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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday May 20th, 2025

Gov-ernor



Continued to page 11



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



SomerStreets 2025 Kicks Off with Carnival Celebration on Sunday, June 1



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page

Honoring Memorial Day in Somerville: Parade and Ceremony of Remembrance on May 25



Continued to page 13



Continued to psgr 17



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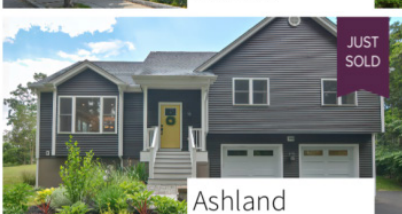
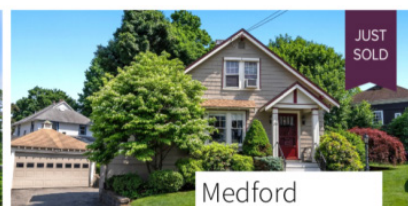
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Patricia Ann Daley (McLeod)



Malden

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Patricia Ann Daley, who entered into eternal rest on May 12, 2025, at the age of 64. Born on February 10, 1961, Patricia was a loving, caring, and loyal mother to her three sons: Daniel Ryan Mailhiot and his partner Juan Pablo Betancur Davila; Brian Michael Daley; and Kevin Michael Daley and his wife Angela. She was the cherished grandmother of Angelina, Jack, and Adrianna Daley.

Patricia Ann Daley (McLeod) February 10, 1961 — May 12, 2025

Patricia was the beloved daughter of Catherine McLeod (Gallagher) and her dear Aunt

Barbara Keohane. She was a best friend and sister to Cheryl McLeod, and a beloved sister to Laureen McLeod and Richard McLeod. She was predeceased by her sister, Deborah Orlando and father Lawrence J. McLeod. A devoted partner to Mark Pacheco, Patricia was deeply connected to her extended family. She is survived by her nieces Lauryn Mendonca, Danielle Doherty, Jennifer Doherty, Nikki Corcione, and nephew Michael McLeod, along with many great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Her lifelong friendships with Karen McNeil and Colleen O'Brien were a source of love and joy. Michael Keohene which was

like a fourth son to her. She was known affectionately as "Pat-ticakes," Patricia's warmth and compassion were felt by all—humans and animals alike. Her fur babies Romeo and Buddy, along with her fur grandbabies Dara and Lily, held a special place in her heart. Animals were drawn to her gentle spirit, and she had a special fondness for her furry niece Halo.

A service for Patricia will be held from 2:00-5:00PM, with a prayer service at 3:45PM on Saturday May 17, 2025, at Buonfiglio Funeral Home 128 Revere Street, Revere, MA 02151. A celebration of life will follow at VFW Mottolo Post at

61 Lucia Avenue; Revere, MA from 5-8 pm

In honor of Patricia's deep love for animals, the family kindly requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Dog-Mother Foundation, an organization she dearly supported. Donations may be sent to:

DogMother Foundation 558 Lowell Street Peabody, MA 01960.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Ines F. Santos



Ines F. Santos of Somerville passed away on May 16, 2025. She was the beloved wife of the late Gabriel Dos Santos.

She was spunky, she loved things clean and tidy. She had a love for baking, knitting, yard work like planting flowers. She had a determination to try anything once. Whether it be painting or nailing something up. Any household chores shed delve right in didn't always know how to do it but would try it anyway. She was very loyal

married my father in her late 20s like 28 yrs old, Gariel Dos Santos they were together over 30 yrs and after he passed away, she refused to remarry never wanted anyone else again. That kind of devotion is rare. She came to the US in 1980 with pretty much nothing. It was just my Dad my sister and I and within that time she worked various jobs , restaurant kitchen cleaning, a wedding dress making company sewing dresses, a factory assembling small electronic parts, then

finally housekeeping at hotels. She got her papers and became a US Citizen. Saved enough money to buy a car and a home jointly with us. Basically, built a life for her and us from nothing just hard work and lots of saving. She grew up in Madeira Portugal a daughter of eight. Three sisters and four brothers' big family. Originally there where 13 but a few about 5 died young from illnesses.

A funeral procession will commence from the George

L. Doherty Funeral Home, located at 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Wednesday morning, May 21st at 10:30am, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Ann Church in Somerville at 11:00am. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Calling hours will be held on Wednesday morning prior to the Mass, from 8:30 to 10:30. Entombment will take place at Holy Cross Mausoleum.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Pierre A. Germain

Obituary

Pierre A. Germain – Of Medford, passed away on Monday, May 5, 2025. He was 55 years old.

Born in Port Au Prince, Haiti. He was the son of Alceus Pierre and Manite Germain.

He is also survived by many loving siblings, nieces, nephews and friends.

A prayer service will be held in the George L Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) at 12:00PM.

Interment will be private.





Somerville Kiwanis Celebrate 100 years of Community Service

SOMERVILLE_ On Sunday, May 18th, more than 80 Somerville Kiwanis Club members, friends and guests gathered at the Cafe Escadrille in Burlington to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Somerville.

The club charter was actually delivered on May 21st, 1925. A large screen monitor continuously displayed hundreds of photos of club members and activities dating back over fifty plus years. Members past and present, along with friends and guests from other Kiwanis Clubs were treated to a fabulous lunch. President Tom Austin, himself a third generation Kiwanis member, gave the official welcome before turning the program over to Master of Ceremonies Past President Charlie Ball who provided his own humorous comments about

our great members and the work that we continue to do. Distinguished Past President / Past Secretary Paul Upton gave a summary of some of the major activities and milestones of the club over the past one hundred years. We were then entertained by world renowned comedian and Somerville native Tony V. It was a wonderful afternoon put together by President Tom and Past President/Distinguished Secretary Emeritus Bob Nissenbaum and the 100th celebration committee. President Tom thanked all of the members, past and present for their commitment and dedication to serving the community and the Kiwanis mission, "improving the world one child and one community at a time".

