

The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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VOL.1 NO.329-201

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday February 13th, 2024

TAX RELIEF PACKAGE



Continued to page 6

\$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES

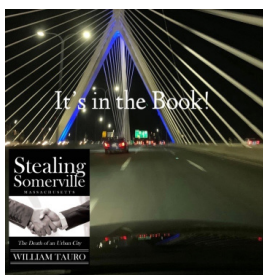
REVIVE "HAPPY HOURS" (S 157)



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



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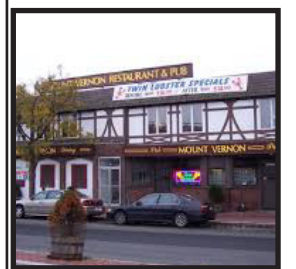


Continued to page 10



MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.
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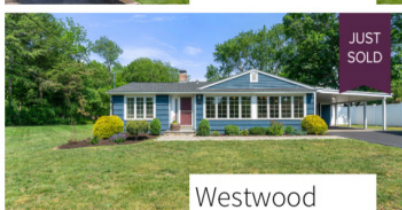
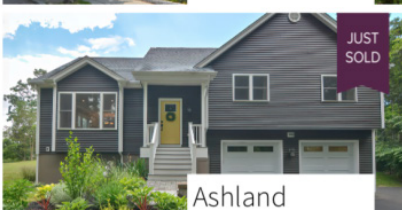
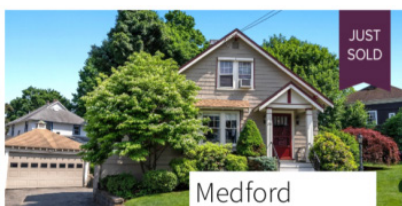
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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES/ COMMONWEALTH REAL ESTATE

MARKET ACTIVITY

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!

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®
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 Contact Name: _____
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 Phone: _____

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

Please send both forms and payment to:

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 Attn: Rob Farrell
 489 Winthrop Street
 Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 MHS Varsity Softball is a non-profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
 Tax ID 04-6001400

Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.



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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING MARY B. LONERGAN



Obituary

Mary B. Lonergan, 91, of Nashua, NH, passed in the comfort of her Nashua Crossings home on February 9, 2024. Known as

Bridget to her friends, she was born in Malden, MA to Mary Catherine (Brancato) and Dennis Fowler and grew up in Somerville.

Predeceased by husband of 69 years, Joseph D. Lonergan. Devoted mother of Deborah Cantrell and husband Paul of Hudson, NH; Dennis Lonergan and husband John Graves of Erwinna, PA; and the late Sean Lonergan. Devoted sister of late

Thomas Fowler of Stoneham. Loving grandmother to Garrett Cantrell and daughter-in-law, Sarah Alexander, of Norwalk, CT; Megan Cantrell and daughter-in-law Katie Stores of Washington, DC; and Justin Cantrell of New York, NY. Great-grandmother to Logan and Grayson Cantrell of Norwalk and the late Annie Theresa Cantrell Stores of Washington DC. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mary was a homemaker, cook and avid antique collector and dealer, often first to arrive at estate and yard sales. Her beautiful gardens were admired by all who passed them on Teresa Circle in Arlington, MA. Longtime member of Arlington Garden Club. Blessed with lifelong friends Marilyn, Flora, Marie, and Ida. She loved to travel to Cape Cod, Maine, the Berkshires, and many destinations in Europe.

Mary had a quick wit and was a wonderful writer. Her family gives special thanks to staff at Benchmark Nashua Crossings for their wonderful, loving care. A celebration of life is planned for spring. Guest book at DohertyFuneralService.com. In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's memory to Arlington Garden Club, No Kid Hungry, Greenpeace and Children's Hospital in Washington, DC. are welcome.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING PAUL A. STONE



Obituary

Paul A. Stone, of Somerville, passed away in the comfort of his home surrounded by the love of his family on February 6, 2024. He was 70 years old. Born in Cambridge, Paul

is one of six children born to Hazel (Currier) and Albert Stone.

The beloved husband of Marie (DiBiase) Stone, together they were married for 49 years. Devoted father of Michelle Stone and her partner Edward Hardy of Somerville, and Paul Stone and his partner Deirdre Finn of Dorchester. Dear brother of Jeanne Cassidy and her late husband James, Donna Stone, Michael Stone and his wife Maureen, William Stone, and

Francis Stone and his wife Sandra. Brother-in-law of Anne Curro and her husband Peter. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Paul was a retired employee of the City of Cambridge, where he worked for 32 years. He was a longtime member of the Somerville D.A.V. Club, where he enjoyed time spent with his buddies watching sports. He loved his many trips to Hampton Beach and the golf course, especially the

annual Cape Cod trip. Above all, Paul enjoyed spending time with family and sharing many meals together, whether dining out or at home.

