

Mayor Ballantyne and SPD Announce Upcoming Co-Response Pilot to Support Residents in Mental Health Crisis



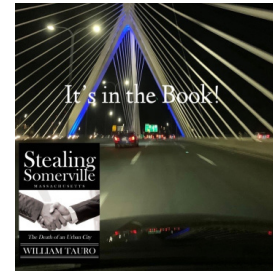
Continued to page 5



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



Forever Fluff: Somerville Celebrating 20 Years of What the Fluff? Festival



Continued to page 6

Somerville to Host Public Forums on State's Draft Cannabis Social Consumption Licenses



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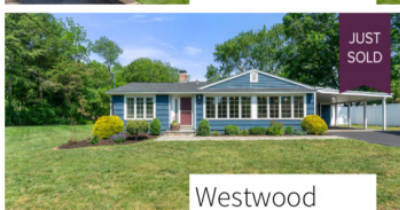
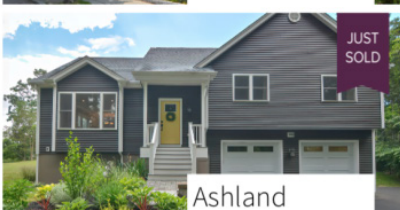
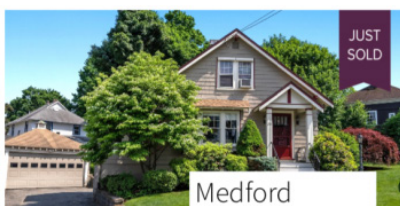
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Somerville/Medford Remembering Kevin J. Kirwan



Obituary
Kevin J. Kirwan – Of Hudson, passed away on Friday, September 5, 2025. He was 61 years old.

Born and raised in Cambridge, he was the beloved son of the late Stephen

and Josephine (Power) Kirwan.


Kevin especially enjoyed vacationing by the water whenever the opportunity arose. He treasured spending quality time with his family and friends, creat-

ing memories with one another. . Kevin was also a music enthusiast who loved attending concerts and sharing that joy with others.

Beloved son of the late Stephen and Josephine

(Power) Kirwan. Devoted brother of Michael Kirwan and Celine Kirwan. He is also lovingly survived by many loving nieces, nephews, friends and extended family members.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Wilfred Julce



Obituary
Wilfrid Julce – Of Somerville, passed away on Saturday, August 30, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Complete obit to be posted.

A funeral service will be held at Holy Bible Baptist Church, 64 College Ave, Somerville at 9:00AM.


Please meet directly at church.

Relative and friends are invited to attend.

Calling hours are respectfully omitted.

Services will conclude with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

Somerville/Medford Remembering James M. McNabb



Obituary
James M. McNabb – Of Medford, formerly of Somerville, passed away after a lengthy illness on Sunday, September 7, 2025. He was 73 years old.

Born in Cambridge and raised in Somerville, he was the beloved son of the

late Henry F. and Kathleen (O'Brien) McNabb.

Devoted brother of Kathleen Leedman and her husband William of Billerica, Henry McNabb and his wife June of Somerville, and the late John McNabb, Frances McNabb, Sheila Pino

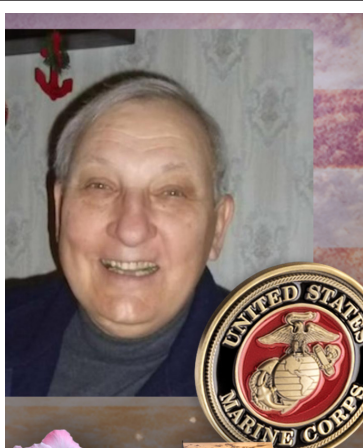
and Mary Peterson. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Thursday from 2:00PM to 5:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Services will conclude with a private prayer service and burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Frank William Petkiewich, Jr



Obituary
Frank William Petkiewich, Jr, a devoted and loving husband to Andrea, loving father to his daughter Carrie and son-in-law Jeff, peacefully passed away after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 78 years old.

Frank (also known as Fran, Franny, Uncle Bee, and Papa P) was born in the West End of Boston, MA to parents Frank and Loretta Petkiewich. He enjoyed growing up in the West End with his older sister Maryanne and his younger brother Wally. Frank went to St. Joseph Church where when he got older was a lecturer. In his youth, Frank moved from the West End to Somerville, MA and attended St. Benedicts grammar school. He graduated with honors from Somerville Trade High School in 1964.

Frank joined the United States Marine Corp. in 1966 and after his service was honorably discharged as a Sergeant. He made lifelong friends in the Corp and proudly represents the Marines displaying his flags and memorabilia.

Frank's professional life and lifelong passion was carpentry. After the Marines, he joined the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters in Boston. He was a loyal member of Local 40 (now local 328)

for 54 years and during that time held the position of recording secretary for many years. Frank took his carpentry expertise from the field and applied it in the classroom as an accomplished apprentice instructor at the carpenter's training center in Millbury until he retired. Frank was the very first instructor to be hired at the training school when it first opened, and last year he was honored with a plaque for that distinction, which he is so very proud of.

