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VOL.1 NO.329-293

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday December 23rd, 2025

MERRY CHRISTMAS From The Publisher and Staff



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Continued to page

Letter from the Editor:
The future of the Patsy's Pastry
Building



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



Continued to page 5

KEEP DARK MONEY OUT
OF TOWN MEETINGS

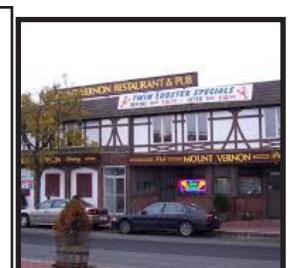


Continued to page 20

MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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

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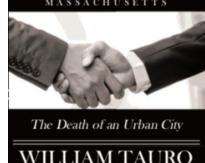
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Join the Somerville Mayor's Appointments Advisory Committee

City Accepting Applications for One Vacancy

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is seeking one new member to join the Mayor's Appointments Advisory Committee (AAC). If you care about fairness, transparency, and community voice in local government, this is a great opportunity to make a meaningful impact.

The AAC plays a key role in strengthening how Somerville selects members for its regulatory and decision-making boards and commissions. By helping review applicants and recommend finalists, AAC members ensure that appointments reflect the needs, values, and diversity of our community.

What Is the AAC?

The Mayor's Appointments Advisory Committee is a five-person, volunteer body that makes nonpartisan, informed recommendations for appointments to 14 City boards and commissions.

The full list of boards and commissions is available online: somervillema.gov/departments/appointments-advisory-committee

AAC members review applications, interview finalists, and

recommend two candidates for each vacancy to the Mayor, who then advances one nominee to the City Council for confirmation.

Who Can Join?

Ideal candidates are: Interested in learning about local government Thoughtful, fair, and community-driven Interested in people and process Motivated to contribute to transparent, equitable decision-making

Individuals with backgrounds in law, recruitment, human resources, or human services are strongly encouraged to apply, but these experiences are not required.

This is a volunteer position.

What Is the Time Commitment?

The AAC meets only when there are openings on the boards or commissions under its purview.

When active vacancies exist, the AAC typically meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 7–9 p.m. Meetings are held virtually. Additional time may be needed for reviewing applications and interview materials.

What Is the Appointment Pro-

cess?

Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

How Do I Apply?

Applications will be considered until the position is filled. To apply please provide a: Resume Statement of Interest or Cover Letter

Ways to Apply

Online: somervillema.gov/be-somerville
Email: Send materials to Careers@somervillema.gov with the subject line: "AAC Member Application"
Mail: City Hall – Attn: HR / Kristen Hill, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

Questions?

Email Kristen Hill, Recruitment & Retention Manager at K Hill@somervillema.gov

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Please send both forms and payment to:

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Attn: Rob Farrell
489 Winthrop Street
Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
MHS Varsity Softball is a non profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our
tax ID is listed below for your records.
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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any
late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.



Somerville/Medford Remembering Rose T. Nguyen



Obituary

Rose T. Nguyen, 62, passed away on December 16, 2025 in Boston Massachusetts. Born in Saigon, Vietnam on September 18 1963, Rose came to America when she

was 20. Residing in Somerville Massachusetts for most of her life, she alone worked tirelessly to provide a good life to her 3 daughters.

Rose spent her life enthralled with beauty and fashion. She worked in many salons as a beautician and esthetician, eventually opening her own successful salons. Outside of work you could find Rose in her garden passionately caring for the hydrangeas that her mother planted, or ball-

room dancing and singing karaoke with her friends. She was also a longtime member of the Saint Joseph Parish in Somerville, where she worshipped every Sunday.

Rose was the loving partner of Vinh. Caring mother of Angel and her fiancé Stephen, Alison, and Shayla. Daughter of Thuong, niece of Tammy. Beloved sister of Thuha, and her children, Yamasee and Tony, as well as Tony's son, Alfredo; and

brother Donald, and his wife, Hien, along with their children, Casey, Dominic, Dana, and Dean. Loving grandmother of Avah, Anela, Aria, Stevie Jr., and Lunar.

Her beautiful soul will be so severely missed.

A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Saturday, December 20th at 9:00AM.

Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Joseph Church, 262 Washington St., Somerville at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are invited.

Calling Hours will be held on Friday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with burial at Cedar Grove Cemetery, 920 Adams St. Dorchester.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Sheila McCallum



Obituary

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Sheila Mc-

Callum, age 82, of Medford, Massachusetts. Sheila died peacefully at Cambridge Hospital after a battle with cancer on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Born and raised in Cambridge, Sheila was one of six children born to the late Eileen (Sullivan) and Cornelius Ferrick.

After graduating from Lawrence Memorial Hospital Nursing School, Sheila began her nursing career in 1965 at Cambridge Hospital. She quickly found her home in the Emergency Room of Cambridge Hospital, where she retired as the Nurse Manager of the Emergency Department in 2003. In addition,

Sheila attended Peter Bent Brigham where she became one of Massachusetts' first Nurse Practitioners.

Above all, Sheila was devoted to her faith and enjoyed her summers at Hampton Beach. She enjoyed attending daily mass at both St. Raphael's in Medford and St. Patrick's in Hampton, NH. She is remembered for her generosity and her love of Christmas.

Sheila was the beloved wife of the late Albert McCallum. She was the sister of the late Patricia and Robert Solakoff of Brockton, Kevin and Kathleen Ferrick of Taunton, Brian

and Virginia Ferrick of Medford, Eileen and Francis Welch of Cambridge, and Dennis and Karen Ferrick of Cambridge. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grand nieces, nephews, and extended family including Jacqueline McCallum of Delaware and Cheryl McCallum of Cambridge. She was predeceased by Kathleen McCallum of Revere.

