

# The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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VOL.1 NO.329-227

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday August 20th, 2024

## Somerville Names Boston's Shumeane Benford as New Police Chief



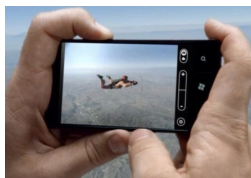
Continued to page 7

### Mayor Ballantyne Announces New Union Agreement Increasing Pay & Benefits for Somerville Emergency Telecommunicators/Police Dispatchers

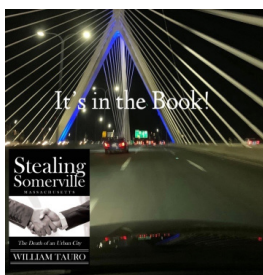
### Top Staff Accused of Dereliction of Duty at Southern Middlesex County Registry of Deeds



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



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Continued to page 5



### MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available. Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



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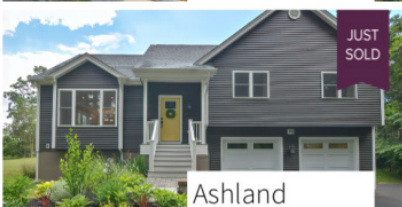
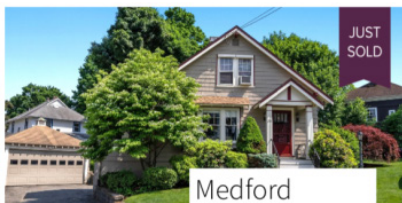
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®  
(617) 610-5382 [Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com](mailto:Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com)

Patricia Ng Broker Associate  
REALTOR®-(617) 818-5736 [Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com](mailto:Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com)

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Winner of the 2019 President Circle Award  
Winner of the 2020 Chairman's Circle Gold award, representing the top 2% in Berkshire Hathaway Home Services across the nation





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Please send both forms and payment to:

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 Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.



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### Somerville/Medford Remembering Mrs. Maria M. Carreiro Lui



Mrs. Maria M. Carreiro Lui  
Category: Obituaries Pub-

lished: August 14, 2024  
Maria Carreiro Luis Maria Margarida Carreiro Luis "Maggie" passed away on August 12, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at the age of 69. She was the loving mother of Lawrence (Larry) Carreiro and his wife Karen of Woburn. Devoted wife of Mario Luis.

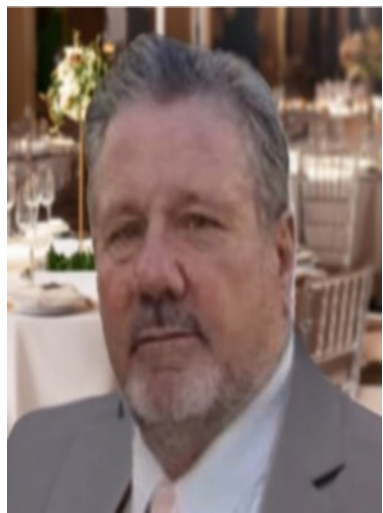
Daughter of the late Teofilo Correia and Luisa M. Correia (Tome). Beloved sister

of Joao Manuel Correia, Jose Luis Correia and the late Edmund Correia. Dear cousin of Victor M. Vasconcelos, Joseph J. Vasconcelos, Robert Tome, Lisa Cormier, Mary T. Carvalho and many more cousins. Cherished aunt of Julie Correia. Beloved niece of the late Armando Tome and his wife Maria. Funeral from the Rogers Funeral Home, 380 Cambridge Street in Cambridge on Saturday, August 17,

2024, at 8:30 am. Funeral mass to follow at St. Anthony's Church, 400 Cardinal Medeiros Avenue in Cambridge at 10:00 am. Visiting hours at the funeral home in Cambridge on Friday, August 16, 2024, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Interment will be at the Calvary Cemetery in Winchester. Late Officer of the Somerville Sports Club and member the Portuguese-American Civic League. She was

also an avid Benefica fan. Maria (Maggie) was known for her style from her clothing, jewelry and hair. She was loving, caring, compassionate, and full of life. She was always there for her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

### Somerville/Medford Remembering Dennis M. Hardy



Obituary for Dennis M. Hardy  
HARDY, Dennis M., Lifelong resident of

Somerville, passed away peacefully at his home on August 15, 2024.

Born to the late Edward H. Hardy and Ella M. (McDonald). Beloved husband of 53 years to Helena A. Hardy (Flynn). Loving father of Edward Hardy and his partner Michelle Stone of Somerville, John Hardy and his wife Lea of Somerville, Dennis Hardy and his wife Shannon of Lynnfield, and the late Kathryn Hardy. Cher-

ished 'Papa' of Ava-Loren, Cash, Brehnen, and Deni-Monroe. Dear brother of Mary McGuire of Stoneham, Edward Hardy and his wife Katherine of Medford, Ellen Glovasky and her late husband Felix of Woburn, Margaret Huckins and her husband Stephen of Woburn, and the late Michael Hardy. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Dennis was a late Vietnam Era Army Veteran and he

worked for the Railroad for over 40 years. He was a man of strong faith, but what he enjoyed most was spending time with his family. Visiting Hours will be held on Wednesday, August 21st in the Keefe Funeral Home, 2175 Mass Ave, NORTH CAMBRIDGE from 4-7PM. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, August 22nd in Joseph's Church, 264 Washington St., Somerville MA 02143,

at 11AM. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dennis' memory to New England Center and Home for Veterans, 17 Court Street, PO Box 845257, Boston, MA 02284-5257.

