


Somerville Community Encouraged to Prepare Now for Snow Season



Continued to page 13



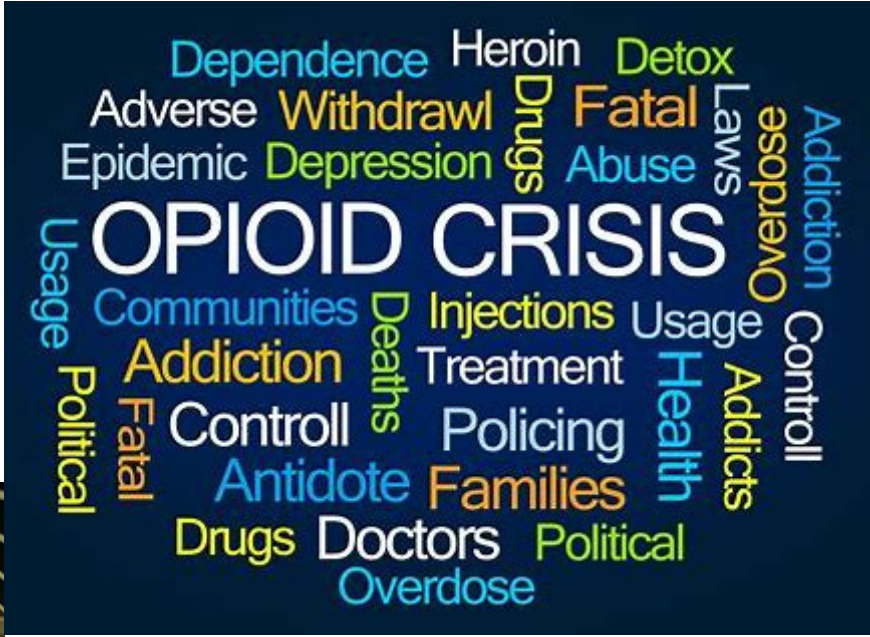
SPEAK UP COMPLAINT

NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



OPIOID CRISIS (H 5143)

Social Engineering and Paralysis of the Woke Political Moonbats In Our



Continued to page 17

Continued to page 5



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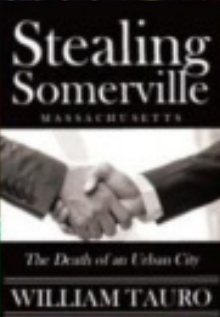
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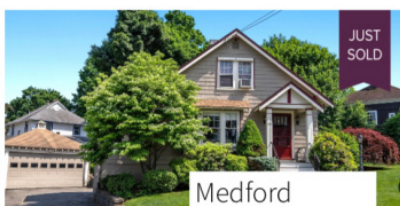
MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

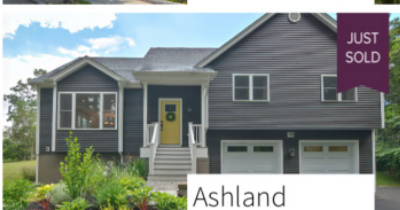
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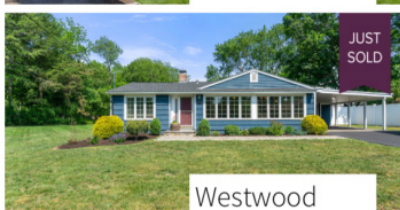
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Ashland



Westwood

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

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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 Matthew Gaudet



Obituary

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Matthew Gaudet, a beloved son, brother, and friend, who passed away on November 22, 2024, at the young age of 47.

Born in Cambridge, raised in Somerville, Matthew's love for travel took him to many corners of the world, but none more special than London, England. For Matthew, London was a second home; a place where he always felt at peace.

Whether exploring the bustling streets with his loving friends or simply enjoying a quiet moment, the city captured his heart in a way few places ever did.

At home, Matthew was an enthusiastic supporter of local eateries, with a special fondness for Leone's, where he could always be found enjoying a good meal and sharing laughs with his close family friends, Nick and all the staff. His love for food was matched only by his love for good company and even better conversation.

When not out exploring the world or savoring local dishes, Matthew could often be found at home, curled up with his beloved cat, Gracie. He enjoyed quiet evenings watching movies or engaging in a spirited game of Cards Against Humanity. Always the jokester, Matthew loved making others laugh, especially when playing pranks on his sisters, his favorite target for playful humor. His sense of humor, quick wit, and contagious laughter were a constant source of joy to all who knew him. On Halloween, Matthew enjoyed showing up to his desk at Harvard University fully dressed up in a costume to make his Harvard family laugh.

Calling hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Saturday, January 18th from 10:00AM to 1:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Words of Remembrance will be held on Saturday at 12:30PM.

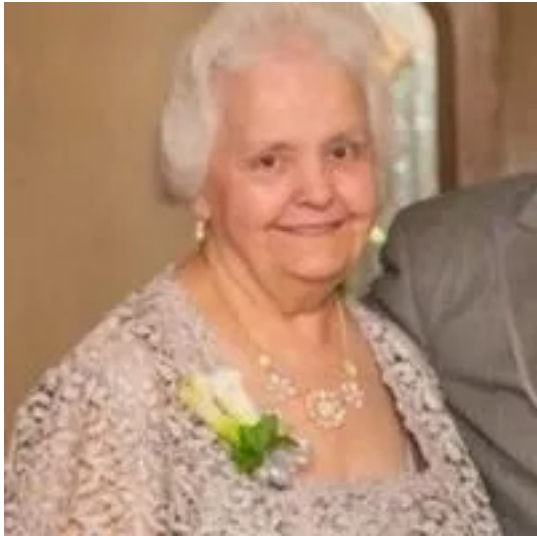
Interment will be private.

Matthew's passing leaves a void in the hearts of his family and

friends, but his memory will live on in the stories we share, the laughter we recall, and the love he gave so freely.

