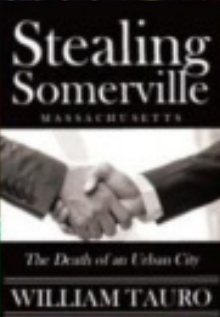




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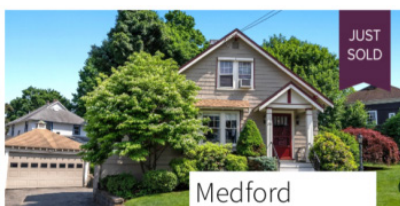
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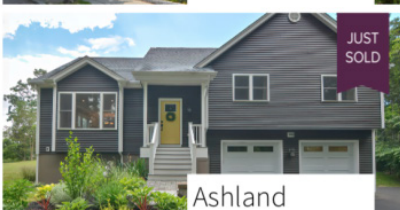
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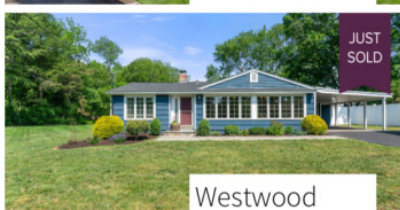
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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup
Line: Were Italian immigrants coming from Italy forced to “Americanize” their names when coming thru Ellis Island to avoid persecution.

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

Were Italian immigrants coming from Italy forced to “Americanize” their names when coming thru Ellis Island to avoid persecution.

Sincerely,
Tony, shortened from (To NY)

Billy’s Answer:

No, the widespread story that Italian immigrants (or any immigrants) were routinely forced to “Americanize” their names by Ellis Island officials to avoid persecution is a myth.

Here’s what actually happened:

Name Changes at Ellis Island

• Immigration officials at Ellis Island did not change immigrants’ names as a standard practice.

• They worked from the ship’s passenger manifest (created at the port of departure in Europe, usually by officials who spoke the immigrants’ language or had translators).

• Officials at Ellis Island compared the person in front of them to the name already written on the manifest. They rarely wrote down new names — they verified existing ones.

• Spelling errors or minor variations sometimes occurred (e.g., “De Luca” written as “Deluca” or “Giovanni” as “John” on later documents), but this

was usually due to:

• Clerical mistakes

• Immigrants themselves giving simplified versions

• American clerks mishearing or mis-writing phonetic names

• There was no official policy of forcing name changes for assimilation or to avoid persecution.

When and Why Names Were Actually Changed

Italian immigrants (especially southern Italians) often faced prejudice in the U.S., including discrimination, stereotypes as criminals, and anti-Catholic sentiment. Many voluntarily changed or Anglicized their names later — not at Ellis Island, but after arrival — for practical reasons:

• To get jobs (employers often rejected “foreign-sounding” names)

• To avoid discrimination in housing or social settings

• To help children fit in at school (e.g., Giuseppe → Joseph, Vincenzo → James/Vincent, Salvatore → Sam)

• Some Italian Americans in the early 20th century even encouraged name changes to appear less “ethnic.”

Famous Examples That Fuel the Myth

• The idea persists because many Ital-

ian Americans grew up hearing family stories like “Our name was changed at Ellis Island.”

• In reality, the original Italian name was usually preserved on the manifest, but later generations used an Americanized version in daily life, leading people to assume the change happened on arrival.

Evidence from Records

• Ellis Island manifests (available today on sites like Ancestry.com and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation) almost always show the original European spelling.

• The National Archives and historians (including the Ellis Island museum itself) confirm: Immigration officials had no authority or interest in changing names.

In short:

Italian immigrants were not forced to Americanize their names at Ellis Island. Most name changes happened later, voluntarily, due to social pressure and the desire to assimilate — not because a clerk decided “Rossi” sounded too Italian.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering JAMES MCGREEVEY



Obituary
JAMES MCGREEVEY, 60, of Ipswich, MA, formerly of Medford MA, passed from this life onto his next adventure

after kicking cancer’s ass for 28 months. He was a proud son, husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, and mentor to many students.

Jim was predeceased by his parents James and Leona McGreevey. He was the beloved husband to Kathy McGreevey for 31 years, father to Kelly and Meaghan, brother to Debbie and Mike & wife Denise McGreevey, uncle to Shawn & wife Rachel McGreevey, Kayla & husband Brad Biondello, Danny & fiancé Becky George, Michael & wife Sarah McGreevey, and

Lindsey, Jackie, Stephanie, and Matthew McGreevey.

His infectious laugh and the way he always filled the room with his presence was his gift. His love for his wife Kathy and his daughters Kelly and Meg was unparalleled. He was the guy his friends, his beloved sister Debbie and brother Mike, and many nieces and nephews, could count on.

He impacted so many students in his role as a teacher and always fought for the underdog.

He was the recipient of unwavering love from his band of brothers and was passionate about his guitars and music. His early morning and late night serenades will be greatly missed.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Sunday, December 7th from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. Followed by a celebration of life at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend and stay for the cel-

ebration of life.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, where Jim received impeccable care.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Joseph F. Morrison



Obituary
Joseph F. Morrison, 65, of Seminole, Florida (formerly of Medford, Massachusetts), passed

away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on December 5, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Fran and June Morrison; his brother, Danny Morrison; and his beloved daughter, Meredith Morrison. Losing Meredith profoundly shaped the final years of his life, and he carried her memory with him always.

He is survived by his siblings Stephen Morrison and his wife, Janice; his sister Janet Ghiozzi and her husband, Richard; and

his brother Tommy, with whom he shared the early years of his life. He leaves behind many cherished friendships and a lasting presence at American Legion Post 273 in Madeira Beach.

Joe is also survived by his former wife and lifelong friend, Debra Morrison, with whom he shared a deep and enduring bond built on friendship, respect, and the love they had for their family. Their continued connection remained a source of comfort and support throughout his life.

Above all, Joe was a devoted

father to his daughter, Brittany Innes, whom he loved deeply and with pride. He also cherished the family she built with her husband, Kevin, and took great joy in his three grandsons — Robbie Morrison, Reilly Innes, and Gavin Innes — who lit up his world.

Joe will be remembered for his big personality, endless generosity, bright smile, and his signature scally cap.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Raphael Church, 512 High Street, Medford on Wednesday, December 10th at 11:30AM. Rela-

tives and friends invited to attend. Burial will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to support critical cancer research and patient care at <https://www.jimmyfund.org/gift>

Somerville/Medford Remembering Claire A. (Desrochers) Desaulniers



Obituary
Claire A. (Desrochers) Desaulniers, of Somerville, passed away surrounded by

the love of her family, in the home she was born and raised, on December 4, 2025. She was 79. Born in Somerville, Claire was the youngest of seven born to Clara (Gelinis) and Alphonse Desrochers. In earlier years she worked for the Schrafft’s Candy Company and M.L. Fields before devoting herself to raising her family.

The beloved wife of Jean Pierre Desaulniers, they were married in Canada in 1967 and celebrated 58 years together. The couple first settled in Canada to begin their family and would return to Somerville in 1970.

Especially devoted to her family, Claire

was the matriarch of the extend Desrochers and Desaulniers families. She delighted in babysitting for family and always made sure everyone was well fed and cared for. Claire enjoyed watching the Hallmark Channel, playing cards, and despite being from Boston, she was a passionate fan of the Montreal Canadiens. An active member of St Ann Church, she faithfully prayed the rosary every night.