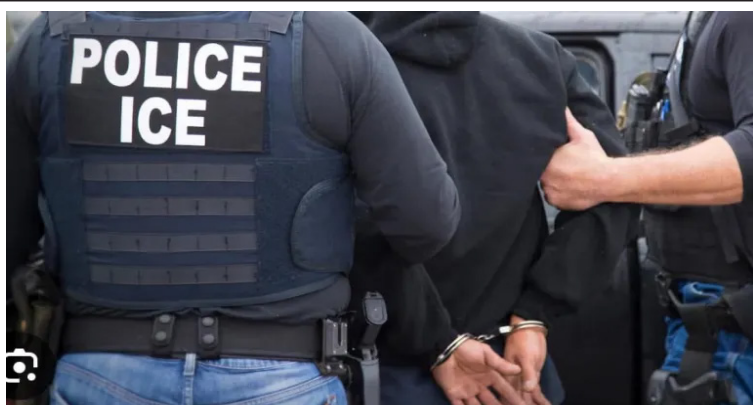


Somerville Kiwanis members in attendance



Somerville Kiwanis President Tom Austin and Co-President Dawn Austin

Arrested In Somerville, Rules are Rules and Laws are Laws!



Your thoughts?

By William Tauro

When the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) agents were first sited in Somerville this past March, rumors of I.C.E. raids became true and people began to take them seriously! During that

week in March, I.C.E. raided a local Somerville business where I.C.E. agents were looking for one targeted bad guy who worked there at the local Somerville business which they found and arrested.

Unfortunately the rules unofficially say that if I.C.E. runs across a building/business and

whoever else is found there, a bad guy or a good guy is found, if you are here illegally you'll be automatically detained as well. Even though is an innocent, hard-working person who was in the wrong place at the wrong time will be arrested as well. This individual may have been providing for his or her family but they are illegally here and so the unofficial rules apply and they will be apprehended as well.

So one illegal bad guy and two undocumented residents, a father who owns the business and his son were arrested as at the same time. Another illegal undocumented immigrant snuck out the back door and ran down the street during the raid and avoided apprehension.

Another undocumented immigrant who is found working there as well provided the proper paperwork to the agents showing that his citizenship paperwork was in line and awaiting immigration approval so he was not arrested.

Out of respect for the family who are a very decent and honorable family, I decided to not release their names of who they arrested on that day, but we all know that rules are rules and I am a 100% for the rules and laws!

On another note to all Democrats and especially to our three major political hacks, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congressman Ed Markey and Congress-

woman Ariana Presley were nowhere to be found to date two months after, nor have they reached out to the arrested immigrants to help these people. Maybe they were a no-show because there were no cameras around where they would gain free political news coverage to look like heroes. We can definitely tell you though that surveys tell us that their days are numbered in politics!"

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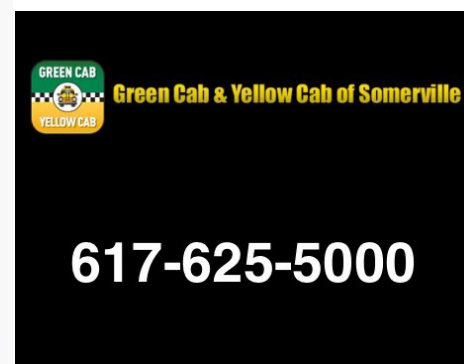
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This Spring, Garden Like a Pollinator Pro in Somerville



Somerville's Pollinator Action Plan is your guide to planting smarter and supporting nature.

SOMERVILLE – With spring in full swing, the City of Somerville is re-

mind residents that the season of growth is also the season of pollinators. As you shop for plants to fill garden pots or garden beds, you can play a role in feeding and sheltering the insects that keep our global ecosystem functioning.

“Pollinators are looking for flowers to feed on and this spring, one of the most powerful ways you can support biodiversity is by doing less,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “A few extra weeks of letting your

lawn be a little wild feed the pollinators that help our whole ecosystem thrive. I'm so grateful to our Public Space and Urban Forestry team for developing a resource that makes it easy for all of us to take action. Together, we can fight local and global pollinator population decline right in our own yards, balconies, parks, and planter boxes.”

Somerville's Pollinator Action Plan is your go-to guide for planting a beautiful garden and protecting

the creatures that keep our environment blooming. Whether you're a homeowner, renter, seasoned gardener, or total beginner, the Plan is full of practical steps and inspiring ideas to help create vital habitat right here in the city.

Open it up and you'll find: Why pollinators matter to Somerville and beyond The bees, butterflies, and other pollinators you're likely to see here Specific garden designs and pollinator-friendly plant

lists Landscaping tips for every kind of space Actions for everyone; from renters to property owners, landscapers, schools, and kids

Check out the full Pollinator Action Plan at: voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan

Somerville to Host Annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on June 5

SOMERVILLE– Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Office of Health and Human Services are inviting all community members to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month at the annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.).

The event will feature remarks from Mayor

Katjana Ballantyne, City LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator Izzy Starr, and youth representatives from Somerville's LGBTQ+ community. Live ASL interpretation will be available.

For more information about LGBTQ+ programming, events, and information, please visit somervillema.gov/lgbtq-services



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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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.

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SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY AND HIV STATUS (H 776)

By Bob Katzen

The Elder Affairs Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would amend current state law under which the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, signed by the late President Lyndon Johnson, offers social and nutrition services for seniors over 60 years old. Under current law, the state administers the Act using two definitions: "greatest economic need" and "greatest social need."

The bill would add sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status to the definition of "greatest social need." Seniors within these groups would be eligible for aid from the government for

food, disease prevention, community-based services, elder rights programs and other forms of assistance.

