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VOL.1 NO.329-2993

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday May 26th, 2026

## \$2.737 BILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS INCLUDING \$300 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROAD AND BRIDGES



Continued to page 13

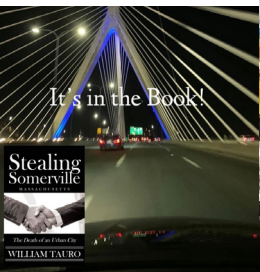
## MBTA COMMUNITIES ACT City of Somerville Raising Parking Permit and Meter Fees



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



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Continued to page 7



### 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!



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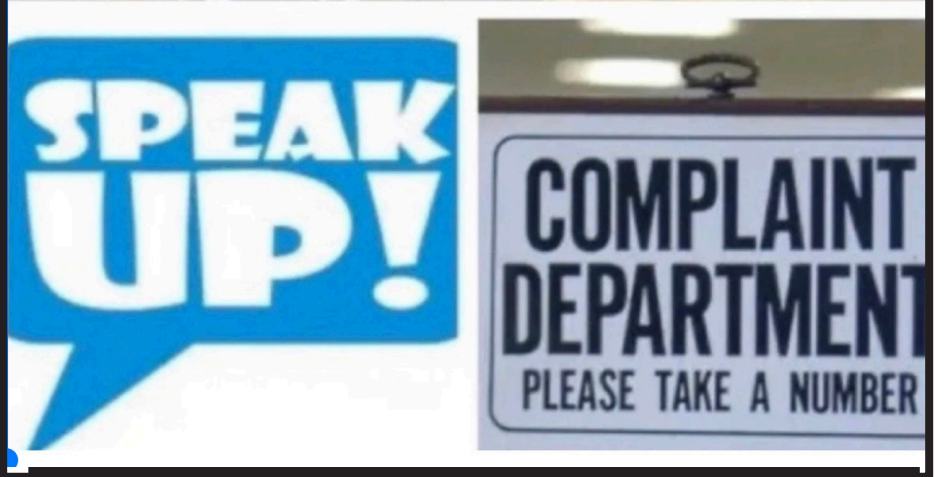
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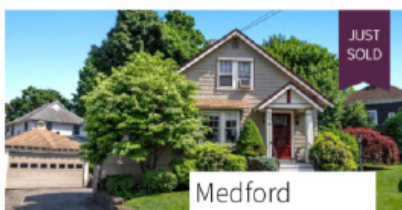
**MARKET ACTIVITY**

**WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...**

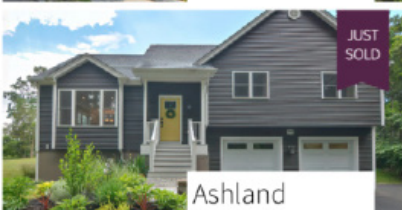
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Malden



Medford



Ashland



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

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Please send both form and payment to:

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 489 Winthrop Street  
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If you have any questions email us at [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.

## Become A Medford Police Officer



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**NOTICES TO APPEAR**  
 FEBRUARY 20, 2026

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[WWW.MASS.GOV/CIVIL-SERVICE](http://WWW.MASS.GOV/CIVIL-SERVICE)

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](http://medfordpolice.com/becomeapoliceofficer).

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### Somerville/Medford Remembering John F. Mack, Jr.

Obituary  
John F. Mack, Jr. – Of Somerville, passed away on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. He was 84 years old.

the son of the late John F. and Anne (Koen) Mack.  
  
Complete obit to be posted.

Born in Boston, he was

Services to be announced.



### Somerville/Medford Remembering John F. Mack, Jr.



Obituary  
Charles Thomas (Chuck) Bunker, aged 69, passed away unexpectedly on May 24, 2026, due to cardiac arrest. Born on October 10, 1956, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Chuck was the beloved only child of Lillian K. (Campbell) and Forrest Bunker, both of whom predeceased him. He spent his formative years in Somerville,

Massachusetts, and later resided at Cambridge Rehab and Nursing in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was cherished for his vibrant personality, warmth, and joy.

Chuck was passionate about music, often participating in musical events, karaoke, social gatherings, and bingo. An avid reader, he also loved working on

his comic books, having created a series known as 'Geriatric Man.' His love for languages and engaging conversations made him a memorable presence in the lives of many.

He is survived by several cousins in the U.S. and abroad, but will be especially missed by his cousin Patty (Campbell) and her husband Rick Walsh from

Stoneham, Massachusetts, with whom he shared a close bond throughout his life.

There will be a Prayer Service for Charles in the Holy Cross Cemetery, 175 Broadway Malden, Friday at 11:00am.

Relatives and friends invited to meet at the Cemetery.

### Somerville/Medford Remembering Karen I. (Mosher) Oliveira



Obituary  
Karen I. (Mosher) Oliveira, of Medford and formerly of Malden, passed away suddenly on May 19, 2026, she was 73. Born in Cambridge, Karen was the

daughter of the late Geraldine (Crowther) Sawyer and Ronald Mosher.

A true caregiver at heart, Karen worked for many years as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Youville Hospital in Cambridge and later at the Visiting Nurse Association residences on Lowell Street in Somerville, where she was dedicated to all of her patients. As the oldest of five children, Karen was the "go to" in her family, offering a steady hand and solid advice for any problem. She was a cherished daughter, beloved wife, devoted sister and aunt; who enjoyed

nothing more than time spent with her family, never missing the holidays or events together. She also enjoyed time spent traveling with friends, visiting California, Mexico, and Jamaica among many other destinations. At home she loved reading, cooking, gardening and will be remembered for her love of elephants.

In addition to her parents, Karen was predeceased by her beloved husband Antonio M. Oliveira. She is survived by her brothers and sisters; Donna LoPrete and her husband John of Burlington, Ronald Mosher

of Somerville, Richard Mosher of Medford and Janet Furtado of Medford. Cherished aunt of Dawn Sicari and her husband TJ, John LoPrete, Lisa Furtado-Guerra and her wife Cindy Guerra, Robert Furtado and his wife Raquel, Katelyn Mosher, Jennifer Bannister, Sandra Rowan and her husband Kenneth, Nicole Manning and her husband Dave and the great-aunt of Andrew Dillon and Matthew Sicari, Amelia and Logan Furtado, Benjamin Guerra, Kenny and Jake Rowan.