Frank found fulfillment in renovating his home and most especially designing and creating toy wooden fire trucks in his workshop. In retirement, Frank loved playing golf. He enjoyed traveling around New England and trying different golf courses. He golfed in the Cambridge league and also the Firemen's golf league. His favorite golfing moments were when he golfed with his daughter Carrie and son-in-law Jeff.

Frank and Andrea celebrated 54 years of marriage this year. She was his rock, his constant, and the love of his life. Frank cherished time spent with his friends and family. He loved telling old stories of the West End and of his childhood, and his belly laugh was infectious. He enjoyed dining out and was a connoisseur of chicken "pahm", filet mignon, and pizza (especially on his visits to NYC). He loved watching westerns on tv, especially his favorites with the legend John Wayne, as well as Seinfeld and Star Wars movies with his daughter Carrie.

Frank is survived by: his wife Andrea, daughter Carrie Johnson and her husband Jeff of Nottingham, Maryland, sister Maryanne Johnson of Spring Hill, Florida and her husband James. He was the brother to Walter Petkiewich of Tewksbury, MA. He was the brother-in-law of Mary Purcell of Bellingham, MA

and her late husband Steve, Janet Adams of Billerica, MA and her late husband Billy, Sandra Hodnett of Maine and her husband Jim, Christine McCarthy of Billerica, MA and husband Jim. Frank is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Visiting hours will be held at George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq) Somerville, MA on Sunday September 14 from 2:00PM-5:00PM.

A funeral procession will be held on Monday, September 15th from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville at 10:00AM. Followed by a Funeral mass at St. Clement's Church, 64 Warner St., Medford at 11:00AM.

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

William “Billy” Tauro for Governor





Somerville Fire Investigation Arrest

In a joint effort, the Somerville Police Department, Somerville Fire Department and Massachusetts State Fire Marshal announce an arrest has been made in relation to a fire that destroyed a home under construction at 75 Thurston St on August 20, 2025.

Police arrested John Grasso (35) who is currently unhoused for Wanton Destruction of Property and Breaking and Entering a Building in the Nighttime. The incident remains under investigation.



Mayor Ballantyne and SPD Announce Upcoming Co-Response Pilot to Support Residents in Mental Health Crisis



Pilot to launch next spring will implement key recommendation from Somerville's Public Safety for All Task Force

SOMERVILLE – As a significant step in realizing the City's commitment to Public

Safety for All goals, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Police Chief Shumeane

Benford announce that the City is preparing to launch a Co-Response Pilot Program this spring. The initiative will pair Somerville Police Department officers with trained public health professionals who will respond together to calls involving residents experiencing mental health crises.

The new program will be the first of its kind in Somerville, designed to provide a proactive, effective, and health-centered response to real-time behavioral health crises. Advantages of co-response include additional de-escalation capacity protecting the safety of all on scene – both individuals and officers – as well as swift service referral support for residents in need of a range of resources.

“Too often, people in mental health crisis are left without the right kind of

support in their moment of greatest need,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “This pilot recognizes that an effective public safety approach encompasses care, dignity, and connecting people to resources. By bringing police officers and public health professionals together, we can provide the kind of response that our community has called for and that our residents deserve.”

Chief Benford added, “Police officers are not always the best first responders for mental health emergencies, and they know that too. Working side-by-side with public health professionals will make our response more effective and safer.”

The pilot builds on recommendations from the City's Public Safety for All process, a multi-year ini-

tiative led by the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) to reimagine public safety in Somerville.

Through surveys, listening sessions, and task force reports, residents voiced strong support for non-police or combined responses to incidents and emergency calls involving potential behavioral health crises. A clear majority said they want social workers/public health professionals involved in these calls, a finding that directly shaped the City's decision to move forward with this pilot.

To turn these recommendations into action, the City recently hired its first Public Safety for All Manager, a role dedicated to implementing the community-driven reforms outlined in the Public Safety for All reports. Advancing the co-response model is one of

the first major cross-departmental steps under this new leadership.

The initiative will also build on the City's long-standing Community Outreach Help & Recovery (COHR) jail diversion program, which embeds social workers and public health professionals within the Somerville Police Department to connect individuals with services and supports that help them avoid the criminal justice system. The new pilot represents a next step, moving from follow-up and outreach to direct co-response in real time.

Further details about the program's structure, staffing, and community partners will be announced in the coming months, with a launch expected in spring 2026.

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Forever Fluff: Somerville Celebrating 20 Years of What the Fluff? Festival



One of city’s quirkiest annual traditions back for it’s 20th year on Sept. 20

SOMERVILLE — Somerville’s Fluff Fest is turning 20, and all are invited to celebrate the famous treat in Union Square on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, September 21). This year’s milestone theme,

Forever Fluff: 20 Years of Sticky, Sweet Somerville, marks two decades of celebrating the invention of Marshmallow Fluff in Union Square with zany

games, music, fluff-filled snacks, and more.

“Only in Somerville could marshmallow Fluff inspire two decades of music, art, and sticky, sweet fun,” said Mayor Katjana Balantyne. “It’s a reminder that celebration, creativity, and connection – as well as fearless abandon when it comes to over-the-top fluff games — are at the heart of who we are as a city.”

Since its debut in 2005, What the Fluff? has grown into one of Somerville’s most beloved and quirki-

est annual traditions, drawing thousands of residents, visitors, artists, businesses, and community organizations. From Fluff-themed weddings to creative tattoos and games, the festival has inspired countless memories over the years.

