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VOL.1 NO.329-213

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday May 7th, 2024

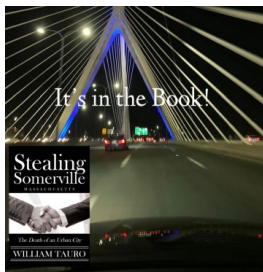
GOV. HEALEY SIGNS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INCLUDING \$251 MILLION FUNDING FOR SHELTERS



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



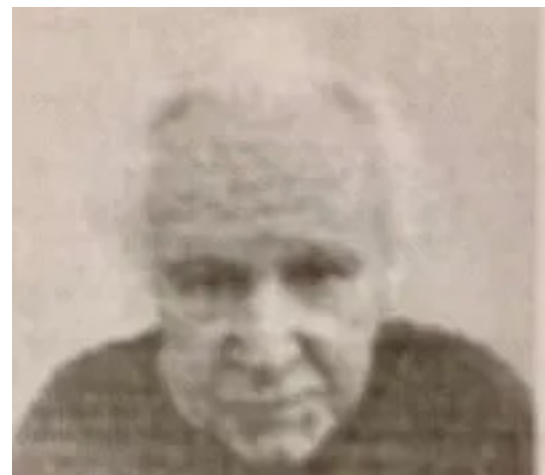
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JOIN SPRING HILL SEWER SEPARATION VIRTUAL SPRING COMMUNITY MEETING ON MAY 15



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JEREMIAH'S OBITUARY SEEKING ANY FAMILY MEMBERS



Continued to page 4

MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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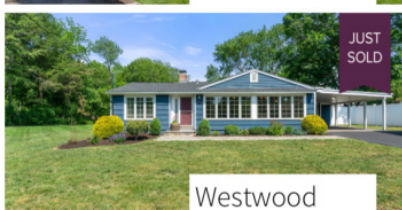
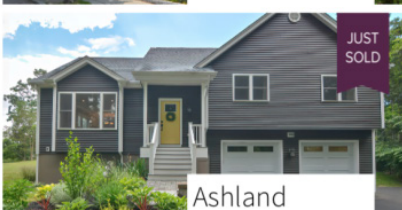
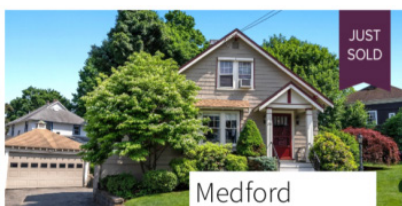
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MARKET ACTIVITY

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

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 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
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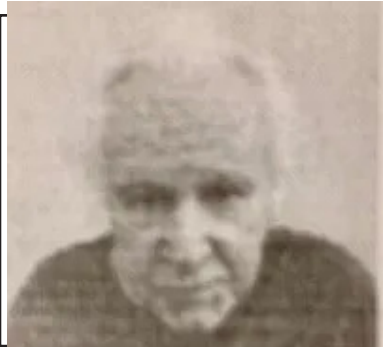


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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING JEREMIAH O'LEARY

Continued from front page



JEREMIAH'S OBITUARY SEEKING ANY FAMILY MEMBERS

Mr. Jeremiah O'Leary passed away on Wednesday, April 24,

2024 at the Cambridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Cambridge, he was 84. He was a former resident of Capen Court Senior Housing, 1 Capen Court Somerville, MA before being admitted to the Cambridge Rehabilitation

Center. He was born on April 10, 1940, unfortunately not much else is known on Mr. O'Leary. It is believed he has surviving siblings in the local area. If there is anyone who might be

related to Mr. O'Leary, we need to speak with a blood relative, and respectfully ask someone to please reach out to the funeral home at 617-625-4320. Thank you.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD/CAMBRIDGE REMEMBERING MARY T. VASCONCELOS



Mrs. Mary T. Vasconcelos Category: Obituaries Published: April 29, 2024 Mary T. Vasconcelos Vasconcelos, Mary T. (Vieira) of Woburn, passed away on April 28, 2024, at the age of 82 surrounded by her loving family. Mary was born in Cambridge, MA to proud parents Joseph and Mary (Mamie) Viera on Thanksgiving Day. She would spend nearly 50+ years living in Cambridge

on Marney Street creating wonderful memories. It was while living in Cambridge that Mary met the love of her life while attending an event and hearing him sing. They were happily married for almost 59 years. Family was everything to Mary. She gave birth to two wonderful Children that never left her side, even at the end. Mary loved her children, but her grandchildren and great grandchildren meant the world to her. She shared a special bond with her grandchildren, Melissa, and Victor, who would describe her as their best friend. Her great-grandchildren, Kai and Caden, were the joy of their Avozinha. The love she had for them gave her the strength she needed at the end. In addition to her family

what mattered most to Mary was her devotion and her culture. She was very proud of her Portuguese Heritage. She enjoyed volunteering and attending the dinners of the local organization. Even though she suffered for so long she never lost her faith. She was a devout Catholic and her love of God and the Holy Ghost was with her through even the most challenging times. Although Mary was known for her big heart she will always be remembered for her sense of style. She always looked put together and relished when people complimented her. She was an avid Boston Sports fan and would often gripe when The Bruins and Celtics were on at the same time. Mary's sense of humor would bring light to even the darkest times. She sometimes had a little too

much Sass but it's what made us love her. Mary joined the Portuguese-American Civic League at the age of 16 years old. She was also a member of the Holy Ghost Committee. Mary and Victor were past Chairman (Mordomos) of the Holy Ghost Committee of the Portuguese-American Civic League seven times. Mary was devoted to the Holy Spirit and her organizations. Mary will be deeply missed by all who loved her. She was the pillar of her Family, and this has left a massive loss in everyone's life. She was the devoted wife of Victor M. Vasconcelos, loving mother of Mary Theresa Carvalho and Joseph Jordan Vasconcelos, cherished grandmother of Melissa V. Rego, Victor V. Carvalho and his wife Shana, adored

great-grandmother of Kai J. Carvalho and Caden R. Carvalho. Mary is also survived by her beloved nieces, nephews, godchildren, and many other loving relatives and friends. Funeral from the Rogers Funeral Home, 380 Cambridge Street in Cambridge on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 9:00 am. Funeral Mass at St. Anthony's Church, 400 Cardinal Mederios Avenue in Cambridge at 10:00 am. Visiting hours at the funeral home in Cambridge on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Interment will be at the Calvary Cemetery in Winchester.