Beloved wife of Jean Pierre Desaulniers, she is the devoted mother of Shirley Desaulniers and her fiancé Walter Medrano of Somerville, Kathy Lafee and her husband Robert of Somerville, Debbie Stebbins and her husband Adrian

of Everett, Pierre Desaulniers and his wife Nicole of Tewksbury, Jason Desaulniers and his wife Kelly of Methuen and Crystal Desaulniers and her fiancé Patrick McMahon of Somerville. Cherished grandmother of Shayne, Miranda, Brandon, Cole, Jayden, Alyson, Jacob, Emma, Hollis, Ryder, Aria, Justin and Brendan. Dear sister of the late Normand and his wife Nancy, Jill and her husband Blair, Flo and her husband William, Robert and his wife Beth, Roger and his wife Wilma, Leo and his wife Dolores. Loving aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855

Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Sunday, December 14th from 2:00PM – 5:00PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Funeral Procession will begin on Monday, December 15th at 9:00AM followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Ann Church at 10:00AM. Services will conclude with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In lieu of flowers and honoring her love for hockey, donations in Claire’s name can be made to Somerville Youth Hockey, 570 Somerville Ave, Somerville, MA 02143

Somerville/Medford Remembering Henry Elie



Obituary
Henry Elie – Of Manchester, NH, formerly of Somerville and Cambridge, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 28, 2025. He was 46 years young.

Born in Long Island, New York, Henry was the beloved son of the late Wilfred Elie and Marie A. Louhisdon. Henry was a devoted family man who cherished every moment spent with his loved ones.

Easygoing by nature, he had a warm, gentle presence that put others at ease. He was always willing to lend a helping hand, no matter the task, and his kindness touched all who knew him.

Beloved brother of Tracy J. Elie and her husband Victor McDuffie of Somerville, Alexandra Louhisdon of Florida, and Wilfrid Elie of Everett. He was the loving uncle of Damon, Dario, Porschia, Tahneeya,

Tahjee, Tanaeja, the late Desiree, and Nhaomie. Cherished dad of D’Mani, Devin, Aariyah, Damien, Nevaeh, and grandfather to Drace. He is also lovingly survived by Dawn Scanzillo of Malden, Brooke Bryant of Manchester, NH, his mother in-law Donna Bryant of Manchester, NH, aunts, uncles and his extended family in New Hampshire.

Calling Hours will be held in the

George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville on Friday, December 12th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Words of remembrances will be held at 6:30PM.

Interment will be private.

At the family’s request, please not photos to be taking during the services.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

By Bob Katzen

The Healey Administration announced that the Trump Administration, after a month-long delay, released federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

and that all applications can now be processed. LIHEAP is a federal program, referred to as the Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) in Massachusetts, that helps more than 150,000 Massachusetts households, representing

over 300,000 people, afford to heat their homes during the winter each year.

“Home energy assistance is one of the most important tools we have to keep people safe in the winter,” said Housing and Livable

Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. “For many of the households we serve each year, HEAP is the difference between a warm home and an impossible choice between heat, food and medicine. Now that this funding has been released, our team

and our local partners are moving quickly so that seniors, families with children and people with disabilities can get the help they need as the cold weather sets in.”



As The City of Medford Turns:A Dysfunctional City Hall

Recently the Housing Board in Medford spoke at the City council Meeting telling the statistics of housing in Medford....Singles, multi, renters, etc. We, sadly, have a Trust now for some reason. Cities like Somerville Lynn, and Newton have Trust Funds for Affordable Housing. Fund, In lay terms, to me, means donations. From who??

The speakers indicated we need more AHsg. By law! Or by their ideology? Is Weston or Belmont worried! While due credit is given to the Board 's time, Cities above are quite LARGER in geography, density, transportation, money scope, housing numbers.

Looking into the broader means to more AH, a developer can seek MORE than 10% by Special Permit thus solving half our problem.

Why does the Board not look at prezoned areas and exclude the residential streets....build up over some businesses.

This is a much better means than an AHTrust Fund, less toil and expense than a Trust Fund! Medford now may fulfill it's AH duty....this does not mean there is not more room for jello...Yet, we should look at the future feeders of the Trust... ie, EFFECTS. The assumption we NEED more AHSg will lead automatically to REZONING again which our Council loves and more money from homeowners and taxes again!

THIS TRUST FUND is a back door to REZONING. Remember the Alamo or poor Salem St. This group looks at the premise more want to live here ...but the whole

demise in Medford, look, traffic, historic value will be hidden by all new multi structures if Voters let this continue.

Longer , invested homeowners care about this...newcomers do not. Again, this is not Negativity, this is reality. Let Developers seek Organized, rehab,and built housing with 20% more room for AH. Not \$\$ overflow or our taxes into this Fund.

Try to attend or watch ALL upcoming meetings. Research AH Trust Funds and where they can take money!!

Sharon Deyeso, Longtime Resident FYI. sharondeyeso@yahoo.com



Somerville Speak Up Line: SOMERVILLE’S WATER METER DISASTER



Do you suspect you are overpaying for city water?

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

I am a homeowner and landlord of a 3 family house in Ward 7. My water meter was changed 3 years ago. This past summer I noticed something was wrong with the water meter. It was spinning back and forth. My plumber shut off the main and the water meter continued to spin. He indicated that the water meter was

faulty. I then notified MASS Installation– they were uncooperative regarding my request to change my water meter.

I was told by a close friend to contact the individual who supervises “Weights and Measures”.... which became another rabbit hole of dead ends.

One thing about me– I don’t give up, “squeaky wheel”, that I am. Also,

retired so I happen to have a lot of time on my hands.

Walter Hass wrote an article for the Boston Globe months ago to raise awareness of the issues with our water meters. He indicated that the city bought the cheapest meters on the market.

Neil Viner, who works for the water department had visited my home more than several times.

He was rude and arrogant. Raised his voice when I challenged him about my water meter spinning. He asked me to put in a good word to Mayor Ballantyne.

How ridiculous is that? And by the way, I did make a call and was told, “THE MAYORS OFFICE DOESN’T TAKE CALLS”. When have you ever hear that? Of course I did not call Mayor Ballantyne because Neil was clearly not doing his job properly.

I generally pay about \$3,500 annually. The total occupants of our dwelling is 7 adults. I also maintain a 90x50 square lot and a flower garden including a 150 year old European Copper Beech which is being treated for bleeding canker, otherwise the 150 year old tree would die. So I must use water outdoors as well.

Something must be done about the water department of Somerville.

We sit in silence waiting for answers with no reply.

Is this the image Somerville should have? Continuing to ignore this problem?

I hope that when the new mayor occupy’s his new office– the water department gets the first inspection and he begins a full investigation of why nothing has been done to correct the problems.

So Jake– if your reading this: Please look into why those of us with faulty

water meters who have repeatedly called begging for answers, only to be repeatedly ignored.

I am now forced to make monthly payments at city hall until I can pay off the balance due. If no one is willing to correct this problem, why are we not getting any answers? Every home, condo, building should be inspected to ensure water meters are working correctly.

Our family has lived in Somerville since 1930. I will be celebrating 100 years in 2030. Hopefully I will continue to be living in my home for many years to come.

Thank you to Billy Tauro for his continual service of exposing these issues with city hall.

It’s time to start giving back to the loyal constituents of our city.

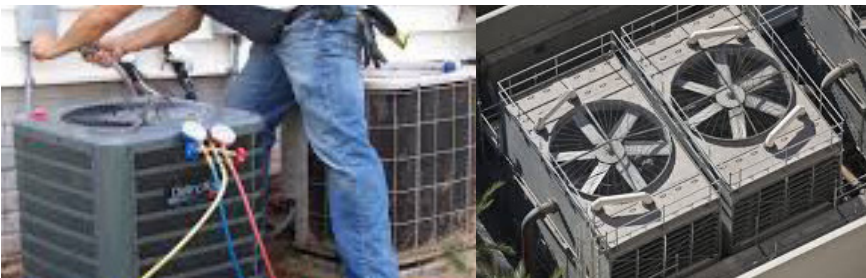
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Should We Trust Our Somerville Water Meters?



For all you residents out there who are getting high water bills, check this out!

Outrageously High Water Bills? There's a remedy!

By William Tauro

According to Chat GBT Grock when asked “Is it possible for a water meter model number VNLTE-M1 3120897 together a false reading and to also have false spikes causing faulty readings?”

Answer:

Yes, it is possible for a water meter like the VNLTE-M1 model (a smart, cellular-enabled meter commonly used in residential settings, such as those from Metron Farnier/ Spectrum, with serial numbers like 3120897 indicating a specific unit) to produce false readings and erratic spikes in reported usage. While no widespread defects have been reported specifically for this model in public records or user forums, water meters in general—including smart/digital ones like the VNLTE-M1—can malfunction due to mechanical, environmental, or

electronic issues. These problems often lead to inaccurate totals (e.g., over- or under-reporting cumulative usage) and sudden “spikes” that don't match actual consumption. Below, I'll explain the key causes, signs, and steps to verify or address it.