This year’s 20th anniversary will feature:

Live music and performances

Fluff-inspired food from local vendors

Family-friendly (and sometimes sticky) games and activities

Local businesses and artisan vendors showcasing Somerville’s creative spirit

“Twenty years of Fluff Fest is so much more than just a sweet, rocking good time – it celebrates what makes Somerville unique,” said Jessica Eshleman, Executive Director of Union

Square Main Streets. “Innovation, the arts, small businesses, and strong community connections are what make Union Square, recently named the 38th coolest neighborhood in the world, the place to be on September 20.”

What the Fluff? is co-produced by Union Square Main Streets and the City of Somerville Arts Council as part of the City’s ArtsUnion initiative to support cultural economic development in Union Square.

Road Closures and Parking Restrictions

Somerville Avenue (School St. to Warren Ave., Union Square)

Closed to all traffic: 11 a.m.–8 p.m.

No parking: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Quincy St., Church St., and Bow St. will operate as

two-way between Summer St. and Somerville Ave. from 11 a.m.–8 p.m. to allow abutter access.

Hawkins St. will operate as two-way from Lake St. to Washington St. from 11 a.m.–8 p.m. to allow abutter access.

MBTA buses will be rerouted from 11 a.m.–8 p.m. For updated stop locations, visit MBTA.com.

For more information, visit flufffestival.com.

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

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

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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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Somerville Seeks Polling Place Workers for Preliminary Election Tuesday, September 16



Earn \$240 for the workday, 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SOMERVILLE– The City of Somerville is seeking polling place workers and standby poll workers for the upcoming Preliminary Election on Tuesday, September 16. Many poll workers are needed to support operations and conduct a successful election.

General Duties
Poll worker must be ready

to step in as needed on Election Day: Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after the polls close at 8 p.m., with a two-hour break. Poll workers would serve in the following role:

Inspectors – Check off names as voters check in, assist at the voting machine, or staff the demon-

stration table. Inspectors also help set up and break down the precinct. The compensation is \$240 per day.

To apply, please email Human Resources at hradmin@somervillema.gov. Applicants will be contacted and hired as needed up until Election Day.

To learn more, please con-

tact the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

CHANGE LANGUAGE IN LAW THAT CREATED COUNCILS ON AGING (H 4301)



By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would change some language in the 50-year-old

law that created Councils on Aging in local cities and towns. Changes include deleting language that refers to “problems of the aging” and replacing

it with “the needs of older adults;” deleting language that calls workers “clerks” and replacing it with language that calls workers “staff;” and adding “and delivering services” to the language in the bill which gives the council the authority to “carry out programs.”

Supporters said the bill modernizes the language

in a 50-year-old law that created Councils on Aging at a time when there were very few senior centers. They noted that the number of Councils on Aging and senior centers has grown to 350 and said the bill updates the statute to reflect the modern functioning of these critical centers.

Rep. Kate Donaghue (D-Westborough), the

sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to comment on passage of her proposal and whether she thinks it will make it through the Legislature in the 2025-2026 session. The bill was given initial approval by the House in the 2023-2024 session but died when the House took no further action on it.

PROHIBIT “JUNK FEES”

By Bob Katzen

Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced that new regulations promulgated by her office earlier this year, which make junk fees and deceptive pricing illegal, took effect on September 2.

Campbell’s office explained that junk fees are hidden, surprise or unnecessary costs that increase the total price of a product

beyond the advertised price. Businesses often do not disclose such fees upfront or only share them at the end of a transaction after consumers have already provided their personal billing information. Similarly, some businesses have engaged in practices related to trial offers, subscriptions and automatic and recurring charges to conceal the total cost and nature of a product or service, while making it

difficult for consumers to cancel or opt-out of such features.

“Today, as we build upon the commonwealth’s nation-leading legacy of consumer protection, we make clear that ‘junk fees’ and deceptive pricing are not lawful,” said Campbell. “From concert tickets and hotel bookings, to subscription services and apartment rentals – surprise and unnecessary

charges have quietly cost consumers around the country tens of billions of dollars each year. Amidst rising costs, these historic regulations not only provide individuals with upfront transparency about the true cost of a good or service, but level the playing field for businesses by promoting trust and fair competition. I urge consumers and businesses to view my office’s resources to ensure compliance with

the new rules, which my office stands ready to enforce starting today.”

