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VOL.1 NO.329-2979

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday February 10th, 2026

## Unraveling the Past: The Mob Link Between Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell's Father and Hitman Johnny Martorano



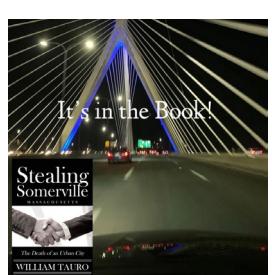
NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Continued to page 13



Somerville Police  
Real Life Somerville  
Police Stories Page



Continued to page 5



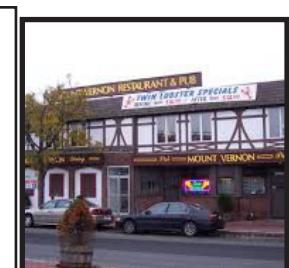
Continued to page 20



### MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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

Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!

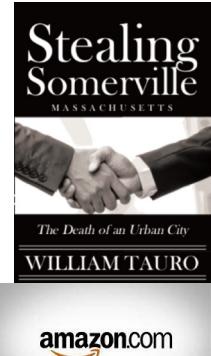


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## BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES/ COMMONWEALTH REAL ESTATE

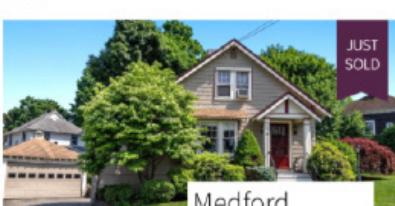
### MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

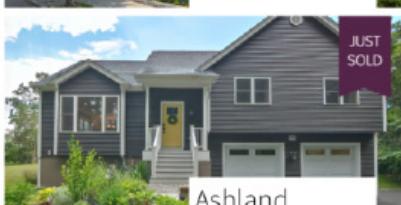
**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY** | Commonwealth  
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Malden



Medford



Ashland



Westwood

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

Helen Praysman Broker Associate REALTOR®  
(617) 610-5382 [Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com](mailto:Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com)

Patricia Ng Broker Associate  
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Winner of the 2019 President Circle Award  
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## Become A Medford Police Officer



In January 2025, the Civil Service introduced a new 'Hybrid Hiring Model' for departments under its purview. This model offers two distinct pathways to become an entry-level police officer:

1. Civil Service Exam Route: The first step in this pathway is taking the Massachusetts Civil Service Exam, which is now offered twice a year. Applications are NOW OPEN for the spring 2026 police officer entrance exam. Deadline to apply is February 2, 2026.

2. Getbadged Route: Apply directly through GetBadged.com. Visit GetBadged.com, create an account, and select your preferred exam date. This is on-going.

For more details and the next steps in the new hiring process, please visit our website at [medfordpolice.com/becomeapoliceofficer](http://medfordpolice.com/becomeapoliceofficer).

### Medford High School Softball Sponsor Packages 2023

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Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make all checks payable to: MHS Varsity Softball

Please send both forms and payment to:

Medford High School  
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489 Winthrop Street  
Medford, MA 02155

If you have any questions email us at [MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com](mailto:MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com)  
MHS Varsity Softball is a non profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.  
Tax ID 04-6001100

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

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## Somerville/Medford Remembering Patrick Barry



### Obituary

Patrick Barry — A lifelong resident of Somerville, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, February 8, 2026. He was 70 years old.

Born in Boston and raised in Somerville, Patrick was the beloved son of the late Francis J. and Frances L. (Ross) Barry.

Patrick's greatest joy was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Watching them grow, achieve, and accomplish their goals filled him with pride and happiness. Family truly meant everything to him.

Patrick loved all things sports, from baseball to

football, but he had a special passion for softball. He also enjoyed testing his luck betting on the horses and never missed the chance to talk about a good race. He was also the proud and devoted grandfather to Tank, whom he adored.

Beloved father of Patrick Barry and his fiancé Heidi Donovan, Dawn Barry and Kristen Cabral. Devoted grandfather of Jaclyn Barry, Mikayla Barry, Katelyn Cabral and

Alex Cabral. Cherished brother of Linda Mele and her husband Joe. Thomas Barry and his wife Dolly, Michael Barry, Phillip Barry, Paul Barry and his wife Sue, Dave Barry and the late Susan Foster, and Marc Barry and his surviving wife Marie. He is also lovingly survived by many nieces, nephews, friends and extended family members.

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

way (Powder House Sq.) on Friday, February 13th from 3:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

A prayer service will be held in the funeral home at 6:30PM.

Interment will be private

## Somerville/Medford Remembering Kevin F. Murphy



### Obituary

Kevin F. Murphy, of Arlington, passed away on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026, he was 69. Born in Arlington and raised in Somerville, Kevin was one of eight children born to the late

Betty (Davenport) and Timothy Murphy.

He was exceptionally bright, earning himself a full scholarship to Tufts University, where he ultimately decided college wasn't for him. A hard worker, Kevin stepped into many roles in his time; cab driver, parts courier, and among his favorites, a helper at The Pub on either side of the bar.

His most cherished roles were as the beloved husband of 38 years to Kathleen "Kathy" (Cody) Murphy, with whom he raised their family in Arlington,

and devoted father of Kyle Murphy, Kayla Murphy and her fiancé Gianni Dorato and Kara Murphy, all of Arlington.

Dear brother of Dennis Murphy and his wife Rosanne, Timothy "Pat" Murphy, both of Somerville, Thomas Murphy and his wife Kathy of Florida, John Murphy and his wife Carrie of Arlington, Eileen Murphy Morrill and her husband Bruce of Cape Cod, Maureen Arsenault and her husband Mark of Medford and Michael Murphy of Somerville. Uncle to many loved nieces and nephews, and Brother-in-law of Robert

Cody, Theresa Largenton and her husband Arthur, Michael Cody and his wife Diane, John Cody and his wife Todd, and the late Maureen Murphy and Karen Cody.

Kevin was loved and respected by the world at large. He touched countless lives, leaving behind many dear friends in and out of Somerville. Kevin could more than often be found at The Pub enjoying a few cold Budweisers, queuing up songs on the TouchTunes, reading the paper and trying his luck at Keno. Outside of the city he enjoyed spending time in a place he so

loved, Long Island, Maine, and most importantly, with his family. He will be sorely missed by all.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Sunday, February 15th from 2:00PM – 5:00PM with a Prayer Service beginning at 4:30PM. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment will be private.

There will be a Celebration of Kevin's Life at The Pub on Sunday, March 1st beginning at 1pm.

