

The Somerville/Medford News Weekly



The #1 News Source For Somerville & Medford

Thank You Somerville & Medford



www.thesomervillenewswEEKLY.com
www.medfordnewsweekly.com

25 Cents

VOL.1 NO.329-295

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday January 13th, 2026

Somerville Resident's Ordeal with City-Backed Home Renovation: A Tale of Unresolved Woes and Unfulfilled Promises



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Continued to page 13



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



Continued to page 5

TWO MORE POSSIBLE
BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR
NOVEMBER 2026 ARE
CERTIFIED



Continued to page 11



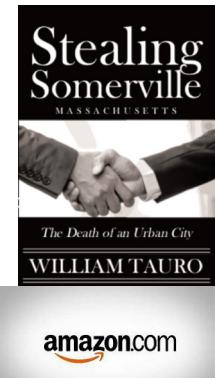
MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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.

Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



STEALING SOMERVILLE
MAKES THE PERFECT GIFT!
Order Yours Today!
amazon.com





MAKES THE PERFECT GIFT!

Order Yours Today!

Thank You Somerville/Medford for Making
The Somerville/Medford News Weekly Your
#1 Local News Source!

We're working very hard around the clock to keep you up to date with
Local Somerville/Medford News!

The Somerville/Medford News Weekly
"PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY"
Mailing: PO Box 117, Somerville MA 02143
Somerville MA 02143
Email: Somervillenewsweekly@yahoo.com
www.Thesomervillenewsweekly.com
Local: (617)293-2016
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Somerville/Medford News Weekly
Speakup Line:
Somervillenewsweekly.com
LET IT RIP!



PUROCLEAN® (857) 995-6440



**24 HOURS A DAY
7 DAYS A WEEK
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

(857) 995-6440

Serving the Greater Boston Area
www.puroclean.com/ps-ma



**Disaster Specialists
Immediate Response**

Water

Fire

Mold

Biohazard

Each PuroClean office is independently owned and operated. Some services may not be available in all offices.

The Somerville/Medford News Weekly



The #1 News Source For Somerville & Medford

Thank You Somerville & Medford

"Now with 40 Full Pages"

www.thesomervillenewsweekly.com

www.medfordnewsweekly.com

25 Cents



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES/ COMMONWEALTH REAL ESTATE

MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | Commonwealth
HomeServices Real Estate



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

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®
(617) 610-5382 Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com

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

Winner of the 2018 Chairman's Circle Diamond award,
representing the top 1/2 of the top 1% across the nation
Winner of the 2019 President Circle Award
Winner of the 2020 Chairman's Circle Gold award, representing the top 2% in Berkshire Hathaway Home Services across the nation



GREEN CAB
YELLOW CAB
Call: (617)625-5000
or (617)628-0600



Become A Medford Police Officer



In January 2025, the Civil Service introduced a new 'Hybrid Hiring Model' for departments under its purview. This model offers two distinct pathways to become an entry-level police officer:

1. Civil Service Exam Route: The first step in this pathway is taking the Massachusetts Civil Service Exam, which is now offered twice a year. Applications are NOW OPEN for the spring 2026 police officer entrance exam. Deadline to apply is February 2, 2026.

2. Getbadged Route: Apply directly through GetBadged.com. Visit GetBadged.com, create an account, and select your preferred exam date. This is on-going.

For more details and the next steps in the new hiring process, please visit our website at medfordpolice.com/becomeapoliceofficer.

**Medford High School Softball
Sponsor Packages 2023**

Please complete all the information requested below:

Business Name: _____

Address (Street/City/Zip): _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

Please send both forms and payment to:

Medford High School
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.
Tax ID 04-6001100

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.

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES
VERANI REALTY**

Proud Supporter of VerniCARES! I
donate a portion of EVERY Closing!

Jack Lister
REALTOR®

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Verani Realty
368 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA
02145
617-776-3311 - Office
617-438-2460 - Cell
617-591-8332 - Fax
<https://www.verani.com/agent/Jack-Lister>

VeraniCARES



Proud Supporter of VerniCARES!
I donate a portion of EVERY Closing!

AMANDAS FUEL OIL



*Ask about our 30 cent per
gallon Discount Program
*We Take On Fuel Assis-
tance Customers
*Ask about our
24 Hour Emergency Service
Programs

*Complete Sales, Service,
And Installations For Heat-
ing and A/C

781-396-4200
877-418-0589 Toll Free

Somerville/Medford Remembering Maryann Bova of Medford



Obituary

Maryann Bova of Medford, passed away on January 11, 2026. Loving daughter of the late Francis C. and Mary (Mainey) Maguire. Predeceased by her devoted husband, Lawrence S.

on November 6, 2025, who left this world first, so that he could hold the door open for her into the next one. She leaves her daughter, Marie Bova of Stoneham.

Predeceased by her brother Joseph Maguire in 2022, survived by her brother Francis (Leslie) Maguire. Always in her heart were her nieces, Diane, Suzanne and goddaughter Leanne Maguire. She is survived by her cherished sister Joannie (Maguire) Riley (Mike) and beloved nephews, Michael (Amy) and her great nieces, Reese and Maren of California, and Kenny Riley and his wife, Tasha of Texas.

Just a phone call away from her nephews, Richie (his late wife, Barbara),

Charlie (Rochelle), Anthony, Robert, Glenn, Stephen and John Eckert, and her niece, Debbie Kasper (Johnny) of Florida.

She also leaves her extended family and many cousins.

After a short tenure at New England Telephone where she always fondly remembered her coworkers and 1960's office life, she married and became a wife, mother and homemaker.

An Irish girl, now a Bova, she mastered the fine craft of cooking meatballs, and her lasagna was second to none.

An original networking Mom, she

curated the best of childhood organizing many neighborhood activities and making lifelong friendships. A leader in the since evolved Camp Fire youth organization, she helped to create a still talked about scavenger hunt along the Mystic River. She enjoyed music and it always filled her home, and she looked forward to the traditional mother-daughter venture to see Rod Stewart whenever he came through town.

Maryann loved to watch baseball and followed the Boston Red Sox for many years.

In their later years, she and her husband enjoyed long walks, long talks and trips to the casino.

Maryann bravely and silently battled Type 1 diabetes for fifty plus years, qualifying her for the Bronze medal in the program started by Elliott P. Joslin, MD. Please consider donating on Maryann's behalf to the Joslin Research Center, the world leader in diabetes care at <http://www.joslin.org>

A graveside service will be held at Oak Grove Cemetery, 230 Playstead Road, in Medford at 10:00 am on Thursday, January 15. Please meet directly at the main gate.

"You know how the time flies | Only yesterday was the time of our lives | We were born and raised in a summer haze | Bound by the surprise of our glory days"

Somerville/Medford Remembering James E. Toner



Obituary

James E. Toner, of Arlington and formerly of Somerville, passed away suddenly at home on

January 6, 2026, he was 59. Born and raised in Somerville, Jim was the son of the late Ellen (Martell) and Hugh Toner.

Jim lived simply, but enjoyed time spent walking around the city, shopping and trips to the beach. In summer months he could often be found at Revere Beach or taking day trips to Hampton or when not at the beach, he kept busy at the gym working out.

He also enjoyed quite time at home watching his tv programs, movies or listening to music. Jim will be remembered by many for his jokes and great sense of humor.

Jim is survived by his siblings, Gloria Kennedy and her husband Patrick of Oklahoma, Patricia Toner of Somerville, Michael J. Toner and his partner Tanya Belen of Woburn, Edna Toner of George-

town and the late Thomas J. Toner, Ellen Ellis and Hugh Toner. He was the dear uncle of Suzanne Ellis, Kenny Boschen, Richard Kennedy, Catherine Edwards, Philip Mitza, Dan Ryan, Jr., Tammi Toner, Jennifer Montijo, Kerri Ayala, Patrick Toner and many great nieces and nephews.

Visiting Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home,

855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Saturday morning, January 10th from 9:00AM – 11:00AM followed by a Funeral Procession to Fox Hill Cemetery, Billerica for a graveside service at 12:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donation in Jim's memory can be made to the Joslin Diabetes Center at <http://www.joslin.org>.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Christine A. (Cannata) Murphy



Christine A. (Cannata) Murphy — A longtime resident of Somerville, passed away peacefully with her children by her side on Friday, January 9, 2026. She was 91 years old.

Born in Charlestown, Christine was the beloved daughter of the late George W. and Marion J. (Palumbo) Cannata. She took her role as a mother very seriously and devoted her life to caring for and nurturing her children. When she became a grandmother, her love only grew stronger. Christine was an exceptional grandmother who had a special way of making each grandchild feel like the most important person in the room.

Christine also enjoyed a successful career as a hairdresser and later worked for many years at Stop & Shop. In every position she held,

she took great pride in her work and was known for her dedication and strong work ethic.

A woman of deep and abiding Catholic faith, Christine faithfully attended Sunday Mass for as long as she was able. When she could no longer attend in person, she continued her devotion by watching Mass from home.

Beloved wife of the late Harry G. Murphy. Devoted mother of Harry G. Murphy, Jr. and his wife Paula of Medford, Denise A. Murphy of San Diego, California, Linda Colella and her husband Carmine of Derry, NH and Robert Murphy and

his wife Christine of North Reading. Cherished grandmother of Kristen Clark and her husband Michael, Leslie McCarthy and her husband Timothy, Michael O'Hearn and his wife Nikki, Nicole Colella and her partner Mathew, Michelle Colella and her partner Michael, Jason Murphy, Julia Murphy and Noelle Murphy. Loving great grandmother of Keren, Kevin, Alivia, Simone, Alistar and Maxxine. Dear sister of the late George, Robert, Margaret, Anthony, Rita and Richard. Also lovingly survived by many loving, nieces, nephews and extended family members.

A funeral mass will be cel-

brated in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford St., Somerville on Saturday, January 17th at 11:00AM. Please meet directly at church.

Interment will be private.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Noel Mark Pefine



Noel Mark Pefine – Of Cambridge, passed away on January 8, 2026. He was 57 years old.

Born in Malden, he

was the beloved son of the late Joseph F. and Lillian H. (Pedro) Pefine.

Services are to be scheduled.



The Big Somerville Water Meter Scandal: Mystery Solved, Time To Lawyer Up

By William Tauro

Of course, city officials told residents that the newly installed water meters were reading correctly, and they were. However, those same officials neglected to inform Somerville residents that the readings were, in fact, wrongfully and knowingly inaccurate.

All this time we were blaming the new water meters, but in reality it was the readings submitted that were the real crime!

The story begins when the City of Somerville switched to the new meters. Ironically, around the same time, the city also let go of a number of employees—possibly during an administration change or for other reasons.

Unfortunately for the city, those departing employees either lost or intentionally took with them all the paperwork containing the final readings from the original meters. As a result, the new city employees tasked with cataloging the last meter readings and linking them to the zeroed-out starting points on the new meters were unable to make the connection. To save face and avoid major embarrass-

ment, city officials guesstimated the initial readings—which apparently all came out extremely high.

So, while the new meters themselves are functioning correctly, the starting readings were absolutely wrong and based on estimates.

For those of you who had your water meters replaced, your next bill after the installation likely skyrocketed, and subsequent bills have continued to exceed the legitimate amounts owed.