### Somerville/Medford Remembering Anna Maria (Avallone) Vecchiarello



Mrs. Anna Maria (Avallone) Vecchiarello, of Ashland and formerly of Somerville, passed away on August 9, 2024, she was 78. Born and raised in Gaeta, Italy she was daughter of the late Rosa (Della Valle) and Nicola

Avallone. The beloved wife of the late Luigi Vecchiarello, they were married in Gaeta in 1967. She immigrated to the United States on February 11, 1968, first arriving in Cambridge and later settling in Somerville to raise her family.

She was the devoted mother of Roberto L. Vecchiarello and his wife Patricia of California and Deborah V. Kriegsman and her husband Daniel of Ashland. Beloved nonna of Ricardo Vecchiarello, Sophia Kriegsman,

Eliana Vecchiarello, Leah and Rebecca Kriegsman. Dear sister of Tommaso Avallone, Antonietta Avallone, Carlo and Cosmo Avallone, all of Italy and the late Elvira Avallone. Loving Zia to many cherished nieces and nephews.

Anna Maria was beloved by all who knew her, with her friendly and infectious personality people were naturally drawn to her. She was a fantastic cook and loved nothing more than sharing meals with anyone who walked through her doors. As a talented florist for over

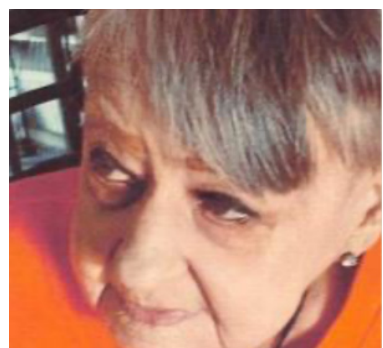
25 years, she also enjoyed gardening. Her city garden was always in full bloom offering beautiful flowers and bountiful vegetables. In earlier years, she and her husband Luigi enjoyed dancing at the local Italian social clubs. Above all, Anna Maria was devoted to her family and especially loved time spent together, particularly with her cherished grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Raphael Church, 512 High Street, Medford on Wednesday morning at 10:00AM. Rela-

tives and friends invited to attend. A livestream of her Funeral Mass will also be offered via the parish Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintRaphaelParishMedford?mibextid=2JQ9oc>

Services will conclude with entombment, with her husband and love of her life, at Holy Cross Mausoleum, Malden. In lieu of flowers, donations in Anna Maria's memory can be made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute at <http://www.danafarber.org>

### Somerville/Medford Remembering Barbara Anne Spindler



Obituary  
Barbara Anne Spindler, a lifelong Somerville resident, passed away on August 14, 2024, just after her 86th birthday.

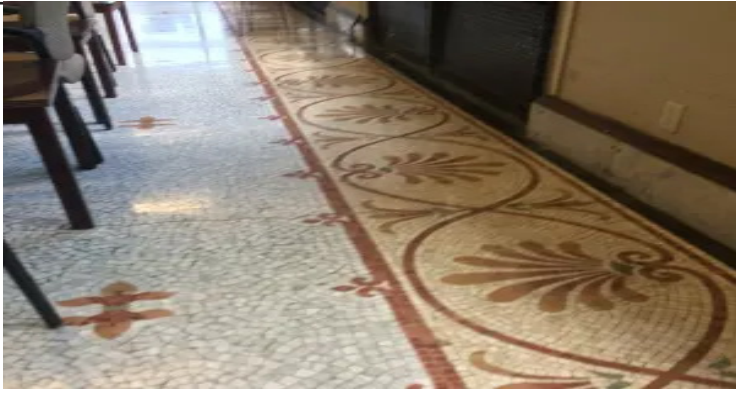
Funeral Services to be announced and a complete obituary to be published.





# Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Maria Curtatone and Top Staff Accused of Dereliction of Duty at Southern Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

Continued from front page



Dear Editor,  
  
No lawyers here today yet on the floor.....never here before 9am.....and the Registry starts work at 8am.....dereliction of duty.....top assistant Car

mel xxxxx is getting paid more or less \$100,000 to do union labor.....not her job.....didn't get hired for that. Does not care about union labor.  
  
On a regular basis the

Registry is left without lawyers to handle any problems that may arise in the process of the Registry's workday....they are never to be found.

Maria Curtatone has interfered in union elections and that is a federal offense.....Spreading vitriol about people who run against her pets..... talking about issues with employees and intimidating and bullying people to do what she wants so she can have her puppets in

place to control.

She commits these offenses and others on a daily basis with assistant Carmel xxxxxx employing Maria's agenda without conscience and with callousness.

- 1. Influencing a Public Servant
  - 2. Official misconduct
  - 3. Violation of duty
- All crimes

Sadly Register of Curtatone and her group of political appointed hacks have been doing this draining the taxpayer's dollars for the past 12 years if the south Middlesex Registry of Deeds because she always runs unopposed and thinks it is a life appointment for her and her cronies. It has to stop now....