Common Causes of False Readings and Spikes

Water meters measure flow via a turbine, impeller, or sensor, but faults can distort this. For smart models like the VNLTE-M1, data transmission via cellular networks adds another layer of potential error. Here's what can go wrong:

1. Mechanical Wear or Debris Buildup:

Over time (typically after 10–20 years), internal components like the turbine can wear out, stick, or accumulate sediment from poor water quality. This causes intermittent spinning, leading to false low-flow detections or artificial spikes when flow resumes. Extreme weather (e.g., freezing) can exacerbate this by cracking parts.

2. Sensor or Electronic Malfunctions:

In digital/smart meters, faulty sensors, low battery, or display/communication glitches can misregister flow. For instance, pressure fluctuations or gas buildup in pipes can make the meter “spin” erratically without actual water movement, registering tiny false increments that accumulate into spikes. Software errors during data transmission (e.g., to a utility's server) might also corrupt readings.

3. Installation or Environmental Issues:

Poor sealing allows moisture ingress, fogging the display or corroding internals, which leads to inconsistent readings. High water pressure surges or temperature changes (e.g., hot water cooling in pipes) can trigger false positives, as the meter interprets expansion/contraction as flow.

4. Calibration Errors:

Meters are calibrated for specific flow rates; short bursts or low flows (e.g., from dripping faucets) can exceed error tolerances, causing overestimation. Newer smart meters like the VNLTE-M1 may initially read higher than older analog ones due to better accuracy, mimicking a “spike.”

5. External Factors Mimicking Meter Faults:

While not a meter issue per se, plumbing problems (e.g., a faulty expansion tank or check valve leaking under pressure) can cause the meter to register false flow.

Utility-side errors, like during meter upgrades, have also led to billing spikes in some areas. False spikes are especially common in smart meters, where algorithms might flag minor variances as usage surges, or transmission delays create apparent jumps in daily/weekly data.

Signs Your VNLTE-M1 Might Be at Fault

• Unexpected Bill Increases:

A sudden jump (e.g., from 2,000 to 24,000 gallons) without lifestyle changes, guests, or seasonal use like lawn watering.

• Erratic Display:

The meter's low-flow indicator (often a small triangle or dial) spins or flickers when no water is running; readings change unusually fast/slow.

• Inconsistent Self-Checks:

Usage doesn't match known patterns (e.g., filling a 5-gallon bucket three times should increase the reading by exactly 15 gallons/2 cubic feet).

• No Visible Leaks:

Meter moves despite all fixtures off, but no dampness or sounds.

How to Test and Fix It
1. Basic Leak/Meter Test:

- Shut off all water (faucets, appliances, irrigation).
- Note the meter reading.
- Wait 1–2 hours (or overnight), then recheck. Any change indicates flow—either a hidden leak or meter error.

- For spikes, track daily readings for a week and compare to historical bills.

2. Contact Your Utility:

Report suspected faults—they own the meter and must inspect/replace it for free if defective. Provide your model (VNLTE-M1) and serial (3120897) for quick lookup. In cases like Columbus, OH, utilities have acknowledged meter-related spikes during upgrades. Request a “meter accuracy test” or temporary bypass.

3. Professional Inspection:

If no leak is found, a plumber can check for pressure issues or internal faults. Replacement costs \$100–\$300 if not utility-covered, but smart meters like yours are often warrantied.

4. Prevention:

Install a water pressure regulator if surges are common, and monitor via utility apps (e.g., Aquahawk or WaterScope for VNLTE-M1-compatible systems). Annual self-tests help catch issues early.

In summary, while the VNLTE-M1 is designed for reliable remote readings, it's not immune to the faults that plague all water meters. Start with a simple shut-off test to rule out leaks, then escalate to your utility. This has resolved similar issues for many users facing unexplained spikes. If you share more details (e.g., your bill history or test results), I can refine this advice.

MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

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

State of A Tavola:

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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.



PROTECT ALL PUBLIC TRANSIT WORKERS FROM ASSAULT AND BATTERY (S 2697)

By Bob Katzen

Gov. Maura Healey signed into law legislation that would expand the current law which punishes anyone who commits assault and battery against a public employee including police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel. The bill ensures that all transit workers are covered, including those who are not directly employed by the state, such as workers employed by Keolis, the state's contracted commuter rail operator. The bill would also add "as-

substance including saliva, blood or urine" to the current law.

"Public transportation employees do important work every day to keep our trains and buses moving on time and ensure the safety of all passengers," said Gov. Healey. "They should never be subject to any form of assault simply for doing their jobs. This bill ensures that they have the protections they deserve and will enhance safety for all users of our public transportation system."

"All transit workers deserve to come

to work feeling safe and protected," said Interim MBTA General Manager Phillip Eng. "These employees work tirelessly to serve the public, keeping them moving safe and reliably. Transit workers work 365 days a year to ensure that we have a robust transit system that is safe, supporting riders that depend on mass transportation and allowing everyone the option to choose transit. Know that our labor workforce is dedicated, is a part of the communities they serve and deserves a workplace grounded in respect and security."

"This is a significant victory for everyone who rides or operates public transit," said Jim Evers, President of the Boston Carmen's Union Local 589. "Our MBTA bus and train operators deserve to be safe on the job and commuters deserve to know that public transportation is safe. This law will ensure that those who assault public transit workers will be held accountable and that our valued transportation employees are protected. Our transit workers keep Massachusetts moving every day and deserve our utmost respect."

"Every region of our economy depends on the people who keep the busses and trains humming, and this new law takes a strong step forward in protecting workers who show up every day to do just that," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Our historic investments in transit would mean nothing if not for the people who greet customers, run our transit systems and ensure the public is safe."

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APPENDIX A

THE COMMON-WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION OF BANKS

Brazil Starr, Inc., Somerville, Massachusetts has petitioned the Commissioner of Banks for permission to operate as a check casher at 29 Bow Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 169A. The Division of Banks is establishing a public comment period on this petition from Monday, Dember 15, 2025 through Monday, Dember 29, 2025. Any objections or comments concerning this proposal must be filed with the Division of Banks by Monday, December 29, 2025 via email to

Deputy Commissioner Aimee Desai at Aimee.Desai@mass.gov. The petitioner's application and all communications relative to the

application are available for public inspection upon request.
Mary L. Gallagher
Commissioner of Banks

APPENDIX B

THE COMMON-WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION OF BANKS

Brazil Starr, Inc., Somerville, Massachusetts, has petitioned the Commissioner of Banks for permission to operate as a check casher at 29 Bow Street, Somerville, Massachusetts. The name of the Branch Manager is Ana Cirlene Starr. The business address is 29 Bow Street, Somerville, Massachusetts.

The Division of Banks is establishing a public comment period on

this petition as follows:
Date: Monday, December 15, 2025 through

Monday, December 29, 2025

Any objections or comments relative to this proposal must be communicated in writing to the Commissioner of Banks, via email to Deputy Commissioner Aimee Desai at Aimee.Desai@mass.gov no later than Monday, December 29, 2025. The petitioner's application

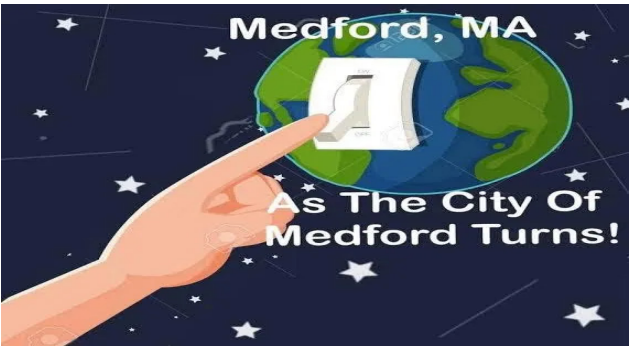
and all communications relative to this application will be available-for public inspection at the Division of Banks.