"Our seniors deserve a safe and affirming environment regardless of HIV status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression," said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). "[The bill] is a critical step to include those in critical at-risk populations to be eligible for aide ensuring that the quality of care and rights of LGBTQ+ individuals is preserved and protected. We cannot rest on our laurels. These inequalities need to be addressed to end discriminatory practices and policies."



SWITCH SCHOOL BUSES FROM DIESEL TO ELECTRIC (S 2241)

By Bob Katzen

Photo by William Tauro

The Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee held a hearing on a bill that would establish a grant program run by the Department of Energy Resources to help cities and towns offset the cost difference between buying zero-emission electric school buses and traditional diesel-powered ones. The grant program would prioritize support for communities in which the median household income is below the state's median income or where the 5-year average rate of emergency department visits for childhood asthma is greater than the

state's 5-year average rate.

"Most of our school buses still run on diesel, which pollutes the air, contributes to climate change, and exposes children to harmful emissions every day, especially when buses idle outside schools," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "While zero-emission buses are more expensive up front, this legislation helps close that gap so more communities can make the switch. It's about giving every child access to safer, healthier transportation and making real progress toward cleaner air."



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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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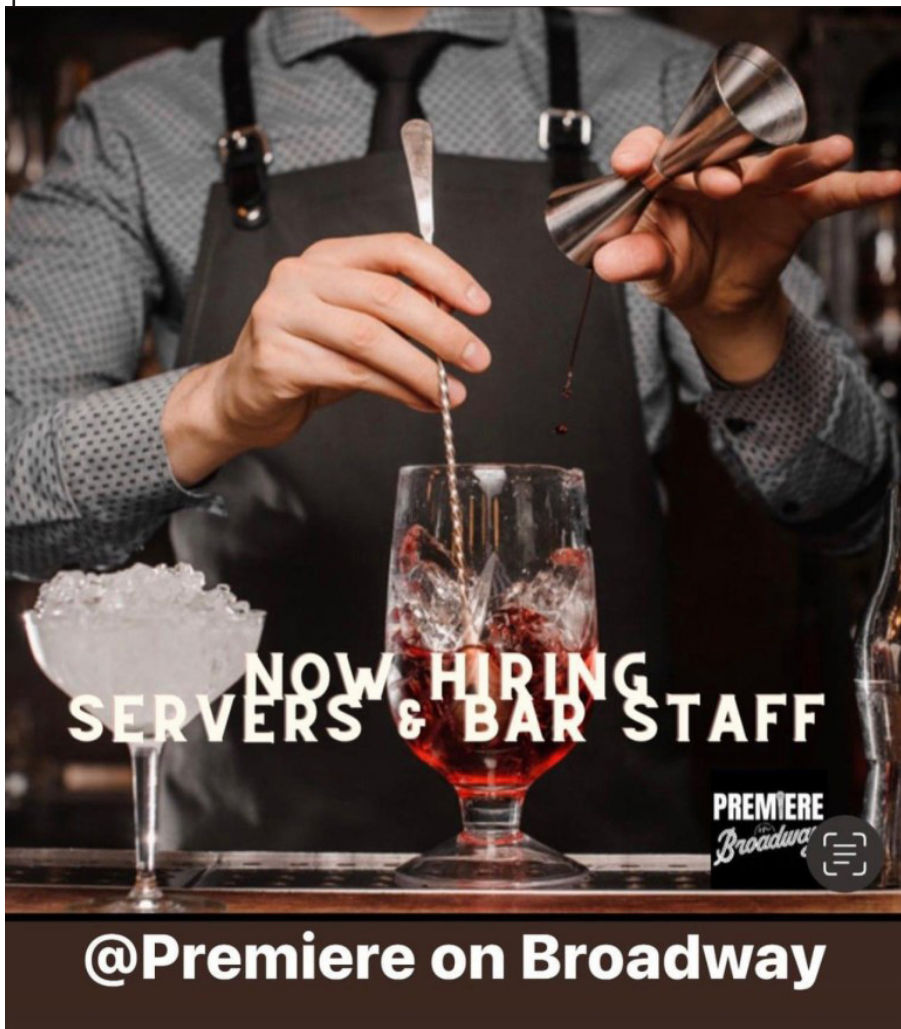
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“Parking Location and Prohibitions” is amended with the addition of the following location: No Parking Any Time at 48 Walnut St.
PROMULGATED: MAY 8, 2025

ADVERTISED: MAY 13, 2025
MAY 20, 2025
MAY 27, 2025
EFFECTIVE: JUNE 4, 2025

Somerville/Medford News Weekly
05/13/25, 05/20/25, 05/27/25

Somerville’s Nicotine-Free Generation Policy Begins as New Sales Regulations In Effect



SOMERVILLE – This spring, Somerville’s Board of Health (BOH) voted for the City to join a growing national movement to create a Nicotine-Free generation by adopting new public health regulations limiting the sale of nicotine products, which went into effect May 1.

The updated rules, adopted unanimously by the Somerville Board of Health on March 25, mark the start of a major local effort to prevent nicotine addiction, especially among youth.

Under the new regulations:
Somerville will begin implementing a Nicotine-Free Generation policy. Anyone born on or after January 1, 2005, will be permanently ineligible to purchase tobacco or nicotine products in the city, even once they turn 21.

Nicotine pouches can now only be sold in adult-only retail stores. Retailers who do not meet this standard must remove pouches from their shelves immediately.

“The Nicotine-Free Generation policy isn’t about taking away rights, it’s about giving young people the freedom to grow up without the grip of nicotine,” said Bhavika Kalia, a member of Somerville Positive Forces. “It’s about bold action today to protect the well-being of those who will lead our communities tomorrow.”

The Somerville Board of Health encourages retailers and community members to familiarize themselves with the new rules. These changes reflect the City’s continued commitment to a healthier, addiction-free future for its residents. These regulations follow years of local and statewide efforts to reduce access to harmful products, including Massachusetts’ 2024 ban on menthol-mimicking tobacco products.