Let's not forget that many of the same elected officials in office today were there when this all happened—and most of them knew about it but once again neglected the residents of Somerville.

I encourage all Somerville residents, property owners, and renters—who may have faced higher rents to offset the inflated water bills passed on by landlords—to retain an attorney and file a class action lawsuit against the City of Somerville for the intentional overcharging on our water bills.

I also recommend hiring legal counsel from outside Somerville, such as a firm

in Boston with no ties to the city, to avoid any potential conflicts of interest that could compromise your case.

Have those attorneys subpoena the city's records on water billing readings especially the last actual meter readings from the old meters, as well as the employees who worked in the water department and Department of Public Works (DPW) during that time period that possibly knew about it and/or were possibly afraid of retaliation from the city for whistleblowing.

Also included in the subpoena should be—including city councilors—the mayor's office and that mayor's administration that served during that entire time period including employees up to this present time period as well where residence are still being billed these fictitious water bill amounts.

It took some time but the truth finally came out!

"On Air with Billy Tauro" Please Like and Follow Us On Facebook for more cool and exciting news updates and events! <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057320933117>



The Big Somerville Water Meter Scandal: Mystery Solved, Time To Lawyer Up



SOMERVILLE—Residents should please note that motor vehicle excise tax bills for 2026 are being sent one month earlier this year. Bills will issue

on January 26, 2026, and are due February 25, 2026.

Somerville residents who own a vehicle with a valid Massachusetts license plate are responsible for paying their excise tax bill each year. Payments can be made:

Online via the link on the city's website at somervillema.gov/payonline
In-person at the Collector's office at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Valid

ID required if you do not bring the bill with you when making payment in person.

Via mail using the provided envelope.
Or by check, which can be dropped off in the stainless-steel payments box outside the front entrance of City Hall.

Regularly check your mailbox to avoid missing payment deadlines.
Payment is required

even if a physical bill is not received. To request a duplicate copy, please contact the treasury department to have a duplicate bill mailed, or "self-authenticate" online and pay via the city's website at somervillema.gov/payonline.

For more information, contact the Tax Collector's office at Treasury@somervillema.gov or call (617) 625-6600 x-3500.

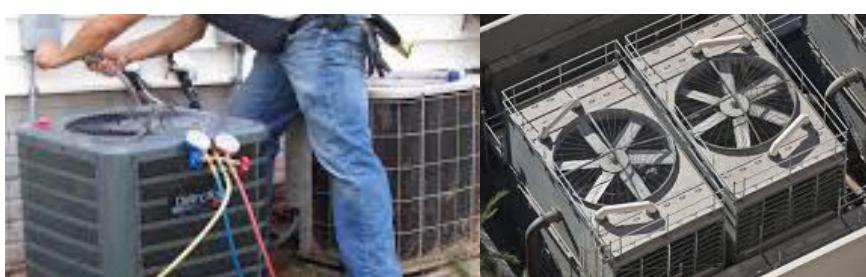
For general information on how to make a payment, contact 311 at 617-666-3311 or via chat/app/email/etc. at somervillema.gov/311.

"On Air with Billy Tauro" Follow us on Facebook

"On Air with Billy Tauro"
Follow us on Facebook



Superior Air Conditioning



Office (617)625-0386 Cell (617)257-6394 Dave Sidoti





Funky New Medication Names



By William Tauro

Have you ever noticed all the new different funky names for medication's out there? They even have some named after animals! Check them out? And of course coming to you from on air with Billy Tauro!

Here's a curated list of medications currently on the market (as of early 2026) that stand out for their particularly weird or exotic-sounding names. I've focused on relatively recent approvals to keep it fresh, drawing from pharmaceutical sources. These are real drugs, often for specialized treatments like rare diseases, cancers, or chronic conditions:

- Aqneursa (for a genetic disorder)
- Miplyffa (for a neurological condition)
- Ebglyss (for skin conditions)
- Lazcluze (an oncology drug)
- Niktimvo (for immune disorders)
- Livdelzi (for liver issues)
- Nemluvio (a biologic for inflammation)
- Yorvipath (for hormone-related conditions)
- Voranigo (for brain tumors)
- Leqselvi (for autoimmune diseases)
- Ohtuvayre (for respiratory issues)
- Piasky (a treatment for blood disorders)
- Sofdra (for excessive sweating)
- Iqirvo (for liver disease)
- Rytelo (for blood cancers)
- Imdelltra (an immunotherapy)
- Xolremdi (for metabolic disorders)
- Ojemda (a pediatric oncology drug)
- Anktiva (for bladder cancer)
- Zevtera (an antibiotic)

Here's a fresh selection of medications currently available on the market (as of early 2026) with notably funny or punny-sounding names. I've focused on ones that often elicit chuckles due to their phonetic similarities to everyday words, potential double entendres, or just plain silliness, based on common discussions and lists. These are real drugs for various conditions, and I've included a quick note on why each might strike people as humorous:

- Slynd (a birth control pill) – Like "slimed" or "sly end," but it's a progestin-only option with a sneaky-cool vibe.
- Vigamox (an antibiotic eye drop) – Combines "vigor" and "mox," reminiscent of "Viagra" but for eye infections.
- Comirnaty (the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine) – A mashup of "community," "immunity," and "mRNA," but it just sounds comically made-up.
- Qsymia (for weight loss) – Pronounced "cue-sim-ee-uh," like a quirky take on "kiss me," for a diet drug.
- Sofdra (for excessive sweating) – Sounds soft and dramatic, like a soap opera name for a sweat-soaking issue.
- Imvexxy (a vaginal insert for menopause symptoms) – Like "I'm sexy," which is cheeky for hormone therapy.
- Xtampza (an opioid pain reliever) – Evokes "extra tampon za" or something absurdly unrelated to pain meds.
- Qbrexza (for hyperhidrosis wipes) – Another "Q" name that sounds like a sci-fi gadget for sweat control.
- Golytely (a laxative prep for colonoscopies) – Sounds like "go lightly," which is ironically the opposite of its intense effects.
- Aciphex (for acid reflux) – Pronounced like "ass effects," perfect for a drug treating digestive issues.
- Caverject (for erectile dysfunction) – Evokes "cavern" and "inject," hinting at its injection method for... well, you know.
- Phexxi (a non-hormonal contraceptive gel) – Rhymes with "sexy," which fits its use in intimate situations.
- FML (an eye drop for inflammation) – Stands for Fluorometholone, but matches the acronym for "f*** my life," amusing for allergy sufferers.
- Uriaspas (for urinary tract issues) – Sounds like "your ass" or "you're a spaz," tying into bladder spasms.
- Pyridium (for UTI pain relief) – Makes urine orange, but the name sounds like "pyre" or something fiery, matching the burning sensation it treats.

structures or acronyms rather than direct animal references:

- Premarin (conjugated estrogens for hormone replacement): Derived from and named after "pregnant mare's urine" (mare being a female horse).
- Ursodiol (for gallstones and liver diseases): The "urs" prefix comes from "ursa," Latin for bear, reflecting its original isolation from bear bile.
- Batroxobin (a thrombin-like enzyme for blood clotting disorders): Named after the South American pit viper Bothrops atrox, from whose venom it's extracted.
- Reptilase (a reagent for coagulation testing and hemostasis): The name explicitly references "reptile," as it's derived from snake venom.
- CroFab (antivenom for pit viper bites): An abbreviation of "Crotalidae Fab," where Crotalidae is the scientific family name for pit vipers like rattlesnakes.

"On Air with Billy Tauro" Please Like and Follow Us On Facebook for more cool and exciting news updates and events! <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057320933117>

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!

For new membership call (781)395-2519





SHINE BRIGHTER WITH BEACON: SOLAR SOLUTIONS FOR EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS – INCLUDING COMMUNITY SOLAR FOR SHARED SAVINGS!

Embrace solar power with flexible options for both commercial and residential properties.

Join our community solar program and share the benefits of a large solar farm without installing panels at your business! Enjoy energy credits and lower electric bills with your share of the energy produced.

Discover a brighter, more sustainable future with Beacon's diverse solar solutions!

A TAVOLA RESTAURANT WINCHESTER OPEN FOR OUTDOOR PATIO DINING & TAKEOUT ORDERS: (781)729-1040 34 CHURCH STREET WINCHESTER



"Without all of the hustle and bustle of heading into Boston, why not just head locally right in Winchester at TAVOLA RESTAURANT where a little piece of Italy is waiting for you!"

"It's as close as you can get for a real authentic Italian dining experience that will keep you coming back for more" "Definitely a two thumbs up rating and absolutely worth checking

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Somerville/Medford Remembering Patricia (Patty) K. (Carter) O'Riordan



Obituary

Patricia (Patty) K. (Carter) O'Riordan — Of Malden, formerly of Arlington, passed away suddenly at her home on Friday, January 9, 2026. She was 69 years old.

Patty was known for her friendly and caring demeanor. She had a natural gift for helping others and was always there for anyone in need. She took great pride in making people feel welcomed, comfortable, and cared for in her presence. When her daughter was growing up, Patty made sure that not only her own child, but also her daughter's friends, were well fed and cared for, treating everyone like family.

An accomplished and passionate cook, Patty was well known for her talents in the kitchen and found great joy in preparing meals for those she loved. She enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends, as well as moments at home, relaxing on the couch while watching her favorite shows. Patty also loved her summer vacations in Maine, Lake Winnipesaukee, and Cape Cod with her late husband, John, and family and friends.

Above all else, she cherished being a mother and a wife, believing those to be her greatest accomplishments in life. Patty deeply missed John and always looked forward to the day she

would see him again.

Beloved wife of the late John F. O'Riordan of Arlington. Devoted mother of Molly Dupuis and her husband Chris. Loving Nana of Remi Dupuis. Daughter of the late Lowell H. Carter and the late Lucille Whittemore Carter. Cherished sister of Jimmy Carter and his wife Teresa of Greensboro, NC, Bill Carter and his wife Ramona of Pensacola, FLA, the late Mary Carter Berry and the late Joanne Carter Watts Moore both of NC. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

Calling Hours will be held in the

George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Friday, January 16th from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Followed by a prayer service in the funeral home at 12:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Joseph P. Leo



Obituary

Joseph P. Leo — Of Medford, formerly of Attleboro

and Somerville passed away on Sunday, January 11, 2025. He was 71 years old.

Born in Boston, he was the son of the late Rocco A. and Antonette (Minda) Leo.

Joseph had a deep love for all things sports. If there was a game on, he could almost always be found

in front of the television cheering along. Music was another great passion in his life. He was a talented organ player and shared his love of music as a member of a band, finding joy both in performing and listening.

Beloved father of Justin Leo. Loving grandfather of Mason and Alex Leo. Cherished brother of

Anthony R. Leo of Somerville, Louis C. Leo of Burlington and Anne C. Alizio of Somerville. Dear long-time friend of Fran Boll of Medford and Mike Santangelo of Medford. He is also lovingly survived by his nephew Christopher Leo of Burlington.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broad-

way (Powder House Sq.) on Thursday, January 15th from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Followed by a graveside service at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett at 12:45PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

PERSONNEL RECORDS (H 2112)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would expand a current law that prohibits an employer from penalizing, in any way, an employee as a result of any action on the part of the employee to seek his or her rights under the Massachusetts wage laws which are designed to ensure that

workers are fairly treated and paid for all the hours they work. The bill would provide the same protection to employees who ask their employers to provide the employee with any of his or her personnel records.