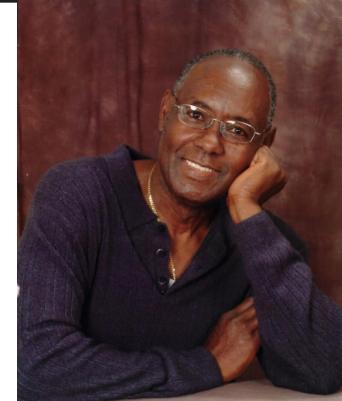
Visiting Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Sunday, December 21st from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. A

Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 39 6th Street Cambridge on Monday, December 22nd at 10:00 am, with relatives and friends asked to meet at the church.

Interment Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Sheila's honor can be made to her beloved St. Raphael's Parish 512 High Street Medford Ma 02155 or Sacred Heart Parish of Jesus, 39 6th Street Cambridge Ma 02141

Somerville/Medford Remembering Jean M. Cadeau



Obituary

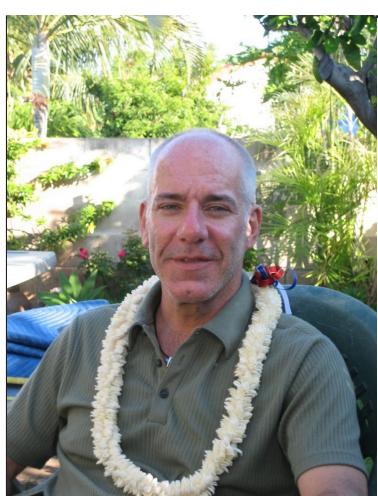
Jean M. Cadeau, of Medford and formerly of Haiti, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on December 16, 2025. Born and raised in Haiti, Jean moved to the United States in 1978. He

was the beloved son of the late Manes and Charmante. Jean was a loving father to Garphil Cadeau and a dear brother to Madeleine Cadeau, Jean C. Cadeau, Jeanne M. Cadet, Yolette Alegre, and Marie G. Clermont.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in his honor at St. John Church, located at 2254 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, on Saturday, December 27th, 2025, at 10:00am. Visiting hours will be held in the church

prior to the Mass, from 9:00 to 10:00am. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Daniel G. O'Connell



Obituary

Daniel G. O'Connell, of Medford, passed away suddenly on December 12, 2025, he was 64.

Born in Everett and raised in Medford, Daniel was the son of the late Anna M. (Trebino) O'Connell, who died in June of

this year and James A. O'Connell, who died in October of this year.

Daniel is survived by his brother, James G. O'Connell and his partner Michael Micale of Alpharetta, Georgia and by his nieces and nephews, James, Julianne, Jaclyn,

Jennifer, John and their families. Sadly, he was also predeceased by his sister Joan E. O'Connell.

Complete obituary to be posted.

Visiting hours for relatives and friends will be held in the George L. Doherty Fu-

neral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Wednesday, January 7th from 9:30AM – 10:30AM, followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Raphael Church at 11:00AM. Services will conclude with burial at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

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Saying goodbye to another local Somerville business!



By William Tauro

Big Fish Little Fish are closing permanently. It will be so strange to not see it there anymore after decades of being there.

Letter from the Editor: the future of the Patsy's Pastry Building



Since the city bought the property where Patsy's Pastry once occupied many are wondering how much did the city of Somerville pay for it and we hope they don't get them in a mess like Washington Street Cobble Hill nightmare where the city lost millions?

Future Of Long-vacant Somerville Bakery Decided
The business has been closed for more than a decade.
Source: Somerville Patch By Benjamin Pierce

SOMERVILLE, MA — An old, long-vacant pastry shop is set to be put to better use.

Patsy's Pastry Shop at 182 Broadway will be purchased by

the city for the purpose of converting it to 100 percent affordable housing units, according to Ward One City Councilor and State Senate Candidate Matt McLaughlin.

"There are hundreds of vacant lots across the Commonwealth that should be used to build affordable housing. Somerville is leading the way with Patsy's and Star Market," McLaughlin said in a statement. "If we can build affordable housing in the most densely populated city in the state, others can do the same."

Patsy's was a Somerville staple for nearly 50 years until it closed its doors in May 2015. Founder Patsy Ferrigno opened the location after having suc-

cess with a Boston food truck.

McLaughlin said the area is now zoned for approximately five stories of housing. He credited the Somerville Community Corporation as a driving force behind the acquisition and project.

Future Of Long-vacant Somerville Bakery Decided
Source: Somerville, MA Patch
<https://share.google/xwLHOSSYh9YpViqdo>

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Social Engineering and Paralysis of the Woke Political Moonbats In Our Society Especially In The Republic Of Somerville



Social Engineering and Paralysis of the Woke Political Moonbats In Our Society Especially In The Republic Of Somerville December 23, 2025 the-somervillenewswkly Leave a comment

By William Tauro

When is enough enough? January 20th can't come soon enough when we will have common sense

restored back into the White House.

Kamala Harris Faced Backlash as an old video clip of hers that resurfaced promoting 'Wokeness'.

According to the Republic News Source "The resurfaced video from 2017 shows Kamala Harris urging Americans to "stay woke," igniting a wave of criticism on social media. Conservative author

James Lindsay and others have labeled her a "Communist functionary," leading to intense backlash. The video has sparked public debate over the controversial topics discussed during the conference, including immigration and drug policies, raising questions about Harris's stance on these issues in light of her current role as Vice President."

See video clip: Harris says

'everybody needs to be woke' in unearthed clip spreading like wildfire on social media <https://search.app/cy7R9nKo-QCp4D3Bg8>

Our elected officials here in Somerville are a total disgrace as well! Just look at the dancing woke Somerville City Councilwoman in this video! She should concentrate more on our homeless, our veterans, our seniors, fixing

our streets and schools and giving our police and firefighters the tools they need to keep us safe instead of spending time on our dime acting like the total clown that she is acting like in my opinion!!

Click on the link to see the dancing Woke Somerville Councilwoman: <https://www.facebook.com/share/>

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

Best of luck and we can't wait to see all the good things that you will bring to the VFW under your guidance and leadership!

