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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday May 27th, 2025

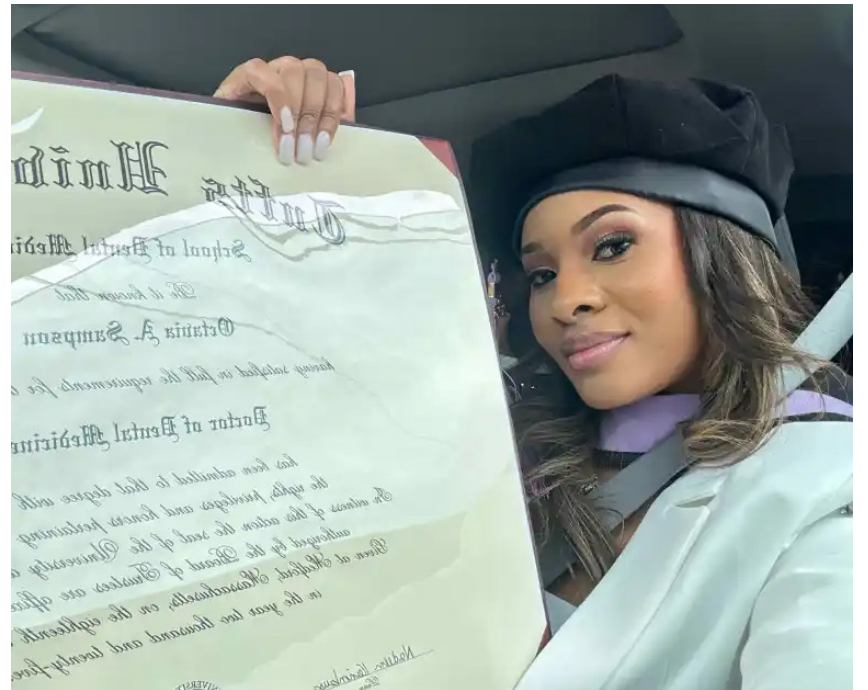
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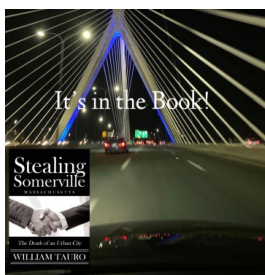
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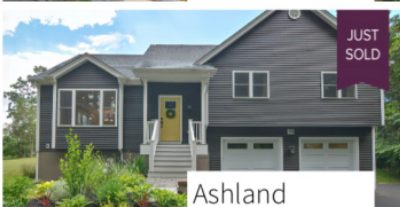
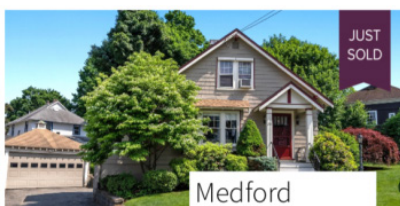
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We have been busy, but never too busy for you! These four properties were sold in one month! If you see something you would like to know more about, have any questions or are thinking about buying or selling a property, please don't hesitate to send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

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Phyllis M. (Hyland) Mirabello



Obituary

Phyllis M. (Hyland) Mirabello – Of Somerville, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

She was 76 years old. Born and raised in Somerville, Phyllis was the beloved daughter of the late James Hyland and Anne (McCollum) Agri. A familiar and cherished face in the community, she spent over 30 years as a waitress at Jimmy’s Steak House, where her warm spirit, quick wit, and infectious laughter made every customer feel like family. Phyllis had a special gift for making people

smile and took pride in creating a welcoming and joyful dining experience for all who walked through the doors. Outside of work, Phyllis found peace and happiness by the ocean. She treasured beach days. Relishing the feeling of sand between her toes, the warmth of the sun on her face, and a cool drink in hand. Her love for animals was another cornerstone of her life, and she was a

devoted advocate to furry friends of all kinds. Beloved wife of Carl Mirabello. Devoted mother of Freddy Andella and his wife Stacey, Patrick Griffin and his wife Erin and the late David Griffin. Cherished grandmother of Amanda Andella and Charlie Andella, Patrick W. Griffin, Quinn Griffin and Noah Griffin. Dear sister of Elaine Shelton. Also survived by many loving nieces and neph-

ews. Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Friday June 13th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. A prayer service will be conducted in the funeral home at 6:30PM. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Interment will be private.

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, niec-

es, 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/Medford Remembering Donald J. “Donnie” Roy



Obituary Donald J. “Donny” Roy- Of Somerville passed away peacefully on Friday, May 2, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. He was 77 years old.