For more information, contact Six City Tobacco Control Director Bonny Carroll at bcarroll@somervillema.gov, or visit somervillema.gov/prevention.



SomerStreets 2025 Kicks Off with Carnival Celebration on Sunday, June 1



By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey announced that she will be implementing a hiring freeze across the Executive Branch, beginning May 27, in response to “widespread economic uncertainty at the national level and a tightening state budget outlook for fiscal year 2026.”

The Healey Administra

tion said that the hiring freeze will apply to all Executive Branch agencies and departments and there will be no formal waiver process. However, consistent with common practice during past hiring freezes, exemptions will be made for certain positions, including public safety officers and direct care providers.

“The people of Massachu-

setts expect us to protect and maximize their tax dollars and that’s exactly what we’re doing,” said Gov. Healey. “Tariffs and funding cuts from Washington are causing so much economic damage and instability. We are taking this step to prepare for more uncertain economic times, protect taxpayer dollars and move our state forward while ensuring funding will be available for the vital services people need.”

“As we navigate the close of fiscal year 2025 and prepare for the start of the new fiscal year in July, the governor’s action to implement a hiring freeze across the executive branch will give us added flexibility in the budget to respond and react to unforeseen program needs and other deficiencies that

may arise,” said Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz. “Our uncertain economic future in fiscal year 2026 has been made less predictable by the threat of federal funding cuts and recent market upheaval. While we hope for the best, it is both prudent and responsible to be prepared and take control of what we can now.”

The Republican State Committee responded and released a statement saying that In January 2024, Gov. Healey gave each of her 12 cabinet members a \$15,000 pay hike, at the same time slashing hundreds of millions of dollars from elsewhere in the state budget. They noted that those cuts hit services for seniors, homeless shelters and local earmarks.

“One year ago, Maura Healey used the winter holiday break to play Santa, dumping the news that she’s rewarding the good little boys and girls of her administration with pay raises for their ‘tireless’ work ethic,” said MassGOP Executive Director John Milligan. “She hopes her tone deaf pay hikes for political friends go unnoticed when she can’t make ends meet in her budget without more taxes, but the MassGOP won’t let voters forget what she likes to do with their money when she has extra cash to play with.”

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SomerStreets 2025 Kicks Off with Carnival Celebration on Sunday, June 1



SomerStreets: Carnival returns for the 15th year to East Somerville on Sunday, June 1, from 2 to 6 p.m.

SOMERVILLE –The Somerville community is invited to get their dancing shoes on as SomerStreets: Carnival returns on Sunday, June 1, from 2 to 6 p.m. (rain date Sunday, June 8) to kick off the 2025 SomerStreets

season, which will include a series of three neighborhood street festivals across Somerville.

SomerStreets: Carnival celebrates the East Broadway Business District and community with food, music, and activities from around the world. Programming will extend along East Broadway from McGrath Hwy to Pennsylvania Ave.

The event will kick off at 2 p.m. with a parade starting at Garfield Avenue. Attendees can shop more than 40 artisan vendors, view performances from Grooversity and Trio Champola, enjoy food from 13 neighborhood restaurants, and join an interactive activity like participatory art making, led by local artists An-

dres Duarte and Nate Devarie. There will also be plenty of family friendly fun including a Bouncy House, Parkour, Esh Circus, and other activities.

SomerStreets: Carnival is organized by East Somerville Main Streets in collaboration with the Somerville Arts Council. SomerStreets is the City of Somerville’s take on the internationally renowned Open Streets concept, closing busy city streets to vehicles, and opening them up for walking, dancing, and other activities.

Mark your calendar for the next two SomerStreets festivals as well:

Saturday, September 13:
SomerStreets: Gilman Arts and Music Festival

Sunday, October 19:
SomerStreets: Monster Mash along Somerville Avenue

Road Closures and Bus Detours for SomerStreets: Carnival:

To ensure public safety at the event, several road closures and parking bans will be in effect on Broadway between McGrath Highway and Pennsylvania Avenue: For more information about road closures contact 311 (617-666-3311).

Broadway between McGrath Highway and Pennsylvania Avenue closed to all vehicular traffic.

No parking on either side of the street from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents who live on the west side of Broadway will be detoured onto Broadway at Pennsylvania Ave. Residents who live on the east side of Broadway will be detoured onto Pearl St.

MBTA buses will be rerouted from 11 to 8 p.m. For full detour information, visit mbta.com/bus

For information on how to participate in any of the SomerStreets events, go to somervilleartscouncil.org/somerstreets or contact Iaritz Menjivar, Events Coordinator, at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2998 or imenjivar@somervillema.gov.



Honoring Memorial Day in Somerville: Parade and Ceremony of Remembrance on May 25



Community encouraged to sign up as parade participants and volunteers

SOMERVILLE— Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville De-

partment of Veterans’ Services are announcing that Somerville’s Memorial Day parade will be held on Sunday, May 25.

The parade will step off at 11 a.m. from Davis Square, proceeding west on Holland Street through Teele Square and onto Broadway, ending at the Veterans Cemetery between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street. This year’s

Grand Marshal is Somerville resident and Medal of Honor recipient Thomas G. Kelley.

The City’s annual remembrance ceremony will immediately follow at the Somerville Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country. The ceremony will feature remarks by Mayor Ballantyne and Director of

Veterans’ Services Jerome Thomas.

Sign Up to Join the Parade or Volunteer

Somerville community groups, organizations, and local businesses are encouraged to participate and march along with local Veterans and first responders, as well as volunteers to help the parade run smoothly.

To sign up to participate, or volunteer, please complete a brief form at somervillema.gov/memorialday or call 617-625-6600 x 4700. The deadline to register as a parade participant is Friday, May 2.