Beloved son of Margaret Gaudet. Devoted brother of Melissa Gaudet and Melinda Gaudet-Gopen and her husband Jeff. Cherished uncle of Marc Gaudet, Shane Gaudet and Savannah Gaudet. Loving grandson of the late Barbara "Nana BJ" O'Connor. Dear nephew of Patrick O'Connor. God son of Barbara Moura and family. Fur-dad to his beloved cat Gracie. Also held dearly by many loving friends, cousins and extended family members.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Edith M. "Edie" Nickerson



Obituary

Mrs. Edith M. "Edie" Nickerson, of Somerville, passed away on December 16, 2024, she was 85 years

old. Born in Medford, she was raised in Arlington, daughter of Elaine (Karahalis) and Arthur J. Larson. Former wife of

the late Robert D. Nickerson. Growing up, she was affectionately known as "Honey".

Edith is the devoted mother of Michele Campbell and her late husband Daniel W. Campbell and Stephanie Nickerson, all of Somerville. She is the cherished "Grandma" and "Gummy" of David Herald and his wife Jennifer, Jonathan Herald and his wife Alison, Christopher Herald and his wife Maureen, Alexander Herald and his wife Christina, Timothy Herald and Sydney Nickerson. Great-Grandma of Nicholas, Elisa, Abigail, Matthew, Joshua and Benjamin Herald. Sister of the late Gregory Larson and Arthur Larson, Jr.

Aside from being a loving mother and grandmother, Edie was a certified nursing assistant devoted to her many patients. She began working for the Somerville Visiting Nurses Association and then Cambridge Homes, before her retirement from Cadbury Commons. In earlier years, she served as leader of the Girl Scouts at St. Catherine Church and enjoyed painting and had a love of crocheting. She also tried her luck during many trips to the casinos, above all Edith loved spending time with family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In keeping with Edie's wishes, a private burial will take place at a later date.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Deborah E. Adams

Adams, Deborah E. – Of Stoneham, passed away on Monday, December 16, 2024, at Winchester Hospital, after a brief illness. She was 72 years old.

Born in Melrose, Deborah was the daughter of the late John and Katherine (Pietela) Shea. She was a cherished member of the American Legion, Reading Post 62. Deborah had a passion for finding a great deal and was a regular at local flea markets, where she enjoyed hunting for treasures. She was known for her love of cooking, often preparing delicious meals and baking homemade goods for her family and friends. Above all, Deborah's greatest joy came from spending time with her beloved family, especially her grandchildren, with whom she shared countless treasured moments.

Beloved wife of 36 years to Timothy Adams. Devoted mother of John Adams and his wife Crystal and Casey McClory and her husband David. Loving grandmother of Brooke, Kayden, Connor, Cole, Patrick, and Bryson. Dear sister of John Shea of Flor-

ida, and the late Dennis Shea of North Carolina. Cherished aunt of Leanne, Dennis, Nick and the late Stephen.

A celebration of life will be scheduled after the holidays at a later date.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in Deborah's name to Mass General Cancer Center at <https://giving.massgeneral.org/donate/cancer-center>.





Social Engineering and Paralysis of the Woke Political Moonbats In Our Society

By William Tauro

When is enough enough? January 20th can't come soon enough when we will have common sense restored back into the White House.

Kamala Harris Faced Backlash as an old video clip of hers that resurfaced promoting 'Wokeness'.

According to the Republic News Source "The resurfaced video from 2017 shows Kamala Harris urging Americans to "stay woke," igniting a wave of criticism on social media. Conservative author James Lindsay and others have labeled her a "Communist functionary," leading to intense backlash. The video has sparked public debate over the controversial topics discussed during the conference, including immigration and drug policies, raising questions about Harris's stance on these issues in light of her current

role as Vice President."

See video clip: Harris says 'everybody needs to be woke' in unearthed clip spreading like wildfire on social media <https://search.app/cy7R9nKo-QCp4D3Bg8>

Our elected officials here in Somerville are a total disgrace as well! Just look at the dancing woke Somerville City Councilwoman in this video! She should concentrate more on our homeless, our veterans, our seniors, fixing our streets and schools and giving our police and firefighters the tools they need to keep us safe instead of spending time on our dime acting like the total clown that she is acting like in my opinion!

Click on the link to see the dancing Woke Somerville Councilwoman: <https://www.facebook.com/share/>



"On Air with Billy Tauro" Episode 2. Nothing ever filtered, nothing ever watered-down, just the plain true facts! Enjoy!

"On Air with Billy Tauro" Episode 2. Nothing ever filtered, nothing ever watered-down, just the plain true facts! Enjoy!

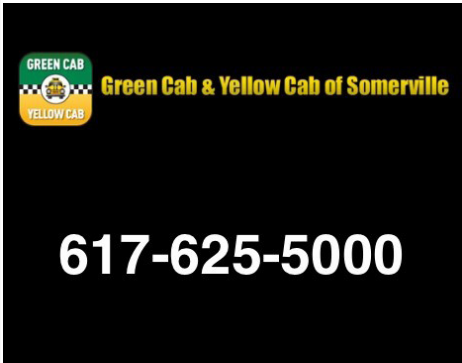
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Save the Date: Somerville Sharing Public Safety for All Final Reports With Community on Tuesday, February 4



Reports from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and the Anti-Violence Working Group will be Posted Online Starting Tuesday, January 28

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) are inviting all to join a community event presenting the completed reports from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and Anti-Violence Working Group on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 (rain date Thursday, February 6) at Somerville High

School (81 Highland Ave).

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m., and constituents are invited to join members from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and Anti-Violence Working Group for a discussion of their findings, a Q&A about the course of their work, and an overview of next steps in the process. Free snacks and refreshments will be provided. In advance of the event, each report will be shared on January 28, 2025, via the PSFA webpage.

“Ensuring public safety in Somerville means listening to our community, embracing transparency, and working collaboratively toward meaningful change,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I encourage all residents to join us on February 4 to hear directly from the dedicated members of our

task forces and working group. Their reports reflect months of thoughtful engagement, research, and a shared commitment to making Somerville safer and more equitable for all.”

