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VOL.1 NO.329-236

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday November 19th, 2024

CHANGE WHO APPOINTS THE FIRM TO AUDIT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (H 5105)



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“On Air with Billy Tauro”

As Unconscious as Biden Seems He Sees Writing on Wall



[bostonglobe.com](https://www.bostonglobe.com)
Biden withdraws Marty Walsh nomination to USPS governing board - The Boston Globe

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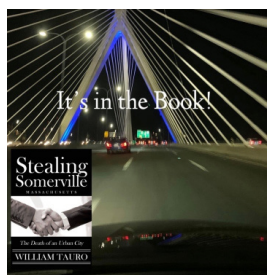
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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



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. Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



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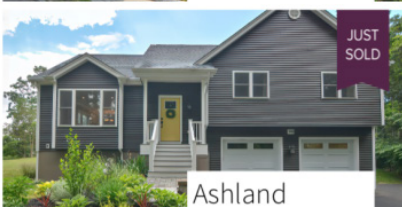
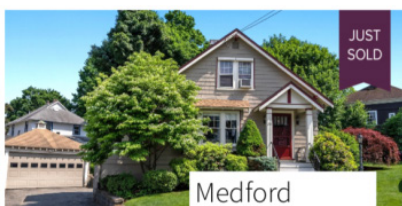
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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Patricia Ng Broker Associate
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Please send both forms and payment to:

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 489 Winthrop Street
 Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 MHS Varsity Softball is a non-profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
 Tax ID 04-6001400

Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Steve Pierre



Obituary

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Steve Pierre, a loving son, devoted father, and loyal friend. Born on October 29, 1987, Steve grew up in North Cambridge where he developed a deep love for his city, family and friends. Steve left this world far too soon, but his spirit, legacy, and the countless lives he touched will live on

forever.

Steve was a man who inspired everyone he met. His boundless energy and unwavering commitment to others made him a source of strength and support for those lucky enough to know him. Whether he was offering a listening ear, a word of encouragement, or a helping hand, Steve was always there when people needed him most. His generosity knew no bounds, and his passion for uplifting others was evident in everything he did.

As a son of Gina Clemat and Jean-Lony Pierre, Steve was the cornerstone of his family—always caring, thoughtful, and protective. His love for his parents was immeasurable, and as an older brother to Ruben and Cliff, he worked tirelessly to support and care for them, putting their

needs above his own. As a father, Steve was devoted beyond measure, providing his children with the love, guidance, and stability they needed to thrive. His nurturing presence, unwavering support, and tireless dedication to their well-being will leave an indelible mark on their hearts.

To his friends, Steve was the definition of loyalty. He was the person you could always count on, the one who would drop everything to help, no matter the circumstance. His friendships were built on mutual respect, trust, and a genuine desire to see others succeed. Steve was the first to celebrate others' triumphs, and the first to offer comfort during tough times. His laughter was contagious, his advice wise, and his presence a constant source of strength.

Steve was also a devoted and loving fiancé, to Stephanie Victor. Together, they shared a bond built on mutual respect, trust, and deep affection. Their partnership was a testament to the power of love, as they supported each other through life's joys and challenges. Steve was Stephanie's rock, always by her side, ready to face whatever came their way. Their relationship was a true partnership, grounded in love and commitment, and Stephanie will forever cherish the beautiful memories they created together.

While Steve may no longer be with us, his legacy will live on through his children, his family, and the many lives he touched along the way. His memory will continue to inspire those who knew him, and his love and influence will forever be felt in the hearts of those he leaves

behind.

Rest in peace, Steve. You will never be forgotten.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, November 22 in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 23rd in the Missionary Church Of The Haitian Community 100 Temple St., Somerville at 9:30AM. Visitation will be held prior to the funeral service from 9:00AM to 9:30AM.

Services will conclude with burial at Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Eleanor C. (Willwerth) Caven



Obituary

Eleanor C. (Willwerth) Caven – Of Medford, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at the age of 86. She was born in Boston to the late Robert

and Margaret (Doherty) Willwerth.

Eleanor's lifelong passion for caring for others began early in life, and after graduating from high school, she pursued her dream of becoming a nurse. Throughout her career, she touched countless lives with her kindness, dedication, and deep compassion. Nursing was not just a profession for Eleanor—it was her calling, and it came naturally to her.

Beyond her nursing career, Eleanor had a love for travel and cherished the many adventures she shared with her devoted husband, David. Together, they explored the world, creating memories that would last a lifetime. When she wasn't traveling, Eleanor was known for her

culinary talents—whether baking a fresh batch of cookies or preparing a meal from scratch, her kitchen was always filled with the comforting aromas of something delicious.

After retiring, Eleanor found joy in attending local art festivals and visiting museums, always seeking to immerse herself in culture and creativity. You could usually find her with her sister by her side in attendance. But her greatest joy came from being with her family, especially her grandchildren. They were the light of her life, and nothing made her heart fuller than seeing their faces and hearing their laughter, she was their biggest supporter and attended all their sporting and theater events. Her home was always

open to them, and their visits made everything feel brighter.

Eleanor also loved to escape to York, Maine, where she, David, her children and grandchildren had spent many relaxing summers, as well as winters in Florida. These retreats provided her with the peace and joy she cherished.

Above all, Eleanor was a woman of profound faith. She lived her life with integrity, grace, and a deep sense of devotion to her beliefs. Her faith was the foundation of her strength and kindness, and it guided her every day.

Beloved wife of 64 years to David J. Caven. Devoted mother of Tricia Longo and her husband Frank of Wake-

field, Denise Caven-Moynihan and her husband John of Peabody, and Laurie Blake and her husband Dan of Lynnfield. Cherished grandmother of Zachary Longo, Justin Longo, David Blake and Kevin Blake. Dear sister of the late Anne Blasi and Robert and George Willwerth. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, November 19th in St. Francis of Assisi Church 441 Fellsway West, Medford at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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

Somerville/Medford Remembering Deborah L. Grant (Van Stry)



Obituary

Deborah L. Grant (Van Stry), affectionately known as Debbie, passed

away on Saturday, November 9, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. She was 76 years old.

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on September 11, 1948, Debbie was the daughter of the late Lawrence and Doris (Roscoe) Van Stry.

Debbie was a dedicated and hardworking woman. Before her retirement, she worked as a manager at Kmart, where she devoted over 30 years of service. Her coworkers and cus-

tomers alike will remember her for her kind spirit and strong work ethic.

