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VOL.1 NO.329-202

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday February 20th, 2024

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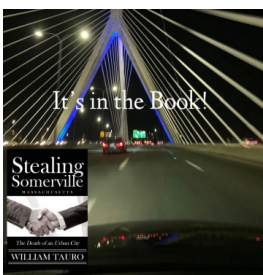
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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



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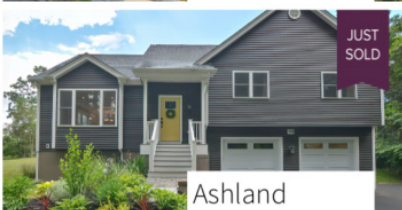
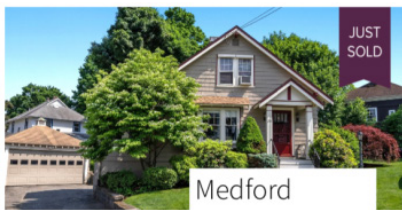
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Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

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 MHS Varsity Softball is a non-profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING ANNE MARIE MECRONES



Obituary

Mecrones, Anne Marie – Of Medford, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 16, 2024 after a courageous battle with dementia. She was 90 years young.

Born in Medford, she was the beloved daughter of James J. and Helen (Fitzgerald) Kelley. She was the oldest of six children and family was everything to her.

Anne graduated from Somerville High School, class of 1955. Her yearbook motto summarizes her perfectly: "As graceful as a cloud on a bright summer's day." She had an incredible work ethic and took great pride in her career, working as a waitress for 10 years and then the Registry of Motor Vehicles and Department of Revenue for 22 years. Her "part time" hobbies held a substantial place in her heart. Anne was a devout Catholic and had a strong faith. She served as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Joseph's for 14 years and loved every minute. She also sold Avon

for 20 years. Anne held many titles but above all, she was the best mother, grandmother, wife, sister, daughter, auntie, and friend. Her three children treasured her. Anne always encouraged them to never let anything bother them and keep moving forward. In her retirement years, she cherished her six grandchildren and was so proud to watch them grow up and be their Grammy. They lit up her life and she lit up theirs. She was a faithful servant of God and her message to all was to spread love and kindness.

Beloved wife of the late Joseph A. Mecrones, married in 1961. Devoted mother of Joe Mecrones of Medford, Janine Mecrones of Medford formerly of Billerica, and Daniel Mecrones and his wife Barbara of Medford. Loving

grandmother of Kaitlin Mulkerin and her fiancé Richard Kirby, Marissa Mulkerin, Morgan Mulkerin, Brett Mecrones, Derek Mecrones and Jake Mecrones. Dear sister of Gerald Kelly and his wife Ann of Framingham, Patricia Rucolo and her late husband Luis of Woburn, Regina Burke and her late husband Michael of Westford, Maureen Kelley of Reading and the late Joan Sperlinga and her husband Robert. She is lovingly survived by her dog and trusted fur baby and companion Bear who was always by her side and brought much joy and comfort to her throughout her illness. sAlso survived by many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

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

Somerville, on Thursday, February 22 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Joseph Church 118 High St., Medford at 11:30AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with Anne Marie being laid to rest with her beloved husband at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Anne Marie's name to a charity of one's choice.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING PAUL E HEGARTY



Obituary

Hegarty, Paul E. a resident of Peabody and formerly of Cambridge, Arlington and Cape Cod passed away at home peacefully surrounded by his loving family.

Paul was the beloved husband of the late Marcia E. Hegarty. Loving father of Paul E. Hegarty Jr. of Belmont NH, Robert M. Hegarty and his wife Laura (Havern) of Arlington and Sean W. Hegarty and his wife Melissa (Neri) of Danvers. Paul was a devoted grandfather to his cherished grandchildren Ryan (Maddy), Tori, Brad, Joe and Will, and a loving great grandfather of Peyton and Cameron. All of whom loved their Pops very much. He was the son of the late John F. and Isabelle A. Hegarty and brother of Jack, Patri-

cia, Mary, Isabelle, Robert, Anne, Mother Karol Marie FSE, and the late William, Judith and Carol. By a loving niece, Kate O'Neill Noto-Moniz and many nieces, nephews. Also survived by his good pal Bill Stimmel, his Cape family: Charlie Breen and his wife Patti and Rick Roderick. Also survived by his good friend Carolyn O'Leary.

Paul grew up in Cambridge. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and the Massachusetts National Guard. After marrying Marcia they moved to Arlington and raised their

family. Paul was an employee of Polaroid Corporation for 40 years, moving up the ranks from entry level to his management role of Purchasing Manager, Worldwide Electronics. After retiring from Polaroid, Paul got his USCG Captain's License. Thus began a new career in the boating industry: selling boats, running boats and teaching families how to maximize their on the water enjoyment. Captain Paul started and managed two businesses: a yacht brokerage business and a charter fishing business. The business success was only part

of his enjoyment; the most special part was on the water with family and friends. Paul was humbly satisfied with many business successes. His greatest joy and prideful satisfaction was being Father to Ed, Rob and Sean.