Taxpayer, Employee and Victim

## Letter to the Editor: Register of Deeds Maria Curtatone Accused Of Mocking Disabled County Employee



Another horrible anecdote from my source about how nefarious and callous Maria Curtatone and her minions are at the Registry will show just how deplorable they are,

involves a person, who is retired now, who has a handicap and was mocked, harassed and made fun of on a daily basis.

The employee served the Commonwealth for over three decades and one day a coworker, one of Maria's court jesters, took a picture with her phone of this certain employee who was slouched over her desk, in her office, with her eyes closed. Now this employee had her brain operated on and also wore hearing aides. As a result of her condition, occasionally, she would nod off at her desk. It is something she really had no control over.

However, she was a source of amusement for Maria and her court of misfits.

This photo that was taken by one of Maria's misfits was distributed to a few other Maria Misfits, and ultimately, Maria herself was a recipient of this photo. Now, this disgusting act was a joke for all who were fortunate enough to see the picture, including Maria.

behavior exercised by Maria and her Court has been normal practice throughout Maria's twelve years as Register. This merely just one example of how Maria, Carmel and their Court bully, intimidate, and harass employees they don't like or won't conform and join Maria's Court.....

Concerned Voter

This type of repulsive be-

## More Reasons Why Register of Deeds Maria Curtatone Has To Go!

The filming of one of many TV documentary commercials this month to air in September and October to get our message out and to expose what has been going on in the Southern Middlesex County Registry of Deeds under my opponents watch!

These well hidden allegations including all the well

documented evidence of illegal activity, fraudulent transactions and destruction of selected/personal recorded deeds for personal gain and illegal favors that have transpired over the past 12 years under Maria Curtatone's watch using the influence of her office! She's been there for 12 years running unopposed getting nothing done, including an

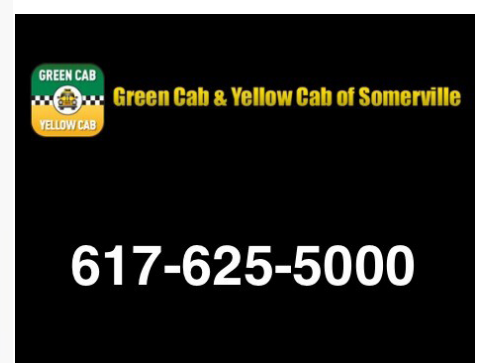
18 year backlog that still exists. So standby because the best is yet to come! Elect William "Billy" Tauro on November 5th!



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### MVES Awarded Grant to Ease Behavioral Health Crisis



The aging population in Massachusetts is increasing, while at the same time, the number of older adults with behavioral health problems is also rising. Massachusetts is not alone – U.S. officials have described older Americans as facing a behavioral health crisis.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support emotional well-being during the aging journey, Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the state's Behavioral Health Outreach for Aging Populations (BHOAP) program.

“Behavioral health conditions skyrocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those

issues didn't simply vanish when quarantine was lifted, especially for our community's aging population, who are more likely to remain socially isolated,” observed Lisa Gurgone, Chief Executive Officer for MVES. “We're proud to receive the BHOAP grant, which will help our team support those who are in critical need of care.”

Central to the behavioral health crisis is the need for treatment. While an estimated 1 in 4 older Americans has a behavioral health condition not associated with normal aging, less than 33 percent of this population receives services to address their diagnosis. Within Massachusetts, BHOAP aims to

address this problem.

More than half of those enrolled in Mystic Valley Elder Services' home care programs reported having a behavioral health diagnosis, and MVES has identified an increase in diagnoses over the past decade. The BHOAP grant enables MVES to build on its existing outreach efforts and work to overcome barriers to care, including:

- Coping with other chronic illnesses and physical frailty
- Transportation limitations
- Cost of care
- Social isolation
- Technological barriers
- Cultural differences in approaches to behavioral care
- Societal and/or generational stigma

“Stigma is a major obstacle to any individual receiving treatment, but it can be a barrier that's especially difficult for the aging population,” explained Lisa Felci Jimenez, MVES Director of Clinical Services. “People dismiss these issues by saying, you're just lonely or you just worry too much. Part of our team's mission is to overcome these misconceptions and ensure people receive the care they need. Depression and anxiety are not an inevitable part of the aging process.”

MVES has provided access to behavioral health services through its Complex Care team since 2005. The BHOAP grant empowers MVES to expand its Complex Care team and better serve the aging population in Medford and the 10 other communities in its service area.

The Complex Care team focuses on increasing access to home- and community-based counseling to address a wide range of issues including hoarding, depression, anxiety, adjustment to loss, substance abuse

and more. They develop a personalized plan for each individual, connecting them to the care they need and monitoring each case over time. By working closely with other departments at MVES, the team ensures the individual receives any other support they need, such as transportation assistance or social engagement.

The Complex Care team also offers bilingual support and works to build awareness and partnership throughout the community.

“Our team ensures health providers and community organizations are aware that MVES offers a range of services to support aging and that behavioral health is a key part of our offerings,” explained Jennifer Shackleton, MVES Complex Care Team Manager. “We want to improve that 33 percent of older adults who are receiving the treatment they need. The best way to do that is together, as a community.”