Mary L. Gallagher
Commissioner of Bank

As The City of Medford Turns:
Hoorah! To Medford Jr Mustangs

This week the Jr Mustangs Cheering students will travel off to a Champion week in a Carolina, we will think of them with luck and good weather! These division matches come after long hours and good work.... some were off collecting last week like Lily Healey and Mom at our famous Colleen's.

Sharon Deyeso, Adj Professor
Medford Resident



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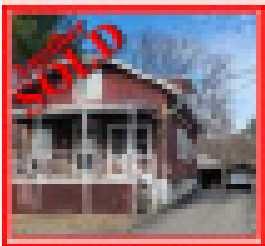
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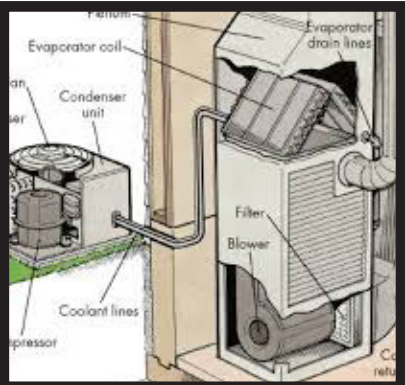
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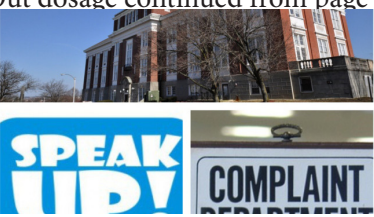
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The Somerville/Medford News Weekly

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



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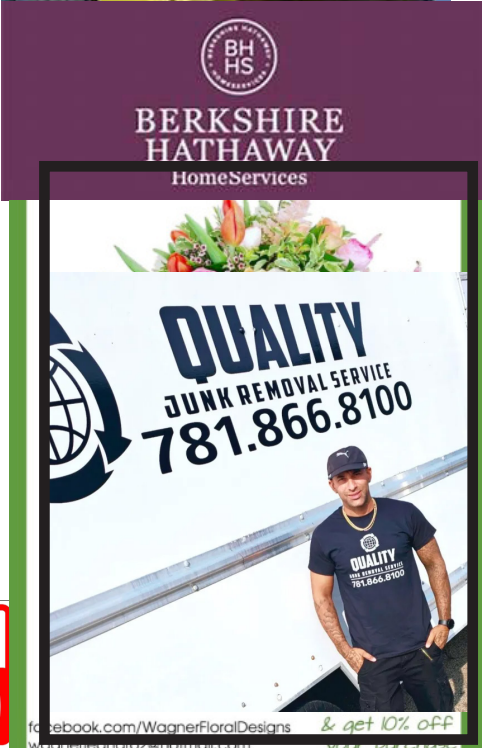
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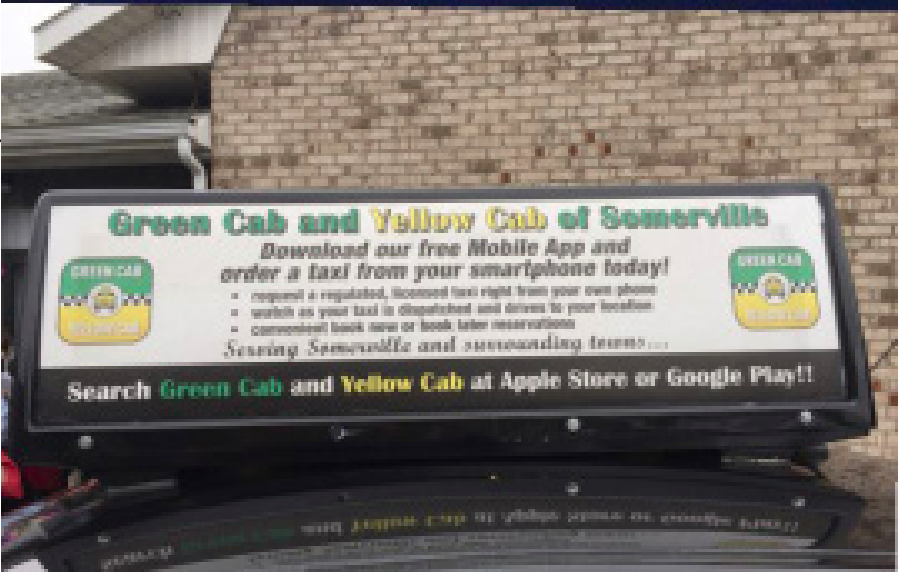




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Somerville Community Encouraged to Plan Ahead for Snowstorms



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Park on the Odd Side During Winter 2025-2026 Snow Emergencies, Unless Otherwise Posted

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

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

Alerts
Snow emergencies are announced in various ways, including through phone, text, and email alerts. Those who live, work, or own a business or property in Somerville are encouraged to sign up for City Alerts. Alerts are also available in multiple languages. Sign up at somervillema.gov/alerts.

In addition to Somerville City Alerts, snow emergencies are announced the following ways:
City website: somervillema.gov
City social media feeds: somervillema.gov/social
City TV: somervillema.gov/somerville-city-tv
Flashing blue lights at major intersections
Information is shared with local media

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

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

Parking is allowed at meters on the odd-numbered side of the street during a snow emergency, as long as there is no sign stating otherwise. Meters and time-parking rules are not enforced during snow emergencies. The City also does not enforce an ordinance prohibiting cars from being parked in the same spot for more than 48 hours during snow emergencies.

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

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

two hours.

For the 2025-2026 snow season the following lots are available for parking:
Municipal Buildings
City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)
All metered municipal parking lots

Off-Street Municipal Parking Lots
Buena Vista Lot (Buena Vista Road at Holland St.)
Cutter Square Lot (Elm St./Summer St. at Cutter Ave.)
Day Street Lot (Day St. at Herbert St.)
Foss Park Lot (Broadway at McGrath Hwy.)
Grove Street Lot A (Grove St. west side at Elm St.)
Grove Street Lot B (Grove St. east side at Elm St.)
Grove Street Lot C (Grove St. at Highland Ave.)
Magoun Square Lot (Broadway at Medford St.)
Mount Vernon St. Lot (Broadway at Mt. Vernon St.)
Union Square Lot (Washington St. at Bonner Ave.)
Founders Ice Arena (Bleachery Ct. at Somerville Ave.)
Winter Hill Lot A (Broadway, north side between Fellsway West and Wheatland St.)
Winter Hill Lot B (Broadway, north side between Wheatland St. and Grant St.)

Again, parking is not allowed in school lots during snow emergencies.

Snow Shoveling Support
The Somerville Teen Snow Shoveling Program returns for the 2025-2026 snow season. This is a paid opportunity for youth to help local seniors and homeowners with disabilities or medical

conditions after a snowstorm.

Residents interested in receiving snow shoveling assistance must submit an application and a CORI form by Thursday, January 1, 2026, to the Somerville's Council on Aging's Holland Street Center (167 Holland St.) and appear at the Holland Street Center in person with a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license, state ID, or passport). Forms may be completed ahead of time or upon arrival at the Center. Persons who are homebound can receive application assistance by contacting Debra Higgins at the Council on Aging at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

The program is available for teens aged 14 to 19 years old. All interested youths must submit an application. Youths aged 18 or 19 must also submit a CORI form.

For questions and to learn more, visit somervillema.gov/shoveling, contact Daniel Harris at dharris@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2406, or contact 311 (617-666-3311).

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

To comply with all shoveling rules:
Sidewalks need to be cleared within six daylight hours after the snow stops.
Shovel a path at least 3 feet wide and down to the pavement on sidewalks and ramps.
Do not shovel snow onto city streets unless the temperature is 40 degrees or higher, it is during

daylight hours, and snow and ice are broken up and spread evenly on the street to melt quickly.

These rules apply to all snowfall, not just when a snow emergency is declared. Failure to comply with the above rules may result in increasing fines issued until the walkway is clear.

