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VOL.1 NO.329-270

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS.

Tuesday July 15th, 2025

Mayor and Somerville Homeless Coalition Activate Emergency Fund for Somerville Fire Victims; Call for Community Donations



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MWYC Fishin with a Mission



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page

WHO'S REALLY IN CONTROL?? As the City of Medford Turns



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MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available.
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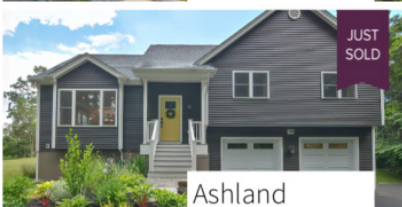
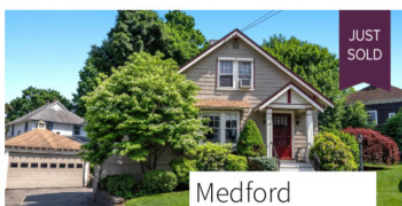
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WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

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

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®
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Patricia Ng Broker Associate
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Please make all checks payable to: **MHS Varsity Softball**

Please send both forms and payment to:
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 Attn: Rob Farrell
 489 Winthrop Street
 Medford, MA 02155

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

Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.



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Somerville/Medford Remembering Ramona Katusca Santiago



Obituary:

Ramona Katusca Santiago – Affectionately known as “Kuka” to her loving family

and “Chef Katusca” to her many clients and admirers, of the Bronx, NY, passed away suddenly on Thursday, July 10, 2025. She was just 35 years young.

Born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Ramona was the cherished daughter of Teofilo Manuel Santiago and Roxanna Reyes Lafontant. From an early age, it was clear that she had a vibrant spirit and a zest for life that touched everyone she met. Full of energy and light, whenever Katusca entered a room, her

smile had a way of brightening even the darkest day.

A naturally gifted cook, she turned her passion into a thriving career. As “Chef Katusca,” she brought joy to countless people through her culinary creations. Nothing made her happier than watching others enjoy the meals she lovingly prepared. Cooking wasn’t just her profession—it was her way of spreading love.

Ramona also had an adventurous soul. She loved to travel, always eager to explore

new places, try new food and embrace different cultures. She danced to the beat of her own life, living with purpose, joy, and fearless independence.

Above all else, Ramona had a heart that embraced everyone. Her love for her family was immense, and she was known to be generous, kind, and full of joy and compassion. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her warmth, laughter, and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Devoted daughter of Teofilo Manuel Santiago and Roxanna Reyes Lafontant and her husband Destin Lafontant. Beloved fiancé of Ron Brathwaite. Cherished and loving sister of Ramona Katherine Santiago, Stephanie Caridad Santiago, Manuel José Santiago, and Andy Lafontant. She is also lovingly survived by many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Funeral Services will be held at a later date and will be announced.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Regina Kando



Obituary
Regina Kando, age 85, passed away on July 5, 2025.

She was the devoted daughter of the late Anna T. Bronco and the late Frank A. DiChiappari and the loving sister of Frances A. DiChiappari and the late Charles F.

DiChiappari, all of Somerville, MA. Regina graduated from Somerville High School and married the love of her life, George T. Kando. At his passing just seven short years later, she raised their three children on her own with the love and support of family. Regina weathered those storms and persevered with strength and quiet courage.

She went on to earn an Associate’s Degree from Newbury College and worked in accounting and office administration for several firms over the years. At every workplace, she made fast friends with her colleagues – many of whom became friends for life. She was active in her community, leading groups for the Osher Center for Lifelong

Learning at Tufts University and founding the grandparent support network of the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress.

But the role she relished most was as mother and grandmother. She was immensely proud of her family. Her grandchildren were the center of her world and she was their loudest cheerleader: equally proud of the compassionate and kind people they have grown to be and their accomplishments. She loved spending time with them and she was a constant, loving, playful presence in their lives as they grew from babies into adults.

An accomplished cook, Regina whipped up her signature dishes

for friends and family – chicken parmigiana and her famous meatballs are two favorites. She loved a good strong cup of tea — and it had to be “hot hot.” Another of Regina’s greatest passions was her love of the arts: visiting museums, attending performances, and painting in watercolor and acrylics. She also loved visiting distant lands and especially enjoyed her European trips.

In addition to being survived by her sister, Regina will be mourned by her children Carol A. Kando-Pineda and her husband Andre of Fredericksburg, VA; George T. Kando of Biddeford, ME; and Regina K. Wells and her husband John of Stoughton, MA. She is also

survived by her loving grandchildren: Miguel A. Pineda and his wife, Brooke, of Washington, D.C., and Sophia A. Pineda of Fredericksburg, VA; and Justin M. Wells and Jacqueline E. Wells of Stoughton, MA.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date at Immaculate Conception Church, 600 Pleasant St., Malden.