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

State of A Tavola:

A Tavola's outdoor patio dining is open for business! Take-out and delivery is also available! (with-in a small radius of A Tavola).

A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social media channels. Please stay tuned

for any and all details.

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

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

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

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

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'Tis The Season



If you're looking for great Christmas displays, check out this fabulous display in Charlestown at the Training Field on Winthrop Street (a block away from Bunker Hill Monument). Doug Macdonald, a Charlestown native does it every year for the community. The kids love it. He deserves some coverage and thanks for giving all of us a piece of Christmas spirit!

"On Air with Billy Tauro" Please Like and Follow Us On Facebook for more cool and exciting news updates and events!

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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:

2025-97 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 17 Alpine Street, 149 Sycamore Street, 83 Pearson Ave, 6 Fountain Ave.

2025-98 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: Fire Lane, 16-18 Lincoln Parkway from the corner of Joseph Street in a westerly direction to the edge of the driveway.

2025-99 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: Fire Lane, on the odd side of Chandler Street from the corner of Park Ave in a northerly direction for 20 feet.

2025-100 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: Fire Lane, on the odd side of Park Ave from

the corner of Chandler Street in an easterly direction for 20 feet. 2025-101 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: Fire Lane, on the even side of Walnut Street from the corner of Jackson Road in a northerly direction for 20 feet.

2025-102 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: Fire Lane, on the even side of Walnut Street from the corner of Radcliffe Road in a northerly direction for 20 feet.

PROMULGATED: DECEMBER 11, 2025
ADVERTISED: DECEMBER 16, 2025
DECEMBER 23, 2025
DECEMBER 30, 2025
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 7, 2025

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 12/16/25, 12/23/25, 12/30/25

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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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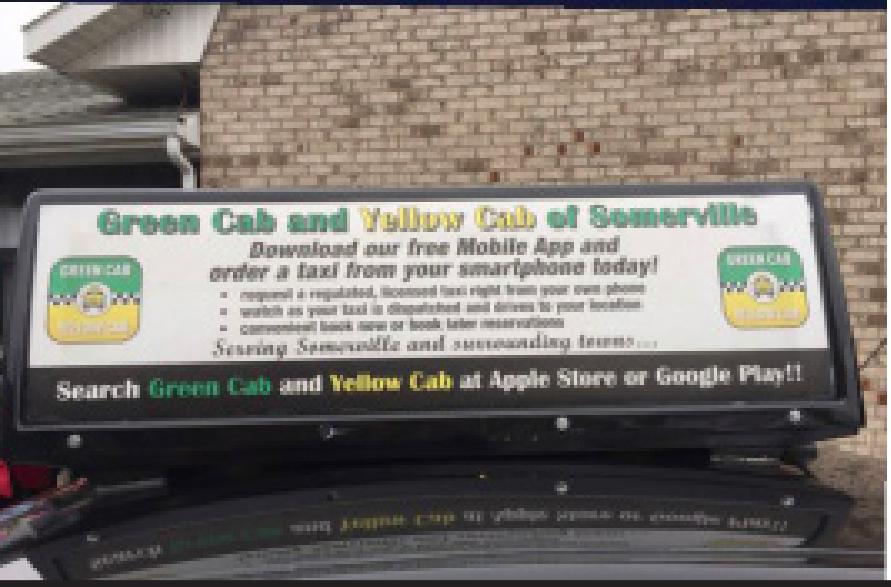
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US HOUSE PASSES BILL TO BAN TRANSGENDER SURGERIES FOR CHILDREN

US HOUSE PASSES BILL TO BAN TRANSGENDER SURGERIES FOR CHILDREN

The U.S. House of Representatives has taken a crucial step to protect children by passing a bill that makes "bodily mutilation of a minor" a federal crime. Sponsored by Marjorie Taylor Greene, the 216-211 vote shows lawmakers are finally prioritizing the safety and well-being of kids nationwide.

