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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday June 16th, 2026

\$4.58 BILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS INCLUDING \$300 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES



Continued to page 5

AUTISM AND POLICE STOPS

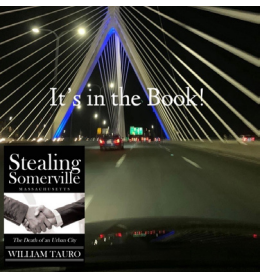
BANNING SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKS AND MATERIALS (H 5489)



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



Continued to page 6

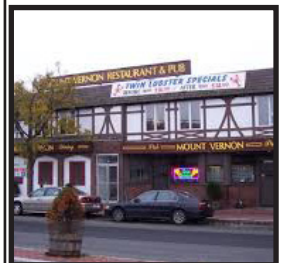


Continued to page 20



MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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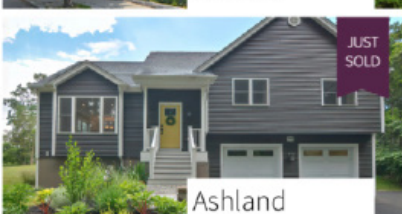
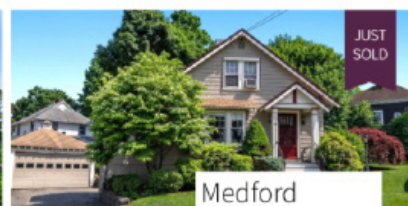
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MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

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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!

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



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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 form 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 04-6601400

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.

Become A Medford Police Officer



NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER
 BECOME A MEDFORD POLICE OFFICER

APPLICATION DEADLINE
 FEBRUARY 2, 2026

NOTICES TO APPEAR
 FEBRUARY 20, 2026

WRITTEN EXAM PERIOD
 MARCH 11-14, 2026

APPLY TODAY
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.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Daniel Patrick McCarthy



McCarthy, Daniel Patrick of Lakeville (lifelong Somerville resident), June 10, 2026. Beloved son of the late Arthur and Bernardine (Lally) of Somerville.

Survived by loving brother of Katherine Moberg and her husband Carl of North Carolina, Brian McCarthy of Cambridge, Patricia Ryan of

Somerville. Loving brother of the late Timothy McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, and Maureen Cameron. Loving uncle to Melissa Long and her husband Robert of Middleboro, Eric Moberg and his wife Victoria of Florida, Timothy Cameron of Lowell, Matthew Cameron of California, Kristin Flores and her husband Edwin of Somer-

ville, Maureen McCarthy of Roslindale, Kathleen McCarthy-Colon and her husband Eli of Randolph, and Myles (Mickey) Boulanger of Connecticut. Also survived by many wonderful great-nieces and great-nephews. Dan was a lifelong fan of The Boston Bruins, Grateful Dead, and Rolling Stones. Mass will be said June 23rd at 6P.M. in

the chapel of Sacred Heart Church, 49 6th Street, Cambridge (Enter the chapel on 7th Street.) A Celebration of Life will be held on June 27th. (E-mail bmcyaz@gmail.com for information for time and location.)

Somerville/Medford Remembering Austin Joseph White

Austin Joseph White, of Medford, passed away on June 13, 2026, he was 83.

Complete obituary to be posted.

In keeping with Sonny's wishes funeral arrangements are private.



THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

"Massachusetts has never lacked for strengths. But

if the last few years have shown us anything, it's that those strengths are not permanent. They have to be fought for every day. And they have to be earned again by every generation. I want Massachusetts to remain the place where talented young people come to learn, work, innovate and stay."

—Senate President Karen Spilka in a speech to the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Forum.

"The American Cancer Society represents one of the most important strengths we have as a state — people who devote

their talent, ability and resources to finding cures and saving lives. Massachusetts is home to the world's leading research institutions, hospitals and life sciences companies because we have built an ecosystem that turns discovery into cures and hope for patients. President Trump's attacks on research funding are putting that progress at risk. Clinical trials are being delayed, talented researchers are leaving and promising discoveries are being put on hold. In Massachusetts, we are going to keep investing in research and science because the work happening here saves lives

around the world." —Gov. Healey at the 19th Annual American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Breakfast.

"For too long, working people have had to fight just to get our issues on Beacon Hill's agenda. These [Working Families Party] candidates have already spent their lives fighting for affordable housing, good jobs, strong schools, immigrant communities and economic justice. They're not running to continue business as usual. They're running to make sure working families come first."

—Josh Wolfsun, Massa-

chusetts State Director for the new Working Families Party, announcing its endorsement of eight candidates for the Massachusetts Legislature.

"Massachusetts residents deserve clean, affordable energy, not greedy utilities robbing us monthly for obscene profits. If our senators are brave, their upcoming energy bill could set the standard nationwide for putting our communities and clean air over corporate profits."

—Dan Zackin, Legislative Manager of 350 Mass, protesting what he calls Eversource's corporate greed.

On Air With Billy Tauro





\$4.58 BILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS INCLUDING \$300 MILLION FOR LOCAL ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 5375)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a measure that authorizes \$4.58 billion in bonding for various local, regional and state transportation programs. The package includes \$300 million for cities and towns for local roads 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 based solely on road mileage.

Other 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.

The legislation also reauthorizes \$3.18 billion in funding for several programs included in the 2022 Transportation Bond Bill including \$2.3 billion for projects on interstates and other

federally aided highways; \$800 million for improvements to non-federally aided roadways and bridges; \$65 million for the Municipal Pavement Program for engineering, permitting, design and climate change adaptation on municipal ways; and \$12 million for grants for the Shared Streets Program for improvements to municipal streets to create additional capacity for pedestrians and cyclists.

“Every community deserves safe, reliable roads, bridges and transportation infrastructure,” said Gov. Healey. “This bill delivers the resources that cities and towns need to make critical improvements, improve public safety and support housing growth. We’re proud to partner

with local leaders across Massachusetts to make our communities more connected, more affordable and better positioned for the future.”