Calling Hours Monday, February 12th from 4:00PM -7:00PM.

*** Please note: Change of the Funeral Date

Funeral Procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Thursday,

February 15th at 9AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Joseph Church, Union Sq., at 10AM. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Paul's memory can be made to the American Heart Association.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING DORIS TOMLINSON



Obituary

Tomlinson, Doris- Of Somerville, passed away

peacefully on Thursday, February 8, 2024. She was 99 years young.

Born in Lowell and raised in Somerville. She was the beloved daughter of the late John and Florence (Hoxie) Tomlinson. Doris was a teacher for 36 years and taught first and second grade at the Brown and Hodgkins Schools. She was a Sunday school teacher and coached the church league basketball.

The beloved daughter of the late John and Florence (Hoxie) Tomlinson. The cherished longtime friend of Audrey Schwartz and her husband George Christin of Medford and their daughters Jessica and Erica.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.)

on Sunday, February 11, 2024, from 11:00AM to 12:00PM. Followed by a prayer service at 12:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with a private burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

RE-SIGNING LEASES (H 264)



By Bob Katzen

Would prohibit landlords from requiring their tenants to re-sign a lease more than three months in advance of the termination of their current lease.

"I filed this legislation in response to complaints I heard from tenants who are being unfairly

required to re-sign their lease only a few months into their current lease," said sponsor Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy). "Tenants are being forced to make decisions about their housing situation more than six months in advance and are financially penalized when they cannot commit."



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: REGISTRA MARIA CURTATONE'S UNETHICAL PREDATORY ACTIONS

Dear Billy T and Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

So a childhood friend from St Joe's had his family's house in Somerville go into receivership. He said once it did, he was getting called constantly by Maria Curtatone begging him to sell it to her.

He didn't, but I do have to wonder if she sits at her desk all day hunting for distressed property. So predatory. It doesn't even sound ethical.

I just hope the St Joe's reference didn't tip her off. The house is located right near there. But, yeah,

that behavior MUST be called out.

Side note: the attorney who wanted the property reps the biggest private landlord in the state. That the City of Somerville is just shoveling people out of their homes is disturbing.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: 5AM LAIDLAW MEDFORD DUMPSTER FIRE BLAST



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

I said when I checked all my facts with the Fire Dept post I made the other night I would spread the information so people can actually get some transparency around here.

I have never in my life had more respect for a Chief, as I do, Chief Freedman.

Chief Freedman: myself, my little ladies and countless others in this community THANK YOU for your many years of dedication to Medford.

We are absolutely heart

broken to hear you have resigned effectively immediately as Chief from the MFD. However, cannot blame you one bit.

This man, is the true definition of a leader. This is what a chief looks like, someone who displays courage and stands up for his fellow brothers and sisters at the Medford Fire Department.

This man has given back so many times to the people and kids of this community. Everytime I have asked for something for the kids, if he could make it happen, he did. This man didn't bat an eyelash when I asked him if we could have a fire truck

holding the flag last year for the Krystle Capmbell tournament. Every time we have asked to allow the girl scouts to come check out the Fire houses, he made it happen and the list goes on. Haven't seen such a humble Chief in years.

Hearing how this man was treated by this Mayor absolutely sickens me.

Allegedly he stood up to this hostile administration for his fellow Department which took courage and bravery.

He didn't cower like another Chief we know has, to play politics. He DEFENDS HIS BROTHERS and SISTERS, as he should. He is a Fireman's, FIREMAN in every sense of the word.

Allegedly he was told to suspend certain Fire fighters who took allowed time off. Time, they have EARNED, and have absolutely every right legally, to take.

Good for him and good for those of you who have the courage to take a

stand when you were told after waiting how many years for a contract? That now the money you were supposed to FINALLY receive for covid pay was going to be sent out in installments rather than 1 check that was agreed upon and that you deserve?!

An administration mind you, that has been doing back doors deals, has lawsuit after lawsuit, no staff, and is down right berating the good men of this community, seems like someone has some resentments she needs to work on calling them "the mans club" all the time, kinda discriminating if you ask me, one who is using her power and the whole "I am women hear me roar" mantra to find fault with men, then play the victim, men who have given so much to this community. The same men who stood behind her when she first ran for office.

Funny we had money just fine to give the SC a raise that she just so happens to sit on the chair of yet our brave first responders get treated like this?

Shame on anyone of you SC members for accepting that raise just my opinion, only 1 of you had the courage to speak out against this.

She's now allegedly telling them they can't erase text messages, emails or any other correspondence due to her investigation, to save her own, I'm sure. Who in Gods name does she think she is telling people what they can and cannot do with there own personal cell phones?

