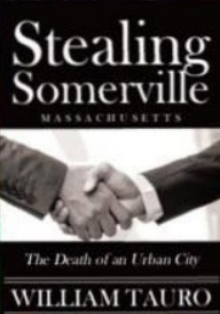


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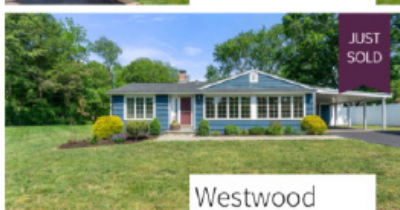
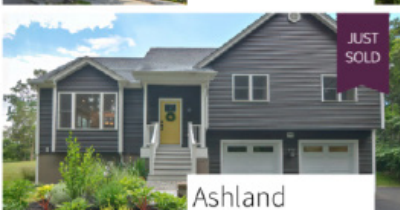
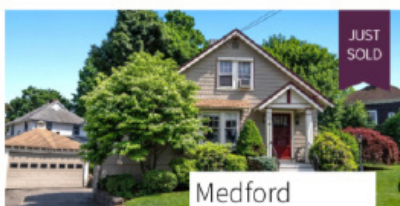
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2. Getbadged Route: Apply directly through GetBadged.com. Visit GetBadged.com, create an account, and select your preferred exam date. This is on-going.

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 Lucille “Lucy” (Auterio) DeVescovi



Lucille “Lucy” (Auterio) DeVescovi was returned home to God on September 11, 2026 with her daughter Lisa Marie and Son-in-law Todd by her side.

Lucy was born March 22, 1944 a few minutes before her twin brother Michael.

Lucy was the daughter of the late Josephine (Frasca) and Theodore Auterio. Lucy was predeceased by her husband Antonio “Nino” of 56 years and her daughter Linda. Her dogs Shilo, Lucky, Tosh and Misty.

Lucy is the mother of Lisa Marie DeVescovi- Mahoney and her husband Todd Mahoney whom loved her very much and will miss her greatly. She is the mother of Anonio “Tony” DeVescovi.

Lucille leaves behind 7 grand-pets, one of whom loved talking with her on the phone daily.

Lucille is survived by her twin brother Michael Auterio and sister-in-law Paula. Her sister Mary DellaCioppa and her brother-in-law Nicola.

She was also pre deceased by her brothers Anthony and Theodore Auterio, and her sisters Josephine (Auterio) Kelley and Theresa Auterio.

She is also survived by her two nieces who care for her like it was their mom, Nicole Nigoghossian and Jessica Cortese.

Lucille leaves behind many family members, nieces, nephews and friends.

Lucille was a mother who was very much loved and who cared for her family deeply. Lucy was proud of her husband and children. Lucy always did so much for her children. They would always have the newest toy barbie to race cars, private colleges but most importantly endless love. She was a very hard worker and took very good care of her family. Sadly, she lost the love of her life 4 years ago.

Lucy and Nino met and were married in 1966. They were blessed with their first daughter Lisa Marie named after Elvis Presleys daughter who Lucy was a huge fan of. Then they welcomed their son Antonio “Tony” and were blessed with their daughter Linda who passed away as a newborn.

Lucy was the organizer of the family’s summer vacations where they would visit different states and Canada. Lucy and Nino traveled often including back to Italy and Croatia which was once Italy (Rovinjo) where Nino grew up.

Lucy and her husband Nino spent many happy occasions, holidays, events and family time with her daughter Lisa and her husband Todd. When Lucy and her husband became ill. Todd and Lisa were by their sides caring for them until the day they returned to the Lord. Both of their losses will leave a huge heartbreak and emptiness that can not be filled.

Lucille grew up in Cambridge and graduated from Cambridge Ridge and Latin. A few years later married moved to Somerville before buying her home in Medford.

Lisa and Todd would like to thank all the nurses, cna’s and activity department at the Royal Meadow Nursing Center memory care unit, Fred, Anne, Amanda and the whole floor of amazing staff.

The nurses and nursing assistants at Winchester Hospital especially Katrine, Kaitlyn, Sierra, James, Eileen, Julia, Anna,

Maria, Luka, Nicole, Devin, Albert, and the whole B2 floor of caring and amazing staff. Your support, care and guidance were welcomed and needed through this journey. You will forever be in our hearts. Lucy loved you all.

Lucy loved to sing and dance. She would warm her home every Saturday morning with her Italian music, Dolly Parton, Elvis, Kenny Rogers and current hits.

Lucy wasn’t ready to leave this world. She fought hard to stay for her family. We will miss her very much.

To quote Dolly Parton: “ Oh, she’s an angel, let her fly, let her fly. She’s gone home to glory to her home in the sky.”

Private calling hours and funeral mass were held for Lucy.

Services concluded with Entombment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering Ettore Ragone



Ettore Ragone passed away on September 18, 2026, surrounded by his loving family at the age of 82. Devoted husband of Antonietta (Gasparri) Ragone.

Loving father of Maria Sullivan and her husband Sean, Al Ragone and his husband Kai Chao, and Daniela Ragone.

Cherished grandfather of Ashley and Kyle Garrett, Nicola, and Giulia. Beloved brother of Alfredo Ragone, Fernando Ragone, and the late Alfonso Ragone, Antonio Ragone, and Maria Pellegrino. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives and friends. Visitation at the Rogers

Funeral Home, 380 Cambridge Street in Cambridge on Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Funeral mass at Sacred Heart Church, 49 Sixth Street in Cambridge on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 11:00 am. All other services will be private. In lieu of flowers please consider donating in Ettore’s

name to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research Post Office Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741 US. Support Parkinson’s Research |Make a Donation to The Michael J. Fox Foundation

Somerville/Medford Remembering BABY ALEXANDRA CHAVIRA COLON

Heaven has gained an angel!
Obituary
Beloved angel of Jonathan Burgos and Alexandra Colon.



\$1.8 MILLION FOR FIRE SAFETY



By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey announced that her administration is making \$1.8 million in grants available to local fire departments to sup

port fire and life safety efforts that protect Massachusetts’ most vulnerable residents.

The annual Student Awareness of Fire Educa-

tion (SAFE) and Senior SAFE grants are used to fund trained firefighter-educators who deliver age-appropriate safety education to school-aged children and older adults, as well as the associated costs of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, teaching equipment and other expenses.

“Consistent, statewide fire and life safety education has helped make Massachusetts one of the most fire-safe states in the nation,” said State

Fire Marshal Jon Davine. “The SAFE and Senior SAFE grants are a vital part of that educational strategy. I strongly encourage every local fire department to apply.”

Supporters say these grants contributed to the steepest decline in child fire deaths in Massachusetts history. In 1994, there were more than two dozen child fire fatalities. The SAFE grants were launched the following year and child fire deaths never again

reached even half that number, declining at a rate about 30% steeper than fire deaths overall.