“Chapter 90 funding gives communities the flexibility to address the transportation priorities that matter most to their residents,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Whether it’s repairing roads, improving sidewalks, upgrading intersections or supporting new housing development, these investments will help cities and towns deliver projects that strengthen communities and improve quality of life.”

“This legislation delivers a package of fiscally responsible,

strategic support for communities across Massachusetts, including a second year of historic \$300 million Chapter 90 funding and transportation investments that will unlock housing,” said Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz. “We’re proud to continue investing in communities across Massachusetts and delivering long-term value for residents, families and businesses.”

2026 SALES TAX HOLIDAY (S 3119 and H 5495)

By Bob Katzen

The House and Senate, on a voice vote without a roll call, approved a measure that would allow consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 on Saturday, August 8 and Sunday, August 9 without paying the state’s 6.25 percent sales tax. A 2018 state law, which made the sales tax holiday permanent, requires the Legislature to vote to set the dates of the holiday each year. The measure does not need the governor’s signature to

become effective.

Supporters of the bill said the holiday, which has been in effect for many years, would boost retail sales and noted that consumers would save millions of dollars. They argued that the state’s sales tax revenue loss would be offset by increased revenue from the meals and gas tax revenue generated by shoppers on those two days. They noted that according to the Department of Revenue, the 2025 sales tax holiday generated \$3.65 million

in indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity.

“At a time when many families and small businesses are facing real financial pressures, our tax-free weekend provides meaningful relief for consumers while supporting the local retailers that are so important to our communities,” said Sen. Nick Collins (D-South Boston), the Senate sponsor of the measure. “I am proud to sponsor the legislation establishing the 2026 tax-free weekend and

look forward to another successful year of helping residents save money while driving business to Main Streets across the commonwealth.”

Some opponents of the measure said the state cannot afford the up to \$30 million estimated revenue loss and argued that the holiday actually generates little additional revenue for stores because consumers typically buy the products even without the tax-free days. Others said that the Legislature should be

looking at broader, deeper tax relief for individuals and businesses and not a tiny tax-free holiday. Some said that legislators should not vote for this tax holiday when they have not yet restored all the local aid, education and other important program cuts made over the past few years.

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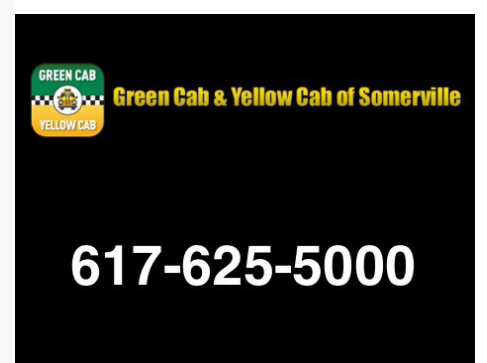
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AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR WORKING CLASS FAMILIES

By Bob Katzen

Heading Home, Inc., a nonprofit provider of shelter, housing and support services for families and individuals, announced it is actively seeking to acquire a property to test what it calls "an innovative, scalable affordable housing solution for working-class families

across Massachusetts."

Requirements for the lot include approximately one-half acre of buildable land, ideally located in a by-right zoning district in Eastern Massachusetts. Heading Home plans to build a 6-to-12-unit modular structure on the property consisting of 2- and 3-bedroom

apartments. The organization expects to rent the units for \$1,500 to \$2,200 per month to households earning between \$58,000 and \$115,000 annually or 50% to 80% of Area Median Income.

Supporters explained that Heading Home is testing a model designed to work where the market and the

subsidy system don't. The project will utilize a Massachusetts-based turnkey modular builder to reduce construction timelines and lower construction costs — an efficient, cost-effective model that can be replicated across other communities. Financing for the pilot will include philanthropic donations, low-interest lending and private

financing. Once the model has been tested and demonstrated to be financially sustainable, Heading Home plans to expand the initiative and continue developing additional housing using this self-sustaining approach.

They noted that Massachusetts continues to face a severe housing

AUTISM AND POLICE STOPS (H 5438)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved, on a voice vote without a roll call, the House version of legislation designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. The Senate had previously approved its own version but last week agreed to the House version. This program was adopted by the Massachu-

setts State Police in 2024 but is not an actual law. This bill would codify the program into Massachusetts law. The proposal needs additional approval in each branch before it goes to Gov. Healey.

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

person'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.

Supporters said that since the program was adopted by the State Police in 2024, more than 12,000 Blue Envelopes have been distributed. They said that the codification into law is expected to increase both access to and awareness of

Blue Envelopes for drivers and law enforcement officers.

"I am overjoyed that this necessary bill to enshrine the Blue Envelopes Program in law will soon be on its way to the governor's desk," said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), the sponsor of an original version of the proposal.

AUTISM AND POLICE STOPS (H 5438)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law legislation that would modernize and remove archaic language in state laws to reflect the evolution of terminology relating to persons with disabilities.

Changes include replacing "handi-

capped persons" with "persons with disabilities;" replacing "the mentally retarded" with "persons with an intellectual disability;" replacing "retarded children" with "children with an intellectual disability;" and replacing "disabled American veterans" with "American veterans with disabilities."

"Our laws should reflect the dignity and worth of every person," said Gov. Healey. "It is so important that we remove outdated and offensive language in our laws because government is about serving everyone — and we need to make sure that all of our residents feel valued and respected."

"Words are important," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), the sponsor of the legislation. "Language is constantly changing. When people tell us they feel insulted by the use of outdated words, we should listen to them and use language that respects them. Language and activism will continue to evolve, and there is always more work to do,

but this is a gigantic step forward in respect."

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



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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 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.