In her personal life, Debbie was known for her compassionate nature and love of animals. One of her favorite pastimes was walking her dogs each morning and night, taking time to enjoy the peace and serenity of her neighborhood. She was also an exceptional cook, always ready to prepare a meal for friends and family, often making everyone's favorite dishes with love

and care.

Beloved wife of Thomas Grant, Sr. Devoted mother of Thomas Grant, Jr. of Somerville, and the late Karen Grant of Somerville. Cherished grandmother of Christopher Falcone and his wife Asha. Dear sister of Larry Van Stry and his longtime companion Tina Hutchings of Durham, NC, and Holly O'Brien of Tewksbury. She is also lovingly survived by many cherished nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Friday, November 15th in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

A prayer service will be held at 6:30PM.

Interment will be private.



“On Air with Billy Tauro”

As I prepare my choice of favorite discussion topics of Political Corruption in which I plan to expose in this coming Thursday’s filming of “On Air with Billy Tauro”, and after the show is aired, you’ll be totally surprised of the names that will be mentioned on the show. And as always please understand that I will be reporting true facts, true occurrences, things that actually happened with nothing fabricated, nothing filtered and absolutely nothing held back.

So with that said, I am writing to express my unwavering commitment to integrity and transparency. In every aspect of my life, I have held firm to the belief that justice and fairness are paramount, and I will continue to do so, regardless of the circumstances.

Corruption, in any form, undermines the principles of accountability and equality. It erodes trust, compromises progress, and harms the very fabric of our communities. This is why I am resolute in my stance to expose corruption, no matter who is involved.

I firmly believe that accountability transcends personal relationships, positions of power, or political affiliations. It is not about targeting individuals but rather safeguarding the ideals that ensure a just society. My actions will always be guided by evidence, fairness, and a desire to uphold the truth.

To remain silent in the face of wrongdoing is to condone it. Therefore, I will not shy away from speaking out, even when it is inconvenient or challenging. My commitment to exposing corruption

is not about seeking conflict or controversy but about fostering an environment where honesty and integrity prevail.

I understand the risks and responsibilities that come with such a commitment, but I am prepared to stand firm. My allegiance is to the principles of justice and to the people who rely on transparency and accountability for their trust in systems and leadership.

Thank you for taking the time to understand my position. I hope this letter conveys the sincerity of my dedication to truth and fairness.

Sincerely,

Billy



As Unconscious as Biden Seems He Sees Writing on Wall



[bostonglobe.com](https://www.bostonglobe.com)
Biden withdraws Marty Walsh nomination to USPS governing board - The Boston Globe

As unconscious as Biden seems to be, he sees the writing on the wall too! The Feds want the four local law partners, Sean O’Donovan, which they have already, they want Gino Flaherty, they want Joe Curtatone and Yes they want Marty Walsh!

When Sean O’Donovan was arrested by the FBI a year and a half ago, Marty

Walsh resigned as Labor Secretary under the Biden administration to go to a private venture in Canada. The reasoning for that was that if he gets indicted he will lose his pension if he’s still in office (One of the main reasons why Curtatone probably stepped down as well). Then immediately when Sean O’Donovan was found guilty in Boston Federal

Court by a jury, Marty Walsh immediately eloped and married his long time girlfriend. The reasoning for that was that a wife cannot be forced to testify against her husband. Or in other words, he covered all the bases in his timeline!

Think about it! It’s in the Book!

Continuation: If you and the public want to know the real story buy and read the book and know the verdict before the trial begins.

“Americans sent a pretty clear message that they wanted those in office to focus on making life more affordable,” Governor Maura Healey said this week. “I get that, and that’s what I’ve been trying to do as governor.”

To all the Democrats and Progressives that voted for the party and not the person, please remember one thing, you get sometimes what you voted for and get the elected government that you deserve..

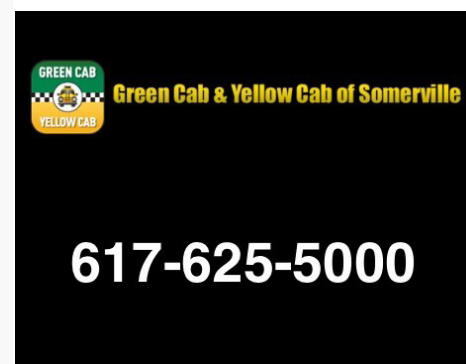
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Somerville Community Votes to Increase Community Preservation Act Funding



A 3% surcharge will boost funding for affordable housing, open space, historic preservation projects, and more

SOMERVILLE- In a resounding show of community spirit and vision, Somerville residents have voted to double the Community Preservation Act (CPA) surcharge from 1.5% to 3%. This landmark decision will increase funding for vital projects, helping to create a more affordable, greener, and culturally rich Somerville.

Appearing as Question 6 on the November 2024 ballot, the measure received overwhelming support, with 25,282 residents voting in favor. The new funding will be a game-changer for critical initiatives, from affordable housing and open space improvements to the preservation of Somerville's unique historical assets and the creation of vibrant recreational spaces.

"This is Somerville at its finest," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Our residents have shown their unwavering commitment to equity, sustainability, and community. By doubling our CPA funding, we are doubling down on a future that honors our history while paving the way for progress. I can't wait to see the incredible projects we'll bring to life together."

The updated surcharge will take effect in FY2026, starting July 1, 2025. Low-income property owners and low-to-moderate-income seniors may apply for annual exemptions, ensuring equitable access to this initiative.

A Decade of Transformative Change

Since its adoption in 2014, the CPA has fueled over \$35 million in transformative projects citywide.

Recent highlights include:

The restoration of the Somerville City Hall clock tower and roof, preserving a treasured landmark.

The creation of Henry Hansen Park, a vibrant green space near Magoun Square.

A \$1.4 million contribution to the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust, advancing housing equity and stability.

With the new funding, Somerville is

poised to accelerate these successes, making a meaningful impact across every neighborhood.

Learn More

Explore the Community Preservation Act's past achievements and future possibilities on the CPA page of the City of Somerville website.

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

Join the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust



SOMERVILLE - The City of Somerville is seeking a new member to join the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust (SAHT) in a volunteer role. This vacancy is for a representative of a Somerville nonprofit organization whose primary mission is affordable hous-

ing. If you're passionate about advancing affordable housing in our community, this is a great opportunity to make an impact.