Under current law, an employer is required to notify an employee within 10 days of the employer

placing in the employee's personnel record any information to the extent that the information is, has been used or may be used, to negatively affect the employee's qualification for employment, promotion, transfer, additional compensation or the possibility that the employee will be subject to disciplinary action. Once notified, the em-

ployee can request a copy of his or her records. The bill would prohibit the employer from penalizing an employee who does so.

Supporters said the bill will guarantee that an employee is not penalized for making a simple and reasonable request to see his or her personnel records.

Rep. Kenneth Gordon (D-Bedford), the sponsor of the measure, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to explain why he filed the bill and to comment on its passage.

RAPID MASONRY & CONSTRUCTION LLC 857-228-6682 1-888-480-8885

Call for FREE Project Evaluation
Speak to Our Staff

New Roofs, Roof Repair, Steps & Stairs, Basements, Tuckpointing, Driveway Repair, Paver Driveways, Patio & Walkway, Retaining Walls, Foundation Repair, Chimney Repair / Rebuild, Waterproofing, Fencing, Pressure Wash Cleaning, Roof Cleaning, Siding, Painting, Carpentry, Window Repairs / Replace-

ment

Full remodel interior work carried out!

"Free chimney drone inspections also \$50 special on gutter cleaning"



Rapid Masonry & Construction LLC a top-rated local masonry and general contracting company, provides high quality services. For over 20 years, we have been helping clients achieve their masonry, concrete, and general construction projects at a price that best matches their needs and budgets. What can we help you do?



Call for FREE Project Evaluation
Speak to Our Staff

New Roofs, Roof Repair, Steps & Stairs, Basements, Tuckpointing, Driveway Repair, Paver Driveways, Patio & Walkway, Retaining Walls, Foundation Repair, Chimney Repair / Rebuild, Waterproofing, Fencing, Pressure Wash Cleaning, Roof Cleaning, Siding, Painting, Carpentry, Window Repairs / Replacement

Full remodel interior work carried out!

RAPID MASONRY & CONSTRUCTION LLC
857-228-6682
1-888-480-8885
Fully Insured! Ins Policy CSG-00188799-00

HIC Registration
213093

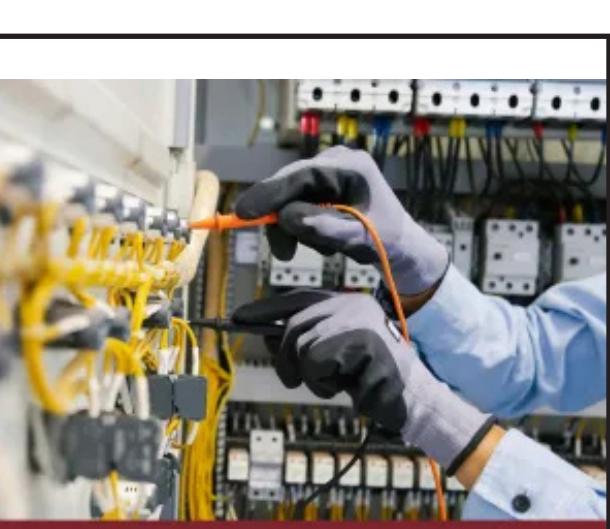
"Free chimney drone inspections also \$50 special on gutter cleaning"





Instant Shoe Repair (781)658-0240

22 Broadway Somerville MA
Shoe & Handbag Repair

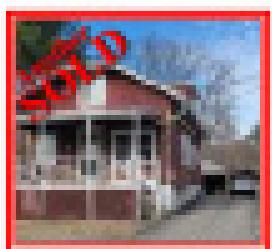


BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES VERANI REALTY/BUCELLI REAL ESTATE INC. (781)248-2545



When selling your home, we deliver maximum exposure!

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Verani Realty broadcasts your property to more than 70 million households, viewed by buyers in 27 countries across 5 continents. We use professional photographs, we accompany all showing appointments, unlike most other brokers. We are expert negotiators, with over 10 years experience ensuring you get the best price when selling your home. **CALL ABOUT OUR 1.5% COMMISSION SAVEMORE PROGRAM.**



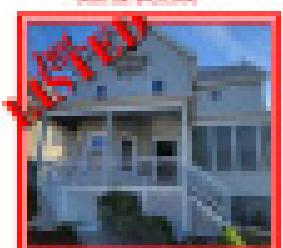
3 Lucy Street, Somerville
Listed for \$450,000



37 Halyard Road, Somerville
Listed for \$1,145,000, Sold for \$1,050,000



152 Powder House Blvd., Somerville
Listed for \$1,100,000, Sold for \$1,000,000



57 Highland St., Somerville
1 Family 3 1/2 Bath 1,000 Sq. Ft. \$1,150,000



Free
over the phone appraisal
Just give us a call and
we'll give you an idea what
your home is worth right
over the phone.
Call Today!
(781) 248-2545



11 Grand View Ave., Somerville
Listed for \$1,050,000, Sold for \$1,000,000



111 Belmont St., Somerville
Listed for \$1,000,000, Sold for \$1,000,000



29 Haverhill Street, Somerville
Listed for \$1,150,000, Sold for \$1,100,000



47 Clarendon Street, Somerville
Listed for \$1,100,000, Sold for \$1,000,000



142 Elm Street, Somerville
Listed for \$245,000, Sold for \$210,000



51 Beacon Street, Somerville
Listed for \$200,000, Sold for \$180,000



22 Phoenix Street, Somerville
Listed for \$100,000, Sold in 1 day!

Global Exposure = More Buyers = Faster Sales = Higher Sale Prices!

Call Executive Broker John Buccelli at 781-248-2545

C.B. SCOOPS ICE CREAM
& MORE MEDFORD
453 High St, Medford, MA 02155-3635

781-393-5959



Superior Air Conditioning

Office (617)625-0386
Cell (617)257-6394
Dave Sidoti

The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

Richard G. Di Girolamo Esquire
Anne M. Vigorito Esquire
Breanna L. Rolland Esquire

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW



Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense
Personal Injury
Family Law

TELEPHONE: (617)666-8200
Fax: (617)776-5435
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net

424 BROADWAY
SOMERVILLE, MA
02145

PARIS Nails 2
APPOINTMENT & WALK-INS WELCOME
Complete Nail Care For Ladies & Gentlemen

- * Acrylic Nail
- * Gel Nails
- * Manicure & Pedicure
- * Silk Wrap
- * Pink & White
- * Gel Manicure

Next Appt. Date _____ Time _____ Ask For _____
617-623-0745 Gift Certificates Available
364 Mystic Avenue Somerville, MA 02145

Mon-Sat 9:30am-7:30pm

Residential
Commercial
Fully Insured
Lic # 28182
Dennis J. Barry
Electrician
617.952.9585
Medford, MASS 02155
djb396@gmail.com

SNAKE-IT-AWAY, INC.
SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING
1-800-436-5980
Office: 781-396-4192
617-623-6459
Direct: 781-858-8314
Fax: 781-396-1084
snakeitawayrichie@comcast.net
www.snakeitaway.net
24 Hours
BBB Accredited



The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

ALL ARTICLES ON THE
SOMERVILLE NEWS WEEKLY
NEWS SITE ARE COPYRIGHT
PROTECTED



Copyright © 2017 William Tauro/The Somerville News Weekly.
All Rights Reserved

HELP WANTED: SECURITY
PERSONAL NEEDED

Security 

Security Personal Needed For All Shifts in Medford Area Contact Number 781-953 8358

PREMIERE ON BROADWAY NOW HIRING SERVERS & BAR STAFF



Residential
Commercial
Lic # 28182

Dennis J Barry
Electrician
617.952.9585
Medford, MASS 02155 djb396@gmail.com

John's Auto Sales
628-5511

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

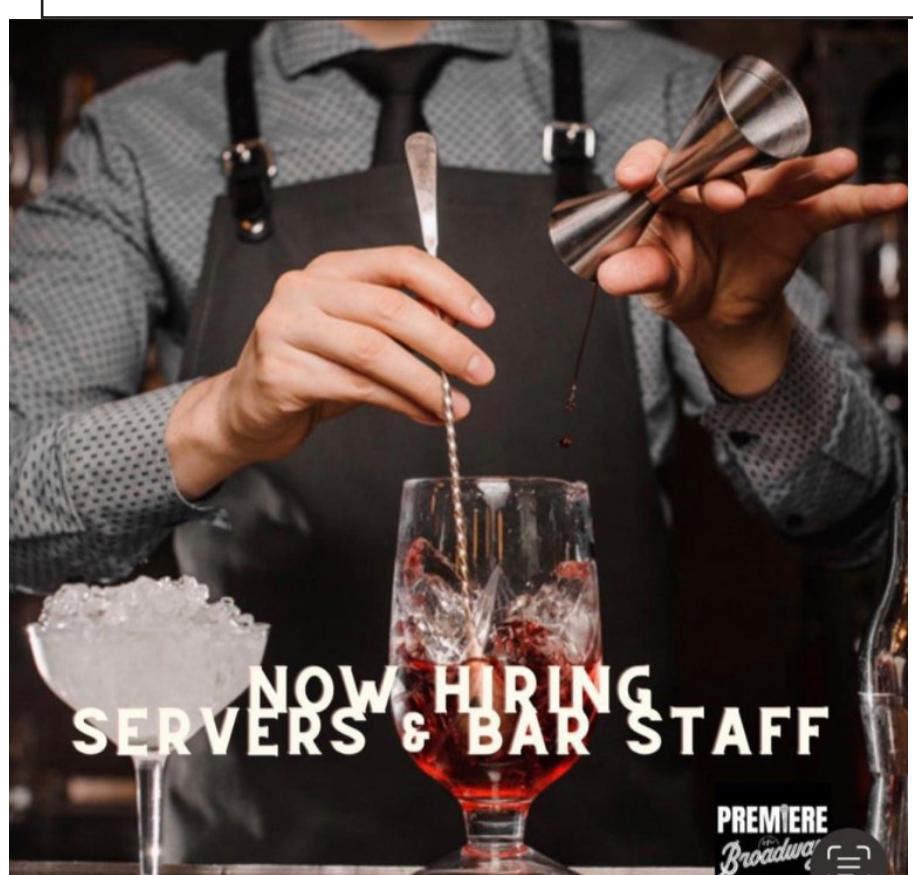


QUALITY JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE
781.866.8100
facebook.com/WagnerFloralDesigns
wagnercharo2@hotmail.com

Green Cab & Yellow Cab of Somerville

617-625-5000

AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS DON'T GET BAILOUTS, UNEMPLOYMENT OR SICK LEAVE AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 49.2% OF PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT IN THE US. PLEASE DO ONE THING EVERY DAY TO SUPPORT A **SMALL BUSINESS DURING THIS CRISIS.**



**NOW HIRING
SERVERS & BAR STAFF**

Premiere Broadway

@Premiere on Broadway

Green Cab and Yellow Cab of Somerville

Download our free Mobile App and order a taxi from your smartphone today!

- request a regulated, licensed taxi right from your own phone
- watch as your taxi is dispatched and drives to your location
- convenient book now or book later reservations

Serving Somerville and surrounding towns...

Search **Green Cab and Yellow Cab** at Apple Store or Google Play!!