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

Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Tuesday morning, May 26th from 9:00AM to 11:00AM followed by a funeral procession to Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett where a graveside service will be held at 11:45AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations in Karen's memory can be made to the Visiting Nurse Association, 259 Lowell St, Somerville, MA 02144 <http://www.vnaem.org> or to the Joslin Diabetes Center at <http://www.joslin.org>

### Somerville/Medford Remembering Albert H. Davidson



Albert H. Davidson Obituary

Albert "Al" Davidson Passed away on Friday May 15, 2026 at the age of 78. Albert (Al) was a lifelong resident of Arlington, Massachusetts. Born on April 4, 1948 to the late Henry A. Davidson and the late Florence E. (Foley) Davidson, both formally of Arlington. He was a dedicated brother to his late sister Marilyn A. Davidson. Devoted Husband of 54 years to

his wife Regina M. (Lucarelli) Davidson of Arlington, loving father to his daughter Jennifer M. Davidson-Hernandez of Arlington and adoring Papa to his grand daughter Lillian G. Hernandez. He was survived by several cherished cousins, nieces and nephews to whom he was known as Uncle Al. Lastly, he is survived by a bunch of kids who consider him their grandfather and call him Pa, whom he shared a mutual love

with. He will be missed dearly by all.

He served his country with honor and courage as a member of the United States Navy, fought in the Vietnam war and died a proud Disabled American Vetran. Following his 4 years in the Navy, he worked for the Town of Arlington DPW before his hard work brought him to Polaroid where he worked as a Machinist in the Battery Division for 30 dedicated years. He would finish his career as a Machinist at the MBTA Everett Repair Facility for 10 years before he retired. His work ethic, commitment and ability to fix anything was always admired by his co-workers and all who loved him.

He was a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Club and a life member of the Winter Hill

Yacht Club (WHYC) in Somerville, where he dedicated much of his time to its members and its facility. He was a co-guardian and active participant in the 11 year battle to keep the Fernald School in Waltham open, where his sister lived for the majority of her life.

Outside of his family, work and service, his favorite place to be was near the ocean. He was an avid lover of boating, fishing, lighthouses and spending time on, near or in the ocean throughout his life beginning in early childhood. In his last ten years, his grand daughter Lillian (Babe) was his greatest joy, "his everything" as he called her who cherished him equally.

Family, friends and his loved ones will remember him for often being a man of few words, his vast knowledge of all things and his abilites, his storytelling,

his dry yet witty humor, how easy he was to talk to and the way he made everyone feel welcome and loved.

He leaves behind everlasting memories with everyone who loved him, his loving and adoring family who he loved and lived for, his friends, and an extended community of people of all ages who adored him and will miss him dearly.

The family also wishes to express sincere gratitude to the staff and caregivers at the Winchester Hospital where he passed and the Winchester Rehab facility for their compassion, care, and support during his stay and to his family.

Donations may be made in memory of his sister, Marilyn A. Davidson, to the Massachusetts Special Olympics.



### MBTA COMMUNITIES ACT (H 4000)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment to the current law, known as the MBTA Communities Act, which according to the state's website, requires that an MBTA community "must have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria including minimum gross density of 15 units per acre; and a location not more than 1/2 mile from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station. No age restrictions can be applied and the dis-

trict must be suitable for families with children."

Cities or towns that do not comply with the MBTA law are in danger of losing various state grants. The amendment would put the law on hold for two years for any municipality categorized as an "Adjacent Community" or an "Adjacent Small Town" without direct access to MBTA service.

Amendment supporters said the Healey Administration's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is not being

flexible and is pulling funding from some cities and towns that are not complying. They said that the delay in implementation of the law will give some communities additional time to work out a solution.

Amendment opponents said that current law already allows some flexibility for these adjacent communities or adjacent small towns by establishing lower capacity requirements and greater flexibility over where they site their districts. They noted that the Office of Housing

and Livable Communities currently has the administrative ability to offer some flexibility to these communities and said the amendment is not necessary. They argued that the amendment is unfair to more than 100 communities that have already done the work and complied with the law and sends the message that deadlines don't mean anything.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment that would put the law on hold for two years for any municipality categorized as an adjacent community or an

adjacent small town" without direct access to MBTA service. A "No" vote is against the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No



### AUTISM AND POLICE STOPS (H 5438)

By Bob Katzen

House 156-0, approved a bill designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops.

The measure, dubbed the "Blue Envelope Bill," would create a program giving people with the disorder the option to be given a special blue envelope that holds the per-

son's driver's license and vehicle registration. On the outside of the envelope there would be written information and guidance on the envelope regarding ways to enhance effective communication between a police officer and a person with autism spectrum disorder. The envelope must also include instructions for access to the envelope, including attaching it to the sun visor on the driver's side of the vehicle. The

bill is designed to enable the driver to quickly and easily hand the envelope to a police officer during a traffic stop.

"This bill will make a meaningful difference for countless individuals with autism and their families by expanding access to tools and resources that promote better understanding, clearer communication and improved safety during these inter-

actions," said Rep. James Arciero (D-Westford), House Chair of the Committee on Transportation. "At the same time, it provides valuable support to law enforcement officers as they carry out their responsibilities effectively and compassionately. Ultimately, this legislation reinforces the commonwealth's commitment to protecting the safety, dignity, independence and well-being of all residents."

The Senate has already approved its own version of the bill and the House version now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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

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

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### SECURITY GUARDS AT NONPROFITS (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would increase by \$450,000 (from \$300,000 to \$750,000) funding for a grant program that helps pay for security guards at

nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of being targeted for terrorist attacks or hate crimes.

“Across the commonwealth, nonprofits including religious organizations of many denominations,

continue to face harassment and threats of violence,” said Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). “These nonprofits and the communities they serve are seeking to hire additional security, and they need help from the state to

afford it. I am proud this amendment was adopted as part of the Senate’s fiscal year 2027 budget to help ensure that Massachusetts residents can feel safe in the places where they gather to learn, pray, celebrate and serve.”

(A Yes” vote is for the \$450,000. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

### Public Hearing on Proposed FY27 Water and Sewer Rates May 28



Somerville Community Encouraged to Join Hybrid meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 28, at 6 p.m.

SOMERVILLE—The City of Somerville Water & Sewer Department invites all community members

to a public hearing to review proposed Water and Sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2027.