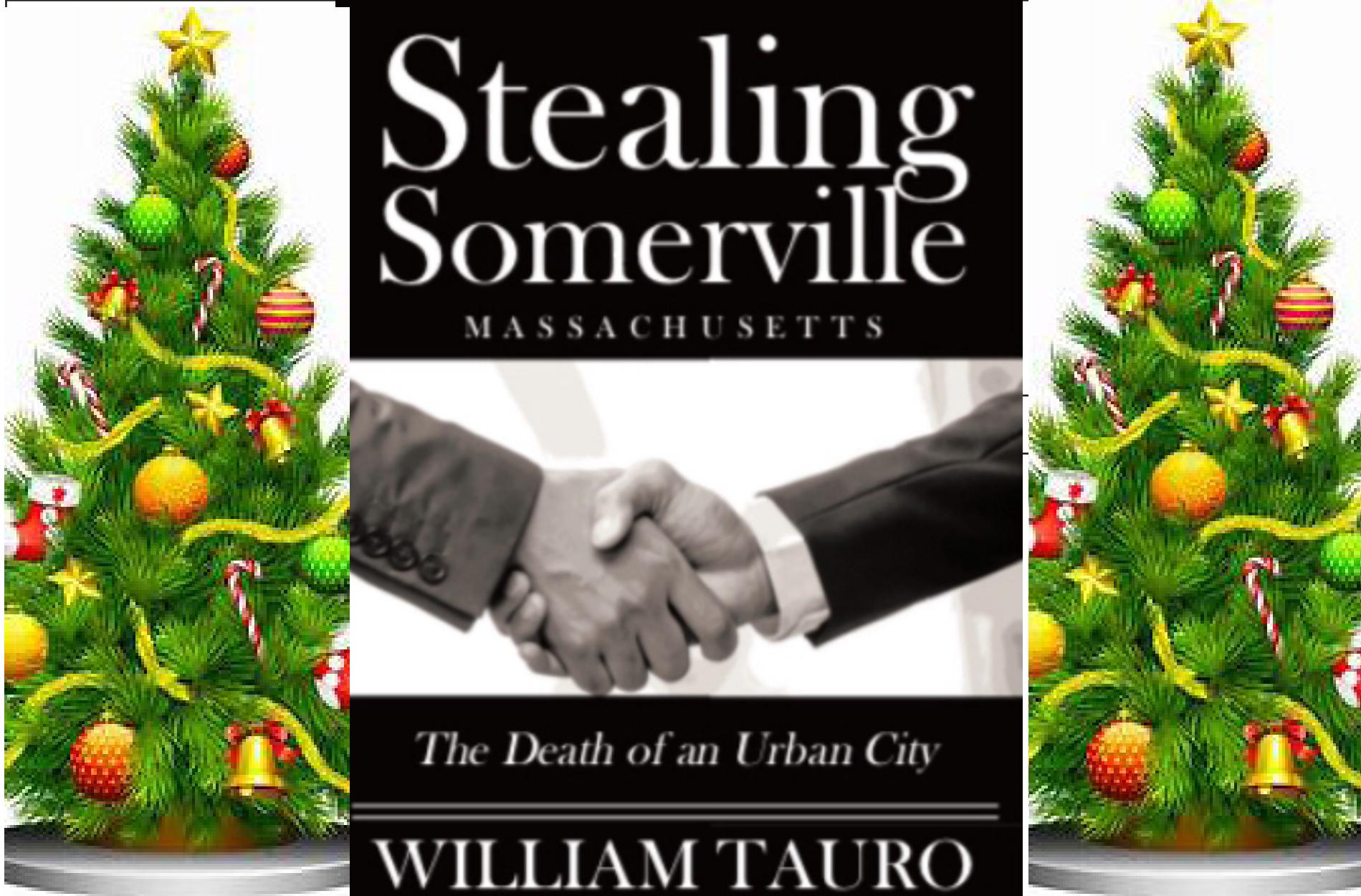
While some states already act, this legislation ensures no child is subjected to irreversible gender-altering treatments anywhere in the country.

(Posted on the News Worth Sharing Facebook page)

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The image features a dark purple circular background. In the center is a circular logo for "BH HS" (Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices) with a decorative border. Below the logo, the words "BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY" are written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath that, "HomeServices" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the image, the words "Verani Realty" are written in a large, white, serif font.

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- 30 Forest Circle, Winchester, MA
- 16-18 Pittman Street, Somerville, MA
- 320-322 Converse Ave, Somerville, MA
- 16 Morland Street, Somerville, MA

Lister & Vassiliou Team:

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Somerville, MA 02144
Jack.Lister@verizon.com
Joanne.Vassiliou@verizon.com

Jack Lister
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Joanne Vassiliou
781-507-7054

A blue-toned graphic for "ON AIR with BILLY TAURO". The word "ON AIR" is at the top in large, bold, white letters. Below it is a white microphone icon. The words "with" and "BILLY TAURO" are stacked below the microphone in white, with "BILLY TAURO" in a larger, bold font. The entire graphic is set against a dark blue background with a white border.



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!



THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

By Bob Katzen

"This funding marks a major milestone for communities around our commonwealth that have waited far too long for meaningful investment. When I proposed the Environmental Justice Fund ... I did so with the conviction that every neighborhood deserves clean air, safe water and a healthy environment. These funds, which we procured by holding polluters accountable, will help repair historic harms and ensure that these resources flow directly to the communities most in need of our support."

—Attorney General Andrea Campbell announcing the awarding of \$475,000 in grants to support community-based projects that address environmental harms in disadvantaged communities.

"President Trump's executive order preempting state-level AI regulation is nothing less than a giveaway to the trillion-dollar Big Tech companies and ultra-wealthy CEOs that funded his campaign. One of the most basic functions of government is the power to protect its people. By taking away our power to place reasonable guardrails around the development and use of artificial intelligence, the president is neutering our ability to defend Bay Staters against the worst drawbacks of this technology, including AI-generated deepfakes, predatory algorithms, dangerous misinformation campaigns and more."

—Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury) urging the Bay State Congressional delegation to fight President Trump's recently-signed executive order

on artificial intelligence, which directs U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi to establish an AI Litigation Task Force whose sole purpose will be to challenge state-level AI regulations in court.

"From our smallest hill towns to our Gateway Cities and regional hubs, we are listening to local leaders and making sure they have the resources they need to deliver for their residents. These Community Development Block Grants will support housing and economic development in cities and towns across the state, and the new Rural and Small Town designation will make sure that no community is left behind."

—Gov. Maura Healey, announcing nearly \$33.5 million in federal Community Development Block Grant awards to support housing, infrastructure, social services and economic development projects in 52 communities across Massachusetts.

"These grants put real resources behind our commitment to protecting Massachusetts' farmland. We are proud to support Massachusetts farming heritage and legacy to ensure our farmlands are there for generations to come."

—Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announcing over \$1.8 million in funding to help protect farmland, support farm businesses and keep agricultural land in active use across Massachusetts through the newly created Massachusetts Farmland Partnership Program.

Somerville Grinch Steals Bicycle

Somerville, MA Community · [Join](#)

...

Hi friends, sadly my bicycle was stolen last night. Here's a picture of it.

It notably has pink handlebar grips, grey body, and is single-gear.

It was parked last night behind a house near the intersection of Lowell St and Highland Ave.

It did have a U-lock on it, fastened between the top and down tubes.

I figure it's a longshot posting, but any help/info on its whereabouts would be greatly appreciated.

It's not worth a lot, but it's worth a lot to me!

Thank you all in advance



Sadly there's still a grinch out there somewhere in the world especially here in Somerville! Let's help this individual get their bike back for Christmas!

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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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: MILLIE THE BRAVE Fire Dog by Day, Heart Healer by Night

What a wonderful book check it out!