EYC
PAINTING & CONSTRUCTION INC
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
PAINTING - MASONRY
CARPENTRY
781 308 9290
WWW.EYCPAINTINGCONSTRUCTION.COM

EYC
PAINTING & CONSTRUCTION INC
Painting: Interior & Exterior
Masonry: Walls - Stairs - Brick - Concrete
Carpentry: Decks - Wood Stairs - Windows
Tiles - Floors and more...

WWW.EYCPAINTINGCONSTRUCTION.COM



INSTANT SHOE & LUGGAGE REPAIR 20 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE (781)658-0240

Instant Shoe and Luggage Repair is located on the corner of Broadway and Mt. Vernon Street, just before the I-93 overpass and only a few blocks from Sullivan Station.

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

NIONAKIS CONSTRUCTION SOMERVILLE
617-285-0522CARPENTERS AND LABORERS
HELP NEEDED

CARPENTERS AND LABORERS
Carpenters and laborers needed for all facets of construction, from framing to finish. Great opportunity for experienced, or novice, candidate

Full or part-time positions available
Salary commensurate with experience and qualification
Send resumes to: Somervillebuilders@yahoo.com



RHINO ROOFING & MASONRY (857)397-5992 1(800)519-1249

Call for FREE Project Evaluation
Speak to Our Staff

New Roofs, Roof Repair, Steps & Stairs, Basements, Tuckpointing, Driveway Repair, Paver Driveways, Patio & Walkway, Retaining Walls, Foundation Repair, Chimney Repair / Rebuild, Waterproofing, Fencing, Pressure Wash Cleaning, Roof Cleaning, Siding, Painting, Carpentry, Window Repairs / Replacement

Full remodel interior work carried out!

RHINO ROOFING & MASONRY
(857)397-5992
1(800)519-1249
Fully Insured! Ins Policy GLSISCTC006815824

"Free chimney drone inspections also \$50 special on gutter cleaning"





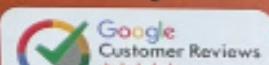

www.rhinoroofingandmasonry.com
Policy GLSISCTC006815824
Our Website

New Roots
Roof Repair
Gutters
Steps & Stairs
Basements
Tuckpointing
Driveway Repair
Paver Driveways
Patio & Walkway
Retaining Walls
Foundation Repair
Chimney Repair / Rebuild
Waterproofing
Fencing
Pressure Wash Cleaning
Roof Cleaning
Siding
Painting
Carpentry
Window Repairs / Replacement

Affordable Services
rhinoroofingandmasonry2024@gmail.com
377 Willard st Quincy MA 02169
160 Alewife Brook Pkwy, Cambridge MA 02138

857-397-5992
800-519-1249

No Pushy Sales Tactics

FOREVER CHEMICALS (H 4870)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Health Committee gave a favorable report to and recommended passage by the full House and Senate of a bill to protect public health from toxic "forever chemicals" which are per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The measure would phase out PFAS in many products; cut industrial discharges of PFAS;

and set up a fund to help communities test and treat PFAS in drinking water, soil and groundwater.

Supporters said that in Massachusetts, 172 public water systems in 96 cities and towns, and many private wells, have exceeded the state's legal limit for PFAS which are toxic even at very low level exposure and do not break down easily, meaning they will

persist for thousands of years in the environment. They argued that PFAS can increase the risk of developing cancers, immunosuppression, liver disease and developmental and reproductive illnesses. They said that 28 states have passed laws to ban PFAS in at least one product, and most states in New England, except Massachusetts, have banned PFAS in food packaging,

firefighting foam, carpets, clothing, fabric sprays and personal care products.

"This is great news for Massachusetts residents," said Deirdre Cummings, MASSPIRG Legislative Director.

"Other states have already enacted laws to restrict PFAS in some or all products," said Laura Spark, Environmental Health

Program Director at Clean Water Action. "Now it's time for Massachusetts to act. PFAS contamination in Massachusetts will continue to worsen until PFAS restrictions go into effect."

The Somerville/Medford News Weekly



The #1 News Source For Somerville & Medford

Thank You Somerville & Medford

"Now with 40 Full Pages"

www.thesomervillenewswEEKLY.com
www.medfordnewswEEKLY.com



25 Cents



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!



TWO MORE POSSIBLE BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2026 ARE CERTIFIED

By Bob Katzen

Two additional proposals were certified by Secretary of State Bill Galvin's office indicating that they contain the required 74,754 certified signatures needed to advance another step toward going on the November 2026 ballot for voters to decide. That brings the final total of possible 2026 ballot questions to 11.

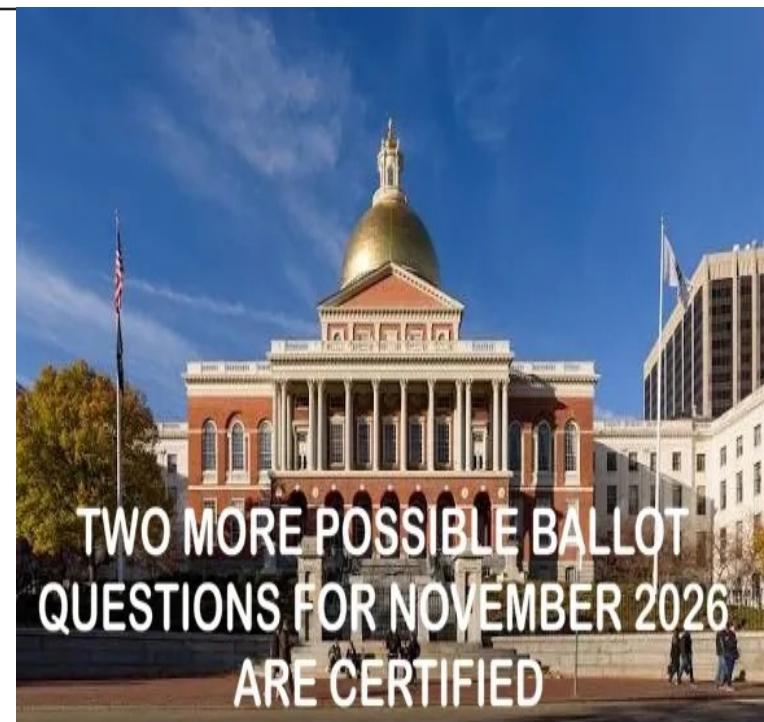
One would place sales tax revenue from sporting

goods like golf clubs, RVs and camping gear into a new "Nature for All Fund" that sponsors say could generate \$100 million annually for water and nature conservation and restoration efforts.

A second one is designed to make it easier for residents to purchase a home by updating zoning rules including allowing single-family homes to be built in a residentially zoned area as long as the land on which it is to be con-

structed is at least 5,000 square feet, has at least 50 feet of land bordering the street, road or public way that it faces and has access to public sewer and water services.

The 11 proposals were sent by Galvin to the Legislature and if not approved by the Legislature by May 6, 2026, proponents must gather another 12,429 signatures by July 1, 2026, in order for the question to appear on the November 2026 ballot.



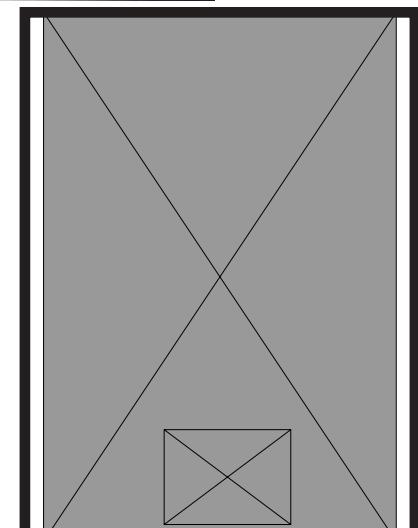
519 BROADWAY LUXURY BOUTIQUE CONDOS SOMERVILLE WINTER MOVE IN SPECIAL (781) 589-4115



Dr. Brendan T. McLaughlin
Periodontics, Dental Implants and IV Sedation

617-591-9888
281 Broadway - Somerville, MA 02145
www.DentPlant.com

508-872-2624
100 Concord St Suit 1E - Framingham, MA 01702
drbrendan@dentplant.com



MILLENNIUM COMPANIES
DUMPSTER RENTALS
(781)395-1200 OR (800)793-3746

MILLENNIUM BEST OF **MILLENNIUM**
2017

MMPS 393 Mystic Ave Medford, Mass, 02155

CARBONNEAU INSULATION
(603)598-3491





RHINO ROOFING & MASONRY (857)397-5992 1(800)519-1249

RHINO ROOFING & MASONRY

New Roofs
Roof Repair
Gutters
Steps & Stairs
Basements
Tuckpointing
Driveway Repair
Paver Driveways
Patio & Walkway
Retaining Walls
Foundation Repair
Chimney Repair / Rebuild
Waterproofing
Fencing
Pressure Wash Cleaning
Roof Cleaning
Siding
Painting
Carpentry
Window Repairs / Replacement

Affordable Services
rhinoroofingandmasonry2024@gmail.com
377 Willard St Quincy MA 02169
160 Alewife Brook Pkwy, Cambridge MA 02138

857-397-5992
800-519-1249

No Pushy Sales Tactics

Call for FREE Project Evaluation
Speak to Our Staff

New Roofs, Roof Repair, Steps & Stairs, Basements, Tuckpointing, Driveway Repair, Paver Driveways, Foundation Repair, Chimney Repair / Rebuild, Waterproofing, Fencing, Pressure Wash Cleaning, Roof Cleaning, Siding, Painting, Carpentry, Window Repairs /

Replacement
Full remodel interior work carried out!
RHINO ROOFING & MASONRY

(857)397-5992
1(800)519-1249
Fully Insured! Ins Policy GLSIS-CTC006815824
"Free chimney drone inspections"

also \$50 special on gutter cleaning"
LICENSE #213124

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices

Verani Realty

Call Us Any Time for a FREE Consultation.

422 Highland Ave, Winchester, MA
25 West Street, Cambridge, MA
215 Marlborough St, Unit 2, Somerville, MA
100 Union Landing, Unit 1211, Medford, MA

107 High Point Road, Andover, MA
301 Forest Circle, Winchester, MA
19-19 Pinian Street, Somerville, MA
405-420 Concourse Ave, Somerville, MA
108 Marlboro Street, Somerville, MA

Jack L-Parr 978-439-2880
Joanne Venari 774-507-2994

108 Essex Street, Medford, MA

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Verani Realty

Residential and Commercial

Call Us Any Time for a FREE Consultation.

2% OF THE NET PROFIT

We Are Real Estate Professionals Committed to You and Your Needs.

Mayor Jake Wilson's Inaugural Address Sets a Results-First Agenda



Mayor Jake Wilson giving his inaugural address on stage at Somerville High School

On January 3, the Somerville community gathered together for the 2026 inauguration ceremonies.

Transportation/MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng in addition to spoken word and musical performances by Somerville youth, City staff, and School of Honk.

In his inaugural address, Mayor Jake Wilson pledged visible improvements and a transparent approach the public can follow.

Wilson's second major theme was keeping Somerville livable from the environment to an

inclusive local economy to a housing plan that's a map, not a mantra. He previewed priority steps he will take, including adding homes near transit and growth corridors, enabling a wider mix of housing types, expanding nonprofit partnerships to deepen affordability, and strengthening tenant protections so workers and families can stay. Wilson linked affordability to small-business stability and the creative economy, promising to treat affordable commercial and

artist space with the same urgency as housing. Read or watch and listen to the Mayor's full speech.

