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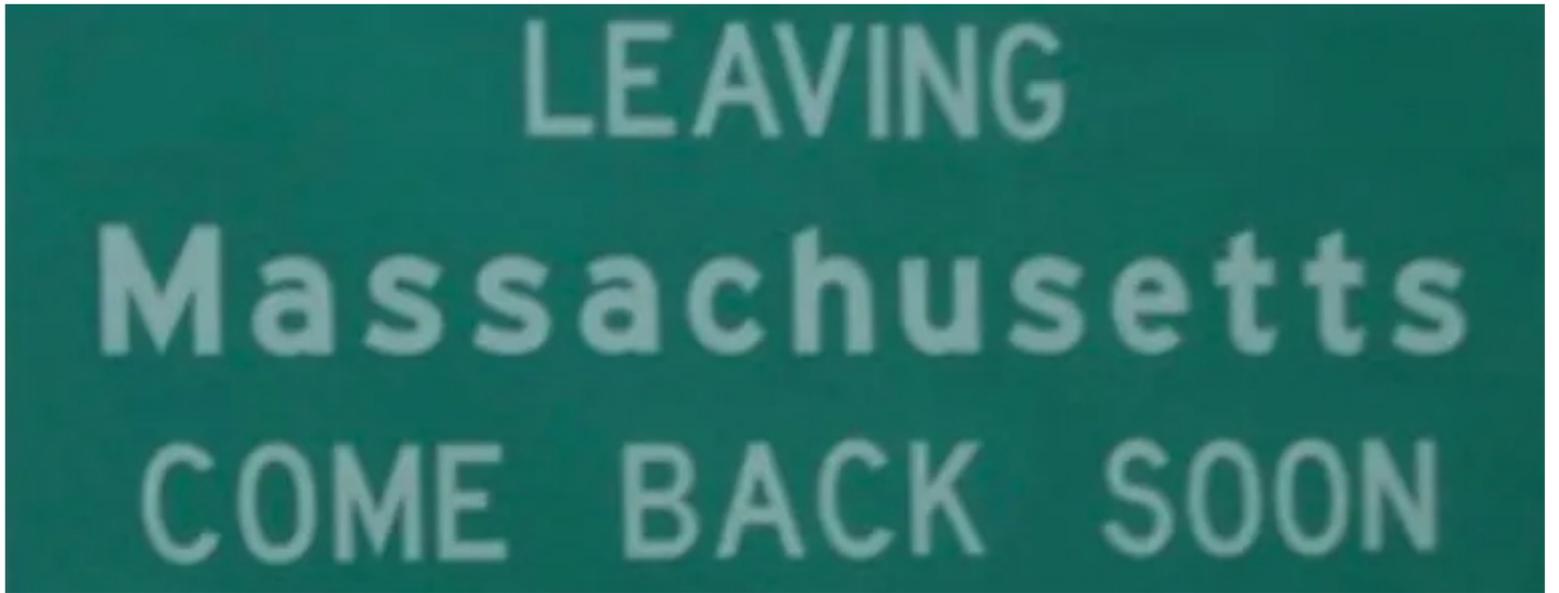
25 Cents

VOL.1 NO.329-2981

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday February 24th, 2026

Why Businesses Are Leaving Massachusetts: Unpacking the Issues and Paths to Improvement



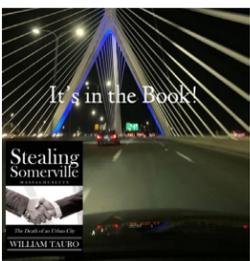
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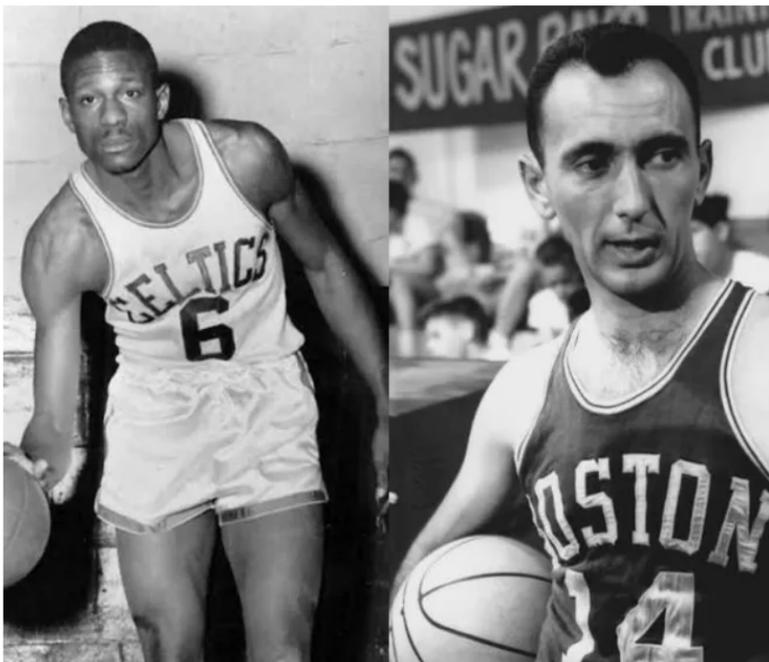
NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



