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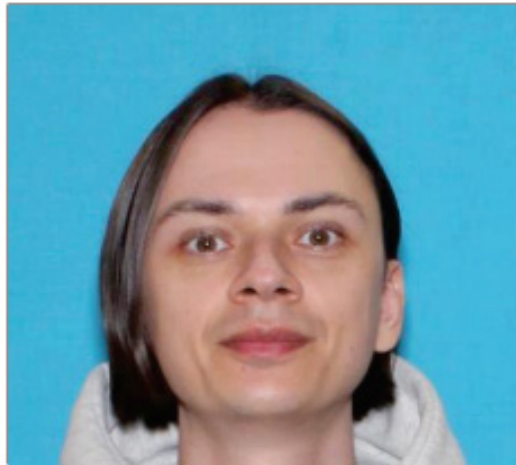
25 Cents

VOL.1 NO.329-160

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday April 18th, 2023

## MEDFORD-BODIES OF TWO MISSING MEN LOCATED, MAN CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH MURDER



Pavel VEKSHIN



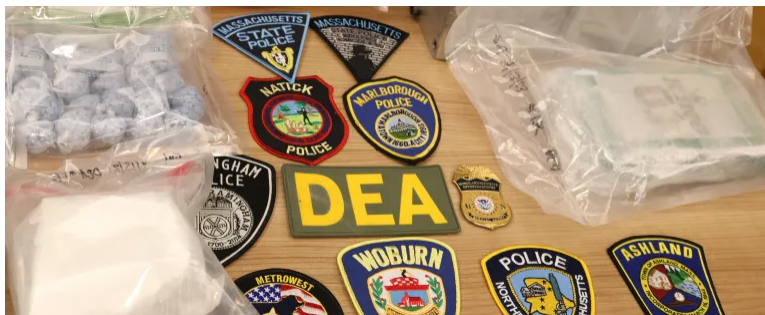
Kiryl SCHUKIN

### MEDFORD POLICE AND MEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENTS CONDUCTED ITS FIRST MOCK EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMMAND CENTER



Continued to page 14

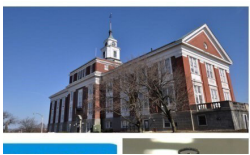
Continued to page 16  
**13 ARRESTED IN CONNECTION  
WITH LARGE SCALE,  
\$2 MILLION A YEAR, DRUG  
OPERATION THAT INCLUDE  
SALE OF DRUGS CONTAINING  
DANGEROUS TRANQUILIZER,  
XYLAZINE**



Continued to page 18

### MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

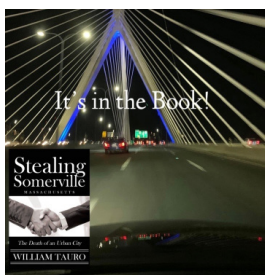
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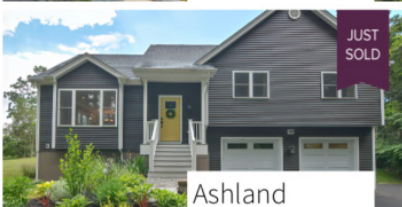
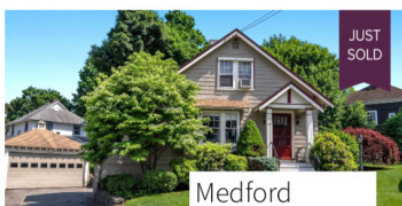
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**WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...**



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

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If you have any questions email us at [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
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### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING LILLIAN S. GUGLIETTA



LILLIAN'S OBITUARY:  
Mrs. Lillian (Strozzi)  
Guglietta, of Somerville,

passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023, she was 97.

Born in Boston she was the daughter of Maria (Nardella) And Cosmo Strozzi. The beloved wife of Peter L. Guglietta, together they were married nearly 74 years and raised their family in Somerville. In addition to being a

devoted wife and mother, Lillian worked as a secretary for the John Hancock Insurance Company for many years.

Lillian is lovingly survived by her beloved husband, Peter L. Guglietta and her sons; Peter D. Guglietta of Illinois and his late wife Gail, who predeceased Lillian in 2020, Paul C.

Guglietta of Somerville and her cherished grandson, Samuel Guglietta of Illinois.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Tuesday morning, April 18th from 10:00AM to 11:30AM followed by a prayer service

at 11:30AM. Services will conclude with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. In lieu of flowers, donations in Lillian's name can be made to American Heart Association at <http://www.heart.org> or the Mass Eye & Ear Institute <https://www.masseyeandear.org/makeagift>

### SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING CAROLUS SEMERZIER



#### CAROLUS' OBITUARY

Semerzier, Carolus- Of Cambridge, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, April 8, 2023. He was

87 years old. Born and raised in Ansed'haitnault, Haiti. He was the son of the late Saint Just and Dercilie (Edmond) Semerzier.

He was the beloved husband of Andrea (Serphin)

Semerzier. A Prayer Service will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Saturday April 22nd at 10:00AM. A visitation will be held that morning from

9:00AM to 10:00AM. Calling hours will be held on Friday, April 21st from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Services will conclude with burial at Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge.

### HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PROPOSES \$56.2 BILLION FISCAL 2024 STATE BUDGET (H 4000)

By Bob Katzen

The House fired the second shot in the long battle over the state budget for fiscal year 2022 that begins on July 1. Gov. Maura Healey fired the opening volley in January when she filed her version of the spending package. The House Ways and Means Committee last week unveiled its own \$56.2 billion version.

The Ways and Means budget recommendation would increase spending by \$3.73 billion, or 7.1 percent over the current year's budget. Debate on the House version is scheduled to begin during the week of April 24.

After the full House finally approves a version of the package, the Senate will follow suit with its own

draft, and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and sent to the governor.



### CHANGE "SELECTMEN" TO "SELECT BOARD" (S 12)

By Bob Katzen

The Municipalities and Regional Government Committee held a hearing

on a proposed constitutional amendment that would replace the gendered reference to "Selectmen" with "Select Board"

in the state's constitution. Supporters said it is long past time to eliminate this outdated and sexist lan-

guage from the state's constitution. "This is a change which many communities have already made in their local by-laws," noted

sponsor Sen. Will Brownberger (D-Belmont).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBORAH BYRNE FOR WHO HAS BEEN AWARDED FOR THE HIGHEST SALES IN BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER!

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December 2021



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**REALTOR OF THE MONTH**  
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# SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: DANGEROUS SIDEWALK FINALLY REPAIRED



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

The only way this was done. Was by the help of William Tauro ..

For the longest time I've been calling the city of SOMERVILLE & my request were fallen on deaf ears ..

Then I called my friend WILLIAM TAURO , & HE HELPED

**MAKE THIS HAPPEN...**  
The present & past mayors of Somerville didn't do a single thing to address this issue.. That has been a sever disaster, all crumbled bricks people with disability and in a wheelchair

couldn't use the sidewalk to reach there destination. Had to use the street on Broadway in traffic on a very busy street .. putting them self's in danger.. Here is another reason that

William Tauro needs to be the next Mayor of SOMERVILLE, he gets things done.& Cares for the safety of all residents of SOMERVILLE..

Tony Dinapoli

## JOINT INVESTIGATION SMASHES MASSIVE CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT RING

This past Thursday morning arrest teams fanned out across the Greater Springfield area and arrested seven members of a crew suspected of stealing catalytic converters from vehicles in Massachusetts and New Hampshire over the last two years.

In all the defendants, who are charged federally, cut more than 470 catalytic converters worth approximately \$2 million from vehicles. This morning's take downs were the culmination of months of investigative work by State troopers, local police officers, and federal agents.

The investigation, which was named Operation Cut and Run, was begun by the Massachusetts State Police in October with assistance from local police departments sharing information about thefts in their communities. The investigation grew to include the FBI and a total of nearly 80 law enforcement agencies. The investigation, coordinated by the State Police Fusion Center, involved dozens of State Troopers, police officers, and federal agents and involved extensive surveillance and other investigative steps.