Water and Sewer rates are typically adjusted each year. Proposed changes and items to be discussed include:

- A 15% increase in revenues from water volumetric charges;
- A 15% increase in revenues from sewer volumetric charges;
- No changes to existing base charges for both water and sewer.

These rate increases are necessary to fund essential improvements to Somerville’s water, sewer, and stormwater drainage infrastructure. The Water & Sewer Department’s FY27 proposal includes higher rate increases than is typical in Somerville to help ensure the City can cover the costs of the federally mandated combined

sewer overflow control plan and other flood mitigation efforts throughout the city while continuing to deliver reliable service to residents.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 28, at 6 p.m. Members of the public may attend in person or join virtually: In person at the Highlander Forum located at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.). [Please note this is a change of location from Franey Road to the High School.]

Virtually via Zoom: us06web.zoom.us/j/87092143821

Webinar ID: 870 9214 3821

If you’re unable to attend but would like to share feedback, please send comments by:

Email: water@somervillema.gov with the subject line “RATE HEARING” U.S. Mail: Somerville Water & Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145

Comments must be received by 12 p.m. on May 28 to be conveyed to the Department during the hearing.

### MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

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and absolutely worth checking them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

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A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social me-

dia 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.



### THE GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL WARN ABOUT ILLEGAL RENTER-PAID BROKER FEES

By Bob Katzen

A new law that took effect last August requires landlords, instead of renters, to cover the cost of broker fees unless a renter is the one to hire the broker first.

Amidst reports that some brokers and landlords are attempting to illegally

charge these fees to renters, Gov. Maura Healey and Attorney General Andrea Campbell last week reminded renters, landlords and brokers that under Massachusetts law, a broker fee may only be charged to the party who hired the broker.

Both offices say they are working to ensure renters understand their rights

and that landlords and brokers understand their obligations.

“Any broker or landlord who continues trying to charge illegal fees is breaking the law, taking advantage of renters who are already struggling with high housing costs and will be at risk of losing their license,” said Healey.

“Renters should know their rights, and if anyone tries to charge them unlawful fees, they should report it immediately.”

“This law establishes a clear standard: a broker may only charge a tenant a fee if the broker is working for the tenant and not for the landlord,” said Campbell. “I encourage

anyone who may have been charged an unlawful fee to report it, so that my office can continue protecting renters and helping ensure compliance with the new law.”

### City of Somerville Raising Parking Permit and Meter Fees

New rates will take effect on Wednesday, July 1, 2026  
Fee waivers will still apply for residents age 65+ or with disability placards or plates

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is updating residential and business parking permit fees, as well as parking meter rates as part of an ongoing effort to maintain and operate the City’s parking system amid rising costs and increasing demand for limited curb space.

The City will continue waiving residential parking permit and visitor pass fees for residents

age 65 and older and for residents with disability placards or plates who will receive those permits at no cost.

Why are Parking Rates Going Up?

Residential parking permit fees were last updated in 2016, and parking meter rates were last adjusted in 2019. Since that time, the cost of administering and maintaining the City’s parking programs has increased substantially, including expenses related to permit and ticket processing contracts, parking meter maintenance and repairs, technology and data services, postage, and staffing.

At the same time, Somerville continues to face growing pressure on its limited on-street parking supply as the most densely populated city in the Northeast.

To continue meeting the operational needs of Somerville’s parking system, the City’s Parking Department conducted a broader review of parking operations, including current fee structures, peer municipality rates, system operating costs, and long-term program sustainability, to help inform the new rates.

For more information visit [somervillema.gov/parking](http://somervillema.gov/parking)



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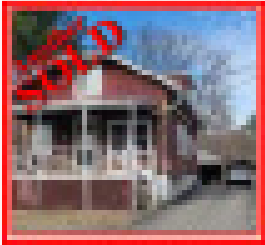
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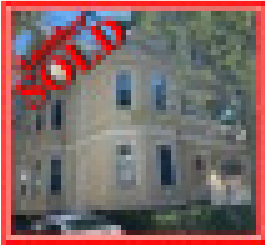


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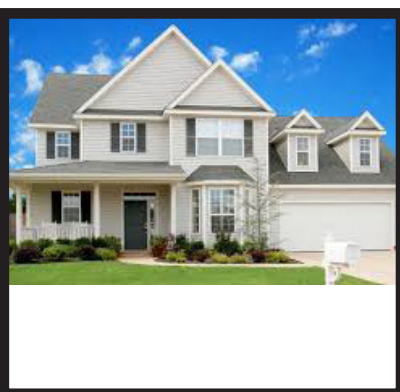
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Out dosage continued from page 2



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## Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Fraudulent and Inaccurate Somerville Water Bills

By William Tauro

We are looking for residents interested to being part of a class action lawsuit to help Somerville home owners, property owners, residents and tenants to obtain the justice they deserve after being victims of fraudulent and/or inaccurate outrageously high water bills caused by faulty water meters and inaccurate readings.

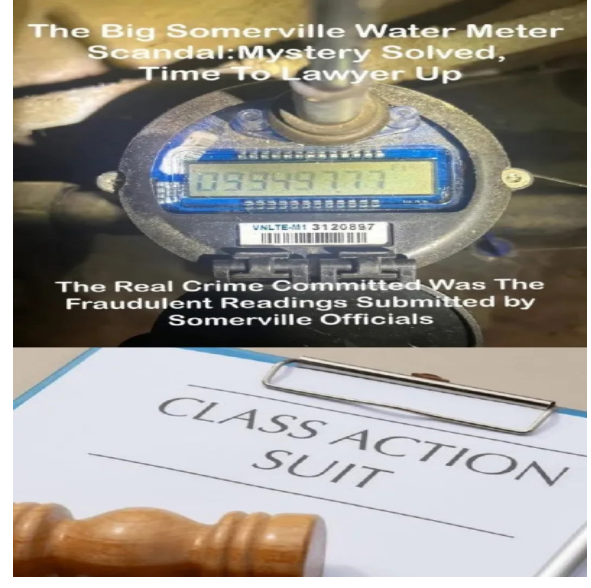
All contacts and information will remain confidential.

Send to email : Wmtauro@aol.com  
or  
Inbox me

(Please DO NOT post any contact information in the comments area)

Please include your full name that the bill is in, your address, phone number and email address and we will contact you.

Please feel free to message me or email me at Wm-tauro@aol.com with any inquiries about joining the list of potential plaintiffs in this class action lawsuit.