Cheif Freedman you will be missed greatly. Walk with your head held high, you are a class act my friend, nothing but love and utmost respect for you.

Kerry Laidlaw



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TAX RELIEF PACKAGE (H 4104) Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-1, Senate 38-1, approved a tax relief package that supporters say will provide \$561.3 million in tax relief in fiscal year 2024 and \$1.02 billion per year in subsequent years.

Provisions include increasing the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000; reducing the estate tax for all taxpayers and eliminating the tax for all estates under \$2 million by allowing a uniform credit of \$99,600; increasing the refundable tax credit for a dependent child, disabled adult or senior from \$180 to \$310 per dependent in taxable year 2023, and then to \$440 in subsequent years while eliminating the child/dependent cap; doubling the refundable senior circuit breaker tax credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400; increasing the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 40 percent of the federal credit; and

reducing the short-term capital gains tax rate from 12 percent to 8.5 percent.

Other provisions double the lead paint tax credit to \$3,000 for full abatement and \$1,000 for partial abatement; ensure that employer student loan payments are not treated as taxable compensation; make public transit fares, as well as ferry and regional transit passes and bike commuter expenses, eligible for the commuter expense tax deduction; increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000 the maximum that municipalities may pay seniors to do volunteer work to reduce their property taxes; raise the annual authorization for the low income housing tax credit from \$40 million to \$60 million; and allow cities and towns to adopt a local property tax exemption for affordable real estate that is rented by a person whose income is less than a certain level set by the municipality.

The measure also includes two provisions which the Mass Fiscal Alliance says will result in tax hikes. One would require Massachusetts married couples who file income tax returns jointly at the federal level to do the same at the state level. The other changes the system under Chapter 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 what he or she earned and paid in taxes. The new tax package changed that and provided that each taxpayer will receive a flat rate refund, unrelated to what they earned or paid in taxes.

“This is the most significant tax relief package in a generation,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “This legislation is going to put real dollars into the pockets of the people who need it most, including parents,

seniors, young people and middle class families who are struggling to keep up with rising costs. This bill includes a historic expansion of housing programs that will ignite affordable housing development and ease the housing crunch, as well as significant relief for families with young children. It will also make Massachusetts a more competitive place to live and work and encourages businesses to continue investing in our region.”

“Back in April, I stood at the rostrum for about 13 minutes and expressed a mix of support for the many elements of this bill that will help working families and people experiencing poverty — while at the same time criticizing the elements of this bill that will benefit large corporations and the super-rich,” said Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge), the only House member to vote against the package.

“From my vantage point,

this bill was significantly improved through the conference committee process, and there are several elements of the bill I enthusiastically support,” continued Connolly. “And yet, as I stand here today, I still cannot bring myself to support the total price tag of \$1.1 billion once fully implemented. Not after we just spent a decade working to pass the Fair Share Amendment to gain desperately needed new revenue ... A lot more needs to be done, including bigger public investments in programs, services and infrastructure — investments that could be significantly constrained by the overall cost of today’s tax cut bill.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the tax relief package. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly No
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

Best of luck and we can't wait to see all the good things that you will bring to the VFW under your guidance and leadership!

For new membership call (781)395-2519



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

them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

State of A Tavola:

A Tavola’s outdoor patio dining is open for business! Take-out and delivery is also available! (with-in a small radius of A Tavola).

A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social media channels. Please stay tuned

for any and all details.

As always our gift cards will be available through our website, over the phone and in person. Starting Tuesday, for every gift card purchase over \$100, we will add an additional \$20 gift card as a way to thank you for your support.

If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families please reach out and we will do

our best to help. Whether it be recipe ideas with random things you might have purchased or if you run out of something that you need that we can help with please don’t hesitate to ask.

A Tavola Restaurant Winchester outdoor patio dining is open for business & takeout orders: (781)729-1040 34 Church St Winchester

Thank you for your continued support.



\$388.6 MILLION FISCAL 2023 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 3548)

By Bob Katzen

The House 153-0, Senate 39-0, approved a \$388.6 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget.

Provisions include \$65 million for free school meals; \$130 million to keep expanded nutrition assistance in place for a few more months; \$2 million for the reimbursement of SNAP benefits for victims of benefit theft; \$250,000 for a free abortion-related legal hotline; \$45 million for emergency shelter assistance; \$40 million to support affordable housing for immigrants and refugees; and \$2 million for the Boston branch of the NAACP for costs of some programs to be included in its 114th National NAACP Conference in 2023 in Boston.


Other provisions keep some pandemic-era programs, set to expire, in place including allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails for take-out; expanding outdoor dining; and extending the authority, set to expire in a few weeks, for public bodies, agencies and commissions to hold their meetings remotely.