Arrest teams took all seven targets into custody this morning. We are still in the process of executing search warrants at several target locations. The arrestees are as follow:

**RAFAEL DAVILA**, a/k/a "Robin Hood," 35, of Feeding Hills (Agawam), Mass.;

**JOSE TORRES**, a/k/a "Goldy," a/k/a "Goldy Tech," 37, of Springfield, Mass.;

**NICHOLAS DAVILA**, 25, of Springfield, Mass.;

**CARLOS FONSECA**, a/k/a "Charlito," 26, of Springfield, Mass.;

**ZACHARY MARSHALL**, 26, of

Holyoke and Palmer, Mass.;

**SANTO FELIBERTY**, 34, of Springfield, Mass.;

**ALEXANDER OYOLOA**, a/k/a "Dirty," 37, of Springfield, Mass.

The arrestees were booked at State Police Barracks in Springfield, Westfield, Millbury, Sturbridge, Charlton, Weston, and Boston. They face various federal charges including conspiracy to transport stolen property in interstate commerce, interstate transportation of stolen property, theft from and conspiracy to commit theft from a federally insured bank, and money laundering. They will be prosecuted by the US Attorney's Office for Massachusetts.

Raid teams are still in the process of executing search warrants at locations associated with the defendants. Investigators have seized several firearms, body armor, US currency, multiple vehicles, and multiple catalytic converters, including some suspected of being stolen by the crew earlier this week in several Metrowest communities.

The arrests were announced today at a press conference by US Attorney for Massachusetts Rachael Rollins and representatives from the Massachusetts State Police, FBI, and National Insurance Crime Bureau.

"The members of this criminal network arrested today, under the cloak of darkness, traveled through our state cutting valuable catalytic converters from vehicles owned by unsuspecting citizens and businesses. Their criminal acts violated the security and rights of vehicle owners, necessitated costly repairs, and interfered with commercial operations of business owners and the daily lives of numerous victims," State Police Interim Colonel John Mawn Jr. said. "The actions of these defendants are

an affront to law-abiding citizens everywhere."

Catalytic converters are a component of a vehicle's exhaust device that reduce the toxic gas and pollutants from a vehicle's internal combustion engine into safe emissions, and are required on all combustion engine automobiles in the United States. Catalytic converters use precious metals in their center or 'core' and are targeted for theft due to the high value of these metals – including palladium, platinum and rhodium. Some of these precious metals are more valuable per ounce than gold and their value has been increasing in recent years, with black-market prices being more than \$1,000 each.

Catalytic converters thieves conduct searches in residential neighborhoods, parking lots and other locations to steal the most high-value catalytic converters. Located in a vehicle's undercarriage, the theft of a vehicle's catalytic converter results in damage that renders the vehicle inoperable – both mechanically and legally under EPA regulations – until properly replaced.

According to the charging documents, law enforcement throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire identified a large number of catalytic converter thefts for which a maroon Acura was identified as having been involved. These incidents involved at least two suspects wearing dark clothing, who would target residential and commercial vehicles. The suspects were skilled and able to locate and cut away the catalytic converter from a vehicle within a minute in most instances. The suspects utilized battery operated power-tools, specifically a fast-cutting reciprocating saw. Some vehicles needed to be jacked up in order to access the catalytic converters and the suspects would promptly place the jack under the vehicle, raise it, cut the catalytic

converter, stow it in the rear of the maroon Acura and move on.

The investigation revealed that the maroon Acura belonged to **RAFAEL DAVILA**, the alleged theft crew leader who planned and participated in each of the thefts. It is alleged that **RAFAEL DAVILA** engages in catalytic converter thefts and burglaries on a full-time basis, committing thefts multiple nights per week for upwards of eight hours a night. Additionally, cell phone data allegedly revealed that Rafael Davila maintained meticulous notes accounting for the locations that he and his co-conspirators had targeted and the number of catalytic converters that had been stolen, including the makes and models and when they were dropped off.

It is alleged that Rafael Davila would undertake the thefts with a group of individuals, including his brother **NICHOLAS DAVILA**, **FONSECA**, **FELIBERTY**, and **MARSHALL**.

**RAFAEL DAVILA** was allegedly responsible for the planning of and transportation to each targeted theft – using his vehicle, determining price values for stolen converters and purchasing needed materials. He regularly purchased large quantities of blades designed to be used with a reciprocating power saw as well as cut resistant gloves which, according to surveillance footage, appear identical to those worn by the thieves.

Surveillance footage, communications and location monitoring data obtained from the defendants' cell phones and Davila's vehicle, identified that the defendants were allegedly involved in the theft of catalytic converters from at least 471 vehicles across Massachusetts and New Hampshire in 2022 and 2023 alone. It is believed that a significant number of additional thefts have not been identified

or were not ever reported to law enforcement, however. It is alleged that, on numerous occasions, the defendants targeted more than 10 vehicles in a single night, with one night reporting thefts from 26 vehicles.

Once in possession of the stolen catalytic converters, the crew would then allegedly sell them to defendant **JOSE TORRES**, who would accumulate stolen catalytic converters from multiple theft crews and then in turn sell them to scrap dealers in the Northeast. In particular, **TORRES** allegedly sold stolen catalytic converters to scrap dealers who have since been charged federally for interstate transportation of stolen property and money laundering, including **Alexander Kolitsas** and **Downpipe Depot** charged in the District of Connecticut, as well as **DG Auto**, a New Jersey based company charged in the Eastern District of California and Northern District of Oklahoma. Torres is alleged to have transacted approximately \$30,000 to \$80,000 in stolen catalytic converters per week to these entities.

Through use of digital pricing applications, and communication with the core buyers, **TORRES** allegedly provided prices to **DAVILA** and other theft crews based of the make and model of the vehicle and by the code on the catalytic converter. Knowing the prices of the most valuable converters, **DAVILA** and his crew would seek out those makes and models to target. Torres then negotiated with the core buyer and delivered the catalytic converters to their facility. It is alleged that Torres is known to have sold and transported thousands of stolen catalytic converters to scrap dealers in the Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey areas.

Continued to page 19

### Superior Air Conditioning



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## APPLY TODAY TO REVIEW PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IDEAS AS A BUDGET DELEGATE VOLUNTEER

<p>Somerville residents ages 17 and older can apply now to review ideas submitted for the City's first-ever round of Participatory Budgeting Applications due May 20, 2023</p>	<p>finance or budgeting experience is required; all residents will be given training and background as needed.</p>	<p>with any questions or to receive a paper application.</p>	<p>Education</p>	<p>Impact (5 points) Feasibility (5 points)</p>
<p>SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is now accepting applications from residents ages 17 and older to join the City's Participatory Budgeting process as Budget Delegate Volunteers. This role will give residents hands-on experience working directly with City staff to review Participatory Budgeting idea submissions and determine which 20 ideas will be voted on by their fellow residents. No previous</p>	<p>The time commitment for Budget Delegates will consist of an orientation meeting (about two hours), tentatively scheduled for June 15, 2023. Then ten recurring, in-person, meetings will take place on Thursday nights from 6 to 8 p.m. starting in June and ending in August. The location of these meetings will be confirmed and shared shortly.</p>	<p>During orientation, Budget Delegates will have the opportunity to choose which of the five subcommittees they would like to join. A minimum of four people will sit on each subcommittee. If necessary, a Budget Delegate may be on multiple subcommittees to ensure this happens.</p>	<p>How many projects a subcommittee of 20 will be determined by the proportionality of how many ideas were submitted in that category, with a minimum of one. The current list of ideas is available for the public to look at here.</p>	<p>With these criteria in mind, as well as feedback from City staff on project cost, the subcommittees will select the final 20 allotted proposals for the ballot. All city residents will have the opportunity to vote on the selected proposals in September 2023.</p>
<p>To apply, please complete the application here: <a href="http://bit.ly/BudgetDelegate-App">bit.ly/BudgetDelegate-App</a> or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2107</p>	<p>The subcommittees categories will be: Community-Wide Resources Parks &amp; Green Spaces Streets &amp; Sidewalks Arts &amp; Culture</p>	<p>Once the subcommittees are formed, volunteers will review and research each idea, in consultation with city staff, and narrow down a smaller selection to research further and grade based on the following criteria: Need (5 points)</p>	<p>Residents can also stay up to date on one-time or seasonal volunteer opportunities, as well as process updates via the Participatory Budgeting E-Newsletter: <a href="http://www.somervillema.gov/PB">http://www.somervillema.gov/PB</a></p>	<p>Residents can also stay up to date on one-time or seasonal volunteer opportunities, as well as process updates via the Participatory Budgeting E-Newsletter: <a href="http://www.somervillema.gov/PB">http://www.somervillema.gov/PB</a></p>