Please contact the Somerville Department of Veterans’ Services at veterans@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 x 4700 with questions.

CONSOLIDATED HOUSING, JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAETY AMENDMENT (H 4000)

By Bob Katzen

House 154-2, approved a consolidated amendment adding \$10.5 million in funding to Housing, Judiciary and Public Safety programs in the \$61.47 billion fiscal year 2026 state budget. Much of the funding was for projects and programs proposed by individual representatives for their local districts.

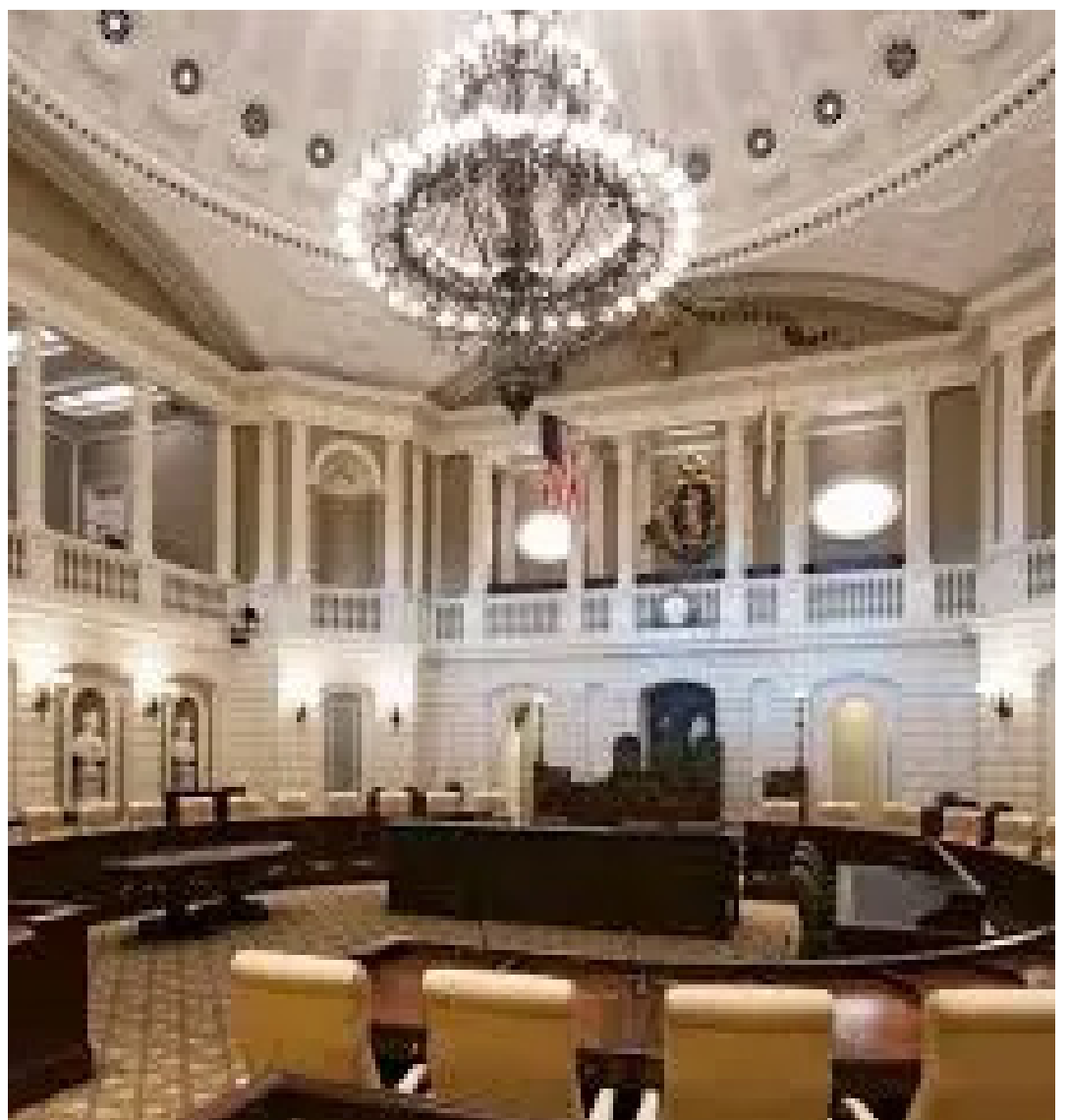
“This amendment underscores our values by investing in a wide range of housing line items that will help keep our residents housed, support our public housing authorities and provide tools to help residents during transitional times,” said Rep. Richard Haggerty (D-Woburn), House chair of the Housing Committee. “Housing is a huge com-

ponent to our state’s long-term economic success and making sure people have a safe, affordable place to live is critically important.”

Reps. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) and Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick), the only two members to vote against the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they opposed the amendment.

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

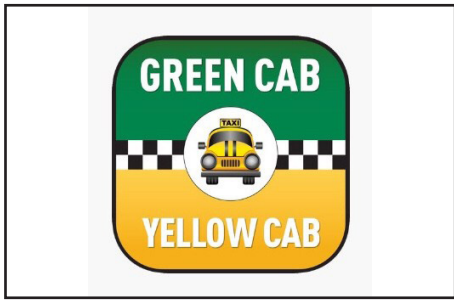
Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Didn’t Vote



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Somerville's Nicotine-Free Generation Policy Begins as New Sales Regulations In Effect



SOMERVILLE – This spring, Somerville's Board of Health (BOH) voted for the City to join a growing national movement to create a Nicotine-Free generation by adopting new public health regulations limiting the sale of nicotine products, which went into effect May 1.

The updated rules, adopted unanimously by the Somerville Board of Health on March 25, mark the start of a major local effort to prevent

nicotine addiction, especially among youth.