Submit questions to the Task Forces/Working Group

Ahead of the Public Safety for All Report Release Event, community members will have the opportunity to submit questions directly to the members of the Task Forces/Working Group. Beginning at 9 a.m. on January 28, 2025, there will be a form for constituents to submit questions for the Q&A portion of the meeting on the PSFA webpage.

RSJ encourages community members to consider submitting a question to be discussed by the Task Forces/Working Group members live at the Report

Release Event. There will be an opportunity for community members to ask questions live during the meeting but submitting questions in advance is recommended.

About the Public Safety for All Initiative Task Forces

The Public Safety for All, Civilian Oversight, and the Anti-Violence Task Forces, each comprised of residents, subject matter experts, and City Council members, began their work in late Spring 2023.

The Public Safety for All Task Force was tasked with focusing on two key areas: Drafting recommendations that will inform the adoption of an alternative, co-response, and/or unarmed response model to address calls for service and

identified public safety needs in Somerville. Drafting recommendations that will help and improve Somerville’s public safety infrastructure at large. The Civilian Oversight Task Force was tasked with producing recommendations for the City’s first-ever civilian oversight entity, including its powers, duties, composition, and more. The Anti-Violence Working Group was tasked with producing recommendations that specifically focused on mitigating four types of violence in the City: gun violence, gang violence, domestic violence, and traffic violence.

City of Somerville Commemorates the 249th Prospect Hill Flag Raising on January 1, 2025



SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Museum are inviting community members to commemorate

an iconic moment in American history at the 249th Annual Prospect Hill Flag Raising on January 1, 2025. On this date in 1776, General George Washington raised the first American flag atop Prospect Hill, marking a pivotal moment in the Revolutionary War. Each New Year’s Day, the City honors this legacy

with a community celebration.

When: Monday, January 1, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Where: Starting at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave) and proceeding to Prospect Hill Park
The event features remarks from local officials, historical

reenactments, and a ceremonial parade led by the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts and Revolutionary War reenactors. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend this tradition celebrating Somerville’s central role in America’s founding story.

For more information on the Prospect Hill Flag raising, please contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager at the Somerville Museum via email at atgrace@somervillmuseum.org.

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

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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.



INCREASE FINES FOR VIOLATING HANDICAPPED PARKING (H 3261)

requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him if he thinks BTR is violating House rules by holding up the measure and if he would move to discharge his bill from the committee.

BLOOD BANKS (S 2994)

blood donations,” said sponsor Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover). “This commonsense initiative will expand access and capacity, benefitting hospitals and patients alike.”

Somerville/Medford Remembering Girolamo “Lee” Petrosillo



Lee's funeral service will be held in the Cota Funeral Home, 335 Park St. (corner of Park St. and Rte.28) NORTH READING, at Reading line on Friday, Dec. 27th at 12:30pm. Relatives and friends may visit with the family prior to the service from 10am-12:30pm. Interment Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. <http://www.cotafuneral.com>

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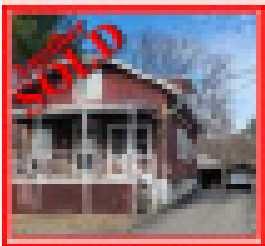
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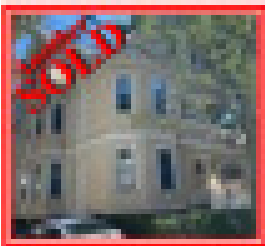
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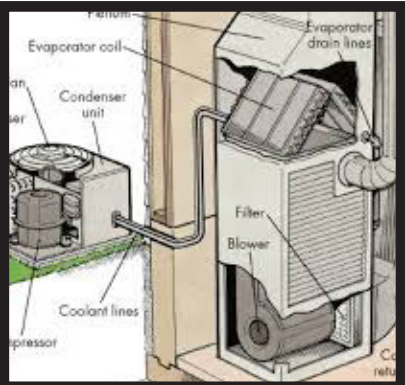
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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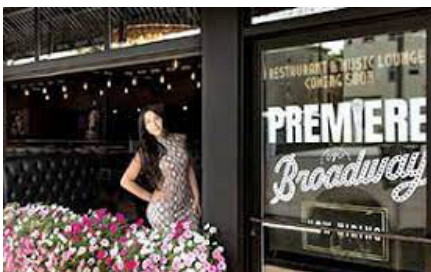
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HENRY HANSEN PARK RIBBON CUTTING

Please join us as we rededicate Henry Hansen Park, honoring Somerville native Sgt. Henry Hansen, and all Somerville veterans. 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.

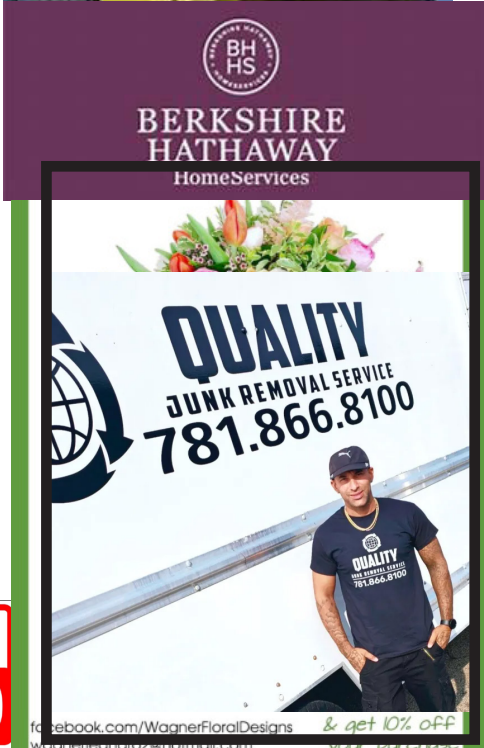
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
9:00 – 10:00 AM

70 Partridge Avenue, at the corner of Medford Street



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 5 City Councilor Naïma Salt, 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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COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSES (H 5139)

By Bob Katzen

The House approved and sent to the Senate a new version of legislation, originally sponsored by Gov. Maura Healey, that would prevent commercial drivers from losing their licenses due to passenger vehicle offenses they committed prior to September 30, 2005.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles recently notified hundreds of bus and truck drivers that they were ineligible for commercial licenses due to at least two past major offenses, blindsiding many motorists who for years thought their infrac-

tions were behind them.