Be a Good Neighbor This Winter
Please consider checking on seniors or persons with disabilities during and after snowstorms to ensure they are safe; have all the basic supplies, food/water, and medication they need; and that they have heat and are safe if there are power outages.
If you are physically able, please consider clearing storm drains in advance of storms, or shoveling out fire hydrants after snowfall. Always take breaks when you shovel.
If you have a driveway, please consider sharing it with tenants, neighbors, or friends during snow emergencies to free up spaces on the street (they might even help you shovel out as a thank you).
If you feel comfortable and safe doing so, if you see a neighbor parking on the wrong side of the street, consider sharing snow emergency parking information with them and encouraging them to sign up for City Alerts.

PROVIDE FUNDS TO TEACHERS WHO PURCHASE SCHOOL SUPPLIES ONLINE (H 675/S 448)

By Bob Katzen

Another bill heard by the Education Committee would create a School Supplies for Teachers Program to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible teachers who purchase school supplies online, for their students or themselves, and pay out of their own pocket.

Supplyateacher.org, a national nonprofit that provides teachers with a semester’s worth of essential school supplies, says that 93 percent of teachers nationwide spend their own money on classroom supplies. According to their website, the group gives each teacher two large boxes filled with enough core school sup-

plies to last for at least one semester. They note that pencils, pencil pouches, folders, notebooks, sharpeners, erasers, rulers and pens are included in every box and that additional items are included based on grade level, such as crayons and markers for younger grades, and highlighters and colored pencils for older students.

Supporters of the bill say it is outrageous that teachers, many of whom are underpaid, are forced to buy supplies that the schools should be supplying.

Sen. Mike Rush (D-West Roxbury), the Senate sponsor of the bill and House sponsor Rep. Ed Philips (D-Sharon) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they sponsored the bill.

Legal Ad Notice

THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING:
2025-87 Article V Section 5-15 “Accessible Parking” is amended with the addition of the following locations: 20 Fairfax St, 28 Hinckley St, 27 Pennsylvania Ave.
2025-88 Article V Section 5-10 “Safety Zones” is amended with the addition of the following locations: Lake St extending 20 ft easterly from Olive Sq, Lake St extending 20 ft westerly from Olive Sq.
2025-89 Article V Section 5-9.1 “Park-

ing Meter Locations and Regulations” is amended with the addition of the following: third and fourth meters on the east side of Newbury St at Holland St are restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only.
2025-90 Article V Section 5-9.1 “Parking Meter Locations and Regulations” is amended with the addition of the following location: the first space on the east side of Josephine Ave at Broadway.
2025-91 Article V Section 5-15 “Accessible Parking” is amended with the addition of the following location: first space on the west side of Josephine Ave at Broadway.
2025-92 Article V Section 5-9.1 “Parking Meter Locations and Regulations” is amended with the addition of the following location: two

meters on the east side of Josephine Ave at Broadway are restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only.
2025-93 Article V Section 5-5 “Parking Location and Prohibitions” is amended with the addition of the following location: two spaces at 139 Hudson St restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only, permit required, 3 hour limit, head in parking only.
2025-94 Article V Section 5-5 “Parking Location and Prohibitions” is amended with the addition of the following location: two spaces opposite 63 Evergreen Ave restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only, permit required, 3 hour limit.
2025-95 Article V Section 5-5 “Parking Location and Prohibitions” is amended


with the addition of the following location: two spaces opposite 51 Munroe St restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only, 3 hour limit.
2025-96 Article V Section 5-9.1 “Parking Meter Locations and Regulations” is amended with the addition of the following: third and fourth meters on the east side of Stone Ave at Union Square are restricted for use by actively charging electric vehicles only.

PROMULGATED: NOVEMBER 13, 2025
ADVERTISED: NOVEMBER 25, 2025
DECEMBER 2, 2025
DECEMBER 8, 2025

EFFECTIVE: DECEMBER 17, 2025

Suzanne Rinfret, Director

Somerville/Medford News Weekly
11/25/25, 12/02/25, 12/09/25



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18-18 Pitman Street, Somerville, MA



622-630 Glenville Ave, Somerville, MA



18 Montrose Street, Somerville, MA

Donate to Local Holiday Gift Drives at City Buildings Dec. 1-17, 2025

City supporting two local holiday gift drives for children and teens

SOMERVILLE – In the giving spirit of the season, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing the City’s annual support of local holiday gift and toy donation drives. Toy and gift donation collection boxes will be placed at City buildings, libraries, and firehouses from Monday, December 1, through Wednesday, December 17. Donated gifts will support two community gift drives for families in need of gifts for children and teens this holiday season.

All gifts will be distributed to families by two local efforts:

Toys for Local Children, a long-standing local charity that organizes annual holiday gift drives, and The Somerville Toy Drive (somervilletoydrive.org), an initiative organized by community members (including the organizers of the MAMAS Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville annual gift drive as well as other residents). More information on their gift drives and other ways to help can be found at toysfor-localchildren.org or via email at somervilletoydrive@gmail.com.

What to Donate:
To donate, please bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children as well as age-appropriate gifts for teens. Please donate only new items. Gifts are needed for all ages from infants to age 14. Gifts are especially welcome for ages 0-2 years and 8-14 years.

Where to Donate:
Donate at the following Somerville City buildings, libraries, and firehouses. Collection boxes will be in place from Monday, December 1, through Wednesday, December 17, at 4:30 p.m.:

Locations and Boxes:
Note: Boxes located inside City buildings are only accessible during normal business hours
City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Welcome Desk, 1st

floor, and Mayor’s Office, 2nd floor
Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue
Somerville West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue
Somerville East Branch Library, 115 Broadway
City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Avenue
DPW Building, One Franey Road
Council on Aging Offices, 167 Holland Street
Somerville Police Headquarters lobby, 220 Washington Street
Fire Stations:
Somerville Fire Department Headquarters, 266 Broadway
Highland Ave. Station, 265 Highland Avenue
Union Square Station, 255

Somerville Avenue
Teele Square Station, 6 Newbury Street (corner of Holland Street)
Lowell Street Station, 651 Somerville Avenue (corner of Lowell Street)
Assembly Square Station, 455 Middlesex Avenue



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!



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City of Somerville Income Restricted Homeownership Opportunity

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307	2-Bedroom	771	51%-80%	No	\$254,041	\$7,621	\$117.00	2
103	1-Bedroom	634	81%-110%	No	\$309,622	\$9,289	\$142.60	1
108	1-Bedroom	652	81%-110%	No	\$309,622	\$9,289	\$142.60	1
204	2-Bedroom	865	111%-140%	No	\$473,819	\$14,214	\$218.22	2

Maximum Income Limits

(set by the HUD + based on Household Size + AMI)

Household Size	51%-80% AMI	81%-110% AMI	111%-140% AMI
1	\$57,901-\$92,650	\$92,651 - \$127,358	\$127,359 - \$162,092
2	\$66,201-\$105,850	\$105,851 - \$145,552	\$145,553 - \$185,248
3	\$74,451-\$119,100	\$119,101 - \$163,746	\$163,747 - \$208,404
4	\$82,701-\$132,300	\$132,301 - \$181,940	\$181,941 - \$231,560
5	\$89,351-\$142,900	\$142,901 - \$196,495	\$196,496 - \$250,085
6	\$95,951-\$153,500	\$153,501 - \$211,050	\$211,051 - \$268,610

*2025 Area Median Incomes for the Boston, Cambridge, Quincy, MA-NH MSA

Asset Limit:

\$103,200 (excluding restricted assets)

Applications are available during the application period, from **Monday, November 24th, 2025 — Wednesday, December 24th, 2025**

To complete an online application, visit:

www.MaloneyAffordable.com/condominiums/Mia-Residences

To have a hard copy of the application mailed to your mailing address, please email MiaResidences@MaloneyProperties.com, call (617) 531-7123 Ext 744 | US Relay 711, or visit

www.MaloneyAffordable.com/condominiums/Mia-Residences & use the ‘Contact Us’ form at the bottom of the page

Hard applications will be available at the entrance of the City Hall Annex located at 50 Evergreen Ave, Somerville City Hall located at 93 Highland Ave, & all Somerville Public Library branches

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than Wednesday December 24th, 2025 Mailed to: Maloney Properties LLC, ATTN: Mia Residences Lottery 27 Mica Lane, Wellesley, MA 02481

Information Sessions:

Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 at 12pm
Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 at 6pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://maloneyproperties.zoom.us/j/81791942922?pwd=jNFwVfX0jtzgxvJJ7aURFMKR5BFsk7.1>

Meeting ID: 817 9194 2922
Passcode: 532437

- Selection by Lottery. Asset, Use & Resale Restrictions Apply
- Preference for Households with one person per bedroom
- Preferences for Households with Mobility Impairments for Accessible Unit

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Equal Housing Opportunity



Somerville/Medford News Weekly 11/25/2025, 12/02/2025, 12/08/25

Avatar 3 Preview, film in release
December 19, 2025

Preview by Joe Viglione

“Well, you need patience. The secret is research, research and research, at least I’ve read that.” Clint Eastwood at Luther Whitney in Absolute Power.