MAYOR BALLANTYNE INVITES LOCAL TEENS TO APPLY FOR MAYOR'S 2024 SUMMER JOBS PROGRAM

SOMERVILLE – Applications are now open for the City of Somerville Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne encourages all interested local teens to apply. Interested teens can apply online now at somervillema.gov/summerjobs. Applications are due by Sunday,

April 28 . All applicants will be interviewed the week of May 13. About the Mayor's Summer Job Program Every summer, the City of Somerville hires local teens to work with a variety of City

departments, such as the Recreation Department, the Office of Sustainability, Parks and Open Space, the public libraries and more. Students are also placed with local businesses that partner with the program. The program encourages career exploration and skill development and

fosters deeper connections with the Somerville community. Applicants must be at least 14 years old by May 5, 2024, and either be enrolled in a Somerville school, or be a Somerville resident. The time commitment is approximately 20 hours per week

for six weeks starting in July, though actual schedules will vary by job site placement. The program will require onboarding and orientation. All positions are paid. The hourly rate is \$17.72. If you have any additional questions, please contact summerjobs@somervillema.gov.

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING NINA ROMANO



NINA ROMANO Obituary

ROMANO, Nina Maria Of Somerville and North Andover, passed away peacefully on March 17,

with her brother, Michael, by her side. Nina was a Special Education teacher for almost 40 years in the Somerville Public Schools. She was the devoted daughter of the late Mary and Alexander (Sonny) Romano of Somerville.

Nina is survived by her brother, Michael and his wife, Kristin of Idaho; loving and proud aunt of Alexa, Elysha and Jillia; her dear cousins, Kenneth (Skipper) Hull of Lincoln and Judie Hull-

Maker of Billerica; caring friends, Betsey Holland, Deborah Lynch, Sam Toto; and Sweetie, her treasured rescue dog. During her long career, Nina was Treasurer of the Somerville Educators' Union for many years, was recognized as Teacher of the Year in Somerville and was inducted into the Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority for outstanding women educators. After retiring, she became a Eucharistic Minister at Winchester Nursing

Center. Nina was a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Boston College and received her Master of Education from UMass Boston. She was a kind and loving person and will be fondly remembered by her friends, colleagues and former students. Funeral from the Dello Russo Funeral Home, 306 Main St., MEDFORD, on Tuesday, May 7, at 8:30AM, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Raphael's Church, 512 High St., Medford, at 9:30AM. Relatives

and friends are invited. Interment at Riverside Cemetery in Newmarket, NH. Visiting Hours on Monday, May 6, from 3 to 6PM. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Somerville High School Scholarship Fund, P.O. BOX 44027, Somerville, MA 02144 or Paws New England, P.O. Box 542, Ashland, MA 01721. To leave a message of condolence, please visit <http://www.delloruso.net> Dello Russo Family Funeral Homes Medford Woburn



MEDFORD-MALDEN #915 ELKS RAISED MONEY ON KENTUCKY DERBY NIGHT FOR WONDERFUL CHARITIES

By William Tauro

The money raised at The night at the races at the Medford-Malden #915 Elks raised money for the Elks National Foundation.

ENF assists youth develop lifelong skills, send students to college, meet the needs of today's veterans, support the charitable work of the state Elks associations, and fund projects that improve the quality of life in local Elks communities.



MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE INVITES COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH AT CAMBRIDGE-SOMERVILLE ASIAN FESTIVAL



Festival will Feature Q&A and Cooking Demonstrations with Local Chefs, Live Dance, Family Activities, and Community Cookbook Exhibit.

Event will Conclude with Sidewalk Parade from Somerville High School to Holi Festival in Union Square.

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), is inviting community members to join the Cambridge-Somerville Asian Festival in celebration of Asian American Heritage Month. Somerville's event will take place on Saturday, May 11, from 2-4 p.m. at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave).

The Cambridge portion of the festival will take place on Friday, May 10, from 5:30 – 8 p.m. at the Cambridge St Upper School (850 Cambridge St).

The Cambridge-Somerville Asian Festival aims to celebrate the rich diversity of heritages within the Asian American community by sharing Asian arts, music, food, community leaders, and more.

Holi Festival At 4 p.m., all Asian Festival attendees are encouraged to join a sidewalk parade with Grooversity from Somerville High School to the City's Holi Festival at Nunziato Field (7 Putnam St), which will feature art activities, live

dance performances, and a color throw to celebrate the arrival of spring.

For more information on the Cambridge-Somerville Asian Festival, please visit cambervilleasianfest.com

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE PICKUP RESUMES WEEK OF APRIL 15 IN SOMERVILLE

Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste Pickup on one-day delay all week due to Patriot's Day Holiday on Monday

SOMERVILLE–Somerville's yard waste pickup begins for the season the week of April 15th. That week's

collection is on a one-day delay due to the Patriots' Day Holiday on Monday, April 15, so put all trash, recycling, and yard waste out one day later than you normally would. A full yard waste calendar is available at somervillema.gov/yard-waste and is also in the Environmental Service Guide mailed to all households this month.

Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day. Yard waste must either be in a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Stickers are available free of charge at the DPW Building, 1 Franey Road, or the entrance desk at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. To request a sticker be mailed

to you, please call 311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov. For more information on yard waste pickup, visit somervillema.gov/yard-waste or call 311 (617-666-3311).

to you, please call 311 or email 311updates@somervillema.gov.