Fire departments in every city, town, fire district are eligible but must meet certain requirements. Applications must be submitted by 5 pm on September 29. For more info and to get an application go to: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/student-awareness-of-fire-education-safe>

MEDFORD MAYOR VETOES CITY COUNCIL’S LATE NIGHT ZONING VOTE CHANGE

About four hours into the September 15 City Council meeting, with only a developer and a handful of others left in attendance, Councilors revoted and approved a zoning motion that failed about two hours earlier that night. The vote change was to allow purpose-built student housing by right in a portion of the Hillside neighborhood, which was opposed by some residents and a serious discussion during public comment.

Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn announced that she will veto the amendment, citing the lack of public participation after 11 p.m. and the way the revote occurred.

Earlier in the meeting, when residents, neighbors and City planning staff were in attendance, the Council rejected Councilor Leming’s amendment to allow purpose-built student housing by right, 4-3, and initially approved the zoning with

the special permit requirement in place. The draft discussed at the June 24 joint City Council and Community Development Board meeting listed the use as requiring a Community Development Board special permit, which the Community Development Board later recommended.

At about 11 p.m., with only a few people left in attendance, including the developer interested in building in this area of the Hillside, Councilor Tseng, who had previously voted against the amendment, made a motion to reconsider the change to by right from requiring a special permit. It was seconded and passed 4-3.

“This revote took place four hours into the meeting after zoning staff and neighbors left with virtually no one from the public in attendance other than an affected developer” Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn said.

“If the council wanted to take a matter back up, they should have done so when all interested parties were in attendance and not just the developer. This undermines how the process should take place, prior public comment from neighbors and the work that is being done by the Community Development Board, our staff and consultants to thoughtfully implement community-driven zoning changes. A change to by right needs to be more thoughtfully discussed under the shine of community involvement. It is for these reasons that I am vetoing the amendment.”

The portion of the Hillside that would allow by right purpose-built student housing—meaning no special permit is required to build student housing—includes the Whole Foods parcel along Auburn Street and 200 Boston Ave down to North Street.

The City Council can override the Mayor’s veto by a supermajority vote of 5 or more. The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29 at 7 p.m.



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Medford Police Chief Jack Buckley Honored

Today, Chief Jack Buckley was recognized by the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs for his upcoming retirement in December. Chief Buckley served as President of the MMCC from 2023 to 2026 and has been an active member of the organization throughout his tenure as Chief.

He was presented with a commemorative plaque featuring challenge coins from participating departments as a thank you for his years of leadership and contributions to the organization.

Medford Provides Update on Police Chief Transition

Captain Paul Covino will be promoted to Acting Deputy Chief City to close application period for Chief of Police Candidates on September 28

To ensure a smooth transition and continuity of operations upon Police Chief

Jack D. Buckley’s retirement on December 19, Captain Paul Covino has been promoted to the position of Temporary Deputy Chief with subsequent promotions backfilling positions, Mayor Breanna Lungo announced.

“This organizational restructuring gives officers and new command staff the opportunity to continue to learn the management operations under Chief Buckley for the next three months, making the eventual onboarding of the new chief as seamless as possible,” Mayor Lungo-Koehn said. “Chief Buckley has a wealth of institutional knowledge and is in the process of securing accreditation for the department before entering retirement. This transition period will afford police leadership the opportunity to benefit from his experience while taking on greater responsibilities and preparing the department for its next chapter. We believe these changes will stabilize the department during this transition.”

Captain Paul Covino brings over 40 years of experience with the Medford Police Department and has served with distinction in a variety of leadership roles, including night patrol, community service, and in the Investigative Services Bureau. He was also appointed provisional Police Chief in June, temporarily fulfilling the role while Chief Jack Buckley was out on extended leave.

The City is currently in the process of gathering resumes from prospective Police Chief candidates and has been receiving positive feedback on the applicant pool from its hiring consultant MGT. The City will close the application process on September 28 and begin background checks, screening and interviews will begin in mid to late fall. The Mayor is working to establish an interview panel to assist in the hiring process.

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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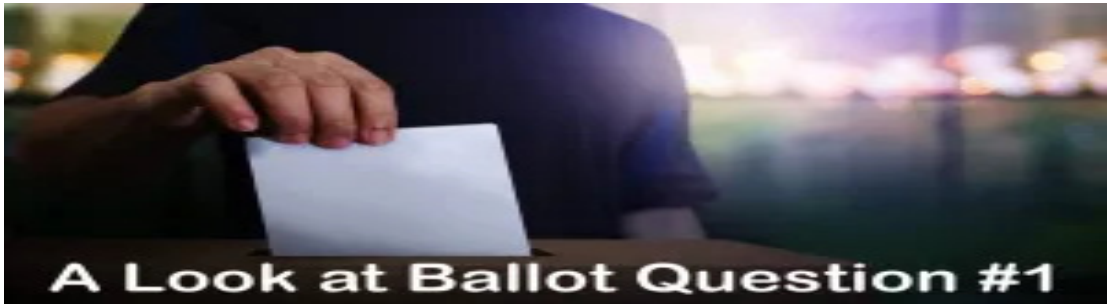
If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families please reach out and we will do our best to help. Whether it be recipe ideas with random things you might have purchased or if you run out of something that you need that we can help with please don’t hesitate to ask.

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Thank you for your continued support.



BALLOT QUESTION 1 – Here is a look at Question 1:



By Bob Katzen

QUESTION 1: MAKE RECORDS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR PUBLIC RECORDS

This question asks voters if they approve of a proposed law that would make most records held by the Legislature and the governor’s office public records and available to the public under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. Exemptions include communications between legislators and their constituents, if they are a request by the constituent for assistance in obtaining government-provided benefits or services.

WHAT SUPPORTERS SAY:

“I believe voters should vote “Yes” on Question 1 because Massachusetts residents deserve the same meaningful access to government records from their elected leaders that they expect from other public agencies,” State Auditor Diana DiZoglio told Beacon Hill Roll Call. DiZoglio is also the chair of the Committee on Transparency

sponsoring the question. “As State Auditor, I have seen firsthand how difficult it can be to obtain information from the Legislature, and voters should not have to rely on closed-door processes when public business is being conducted.”

DiZoglio continued, “Opponents have raised concerns about costs and the burden of disclosure, but those arguments should not obscure the basic principle that government records created in service to the public should be accessible to the public. Our campaign is continuing to organize and educate voters because this is ultimately about who government works for—the People—and whether Massachusetts will finally bring its most powerful elected institutions into a stronger culture of transparency and accountability.”

WHAT OPPONENTS SAY:

There is no organized group urging a “No” vote on this question.

Opponents in general say that this proposed law violates the separa-

Massachusetts Constitution by requiring the secretary of state, an executive branch official, to enforce this law against the legislative branch – the House and Senate. They note that giving this power to the secretary would violate the state constitution. They say that this change would take a constitutional amendment to implement, not a state law.

They argue that the legislative process is already publicly accessible at the Statehouse and online. They say that advance notice is given of upcoming public hearings which are broadcast live online and then archived for viewing after the livestream is over. They say that public and advocacy groups are allowed and encouraged to testify in person, remotely online and in writing.