Honoring Paul's request, the celebration of his life will be private.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING ELLEN "JOSIE" MALONEY



Obituary

Ellen J. Maloney, affectionately

known as Josie, formerly Healy, a cherished wife, mother, Nana, and friend, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on February 16.

She was born on June 12, 1948, in Lagoon, Glenfarne, Leitrim. She was raised in Dorchester and part of St. Joseph's parish in Medford. Josie's life was marked by her unwavering kindness, her generous spirit, her strong faith and her enduring love for her family and friends.

She is survived by her devoted husband, John Maloney, who was her partner in life for over 50 years. Together, they built a legacy of love that will continue to flourish through their children, Kathleen Maloney, Maureen and Adam Mitchell, and John Maloney and Kara Ryan. Josie was a proud Nana to Tyson and Harper Mitchell, cherishing every moment spent with them and instilling in them the values of kindness, perseverance, and love. Josie was also survived by

Rosemarie Barrett , Maureen Walsh, Gerard Healy, Denis Healy, Jack Healy, Peter Healy, Patricia McCarthy and Des Healy. Also survived by many in-laws, cousins and nieces and nephews in the United States, Ireland and England.

A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville, on Tuesday, February 20th at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in

St. Joseph Church 118 High St., Medford at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held on Monday, February 19th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING DAVID N. AUSTIN



Obituary

Austin, David N. "Ozzie" – Of Somerville, passed away peacefully holding his beloved partner Gail's hand on Thursday, February 15, 2024. He was 69 years young.

Born in Portland, Maine. He was the son of the late Ralph and Iona (Grant)

Austin.

Beloved partner of 35 years to Gail Tamper. Father of Cindy Austin. Dear brother of Wayne Austin and his wife Sandra, Jay Austin and his wife Linda, Terrance "Terry Austin and his wife Karen and the late Dennis Austin. Cherished step father to Christie Tam-

per and the late Shelley Tamper. Loving grampie to Savannah Castro and Andre Bailey and the great grampie to Iliyah and Zahir. He is also lovingly survived by his dear friends Rhonda and Randy and many nieces and nephews.

Late U.S Navy Veteran of the Vietnam War.



SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD NEWS WEEKLY SPEAKUP LINE: GOOD FRIENDS PLAYING MUSICAL CHAIRS, LLC BY: ROBERT L. PETERS

The opinions and views expressed in the commentaries of Somerville/Medford News Weekly, Boston News Group's News Publications belong solely to the authors of those commentaries and do not reflect the views or opinions of The Somerville/Medford News Weekly, Mass Publishing and Boston News Group, it's publications, its staff or publishers.)

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

If I were recently found guilty of a few crimes, awaiting sentencing that totals a few decades incarcerated, crimes I CLEARLY committed; I would be seeking ANY way to reduce those years to see my loved ones before we all leave the planet. ANYTHING to make that a free me sooner, ANYTHING. Maybe if I owned a piece of land I would find a way to work the system. A system I had only ever learned to play. I never studied hard or learned the rules, because I never thought they would apply to me or my friends.

A little history on 620 Broadway in Somerville. It was originally acquired under what many would call 'shady circumstances'. The 'Buyer' in 2017 received a 'Tax Lien Waiver'...from the state. The prior owner had fled back to Egypt after abandoning this and his other convenience stores. I wonder why he fled, or did the convenience store owner just conveniently disappear? Link: <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/arlington-advocate/2006/08/24/store-owner-skips-country/40836170007/2018/2019> – Pot shops seem to be coming to fruition, but best to keep an arm's length if you're a lawyer. Maybe a family member is willing to set up the pot shop. Maybe a family member decided to set up an independent LLC – Botanica, LLC in February of 2019. AND AT #3: 'Filing for CCC' = Cannabis Control Commission. Further down the document – 'Manager' aka PARTNER – 'City of Somerville'. She was diligent in filing the Annual Report in 2020, as is required

for corporations:

But then Denise filed another amendment November 10, 2022 that included this price-shared of the cat fight, MOVAL OF NEW MANAGERS – ADDITION OF NEW MANAGERS WAS A 'TAKE.' – to be a fly on the wall of those three days:

Filing party even diligently added her business partner, City of Somerville; because it was hard to decipher what belonged to Joe Curtatone, his sister, City funds or his own personal investments. Those who know him don't and won't ask. Such a close-knit group, who never considered they would be caught. Plenty of them scattered amongst the positions of look-out needed to cover their snail-trails, bases covered – courts, cops, city, hospitals, medical system, paper-pushing; pretty much any division of lawfare necessary to do as they please — & to whomever they please. A great example of this back-scratching system is filed on November 7, 2022 under Botanica, LLC Amendment – adding Peri Sabina Nawawi – Assistant Clerk Magistrate of Massachusetts Trial Court. She has the power to dismiss your case before it's heard by a judge. Who hands the folder over can be as valuable as not handing it over; oops, lost it. So hard to make sure things land in the right file and have typos in the correct spaces when a friend needs a favor.