Born in Cambridge, Donny was the cherished son of the late Harold B. and Ruth (Powers) Roy. A proud veteran of the United States Army, Donnie devoted much of his life to honoring and supporting his fellow servicemen and women. He was deeply involved in veterans’ affairs, and his unwavering dedication was evident in

his regular participation in parades, community events, and social gatherings honoring those who served. Beloved son of the late Harold B. and Ruth (Powers) Roy. Devoted brother of Robert Roy and his late wife Annette of Braintree, David Roy and his wife Helen of Billerica, Beverly LeClair and her longtime companion Robert Green of Melrose and the late Harry Roy, Shirley “Sissy” Roy, John “Jackie” Roy, Leonard “Lenny” Roy, Jean Roy, and Richard Roy and his surviving wife Bar-

bara. Also the cherished and loving godfather and uncle to many nieces and nephews. Calling hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home on 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville, on Wednesday, May 28th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Words of Remembrance will be held at 6:30PM. Interment will be held privately at Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge.

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Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



Crime Log 5/13/25 – 5/19/25

<https://www.somervillepd.com/public-safety-news>

Assault
25026883: On 5/14/25 at 7:29 PM, Somerville Police took a report of a past assault. The reporting party stated that on 4/23/25, her son was attacked in Assembly Row by a group of teenage males. The victim

suffered multiple injuries.

Assault
25026877: On 5/14/25 at 7:07 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business in Assembly Row for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim

who stated he entered the business to use the bathroom and was refused. He was then pushed by two employees.

Arrest
25026955: On 5/15/25 at approximately 8:27 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Browning Rd for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he recently purchased the property and when he arrived at the house, he observed a male party inside the house yelling at him.

Officers located the male suspect and he was placed under arrest.

Assault
25027184: On 5/16/25 at 11:40 AM, Somerville Police responded to Broadway for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated earlier that morning, he was approached by a male party known to him who struck him in the head with a bag of glass.

Arrest
25027953: On 5/19/25 at

approximately 9:37 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Perkins St for an injured person. Upon arrival, officers observed a male party bleeding who stated he was stabbed with a knife by a male known to him. Officers entered the residence and located the male suspect; he was then placed under arrest.

- Other Crimes:
- 2 MV Vandalisms
 - 5 Car Breaks
 - 3 Bike Thefts
 - 3 Package Thefts
 - 1 MV Theft

Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Tufts Students Leaving Trash Behind

Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

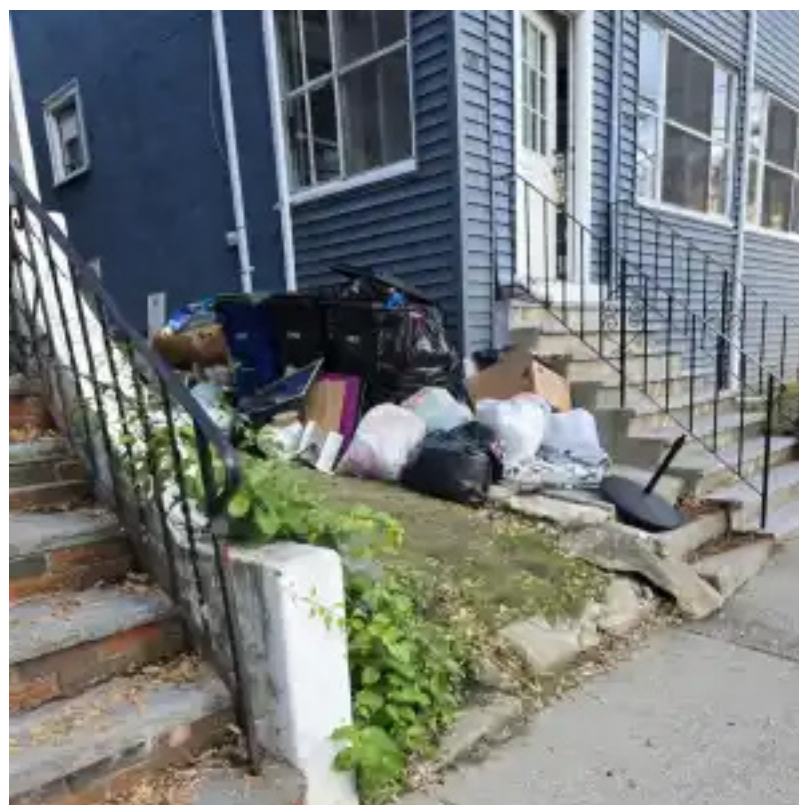
Dear Mr. Tauro, this is why our city looks like shit! I am sick n tired of dirty people! The Tufts Students , left all there garbage everywhere. This is horrible and disgusting! Then you wonder why we have rats. This is one house 119 North Street West Somerville.

Mettiti insieme le tue ca ca!!! Figlia di puttana!!! Vergogna!!!! La citta' non e la stessa!!!!!! Get your act

together people!!!! Why doesn't the dpw go around giving out fines to home owners!!! Shame on you

We need a change this bullshit around people!!!

