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VOL.1 NO.329-237

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday November 26th, 2024

CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE



Continued to page 19

\$3.9 BILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

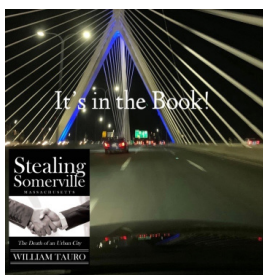
Secure and Hold at Kennedy School Somerville Last Week



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



Continued to page 17



Continued to page 5



MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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



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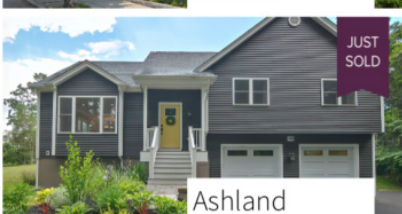
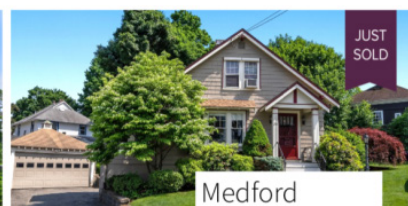
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MARKET ACTIVITY

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

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

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 Phone: _____

Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

Please send both forms and payment to:

Medford High School
 Attn: Rob Farrell
 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
 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 RITA MARIE TAURO



In Memory of
RITA MARIE TAURO
1945 - 2024

OBITUARY OF RITA MARIE TAURO

Rita Marie (Braga) Tauro, a long-time resident of Burlington, passed away at home on the evening of Friday, November 22, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at the age of 79. Rita endured numerous health issues after a hard-fought battle against pancreatic cancer. Her strength and tenacity never failing throughout this long journey.

Born and raised in Somerville, Rita was the youngest daughter

of William and Marie Braga and a graduate of Somerville High School, Class of 1963. She went on to meet her dear husband Ed, through a mutual friend who worked with him at Star Market. What started as friendly pizza outings after work blossomed into a beautiful romance, and in 1968, they married. In 1974, they purchased their forever home in Burlington, where they raised a family full of love and joy.

Before becoming a mother, Rita worked at an insurance company in Cambridge and in the legal department at Polaroid. But once her children were born, her full devotion was to her family. She became a loving and supportive wife, mother, and grandmother. Rita worked part-time as a sales associate at Filene's and Jordan Marsh, and when her grandchildren arrived, she selflessly offered to care for them, providing a nurturing presence in their lives

while their parents worked. Rita was a kind, gentle soul who always put the needs of others before her own while never seeking the spotlight for herself. Family and close friends were everything to her and being surrounded by them was when she was the happiest. Holidays were especially meaningful to Rita. She spent days preparing for gatherings, and Christmas Eve was a highlight of the year, with an open house that welcomed family and friends alike. Summers were spent making lasting memories with her family, from vacations in Dennis Port to the beloved lake house in Balmoral, Moultonborough, NH, where for the past 18 years, she loved bringing her family and friends together. Rita also enjoyed going to the casinos and traveling whenever she could. Her "Girls Weekends" with close friends were cherished.

A humble, thoughtful and loving woman, Rita's heart

was always full of warmth and generosity. She had a gift of making everyone around her feel special, and her kindness touched all who knew her. She was everyone's "Aunt Rita" and created everlasting memories for so many. Rita will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever held in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Surviving Rita are her husband Edward A. Tauro and children, Michele L. Nichol & her husband Todd of Bedford, Denise M. Bowers & her husband Craig of Reading, and Ronald J. Tauro & his wife Yuriko of Melrose. She is the proud and loving grandmother of Kenneth Nichol, James Nichol, Danielle Bowers, Aaron Bowers and Edward Tauro. She was the caring sister of the late Rosalind Barnes & her late husband William, the late William Braga, the late Edward Braga & his surviving wife Margaret of Arlington, Richard Braga & his

wife Judy of Oviedo, FL. She is the sister-in-law of Walter & Lisa Tauro of Arlington, the late Ronald Tauro and his surviving wife Cathy, William & Marisa Tauro of Somerville, David & Maria Tauro of Saugus. Rita is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Visiting hours will be held at the Edward V. Sullivan Funeral Home, 43 Winn Street, Burlington on Monday, November 25 from 4-7 p.m. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial at St. Malachy Church in St. Veronica Parish, on Tuesday November 26, 99 Bedford Street, Burlington at 10 a.m. Services will conclude with a burial at Pine Haven Cemetery. Memorials in Rita's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at <http://www.stjude.org>; For online guestbook and video tribute see www.sullivanfuneralhome.net