What is the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust? The SAHT is dedicated to creating and preserving affordable homes for renters and prospective owners with low and moderate incomes in Somerville. Through a public process, Trustees evaluate project and program proposals and approve funding allocations to help increase the supply of affordable housing in our city.

Who Can Join? Eligible applicants for the cur-

rent vacancy must be affiliated with a Somerville-based nonprofit organization focused on affordable housing. This includes employees or board members of qualifying organizations.

What is the Time Commitment? The Trust meets virtually on the second Thursday of each month at 5:15 p.m., with meetings typically lasting around 1.5 hours. Additional time for review of documents and occasional special meetings may be needed, for an estimated total of 4 hours per month.

What is the Appointment

Process? Members are appointed to two-year terms in a volunteer capacity. The SAHT is composed of nine Trustees, with six members appointed by the Mayor after a review by the Appointments Advisory Committee. Three members serve in an ex-officio capacity.

How Do I Apply? Applications are due by December 20, 2024. Please submit a resume, cover letter, and any relevant supplemental materials.

Where to Apply: Applications can be sent via email or U.S. Mail to:

Email: pgoldstein@somervillema.gov
Mail: Paul Goldstein, City of Somerville, OSPCD Housing Division, 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145

For questions or more information, contact Paul Goldstein at pgoldstein@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2587.

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

Congratulations to The Medford VFW on its new Installation of Commander Steve McLaughlin as he takes charge.

Best of luck and we can't wait to see all the good things that you will bring to the VFW under your guidance and leadership!

For new membership call (781)395-2519



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"It's as close as you can get for a real authentic Italian dining experience that will keep you coming back for more" "Definitely a two thumbs up rating and absolutely worth checking

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

State of A Tavola:

A Tavola's outdoor patio dining is open for business! Take-out and delivery is also available! (with-in a small radius of A Tavola).

A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social media channels. Please stay tuned

for any and all details.

As always our gift cards will be available through our website, over the phone and in person. Starting Tuesday, for every gift card purchase over \$100, we will add an additional \$20 gift card as a way to thank you for your support.

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

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

A Tavola Restaurant Winchester outdoor patio dining is open for business & takeout orders: (781)729-1040 34 Church St Winchester

Thank you for your continued support.



As The City of Medford Turns....News 'bout Town

Gobble, Gobble, Gobble them up! They are here. The MEDFORD LIONS CLUB is hosting its 8th popular, stuffing, raffle filled Turkey Raffle! The buffet is on THUR, NOV 21 AT The Fireman's Club, Salem St Medford, 6:30 pm. Buffet, only \$20, raffles \$5 or 3/\$12!

RSVP Sharon Deyeso for buffet OR TICKETS. sharondeyeso@yahoo.com

The LIONS CLUB is a famous Charity, 105 years old, that focuses on Mass Eye Research, Tufts and BU Eye Research, diabetes, disaster, and hearing. Turkey proceeds will go toward Free Eye Testing this year, disaster hurricane aid and mainly to a MHS eye or hearing impaired SCHOLARSHIP Senior!! Come help your school community and

have some fun!

Special thanks to the Medford Vocational Printing Students for our tickets and owner, Peter DeSisto, of the fine Avellino's on Mystic Ave for skill and generosity.

With Lionheart thanks!

Sharon Deyeso and Medford Lions



As The City of Medford Turns....News 'bout Town

The Saga Returns...or as Bugs Bunny would say, What's up Doc!!#\$\$. Sounds like A Barton Brawl

AND, watch free (you actually pay for a seat n your home taxes) in person or ZOOM the City Council every two week Tues meeting...yes, you will think you are on a movie set often entering the Chambers as it was wild and wiley last week again!

How do you explain this? Often the audience views many motions by Council that are disturbing or

involved time consuming, jarring issues that may be far off and poorly timed topics... \$\$\$\$. May we remind Council as lay taxpayers...we are not your bank and years have passed without a spelled plan. Steps, concrete vision other than trees and a cheer for passing unnecessary overrides!!! Tax is in style and now no HW again for Council... they escaped plans again for building revenue...but will tax.

The cheering was immense at their after election gathering...shameful.

Those who did not VOTE, shame on you for burdening us with a tax, brains here voting NO but not on Council or. Committee. Stay tuned for more of The Runaway Council in the remake of the "Streets of Laredo" in Medford. A shame.

Sharon Deyeso, Adjunct Professor Longtime, concerned Resident



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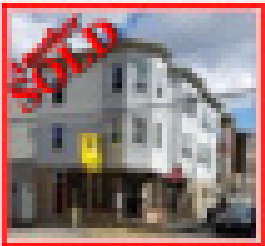


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142 Elm Street, Somerville
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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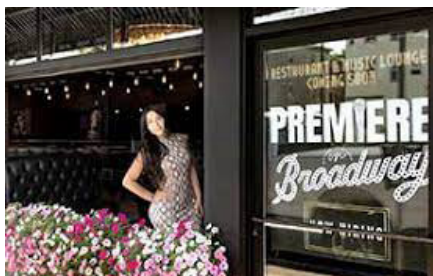
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th 9:00 - 10:00 AM

70 Partridge Avenue, at the corner of Medford Street



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 5 City Councilor Naima Sait, Director of Veterans Services Jerome Thomas, and honored guests invite you to this much anticipated event.

Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this event, please contact 311 (617-666-3311) in advance. The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at somervillema.gov/ContactSomerville or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event. For more information contact Ann Franzen: AFranzen@somervillema.gov

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City of Somerville Unveils First-of-Its-Kind Guide to Transforming Private Land into Public Spaces



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City’s Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF) Division, is announcing the release of the Civic Space Design Guide, that provides a framework for developers and municipalities to collaborate to create Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) that serve and welcome all Somerville residents and visitors.

“Somerville is leading by example with this guide, which

represents our commitment to innovation in public space and community building,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “The Civic Space Design Guide is the first of its kind, a resource that not only elevates how development can contribute to our city but also sets a standard we hope other municipalities will adopt. We’re creating spaces that are welcoming to everyone and enhancing the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit Somerville.”

While Somerville’s dense settlement limits opportunities to buy and create new open spaces, development areas offer substantial potential for increasing open space through POPS. These spaces, which have been utilized in urban areas across the United States since the 1960s, can provide valuable public areas within private

developments.