### 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!



### \$300,000 TO INVESTIGATE THE GROUP INSURANCE COMMISSION (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 4-35, rejected an amendment that would provide \$300,000 for the Inspector General to conduct an investigation into the spending by and practices of the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) which provides

health insurance coverage for the 460,000 public employees, retirees and dependents.

Amendment supporters said that the commission is funded to the tune of \$2.7 billion per year and argued that its spending and practices should be

investigated to be sure the funds are well used. They noted that they are not pointing fingers at the commission but simply want to ensure its proper functioning and spending.

Amendment opponents said that the commission is doing a good job and is

already the most regulated, overseen and investigated agency in the state. They noted the Division of Insurance oversees the commission which requires adherence to rate setting and other financial regulations determined by the division.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

### Somerville Honoring Pride Month and Celebrating Queer Community



Join the Pride Flag Raising on June 4 and the Big Gay Dance Party on June 27

SOMERVILLE - Prepare for Born This Way to re-enter the charts as Pride Month 2026 kicks off in Somerville.

The City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Department will

kick off Pride Month with the annual Pride Flag Raising ceremony on Thursday, June 4, at 5 p.m. on the City Hall Concourse. Community members are invited to join for remarks from Mayor Wilson, the LGBTQ+ Services Division, and youth representatives from Somerville's LGBTQ+ community. This year, the City will also welcome former Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay, who

raised City Hall's first Pride Flag.

The queer joy continues all month long with Somerville Art Council's Big Gay Dance Party in Union Square on Saturday, June 27, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. This year's theme of "Gender Euphoria" celebrates the joy of feeling good in your body and in being who you are, including performances by drag artists Amanda

Playwith and Andi van Dyke

Show up and show out as your selfiest self as Somerville celebrates the LGBTQ+ community together.

For information about Pride events, LGBTQ+ services, or available resources in Somerville, please email [lgbtqservices@somervillema.gov](mailto:lgbtqservices@somervillema.gov).

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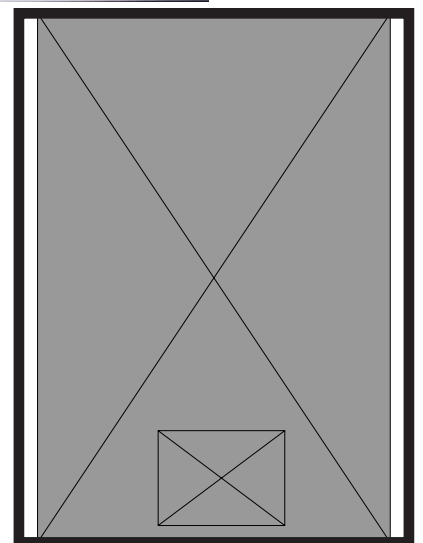
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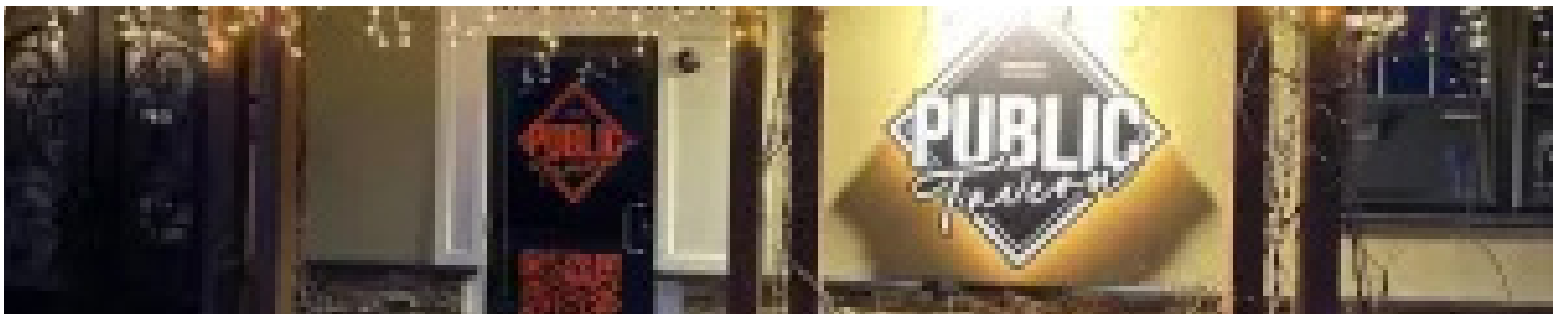
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## \$2.737 BILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS INCLUDING \$300 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROAD AND BRIDGES (H 5375)



By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved, on a voice vote without a roll call, a \$2.737 billion bond bill to fund various local, regional and state transportation programs.

The package includes \$300 million for cities and towns for local road and bridges — \$200 million which will be distributed to all municipalities based

on the standard Chapter 90 Program distribution formula and another \$100 million which will be distributed to all municipalities based solely on road mileage.

Provisions include \$500 million for the Lifecycle Asset Management Program which aids non-federally funded roads and targets the pavement and bridges across the state that are

in the worst condition; \$200 million for capital projects to support housing development, including stormwater management, culverts and bike and pedestrian improvements; \$200 million for a new accelerated deferred maintenance and modernization program for infrastructure under the care and control of the Department of Conservation and Recreation; and \$200 million for the MBTA for the procurement of electrically powered locomotives.

Only final approval is needed in each branch prior to the package going to Gov. Maura Healey for her signature.

“Today, the Senate is authorizing funding that will go directly toward fixing potholes, repairing local bridges and building on the progress Massachusetts

public transit has made,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “At the same time, this legislation will help ease serious financial burdens on cities and towns that are navigating a difficult fiscal moment.”

“With the winter of 2026 in the rearview mirror, the Senate now moves forward in addressing long-term capital projects for roadways and bridges all across the commonwealth,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “This sweeping bond bill provides critical support for capital projects in transportation that will spur housing development, make our roads and bridges safer and continue to improve upon the MBTA’s ongoing railway improvement

project. This legislation builds upon our commitment to make Massachusetts the leader and a model for a safe and state-of-the-art public transportation system.”

Adam Chapdelaine, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, said, “With this legislation successfully advancing through the Senate today, municipal leaders across the commonwealth are seeing a powerful, bipartisan commitment to our local infrastructure. Chapter 90 remains the premier program for promoting the safety and reliability of municipal roads and bridges.”