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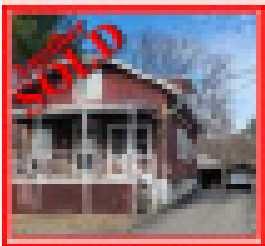
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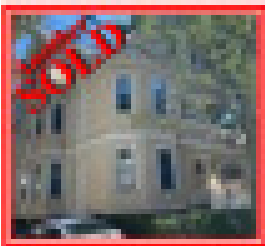
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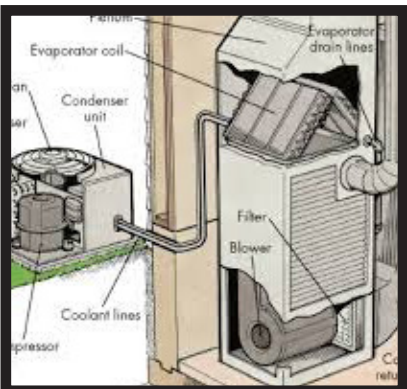
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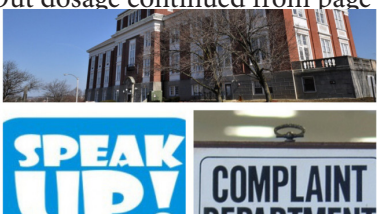
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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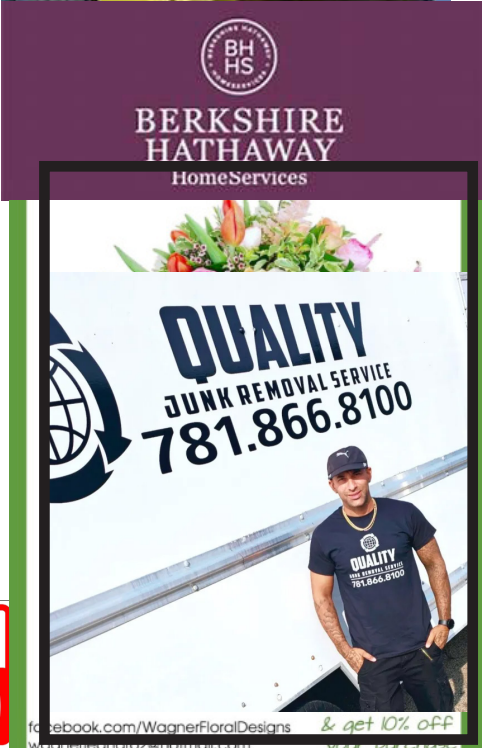
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MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND
VETERANS SUICIDE AWARENESS AND REMEMBRANCE DAY (H 3388)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a bill that would establish September 22nd as Military Service Members and Veterans

Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Day. The day would acknowledge that suicide is an epidemic among service members and veterans and works to foster awareness and

call for suicide prevention measures and support.

“We brought forward this veteran suicide remembrance and awareness bill in direct response to

the tragedies that have left holes in the fabric of our communities and in order to build awareness to prevent future tragedy,” said bill sponsor Rep. Joan Meschino (D-Hull). “[The

bill] is an important step in offering support to both our active service members and veterans.”

\$10.9 MILLION FOR DAMS, LEVEES AND COSTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey announced the awarding of nearly \$11 million in funding for dams, levees and coastal infrastructure.

Supporters said the funds will be used to repair or remove

aging dams, seawalls, levees and other critical infrastructure across the state. They noted it will support 23 municipalities and nonprofit organizations in making long-overdue repairs and taking down outdated structures that put homes, roads and neighborhoods at risk.

“Strong infrastructure keeps our communities running – from protecting homes during storms to keeping roads open and water secure,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “By investing in these projects now, we’re helping communities prevent future problems, save money

over time and keep people and neighborhoods safe.”

“As a former mayor of a coastal city, I know how hard it is to find the funding to take on major infrastructure repairs, even when the need is obvious,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “These grants help

cities and towns take on big repairs they couldn’t tackle alone.”



Mayor Ballantyne and Somerville Veterans' Services to Host 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

For more information,
please email [veterans@
somervillema.gov](mailto:veterans@somervillema.gov) or contact
311 at 617-666-3311.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Patricia Ford



Interment, Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford

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Somerville Hosting Annual Health & Wellness Day for Veterans & Community on Saturday, September 20



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Mayor Ballantyne invites all to enjoy wellness resources, fitness demos, bounce house & kids activities, free snacks, and more

SOMERVILLE – Mayor

Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veterans’ Services invite the community to join the 4th Annual Health and Wellness Day on Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lincoln Park (290 Washington St.)

“I’m looking forward to members of our community of all backgrounds joining this event in honor of our Veterans who have given so much of themselves to keep us safe.

Health and Wellness Day is one small way we can give back, by making sure not only that Veterans, first responders, and their families have access to the resources, care, and support they deserve, but that we have a chance for all of us to come together as a community to celebrate health, healing, and connection,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

The Health and Wellness Day is open to the entire community, with

something for everyone to enjoy while learning more about local supports available for physical, mental, and family well-being.

This free, family-friendly event is designed to promote wellness for all ages and to connect Veterans, first responders, and their families with health and wellness resources.

Attendees will enjoy a range of activities, including: Wellness education and

resource tables
Fitness classes such as yoga, Zumba, and strengthening
Chair massages
Children’s activities including a bounce house and face painting
Free healthy snacks

For questions or more information, please contact the Department of Veterans’ Services at 617-625-6600 x 4700 or veterans@somervillema.gov.



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!



Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



Crime Log
8/19/25 – 8/25/25

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

Assault
25051033: On 8/20/25 at approximately 4:44 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Mystic Ave for report of juveniles coming into the store and causing disturbances. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated a juvenile male threw a

package of soup at him. Officers identified the juvenile suspect.

Assault
25050849: On 8/19/25 at approximately 8:44 PM, Somerville Police responded to Broadway for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated

while walking on Alewife Brook Pkwy, he was approached by a male party who punched him in the face.