City Council President Lance Davis and School Committee Chair Dr. Emily Ackman also emphasized a commitment to progress and collaboration.

Learn more about the 2026 inauguration ceremonies.

Photo by Devon Moos Photography



Somerville Resident's Ordeal with City-Backed Home Renovation: A Tale of Unresolved Woes and Unfulfilled Promises



By William Tauro

In the heart of Somerville, Massachusetts, a well-intentioned city program aimed at revitalizing affordable housing has left one homeowner entangled in a web of contractor mishaps, unfinished work, and bureaucratic inaction. The Home Improvement Program (HIP), administered by the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development (OSPCD) through the City Hall Annex, promises to assist low- and moderate-income residents in upgrading their properties. This initiative, funded in part by Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), pre-qualifies contractors to perform rehabilitation work, with the goal of creating safe, sustainable, and affordable housing options. However, for one local resident, what began as an opportunity to renovate rental units in her home has devolved into a prolonged nightmare, marked by shoddy workmanship, financial burdens, and a lack of support from the city.

The story centers on a Somerville homeowner who enrolled in the HIP to address improvements in her property's upstairs flooring. The city facilitated the project by allocating \$100,000, which was added to the end of her home mortgage. This loan is structured as a deferred payment, meaning the city will automatically recoup the funds upon the sale of the home. In exchange, the program connected her with a pre-approved contractor: Miles Iyamu of Apex Construction & Environmental, Inc., based at 86 Brunswick Street in Dorchester, MA. The work commenced, but problems arose almost immediately.

According to the resident's account, the upstairs floor was installed twice since December of the previous year, yet the issues persist unabated. The flooring is reportedly peeling away and separating, rendering it unusable and unsafe. Despite repeated attempts to alert the city, no officials have inspected the site, and efforts to resolve

the matter have yielded no results. The contractor, meanwhile, has gone out of business, leaving the homeowner without recourse for repairs or refunds.

When I reached for comment, Iyamu initially hung up on me during a phone inquiry but later responded via text: "Ask her for the spec for the job. Have a contractor compare the upgrade to the work done. Am owed thousands of dollars for changes and the City claimed there is no money for extra work order. Also, we are out of business." This statement suggests disputes over project specifications, change orders, and unpaid extras, pointing to potential miscommunications or funding shortfalls on the city's end.

Public records and reviews of Apex Construction & Environmental reveal a mixed history, primarily focused on lead removal and environmental services. While some clients have praised the company for timely and leading work,

others note it is not accredited by the Better Business Bureau, and no widespread complaints specifically tied to Somerville projects were uncovered in available sources. However, the firm's dissolution exacerbates the resident's predicament, as she now faces the dual challenge of faulty renovations and a \$100,000 lien on her property—without the intended benefits.

The city's role in this saga raises questions about oversight and accountability. As the program manager, OSPCD is responsible for vetting contractors and ensuring projects meet standards. Yet, despite ongoing correspondence from the homeowner—detailed in attached emails that chronicle back-and-forth exchanges pleading for intervention—the city has reportedly done little to mediate or rectify the situation. No inspections have been conducted, no alternative contractors assigned, and no steps taken to alleviate the financial strain. This lack of action contrasts with the program's stated mission to support residents in maintaining affordable housing.

In judging this case based on the available details, it appears the City of Somerville fell short in its duty to protect participants in its own program. While contractor disputes can arise in any renovation, the HIP's structure places the

city in a pivotal position to intervene, especially when funds are publicly sourced and tied to long-term homeowner obligations. By not addressing the resident's complaints promptly or facilitating a resolution—such as reimbursing for subpar work or removing the lien until issues are fixed—the city risks undermining trust in its community development efforts. Homeowners deserve better safeguards, and this incident highlights the need for stronger monitoring, clearer communication on change orders, and dedicated support channels for when things go awry.

As Somerville continues to promote initiatives like HIP to foster equitable housing, stories like this serve as a cautionary reminder: good intentions must be backed by robust execution. The resident's ordeal, now stretching over a year, underscores the human cost of systemic gaps. City officials, including Program Manager Russell Koty, could still step in to make things right—perhaps starting with that long-overdue inspection.

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

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!



Manage Your Entire
Taxi Experience
Through Our Mobile
App!

Cashless? No Problem. We Accept
ALL Major Credit Cards Inside
Our Taxis.
Or Place Your Card on File in Our
App!



Reservations

Flat Rate Request



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,

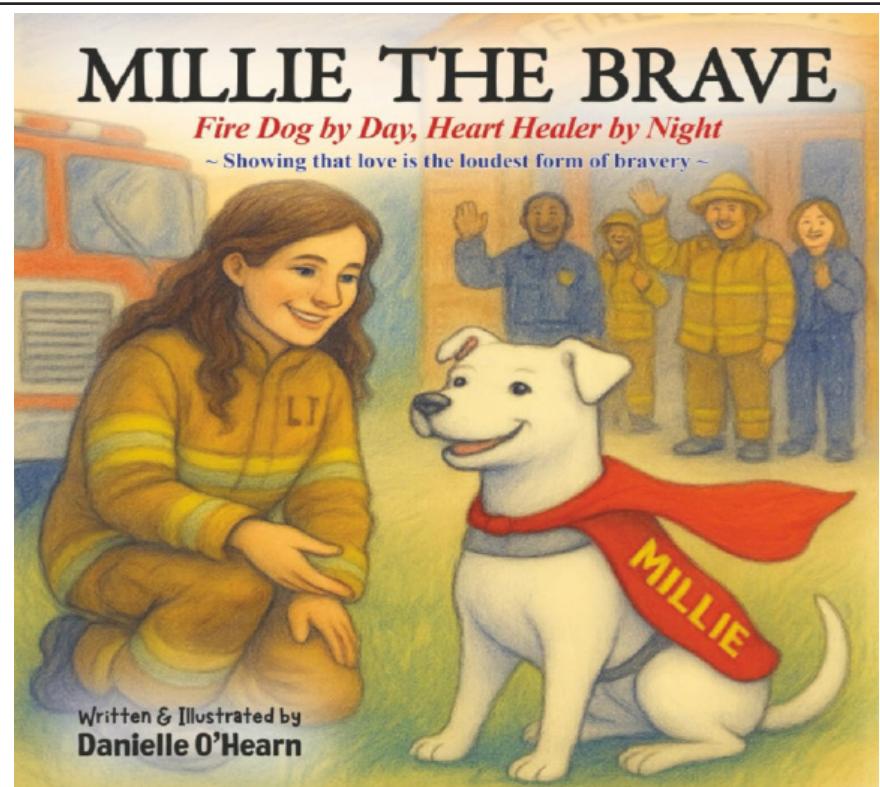
Hey Billy

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

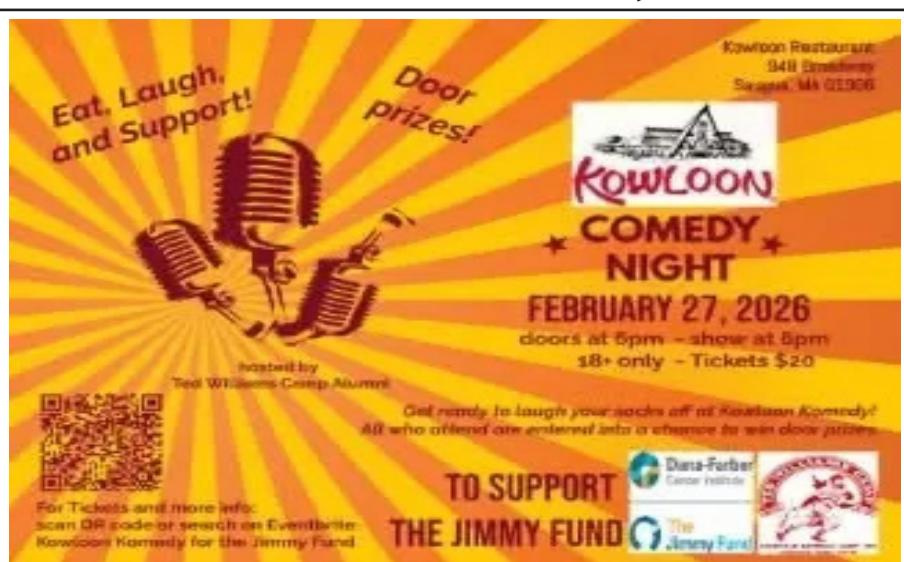
<https://a.co/d/9cCS8Lp>



KOWLOON COMEDY NIGHT FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Hi my name is Joe LoRusso a North
Reading Resident and Ted Williams Camp
Alum, Volunteer for the Jimmy Fund, and
raising money for the Jimmy Fund, and
have been for many years to help strike
out cancer in Children & Adults.

The event I'm running is a expected to
draw a lot of people, a great evening of
laughs, great food and giving away great
door prizes; so get your tickets early, by
scanning the QR Code on flier or on
Eventbrite website, they are going quick.
Thank you all in advance for your sup-
port.



GET THE
APP



Dumpsters, Power Sweeping
and More
(781)395-1200
(800)793-3746

 MILLENNIUM





Somerville Christmas Tree Disposal Guidelines

A reminder that Christmas tree pickup is underway in Somerville through Friday, February 13. Trees can be placed curbside on your regular trash day

after removing all decorations.

Do not put trees in a plastic bag. Constituents should contact 311 (617-

666-3311) if their tree has been out for over two weeks.



Somerville 2026 Excise Tax Bills Arriving in January



Residents should please note that motor vehicle excise tax bills for 2026 are being sent one month earlier this year. Bills will issue on January 26, 2026, and are due February 25, 2026.

Somerville residents who

own a vehicle with a valid Massachusetts license plate are responsible for paying their excise tax bill each year. Payments can be made:

Online via the link on the city's website at somervillema.gov/payonline

In-person at the Collector's office at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Valid ID required if you do not bring the bill with you when making payment in person.

Via mail using the provided envelope.

Or by check, which can be

dropped off in the stainless-steel payments box outside the front entrance of City Hall

Somerville/Medford News Weekly

The #1 News Source For Somerville & Medford

Thank You Somerville & Medford

“Now with 40 Full Pages”

www.thesomervillenewsweekly.com
www.medfordnewsweekly.com

25

TIKAL TAILORING & DRY CLEANING 70
BROADWAY SOMERVILLE (617)628-0847

**COCO FLOW STYLE
BARBER SHOP
SOMERVILLE**

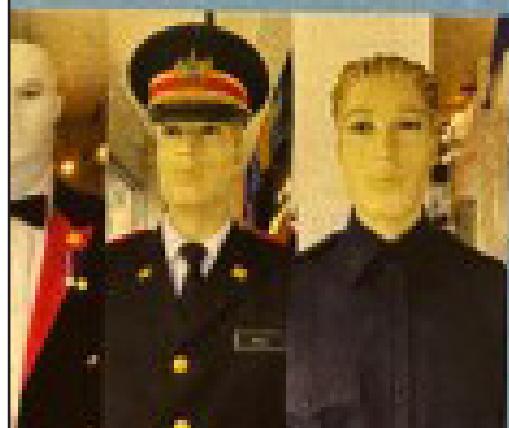


“Somerville’s Best of the Best!”
(857)233-6748



**TIKAL TAILORING & DRY CLEANING 70
BROADWAY SOMERVILLE (617)628-0847**

70 Broadway st Somerville MA 02145
Moda-bon bon-up www.tikaluniform.com




**We do complete line of
Custom made uniforms**

**For: police office, Drycleaning
Motorcycles Breeches, civilian clothes**



Somerville Names Ohemeng Kyeremateng as New Parks Director



Seasoned municipal recreation leader brings decade-plus of experience in equitable programming, operations, and fiscal stewardship

SOMERVILLE — Mayor Jake Wilson is welcoming Ohemeng

Kyeremateng as the City's new Director of Parks & Recreation. Kyeremateng brings more than a decade of municipal parks and recreation leadership experience focused on expanding access, strengthening community programming, and improving the stewardship of public recreation spaces.