Somerville/Medford Remembering Ida (Colozzi) Ceraso



Obituary
Ida (Colozzi) Ceraso - Of Somerville, passed away peace-

fully on Monday, November 18, 2024, at the age of 89. She was born in Gaeta, Italy to of the late Antonio and Palmira (DiMillie) Colozzi. Ida's love for cooking and baking was well-known, and her kitchen was always filled with the comforting aromas of delicious meals she made with care and love. She found great joy in spending time with her family, and her home was a gathering place for those she cherished

most. Ida also enjoyed listening to music throughout her life.

Above all, Ida loved her family deeply, and she was a constant source of love and support to those she held dear. Her kind heart and warm spirit will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Beloved wife of 60 years to the late Antonio S. Ceraso. Devoted mother of Patricia

Schwanbeck and her husband Torsten of Rye, NH and the late Frank Ceraso of North Andover. Cherished grandmother of Marc Schwanbeck and his wife Andrea, Nicholas Ceraso, and Isabel Ceraso. Dear sister of Salvatore Colozzi and his wife Joanne of GA, and the late Elisa Spinosa, and Tina Corretti. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass will be celebrat-

ed on Tuesday, November 26 in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford St., Somerville at 11:00AM. Please meet directly at church.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with entombment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

"News about Town!" Thank you Bill for help and friendship



By Sharon Deyeso

Giving Thanks the LION Way

Last week we saw the Wind Roar and the Rain Roar...tough night but not for LIONS who ROAR all Year! This year's 7th Turkey Raffle was a nice success at the Fireman's Hall on Salem St.

Knowing November as a

Thanks type month, we gave a Club Member blessing and told news of the history and great "eyesight," Mass Eye Research, and Disaster Aid" from this grand World Charity. Guests were part of a buffet and raffles for 3 big birds, turkey breast, gift items, and a Christmas basket of pork roast and goodies! Also, In the light of giving, Mr. William "Bill" Tauro who gave years of time to the Lions and was a

Local candidate for Office spoke enumerating all efforts he gives through Realty work and unselfish days to the "Somerville/Medford News." For years now, sadly, Medford had no paper publication so we hope many can continue to read about Medford News either hard cc or Online by him. In pouring rain, the cause gave us spirit to bring items and celebrate fun spirit for ALL.

The Medford LIONS wants to extend thanks for donations from

Jen's nails, Princess Nails, Wellington's Pizza, Vita Insurance, Heritage Florist, all the gobble birds from Stop & Shop! We mention Special thanks to caterer Peter DeSantis of Avelino's for fine food and Generous donation!

Monies from the buffet and raffle tickets and upcoming May event are distributed this year to MLERF, The Medford HS Scholarship for an Eye or Hearing Impaired Senior, and the Medford VFW. Come join us please at any event or be part of our well know Club.

Happy Turkey Day and a

Great VISION FOR YOUR EYESIGHT



Outdoor Seating: The old saying “Cutting off one’s nose to spite one’s face” definitely applies here!

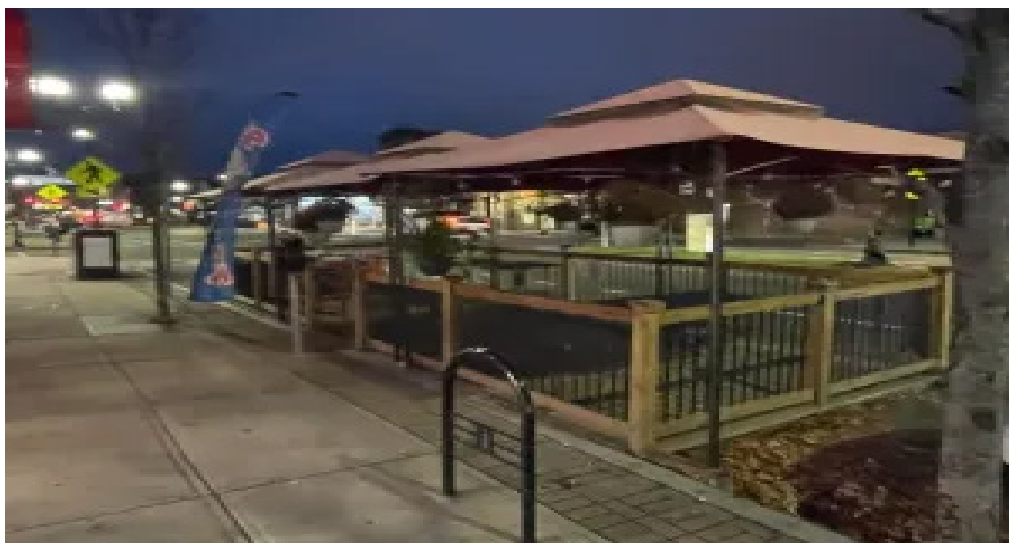
Somerville parking spots are very scarce and hard to find especially on Broadway. Some restaurant owners like this one on Broadway is it's own worst enemy where apparently the owner lacks the use of common sense and she is killing her own business.