Under the new regulations:

Somerville will begin implementing a Nicotine-Free Generation policy. Anyone born on or after January 1, 2005, will be permanently ineligible to purchase tobacco or nicotine products in the city, even once they turn 21.

Nicotine pouches can now only be sold in adult-only retail stores. Retailers who do not meet this standard must remove pouches from their shelves immediately.

"The Nicotine-Free Generation policy isn't about taking away rights, it's about giving young people the freedom to grow up without the grip of nicotine," said Bhavika Kalia, a member of Somerville Positive Forces. "It's about bold

action today to protect the well-being of those who will lead our communities tomorrow."

The Somerville Board of Health encourages retailers and community members to familiarize themselves with the new rules. These changes reflect the City's continued commitment to a healthier, addiction-free future for its residents. These regulations follow years of local and statewide efforts to reduce access to harmful products, including Massachusetts' 2024 ban on menthol-mimicking tobacco products.

For more information, contact Six City Tobacco Control Director Bonny Carroll at bcarroll@somervillema.gov, or visit somervillema.gov/prevention.

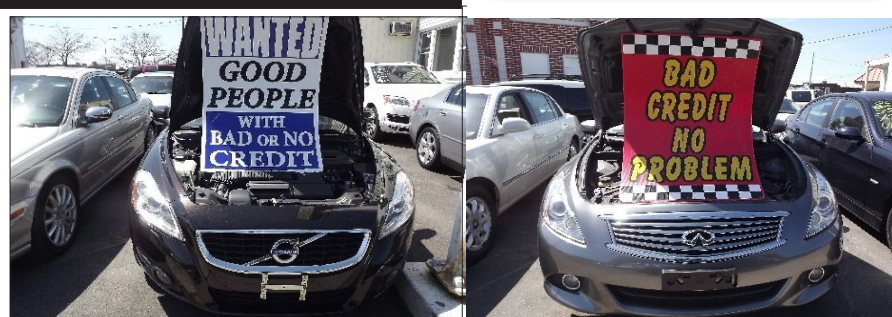
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CONSOLIDATED ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT (H 4000)

By Bob Katzen

House 154-3, approved a consolidated amendment adding \$5.8 million in funding to Energy, Environmental and Food Assistance programs in the \$61.47 billion fiscal year 2026 state budget. Much of the funding was for projects and programs proposed by individual representatives for their local districts.

“[The amendment] makes important investments in

the environment, including over \$85 million for the Department of Environment Protection and over \$160 million for the Department of Conservation and Recreation to support clean water and our parks and natural resources,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville), House chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. “Funding for the Department of Energy Resources builds in a new line item

to directly support the objectives of the Climate Bill without adding to assessments that are passed on to the residents of the commonwealth.”

Barber continued, “There are also significant investments in addressing food insecurity in the commonwealth – funding for Emergency Food Assistance is increased by \$13 million to bring this line item to \$55 million. In a time when the federal government is actively

rolling back protections and damaging the environment, these financial investments continue to protect the commonwealth’s invaluable natural resources, coastlines and waterways, open spaces, wildlife and recreation areas and extend our imperative to address the urgency of climate change.”

Reps. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica), Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) and John Gaskey (R-Carver), the only three members to

vote against the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they opposed the amendment.

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

CONSOLIDATED LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT (H 4000)

By Bob Katzen

House 154-3, approved a consolidated amendment adding \$25 million in funding to Labor and Economic Development programs in the \$61.47 billion fiscal year 2026 state budget. Much of the funding was for projects

and programs proposed by individual representatives for their local districts.

“The amendment demonstrates the commitment the House has in investing in local economic development projects and supports the many amazing programs in

our communities,” said Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall River), House chair of the Economic Development and Emerging Technologies Committee. “Along with the rest of the budget, these investments make a big impact for our constituents.”


Reps. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica), Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) and John Gaskey (R-Carver) the only three members to vote against the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they opposed the amendment.

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Paul Donato Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

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AGRICULTURAL EQUITY FOR MINORITIES (S 53)

By Bob Katzen

Would create a special legislative commission to study and develop recommendations for supporting investments, policies and practices designed to "promote equity in agriculture for socially

disadvantaged groups in the commonwealth that have been historically or systematically excluded or have had less access to resources and opportunities based on cultural, racial or ethnic prejudice."

These groups would

include, at a minimum, African Americans, Cape Verdeans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Caribbean Islanders, Native Americans and Alaskan natives.

"Property ownership is a leading source of in-

tergenerational wealth accumulation," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "In the United States, white people have always had more access to land ownership than Black, Indigenous and People of Color. While we know these

populations are significantly underrepresented among farm landowners, we do not have reliable data on who is receiving state grants and other state funding for agriculture."

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION On Beacon Hill?

By Bob Katzen

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers.

They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and

other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of May 12-16, the House met for a total of one hour and 56 minutes while the Senate met for a total of one hour and two minutes.

Mon. May 12 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:54 a.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.

Tues. May 13 No House session. No Senate session.

Wed. May 14 No House session. No Senate session.

Thurs. May 15 House 11:03 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 12:08 p.m.

Fri. May 16 No House session. No Senate session.

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillroll-

call.com

Bob founded Beacon Hill Roll Call in 1975 and was inducted into the New England Newspaper and Press Association (NENPA) Hall of Fame in 2019.

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OCTOPUS (H 127)

By Bob Katzen

Would prohibit the aquaculture of octopus in tanks or other controlled environments for human consumption. Aquaculture is defined as “waters used primarily and directly in

the commercial cultivation of aquatic organisms including finfish, mollusk or crustacean in a controlled environment.”

The measure would prohibit businesses from selling, transporting or

possessing commercially farmed octopus. Violators would be fined up to \$1,000 per day and would also be required to pay restitution for any money they made from the octopus.

