

# The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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VOL.1 NO.329-233

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday October 15th, 2024

## Somerville Launching VoteSomerville Tool for Voters to Verify Their Ward and Polling Place



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Mayor Ballantyne Announces New Firefighter's Union Agreement Enhancing Pay, Benefits, and Training and Education Incentives for Firefighters Local 76



Continued to page 5

CHANGE COLUMBUS DAY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



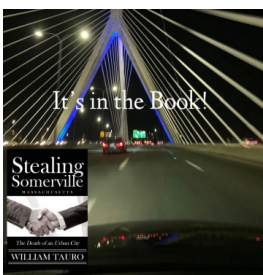
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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



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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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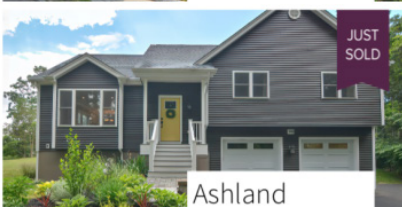
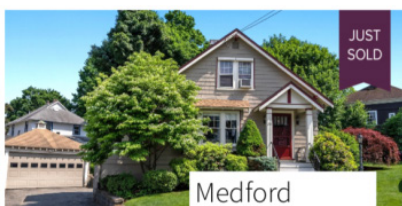
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**MARKET ACTIVITY**

**WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...**

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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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If you have any questions email us at [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
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 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 Elizabeth M. "Betty" Smith (Kelley)



Elizabeth M. "Betty" Smith (Kelley)

Of Somerville, formerly of South Boston, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2024. Betty was the beloved wife of Emmet F. "Frank" Smith, with whom she shared one of the greatest love stories ever told. They met and lived in Boston, later moving to Glenwood Rd in Somerville where they raised their children. Betty lived there until she was 91.

She was the devoted mother of Elizabeth "Betty" Roche, Thomas Smith, Sr., Diane Smith, the late Emmet F. Smith III, Barry T. Smith, Kelley A. Smith Snell, Barbara J. (Smith) Hennelly, Bertrand Taylor, and John Marshall. She also leaves behind her dear siblings Eddie, Eugene, and Thomas Kelley, Margaret Plansky, and Maureen O'Malley. Betty was predeceased by her siblings Frank Kelley, Mary "Babs" DiGiacomo, Jimmy Kelley, and Kathleen McCarthy. She is survived by many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews, and was predeceased by her cherished grandchildren, Mary Armaiz and Liam Smith.

Betty was not only a devoted mother to her children but to countless

others. She helped raise her siblings, foster kids, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, neighborhood kids, nieces, nephews, and even strangers. If you needed a mother or a Nana, she was your girl. She made everyone feel like she loved you the most and that you were her favorite. But no one doubted that her greatest love was always her husband, Frank.

A longtime employee of Jordan Marsh, Betty never passed up an opportunity to use her employee discount and could shop with the best of them. Later in life, she worked at the Franciscan Children's Hospital alongside her brother Eddie, where she was in her element, talking to people. Whether it was on the phone or in person, she made everyone feel welcomed and

heard.

Known as the life of every party, Betty could dance circles around anyone and was even known to throw in a somersault or two on the dance floor. She made everyone she met want to be better and more kind. She loved God and prayed everyday. Her faith never wavered despite many tests and she always counted her blessings. She loved making people laugh, her family, all babies, Irish music, Southie, Somerville, Ireland, Costco, the Salvy, chips, ice cream, fire works and winterfresh gum.

Her great big heart, hugs, humor, the before dinner graces, and her love for everyone will be remembered by all who had the gift of knowing her.

Visitation will be held

at the O'Brien Funeral Home, 146 Dorchester St., SOUTH BOSTON, on Friday, October 11, from 4 to 8pm. A Funeral Mass will be held in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford Street, Somerville, on Saturday, October 12, at 11am. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Betty's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452.

For guestbook and directions, please visit <http://www.obrienfunerals.com> O'Brien Funeral Home | 617-269-1600

## Somerville/Medford Remembering Raymond Joseph



Obituary

Raymond Joseph, born in Cayes, Hati, MA, on October 22, 1937, passed away on October 8, 2024 in Somerville, Massachusetts, after a long illness.

He is survived by his children Robert Joseph, Magalie Joseph, Estelle

Joseph, Emaze Joseph, Brunel Joseph, Leonel Joseph, his long-time partner Ermithe Joseph, his daughter-in-law Asselia Joseph, his brother Joseph Richeme, his grandchildren Jonathan Bazile, Philemon Joseph, Magda Joseph, Marjorie Joseph, Mimose Joseph, Michelet Joseph, Byanka Joseph, Kenson Joseph, Anne Bruelle Joseph, Brunise Joseph, Berthonise Joseph, Armelle Joseph, Davidson Joseph, his several nephews and nieces, including Baussuet Charles, Esther Richemond, Richemaille Richeme, and Jolicoeur Fanfan.