BILL RUSSELL AND BOB COUSY HIGHWAY



Continued to page 7

Free Trees Available for Somerville Residents Through MyRWA Program



Continued to page 17



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If you have any questions email us at MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com

MHS Varsity Softball is a non-profit organization in affiliation with Medford High School, our tax ID is listed below for your records.
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Artwork / Logos must be submitted to MHSVarsitySoftball22@gmail.com
 Deadline for artwork / logos is March 7th for full season exposure, any late submission banners will be hung starting tournament weekend.

Become A Medford Police Officer



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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.

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Mary Christina (Nardella) Morrison



Obituary

Mary Christina (Nardella) Morrison, also known as Nene, was born on December 11, 1941, in Cambridge. She passed away peacefully at home at the age of 84 on Saturday, February 21, 2026, exactly three years after the passing of her beloved son, Paul. She was the cherished

daughter of the late Christina (Mammola) and Philip Nardella.

Mary had a vibrant spirit and a love for life that was evident in everything she did. She worked as a machine operator at TRW/Carfaster Division for over 37 years, earning the respect of her co-workers as one of the top operators through her dedication and skill. She loved being out and about, whether running errands, attending events, having lunch with family and friends, or spending hours at her favorite store with her granddaughter, Little Mary. Mary cherished every opportunity to be part of the world around her.

A devoted Boston Bruins fan, Mary took great joy in cheering them on. She especially loved watching her grandchildren

participate in sports, supporting them with pride and excitement at every game. She was the life of the party at family gatherings and never missed an event. She especially enjoyed summers at Apache Campground in Maine with family and friends. Mary loved being around people, and her heart was full of love. Her devotion to family and her generosity were constant, and she never expected anything in return but love and respect. In quieter moments, she enjoyed watching movies, particularly her all-time favorites, Virgin River and Chicago P.D., which she could watch repeatedly, always discovering something new or missed.

Above all, Mary's greatest joy was her family. She treasured every moment spent with them, especially her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchild-

dren, and she also adored her grand pups, who brought her endless happiness.

Mary was the beloved wife of Ernest Ramon Morrison for 64 years, who passed away in October 2025. She was a devoted mother to Patricia Ann Shaughnessy and her husband, John; Philip Anthony Morrison and his wife, Nadia; her foster daughter, Donna Marie Kenney, and her husband, John; and the late Paul Andrew Morrison and furdaughter, Lita. She was a cherished grandmother to John Ernest Shaughnessy, Paul Philip Shaughnessy and his wife Joy, Mary Katherine Shaughnessy, Brad Andrew Morrison, Justin Paul Morrison, Christina Mary Morrison, Angela Ann Morrison, and Philip Anthony Morrison Jr. and his wife Krista. She was also blessed with great-grandchildren, Logan

John Shaughnessy, Paisley Joy Shaughnessy, and Antonio Morrison.

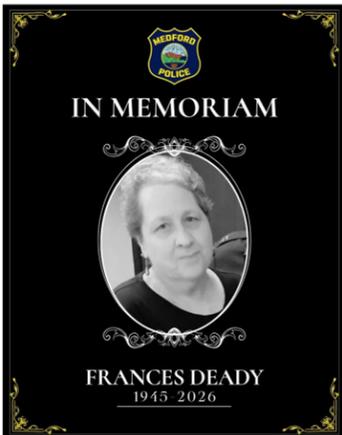
Calling Hours will be held at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Square), Somerville, on Sunday, March 1, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Relatives and friends are warmly invited to attend.