## SOMERVILLE PUBLISHES CITY'S FIRST BICYCLE NETWORK PLAN

<p>Plan establishes community-based vision for an 88-mile network of connected bike facilities citywide</p>	<p>Network will support safer, more sustainable, more equitable transit</p>	<p>SOMERVILLE – After more than a year of engagement, research, and analysis, the City of Somerville has released Somerville's first-ever citywide Bicycle Network Plan.</p>	<p>The Plan documents Somerville's community-based vision for an 88-mile network of connected streets and paths where people of all ages and abilities will be able to bike safely and comfortably. Compared to the fragmented 30-mile network that exists today, the Bicycle Network Plan envisions a future with vastly more biking infrastructure and better connectivity so that residents, workers, and visitors can bike to schools,</p>	<p>and revised based on public comment. The priorities expressed by the community, as well as those established in the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, Somerville Climate Forward climate action plan, and SomerVision comprehensive plan, guided the development of the Bicycle Network Plan.</p>
<p>SOMERVILLE – After more than a year of engagement, research, and analysis, the City of Somerville has released Somerville's first-ever citywide Bicycle Network Plan.</p>	<p>"It's imperative that we lay the groundwork now to create a safe, sustainable future for transit in Somerville," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Our residents want city government to act with urgency to save lives on our streets, to reduce carbon emissions, and to create more freedom and choice in how we get around. The Bicycle Network Plan establishes our path forward to do just that. I'm grateful to the more than 1,000 community members who helped shape this vision for Somerville's future. I continue to direct City agencies to work together to implement the Plan in a transparent manner</p>	<p>consistent with public input." The Bicycle Network Plan identifies a high-priority 40-mile network of bike facilities to be installed by 2030, with the full 88-mile network forecasted to be installed within 20 years. The network includes a mix of protected bike facilities, off-street paths, and traffic-calmed backstreet "Neighborways" routes. The Plan designates some type of bikeway on 54% of Somerville's streets. The City will continue to hold public engagement processes before installing any facilities identified in the Plan. The City expects to evaluate the Plan every 5 years.</p>	<p>"In recent years, Somerville has made important progress in creating streets that are safe and inviting for people riding bikes," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Even so, I often hear from constituents who are eager to bike more but are deterred by safety concerns. As a long-time bike rider myself, I understand those concerns first-hand. We need to expand and improve our infrastructure so that biking is a safe, convenient option for traveling from one place to another. Our new Bicycle Network Plan will help the City move even faster to keep people safe on our streets."</p>	<p>"The Somerville community has long called to be the most walkable, bikeable, transit-oriented city in the country, and establishing Somerville's first Bicycle Network Plan is crucial to making that commitment a reality," said Somerville Mobility Director Brad Rawson. "A well-connected bike network will encourage ridership and expand equitable access to transit. With our vision clarified, we can accelerate our work with the community to create safer streets in Somerville."</p>

## NEW CABINET POSITION: SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES (H 43)

<p>By Bob Katzen</p> <p>The Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House Gov. Maura Healey's reorganization plan that would split the current Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development into two</p>	<p>separate cabinet level departments: the new Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities and the renamed Secretary of Economic Development.</p> <p>"The creation of a new Secretariat will bring a cabinet-level focus to the</p>	<p>commonwealth's housing crisis," said Sen. Nick Collins (D-Boston), Chair of the Senate Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. He noted that Gov. Healey who will now be able put her vision for housing and livable communities into</p>	<p>action."</p> <p>(A "Yes" vote is for the bill).</p> <p>Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes</p>
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## A TAVOLA RESTAURANT WINCHESTER OPEN FOR OUTDOOR PATIO DINING & TAKEOUT ORDERS: (781)729-1040 34 CHURCH STREET WINCHESTER



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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.





### \$1.1 BILLION TAX CUT PACKAGE (H 3770)

By Bob Katzen

The House 153-3, approved and sent to the Senate a \$1.1 billion tax relief package. Provisions include combining the Child Care Expenses Credit with the Dependent Member of Household Credit to create one refundable \$600 credit per dependent, while eliminating the current cap; exempt the first \$2 million,

instead of the current \$1 million of the value of a person's estate from the state's estate/death tax that a person is required to pay following their death before distribution to any beneficiary; double the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400; increase the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000; reduce the short-term capital gains tax rate from 12 percent to 5 percent; raise the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 40 percent of the federal credit; and replace the

current business tax from the 3-factor apportionment based on location, payroll, and receipts with a single sales factor apportionment based solely on receipts.

Another provision changes the tax refund distribution formula under a current law, known as 62F, that requires that annual tax revenue above a certain amount collected by the state go back to the taxpayers. Under current law, the money is returned to taxpayers based on how much he or she paid in 2021 taxes, while this tax relief package changes the formula and provides a flat rate refund, unrelated to what the individual paid in taxes.

The measure would also change a current law that provides when the state's Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, exceeds 15 percent of budgeted revenues, the excess is transferred to the Tax Reduction Fund

which eventually is returned to taxpayers. The Democrats' tax relief bill would raise that percent to 25.5 percent.

"We have been focused on how we can help the people of the commonwealth with the cost of living and make life a little easier, and we do so in this legislation," said Revenue Committee House chair Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Braintree). "We have also focused on our economic competitiveness, and where we can lower and remove our outlier status to make Massachusetts a better place to live, work and invest and we do that in this package as well."

"With increases to the earned income tax credit, the senior circuit breaker and the renters deduction, there's a lot in this bill that we can all support," said Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge). "And yet, other parts of the bill, such as the big cut to the short-term capital gains tax rate, will disproportionately

benefit the very wealthy. In this time of unprecedented inequality, housing emergency and MBTA disaster, I believe we need to reconsider the provisions of this bill that are inequitable and will ultimately deprive us of the revenue we need to invest in our future."

"Despite the Chapter 62F changes, I voted for the underlying legislation because it will provide over \$1 billion in tax relief to Massachusetts residents and business owners," said Rep. Mike Soter (R-Bellingham). Bellingham).

"Over the last three years, our state has seen a net loss of over 100,000 people," said Paul Craney, spokesperson for Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "As the full effect of the income surtax amendment begins to be felt, we're absolutely going to see that trend continue, but this time with a cohort composed of our largest taxpayers. Our economic

competitiveness rankings are in free fall. If our state government is to address this issue and head it off before it becomes catastrophic, they need to take bold action. The changes to the estate and capital gains taxes put forth by the House won't cut it and the speaker's attempt to gut the voter approved tax cap and rebate law known as 62F is nothing more than provocation to the taxpayers.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1.1 billion in tax relief. A "No" vote is against it).

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly No Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven No

### HOW TO DISTRIBUTE SOME FUTURE TAX REFUND (H 3770)

By Bob Katzen

The House 26-128, rejected an amendment that would change the current law (known as 62F), approved by voters on the 1986 ballot, that requires that annual tax revenue above a certain amount collected by the state go back to the taxpayers.

A few months ago, the law resulted in \$2.9 billion being returned to taxpayers, using a formula based on how much each taxpayer paid in income taxes in 2021.

In the House \$1 billion tax reduction bill, the formula is changed so that each taxpayer will receive

a flat rate refund, unrelated to what they paid in taxes. The amendment would strike the change and revert back to the refund based on what a person paid in income taxes in 2021.