Raymond was a hard-working and dedicated individual who served his birth country and community for more than fifteen years as a police officer and also worked as a farmer. He immigrated to the United States in August 2007 and settled in Somerville where he remained until his passing. Raymond became a naturalized citizen in 2018. He was proud to become a U.S. citizen and voted regularly in all elections. He followed politics fervently. For many years, Raymond volunteered his time as a helper at the

Elizabeth Peabody House food pantry. He was passionate about cooking and relished a good meal with his friends and family. He was also a fitness enthusiast who walked daily the various neighborhood streets near and far from his Somerville residence. He was an outgoing individual who valued friendships and family gatherings. Raymond easily built connections and greeted everyone in and around the neighborhood and on the street. His ever-present smile and the warmth, depth and intelligence behind it will be sorely missed. We could not have

asked for a better parent, grandparent, sibling, uncle and friend, and will miss Raymond every day. His memory will live on in the hearts of all those who loved him.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, NOVEMBER 2, 2024 at the Holy Bible Baptist Church, 64 College Ave, Somerville beginning at 9:00AM.

Service will conclude with burial at St. Paul Cemetery, Arlington

## Somerville/Medford/Cambridge Remembering William J. Megan Sr



MEGAN, William J. "Billy", Sr., Lifelong resident of

Cambridge, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2024 surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Cambridge to the late Franics J. Megan and Viola Ann (Sarchioni). Beloved husband of 51 years to Judi Ann Megan of Cambridge. Loving father of William J. 'Billy' Megan, Jr. and Kelly Jones

of Cambridge, Scot Megan and Christina Williams of Cambridge, Shannon Megan and Joey Febbo of Merrimac, MA, and the late Shawn M. Megan. Proud 'Pop Pop' of Jaren, Alanna, Giana, Scot Jr., Mia, Julianna, Jacen and Jaxen. Dear brother of Ann Beaulieu, Carol Jennings, Linda Hagan, Ronald Megan, Robert Megan,

and the late Christine and Francis, Jr. Billy is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and dear friends.

Visiting Hours will be held from the Keefe Funeral Home, 2175 Mass Ave, NORTH CAMBRIDGE, on Tuesday, October 22nd from 4-7PM. A Prayer Service will be held at 6:30PM in the Funeral

Home. Burial will be Private. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Billy's memory to the American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692, or the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852.



### Family Member of Alleged Murderer of Deanna Cremin Agrees to DNA Samples to Solve Case

By William Tauro

Tonight at my Fundraiser for Middlesex County Registrar of Deeds, miraculously I spoke with a close family member of an alleged killer of Deanna Cremin who put her trust in me to take a DNA sample to close this case once and for all.

Tomorrow myself and a family member of the Cremin family will be talking with Somerville Police to arrange for the DNA sampling! This story is still developing...

Deanna J. Cremin (March 26, 1978 – March 30, 1995) was a 17-year-old girl from Somerville, Massachusetts, found sexually assaulted and strangled to death near her home.

No charges have ever been filed. The case deeply shocked the local community, and a \$70,000 reward is being offered for evidence leading to an arrest and prosecution.



On the morning of March 30, 1995 the body of seventeen year old Deanna Cremin was discovered behind a housing complex (125 Jacques St. Somerville) by a group of children on their way to school. The medical examiner determined she had been strangled.

On Wednesday 3/29/95, the night Deanna was last seen alive, she had been studying at her boyfriend Thomas Leblanc's house on Broadway in Somerville until approximately 11pm. After finishing up homework, her boyfriend claims to have walked her half of the way home, leaving her to walk the final two blocks. Deanna never made it home. Her murder remains unsolved.

Anyone with information regarding the murder of Deanna Cremin please call 617-544-7167

### Mayor Ballantyne Announces New Firefighter's Union Agreement Enhancing Pay, Benefits, and Training and Education Incentives for Firefighters Local 76

Continued from front page



Competitive compensation updates, expanded educational and training incentives, new specialty positions codified in new union contract

SOMERVILLE—Mayor Katjana Ballantyne on behalf of the City of Somerville has reached an agreement with Local 76, the union representing Somerville firefighters, for a contract that will provide updated compensation and benefits and help modernize aspects of the Department's operations. The new contract provides competitive annual wage increases, expanded opportunities for incentive pay tied to specialty positions, advanced educa-

tion, and training, and a new sick leave benefit.

The Mayor and Local 76 leaders signed the new three-year contract on Wednesday, October 9. The contract will cover the City's 2024 fiscal year (FY24: July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024), as well as FY2025 and FY2026.

"Our firefighters stand at the ready 24/7 to protect the safety of our community, willing and ready to run toward danger rather than away from it to keep every one of us safe. We owe them not just gratitude for taking on this awesome responsibility but also the fair wages and benefits they deserve," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "This new contract reflects our commitment to providing competitive compensation and benefits to our firefighters while ensuring

they have the resources and support they need to do their jobs effectively."

"Local 76 is pleased to have come to an agreement through the collective bargaining process," Union President Mike Jefferson added.

Key features of the new contract include: Competitive annual wage increases: Firefighters will receive a 9% cost of living increase (COLA) over the life of the contract (equaling a 3% cost of living increase each year of the contract retroactive to July 1, 2023).