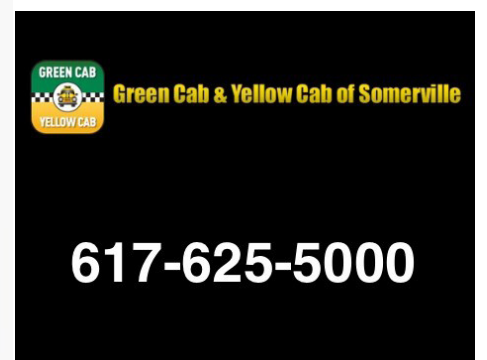
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GOV. HEALEY SIGNS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INCLUDING \$251 MILLION FUNDING FOR SHELTERS (H 4582)

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law a supplemental budget that includes an additional \$251 million in funding for the Emergency Assistance Program that funds the emergency family shelter system which houses migrants. The measure imposes a new nine-month limit on how long families can stay in the state's emergency shelters, with up to two 90-day extensions available to some and a new hardship waiver process.

Provisions include \$10 mil-

lion for approved workforce training programs; \$10 million for a tax credit for companies that provide job training to Emergency Assistance participants; \$3 million for family welcome centers; \$1 million for supplemental staffing at emergency housing assistance program shelters; and \$7 million for resettlement agencies and shelter providers to assist families with rehousing, work authorization and English language learning.

Other provisions keep in place some pandemic-era

programs, set to expire, including allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails for take-out; expanding outdoor dining; and allowing graduates and students in their last semester of nursing education programs to practice nursing.

"This supplemental budget dedicates resources to balance the budget and maintain critical services and programs," said Gov. Healey. "It also implements a length of stay policy for Emergency Assistance shelter, which is a responsible

step to address our capacity and fiscal constraints as Congress has continued to fail to act on immigration reform. We will be finalizing details of this policy in the coming weeks and ensuring that families and providers are informed of the requirements and the services that we have available to help them secure work and stable housing."

"Gov. Maura Healey, Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka are only focused on spending as much taxpayer money to deal with the

migrant crisis," said Paul Craney, spokesperson for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "They refused to address the root cause or how the state spends the money. This has resulted in the state spending nearly a billion dollars or about \$3 million a day, just on the housing for the migrants. Their attitude toward the problem is reckless and short-sighted. Massachusetts taxpayers cannot continue to afford this crisis and our state leaders are doing nothing to fix it."

HOME OIL LEAKS (S 2737)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would mandate that insurance companies in the Bay State automatically provide residential owners with insurance for damage to home and property caused by a leak in a residential liquid fuel tank or home fuel sup-

ply lines. Each policy would provide this coverage and homeowners can either keep the coverage or opt out.

Current law requires that companies make coverage available for owners but supporters say that while coverage is available, there are many documented cases of companies not making own-

ers aware that the coverage is available. They said this often results in homeowners being unaware they do not have insurance coverage until after they experience a liquid fuel tank leak.

Supporters said that some 100 homeowners experience an oil leak in Massachusetts every year. They noted that

leaks can incur costly damage to the residence itself, but under Massachusetts law owners are responsible for environmental cleanup, which can rise to \$100,000 or more, to dispose of contaminated soil and mitigate the spread in surrounding areas.

"A constituent who had a

leaking oil tank, unaware of available leak insurance, had to deplete their savings for a leaking basement oil tank cleanup," said sponsor Rep. Steve Howitt (R-Seekonk). Howitt explained that the opt out option, as opposed to the current opt in option, would protect more consumers."

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.



SOMERVILLE'S ANNUAL PORCHFEST RETURNS SATURDAY MAY 11

Citywide Homemade Music Festival Will Take Place on Porches Across Somerville

SOMERVILLE – Somerville’s porches, yards, and stoops are once again set to host free mini-concerts across the City as part of the City’s annual Porchfest hosted by the Somerville Arts Council.

This celebration of local, live, homegrown music offers something for everyone at drop-in home-based shows. Participants can simply stroll from house to house to enjoy the open air entertainment. More than 300 bands are set to participate across wide-ranging musical genres from youth playing classical music to electronica groups, karaoke, and – a first this year – stand-up comedy. The 2024 Porchfest is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, and music sites and times can be found via the online Porchfest 24 map at somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest.

Somerville Porchfest takes place in three 2-hour blocks on Saturday, May 11. In the event of inclement weather, Porchfest will be held on Sunday, May 12.:

West of Willow Street, performances from 12 to 2 p.m.

Willow to Central, performances from 2 to 4 p.m.

East of Central, performances from 4 to 6 p.m.

“We’re proud that so many musicians and visitors participate in our Porchfest,” says Gregory Jenkins, Executive Director for Somerville Arts Council. “As the event has grown, we’ve been so impressed by the talent and neighborhood spirit in our community. Likewise, we’ve also deepened our efforts to remind musicians, porch hosts, neighbors, and visitors alike to keep our Porchfest positive and be mindful of

Porchfest rules to ensure a safe and fun event.”

“The community spirit and incredible creativity on display at Porchfest is always inspiring. You just can’t beat the unique joy of wandering the neighborhood to discover good music and to connect with neighbors,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. I want to thank all the musicians and hosts participating and all the attendees who keep it safe and respectful for the neighborhoods that open up to us all for this community event.”

To help ensure 2024’s Porchfest is a safe and fun event for all participants, as well as the larger community, the City is encouraging everyone to:

Be considerate to porch hosts, neighbors, and residents.

Avoid loitering on non-porchfest yards or driveways.

Plan travel in advance, take public transport to lessen traffic/parking congestion.

Use sidewalks, not streets, so cars can pass.

Take advantage of the portajohns installed for Porchfest if nature calls (a map of portajohn locations can be found below).

Tip the bands on site (cash or digital).

Additionally, any public consumption of alcohol is prohibited.