## SENATE APPROVES \$63.37 BILLION FISCAL 2027 STATE BUDGET (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 40-0, approved a \$63.37 billion fiscal 2027 state budget after three days of debate. The House has already approved a different version, and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a compromise plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and then sent to Gov. Maura Healey.

“This budget is proof of what we can accomplish when every member of this chamber brings their

best to the table,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Together, we have built a spending plan that meets this moment and delivers record investments in our cities and towns, expands access to food and economic security for our most vulnerable residents and creates new pathways for housing growth across the commonwealth. This is a budget that reflects the kind of state we are committed to being, investing in our people, protecting our communities, and leading with purpose even in uncertain times.”

“Over these past three days, Senators have embraced the collaborative budget process and engaged in a thoughtful manner to address our shared priorities in areas like early education, special education, school-based mental health, food security, child protection, public safety, and supportive housing for our most vulnerable,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “The deliberations this week are a strong example of our commitment

to fiscal responsibility and living within our means to produce positive results for the commonwealth during this time of continued economic uncertainty.”

“This budget proposal reflects the Senate’s commitment to meet this moment with urgency, compassion, skill, and resolve,” said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “As residents and communities across Massachusetts face rising costs and constant uncertain-

ty, this proposal makes critical investments in food security, health care, education and municipal support. While we cannot fully address the hardship stemming from federal cuts, this budget works to protect essential services and to guard against further harm.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$63.37 billion fiscal 2027 state budget.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

### Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Request to share missing person flyer

Dear Somerville News Weekly team:

My relative Jackson Capoldo has gone missing from his residence at 250 Powderhouse Boulevard in Somerville. He was last seen 04/28/2026 and has been reported to the Somerville Police Department as a missing

person. Jackson is under the care of a physician and is a vulnerable missing adult.

Would you please consider sharing the attached missing person flyer across your news platforms?

Any assistance you can provide would be sin-

cerely appreciated.

Thank you, Nicholas Helldorfer Cicchinelli (Jackson’s cousin / former Somerville resident)

# MISSING

JACKSON CAPOLDO

Date of Birth: 04/11/2001

Age: 25

Race: White

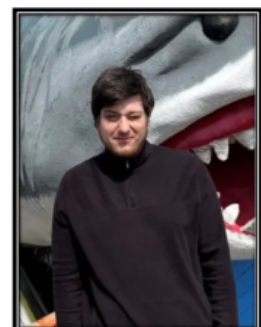
Eyes: Brown

Hair: Brown

Height: 5'11"

Weight: 180 lbs

Last seen on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Somerville, MA



**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT JACKSON PLEASE CONTACT:**  
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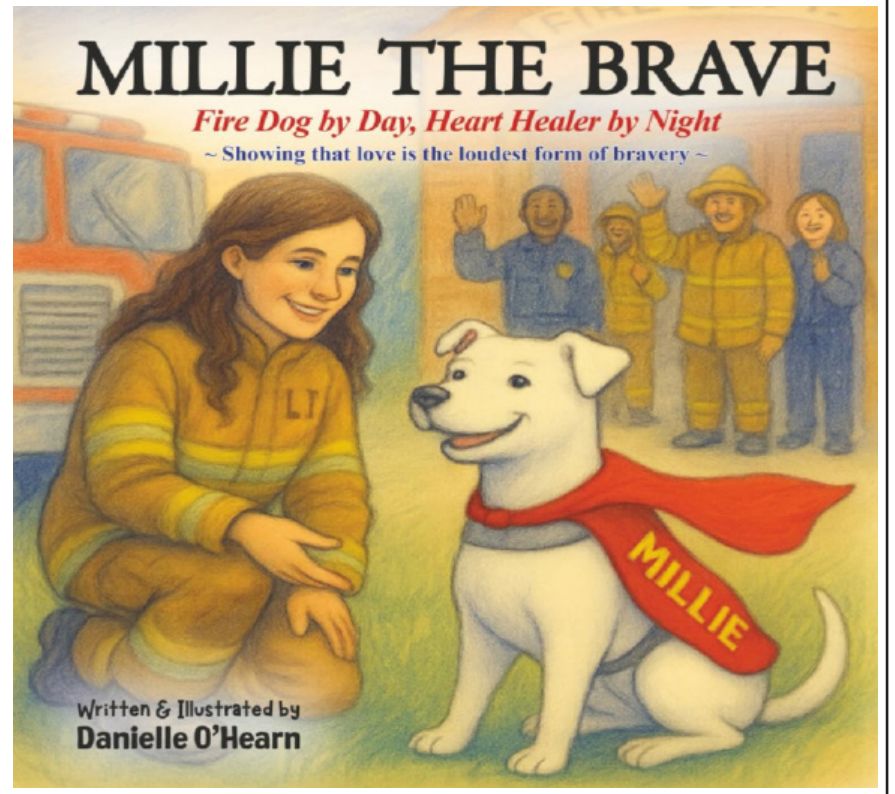
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

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

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

Here's the link the title is Millie the brave

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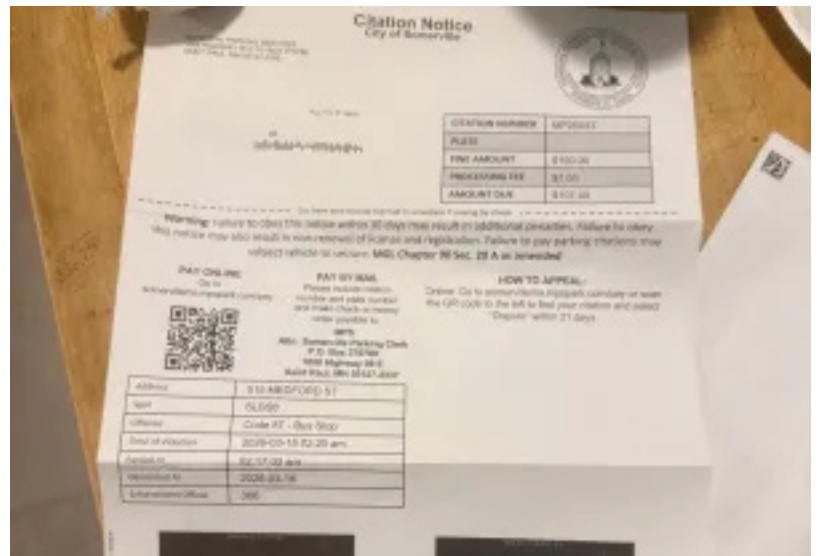


**Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Fake Somerville Bills**

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

Billy, please post this in your news paper and online. A Somerville resident received this notice in the mail.