A funeral service will take place at the funeral home on Monday, March 2, at 11:00 AM.

Services will conclude with Mary being laid to rest with her beloved husband at St. Paul Cemetery, Arlington.

In lieu of flower's memorials may be made in Mary's name to Great Dog Rescue New England <https://gdrne.com/donate/or> to North Shore Animal Rescue

Somerville/Medford Remembering Frances "Fran" Deady



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Frances "Fran" Deady, who passed away on February 23, 2026, at the age of 81.

Fran dedicated more than 50 years of distinguished service to the City of Medford Police Department. Throughout her remarkable

career, she served in multiple roles, including Police Matron, Traffic Supervisor, Head Clerk, and in computer operations.

Fran's decades of service reflect a deep dedication to the department and the Medford community. She was an integral part of the organization and helped shape the

department through years of change and growth.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of working alongside her. She will be remembered with gratitude and respect. May she rest in peace.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Michael P. Moore



Michael P. Moore - Of Quincy, passed away on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. He was 78 years old.

Born in Boston, he was the beloved son of the late John W. and Leona (Hopkins) Moore.

Michael was a proud and devoted veteran of the United States Navy, serving honorably and retiring as a member of the military police. He

carried himself with quiet strength, discipline, and integrity. These qualities that defined both his military career and his everyday life.

Michael was a simple man who found joy in life's simplest pleasures, especially when shared with his beloved late wife, Sigrid, who was truly his world. Their bond was one of deep love and companionship. Following her passing, he missed

her dearly each and every day, holding her memory close to his heart.

Beloved husband of the late Sigrid (Frank) Moore. Devoted brother of Diane Frye and her late husband Roger, the late Thomas Moore and his late wife Judy, and the late Timothy Moore and his late wife Heather. Cherished uncle of John Moore and his wife Diane, Kimberley Stephens and her husband

Jeffery, Edmond Frye, and Jennifer Dennis and her husband Dale. Also survived by many loving great-nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on February 27th at the Massachusetts National Cemetery, Coronary Ave Bourne at 10:45AM. Please meet directly at the gate.

Michael will be laid to rest with his beloved wife

Somerville/Medford Remembering Francis J. Rogers



Obituary
Francis J. Rogers - Of Somerville, passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2026,

after a brief illness. He was 78 years old.

Born in Cambridge, Francis was a devoted husband, father, and friend whose life was centered around his family. He was a hardworking man who often held two or three jobs at a time to ensure his family was well cared for. He never once complained, as providing for those he loved was his

greatest source of pride. Seeing the smiles on their faces brought him immeasurable joy.

Francis was a simple man who found happiness in life's quiet moments. He enjoyed taking walks around the neighborhood, spending time at home, and relaxing beside his beloved wife. His steady presence, gentle nature, and unwavering

dedication to his family will be deeply missed.

He was also a proud friend of Bill for 45 years, a testament to his strength, commitment, and the meaningful connections he made throughout his life.

Beloved husband of 46 years to Jean (Smith) Rogers. Devoted father of Brian Rogers and his partner Michael

Shea of Lynn, Kevin Rogers of Somerville, and Daniel Rivera of Somerville. Cherished brother of Thomas Rogers and his late wife Sandra of Medford, and Mary Alice Lyden of Somerville. He was the loving furdad to Sabrina. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



Somerville Police Department Retrieve military-grade AK-47 Assault Rifle

This afternoon, Somerville Police investigators assisted our partners from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in recovering a military-grade AK-47 assault rifle that had been hidden in the common area of a residential building in Somerville.

Two loaded magazines were also recovered. Special thanks to the DEA for their hard work and continued partnership in helping keep our community safe.



Somerville Police Department Public Service Announcement

Shawsheen Bayford | Chief of Police



Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Public Service Announcement: Weapon Recovery

This afternoon, Somerville Police investigators assisted our partners from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in recovering a military-grade AK-47 assault rifle that had been hidden in the common area of a residential building in Somerville. Two loaded magazines were also recovered. Special thanks to the DEA for their hard work and continued partnership in helping keep our community safe.