Porchfest 2024 Map and Resources

Band Map: beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-map/

Participating Bands: beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-

listing/

Portajohn map: beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-map/

Tip and Porchfest information: beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-2024/

About Somerville Arts Council The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) is a City Department that serves as the local cultural council (LCC) for the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, and serves to celebrate the arts and community. Our board is appointed by the Mayor, Katjana Ballantyne. SAC is located at 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145. 617-625-6600 ext. 2985 somervilleartscouncil.org

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD REMEMBERING CATHERINE D. NICHOLAS



Obituary Catherine D. Nicholas, a longtime resident of Somerville, and most recent resident at The

Katzman Family Center for Living, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on April 29, 2024, following a long battle with Dementia. She was 95 years old.

Catherine was born on July 26, 1928, in Cambridge, MA; she was the oldest daughter of the late Andrew and Alice (Ryan) Dambrosio.

Catherine was raised in Cambridge, MA, attended St. Mary’s school and a graduate of Cambridge High & Latin.

Catherine worked tirelessly, often two jobs as a waitress, to support her family of 6 children.

Catherine loved being a

Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother and Aunt.

She enjoyed reading, doing her word puzzles, setting up at flea markets selling her antiques, shopping at the thrift stores and Filene’s Basement for bargains. Catherine was a Friend of Bill W and followed the program to the fullest. She followed the Boston Sports teams, specifically the Celtics & Red Sox and was an avid walker often taking her weekly trips into Boston.

Catherine will be fondly remembered as a very compassionate woman who would often take people into her home that needed a place to stay. She never had a harsh word to say about anyone. And she’ll be

especially remembered for the unconditional love she had for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Catherine was the beloved wife of 67 years to William D. Nicholas, devoted mother of Larry Nicholas and his wife Linda of Everett, Stephen Nicholas and his wife Amy of Methuen, William (Billy) Nicholas Jr. of Somerville, Mark Nicholas and his wife Carol of Woburn, David Nicholas and his husband David of Windham, NH and Laura Nicholas and her wife Marlene of Braintree. Loving Grandmother of Kari, Justin, Renee, Paul, Sharon and Colleen. Loving Great Grandmother of Taylor, Emily and Ava. Dear sister of Mary Koerber, Alice Itrato, the

late Louise Donahue and late Joe Dambrosio. Catherine is further survived by her many nieces and nephews who she loved as her own.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) on FRIDAY, May 3rd from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. Followed by a prayer service at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with Catherine being laid to rest with her beloved husband at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Catherine’s

IMPOSE REGULATIONS INSTEAD OF BANNING (S 2738)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 5-33, rejected an amendment that would replace the bill barring electric suppliers from enrolling new individual residential customers in contracts, with a different bill that would have allowed the practice to continue and would instead impose more barriers for competitive suppliers to enter the market and provided the attorney general with more oversight authority. Under this alternate version, energy brokers, market-

ers and suppliers would be required to obtain licenses from the Department of Public Utilities, pay fees and maintain bonds. It imposes regulations on in-person or door-to-door marketing practices and requires third-party verification and identification badges for agents. It also imposes conditions on suppliers’ licensure renewals, including notification requirements and restrictions on termination fees. Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth) said the amendment is aimed at reforming

the industry by holding accountable those acting inappropriately in the marketplace, increasing public awareness on best practices to save money and ensuring greater transparency in energy pricing. “There is value in competition to lower consumer rates however I believe to effectively address this issue is by market reform instead of total eradication,” said O’Connor. “The amendment ... holds suppliers accountable by identifying bad actors and preventing misleading mar-

ket practices through new regulations.” Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), Senate chair of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, said the amendment used “lousy language.” Barrett signaled competitive suppliers have not added value to their product, despite having 25 years to prove themselves in the marketplace. “There’s nothing redeemable about this particular option,” said Barrett. It’s too bad. I think a lot of us were very

optimistic in the late 90s — this should have worked,” Barrett said. “Turns out that the product was absolutely fungible. These middlemen don’t have lower costs, they have higher costs.” (A “Yes” vote is for the amendment that replaces the ban with a new bill imposing regulations. A “No” vote is against the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No



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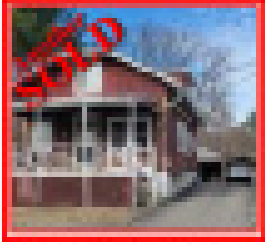


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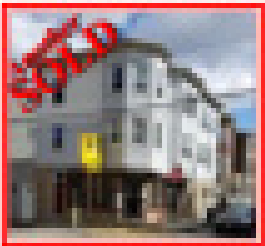


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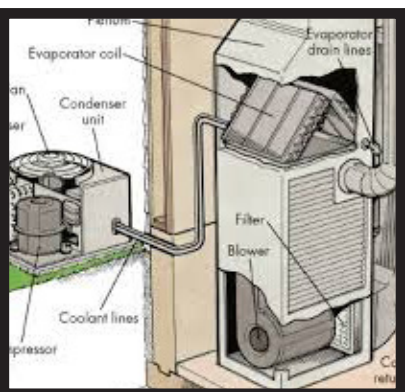
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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2024-22 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amend-

ed with the addition of the following location: 22 Montrose St.
2024-23 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the west side of Windsor St. nearest 561 Windsor St., from approximately 45 ft south of Windsor Pl to 170 ft south of Windsor Pl., convert two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to

No Parking Any Time.
2024-24 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the south side of South St nearest 66-136 South St, from approximately 30 ft east of Windsor St to 40 ft west of Hunting St, convert the existing two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to No Parking Any Time.

2024-25 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: on the east side of Hunting St nearest 44-48 Hunting St, from approximately 20 ft south of South St to 120 ft south of South St, convert the existing two-hour parking (except by permit) 8AM-2:30AM to Permit Parking Only.

PROMULGATED: APRIL 11, 2024
ADVERTISED: APRIL 30, 2024
MAY 7, 2024
MAY 14, 2024
EFFECTIVE: MAY 22, 2024

Somerville/Medford News Weekly
04/30/24, 05/07/24, 05/14/24

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (H 4460)

The House 30-125, rejected an amendment that would change the state's Right to Shelter Law which requires the state to provide shelter and other necessities to homeless parents with young children, pregnant women and recently the many migrant families arriving in the Bay State. Homeless individuals are not covered by the Right to Shelter law.