“I filed this bill due to serious ethical concerns related to raising octopuses in confined spaces” said sponsor Rep. Chris Hendricks (D-New Bedford). “The neurological complexities of octopuses are not compatible with

controlled aquaculture processes and practices. During this session, I hope the Legislature can take a serious look at this measure and move it across the finish line.”

SAFETY OF FOOD AND FOOD ADDITIVES (H 113)

By Bob Katzen

Would establish a 16-member Commission to Study the Safety of Food and Food Additives to investigate the health impacts of certain foods and food additives and propose policy and regulatory changes to enhance food safety in Massachusetts.

The commission would include medical professionals, dietitians, food scientists, a pediatrician, consumer advocates and repre-

sentatives from local farming. It would study additives such as high fructose corn syrup, seed oils, artificial coloring dyes, monosodium glutamate, artificial sweeteners, trans fats, sodium nitrite/nitrate in processed meats and bisphenol A (BPA) in food packaging.

The commission would be empowered to hold public hearings, conduct research, employ staff and issue subpoenas to gather evidence. Within

two years of its first meeting, the commission would deliver a report to the governor, the Legislature and the public — assessing health impacts, recommending legislative or regulatory actions and suggesting public education campaigns to promote healthier food choices.

“The surge in obesity and chronic illnesses like diabetes, auto-immune disease and behavioral health disorders particularly among children,

demands a thorough investigation,” said sponsor Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick). “Growing research and frankly common sense suggest that the root of the problem is related to the foods we eat. Additives like artificial dyes, seed oils and high fructose corn syrup as well as ultra processed foods are poisoning Americans of all ages, robbing them of living healthy and fulfilling lives. This commission will deliver evidence-based solutions to enhance food

safety and educate families on healthier options. Massachusetts has an opportunity to lead the way in addressing our growing health crisis.”

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

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

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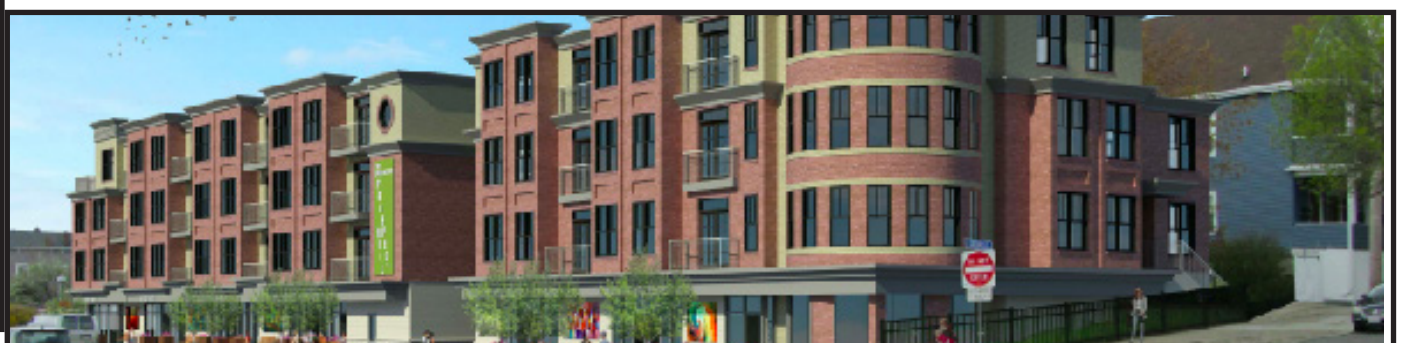
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Peter Asher At Regent Theater Arlington Matinee 2 PM Sunday May 18, 2025



By Joe Viglione

As Jim McCarty tells the story of the Yardbirds on tour, Peter Asher is presenting his life in the world of rock and pop, and will be doing so in a two pm matinee at 7 Medford St., Arlington, across from Arlington Catholic High School which I escaped from around 1969.

There is parking in back of the high school. Medford St. is off of Mass Ave., and there are multiple MBTA bus lines that stop directly at the theater.

You can get his book PETER ASHER A LIFE IN MUSIC by David Jacks on the website Peter Asher Book <http://peterasher>

book.com/PeterAsher-BookPurchase.html

We spoke to Peter at 10 am on Thursday, March 15, 2025 which is much too early for me to do an interview, but ...since it was Mr. Asher we had to make an exception. We talked about Doris Troy, the amazing woman who wrote "Just One Look" and

worked at Apple Records with Peter, the multitude of songs being pitched to Peter and Apple with their open door policy.

We talked about musical duos: the Everly Brothers, Chad and Jeremy, Simon and Garfunkel, Peter and Gordon ...and how the public embraced these musicians as they did full bands, leading to – in the 70's – Seals and Crofts, Bardorf and Rodney, English Dan and John Ford Coley. Peter said the audiences would often confuse Chad and Jeremy for Peter and Gordon, and vice versa, and that they would play along and just accept the acknowledgment, even if it was misdirected. Funny thing is nowadays it is Peter Asher and Jeremy Clyde, the audience delusions actually coming

true.

We talked about the amazing Kate Taylor album Sister Kate that Asher produced, how he met James Taylor and Linda Ronstadt, but as Mr Asher was generous with his time, we didn't go into his co-production of the new Barbara Streisand album.

See you at the Regent!

RODEOS (H 139)

By Bob Katzen

Would require that any rodeos comply with the rules, regulations, standards and practices established by the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association.

"I filed this bill because Massachusetts has no standards for rodeos unlike many other states, a fact which came to light after the incident last fall when seven bulls escaped from a traveling exhibition in North Attleboro

and crossed Route 1 into residential neighborhoods," said sponsor Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleboro). "I like that North Attleboro is a venue for all types of entertainment. Variety is the spice of life, after all. We just

need to make sure that standards are met for public safety as well as for animal welfare."

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This Week's QUOTABLE QUOTES On Beacon Hill

Quotable Quotes



By Bob Katzen

"It was great to welcome Suni Williams to the Statehouse and back home to Massachusetts."