“Over time, the relevance and predictive value of these older offenses has diminished, particularly for those drivers who have remained offense-free since,” said Healey. “In most circumstances, a commercial driver who meets the safety requirements of federal law should not be disqualified from driving due solely to passenger vehicle offenses that occurred 19 or more years ago. She noted her bill would remove consideration of pre-September 30, 2005 passenger vehicle offenses from our disqualification law, except for multiple

instances of operating under the influence.

\$3.2 MILLION FOR MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL COMMUNITIES – The Healey Administration announced the awarding of \$3.2 million in grants for projects that proponents say will support the economic vitality, tourism and ecosystem health of the Bay State’s waterfront and harbors, while helping the state reach its ambitious climate resiliency goals.

“Coastal communities play a critical role in our economy,” said Gov. Healey. “The Grants help cities and towns

make infrastructure improvements to prepare for extreme weather caused by climate change while also investing in important blue economy businesses, commercial fishing operations and tourist and recreational enterprises.”

“These investments will support a range of critical initiatives, from coastal resilience and dredging projects to pier infrastructure enhancements that protect our shorelines,” said Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao. “By funding these efforts, we’re ensuring a safer and more enduring future for our coasts from

the North Shore to the Cape and Islands.”

“Maritime communities are important centers of economic activity, drawing many visitors each year and supporting the coastal industries that have been integral to our state’s economy,” said Undersecretary of Economic Foundations Ashley Stolba. “We are proud to fund these projects and look forward to their lasting impact on the future generations of these towns.”

ONLINE CAR SALES (H 351)

By Bob Katzen

On February 12, 2024, the House gave initial approval to a bill that makes online sales of cars subject to the same law as if the sales were executed at the dealership's physical place of business.

Supporters said the bill aims to modernize the law regarding online car buying by not forcing dealers to provide a 3-day return policy for online auto purchases. The measure would make it so the businesses selling these cars would have the choice to make all purchases final as long as that fact is clearly disclosed to the customer, instead of making the dealer pay for the sometimes significant transportation costs associated with a customer changing their mind. They noted that people shopping for a car online have the benefit of a lot of information to make this important decision, as well as the luxury to shop for many cars at once located over a great distance.

Reps. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham) and Priscila Sousa (D-Framingham), the co-sponsors of the proposal did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them if they think BTR is violating House rules by holding up the measure and if they would move to discharge the bill from BTR.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Philip Lamb

Philip Lamb – Of Somerville, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 20, 2024. He was 86 years old.

Complete obit to be posted.

Calling hours will be held privately.





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IT’S LOMBARDO VS. JONES IN A RACE TO BE GOP HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

By Bob Katzen

Rep. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) announced his candidacy for House GOP Minority Leader. He is challenging current GOP Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading) who has been a representative for 30 years and has held the leadership post since 2002. Lombardo is a 14-year incumbent who first took office in 2011.

The election will take place on January 1 when the Legislature convenes the 2025-2026 session.

“Massachusetts is at a crossroads,” said Lombardo. “For too long, the

voices of our communities have been overshadowed by the Democratic Party’s monopoly on power. Our Republican Caucus has a duty to provide a real alternative, one that champions fiscal responsibility, individual liberty and the values that make Massachusetts a great place to live and work. To do this, we need leadership that is dynamic, collaborative and unafraid to chart a new course.”

“The current Republican leadership has repeatedly failed to be a voice of reason at a time when Democrats continue to pass laws that are crippling the economy and making Massachusetts one of the most expensive states in the country to live in,” he

continued. “Hard working people across the commonwealth are suffering as a direct result of these failed progressive policies that the Republican leader has supported. Energy costs are through the roof, it’s almost impossible to run a small business and billions are being spent on illegal migrants when a growing number of residents are barely able to make ends meet.”

“I am proud to have the support of the overwhelming majority of the caucus as I seek re-election as Minority Leader,” responded Jones in a brief statement. “I have enjoyed the productive discussions with Republican colleagues about how we can work together as we

head into the 2025-2026 session. I look forward to continuing to serve as House Minority Leader come January 1.”

According to Beacon Hill Roll Call’s records, Lombardo has voted the same as Jones on 84 percent of the 357 roll calls from 2021 to 2024. The roll calls used to determine those numbers exclude any roll calls on local matters.

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2024 Toys For Local Children Event

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Somerville Community Encouraged to Prepare Now for Snow Season



Park on the Even Side During Winter 2024-2025 Snow Emergencies, Unless Otherwise Posted

SOMERVILLE- The City of Somerville is encouraging the community to get ready now for potential snowstorms by signing up for City Alerts and reviewing protocols for snow emergencies. Preparing now will help keep the community safe, as well as reduce ticketing or towing for snow emergency parking violations and ticketing for failure to follow shoveling requirements.

All information below can also be found at somer villema.gov/snow.

Alerts

Snow emergencies are announced in various ways, including through phone, text, and email alerts. Those who live, work, or own a business or property in Somerville are urged

to sign up for City Alerts. Alerts are also available in multiple languages. Sign up at somer villema.gov/alerts.

In addition to Somerville City Alerts, snow emergencies are announced the following ways:

- City website: somer villema.gov
- City social media feeds: somer villema.gov/social
- City TV: somer villema.gov/somer ville-city-tv
- Flashing blue lights at major intersections
- Information is shared with local media
- Street Parking

Because this winter begins in an even-numbered year, snow emergency parking is on the even side of the street all winter. There are a small number of exceptions to the park even rule, which will be noted by signs on that street.

