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VOL.1 NO.329-228

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday September 3rd, 2024

Somerville's Community Preservation Act Celebrates 10 Years with Over \$35 Million Invested in Affordable Housing, Open Space, and Historic Preservation



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



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Somerville Greek Food Festival Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church



Continued to page 15

99th Annual Feast Saints Cosmas and Damian This Fri, Sat, Sun



Continued to page 10



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page

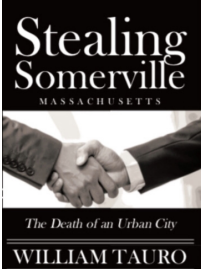


MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.
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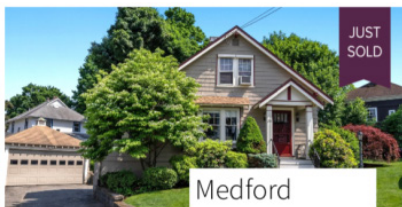
MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

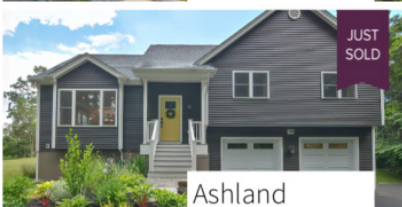
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Malden



Medford



Ashland



Westwood

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

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

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Please send both forms and payment to:

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 Tax ID 04-6001400

Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Sylvia M. (Frongillo) Candelino



delino
8/25/2024

Sylvia M. (Frongillo) Candelino, age 73, formerly of Boston's North End, passed away on Sunday, August 25th at Bear Hill Nursing Center of Stoneham. Born and raised in the North End, she was the daughter of the late Emilio and Louise J. (Todesco) Frongillo. Sylvia

lived in East Boston and Somerville, and was employed for many years in the Middlesex County Registry of Probate.

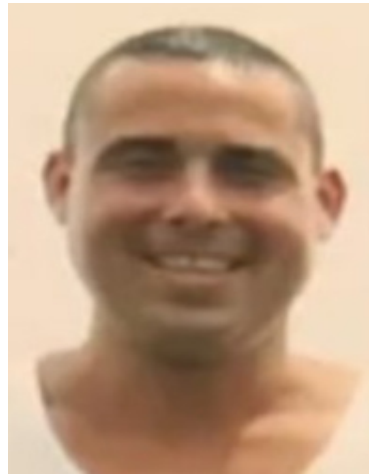
Sylvia was the devoted mother of Pasquale Candelino, III and his wife Kerri, Michael Candelino, and Lauren Candelino. She was the loving grandmother of Pasquale Candelino, IV and

dear sister of Anna DiNunzio, Constance Mason, Louis Frongillo and the late Emilio "Brother" Frongillo. Sylvia was predeceased by her former husband Pasquale Candelino, and is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with Sylvia's family in the

Dello Russo Funeral Home, 306 Main St., Medford on Friday, August 30th from 4 PM through 8 PM. A service will be held in the funeral home on Saturday, August 31st at 10 AM followed by burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Paul M. Nolan



Paul M. Nolan
7/23/2024

Paul Michael Nolan, 49, of Somerville, Massachusetts, was called to eternal rest on July 23, 2024. Son of the late

Elaine Ramirez Nolan of Cambridge and Ricardo Powell of Panama, he was born on May 19, 1975, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Paul was the grandson of the late Marie Leathers Nolan & Paul Nolan of Somerville. Mourning his departure are his siblings Richard Nolan of Somerville, Aldo Ramirez and Marisa Ramirez of North Brookfield, Jennifer Nicosia of Tewksbury, Heather Powell of Boston, and his beloved nieces and nephews, including Richard Jr. and Alanni. Paul was the nephew of Janice Nolan of Somerville and loving cousin of Taylor Regan of

Somerville. He was preceded in death by his brother Nicholas Nolan.

Known for his athletic prowess, Paul distinguished himself in the realm of sports, at one point leading Division 1 Eastern Massachusetts in football scoring and displaying formidable skills in baseball and hockey before an injury curtailed his athletic endeavors. His leadership and dedication to teamwork were hallmarks of his character, earning him the respect and admiration of his peers. Paul later channeled his love for sports into coaching youth baseball and football,

profoundly influencing the Somerville community and its youth.

Paul's sense of humor and fun loving nature endeared him to all. His conversations were enriched with his sharp wit and insightful commentary on a myriad of subjects. Above all, Paul was a steadfast presence in the lives of his family and friends, providing support and care that knew no bounds.

His passing leaves a void in the hearts of those who loved him, yet they take solace in celebrating a life lived with integrity and compassion.

The memory of his spirit will continue to guide and inspire those he has left behind.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to visit with Paul's family at the Dello Russo Funeral Home, 306 Main St., Medford on Wednesday, August 28 from 4 – 8 PM. A funeral service will be conducted at the Dello Russo Funeral Home on Thursday morning, August 29 at 10 AM. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Maureen J. Lundy



Maureen J. Lundy, of Stoneham, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday August 29th, 2024. She was 57 years of age.

Maureen was a long time resident of Stoneham. You could

always see her smiling face around town whether it was attending mass at St. Patrick Church, Dunkin Donuts or bowling with her family and friends. She loved a great conversation and would always have you laughing with in seconds of talking to her.