Expanded education incentives: The contract seeks to keep pace with the increasing cost of higher education and reward firefighters for continuing their education via increased tuition reimbursement funding

and increases to base pay for those with advanced degrees.

Increased training incentives: Firefighters who take on additional training and certifications will be rewarded for doing so with higher stipends for specialty positions and training, which allows the City and the Department to keep pace with modern firefighting techniques and respond to emergencies in the larger, more complex buildings being developed throughout the City.

New specialty positions to meet evolving city needs: The contract establishes new stipends for a Dedicated Infection Control Officer (DICO) and an Assistant DICO, positions needed in a post-pandemic environment.

More dynamic, skills-

based assessment for leadership positions: The contract provides for the City's integration of assessment centers, a skills-based assessment process utilized in unison with a civil service promotional examination, when selecting candidates for District Chief and Deputy Chief positions.

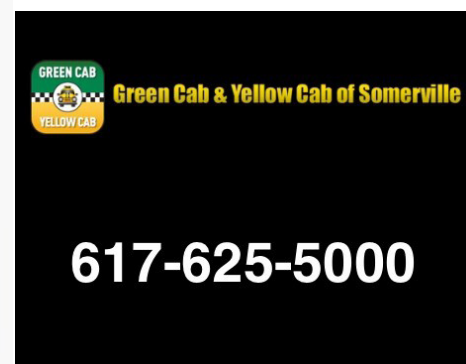
Local 76's membership has voted to ratify the new contract, and the union leadership and Mayor have signed the contract, leaving only the City Council to fund the cost of the contract before it takes effect.

The City of Somerville has recently reached union agreements with three other unions including unions representing the City's Crossing Guards, Fire Alarm, and Emergency Telecommunications/Police Dispatchers.

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# FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION

Continued from front page

By Bob Katzen

The state officially launched MassEducate which allows Massachusetts residents who do not already hold a bachelor's degree the opportunity to attend any of the state's 15 public community colleges and pay no tuition or fees.

MassEducate builds on the first successful year of the MassReconnect program which provides free community college to students 25 and older. More than 4,500 students statewide received MassReconnect grant awards in the 2023-24 academic year.

MassEducate expands the law and offers the free tuition to all other residents in addition to those 25 and older. Supporters noted that the Bay State now has one of the most accessible, equitable and comprehensive free community college programs in the country for full-time and part-time students, regardless of income.

To be eligible for free community college, candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent; live in Massachusetts for at least one year with an intent to stay in the state; maintain satisfactory academic progress according to the col-

lege's requirements; and not be in default on any federal or state educational loan.

For more information about financial aid opportunities and how to apply for free tuition, go to Mass.Gov/StudentAid

"We knew that MassReconnect would be transformative for thousands of students, for our amazing community colleges and for our economy – and that was only the beginning," said Gov. Healey. "This universal free community college program will continue to transform opportunities for students and strengthen our workforce.

Massachusetts' community colleges are economic drivers, helping students move ahead in their careers and meeting the needs of our employers."

"We heard from MassReconnect students that the commonwealth's investment in them was game-changing and now we are offering that opportunity to our full and part-time students across the commonwealth," said Education Secretary Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. "Massachusetts' comprehensive free community college program is a true testament to Massachusetts' commitment to increasing access and

affordability in higher education so students can realize their dreams."

"Universal free community college is transformative," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "MassEducate will deliver an education to every resident who wants one, fill workforce shortages faced by our businesses and has already reversed a decade of enrollment decline. Our community colleges are well-positioned to support this program, which will change the life trajectories of many students and their families."

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The Authority has rooftop and penthouse space for lease at Bryant

Manor located at 75 Myrtle Street in Somerville, Ma. Included in this document is a layout of the roof at this site.. Specific locations on the roof or penthouse for installation of equipment will be viewed in the field and negotiated as such.

### 3. LEASE TERM

Lease terms must be at least five years with extensions if desired.

### 4. LEASE RATES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES

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of every month.

The monthly rent is subject to negotiation as is the yearly escalator. There will be a walkthrough on October 30th, 2024 at 10:00 AM at 75 Myrtle Street

Somerville. Any questions please contact Brian Langton at 617 625 1152 Ext.331 or email BrianL@sha-web.org

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 10/08, 10/16, 10/23/2024

## 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.

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

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

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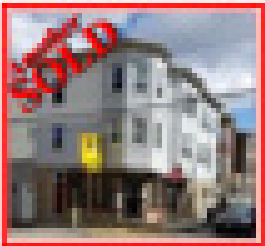