A lifelong Somerville resident



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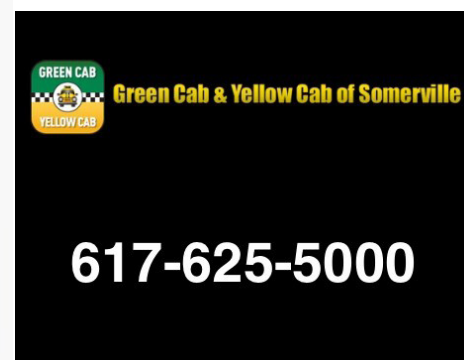
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CAPITAL GAINS TAX DISTRIBUTION (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would require any excess revenue in capital gains revenue over \$1 billion to annually automatically be transferred as follows: 80 percent to the Rainy Day Fund; 10 percent to the state's Pension Liability Fund; and 10 percent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund. The amendment would replace a section that distributes 5 percent to the Rainy Day Fund; 90 percent to the

state's Pension Liability Fund; and 5 percent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund. Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the amendment sponsor, said that putting only 5 percent into the stabilization fund at a time when we recognize there's a possibility of a downturn in federal support for our budget is not a good idea. He noted we have a stabilization fund to ensure we have those resources when we need them. Sen. Mike Rodrigues

(D-Westport), who voted against the amendment, said the Rainy Day Fund is currently already funded at an impressive gold standard of \$8.1 billion. He argued that putting the majority of the funds into the Pension Liability Fund would be wiser and would boost the state's bond rating.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No



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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for any and all details.

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

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

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ALLOW GOLD STAR MOTHERS TO RECEIVE ANNUITY EVEN OIF THEY REMARRY (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would repeal a current law that restricts a surviving

spouse from receiving the Gold Star annuity if they remarry.

“As we near Memorial Day, a day where we re-

member and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation, we can never forget those they left behind,” said amendment

sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). “It is truly so cruel to me that these husbands and wives, who lost their loved ones, who have sacrificed so much

themselves, are told that their sacrifice will no longer matters to the commonwealth if they decide to remarry.”

400,000 FOR PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for a pediatric palliative care program by \$400,000 (from \$10.4 to \$10.8 million). This program provides invaluable comprehensive care for children living with life-limiting or end-of-life illnesses, as well as support for their families.

“I am proud to secure additional funding for this critical program which will help clear the waiting list for these services and support the staff who work with these children,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Sal DiDomenico(D-Everett). “Families who are seeking pediatric palliative care do not have time to wait on a waitlist. These children deserve quality care and support throughout the duration of their illness and at the end of their lives, and their families deserve the support they need as they face one of the most traumatic times of their lives. This program has been

City of Somerville Releases Master Plan for Public-Owned Community Arts Center at Armory Building

Roadmap for successful community arts center reflects nearly three years of community feedback.

City issues call for Somerville Armory Advisory Board Members.

SOMERVILLE — After an intensive community engagement process, the City of Somerville has now released its Master Plan for establishing its Armory building as a public community arts center, which would place Somerville among only a handful of communities nationwide with a public-owned arts and culture center.

The plan comes at a time when private arts spaces and studio costs are under increasing pressure in the Boston region and in Somerville. This cultural investment is fitting for a city known for its high concentration of artists, creative festivals, and steadfast support of the arts.

Ultimately, the community’s vision is for a thriving, publicly secured arts hub offering performances, workshops, talks, and civic events as well as rehearsal, studio, gallery space – and more. To begin making this vision a reality, the City has

issued a call for a community-based Armory Advisory Board and will soon post a call for arts tenants (via RFP and open to current and new tenants.)

“The community made their wishes clear: preserve and build on the great work and programming we have at the Armory now under the private model, and expand the mission to serve the full community under a public model. This plan delivers on those goals,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “It adds the security of public stewardship; establishes a mission to serve our full community of artists and residents equitably, accessibly and innovatively; and creates a governance model that is both by and for Somervillians with a community-based board to guide the center’s mission. This plan now paves the way for a sustainable, inclusive, exciting arts center for all in our community, for years to come.”

Established as a cultural arts center by a private owner in 2008, the Armory has consistently faced financial challenges common to arts centers. The pandemic worsened matters. In 2021, the private arts center faced imminent closure.

This, despite the former owner’s commitment, an active anchor tenant Arts at the Armory, and sizable City Covid recovery grants. To prevent this loss, the City stepped in to acquire the Armory through eminent domain, preserving the space for the singular purpose of serving the community with arts, culture, and civic uses into the future.

Public ownership does, however, introduce new legal requirements for access, management, and fairness. For one, state procurement law demands public owners follow a regulated and open process for identifying tenants. To do so in a way that addressed past financial challenges, the City launched a process to establish a Master Plan for the site in 2022.