I've been noticing this particular restaurant, amongst other restaurants that fit the same criteria, but this one I notice just about every day where it's next to where I do my banking at Santander on Lower Broadway. I've noticed especially tonight, a Friday night the entire restaurant probably seats about 50-60 people it is completely empty and again this is a Friday night, one of the busiest nights of the week.

This restaurant has an outdoor/street parking/seating area outside its restaurant tying us three-four valuable parking spaces not only for them but for other businesses on that same block.

Where do they expect customers to park to do business in their restaurant if they're tying up the parking spaces for no reason? I could see if the inside of the restaurant was full but there's clearly over sixty seats available inside the restaurant tonight and it is completely empty, and yes i'm re-emphasizing again that it's a Friday.

Customer parking, especially directly in front of your restaurant is a major plus for attracting customers, but because you have an outdoor seating area which you cannot fill, then you can not fill up your restaurant because there's no where to park. Pretty idiotic if you ask me. And nothing for nothing they do actually serve a great steak and yes they are the king of steaks, but it's too bad there's nowhere to park to taste it!



Secure and Hold at Kennedy School Somerville Last Week

Your thoughts on the way it was handled?

If there was a bomb threat wouldn't they want to evacuate? Why lock them in the classrooms?

Somerville Kennedy School was placed in a "Secure and Hold" due to a bomb threat made last week.

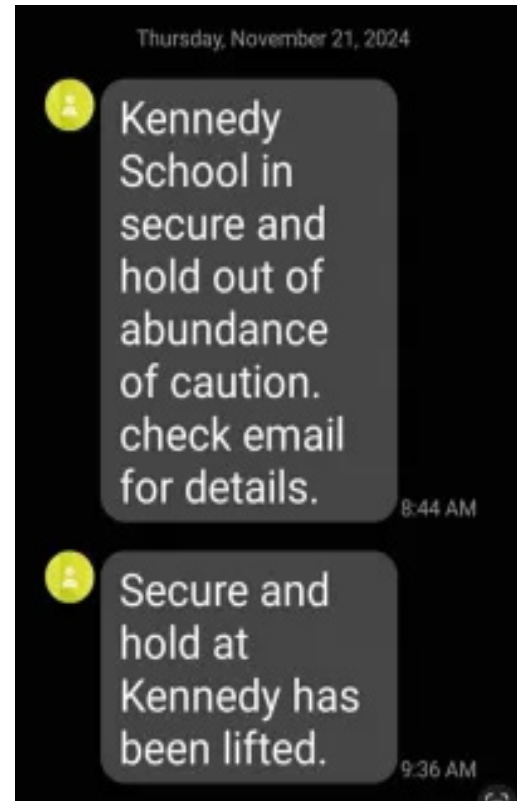
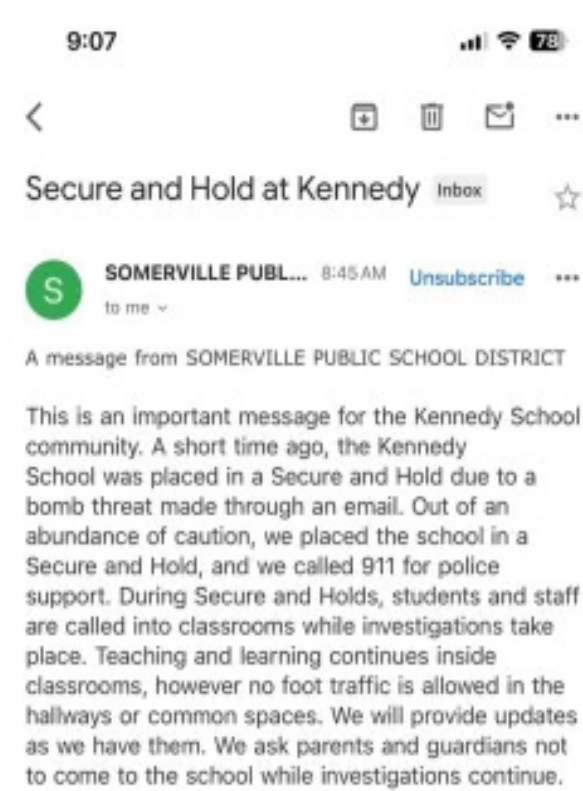
The Email That Was Sent to Parents:

Secure and Hold at Kennedy

A message from SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

This is an important message for the Kennedy School community. A short time ago, the Kennedy School was placed in a Secure and Hold due

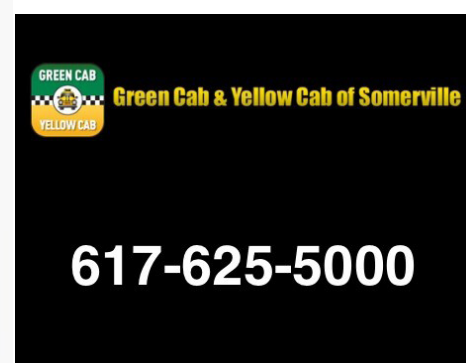
to a bomb threat made through an email. Out of an abundance of caution, we placed the school in a Secure and Hold, and we called 911 for police support. During Secure and Holds, students and staff are called into classrooms while investigations take place. Teaching and learning continues inside classrooms, however no foot traffic is allowed in the hallways or common spaces. We will provide updates as we have them. We ask parents and guardians not to come to the school while investigations continue.



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

State of A Tavola:

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

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

for any and all details.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



Crime Log 11/12/24 – 11/18/24

[HTTPS://WWW.SOMERVILLEPD.COM/PUBLIC-SAFETY-NEWS](https://www.somervillepd.com/public-safety-news)

Residential Breaking & Entering

24071523: On 11/14/24 at approximately 5:20 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Warren Ave for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he left his residence and when he returned, noticed his door was damaged and a guitar was stolen.

Arrest

24071166: On 11/13/24 at approximately 11:56 AM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated a male party was getting his haircut then got up and attacked another employee. Officers placed the male suspect under arrest.

Robbery

24072484: On 11/18/24 at approximately 10:45 PM, Somerville Police responded to Chuckie Harris Park for a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was attacked by a group of males and his cellphone was stolen. The victim suffered injuries to his face.

Assault

24072164: On 11/17/24 at approximately 5:36 PM, Somerville Police responded to Broadway for report of an injured party. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was involved in a fight with another male. The victim suffered injuries to his face.

Assault

24072582: On 11/19/24

at approximately 9:20 AM, Somerville Police responded to Somerville Ave & Park St for a check condition. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was in a shared Uber with another female and was attacked during the ride. The victim suffered injuries to her eye.

Residential Breaking & Entering

24071792: On 11/15/24 at approximately 6:20 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on North St for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a few days prior she was in her living room an noticed a male party walk into her apartment.