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

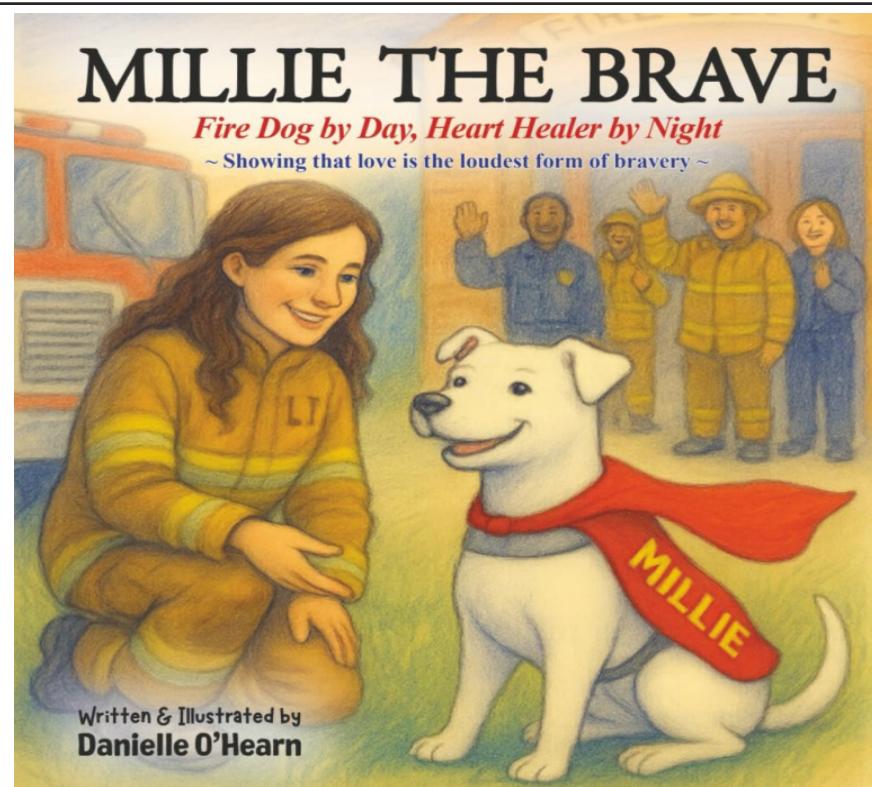
Hey Billy

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

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

Here's the link the title is
Millie the brave

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

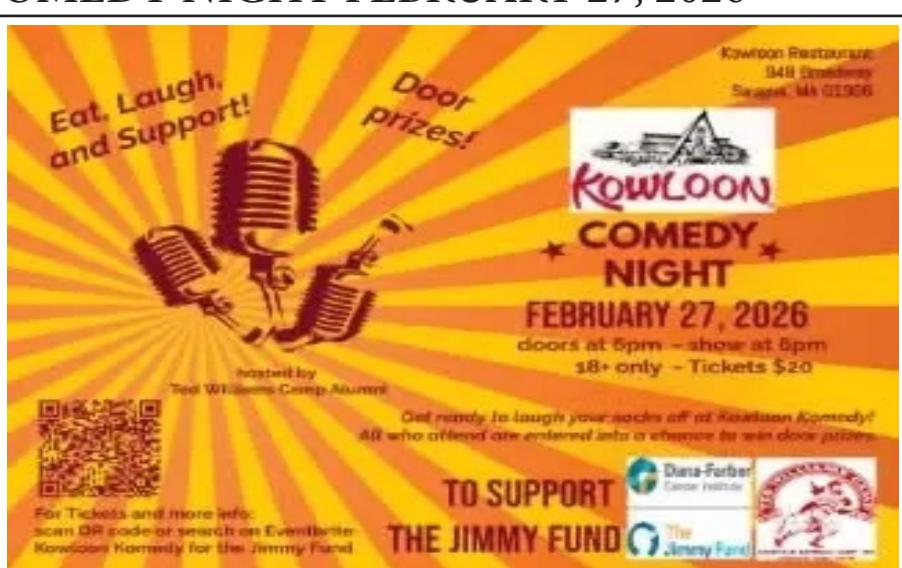


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raising money for the Jimmy Fund, and
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out cancer in Children & Adults.

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laughs, great food and giving away great
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Somerville Residents Invited to Be “Loyal to Local” Businesses This Season



City sharing tips and tools to help community support local businesses all winter long

SOMERVILLE – One-of-a-kind gifts, tasty foods, great entertainment, artist markets, and fun events await this holiday season (and winter!) in Somerville, and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne wants to be sure the community seizes these opportunities to support Somerville's local businesses all winter long by shopping, dining, and going out local as part of the City's “Loyal to Local” initiative.

“Across the country, communities are gearing up to celebrate Small Business Saturday this week. In Somerville, we know the goal is not just to shop locally one day a year, but all 365 days of the year,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “If you're heading out anyway, let's keep it local and shop, dine, go out, and seek services from the local and small businesses that help keep our city vibrant and a great place to live.”

[Loyal to Local Website and Calendar](#)

Opportunities to stay loyal to local businesses abound in Somerville. This winter, residents looking to discover new places to shop, dine, catch a show, or seek a service can visit somervillema.gov/loyal2local for updates and events (a few are up now, more to come!).

In December, the City will also publish a “Ways to Stay Loyal to Local” calendar, available online and at community locations throughout the season. The resources will share how residents can help Somerville's businesses and keep their dollars in the community, whether by exploring neighborhood shops, attending local holiday markets, dining at independent restaurants, seeking local services, or sharing favorite businesses with friends and neighbors.

[Upcoming Events](#)

There are great local business events to kick off the holiday shopping season in Somerville. This is just a sampling. More to come on the Loyal 2 Local Calendar including local artist markets too.