However, research has shown that POPS can sometimes feel exclusionary or unwelcoming due to factors like security presence, lack of family-friendly amenities, or designs that disconnect these areas from broader civic spaces. The Civic Space Design Guide addresses these challenges by establishing clear principles for POPS that ensure accessibility, inclusivity, and integration with Somerville’s public space network.

“Because open space is so crucial to the vitality of Somerville and all cities, we cannot afford to create what we call ‘latte parks,’ which are spaces where people feel they need to buy an expensive drink to belong,” said PSUF Director Luisa Oliveira. “Our guide emphasizes that even when a developer is de-

signing a parcel in front of their building, that space must serve the entire community as part of Somerville’s larger network of parks and civic areas. POPS in Somerville must be read as genuinely public, inclusive spaces designed for the diverse needs of our residents.”

The City recently celebrated the opening of a new POPS space, Boynton Yards Park, which features thoughtfully designed amenities to create an inviting public gathering space for neighborhood residents, workers, and visitors alike. Click here for photos of the ribbon cutting ceremony and the finished park.

The guide serves as a resource for developers, design consultants, and the community, reinforcing the City’s commitment to creating meaningful public spaces as part of its broader

SomerVision 2040 goals, which include adding over 100 acres of open space across Somerville. It complements the Somerville Zoning Ordinance by clearly defining PSUF’s role as a partner in the design and construction process, ensuring POPS are vibrant, high-quality spaces that serve the public.

The Civic Space Design Guide is available to the public on the SomerVoice page: voice.somervillema.gov/pops, where visitors can access the policy document and an interactive map of POPS in Somerville.



Bureaucracy on Broadway: Woody's Liquors' Uphill Battle

Existing Building: The former Winter Hill Laundromat at 483 Broadway, Somerville, MA, which has remained vacant and neglected since a fire destroyed it nearly a decade ago.

By Sasha Wood
November 13th, 2024



Proposed Building Design: Architect Tavis Babbitt's rendering of the proposed new building for Woody's Liquors at 483 Broadway, a modern and revitalized structure that aims to replace the long-abandoned laundromat.



In a city that praises small businesses as the backbone of the community, the reality for John Wood, a business owner of 35 years, tells a different story. For nearly three years, he has faced relentless regulatory obstacles in his effort to relocate his liquor store from 523 Broadway to 483 Broadway, on the border of Somerville and Medford. The building at 483 Broadway, once the Winter Hill Laundromat, has sat vacant for almost a decade after a fire. Wood envisions transforming this abandoned property into a modern, welcoming store, but his journey has been anything but straightforward. What should have been a routine relocation has become a lesson in how local bureaucracy can derail even the best-laid plans. His story reflects struggles that many in the community understand all too well: trying to improve the neighborhood while battling a system that often seems indifferent to those it's supposed to support.

Wood started with a simple goal: to move his business up the street and keep serving his community. The process began in October 2021 with a meeting to present his plans, but he soon realized the approval process would be anything but simple. "We expected a few typical requirements," he recalls, "but this has gone well beyond anything I could've anticipated. Every time we met one demand, another took its place." These delays have cost Wood thousands in fees, redesigns, and valuable time.

Despite his persistence, each step has been blocked by red tape, a burden that feels impossible for small business owners without limitless resources. The

challenge of relocating to a spot straddling Somerville and Medford only adds complexity, with differing requirements and greater scrutiny. "It's like they expect small business owners to just give up," Wood says. "You wonder if it's even worth trying when the process feels stacked against you."

Pandemic-era restrictions have only added to the challenge. The lack of in-person meetings has led to long waits, countless Zoom calls, and frequent misunderstandings. Wood's architect, Tavis Babbitt, noted that rules seemed to shift with each phase, making an already complex system nearly impossible to navigate. By March 2022, a neighborhood consultation turned into a logistical nightmare due to a missing Zoom password, causing yet another delay.

Months later, despite modifications to address neighborhood concerns, city feedback continued to hold up the design, pushing the project further into an uncertain future.

Compounding these issues are constantly evolving zoning standards. Each time Wood's team revised the design to meet one requirement, another adjustment was demanded. By early 2023, the city notified him that his previously granted variances had expired, forcing him to restart the approval process. "It's frustrating beyond words," he says. "This is supposed to be a process that encourages responsible business, but it feels like a system designed to make you fail."

In an effort to break through the cycle of

red tape, Wood reached out to Somerville's mayor, hoping his case would resonate with city leadership. In his formal request, he outlined the bureaucratic struggle blocking his relocation efforts since 2021. He highlighted his decades-long relationship with the community and the disrepair at 483 Broadway—a former laundromat that burned down years ago and now serves as a refuge for homeless individuals. Wood asked for 15 minutes of the mayor's time, but his plea was met with silence. The lack of response only added to his frustration, as did the Planning Commission's repeated setbacks, which seem to trap him in an endless loop of reapplications, fees, and delays.

Despite three years of effort, Wood's journey is far from over. Each hard-won step seems to be met with a new setback, testing his patience, resilience, and belief in a system that promises support for small businesses. His struggle isn't just about one store—it reflects the uphill battles faced by many entrepreneurs today. Wood isn't asking for special treatment; he's asking for fairness, transparency, and a chance to contribute to his community without being buried in red tape. His story highlights a deeper need to reform a process that too often discourages those striving to bring positive change. At a time when opportunity feels increasingly out of reach, his fight isn't just his own—it's a call for a system that genuinely supports those working to build stronger communities.

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Somerville Invited to Learn More About New Ordinance to Help Renters Access Benefits of Green Energy Upgrades Wednesday, November 20 Proposed ordinance brings greater energy efficiency, affordability, and more to renters



SOMERVILLE– Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville’s Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) invite you to a virtual community meeting to learn more about a pro-

posed 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.

Meeting Details

When: Wednesday, November 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Online via Zoom

How to Join: Register for the meeting here or go to

somervillema.gov/rred

Attendees will get updates on the proposed ordinance, the community feedback process and the feedback received, discuss the preliminary implementation plan, and have opportunities to ask questions and give additional feedback. Once finalized, the proposed ordinance will be submitted to City Council for approval.

For questions about this initiative, please contact Garrett Anderson at gan-

derson@somervillema.gov and 857-270-4403.

About the Rental Registry and Energy Disclosure Roughly two-thirds of Somerville residents are renters, and the City of Somerville 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.