Maureen was a die hard Boston sports fan, especially the Boston Red Sox. She and her sister Jeannie would go to as many games as they could. She loved being Irish and anything that had to do with Irish Heritage, especially St. Patrick's Day. She was an amazing bowler being on

bowling teams in Wakefield and East Boston. Maureen was a longtime associate at Marshall's in Stoneham.

Maureen was a teacher at St. Anthony and St. Catherine School in Somerville for many years. Being loyal to St. Patrick Church in Stoneham she was also a CCD teacher. She loved her family and St. Patrick and was very loyal the them and the church.

Maureen is the beloved daughter of Mary Jane (Sullivan) Lundy and the late Thomas F. Lundy. Loving sister of Jeannie Lundy, Judy

Lundy and her companion Ben Raines and Kathy Schraffa and her husband Victor. Devoted aunt of Louis Schraffa. She is also survived by her loving nieces and nephews Jelly Bean, Pepper, Killer and Diamond. She is also survived by many loving cousins and friends.

Funeral from the Barile Family Funeral Home 482 Main St. (RT28) STONEHAM on Friday September 6th, 2024 at 9 am followed by a Funeral Mass Celebrating Maureen's Eternal Life in St. Patrick Church 71 Central St. Stoneham at 10 am. Inter-

ment Lindenwood Cemetery, Stoneham.

Family and friends are kindly invited to gather and share memories with the family on Thursday September 5th, 2024 from 4 pm to 8 pm in the funeral home. Parking attendants and elevator available.

Please consider donations in memory of Maureen to the American Heart Association at <https://www.heart.org/>

Somerville/Medford Remembering Helen Irene (Becker) Farrell



Obituary

Mrs. Helen Irene (Becker) Farrell, of Arlington, passed away on Friday, August 30, 2024, she was 90 years

young. Born in Boston and raised in Somerville she was the only child of Irene (Lepore) and Frederick Becker.

Helen graduated from Somerville High School and for many years worked for the Bay Bank Corporation as an operations specialist. She was the beloved wife of the late Edward Farrell.

Helen will be remembered for her style and grace, who enjoyed her weekly trips to

the salon and always dressed impeccably. She loved parties and socials with friends, but above all she loved nothing more than time spent with her family.

The devoted mother of Robert Day and his wife Maria of Arlington, Kerry Tacey and her companion Frank of Arlington, Lisa Martin and her husband Paul of Taunton and the late Lorraine Benoit and her surviving husband, Gary. She was the cherished grandmother

of 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Dear cousin of Marilyn Emerson of North Carolina and Joan Mahoney of Duxbury. She was the dear companion of the late Charles J. "Charlie" Copelotti of Lexington.

Funeral Procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway Somerville on Friday, September 6th at 11:00AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Agnes Church, Arlington at 12:00

Noon. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Calling Hours Thursday 4:00PM – 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with burial at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington.

If you wish, in lieu of flowers, donations in Helen's memory can be made to the American Heart Association at <http://www.heart.org>.



Letter to the Editor: Middlesex County Register or Deeds Maria Curtatone Ordering State Troopers To Release Son While Son Boasts It On Instagram “Do You Know Who I Am?”



<p>Dear Editor,</p> <p>“Do you know who I am?” The Privileged Southern Middlesex County Register of Deeds Maria Curtatone has to go! She allegedly tried using her ex-husband’s name</p>	<p>who was a kernel of the State Police who divorced her who can’t stand her and she was told to get lost and try another name! Your thoughts? Maria Curtatone ordering the state police to let her son go because she is the register</p>	<p>of deeds! Not!</p> <p>Maria Curtatone son doing getting caught 110 miles per hour and of course she was there yelling at the state police to do you know who I am!</p>	<p>Billy look what I found on another post #mariacurtatone trying to plead her case crying to the state police as to why her son got his license revoked traveling 109mph. That answers</p>	<p>the question to the missing register of deeds. Once again having people chauffeur her son around not doing her job...#TeamTauro</p>
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Somerville Fire Auxiliary Department Being Neglected

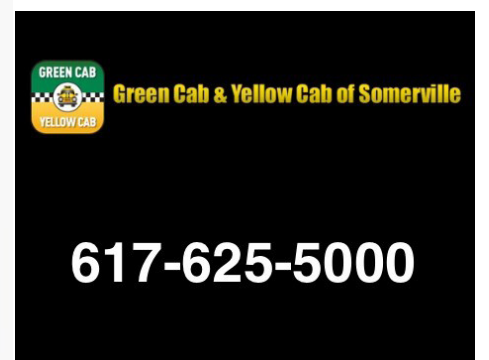


<p>The auxiliary fire vehicle is over thirty years old. They been helping the community since 1942 , they have never had</p>	<p>new equipment always used. The auxiliary fire pumps out basements for 100 years free of charge , with volunteers doing the</p>	<p>work. Guess what, from what I hear the Somerville city council just turned them down for newer apparatus worth 12,000.00</p>	<p>dollars. The volunteers also worked 100 of hours during Covid distribution of</p>	<p>mask and food and mask to the elderly and veterans. Photos out there to prove it.</p>
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Somerville's Community Preservation Act Celebrates 10 Years with Over \$35 Million Invested in Affordable Housing, Open Space, and Historic Preservation

Continued from front page

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is proud to announce more than \$35 million spent on affordable housing, open space, recreation projects, historical preservation and accessibility upgrades spanning the entire city, Somerville's Community Preservation Act (CPA) is now marking its tenth anniversary.