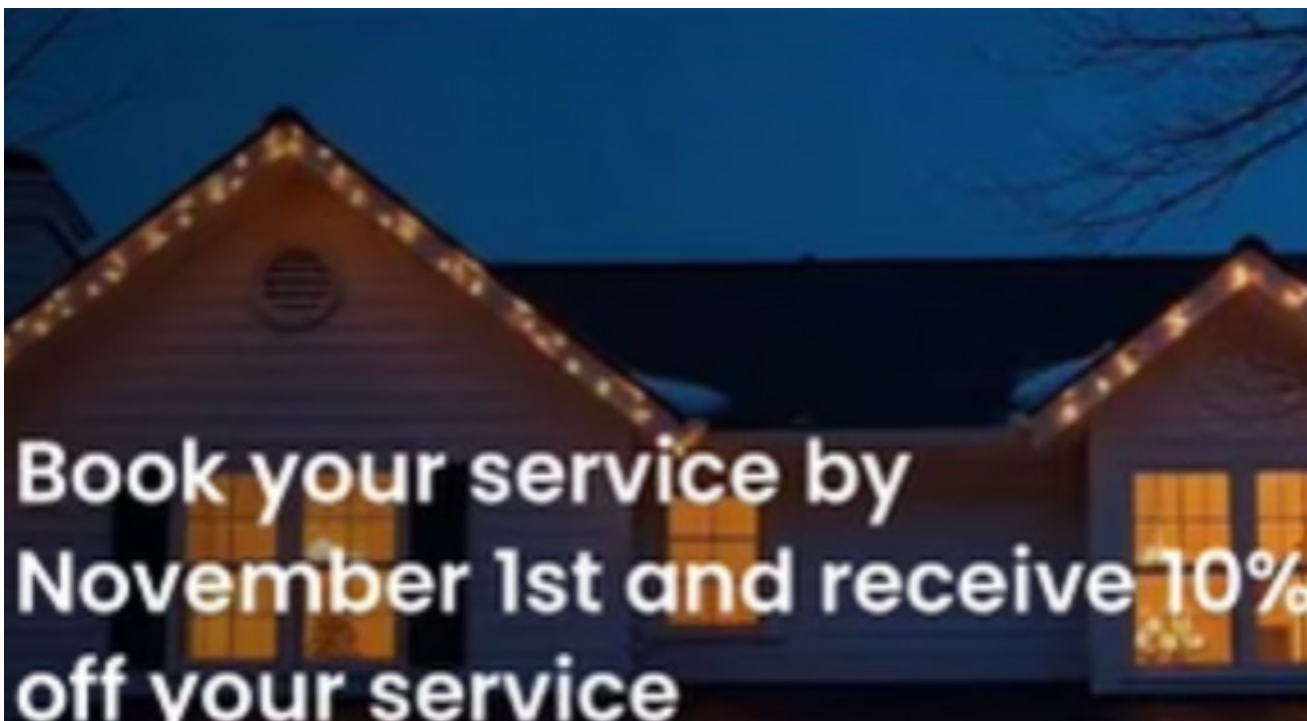
The suspect then left the residence. Nothing was reported missing.

Other Crimes:

- 1 Vandalism
- 1 MV Vandalism
- 1 MV Theft
- 1 Bike Theft
- 2 Package Thefts



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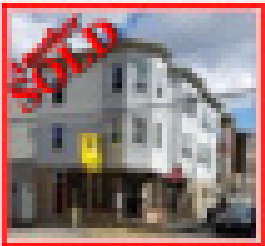


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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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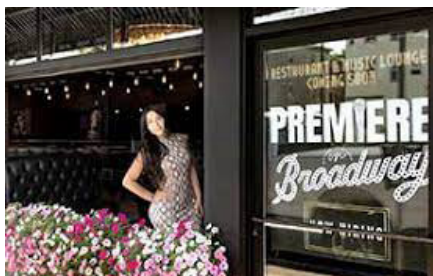
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Sgt. Hansen served in the 5th Marine Division on Iwo Jima, helped raise the first flag on Mt. Suribachi and died in battle six days later.

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.



From Arlington National Cemetery to Boston Getting Ready for the Holidays



By William Tauro

Excitement in the air and the Holidays on fast approach, as many of us are pitching in to help our fellow man. This week, local Contractor Rich

Scirocco traveled down to Arlington National Cemetery located in Virginia to donate his experience and time to install over 180 feet of new fencing that was coordinated by military officials and other

volunteers from all over the United States. With their combined efforts and fighting off a drizzled cold day, they were able to accomplish their task in short order

within one day. “We all have family members buried here over time and it was great to meet other contractors from all over that share the same beliefs of public service.

Scirocco stated “Its an easy commitment and I will do it again, whenever they need me”.



Our Lady of the Assumption School Christmas Craft Fair



2024 Toys For Local Children Event



Please Join us For Toys for Local Children 2024! December 7th, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the George Dilboy Post. There will be dinner, music and raffles. Tickets \$20.00 . Tickets can be purchased by using our vemo @toys-forlocalchildren. Please inbox me and we will get this done we will have a fun night that night! Thank you.



\$3.2 MILLION FOR APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey announced \$3.2 million in Grants for Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities in Workforce to 29 organizations to train and place 514 apprentices across the state. The grants, which include contract renewals and new awards, leverage more than \$2 million in state

funding complemented by remaining support from federal funds to train apprentices in high growth industries like health care, manufacturing, clean energy and early childhood education.

“Registered Apprenticeship creates more rewarding and equitable career pathways for all of our

residents, while addressing our greatest workforce challenges,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “The newly announced grants will support local, regional and statewide efforts to grow and diversify apprenticeship opportunities as well as help create new programs in multiple sectors.”

“Registered Apprenticeship increases access and opportunity for untapped, diverse talent to pursue a career supported by technical training combined with on-the-job training,” said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones. “This proven model empowers individuals, especially underrepresented workers

in fields like construction and high-tech industries to advance in a career with meaningful wages, benefits, and the skills employers need.”