“This supplemental budget ensures that our commonwealth continues to support the most vulnerable among us while also building on the lessons we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “I’m proud to say that the Legislature has proven once again that it has the courage to chart a course that leaves no place or person in the commonwealth behind.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$388.6 million supplemental budget.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

SOMERVILLE EARLY VOTING AND VOTING BY MAIL INFORMATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION



SOMERVILLE – The Presidential Primary election for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is Tuesday, March 5. The primary election is open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail.

Register to Vote by February 24
You can register one of three ways:

- Register to vote online at somervillema.gov/register-to-vote, or in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
- Call the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and request a voter registration form.

Call 311 (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections.

The registration deadline is Saturday February 24, at 12 a.m. online or in person by 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form it must be post-marked by February 24.

Vote Early at City Hall, February 24 – March 1
Vote early at City Hall from Saturday, February 24 through Friday, March 1.

The schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, February 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday, February 25, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Monday, February 26, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 27, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 29 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (all-day and evening hours)

Friday, March 1, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (morning only)

How to Vote by Mail

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m., February 27:

Applications to vote by mail must be received (not post-marked) by the Somerville Elections Department by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27. Download an application from somervillema.gov/votebymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 5:

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail. Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the City no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state’s website.

How to return your application and ballot:

Drop boxes:
Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:

- City Hall concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
- East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.
- In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.
- In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
- In front of the Igreja Presbiteriana De Boston Church, 212 School St.
- In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot,

- 182 Summer St.
- In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.
- In front of Dilbooy 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.

Ballots can also be returned directly to the Somerville Elections office located at City Hall or mailed to Somerville Elections Department, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143.

Completed applications ONLY can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

For all information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.

\$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (S 2375) Continued from front page



By Bob Katzen

The House 157-0, Senate 38-0, approved a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state.

The \$375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$175 million for several transportation-related grant programs.

The programs funded by the \$175 million include the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; and grants for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

“Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the commonwealth’s public transportation, roads and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “I’m proud of the support for regional infrastructure that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for the purchasing of electric vehicles by transit authorities.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$375 million package.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



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3 Lily Street, Malden
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37 Holyoke Road, Somerville
Sold for \$1,400,000, Sold in 10 days!



100 Powder House Blvd, Somerville
Sold for \$1,000,000, Sold in 10 days!

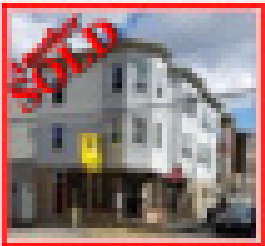


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81 Harvard St, Somerville Sq., Somerville
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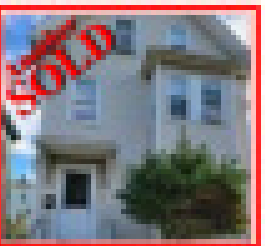
70 Maple Street, Somerville
Sold for \$1,200,000, Sold in 10 days!



41 Oliver Street, Somerville
Sold for \$1,200,000, Sold in 10 days!



142 Elm Street, Somerville
Sold for \$1,400,000, Sold in 10 days!



31 Beacon Street, Somerville
Sold for \$1,200,000, Sold in 10 days!



23 Francis Street, Everett
Sold for \$1,000,000, Sold in 1 day!

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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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You can apply for the exam at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2024-municipal-police-officer-mbta-transit-police-officer-and-state-trooper-examination>

until January 16th. If you missed our first information session, we will be holding another one on January 10th at the Medford Police Department from 6:00-8:30pm.

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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING DIANE D. O'CALLAGHAN



Obituary

O'Callaghan, Diane D. (Rugoletti) – Of Somerville suddenly February 8, 2024.

Beloved wife of the late John "Jack" O'Callaghan.

Loving mother of Donald Simmons and his wife Jane of Holliston.

Sister of David and Dennis Rugoletti, the late Lilly Anderson, Charlotte Raise and Ralph Rugoletti.

Dear grandmother of David,

Zachary, Jackie and Adam. Great grandmother of Gidian, Henry and Eli.

Funeral services are private.

Interment, Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Diane worked for the Somerville Schools for many years.



REVIVE "HAPPY HOURS" (S 157) Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

Would allow cities and towns to permit restaurants that are licensed to serve alcohol to offer discounted prices on alcoholic beverages during dates and time periods specified by the city or town. The measure prohibits any alcohol from being discounted after 10 p.m.

Under current law,

passed in 1984, restaurants have been prohibited from holding "happy hours" during which some alcoholic drinks are free or the price is reduced. The 1984 law was sparked by the September 1983 death of Kathleen Barry, a 20-year-old from Weymouth, when Barry and her friend won free pitchers of beer at a Braintree Ground Round. After leaving the bar, Barry and a friend climbed

on top of a drunk friend's car for a ride around a Braintree parking lot and Barry fell under the car and was dragged 50 feet to her death.