OFFICIAL ARGUMENTS: Here are the official arguments, gathered by the secretary of state, from each side of the question:

IN FAVOR:

“Massachusetts deserves open government. Good government groups rank our state the least transparent in the nation. We’re one of only two states where both the governor’s office and the Legislature claim a blanket exemption from the public records law. Every city, town and state agency must follow that law, but the politicians on Beacon Hill exempted themselves.

Question 1 puts the Legislature and the governor’s office under the same public records law as everyone else. It protects constituent privacy, and the Secretary of Administration and Finance has certified that it has no cost to taxpayers.

In 2024, 72% of voters said yes to auditing the Legislature. Beacon Hill is still fighting that vote — but Question 1 will give you and every taxpayer the ability to access public records directly.

You have a right to see what your government is doing with your hard-earned taxpayer dollars. Please vote ‘Yes’ on Question 1.”

AGAINST:

“The proposed law includes overly broad and poorly defined exemptions. It would exempt from public disclosure documents related to the development of public policy, but only during policy development. These records would become public once the policy is developed. This

limited and temporary exemption will chill open communications by lawmakers, raising significant constitutional concerns, particularly around legislative speech and debate protections.

The narrow protection for constituent communications creates serious privacy risks. By only exempting correspondence tied to benefits or agency interaction, the law leaves vulnerable to public disclosure all other general constituent communications, such as emails and letters from citizens expressing personal political views, sharing sensitive local grievances or criticizing lawmakers. This lack of comprehensive privacy protection will negatively affect civic engagement and deter residents from contacting their elected officials.

Ultimately, this measure creates a flawed framework that fails to deliver genuine accountability while actively compromising constituent privacy.”

WHAT YOUR VOTE DOES:

A “Yes” vote is in favor of making most records held by the Legislature and the governor’s office public records and available to the public under the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

A “No” vote is against making most records held by the Legislature and the governor’s office public records and available to the public under

Somerville Welcomes Four New Police Officers

Please join us in welcoming four new police officers to the ranks of the Somerville Police Department.

Pictured from left to right: Chief Benford, Deputy Chief Lavey, Officer Joshua Benson, Officer Chanthan Neang, Officer Isaiah Saint-Vil, Officer Christian Marsden, and Deputy Chief Donovan.



CREATE “DOLLY PARTON 9 TO 5 DAY” (SD 4203)

By Bob Katzen

Following House passage of the bill to designate September 25 as “9 to 5 Day” across the state, the Senate referred the bill to the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee. The measure recognizes “Dolly Parton’s emblematic cultural impact on the United States, her steadfast dedication to charitable causes and her unwavering support of women, workers, LGBTQ+ people and children.”

“In Dolly Parton, we lost an icon: a legendary singer-songwriter, a philanthropist and a role model who showed generations of Americans what it means to lead and live with kindness and authenticity,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro) and Rep. Sam Montaña (D-Boston), the House sponsor of the measure, in a joint written statement. “Dolly’s passing felt incredibly personal to millions of us, like we had all

lost our ‘Aunt Dolly.’”

Time is running out for the bill to be given final approval in both branches and signed by Gov. Maura Healey in order for the bill to take effect on September 25 of this year. But Matt Fortin, Director of Communications for Sen. Cyr, told Beacon Hill Roll Call, “It is our hope to have the bill passed by Sept. 25 this year.”



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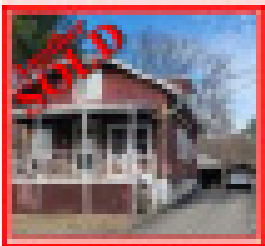
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Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Fraudulent and Inaccurate Somerville Water Bills

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.

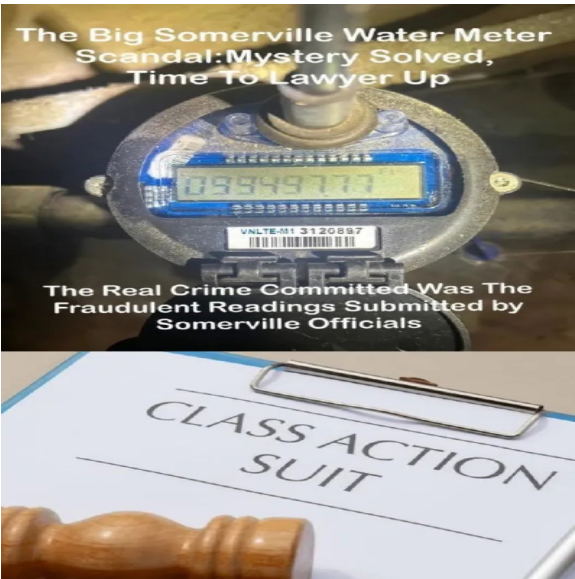
All contacts and information will remain confidential.

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!





Somerville Celebrates Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Month Saturday, September 26

All invited to free event with music, dance, and food celebrating the City's Latin American and Caribbean communities

SOMERVILLE – Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), with support from the City's Division of Equity and Belonging and the Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), invites all community members to celebrate Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Month on Saturday, September 26, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.).

Enjoy a wide selection of Latin American and Caribbean food and refreshments, from Brazilian cheese bread to Haitian griot, alongside an afternoon of music, movement, and opportunities to join in.

Featured performers include: Sinhá Capoeira: Sharing the Afro-Brazilian tradition of movement and music. Fraternidad Folklórica Boliviana New England: Celebrating Bolivia's cultural heritage through traditional dance. Katya Macedo: The Brazilian native and Somerville local will guide participants through basic samba steps in a welcoming

environment. DJ Michael: The Haitian-born, Somerville-based DJ will keep the crowd moving throughout the afternoon.

Local advocacy organizations and community groups will also be on hand to share resources and connect with residents. Bring your family, meet your neighbors, and celebrate the cultures and communities that help make Somerville home. The event is free and open to all.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.



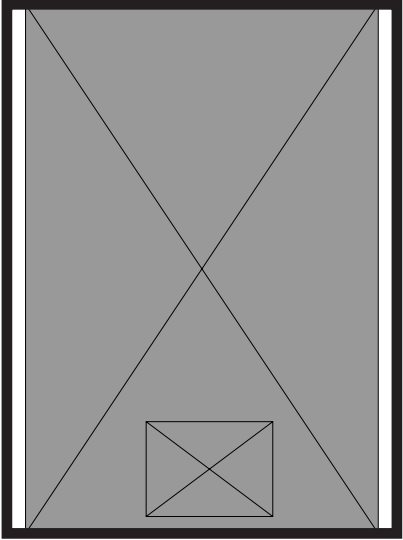
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CONTRIBUTE VIA A MASSACHUSETTS TAX RETURN
TO COUNTRIES COPING WITH GLOBAL WARMING (S 1922)

By Bob Katzen

On July 6, the Revenue Committee gave a favorable report to and recommended passage of a measure that would give Massachusetts residents the option, on their Massachusetts income tax form, to contribute to a special United Nations Fund — the Least Developed Countries

Fund — to help developing countries cope with the effects of global warming. The Senate then sent the measure to the Ways and Means Committee where it has languished.

Supporters say the state income tax form currently features six “tax check-off” options that give residents the option, when

filing their state income tax return, to contribute all or part of their tax refund to various causes. They said helping other countries deal with the effects of global warming is a worthy cause.

Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated

requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to explain why he filed the bill.

“This demonstrates the priorities of the Massachusetts Legislature,” said Paul Craney, executive director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. “What taxpayers desperately need are broad-based tax cuts and elimi-

nations, not gimmicky stunts to send taxpayer money overseas. While Sen. Barrett may seek the praise of European elites, he is doing this at the expense of ordinary Massachusetts working people.”

MBTA HOUSING

By Bob Katzen

The Bay State’s Supreme Judicial Court upheld the decision of a lower court which ruled that the town of Marshfield’s claim that the current law, known as the MBTA Communities Act, is an unfunded state mandate, is invalid.

Current law requires that an MBTA community must have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as a 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 district 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.

Supporters of the act said it is intended to spur development of housing in more than 170 cities and towns that host or are adjacent to MBTA service by requiring those communities to adopt at least one

zone where multi-family housing is allowed by right.

Marshfield had sued Gov. Healey’s Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, arguing that adopting the zoning mandated by the law forced it to absorb significant “incurred costs and expenses in evaluating and drafting proposed zoning bylaws and presenting them to Town Meeting.” A Superior Court judge concluded in June that the possible costs Marshfield did or could face were “indirect,” and that the law is therefore not an unfunded mandate. The SJC last week

upheld the lower court’s ruling.

“The complaint does not identify the future costs or include facts showing how the act itself will impose them rather than the town voluntarily assuming them because of local policy choices or other reasons,” said the SJC in its decision. “If the alleged future costs concern another effort to amend the zoning bylaw, the complaint does not allege facts suggesting that those costs would differ in character from the alleged costs already incurred,” Justice Serge Georges wrote. “If instead the costs concern future

municipal services associated with later housing development, the alleged costs are indirect and speculative.”

“Massachusetts has a housing crisis, and it’s impacting everything from our ability to grow our workforce to the everyday cost of living,” said Attorney General Andrea Campbell. “Today’s decision by the SJC rejects Marshfield’s claim that the MBTA Communities Law is an unfunded mandate and reaffirms that the law is constitutional and compliance is mandatory.”



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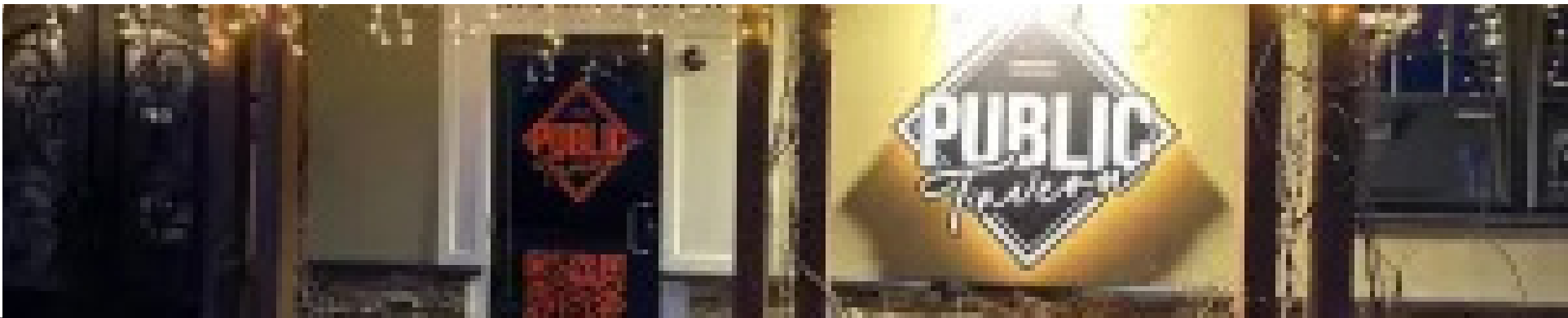
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Is Somerville Snubbing Its Own Disability Commission?



By William Tauro

Wednesday’s meeting at the West Branch Library was about more than the agenda. It was about whether City Hall treats a legally created commission as a partner — or an afterthought.

SOMERVILLE — The Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities met on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the West Somerville Branch Library, 40 College Avenue. The public can attend in person or by Zoom.

Members and residents brought a direct question into that room: Is the city snubbing the ADA commission? If “snubbing” means a slammed door, that is not the public record. If it means complaints dying in a shared inbox, departments acting without the commission, no published ADA progress reports for 2024 or 2025, and volunteer members learning about problems after the fact — then yes. That is the system now in place.

What the law says this body is for

Residents call it the ADA Commission. Its official name is the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD). It exists under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 8J. That statute is not decoration. It charges the commission to research local disability problems; advise city officials and employees on state and federal law; review policies, services, and facilities; coordinate programs; provide referrals; meet at least ten times a year; and file an annual report.

Membership is capped at 13. A majority must be people with disabilities. One member must be a family member of a person with a disability. One must be a municipal official. They are unpaid volunteers.

The city’s own description says the same thing in different words: remove physical, policy, and attitudinal barriers so people with disabilities can live, work, and take part in Somerville on equal terms. If that is the mission, communication is not a courtesy. It is the job.

The breakdown starts with the

inbox

The public face of both the commission and the city’s ADA office is the same address: ada@somervillema.gov, with ADA Coordinator Kimberly Wells at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, (617) 625-6600 x2059.

A blocked HP space, a festival with no usable toilet, a bad doorway on new construction, a playground with no inclusive equipment, or a sidewalk that dumps a wheelchair into the street all go to a city employee first — not automatically to the chair, the treasurer, or the volunteer body that is supposed to see the pattern.

There is no widely published chair email. There is no separate commission inbox. Other cities give their disability commissions a distinct identity. Somerville folds the volunteers into the coordinator’s box. That is gatekeeping, whether anyone intends it or not.

The results are predictable. Complaints never reach the table. Untrained staff in other departments answer questions they are not equipped to answer. Events get planned and accessibility is treated as a last-minute add-on. The commission hears about a problem after the permit is issued, the festival is advertised, or the snow is already piled in the HP spot.

A working system would be simple: a dedicated commission email, a published chair contact, a rule that ADA complaints are copied to the commission, and a requirement that Engineering, Inspectional Services, Traffic and Parking, OSPCD, parks, schools, and event staff brief the commission before decisions are locked in.

The transition plan is the public record of delay

Title II of the ADA requires a living transition plan: barriers in buildings, sidewalks, curb ramps, parks, and programs, plus a schedule and a budget to remove them.

Somerville’s published plan is still the old Curtatone-era document, with sidewalk and ramp work scheduled into 2024, 2025, and 2025–2035. A later task force was appointed to update

it. As of the city’s February 2026 website note, the task force had held 21 sessions and expected recommendations by the end of March 2026 for mayoral review.

The 2013 ADA Transition Plan priced the public-rights-of-way backlog in 2013 dollars: \$75.1 million for sidewalks, \$7.4 million for curb ramps, and \$493,750 for accessible pedestrian signals — about \$83.1 million in all. The consultant said the city should spend at least \$2.3 million a year on those three items.