Prior to joining Somerville, he held senior leadership roles across multiple communities, including serving as Deputy Director of Recreation for the City of Hartford, CT, where he helped oversee parks, facilities, aquatics, and community programs and managed significant operating and capital budgets.

"I'm proud to welcome Ohemeng as our new Parks and Recreation Director. Recreation is quality-of-life infrastructure," said Mayor Wilson. "It's youth sports, after-school and summer programs, and the daily opportunities that help kids thrive and neighbors connect. Ohemeng brings the experience and drive to grow participation and strengthen the programs Somerville families and all our residents rely on."

In Hartford, Kyeremateng directed division-wide strategy and operations, collaborated with schools and community partners to deliver neighborhood-based programming, and helped

manage budgets exceeding \$10 million.

Most recently, Kyeremateng has served as Director of Recreation for the Town of Palmer, MA, leading year-round programming, overseeing town recreational assets, and supporting long-term planning and facility improvements guided by community needs.

Kyeremateng is a scholarship award recipient of the American Parks and Recreation Foundation and a graduate of the National Recreation and Park Association's Revenue Management School, with expertise in financial sustainability and revenue strategy.

He holds an MBA in Management and a bachelor's degree in Sports and Leisure Management.

"I'm honored to lead Somerville's Parks & Recreation Department," said Kyeremateng. "Recreation programming can help community members of all ages discover new talents, meet new friends, and just have fun. I'm looking forward to working with our team to deliver great programs for everyone in Somerville."

For more information on the City's Parks & Recreation programming, please visit somervillema.gov/parksandrec.

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."

Mount Vernon Restaurant



Join us to watch your favorite sports at the Mount Vernon Restaurant in Somerville daily for all your breakfast, lunch and dinner favorites.

SUPERIOR AIR CONDITIONING
& HEATING (617) 257-6394

Superior
AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
N. ANDOVER, MA





Join the Somerville Fair Housing Commission Applications Now Being Accepted for One Open Position



SOMERVILLE — The Somerville Fair Housing Commission (FHC) is actively seeking a new member, and we invite all Somerville residents to consider applying.

What is the Somerville Fair Housing Commission?
The Fair Housing Commission works to ensure that all current and prospective Somerville residents have equal access to housing, free from discrimination and prejudice. The FHC plans annual educational events, reviews complaints submitted, does tabling at community events, and meets with City of Somer-

ville legislative staff on fair housing issues.

Who can join?
Any Somerville community member who is over the age of 18 can apply.

What is the time commitment?
The commission typically meets on the fourth Thursday of each month for one hour. Members commit to serving three-year terms.

How do I apply?
To apply, send a message sharing why you are interested in joining the Fair

Housing Commission to Shannon Lawler, staff liaison to the Fair Housing Commission, by Friday, January 30, 2026.

Email your application to slawler@somervillema.gov. Or mail your paper application to: Somerville Fair Housing Commission, 50 Evergreen Ave.. Somerville, MA 02145 ATTN: Shannon Lawler

When is the application deadline?
Friday, January 30, 2026

Questions?

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Shannon Lawler via email at slawler@somervillema.gov or by phone at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2569.

Stay Connected!
Want to learn about roles open on other commissions or more ways to engage? Visit <http://www.somervillema.gov/BeSomerville>

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, January 17

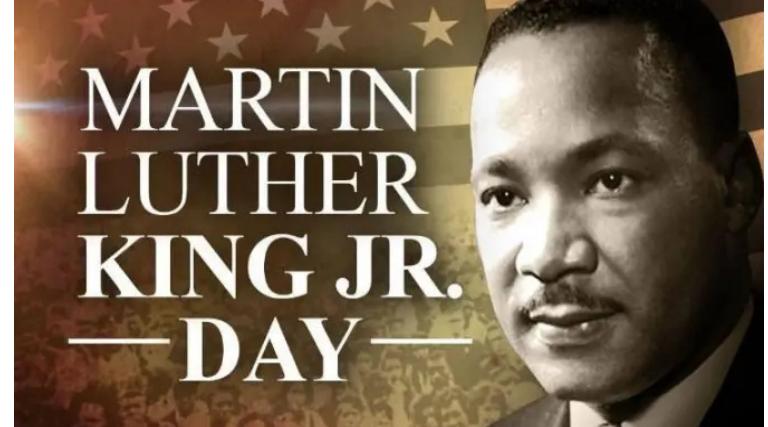
Community members are invited to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the City's annual celebration.

The event will take place on Saturday, January 17, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Somerville High School

(81 Highland Ave). The celebration will include light food and refreshments, arts and crafts for all ages, youth performances including speeches, poetry, and music, and a keynote address delivered by Dr. James "Jimmy" McCarty focused on the

life and legacy of Dr. King. Light food and refreshments will also be served.

RSVP to attend at bit.ly/MLK_2026.



BROADWAY SUNOCO SOMERVILLE (617)623-5678



(617) 623-5678
(617) 623-9046

ELIAS & ABE AUTO REPAIR, INC.
Broadway Sunoco

AUTO SERVICE CENTER
DOMESTIC & FOREIGN CAR REPAIR
STATE INSPECTION STICKERS

ABE S. MANSOUR
ELIAS Y. MANSOUR

258 BROADWAY

Somerville Computers



Somerville Computers 238 Somerville Avenue Somerville MA (617)666-5692 For all your computer needs in a hurry!



The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

Richard G. Di Girolamo Esquire
Anne M. Vigorito Esquire
Breanna L. Rolland Esquire



Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Family Law
Criminal Defense
Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617)666-8200
Fax: (617)776-5435
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net
424 BROADWAY
SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

BEST BOSTON ROOFING & MASONRY CORP
(617) 377-0527

SERVICES

- STEPS
- PATIOS
- PAVERS
- DRAINAGE
- OVERLAYS
- CHIMNEYS
- CONCRETE
- WALKWAYS
- RE-POINTING
- FOUNDATIONS
- STONE WALLS
- BELGIUM BLOCK
- WATERPROOFING
- RETAINING WALLS
- PLASTER/STUCCO
- BASEMENT REPAIRS
- WATER LEAK MITIGATION
- ROOFING REPAIRS
- ROOF REPLACEMENT
- SIDING & PAINTING

617-377-0527

ALL WORK WARRANTED Masonrybestboston@gmail.com
WE ARE FULLY REGISTERED AND INSURED www.bestbostonroofingandmasonrycorp.com

BEST BOSTON ROOFING & MASONRY CORP
(617) 377-0527

Best Boston
Roofing & Masonry Corp.
(617) 377-0527

**CHIMNEY REPAIRS / POINTING / LINED / CAPPED / REBUILT
ROOF REPAIRS / REPLACEMENT • PAINTING •
SIDING • FOUNDATIONS**



FULLY INSURED **FREE ESTIMATE** **20 YEAR WARRANTY**

617-377-0527
75 Somerset Rd., Brookline, MA 02445
www.bestbostonroofingandmasonrycorp.com
masonrybestboston@gmail.com
Call or Email for FREE Estimate of your project



THE COMMONS LUXURY RENTAL UNITS (617)819-4462
ONE & TWO BEDROOMS 434 MCGRATH HIGHWAY SOMERVILLE

**Luxury Rental Units
ONE & TWO BEDROOMS**
434 McGrath Highway Somerville, MA 02143
Now Leasing
NO FEE | PET FRIENDLY | GARAGE PARKING
TheProspectCommons.com
Give Us a Call | 617-819-4462 | GiveUsAReply@prospectcommonsmass.com
ADVANTAGE REALTY





The Somerville Police Department is Now Accepting Direct Hires!

We're looking for dedicated, motivated individuals ready to serve one of the most diverse and dynamic communities in the Northeast.

If you're MPTC-trained and looking for a department that values teamwork, community engagement, career growth, and competitive benefits — this is your opportunity.

Join our team and make a real impact.

Apply at: CityOfSomerville.ApplyToJob.com



LOBULAR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY (H 4625)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would designate October 15 as Lobular Breast Cancer Awareness Day in Massachusetts — recognizing the day to promote public awareness of lobular breast cancer, encour-

age education and support related research efforts.

"While knocking doors during my campaign in Pinehills, I had a conversation at one home with Plymouth resident Laurie Hutcheson, Executive Director of the Lobular

Breast Cancer Alliance, that introduced me to lobular breast cancer—a disease I had never heard of, despite the fact that it accounts for 10 to 15 percent of all breast cancer cases and is the second most common form of the disease," said sponsor Rep. Michelle Badger (D-Plym-

outh). "Through continued conversations, Laurie shared critical information about how lobular breast cancer is difficult to detect on mammograms because it does not form distinct lumps but instead appears as striations, often described as spider-web-like patterns, lacks its own

targeted treatment and frequently goes undiagnosed for years. I am proud to have filed this bill ... to raise awareness, promote earlier detection and help prevent further unnecessary loss of life."

The Somerville/Medford News Weekly



The #1 News Source For Somerville & Medford

Thank You Somerville & Medford
"Now with 40 Full Pages"



www.thesomervillenewswEEKLY.com
www.medfordnewswEEKLY.com

25 Cents

General Contractor
Restoration Specialist

Walter Hussey -Owner
O:781-438-5458
C: 617-906-2660

WHSConstructionGroup@gmail.com
15 Rush street, Somerville MA 02145

WH&S
Construction Group

NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT
SOMERVILLE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!
15% OFF SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

7AM-9AM (DINE IN ONLY)
25 Bow St, Somerville, MA 02143



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES COMMONWEALTH REAL ESTATE SOMERVILLE

BHHS Commonwealth Real Estate

Winner of the 2018 Chairman's Circle Diamond award, representing the top 1/2 of the top 1% across the nation
Again in 2019, winner of President Circle Award

617-818-5736 patricia.ng@commonmoves.com
617-610-5382 Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com





Somerville Introduces Mattress Recycling Fee Program



Fees for state-required mattress and box spring recycling go into effect February 1, 2026

SOMERVILLE—The City of Somerville currently spends nearly \$300,000 each year to cover the cost of recycling mattresses and box springs discarded by residents. Since November 2022, state law has required that all discarded mattresses and box springs be recycled to reduce pressure on landfills, significantly increasing municipal recycling costs

statewide.

After reviewing mattress recycling programs in 28 nearby communities of similar size, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is introducing a Mattress and Box Spring Recycling Fee Program starting February 1, 2026. This program will help offset rising disposal costs while creating a more consistent, fair, and sustainable system for residents. It will also help deter residents of neighboring communities from disposing of their mattresses improperly in Somerville to avoid their own community's fees.