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## Somerville Emergency Management Introduces Preparedness and Resiliency Community Education Program



First two sessions scheduled for February 18 at the Council on Aging, February 19 at the Central Library

SOMERVILLE— Ever wondered what to include in an emergency kit; how to help your children understand what to do in an emergency; or how you can prepare for extended power outages? These topics and more

are subjects of a new training series offered by Somerville's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The Preparedness and Resiliency Through Neighborhood Engagement and Readiness (PARTNER) Program is open to all community members and is free to attend.

"Preparing for emergencies and disasters can seem like a big undertaking and might be worrisome to have to think about, but it's important to be as ready as we can be for the unexpected," said OEM Director Bill Fisher. "The PARTNER Program is designed to make it easy for residents, businesses, nonprofits, and vulnerable populations to build skills and confidence in their own emergency prepared-

ness."

The PARTNER Program will launch in February with two workshops and then continue over the coming months. The first PARTNER workshop, open to seniors, will take place on Wednesday, February 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Council on Aging (167 Holland St.), with a focus on the importance of emergency contact information cards and creating an emergency kit. A second February workshop, open to the general public, will be held on Thursday, February 19, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Somerville's Central Library (79 Highland Ave.), and will focus on preparing yourself and your family for the unexpected.

Other planned topics throughout the year include family emergency plans, preparedness for older adults and homebound residents, extreme heat, cold weather, power outages, and more. Have a topic you'd like to learn about? You can email OEM@somervillema.gov with your suggestions.

All workshops are one hour and free to attend. Registration is not required. Community members can attend just one, two, or several sessions throughout the year. Additional scheduled dates for 2026 (subject to change) include:

Thursday, March 5, at Somerville Public Library's West Branch

Wednesday, May 27, at the

Council on Aging (open to seniors)

Thursday, June 25, at Somerville Public Library's West Branch

Thursday, July 23, at Somerville's Central Library

Wednesday, August 26, at the Council on Aging (open to seniors)

Thursday, October 8, at Somerville's Central Library

Thursday, November 12, at Somerville Public Library's West Branch

Wednesday, November 18, at the Council on Aging (open to seniors)

To view session topics, times, and locations as they are confirmed, visit [somervillema.gov/oem](http://somervillema.gov/oem) or [somervillema.gov/events](http://somervillema.gov/events).

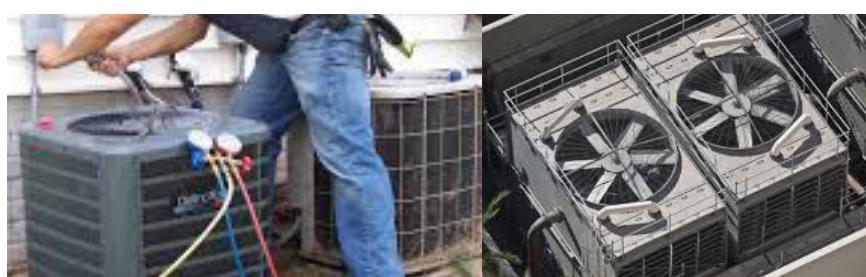


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## THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

By Bob Katzen

"Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim Friday, February 6th through Sunday, February 8th, 2026 to be New England Patriots Appreciation Weekend."

—Gov. Maura Healey in an official proclamation to celebrate the Patriots playing in the Super Bowl.

"We're building a mass movement here in Massachusetts — one that

shows up in the streets, not only at the ballot box. This official recognition gives working people a political home, and it's just the beginning. Leading up to November and beyond, Joe Tache's U.S. Senate campaign will show Massachusetts what a working-class party looks like in action."

—Ben Gaudiosi, spokesperson for the Party for Socialism and Liberation, announcing that the party has officially been recognized as a political designation in Massachusetts.

"At a time when so many families are struggling to put food on the table, it is an outrage to hear that taxpayer dollars meant to support such a vital safety net program are going to individuals who don't qualify for or deserve assistance. Even more disturbing is how lackadaisical the Healey Administration's response has been since it learned of this scheme."

—House GOP Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading) on U.S.

Attorney for Massachusetts Leah Foley announcing charges against four Massachusetts residents for SNAP fraud.

"Cultural districts not only draw people in, but they also create the conditions for communities to thrive. Through the Massachusetts Cultural Districts Initiative, we recognize the essential role these districts play in strengthening local economies, animating public spaces and creating places where people feel connected, welcome

and inspired."

—David Slatery, Acting Executive Director of the Mass Cultural Council, announcing an \$870,000 grant that will award 58 state-designated cultural districts with a \$15,000 grant in support of local entities that galvanize economic activity and expand access to arts and culture in communities across the state.



## 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.

Best of luck and we can't wait to see all the good things that you will bring to the VFW under your guidance and leadership!

For new membership call (781)395-2519



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

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

State of A Tavola:

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

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

for any and all details.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



## Join the Somerville Condominium Review Board Apply by February 18

SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is seeking two new members to join the Somerville Condominium Review Board (CRB). Vacancies consist of one full member and one alternate member.

What is the Condominium Review Board?  
The CRB is responsible for administering the City's Condominium Conversion Ordinance. The ordinance governs the process

for property owners who intend to convert existing rental units into condominiums for sale, or who wish to make substantial updates to existing rental units. The CRB consists of five full members and one alternate member, who serves as needed.

Who Can Join?  
Somerville tenants are eligible for the full member vacancy. Somerville homeowners and tenants are welcome to apply for the alternate member vacancy.

What is the Time Commitment?  
The CRB typically meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. In addition to monthly meetings, members are expected to review meeting materials ahead of time, for an average time commitment of 5 to 7 hours per month. CRB members serve three-year terms.

What is the Appointment Process?  
All members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Somer-

ville City Council. Appointments include a monthly stipend of \$300.

How Do I Apply?  
Applications are due by Wednesday, February 18, and must include a resume and cover letter.

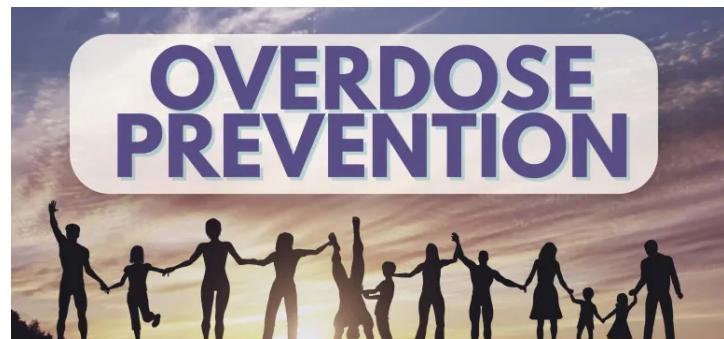
Where to Apply:  
Applications can be sent via email or U.S. Mail to:  
Email: [condoboard@somervillema.gov](mailto:condoboard@somervillema.gov)  
Mail: Attn: Ben Wyner, CRB Interim Staff Liaison, City of Somer-

ville, 50 Evergreen Ave., 1st Floor, Somerville, MA 02145

For questions or more information, email [condoboard@somervillema.gov](mailto:condoboard@somervillema.gov) or contact Ben Wyner at 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 or call 311 (617-666-311 outside of Somerville).