Legal Ad Notice



THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 2026-104 Article V Section 5-15 "Parking for Persons with Disabilities" is amended with the addition of the following location: 5 Greenville St.
- 2026-105 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: third and fourth meters in the Mt. Vernon St parking lot are restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only.
- 2026-106 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: four westernmost spaces in the Foss Park parking lot are restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only, 3-hour limit.
- 2026-107 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended with the addition of the following location: two spaces on the south side of Oliver Street, closest to the intersection with Knowlton Street, are restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only, with a permit required, 3-hour limit.
- 2026-108 Article XV Section 15-3 "Schedule of Fees" is amended as follows with the following new fees: Resident permit-\$50, 2 day guest-\$30, 3 day guest-\$50, Business guest-\$100, Religious-\$50, Home health-\$50, Landlord-\$100, Medical-\$50, Landlord 10+ properties-\$200, Contractor-\$50, Business-\$300, Realtor-\$100, Special visitor-\$35, Extended visitor-\$50, Rental-\$50, Moving van-\$50, Moving pod-\$50, Commercial day-\$100.
- 2026-109 Article V Section 5-9.5 and Article XV Section 15-4 "Parking Meter Fees" is amended as follows with the following new fee: \$1.50 per hour.

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Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 06/9/2026, 06/16/2026, 06/23/2026



2026-110 Article V Section 5-15 "Parking for Persons with Disabilities" is amended with the addition of the following location: 50 Hanson St.

2026-111 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: even side of Central St from Somerville Ave to 52 ft. north of Somerville Ave.

2026-112 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the south side of Highland Ave, from approximately 30 ft. west of Eastman Rd to approximately

50 ft. west of Eastman Rd (278 Highland Ave) - 30 minute parking 8:00am-6:00pm, permit parking 6:00pm-8:00am.

2026-113 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the south side of Highland Ave, from approximately 70 ft. west of Eastman Rd to approximately 90 ft west of Eastman Road (280 Highland Ave), - 30 minute parking 8:00am-6:00pm, permit parking 6:00pm-8:00am.

2026-114 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: on the south side of Highland Ave, from approximately 30 ft. east of Central Street to approximately 85 ft. east of Central St (150 Highland Ave).

2026-115 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended as follows: on the south side of Highland Ave, from approximately 85 ft. east of Central Street to approximately 150 ft. east of Central St (146-148 Highland Ave) - 4 metered spaces.

2026-116 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the north side of Highland Ave, from approximately 30 ft. east of Central Street to approximately 70 ft east of Central Street (147-149 Highland Ave).

2026-117 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: permanent approval of approximately 16 spaces on the north side of Highland Ave between City

Hall concourse entrance and exit, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7:00am to 9:00am, Mon-Fri, School days Only,

September-June; 2 hour except by permit 9:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-7:00am.

2026-118 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: permanent approval of approximately 9 spaces on the north side of Highland Ave between Somerville High School concourse entrance and exit, regulated as City Hall or School Permit

Parking Only from 7:00am to 9:00am, Mon-Fri, School days Only, September-June; 2 hour except by permit 9:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-7:00am.

2026-119 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: permanent approval of approximately 5 spaces on the north side of Highland Ave between City

Hall concourse entrance and Somerville High School concourse exit, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7:00am to 9:00am, Mon-Fri, School days Only, September-June; 2 hour except by permit 9:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-7:00am.

2026-120 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: permanent approval of approximately 8 spaces on the west side of Walnut St between Highland

Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7:00am to 9:00am, Mon-Fri, School days Only, September-June; 2 hour except by permit 9:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-7:00am.

2026-121 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: permanent approval of approximately 9 spaces on the east side of Walnut St between Highland Ave

and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7:00am to 9:00am, Mon-Fri, School days Only, September-June; 2 hour except by permit 9:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-7:00am.

2026-122 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: permanent approval of approximately 7 spaces on the east side of School St between Highland Ave to opposite Madison St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7:00am

to 9:00am, Mon-Fri, School days Only, September-June; 2 hour except by permit 9:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-7:00am.

2026-123 Article XV Section 15-2.1 "Residential Permit Parking" is amended as follows, replacing the text after paragraph 4 with the following: Parking permits are restricted for residents of any new development, including (1) the construction of entirely new buildings and

(2) the redevelopment or modification of existing buildings that add new units, which meet all of

the following conditions: a) Located within a Transit Area, as defined by the Somerville Zoning Ordinance, as identified by the official Somerville Zoning Atlas (all lots within 1/2 mile of a

rapid transit station for residential uses), b) Located in a Zoning District other than the Neighborhood Residence (NR) District as identified by the official Somerville Zoning Atlas, c) Received its first building permit on or after January 15, 2020. The Parking Department shall maintain a schedule of addresses, certified by the Inspectional Services Department, subject to the parking permit restriction. Residents of deed restricted affordable dwelling units, residents with disabilities, and residents who claim to have extenuating circumstances may apply for a waiver of the parking permit restriction. Waivers must be adjudicated by OSPCD Housing Division staff, ADA Coordinator, Director of Housing Stability, or their designee. An approved waiver qualifies residents for a resident parking permit only. Visitor passes will not be issued under any circumstances. The Director of Parking shall issue parking permits only upon receiving adequate documentation that satisfies the waiver requirements of this section. In addition to the application requirements in the first two paragraphs of Section 15-2.1, applicants shall also submit a waiver form with the following information: 1) Residents with Disabilities: the applicant must have a disability plate or disability placard from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles or other duly authorized agency acting under the authority of the Commonwealth or written verification of a medical condition that causes a substantial impairment to the use of public transportation. 2) Residents of a Deed Restricted Affordable Dwelling Unit: the applicant must provide written verification of residence from the Housing Division, Somerville Housing Authority, or other provider of deed restricted affordable housing. 3) Residents with Extenuating Circumstances: the applicant must provide a written recommendation from the Director of Housing Stability in consideration of the extenuating circumstances.

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Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 06/9/2026, 06/16/2026, 06/23/2026

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ment Full remodel interior work carried out!