This Week’s QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

By Bob Katzen

“I think it’s absolutely appropriate that there be enforcement and deportation of individuals who commit crime, including violent crime. That’s very, very important. We recognize it would be devastating if there were mass raids, here and across the country, that took out people who’ve been working in this country for a long time, who have families and kids here.”
—Gov. Healey on Presi-

dent-elect Donald Trump’s plan to deport hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants/undocumented immigrants by declaring a national emergency.

“I am joining with Sen. Peter Durant in asking Gov. Healey to make public safety a priority by allowing ICE to do their jobs. It is outrageous that an illegal immigrant was arrested for forcible rape of a child and then released back on to our streets. I cannot believe that she is turning a blind eye to

protect migrants who have attacked children.”
— Senator-Elect Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton) urging Gov. Healey to cooperate with the Trump administration in deporting criminal illegal immigrants/undocumented immigrants.

“Your voice matters, and this is your opportunity to help us build on our successes and strengthen our movement for the future. Together, we can ensure the Massachusetts Democratic Party continues to

represent and advocate for the values that matter most to our communities.”
— Steve Kerrigan, Chair, Massachusetts Democratic Party announcing the launch of a Virtual Listening Tour to be held on Zoom, to engage with people across the state.

“Our Lottery customers are passionate sports fans and super proud of our teams. By partnering with the Celtics on this exciting instant ticket, we are a state of winning for players both on and off the

court.”
— State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Chair of the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, commemorating the team’s latest title run with the launch of the Celtics Banner 18 instant ticket game, a \$10 ticket that is on sale now at Lottery retailers across the state.

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\$2.4 MILLION FOR SCHOOLS PLANNING EXPANDED SCHOOL DAYS OR SCHOOL YEARS (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen

House 133-24, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of the entire \$2.4 million for grants to cities, towns and regional school districts for planning and implementing expanded learn-

ing time by making school days and/or school years longer.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$2.4 million was eliminated.

"I am vetoing this item be-

cause funding is intended for 2024 summer month programming, which cannot be implemented at this point in the fiscal year due to the need for a spring application window," said Gov. Healey in her veto message.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$2.4 million. A "No" vote is against it.)Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

\$1.1 MILLION FOR STEM STARTER ACADEMY (H 4800)

By Bob Katzen

The House 155-2, overrode Gov. Healey's veto of \$1.1 million (reducing funding from \$4.7 million to \$3.6 million) for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Starter

Academy programs to be implemented at Massachusetts community colleges to benefit student populations identified by the department as having expressed a high level of interest in STEM majors and STEM careers but are underperforming on

STEM academic assessments.

The Senate did not act on the veto so the veto stands and the \$1.1 million was eliminated.

"I am reducing this item to an amount consistent with

my [budget] recommendation," said Gov. Healey in her veto message. "This budget sustains and adds substantial new funding across community colleges to support the goals of this program."

(A "Yes" vote is for the

\$1.1 million. A "No" vote is against it.)Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT: MASSACHUSETTS IN THE TRUMP ERA

By Bob Katzen

Following the presidential election, questions abound on many levels in Massachusetts about

many federal policy priorities in healthcare, energy and immigration, bringing challenges on the state level. Will these priorities shift? Join MASterList /


State House News Service for a timely conversation on the potential impacts of the new administration on Wednesday, December 4 at the MCLE Confer-

ence Center (Downtown Crossing), 10 Winter Place, Boston. Networking 8 a.m., Program 9 a.m. to - 10:30 a.m.

More information at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/massachusetts-in-the-new-trump-era-tickets->

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2024-56 Article V Section 5-15 "Handicapped Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 23 Knowlton St, 54 Bromfield Rd.
 2024-57 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: remove the loading zone at 3 Prescott

St (converted to resident permit parking).
 2024-58 Article VI Section 6-1 "One-way streets" is amended as follows: allow contraflow travel for people riding bicycles on Walnut St between Gilman St and the Community Path.
 PROMULGATED: NO-

EMBER 14, 2024
 ADVERTISED: NOVEMBER 26, 2024
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 Somerville/Medford News Weekly 11/26/24, 12/3/24, 12/10/24

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 Affordable 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 necessary, 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 likelihood 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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\$3.9 BILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE (H 5100)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law 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.