James Cameron has had both patience and “research, research and research” when it comes to his Avatar franchise. With a germ of an idea in 1994, 31 years later the third installment is set to hit the theaters December 19, 2025.

JV writes: The Avatar 3 trailer is two minutes and twenty-five seconds of more wonderment from Pandora. Vibrant colors contrasted with a dark blue hue dominate the trailer as the story of wildlife vs technology is a component of what will be 4 decades of work on one project, in five pieces. As Clint Eastwood says in Absolute Power “Well, you need patience.” Remember when Epic Records said “Two years is not a long time to wait” before the release of Sly and the Family Stone’s follow-up to 1969’s brilliant Stand album, 1971’s There’s a Riot Goin’ On – record albums usually an annual

affair, 1994 to 2031 is a few lifetimes of wait for movie goers.

With the massive success of the two previous films, Cameron has his groove. One of the Merriam-Webster definitions of Avatar is “an incarnation in human form.” Jake Sully is now fully represented in his new reality from his former dream state as one of the Na’vi, a human entering another race from another world. And we are midway through the sequence of events unfolding over a span from 2009-2031. 22 years to tell the story.

This is a preview of sorts with a review of the Avatar 3 Trailer and some information from other websites.

Movie Release Date

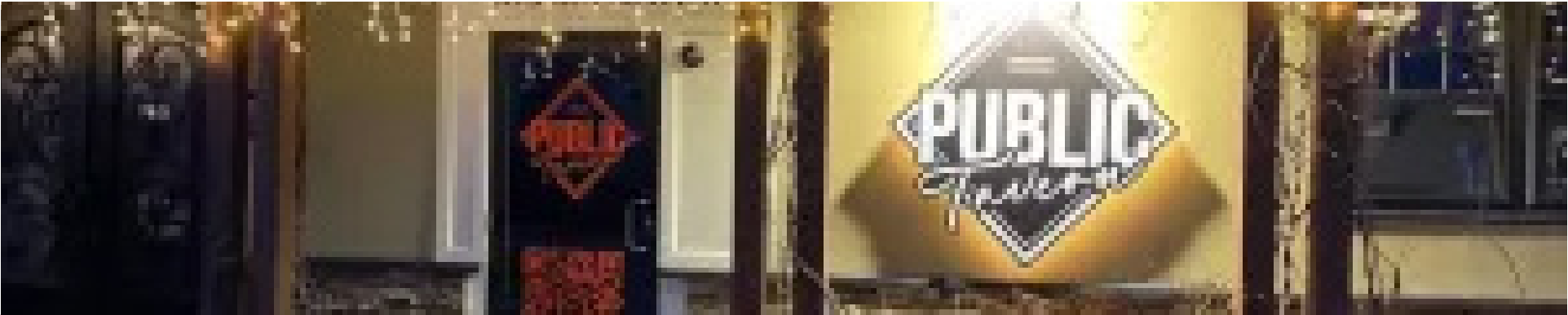
Avatar 3 December 19, 2025

Avatar 4 December 21, 2029

Avatar 5 December 19, 2031

read on Joe’s Substack <https://joeviglione.substack.com/p/avatar-fire-and-ash-an-intro> Avatar Fire and Ash – an Intro

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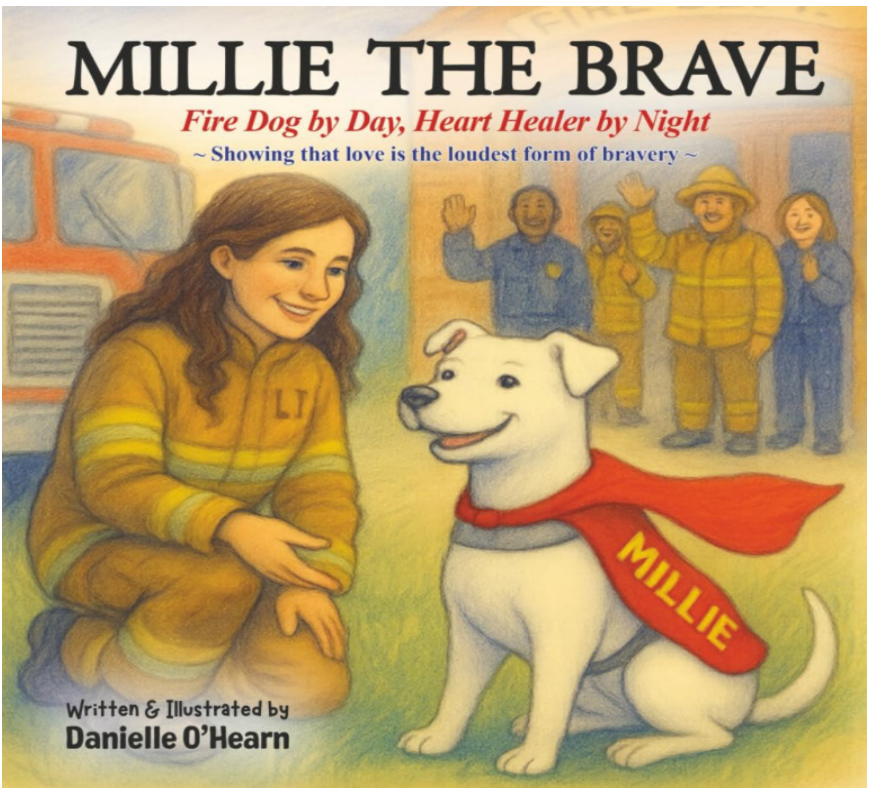
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

Hey Billy
My name is Danielle we've met a few times before, I'm a firefighter in Somerville. I just came out with a children's book.

It's about my dog Millie it was a real life, first responder therapy, dog and rescue and her adventures in firefighting and being a therapy dog. I know you have a huge following. Any shout out about the book would be greatly appreciated. It's available currently on Amazon and hopefully in bookstore soon. Thanks Billy !

Here's the link the title is Millie the brave

<https://a.co/d/9cCS8Lp>



KOWLOON COMEDY NIGHT FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Hi my name is Joe LoRusso a North Reading Resident and Ted Williams Camp Alum, Volunteer for the Jimmy Fund, and raising money for the Jimmy Fund, and have been for many years to help strike out cancer in Children & Adults.

The event I'm running is a expected to draw a lot of people, a great evening of laughs, great food and giving away great door prizes; so get your tickets early, by scanning the QR Code on flier or on Eventbrite website, they are going quick. Thank you all in advance for your support.

Eat, Laugh, and Support!

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FEBRUARY 27, 2026

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Somerville Residents Invited to Be “Loyal to Local” Businesses This Season



City sharing tips and tools to help community support local businesses all winter long

SOMERVILLE – One-of-a-kind gifts, tasty foods, great entertainment, artist markets, and fun events await this holiday season (and winter!) in Somerville, and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne wants to be sure the community seizes these opportunities to support Somerville’s local businesses all winter long by shopping, dining, and going out local as part of the City’s “Loyal to Local” initiative.