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Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log February 3 to February 9, 2026



Crime Log 2/10/26 – 2/16/26

[HTTPS://WWW.SOMERVILLEPD.COM/PUBLIC-SAFETY-NEWS](https://www.somervillepd.com/public-safety-news)

<p>Residential Breaking & Entering</p> <p>26006536: On 2/3/26 at approximately 10:35 AM, Somerville Police responded to an apartment complex on Day St for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the property manager who stated someone broke into the storage area in the basement and stole a package. Officers identified the suspect.</p> <p>Assault</p> <p>26006592: On 2/3/26 at approximately 4:40 PM, Somerville Police took a report from a male party regarding a past assault. He stated that while using</p>	<p>the bathroom at the West Branch Library, he was punched in the face by another male.</p> <p>Arrest</p> <p>26006907: On 2/5/26 at approximately 7:30 AM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Pearl St for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male party was in her kitchen cooking food. Officers caught the suspect on scene and he was placed under arrest.</p> <p>Arrest</p> <p>26006727: On 2/4/26 at</p>	<p>approximately 8:04 AM, Somerville Police responded to an apartment complex on Mystic Ave for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated a male party broke into the building and ripped open multiple packages. Officers located the male and he was placed under arrest.</p> <p>Residential Breaking & Entering</p> <p>26007862: On 2/9/26 at approximately 10:50 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Caldwell Ave for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with</p>	<p>the victim who stated she observed a male party in her living room. She got into a struggle with him and he fled out of the house.</p> <p>Residential Breaking & Entering</p> <p>26007779: On 2/9/26 at approximately 12:24 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on McGrath Hwy for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she heard a knock at the door then heard footsteps by the back door. No individual was observed.</p> <p>Residential Breaking &</p>	<p>Entering</p> <p>26007192: On 2/6/26 at approximately 1:40 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Bromfield Rd for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated his front door was kicked in. Nothing was reported missing.</p> <p>Other Crimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Car Breaks 2 MV Thefts 2 Package Thefts 1 Vandalism 3 Bike Thefts 2 MV Vandalisms
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MEDFORD VFW POST 1012 HAS A NEW COMMANDER

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

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

State of A Tavola:

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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.

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Thank you for your continued support.



BILL RUSSELL AND BOB COUSY HIGHWAY (H 3727)

By Bob Katzen

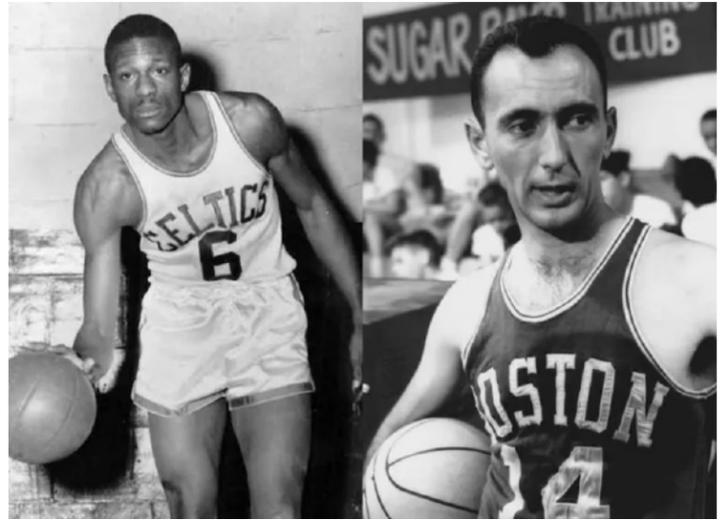
The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to Legislation that would name the portion of the Massachusetts Turnpike between Boston and Worcester, “The Bill Russell and Bob Cousy Highway.”

“I believe we should pay homage to celebrated Boston Celtics teammates and NBA champions, Bob Cousy and the late Bill Russell, who were not only exceptional athletes who brought many championships home to

Boston, but who were also two great pillars of our community here in the commonwealth,” said sponsor Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick).

Linsky continued, “Bill Russell, as the first black coach in the NBA, was a frequent target of racially motivated harassment and abuse. Even as he received death threats and hate crimes from his own fan base, he courageously continued to pioneer player activism. Russell marched alongside civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers

and continued to fight for civil rights his entire life. Bob Cousy was also much more than a basketball player. He played a tremendous role in organizing the first player’s union in the NBA which helped kickstart a new era of player empowerment in sports. Russell and Cousy both risked their careers and their lives to fight for what they believed in, and we should continue to honor them for their incredible work for our community.”