In lieu of flowers, people wishing to honor her memory can make a donation to the National Down Syndrome Congress. <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/nationaldownsyndromecongress>

Christopher Ryan Spicer is running for Somerville City Councilor-At-Large



Spicer is a stay-at-home father of three kids under nine years-old. He is the family dog walker and celebrates his neighbor Joe Alibrandi’s 82 birthday. Joe, born upstairs in the bedroom comes from a family that came to Somerville in 1914 after earthquakes in Italy. “My kids classmates are disappearing, I refuse to tolerate ICE detentions and deportations of my neighbors and I want to be as loud as I can in this campaign for the City

of Somerville for those who are able to train in nonviolent protection or speak up proud of our love for our neighbors.”

His top campaign priorities are supports for students facing homelessness and food insecurity and providing a City Safety Net for non-profits impacted by federal funding cuts, especially those whose missions of equity and inclusion are impacted. A human rights activist for more than 25 years, he has experience as a secondary-ed teacher and as paralegal for an immigration legal clinic. He is fluent in Spanish which he learned as a student in California and in El Salvador. For five years Spicer has served on the Human Rights Commission, including as immediate past chair. He intends to bring this perspective to the Vulnerable Persons Committee.

As City Councilor At-Large, Spicer will fight for more affordable housing for elders and families with children. “I’m lucky enough to co-own a house but

even that is no guarantee of a felt-sense of home or sense of neighborhood. The acceptance of displacement as the status quo is part of market coercion. It prevents us from bothering to know our neighbors. Most tenuously making the rent or affording a lease, who we expect to leave. And the archipelago of public housing seems like a divide and conquer strategy, when really it’s just a failure of political will to maintain elders embedded with their neighbors. In the short run, the communication of abatement and other financial supports must be optimized. Social housing is going to have to wait until sewer infrastructure is complete, but we need shelf-ready plans in place. If I were serving on the land use committee for instance, I would like to see proposed housing projects framed with a vision of Batman and Robin, intergenerational solidarity. We should see our elders as the heroes they are.”

Rats are digesting poison that in turn kills predators. Trapping and other data-

informed alternatives need neighborhood buy-in and coordinated sign-up. Waste bin replacement at a discount would help neighbors feel agency. “I’ll never forget the morning after I left the cozy sleep sack in the stroller out night. The next morning a rat had been nested in the stroller and as we walked to school it wriggled out from behind my baby and scurried away. I empathize with my neighbors frustrated about the vacant property as a haven, or who tell me about the stench of them poisoned dead under next door construction. I once met with the rat czar in front of DPW—and just as we were shaking hands he spotted a burrow in the sidewalk. Right in front of DPW!”

Elders deserve more. “A resident assisting her aging mother navigate City Hall was hitting dead ends with the process to get a roof repair on a historic home. I reached out to express concern just in time for the process to suddenly get worked out. City staff are sensitively

trained but leave the impression it’s just too hard. As City Councilor At-Large I will make it my priority to be present and knowledgeable at how to press City Hall. My baby and I attended the Cobble Hill Apartments Father’s Day event. We should all have the support to keep living in Somerville, be respected in the community as we age, and feel our voices are heard.”

Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, he completed a Masters in Theological Studies at Boston College and has lived in Somerville since 2016. Currently he is a candidate for an MFA in nonfiction at Lesley University. For more information see <http://www.ElectSpicer.com>

Sincerely,
Committee to Elect Christopher Ryan Spicer

Somerville/Medford Remembering Edelyne (Normil) Degand



Obituary
Edelyne (Normil) Degand – Of Medford, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. She was 52 years old.

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Edelyne was the cherished daughter of Marie Lucienne Gelin and Paul Elie Normil. A woman of unwavering faith, Edelyne’s life was a testament to devotion, compassion, and strength. She found deep joy and purpose within her church community, where she not only worshipped but also uplifted others through her beautiful voice, singing each week during Sunday

services. Edelyne was known for her generosity of spirit and loving nature. She had a heart for helping others—family, friends, and even strangers knew they could count on her in times of need. Whether through a kind word, a helping hand, or a heartfelt prayer, Edelyne was always there.

Above all, Edelyne was devoted to her family. Her face would light up at the sight of her children, and nothing brought her more joy than spending time with them. Her love was constant, her presence comforting, and her smile unforgettable.

Beloved wife of 23 years to Frantzzeau.

Devoted mother of Eden, Leyla, Keren and Jeremiah.

Cherished sister of Nixon Normil, Marie Judith Normil Victor, Julio Damas, Maudeline Normil, Jardine Normil and the late Jean Ernest Normil, Mackenson Normil, Jean Eddy Normil, Stephanie Normil and Yves Normil.

Loving niece of Andre Normil, Marie Claudette Gelin and Cleante Normil. Dear aunt of Kristelle, Jephthe, Nephtalie, Naika, Jane Lydie, Naika Maya, Leyla, Shant and Junior.

Dear cousin of Lesly, Nicole, Kettia, Carmelle, Rita, Junior, Islande, Jean Carole, Rosemond, Sandra and Minouche

Calling Hours will be held in the Holy Bible Baptist Church, 64 College Ave Somerville on Saturday July 19th from 7:30AM to 9:00PM. Followed by a funeral service at 9:00AM.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

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



700,000 FOR YMCA (S 3)



Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would increase funding for YMCAs across the state by \$700,000 (from \$1.8 million to \$2.5 million.)