Assault
25051954: On 8/24/25 at approximately 11:46 AM, Somerville Police were flagged down on Allen St. The reporting party stated his son was playing in the park next to the community garden and was sprayed with a hose by a female party.

Assault
25051684: On 8/23/25 at approximately 2:28 AM, Somerville Police responded to Davis Sq for a

past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a female assaulted him with a brick.

Assault
25051531: On 8/22/25 at approximately 2:55 PM, Somerville Police responded to College Ave for a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was walking on the sidewalk and saw a bike blocking the way. When he moved the bike, a juvenile male began to attack him. The victim suffered injuries to his lip.

Arrest
25051891: On 8/22/25 at

approximately 2:58 AM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Bow St for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers observed two male parties inside. One of the males was then placed under arrest.

Other Crimes:
• 2 MV Vandalisms
• 8 Car Breaks
• 3 Package Thefts
• 5 Bike Thefts
• 1 Motorcycle Theft

UNIFORM AGE FOR KINDERGARTEN (H 510)

By Bob Katzen

Another proposal before the Education Committee would require that children be at least five years old by the beginning of the school year

in order to enter kindergarten that year. Under current law, the minimum age for kindergarten eligibility varies by district, as local school committees have the authority to set age requirements.

Supporters said this variation

has led to inconsistencies across the state regarding when children may begin their formal education.

“Back in 2012, a few teachers approached me with the idea for this legislation,” said sponsor Rep. Brian Ashe

(D-Longmeadow). “They emphasized the educational value of starting children’s learning as early as possible. I filed the bill based on its merits and the well-established fact that children who attend kindergarten build a stronger foundation for

future learning.”

PUBLIC TAVERN AT 565 BROADWAY SOMERVILLE IS NOW OPEN!



The makers of “Premiere on Broadway” now brings you another Somerville hotspot! Public Tavern at 565 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145 is now open! Only on Broadway in Somerville! A great place for all! It’s a great place to sit down, have a few adult beverages, enjoy your favorite game and enjoy some good food, and some friendly local conversation!



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Ballantyne Administration Launching Free Block Party Play Kits



SOMERVILLE – This year, Somerville block parties are getting even more fun. Funded by Mayor Ballantyne’s FY26 budget, the Block Party Play Kits are free, borrowable kits filled with games and equipment to help neighbors turn their street into a playground.

Residents who apply for a block party license can now also request a Play Kit to bring added energy and entertainment to their neighborhood gathering. The kits are available at no cost, delivered and set up by the City’s vendor Knucklebones, and then picked up after the party.

Each kit includes a rotating mix of equipment to encourage all-ages play and neighborly connection.

Possible items include:
Giant Jenga and Connect Four
Cornhole

Scooters, PlasmaCars, and stilts
Basketball hoops and street hockey
Parachutes, jump ropes, hula hoops, and balance games
Spikeball, tether tennis, and more

“Block parties are one of the best ways to build community on your street,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “By adding free Play Kits, we’re giving residents even more tools to create joyful, welcoming spaces where kids and adults alike can come together, play, and connect.”

How it works:
Request a Play Kit when applying for your block party license through Citizenserve: somervillema.gov/blockparties

Play Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis and must be requested at least three weeks in advance.

Kits are available for 1–5 hours on the day of your party.

Whether it’s your first block party or your fifteenth, Somerville invites residents to take advantage of this new program and bring some extra fun to their street this summer. For more information and to apply, visit: somervillema.gov/blockparties.



Somerville Annual Fall Festival Returns September 13

Mayor Ballantyne and Rec Department invite community to annual fall celebration

SOMERVILLE– Welcome the fall season with a day of fun for the whole family. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Parks and Recreation Department invite community members to the Fall Festival on Saturday, September 13, at Conway Park (560 Somerville

Ave.) from 1 to 4 p.m.

Enjoy bounce houses, music, and array of fall-themed activities including pumpkin decorating, face painting, music, and more.

This event is free to attend. In the event of rain, activities will move indoors to Founders Memorial Rink (8 Gardent Ct.).

To learn more about the wide range of programming offered by the City of Somerville Recreation Department, please visit somervillema.myrec.com.



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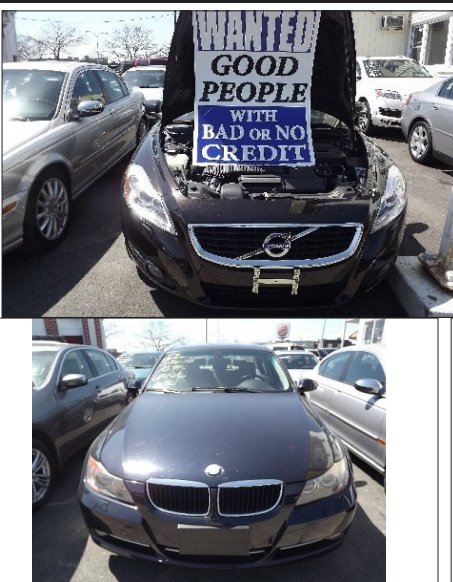
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MOTOR VEHICLE BATTERIES (H 2652)