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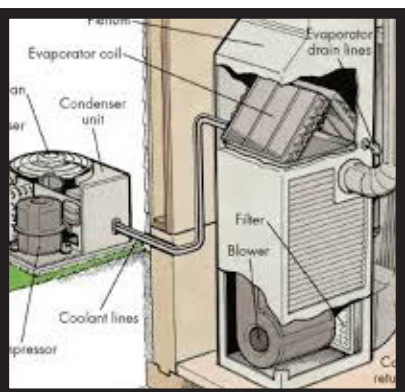
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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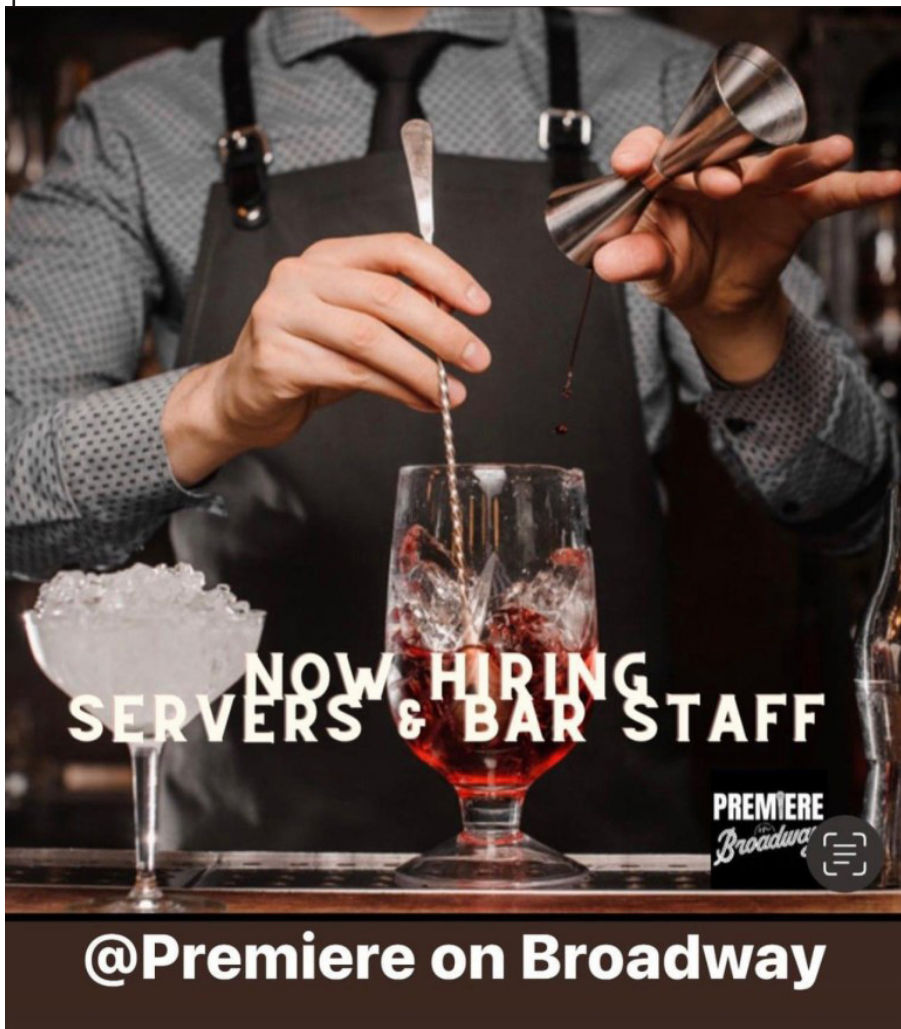
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## Ward 6 City Hall Meeting Rescheduled to Monday, Oct. 21



SOMERVILLE— The Ward 6 City Hall Meeting has been resched-

uled and will now be held on Monday, October 21. The meeting will take place at Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave., on Monday, Oct. 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please join us as well for a half-hour meet and greet with pizza and snacks starting at 6 p.m. with the Mayor, staff, and your neighbors.

Community members are invited to join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

and Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis. 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. Mayor Ballantyne and City staff share updates on projects in greater Davis and Powder House Square area, citywide initiatives, and a look at neighborhood crime stats followed by a roughly 20-minute open Q&A.

The meeting will be held in person. Additional ward meetings including an all-virtual, all-ward meeting and an all-ward meeting in Spanish are still upcoming. Please see somervillema.gov/community-meetings for more info. All meetings will be recorded for later on-demand or TV viewing.

PLEASE NOTE: Community members are invited

to a neighborhood meeting at the same location, Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave., on October 9, to discuss public safety and homelessness in the broader Seven Hills/Davis Square area. Join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Police Chief Shumeane Benford, Health and Human Services staff and more for an update and discussion on these issues. All members of the community including individuals and businesses are invited.

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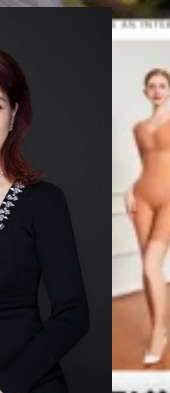



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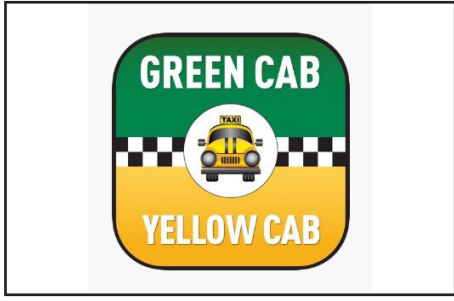
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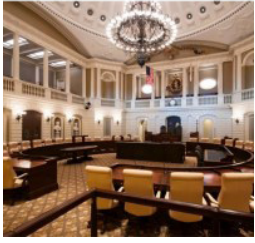
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This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

CHARLIE RETURNS – Former Bay State Gov. Charlie Baker spoke at the UMass Club last week about his work as president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the organization that regulates student athletics at some 1,100 schools in the United States, and one in Canada. Baker began his duties at the NCAA in March 2023

following his decision not to run for a third term as governor.