Amendment supporters said the amendment will support YMCA programs that address the well-being and social-emotional health of at-risk youth.

They argued that funding will go directly to all 28 YMCAs and 700 service locations across Massachusetts to serve and support more low-income youth in mental health and social-emotional learning programs. They noted that funding will also go towards scholarships for middle-income families who do not

qualify for subsidies and support summer jobs for youth and teens.

“Social-emotional learning helps our young people feel more connected to their peers and their community,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). “This funding is vital to upholding the good this program

does for our young people, assisting them in living full, healthy and happy lives, regardless of their background.”

A “Yes” vote is for the additional \$700,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

WHO’S REALLY IN CONTROL?? As the City of Medford Turns

Granted, we have elected officials in all cities, save those who are appointed by a Mayor. But, the City and some others ask whose interests are really being served. If they took POLLS in Medford, betcha the trend would be very different than what you hear proposed in this historic, well located full of market variety and Lakes city. So, who really controls your tax dollars and City?? Believe it or not, YOU DO. SO, why so much dismay and odd ideologies.

NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE VOTE!!!
I cannot impress enough

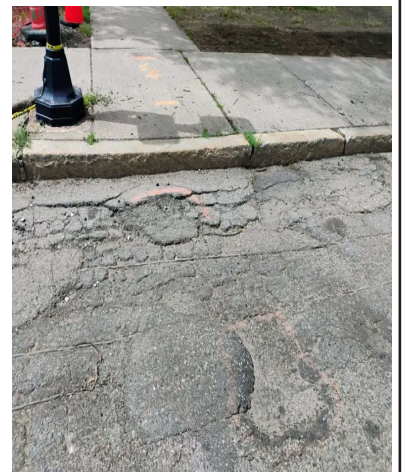
how important this democratic hard earned right is....just tossed away.

How did the dismay of DENSITY BEGIN. I asked at the last Board meeting, so we want to hear the process. I think the it is The Mayor Appointed Zoning Permit Board to the City Council to the Mayor for changes and approvals back to the Board again. But why the Drastic Topics? My view after attending and listening was shared by some at the podium. A few years ago, some people voted for a group...Our Revolution. So, you get groupthink .. not of intrinsic, safety

,restore, tax savings mindset. So, I surmise with maybe no problem solving backgrounds or taxpayer dues themselves (except 2) a COPYCAT IDEOLOGY GYRATED..when claiming they want multi stories for more AFFORDABLE housing???.Comments like “It worked in Somerville,” “It worked in Lynn” were repeated by Council. Many now heard the word and are speaking out. This is not a mere change that will go away. It is not not imaginable for ANY RESIDENTIAL STREETS TO HAVE 4 UNITS, EX, ON 3000 SQ FT OR 6 stories. Please look at candidates this Fall who

have their own workable PLAN. Save for Mr Sciarpelli the 6 SHOULD BE VOTED OUT. Even if this zone idea is halted, they will return. The key to retaining your value and your distinct real estate and business face and chosen apartment area is YOU. I will try my best to keep you informed..these are Only Words...Your Vote counts more.

Sharon Deyeso
Concerned,
Longtime Resident
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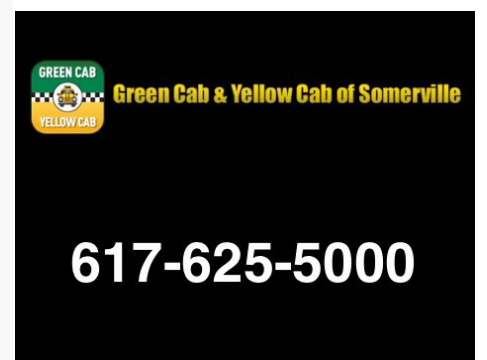
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ArtBeat 2025: Mayor Ballantyne Invites All to Annual Festival in Davis Square Saturday, July 19



Enjoy 100 local craft and food vendors, music, dance performances, and more

SOMERVILLE—Summer is heating up in Somerville, so we're bringing the cool.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite community members to "ArtBeat 2025: Freeze" on Saturday, July 19, from 12 to 9 p.m. in Davis Square (rain date: Sunday, July 20).

One of the City's largest festivals, ArtBeat transforms Davis Square into a bustling celebration of creativity and community. The festival will feature approximately 100 craft and food vendors, local organizations, and two performance stages showcasing a dynamic mix of music, dance, theater, and interactive activities—all highlighting Somerville's diverse

and vibrant arts scene. Streets will be hopping with vendors and music from 12 to 7 p.m., with music continuing in Seven Hills Park until 9 p.m. Keep cool throughout by filling up your water bottle at the water buggy in Davis Sq., set up your umbrella on the Seven Hills Park lawn, or visit the shade sail by the Elm St. stage.

Find photos, descriptions, and start times for all ArtBeat performers at bit.ly/44JqyNy.

This year's theme, "Freeze," invites artists and attendees to creatively explore the many meanings of the word—wheth-

er that's freezing in motion, preserving memories, or simply cooling down on a summer day. The event takes place throughout Davis Square, including Seven Hills Park, Elm Street, and Holland Street, which will be closed to traffic. Admission is free and open to all.