Stay Connected:  
Want to learn about roles open on other commissions or more ways to engage? Visit [somervillema.gov/BeSomerville](http://somervillema.gov/BeSomerville).

## OVERDOSE PREVENTION IN SOMERVILLE



Individuals and families across Somerville have been impacted by the opiate epidemic. To help address this public health challenge the Somerville Lions would like to invite the public to an Overdose Prevention Training on February 3rd at 6:15 pm at 9 New Washington Street.

At this training attendees will learn how to identify the signs of an overdose and will learn how to administer narcan. Please contact club VP Liam Seward at 617-821-9529 if you are interested in attending.



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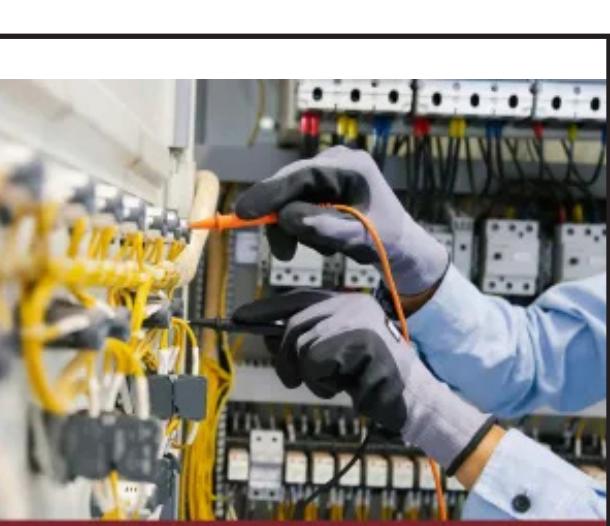
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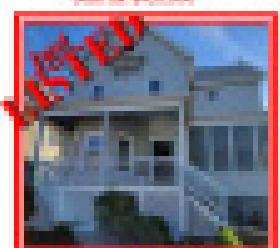
31 Lily Street, Somerville  
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37 Holyoke Road, Somerville  
Sale Price \$145,000, Sale Date 1/1/2017



102 Powder House Blvd, Somerville  
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47 Clarendon Street, Somerville  
Sale Price \$110,000, Sale Date 1/1/2017



142 Elm Street, Somerville  
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Out dosage continued from page 2



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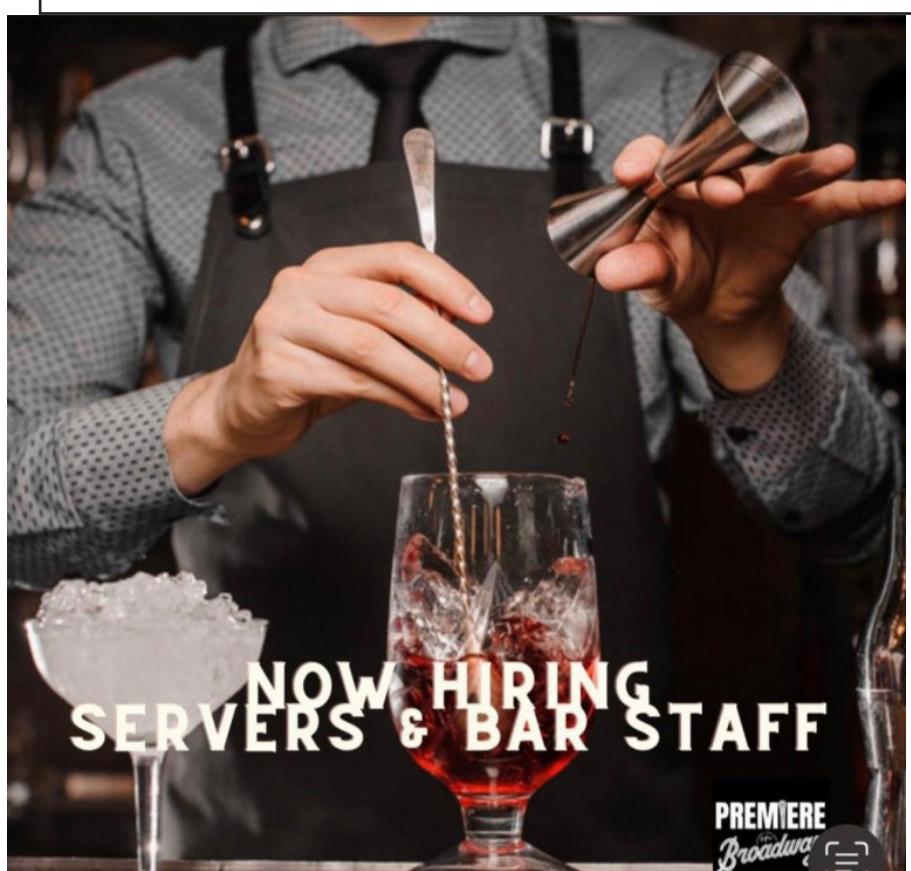
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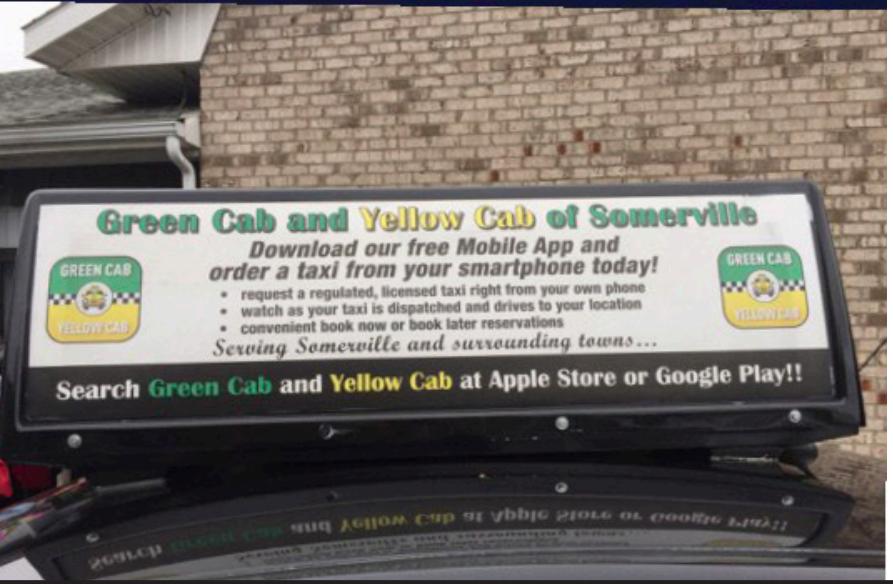
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## Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Fraudulent and Inaccurate Somerville Water Bills

By William Tauro

We are looking for residents interested to being part of a class action lawsuit to help Somerville home owners, property owners, residents and tenants to obtain the justice they deserve after being victims of fraudulent and/or inaccurate outrageously high water bills caused by faulty water meters and

inaccurate readings.