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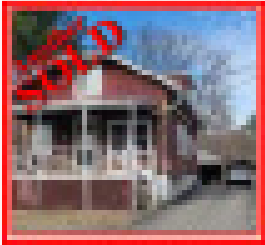
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Out dosage continued from page 2



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By William Tauro

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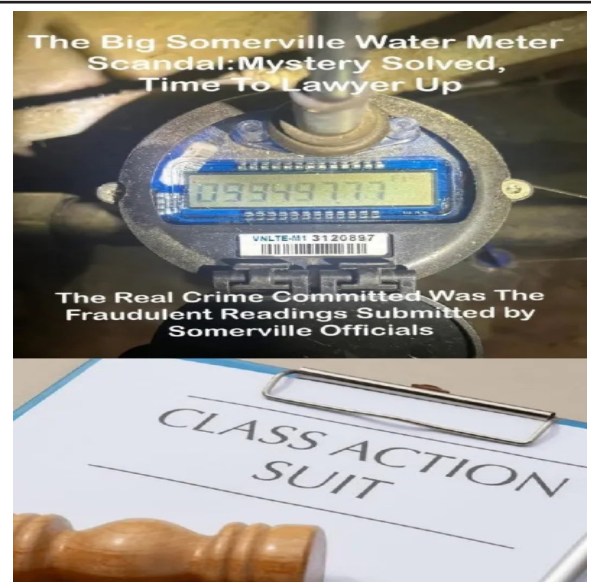
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Somerville Community Baptist Church June & July Events

The Somerville Community Baptist Church at 31 College Avenue near Davis Square will present a free Vacation Bible School from Monday, August 10 through

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music, creative activities, games, and free snacks each day. For more information or to register your child, see <http://www.ILoveSCBC.org/> events



ELIMINATE LAW THAT PROTECTS EMPLOYEES FROM PROSECUTION (H 5489)

By Bob Katzen

House 2-154, rejected an amendment striking a current law which prevents employees of schools, libraries and museums from being prosecuted for violating obscenity laws if the evidence proves that the defendant was acting in the course of his or her employment as an employee of those entities.

Rep. John Gaskey (R-Carver), the sponsor of the amendment, said current law unfairly grants absolute unchecked legal immunity to government employees, rendering them completely unaccountable to taxpayers who fund them. He said the House is establishing an elite class of citizens in Massachusetts and saying to the working class taxpayers who fund schools that if they distribute explicit adult material to a minor, they will go to state prison; but if a

state-certified bureaucrat does it under the vague banner of an educational purpose, they get statutory immunity and can't be fined, fired or prosecuted.

Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough), who voted against the amendment, said that this existing protection is a good one that shields schools, libraries and museums from obscenity enforcement when materials have legitimate educational, literary, ar-

tistic or scientific value. He argued that the underlying bill already establishes clear, meaningful standards for what materials may be included in school libraries, and that removing the existing protection would expose educators and librarians to criminal obscenity proceedings simply for doing their jobs.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment which strikes the protection and therefore opposes the protection. A "No"

vote is against the amendment and therefore supports the protection.)

Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Mike Connolly No Rep. Paul Donato No Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

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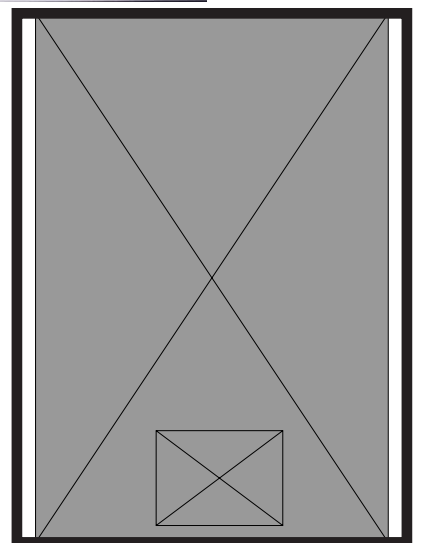
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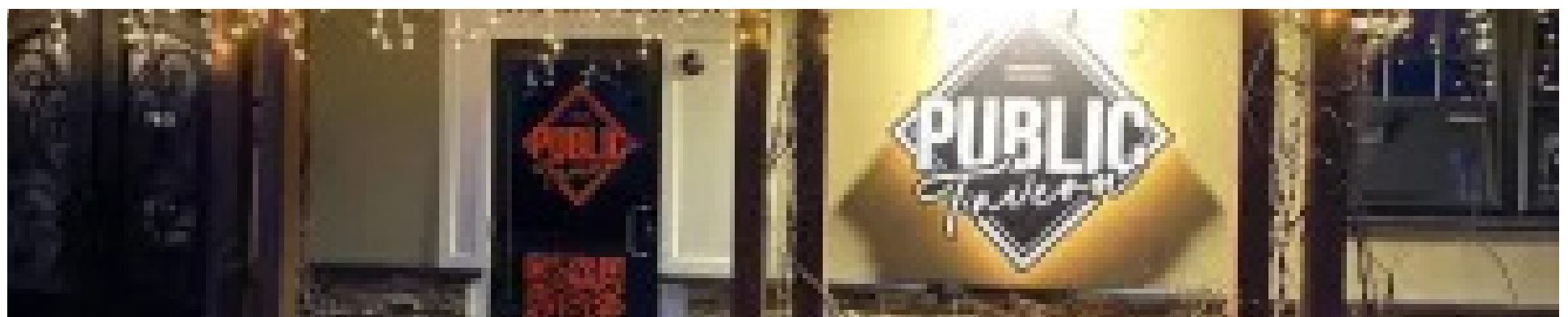
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NO-COST CALLS FOR PRISONERS (H 5493)

By Bob Katzen

The House 28-128, rejected an amendment to a section of a \$228 million fiscal year 2026 supplemental budget that provides \$22.5 million to cover the additional costs associated with no cost calls for Massachusetts prisoners. The amendment would delay the distribution of this funding until the Secretary of Ad-

ministration and Finance develops and presents a plan to keep the annual expenditure from this line item under \$10 million.

“While Massachusetts prisoners are able to make unlimited phone calls free of charge, there is still a significant cost associated with this program for the sheriffs’ offices and the commonwealth,” said amendment sponsor

Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “Multiple sheriffs’ offices have testified that these costs are out of control and need to be reined in. This amendment would take steps to address this problem by making sure a plan is in place to cap expenses at no more than \$10 million per year, which is still a significant number but is well below what the state is currently spending on

the program.”

Opponents said that the No-Cost Calls Law works because when prisoners are able to communicate with their families and friends, the result is better success rates and less recidivism. They argued that this \$22.5 million is wisely spent on this program and means the state would be able to spend less money on its criminal justice

system.