The proposed ordinance will strengthen two-way communication between

landlords and the city, while improving landlord access to energy efficiency and weatherization resources. In passing this ordinance, Somerville would be joining more than 60% of US cities in creating a rental registry. The energy disclosure component would be the first of its kind in Massachusetts, and increase awareness about energy efficiency in rental units.

Medford Wellington Expands Commercial Services with New Location in Massachusetts

Partnership with Hub Refrigeration expands Medford Wellington’s commercial refrigeration services to help businesses run uninterrupted BOSTON, November 19, 2024 – To meet growing demand, Medford Wellington, a business continuity company that has been providing New England-based enterprises with commercial services and construction for almost 60 years, today announced the opening of its fifth location in Quincy, Mass.

In addition, Medford Wellington announced it is partnering with Quincy-based Hub Refrigeration to expand Medford Wellington’s capabilities in grocery store refrigeration.

“We continue to see a growing

demand in commercial refrigeration, and more businesses are looking for a single partner to support all their commercial service needs,” said Michael LaCrosse, CEO of Medford Wellington. “By expanding our capabilities and adding a new location in the South Shore of Mass., we continue to show our commitment to being the one-stop shop for our customers as well as Hub Refrigeration’s customers so they can run 24/7, without any disruption to their business.”

Since 1967, Medford Wellington has been helping commercial enterprises, ranging from restaurants and retail spaces to laboratories and hospitals, run business smoothly and uninterrupted. Its experts work in partnership with business owners and facility managers to fix real-time issues such as HVAC, electrical and plumbing, while also planning, constructing, and managing cutting-edge

systems to minimize risk, optimize performance, and reduce energy costs. The company also provides custom maintenance and monitoring programs, which Hub Refrigeration will leverage to help keep its clients operational 24/7.

“Hub Refrigeration has been supporting the commercial refrigeration and HVAC needs of our customers for more than 75 years, spanning the Greater Boston area to Rhode Island and New Hampshire,” said Steve and Leo Doyle, owners of Hub Refrigeration. “As we continue to expand, we wanted to find the right local partner who is equally committed to business continuity, operational efficiency, and safety, and that’s Medford Wellington.”

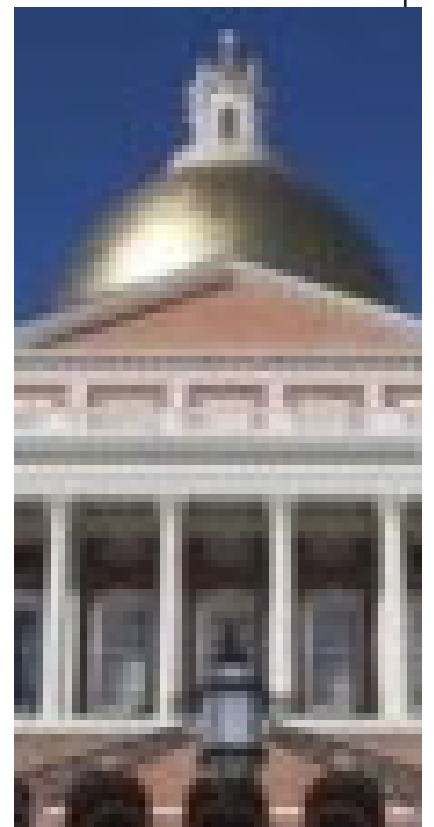
Medford Wellington and Hub Refrigeration will now have locations in Quincy, Mass.; Medford, Mass.;

Billerica, Mass.; Hatfield, Mass.; and Rocky Hill, Conn.

About Medford Wellington Medford Wellington, the business continuity company, is committed to keeping commercial enterprises running uninterrupted – from restaurants and retail spaces to laboratories and hospitals. Its ecosystem of experts works in partnership with business owners and facility managers to fix real-time issues as well as plan, construct, and manage cutting-edge systems to optimize performance and reduce energy costs. The team collaborates with partners to analyze and minimize future risks and leverages Medford Wellington’s custom maintenance and monitoring program to keep businesses operational 24/7.

To learn more about Medford Wellington’s commercial services and construction expertise, please visit

MedfordWellington.com.



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\$3.9 BILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE (H 5100)



By Bob Katzen

The House 137-8 and then 139-4, Senate 39-1, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a \$3.9 billion economic development package that supporters say would make bold investments in life sciences, climate tech, AI and small businesses, “building on Massachusetts’ national leadership and creating an environment where businesses and workers thrive.”

The package increases the annual tax credit authorization for the life sciences industry from \$30 million to \$40 million. Other provisions include \$400 million for the MassWorks Infrastructure Program to support public infrastructure projects and create jobs; \$150 million for library construction projects; \$103 million for AI in systems across the state; \$100 million for infrastructure improvements in rural communities; \$21 million for resilience in agriculture and fishing; and \$40 million for food science innovations.

“This economic development bill maximizes assets and opportunities and ensures Massachusetts will continue to lead the way toward a robust, adaptable and innovative future,” said Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover), Senate Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. “The bill provides meaningful investments

in life sciences, climatetech and small businesses.”

“This legislation will ensure the commonwealth can inject millions of dollars into critical sectors, develop the state’s workforce, grow our economy and make Massachusetts more competitive,” said Rep. Jerry Parisella (D-Beverly), House Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. “Policy provisions include permitting reforms, educator diversity, consumer protections around ticketing and home improvement contractors, workforce training and rural development. These, along with meaningful tax credits and incentives for life sciences and climatetech will help keep Massachusetts a leader in vital industries.”

“This well-rounded economic development package makes significant, targeted investments into major sectors of the commonwealth’s economy,” said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, (D-Boston), chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. “By renewing our commitment to the life sciences industry, and by making significant new investments into climatetech, we will be elevating the commonwealth’s economy to be able to compete and thrive for years to come.”

Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) said this “so-called economic development” bill contains major education and

civil service reforms. “That alone is enough for a ‘No’ vote,” said Boldyga, “They should be separate bills. But regardless of that, this bill will continue to march the commonwealth down a destructive path of reckless government spending. It’s full of pork, tax breaks for special interest groups and over \$400 million in more subsidies for offshore wind that is destroying our coastline, killing our whales and decimating our fishing industry.”