It's almost believable with the exception of the payment address, the photo is incorrectly poised. Please warn residents to ignore this fake notice it's a scam. If you can highlight the areas that prove it's fraud



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### \$3.1 BILLION IN REVENUE FROM THE NEW 4 PERCENT SURTAX ON MILLIONAIRES

By Bob Katzen

The Raise Up Massachusetts Coalition announced that the State Department of Revenue certified that Massachusetts collected more than \$3.1 billion in revenue from the state's 4 percent surtax on millionaires over the first ten months of the state's current fiscal year. They said that is a 20 percent increase over the \$2.5 billion collected at that same point last year.

The revenue is generated by the 2022 voter-approved constitutional amendment, known by supporters as the Millionaire's Tax and the Fair Share Amendment, which imposes an income surtax of an additional 4 percent, in addition to the current

flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually.

"Nearly four years after voters passed the Fair Share Amendment, it's still surpassing expectations," said Raise Up Massachusetts spokesperson Andrew Farnitano. "The skeptics who said multi-millionaires would flee for other states rather than pay their fair share are being proved wrong. The ultra-rich are clearly staying in Massachusetts and paying more in taxes, leading to the tax's massive overperformance relative to initial projections."

Farnitano continued, "Thanks to this windfall paid for by the richest

1 percent, we're allocating billions of dollars to improve our public schools, colleges, roads, bridges and public transportation. We're finally fixing the T and rebuilding crumbling bridges across the state. We're delivering record funding to local public schools and colleges and increasing access to affordable childcare. And Fair Share-funded programs like universal free school meals, free community college and free buses are making a real difference in the cost of living for Massachusetts families."

"The latest claims from Raise Up Massachusetts ignore the broader economic reality facing the commonwealth," said Paul Craney, executive Director of the Massa-

chusetts Fiscal Alliance. "While revenues from the surtax may be higher in the short term, that does not mean the policy is leaving our state on a solid economic footing. Massachusetts has seen above average unemployment compared to national trends, alongside a growing reputation for being far less economically competitive than it had been and downright hostile to employers."

Craney continued, "In the last several months alone, we've witnessed a steady stream of high-profile business closures, relocations and expansions happening elsewhere, which should concern anyone focused on long-term growth. At the same time, Massachusetts con-

tinues to experience a significant outflow of residents and wealth to lower-cost, lower-tax states, a trend greatly exacerbated by this surtax."

"Temporary revenue spikes should not be confused with sustainable economic health. Policymakers should be asking whether these policies are strengthening the state's long-term competitiveness or simply extracting more in the short run. Massachusetts cannot afford to ignore the warning signs while celebrating a revenue surge that will inevitably prove fleeting."

### \$254,000 TO MONITOR WATER QUALITY AT BAY STATE BEACHES

By Bob Katzen

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it is awarding \$254,000 in

grant funding to Massachusetts to monitor water quality at beaches and to notify the public if elevated levels of bacteria make swimming unsafe.

"New England's beaches are central to the region's coastal way of life, sustaining communities and driving local economies,"

said EPA New England Regional Administrator Mark Sanborn. "This funding helps protect human health by ensuring beaches are regularly

monitored so Americans can enjoy clean, safe water for swimming and recreation."

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### UNEXCUSED SCHOOL ABSENCES AND WELFARE BENEFITS (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 36-4, approved an amendment that would repeal a current law, often called "Learnfare," that allows the state to reduce Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) financial assistance to families whose children under age 16 have excessive unexcused school absences. The reduction or end to the benefits would apply only to the aid received by the child with the unexcused absences.

The amendment also tasked the Department of

Transitional Assistance to seek federal permission to prevent SNAP recipients from using their public benefits on candy and soft drinks.

"Learnfare is an outdated state policy from 1995 that strips low-income families of their TAFDC financial assistance if a student has too many unexcused absences from school," said amendment sponsor Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester). "Learnfare has proven to be ineffective, inequitable, needlessly punitive and pushes away students and families who

need support the most. Chronic absenteeism for low-income students often comes from barriers such as housing and food insecurity, lack of transportation, illness and mental health struggles, disabilities and family responsibilities. We are working at the local and state level to address these issues to combat chronic absenteeism which has declined since the pandemic but still remains a problem."

Lewis continued, "At the end of the day, taking away critical assistance from financially strug-

gling families simply does not get students to attend school and only makes things worse, which is why I was proud to champion this issue and lead my Senate colleagues in voting to repeal Learnfare."

Four of the chamber's five Republicans voted against the repeal — Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton), Peter Durant (R-Spencer), Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) and Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). None of them spoke against the repeal during the Senate debate and none responded to repeated requests by

Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they voted against the repeal.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment that would repeal a current law that allows the state to reduce TAFDC financial assistance to families whose children under age 16 have excessive unexcused school absences. A "No" vote is against the repeal and favors keeping the current law on the books.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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### Medford: Happy 90th Birthday to Roz Weiss!

“It’s a special thing when someone dedicates their time and energy to the service of others. And at 90 years old, that’s what Roz Weiss is still doing after 25 years for students at the McGlynn Elementary School.

Roz was a class chaperone on Ms. Griffin’s third grade class field trip to City Hall earlier this week and I had the honor of recognizing her service and love for Medford on her 90th birthday!

Happy birthday Roz and

thank you for everything you’re still doing for our school community!”

(As posted on Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn Facebook page)



### “No Mow May” in Somerville Underway to Support Local Pollinators



Mowing of City passive-use lawns paused in May to provide food sources for regional birds, insects, and more

SOMERVILLE – Noticing the grass is growing taller than usual? It’s intentional. During the month of May, mowing of City-owned passive-use grassy areas are paused as part of the international “No Mow May” initiative. The intent is to support biodiversity and provide vital food sources for reemerging pollinators — like bees, beetles, and butterflies — this spring. During this time, the exception is athletic fields and cemeteries, which are regularly mown per usual.

The city is participating because although pollinators may be tiny creatures they have an outsize impact

on agriculture and the food supply, and they are deemed under threat. Roughly one-third of the food you eat needs insect pollination to reach your plate and pollinators are in decline. No Mow May is encouraged because pollinators wake up from winter in the early spring and need something to eat, but the flowers they rely on may be hard to find. Letting flowers in lawns grow in April and May gives pollinators an important food source.