All contacts and information will remain confidential.

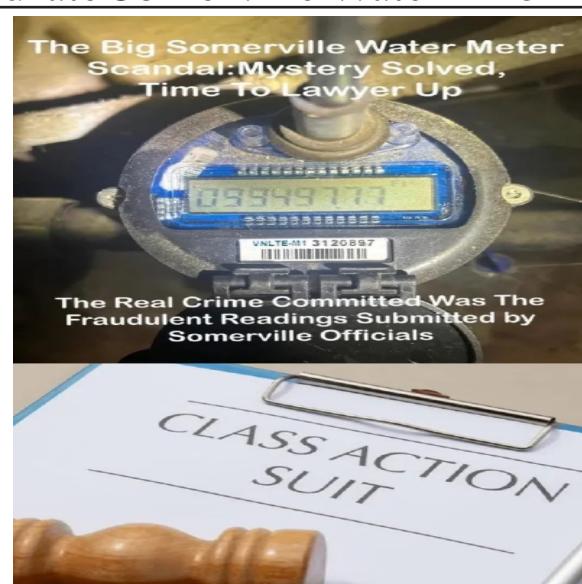
Send to email : Wmtauro@aol.com  
or

Inbox me

(Please DO NOT post any contact information in the comments area)

Please include your full name that the bill is in, your address, phone number and email address and we will contact you.

Please feel free to message me or email me at Wmtauro@aol.com with any inquiries about joining the list of potential plaintiffs in this class action lawsuit.



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## 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!



## LOCKSMITHS (H 1562)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to legislation that would require any locksmith hired by a tenant to change locks on a rental property, to make a good faith effort to determine whether a landlord has received notice of the request. The locksmith would also be required to determine

if the rental agreement requires that the owner retain a key to the leased residential premises; and if so, the locksmith would be required to make a good faith effort to provide a key to the new locks to the owner within two business days of the locks being changed.

Supporters said that in the event of a fire, a bursting

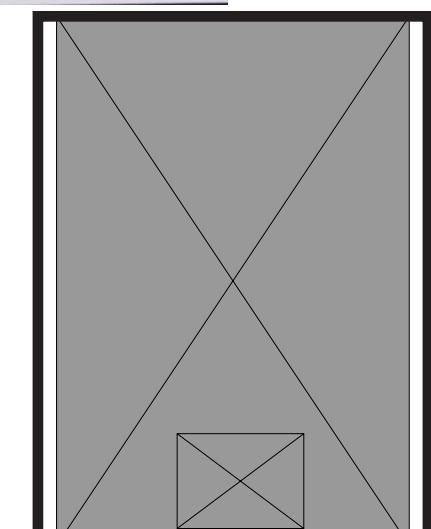
pipe or a gas leak, seconds matter. If a landlord has an old key that no longer works, they may have to break down a door to prevent property damage or save lives.

"This issue was called to my attention by a Franklin landlord who was locked out of her property after the tenant had the locks changed,"

said sponsor Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). "This legislation ensures that a landlord's fundamental right to emergency access and property oversight is protected by requiring locksmiths to verify notice before altering a rental unit. By mandating that owners receive a duplicate key within two business days, the bill prevents dangerous delays during

maintenance crises or life-safety emergencies. Ultimately, it fosters transparency between tenants and owners while preserving the integrity of the lease agreement and the security of the physical asset."

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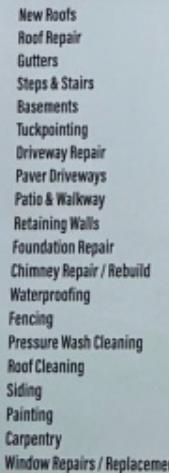







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## PROTECT PETS DURING EMERGENCIES (H 1559)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would make major changes in laws about pets in homes, apartments, hotels and shelters across the state during a state of emergency to allow owners of pets to remain safely housed and not be formally removed from housing due to their pets.

The bill would prohibit a landlord from "initiating action to evict any person

from a residential dwelling unit who has a pet without written permission based solely on the presence of the pet until one year after a state of emergency, unless the presence of pets is causing harm to the safety of other residents."

Other provisions include prohibiting a hotel from unreasonably refusing to allow pets into a hotel during a state of emergency, unless the pet has demonstrated noise and safety concerns; prohibiting condominium associa-

tions from discriminating against owners or renters by banning certain types of dogs based on breed, size, weight or appearance; establishing a program of pet ownership by residents of state-aided public housing; allowing landlords to require a tenant to pay additional rent for "common household pets" but limiting the amount of the additional rent charged for each household pet to not more than 1 percent of the first full month's rent charged to the tenant; prohibiting landlords from charging ad-

ditional rent for a service or assistance animal required by a tenant with a disability as a reasonable accommodation under state or federal law; and prohibiting an insurance company from refusing to offer or renew insurance to homeowners or renters or from imposing an increased premium or rate of a policy based on a specific breed of dog owned on the property.

Supporters say that pets are very important to their owners and argue that these new laws would be fair to the pets,

owners and landlords while also protecting public safety.

Reps. Dave Rogers (D-Cambridge) and Samantha Montaño (D-Boston), co-sponsors of the proposal, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on the bill and its passage.



## Unraveling the Past: The Mob Link Between Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell's Father and Hitman Johnny Martorano



By William Tauro

Andrea Campbell serves as Massachusetts' Attorney General, a trailblazing figure who became the first Black woman to hold the position in 2023. Her journey to public office is marked by personal resilience, shaped in part by a challenging family history tied to Boston's criminal underbelly during the 1960s.

Campbell's father, Alvin Campbell, was part of

a notorious sibling pair known as the Campbell brothers, alongside his brother Arnold. Active in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, they were implicated in various illicit activities, including a high-profile 1968 shooting that left three people dead and two injured at the offices of a community organization called N.E.G.R.O. This group, ostensibly focused on grassroots initiatives, was allegedly a cover for schemes involving government funds for

job training programs. The brothers, along with associate Dennis "Deke" Chandler, faced charges for the attack, which stemmed from disputes over misappropriated federal subsidies.