Somerville’s Economic Development Division and the City’s Somerville Arts Council conducted an extensive and inclusive community process to develop the Master Plan. The goal of the planning effort was twofold:

establish guiding principles for maximizing the arts use of the building, to the widest possible benefit of both the arts community

and general public; and address the financial realities involved in operating the Armory as a public arts center.

“The community really stepped up here to undertake a thoughtful process to create the Master Plan,” said Somerville Arts Council Director Gregory Jenkins. “As a diverse community with a longstanding history of welcoming artists of all types, it’s inspiring to see artists and residents come together to work to preserve the Armory as our community hub for the arts. We want to thank the community for putting in many hours to ensure we have a bedrock commitment to meeting diverse community needs in this building.”

About the Plan

The Armory Master Plan directly reflects public feedback provided during multiple meetings, open feedback sessions, and direct outreach, to help ensure that diverse voices shaped the plan. As a roadmap it sets up: clear priorities for use; a governance and programming structure that ensures community accountability; measures to protect community interests; a fair and transparent process for selecting tenants and partners; and

a financial model that best lays a foundation for long-term sustainability.

This Master Plan recognizes that there is likely to be a phased approach to establishing a successful future for the Armory. The first phase focuses on stabilizing the property by filling the building with tenants under multi-year leases and making continued improvements to the building and management. Read the Master Plan at voice.somervillema.gov.

Next Steps

Call for Somerville Armory Advisory Board members: Open As a first step in realizing the Master Plan, the City is calling for applicants to apply to serve on a community-based Somerville Armory Advisory Board. The Board will advise the Mayor and City Council on tenant selection and building investments as well as overall mission. Applications are open and can be found at voice.somervillema.gov and somervillema.gov/besomerville along with more information. The application period will remain open until end of day Monday, July 14.

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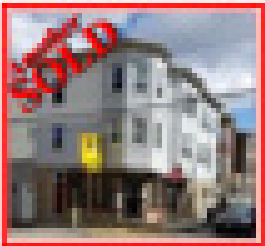


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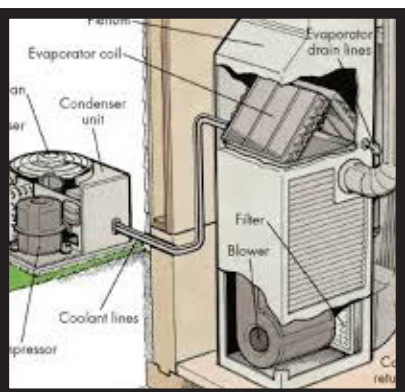
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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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: 2025-59 Article V Section 5-15 “Accessible Parking” is amended with the addition of the following locations: 50 Bromfield Rd, 26 Wisconsin Ave. 2025-60 Article V Section 5-5 “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.



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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.



SENATE APPROVES \$61.4 BILLION FISCAL 2026 STATE BUDGET (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 38-2, approved a \$61.4 billion fiscal 2026 state budget after three days of debate. The House has already approved a different version, and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a compromise plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and then sent to Gov. Maura Healey.

“This budget reflects the Senate’s commitment to a commonwealth that care-

fully balances investing in our people with responsible money management so we can protect our residents, communities and economy for years to come,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “The Senate’s statewide approach to investment delivers resources to every part of the state and protects our most vulnerable residents, while our continued focus on education and mental health ensures that residents have the keys to unlock the doors of opportunity.”

“This budget is a testament to the Senate’s collective values and our shared responsibility to invest in every community and every person in the commonwealth—from the Connecticut River Valley to Cape Cod,” said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “By prioritizing education, transportation, health care and support for municipalities, we are not only addressing immediate needs but also laying

the foundation for a more equitable and resilient commonwealth amid a time of great national turbulence and strife.”

“Constituents and businesses from across my district are exhausted by Gov. Healey’s budget priorities that underfund core local services, overfund benefits for non-residents with billions of tax dollar and burden them with ever-increasing taxes and energy costs,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton), one of only two senators to vote

against the budget. “Massachusetts residents are going to keep voting with their feet as they move out-of-state if we continue with the status quo – it’s unsustainable and must end.”

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

INCREASE ESTATE/DEATH TAX EXEMPTION (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would increase from \$2 million to \$5 million the amount of money that is tax exempt from the value of a person’s estate when calculating the state’s estate/death tax that a person is required to pay following their death before distribution to any beneficiary. The increase to \$5 million would be implemented over three years.

Most Republicans are against any such tax and coined the name “death tax” to imply that the government taxes you even after you die. Most Democrats support the tax and call it an “estate tax” to imply that this tax is mostly paid by the wealthy.