(A “Yes” vote is for reducing the funding to \$10 million. A “No” vote is against the \$10 million reduction and favors the \$22.5 million.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Paul Donato No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

MOVE “LAST CALL” FOR ALCOHOL TO 3 A.M. (H 5478)

House 150-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that would enable Massachusetts bars to push their “last call” to as late as 3 a.m., this summer, from June 8 to July 31, if they get local approval from their city or town. The measure would also allow municipalities to establish designated public consumption districts for expanded alcohol purchase and consumption.

Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall

River), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to comment on the bill and its passage.

“With the World Cup and 250th anniversary celebrations slated to take place in Massachusetts this summer, this pilot program won’t just allow us to better understand the one hour last call extension, it will also ensure that businesses are able to take advantage

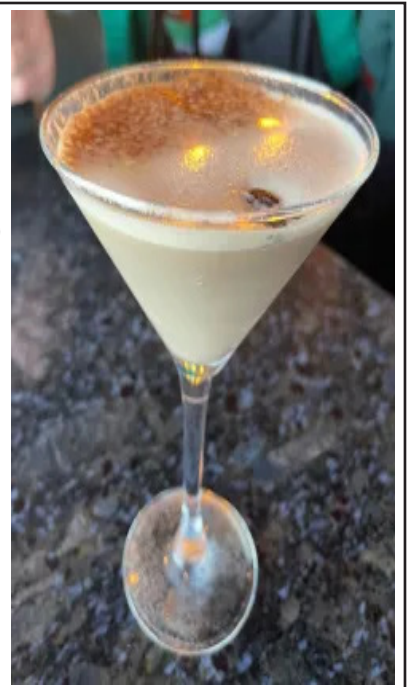
of the influx of visitors – creating a better experience for everyone,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

“Extending serving hours through this legislation will help enhance the exciting summer activities that will be occurring all across the commonwealth,” said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. “By making these changes, it will create a fun

atmosphere for residents and tourists alike and will enhance the economy for all our residents.”

(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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LAST LAUGHS? - Experts Say: “Nonsense!” Sweeney Promises More Shows in the Afterlife. PAGE 2
COMEDY OR WITCHCRAFT? How Sweeney Weaves Spells with Punchlines and Bewilders Audiences Nationwide. PAGE 3
FANS SHARE MIRACLES! “He cured my Monday blues and my back pain!” - Local Fan (Probably) PAGE 5
SPELL CHECK Sweeney’s Joke Book Reportedly Bound in Dragon Hide. PAGE 7

LOCAL MAN STILL FUNNIER THAN WIZARD
Merlin Retires After Opening for Sweeney and Realizing It’s Hopeless. PAGE 4

TOUR DATES (OR ARE THEY?)
 June 20 - Haverhill, MA
 June 21 - Somewhere Else
 June 22 - Who Knows?!
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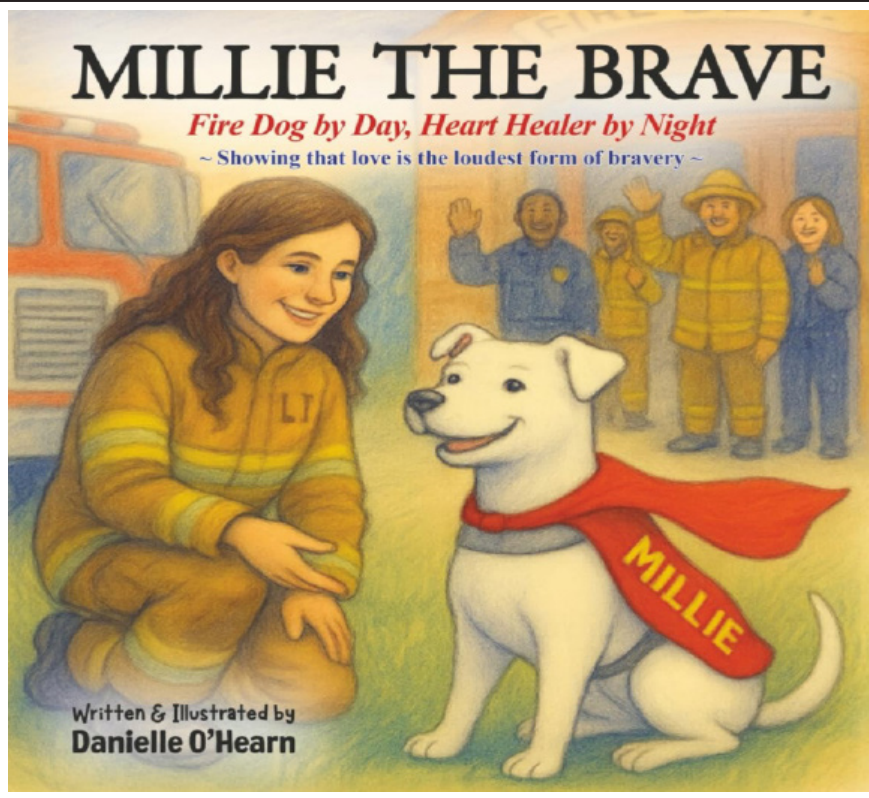
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

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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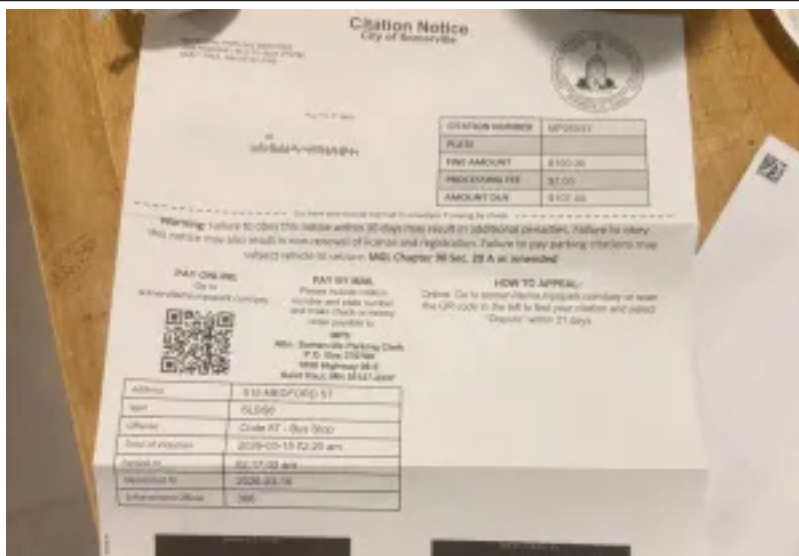


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SAFETY FOR FIREFIGHTERS (H 5488)

By Bob Katzen

The House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that would create a public database of violations of the state's fire prevention laws and a public notification system to alert workers of violations.