The case hinged on testimony from survivor Ronald Hicks, who identified the Campbells and Chandler as the perpetrators. However, in a twist that derailed the prosecution, Hicks was found shot dead in his vehicle in March

1969, just before the trial. Years later, Johnny Martorano—a feared enforcer for the Winter Hill Gang and admitted perpetrator of multiple homicides—confessed to carrying out the killing. His motive: to eliminate Hicks and shield the Campbell brothers from conviction. This act allowed Alvin and Arnold to walk free after their acquittal in June 1969.

Born in 1982, Andrea Campbell navigated the repercussions of her

father's repeated imprisonments and the early loss of her mother in a car accident. Despite these hardships, she pursued education and a legal career, transforming personal adversity into a commitment to justice reform. The entanglement between her father and Martorano highlights the enduring shadows of Boston's mob era, contrasting sharply with Campbell's own path of public service and advocacy.

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## Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: MILLIE THE BRAVE Fire Dog by Day, Heart Healer by Night

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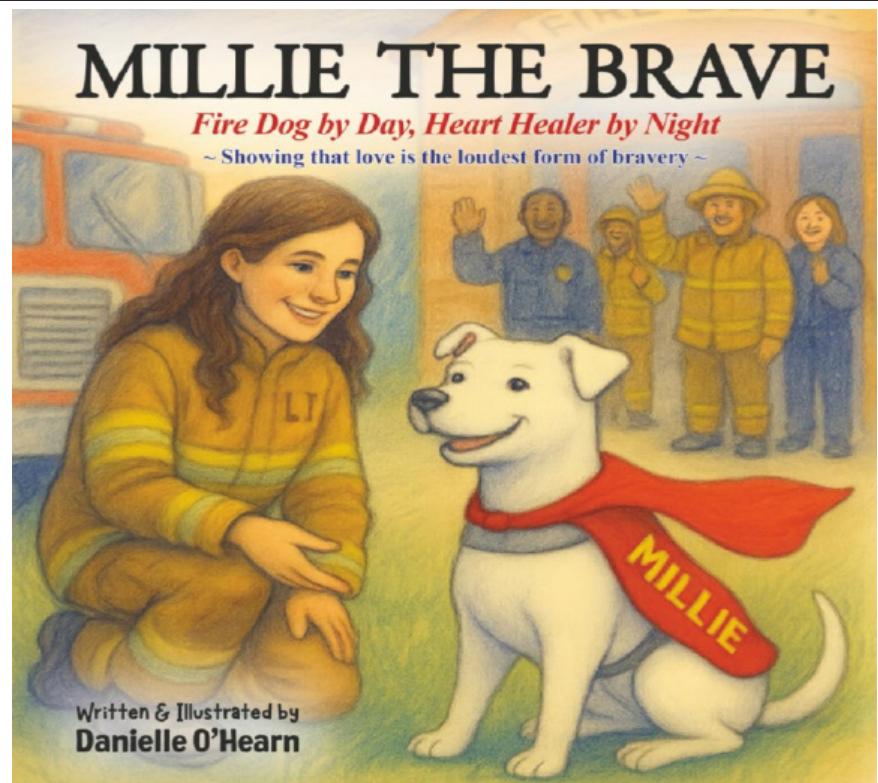
Hey Billy

My name is Danielle we've met a few  
times before, I'm a firefighter in Somer-  
ville. 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 be-  
ing 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

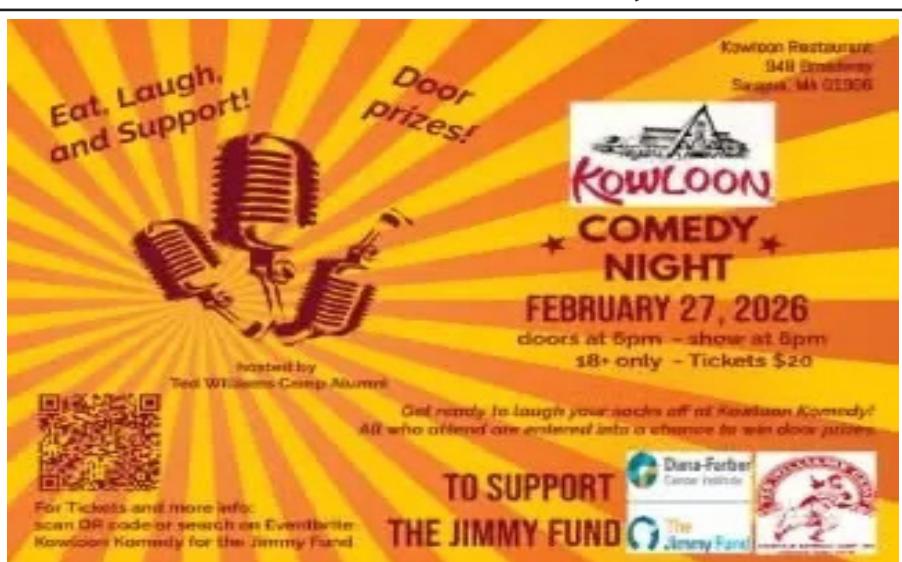
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## KOWLOON COMEDY NIGHT FEBRUARY 27, 2026

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raising money for the Jimmy Fund, and  
have been for many years to help strike  
out cancer in Children & Adults.

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laughs, great food and giving away great  
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## HOME REPAIRS (H 1271)

By Bob Katzen

The House gave initial approval to a measure that would prohibit homeowner insurance companies from including in a policy a provision requiring an insured homeowner to

complete a repair prior to the release of funds estimated by the insurer for the cost of repair.

Supporters said that this is a pro-consumer bill that will help homeowners because many insurance

companies pay the claim in stages, not all at once. They noted that some homeowners are required to pay the repair company faster than the insurance company pays the homeowner and cannot afford to pay the repair

company out of their own pocket and then wait for the insurance company to reimburse them.

Rep. Jim Murphy (D-Weymouth), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests from

Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on the bill and its passage.

## Somerville Hosting Valentine's-Themed Community Resources Fair on Feb. 17

SOMERVILLE – Roses are red, violets are blue—Somerville's got free STI tests (and pizza) for you. On February 17, Somerville's Department of Health and Human Ser-

vices, in partnership with the Cambridge Health Alliance, is hosting an all-ages Valentine's-themed community resource fair on Tuesday, February 17, at the Central Library (79

Highland Ave.) from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Come for a free sexually transmitted infection (STI) test, and stay for free pizza, Valentine's Day

crafts, and to learn about City resources to help you stay supported and safe year-round.