"The Legislature needs to respect the will of the voters, and that means keeping the existing Chapter 62F tax law in place," said sponsor GOP House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "If we really want to change the law, we should not act unilaterally, but instead should hold public hearings to solicit input from the state's taxpayers or put it before the voters again as a statewide ballot question

to see whether there is actual public support for making those changes."

Opponents of the income-based amendment said the flat rate refund would ensure everyone in the state, regardless of income, will share equally in the state's economic success.

"This is a representative democracy, not a direct democracy," said Rep. Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown). "Yes, there are some ballot initiatives, things that go on the ballot that come to us. And [as] often as not, we make tweaks to those ballot initiatives and change them after they are voted on by

the people to make them better legislation. What recently comes to mind is the legislation and the ballot initiative that legalized the sale of cannabis in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. What appeared on the ballot is not what appears in our statute books today, so this isn't some outlier. This is the common practice."

Massachusetts Republican Party Chair Amy Carnevale said the flat rate refund changes the 1986 law from a refund into a government handout. "Instead of taxpayers getting a percentage based on what they paid to the state, the Democrats want to send just a flat rate check to everyone. It is a

redistribution of wealth. It is not fair. Your refund should be based on what you pay."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment distributing the refund based on what each taxpayer paid in taxes. A "No" vote is against the amendment and favors a flat rate refund of the same amount for each taxpayer).

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

### RAISE TRIGGER POINT FOR TAX REFUND (H 3770)

By Bob Katzen

The House 25-129, rejected a Republican amendment to a section of the Democrats' tax relief bill that would change a current law that provides when the state's Stabilization Fund, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, exceeds 15 percent of budgeted revenues, the excess is transferred to the Tax Reduction Fund which eventually is returned to taxpayers. The Democrats' tax relief bill would raise that percent to 25.5 percent.

The Republican amendment would eliminate that change and revert to the current 15 percent formula.

"When excess funding is transferred to the Tax Reduction Fund, that helps provide for some modest tax relief to the commonwealth's residents by allowing for an increase in their personal exemption when filing their taxes," said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones. "The whole purpose of this bill is to make Massachusetts

more competitive, affordable and equitable, but raising the threshold makes it less likely that taxpayers will actually get a break, which runs contrary to the stated goals of the legislation."

Opponents said that raising the cap will allow more money to remain in the Rainy Day Fund so that when it does "rain" and state revenues decline, the Legislature will not have to cut important programs or raise taxes. They noted hiking the cap is not without pre-

cedent, noting that the Legislature previously raised the cap from 7.5 percent to 10 percent in 2001 and from 10 percent to the current 15 percent in 2004.

Rep. John Cusack (D-Braintree), chair of the Revenue Committee, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on why he supports raising the cap.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment making the cap 15 percent. A "No"

vote is against the 15 percent cap and favors the 25.5 percent cap).

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

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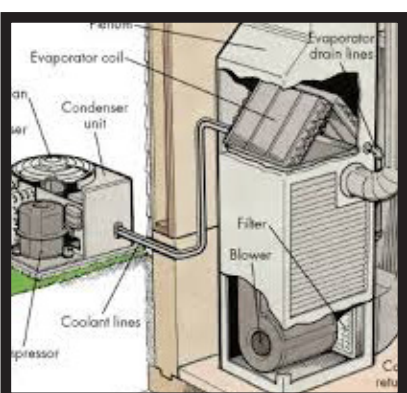
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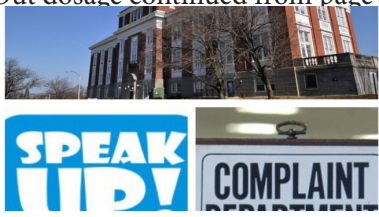
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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### SOMERVILLE ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TASK FORCE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS FOR CULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS DISPLACEMENT COMMITTEES

The City of Somerville Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF), which was formed to research and recommend policies to prevent residential displacement, has now expanded to advocate for a wider range of the Somerville community, including small business displacement and cultural displacement.

The Task Force is seeking community members with an interest in working on anti-displacement policies to serve in a volunteer capacity on one of the Task Force's three committees: Residential Displacement Committee (RDC) Small Business Displacement Committee (SBDC) Cultural Displacement Committee (CDC) All committees are seeking both committee members and co-chairs.

Residency in the City of Somerville is not a requirement to serve on the Task Force, though applicants

should have a direct connection to Somerville and the committee they are applying for. More information on the specific qualifications encouraged to join each committee can be found below.

**Residential Displacement Committee**  
The Somerville Residential Displacement Committee will be made up of community members, professionals in anti-displacement, city staff, and city council members, who will work with City staff to research and develop policy and programming recommendations aimed at reducing the rate of displacement of Somerville's residents over a yearlong period.

The RDC will research and evaluate different options for addressing displacement including but not limited to rent stabilization. The Co-Chair will work with the City staff assigned Co-Chair to manage the agenda and

work of the RDC.

Applicants for the Residential Displacement Committee should have professional or lived experience with residential displacement or otherwise have a strong interest in working on issues of anti-displacement in Somerville. Members of the community who are at risk of displacement or have been previously displaced are strongly encouraged to apply.

Examples include but are not limited to: Community members who live in Somerville. Community members who used to live in Somerville and experienced displacement. Community members with professional or volunteer experience focused on serving Somerville residents who are either experiencing or, at risk of experiencing, displacement.

**Small Business Displacement Committee**

The Somerville Small Business Displacement Committee members will work with City staff to research and develop policy and programming recommendations aimed at reducing the rate of displacement of Somerville's small businesses over a year-long period. The Co-Chair will work with the City staff assigned Co-Chair to manage the agenda and work of the SBDC.

Applicants for the Small Business Displacement Committee should have professional or lived experience with small business displacement or otherwise have a strong interest in working on issues of anti-displacement in Somerville. Members of the small business community who are at risk of displacement or have been previously displaced are strongly encouraged to apply.

Examples include but are not limited to:

Community members who own a small business in Somerville. Community members who used to operate a small business in Somerville and experienced displacement. Community members with professional or volunteer experience focused on serving Somerville small businesses who have experienced or are currently at risk of experiencing displacement.

**Cultural Displacement Committee**

The Somerville Cultural Displacement Committee will be made up of creatives and non-profit representatives that have connections to the Somerville community. The committee will be made up of community members, city staff, and a city councilor.

Continued to page 21

### CHILDCARE TAX CREDIT (S 1814)

By Bob Katzen

A measure before the Revenue Committee would allow up to a \$3,000 annual tax credit for families that spend money on childcare services. The childcare servicer must be a provider licensed by the state in order to qualify

for the tax credit and the child receiving childcare services must be a dependent of the taxpayer.

Sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on his proposal.



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CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO EMPLOYABLE SKILLS TRAINING (H 39)

By Bob Katzen

The Labor and Workforce Development Committee held a hearing on a proposed constitutional amendment providing that “each and every inhabitant of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, has a right to employable skills training.”

“Employable skills training must be a flexible and

dynamic goal of economic and professional mechanisms for the success of the Massachusetts workforce,” said sponsor Vince Dixon. “Looking forward, updating skills for workers in many fields, including those that change dramatically, will strengthen the lifelong ladder of workforce success and provide employers with better quality worker skills, and greater opportunities for success.”



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proximately 3:41am on Friday morning. Due to the nature of the incident, additional details can not be released at this time. This was an isolated incident and there is no threat to the public.

These are all the details that can be released regarding this incident. Respectfully,  
Captain Paul F. Covino







### GIO HAS A FRESH SET OF SPOTS!

LEGO Discovery Center unveiled a brand new style for this Assembly Row icon this morning, and he's ready to greet visitors to the LEGO Discovery Center when it re-opens later this spring. Stay tuned for more opening news!



### CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO HOUSING (H 29)

By Bob Katzen

The Housing Committee held a hearing on a proposed constitutional amendment requiring that the state provide "sufficient and comprehensive

planning, for affordable, well-constructed and reasonably varied housing for all residents." The housing policies would focus on restoration, rehabilitation and new construction of housing units to all iden-

tifiable population groups, without discrimination. "Housing needs to be a right, more than just 'shelter' and ultimately, looking at improved building codes, that would

encourage construction of longer-lasting and better-quality housing that will help to keep our often expanding workforce, and their families, with dignity and quality," said private citizen Vincent

Dixon who sponsored the bill under a state law that allows a private citizen to ask their state legislators to file bills on his or her

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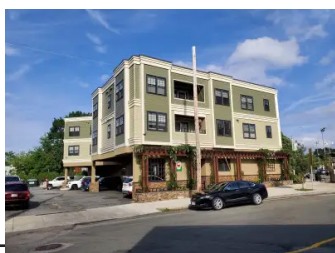
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## MEDFORD POLICE AND MEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENTS CONDUCTED ITS FIRST MOCK EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMMAND CENTER

Continued from front page



Photo courtesy of Medford Police Department

Today Medford Police Department and Medford Fire Department conducted its first Mock Emergency Operations Command Center.

The Emergency Operations Center Team was established back in August 2022 with Captain Clemente and Dispatch Supervisor Michael Salvi under the direction of Chief Buckley to form a EOC team and develop a new disaster plan for the City of Medford. As our City grows, we face many challenges and it is our job to be prepared and ready to respond.

Medford Police Department personnel has gone through extensive training learning Incident Command, Emergency Operations through FEMA and MEMA.



The Somerville Housing Authority is seeking competitive sealed Request for Responses (RFR) for Network Services, SHA Job No. P-NET52023 in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The Term is for Five (5) years.

Documents will be posted at 11:00 A.M., April 19, 2023.

Responses will be received until 11:00 A.M., May 3, 2023.

The work is estimated

to cost \$429,000.00 for 5 years. Download of RFR Documents will be available for download on SHA's Web site, [www.sha-web.org](http://www.sha-web.org), under our Bid opportunities tab at 11:00 a.m., April 19, 2023. If bidding, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at [Tonymc@sha-web.org](mailto:Tonymc@sha-web.org) and register\ leave contact information including an email. You will receive a reply to your that your email if is received. Addendum\ s will be posted on the website and shall be the bidder's responsibility to include in bid. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received.

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 04/18/2023



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### SOMERVILLE'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE RETURNS THIS YEAR



Memorial Day parade will return this year on Sunday, May 28 (rain date: May 29).

This year's event will be the first time Somerville has hosted a parade on Memorial Day weekend since 2016. The City's annual remembrance ceremony will immediately follow at Veterans Cemetery to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country.

The parade will step off at noon from Davis Square, proceeding west on Holland Street through Teele Square and onto Broad-

way, ending at the Veterans Cemetery between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street.

The ceremony will feature a wreath laying and remarks by Mayor Ballantyne, City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen, Director of Veterans' Services Ted Louis-Jacques, and several members of the local Veterans community.

Sign Up to Be in the Parade or Volunteer

Somerville community groups and organizations are encouraged to participate and march along with

local Veterans and first responders. To participate, please complete a brief form at [somervillema.gov/veterans](http://somervillema.gov/veterans) or call 617-625-6600 ext. 4700 by Friday, April 28.

The City also seeks volunteers to help with promotion, parade setup and clean-up, and general event support. To volunteer, please complete a brief form at [somervillema.gov/veterans](http://somervillema.gov/veterans) or call 617-625-6600 ext. 4700 by Friday, April 21.

Save the date now and join us for our celebration of service. Please contact the Somerville Department of

Veterans' Services at [veterans@somervillema.gov](mailto:veterans@somervillema.gov) or call 617-625-6600 ext. 4700 with questions.



Somerville to host parade on Sunday, May 28; remembrance ceremony will immediately follow

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All kinds of alteration on leather and clothes





# MEDFORD-BODIES OF TWO MISSING MEN LOCATED, MAN CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH MURDER Continued from front page

Top photo: Leonid Volkov Booking Photo Courtesy of Medford Police Department

MEDFORD – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Medford Chief of Police Jack Buckley have confirmed that the bodies of Kiryl Schukin, 37 and Pavel Vekshin, 28 were located early yesterday morning (Saturday) inside a storage unit on North Beacon Street in Brighton. The investigation indicates that both men succumbed to stab wounds. Leonid Volkov, 37, of Medford, who was known to the victims has been arrested and charged with murder.

Just before midnight on April 14, investigators executed a search warrant on a Brighton storage unit that had been rented by the defendant using one of the victims' names. Upon entry into the unit they were able to locate the bodies of both men inside rubber storage bins. The body of a man, tentatively identified as Kiryl Schukin, had been dismembered. Bleach, rubber gloves and items belong-

ing to the deceased were also located.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) accepted jurisdiction of the case and has ruled the cause of death of the man identified as Kiryl Schukin as homicide. The second man has been positively identified as Pavel Vekshin and his death has also been ruled a homicide.

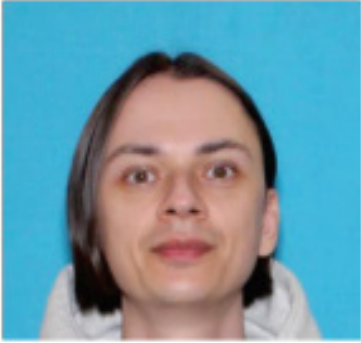
Investigators learned that Mr. Schukin had been a guarantor on the lease for the apartment of Leonid Volkov in Medford. However, Mr. Schukin had recently declined to be the guarantor on the lease extension resulting in Mr. Volkov's eviction. Through investigation, it is believed that Mr. Volkov and Mr. Schukin met in a rented U-Haul truck, which Mr. Volkov was driving, on March 29, 2023. Investigators also learned that a person believed to be Leonid Volkov was seen on video entering and leaving the victims' building in the days following the last time Pavel Vekshin and Kiryl Schukin were seen.

Police subsequently located that U-Haul at the storage facility where the bodies were found. Investigators believe the defendant was using it to transport items from the victims' Locust Street apartment to the storage facility.

Leonid Volkov was arrested without incident in North Attleboro last night. He will be arraigned on Tuesday in Somerville District Court.

This case was investigated by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Medford Police Department and Massachusetts State Police assigned to the District Attorney's Office. The prosecutors assigned to this case are Ceara Mahoney and Pavan Nagavelli.

View Past Press Release: <https://www.middlesexda.com/press-releases/news/investigators-seeking-help-connection-medford-missing-persons-case>



Pavel VEKSHIN

Kiryl SCHUKIN

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### SOMERVILLE PORCH FEST 2023

PorchFest Somerville 2023 will take place on Saturday, May 13th (rain date 14th) from 12-6pm

Designated Times:  
12-2pm – West (west of Willow)  
2-4pm – Central (from Willow to Central)

4-6pm – East (east of Central)  
PorchFest is not a festival per se but rather a community event where Somervillians share their love of playing and listening to music.  
<https://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest>



### MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Five \$1,000 municipal scholarships are available for high school seniors graduating in 2023 through the City of Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee. Applicants must be residents of Somerville who

have been accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution.