Unit prices in the plan were \$16–\$36 per square foot for sidewalks, \$3,000–\$6,000 per ramp, and about \$600 per APS plus rewiring. The city budgeted \$2 million for sidewalks in FY2014 and \$750,000 a year for ramps (about 250 ramps). A later schedule also listed about \$23.3 million in sidewalk work for 2025–2035; that is future scheduled work, not the 2013 backlog.

The \$75.1 million sidewalk figure covered sidewalks and curbing only — not utilities, lighting, signs, or landscaping. Building repairs were listed separately by site and were never added into one citywide total.

It is now late September 2026. Where is the updated plan? Where is the 2024 progress report? Where is the 2025 progress report? Where is the public accounting of what got fixed, what got delayed, what it cost, and what is still broken?

A plan that is not published and not scored is not a plan. It is a PDF in a drawer. Residents who use wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters do not live in a drawer.

Housing, sidewalks, and the rest of the unfinished list

Commissioners have put housing on the agenda — more affordable, accessible units that a family can actually use: bathrooms you can turn in, doorways a chair can clear, working elevators, first-floor or elevator-served family apartments, ramps, and railings. Advocates at the table say more than 60 families are waiting for ADA-accessible units. That number should be confirmed and published by the city and the Somerville Housing Authority. If it is right, it is a crisis.

If the city cannot produce the number, that is its own problem.

The same gaps show up every day: broken sidewalks and curb ramps still on old inventories; HP spaces that are not plowed or not enforceable; public and festival bathrooms that are not usable; parks still missing inclusive equipment; city events planned by staff who never ask whether there is a route, a toilet, or an accessible viewing area; new construction moving through inspections and Access Board variances without an early seat for the commission; and Vision Zero street redesigns that can either improve safety or erase the last legal place a disabled driver can park.

The commission has not been silent. Minutes show members raising parking minimums, HP enforcement, playground access, snow in lots, school accessibility, after-school programs, and how the Accessible Parking Fines Fund is spent. That fund — money from illegal parking in HP spaces and blocking ramps — has held hundreds of thousands of dollars and has paid for scholarships and events. The public still deserves a plain-English report: what came in, what went out, and what sits unspent while sidewalks fail.

A clerk, a parks worker, an event intern, or a housing staffer can turn a disabled resident away without meaning to — because no one trained them, and no one told them to call the ADA coordinator and the commission. Section 8J says the commission is there to advise municipal employees. That only works if employees know it exists.

What repair looks like

The city does not need another slogan. It needs a system:

1. A dedicated commission email and a published chair contact, separate from the coordinator’s box.
2. A rule that ADA complaints, event plans, construction reviews, and sidewalk/HP work orders are shared with the commission, not filtered.
3. A published status report on the ADA Transition Plan — what was promised for 2024

and 2025, what was done, what it cost, and what remains.

4. A housing number the public can trust: how many fully accessible units exist, how many families are waiting, and what comes next.

5. Mandatory ADA training for staff who run events, counters, inspections, housing, parks, and parking.

6. Department liaisons from Engineering, DPW, Traffic and Parking, OSPCD, Inspectional Services, schools, and events who appear on a schedule, not as a favor.

7. An annual Section 8J report in the city report, written so a resident can read it.

None of that is radical. It is the minimum if Somerville is going to claim it takes the ADA seriously.

The volunteers in that library room are not asking to run the city. They are asking the city to stop treating disability access as a side conversation after the press release. Look at the shared inbox, the missing yearly updates, the aging transition plan, the families waiting for a usable bathroom and a door they can get through, and the departments that still do not talk to one another.

That is not a partnership. The law is already on the books. The members are already giving their time. The needs — housing, bathrooms, elevators, ramps, doorways, railings, parks, sidewalks, parking, and public events — are already known.

What City Hall still has to decide is whether it will stop filtering the commission out of its own work. Fix the information system. Publish the plan. Fund the repairs.

Train the staff. Put every department in the same room as the people who live with these barriers every day.

Do it now. Disabled residents should not have to wait for the next agenda to be treated as part of the city they already pay for.

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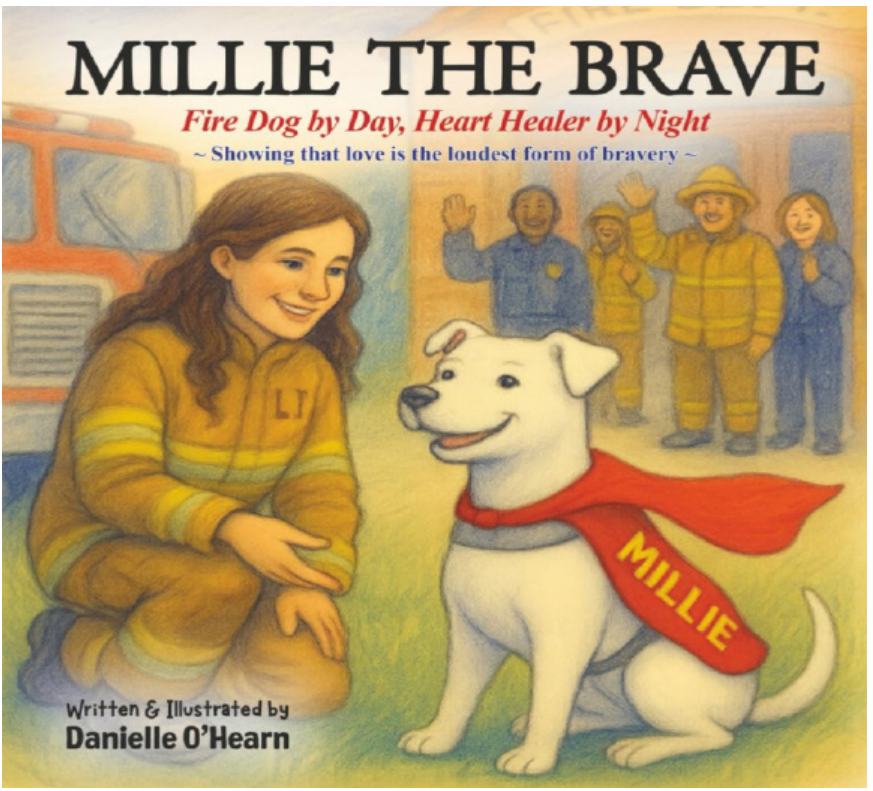
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