By Bob Katzen	facilities display a notice that informs the public and first responders of the presence of motor vehicle batteries on the premises.	“This legislation will put safety first in the event of a fire on a property where lithium-ion batteries are present,” said sponsor Rep. Mike Kushmerek	(D-Fitchburg). “These batteries are notoriously dangerous and difficult to extinguish. By having identifying signs on location where the batteries	are present, it allows for more situational awareness for first responders who may be responding.”
The House gave initial approval to legislation that would require that motor vehicle repair and storage				

Somerville to Host Public Forums on State’s Draft Cannabis Social Consumption Licenses



Mayor Ballantyne & Economic Development Office Invite Businesses & Community Members to Discuss City’s Approach to Coming New Regulations

SOMERVILLE— The Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) recently drafted three types of licenses

allowing for the “social consumption” of cannabis by adults 21 and older in

approved venues, similar to those allowing for alcohol consumption. Once these regulations are finalized, communities will be able to choose whether they opt into the new rules.

In the coming months, the City will be reviewing the CCC’s regulations and is proactively seeking public feedback to help shape Somerville’s approach to cannabis social consumption. These licenses will create new opportunities for individuals and businesses to consume or serve cannabis in accordance with CCC regulations and guidelines. To inform Somerville’s approach, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City’s Economic Development division invite local businesses and residents to

participate in upcoming forums to learn about and discuss options.

For more information on cannabis social consumption, please visit: somervillema.gov/social-consumption

The City is hosting public forums for potential business operators and the public throughout the fall, beginning on September 30.

Community Outreach Schedule:

Virtual forums for business operators interested in opening a cannabis social consumption establishment in Somerville:

Tuesday, September 30, at 11 a.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 812 9581 3073

URL: bit.ly/45xhDzh

Monday, October 6, at 6 p.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 848 8412 7712

URL: bit.ly/45LD5iQ

In-person forums for the public to learn more and share your thoughts about cannabis social consumption:

Wednesday, October 29, at West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.), 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 6, East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.),

6 p.m.

Virtual forum for the public to learn more and share thoughts about cannabis social consumption:

Monday, November 17, at 7 p.m. online via Zoom

Zoom ID: 859 2351 6298

URL: bit.ly/47dgD4x

For more information about the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission, the state agency that makes the rules for legal cannabis sales in Massachusetts, visit their website at <http://www.masscannabis-control.com>.

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POSSIBLE NOVEMBER 2026 BALLOT QUESTIONS ARE CERTIFIED

By Bob Katzen

Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced that her office has certified 40 possible ballot questions that could appear on the November 2026 ballot. Campbell had until September 3 to certify the questions as eligible or reject them as ineligible. Three possible ballot questions did not pass muster and were not certified because they do not meet the requirements outlined in Article 48 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

The next goal that the initiative’s proponents must meet is the gathering and filing with the Secretary of the State the signatures of 74,574 registered voters by December 3. The proposal would then be sent to the Legislature and if not approved by May 6, 2026, proponents must gather another 12,429

signatures by July 1, 2026, in order for the question to appear on the November 2026 ballot.

Proposed laws that were certified include requiring voters to show identification at their polling places in order to be allowed to vote; overhauling or eliminating the financial stipends that legislative leaders award to many lawmakers for serving in the leadership and as committee chairs; subject the governor’s office and Legislature to the state’s public records law; allowing prospective voters to register and cast a ballot in a single trip to the polls on Election Day; enable Committee for Public Counsel Services staff — which includes public defenders, social workers, investigators and administrative staff who support indigent clients — to unionize; imposing rent control by curtailing rent

increases to the cost of living with a 5 percent increase, with some exemptions; reducing the personal income tax rate from 5 percent to 4 percent over a three-year period; using a portion of the funds generated from the existing sales tax on sporting goods to fund conservation; providing indigent tenants with an attorney in eviction and foreclosure proceedings; and allowing single-family homes on small lots in areas with adequate infrastructure.

A complete list of proposed laws can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ballot-initiatives-submitted-for-the-2026-biennial-statewide-election-proposed-laws-and-2028-biennial-statewide-election-proposed-constitutional-amendments>

“I applaud the civic engagement of our residents, who

filed a record-breaking [number of] ballot initiative petitions this year,” said Campbell. “My office reviews each petition according to the strict criteria outlined in Article 48 of our State Constitution. Our personal opinions and any constitutional considerations outside of Article 48 cannot weigh into our decision-making about certification of a petition.”

Campbell’s office said that certification of a proposed ballot question does not represent the attorney general’s support or opposition to the policies proposed. The Massachusetts Constitution requires that proposed initiatives be in the proper form for submission to voters, not be substantially the same as any measure qualified to appear on the ballot in either of the two preceding statewide elec-

tions, contain only subjects that are related to each other or mutually dependent and not involve a set of issues that are specifically excluded from the ballot initiative process by the Massachusetts Constitution.

The office offered examples of ineligible proposals including any proposal that relates to religion, religious practices or religious institutions; the powers, creation or abolition of the courts; the appointment, compensation or tenure of judges; a specific appropriation of funds from the state treasury; or infringement on certain other constitutional rights listed in Article 48, such as trial by jury, freedom of the press, freedom of speech and free elections.

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Somerville Voting Information for City Preliminary Election



SOMERVILLE– On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, the City of Somerville will hold its City Preliminary Election, which will narrow the candidate pool before the Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 4.