Once a snow emergency is declared, everyone has four hours to move their car to the even-numbered side of the street, or to municipal lots that are available for use during a snow emergency. Parking is not allowed in school lots during snow emergencies.

Parking is allowed at meters on the even-numbered side of the street during a snow emergency, as long

as there is no sign stating otherwise. Meters and time-parking rules are not enforced during snow emergencies. The City does not enforce an ordinance prohibiting cars from being parked in the same spot for more than 48 hours during snow emergencies.

Vehicles may be ticketed and towed if in violation of snow emergency parking rules.

Municipal Lot Parking

Municipal lots are available for parking during snow emergencies. Once the emergency is lifted, all cars must be moved from the lots within two hours.

For the 2024-2025 snow season the following lots are available for parking:

Municipal Buildings

City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)
All metered municipal parking lots
Municipal Parking Lots

- Buena Vista Lot, Buena Vista Road (via Holland St. or Meacham Rd.)
- Cutter Square Lot (Elm St./Summer St. at Cutter Ave.)
- Day Street Lot (Day St.)
- Dilboy Pool Lot (110 Alewife Brook Pkwy.)
- Foss Park Lot (Foss Park at Broad-

- way) Grove Street Lot A (Grove St. at Highland Ave., referred to as "Rite Aid Lot")
 - Grove Street Lot B (Grove St. east side, between Highland Ave. & Elm St., "Grove Street Lot")
 - Magoun Square Lot (Broadway at Medford St.)
 - Mount Vernon St. Lot (Broadway between Mount Vernon St. and Mt. Pleasant St.)
 - Union Square Lot (off Washington St., entrance at Washington St./Bonner Ave.)
 - Founder's Ice Arena (Rear - 581 Somerville Ave.)
 - Winter Hill Lot A (Broadway, north side between Fellsway West and Wheatland St.)
 - Winter Hill Lot B (Broadway, north side)
- Again, parking is not allowed in school lots during snow emergencies.

Snow Shoveling Support Program

The Somerville Youth Shoveling program returns for the 2024-2025 snow season. This is a paid opportunity for youth to help local seniors and homeowners with disabilities or medical conditions after a snowstorm.

Seniors interested in signing up to receive the service can contact Debby Higgins at the Somerville Council on Aging by emailing

dhiggins@somer villema.gov or calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. Youth looking to sign up can contact Youth Services Coordinator Dan Harris by emailing dharris@somer villema.gov or calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2406.

Snow Shoveling Requirements

Property owners are responsible for removing ice and snow from sidewalks and accessible ramps that abut their property. The City places buckets of sand where possible in neighborhoods, which may be used to prevent slipping on your public walkways.

To comply with all city shoveling rules:

- Sidewalks need to be cleared within six daylight hours after the snow stops.
- Shovel a path at least 36 inches wide and down to the pavement on sidewalks and ramps.
- Do not shovel snow onto city streets unless the temperature is 40 degrees or higher, it is during daylight hours, and snow and ice are broken up and spread evenly on the street so they will melt quickly. These rules apply to all snowfall, not just when a snow emergency is declared. Failure to comply with the above rules may result in increasing fines issued daily until the walkway is clear.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Domingo R. Espinal



Obituary
Espinal, Domingo R. -Of Somerville, passed away at home surrounded by his

family on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. He was 88 years old.Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, Domingo was the son of the late Rafael Urena and Ana J. Espinal.

Domingo was known for his hard work and dedication, always striving to provide the best for his beloved family. He was a proud father and grandfather who cherished the time spent with his loved ones, particularly his grandson, with whom he adored.

A man of many talents,

Domingo had a natural skill with his hands and found great joy in woodworking. He also had a passion for photography and enjoyed sightseeing, often traveling to new places around the world to capture its beauty. Domingo took pride in his accomplishments and was always quick to share his joy with others, especially his family.

He leaves behind a legacy of love, determination, and creative spirit. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Beloved husband to the late Irma E. (Toran) Espinal. Devoted father of Eugene L. Espinal and his wife Patricia Gall of Somerville, and Therese A. Cann and her late husband Troy M. of Peabody. Loving grandfather of Trey M. Cann of Peabody. Cherished brother of Elva Espinal, Altagracia Espinal, Clemente Urena and his wife Margot, Octavio Espinal, Alfonzo Espinal, Ramon Espinal, Eladio Espinal, Antonio Espinal, Bartolo Espinal. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Friday, December 27th from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Followed by a prayer service held in the funeral home at 12:00PM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Services will conclude with interment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Ever-

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REAL ID



By Bob Katzen

The Registry of Motor Vehicles reminds Bay State residents that beginning on May 7, 2025, people traveling by plane domestically or entering certain federal facilities will need a Regis-

try-issued REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID, or a valid passport.

The Registry strongly encourages everyone seeking a REAL ID-compliant license or ID

card to go online at Mass.Gov/REALID to learn what documents are needed for a required in-person appointment. Appointments to upgrade to REAL ID are available now, and several RMV service centers offer Saturday appoint-

ments. Customers who already have a compliant credential may renew online as long as they have not had a name change.