The new policy establishes a clear, uniform approach to mattress recycling and is expected to reduce the total number of units collected each week, helping the City better manage operational costs. In Fiscal Year 2025, the average cost paid by the City of Somerville

to recycle a mattress or box spring was \$63.46 per unit, including hauling and recycling fees.

Under the new program, residents will be charged a \$55 disposal fee per unit, allowing the city to recover a portion of actual costs while continuing to provide responsible recycling services.

The new fee program will go into effect on February 1, 2026. Starting on that date, residents of eligible households wishing to dispose of a mattress or box spring will need to purchase a Disposal Sticker before scheduling a mattress pickup and placing these items on the curb. Mattresses will be collected curbside one day after regular trash collection. For residents with Friday trash pickup, mattresses will also be collected on Friday. Mattresses and box springs are counted as separate items.

How to Recycle a Mattress or Box Spring via City Services:

First, confirm that you are eligible: Only residential households in buildings with 6 or fewer units with city-managed trash collection are eligible to have the City recycle their mattress or box spring. Pickup is also limited to two bulk items per week. Residents of buildings with 7 or more units using private trash services are not eligible.

Purchase a Disposal Sticker one of three ways:

Online: Purchase through the online payment portal on the City website at somervillema.gov/payonline.

Department of Public Works (DPW): Purchase in person at the DPW Offices at One Franey Road. Check, credit cards, and money

orders are accepted. No cash.

City Hall: Purchase in person at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall at 93 Highland Avenue. Cash, check, credit card, or money order are accepted.

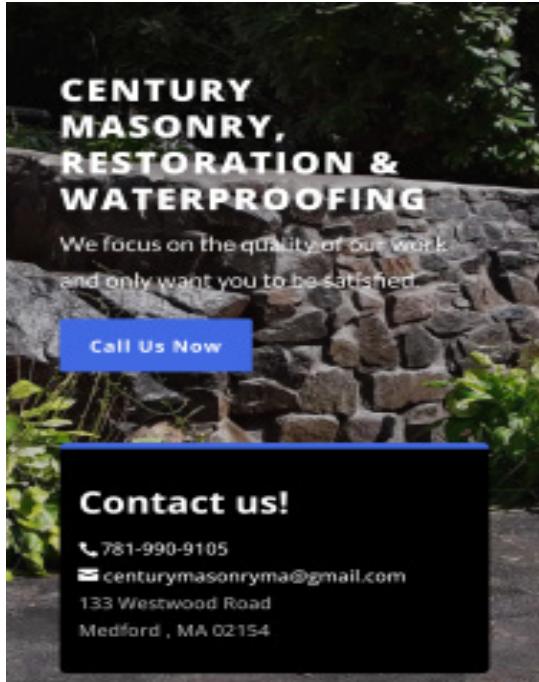
Schedule your mattress pickup: Residents must contact 311 Constituent Services in advance to schedule a mattress and/or box spring pickup. Call 311 at 617-666-3311 or visit somervillema.gov/311 for more ways to contact 311.

Please note: Infested or soiled mattresses must be scheduled for special pickup. Contact 311 before purchasing a sticker.

For more information on mattress recycling and disposal, please visit the City website at somervillema.gov/mattressrecycling.

CENTURY MASONRY RESTORATION & WATERPROOFING 781-990-9105

10% off when you mention this ad!
Call 781-990-9105
or email
centurymasonryma@gmail.com



Century Masonry & Waterproofing

**WATERPROOF YOUR BASEMENT
STOP LEAKS
Mention This Ad**

**10% Discount
781-990-9105**

CALL OR EMAIL TO SCHEDULE TODAY

www.centurymasonryma.com
781-990-9105 • centurymasonryma@gmail.com

(Ask for Rachel)

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES VERANI REALTY 617.776.3311 Office/ 617-438-2460 Cell— SOMERVILLE

Call Us Any Time for a
FREE Consultation.



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Verani Realty
Residential**



We Are Real Estate
Professionals Committed
to You and Your Needs.



377 High Plain Rd, Andover, MA



51 Pettee St, Unit 47, Newton, MA



75 Marshall St, Somerville, MA



16 Welgate Rd, Medford, MA



7 Percy Rd, Lexington, MA



350 Revere Beach Blvd, Unit 2-2b, Revere, MA



422 Highland Ave, Winchester, MA



35 Forest Circle, Winchester, MA



350 Revere Beach Blvd, Unit 2-2b, Revere, MA

**PROUD OWNER AND CHEF JOSEPH A CARLI A TAVOLA RESTAURANT WINCHESTER
DINING & TAKEOUT ORDERS: (781)729-1040 34 CHURCH STREET WINCHESTER**



**RAPID MASONRY & CONSTRUCTION
LLC 857-228-6682 1-888-480-8885**



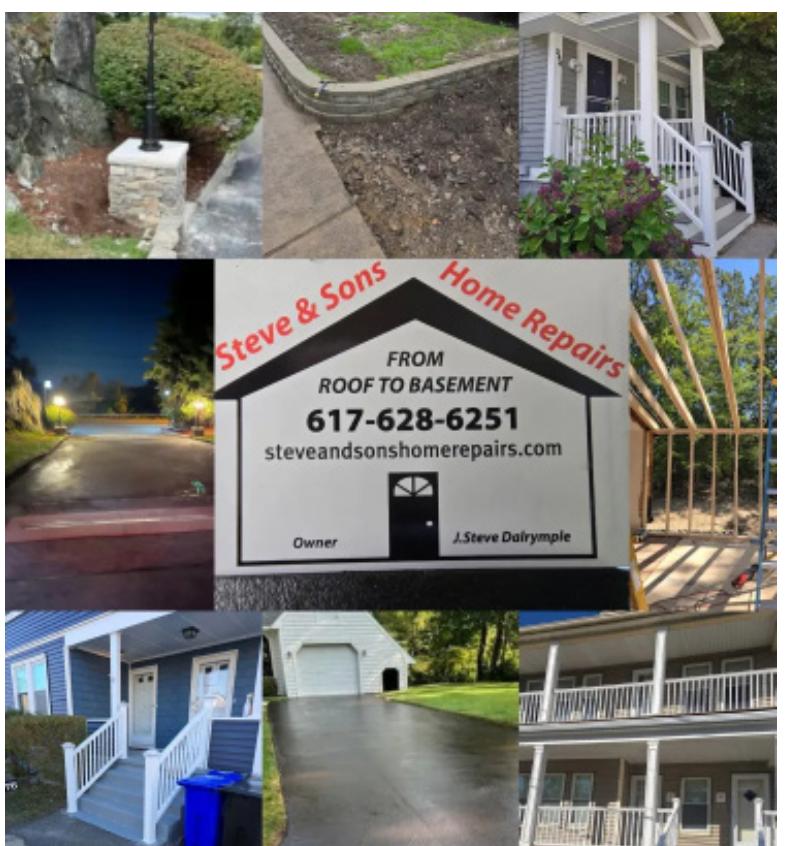
Call for FREE Project Evaluation
Speak to Our Staff

New Roofs, Roof Repair, Steps & Stairs, Basements, Tuckpointing, Driveway Repair, Paver Driveways, Patio & Walkway, Retaining Walls, Foundation Repair, Chimney Repair / Rebuild, Waterproofing, Fencing, Pressure Wash Cleaning, Roof Cleaning, Siding, Painting, Carpentry, Window Repairs / Replacement

Full remodel interior work carried out!

RAPID MASONRY & CONSTRUCTION LLC
857-228-6682
1-888-480-8885
Fully Insured! Ins Policy CSG-00188799-000
HIC Registration 213093

Free chimney drone inspections also \$50 special on gutter cleaning



**Steve & Sons Home Repairs
617-628-6251**

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HOME SERVICES-COMMONWEALTH REAL ESTATE**



Porter Square - 6 Family - \$2.7M



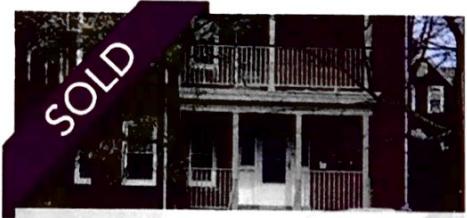
Porter Square - 4 Family - \$2.1M



Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$2M



Davis Square - 4 Family - \$1.875M



Prospect Hill - 4 Family - \$1.65M



Porter Square - 2 Family - \$1.38M



EXCHANGE STREET BISTRO MALDEN MASS



Exchange Street Bistro has maintained its place in the culinary scene as a true trendsetting gem, delivering Boston atmosphere with neighborhood prices. Our menu covers a broad range of variety while staying up to date with the current trends. A state of the art kitchen and an experienced staff provide reasonably priced culinary treats that will exceed your expectations.

Whether you are celebrating a special occasion in our function room, getting together with friends in our dining area, or sampling one of our 100 martinis or 60 bottles of wine from around the world, the experience at Exchange Street Bistro is like no other.

67 Exchange Street Malden 02148
Make a reservation: (781)322-0071



Tauro Realty

Large Scale Development Opportunities
Apartment Rentals



(617)666-2300

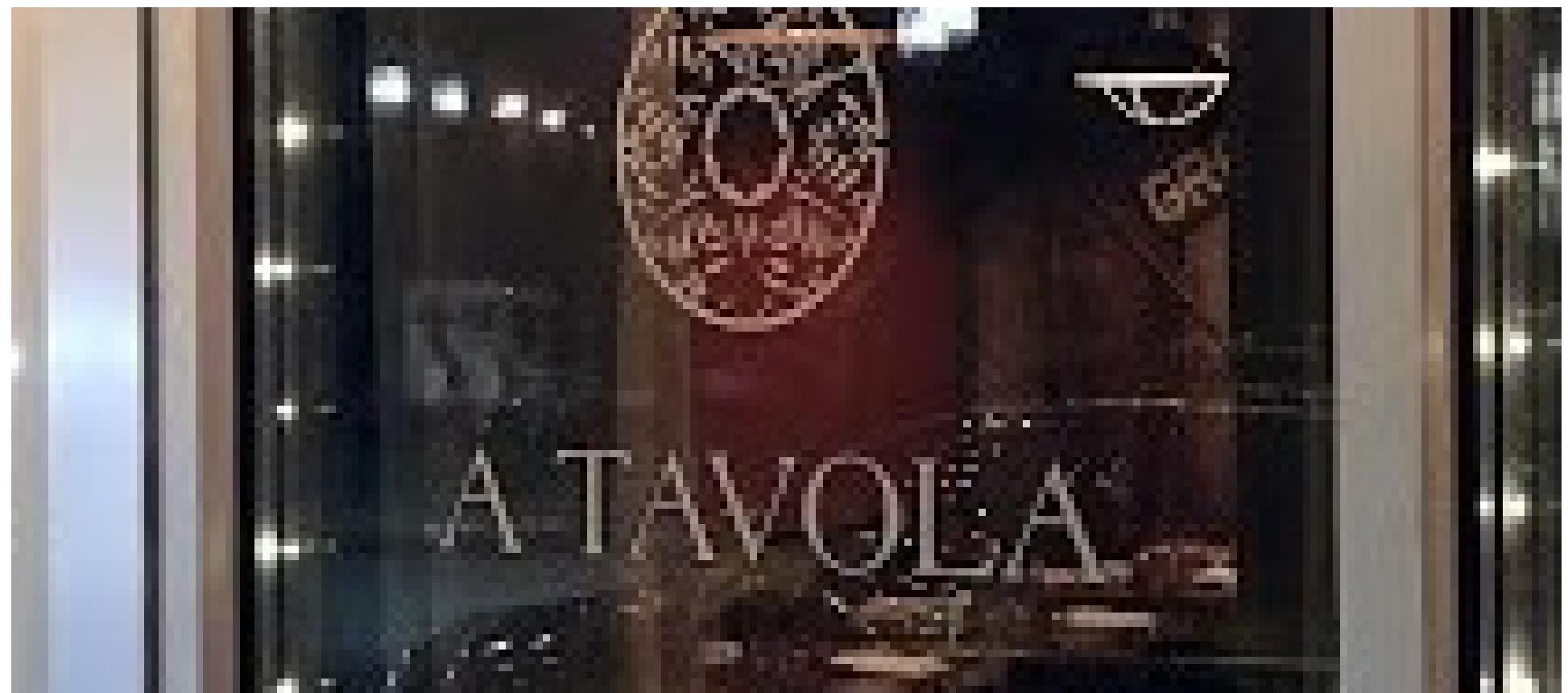
Pat's Enterprises

Property Management & Business Development



(617)628-7501

PROUD OWNER AND CHEF JOSEPH A CARLI A TAVOLA RESTAURANT DINING
& TAKEOUT ORDERS (781)729-1040 34 CHURCH STREET WINCHESTER