Boldyga continued, “[It] also includes dangerous DEI language that would allow for exemptions of certain certification tests for public school teachers in order to meet diversity goals, incorporates ‘culturally responsive training,’ requires schools to create ‘diversity plans,’ and creates DEI officers and other mandatory DEI roles within our schools.”

“While I support many of the funding initiatives in the bill, I have concerns with outside sections of the bill that have nothing to do with economic development which I simply cannot support,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “For example, the SAPHE act, which is about public health and dramatically expands the power of state health officials while diminishing local control and leading to lower levels of accountability which could cause severe economic impacts on businesses and individuals.”

Fattman continued, “I do not

agree with the portions of the bill that lower the standards of licensure for teachers and physicians, especially at a time where we should expect nothing but excellence from our teachers and doctors. Where too many of the sections were unrelated to economic development, it led to my ‘No’ vote, and these sections are troubling and distracting from the intended purpose of this legislation. Quite frankly, I believe the public is tired of this approach to legislating. Instead, we should have included practical ways to reduce the cost of living for Massachusetts residents struggling to make ends meet because of affordability issues in the state, such as tax breaks for childcare and/or middle class families.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes/Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes/Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Didn’t vote/
Didn’t vote Rep. Erika Uytendhoeven Yes/Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE (S 2967)

By Bob Katzen

The House 128-17, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey climate/energy legislation that supporters say will make systemic changes to the state's clean energy infrastructure which will help the state achieve its net zero emissions by 2050 goals. They say it will also expand electric vehicle use and infrastructure and protect residents and ratepayers.

A House-Senate conference committee drafted the compromise version to resolve the differences in the competing versions approved by the House and Senate earlier this year.

"Today the Legislature

once again took decisive action to address the climate crisis," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "While achieving the shared goal of reforming siting and permitting so that we can ensure that clean energy projects get approved and built at the rate necessary to meet our state's ambitious emissions reduction goals, we are also expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives, addressing the high cost and long lifespan of gas infrastructure projects as we strive to move towards cleaner energy sources, and protecting rate payers from bearing the costs of this transformational shift."

"This legislation represents the Legislature's

continued commitment to meeting Massachusetts' long-term emission reduction targets, as it builds on the work that is being done to modernize the commonwealth's energy grid, increase clean energy generation and combat the climate crisis," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "The reforms related to siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure will be critical in the process of transitioning the commonwealth's energy grid away from fossil fuels over time."

"I voted against the [bill] because of the stance it takes on natural gas," said Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield), one of only 17 members, all Republicans, who voted against the

measure. "This bill wants to put an end to the use of natural gas in our state. Natural gas is not only abundant in the United States, but it is one of the cleanest burning energy sources. Increasing the use of natural gas would help our planet, while not having a detrimental impact on our economy. Unfortunately, this bill is just another nail in the coffin for using natural gas as an energy source."

"While I and many others in the 5th Barnstable District support alternative energy, my primary responsibility as a state representative is to prioritize the health, safety and best interests of my constituents," said Rep. Steve Xiarhos (R-Barnstable). "These interests would be

significantly undermined by [the bill] because it would dramatically reduce state and local oversight of clean energy projects and the infrastructure to support them. Communities I represent have been directly and negatively affected by this infrastructure, and I have been pushing for more state and local oversight of these projects, not less, to protect host communities' interests. This bill is a step in the wrong direction."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)


Rep. Christine Barber Yes/
Yes Rep. Mike Connolly
Yes Rep. Paul Donato
Didn't Vote Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

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Somerville/Medford Remembering John W. Parker



Obituary
Parker, John W. – Of Somerville, passed away on Thursday, October 31, 2024. He was 72.

Born in Hillsboro, Illinois,

he was the beloved son of the late Melvin, Sr. and Anne (Ricci) Parker.

Beloved brother of Shirley Sullivan and her husband David of Melrose, and

Melvin Parker, Jr and his wife Donna of Tampa, Florida.

Also survived by many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

BREAST CANCER SCREENINGS (H 4918)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law legislation that would require health insurance companies to provide coverage for diagnostic examinations for breast cancer, digital breast tomosynthesis screening and medically necessary and appropriate screening with breast magnetic resonance imaging.

Supporters noted that although access to routine preventive screening mammograms is currently covered under the Afford-

able Care Act, this legislation would go further and require coverage for certain screenings and exams currently not uniformly covered by law.

“We know that early detection of breast cancer saves lives,” said Healey. “This legislation will help ensure that cost is not a barrier for women to get the screenings and care they need.”

“Today is the culmination of work I have done for nearly a decade to ensure that all women have access to neces-

sary, and possibly lifesaving, breast cancer screenings,” said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). “Early detection of breast cancer saves lives. This legislation makes those diagnostic exams used for early detection accessible and affordable, giving women the vital resources needed to catch breast cancer in its earliest stages.”

“This legislation signed into law by Gov. Healey ensures that all women in the commonwealth have access to the digital breast tomosynthesis and MRI

screening they need to catch cancer early, without facing financial barriers,” said Sen. Mike Rush (D-Boston). “The increased access to early detection that this enabled through this legislation will save lives.”

“Cost is a known barrier to completing follow up cancer screenings,” Marc Hymovitz, Massachusetts director of government relations for American Cancer Society Action Network. “By eliminating the potential for unexpected costs, we can increase the likeli-

hood of timely, follow up screenings for those who need them – and thus the promise of better health outcomes – for all communi-

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Somerville Police Officers Participate in M

On Monday, November 11, some of our Officers were able to participate in the Mystic Learning Center's Veterans Appreciation Breakfast. Over the last several years our Officers have been building a relationship with the children of the Mystic Learning Center.

Today our Military Veterans were able go speak with the children. They were able to teach the kids about all the branches of the Military and what serving our Country has meant to them. It was a great way to show the kids all of the opportunities the military can provide and that it is a career option in life. Thank you again to all that have sacrificed and served our country.