"Much has changed in Massachusetts since a happy hour ban was enacted in 1984," said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "The drinking age has long been settled at 21, stiff penalties have been established to deter

drunk driving and ride hailing apps have become a popular way to safely get around on a night out. While alcohol-related offenses decline across the country and little compelling evidence exists linking happy hour with higher rates of alcohol-related DUIs, Massachusetts remains the last state in the country to have an absolute ban on happy hour.

Cyr continued, "In the aftermath of COVID-19 and advent of remote work, happy hour is a tool that can help revitalize main streets and downtowns struggling for foot traffic. This legislation empowers municipalities to determine if they want to allow local restaurants to offer happy hour specials and decide if it is the right choice for their community."

\$56.2 BILLION FISCAL 2024 STATE BUDGET (H 4040)

By Bob Katzen

The House 156-2, Senate 39-0, approved a \$56.2 billion fiscal 2024 state budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2023. The price tag represents a \$3.8 billion increase over last year's fiscal 2023 budget.

Provisions include \$171.5 million to require public schools to provide universal free school meals to all students; \$50 million to support free community colleges; \$50 million to create Green School Works, a program to fund projects to install and maintain

clean energy infrastructure at public schools; \$6.59 billion in Chapter 70 education funding for cities and towns, an increase of \$604 million over last year; \$504.5 million for the special education circuit breaker; \$181 million for MBTA capital projects; \$19.81 billion for MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program that provides health care for low-income and disabled persons; and a new law that prisons must provide free unlimited incoming and outgoing phone calls for prisoners.

Another provision would

allow undocumented/illegal immigrants to qualify for the lower in-state college tuition rate if they attended high school here for at least three years and graduated or completed a GED.

"Massachusetts continues to move in a positive direction by making significant investments in this budget," said Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren), the ranking House member of the Committee on Ways and Means. "We prioritize local funding by increasing general government aid to municipalities and double the minimum

aid contribution per pupil for education."

"While there were many good provisions in the budget, the final version contained policies, unrelated to the budget itself, that we could not support," said Reps. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) and Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) in a joint statement.

The statement continued, "Seniors, renters, small businesses and hard-working families can barely afford to make ends meet. As a result, Massachusetts continues to see one of the highest out-migrations in

the country. At the same time, this budget provides a massive expansion in financial benefits for illegal immigrants. It's easier for Hollywood movie studios and multi-national corporations to get massive tax cuts than for the working-class to catch a break. The people of Massachusetts deserve better."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

Endorsements





For William "Billy" Tauro Mayor of Somerville



















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4	AND	\$74,200
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300 Somerville Ave. #6	2	\$1,290	N/A	1,509
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Somerville/Medford News Weekly 06/27/23, 07/04/23, 07/11/23, 07/18/23

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

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

2024-1 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: 41-43 Putnam Rd.

2024-2 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended as follows: Fire Lane on Randolph Place on the south side of the street from Cross St. for a distance of 18 ft. in a westerly direction, Fire Lane on Randolph Place on the south side of the street from Flint Ave for a distance of 94 ft. in an easterly direction, Fire Lane on Randolph Place the entire length of the north side of the street for a distance of 252 ft.

2023-3 Article V Section 5-10 "Safety Zones" is amended as follows: Fire Lanes on Gordon St., running from the corner at North St. down both sides in a westerly direction for a distance of 20 ft.

PROMULGATED: JANUARY 11, 2024
 ADVERTISED: JANUARY 30, 2024
 FEBRUARY 6, 2024
 FEBRUARY 13, 2024
 EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

2023-136 Amending 2023-64 promulgated 6/8/23 (advertised 6/13/23, 6/20/23, 6/27/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-136.
 2023-137 Amending 2023-65 promulgated 6/8/23 (advertised 6/13/23, 6/20/23, 6/27/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-137.

PROMULGATED: JUNE 8, 2023
 RE-ADVERTISED: JANUARY 30, 2024

FEBRUARY 6, 2024
 FEBRUARY 13, 2024
 EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

2023-138 Amending 2023-66 promulgated 7/13/23 (advertised 7/25/23, 8/1/23, 8/8/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-138.

2023-139 Amending 2023-67 promulgated 7/13/23 (advertised 7/25/23, 8/1/23, 8/8/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-139.

2023-140 Amending 2023-68 promulgated 7/13/23 (advertised 7/25/23, 8/1/23, 8/8/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-140.

2023-141 Amending 2023-69 promulgated 7/13/23 (advertised 7/25/23, 8/1/23, 8/8/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-141.

2023-142 Amending 2023-70 promulgated 7/13/23 (advertised 7/25/23, 8/1/23, 8/8/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-142.