"ArtBeat brings out the very best of Somerville—our creativity, diversity, and our strong sense of community," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Each year, our local artists continue to surprise and inspire us, and I'm excited to see how they bring this year's theme to life."

For all ArtBeat information, please visit: somervilleartsCouncil.org/events/artbeat-freeze.

MBTA Bus Information
MBTA Buses Routes: 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, and 96 will be rerouted from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please see <http://www.mbta.com> for full detour information.

REPEATED PUBLIC NUISANCE COMPLAINTS (H 2246)

By Bob Katzen

A bill heard by the Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government would empower cities and towns to hold property owners finan-

cially accountable when their properties are the source of ten or more repeated public nuisance complaints within a 1-year period. The measure holds the owner responsible for the costs associated with

any subsequent police responses, as well as any other costs.

"This legislation is about restoring fairness for taxpayers and ensuring safer neighborhoods,"

said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). "When a property becomes a repeated source of disturbance, the financial burden shouldn't fall on the community, it should fall on the property owner

responsible. By holding them accountable, we give municipalities the tools they need to protect quality of life for all residents."

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

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

State of A Tavola:

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

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

for any and all details.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Mayor and Somerville Homeless Coalition Activate Emergency Fund for Somerville Fire Victims; Call for Community Donations

SOMERVILLE- You can help. On Sunday, July 6th, 26 people including two minors, as well as pets, were displaced by a fire on Wheatland Street that left two multifamily homes uninhabitable. Fortunately, everyone got out safely, but significant challenges remain for our neighbors who cannot return to their homes.

Roughly a dozen City departments and a half-dozen partner agencies mobilized to set up temporary shelter and food, and are actively coordinating ongoing support, but your help is needed for what comes next.

These residents have been uprooted, and their lives have been turned upside down. Most have lost all or most of their belongings. If you are willing and able, please donate to the Somerville Homeless Coalition's EMERGENCY FUND to help them get back on their feet. Donations of any size will help.

The fund is designed to provide immediate relief to the affected residents

and will help other neighbors in need as they face future emergencies. Your financial donation will support a range of needs from meals, personal products, and prescriptions to transportation, pet supplies, and temporary and permanent housing supports, and more.

"I want to thank our firefighters for quickly knocking down the fire and protecting lives, and also our emergency response team for coordinating multiple departments and community partners to address a wide range of the fire victims' needs from housing to food assistance and document replacement, and so much more," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "But fires that wipe out a person's home and what they own is where the community can really step up to help out their neighbors in a time of such great need. A fund like the Somerville Homeless Coalition Emergency fund can quickly provide the kind of direct support to individuals that makes all the difference in a crisis."

HOW TO DONATE

You can donate at bit.ly/SHCEmergencyFund and select "Emergency Fund" to support these families, students, and residents. No donation is too small. Only financial donations are sought at this time.

Together, we can make a difference. Thank you.

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Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

If you need assistance translating or understanding this information, please call 311 (617-666-3311) or contact us at somerviva@somervillema.gov.

gov. The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter for free.

Official Information from the Somerville Fire Department:

On Sunday afternoon, July 6th at 12:49 p.m., the Somerville Fire Department was notified of a house fire at 81 Wheatland Street. Arriving firefighters encountered heavy fire conditions that had engulfed the rear porches of the three story, occupied dwelling. Fire had also spread to the occupied 2 1/2 story home at 85 Wheatland Street and had melted exterior siding on the rear of the house at 78 Fellsway West.

The fire spread into all floors and the roof of 81 Wheatland Street resulting in extensive damage and the building being uninhabitable. The home at 85 Wheatland Street was also left uninhabitable as firefighters were required to open up walls and ceilings to check for fire spread. Four alarms were sounded due to the

high heat and need for additional manpower at the scene. All occupants of both homes were able to escape without any injuries. There were no reported firefighter injuries.

At least 26 residents have been displaced from both homes. In addition to all Somerville apparatus, Arlington, Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford and Revere either responded to the fire or covered Somerville fire stations. Cataldo Ambulance and the Boston Sparks Association assisted at the scene with providing rehab for firefighters. Firefighters responded to this same home on June 20, for a fire involving the third floor front porch, which was the result of improper disposal of smoking materials. The cause of the current fire remains under active investigation by the Somerville Fire, Somerville Police and State Fire Marshal.

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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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RIGHT TURN ON RED (S 1715)

By Bob Katzen

Another bill heard by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee would prohibit vehicles from turning right on a red or stop signal.

“Eliminating right turns on red improves pedestrian safety by reducing conflicts between turning vehicles and people crossing the street, especially protecting children, seniors and individuals with disabilities,” said sponsor Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester). “It supports walkable, equitable communities with minimal impact on traffic flow while addressing risks from distracted or rushed driving.”

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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SALES TAX HOLIDAY (S 2530 and H 4220) Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10

By Bob Katzen

The House and Senate approved measures designating Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10 as a sales tax holiday weekend for the Bay State, allowing consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 without paying the state's 6.25 percent sales tax. State law currently calls for a 2-day sales tax holiday every year. This bill simply sets the specific dates.