GREEN CAB AND YELLOW CAB OF
SOMERVILLE: GET THE APP TODAY!
Manage Your Entire Taxi Experience Through Our
Mobile App! Call Today (617)625-5000



For reservations go to:
<http://services.taxihail.com/GreenYellowCab/>

To GET THE APP please go to:
<https://greenandyellowcab.com/>

MILLENNIUM COMPANIES
DUMPSTER RENTALS
(781)395-1200 OR 1(800)793-3746

MILLENNIUM COMPANIES

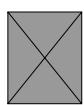
WE DELIVER THE MOST DEPENDABLE & AFFORDABLE ROLL OFF DUMPSTER RENTALS THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND.

Dumpster Rentals Save Time and Money

- We service Boston and Greater New England
- We offer dumpster rentals in 10, 15, 20, 30 and 40 cubic yards.
- We offer a no hassle, no hidden fee experience with flat rates for every rental.

5% OFF FIRST CONTAINER FOR FIRST TIME CUSTOMER

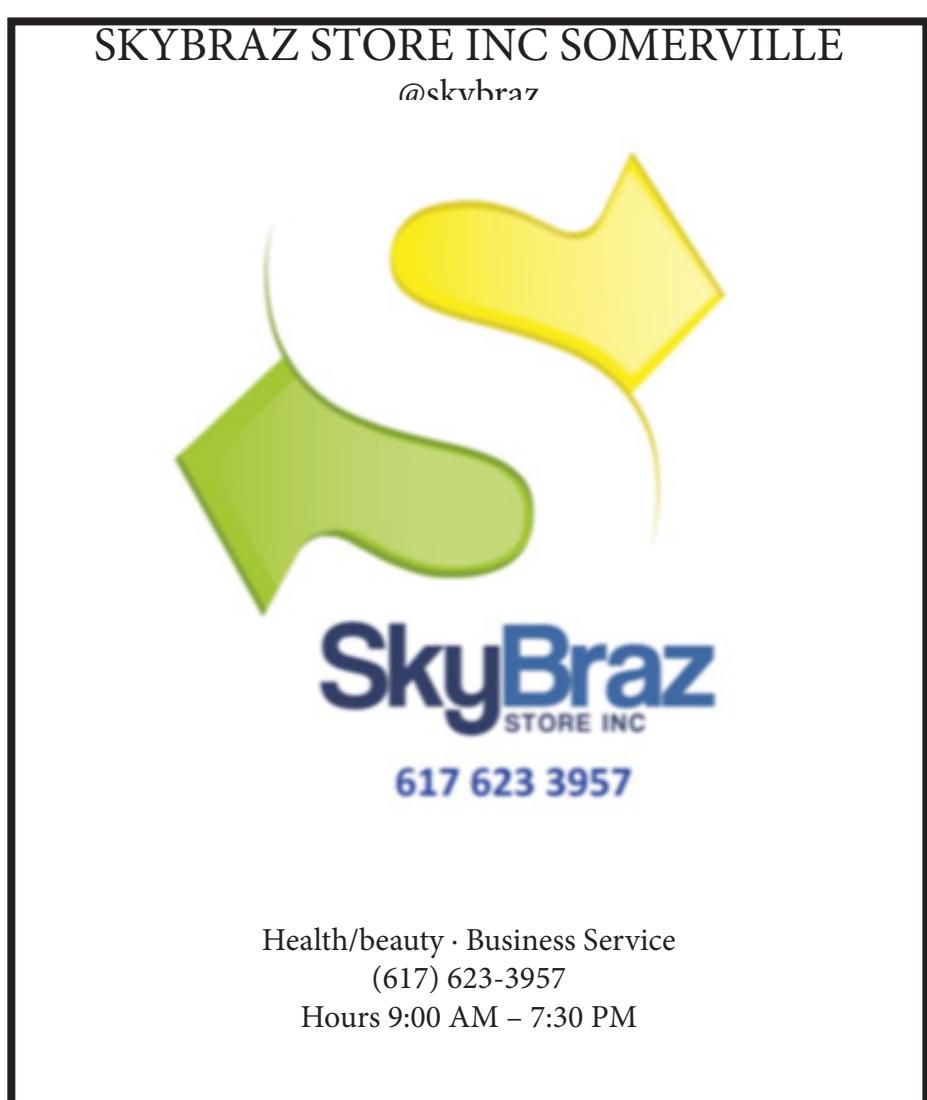
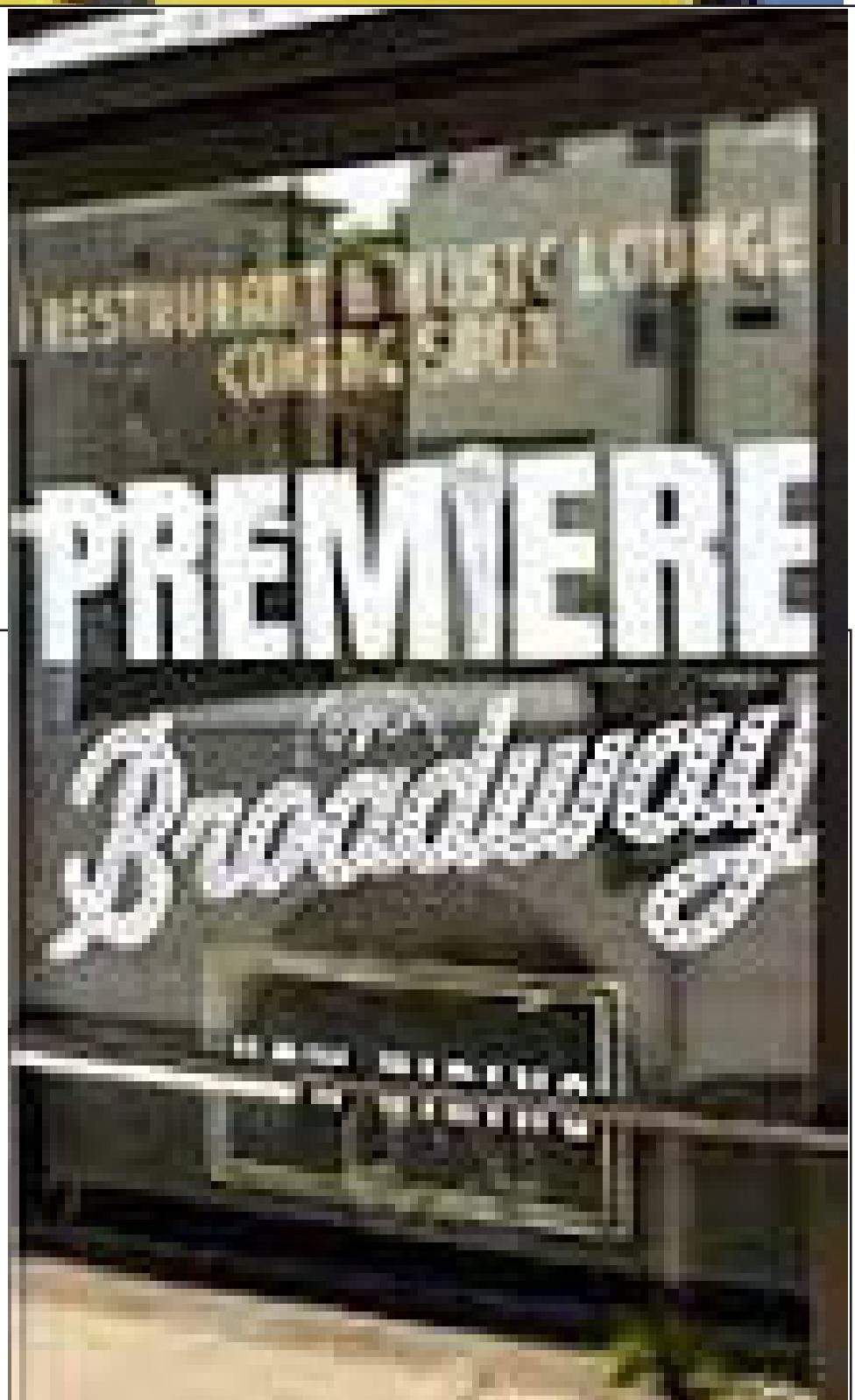
781-395-1200 • 800-793-3746
Fax: 781-395-5955
www.powersweeping.com • dave@powersweeping.com
393 Mystic Ave., Medford, MA 02155



Bostonian Florist



www.bostonianflorist.com
92 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143 ·
(617) 629-9300





517 BROADWAY SOMERVILLE

ITALIAN AMERICAN EATS •
SIGNATURE COCKTAILS • LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT






BERKSHIRE HOME SERVICES Home Services (781)248-2545

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

John Buccelli
Real Estate Professional • Broker Associate

Sellers Save Thousands!
Call about our 2.5% Savings Program
Call me at 781-248-2545 for a FREE over the phone appraisal of your home.
buccellirealestate.com
368 Highland Avenue • Somerville MA 02144



MILLENNIUM COMPANIES DUMPSTERS
781.395.1200

"Now Hiring Drivers"

We offer good starting pay, overtime after 40 hours, paid holidays and vacations.
Please apply in person 10AM-6PM
Mon-Fri MMPS 393 Mystic Ave, Medford,



AMANDAS FUEL OIL



*Ask about our 30 cent per gallon Discount Program
*We Take On Fuel Assistance Customers
*Ask about our 24 Hour Emergency Service Programs

*Complete Sales, Service, And Installations For Heating and A/C

781-396-4200
877-418-0589 Toll Free

The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

The #1 News Source For Somerville & Medford
Thank You Somerville & Medford
"Now with 40 Full Pages"



www.thesomervillenewswEEKLY.com
www.medfordnewswEEKLY.com

25 Cents