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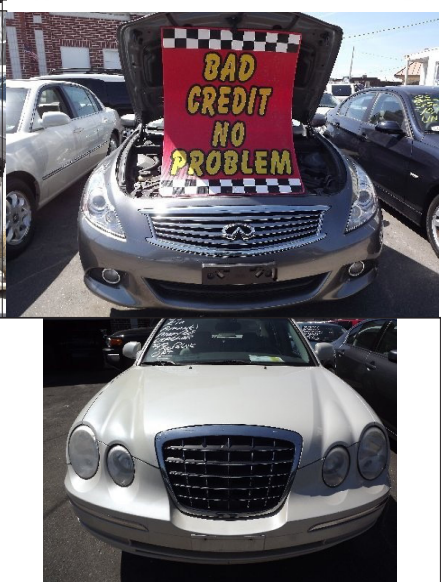
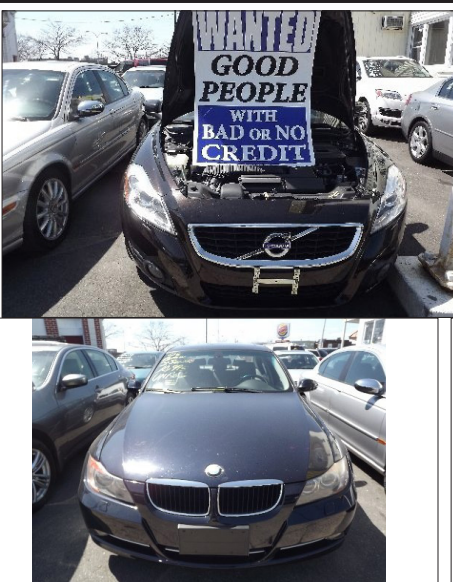
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Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne Delivering “State of the City” Address on Monday, January 6



Incoming City Council President & School Committee Chairperson Will Also Share Addresses with Community

SOMERVILLE – Join the City of Somerville for its Mid-Term Ceremonies and Addresses featuring Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the incoming City Council President, and the incoming Chairperson of the Somerville School

Committee. When: Monday, January 6, 2025. Speeches begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. Where: City Council Chamber, City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) Mayor Ballantyne will deliver her Mayoral Mid-Term State of the City Address, reflecting on her second term, recent com-

munity initiatives, and plans for the year ahead. The incoming leaders of the City Council and School Committee will also share their priorities. Organizational meetings of the City Council and School Committee will begin at 5 p.m., with addresses to follow, starting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to attend in person or tune in live through the City’s cable and educational access channels, online at somervillema.gov, or on-demand afterward on CityTV’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV.

Save the Date: Somerville Public Safety for All Reports to be Shared With Community on Feb. 4

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite community members to attend an event presenting the completed reports from the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force, and Anti-Violence Working Group on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 (rain date February 6) at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave) at 6:30 p.m. Each task force, comprised of residents, subject matter experts, and City Council members, will

highlight their findings and recommendations aimed at enhancing public safety and fostering stronger community connections across Somerville. “Ensuring public safety in Somerville means listening to our community, embracing transparency, and working collaboratively toward meaningful change,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I encourage all residents to join us on February 4 to hear directly from the dedicated members of our task forces and working group. Their

reports reflect months of thoughtful engagement, research, and a shared commitment to making Somerville safer and more equitable for all.” Reports will be available on Tuesday, January 28, at somervillema.gov/psfa, along with a form where community members can submit questions directly to Task Force/Working Group members ahead of the event.




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Somerville Opens Overnight Warming Center for 2025 Winter Season



Center Provides Hot Meals, Bathrooms, and Safe Sleeping Spaces for Residents Experiencing Homelessness

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, together with the Somerville Office of Health and Human Services (HHS), is announcing the opening of the 2025 Overnight Warming Center to support adults experiencing homelessness.

Since opening on December 9, the warming center has already welcomed almost 30 guests and is operating successfully. Clients are accessing hot meals, safe sleeping spaces, and essential services, ensuring they receive the care and support they need.

The Warming Center will operate seven nights a week from 6:45 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the Cummings School (42 Prescott St.).

The center will remain open through Sunday, April 13, 2025. Community members interested in supporting the warming center can donate supplies. The center is currently in need of unused socks and cold-weather treats such as hot chocolate, assorted chocolates, and packaged cookies. To learn more, please email warmingcenter@somervillema.gov

The warming center is only available to adults experienc-

ing homelessness. Families or individuals with children seeking shelter should contact the Somerville Office of Housing Stability at 617-625-6600, Ext. 2581, for referrals to family-specific resources and shelters.

Community members interested in learning more about the Somerville Overnight Warming Center, visit somervillema.gov/warmingcenter or email warmingcenter@somervillema.gov.

Legal Ad Notice

THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING: 2024-59 Article V Section 5-15 “Handicapped Parking” is amended with the addition of the following location: 120 Walnut

St.
2024-60 Article V Section 5-2 “Loading/Service Zones” is amended with the addition of the following location: loading zone at 211-213 Highland Ave (approximately 70 ft) from 8:00am-2:30am, resident permit parking from 2:30am-8:00am.
2024-61 Article V Section 5-2 “Loading/Service Zones” is amended with the addition of the


following location: loading zone on the east side of Tufts Street nearest 19/23 Tufts Street (approximately 40 ft) from 8:00am-8:00pm, resident permit parking from 8:00pm-8:00am.
2024-62 Article V Section 5-2 “Loading/Service Zones” is amended with the addition of the following location: loading zone on the east side of Tufts Street nearest 45/47 Tufts Street (approximately 40 ft) from

8:00am-8:00pm, resident permit parking from 8:00pm-8:00am.
2024-63 Article VI Section 6-1 “One-Way Streets” is amended as follows: allow two-way travel for people riding bicycles on Hawkins Street between Washington Street and Somerville Avenue.

PROMULGATED: DECEMBER 12, 2024
ADVERTISED: DECEMBER 24, 2024

DECEMBER 31, 2024
JANUARY 7, 2024
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 15, 2024

Somerville/Medford News Weekly 12/24/24, 12/31/24, 01/07/25



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OPIOID CRISIS (H 5143)

By Bob Katzen

The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a conference committee version of legislation that supporters say would expand non-opioid pain treatments; establish licenses for recovery coaches, support pregnant women and their children who have been exposed to substances; and vastly expand access to opioid-reversal drugs. The House and Senate had approved different versions of the legislation and a conference committee hammered out this compromise version.