To apply, students are asked to create a profile and answer three short essay questions. Scholarship America –

Because College Doesn't Happen by Chance  
<https://cityofsomerville.dollarsforscholars.org/index.php?section=chapterWebsite&action=main&fwid=1131>

### Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square  
Give what you can, Take what you need  
Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group!  
The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming.  
Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

homeless and less fortunate.  
A "Somerville Blessing Boxes" Facebook page has been established keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free to join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville.  
One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square.  
"Give what you can, Take what you need."  
Much thanks and appreciation,  
Frank Santangelo

#### Blessing Backpack Checklist

<b>BASICS:</b> ___ Wool beanie {hat} ___ Smart wool socks ___ Gloves ___ Scarf  <b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b> ___ Quality instant coffee ___ Tea ___ Energy drink ___ Beef jerky ___ Dried fruit ___ Fruit leathers ___ Trail mix ___ Nuts ___ Granola bars ___ Protein powder packets ___ Restaurant gift cards  <b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b> ___ Journal & pen ___ Stationary ___ Stamps ___ Pre-paid phone card	<b>TOILETRIES</b> ___ Multi-purpose wipes ___ Chapstick ___ Facial wipes ___ Moisturizer ___ Comb ___ Toothbrush & tooth paste ___ Grooming kit  <b>SURVIVAL</b> ___ First aid kit ___ Water bottle with built in filter ___ Heat-pack ___ Multi-purpose tool  <b>TREATS:</b> ___ Chocolates ___ Fruit snacks ___ Cookie snack packs ___ Candy {individually wrapped} ___ Mints ___ Chewing gum  <b>SPLURGE:</b> ___ Starbucks gift card ___ Compact reusable bag
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# 13 ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH LARGE SCALE, \$2 MILLION A YEAR, DRUG OPERATION THAT INCLUDED SALE OF DRUGS CONTAINING DANGEROUS TRANQUILIZER, XYLAZINE Continued from front page



Search Warrants Executed Across Framingham and Multiple Communities

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, Framingham Chief of Police Lester Baker, Massachusetts State Police Colonel John Mawn, the MetroWest Drug Task Force, Michael Krol, Acting Special Agent in Charge for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in New England and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Boston, Financial Investigations Team have confirmed that 13 individuals have been arrested in connection with a large scale operation to traffic drugs including fentanyl, methamphetamine, pills and cocaine.

The arrests were made at multiple locations early this past week as a result of a multi-agency investigation that took place over two years.

As a result of the 19 search warrants executed today, police seized approximately 6 kilograms of fentanyl, 2 kilograms of cocaine, 15 pounds of methamphetamine,

40 pounds of amphetamine and 15,000 pressed pills of fentanyl and methamphetamine. Some of the fentanyl and pills seized were found to contain xylazine, a tranquilizer that has been increasingly mixed with fentanyl and puts users at a higher risk of overdose and is not reversible with Narcan.

Also seized was, one unlawfully possessed firearm, three loaded magazines, over \$100 thousand cash, \$200 thousand worth of jewelry, and a pill press and other tools consistent with large scale drug distribution.

Thirteen high-end vehicles valued in over \$800, including a Mercedes Benz SDN, Mercedes Benz SW, Range Rover, Toyota Supra, BMW X6 and BMW i8 were also seized.

The investigation covered communities across multiple counties in Massachusetts with connections in Rhode Island and New York. This morning search warrants were executed in Framingham, Peabody, Worcester, Ashland, Lawrence, Northbridge, Woburn and North Smithfield, Rhode Island.

On February 23, 2023, a Middlesex Superior Court Justice issued a wiretap warrant authorizing the interception of electronic communications relating to drug trafficking. Over the course of the

investigation, police and prosecutors gathered evidence that Sandy Marte-Caraballo and Osny De La Cruz were allegedly leading and operating a drug trafficking enterprise that included allegedly dealing fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine and pressed pills to customers in the Woburn, Lawrence, Framingham, Natick, Ashland and Worcester area.

This investigation was conducted by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, MetroWest Drug Task Force (comprised of detectives from Framingham, Ashland, Natick and Marlborough Police Department), Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Essex District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Worcester District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police (CINRET) Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team, Massachusetts State Police (CLET Team) Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team, Massachusetts State Police (VFAS) Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit, Massachusetts State Police STOP Team, Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services, Massachusetts State Police Gaming Commission, Rhode Island State Police, Connecticut State Police, Drug Enforcement Administra-

tion (DEA), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Framingham Police Department, Woburn Police Department, Ashland Police Department, Natick Police Department, Marlborough Police Department, Worcester Police Department, Lawrence Police Department, Peabody Police Department, Methuen Police Department, Northbridge Police Department, United States Secret Service.

The individuals charged as a result of this investigation are listed below. It is expected that most of the arraignments will occur tomorrow in Lowell District Court.

- Sandy Marte-Caraballo, 34, of Woburn – Trafficking Fentanyl, Trafficking Cocaine, Trafficking Methamphetamine, Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws.
- Osny De La Cruz, 25, of Lawrence – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws, Trafficking in Fentanyl over 10 grams, Trafficking in Cocaine over 200 grams, Trafficking in Class B amphetamines over 200 grams, and Trafficking in Class B methamphetamines over 200 grams.
- Santos Martes, 31, of Peabody – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws and Trafficking Cocaine over 200 grams.
- Bryan Mendez, 28, of Worcester – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws and Trafficking Cocaine over 200 grams.

- Angel Battiata, 27 – Trafficking of a Class B Controlled Substance.
  - Roberto Castro, 34, of Worcester – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws
  - Joshua Fontaine, 30, of Worcester – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws, Trafficking in Cocaine over 36 grams, Trafficking in Methamphetamine over 36 grams.
  - Charles Johnston, 62, of Ashland, and Crystal Trauterman, 40, of Ashland – Possession with intent to distribute Class B Controlled Substance (cocaine) and Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws.
  - Maia Masso, 28, of Framingham – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws and Trafficking in Cocaine over 36 grams.
  - Cameron Trudell, 32, of Northbridge – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws.
  - Efrain Urena, 32, of Lawrence – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws and Trafficking Cocaine over 200 grams.
  - Ana Caraballo, 56, of Worcester – Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws and Trafficking Cocaine over 200 grams.
- This is an ongoing investigation and evidence is still being processed. Additional charges are possible.
- The prosecutors assigned to this case are Michael Klunder and Mary O'Neill with assistance from Graham Van Epps and Pavan Nagavelli.

## BRING BACK THE ANNUAL TIP OFF CLASSIC TO SPRINGFIELD

By Bob Katzen

Rep. Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield) and other Springfield officials have begun a campaign lobbying National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) President and former Bay State Gov.

Charlie Baker to return the annual Tip-Off Classic game to Springfield, the home of the Basketball Hall of Fame. The city hosted the games for some 26 years at the former Springfield Civic Center from 1979 to 2005.

“Basketball has been a part of the city since it was invented by Springfield College instructor and graduate student James Naismith in 1891 and has grown to a worldwide fan favorite through the years,” Rep. Puppolo wrote in a letter to Baker. “On

the heels of a very successful Final Four Tournament, and given your commitment and dedication to Springfield and western Massachusetts as governor of the commonwealth, I am respectfully requesting that you now return the NCAA Tip-

Off Classic to the City of Springfield, the city where basketball was born.”

## RETURN YOUR COMPLETED 2023 CITY OF SOMERVILLE CENSUS FORM

All Somerville residents should be on the lookout for the 2023 annual City of Somerville census in their mailbox. Upon receipt, please complete the brief form and return it to the City via mail, email, fax, or in person.

High census participation provides an accurate population count, which helps the City plan municipal services and adapt as the population changes. The Elections Department also uses the census to help keep voting rolls up to date.

Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to census@somervillema.gov, by dropping it off in a census box at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by faxing

it to 617-625-5643. Contact 311 at 617-666-3311 with any questions. Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats,

or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

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







### SOMERVILLE'S PARKS TREE HEALTH PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY THIS SPRING

Trees in City parks to undergo proactive maintenance and comprehensive health assessments; park closures required during maintenance. The City of Somerville's annual Parks Tree Health Program is set to begin this month to promote healthy tree growth and help preserve Somerville's urban forest. Now in its fourth year, the Parks Tree Health Pro-

gram is designed to go beyond routine maintenance. Led by the Public Space and Urban Forestry Division, the program involves a comprehensive health assessment of parks trees by a certified arborist, proactive maintenance work, and development of long-term maintenance recommendations. This spring, 232 trees throughout seven parks will be assessed

and maintained through the program. Parks will close to the public on days when tree maintenance is taking place. This year's schedule is as follows: Parks Tree Health Program Work Schedule - Park Closures Required Glen Park / Capuano Field:

February 21, 22, 23 & April 18 (school vacation weeks) Grimmons Park: February 24 & April 19 Kenney Park: March 6, 7 Morse-Kelly Playground: March 8 Dickerman Playground: March 9 & April 17 Stone Place Park: March 13 City Hall Concourse / 1895 Building: April 17, 18, 19

(school vacation week) For more information on the program, including a description of what assessment/maintenance activities are included and previous years' reports, visit [somervillema.gov/treehealth](http://somervillema.gov/treehealth).