The amendment would require that people provide proof that they have lived in the state for at least three months to qualify for the program. It also

exempts from the requirement a victim of domestic violence or a person whose living situation has been affected by a fire or other natural disaster that occurred in Massachusetts.

Amendment supporters said the current interpretation of residency in Massachusetts by the Healey administration is that the person can be in the state for a matter of minutes to qualify to get services.

"The emergency housing assistance program is operating under a 7,500-family cap imposed

by Gov. Healey, but the demand for services continues to grow and has created a lengthy waitlist," said House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "Imposing a minimum residency requirement of three months is reasonable and will help to ensure that people who are already living in the commonwealth will have access to housing assistance when they need it."

Some amendment opponents said the amendment might be unconstitutional. Others said people from around the world

who are the victims of rape, violence and oppression are coming to Massachusetts and the state should not impose residency requirements on these suffering migrants.

"I would also just like to underscore, as I did a moment ago, that no families — whether they are longtime Massachusetts residents or families that are new to the state — are being put out on the street," said Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley). "We do have these overflow shelters. I don't want anyone to be operating under the assumption

that we have Massachusetts residents who are being left out on the street, so once again, I ask you please ... reject the residency requirement."

(A "Yes" vote is for the 3-month requirement. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

PRIORITIZE HOMELESS VETERANS (H 4600)

By Bob Katzen

The House 27-129, rejected an amendment that would prioritize honorably discharged homeless veterans for eligibility for placement in the shelter assistance program.

"Massachusetts is widely recognized as a national leader for the programs and services we provide to our veterans and our

shelter system should be reflective of that," said amendment sponsor GOP Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "No individual who has served their country with valor and dedication should ever be forced to sleep on the street. Ensuring the well-being of homeless veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our country and our commonwealth, is not a policy decision;

it's a moral imperative."

Opponents of the amendment said it is a political stunt designed to make it appear that Democrats are against helping veterans and noted that nothing could be further from the truth. They noted this shelter assistance funding was designed to protect women, children and families. They noted that the Bay State proudly already has

some of the best veterans' benefits in the nation and pointed to increased veterans benefits in the House budget.

Rep. Gerard Cassidy (D-Brockton), House chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, previewed a veterans bill being prepared by his committee for consideration in May and said it will provide even more benefits for veterans.

"This is not a veterans' bill. This is basically a political ploy," said Cassidy.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment giving priority to homeless veterans. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

TAX CREDITS FOR CONSERVATION LAND (H 4600)

By Bob Katzen

The House 154-0, approved a budget amendment that would expand the existing Conservation Land Tax Credit (CLTC) by raising the annual cap for this program from \$2 million to \$5 million over a three-year period, beginning on January 1, 2026. The increase would remain in place until De-

ember 31, 2034.

This state tax credit provides an incentive for land with significant conservation value to be donated to public and private conservation agencies. The tax credit is equal to 50 percent of the fair market value of the donated property, up to a maximum credit of \$75,000.

Supporters said that raising the cap will help the state address the growing demand for participating in the program, which currently has a waiting list of more than two years.

"The CLTC program plays a critical role in conserving land and creating more accessible and open public space," said amendment sponsor House Re-

publican Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "To date, the program has helped Massachusetts conserve 15,505 acres of land across 154 municipalities, and in 2023 alone helped protect 558 acres of land. Raising the annual cap will allow for increased participation in the program and promote the conservation of critical natural resources

in the state."

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

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



INCREASE TAX ABATEMENT FOR BLIND RESIDENTS (H 4458)

By Bob Katzen

Another bill heard by the Revenue Committee would increase from \$457 to \$1,800 the amount of

the real estate tax exemption for blind residents.

Supporters said this exemption has remained at \$437 for more than 20

years and has not provided the intended benefit to blind residents.

“I sponsored this bill after being made aware of this

issue by a constituent who had received this tax abatement for most of his life,” said sponsor Rep. Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield). “It does not make

sense for a benefit such as this one to lose its value with the US dollar. The figure should be updated to reflect the proportional assistance that was in-

MUST PAY BROKER FEE (H 4474)



By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation requiring that in real estate transactions, the fees associated

with hiring brokers are paid by the party who hires them.

“It is common practice in the Massachusetts rental market for landlords to hire brokers

to list properties and execute lease agreements,” said sponsor Rep. Paul Schmid. “The landlords then pass off the broker’s fee, often half to a full month rent, onto the

tenant making the housing market increasingly unaffordable. This bill would ensure that whoever hires the broker, landlord or tenant, pays the fees.

\$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES SIGNED BY GOVERNOR (H 4529)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law 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 fund-

ing 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.

“We know that residents’ quality of life and our state’s economic strength depends on people being able to

get where they need to go safely and on time,” said Gov. Healey. “These Chapter 90 funds and millions more for six grant programs will help us deliver on critical road, bridge and infrastructure projects that communities and the traveling public need.”

“As a former mayor, I know how much this money means to our cities and towns,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “In particular, Chapter 90 apportionments go a long way in making sure our transportation system is safe and reliable for people who live, work and visit our communities.”

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Obituary

WELLS, Florence E. (Celebrate) – Of Quincy formerly of Medford May 6, 2024. Beloved wife of the late Ordie “Marty” Wells. Loving mother of Teresa Amuzzini, Carol Wall and her husband Bob, Martin “Marty” Wells and his wife Salonge.

Complete notice to follow.

Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Thursday morning at 10:30, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Clement Church, Medford at 11:00. Visiting hours in the Funeral Home, Thursday morning May 9, 2024, from 8:30-10:30. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

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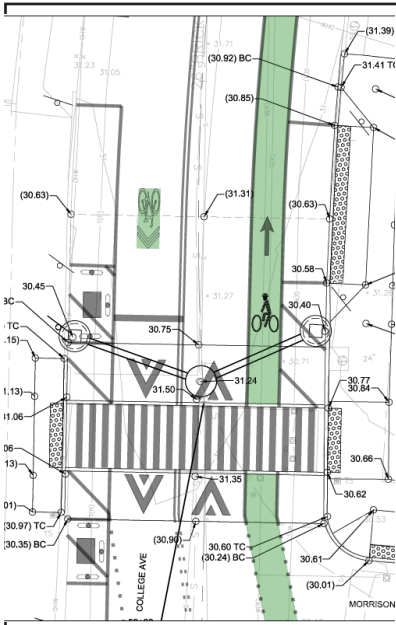
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JOIN THE SPRING HILL SEWER SEPARATION VIRTUAL SPRING COMMUNITY MEETING ON MAY 15

Continued from front page



construction progress and upgrades to come. The project aims to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure. Once utility work on Highland Avenue (including Eversource's Gas Main upgrade project) is done, interim paving of eastern Highland Avenue can begin.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, May 15, at 6 p.m. Visit somervillema.gov/springhill to learn more and attend the meeting. For those unable to attend, a recording of the presentation will be available on the project website, as well as on City YouTube and the City's GovTV channels.

At the meeting, City staff will review progress made to date and present an overview of the work planned

for this upcoming spring and summer. Featured updates include a review of recent sewer/drainage utility upgrades along Summer Street between School Street and Bow Street and a look ahead to streetscape improvements beginning later this spring on Central Street. Following the presentation, residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and construction process.

Somerville's Spring Hill neighborhood is currently served by a combined sewer system, which collects both wastewater and stormwater runoff in the same pipes. Through the Sewer Separation project, the City is working to upgrade these systems by installing new storm drains that separate stormwater from the existing combined sewer.

In addition to the under-

ground utility improvements, this project will also install street safety improvements and green infrastructure throughout the neighborhood. Green infrastructure includes trees as well as drainage features designed to mimic natural processes such as irrigated planting areas, bioretention basins with select soils and plants that catch and filter stormwater.

This project is one in a series of actions the City is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure. Construction began in 2022 and is expected to continue through 2025.

Highland Avenue Interim Paving

Following completion of utility work on Highland Avenue, the City will be

paving the two travel lanes of the roadway (approximately 28-feet wide). This partial paving, which does not include the parking areas next to the curbs, is intended to restore the road surface travel areas. This is an interim measure to support safe travel for all users of the road until the full redesign and reconstruction of Highland Avenue. Paving is on schedule to occur in early summer of 2024. This interim paving is expected to extend from roughly McGrath Highway to Benton Road.



Get the Spring/Summer Construction Schedule and Updates on Ongoing Streetscape Improvements and Spring Tree Plantings

SOMERVILLE - The Spring Hill Sewer Separation project is well underway, and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen invite you to join a virtual community meeting to learn about

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ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS (S 2738)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 34-4, approved and sent to the House a bill that would bar electric suppliers from enrolling new individual residential customers in contracts, beginning on January 1, 2025.

Supporters said the measure would protect residents from unfair and deceptive practices in the competitive electric supply market. They noted that according to

the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Public Utilities, data analysis shows that consumers lost more than \$577 million to competitive electric suppliers between July 2015 and June 2023. They added that low-income residents and residents of color are disproportionately affected by the industry by being more likely to sign up, and subsequently being charged higher rates.

"Each year, the broken

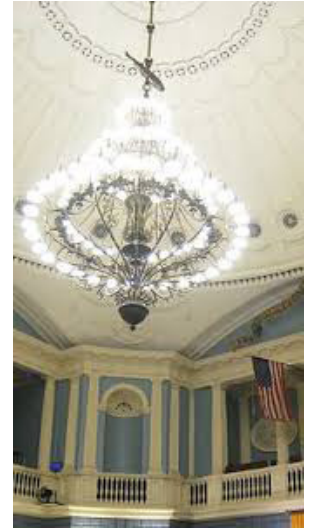
and predatory residential competitive electric supply industry harms consumers across Massachusetts – particularly in low-income communities and communities of color and fails in its promise to consistently provide consumer savings," said Attorney General Andrea Campbell a sponsor of the original version of the bill. "I now urge the House to take up and pass this legislation so that Massachusetts residents are protected from this deceptive

and harmful industry." "The market would benefit from total reform, not elimination of newer energy suppliers/brokers," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth) who opposed the bill. "A competitive market is healthy for the economy and by implementing strategy that would hold these energy suppliers accountable, it would be beneficial to all parties involved."

(A "Yes" vote is for the

bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



DRIVING WITH AN EXPIRED LICENSE (H 3376)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill making driving with an expired license a civil infraction. Current law classifies it as

criminal and carries with it a fine up to \$500.

The bill would reduce the fine to \$50 if the license has been expired for less than 90 days and \$100

if the license is expired for 90 days or more. The legislation distinguishes an expired license from a revoked license or a driver who never possessed a license.

"This legislation makes sense because sometimes people merely forget to renew their license," said sponsor Rep. Chris Markey (D-Dartmouth). "People should not be ar-

rested for being forgetful as opposed to someone who is knowingly endangering others on the road."

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PRIORITIZE 12-MONTH RESIDENTS (H 4600)

By Bob Katzen

The House 27-131, rejected an amendment that would give priority consideration for inclusion in the emergency housing assistance program, when space becomes available, to residents who have resided in the state for a minimum of 12 consecutive months and are on the waitlist for the program.

“With a growing number of people on the waitlist for

emergency housing assistance, we need to set clear priorities to better manage the demand and eliminate the waitlist,” said House GOP Minority leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “When doing so, it’s only fair that longtime residents of the commonwealth in need of services should take precedence over someone who has just arrived here from out of state.”

Amendment opponents

said the amendment might be unconstitutional. They also noted that people from around the world who are the victims of rape, violence and oppression are coming to Massachusetts and the state should not impose residency requirements on these suffering migrants.