### 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!

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“Without all of the hustle and bustle of heading into Boston, why not just head locally right in Winchester at TAVOLA RESTAURANT where a little piece of Italy is waiting for you!”

“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.



### Annual Winter Hill Yacht Club WHYC VETERANS CRUISE Somerville

Please Come Join Us For Our Complimentary Annual Salute to Our Veterans in Somerville. This is a tradition that we've been doing for many years for our veterans!

Hello all military veterans of all branches of service from any city or town! Please come and join us on our Annual Winter Hill Yacht Club WHYC VETERANS CRUISE to salute our veterans on Sunday September 8th for a day of fun on the water!

We will be starting off with a

light complimentary breakfast at 9:30AM.

Then at 11:00AM we will hit the high seas in an all volunteered flotilla convoy of boats under police escort by Mass State Police and Mass Environmental Police boats heading out to the USS Constitution.

Then we will set a heading out the Castle Island to view a wonderful spray display from fire boats.

After the fire boats display, we will be setting our course back to Winter Hill Yacht

Club for our Complimentary Annual Old Fashioned WHYC Veterans Cruise Bar-b-que Lunch!

Reservations are required. (Please Veterans Only) Please call Ken Webber before August 30th with your RSVP at (617)962-3671.

Winter Hill Yacht Club  
500 Artison Way  
Somerville Ma 02145

**2024 VETERANS CRUISE**

Please join us for a cruise around Boston Harbor to Honor Veterans

★ FOR VETERANS FROM ALL SERVICES  
★ LIGHT BREAKFAST AND BBQ LUNCH  
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You Must call Ken to register before Friday August 30th. We need a head count for food and boats.



Winter Hill Yacht Club  
500 Artison Way  
Somerville, MA

Must call to register with Ken Webber 617-962-3671  
**Sunday, September 8th @ 9:30 am**

Please car pool, limited free parking but plenty of parking in garages. (you are responsible to pay for)

Sponsored by Chelsea Rotary Club & Winter Hill Yacht Club  
These are private vessels and are not wheelchair/handicap accessible.

### Somerville Names Boston's Shumeane Benford as New Police Chief

Continued from front page



Benford to depart dual roles as Boston Housing Authority Police Chief and Boston Chief of Emergency Management to lead Somerville PD

SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announced today the selection of Boston's Shumeane Benford as the City of Somerville's new police chief. After a thorough community-driven, nationwide search, Benford will assume leadership of the Somerville Police Department on September 16. The 30-year law enforcement veteran will be departing current dual roles as Boston Housing Authority Police Chief as well as Boston Chief of Emergency Management.

"Not only will our incoming chief bring a rare mix of law enforcement, emergency management, and teaching experience to the role,

Benford is a change agent. He has been driving fiscal, operational, and community-driven reforms in Boston, along with advancing efforts to support staff morale and investment, transparency, and social equity especially for marginalized and disenfranchised communities," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We look forward to his deep experience, vision, and love of community undergirding our daily work to keep Somerville safe as well as advancing our efforts to move our Public Safety for All goals forward."

"I want to sincerely thank our entire Police Chief Search Committee, including At-Large Councilor Jake Wilson, for their diligence and commitment to the very serious responsibility of selecting a new chief for our community who brings both the deep professional chops and the community-centered approach to public safety that Somerville seeks," added Ballantyne.

A lifelong Boston resident (aside from a brief residency in Somerville), Benford's law enforcement career spans municipal, public health, and university settings. After starting as a police officer for

the Boston Housing Authority in 1994, he has steadily risen through Boston Police, City of Boston, and Boston Housing Authority ranks while also serving as an adjunct professor at Roxbury Community College. He has led reform and organizational change in a range of areas including overtime reduction; modernization to 21st century policing; restructuring; community-based partnerships, problem solving, and prevention; emergency management planning, response, and homeland security strategy; training reform; interdisciplinary law enforcement and medical response structures for unhoused, treatment, and pre-release residents; technology advances such as online incident reporting; fair and impartial policing; and pathways for growth and opportunity for vulnerable residents.

Benford holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from Suffolk University, a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Curry College, and a range of additional certifications to include the Police Executive Research Form (PERF/SMIP), Harvard University's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative (NPLI)

and the Naval Post Graduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS). Learn more about incoming Chief Benford and watch his interview for the position on the City website at somervillema.gov/policechief. He looks forward to holding a range of meet and greet opportunities to connect with and get to know residents upon assuming his role in September.

"I was proud to serve as the City Council's representative on the Police Chief Selection Committee. My fellow committee members and I took our responsibility to select finalists for this critical position extremely seriously," said Councilor Jake Wilson. "From our very first meeting, every Committee member approached our work with a deep understanding of its importance. Thanks to their diligence and thoughtfulness, we were able to advance the search process swiftly for the community. I want to thank the members of the community who served with me, as well as our Human Resources and Racial and Social Justice departments for steering us through the process on a compressed timeline."

Acting Police Chief Charles

Femino, who assumed the role of Interim Chief during the peak of the pandemic in December 2020, will be departing the role for a long-delayed retirement from his distinguished career with both the Somerville Police Department and Endicott College, where he also served as Chief of Police. Pandemic disruptions put a hold on the police search process, which was restarted with the hiring of national public-sector executive recruitment firm GovHR in spring 2023. For more on the search process, visit somervillema.gov/policechief.