"The sales tax holiday is a wonderful opportunity for our residents to get out into their communities, support local businesses, get their kids ready for school in fall or make a purchase that they've been putting off," said co-sponsor Sen. Adam Gómez (D-Springfield), Senate Chair of the Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses. "I am glad that our leaders here in the Legislature have been able to work

and get this done again for our residents this year, and I look forward to hearing how residents are able to make the most of the tax reprieve."

"I was proud to sponsor the legislation establishing this year's sales tax holiday that helps boost our economy and provides support and relief for our residents and small businesses," said co-sponsor Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall River), House Chair of the

Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. "This is an important weekend that helps bolster our economy and I applaud my colleagues in passing this legislation to provide individuals, families and businesses across the commonwealth with some relief."

"Lowering costs for Massachusetts residents and supporting local businesses is critical for our

communities in this time of economic uncertainty," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

"This year's temporary suspension of the sales tax will bring consumers needed economic relief while boosting revenue for small businesses and retailers," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).



Medford VFW #1012 Karaoke Night

Medford VFW #1012 located at 114 Mystic Avenue in Medford is having karaoke on 7/24 and 8/21, 8:00 PM till 12:00 PM!

Somerville's own Scotty Lombardo will be the DJ so don't miss it!



ALLOW ALCOHOL SALES ON THANKSGIVING (H 428)

By Bob Katzen

Another measure heard by the Consumer Protection and Professional Licen-

sure Committee would allow for the sale of alcohol on Thanksgiving.

“This is a common-sense

bill that is intended to be a convenience to the public,” said sponsor Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick). “How many of us have

needed to pick up a bottle of wine on Thanksgiving, only to find out that liquor stores were closed? Stores wouldn't have to be open

– it would be their option. The current law is a vestige of the blue laws and needs to be repealed.”

PROHIBIT BUYING ALCOHOL AT SELF-CHECK OUT (H 366)

By Bob Katzen

Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure held a hearing on a proposal that would prohibit custom-

ers from buying alcohol beverages in a self-checkout line at retailers and require the sale be conducted through a face-to-face transaction with a store employee over the

age of 18. “This bill is about keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors,” said sponsor Rep. Mike Finn (D-West Springfield). “By requir-

ing face-to-face transactions, we ensure that a trained employee checks IDs every time, closing a loophole that's made it too easy for underage buyers to slip through at

self-checkouts. It's a commonsense step to promote public safety and responsible alcohol sales.”

BAN CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS (H 625)

By Bob Katzen

Another measure before the Education Committee would ban private schools from using corporal punishment on any students. It also would require

private schools to submit reports to Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education of physical restraint in instances where it was necessary to protect students. Current law only prohibits

the use of corporal punishment in public schools. “I was horrified to learn, through the advocacy of a constituent, that corporal punishment was still permitted in private edu-

cational institutions,” said sponsor Rep. Mike Kushmanek (D-Fitchburg). “As a recent father, I shudder to think of any educator or staff member disciplining students through the use of force. I strongly be-

lieve, and ample data and research validate, that corporal punishment is both ineffective and cruel and should be banned from all educational settings in the commonwealth.”

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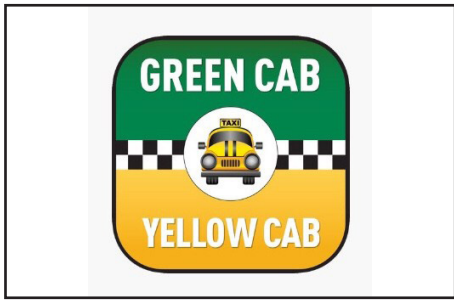
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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:

2025-61 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the addition of the following locations: 446 Medford St, 51 Preston Rd.

2025-62 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No

Parking Any Time on the west side of Grand Union Boulevard opposite 455 Grand Union Boulevard, from approximately 60 feet north of Foley St to approximately 100 feet north of Foley St.

2025-63 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the addition of the following location: east side of Tennyson St, from approximately 20 ft. south of Medford St to approximately 40 ft. south of Medford St (public).

2025-64 Article C Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following location: west side of Sycamore St, from approximately 22 ft. north of Medford St to approximately 42 ft. north of Medford St.

2025-65 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows:

extending the Central Hill curbside management pilot until June 30, 2026 - Approximately 15 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, from opposite Putnam St to the City Hall driveway, regulated as City Hall or School

Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri;

Approximately 12 parking spaces on the north side of Highland Ave, between the entrance and exit to the Somerville High School Drive-way, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking

Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri; Approximately 7 parking spaces on the west side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking

Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit;

Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east side of Walnut St, between the Highland Ave and Medford St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri

and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit; Approximately 9 parking spaces on the east side of School St, between Highland Ave and opposite Madison St, regulated as City Hall or School Permit Parking Only from 7AM to 9AM Mon-Fri and otherwise as two hour parking except by permit.

2025-66 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No

Parking Any Time on east side of Walnut St from 25 ft north of Bow St to 40 ft north of Bow St, at 17 Bow St.