“I would also just like to underscore ... that no families — whether they are longtime Massachusetts residents or families that

are new to the state — are being put out on the street,” said Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley) who opposed the amendment. “We do have these overflow shelters. I don’t want anyone to be operating under the assumption that we have Massachusetts residents who are being left out on the street, so once again, I ask you please ... to reject the residency requirement.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the

amendment giving priority to 12-month residents. A “No” vote is against the amendment.)

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

PROTECT CONSUMER WHEN PURCHASING CARS (S 2716)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate 38-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say will modernize protections for consumers in automobile transactions. The bill adds legal safeguards for buyers who purchase used and leased cars in Massachusetts by creating new consumer protections in the car buying process.

A key provision expands the Lemon Aid Law by providing consumers seven days from the date of delivery to inspect their vehicle and obtain a full refund if the vehicle fails inspection. Current law provides this return privilege seven days from the date of sale. Other provisions would ensure those who lease a vehicle have the same rights to repossession

notice and right to cure as those who finance a vehicle; and increase the used vehicle warranty from 125,000 miles to 150,000 miles – a move supporters say that will protect consumers who purchase more affordable vehicles with higher mileage. Supporters say the bill would expand the rights of car buyers who expect a purchased vehicle

to be in a state of good repair and free of problems.

“I am ... proud that the Senate has passed legislation I have filed to update Massachusetts used vehicle statutes and close existing loopholes in our laws that prevent the attorney general from adequately protecting consumers during a used car purchase,” said sponsor Sen.

Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough).

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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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



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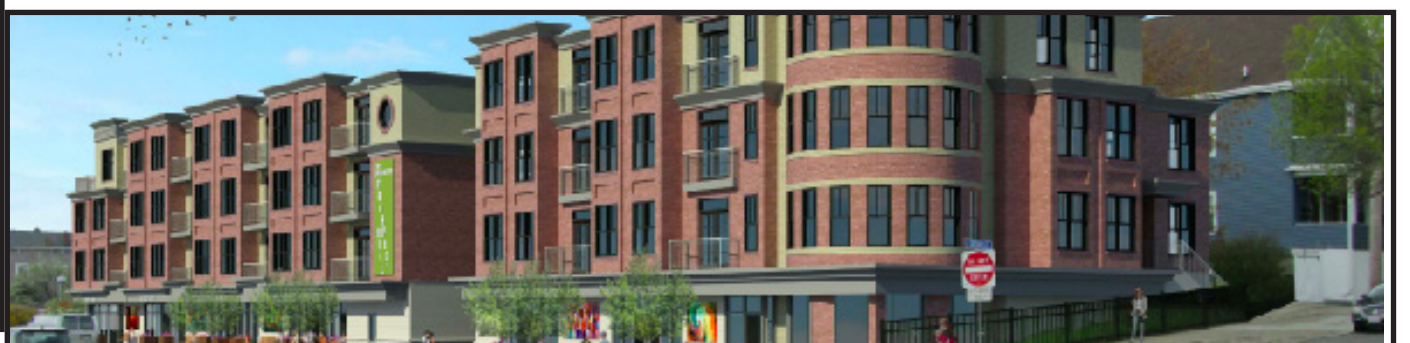
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Another year another victory.....

The boys in Red defeated the boys in Blue last night 6-2 in our annual guns and hoses hockey game.

Special Thanks to all the players, families and fans who supported the event. With their help we were able to raise over \$13,000 for the ongoing 24 hour care of retired Firefighter Roger Perez.

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Ticket for our 50th Reunion are on sale now. If you are interested in attending please mail your check payable to SHS Class of 1974 and mail to:

Doreen Manetta
14 Shingle Mill Drive

I will also accept Venmo @Doreen-Manetta

Ticket price is \$100. Don't wait, tickets will not be sold at the door so get yours now and don't miss out. We are only 67 days

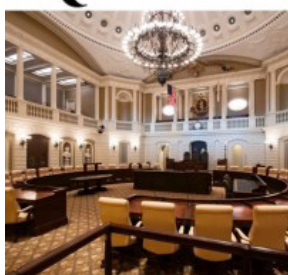
out from our June 22nd date and I'll be selling them until June 1st cutoff.

Thank you,
The Reunion Committee:
Doreen Manetta
Joe Annese
Karen (Camples) Lynch
damlh@comcast.net



THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

“This new program is paramount for nurturing a thriving creative ecosystem across the commonwealth. This funding is a catalyst for innovation, offering the recipients the freedom to explore new ideas, take risks, and push the boundaries of their craft.”

—Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council, announcing \$1.9 million in \$5,000 grants to 385 Massachusetts artists, culture bearers and creative practitioners from the fiscal year 2024 Grants for Creative Individuals.

“These predatory for-profit schools harmed

vulnerable students for their own financial gain, leaving student borrowers burdened with debt and without viable job or financial prospects. Thanks in part to the diligent work of my office, I, alongside the Department of Education, am tremendously proud to announce meaningful debt relief for former students of The Art Institutes and help advance consumer and economic justice for these struggling borrowers.”

—Attorney General Andrea Campbell announcing \$80 million in federal student loan debt will be discharged for over 3,500 former Massachusetts borrowers who attended the Art Institutes, includ-

ing the New England Institute of Art, a Brookline-based predatory for-profit school that made false promises and misleading enrollment claims.

“It is welcome news for small businesses and residents alike that Gov. Healey is not pursuing any tax increases for the foreseeable future. The more money we keep in the pockets of employers and consumers the better as the effects of prolonged inflation persist.”

—Christopher Carozzi, State Director for the Nation Federation of Independent Business in Massachusetts.

“Massachusetts consum-

ers, restaurants and bars can all toast to the fact that cocktails to-go are here to stay. During the pandemic, cocktails to-go were a critical source of revenue for many businesses, and now, the increased convenience and stability they offer is permanent.”