While the speech and Q&A session focused on the NCAA, Baker was asked several times about his possible return to politics. Here are some of his responses:

“If someone told me, literally, in October of ’22, rolling into the end of my term... you’re going to be

president of the NCAA, I would have said, ‘yeah right.’ So, I never rule anything out.”

“I’m not old enough to run for president, I’m only turning 68 this year.”

“I’m not here to talk about [who I am voting for in the presidential race].”

“I’m here to talk about college sports and the NCAA, and that’s why I’m here.

I’m not here to talk about other stuff”

“I think we live in really challenging times, and it’s important [for] really good people to step up [and consider running for elective office].”

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The SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Facade Cleaning at Bryant Manor at Bryant Manor (667-4) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by REVERSE ARCHITECTURE.

The Project consists of but not limited to: cleaning the concrete and brick masonry facade. Areas to be cleaned include all vertical brick and concrete surfaces, including both sides of concrete balcony walls. The contractor will supply lifts and equipment as required to reach all building surfaces. Balcony access will be coordinated with the Awarding Authority in advance. The work is estimated to cost \$328,750.00. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive. THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD

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and publicly opened online, forthwith. General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000. Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost). PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 10/15/2024 at 2:00PM EDT

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### CHILD CUSTODY (S 2961)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would simplify and modernize child custody jurisdiction laws in the Bay State.

Supporters, noting Massachusetts is the only one of the 50 states that has not opted into this law, argued the pact will

make the Bay State's interstate custody laws consistent with the 49 other states. They noted the bill would create clear rules that would be established for multi-state custody cases, prioritizing the home state of the child and ensuring Massachusetts courts can work effectively with courts in other states, nationally and in other countries for international child custody orders.

"I'm proud that the Massachusetts Senate passed my legislation to bring Massachusetts in line with the rest of the nation by enacting the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act," said sponsor Sen. Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Newton). "I am grateful to have the support of the Boston Bar Association, the Massachu-

setts Bar Association, and the Massachusetts chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers behind this important bill."

"Today's legislation aims to simplify a process that is already difficult for children and families," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Bringing Massachusetts in line with other

states nationally will enhance the wellbeing of people going through this process and give families clarity in their path forward."

The Senate approved similar bills in 2016 and 2018 but the bills died in the House from inaction.

### ADDITIONAL \$600,000 TO FUND DIAPERS FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

By Bob Katzen

The Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP) announced that it has been awarded \$600,000 in federal funds to extend for another year, the federal diaper pilot program that provides diapers for low-income families. The \$600,000 is on top of the original \$1.2 million grant that funded the program for two years. MASSCAP has operated the program with 16 agencies across Massachusetts and Connecticut to distribute over two

million diapers to low-income families.

"The continuance of resources ... signals a definitive recognition that this is a very real issue for countless families experiencing low incomes," said Joe Diamond, MASSCAP Executive Director. "However, in Massachusetts, more than one third of families struggle to afford enough diapers, meaning we are limited in the number of families we can reach with this award."

"Our resources support the inclusion of less than half of our agencies across the state, but all of our statewide network has indicated they have a need for diapers. Participating agencies in our network are currently operating their programs at [full] capacity and hold long waitlists," said Colleen Cullen, MASSCAP's Grants and Compliance Director. "We applaud the federal government for recognizing the need, but this funding only begins to scratch the surface."

MASSCAP also urged passage of state legislation that would create a diaper program funded and operated by the state. The two bills (H 149 and S 104) were given a favorable report by the Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities Committee but have been stuck in the House Ways and Means Committee since February 15.

"Access to diapers is a critical need for families across the commonwealth and no caregiver should have to make compromises because a basic

necessity like diapers is unaffordable," said Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) who sponsored the bill in the Senate. "[The bill] would be a major step in supporting the caregivers of the commonwealth by expanding access to free diapers through food pantries, providing much-needed relief for our low-income families' need."

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# Somerville Set to Release Updated Plans for West Broadway with October 22 Community Open House

Driven by data, transformative project aims to bring safer walking, biking, rolling, and driving to high-crash street

SOMERVILLE—Most people are well aware of the speed limit on the streets they use, but three other important numbers that define each street are driving road safety efforts in Somerville: the number of crashes, the number of vehicles and pedestrians, and the average vehicle speed. This data helped make clear the need for the new West Broadway Reconstruction safety project.

In Somerville, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City Council, and community members have rallied to prioritize transportation improvements on streets with high crash and injury risks as well busy pedestrian areas or crossings. West Broadway fits that bill, and all are invited to learn more about and discuss the West Broadway Reconstruction

safety project at an upcoming community open house.

The open house, hosted by Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld, and City staff welcomes all community members to learn about this effort, review an updated design, and share their feedback on Tuesday, October 22, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the West Somerville Neighborhood School, at 177 Powder House Boulevard.