2025-67 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No

Parking Any Time on west side of Walnut St from 20 ft north of Bow St to 35 ft north of Bow St, at 4 Walnut St.

2025-68 Article V Section 5-15 "Accessible Parking" is amended with the

addition of the following location: the east side of Bow St from 5 ft north of Walnut St to 45 ft northwest of Walnut St (public).

2025-69 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No

Parking Any Time at 22 Bow St, on the west side of Bow St from 25 ft south of Walnut St to 45 ft south of Walnut St.

2025-70 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended as follows: 30 Bow St, on

the west side of Bow St from 30 ft north of Walnut St to 60 ft north of Walnut St.

2025-71 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Locations and Prohibitions" is amended as follows: No

Parking Any Time on the north side of Somerville Ave from 100 ft to 195 ft west of Central St,

between 551 and 559 Somerville Ave.

PROMULGATED: JUNE 12, 2025

ADVERTISED: JULY 8, 2025

JULY 15, 2025

JULY 22, 2025

EFFECTIVE: JULY 30, 2025

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

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MWYC Fishin with a Mission

Hello All

It's that time of year when Mystic Wellington Yacht Club will once again be partnering with the Mass Bass Fishing Federation and the My Little Buddy's Boat Autism Awareness Charity to host the 13th Annual Fishin with a Mission Autism Awareness Weekend at MWYC.

We remain committed to continue to help and aid the great schools like the New England Center for Children, The Nashoba Learning Group and the Boston Higashi School that specialize in Autism care

On Sunday, July 27th, we will be inviting hundreds of children afflicted with autism and their families to our facility to enjoy a great day of summer activities such fishing, boat rides, water slide, barbecue and many other summer activities that many of these children and their families have never had an opportunity to experience! Please join us!

To also help this great cause we will be hosting 2 great fishing tournaments! On Saturday, July 26th to help raise money for the schools, that I have previously mentioned. We will be hosting a "Virtual Salt Water Striped Bass Fishing Tournament". This event is designed to have some of the great anglers in and around New England compete to determine who will be this year's Salt Water Striped Bass Fishing Champion with all the proceeds of the

tournament being donated to the "My Little Buddy's Boat." A 501(c)3 Autism Awareness Charity.

Also, on Sunday, July 27th, a Fresh Water Bass Tournament will be held! This is when some of the areas great Fresh Water anglers compete and show off their great skills. At 2p.m. all are welcome to watch the great fish weigh in and see who will reign the title of this year's Fresh Water Bass Tournament Champion! Again, with all proceeds going to the "My Little Buddy's Boat Autism Awareness Charity"

Since our event began, hundreds of autistic children have attended our event with their families. Our hope is that we can continue to create Autism awareness and still be able to offer aid to these great schools that perform such magnificent work!

As you can see, there are many ways you can help this great cause! The Salt Water Striped Bass "Virtual" Fishing Tournament is a fun way to help raise money for this cause! The event is open to all! Whether you are an avid fishing angler or a weekend warrior trying it out for the first time, this is the summer event not to be missed! Using your cell phone simply download the Fishdonkey app., click on the Fishin with a Mission Tournament Event and register! You are ready to go! The event begins at midnight of July 26th and you have until 2pm on

Saturday to catch your biggest striped bass, take a picture of it on a commercially made tape measure and upload the picture to the app. Then safely release the fish. With the app you will be able to check a leader board throughout the tournament to see who's in the lead with the biggest fish! The "Virtual" Tournament is a lot of fun! Of course, all Federal and State fishing guidelines must be followed. There are incredible prizes for winners of the biggest fish! 1st place - \$1000, 2nd place - \$600 and 3rd place - \$400 But the best part is by being part of this event you are helping some great kids dealing with Autism!

If you can't fish the tournament but would still like to make a donation to this great cause, please do so by making your donations payable to My Little Buddy's Boat Inc. c/o Mystic Wellington Yacht Club Inc., P.O. Box 235, Medford, MA 02155. The charity is a 501c3 non-profit charitable organization.

If you have any questions, please let us know and we would be more than happy to help you become part of this event! This event is open to everyone so please help us get the word out by sharing the attached flyers on your social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc...

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DON'T MISS THIS CIVIL RIGHTS EVENT

By Bob Katzen

Federal policy shifts are testing protections for immigrants, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities and others—even in states like Massachusetts.

As fundamental rights face new threats, what can be done at all levels of government to safeguard vulnerable communities?

Join advocates, experts and leaders for a timely forum on the future of

civil rights in Massachusetts hosted by MASSte-rList and the State House News Service on July 28 at the MCLE Conference Center in Boston. Doors open for networking and refreshments at 8 a.m. The program will run from 9

a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/civil-rights-ma>



PREGNANCY AID (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that supporters say would ensure consistency between existing state law and budgetary language regarding eligi-

bility for cash assistance from the Department of Transitional Assistance throughout a medically verified pregnancy.