"We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Chief Femino for stepping in when we needed him and for not just filling the role but for wholeheartedly working to advance the department, support our officers and community, and move forward our Public Safety for All efforts and goals for community change. We will separately honor his service, legacy, and departure, and I know he looks forward to welcoming his successor along with the rest of the community," said Ballantyne.

### \$500,000 FOR JOBS PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK-YOUTH (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$500,000 (reducing funding from \$15.9 million to \$15.4 million for a Youth-at-Risk program.

The program would target high-risk

areas for the development and implementation of a year-round employment program for youths-at-risk, including programs that serve youth who are not more than 25 years-of-age; including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth; youth of color, youth of all abilities; youth of

all national origins and religions; low-income youth; and youth who are experiencing housing insecurity.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$500,000 was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the

amount projected to be necessary due to the availability of alternative resources," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "This operating funding overlaps with alternative funding intended to support this purpose."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$500,000. A

"No" vote is against it.)

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



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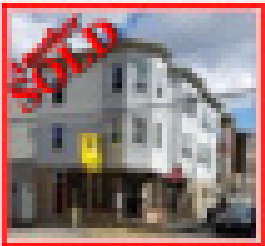


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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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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Voter registration information including dates, times, and contact details for the Somerville Election Department.





# HONK! FESTIVAL 2024: 19TH ANNUAL — SAVE THE DATES, OCTOBER 4-6, 2024



[photo credit: Michael Nosal]

NINETEENTH ANNUAL

Festival of Activist Street Bands SAVE THE DATES October 4-6, 2024 (rain or shine) primarily based in the vicinity of Davis Square, Somerville and Harvard Square, Cambridge FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

(Somerville & Cambridge, MA) By early September, the wheels will be set in full motion for HONK! Festival 2024, this year to be held from October 4-6, with HONK! outdoor band concerts held throughout Davis Square and nearby neighborhoods on that Friday thru Saturday.

Then on to the vast "Reclaim

the Streets for Horns, Bikes, and Feet" Parade, as it wends its way from Davis Square to Harvard Square on Sunday October 6th, to participate in Harvard Square's 45th annual Oktoberfest.

The entire Festival is inspired by a commitment to social change through music, embodied in the powerful upbeat music generated by activist street bands who have traveled from near and far to participate in our annual HONK! Because after all, this is where the HONK! movement all started back in 2006, spawning many a HONK! since then, and warranting its own wiki toboot: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HONK!](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HONK!)

The Somerville-based HONK! Committee — spurred on by members of HONK!'s host band and HONK! movement founder, the Good Trouble Brass Band (fka The Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band) — is working fast and furiously to solidify plans for this year's 19th annual HONK! with periodic updates posted on [honkfest.org](http://honkfest.org), [x.com/honkfest/](https://x.com/honkfest/), and [facebook.com/honkfestival](https://facebook.com/honkfestival).

At this early stage of the organizing game, the HONK! Festival Committee would like to give special thanks to the City of Somerville, the Somerville Arts

Council, and the Davis Square and Harvard Square businesses for their continuing support.

Basic listings information: HONK! Festival 19th Annual Festival of Activist Street Bands. October 4-6, 2024 Held throughout Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston neighborhoods. Outdoors rain or shine. Free and open to all; if interested in volunteering, contact [volunteer@honkfest.org](mailto:volunteer@honkfest.org). For further information: [honkfest.org](http://honkfest.org), [honkfest.org/](https://facebook.com/honkfest.org/) [contact/](https://x.com/honkfest/), [info@honkfest.org](mailto:info@honkfest.org), 781-285-8639.

## \$1 MILLION FOR AUTISM

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-2, overrode Gov. Maura Healey's veto of \$1 million (reducing funding from \$11 million to \$10 million) for contracted support services for families of children with autism.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1 million was elimi-

nated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "This reduced level reflects anticipated caseload levels and is not expected to have an impact on services."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1 million. A "No" vote is

against it.)

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



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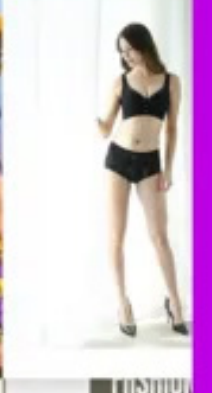



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### God Bless the USA and READ baby READ and Watch SOME VARIED NEWS, BABY WATCH!