Broadway is one of the most used main streets in Somerville, crossing the entire city from east to west. Unfortunately, it has seen more than 200 crashes between 2018 and 2022. The westernmost segment of Broadway, the focus of this project, serves as a gateway to the city, connecting Somerville to Arlington, North Cambridge, Alewife Brook Parkway, and the Greenway Bike Path. It is heavily used by people walking, rolling,

riding bikes, driving, or taking the bus.

The West Broadway Reconstruction project aims to dramatically reduce the number of crashes and increase safety by providing new and improved crossings, protected bike lanes in both directions, and traffic calming to reduce speeding. In addition, the City aims to improve the experience of traveling along the street with more trees for shade coverage, floating bus stops with dedicated waiting areas for bus riders, and all new sidewalks as well as a repaved roadway.

“Not all crashes include injuries, but every crash creates a risk of serious injury or death, so we are steadily working to end traffic fatalities and serious injuries in our city. That’s our clear Vision Zero goal, and we are making progress with projects like West Broadway among other efforts,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

“Serious crash injuries in Somerville are down 54 percent between 2013 and 2023. Last year, for the first time since 2018, we had no fatal crashes,” continued Mayor Ballantyne. “But I share this progress solemnly with those who we have lost in mind. Our work is far from done. The West Broadway Reconstruction Project is an opportunity to take a significant step forward, and it must be one of many.”

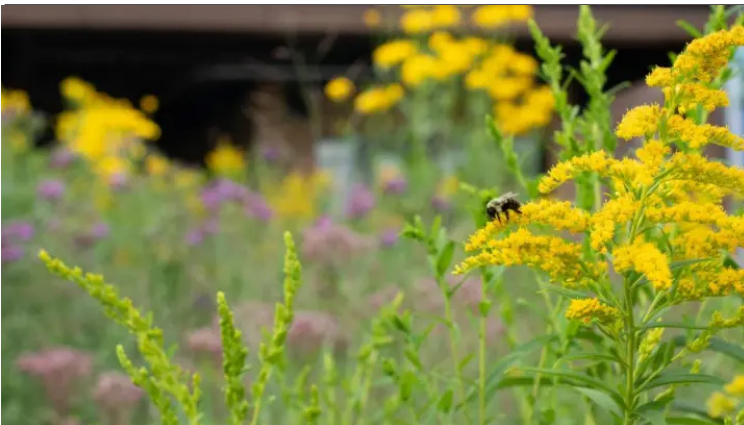
Building off the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan, Bicycle Network plan, and community input gathered since Fall 2023, City staff have worked with engineering consultants to develop an updated design.

At the open house, community members can explore different aspects of the design and talk directly to the project team about their questions and comments. If

community members cannot attend, there will be multiple other ways to share feedback such as through an online feedback survey, street outreach pop-ups and more. Visit [somervillema.gov/westbroadway](http://somervillema.gov/westbroadway) for more details.

“Our residents want and need safer streets—and we need this as quickly as possible. We’ve shown that smart, community-driven, reconstruction projects can not only increase safety. We can increase the number of people who feel comfortable walking, biking, and rolling. We can improve public transit access and reliability. And we can strategically manage parking and vehicle traffic so all people can access our streets and businesses. This type of project is how Somerville moves forward on our safety and climate goals,” said Brad Rawson, Director of Mobility.

## Somerville Releases Groundbreaking Pollinator Action Plan



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Division of Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF) are proud to announce the release of the City’s comprehensive Pollinator Action Plan, a community-driven initiative aimed at supporting pollinator

species within the city’s urban environment.

Somerville’s Pollinator Action Plan is a first-of-its-kind plan for a densely populated city, designed for a wide audience.

Whether you’re a backyard gardener or a mu-

nicipal planner, the plan offers clear steps to help pollinators. This includes a myriad of scales from planting a single pot of native plants to converting larger green spaces into pollinator-friendly habitat.

## 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

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<input type="checkbox"/> Scarf	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Comb
<b>FOOD &amp; DRINK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	<b>SURVIVAL</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter
<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool
<input type="checkbox"/> Nuts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	<b>TREATS:</b>
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<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks
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<b>HELP THEM CONNECT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped)
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
<input type="checkbox"/> Stationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum
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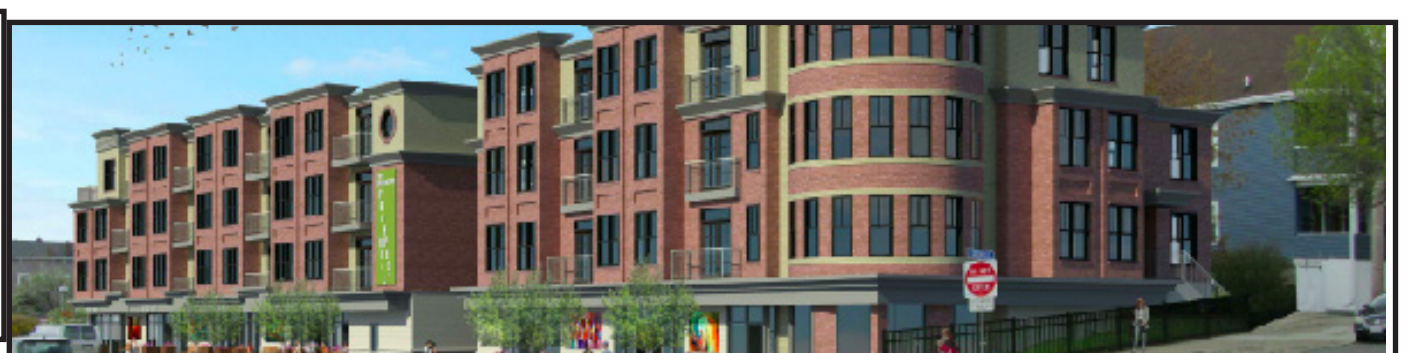
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### Somerville Inviting Community to Join Annual Vigil Honoring Victims of Domestic Violence