### JOINT INVESTIGATION SMASHES MASSIVE CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT RING

Continued from page 5

In addition to the prolific number of catalytic converter thefts, it is alleged that RAFAEL DAVILA, FELIBERTY, and OYOLA also conspired to steal from ATMs of federally insured banks in Massachusetts on three separate occasions in December 2022. It is alleged that this conspiracy involved date use of stolen trucks that they would use to rip the ATMs from the ground and gain access to the vault. DAVILA, FELIBERTY, and OYOLA also are alleged to have committed burglaries of two New Hampshire jewelry stores on Jan. 12, 2023. The combined total value of the jewelry stolen during the burglaries was determined to be over

\$137,000, with each store facing approximately \$10,000 in costs to repair the resulting damage. The charge of conspiracy to transport stolen property in interstate commerce provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of interstate transportation of stolen property provides for a sentence of up to 10 years, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of conspiracy to commit bank theft provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of bank

theft provides for a sentence of up to 10 years, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of conspiracy to commit money laundering provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$500,000 or twice the value of the proceeds, whichever is greater. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case. More than 70 local police departments in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Con-

necticut contributed to this investigation through the submission of their investigations of catalytic converter thefts in their jurisdiction. The Massachusetts Police Departments contributing to the investigation were Abington, Acton, Andover, Auburn, Bedford, Bellingham, Beverly, Billerica, Burlington, Bridgewater, Canton, Carver, Chelmsford, Concord, Cranston, East Hampton, Easton, Fitchburg, Framingham, Franklin, Hampton, Hanover, Haverhill, Hingham, Holliston, Holyoke, Hudson, Ipswich, Lawrence, Leominster, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Marlborough, Methuen, Middleton, Milford, Millbury, Newton,

Northborough, Norwell, Norwood, Peabody, Pembroke, Plymouth, Randolph, Rockland, Sharon, Shrewsbury, Springfield, Sterling, Sturbridge, Sudbury, Tyngsborough, Walpole, Waltham, Watertown, West Bridgewater, Weymouth, Wilmington, Woburn and Worcester. The New Hampshire Police Departments contributing to the investigation were Bow, Concord, Derry, Hooksett, Hudson, Londonderry, Manchester, Salem and Windham. The Connecticut Police Departments contributing to the investigation were South Windsor and Windsor.

### SOMERVILLE STREET SWEEPING RESUMES APRIL 3, 2023 SOMERVILLE STREET SWEEPING REGULATIONS IN EFFECT APRIL 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

SOMERVILLE - Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Parking Department remind all residents that regular street sweeping will resume this season on Monday, April 3, and continue through December 31, 2023. Department of Public Works crews conduct street sweeping not only to help keep our streets clean but to also reduce flooding by preventing clogged street drains.

On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regula-

tions is a \$50 fine. Vehicle owners are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the street sweeping schedule in areas where they park. The best way to do this is to note the days for street sweeping on your street by relying on posted signs.

You can also look up a street's sweeping schedule or sign up for complimentary street sweeping reminders by text, email, or phone, by visiting [somervillema.gov/sweeping](http://somervillema.gov/sweeping). Soon the City will also release a smartphone app for street sweeping, trash and recycling reminders as well. The reminder service is offered as a courtesy and as a backup, but not as a failsafe service. Drivers

should always check the street signs when parking.

For more information regarding street sweeping procedures, visit [park-somerville.com](http://park-somerville.com) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

### NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT SOMERVILLE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL! 15% OFF SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 7AM-9AM (DINE IN ONLY)

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## SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR CITY HALL COMMUNITY MEETINGS SERIES WITH THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCILORS



Meetings for All Seven Wards Will Be Held End of April through Mid-May

SOMERVILLE – Community members are invited to join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City Council at the spring 2023 City Hall Community Meetings. These meetings are held twice a year in each of Somerville's seven wards to share the latest City and neighborhood updates with community members. They are an opportunity to get an overview of the latest City news, learn more about City programs and initiatives, meet your neighbors, find ways to get involved, and talk with elected officials and City staff.

In-person meetings start with a social half-hour with pizza and kid-friendly, healthy snacks, where you can chat one-on-one with elected officials including the Mayor and your Ward City Councilor or At-Large City Councilors as well as staff about issues important to you. The meeting then includes presentations by the Mayor and staff on projects in your neighborhood, updates on citywide initiatives, and a look at neighborhood crime stats followed by a roughly 20-minute open Q&A. This year, we'll also be collecting ideas for how to spend the \$1 million dedicated to the City's first ever Participatory Budgeting process ([somer villema.gov/PB](http://somer villema.gov/PB)).

All Ward meetings will be held in person and one all-virtual, all-ward meeting will be held on Zoom and will be accessible online or by any phone. Two additional, all-ward meetings will take place in person: one in Spanish and one in Portuguese. All in-person meetings will be recorded for later on-demand or TV viewing.

Spring 2023 Community Meeting

**Schedule**  
Meetings run from 6:30 to 8 p.m., with refreshments and meet-and-greets starting at 6 p.m. Unsure about which ward you live in? Find out with the MySomerville address lookup tool at <http://www.somer villema.gov/mysomerville>.  
Ward 3 (N. Union Sq., Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central Hill, and more): Tues., April 25, Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Ave.  
Ward 5 (Magoun Sq., NE Ball Sq., Cedar & Lowell St. areas, NW Porter Sq., and more): Weds., April 26, Kennedy School Cafeteria, 5 Cherry St.  
All Ward Meeting in Portuguese: Tues., May 2, East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St. This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page, and shared on Portuguese language Facebook page [fb.com/SomervilleCidade](https://fb.com/SomervilleCidade).  
Ward 6 (Greater Davis Sq. neighborhood and more): Mon., May 8, Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.  
Ward 1 (East Somerville, Assembly Sq., and more): Tues., May 9, East Somerville Community School

Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.  
All Ward Meeting in Spanish: Weds., May 10, East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St. This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page, and shared on the Spanish language Facebook page [fb.com/SomervilleCiudad](https://fb.com/SomervilleCiudad).  
Ward 2 (S. Union Sq., Perry and Lincoln Park neighborhoods, Beacon St. area, and more): Mon., May 15, Argenziano School Cafeteria, 290 Washington St.  
Ward 4 (Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and more): Tues., May 16, Healey School Cafeteria, 5 Meacham St.  
Ward 7 (West Somerville, Teele Sq., and more): Thurs., May 18, West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria, 177 Powder House Blvd.  
All Ward Virtual Meeting: Monday, May 22, online via Zoom with interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese, as well as other languages by request. You may join online or call in on any phone. For sign-in information, please visit <http://www.somer villema.gov/communitymeetings> or call 311 at 617-666-3311.  
All meetings will be recorded by

the City's GovTV team. Watch them on-demand with optional closed-captioning (select the CC icon) on [YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV](https://YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV). Or watch on cable TV at GovTV Comcast Ch. 22 and GovTV Astound (RCN) Ch. 13 & 613. Videos generally post within one business day of recording.

Interpretation into your language is available for all meetings upon advance request by contacting the Somerviva Office of Immigrant Affairs at [somerviva@somer villema.gov](mailto:somerviva@somer villema.gov) or calling 311 at 617-666-3311. Interpretation availability is also being advertised in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, Nepali, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

For more information about the Community Meetings, visit [somer villema.gov/communitymeetings](http://somer villema.gov/communitymeetings). For questions, please contact Victoria MacGregor at [vmacgregor@somer villema.gov](mailto:vmacgregor@somer villema.gov) or 617-625-6600 x2620.