**RUNNING ROUND TOWN**  
 I start on a part up note and hit many unrepaired roads... the State paid (actually you and me) for Mystic Ave, so where is our road repair, DPW tax money? I always look at a big picture to make a good reason....BUT besides broken branches, blocked drain spots, potholes,

I am wanting a topical clean, plain appearance. Take down the dead and poor, newly dead saplings! Clean up baby, clean up....stop planting! Also, being a step ahead at Council like planting before seeing roots of all old bad, you will not hear of ways or smart APPONTIES ON BUDGET REFORM HERE....just like the library (you and I still owe millions) think baby, think! I see the ballot will look for people to Jump to new money by bypass 2.5%

on your tax law...it will be under (one EX,) guise of EDUCATION. THERE ARE 2 others. Where is the breakdown of newvote spending ?? I taught for over 20 years, to try to benefit students... but where is the breakdown and likewise pleading on your sympathy for the poor fire-fighters!! Where are details. Why not gut the old Police Station And connect a bldg for them?? And, what happens next budget Year....I URGE INTELLIGENT VOTERS TO SAY NO. I am a 60 year resident... as a note, at the motion meeting 2 months ago, much free cash was found...Councillor Scarpelli wanted to use some on School needs avoiding 2.5 override...the 6 runaway Councilors voted NO. YOU Readers NEED TO WATCH, LISTEN, READ MORE. I noted some young people at the meeting supporting

the 2.5. NO CRITICISM... HARD Fact...they do not have the years of effects of an override here. As I see it, we need like other cities professional, business owners, City employees, members of banks, former educators, for NEW FINANCING IN THIS CITY. IF YOU DO NOT VOTE CORRECTLY in FALL AND NOV, BAD EFFECTS ARE ON YOU. VERY FEW THINGS ARE FREE NOW IN LIFE. YOU PAY TAXES, direct your money wisely. Stt in a Chamber City Hall Tuesday night seat...you paid for it. But you are FREE TO VOTE. Only the ocean, great US and world scenery, some air...majestically free now. Land of the FREE, home of the brave who are brave enough to speak. up at the vote booth and meetings. No matter which way you like your eggs, be sure you can trust a good



### \$1 MILLION FOR URBAN ENTREPRENEURS (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$1 million (reducing funding from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million) for a competitive grant program to work with urban

entrepreneurs to promote small businesses, create new jobs and support workforce development and training initiatives in urban communities.

The Senate did not act on the veto

so the veto stands and the \$1 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary due to the availability of alternative trust funding that can be maximized to maintain programming,"

said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "Specifically, the Executive Office of Economic Development will work towards utilizing the Workforce Investment Trust Fund to offset the funding being vetoed."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

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### Fire Department to Conduct Hydrant Flushing August 12-24



Citywide hydrant maintenance keeps hydrants ready in case of fire;

Temporary water discoloration may occur but water is safe to drink

SOMERVILLE- The Somerville Fire Department will begin the annual inspection and flushing of all fire hydrants citywide on Monday, August 12, 2024,

and conclude on Saturday, August 24, 2024. This annual fire hydrant maintenance program helps keep our community safe by helping to ensure hydrants will work properly in the event of a fire.

Firefighters will be conducting brief flushing of water from the hydrants as well as a check of the mechanical operation of each hydrant. The inspection and testing program will take approximately two weeks to complete. Inspections and testing will be conducted Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and if necessary, in the evening, from 6:15 p.m. until

8:15 p.m.

In most cases, residents will not notice any changes to their water service.

However, in some cases you may experience a temporary, slight drop in water pressure and/or discolored water:

In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink.

If discoloration occurs, if you like, you can open the cold tap nearest the water meter—usually a basement sink—to full flow

until the water runs clear. In some situations, this may take 5 to 10 minutes.

Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics.

If you happen to do laundry while the water is discolored, don't dry those items!

If any rust stains appear on wet laundry, again, it should not be dried, and residents can call 311 (617-666-3311) for a free bottle of rust remover.

The Water Department also con-

ducts additional hydrant testing and maintenance year-round.

For hydrant flushing schedules by street, which are usually updated daily or weekly, please visit <http://www.somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing>.

Please understand that schedules may be subject to change based on weather and other factors.

Anyone with questions regarding hydrant maintenance may contact 311 or the Somerville Fire Department at 617-623-1700.

### JOIN THE SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION



Applications for Open Seat for Alternate Member Due Monday, August 26, 2024

SOMERVILLE - The City of Somerville is currently seeking applicants for one open alternate position on the Somerville Licensing Commis-

sion. We welcome applications from all Somerville residents ages 18 or older who meet the qualifications detailed below.

What is the Somerville Licensing Commission?

The Licensing Commission reviews and issues a range of licenses in Somerville. These

include licenses to operate restaurants (both with and without alcohol service), liquor stores, private clubs, hotels, entertainment venues, and more. It also includes one-day special alcohol licenses, recreational marijuana retail licenses, and public and private outdoor dining licenses. In addition, the Licensing Commission develops license rules

and regulations and addresses complaints regarding these licenses.

For more information on the responsibilities of the Somerville Licensing Commission, visit: [somervillema.gov/departments/licensing-commission](http://somervillema.gov/departments/licensing-commission).

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## Prevent West Nile Virus as First Human Case Confirmed in Massachusetts



As the risk of disease rises, continue to protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks this season.

**SOMERVILLE-**  
The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced the first positive human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) and first animal case of Eastern

Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in the state. Somerville and some surrounding communities are considered to be at moderate risk for WNV.

While WNV and EEE can infect people of all ages, people over 50 are at higher risk for severe WNV, and people under 15 are particularly vulnerable to EEE. WNV and EEE symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness.

DPH recommends the following precautions to protect against mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases:

### Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply insect repellent when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol, (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under 2 months old and should be used in

concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years old. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets, and camping gear and should not be applied to the skin.

Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.

Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk increases, consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during the evening or early morning. If you are outdoors and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up,

and/or wearing repellent.

### Mosquito-Proof Your Home

Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items holding water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty unused flowerpots and wading pools, and frequently change the water in bird-baths. Install or repair screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on your windows and doors.

### Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after

heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas.

Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for animal use and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE.

If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795, and to the Department of Public Health by calling 617-983-6800.

For more information, go to [mass.gov/dph/mosquito](http://mass.gov/dph/mosquito) or call the Massachusetts DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

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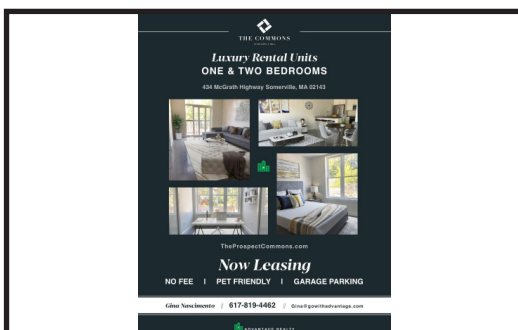
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# Mayor Ballantyne Announces New Union Agreement Increasing Pay & Benefits for Somerville Emergency Telecommunicators/Police Dispatchers



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, on behalf of the City of Somerville, has reached a new agreement with the union representing its Emergency Telecommunicators (Police Dispatchers) for a new contract, providing improved wages and benefits for a vital group of the City’s public safety workforce.

The City’s Police Dispatchers are community members’ first contact when they dial 911 and provide

24/7 dispatch for the Somerville Police Department. Their contract is negotiated by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 888. The new three-year agreement will run from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2026 and reflects the City’s commitment to supporting its essential personnel while ensuring the effective delivery of emergency services.

The agreement includes, amongst other things, several important updates that will improve Police Dispatchers’ compensation and quality of life: Compensation: The agreement includes: A retroactive 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) effective July 1, 2023. A 3%

COLA will go into effect starting July 1, 2025.

In the second year of the contract, starting July 1, 2024, the agreement establishes a new 5-step salary scale designed to bring the Police Dispatchers’ wages into alignment with the market for these public safety personnel and the wages paid to the City’s Fire Alarm Operators. The new scale introduced in the second year of the contract increases the starting salary for new Police Dispatchers by 5.5%, and includes step increases for those with 10- and 20-years of seniority that are 9% and 22% higher, respectively, than the highest step on the former scale.

Additionally, the contract

introduces new stipends for advanced language skills and report writing, and includes substantial increases to the longevity stipends paid to senior Police Dispatchers.

**Paid Family and Medical Leave:** Police Dispatchers will now be eligible for the City’s new Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program, which the City is in the process of implementing and will provide eight weeks of paid leave for qualifying absences under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

**Increases to Vacation, Sick, and Wellness Time:** The agreement increases the amount of vacation time available to Police Dispatchers with eight years of

experience or more by adjusting the vacation accrual system and schedule and providing, on average, an additional week of vacation for senior Police Dispatchers. The agreement also establishes a unit-wide sick leave bank for the first time, and provides Police Dispatchers with eight hours of “wellness release time” per calendar year, which can be used for preventative medical care or mental health appointments.

The Police Dispatcher union has ratified the new contract and the parties have signed it, leaving only the City Council to fund the cost of the contract before it takes effect.

## \$1 MILLION FOR AUTISM (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-2, overrode Gov. Maura Healey’s veto of \$1 million (reducing funding from \$11 million to \$10 million) for

contracted support services for families of children with autism.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1 million was

eliminated.

“I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary,” said Gov. Healey in her veto message. “This reduced level

reflects anticipated case-load levels and is not expected to have an impact on services.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1 million. A “No” vote is

against it.)

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

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## Join Somerville's Community Preservation Committee