To learn more, visit [somervillema.gov/calen-](http://somervillema.gov/calend)

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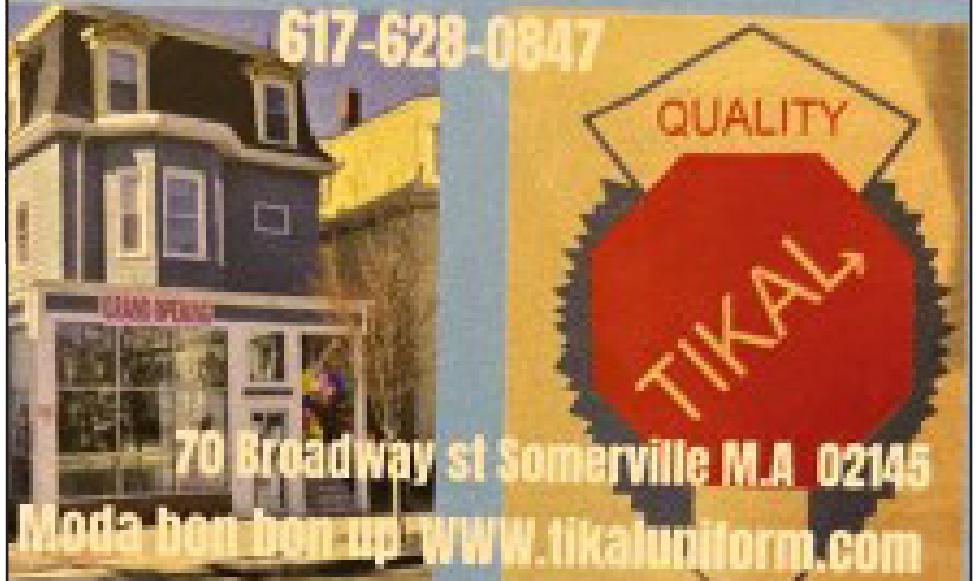
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## Applications Now Open for Three Income-Restricted Rental Units at Two Properties



### Applications Now Open for Three Income-Restricted Rental Units at Two Properties

SOMERVILLE – Applications for three income-restricted rental units in Somerville are now open. Maloney Properties in partnership with the City of Somerville has three studio income-restricted apartments

available across two properties: The Guild (154 Broadway) in East Somerville and Prospect Union Square (50 Prospect Street). Apply now through Friday, February 6.

As is standard, units were first offered via Somerville's Consolidated Rental Waitlist before being opened to all eligible applicants making at or below 110% of Area Median Income (AMI). All income-eligible households as well as mobile voucher holders are now welcome to apply. This is a first-come, first-served opportunity. Apply for these units online at: [bit.ly/4rdwfMj](http://bit.ly/4rdwfMj).

Being on the Consolidated Rental Waitlist can make it easier to apply for housing opportunities. To learn more and for future opportunities to

join it, visit [somervillema.gov/consolidated-rental-waitlist](http://somervillema.gov/consolidated-rental-waitlist).

More information on household income limits is below:

2025 Income Limits for 110% AMI units

1 Person

2 People

Minimum

\$92,651

\$105,851

Maximum

\$127,358

\$145,552

Application assistance is available during the Inclusionary

Housing Program's virtual office hours every Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom: [bit.ly/3LJiN3w](http://bit.ly/3LJiN3w).

Multilingual resources and application support will be available throughout the application period.

To learn more about Somerville's inclusionary housing and other opportunities, visit [somervillema.gov/inclusionary](http://somervillema.gov/inclusionary). To sign up for updates, click the green box labeled "Affordable Housing Alerts: Sign Up Now."

## Somerville Community Baptist Church Gospel Concert

The Community Gospel Choir will present a free Gospel Concert in honor of Black History Month on Sunday, February 22, 3-5 pm, at the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Av-

enue near Davis Square.

This is a family-friendly event, and all are welcome.



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## Somerville Finalizes New Contract with SMEA Unit D Retroactive raises and benefit updates support a strong City workforce



SOMERVILLE – Somerville has signed a new union agreement that will raise pay and modernize benefits for Unit D employees — from ISD and Parking staff to social workers, specialized Police Department clerical staff, and DPW custodial and facilities supervisors — who keep Somerville's day-to-day services running. The newly signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) covers Fiscal Years 2023 through 2025.

"When City Hall runs well, the whole local economy is stronger," said Mayor Wilson. "That starts with the basics: strong services, a stable workforce, and fair union contracts that help us recruit and retain the people who keep this city moving. I'm grateful to Unit D and our team for the good-faith work that brought us to signing today."

Key provisions include:

3% retroactive cost-of-living adjustments for both FY23 and FY24. One additional week of vacation. Transition to a vacation accrual system, improving consistency and flexibility. Increases to the longevity bonus. Eligibility for the City's new paid FMLA benefit.

View photos of the contract signing with Mayor Wilson and SMEA Unit D [here](#).

As part of the market adjustment, starting rates for FY25 will increase by an average of 13%, while existing employee rates will increase by an average of 14%.

The MOA will now be submitted to the Somerville City Council for funding approval.

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### HOW LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES VOTED IN FEBRUARY 2025, WHEN THE HOUSE REJECTED AN AMENDMENT THAT WOULD ALLOW DIZOGLIO TO AUDIT THE HOUSE (H 2024)

By Bob Katzen

This week, Beacon Hill Roll Call looks back to February 2025 when the House 24-127, three months after voters approved the audit, rejected an amendment that would require DiZoglio to conduct an annual audit of the House. The amendment would replace a current House rule that the state auditor recommends a firm to conduct an annual audit of the House and the business manager of the House would hire that firm.

During debate in February 2025, amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading) argued, "This amendment would honor the will of the voters by allowing the state auditor to conduct these annual audits of the House in compliance with Question 1."

"Every city and town in the commonwealth voted for this question to be the law," said Rep. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica). "Unfortunately, essentially on party lines, the House

Democrats defeated the amendment and once again refused to comply with the will of the voters. Beacon Hill Democrats need to end this inter-governmental feud and finally respect the voters and give them the transparency they demand and deserve."

Rep. Michael Day (D-Stoneham) said this new rule would violate the separation of power in the constitution. He noted that Article 30 says the legislative department shall never exercise the executive and judicial

powers, the executive shall never exercise the legislative and judicial powers, and the judicial shall never exercise the legislative and executive powers.

Day also noted that the House rule that requires the House to hire a firm recommended by the state auditor is sufficient.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment requiring the state auditor to conduct an annual audit. A "No" vote is against the amendment.)

Rep. Christine Barber No  
Rep. Mike Connolly No  
Rep. Paul Donato No  
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven No

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## Join the Community Forum on Somerville's New School Building Project March 3rd



Hear from the Mayor, Superintendent, and project architects about plans for our next new school building and share your perspective SOMERVILLE— The City is planning to build a new school at 115 Sycamore Street. All community members are invited to come learn more about the project and share their perspective at an upcoming community forum on Tuesday, March 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Somerville High School's

Highlander Forum.