## SOMERVILLE BOARD OF ELECTIONS COMMISSIONERS SEEKS ONE NEW MEMBER



The City of Somerville seeks one registered Republican to serve on the Board of Elections

Commissioners. The Board consists of four people who represent each of the two leading political parties (Democrats and Republicans), as defined in Chapter 50, Section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The Board supports all functions of the Elections Department and assumes nearly all responsibilities relating to primaries and elections in Somerville. Commissioners

supervise all official elections and recounts, assist in testing voting equipment, and oversee the accurate tabulation of all voting machine results at the end of each election night. They also attend occasional meetings as needed.

Commissioners serve three-year terms and earn a monthly stipend of \$318. Applicants must be registered to vote in Somerville and cannot be a

member of any other Somerville board or commission. Commissioners must possess a valid Massachusetts driver's license and have access to a vehicle on all official City of Somerville election days in order to deliver sealed absentee ballots to individual polling locations if needed. Applicants should be able to lift a voting machine (approximately 30 lbs.).

Applications are due Wednesday, May 3. To apply, please send a statement of interest to Nicholas Salerno, Chairman of the Board of Elections Commissioners, at [nsalerno@somer villema.gov](mailto:nsalerno@somer villema.gov) or Somerville Elections Department, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. Please email [nsalerno@somer villema.gov](mailto:nsalerno@somer villema.gov) or call 617-625-6600 ext. 4210 with questions.

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**SOLD** Condominium

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**SOLD** Multi - Family

75 Marshall St, Somerville, MA

**SOLD** Single Family

16 Welgate Rd, Medford, MA

**SOLD** Single Family

7 Percy Rd, Lexington, MA

**SOLD** Multi - Family

11 Pearl Terrace, Somerville, MA

**SOLD** Single Family

422 Highland Ave, Winchester, MA

**SOLD** Condominium

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

**SOLD** Single Family

35 Forest Circle, Winchester, MA

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Somerville, MA 02144  
[Jack.Lister@verani.com](mailto:Jack.Lister@verani.com)  
[Joanne.Vanstry@verani.com](mailto:Joanne.Vanstry@verani.com)

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**SOMERVILLE ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TASK FORCE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS FOR CULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS DISPLACEMENT COMMITTEES**

Continued from page 10

Applicants for the Cultural Displacement Committee should have professional or lived experience with displacement or otherwise have a strong interest in working on issues of anti-displacement in Somerville. Members of the creative community or non-profits who are at risk of displacement or have been previously displaced are strongly encouraged to apply.

Examples include but are not limited to:  
Community members who work for or own a creative enterprise or operate a non-profit in Somerville.  
Community members who used to operate a creative enterprise or non-profit in

Somerville and experienced displacement.  
Community members with professional or volunteer experience focused on serving Somerville creative enterprises or non-profits who have experienced, or are currently at risk of experiencing displacement.  
Community members interested in becoming a committee co-chair should also demonstrate proficiency in:

- Anti-displacement policy
- Public speaking
- Board/committee functions
- Setting agendas
- Leading meetings
- Getting consensus
- Duration and Time Commitment
- Members serve a one-year

term in a volunteer capacity. Members will meet four times ADTF-wide: May 18, 2023; September 21, 2023; January 18, 2024; and May 16, 2024, at 6 p.m.

In addition to the task-force-wide meetings, the members will meet once monthly as their committee on a Thursday, with time to be set by the group.

Applicants should expect to commit a total of approximately five to seven hours a month, which includes ADTF-wide meetings, monthly committee meetings, and reviewing and drafting documents circulated in connection with each meet-

ing. Co-Chairs can expect to commit an additional two hours a month to administrative duties.

**Application Process**  
Applications are due Friday, April 28th, 2023. Interested candidates should send a resume and/or letter of interest explaining why they want to be a part of the committee as a member or as a co-chair, along with brief answers to the questions below by e-mail to [lquizhpe@somervillema.gov](mailto:lquizhpe@somervillema.gov) or by mail to Luis Quizhpe, City of Somerville, OSPCD Admin, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville MA 02143. Please contact Luis at the email or address above or call 311 to obtain assistance in ap-

plying by telephone.

What is your understanding of Somerville's displacement crisis?  
Why is it important for you to participate in this task force? Please explain which of the eligibility criteria above you meet and how?  
Do you have any additional experiences that you think will add a new perspective to the Task Force?  
In your opinion, what are one to two things that would allow residents/small businesses/creatives/nonprofits (please select based on which committee you are interested in joining) to remain in Somerville?

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HOME SERVICES-COMMONWEALTH REAL ESTATE**



Porter Square - 6 Family - \$2.7M



Porter Square - 4 Family - \$2.1M



Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$2M



Davis Square - 4 Family - \$1.875M



Prospect Hill - 4 Family - \$1.65M



Porter Square - 2 Family - \$1.38M



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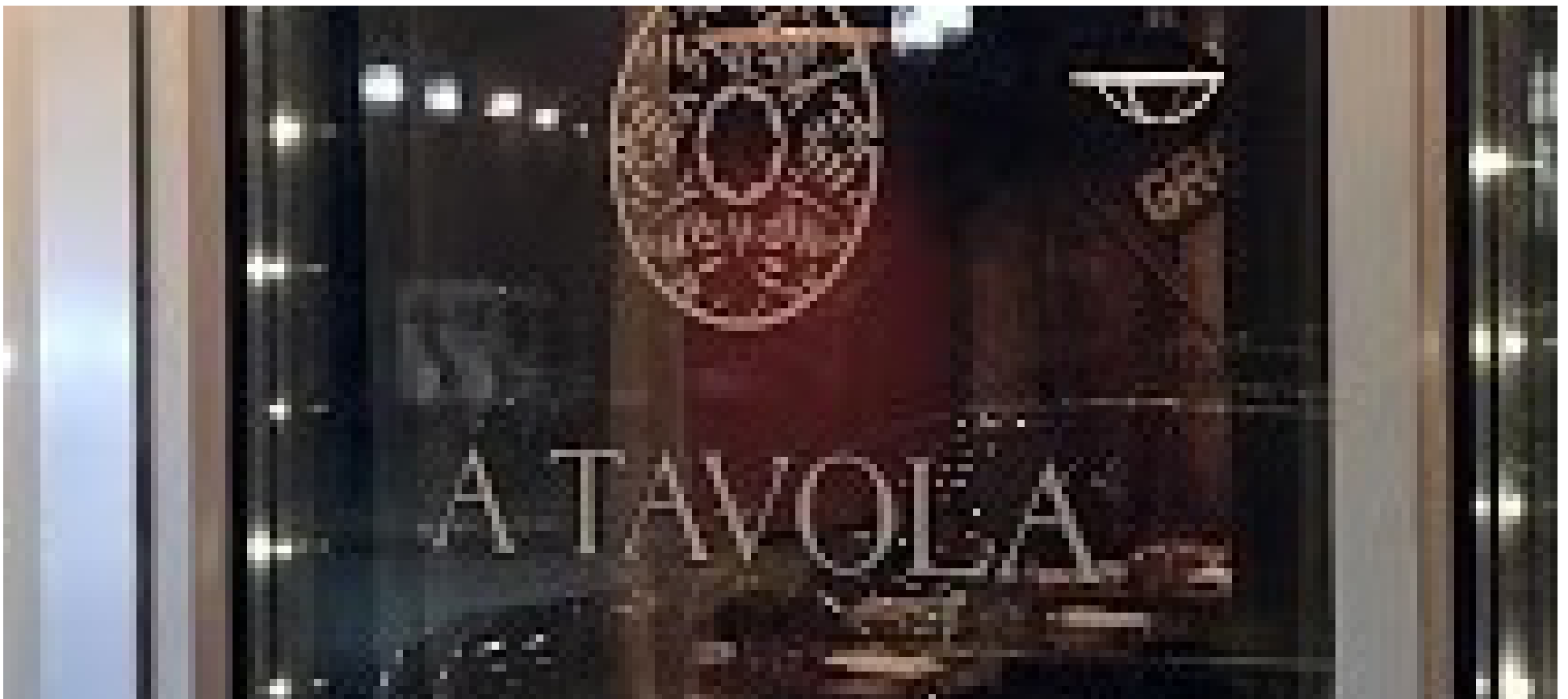
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