“Across the country, communities are gearing up to celebrate Small Business Saturday this week. In Somerville, we know the goal is not just to shop locally one day a year, but all 365 days of the year,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “If you’re heading out anyway, let’s keep it local and shop, dine, go out, and seek services from the local and small businesses that help keep our city vibrant and a great place to live.”

Loyal to Local Website and Calendar

Opportunities to stay loyal to local businesses abound in Somerville. This winter, residents looking to discover new places to shop, dine, catch a show, or seek a service can visit somervillema.gov/loyal2local for updates and events (a few are up now, more to come!).

In December, the City will also publish a “Ways to Stay Loyal to Local” calendar, available online and at community locations throughout the season. The resources will share how residents can help Somerville’s businesses and keep their dollars in the community, whether by exploring neighborhood shops, attending local holiday markets, dining at independent restaurants, seeking local services, or sharing favorite businesses with friends and neighbors.

Upcoming Events

There are great local business events to kick off the holiday shopping season in Somerville. This is just a sampling. More to come on the Loyal 2 Local Calendar including local artist markets too.

Small Business Saturday at Bow, Saturday, 11/29: Head to Bow Market from 11a.m.- 6 p.m. you’ll find retail, food & drink specials, the annual maker market & “shop small win big” prize challenges. More at <http://www.bowmarketsomerville.com>
Davis Square Holiday, Saturday 12/6: Shop, dine, and chill out all day and eve amid holiday lights and enjoy holiday specials, sales, giveaways, a raffle, and more throughout the Square as Davis Square merchants host the first ever Davis Square Holiday. Eat Out in East, every Wednesday: Each Wednesday, 4-8 p.m. (or really anytime) East Somerville Main Streets invites folks to Eat Out on East (East Broadway that is). Gift cards to local eateries and bakeries can make great holiday gifts too. More at

eastsomervillemainstreets.org/eatoutineast.
Union Square Jingle, Sunday 12/7: Head to Union Square from 1 to 6 p.m., shop, sip, follow the Festus Trail, enjoy window displays and holiday lights, pose with crazy inflatables, vie for prizes, take Ellie Selfies, and more. More at unionsquare-main.org/events

“Somerville’s small businesses are the heart of our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “When you shop small, you’re investing in community jobs, supporting local families, and strengthening the places that make Somerville feel like home.”

The Loyal to Local campaign, led by the City’s Economic Development and Communications teams aims to uplift the small businesses that fuel Somerville’s economy, preserve its unique character, and keep its commercial districts vibrant year-round.

Medford Swears In City’s Newest Firefighter

On Tuesday, Medford officially swore in the newest member of the Medford Fire Department, Ian McCourt.

Ian recently graduated from the academy and is now ready to serve our Medford with integrity and professionalism.

Congratulations Ian and thank you for your service to our community!



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Somerville/Medford Remembering Robert W. Boudreau



Robert W. Boudreau Obituary
Robert “Red” W. Boudreau, a resident of Hallandale Beach, FL and formerly of Medford, MA, passed away peacefully

on December 3, 2025. Robert was born on May 25, 1937, in Boston, MA, one of six children of Charles and Catherine (Murphy) Boudreau.

Robert proudly served in the United States Army, stationed in Korea in the weapon infantry division. An experience that shaped his strength, resilience, and deep sense of responsibility. Following his service, he built a long and respected career as a sheet metal worker with Local 17, where he was known for his craftsmanship and loyalty to his trade.

Red is survived by his loving

children, Robert and Kathy Boudreau, Renée and Steven Hurley, and Rachelle and Mark Klingler. He is also survived by his two sisters, Lorraine Fairfield and Dolly Boudreau, the last surviving siblings of the six Boudreau children. Red will be remembered with love by his grandchildren, Madison and Daniel Hurley, step-grandchildren, Thomas and Michael Hurley, as well as several nieces and nephews.

He remained forever grateful for the community and extended family he found at Angels on the Ocean, Seaside Senior Living, and his friends at

GS Hallandale.

A lifelong sports fan, Red followed every New England team with enthusiasm. He cherished his physical therapy sessions and was a devoted car enthusiast who never missed an opportunity to talk shop about antique cars.

Red’s steady presence, quiet humor, and dedication to his family and friends will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Services will be held Thursday, December 11, 2025 at DeVito Funeral Home in Arlington, MA. Viewing from

9:30-11:30am, Funeral Home Prayer Service at 11:30am, and luncheon to follow.

He will be honored with a Military Burial at Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA on Friday, December 12, 2025 at 12:30pm. Due to Cemetery regulations, please omit Flowers. If desired donations in Red’s memory may be made to ,The Wounded Warrior Project.

GIVE VETERANS AN EXTRA 5 POINTS ON TEACHER LICENSING EXAMS (H 570)

By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would give veterans an extra 5 points

on the education licensing exam which must be taken by anyone applying for a teacher’s license.

“[The bill] recognizes the

leadership, discipline and real-world experience veterans bring to our classrooms and helps remove barriers as they transition into civilian careers, all

while strengthening our pipeline of qualified teachers,” said sponsor Rep. Michael Finn (D- West Springfield.)

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STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VICTIMS OF ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES (H 4676)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a measure that would exempt situations when a person contracts a latent disease from asbestos-related or other toxic material exposure arising from property improvements, from the current statute of limitations, which limits the time period during which the person

can file a lawsuit.

Under current law, actions are subject to a 3-year limitation and a 6-year statute of repose. That means that tort actions arising from improvements to real property must be brought within 3 years from when the cause of actions accrues, but, in any event, not more than 6 years after the improvement has

been completed.

“This bill will move us in line with a majority of states that have protection in place for such victims of latent diseases,” said sponsor Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). “It will remove the statute of repose on tort claims arising from latent diseases, while also applying retroactively to allow any person

who has been affected prior to enactment to bring an action to recover damages. The state’s Supreme Judicial Court has encouraged us to do so by stating the following in its opinion: “The plaintiffs point out that a number of other state legislatures have effectively exempted asbestos-related illnesses from their respective statutes of repose concerning improvements

to real property. We encourage our Legislature to consider doing the same should it determine that such an exception is consonant with the commonwealth’s public policy.”

BAN HOSTILE ARCHITECTURE THAT TARGETS THE HOMELESS (H 3307)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would prohibit the state, the MBTA and cities and towns from constructing “hostile architecture” that supporters of the ban say targets the homeless and tries to push them out of certain areas. The bill defines hostile architecture as “any building or structure that is designed or intended to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or

structure at street level.”

“Public space should be for people to use and enjoy, and constructing public spaces that are hostile to people experiencing homelessness doesn’t actually address the causes of homelessness,” said sponsor Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge). “Instead of pushing homelessness further into the shadows, we need a comprehensive solution to homelessness that includes a right to housing.”

Supporters say that family homelessness in Greater Boston has doubled over the last decade, shelters are overcrowded and waiting lists for affordable housing are in the tens of thousands. They note that policies that sterilize the homelessness crisis in public spaces are not only inhumane, but they also only serve to mask the problem.

According to Robert Rosenberger, an associate professor of

philosophy at Georgia Institute of Technology, who has studied and written extensively on the subject, hostile architecture includes armrests that divide benches so that the bench is not long enough to sleep on, sprinklers that are turned on at night and certain trash cans. “Garbage cans ... serve several functions for people living unhoused,” said Rosenberger. “Some people use garbage cans as a source of recyclable materials [which] can often be exchanged for a small

sum of money. Garbage cans are also sometimes approached as a source of discarded food.” He notes that many newer garbage cans are built so that people cannot reach inside them to obtain recycled bottles or cans or leftover food.”

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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 «

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☐ 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

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Reminder: Deadline for Yard Waste Pickup is Next Week, Dec. 8-12



SOMERVILLE – The Somerville Department of Public Works (DPW) wishes to remind residents that the final days for yard waste collection this season are next week

from Monday to Friday, December 8-12, 2025. Yard waste can be left out for pickup by DPW on residents' scheduled trash collection days. Please note: yard waste cannot

be collected if it is put in plastic bags.

DPW collection of these materials will resume in Spring 2026 as per the usual seasonal cycle. To

learn more, please visit somervillema.gov/trash or call 311 (617-666-3311).