2023-143 Amending 2023-71 promulgated 7/13/23 (advertised 7/25/23, 8/1/23, 8/8/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-143.

2023-144 Amending 2023-72 promulgated 7/13/23 (advertised 7/25/23, 8/1/23, 8/8/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-144.

PROMULGATED: JULY 13, 2023
 RE-ADVERTISED: JANUARY 30, 2024
 FEBRUARY 6, 2024
 FEBRUARY 13, 2024
 EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

2023-145 Amending 2023-30 promulgated 11/9/23 (advertised 11/21/23, 11/28/23, 12/5/23) by changing the regulation number only to 2023-145.

PROMULGATED: NOVEMBER 9, 2023
 RE-ADVERTISED: JANUARY 30, 2024
 FEBRUARY 6, 2024
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 EFFECTIVE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly (1/30/24, 2/6/24, 2/13/24)

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CHARITABLE DONATIONS (H 2280)

By Bob Katzen

The House has given initial approval to a bill that would require that any group or individual soliciting contributions

for a charitable organization by mail or telephone, to inform potential donors what percentage of contributions go directly to the charity. Supporters said that often-

times people who make donations assume that 100 percent of their donation goes directly to the charity when in fact a private fundraising company is getting a percentage of the

money raised. "People should feel secure that their charitable donations are being used in an appropriate manner and going to the organization they chose to support"

said sponsor Rep. Paul McMurry (D-Dedham). "This added disclosure by solicitors protects both the commonwealth's donors and charitable organizations."

DIGITAL COUPONS FOR SENIORS (H 4154)

By Bob Katzen

Would require grocery stores to apply all available digital coupons to the

orders of senior citizens over 65, even if the person does not have the digital coupons on their phone.

"This proposal was filed by request of a constituent," said sponsor Rep. Jeff Turco (D-Winthrop). "Many senior citizens do

not use a smart phone and therefore do not have access to digital coupons and as a result they pay higher prices at the regis-

ter. This legislation would apply all applicable digital coupons automatically to our seniors."

CREATE EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM (S 2506)

By Bob Katzen

The Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Management held a hearing on a measure that would create an emergency disaster relief program managed by the Massachusetts Emergency

Management Agency (MEMA) and funded with \$250 million from excess capital gains revenue that would otherwise be transferred to the Rainy Day Fund.

Supporters explained that federal disaster declara-

tions can only be triggered when certain and specific criteria occur. They noted the total amount of the storm damage must meet a certain dollar amount threshold, or the disaster must exceed the response capability of the state and local governments.

"Massachusetts is one of a few states that does not have a framework in place to respond to disasters, climate-related or otherwise, in our municipalities," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "We saw first-hand this past

summer the devastating toll weather events have on our communities' infrastructure, across the commonwealth."

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SOMERVILLE JOB CREATION AND RETENTION TRUST COMMITTEE SEEKS ONE NEW MEMBER



The City of Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust (JCRT) is now accepting applications for one local business representative to join the committee as a new member.

The JCRT assists the City of Somerville in the creation and maintenance of employment opportunities within and near Somerville for local residents. The time commitment for JCRT committee members is typically two-three hours

per month, including a monthly evening meeting. Other potential time commitments include possible subcommittee meetings, and reviewing meeting materials. Members serve three-year terms in a volunteer capacity. All members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. All Trustees must comply with and sign the City of Somerville's Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members. Applications are due Monday, February 26th by 12 p.m. Interested candidates are asked to submit a resume and brief answers to the following questions by email to wblackmer@somervillema.gov or by mail to William Blackmer, City of Somerville, OSPCD,

93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143.

Questions for Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust Committee Applicants

What is your connection to a Somerville business?

What is your experience with hiring locally? Detail your/your organization's experience hiring individuals from diverse backgrounds (including individuals without post-secondary education, individuals who speak English as a second or other language, individuals from low-income backgrounds, individuals from underrepresented racial and gender backgrounds, etc.

What has been your interaction with the work-

force development system, agencies, or nonprofits as a job seeker, employer, professional, or other stakeholder?

Have you served on a nonprofit board or governmental advisory committee in the past or currently? If so, what is one lesson you would take from that experience to the Job Creation and Retention Trust Board of Trustees?

What do you believe is the biggest threat facing the regional labor market in the next 10 years?

What do you believe is the most urgent issue facing job seekers or employers today that the Job Creation and Retention Trust could address?

Please contact William at the email above or 617-625-6600 ext. 2547 with any questions or for more information.