While the grass grows, Somerville’s Department of Public Works (DPW) along with our Public Space and Urban Forestry division are focusing those

freed-up labor hours on spring cleaning and planting in parks and open spaces citywide.

Residents and businesses can do their part too by waiting to mow their own lawns as flowers continue to bloom. Grass mowing enforcement will be relaxed on private property throughout the month for No Mow May. Please note, overgrowth violations that impede sidewalk passage or excessive overgrowth from long-term unmanaged vegetation that could contribute to rodent harborage will still be subject to enforcement.

Get “in the weeds” on why pollinators matter and other ways the city is working to do its part to protect them by checking out Somerville’s Pollinator Action Plan. It’s a first of its kind plan created specifically for an urban environment. Designed for broad use, the plan highlights local pollinators and provides recommendations, plant lists, and design guidance that community members can use to build habitats. To review the full plan, visit [somervillema.gov/pollinators](http://somervillema.gov/pollinators).

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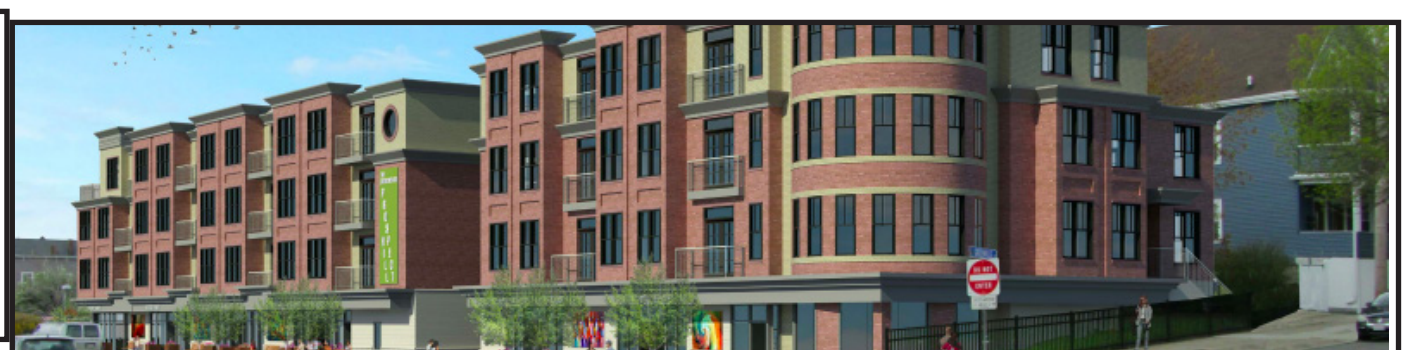


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### \$800,000 FOR YMCA (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would increase funding for YMCAs across the state by \$800,000 (from \$7.2

million to \$8 million.)

“Having spent countless hours at my local Boys and Girls Club, shooting hoops as a kid and later as a youth mentor, I have

seen firsthand the transformative impact these organizations have on children and teens,” said amendment sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). “That is why I am beyond

proud to champion this increased funding for the Boys and Girls Clubs in the Senate’s proposed budget, ensuring they can continue providing essential resources and support

to the next generation.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$800,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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### SomerStreets: Carnival Bringing Music, Food, Culture, and Community to East Somerville

SOMERVILLE – Carnival is ready to transform Broadway once again into an open-air festival filled with music, movement, food, family activities, local vendors, and performances celebrating East Somerville.

Presented by the Somerville Arts Council and East Somerville Main Streets, SomerStreets: Carnival will take place on June 7, from 2-6 p.m. along Broadway, from Pennsylvania Avenue to McGrath Highway. The rain date is Sunday, June 14.

“SomerStreets: Carnival is a celebration of the cultures, businesses, families, artists, and neighbors that make this community so dynamic,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “I’m grateful to East Somerville Main Streets, the City’s Arts Council, and everyone helping bring Broadway to life for a day of joy, connection, and commu-

nity pride.”

The celebration will kick off with a Brazilian-style opening procession featuring Grooversity and Samba Viva, followed by a day full of live entertainment, delicious food vendors, and family-friendly programming.

Click here for SomerStreets: Carnival photos.

SomerStreets is the City’s annual series of free, family-friendly open streets events. Each event closes a major roadway to vehicle traffic and opens it for walking, biking, music, play, and community celebration.

More information is available at [somervillema.gov/somerstreets](http://somervillema.gov/somerstreets).



### PROHIBIT TAX REDUCTION AMENDMENTS FROM BEING CONSIDERED (S 4)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 35-4, upheld the ruling of Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont), the acting Senate president at the time of the ruling, that ten amendments which proposed tax reductions will be prohibited from being debate and voted on by

the Senate.

The proposed tax reductions include a reduction in the income tax, short term capital gains tax, estate tax, tax on overtime work and tax on tips.

Sen. Brownsberger said the ten tax reduction amendments would

technically turn the state budget into a money bill and noted that under the Massachusetts Constitution, all money bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

Opponents of the ruling said the ruling is misguided and inappropriate and argued this is simply a

way to avoid Democrats going on record as voting “No” on tax cuts. They noted that amendments that raise, not lower taxes, would make the bill a money bill.

(A “Yes” vote supports the ruling that prohibits the tax reductions amendments from being debated