During this meeting Mayor Wilson and Superintendent Carmona will share an overview of the project and process moving forward. City staff along with project architects, Perkins Eastman, will also present on the work done so far, share preliminary design options, and discuss next steps.

Following presentations, there will be an opportunity to ask questions followed by space for community members to share their thoughts on how the building can best serve our students as well as express any concerns they might have.

The information and feedback gathered will be used by the City's project team and archi-

tects to help inform preliminary design efforts and work moving forward.

### More About the Community Forum

Time and Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Location: Somerville High School, Highlander Forum, 81 Highland Avenue

Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Nepali, Mandarin, and Cantonese will be available.

### More About the Project

Somerville is building a new school at 115 Sycamore Street and working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to access state funding to help

cover the cost. This new school building will meet a range of Somerville School District needs, and various design options for how to configure quality learning environments within a larger structure are being considered.

To maximize opportunities for our students, the City is working to build a school with the largest possible capacity the state will financially support—approximately 900 students. Overall, the project will deliver the following:

It will provide a new location (projected to be complete by late 2031) for the roughly 450 seats for Winter Hill Community Innovation School students who were displaced when their old school building closed in 2023. Approximately 250 student seats would ultimately be relocated

from the Brown School to the new school building at 115 Sycamore Street no earlier than fall 2032.

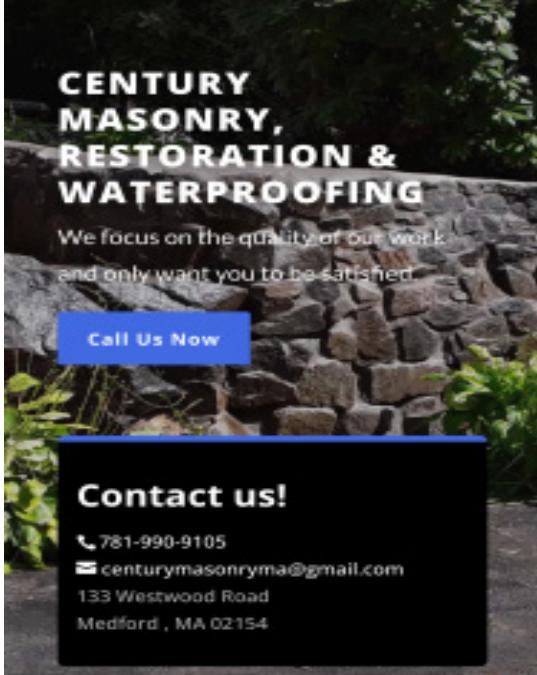
Additional capacity to meet the future needs of approximately 200 students within the school district.

In addition to this community forum, the City, along with project architect Perkins Eastman, will host a series of opportunities for the community to learn more about ongoing preliminary design work, ask questions, and provide design feedback.

Learn more, sign up for a monthly project newsletter, and stay up to date on the project at [somervillema.gov/newschool](http://somervillema.gov/newschool). Email [capitalprojects@somervillema.gov](mailto:capitalprojects@somervillema.gov) or contact 311 with any questions.

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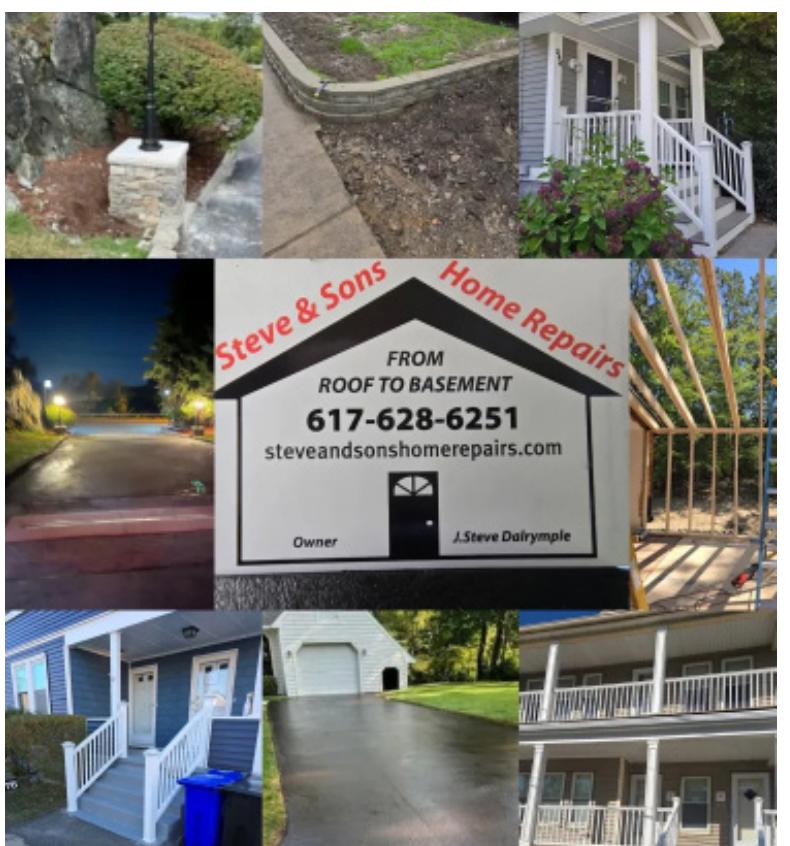
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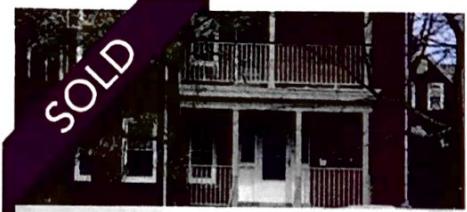
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Harvard Square - 6 Family - \$3.4M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$1.875M