The offices on the ballot for this election include:

Mayor
Councilor At Large
Councilor – Ward 7
School Committee – Ward 3

The preliminary election is

open to all registered voters in Somerville. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on Preliminary Election Day.

Register to Vote in the Preliminary by Friday, September 5

You can register one of three ways:

Online at somervillema.gov/register,
In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
Via phone by calling the Elections Department (617-625-6600 ext. 4200) and requesting a voter registration form. Or by calling 311 (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections.

The registration deadline is Friday, September 5, at midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked by September 5.

Vote Early at City Hall, September 9-11

Vote early in the Preliminary Election in the lower level of City Hall from Tuesday, September 9, through Thursday, September 11. The schedule is as follows:

September 9 – Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
September 10 – Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
September 11 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

How to Vote in the Preliminary Election by Mail

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. (not postmarked) by Tuesday, September 9

Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/votebymail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Ballots must be received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 16.

Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their

ballot in the mail. Ballots must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by the City no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state’s website.

How to return your application and ballot:

o Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:

§ City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
§ East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.
§ In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.
§ In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
§ Behind the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave.
§ In front of the Igreja Presbiteriana De Boston Church, 212 School St.
§ In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St.
§ In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

§ In front of Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St.
§ In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.
§ In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

Elections office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall
Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143
Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

For more information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.

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Join The Somerville Blessing Boxes Group



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 the join the page and follow all the good that is being done everyday by the good people of Somerville.

One blessing box is located at Statue Park in Davis Square and the other is located at Union Square, Plaza in Union Square.

“Give what you can, Take what you need.”

Much thanks and appreciation,

Frank Santangelo

Blessing Backpack Checklist

BASICS:

- ___ Wool beanie {hat}
- ___ Smart wool socks
- ___ Gloves
- ___ Scarf

FOOD & DRINK

- ___ Quality instant coffee
- ___ Tea
- ___ Energy drink
- ___ Beef jerky
- ___ Dried fruit
- ___ Fruit leathers
- ___ Trail mix
- ___ Nuts
- ___ Granola bars
- ___ Protein powder packets
- ___ Restaurant gift cards

HELP THEM CONNECT

- ___ Journal & pen
- ___ Stationary
- ___ Stamps
- ___ Pre-paid phone card

TOILETRIES

- ___ Multi-purpose wipes
- ___ Chapstick
- ___ Facial wipes
- ___ Moisturizer
- ___ Comb
- ___ Toothbrush & tooth paste
- ___ Grooming kit

SURVIVAL

- ___ First aid kit
- ___ Water bottle with built in filter
- ___ Heat-pack
- ___ Multi-purpose tool

TREATS:

- ___ Chocolates
- ___ Fruit snacks
- ___ Cookie snack packs
- ___ Candy {individually wrapped}
- ___ Mints
- ___ Chewing gum

SPLURGE:

- ___ Starbucks gift card
- ___ Compact reusable bag

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Nicholas C. Kakles Jr.



Obituary
Nicholas C. Kakles, Jr. of Malden and formerly of Somerville, passed away on September 2, 2025, he was 81. Born in Boston, he was the son of the late Nora (Reardon)

and Nicholas C. Kakles, Sr. Nicholas was raised in Somerville, along with his siblings, and graduated from Somerville Trade School, then served honorably with the Massachusetts National Guard for several years.

The beloved husband of 59 years to Roseann (Baldassari) Kakles, together they were married July 31,1966 in St. Benedict Church, Somerville and began their family. He was the devoted father of Nicholas C. Kakles, III and his wife Rachele of Medford and David P. Kakles of Arkan-

sas, formerly of Somerville. Cherished grandfather of Carissa Kakles, Arianna Kakles, Kasandra Medeiros and the late David P. Kakles, Jr. Dear brother of Donna (Kakles) Brown of Malden and the late Charles M. “Chuck” Kakles and brother-in-law of Peter Baldassari and his late wife Diane and the late Richard Baldassari. Loving uncle of Wendy Brown, Christopher Brown, the late Bernard J. “Bernie” Brown, III, Carrie Oliver, Michelle Baldassari, Richard Baldassari, Toni Candow, Robert and Joseph Baldassari.

Great-uncle of Ruby Giaratano.

Nicholas worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for many years, beginning as a heavy equipment operator with the Department of Transportation. Well liked by his colleagues, he served as a union steward for Local SEI/NAGE Unit C R1-219 and would retire as a supervisor. He was an avid Bruins fan, but above all enjoyed time spent with family.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty

Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Sunday, September 7th from 2:00PM to 5:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. The Funeral Procession will begin on Monday, September 8th from the funeral home at 9:30AM followed by a Graveside service at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden at 11:00AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to a charity of one’s choise if you wish.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Carol J. Murphy



Obituary
Carol J. Murphy, of Malden and formerly of Charlestown and Somerville, passed away on September 3, 2025. She was the beloved daughter of the late George H. and Marion

W. (Pineo) Murphy. Carol was a dear sister to Helen Dahlgren and was predeceased by her siblings Lorraine Murphy, Marguerite Maher, Paul Murphy, Harry Murphy, and James Murphy. She is also

survived by many nieces and nephews.