During that time the CPA has devoted \$9.84 million toward the City's 100 Homes affordable housing program and \$4 million toward the redevelopment of the Clarendon

Hill housing project. It has funded building upgrades and/or accessibility improvements for Prospect Hill Tower, the West Branch Library, Somerville City Hall, the Somerville Museum, Temple B'nai Brith, the Elizabeth Peabody House, and the Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development, which operates one of Somerville's

largest food pantries. The CPA has also provided critical funds for Somerville Junction Park, the Glen Park Community Garden, the Blessing of the Bay Path along the Mystic River, Henry Hansen Park, the Hoyt Sullivan and Central Hill Playgrounds, and outdoor play spaces for the Healey, Kennedy, Winter Hill, Brown, and West Somerville Neighborhood schools.

Overall, 51% of CPA funds (more than \$18 million) have gone toward community housing, while 27% (more than \$9.5 million) have gone to historic preservation and 22% (more than \$7.5 million) have gone to open space/recreation.

"The Community Preservation Act has enabled Somerville to invest in itself," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "It's helped families stay in our community and helped to turn our historic buildings into public institutions. It's helped green up our neighborhoods, put elevators and ramps in older buildings, and given children a place to

play. Over the course of 10 years, it's enabled us to make investments in Somerville's quality of life, making it more accessible for more people."

Somerville voters first approved the program in November of 2012, and its first round of funding arrived in 2014. The CPA puts a 1.5% surcharge on local residential and commercial property taxes with the first \$100,000 of value excluded and with an additional exemption for low income households. The state also distributes funds every year to CPA communities, with Somerville receiving almost \$6.5 million since the inception of the program.

Once the funds are collected, projects for consideration are submitted to the City's Community Preservation Committee, which then assesses them and determines the awards. The CPC's recommendations then go to the City Council for final approval.

"The CPA is one of the finest

examples you can find of the community identifying and funding its most pressing needs," Mayor Ballantyne said. "The cumulative impact it's had in just a decade is truly impressive. We're a stronger city for it and I can't wait to see the good we do over the next 10 years."

The CPA also has proven to be extremely important in leveraging additional funds for various projects. In historic preservation and open space and recreation projects, CPA funds have been matched dollar for dollar by funds from other sources. Yet the most dramatic use of the CPA to leverage additional funds has been in affordable housing construction, where each dollar spent has leveraged an additional \$18.70. That's almost \$300 million in additional affordable housing funds the CPA has helped to unlock.

"The CPA is a critical first source of funding," said City Community Preservation Act Manager Roberta Cameron. "Without it, many

projects wouldn't be able to move forward. That first dollar in is so important."

The Community Preservation Committee can fund both City and non-profit or private projects that provide a public benefit. It devotes much of its time to making sure the money is spent equitably across different neighborhoods and constituencies to meet community needs.

Fiscal year 2024 CPA projects have included the restoration of the clock tower and roof at Somerville City Hall, the construction of Henry Hansen Park near Magoun Square and \$1.4 million for the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust. The City anticipates having \$2.5 million available to spend on projects for its 2025 fiscal year, which began on July 1.

To learn more about the CPA and the projects it funds, visit the Community Preservation Act page on the City of Somerville website.

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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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
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2024 VETERANS CRUISE

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



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You Must call Ken to register before Friday August 30th. We need a head count for food and boats.

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/Medford Remembering Bernard Semexant



Obituary
Bernard Semexant, of Lynn, passed away on Wednesday, August 27, 2024, following a long life focused on

faith and family. He was 61 years old. Born and raised in Tabarre, Haiti, was the son of Vicksemon Semexant and Liliane(Soiant) Mathieu. After completing his secondary studies at Lycee Toussaint, Bernard moved to the United States in 1988.

He attended Bunker Hill College and worked at Newton- Wellesley Hospital for many years. In 2001, he started his own business of Property Management holding an impressive investment portfolio throughout Massachusetts, Florida and Haiti.

A man of profound faith, Bernard allowed his spirituality to guide him through life. He was known for

his love of family, with his beloved Mother, Lilliane and his cousin Marie Marthe Joseph, holding a special place in his heart.

When he wasn't immersed in church activities, Bernard could be found tending to his properties, a

testament to his passion for business. Other pastimes he loved included traveling, watching soccer and spending time with his family.

Bernard will be missed by all for his unwavering love, wisdom, and joy.

Beloved husband of 10 years to Marianne Thomas. Devoted Brother of Fedes Felinor and his wife

Woudline Felinor of Lynn and Gardy Mathieu. Loving uncle of James, Alychia, Fedly and Amilly-Layla

Felinor. Beloved cousins of Beatrice Lahens, Geralda Degand and Paul Paulin and their children Patricia Mondesir, Jennifer Rene, Samantha Paul, Cynthia, Bill Stevens, Bill Anderson, Bill Rivain, Christine. Evens LaFleur, Darlene La fleur, Dalmage Thomas

Families: Felinor, Thomas, Mathieu, Joseph, Pierre, Sainfil, Solange Jean, Lahens, Degand.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024 at Holy

Bible Baptist Church 64 College Ave, Somerville MA at 8:00AM. Please meet directly at church.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, September 6, 2024 in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855

Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with burial at Pine Grove Cemetery , Lynn MA

Somerville/Medford Remembering James A. Chambers



Obituary
James (Jimmy) Arthur Chambers of Somerville died suddenly on August 28th 2024. Son of the late Charles and Dorothy Chambers of Everett.