Small Business Saturday at Bow, Saturday, 11/29: Head to Bow Market from 11a.m.- 6 p.m. you'll find retail, food & drink specials, the annual maker market & “shop small win big” prize challenges. More at <http://www.bowmarketsomerville.com>

Davis Square Holdiade, Saturday 12/6: Shop, dine, and chill out all day and eve amid holiday lights and enjoy holiday specials, sales, giveaways, a raffle, and more throughout the Square as Davis Square merchants host the first ever Davis Square Holdiade. Eat Out in East, every Wednesday: Each Wednesday, 4-8 p.m. (or really anytime) East Somerville Main Streets invites folks to Eat Out on East (East Broadway that is). Gift cards to local eateries and bakeries can make great holiday gifts too. More at eastsomervillemainstreets.org/eatoutineast.

Union Square Jingle, Sunday 12/7: Head to Union Square from 1 to 6 p.m., shop, sip, follow the Festivus Trail, enjoy window displays and holiday lights, pose with crazy inflatables, vie for prizes, take Elfie Selfies, and more. More at unionsquare-main.org/events

“Somerville's small businesses are the heart of our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “When you shop small, you're investing in community jobs, supporting local families, and strengthening the places that make Somerville feel like home.”

The Loyal to Local campaign, led by the City's Economic Development and Communications teams aims to uplift the small businesses that fuel Somerville's economy, preserve its unique character, and keep its commercial districts vibrant year-round.

PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HEIGHT AND WEIGHT (H 1919)

By Bob Katzen

The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would add height and weight to Massachusetts' existing anti-discrimination laws, by prohibiting discrimination, based on height

and weight, in employment, education, housing and places of public accommodation.

The measure would require the Attorney General's Office to investigate complaints unless the action in question is based on the purpose of compliance with any established state, federal

or industry safety standards. It would also prohibit places of public accommodation, resort or amusement from issuing or circulating any policies or communications that signal discriminatory treatment based on body size, aligning this protection with how Massachusetts approaches other forms of discrimination.

“No one should lose out on a job, education or basic dignity because of their height or weight,” said sponsor Rep. Tram Nguyen (D-Andover). “Particularly, we know that the effects of weight-based discrimination do not fall evenly. Communities facing intersecting barriers,

such as limited access to affordable, nutritious foods or other systemic inequities, are often hit hardest. This legislation expands nondiscrimination protection to ensure that every person in Massachusetts is treated with fairness, dignity and respect.”

SAFE GUARD SHORT TERM RENTALS (S 2736)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee held a hearing on a bill, known as the “Maggie Hubbard Rental Safety Act, that would require that all short-term rentals in Massachusetts be inspected for working

smoke and carbon monoxide detectors within one year prior to rental. It also mandates that rental platforms and agents verify this certification before listing a property, ensuring consistent, statewide fire safety protections for renters.

“Shannon Hubbard and her one-year-old daughter Maggie were tragically killed in a short-term rental that lacked working smoke and carbon monoxide detector,” said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). “It was an entirely preventable and unacceptable loss ... By

requiring annual safety inspections and ensuring that rental platforms verify compliance before listing a unit, the bill puts in place the basic, common-sense protections every renter deserves and strengthens public safety in communities across Massachusetts.”

Rep. Hadley Luddy (D-Orleans), a co-sponsor of the proposal, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call, asking her why she co-sponsored the bill.

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Community Invited to Somerville 2026 Inaugural Events

Inauguration Ceremony and Public Reception on Saturday, January 3
Organizational Meeting on Friday, January 2

SOMERVILLE — As Somerville embarks on the next legislative term, Mayor-Elect Jake Wilson, the Somerville City Council, and the Somerville School Committee invite the community to attend the 2026 Inaugural events.

Please join us for the Mayor's Inaugural Address, remarks by the Council President and School Committee Chair, music, spoken word, and civic pride followed by a reception to celebrate our community and the launch of the new term.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Organizational Meeting of the City Council and School Committee, Friday, January 2, 10:30 a.m.

Inaugural Ceremony, Saturday, January, 3

6 -7:30 p.m.

Reception, Saturday, January 3, 7:30 -10:30 p.m.

Organizational Meeting, Friday, January 2

What: At this brief meeting of the City Council and School Committee, the City Council President and Vice President, as well as the School Committee Chair and Vice Chair, will be selected, and all members of both bodies will take the oath of office. The public is welcome.

When: Friday, January 2, at 10:30 a.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall (93 Highland Ave.).

Inaugural Ceremony at SHS Auditorium, Saturday, January 3

When & Where: Saturday, January 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Somerville High School auditorium (81 Highland Ave.)

What: Hear Mayor Wilson's inaugural address as well as remarks by the City Council President, the School Committee Chairperson, and honored guest MBTA Chairman and Interim Transportation Secretary Philip Eng. Emceed by Somerville resident and comedian Eugene Mirman, the program also features musical and spoken word performances, a Unity

Invocation, and all electeds will publicly take the oath of office.

Who: The full community is invited to this free event.

What to wear? Festive dress is welcome, and you'll see everything from black tie to blue jeans with many people opting for semi-formal or cocktail attire. Bottom line, everyone is welcome.

Reception at the Armory Saturday, January 3

When & Where: Following the ceremony, the community is invited to a reception at the Somerville Armory (191 Highland Ave.) from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

What: Live band, dancing, and DJ as well as refreshments.

Who: The reception is open to all community members.

New! Kid & Teen Zone, Saturday, January 3

What: For the first time, the City's Parks & Recreation Department will host a Kid & Teen Zone for the inauguration to help families enjoy the events. Games, activi-

ties, pizza (including gluten-free), and light snacks for ages 5-16 will be offered near the main Reception area in rooms provided courtesy of the Somerville Arts Council's SomArt Space program.

Where: The Parks & Rec Kid & Teen Zone is on the second floor of the Armory (191 Highland Ave.).

Drop-Off & Activity Times: Open to families attending Saturday's inaugural events, youth drop-off and registration will be from 5 to 8:30 p.m., and activities will run from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.