The measure is designed to boost safety for firefighters and people conducting "hot work"

including welding, plasma cutting and spark-producing construction. The proposed law has been ten years in the making and was first prompted by the March 2014 deaths of firefighters Edward Walsh and Michael Kennedy who perished while fighting a fire that was caused by welders, working without a city permit, on a building next door to the brownstone in which they died.

"By making these crucial reforms we will ensure the safety of the general public and our first responders," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

"While we can never undo the profound loss of Lt. Edward Walsh and Firefighter Michael Kennedy, we can honor their sacri-

ifice by ensuring that the lessons learned from that tragic day are not forgotten," said Rep. Daniel Cahill (D-Lynn), House Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Senate approved a similar bill in March 2024 but it died in the House Ways and Means Committee which did not act on it.

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

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

MBTA reminds the public of summer discounts, including free Commuter Rail service on Fridays Through August



WHO: Interim Transportation Secretary & MBTA General Manager Phil Eng

WHEN: Friday, June 12, 2026 at 12 pm ET

WHERE: North Station, Track 1

WHAT: The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) reminds riders that Commuter Rail is free every Friday through August 2026. This is one of multiple summer discounts the MBTA will offer including: 50% off monthly Commuter Rail passes

Monthly Commuter Rail passes will be valid to the maximum zone on weekends

Monthly passholders can bring a friend for \$1/trip on weekends

The MBTA will continue to offer year-round \$10 weekend pass, which allow for unlimited travel on the Commuter Rail every weekend and on select holidays.

The T welcomes media to capture photo and video of the custom painted America

250 locomotive, which will debut tomorrow morning and will serve the North Side Commuter Rail Lines.

This MBTA GP40 locomotive was originally built in the 1970's for freight operations in Canada and was acquired by the MBTA in the late 1990's to operate Commuter Rail service. It was recently overhauled in 2026 with the rebuilding and refurbishing of all major components, with additional upgrades including remote monitoring and diagnostics,

forward-facing and cab cameras, and modern brake and control systems. The custom paint job was designed inhouse by the MBTA and features America-themed motifs and the year 1776 on the front of the locomotive to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence and to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

Press: Open

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Enjoy live music, food vendors, public art, community programming, and fireworks



SOMERVILLE —Fireworks return to Somerville’s skies on Tuesday, June 30, at the City’s annual summer celebration featuring live music, food, family-friendly activities, and of course, a fireworks finale.

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with live music from Pluto’s Return, a Somerville High School alumni band. DJ Live will follow with a lively mix of pop, soul, funk, and classic hits, and at 7:45 p.m., local funk band Search Party takes the stage.

At approximately 9 p.m., Mayor Jake Wilson will deliver brief remarks, followed by the Na-

tional Anthem and the official countdown to the fireworks show. Food vendors will be available throughout the evening, including local Somerville favorites, plus classic treats like fried dough and lemonade.

Community Programming Community members are also invited to additional programming beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Premiere on Broadway (519 Broadway), hosted by the Somerville Museum and the Department of Racial and Social Justice.

The program will include a reading of Frederick Douglass’

famous address and Black Out poetry led by Christian Walkes. Artist Sophie Tachibana Miller will also lead an interactive public art activity on Broadway near Trum Field.

Plan Ahead
Due to the large crowds and loud noise associated with Somerville Firworks, the City recommends that attendees leave pets at home and avoid bringing unnecessary bags or backpacks. All bags and backpacks are subject to inspection.

To support public safety and pedestrian access, traffic and parking restrictions and road closures will be in place in the area around Trum Field. Attendees are encouraged to plan ahead and allow extra travel time.

MBTA buses 80 and 89 will be rerouted from 5 p.m. to midnight. Riders should visit mbta.com for full detour information.

See below for all planned parking restrictions and road closures.

No parking:

8 a.m. to midnight
Broadway eastbound from Charles E. Ryan Road to Cedar Street

Cedar Street, both sides, from Broadway to Murdock Street
Charles E. Ryan Road, both sides, from Broadway to the end of the street

3 p.m. to midnight
Franey Road, both sides, from Cedar Street to Charles E. Ryan Road
Cedar Street, both sides, from Murdock Street to Morrison Avenue

4 p.m. to midnight
Broadway, both sides, from Boston Avenue to Medford Street

Road Closures
3 p.m. to midnight
Franey Road will be closed to vehicular, cyclist, and pedestrian traffic. Authorized personnel only.

4 to 6 p.m.
Charles E. Ryan Road will be closed from Broadway to the end of the street, except for residents.

4 to 6 p.m.

Cedar Street from Morrison Avenue to Broadway will be closed, except for residents.

5 p.m. to midnight
Broadway will be closed to all vehicular traffic from Boston Avenue to Medford Street. Hinckley Street will be closed from Fiske Avenue to Broadway.

6 p.m. to midnight
Cedar Street from Morrison Avenue to Broadway will be closed to all vehicular traffic, including resident traffic.
Charles E. Ryan Road from Broadway to the end of the street will be closed to all vehicular traffic, including resident traffic.

The following restrictions will also be in place in Medford near the Somerville border:
5 p.m. to midnight
Williams Street at Winter Hill Road: no access to Broadway
Williams Street at Albion Street: no access to Winter Hill Road

For more information, please call 311 at 617-666-3311 or visit somervilleartscouncil.org/fireworks

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PETS (H 4319)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote, without a roll call, gave initial approval to a bill that would ban the commercial sale of dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs in pet stores. The measure does allow pet shops to offer space to an animal rescue or shelter organization to showcase

dogs, cats, rabbits or guinea pigs that are up for adoption as long as the pet shop does not have an ownership interest in the animals offered for adoption.

Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call

asking him to comment on the bill and its passage.

Supporters said the bill would finally sever the state's ties to the horrible puppy mills and other unethical breeding of these animals. They said this would put an end to a system that harms animals and misleads hopeful pet owners, al-

lowing sick and vulnerable animals to be sold across the state.

"[The bill] will help end the puppy mill-to-pet shop pipeline while still allowing pet shops to partner with shelters and rescues to showcase adoptable animals," said Kara Holmquist, Director of Advocacy at MSPCA-Angell. "The bill also

covers rabbits and guinea pigs - animals who often come from the same inhumane breeding operations and are overflowing in local shelters. By shifting to partnerships and focusing on pet supplies and services like grooming, pet shops can still operate by transitioning to a more humane business model when this bill passes."

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CHILD WELFARE (S 3111)



By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would guarantee certain basic rights for children in foster care related to their safety, education and health care. They argued that the measure safeguards the wellbeing of children, especially those in state care and foster care; increases

access to community support for children at risk of court involvement; and strengthens the Office of the Child Advocate to support robust investigations into reports of harm or abuse to a child.

A key provision would expand the diversion of children dealing with behavior or attendance problems to Family Resource Centers (FRCs) instead of the court system. Supporters note that FRCs provide accessible, confidential support to children and families in crisis close to home and have proven successful in helping kids and teens stay in school, connecting families with services such as mental health or substance use treatment, housing aid and legal help.

“The bill brought before the Senate today makes important changes to improve the efficiency, transparency, accountability and performance of the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Child Advocate and the Children Requiring Assistance systems,” said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester), Senate Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. “These long-needed improvements to our child welfare ecosystem have passed today because of the tireless work of so many. Because of their efforts, Massachusetts will be a better place for our children to learn and grow. Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it also takes a village to make policy that helps all the children of the commonwealth thrive.”

“The Senate is standing firm in its commitment to improve safety, stability and well-being for children across the commonwealth, with special attention to protecting children in foster care,” said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), a key proponent of the measure. “This legislation includes a Foster Child Bill of Rights, which clarifies and affirms that every child deserves to be heard, supported and treated with dignity. It recognizes the importance of supportive and affirming placements, preserving family and kinship connections whenever possible, maintaining educational continuity, honoring cultural and gender identities and ensuring children with disabilities receive the accommodations they need.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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BANNING SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKS AND MATERIALS (H 5489)



By Bob Katzen

House 153-3, approved a bill that supporters said would protect people's access to library materials and guard against politically motivated book bans in Bay State school libraries and public libraries. The bill requires local policies to be developed using nationally recognized library standards and lays out a process around challenges to library materials. The bill also protects librarians and school library professionals from retaliation.

The Senate has already approved a different version of the measure and the House version now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Provisions in the House bill include giving students the right to receive information, including school library materials deemed educational and age appropriate; requiring that determinations about whether materials are age appropriate are made by qualified school library professionals using their professional training and

expertise, and not based on personal, political or doctrinal beliefs; requiring school districts to adopt a written policy governing the selection and use of school library materials and facilities.

The House measure also requires public libraries to adopt and publicly post written policies governing the selection and use of library materials and facilities as well as mandating that the policies must incorporate the American Library Association's Bill of Rights and ensure that materials are not selected, restricted or removed based on personal, political or doctrinal viewpoint.

"I am proud that the House passed my bill to prevent censorship and protect freedom of speech," said sponsor Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough). "This is about defending something basic: the right of students and communities to be able to learn freely, encounter a broad spectrum of ideas and choose what they read without interference."

"I learned from leaders who served in my seat before me – including the great Mel King – that there are moments when we must stand up for civil rights," said another sponsor Rep. John Moran (D-Boston). "Today I stand with our librarians, our students and our commitment to intellectual freedom. At a time when the loudest voices too often dominate, libraries remain quiet spaces where curiosity is encouraged, knowledge is accessible and free expression is protected. Let us ensure they remain that way across the commonwealth."

"Every person and student within the commonwealth deserves access to a strong and diverse selection of books professionally curated and set by national standards, not dictated by ideology or politics," said Rep. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington), House Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development. "By ensuring librarians are protected when perform-

ing their duties, and that our schools and public libraries have the support systems to comply with state law and national collection standards, we in Massachusetts are at the forefront of fighting against a new wave of censorship."

Only three representatives voted against the bill – Reps. John Gasky (R-Carver), David DeCoste (R-Norwell); and Donald Berthiaume (R-Spencer). None of them responded to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they opposed the bill.