He leaves behind his beloved wife Geraldine Chambers (Mahoney), his son Patrick Chambers and wife Taylor,

his son Ryan Chambers and partner Semih, his sister Linda Morris and his brothers the late Charles (Buddy) Chambers and his wife Valerie, Paul Chambers and his wife Anita and Bobby Chambers. He's also survived by many loved nieces, nephews, brother and sister in laws. His beloved late dog, Summer Rose and his new

puppy Charlie. Jimmy was a gentle man with a loud personality and enormous heart. He will be remembered every football Sunday, every trip to the beach and his countless stories and wisdom he blessed his loved ones with.

Friends and family, please

join us as we celebrate the life of James Chambers on Wednesday September 4th at Saint Ann's Parish, 399 Medford Street, Somerville at 10am. Burial will be private.

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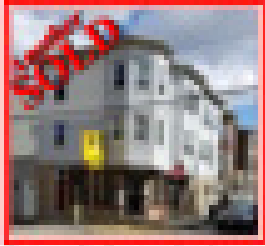


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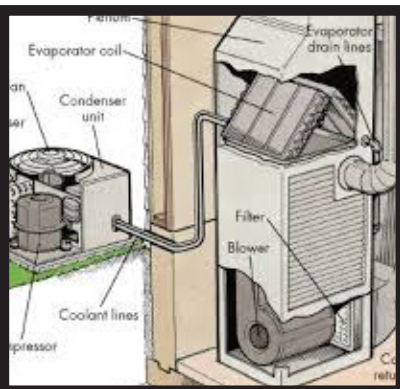
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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

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99th Annual Feast Saints Cosmas and Damian This Friday, Saturday, Sunday



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Warren and Porter Streets (Gaeta Square) of East Cambridge are closed and decorated with illuminations, banners, and flags. The bandstand and the ornate (the temporary chapel which houses the Saints for the weekend) are erected at one end of the festival. A carnival is erected at the other end of the festival. The street is filled with vendors of all sorts, and the aroma of sizzling Italian sausage fills the air.

Endorsements





For William "Billy" Tauro
























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Somerville Greek Food Festival

Continued from front page



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and entertainment; it's a chance to come together, have a blast, and support our wonderful community! Let's make this festival a smashing success, one gyro at a time!

Join Somerville's Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival in Union Square

Festival Celebrates Tenth Anniversary with Performances by Local Hip Hop Artists and Dances on Saturday, September 7

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) are inviting the community to join Somerville's Tenth Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival that will take place on Saturday, September 7 (rain date Saturday, Septem-

ber 14), from 4 to 7:30 p.m. in Union Square Plaza.

This free ArtsUnion festival is presented by the City of Somerville and Somerville Arts Council in partnership with Wat's Da Wurd, Mass Movements and Ultimate Entertainment Group. The festival will feature various styles of artists and dancers within the Hip Hop communities from the Somerville community and surrounding cities. Attendees can also see other

visual arts presentations and visit information tables offered by local community groups:

Musical performances starting at 4pm by DJ Tee Lawson, A.M.B., Ossa, Main, AQ, Wally Sparks, Dro Casso, Forte, Oompa, Sassisane and Terry B-

Photo opportunity with a collection of vintage cars provided by Gregory Smith of Show Riders and Ultimate Entertainment

group

Visual Artists and Craft vendors

Stay tuned as more artists will continue to be added to the line-up!

As the community celebrates the tenth anniversary of this dynamic festival, The SAC and the City of Somerville want to thank Pacey Foster for building this plat-

form in Somerville, as well as the Ultimate Entertainment Group with Kevin Stone and Frank Poindexter supporting the mission.

For more information, visit somervilleartscouncil.org/art-union/2024/hiphop.

If you are interested in being a vendor or a performing artist, please contact Yvette at 2022wpc@gmail.com. Questions

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CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (S 2932)

By Bob Katzen

The House last week gave initial approval to a bill, approved by the Senate in July, that would allow victims of child sexual abuse to file a civil suit, any time after the abuse took place, against an individual who sexually abused a minor or negligently supervised a person who sexually abused a minor.

This would replace current law that places a statute of limitations which limits the time period during which a victim is allowed to sue, to

the later of either 35 years after the abuse or seven years after discovery of damages relating to the abuse, with both timeframes beginning to run when the minor turns 18.

Prior to 2014, the law allowed even less time to file a suit. The statute of limitations was limited to three years after a victim turned 18. That law was changed by the Legislature in 2014 to reflect current law.

When the Senate first approved the bill on July 31, sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) said, "Back in

2014, we passed a statute of limitations for civil claims of child sexual abuse that would allow claims up to 35 years after the victim turned 18, or until 53 years old. I questioned then, and over the last decade, what was the magic number of 53, and I couldn't find one. I couldn't find that answer. So I decided to dig in, to talk to advocates, to talk to survivors, to talk to the public safety [officials]."