“Massachusetts is the best state in the nation to live, work, go to school, raise a family and build a future, said Healey. “That’s in large part due to our commitment to investing in cutting-edge industries that produce transformative innovations and make life better for people. The [bill] builds on this leadership, positioning us to the global hub for climate innova-

tion and applied AI, while also growing our already world-renowned life sciences industry, culture and tourism sectors.”

“From day one, we have set out to make Massachusetts the best place for individuals to pursue rewarding careers and for companies to start, scale and succeed,” said Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao. “The [bill] will help us achieve that vision. With this bill, we are positioning Massachusetts to lead for future generations.”

“[We] celebrate the signing of the ... economic-development bill, which provides vital support to key industries through the

infusion of close to \$4 billion into the state economy to ensure that the commonwealth remains competitive,” said Brooke Thomson, President and CEO of Associated Industries of Massachusetts which represents 3,400 member businesses. “[We] believe the bill enhances Massachusetts’ ability to lead in sectors like life sciences, climate technology, advanced manufacturing and applied AI.”



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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.
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CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE (S 2967)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Healey signed into law 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, and also expand electric vehicle use and infrastructure, and protect residents and ratepayers.

“Accelerating clean energy development will create good

jobs, lower costs, attract more businesses to Massachusetts and grow our climatetech economy,” said Healey. “This legislation includes important provisions to lower energy costs for families and businesses, including expanding bill discounts to middle-class households and increasing access to clean energy measures that reduce customer expenses such as solar, heat pumps and electric vehicles. These reforms will also end the years-long delays for solar, wind and other

critical electric infrastructure, which play a critical role in our ability to be a global leader in clean energy and climatetech.”

“This legislation advances critical updates for the siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure, ensuring a supportive and reliable electric grid and building out electric vehicle charging infrastructure, among so many other things,” said Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin), House Chair of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utili-

ties and Energy. “By overhauling outdated state permitting and siting processes, the commonwealth aims to secure an equitable, accelerated buildout of clean energy generation and infrastructure that we need to reach our climate goals and power our electrified clean energy future.”

“This comprehensive law is a reminder of the power Massachusetts has to advance groundbreaking climate solutions—no matter who is in

power in D.C.,” said Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton), chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. “The law includes a wide range of policies that move us closer to net-zero emissions, including essential reforms to our gas system. By preventing gas investments that are both imprudent and contrary to our climate mandates, the bill will keep costs down and prevent wasteful spending of ratepayers’ hard-earned money.”

Somerville Releases Draft Master Plan for Armory Building to Preserve and Grow as Arts Hub

Draft plan outlines vision for preserving the Armory building while fostering community-driven governance and diverse arts and cultural tenants

SOMERVILLE—After an extensive community process, the City of Somerville has released a draft Somerville Armory Master Plan, a roadmap of how to best preserve and envision a future for the Armory building, located at 191 Highland Ave., as a thriving community arts center for years to come.

In 2021, to prevent pandemic impacts from forcing the sale of the Armory building by its previous owner, and the eviction of its tenants, the City purchased the building to protect its use as an arts center. The City has frozen or accepted reduced rents from all tenants in the three years since, making it easier for all to weather pandemic closures and the inflation that came in the years since. Meanwhile, a

commitment was made to develop long-range plans to transition the space from a private building to a public community center that would best serve the full Somerville community as an arts and culture hub into the future.

To ensure a plan that would serve the full community and adhere to state laws governing the fair use of public assets, the City’s Economic Development division and the Somerville Arts Council partnered to develop a master plan informed by community input. The draft plan was developed through an in-depth community engagement process. It included stakeholder interviews, focus groups, research, and several public meetings in which robust debates about the building were held.

That draft plan is now available for community members to review and provide feedback online. A public hearing for further

input will occur at the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 10, at 6 p.m. online via Zoom. A meeting agenda and instructions to join will be posted soon to somervillema.legistar.com.

“It’s easy to forget now just how dire the situation was back in 2021. The City stepped in to be sure this vibrant space was not converted into condos, offices, or other private uses. And not only did we save the building and help the tenants get through the pandemic, we now have an opportunity to realize a long-term community goal. Together, we can now plan for a public arts hub as a place to create and experience arts and culture for years to come,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “The work now is to ensure we have a strong plan that serves this diverse, creative, forward-looking community. I want to thank the many community members who helped drive this work forward

and look forward to additional feedback.”

A foundational component of the plan is the creation of a community-based board of governance. There will be a team of advisors that supports and governs the building, with the goal of ensuring it not only serves its many tenants, but the community as a whole. To launch the revitalization of the building as quickly as possible, the governing board is proposed to first be situated within the City structures and work toward independent financial stability over time.