Other provisions mandate that all health plans cover opioid reversal drugs such as Naloxone and Narcan—without cost-sharing or prior authorization; require hospitals

and substance use treatment facilities to educate patients on opioid reversal drugs and prescribe or dispense at least two doses to at-risk patients upon discharge; require pharmacies in areas with high incidences of overdoses to maintain a sufficient and consistent supply of opioid reversal drugs while also requiring them to stock both over the counter and prescription versions.

The bill includes several new insurance provisions, including a prohibition on life insurance companies from limiting or refusing coverage to a person solely because they obtained an opioid-reversal drug, and a prohibition on medical malpractice insurers from discriminating against health care practitioners who provide harm

reduction services. The bill also updates requirements for insurance providers to ensure adequate coverage and access to pain management services including non-opioid treatments and expands access to non-opioid pain treatment by incorporating non-opioid alternatives into provider training.

“Too many families have known the pain of substance use disorder and, tragically, the loss of a loved one because of it,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Opioids have stolen life from parents, children, siblings and friends. The legislation approved by the Legislature ... makes powerful strides towards mitigating this crisis by helping those coping with substance use disorder reduce harm, find treatment and

achieve recovery that lasts a lifetime.”

“As families across Massachusetts know all too well, the impact of opioid addiction can be utterly devastating for the individual and for their loved ones, which is why a continued focus on combating substance use is a critical responsibility that we have as elected officials,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy)."

“I am happy to have played a role as one of the final six legislators who negotiated the contents of this bill,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “This is a very comprehensive, impactful bill devoid of controversy that will no doubt save lives at a very important

time in history and a bill that the vast majority of the citizens of the commonwealth can support.”

“This comprehensive legislation affirms our commitment to treating substance use as a matter of public health, and I’m proud of our continued progress in promoting recovery and preventing overdose deaths,” said Rep. Adrian Madaro (D-Boston), House Chair of the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

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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 the join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville.
One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square.
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Much thanks and appreciation,
Frank Santangelo

Blessing Backpack Checklist

BASICS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Wool beanie {hat}___ Smart wool socks___ Gloves___ Scarf	TOILETRIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Multi-purpose wipes___ Chapstick___ Facial wipes___ Moisturizer___ Comb___ Toothbrush & tooth paste___ Grooming kit
FOOD & DRINK <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Quality instant coffee___ Tea___ Energy drink___ Beef jerky___ Dried fruit___ Fruit leathers___ Trail mix___ Nuts___ Granola bars___ Protein powder packets___ Restaurant gift cards	SURVIVAL <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ First aid kit___ Water bottle with built in filter___ Heat-pack___ Multi-purpose tool
HELP THEM CONNECT <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Journal & pen___ Stationary___ Stamps___ Pre-paid phone card	TREATS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Chocolates___ Fruit snacks___ Cookie snack packs___ Candy {individually wrapped}___ Mints___ Chewing gum
	SPLURGE: <ul style="list-style-type: none">___ Starbucks gift card___ Compact reusable bag

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State Advances Somerville’s Funding Proposal for New PK-8 School Building



Significant step forward moves school building planning into next phase

SOMERVILLE– The City’s work to deliver a state-of-the-art school project for Somerville students is moving into the next phase in the state’s school building funding process. This afternoon, the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s (MSBA) Board of Directors voted to move Somerville’s project forward. The vote by the

MSBA Board is a required step that occurs at several points throughout the multi-year process.

Somerville’s school building project through the MSBA would address the needs of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and potentially the Brown School.

Today’s approval means the project can enter the next phase of project development. Beginning in January 2025, the City can now start a formal procurement process to hire an Owner’s Project Manager to oversee the project, and then a Design/Architecture firm. In both processes, the School Building Committee will

be directly involved and the MSBA will ultimately need to approve the hires.

“This is the news we wanted to hear – and it is important news. As we advance through each stage of the MSBA process to seek state funding, we get closer to building the quality school our students need and deserve. I want to thank the state, our staff, and all who have supported this effort as we work toward this vital goal for our youth and our community,” said Mayor Katjana Bal-lantyne.

“We are extremely grateful for this continued partnership with the MSBA, and eager to continue our progress toward a new

school building particularly for our Winter Hill School community,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rubén Carmona. “Our SPS and City teams worked extremely hard over the last 270 days of our Eligibility Period to ensure we were well positioned to move into the next phase, with the blessing and support of our state partners. This vote marks a huge step forward, and we are excited to get right to work in the new year.”

To help inform decisions about the scope and location of this project, the City and Somerville Public Schools are committed to a robust and inclusive community process. This process will help inform the School

Construction Advisory Group, which will develop a recommendation to the Mayor for the scope and location of the project.

More information about community engagement and the next phase of the MSBA process will be shared via City and SPS channels and via direct outreach over the coming weeks. You can stay informed and review project milestones to date at somervillema.gov/msba.

FORTUNE TELLERS (H 3893)

By Bob Katzen

On February 15, 2024, the House gave initial approval to legislation that would eliminate the current state law requiring that all fortune tell-

ing applicants must have lived in the city or town in which they are seeking their license to practice for at least one continuous year prior to filing their application.

Supporters said the bill will remove an old law that has become antiquated and makes no sense.

Sponsor Rep. Susannah

Whipps (U-Athol) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her if she thinks BTR is violating House rules by holding up the measure and if she would move to discharge

her bill from the committee.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Patricia Synnove Alger



Photo:(Patricia with her be-
loved husband David)

Obituary
Patricia Synnove Alger (nee Lodoen) has passed away at the age of 79.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, “Honey” was the daughter of the late George O.N. Lodoen and Ruth PerryLodoen. She spent most of her formative years in Alexandria, Virginia, and she was a proud graduate of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Most recently a resident of Wakefield, Mass., she previously lived in Somerville, Mass., New York City, East Bridgewater, Mass., and Brockton, Mass. She is pre-

deceased by her husband David Joseph Alger of East Bridgewater, Mass. She leaves behind daughter Sarah Alger, son-in-law Lee Williams, granddaughter Sylvie Williams, and grandcats Louie and Leo, of Wakefield, Mass.