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Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



Somerville Blessing Boxes are located at Union Square Plaza and Statue Park Davis Square
 Give what you can, Take what you need
 Check us out Somerville Blessing Boxes on Facebook and please join the group!
 The outpour of support of donations that have been coming in of much needed supplies of foods, hygienic items and warm clothing from the generous people of Somerville is overwhelming.
 Its up to all of us to help when we can to make a difference in the lives of others especially in those of the

homeless and less fortunate.
 A "Somerville Blessing Boxes" Facebook page has been established keep everyone updated on donations and the Blessing Boxes inventory status. Please feel free to join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville.
 One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square.
 "Give what you can, Take what you need."
 Much thanks and appreciation,
 Frank Santangelo

Blessing Backpack Checklist

BASICS:	TOILETRIES
<input type="checkbox"/> Wool beanie (hat)	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick
<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarf	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer
FOOD & DRINK	<input type="checkbox"/> Comb
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	SURVIVAL
<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	TREATS:
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	<input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates
<input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs
HELP THEM CONNECT	<input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped)
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
<input type="checkbox"/> Stationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum
<input type="checkbox"/> Stamps	SPLURGE:
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card	<input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag

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CHANGE WHO APPOINTS THE FIRM TO AUDIT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (H 5105)

By Bob Katzen

The House 135-10, approved a new House rule that amends the current process by which the House appoints a private, independent auditing firm to audit the books of the House. Under the current rule 85A, the House business manager hires the company that will do the audit. Under the new rule 85A, the state auditor, currently Diana DiZoglio, would recommend a firm to conduct the audit and the business manager would hire that firm.

Among the House's 132 Democrats, 123 voted in favor of the new rule and nine did not vote. No Democrat voted against the rule. Among the 24 House Republicans, 11 voted for the new rule, three did not vote and ten voted against it. The one unenrolled member of the House voted for the rule.

In November, voters approved Question 1 which created a new state law that would allow the state auditor to audit the Legislature. The vote was 71.6 percent in favor to 28.4 percent opposed. The new House rule 85A does not change that law.

Rep. Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough), part of House Speaker Ron Mariano's leadership team, said the change would ensure "any audit pursuant to the passage of Question 1 will be a professional audit, not a political one." This remark is an apparent reference to DiZoglio's many clashes with legislative leaders during and after she served in the House and the Senate.

"We haven't touched the [new] law," said Mariano. "Let's make that clear: we have not touched the law. I have no intent to do anything right now, except maybe take a few days off. This has got nothing to do with repealing anything. This is a rules change."

Mariano pitched the change as "an opportunity to acknowledge the 70 percent to 30 percent vote of the electorate." He continued, "Obviously, [the voters] weren't happy with the way we were doing things, and we took a look at the way we were doing things. We found we could make a few changes that we think maintains a strong financial audit while still backboning our argument about the separation of

powers."

"As a longtime supporter of legislative transparency, I joined with all House Democrats and many Republicans to strengthen the existing auditing provisions found in House Rule 85A," said Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge). "This has no bearing on the provisions of Question 1, because a House rule and a state law are two different things. It seems clear that separation of powers questions may emerge regarding the new law created by Question 1, and while those questions are being addressed by the judicial process, this vote to strengthen our internal rules will help add to transparency."

Criticism of the new rule was quick. "The House's actions to ignore the will of the people, who voted overwhelmingly for greater transparency and accountability through Question 1, are profoundly disheartening and absolutely unacceptable," responded DiZoglio who led the campaign for passage of Question 1. "Should the Senate also seek to similarly stymie our efforts, legislators will possess sole authority to block taxpayers' access

to what any audit examines and show us only what they want us to see - just as they do now. The public would not have the opportunity to see how much taxpayer money is being spent on non-disclosure agreements, nor on state contracts potentially handed out to elected officials' friends."

She continued, "I am pushing the governor and attorney general to support the people in pushing back against the Legislature's attempt to dismantle Question 1's power. The law needs to be followed and enforced and we need their help to ensure that occurs. Our recent audit of the Legislature, which they refused to participate in, found they did not follow their own rules, nor submit any financial audits to our office, as required by their rules. Yet another rule, with no teeth, is what the Legislature is telling taxpayers they deserve instead of their compliance with the law. It's unacceptable. Please call your legislators, the attorney general and the governor to register your support for the audit law you just voted for."

"I believe that that this rule change would go against what 70 percent

plus of the commonwealth voted for on November 5th," said Rep. John Marsi (R-Dudley). "While I understand it allowed the auditor to select an auditor to perform a financial audit, the scope and control over the process doesn't seem to be in line with the referendum question and may work against the intended outcome the public desires."

"This role change amounts to a step in opposition to the widespread referendum that was just voted on by the public a week ago," said Rep. Joe McKenna (R-Sutton). "While on its surface ceding some existing audit control to the auditor would appear to be in the spirit of the referendum, the reality is that the Legislature would maintain control over the scope and depth of any contracted work, thereby circumventing the intent of the referendum. A number of representatives had direct conversations with the auditor herself which highlighted her own opposition to the measure as a misguided attempt to undermine the outcome of ballot Question 1."

HOUSE MEMBERS TO VISIT CUBA

By Bob Katzen

The House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) and ten other state representatives are headed to Cuba, where part of their mission is to discuss the importance of investing in healthcare systems with public officials, hospital staff, researchers and charitable organizations.

"I applaud the visit of this important delegation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives to Cuba," said U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA). "This trip will allow state leaders to learn more about the Cuban healthcare system, climate resiliency strategies and life science innovations. It will also facilitate critical conversations about how to get much-

needed humanitarian aid to the Cuban people."

"I am a strong believer in the power of diplomatic dialogue and engagement, and I've long believed it's time to rethink America's failed, cold-war approach to dealing with Cuba," continued McGovern. "I hope that this visit can serve as an important step in improv-

ing relations between our two countries." All expenses incurred by members traveling on this trip, including expenses related to transportation, lodging and meals, are being funded by each individual member.

The group includes Reps. Jennifer Balinsky Armini (D-Marblehead), Michael Day (D-

Stoneham), Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge), Mindy Domb (D-Amherst), Ken Gordon (D-Bedford), John Lawn (D-Watertown), Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Frank Moran (D-Lawrence), Mike Moran (D-Brighton) and Jeff Roy (D-Franklin).

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Sign Up Today for Somerville's Teen Snow Shoveling Program



Paid snow shoveling program pairs teens with senior homeowners and homeowners with disabilities for shoveling assistance

SOMERVILLE- The 2024/25 Somerville Teen Shoveling Program, a paid opportunity for youth to help local seniors and homeowners with disabilities after a snowstorm, is currently accepting applications.