Let's take a look at the second way Nawawi is paid to do (what?): 620 Broadway in Somerville was purchased by Sean O'Donovan in 2017. The partnership of 2017, annual reports of 2018 and 2019 show it was only Sean and James on the partnership. Then a radio silence with no corporate annual filings until July 7, 2021 – Sean removes James and is the ONLY person on the LLC. I'm guessing this is when Sean first heard he was caught. (Sean is a lawyer with access to filing online, so no concern for COVID delays here.) On February 24, 2022 Sean pulls in a bunch of new partners: his brothers Brian, Michael, Kevin, Jimmy and (court clerk) Peri Sabina Nawawi. On July 1, 2022 Sean removes his name from the LLC party and leaves the remainders on-board. Nice way to exchange value without handing over cash. Maybe nobody will notice.

A recap on what shuffle Sean did: Step #1 – July 7, 2021 (Amendment #1) – only Sean.

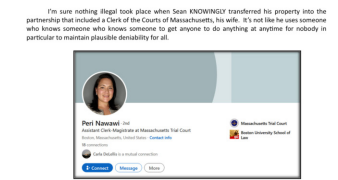
Step #2 – February 2022 (Amendment #2 – added Peri)

he probably heard the charges were not going away, so he pulled in the crowd on his LLC, hoping nobody would notice he let his 'pile of cash' behind...for 'partner' on (Amendment #3) July 1, 2022.

Step #3 – ...So he pulled in the crowd on his LLC, hoping nobody would notice he let his 'pile of cash' behind...for 'partner' on (Amendment #3) July 1, 2022.

I'm sure nothing illegal took place when Sean KNOWINGLY transferred his property into the partnership that included a Clerk of the Courts of Massachusetts, his wife. It's not like he uses someone who knows someone who knows someone to get anyone to do anything at anytime for nobody in particular to maintain plausible deniability for all.

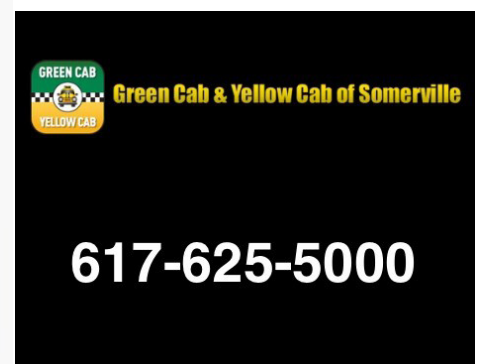
not like he uses someone who knows someone who knows someone to get anyone to do anything at anytime for nobody in particular to maintain plausible deniability for all.



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TAX RELIEF PACKAGE (H 4104) Continued front page

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 38-1, approved a tax relief package that supporters said 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.

"We are thrilled to deliver

on our promise to pass tax cuts that will result in real savings for the people of Massachusetts, including the country's largest child and family tax credit that will go back in the pockets of parents and caregivers," said Gov. Healey. "Everywhere we go, we hear about how people are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living. This tax package delivers savings for those who need it most, while making long overdue changes that will better allow Massachusetts to compete with other states."

"This tax relief package strikes the critically important balance of providing permanent financial relief to residents and businesses across Massachusetts, without compromising the long-term financial security of the commonwealth," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm confident that this tax reform legislation will help to make Massachusetts

more affordable for all residents, while also helping to make the commonwealth more competitive with other states."

The measure also includes two provisions which the opponents said 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 are 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.

"The High Tech Council appreciates the effort Gov. Healey and the Legisla-

ture put into this first step towards addressing the state's tax outlier status," said High Tech Council President Chris Anderson. "Unfortunately, the final tax 'relief' legislation falls short of delivering the meaningful change needed, as it includes both an expansion of the voter-approved income surtax and an unconstitutional redistribution of income through changes to the voter-approved Chapter 62F rebate formula."

Anderson concluded, "The High Tech Council looks forward to collaborating with Gov. Healey, her cabinet and legislators across the commonwealth who are committed to defending and strengthening our business climate and the associated high quality of life it brings to Massachusetts residents."

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

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

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

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

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.



INCREASE ESTATE/DEATH TAX EXEMPTION (S 2397)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 5-33, rejected an amendment that would increase from \$1 million to \$5 million the amount of money that is tax exempt from the value of a person's estate when calculating the state's estate/death tax that a person is required to pay following their death before distribution to any beneficiary. The increase to \$5 million would be imple-

mented over ten years.

Most Republicans are against any such tax and coined the name "death tax" to imply that the government taxes you even after you die. Most Democrats support the tax and call it an "estate tax" to imply that this tax is mostly paid by the wealthy.

Amendment supporters said that Massachusetts is

one of only 12 states that have an estate/death tax and that the Bay State's is the most aggressive of the 12. They said that in light of the high value of houses, with the average home price more than \$500,000, the \$1 million threshold of this "unfair and regressive" tax is too low and noted the federal tax exempts the first \$12 million. They noted that Massachusetts is losing many residents, who move

to Florida and other states where this tax does not even exist.

Amendment opponents said the proposed bill already raises the exemption from \$1 million to \$2 million and noted that will cost \$185 million. They said a hike to \$5 million is excessive and unaffordable and will cost hundreds of millions of dollars more. They noted that lowering

the estate tax is not the only way to help seniors and their families and noted there are many other initiatives in the bill that help seniors.