Amendment supporters said that Massachusetts is one of only 12 states that have an estate/death tax and that the Bay State’s is the most aggressive of the 12. They said that in light of the high value of houses, with the average home price more than \$500,000, the \$1 million threshold of this “unfair and regressive” tax is too low and noted the federal tax exempts the first \$12 million. They noted that Massachusetts is losing many residents who move to Florida and other states where this tax does not even exist.

Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough) Senate Chair of the Committee on Revenue, said he voted against the increased exemption because the Legislature in a bipartisan manner already raised the threshold last session from \$1 million to \$2 million, providing tax relief to many middle class and working families. “Further raising the threshold would not only further reduce state revenue at a time when federal budget cuts are

\$22.2 MILLION TO MODERNIZE AFFORDABLE HOUSING INTERNET

By Bob Katzen

The Healey Administration announced \$22.2 million in grants to upgrade internet access for 15,793 affordable housing units across 54 communities in Massachusetts. The projects will install modern fiber-optic

cables in public and affordable housing properties that will increase residents’ access to high-quality, reliable and affordable broadband service.

“Massachusetts is leading the nation in its efforts to improve internet access and adoption statewide,”

said Massachusetts Interim Economic Development Secretary Ashley Stolba. “The Residential Retrofit Program is a key component of our strategy to upgrade broadband infrastructure statewide and will expand economic opportunity to residents by enabling them to access es-

sential online tools.”

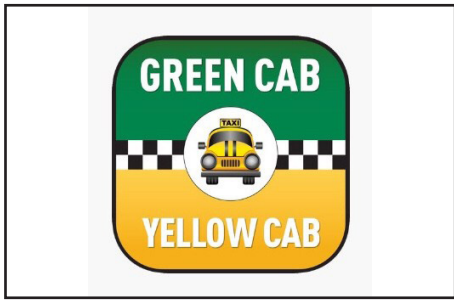
“The Residential Retrofit Program is an ambitious effort to revamp decades-old wiring affecting low-income families and we’re already seeing how much of an impact this work has had,” said Massachusetts Broadband

Institute Director Michael Baldino. “This round of Residential Retrofit Program grantees demonstrated a dedication to serving affordable housing residents and providing them with access needed to thrive in the digital age.”

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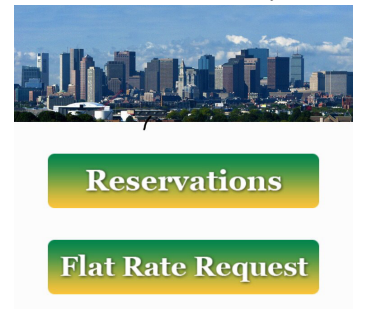


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ENGLISH LEARNERS (H 4150)



By Bob Katzen

House 150-1, approved an amendment that would enshrine protections for English language learners and students with disabilities currently provided under federal law into state law, ensuring that these students receive both English language development and Special Education services in a coordinated, culturally and linguistically appropriate manner, regardless of school district or demographic. The amendment also prohibits discrimination in public schools based on immigration, citizenship status or disability.

“This is a strong step toward ensuring English learners are fairly evaluated and appropriately supported in special education,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley). “This will help ensure our English Language Learners students receive the same opportunities to succeed as every other student.”

“This is a requirement that further burdens an already struggling education system but, show me where this isn’t already happening,” said amendment opponent Rep. John Gaskey (R-Carver). “The schools have every resource they need available to them. If there is a significant problem and

parents need to be involved, translators are always available. The state wants to provide translators for non-English speakers but refuses to allow teachers to speak to parents when their children are suffering mental health breaks, declaring they are the opposite sex.”

(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 Uyterhoeven Yes

HEALTHY PUBLIC COLLEGES (S 949)

By Bob Katzen

The Higher Education Committee will hold a hearing on June 3rd to hear testimony and consider legislation that would establish a Green and Healthy Public College and University Building Planning Commission to evaluate and make recommendations on campus infrastructure — focusing on energy efficiency, indoor air quality, accessibility, life safety and overall public health.

The proposal creates a trust fund to alleviate campus debt and lower student fees currently used to finance aging infrastructure. It also ensures long-term investments so that all public higher education campuses meet Green and Healthy standards by 2037. The bill prioritizes renovations for buildings in greatest need and addresses longstanding environmental and health inequities across campuses.

“I filed this bill because every

student deserves to learn in an environment that is safe, healthy and sustainable,” said sponsor Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow). “By investing in our public college and university infrastructure now, we can reduce student debt, eliminate health disparities and build a more equitable, climate-resilient future for higher education in Massachusetts.”