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 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,
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SOMERVILLE POLICE COLLECT DONATIONS FOR UNHOUSED POPULATION

On Wednesday, February 7th 2024, our Community Affairs Unit was able to partner with the City's Race and Social Justice Department. Through their efforts to

collect donations for the unhoused population, they were able to drop off a bus load of needed supplies from jackets to blankets and toiletries. We would like to thank every-

one who donated and the RSJ Department for their efforts. Somerville Police Department Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING SALVATORE VASTA

Vasta, Salvatore- Of Somerville, died on Sunday, February 11, 2024. He was 80 years old.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING THOMAS J. O'HARE



Obituary

O'Hare, Thomas J. - Of New York, formerly of Somerville, passed away by his loving family on

Thursday, February 8, 2024. He was 77 years old.

Complete obit to be posted.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, February 16th at Woodlawn Cemetery, 302 Elm Street, Everett at 11:00AM. Please meet directly at the Gate.

SOMERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTION

Captain Mark Matthews was promoted to the rank of District Chief at the February 8th City Council meeting. District Chief Matthews (center) is shown at his promotion ceremony which Assistant Chief Sean Tierney and Chief Charles Breen.



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NOMINATION PAPERS NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2024 CANDIDATES

By Bob Katzen

Nomination papers are now available for candidates who are planning to run for office in the September 2024 primary election and November 2024 general election. Under state law, candidates are required to gather a certain number of signatures in order to qualify for the ballot. Papers are available in the Office of the Secretary of

the State's Elections Division, located at 1 Ashburton Place in Boston and Galvin's other offices in Springfield and Fall River.

Offices to be filled at this year's election include President and Vice-president, U.S. Senator, U.S. representative, Governor's Councilor, State Senator, State Representative, Register of Deeds, Clerk of Courts, County

Commissioner.

Candidates for district and county offices have until April 30, 2024 to gather signatures and submit their papers to local registrars of voters for certification. Those certified signatures must then be filed with the Secretary of State by May 28, 2024.

Party-affiliated candidates

running in the State Primary for federal office have until May 7, 2024 to gather their signatures and submit them to local registrars, and until June 4, 2024 to file with the Secretary of State.

Non-party candidates for federal office have until July 30, 2024 to return their nomination papers into local registrars, and until August 27, 2024 to file them with

Galvin's office.

Additional information is at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/elections>

VETERANS BREAKTHROUGH TREATMENT PROGRAM (H 4218)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Health Committee's hearing included legislation that would create the Veteran Breakthrough Treatments Program to support the

development and deployment of treatments that have been designated as "breakthrough therapies" for veterans and first responders. Breakthrough Therapy designation is given by the FDA to

treatments that clinical evidence has shown to be extremely promising.

"This legislation is about equipping veterans with innovative and effective therapies to treat PTSD

and hidden wounds of war," said sponsor Rep. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth). "Allowing veterans access to breakthrough therapies designated by the FDA as promising treatments

gives them an additional tool to treat their health-care needs and empower those struggling on their path to recovery."

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS (H 4142)

By Bob Katzen

A bill heard by the Higher Education Committee would require public state colleges to provide students and employees with mental health awareness and prevention programming. This would cover vital topics including signs of mental health issues and substance abuse,

where to access mental health resources and crisis intervention strategies.

"I'm sponsoring this bill because as a psychiatric nurse, I recognize that many mental health disorders present themselves in early adulthood and believe in the evidence-based research

which recommends that higher education institutions can help improve positive mental health in vulnerable emerging adult populations by implementing training and education initiatives," said sponsor Rep. Kay Khan (D-Newton). "Studies have shown that more students are presenting

with increasingly severe mental health problems in recent decades, a problem exacerbated by the recent COVID-19 pandemic."

Khan continued, "Prioritizing mental health education by requiring mandatory mental health awareness programming and primary prevention

education in public higher education institutions will train students to recognize these issues in their peers and prepare staff for conversations around mental health, resulting in healthier and more successful outcomes for students in Massachusetts."

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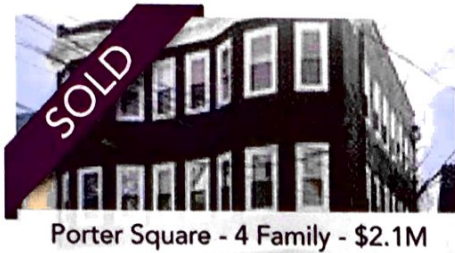
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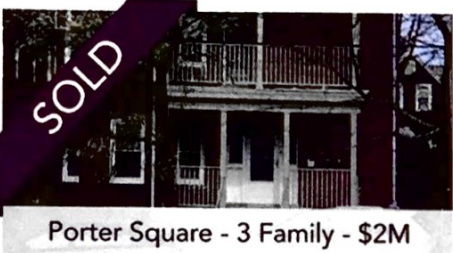
Porter Square - 4 Family - \$2.1M



Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$2M



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Prospect Hill - 4 Family - \$1.65M