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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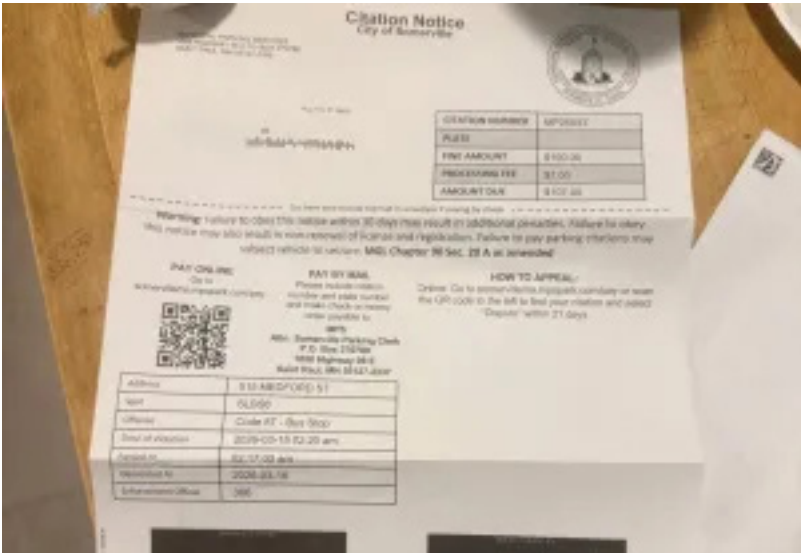


Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Fake Somerville Bills

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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City and Somerville Homeless Coalition Activate Emergency Fund
for Fire Victims; Call for Community Donations



SOMERVILLE– Somerville residents need your help. On Tuesday, September 8th, a fire on Dartmouth Street left four households — including multiple vulnerable

residents and their pets — without homes. Thankfully no life was lost, but most face significant hurdles to replacing their belongings, covering the cost of new or temporary housing, and rebuilding their lives. From medicine and clothes to food in the pantry, these residents are facing the difficult task of starting over.

The Somerville Homeless Coalition Emergency Dis-

placement Fund has been activated to support the fire victims. Please consider donating whatever you can to the fund — no donation is too small. Your support will provide immediate relief. Only financial donations are sought at this time. Every donation makes a difference. Thank you, Somerville, for being the kind of place where we take care of our own.

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\$7 MILLION FOR LIVE THEATER PRODUCTIONS

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey announced the granting of \$7 million in Live Theater Tax Credits for 23 live stage productions across Massachusetts. Eligible theater companies may receive non-refundable tax credits equal to 35 percent of qualifying payroll costs, 25 percent of production and performance expenditures and 25 percent of transportation expenditures. Credits may be transferred or carried forward for up to five years.

“Massachusetts has incredible theaters, talented artists and communities that know how to put on a great show,” said Gov. Healey. “These investments help bring more productions to our state, support good jobs and local businesses and give residents and visitors even more reasons to spend time in communities across Massachusetts. We

want Massachusetts to be a place where artists and producers want to create and audiences want to come experience it.”

“Live theater brings people together and brings real economic activity into our communities,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “When people come to see a show, they’re also eating at local restaurants, staying in hotels and supporting nearby businesses. These awards will help our theaters compete for exciting productions while supporting jobs and economic growth across Massachusetts.”

“Travel today is increasingly driven by experiences, and few experiences are as memorable as live performance,” said Kate Fox, executive director at the Office of Travel and Tourism. “From internationally recognized productions to hometown stages, Massachusetts offers

an incredible theater landscape that inspires visitors to stay longer, explore our communities and return throughout the year. This investment strengthens both our theaters and our reputation as one of the nation’s premier cultural destinations.”

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Make Your Voting Plan: MA State Election on Nov. 3



City sharing deadlines for voter registration and vote-by-mail applications, early voting dates, and more

SOMERVILLE–On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Massachusetts will hold its State Election. Offices and items on the ballot include Governor, Senator in Congress, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, District Attorney, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Councillor, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, Representative in Congress, and Register of Probate – and nine ballot questions.

Keep in mind: with ballots including nine binding questions on various subjects, you can help keep lines at the polls shorter several ways.

Please consider these options to save yourself time:

Vote by mail
Vote early
Review ballot questions in advance. Bring notes with your choices: You may bring materials into the voting booth such as pre-printed brochures or pamphlets or your own notes, but you cannot display those materials while in the polling location. You must take any materials with you when you leave the voting booth. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on Election Day. The state election is open to all registered voters in Somerville.

Below are additional reminders as you prepare for November 3.

Register to Vote in the State Election by Saturday, October 24

You can register in one of three ways:

Online at somervillema.gov/register
In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
By phone: call the Elections Department at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 and request a voter registration form. Or call 311 (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections.
The registration deadline is Saturday, October 24, by midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. City Hall will be open on October 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked on or

before October 24.

Vote Early at City Hall, October 17-30

Vote early in the State Election in the lower level of City Hall from Saturday, October 17, through Friday, October 30. The schedule is as follows:

October 17, 18 – Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
October 19, 20, 21 – Monday-Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 22 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
October 23 – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
October 24, 25 – Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
October 26, 27, 28 – Monday-Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 29 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
October 30 – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
How to Vote in the State Election by Mail

Vote by Mail application deadline: Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. by Tuesday, October 27
A postmark alone is not sufficient; it must arrive at the Elections Office by the deadline.
Where to get an application:

Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/voteby-mail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling 311 or calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail.
Vote by Mail deadline: Ballots dropped in city boxes or in person at City Hall must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3. Mailed ballots (from within the U.S.) must be POSTMARKED by November 3 and received in office by November 6. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state’s website.
How to return your application and ballot:
Elections Office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall
Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143
Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.
Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:
City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.

East Somerville Community School, across from 66 Glen St.
Behind the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave.
In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St. (near corner of Spring St.)
In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.
In front of Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St.
In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.
In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.
Sample Ballots and Ballot Questions Information
Sample ballots are available now on somervillema.gov/elections.
Ballots will include nine binding questions for Massachusetts voters to consider.
Review questions in advance to save yourself time at the polls.
For more information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

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Join the Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is seeking one new member to join the Somerville Zoning Board of

Appeals (ZBA).

What is the Zoning Board of Appeals?

The ZBA is the decision-making authority for development that requires Site Plan Approval or a Special Permit in the Neighborhood Residence, Urban Residence, Commercial Industry, Commercial Business, and Tufts University zoning districts; the ZBA is also the decision-making authority for all Hardship Variances, Comprehensive Permits, and Admin-

istrative Appeals.

Who Can Join?

All Somerville residents are invited to apply.

What is the Time Commitment?

The ZBA meets every first and third Wednesday of the month, with meetings lasting between one and two hours. Additional time for review of submitted materials may be needed, for an estimated total of 10-15 hours

per month.

What is the Appointment Process?

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

How Do I Apply?

Applications are due by Friday, October 30, and should include a resume and letter of interest.

Where to Apply:

Applications can be sent via email or U.S. Mail to:

Email: zoningboard@somervillema.gov
Mail: Attn: Planning Division, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA 02144
For questions or more information, contact zoningboard@somervillema.gov or call 311 (671-666-3311).

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

Somerville Community Invited to Arabic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, October 10



Free, all-ages celebration with music, food, art, and more to

celebrate Somerville’s Arabic community

SOMERVILLE—The Center for Arabic Culture (CAC) and Somerville’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) invite all community members to the CAC’s 12th annual festival and book fair on Saturday, October 10, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.).

Explore a bookfair, shop local vendors, and hear readings from Arabic authors while enjoying Arabic food, music, and art. Local advocacy organizations and community groups will also be on hand to share resources and connect with residents.