“The community wants to see diverse uses in this space serving all ages as well as multiple creative and cultural arts from dance and theater to crafts, music, talks, and more. From rehearsal, studio, teaching, and gallery space to event and community space, the Armory is poised to build on its strong

foundation as an arts and community hub. The public’s vision and ownership of this plan will help the Armory grow into even broader access and activity for artists and the public alike,” said Somerville Arts Council Director Greg Jenkins.

A final draft of the plan is expected in December 2024. Upon approval of a final plan, the City can take key next steps: namely, releasing a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to lease space to current and potential tenants. There are close to 20 different spaces within the Armory building. Spaces may be appropriate for a small publishing company, a media arts studio, a theatre rehearsal space, a photographic collaborative – any cultural business or non-profit.

To learn more and review the draft plan, please visit voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan.

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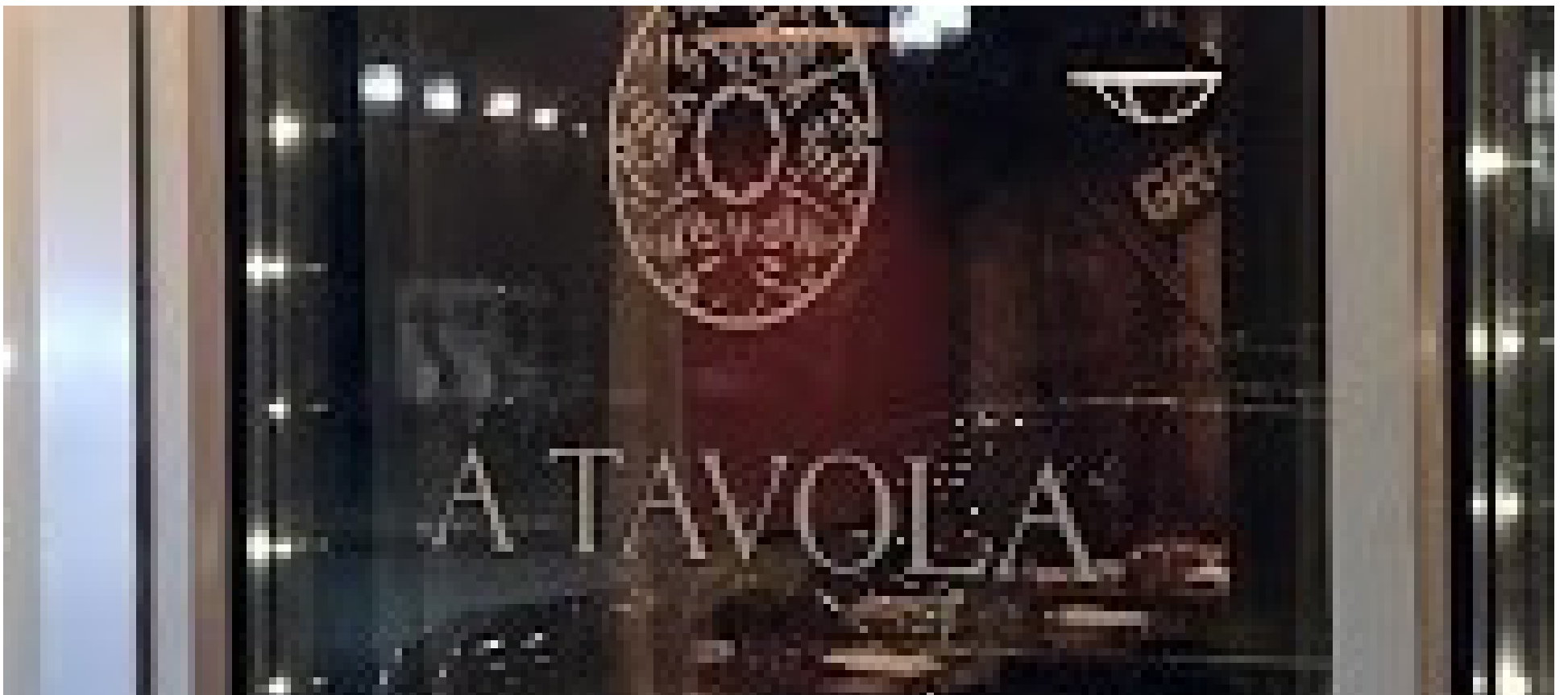
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