Sign Up to Shovel

The program is available for teens aged 14 to 19 years old. All interested youths must submit an application. Youths aged 18 or 19 must also submit a CORI form. Interested Somerville youth are invited to attend an informational session on Thursday, November 14, at the City Hall Annex Building (50 Evergreen Ave.) from 3:30 to 4 p.m. More information sessions will be scheduled as the season continues.

Once registered for the program, youth will be assigned one or more homes for the duration of the

snow season, and will be contacted by their assigned homeowner after each storm.

Sign Up for Shoveling Assistance

Somerville residents interested in receiving snow shoveling assistance must submit an application and a CORI form to the Somerville's Council on Aging's Holland Street Center (167 Holland St.) and appear at the Holland Street Center in person with a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license, state ID, or passport). Forms may be completed ahead of time or upon arrival at the Center.

The payment rates for assignment for the 2024/25 season is as follows:

- Services
- Homeowners may request one or more services
- Payment is arranged directly between the homeowner and their assigned shoveler
- Sidewalk & Steps \$25
- Driveway (One Spot) \$25
- Corner Lots \$60

*In case of extremely heavy snowfalls, or extremely cold temperatures, prices may change or all jobs may not be able to be completed. Talk with the program coordinator to learn more.

**Driveway spots will be shoveled but snow removal from an actual vehicle is the owner's responsibility.

***No snow blowers will be used by teens

To learn more, or ask any questions, please contact Daniel Harris at dharris@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ex 2406.

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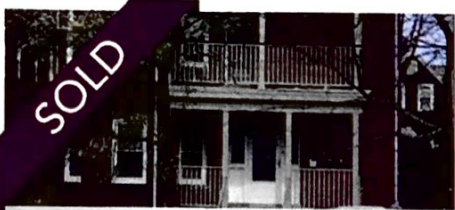
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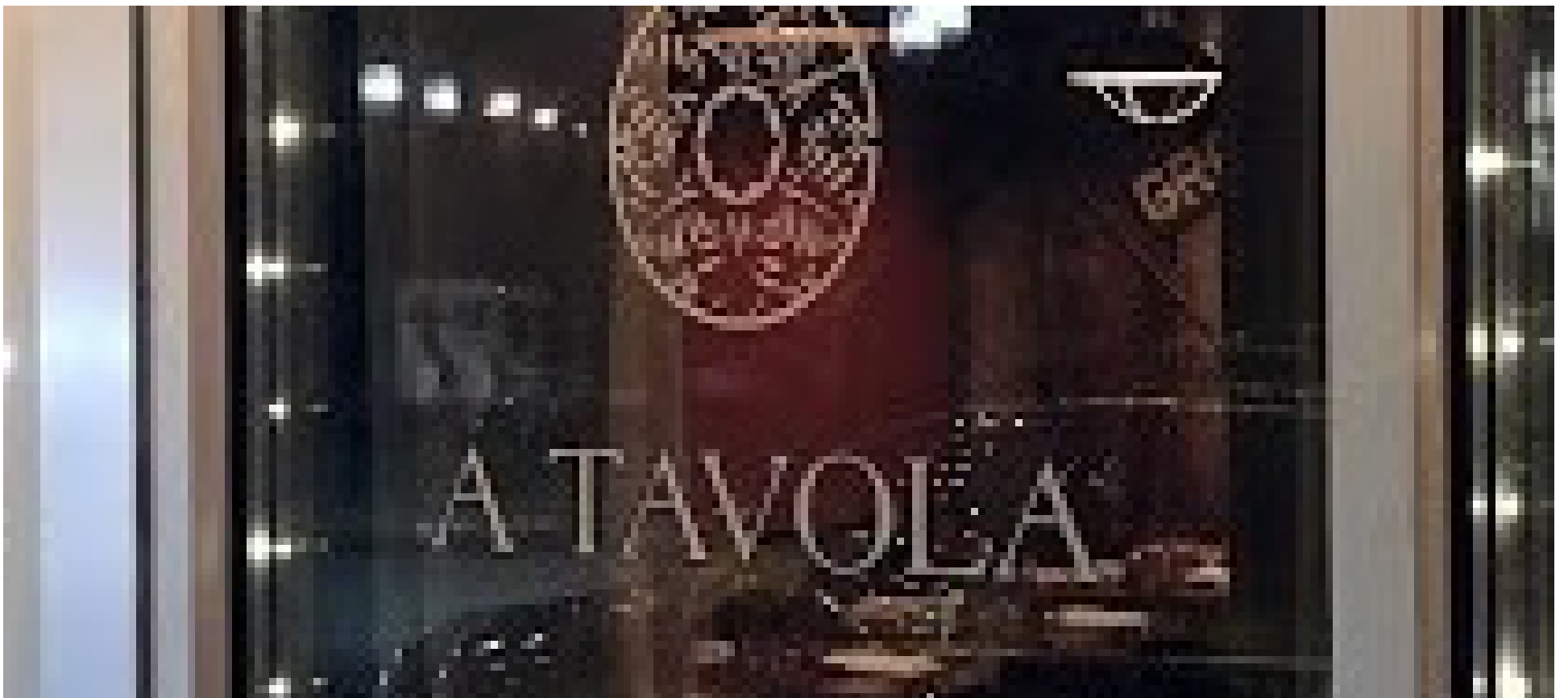
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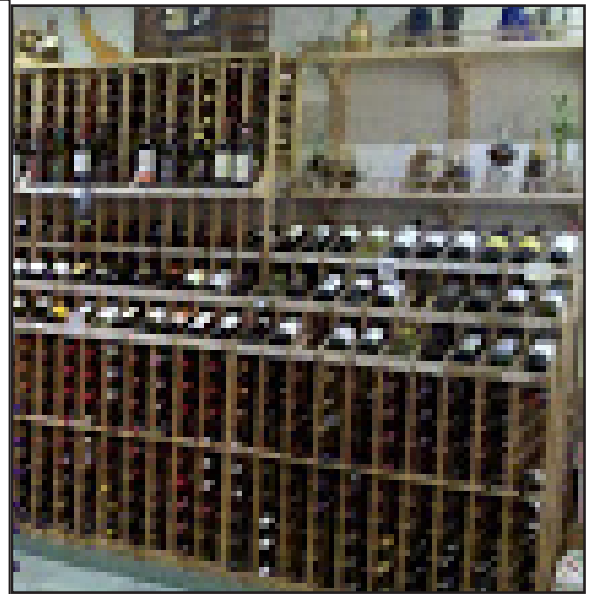


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