Full performance schedule is below:

3:30 to 4 p.m.: Nahda Project Dabkeh Troupe: Sibling duo spreading community joy and solidarity through dabke (stomp) dancing.
4:30 to 5 p.m.: Center for Arabic Culture Children’s Choir: Sharing songs from around the world to celebrate Arab culture.
5:45 to 6:30 p.m.: Egyptian American Folklore Group: Tannoura, Saidi, and other Egyptian folklore dances.

7 p.m.: Akram Abdulfatah Quintet: Palestinian-American violinist, composer, and producer.

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Two Men Charged for Their Roles in July 4th Fatal Shooting in Cambridge



CAMBRIDGE – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Cambridge Police Commissioner Pauline Wells have confirmed that Giovanni Arroyo, 22 of Boston and Moises Pimentel, 23 of Boston, have been charged in connection with the murder of Xavier Bautista. Arroyo

is charged with murder, carrying a firearm without a license and conspiracy to commit a crime. Pimentel is charged with murder, carrying a firearm without a license, conspiracy to commit a crime and evidence tampering.

On July 4, 2026, at approximately 5:24 a.m., the Cambridge Police Department received a call from pedestrians who, while out on a walk, found a man, later identified as Xavier Bautista, lying in a pool of blood in the area of Norfolk Street and Broadway Street. The Cambridge Police Department, Cambridge Fire Department and ProEMS

responded to treat the male victim who was located between a parked vehicle and the curb with an apparent gunshot wound. ProEMS personnel pronounced him dead at the scene.

The subsequent investigation, including witness interviews and a review of available video evidence, revealed that Xavier Bautista left his home around 4:00 a.m. wearing his navy-blue Cambridge Department of Public Works shirt. While walking on Norfolk Street, Bautista was confronted by Giovanni Arroyo and Moises Pimentel who fatally shot him. A third man, identified as Rayquon Brown, acted as

a lookout.

The defendants then fled the scene in a white Dodge Ram pickup truck. After fleeing two of the defendants allegedly discarded multiple items into dumpsters in an attempt to destroy evidence in the case.

At this time, there is no known connection between the defendants and the victim and the motive is still under investigation.

Arroyo was arraigned on September 17, and Pimentel was arraigned today in Cambridge District Court. Both were ordered held without bail. The next date

in Arroyo's case is October 15, 2026, and in Pimentel's case is October 22, 2026.

Rayquon Brown was arraigned on charges of murder, carrying a firearm without a license, being an armed career criminal, and conspiring to commit murder in Cambridge District Court on July 13, 2026. View the release here.

This investigation is being conducted by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Cambridge Police, and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the District Attorney's Office

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Veterans Take to Boston Harbor for Winter Hill Yacht Club’s 2026 Annual Veterans Cruise

By William Tauro

SOMERVILLE — On Sunday, September 20, 2026, the Winter Hill Yacht Club once again opened its docks and its heart to the men and women who served this country. Nearly 100 military veterans from every branch of the armed forces gathered at the club for the annual Veterans Cruise, a tradition that has become one of Somerville’s most meaningful community events. Fifteen privately donated boats, ranging from 30 to 55 feet and piloted by club members, provided the transportation. Captains and crews volunteered their vessels and their time so veterans could spend a day on the water being honored rather than forgotten.

The morning began at 9:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. Fourteen ROTC cadets from Lowell, organized through David Smith, greeted the veterans as they arrived with a ceremonial sword salute and honor guard salute. At 10:45 a.m. the group boarded the waiting boats and shoved off under two Massachusetts State Police escort vessels coordinated by Massachusetts State Police Trooper Kamb. The flotilla moved in an orderly procession through the Amelia Earhart Dam locks, under the Tobin Bridge, and across the harbor toward the USS Constitution. From there the boats continued toward Castle Island, where two Boston Fire Department and Massport vessels met them with a ceremonial spray from their water cannons — a longstanding salute that never fails to draw cheers from the decks. After the harbor tour, the flotilla returned to Winter Hill Yacht Club for an old-fashioned American barbecue. Hamburgers, hot dogs, pulled pork, pulled chicken, and clam chowder were served to veterans, captains, and crews. The day was made possible by generous sponsors. The Chelsea Rotary Club provided annual financial support. Vince Lombardi of Summer Shack in Cambridge supplied the continental breakfast and the full lunch spread that fed everyone before and after the cruise. Special thanks go to Commodore Vinny Palmisano, WHYC Veteran Cruise Coordinator Kenny Webber and all the dedicated members of the Winter Hill Yacht Club of Somerville. Year after year they donate boats, time, food, and organization so veterans can be recognized on the water they helped keep free. This cruise is not a spectacle. It is a simple, practical thank-you: a meal, a ride through the harbor, a fireboat salute, and a few hours among people who understand what service costs. The veterans who boarded those 15 boats on September 20 gave years of their lives. The Winter Hill Yacht Club, the Chelsea Rotary, Summer Shack, the Massachusetts State Police, the Boston Fire Department, Massport Fire Department the Lowell ROTC cadets, and everyone who showed up on the docks gave a day in return. That exchange is worth repeating every year.