Lovely continued, "I want to thank all of the survivors in and out of my district who have come to me,

including colleagues, who disclosed to me that at some point in their life they were sexually abused, but they choose not to come forward and disclose because of how painful it is. It really is lifelong pain and trauma."

The bill is a "great thing" for survivors in Massachusetts, said Sandi Johnson, senior legislative policy counsel at the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

"We believe that survivors should have access to justice, regardless

of when they're able to access that justice," said Johnson. "Eliminating that statute of limitations puts the focus back on whether or not there's enough evidence, rather than just arbitrary timelines. Trauma is not a timeline and can't be governed by a timeline."

Reps. Ken Gordon (D-Bedford) and John Lawn (D-Watertown) who filed earlier versions of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to comment on this bill.

This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

By Bob Katzen

"We all have an important role to play in protecting civil rights, particularly at a time when societal divisions and political polarization have resulted in decreased civility and increased intolerance. The Healey-Driscoll Administration remains focused on developing and supporting the programs, policies and initiatives that strengthen Massachusetts' ability to uphold our values and embrace our differences."

—Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy on the Healey administration's convening a statewide Civil Rights Symposium for 200 law enforcement officers to promote justice, equity

and civil rights protections for all Bay State residents and visitors.

"One of my first commitments as governor was to launch this assessment across our administration with the goal of applying an equity lens to everything we do. If we want to break down barriers to accessing government service and ensure we are reaching every community, we need to be able to measure what's working well and what needs improvement – and then we need to act."

—Gov. Healey upon releasing a report on equity assessment which analyzed how each state agency can improve equity, accessibility and accountability.

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—Ken Toong, assistant vice chancellor of Umass Auxiliary Enterprises, which includes Umass Dining, on Umass Amherst being rated number 1, for the 8th consecutive year, by The Princeton Review's list of Best Campus Food, for its exceptional campus dining experi-

ence.

"Today, the Massachusetts Republican Party is standing against the veil of secrecy and the obstructionist efforts of the Healey-Driscoll administration and the Democratic supermajority. We stand with the Massachusetts press corps in declaring: enough is enough. The public deserves transparency. Release the details on the vendors profiting from this crisis and the public safety issues affecting our communities. On behalf of Massachusetts residents, we are demanding accountability."

—Massachusetts Republican Party Chair, Amy Carnevale, upon submitting FOIA requests for documents she says might expose \$1 billion in Secret

Migrant Crisis Spending as well as detailed information on 600 incidents involving police, fire and medical emergencies in state-funded emergency housing.

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LONG TERM CARE AND ASSISTED LIVING (H 5033)

Bob Katzen

The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Healey a new version of a bill making changes to the state's long term care and assisted living industry that supporters said will make sweeping reforms to these two industries and will take a powerful step toward delivering high quality and safe care for older residents across the state.

The bill includes provisions related to basic health services administered in assisted living facilities and oversight of long-term care facilities, including creation of a program for the certification, training and oversight of certified medication aides who would be authorized to administer medications to residents of long-term care facilities; several new initiatives to recruit and retain a dedicated long-term care workforce;

allowing assisted living residences to offer basic health services such as helping a resident administer drops, manage their oxygen or take a home diagnostic test; giving the Executive Office of Elder Affairs new powers to penalize non-compliance by allowing it to fine assisted living residences up to \$500 per day; and authorizing the attorney general to file a civil action against a person who commits abuse, mistreatment or neglect of a patient or resident.

Other provisions allow the Department of Public Health (DPH) to limit, restrict or revoke a long-term care facility's license for cause, such as substantial or sustained failure to provide adequate care, substantial or sustained failure to comply with laws or regulations or lack of financial capacity to operate a facility; streamline the process for small house nursing homes to be licensed; direct

DPH to establish and implement training and education programs on topics such as infection prevention and control, resident care plans and staff safety programs; and require long-term care facilities to develop individualized outbreak response plans to contain the spread of disease and ensure consistent communication with DPH, residents, families, and staff.

The measure also would require each long-term care facility to provide staff training on the rights and care of LGBTQ+ older adults and older adults living with HIV; forbid any long-term care facility and its staff from discriminating based in whole or in part on a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, intersex status or HIV status, whether through the denial of admission, medical or non-medical care, access to restrooms or through room

assignments.

"This legislation couldn't have come at a more critical time when more oversight and accountability are needed in long-term care," said Rep. Tom Stanley (D-Waltham), House chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs. "[The bill] marks the first major legislative reform to our long term care and assisted living industries in over a quarter of a century. This legislation enhances both access to and quality of care in long-term care settings, tightens suitability standards for operators, strengthens supports for the long-term care workforce and permanently allows assisted living residences to offer basic health services to their residents."

"This landmark legislation is the culmination of years of advocacy and collaboration among so many people committed to improving

life for our family, friends and neighbors residing or working in long-term care, assisted living and the community," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate chair of the Elder Affairs Committee. "There is always more work to do but we have agreed on policy that will surely have a positive impact on quality of care, transparency and oversight and planning for the future."