(A "Yes" vote is for increasing the exemption to \$5 million. A "No" vote is against increasing it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

SOMERVILLE EARLY VOTING AND VOTING BY MAIL INFORMATION FOR MASSACHUSETT'S 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.

TAX REVENUE FROM MILLIONAIRE'S TAX (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would remove a section in the budget that exempts tax revenue generated from the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax from counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations, under Chapter 62F, which provides that whenever revenue collections in a fiscal year exceed an annual cap tied to wage and salary growth, the excess is returned to taxpayers.

Last year, \$3 billion in refunds were returned to taxpayers when the law was triggered for just the second time since its passage in 1986. The revenue from the Millionaire Tax is deposited into the new Education and Transportation Stabilization Fund.

"It's refreshing to see some lawmakers put the interests of the taxpayers at the forefront," said Paul Craney, a spokesperson for the Mass Fiscal Alliance which sup-

ported the amendment to remove the section. "Senate Republicans came to today's debate well prepared. They passionately spoke out in favor of their ideas to protect the taxpayers and preserve the very popular taxpayer protection voter approved law known as 62F. Senate Democrats want to break the will of the voters by excluding the new millionaire's tax revenue from the total calculation for rebates back to the taxpayers from 62F. That goes against the will of the voters as the law is written

and today's debate by Senate Republicans made that point very clearly."

Amendment opponents said the amendment will put the new revenue in jeopardy and argued this new revenue is earmarked for education and transportation and must be protected and treated differently than other tax revenue.

(Please note what a "Yes" and "No" vote mean. The amendment was on striking the section that exempts tax revenue generated from

the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax from counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations. Therefore, a "Yes" vote is for the amendment that favors tax revenue generated from the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations. A "No" vote is against the amendment and supports exempting the revenue from the allowable state tax revenue limitations.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No



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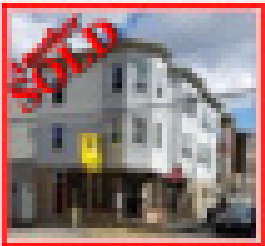


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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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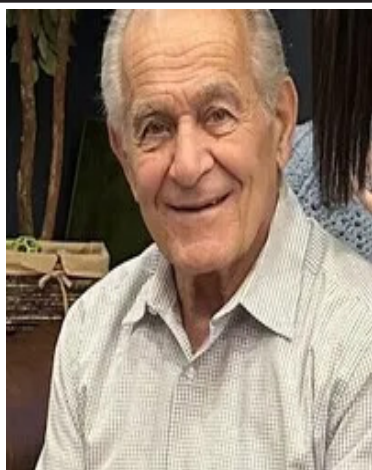
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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JAMES J COVINO, JR



Obituary

Covino, Jr. James J. – Of Tewksbury, formerly of Somerville, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. He was 86.

Born and raised in Somerville. He was the son of the late James J. Sr. and Laura (Cavazzoni) Covino.

Beloved husband of the late Ruth A. (Ronan) Covino with whom he shared 62 years of marriage. The devoted father of Lynn Leonard and her husband Kevin of Tewksbury, Jay Covino and his wife Dawn of Salem, NH and Lori Piracini and her husband Rick of Tewksbury. Loving grandfather of Kevin Leonard, Christopher Leonard and his wife Megan, Shawn Leonard and his partner Kerri, Marc Piracini, Jessica Piracini, Allison Piracini, Cassandra Bailey, and

her husband Temi. Cherished great-grandfather of McKenzie, Abigail, Christopher Jr, Amelia, Shawn Jr., James, Dallas, Ciara, and Idalia. Lifelong friend of the late Gerald Ardolino, dear neighbors of Pat and Alice Dorant and many loving friends.

Jim was a devoted husband to Ruth, and they travelled the world together. Trips in their motorhome brought the entire family on wonderful vacations and created countless memories. Jim loved being a firefighter and continued many friendships even throughout retirement. He continued to be the resident barber for family and

friends after years of working with his dad at Jim's Barber Shop in Somerville. He loved to putter around the house and keep his yard & pool immaculate for all to enjoy. He would lend a hand to anyone, especially to his children. No matter where, when, or how far, he attended all his grandchildren's hockey, baseball, and lacrosse games. He was extremely proud of his family. He shared a special friendship with Linda and Jim Watts, and many others at Ocean Lakes in South Carolina. Jim will be greatly missed

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty

Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville, on Friday, February 16th from 9:30AM to 11:30AM. Followed by a prayer service in the funeral home at 11:30AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with James being laid to rest with his beloved wife at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

In lieu of flowers donations may be directed to Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA)

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER HAPPAS



Obituary

Happas, Christopher Of Somerville, passed

away after a brief illness on Sunday, February 18, 2023. He was 59 years old.

Born in Chelsea and raised in Somerville, he was the beloved son of the late Louis J. and Mary

(Harney) Happas.