“Cash assistance helps pregnant people access

prenatal care and meet basic needs like housing and food security during all stages of pregnancy, improving maternal and infant health outcomes,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-

Needham). “Also implemented in more than a dozen other states, this policy uplifts both moms and babies while reducing overall health care costs. It’s a win-win.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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BAN USE OF CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS (S 2549)



By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee has recommended passage of a bill which would ban student use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices during classes. The

measure would require all public schools and districts in Massachusetts to implement, by the start of the 2026-2027 school year, policies for student use of these devices on school grounds and during school-sponsored activities.

The policy may include exceptions for school and student health and safety; students with disabilities; student time spent off campus traveling to or from other learning opportunities; multilingual learners; permission from a teacher or other staff member; emergencies; and any other reasonable exception.

The policy must include methods for parents and students to be able to contact one another during the school day if necessary;

enforcement provisions; and may differ for students in different grade levels.

Supporters say that students perform better academically when they are not distracted by cell phones and other personal devices during school hours. They cite one study that links cell phone use with increased stress, anxiety and depression; poorer sleep; and decreased self-esteem. They note that another study showed that students not using their cell phones wrote down 62 percent more in their notes, were able to recall more detailed information and scored a full letter grade and a half higher on their tests. They note that less time on screens encourages face to face interactions which can help increase meaningful relationships with peers, develop emotion-

al intelligence, create more of a community within a school and lead to less bullying.

Education Committee Senate chair Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester) said he expects the bill to be up in the Senate for debate and a vote by the end of July.

“There are a myriad of negative effects linked to the growing issue of student cell phone usage at school and in the classroom, including diminished academic performance, poorer mental health, worse relationship building and social skills, reduced safety during emergencies, and more,” said Lewis. “According to Pew Research, 72 percent of high school teachers find cell phones a ‘major problem’ in the classroom; and numerous studies have shown the many benefits to

student learning and growth by removing cell phones from their educational environment.”

Lewis continued, “We have growing support for action from teachers, students, advocates and state leaders such as Gov. Healey, Senate President Spilka and Attorney General Campbell, and I am very hopeful to see quick movement on this bill as it continues through the legislative process.”

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BAN STATE FUNDING FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD (H 1389)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Health Committee held a hearing on a measure that would prohibit the use of state funds for Planned Parenthood.

“Planned Parenthood is a non-government, non-profit that has broad and significant capacity to generate revenue through private fundraising from individuals who support its mission,” said sponsor Rep. Joseph McKenna (R-Sutton). “According to its annual 2023-2024 report it raised over \$684.1 million from private contributions. Additionally,

Planned Parenthood is exceedingly active politically. I do not believe that any organization or non-profit engaging in such overt and direct political actions while also maintaining the ability to raise significant funds through private contributions, should be paid by taxpayer funded earmarks — especially one whose primary mission is as extraordinarily divisive and controversial as Planned Parenthood’s mission of providing abortions.”

“The public funding of abortion has received majority support in the

Massachusetts Legislature since the repeal of the Doyle/Flynn law in 1996,” said C. J. Doyle, the Executive Director of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts. “Realistically, there is no path forward for Rep. McKenna’s proposal. Nonetheless, the issue ought to be raised.”

Doyle continued, “The Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts is the principal perpetrator of abortions in the commonwealth. According to a July 3rd story in The Boston Globe, it was responsible for 9,462 abortions in the state in 2024.

Pro-life citizens of the Bay State understand that abortion is the deliberate destruction of innocent human life. These citizens are forced, through the use of their tax dollars, to subsidize procedures which offend their consciences and which contravene their sincerely held moral principles and religious beliefs. One possible benefit of a public debate on taxpayer support for Planned Parenthood is that it might finally oblige the leadership of the Catholic Church—after five decades of silence—to confront the fact that a majority of Catholics in

the Legislature support a practice which their religion describes as an abominable crime.”

Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington) and the groups Reproductive Equity Now and Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts, all supporters of pro-choice, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to comment on McKenna’s bill.

\$800,000 FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS (S 3)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for Boys and Girls Clubs by \$800,000 (from \$2.2 million to \$3 million.)

“This funding will support

the Boys and Girls Club’s mission of assuring that success is within reach of every young person by providing a safe environment and social, academic and health services that club members may not otherwise receive,” said amendment sponsor Sen.

Edward Kennedy (D-Lowell).

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$800,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes



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Teamsters Local 25 Awards College Scholarship to Jonathan Malerba of Medford

Union provides 39 children of Local 25 members with scholarships to help launch their college experience

BOSTON-Teamsters Local 25 gave college scholarships worth a combined \$78,000 to 39 high school students during its recent membership meeting, awards that the Local's president called an investment in the "next generation."

The scholarships were presented at a ceremony at the union hall in Charlestown highlighted by an inspirational message to the youth from Teamsters Local 25 President Thomas Mari. Local 25 provides the scholarships annually to children and grandchildren of members to help ease the financial burden of higher education for families.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to make these awards to help young people who will be our future leaders," Mari said. "It's important that we invest in the next generation by helping them begin their post-secondary education. Based on the accomplishments of these recipients, the future looks very bright indeed."

Jonathan Malerba of

Medford, a recent graduate of Medford High School who will attend University of Massachusetts Boston, is a recipient of the Teamsters Local 25 Memorial Scholarship Award.