"This bill is an important step toward ensuring older adults receive the care they need to be safe and healthy," said Rep. Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury). "Strengthening oversight of long-term care facilities, requiring infectious disease outbreak plans, improving licensing requirements and other reforms ... will protect vulnerable patients and provide the commonwealth with the tools needed to enforce the standards for long term care facilities."

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!
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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.
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Much thanks and appreciation,
Frank Santangelo

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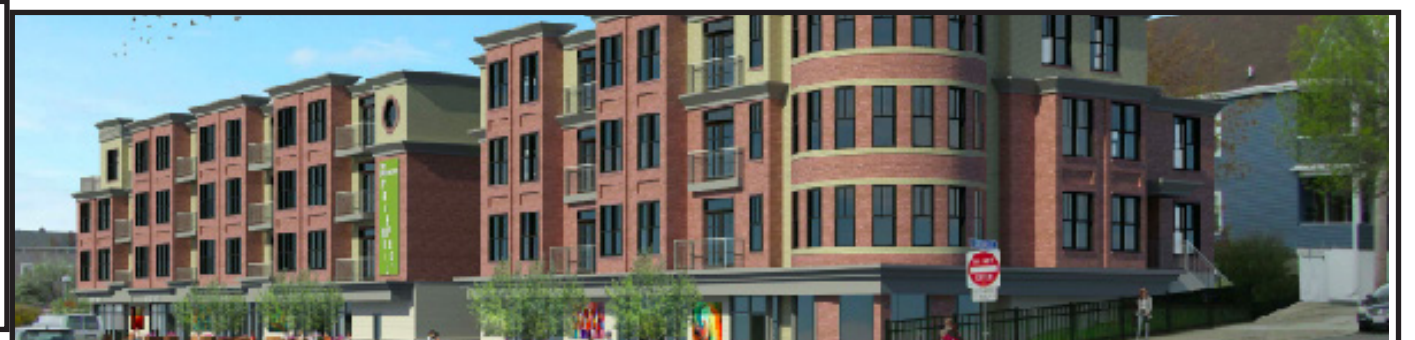
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Join Somerville's 2024 Community Meetings Series to Learn About Latest City Initiatives from Mayor Ballantyne and City Staff

<p>August 26, 2024 thesomerville-newsweekly Leave a comment</p> <p>Meetings for all seven wards will be held Mid-September through Mid-October</p> <p>SOMERVILLE—Community members are invited to join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville City Council at the 2024 City Hall Community Meetings. Join us to get an overview of the latest City news, learn more about City programs and initiatives, meet your neighbors, find ways to get involved, and talk with elected officials and City staff.</p> <p>The in-person meetings kick off with a social half-hour with free pizza and kid-friendly, healthy snacks, where you can chat one-on-one with elected officials including the Mayor and your Ward City Councilor or At-Large City Councilors as well as staff about issues important to you.</p> <p>Mayor Ballantyne and City staff will then share updates on projects in your neighborhood, citywide initiatives, and a look at neighborhood crime stats followed by a roughly 20-min-</p>	<p>ute open Q&A.</p> <p>All Ward meetings will be held in person and one all-virtual, all-ward meeting will be held on Zoom and will be accessible online or by any phone. Two additional, all-ward meetings will take place in person: one in Portuguese and one in Spanish. All in-person meetings will be recorded for later on-demand or TV viewing.</p> <p>Fall 2024 Community Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Meetings run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with refreshments and meet-and-greets starting at 6 p.m.</p> <p>Unsure about which ward you live in? Find out with the MySomerville address lookup tool at http://www.somervillema.gov/mysomerville.</p> <p>Ward 4 (Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and more):</p> <p>Date: Wednesday, September 18</p> <p>Location: Healey School Cafeteria, 5 Meacham St.</p> <p>Ward 3 (N. Union Sq., Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central Hill, and more):</p>	<p>Date: Monday, September 23</p> <p>Location: Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Ave.</p> <p>Ward 7 (West Somerville, Teele Sq., and more):</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, September 24</p> <p>Location: West Somerville Neighborhood School Cafeteria, 177 Powder House Blvd.</p> <p>All Ward Meeting in Portuguese:</p> <p>Date: Monday, September 30</p> <p>Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.</p> <p>Details: This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Portuguese language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCidade.</p> <p>Ward 5 (Magoun Sq., NE Ball Sq., Cedar & Lowell St. areas, NW Porter Sq., and more):</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, October 1</p> <p>Location: Kennedy School Cafeteria, 5 Cherry St.</p>	<p>Ward 1 (East Somerville, Assembly Sq., and more):</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, October 8</p> <p>Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.</p> <p>Ward 6 (Greater Davis Sq. neighborhood and more):</p> <p>Date: Wednesday, October 9</p> <p>Location: Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.</p> <p>All Ward Meeting in Spanish:</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, October 15</p> <p>Location: East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St.</p> <p>Details: This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page and shared on the Spanish language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCiudad.</p> <p>Ward 2 (S. Union Sq., Perry and Lincoln Park neighborhoods, Beacon St. area, and more):</p> <p>Date: Wednesday, October 16</p> <p>Location: Argenziano School Cafeteria, 290 Washington St.</p>
			<p>All Ward Virtual Meeting:</p> <p>Date: Monday, October 21</p> <p>Location: Online via Zoom with interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese, as well as other languages by request. You may join online or call in on any phone.</p> <p>Details: For sign-in information, please visit http://www.somervillema.gov/communitymeetings or call 311 at 617-666-3311.</p> <p>Interpretation into your language is available for all meetings upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311 at 617-666-3311. Interpretation availability is also being advertised in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, Nepali, Mandarin, and Cantonese.</p> <p>For more information about the Community Meetings and to attend virtually, visit somervillema.gov/communitymeetings. With any questions, please contact Kristine McNulty at kmcnulty@somervillema.gov.</p>

PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL (S 1666)

<p>By Bob Katzen</p> <p>The House gave initial approval to a bill that would allow public safety personnel with impaired health, presumed to have suffered in the line of duty, to sub-</p>	<p>mit an affidavit attesting that he or she did undergo a physical examination on entry into service, if their employer failed to maintain such records.</p> <p>“Public safety personnel</p>	<p>like police and firefighters that are injured in the line of duty or suffer illness due to their occupation shouldn't have to jump through hoops or navigate red tape if their employer fails to maintain proper</p>	<p>medical records documenting their service,” said sponsor Sen. Paul Feeny (D-Foxborough). “I am proud to have filed this legislation to help relieve public safety officials of the undue burden of proving</p>
			<p>an occupational presumption when through no fault of their own, their medical records have been lost or damaged by their employing department.</p>

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Mayor Ballantyne Seeks to Expand Climate Action & Energy Savings to Renters via New Ordinance

Residents invited to help shape proposed Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure ordinance to bring greater energy efficiency, affordability, and more to renters

SOMERVILLE—Roughly two-thirds of Somerville residents are renters, and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is determined to improve their access to the energy savings and health benefits of green energy upgrades often out of reach to renters—especially low-income renters. And she’s asking residents to help her do so.

The City’s Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) is seeking volunteers to help shape a new Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure ordinance designed to improve rental unit energy efficiency, affordability, and healthiness, as well as advance the City’s climate action and affordable housing efforts.

The concept is simple. Landlords would provide basic rental unit information and energy details to the City annually. Then the City would generate energy “disclosures” for owners to post on-site for tenants (and future tenants) to see. Information collected and shared could include the number of rental units, the type of property, and owner or property manager contacts. It could also include energy details such as type of fuels used, if they’ve had a MassSave energy efficiency assessment, and a list of energy saving measures taken such as installing Energy

Star appliances, weatherization measures like insulated windows, or green upgrades like heat pumps.

“Having this information will help the City increase energy upgrades. It will make it easier for us to inform owners of subsidies available to them for improvements that will lower renter’s energy costs. By having energy facts posted for tenants and future tenants, this type of energy disclosure requirement has been shown to drive market demand for landlords to reduce energy costs for tenants. Heating bills, for example, can easily run up into the hundreds of dollars in winter months, and renters vote with their feet when they can get a sense of where they’ll have lower utility costs,” said OSE Director Christine Blais.

Rental registries are common in cities, and energy disclosure measures are already key climate action tools in some States, such as Maine, and cities across the country, including Austin, TX; Minneapolis, MN; and Chicago, IL. Somerville’s would be the first rental energy disclosure ordinance in Massachusetts.

“We are looking to use every tool in the box both for climate action and housing affordability in Somerville— and they are directly related. When you live in a drafty apartment with an ancient heater, or if you have an old energy-hog window AC unit to keep an

elderly parent safely cool in the summer, you may be left choosing between groceries and safe temperatures when you are on a tight budget. You may also be at higher risk for not making your rent. And right now, landlords have little incentive to change that for you. But when owners know about and can make affordable upgrades that lower tenant utility bills, it’s a win-win for affordability, our climate, and for resident health,” said Mayor Ballantyne.

In Somerville, approximately 37 percent of residents are housing cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than a third of their income on housing. City data indicates that this number climbs to above 50 percent for households in the Black and non-white Hispanic U.S. Census categories. With lower likelihood of energy efficiency in Somerville’s older housing stock rental units, not only are utility bills likely higher, but health risks increase as well. Energy efficiency measures have been shown to also reduce environmental risks such as mold, pests, and allergens that contribute to asthma, bronchitis, emergency room visits, and financial stress.

“At first glance it may seem as if an initiative such as this would drive up rents, but key to our efforts is helping landlords make upgrades via the many federal, state, and local programs that reduce the costs of energy improvements. That way they get better units with lower investment and they have units

that will be more comfortable, desirable, and safer for tenants,” said Blais. “The data we collect on the units will also help our Housing Stability and Housing development teams inform and advance their work to support affordability programs.”

The City also sees the effort as a building block for future work to improve additional health and safety oversight of rental units, and establish improved communication to landlords and property managers on a range of programs designed to support them and their tenants.

Join a Focus Group

All community members including renters, landlords, real estate brokers, adults of all ages including seniors of fixed incomes, real estate agents, commercial landlords, members of the home improvement workforce, home energy raters, community organizations, and community advocates are invited to join focus groups to discuss how to make the draft ordinance work best for everyone.

Staff have already been doing their homework, which they’ll share to get everyone oriented. Alongside several years of research, they’ve connected with community members, as well as municipalities and nonprofits across North America, and convened a cross-departmental working group within Somerville, to deepen their knowledge.