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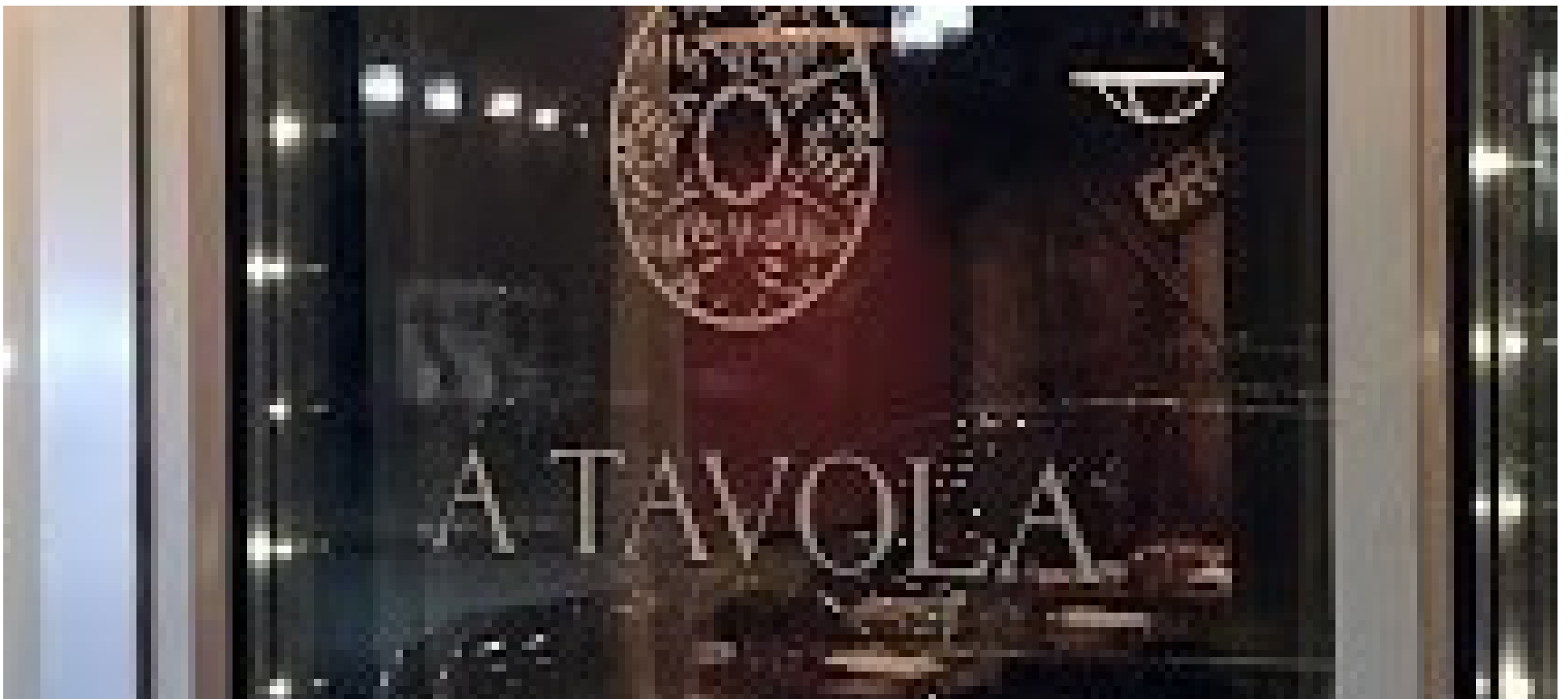
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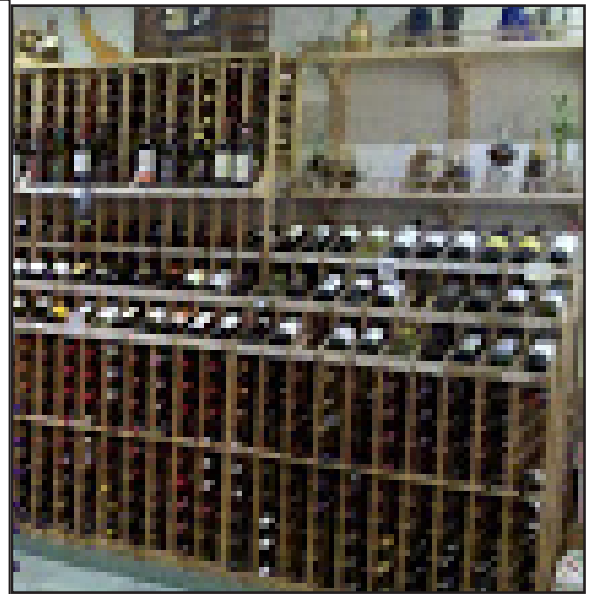


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