Vigil will be Held Wednesday, October 30, at 6 p.m. at East Somerville Library

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Commission for Women, RESPOND, Inc., the Somerville Public Library, and the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite residents to attend the City’s annual Domestic Violence Vigil on Wednesday, October 30, 2024. This annual

vigil is dedicated to commemorating the lives lost to domestic violence in the past year, recognizing the strength of survivors, and renewing our community’s dedication to eradicating domestic violence.

“As a community, we must come together to support those impacted by domestic violence and stand in solidarity with survivors and victims, said Mayor Ballantyne. This vigil is a time for us to reflect, to remember, and to reaffirm our commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone in Somerville.”

The 2024 Somerville Domestic Violence Vigil will begin at 6 p.m. at the East Somerville Library (115 Broadway). If there is

rain, the vigil will move indoors to Connexion, 149 Broadway. The event is free and open to the public. Light food and refreshments will be provided. There will be American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation at the event. If you would like to attend, please consider RSVPing in advance here.

Attendees will be invited to raise a candle in remembrance of domestic violence victims and participate in the Clothesline Project – an interactive community art project that raises awareness about domestic violence. A display will be presented from attendees who participated in the Clothesline Project at last year’s vigil and this year’s attendees will be invited to again

participate in the community art project.

“This annual candlelight vigil provides a space for us to honor the women, men, and children whose lives were tragically taken by acts of domestic violence this year. By coming together as a community, we show solidarity to our neighbors in need and reaffirm personal commitments to breaking the cycle of violence. We invite everyone to join us in this powerful evening of remembrance as we work towards a future where every person can live free from fear and abuse,” shared Kimberly Sheridan, Somerville Commission for Women Co-Chair.

Victoria Helberg, Chief Execu-

tive Officer of Respond INC., shared that “Domestic violence continues to affect far too many lives, leaving a devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities. We gather to honor those whose lives have been tragically lost and to stand united as a community with a shared commitment to end domestic violence. Together, we have the strength to drive meaningful change; it’s through our collective efforts that we can break the cycle and create a safer future for everyone.”

For more information about the vigil, please contact Latoya Saulters, Commissions Coordinator, at lsaulters@somervillema.gov or (857) 274-2719.

### Somerville Kiwanis News Updates

At Thursday’s luncheon meeting at the Mount Vernon Restaurant, outgoing Secretary Paul Upton was presented the Kiwanis “Governor’s Exemplary Secretary” award by President Tom Aus-



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# Somerville Launching VoteSomerville Tool for Voters to Verify Their Ward and Polling Place

Continued from front page



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is pleased to share that the City of Somerville has created a new web page where voters can look up their current address to verify their ward and polling place ahead of the November 2024 Presidential Election.

The portal is designed to provide Somerville voters with localized, precise ward and polling place information so you know where to go on Election Day. To use the portal, visit [somerillema.gov/votesomerville](http://somerillema.gov/votesomerville) and start typing your address into the search bar. Simply keep typing until you see a match, and then click on the correct matching address. The portal will then display your ward, precinct, and polling place with address, as well as the names and contact information of your City, State, and Federal officials.

You will also find helpful links with directions to your polling place, instructions on how to

register to vote, vote-by-mail guidance, and ballot dropbox locations.

Under rare circumstances, such as new construction, your address may not appear in the search. If you don't find your address, you can also contact the Elections Department at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 to verify your polling place or check with the Commonwealth's online tool for finding election information.

A complete list of polling places is available on the City's website.

This tool was created as an enhancement to existing statewide tools, providing Somerville-specific information as well as additional translation options to meet the needs of the City's residents.

Translations: Somerville has made the text of each ballot question on the November ballot available online in 12 languages. You can find these translated ballots on the City's website. If you need help at your polling place, interpreters are available by phone on-demand. You can request an interpreter by asking one of the poll workers at your polling place.

Accessibility: The State of Massachusetts and the City of Somerville work to ensure equal access to all for voting. Poll workers are trained to assist voters with disabilities, and all polling places include accessible parking, entrances, and ramps wherever there are stairs.

Early voting and all polling locations must have at least one accessible voting machines. AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminals are available at all Somerville polling locations for visually impaired voters and can also read your ballot to you before you print it out and submit it.