Porter Square - 3 Family - \$2M



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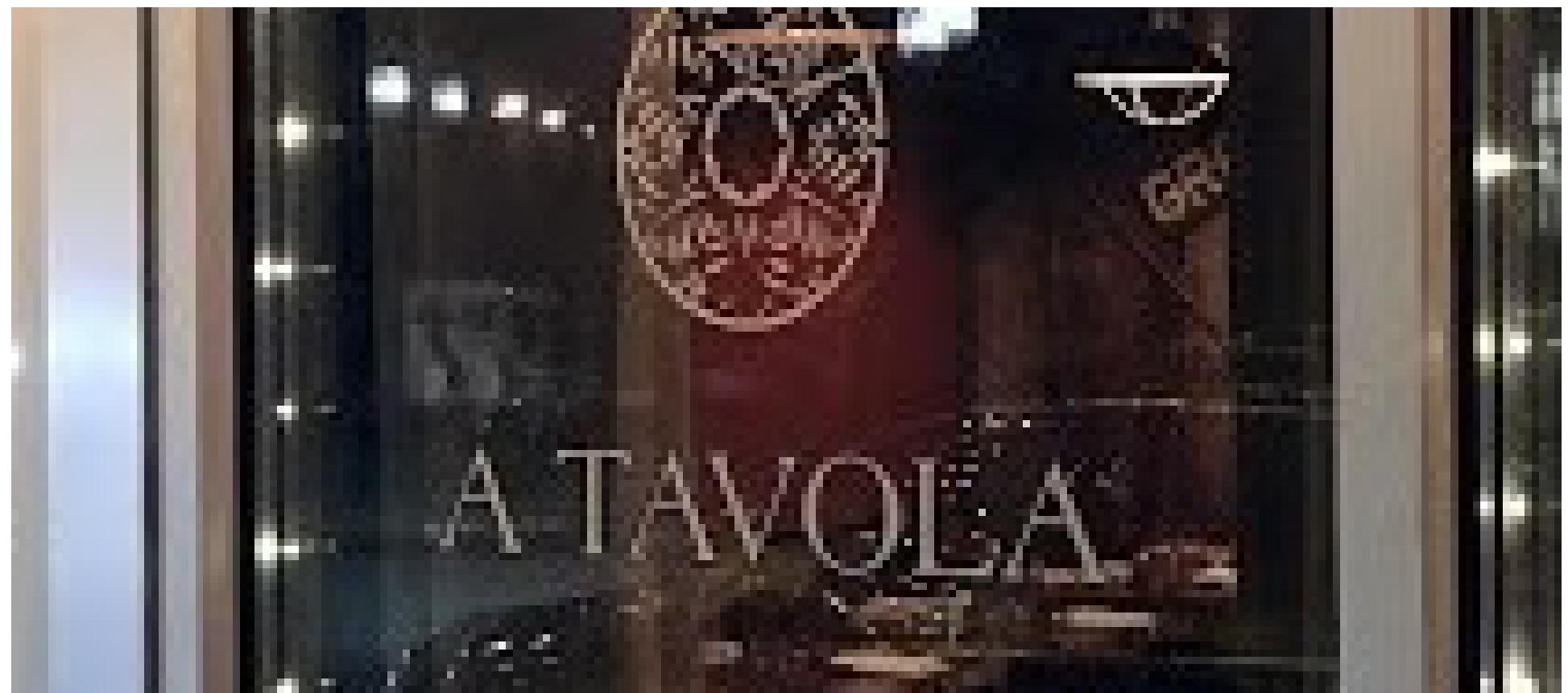
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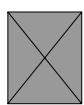
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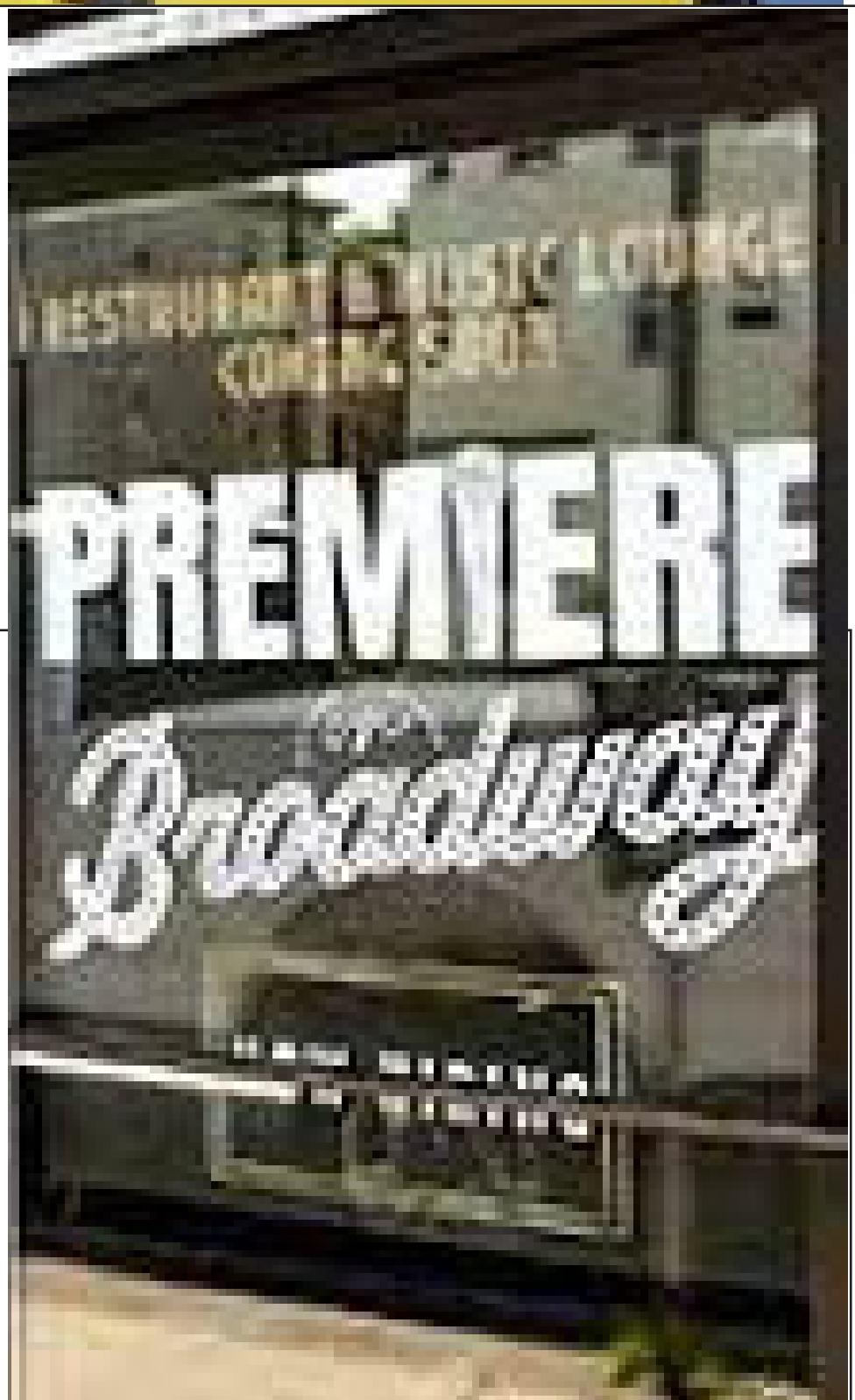
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