Why Businesses Are Leaving Massachusetts: Unpacking the Issues and Paths to Improvement

LEAVING Massachusetts COME BACK SOON

By William Tauro

Massachusetts, once a beacon for innovation and economic growth, has seen a troubling trend in 2025 and early 2026: businesses and residents relocating to more affordable states like Florida and New Hampshire. While the state’s economy remains robust in sectors like biotech and tech, factors such as skyrocketing taxes, political corruption, excessive bureaucracy, incompetent leadership, an overreaching progressive agenda, generous benefits for undocumented immigrants, and overall mismanagement are cited as key drivers of this exodus. This short

article explores these issues and suggests ways to reverse the tide.

The Crushing Weight of High Taxes and Bureaucracy

Massachusetts boasts one of the highest tax burdens in the nation, with combined state and local rates often exceeding 12% for businesses and high earners. The Cato Institute’s 2024 fiscal report (with implications carrying into 2026) gave Governor Maura Healey a “D” grade, highlighting how high taxes and regulations are fueling out-migration. Businesses face not only elevated corporate taxes but also burdensome permitting processes that delay expansions and increase costs. This red tape, combined with high energy and living expenses, makes staying unviable for many.

Political Corruption, Incompetence, and Mismanagement

Recent scandals have eroded

trust in state leadership. In 2025, indictments for fraud, bribery, and misuse of funds plagued officials, reinforcing perceptions of crooked and incompetent politicians. Mismanagement is evident in ballooning budgets and deficits, with critics pointing to wasteful spending that prioritizes political favors over economic stability. Under Healey, the state has become the most expensive in America, with families and firms squeezed by rising costs.

Progressive Agenda and Benefits for Undocumented Immigrants

The state’s progressive policies, including sanctuary status and expansive social programs, are blamed for exacerbating the issues. Billions in taxpayer dollars have funded free housing, food, and healthcare for illegal immigrants, straining resources and contributing to tax hikes.

This “giving away too much free stuff” narrative

fuels resentment, as it ties into a broader agenda of high spending on social welfare, which critics say deters business investment by signaling fiscal irresponsibility. While intended to promote equity, these policies have led to over 5,000 employers shutting down and 12,000 private-sector jobs lost in recent years.

Despite these challenges, Massachusetts retains strengths: a skilled workforce, strong industry clusters, and a high quality of life. A MassEcon survey found that 77% of businesses that expanded here would do so again, citing innovation and talent as top draws. Business confidence remains pessimistic in early 2026, but resilient consumer spending offers some optimism. How Can We Do Better?

To stem the outflow, Massachusetts must prioritize reforms:

- Tax Relief: Cut corporate and personal taxes to com-

pete with low-tax states, focusing on broad reductions rather than complex incentives that breed corruption.

- Reduce Bureaucracy: Streamline regulations and permitting to foster quicker business growth.
- Combat Corruption: Implement stricter ethics rules, independent audits, and transparency in spending.
- Balanced Progressive Policies: Maintain humanitarian support but link benefits to workforce integration, controlling costs to avoid burdening taxpayers.
- Leverage Strengths: Invest in education and infrastructure to amplify the state’s innovative edge, addressing housing affordability to retain talent.

By addressing these pain points with pragmatic, bipartisan action, Massachusetts can reclaim its status as a top destination for businesses and residents. The clock is ticking—inaction risks further decline.

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Out dosage continued from page 2



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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 Wm-tauro@aol.com with any inquiries about joining the list of potential plaintiffs in this class action lawsuit.



The Big Somerville Water Meter Scandal: Mystery Solved, Time To Lawyer Up

The Real Crime Committed Was The Fraudulent Readings Submitted by Somerville Officials



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18 Meridian Street, Somerville, MA

Join Somerville’s 90 Washington Street Civic Advisory Committee



Applications Due Monday,
March 9

SOMERVILLE – The City
of Somerville is seeking
two new members to join

the 90 Washington Street
Civic Advisory Committee
representing local busi-
nesses and institutional or
non-profit entities.

What is the 90 Washington
Street Civic Advisory Com-
mittee?