Devoted father of Ciara Happas of Beverly. Dear brother of Kenny Happas and the late James Happas, Stephen Happas and Louis Happas. Cherished former husband and

bestfriend of Colleen (McDonough) Happas. Also survived by many loving friends, extended family members, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING MARIA ANGELINA ALVERNANZ



Obituary

Maria Angelina de Freitas Terra Alvernanz, of Medford, Massachusetts, passed away at home surrounded by the love of her family on Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, February 14, 2024, she was a young 95.

Born and raised in Horta, Fayal,

Azores, Portugal she was the cherished daughter of Maria La-Salette de Freitas and Florencio José Terra, Jr. She was proud of her family legacy, her grandfather, Florencio Jose Terra was an accomplished author, journalist, political figure and headmaster of Liceu da Horta, where he taught mathematics and natural sciences. On her mother's side, she came from a line of pharmacists who graduated from Coimbra University.

At the young age of 16, she suffered the loss of her dad, a central figure of her life. She idolized her father, a teacher fluent in five languages, and dreamed of one day coming to America after he was offered a job to teach at Columbia University following World War-II. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. She remained his devoted caregiver even

when he was required to be isolated from the rest of her family to the more remote island of Pico, Azores.

She is the beloved wife of Jose Eduardo Alvernanz, they were married for 66 years. During the political instability of the Salazar regime in the early 70's and due to the Portuguese colonial wars in Africa, she immigrated to the United States with her son and husband in 1971. She did so to give her son an education, which was very important to her. She settled in Somerville to begin her new life. She was especially devoted to her family and faith; she loved nothing more than spending time together and going for weekly visits to Rockport with her grandchildren.

In addition to her husband Jose, she is survived by her cherished

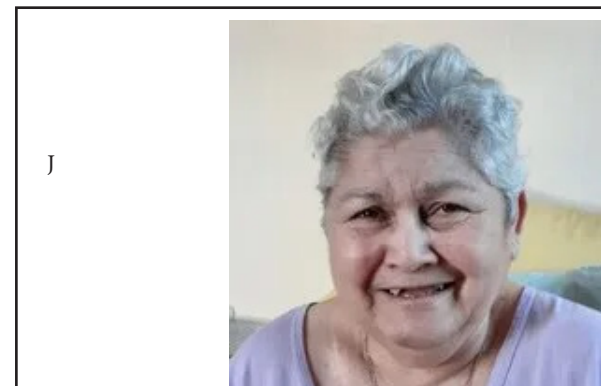
son, Luis M. Alvernanz and his wife, Jamila Xible. Maria is the devoted grandmother of Luis Caetano Xible Terra Alvernanz, Eduardo Henrique Xible Terra Alvernanz and Ana Teresa Xible Terra Alvernanz. She is the sister of Cecilia La-Salette de Freitas Terra Garcia (or her linda boneca) of Portugal and the late Maria Luisa de Freitas Terra Silva, Maria La-Salette de Freitas Terra Nunes, Florencio Monteiro Terra and Elvira Maria de Freitas Terra Andrade. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Maria Julia Goulart da Silva of Somerville, whom she loved like a sister, by her brother-in-law Luis Cordeiro de Andrade of Portugal, her niece Ana Cristina Goulart de Freitas Terra Salomao and her three beautiful children: Mark, Jeffrey and Julia; and her nephew Florêncio Jose Terra as well as many other family members

in Portugal.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Catherine of Genoa Church, 185 Summer Street, Somerville on Saturday, February 17th at 12:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Burial will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of Maria's compassion and concern for new immigrants to the country, donations in her memory can be made to the Everett Haitian Community Center, 427 A Broadway, Everett, MA 02149.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING ANA E. JIMENEZ



Jimenez, Ana E. (Montero) - Of Somerville, passed away on Friday, February 16th surrounded by her loving family. She was 74.

Born and raised in Utuado, Puerto Rico. She was the daughter of the late Teleforo and Elena (Domenech) Montero. Ana loved her family, and they were the center of her world. She loved to

spend time with them, especially her beloved grandchildren. Seeing her family happy would always bring a smile to her face. On her down time, Ana enjoyed painting, sewing, and ceramics. Her talent did not stop there! She was also an excellent cook. Her loving embrace and gentle smile will be missed by all whom she knew.

Beloved wife of Edward Jimenez of Somerville. Devoted mother Edwardo Luis Jimenez, Elena Florez and her husband Alexander, and Omar Jimenez. Cherished grandmother of Alexander Florez, Omar Florez, Aly Florez-Jimenez, Bruce Florez-Jimenez, and Wesley Florez-Jimenez. Dear sister of Louie Montero, Mercedes Montero and Felix Montero and the late Ra-

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Somerville/Medford News Weekly 06/27/23, 07/04/23, 07/11/23, 07/18/23

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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:

2024-4 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 26 Merriam St. (located opposite 26 Merriam St.), 41 Montrose St.

2024-5 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Chestnut St nearest 20-100 Chestnut Street, from approximately 40 ft south of Poplar St to 680 ft south of Poplar St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-6 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: on the east side of Chestnut St nearest 20-100 Chestnut Street, from approximately 680 ft south of Poplar St to 700 ft south of Poplar St (public).