<p>Applications for two general public volunteer members due Friday, August 30</p> <p>SOMERVILLE- The City of Somerville is currently seeking two general public volunteer members for the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). All Somerville residents are welcome to apply.</p> <p>The CPC identifies funding priorities for approximately \$3 million per year in affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space projects through Community Preservation Act (CPA) revenues.</p> <p>The committee consists of nine members: Four volunteer members from the general public are appointed by the Mayor</p>	<p>and approved by City Council. Another four volunteer members are appointed by the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Historical Preservation Commission, and the Housing Authority. Finally, one staff member represents the City's Public Space and Urban Forestry Division.</p> <p>What abilities are needed?</p> <p>Being an effective committee member will require that you:</p> <p>Become familiar with the City's CPA program</p> <p>Attend meetings regularly</p> <p>Help to share information about the CPA program</p> <p>Listen to community feedback</p>	<p>Be fair and objective</p> <p>The City seeks to create a balanced committee with candidates who:</p> <p>Support all three programmatic areas of the CPA: affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space and outdoor recreation AND</p> <p>Have demonstrated a commitment to at least one of these areas</p> <p>Come from diverse demographic backgrounds</p> <p>Represent all geographic areas of the City</p> <p>Duration and Time Commitment:</p>	<p>One will have a two-year term running through December 31, 2026, and the other will have a three-year term running through December 31, 2027. Both will have the option to renew for an additional three-year term. The CPC typically meets once per month on the fourth Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>How to Apply:</p> <p>Interested residents can apply by completing the online application form by 4 p.m. on Friday, August 30, 2024.</p> <p>Please note that if you choose to apply for the Community Preservation Committee, your name and a brief summary de-</p>	<p>scribing why you are a qualified candidate will be posted on the City website for public review for at least 3 weeks, beginning in September. All community members are invited to provide feedback on candidates during this time.</p> <p>For questions, please contact Roberta Cameron at <a href="mailto:rcameron@somervillema.gov">rcameron@somervillema.gov</a>.</p> <p>To learn more about the Community Preservation Committee, please visit <a href="http://somervillema.gov/cpa">somervillema.gov/cpa</a>.</p>
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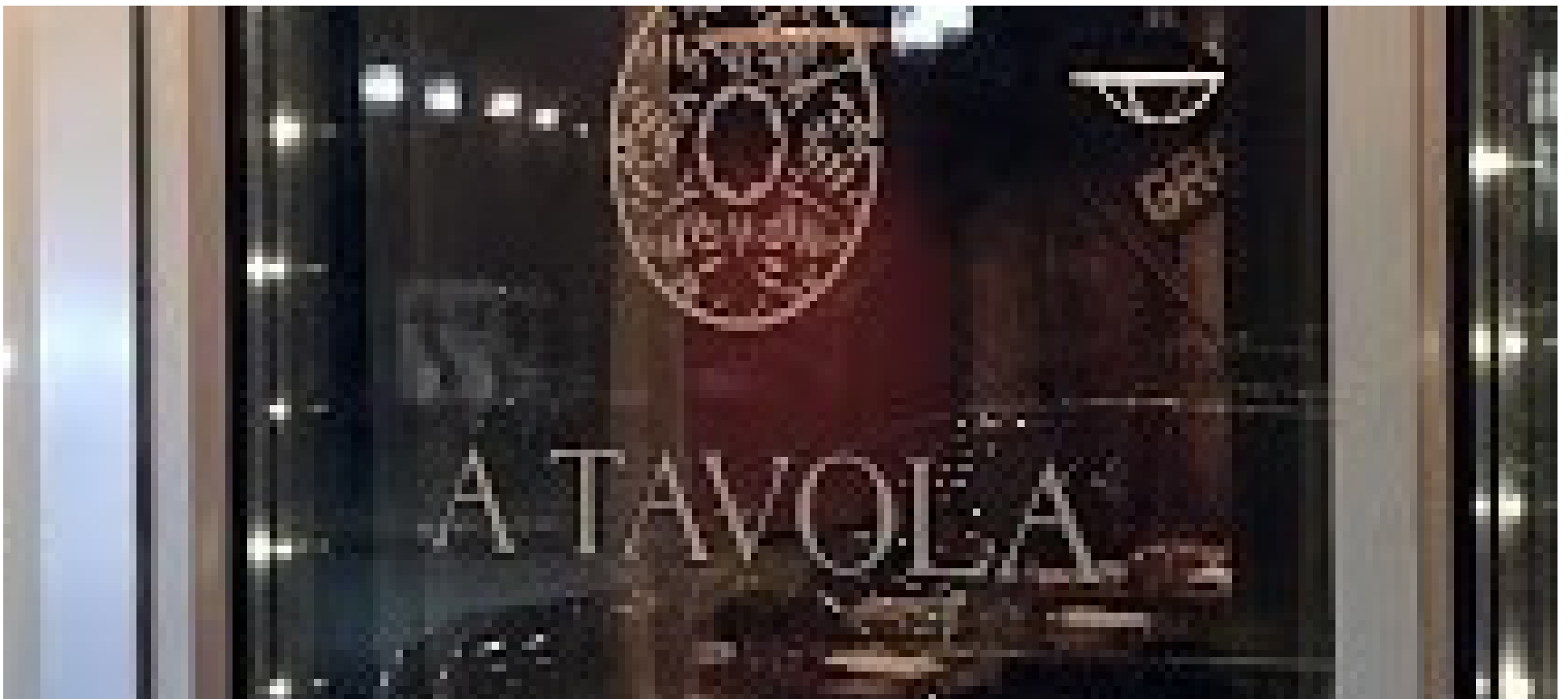
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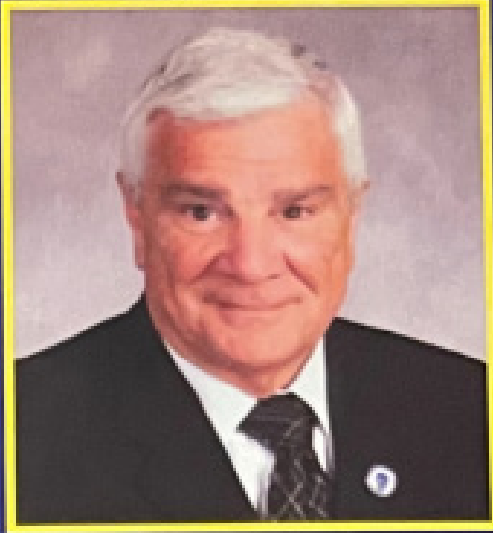


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