Jonathan is the son of Michael Malerba, a Teamsters Local 25 member who works for the City of Medford.

Since 2006, Teamsters Lo-

cal 25 has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship funds. Teamsters Local 25 is the largest Teamsters Union in New England, representing 12,500 workers. For more information, please visit <http://www.TeamstersLocal25.com>

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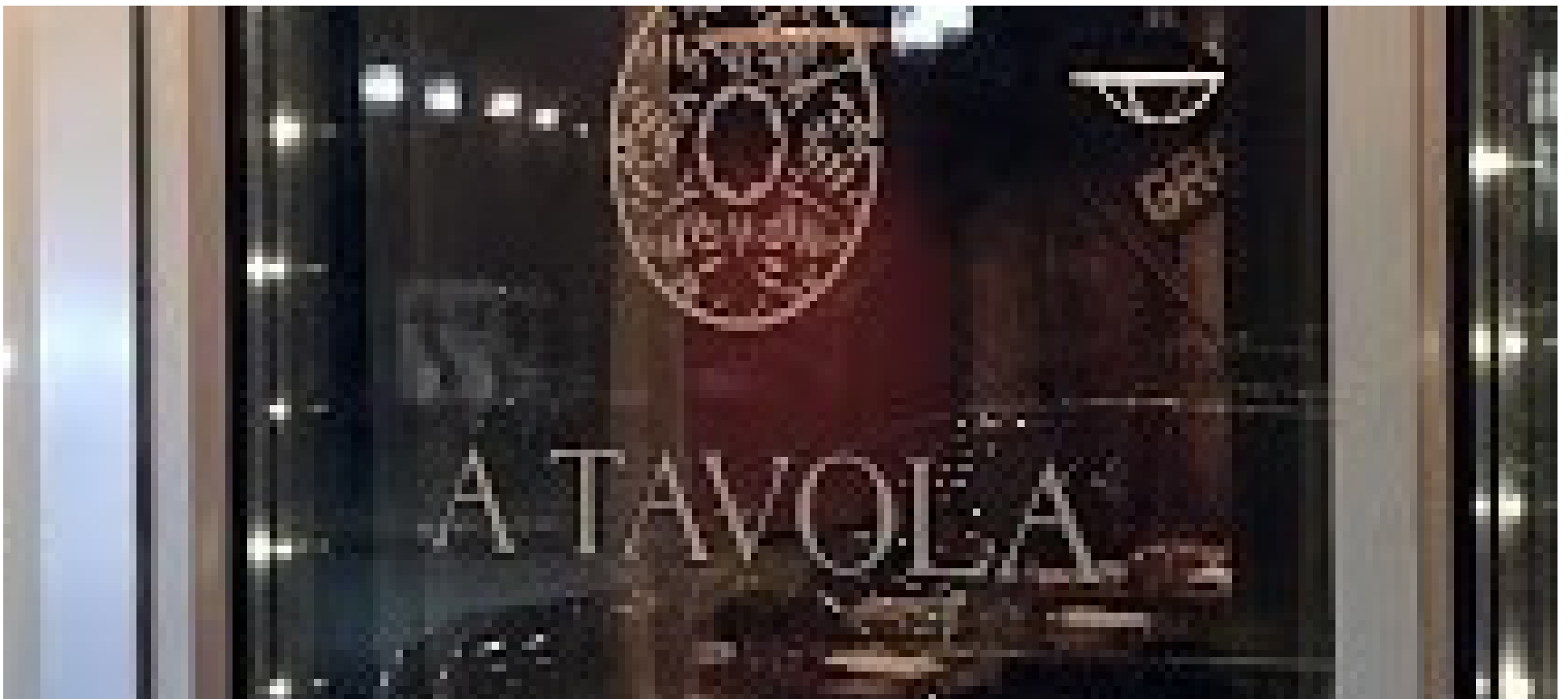
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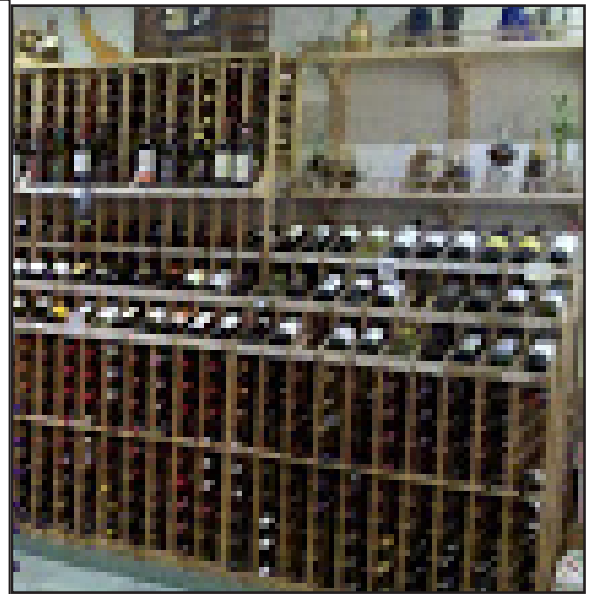


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