2024-7 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Chestnut St nearest opposite 20-100 Chestnut Street, from Poplar St to Chestnut St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-8 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Linwood St nearest 15-71 Linwood Street, from approximately 50 ft south of Poplar St to 620 ft south of Poplar St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-9 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Linwood St nearest 15-71 Linwood Street, from approximately 620 ft south of

Poplar St to Fitchburg St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to Permit Parking Only at all times.

2024-10 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Linwood St nearest 32 Linwood Street, from approximately 50 ft south of Poplar St to 610 ft south of Poplar St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM.

2024-11 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Linwood St nearest 32 Linwood Street, from approximately 610 ft south of Poplar St to Fitchburg St, convert the existing four-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to Permit Parking Only at all times.

2024-12 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Inner Belt Rd, nearest 10 Inner Belt Rd, from approximately 20 ft south of Roland Street to approximately 360 ft south of Roland Street, convert unregulated spaces to 2 hour parking except by permit 8am-2:30am, and permit parking only 2:30am-8am.

2024-13 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Inner Belt Rd, from approximately 160 ft south of Washington Street to approximately 260 ft south of Washington Street, convert taxicab stand to No Parking Any Time (between the two curb cuts on Inner Belt Rd adjacent to 30 Washington Street).

2024-14 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Inner Belt Rd, from approximately 30 ft south of Washington Street to approximately 140 ft south of Washington Street, convert unregulated space to No Parking Any Time for the right turn lane (from Washington St to Roland Street, adjacent to the parking lot of 75 Crescent).

PROMULGATED: FEBRUARY 8, 2024
 ADVERTISED: FEBRUARY 20, 2024
 FEBRUARY 27, 2024
 MARCH 5, 2024
 EFFECTIVE: MARCH 13, 2024

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 02/20/24, 02/27/24, 03/05/24

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FILE TAXES JOINTLY (S 2387)

By Bob Katzen	level.	person's state tax obligations	Opponents said if filers are	surtax.
The Senate 33-5, approved an amendment that would require Massachusetts couples who file income tax returns jointly at the federal level do the same at the state	Supporters said this amendment will close a loophole that allows some married couples to file individually – an action that could be used to minimize or avoid the	under the recent 4 percent surtax which is in addition to the current flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually.	forced to file jointly at the state level, the 4 percent surtax will apply to many more filers, which is not what the voters approved on the November 2022 ballot question imposing the 4 percent	(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment requiring joint filing. A "No" vote is against the amendment.) Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

REDUCE SHORT TERM CAPITAL GAINS TAX (S 2397)

By Bob Katzen	Amendment supporters said that there are 26 states that currently tax short-term capital gains at a rate of 5 percent or lower, including all of the Bay State's surrounding states. They asked why the capital gains tax or	any tax imposed should be charged at a higher rate than earned income.	this year. They argued the cut would do nothing to help the costs of housing and living.	tion.) Sen. Patricia Jehlen No
The Senate 5-32, rejected an amendment that would reduce the short-term capital gains tax from 12 percent to 5 percent.		Amendment opponents said the state cannot afford the \$117 million loss in revenue that this tax cut would cost	(A "Yes" vote is for the reduction to 5 percent. A "No" vote is against the reduc-	

SEND 90 PERCENT OF CAPITAL GAINS TAX REVENUE ABOVE \$1 BILLION TO THE RAINY DAY FUND (S 3)

By Bob Katzen	Retiree Benefits Trust Fund and 5 percent to the State Pension Liability Fund. The amendment would replace a pending 60/20/20 proposal that would send, in fiscal 2024 only, 60 percent of the \$1 billion excess to the Rainy Day Fund while sending 20 percent to the State	Retiree Benefits Trust Fund and 20 percent to the State Pension Liability Fund.	revenues shrink.	(A "Yes" vote is for maintaining the current 90/5/5 formula. A "No" vote is for the 60/20/20 formula.) Sen. Patricia Jehlen No
The Senate 3-36, rejected an amendment that would maintain the current 90/5/5 law under which 90 percent of the capital gains tax collections exceeding \$1 billion goes to the Rainy Day Fund, 5 percent to the State		Amendment supporters said it is essential to provide 90 percent to the Rainy Day Fund which helps bail out the state during slow economic times when tax	Amendment opponents said the Rainy Day Fund is flush with \$7 billion and argued these retiree and pension funds are currently underfunded and need some additional money for just one year.	

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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.

The City of Somerville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, disability, or any other protected category. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities free of charge, upon request.

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

<p>BASICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat) <input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Scarf <p>FOOD & DRINK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee <input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink <input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky <input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers <input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix <input type="checkbox"/> Nuts <input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars <input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards <p>HELP THEM CONNECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen <input type="checkbox"/> Stationary <input type="checkbox"/> Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card 	<p>TOILETRIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick <input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer <input type="checkbox"/> Comb <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit <p>SURVIVAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter <input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool <p>TREATS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks <input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs <input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped) <input type="checkbox"/> Mints <input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum <p>SPLURGE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card <input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag
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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



FORTUNE TELLERS (H 3893)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would eliminate the current state law requir-

ing that all fortune telling applicants must have lived in the city or town in which they are seeking their license to practice for at least one continuous

year prior to filing their application. "This law was brought to my attention by one of my municipalities as they

were doing research on entertainment," said sponsor Rep. Susannah Whipp (U-Athol). "The bill [was] filed on their behalf and in the interest of removing

old laws that have become antiquated."