Focus groups participants will answer questions about their views and needs from a rental registry and energy disclosure ordinance. The feedback will be used to inform both the ordinance to be submitted to the City Council for approval, as well as how it would be implemented.

Each focus group will last about 90 minutes. Community members may be eligible to be compensated with a \$40 gift card for their participation.

To sign up, please complete the online form at somer villema.gov/rred. If you need assistance filling out the form, please contact 311 (617-666-3311).

For more information, please visit somer villema.gov/sustainville or contact Garrett Anderson at ganderson@somer villema.gov, 857-270-4403 (call/text) to request paper forms.

Interpretation is available at all focus groups.

Efforts to secure interpretation into any language will be made upon advance request (at least seven days in advance) by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somer villema.gov/ContactSomerViva or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.

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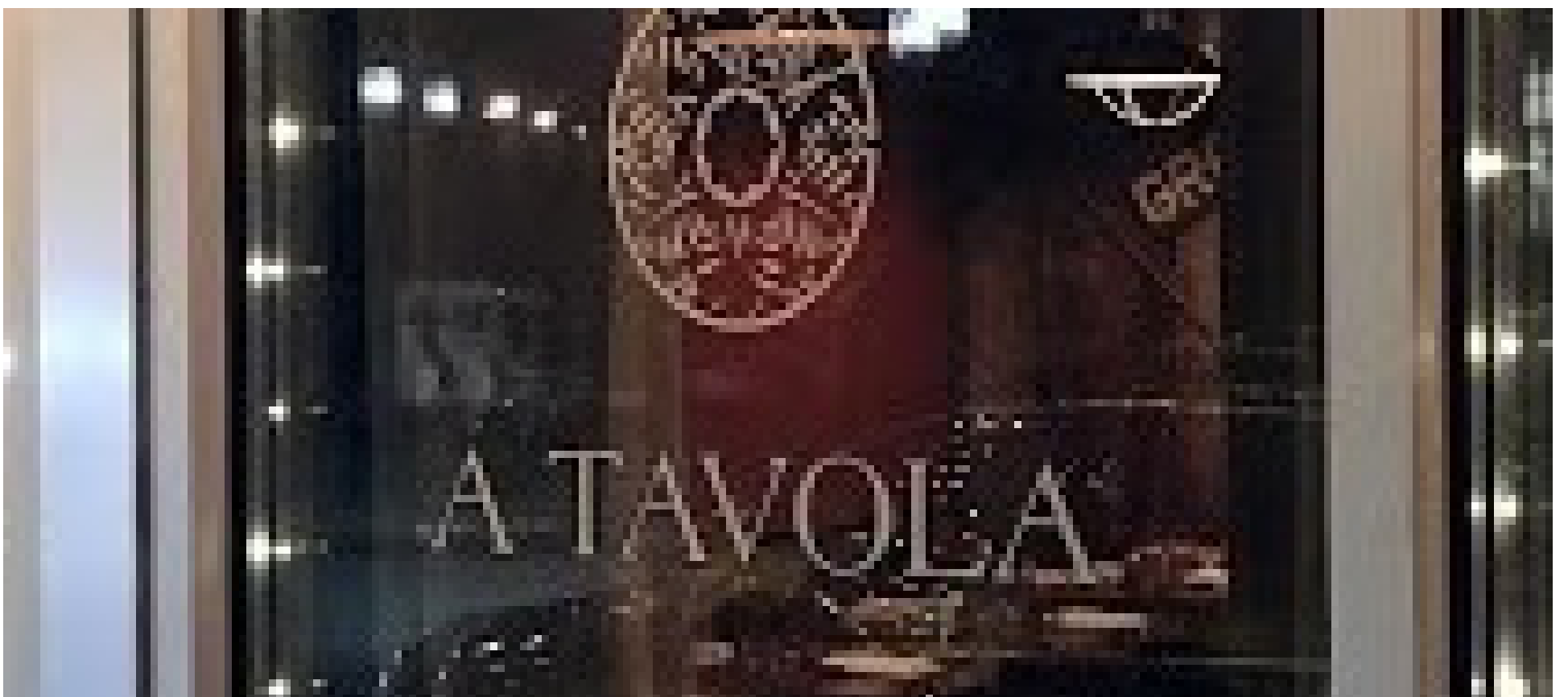
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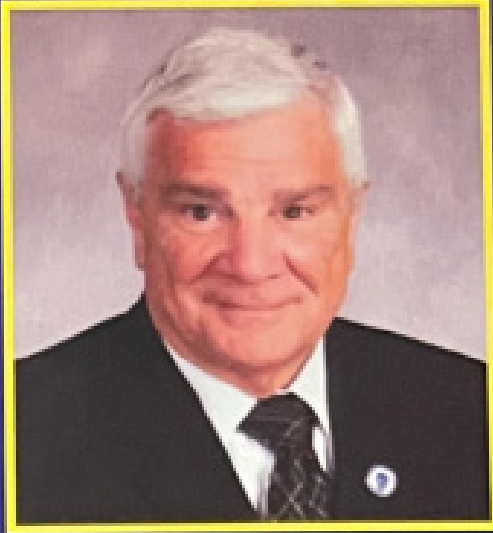
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