RSVP (Optional), Interpretation & Viewing

RSVP: RSVP welcome, but optional, for any and all events. Please RSVP to inauguration2026@somervillema.gov.

ASL & Interpretation: The ceremony will include American Sign Language interpretation and live interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese. Interpretation into additional languages is available upon advance request by emailing languageaccess@somervillema.gov or calling 311 (617-666-3311) at least seven days in

advance of the event.

Attend, Watch Live Online or on TV, or Later On-Demand: All inaugural events are free and open to the public. The Inaugural Ceremony will also be recorded. Watch live or view later on YouTube.com/ SomervilleGovTV and on CityTV cable.

For more information including directions, parking, interpretation info, and more, please visit somervillema.gov/ inauguration2026.

ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH (H 3288)



By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would designate the month of October as Adopt a Shelter Dog Month.

"Massachusetts shelters take in more than 20,000 animals each year, and despite our high save rate, they continue to struggle with staffing shortages, rising intakes and limited community resources," said sponsor Rep. Bruce

Ayers (D-Quincy). "Establishing October as 'Adopt a Shelter Dog Month' will give us a statewide platform to promote adoption, support our shelters and ensure more dogs have a real chance at finding a permanent home."

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Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square

Give what you can, Take what you need

Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook

and please join the group!

The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming.

Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

homeless and less fortunate.

A "Somerville Blessing Boxes" Facebook page has been established keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free the join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville.

One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square.

"Give what you can, Take what you need."

Much thanks and appreciation,
Frank Santangelo

» Blessing Backpack Checklist «

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- Smart wool socks
- Gloves
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- Chapstick
- Facial wipes
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- Toothbrush & tooth paste
- Grooming kit

SURVIVAL

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

TREATS:

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- Cookie snack packs
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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS (H 836)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a measure that would establish uniform polling hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for elections in which regional school districts ask voters to incur debt.

Supporters said that under current law, regional

school district committees have discretion to set polling hours anywhere between four and eight consecutive hours, which can result in reduced voter access compared to standard municipal and state elections.

They noted that this inconsistency was evident during a recent special

election for the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational Technical School's \$317 million new building project where polls were open only from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.—providing just seven hours of voting time compared to the standard 13-hour window used in most municipal and state elections.

"This bill simply makes voting easier and fairer by setting uniform polling hours ... when regional school districts ask voters to incur debt for major projects, such as renovations or new buildings, ensuring every voter has the same opportunity to participate, no matter where they live," said sponsor Rep. Richard

Haggerty (D-Woburn).

"This extended 13-hour polling window is designed to accommodate voters with diverse work schedules, family obligations and other commitments, ensuring all residents have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in decisions affecting their regional schools."

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KEEP DARK MONEY OUT OF TOWN MEETING (H 806)



By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would apply the state's campaign finance election laws to political expenditures of more than \$1,000, made by persons, corporations,

associations, organizations or other groups of people, to influence the outcome of articles that appear on Town Meeting warrants. The person or group would be required to file disclosure forms and failure to comply would be punishable by a 1-year prison sentence and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Supporters said that the bill will close a loophole that allows unlimited amounts of unreported funds by outside individuals and groups to influence and sway the town's

decision. They noted the flow of dark money drowns out the vote of the local voters.

The four co-sponsors of the legislation, Reps. Simon Cataldo (D-Concord), Tom Moakley (D-Falmouth) and Sens. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth) and Julian Cyr (D-Truro), submitted joint testimony in a letter to the Election Laws Committee which heard testimony on the measure in October.

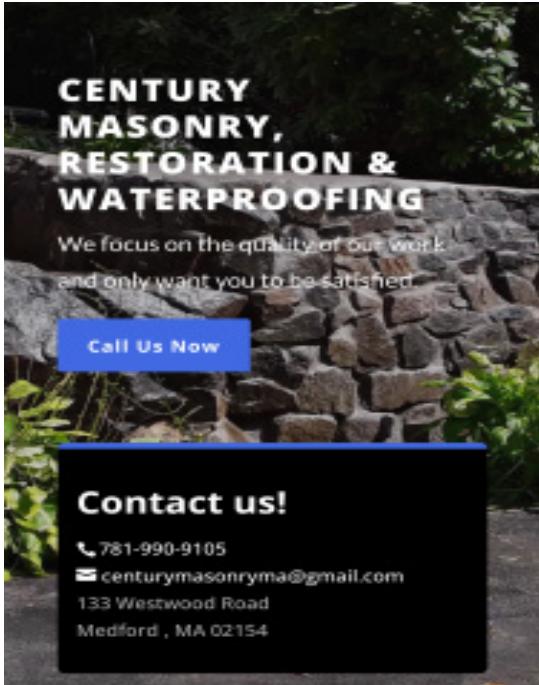
The letter said, "Our pro-

posal is consistent with existing Massachusetts campaign finance law, which requires full disclosure of contributions and expenditures for candidates, political committees and ballot question campaigns. By extending disclosure requirements to individuals and entities aiming to influence town warrant articles, this bill would bring local governance practices in line with these established democratic norms for state-level elections, closing a loophole in Massachusetts election laws."

The letter continued, "There is motivation for entities to use the existing loophole. Major policy decisions are made at a town meeting level. Many warrant articles concern areas where corporate and special interest groups have a direct financial stake, such as zoning laws, housing developments, telecommunication rules and environmental regulations. Without mandated transparency, these groups can present their well-funded campaigns as grassroots efforts."