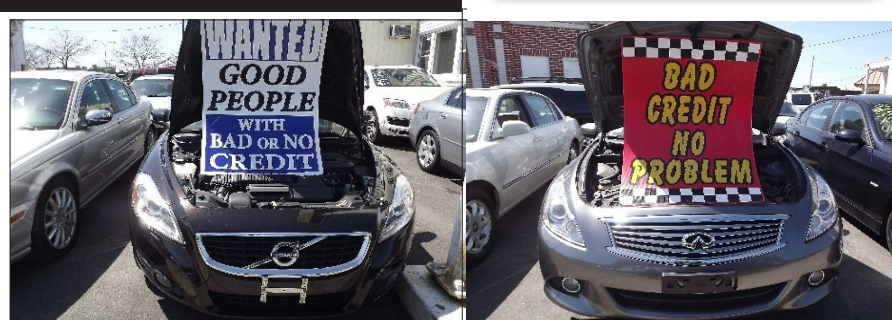
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PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 34-5, approved an amendment that would allow Health Policy Commission regulators to place a maximum price limit on some medications, capping what patients, providers, pharmacies and others in Massachusetts would pay.

“I was supportive of this amendment because of

the impact high prescription drug prices have had on the most vulnerable in my community” said Sen. Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). “Nobody should have to make a choice between paying their bills and paying for their prescriptions.”

“While I agree with the intention behind this amendment, I believe that the subject matter needs

to be addressed. I voted no ... because I believe, given its magnitude, that it should go through the regular committee-review process,” said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). “While versions of the legislation that this amendment reflect have been filed in previous sessions, this amendment includes new language that deserves a committee hearing and additional com-

mittee review.”
“If this doesn’t belong in a budget, I’m not sure where else it belongs,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington). “This is having a profound effect on how we use our resources in the commonwealth, and if we don’t address this issue sooner rather than later, we will be in major trouble. Our hospitals are

in major trouble because of this, our insurers are in major trouble, our state is in major trouble, so this, in my mind, is absolutely the right place for this.”
(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

HUMAN TRAFFICKING (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

By Bob Katzen

Senate 12-28, rejected an amendment that would mandate human trafficking training for all hotel, motel, lodging house or bed and breakfast establishment employees in the Bay State, from the front desk to housekeeping and food service, in order to equip them to recognize

and respond to trafficking situations. The measure also requires these establishments to post in plain view, in the lobby and in any public restroom in their establishment, a written notice developed by the attorney general, which must include the national human trafficking hotline telephone number.

Amendment sponsor Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New

Bedford) said the passage of the amendment will send a message to survivors that we support them. He noted that almost no one trafficking people is in jail in Massachusetts and said that when people call him and ask him why, he doesn’t have an answer. Training front-line people in hotels to recognize trafficking and posting a hotline number might give a victim a chance. He

said he has worked with hundreds of survivors and advocates on this and they always stress why is there so much inaction on Beacon Hill.

Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), who voted against the amendment, said the goals are laudable, but this is a situation where you really don’t create a mandate that every hotel employee, no matter


their job, is required to be trained to recognize human trafficking without extensive discussions with the labor unions that represent the employees. He noted this mandate could arguably involve tens of thousands of individuals.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

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City of Somerville to Present Findings from Senior Needs Assessment at May 23 Event



SOMERVILLE- Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. and the Somerville Council on Aging (COA) are inviting community members to attend a special presentation of the results from Somerville’s Senior Needs Assessment on Friday, May 23, at 11 a.m., at 167

Holland Street. The event will feature Dr. Caitlyn Coyle, Director of the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging at the Gerontology Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston. Dr. Coyle will present key

findings and recommendations from the comprehensive assessment focused on the needs of Somerville’s aging population. For more information on this event and Somerville’s Council on Aging,

visit: somervillema.gov/departments/health-and-human-services/council-aging

“BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE SENATE BUDGET DEBATE”



By Bob Katzen

Of the 1,058 amendments filed by senators, only 21 came to a roll call vote. Many others were simply approved or rejected one at a time on voice

votes, some with debate and some without debate. To move things along even faster, the Senate also did its usual “bundling” of many amendments. Instead of

acting on each amendment one at a time, hundreds of the proposed amendments are bundled and put into two piles—one pile that will be approved and the other that will be rejected, without a roll call, on voice votes where it is impossible to tell which way a senator votes.

Senate President Karen Spilka, or the senator who is filling in for her at the podium, orchestrates the approval and rejection of the bundled amendments with a simple:

“All those in favor say ‘Aye,’ those opposed say ‘No.’ The Ayes have it and the amendments are approved.” Or: “All those in favor say ‘Aye,’ those opposed say ‘No.’ The No’s have it and the amendments are rejected.”

Senators don’t actually vote “Yes” or “No,” and, in fact, they don’t say a word. The outcome was predetermined earlier behind closed doors. Supporters of the system say that any senator who sponsored an amendment that is

in the “No” pile can bring it to the floor and ask for an up or down vote on the amendment itself. They say this system has worked well for many years.

Critics say that most of the time members do not bring their amendment, which was destined for the “No” pile, to the floor for an up-or-down vote because that is not the way the game is played. It is an “expected tradition” that in most cases you accept the fate of your amendment as determined by Democratic leaders.