Her resilience and dedication to service serves as an incredible model for young people across the state, reminding them that their potential is as limitless as outer space. We hope that some of the students who joined us today will be inspired to pursue careers in STEM and truly reach for the stars."

—Gov. Healey hosting a meet and greet with American Astronaut and Needham native Suni Williams and local students at the Statehouse. Williams is the first woman to fly on a flight test of an orbital spacecraft during the 2024 Boeing Crew Flight Test and had her stay extended for nine months by technical problems aboard the ISS.

"We are here to make our voices heard and we are asking our legislators to listen and to act, to protect and to strengthen the programs which keep older adults safe, nourished and at home. And to continue to invest in our nonprofit system of care that has delivered value to the commonwealth for decades and so that it can continue to do so for generations to come."
—Betsey Crimmins, Mass Aging Access Executive Director speaking at the Older Adult Lobby Day at the Statehouse along with some 600 older adults and their supporters.

"Every statewide election, thousands of voters show up to vote on Election Day but encounter preventable barriers to voting. The Voting Access Campaign seeks to remove those known barriers by advocating for important voting reforms like Same Day Registration. Let's ensure that every eligible voter who seeks to cast a ballot on Election Day can cast one that counts and that we make sure the door to our democracy is fully opened to all eligible voters in Massachusetts."
—Geoff Foster, executive director of Common Cause Massachusetts at a press conference announcing the group's 2025 legislative campaign to strengthen voting access for all Bay Staters.

to develop pathways for our future talent and workforce. YouthWorks provides an invaluable chance for young people to discover why Massachusetts is an exceptional place to live and work."
—Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones announcing some \$22 million in funding grants to hire 6,540 youth in summer and year-round employment through the state's YouthWorks program for the 2025-2026 program year. The program provides teens and young adults with hands-on work experience and soft-skill development, and places them in jobs in industries such as education, health care, information technology, camp counselors, arts and communications.

"Investing in our youth and young adults is an essential part of our state's strategy

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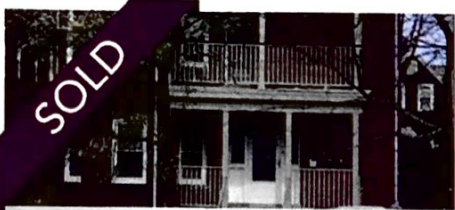
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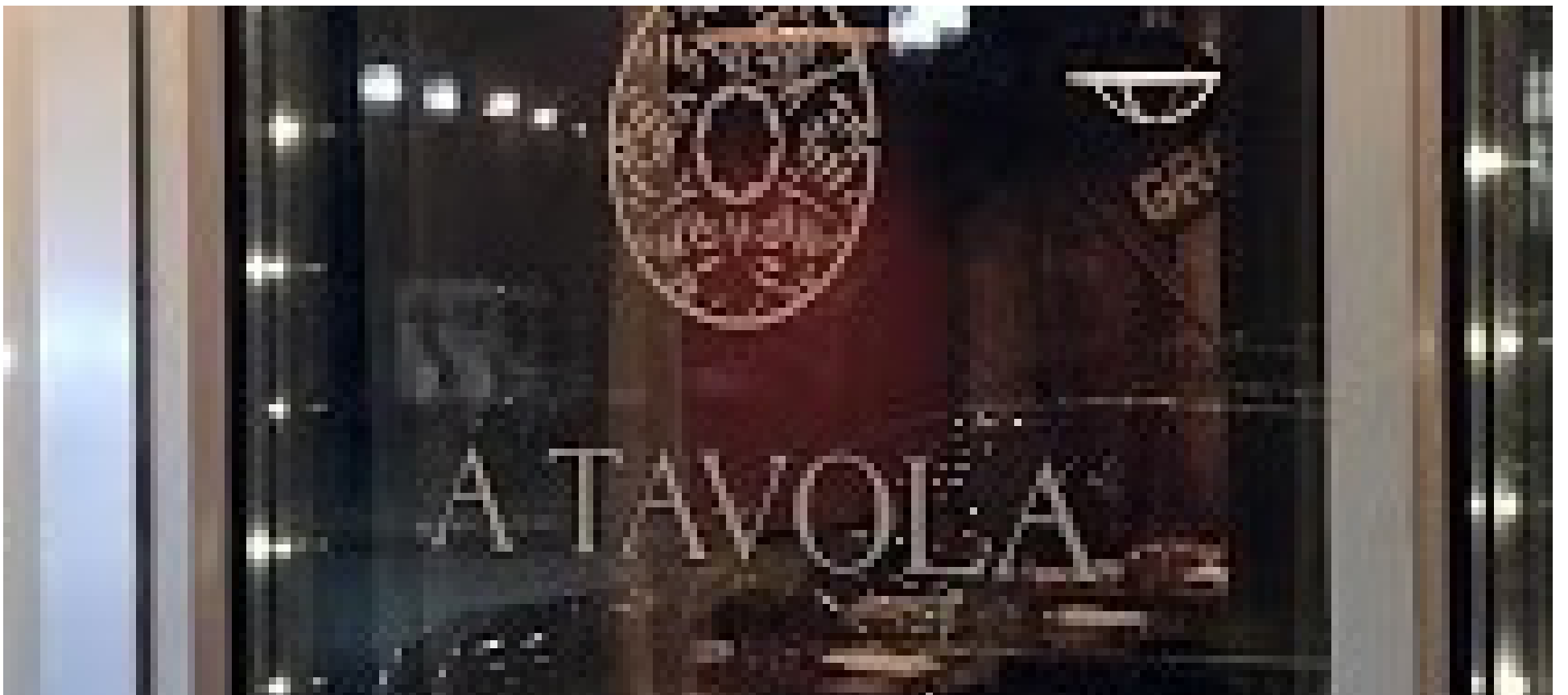
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