and voted on by the Senate. A “No” vote is against the ruling and favors allowing the tax reduction amendments to be debated and voted upon.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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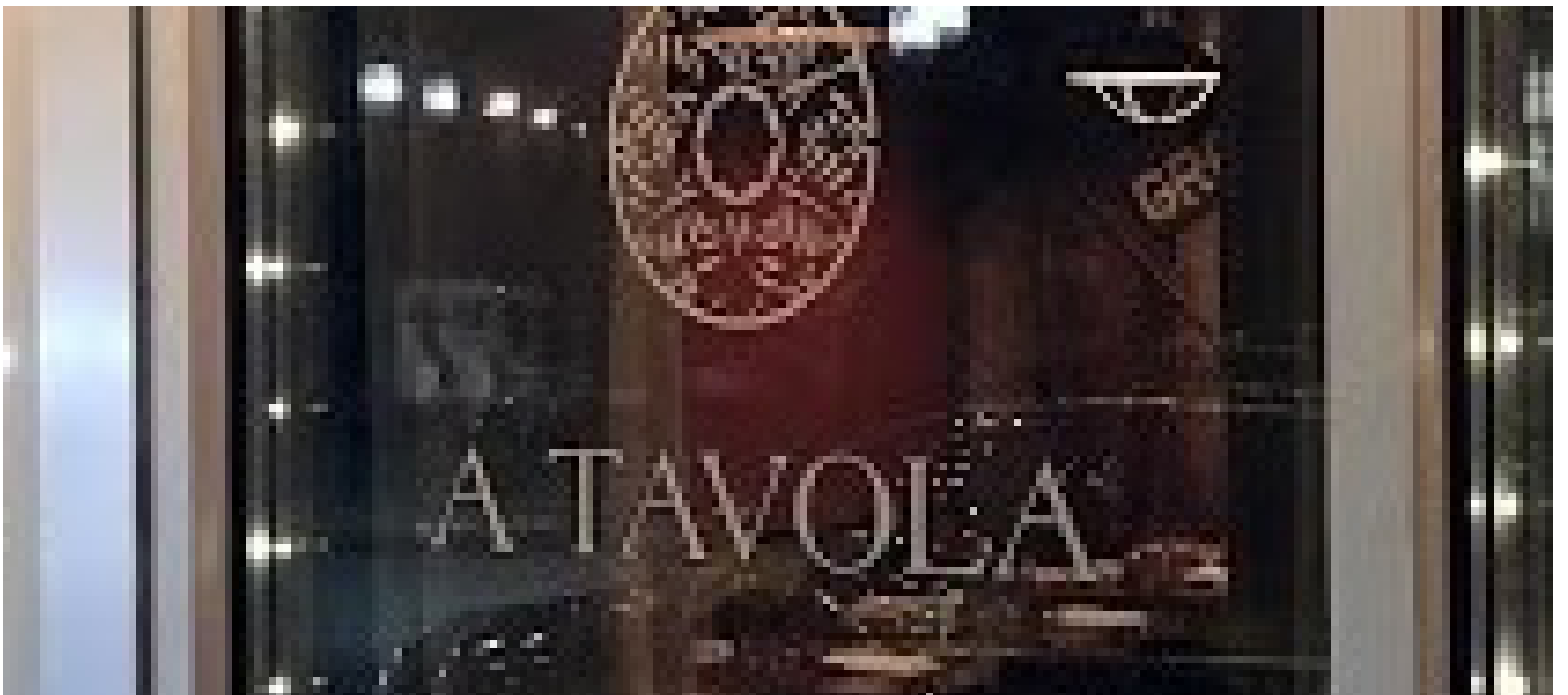
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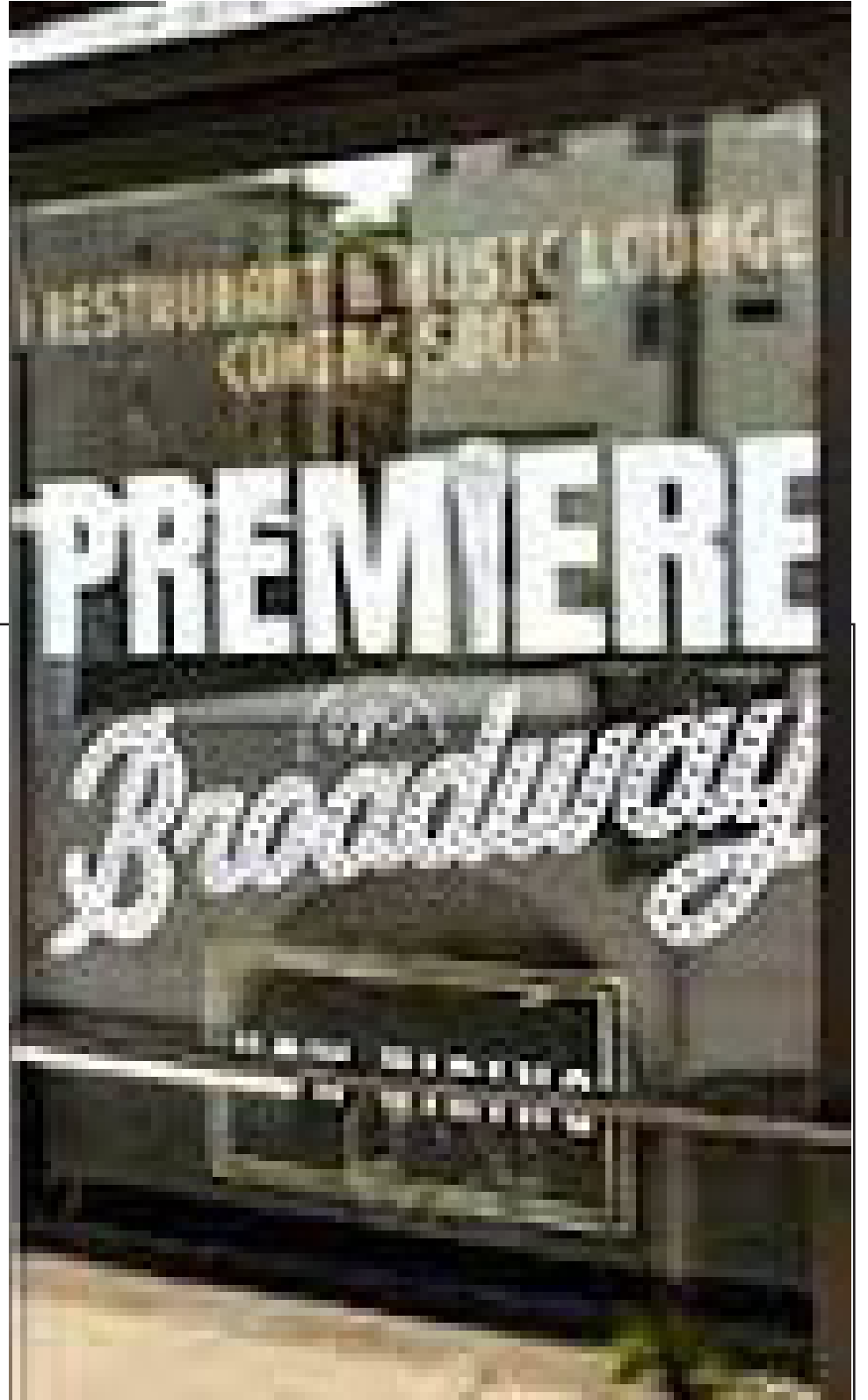
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