One of her proudest achievements was bringing back to liv-

ability a ramshackle late-1600s house with her husband in East Bridgewater. Her greatest joys were watching musicals (having seen scores on Broadway and in London’s West End) and solving Will Shortz crossword puzzles.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Patricia’s name to the MGH Fund.



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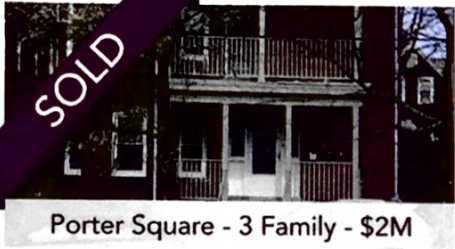
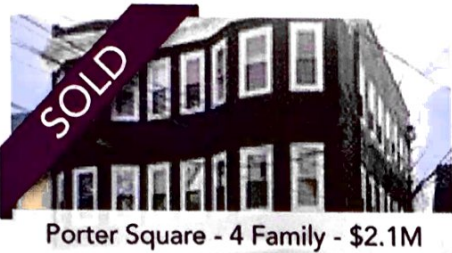


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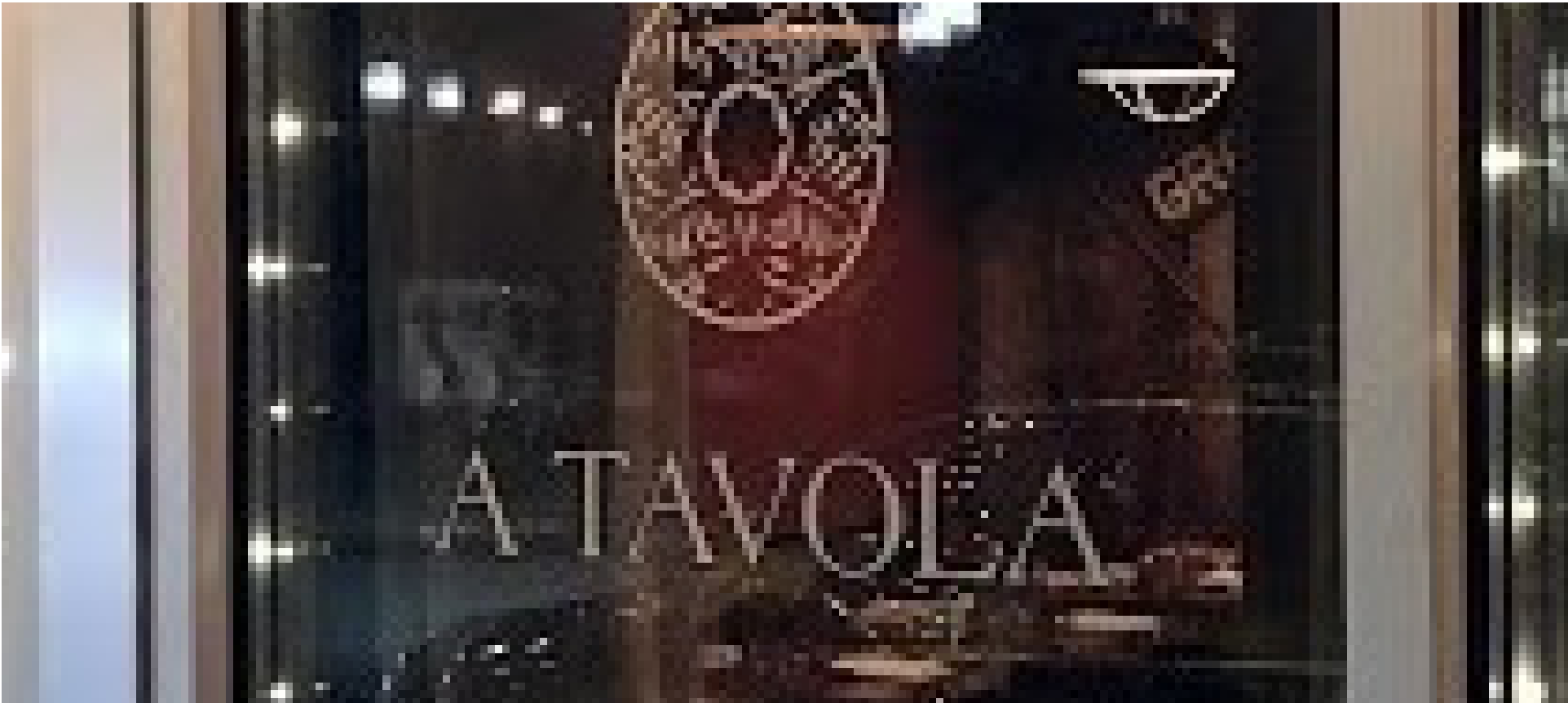
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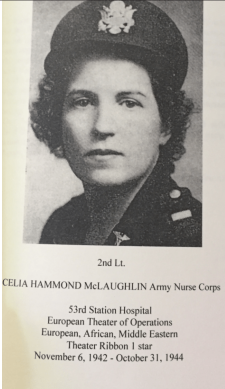
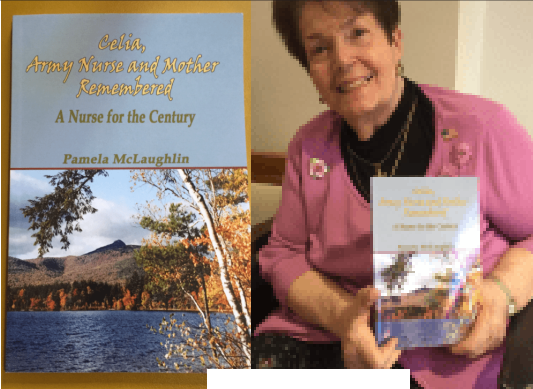
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