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Medford Lions Senior Scholarship

Sharon Deyeso, VP, and Dr Usha Sharma spoke at the Awards Ceremony on May 21 on the “serve” purposes of Lions: Mass Eye Research, BU and Tufts Eye Research, Diabetes and Disaster Aid. This year the Medford Lions

awarded two \$500 Scholarships to Lorelai Hebert and Owen Lynch. The gifts are only given to an eye, hearing or personal hurdle challenge student. The Buffet Fundraiser is on JUNE 6.

Interested attendees can RSVP per the invitation. Medford Firemens Club 6-8:30, Donation \$37.... Raffles and Buffet. Seats in sdvance. Thank you for supporting our youth promise of tomorrow.



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.”
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 Frank Santangelo

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<input type="checkbox"/> Smart wool socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick
<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial wipes
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarf	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisturizer
FOOD & DRINK	<input type="checkbox"/> Comb
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality instant coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush & tooth paste
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy drink	SURVIVAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Beef jerky	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit
<input type="checkbox"/> Dried fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle with built in filter
<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit leathers	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat-pack
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool
<input type="checkbox"/> Nuts	TREATS:
<input type="checkbox"/> Granola bars	<input type="checkbox"/> Chocolates
<input type="checkbox"/> Protein powder packets	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant gift cards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookie snack packs
HELP THEM CONNECT	<input type="checkbox"/> Candy (individually wrapped)
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal & pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Mints
<input type="checkbox"/> Stationary	<input type="checkbox"/> Chewing gum
<input type="checkbox"/> Stamps	SPLURGE:
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-paid phone card	<input type="checkbox"/> Starbucks gift card
	<input type="checkbox"/> Compact reusable bag

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Dr. Octavia A. Sampson's Graduation from Tufts University School of Dental

By William Tauro

Graduating from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine represents the fulfillment of Octavia's lifelong dream—a journey defined by faith in God, perseverance, and the unwavering support of community. So many obstacles arose between her and her goal of becoming a dentist.

Born and raised on the north side of Milwaukee, WI, Octavia deeply appreciates the rarity and significance of this accomplishment. This milestone stands as a testament to the power of resilience and the strength of those who nurture and uplift dreams.

Octavia's path to this moment has been extraordinary—a journey filled with late nights of studying, global travels for learning, and living across two continents and five states. From earning an undergraduate degree at Florida A&M University to completing a master's degree at Barry University, each step of the journey was transformative,

preparing Octavia for this crowning achievement at Tufts. People always ask why Octavia chose Tufts and the honest truth is Tufts chose Octavia. Doors were shut in her face and Tufts welcomed Octavia and developed her into the Dentist she today.

Acknowledging the support received along the way, she expresses immense gratitude to a loving village. To parents who instilled self-belief, grandparents whose prayers offered guidance, and siblings, family, and close friends who provided unwavering encouragement—this achievement belongs to them as much as to Octavia.

Throughout dental school, she served as a leader and advocate, being elected as the Student Promotion Committee member for the D25 class, serving on the ADEA 2022-2023 Chapter Board, acting as an inaugural Peer Advisor, and participating as a member of the SNDA. Dr. Sampson also extends heartfelt thanks to classmates and colleagues for their trust and support

throughout a challenging journey, to her amazing and thoughtful patients who allowed valuable learning opportunities, and to faculty and staff who elevated skills and confidence.

Special recognition is given to Dr. Jeanette Sabir-Holloway and Dr. Robert Kasberg for their guidance and belief in Octavia's potential, which has been invaluable throughout this experience.

This degree represents the collective efforts, sacrifices, and dreams of so many who made it possible. With gratitude and pride, Octavia honors this journey, celebrates breaking barriers, and looks ahead to a bright future. This is just the beginning.

Congratulations goes out to Dr. Octavia A. Sampson for a job well done!



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Prospect Hill Academy Charter School Named as a Recipient of the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries Grant

On May 8th, Prospect Hill Academy Charter School (PHA) was named one of 220 schools from 38 states across the country to receive a \$5,000 grant through the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. This year, the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries awarded over \$1 million in library grants.

PHA will use the funds to update the school's library collections by adding more dual language titles and books that showcase a wide range of stories and perspectives.

"Books have the power to spark curiosity and inspire lifelong learning. We are thrilled to provide these grants so that librarians can refresh their shelves — opening the door for students to discover new interests and endless adventures," Mrs. Laura Bush said.

At the annual Laura Bush Book Club event, which is part of the Engage at the Bush Center series presented by NexPoint, Mrs. Bush's 2025 summer reading list was revealed. This annual collection includes recommendations for young

readers through middle schoolers.