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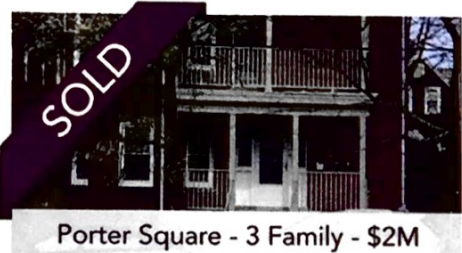
Porter Square - 4 Family - \$2.1M



Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



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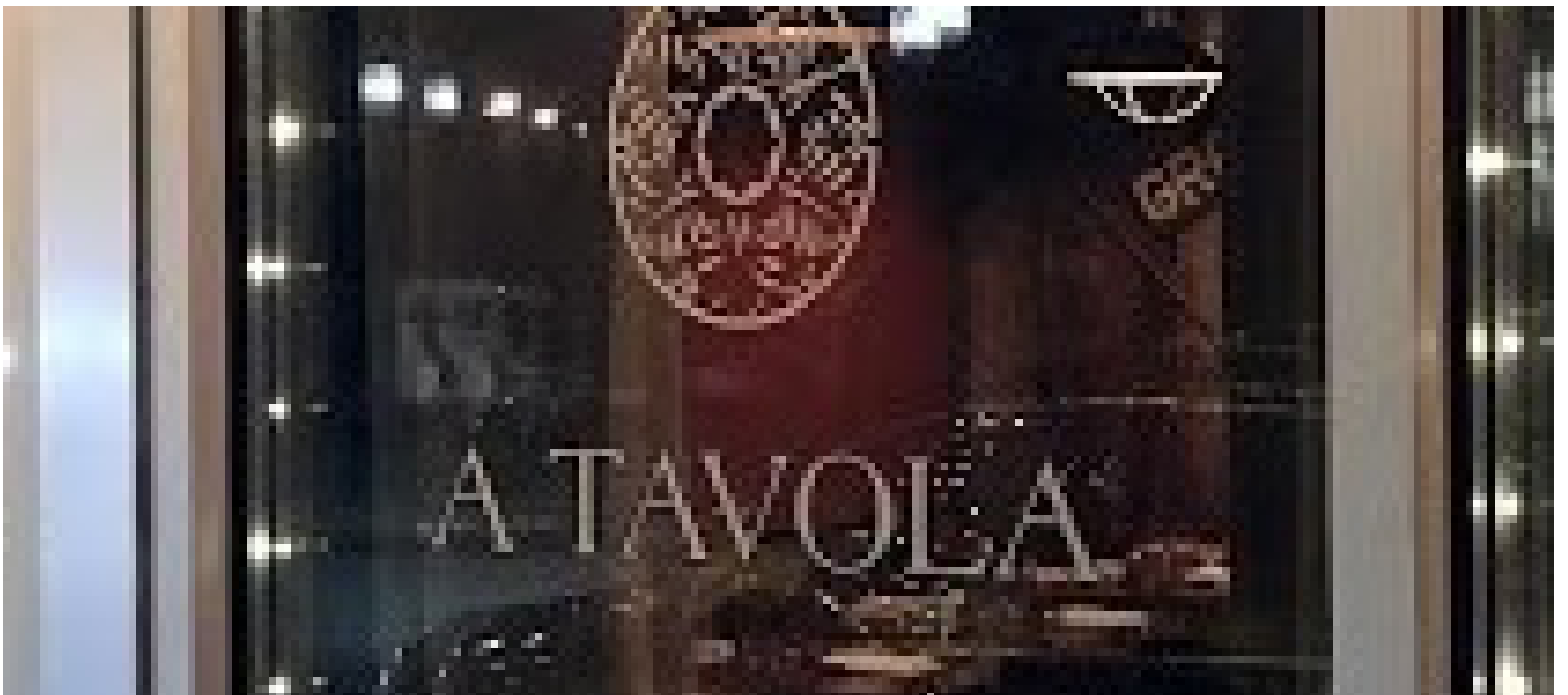
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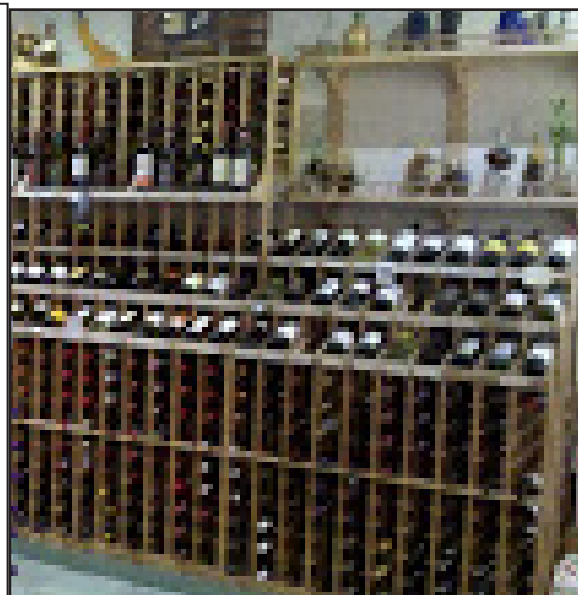


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