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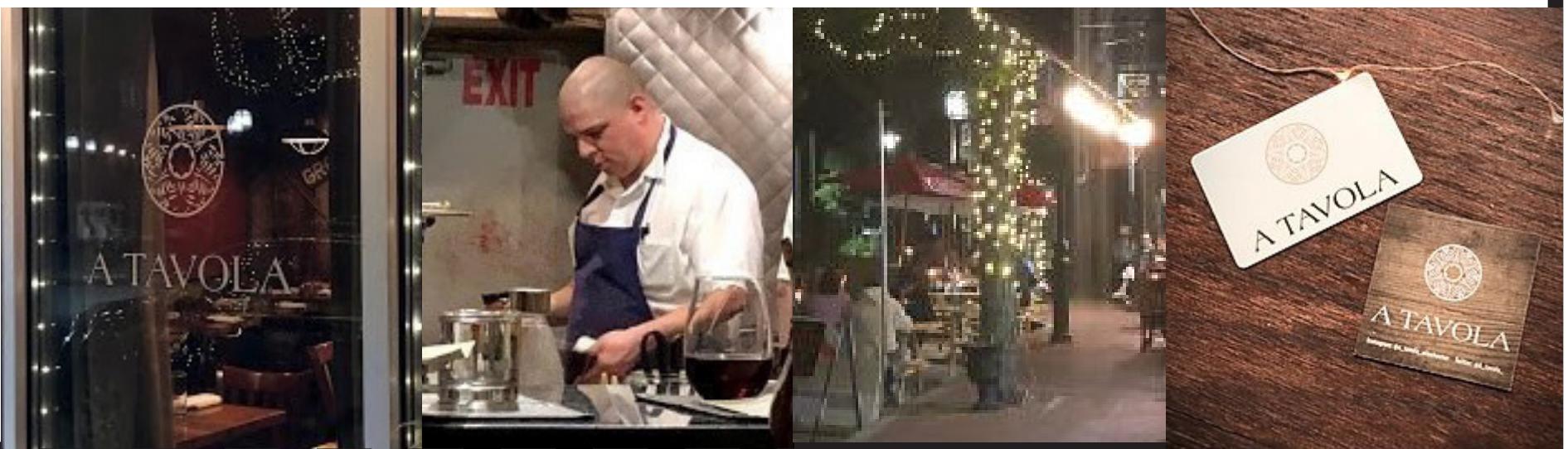
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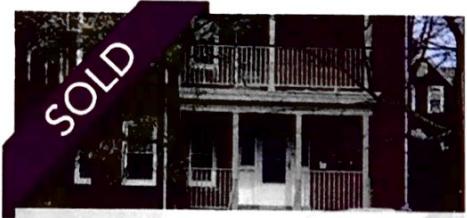
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Porter Square - 3 Family - \$2M



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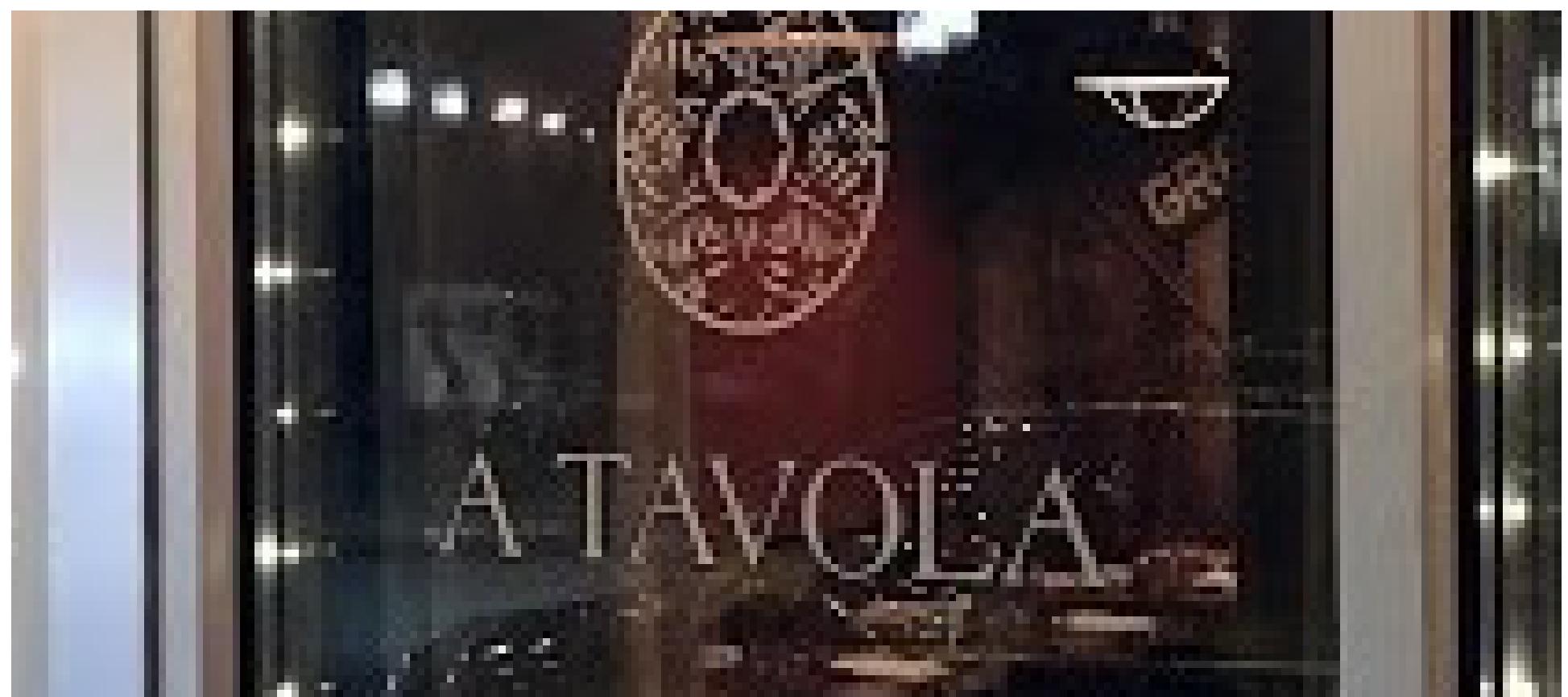
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