"Reading helps children connect with the world around them," Mrs. Bush said. "This year's summer reading list celebrates America, everyday adventures, and friendships that stand the test of time. I hope families will take time to enjoy the slower pace of summer, and enjoy reading these stories together."

The list features 16 books including *I Loved You First*, written by Jenna Bush Hager and Barbara Pierce Bush.

It also features *First Ladies Make History* authored by mother/daughter duo Anita McBride, Mrs. Bush's former Chief of Staff when she was First Lady, and Giovanna McBride. Inspired by the Laura Bush Foundation, Anita McBride and daughter Giovanna McBride will donate a copy of *First Ladies Make History* to every elementary school that has received a Laura Bush Foundation grant since 2002.

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries supports school libraries with the greatest needs with

the goal of encouraging all students to develop a love of reading and learning. Since its inception in 2002, it has awarded \$23 million to over 4,000 schools across the country. To learn more, visit bushcenter.org/laurabush-foundation.

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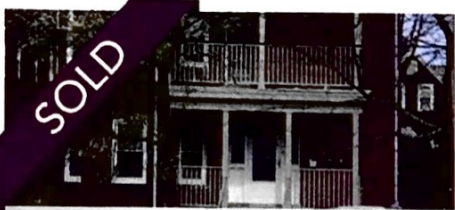
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Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



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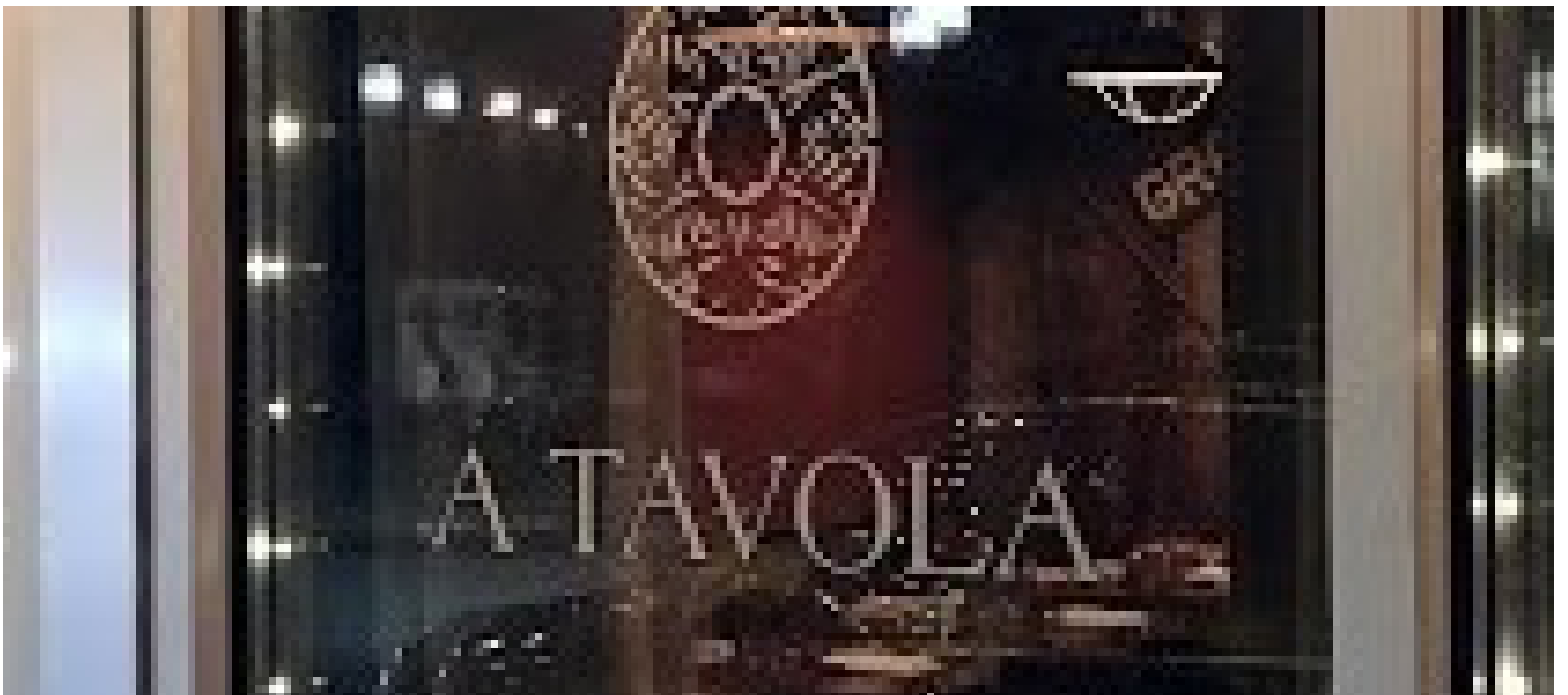
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