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

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

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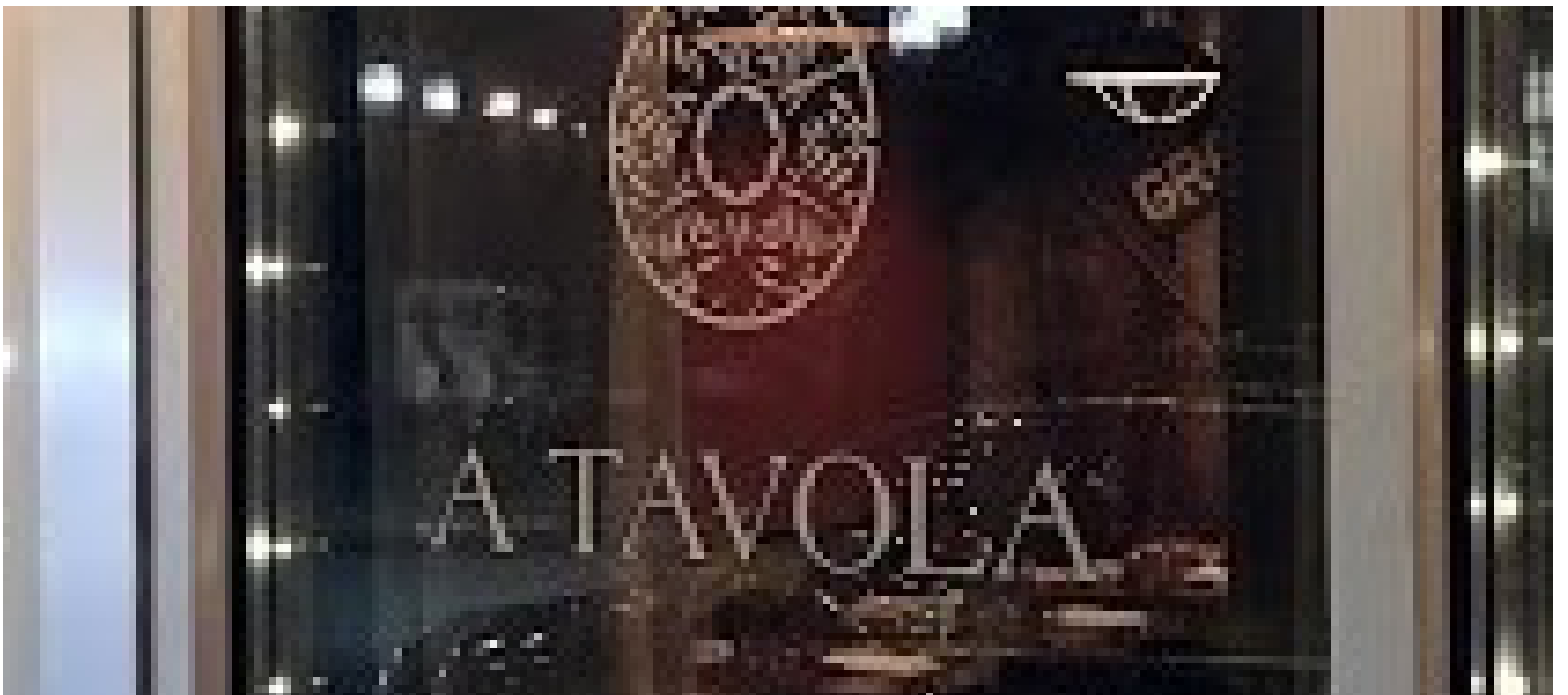
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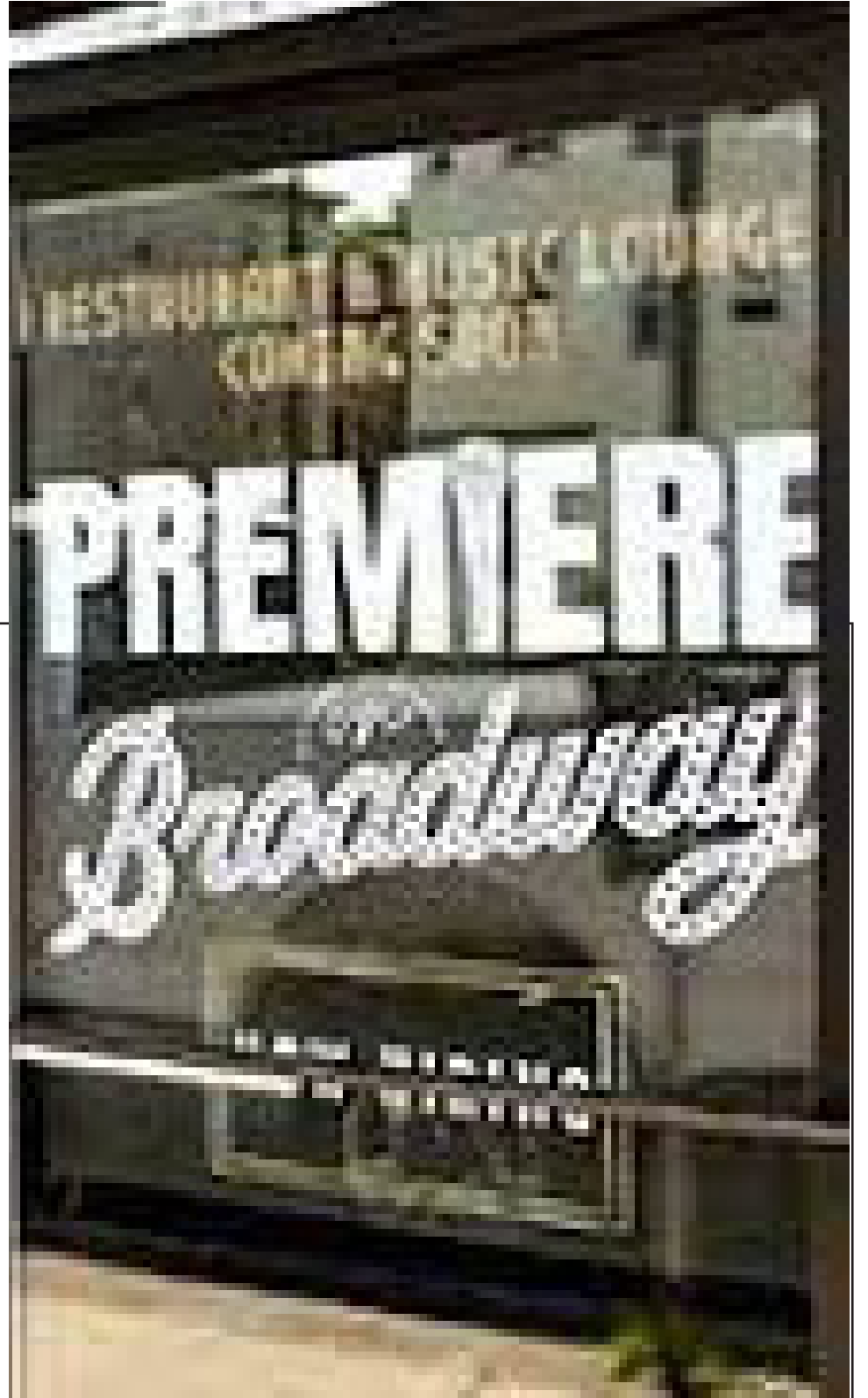
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