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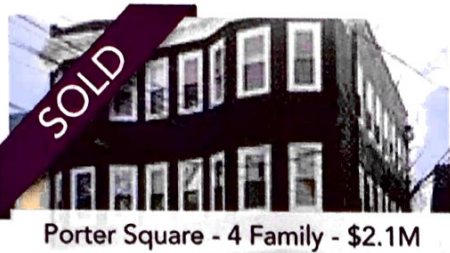
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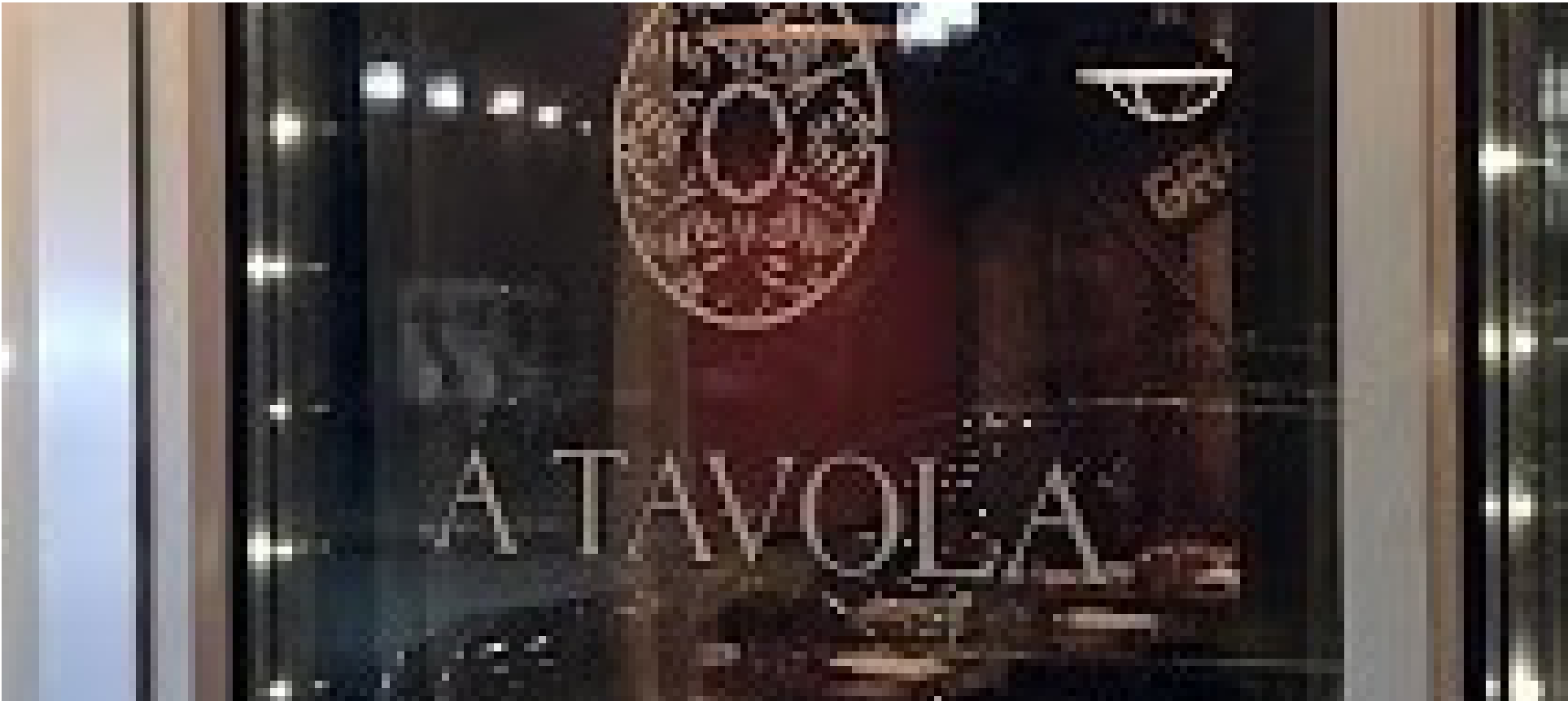
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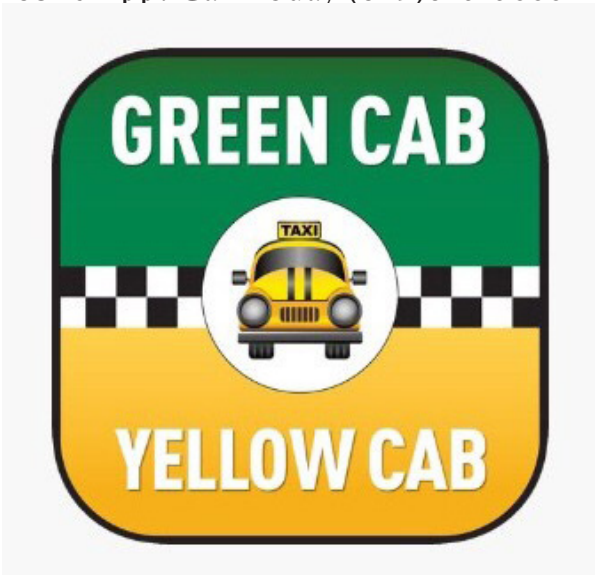


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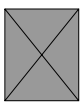
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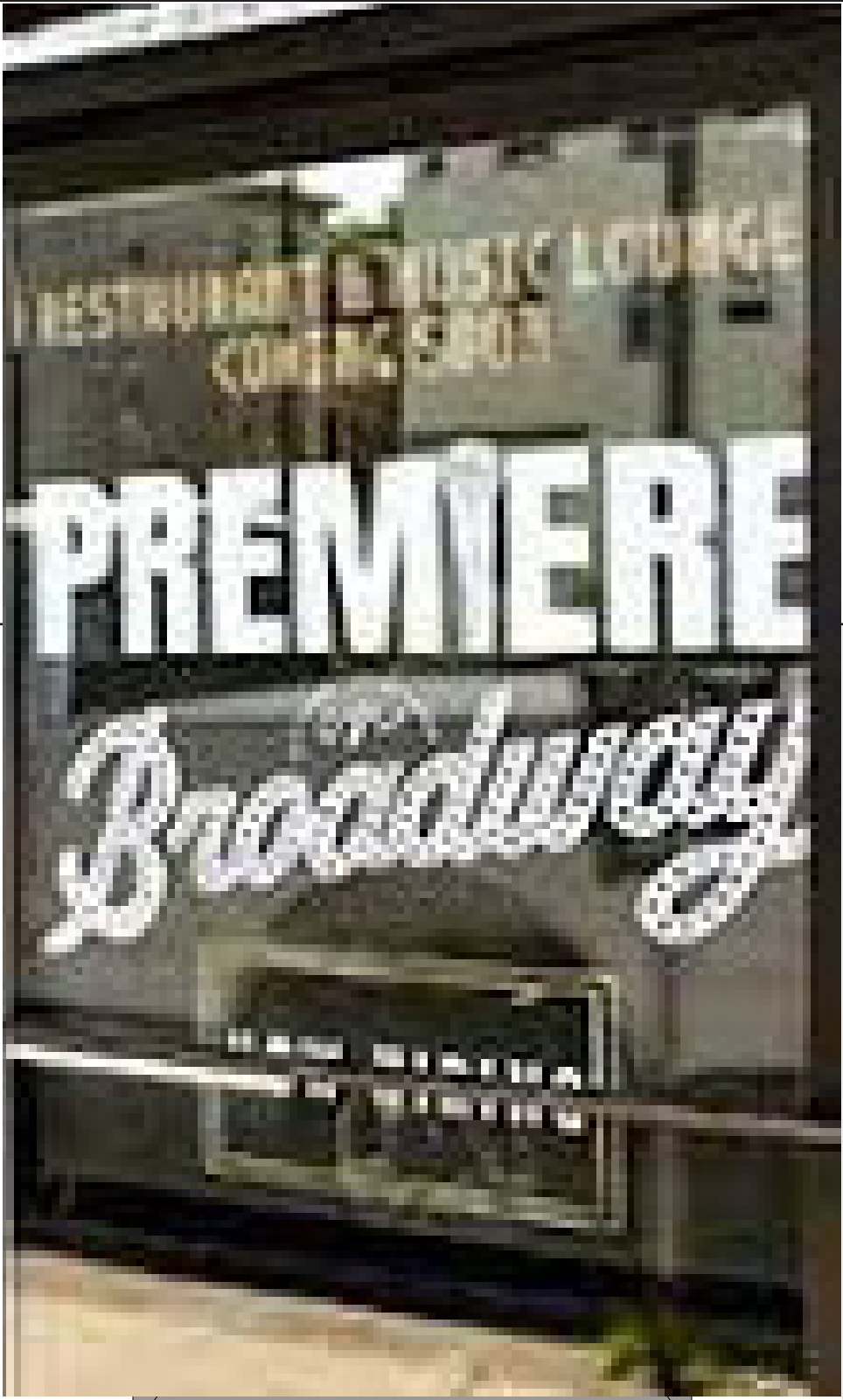
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