Carol was a dedicated employee of New England Telephone. She will be laid to rest in the Mt. Auburn Cemetery with a private service. Funer-

al services are under the direction of the George L. Doherty Funeral Home in Somerville.

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Somerville Rock + Roll Yard Sale in Union Square September 14



Mayor Ballantyne invites all to City’s open-air market featuring eclectic arts & crafts, vinyl records, vintage clothing, and more

SOMERVILLE— Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and The Somerville Arts Council are pleased to announce the return of the Rock + Roll Yard Sale to Union Square Plaza on Sunday, September 7, 2025, from 12 to 5 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, September 14). Now in its 18th year in Somerville, this long-running event celebrates creativity, community, and the city’s do-it-yourself spirit.

The Rock + Roll Yard sale’s creativity, community and support for local artists and small businesses is a perfect example of what makes Somerville unique,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Presented in partnership with Chris and Jennifer Daltry of What Cheer Records, the Rock + Roll Yard Sale will feature a wide range of roughly 50 local vendors offering vinyl records, vintage clothing, handmade goods, art, and

more. Shoppers can expect an eclectic mix of collectibles and creations from independent artists, collectors, and makers.

“Bringing our event to Somerville is something we look forward to every year,” said Chris and Jennifer Daltry, founders of What Cheer Records. “It means the world to us to see this city continue to grow while still embracing this funky event. Whether you’re looking for music, vintage, or handmade items, you’ll

find something here.”

For updates, follow @rockandrollyardsale and @somervilleartscouncil on Instagram, or visit somervilleartscouncil.org/events/rock-and-roll-yard-sale.

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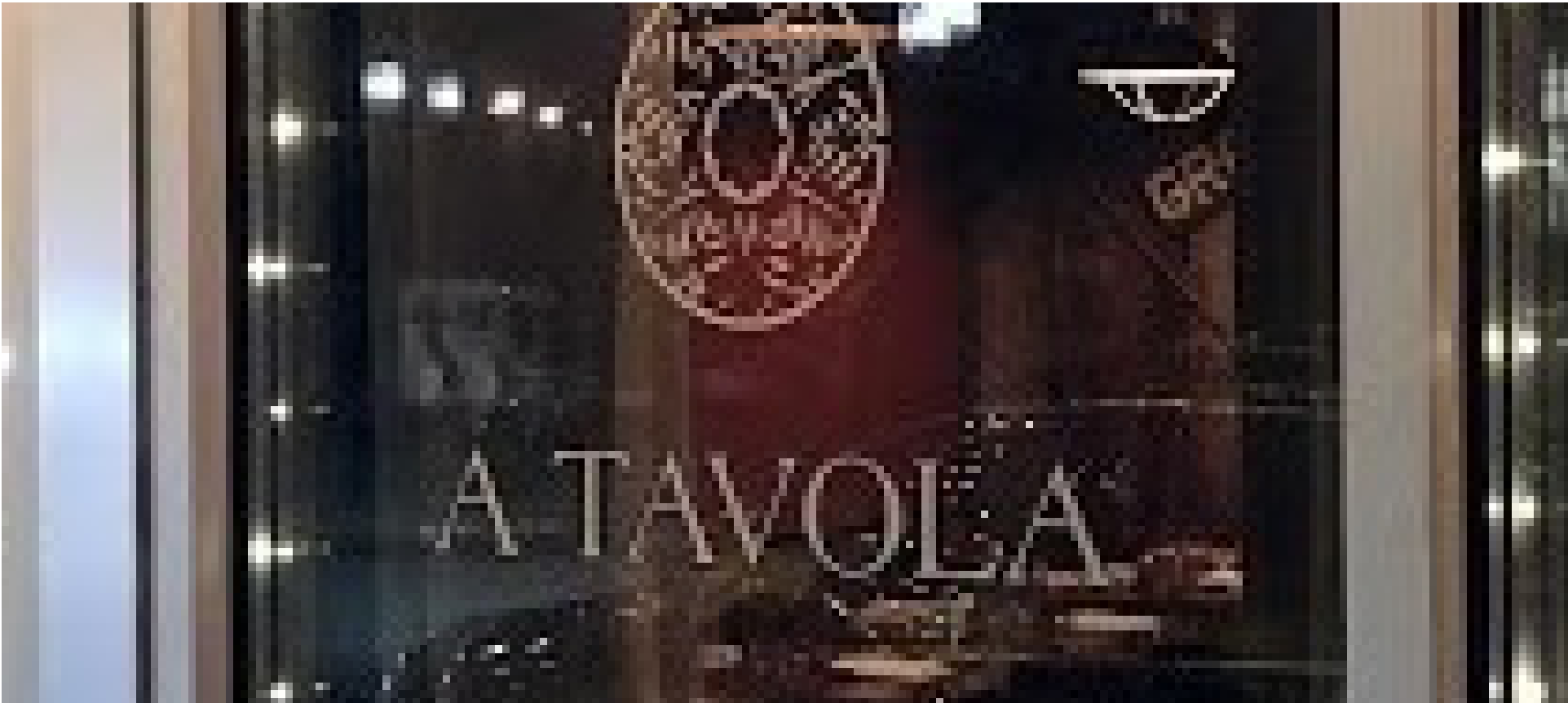
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