ESTABLISH MINIMUM PAY FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS (H 580)

By Bob Katzen

The Education Committee's hearing also included legislation that would require public schools to pay substitute teachers 85 percent of what schools pay a beginning teacher who holds a bachelor's degree; or the state's current \$15

per hour minimum wage – whichever is greater.

The salary of the substitute teacher would be calculated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, using the latest data available. The bill would not apply to substitute teachers rep-

resented in a bargaining unit in the school district which employs them.

Supporters say that schools need quality substitute teachers to operate. They argue that substitute teachers are underpaid despite serving an important purpose in elemen-

tary and secondary school across the state.

The sponsor of the measure is Rep. Bill Galvin (D-Canton), who was first elected to the House in 1990 and is now serving his 36th year in the House. He did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon

Hill Roll Call asking him why he filed the bill and why he wants the Legislature to approve it.

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Community Invited to Somerville 2025 Holiday Celebrations



Annual Christmas tree (12/4) and menorah (12/15) lightings; Grand Union Flag Raising (1/1); Join in or embark on a self-guided Illuminations tour, and... Don't forget the annual Holiday Gift Drive

SOMERVILLE—"Tis the season for community cheer. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council (SAC)

invite the Somerville community to join in the City's 2025 holiday celebrations. Once again, the City Hall concourse will be aglow with festive Christmas tree and menorah lighting events that will include snacks, refreshments, entertainment, and gifts for children.

Community members are also invited to experience sparkling holiday displays created by their neighbors when they embark on a self-guided Illuminations tour. Start the year off with the annual Grand Union Flag Raising on New Years Day. Gift donations are also welcome for the City's annual support of local Holiday Gift Drives. More details about each event and opportunity are below.

Christmas Tree Lighting
Date: Thursday, December 4,

2025 (Rain date: December 9)
Start Time: 5 p.m.
Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)
Activities: Music, treats, Christmas tree lighting, children's gifts, and Santa's grand entrance on a shiny red fire truck followed by visits and photos with Santa.

Menorah Lighting
Date: Monday, December 15, 2025 (Rain date: December 16)
Start Time: 6 p.m.
Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)
Activities: Music, words, treats, Menorah lighting, and gifts for children.

Holiday Gift Drives
Each December, the City celebrates the season of giving by supporting local holiday gift drives. Check back soon on the City website (somervillema.

gov/news) or sign up for the City e-newsletter at <http://www.somervillema.gov/subscribe> for coming details on how you can contribute.

Illuminations Tour
Dates: December 12, 2025-January 12, 2026
o Showcase your creativity and add your home or business to the online Illuminations map by Thursday, December 11 (somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminations-submit-a-listing)
o Take a self-guided tour using the published map starting Friday, December 12
o Join the Illuminations bike tour on Sunday, December 13 (rain date: December 14) at 5:45 p.m. Meet in front of City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
Visit somervilleartscouncil.org/events/illuminations2025 to access the map and for more

information.

Grand Union Flag Raising
Each year on New Year's Day, the City's annual Grand Union Flag Raising at Prospect Hill commemorates the raising of the nation's first official flag by George Washington and his troops during the American Revolution. Watch for more details to come, but mark your calendar now for this event that connects us to our local and national history.

For more information on the City's holiday events, please call 311 (617-666-3311 from outside the City). For more information on the SAC Illuminations Tour, please contact 311 or email imenjivar@somervillema.gov.

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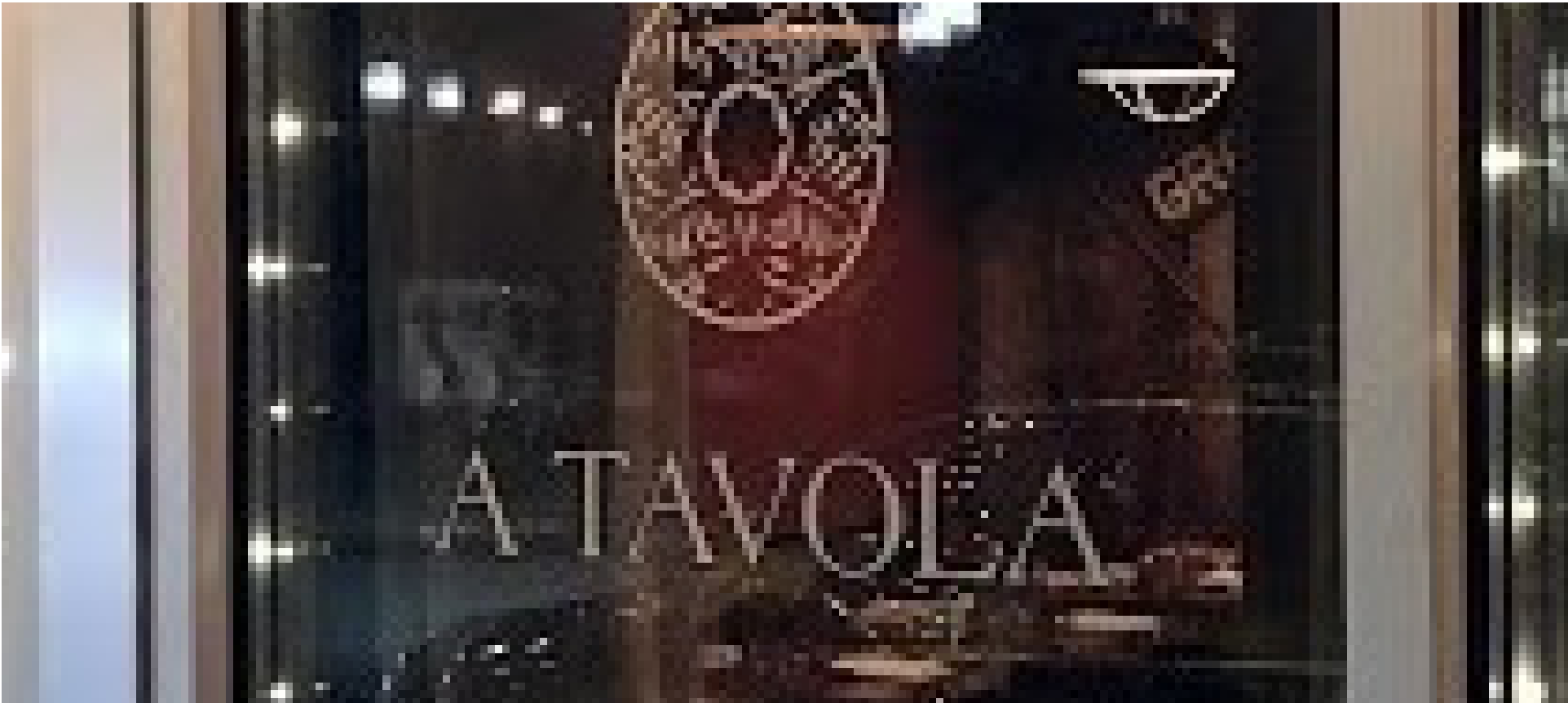
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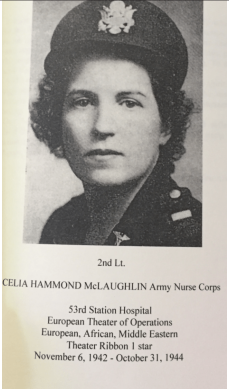
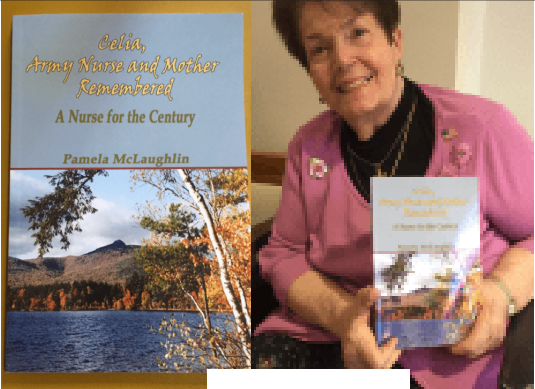


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