— Andy Deloney, senior vice president at the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States on Gov. Healey signing a supplemental budget that keeps in place some pandemic-era programs, set to expire, including allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails for take-out.

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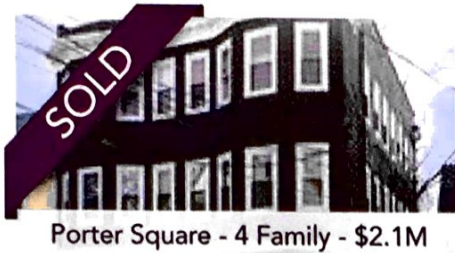
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Porter Square - 6 Family - \$2.7M



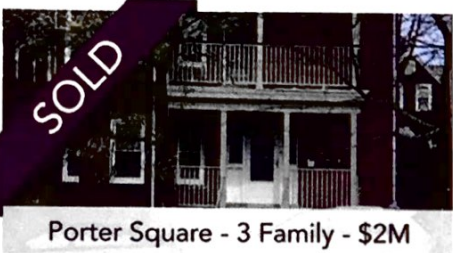
Porter Square - 4 Family - \$2.1M



Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$2M



Davis Square - 4 Family - \$1.875M



Prospect Hill - 4 Family - \$1.65M



Porter Square - 2 Family - \$1.38M



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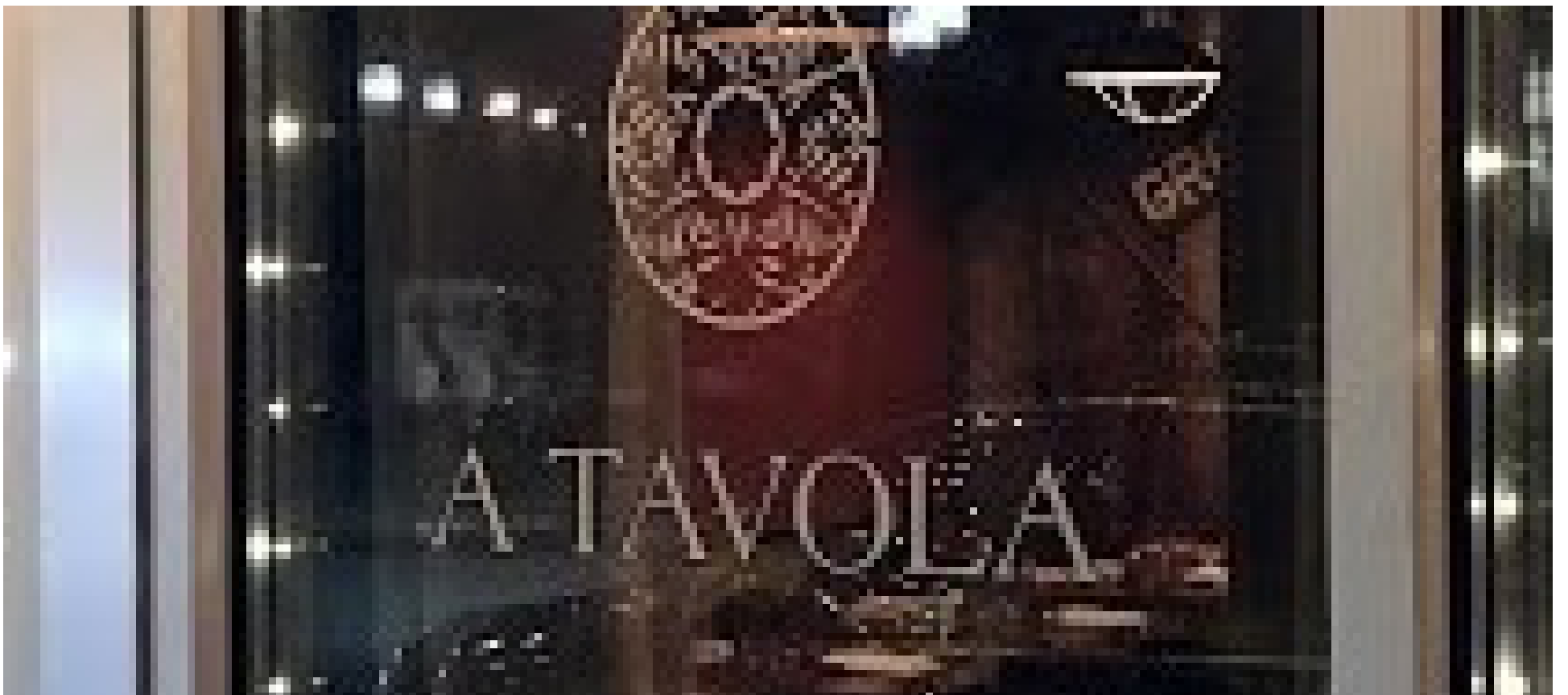
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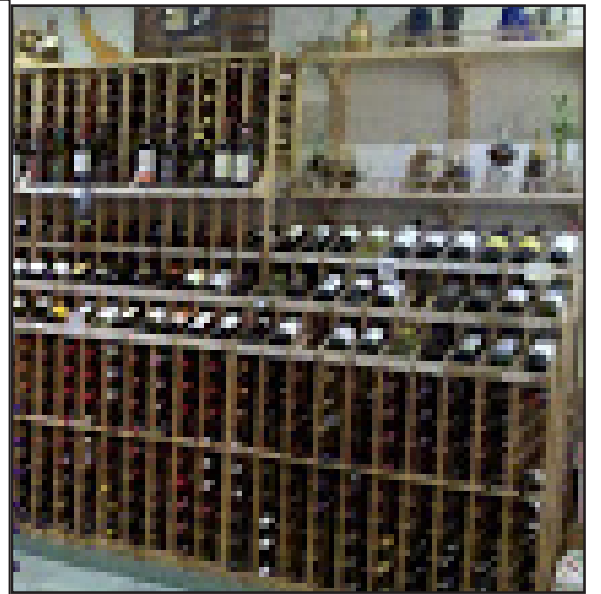


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