BAN ALL PRODUCTS MADE IN RUSSIA (H 343)

By Bob Katzen

A bill before the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee would ban the purchase and/or consumption by all Massachusetts consumers and entities of any product made in Russia.

The bill's co-sponsors, Reps. Patrick Kearney

(D-Scituate) and Michelle DuBois (D-Brockton) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking why they filed the bill and why it would be good for the Bay State.

Mark Marget from Needham Massachusetts, a student who attends Bentley College, was the only person who has testi-

fied on the measure. He told the committee there are many moral, ethical, strategic, practical and safety reasons to pass an imports ban. "Russian products simply are not safe because of the current regime," said Marget who describes himself as a "well-informed historian and geopolitician who has conducted academic research on the war in

Ukraine."

"Authoritarian dictatorships fundamentally have no legal accountability to their own citizens and as such a regime like Putin's would have no reason to make his people accountable towards international laws," continued Marget. "And unlike China, Russia is not swayed by economic consequences for political

gain. In fact, part of Putin's own regime security policy involves depoliticizing the masses through cheap and easy access to alcohol. Therefore, there is nothing deterring the Russian State from striking our own citizens with harmful consumer goods and as such, an imports ban needs to be considered for the safety of the commonwealth."

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ONLINE CAR SALES (H 351) Continued front page

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that makes online sales of cars subject to the same law as if the sales were executed at the dealership's physical place of business.

Supporters said the bill aims to modernize the law regarding online car buying by not forcing dealers to provide a three-day return policy for online auto purchases. The measure

would make it so the businesses selling these cars would have the choice to make all purchases final as long as that fact is clearly disclosed to the customer, instead of making the dealer pay for the sometimes significant transportation costs associated with a customer changing their mind. They noted that people shopping for a car online have the benefit of a lot of information to make this important decision, as well as the luxury to shop for many

cars at once located over a great distance.

“Due to the increasing reliance on online automotive purchases and the changing landscape of the modern economy, this legislation would modernize the motor vehicle purchase process by bringing online automotive purchases into the 21st century,” said co-sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). “This legislation does not have any impact on current consumer

protections such as inspections or lemon laws.”

“I’m proud to join auto dealers in Framingham and across the commonwealth in keeping up with how car buying takes place in 2024,” said co-sponsor Rep. Priscila Sousa (D-Framingham). “I believe if shoppers are given the proper information to make an informed decision, auto dealers should not be forced to adhere to antiquated policies that ultimately hurt our

businesses. The passing of this bill would make the benefits of online car buying more evenly shared between the dealer and customer while still protecting both.”

THIS WEEK’S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

“Massachusetts has the opportunity to be a global leader in Applied AI – but it’s going to take us bringing together the brightest minds in tech, busi-

ness, education, health care and government.

That’s exactly what this task force will do. Members of the task force will collaborate on strategies that keep us ahead of the curve by leveraging AI and GenAI technology, which will bring significant benefit [to] our economy and communities across the state.”

—Gov. Maura Healey upon signing an Executive Order establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions and constituents.

“This latest report proves that Massachusetts is not immune from 21st century anti-abortion attacks—this data privacy crisis is right here in our backyard. If these extremists are able to use our location data to target

abortion seekers with digital advertising, they can also use it to harass, threaten or litigate against patients and providers in our state. Massachusetts has a responsibility to protect our location data and ensure that this personal information cannot be sold to hostile, out-of-state actors.”

—Rebecca Hart Holder, president of Reproductive Equity Now, on reports that a data broker company allegedly tracked people’s visits to nearly 600 Planned Parenthood locations across 48 states, including Massachusetts, and provided that data to inform one of the nation’s largest anti-abortion ad campaigns.

“These programs will put Massachusetts further on the path to greater food security and economic prosperity and achieving our climate goals. The more food grown here, the less reliance we will have on importing from other parts of

the country and world, ultimately decreasing our carbon footprint.”

—Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tupper announcing \$8.2 million to support greater food access to residents in underserved Massachusetts communities in order to help strengthen the local food system and address food insecurity.

“Given that candidates are already able to draw nomination papers for the regularly scheduled state election for the 6th Plymouth House District, the House will not call a special election, as doing so would burden communities with the added costs associated with holding a special election, only to hold another election a few months later for that same seat.” —House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) telling the State House News Service why he will not call for a special election for the South Shore House

seat vacated by former Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Plymouth) who resigned from the House to become Gov. Maura Healey’s Undersecretary of Apprenticeship, Work-based Learning and Policy in the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

“Amidst the legislative session’s peak, Speaker Mariano apparently prioritizes politics over delivering tangible legislative outcomes for the residents of Pembroke, Duxbury, Marshfield, Hanson and Halifax. Should a constituent raise concerns regarding bills or community issues, Speaker Mariano and the Beacon Hill leadership bear full responsibility as those phone calls and e-mails are met with a limited response from staff or go unanswered all together.”

