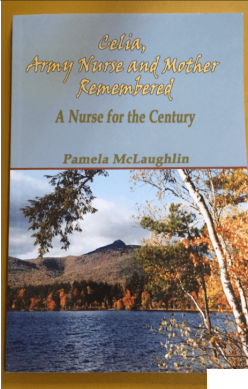
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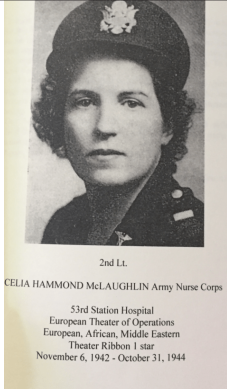
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