—MassGOP Chairwoman Amy Carnevale on Marian’s decision not to hold a special election.

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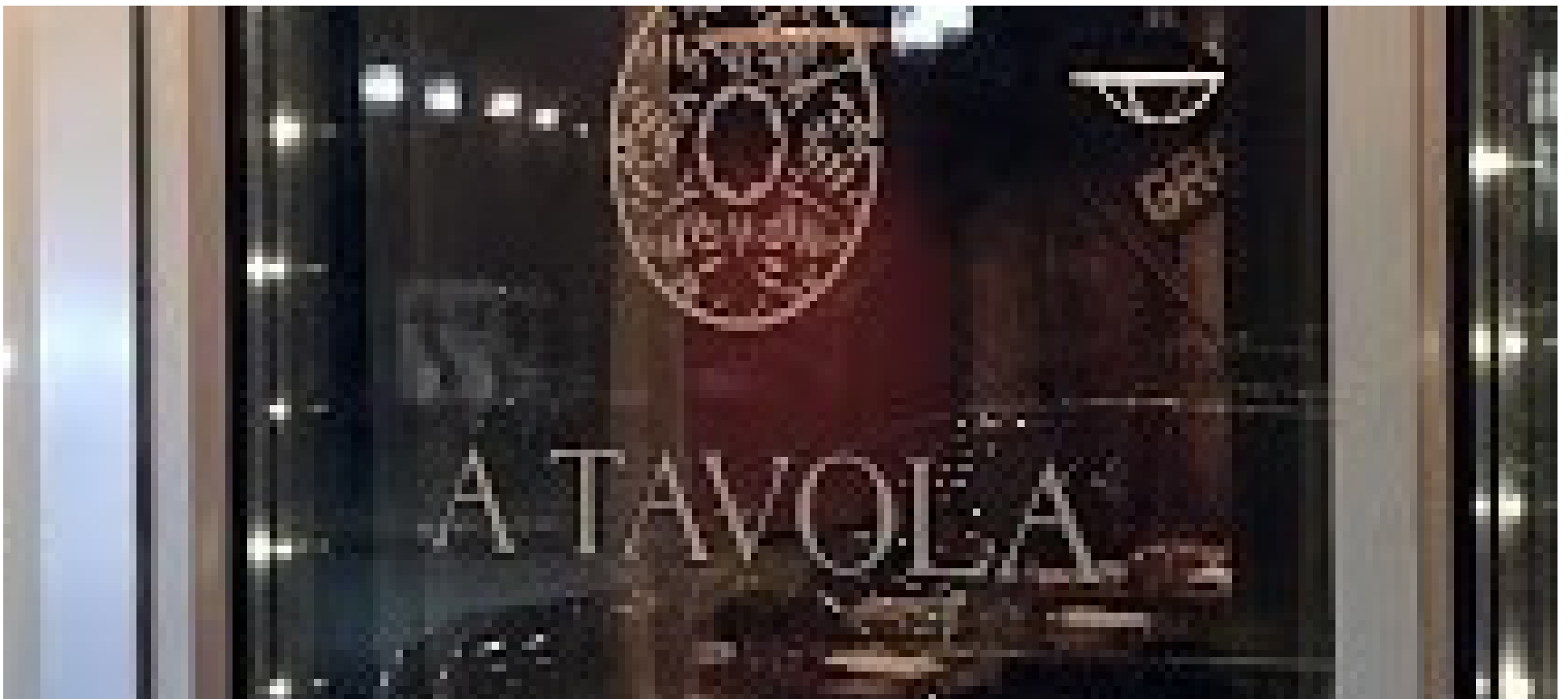
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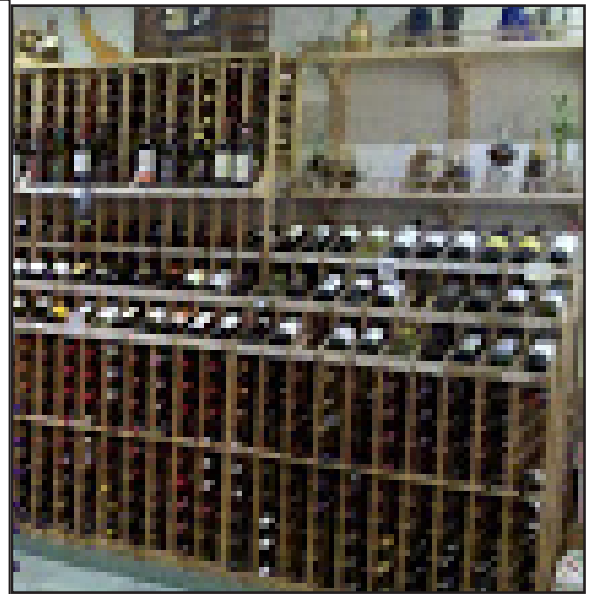


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