The 90 Washington Street
Civic Advisory Committee
is a group of community
stakeholders that advises
the City of Somerville and
the Somerville Redevlop-
ment Authority (SRA) on
the redevelopment of the
90 Washington Street site
– one of the largest remain-
ing transit-oriented rede-
velopment opportunities in

Somerville.

Committee members will
review proposals submitted
in response to the City’s Re-
quest for Proposals (RFP),
evaluate development con-
cepts, and provide input to
help guide the selection of a
development partner.

Who Can Join?

The two current vacancies
are for representatives of
East Somerville businesses
and institutional or non-
profit entities.

What is the Time Commit-
ment?

Meetings are held virtually

and are expected to occur
once per month, and po-
tentially more frequently as
required, from April 2026
onwards. Meetings typically
run for 60-90 minutes but
may last longer if necessary.

What is the Appointment
Process?

Applications will be re-
viewed by a selection com-
mittee, who will choose
potential candidates for
interviews. The commit-
tee will select two new
members from interviewed
candidates, who will be ap-
proved by the Mayor. New
members are expected to
start service in April 2026.

How and Where Do I Ap-
ply?

Apply online at somervil-
lema.gov/besomerville by 5
p.m. on Monday, March 9,
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PROPERTY TAX CAP FOR SENIORS 65 AND OLDER (H 3234)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to a bill that would allow local cities and towns to impose a property tax cap for some homeowners ages 65 and older.

The cap would freeze the property tax at its current rate if the senior has a federal adjusted gross income of no more than \$50,000 for a single income household, and \$60,000 or less if married; and assets of \$75,000 or

less not including his or her primary residence and motor vehicle.

“I sponsored this bill because homeowners who are 65 and older and living on fixed incomes should not be forced out of their homes by rising property

taxes,” said sponsor Rep. Adrienne Ramos (D-North Andover). “Many seniors have spent decades contributing to their communities, and they deserve stability and predictability as they age. By limiting property tax increases for those who meet reason-

able income and asset thresholds, this bill targets relief to the homeowners who need it most while maintaining fairness for taxpayers overall.”

MEDFORD SNOW EMERGENCY – EFFECTIVE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 5 PM

The City of Medford has declared a snow emergency beginning Sunday, February 22 at 5 PM.

PARKING DURING A SNOW EMERGENCY

• Secondary roads: Parking allowed on the ODD side only (unless exempt). Vehicles parked on the even side will be ticketed and towed.

• Main arterial streets: NO PARKING on either side at any time. Vehicles will be ticketed and towed.
• Residents who live on main arterials may park on secondary roads, including permit-only streets, as permit restrictions are temporarily lifted.

MAIN ARTERIAL STREETS (NO PARKING): Boston Ave, Central Ave,

College Ave (George St–Boston Ave), Forest St, Fulton St, George St, Governors Ave, Grove St, Hancock St, Harvard Ave, Harvard St, High St, Lawrence Rd, Main St, Medford St, Mystic Ave (Main St–Crescent St), Playstead Rd, Riverside Ave, Salem St, Spring St, Washington St, Webster St, Willis Ave, Winthrop St, Woburn St

STATE ROADS (City does not enforce parking): Fellsway, Fellsway West, Route 16 / Mystic Valley Parkway, Elm St, Highland Ave, South Border Rd, East Border Rd, Woodland Rd, Mystic River Rd

More info & exempt streets: <http://www.medfordma.org/snow>



REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION (H 3132)

By Bob Katzen

Without a roll call vote, the House gave initial approval to a bill that would allow municipalities to grant a property tax reduction to property owners who serve as volunteer, call or auxiliary firefighters or EMTs.

The reduction of the tax bill would be capped at \$2,500 per property owner but would be in addition to any other exemption or abatement to which the property owner is entitled.

The municipality would be

responsible for establishing the parameters of its property tax reduction, including the criteria by which the reduction would be calculated, and the local rules and procedures necessary for implementing it. The firefighters and EMTs would not

be considered employees of the municipality and the tax reduction would not be considered wages for income tax purposes.

Supporters said these people are invaluable and selfless and should be given a property tax

reduction.

Chief sponsor Rep. Steve Howitt (D-Seekonk) and co-sponsor Susannah Whipps (U-Athol) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they sponsored the bill.



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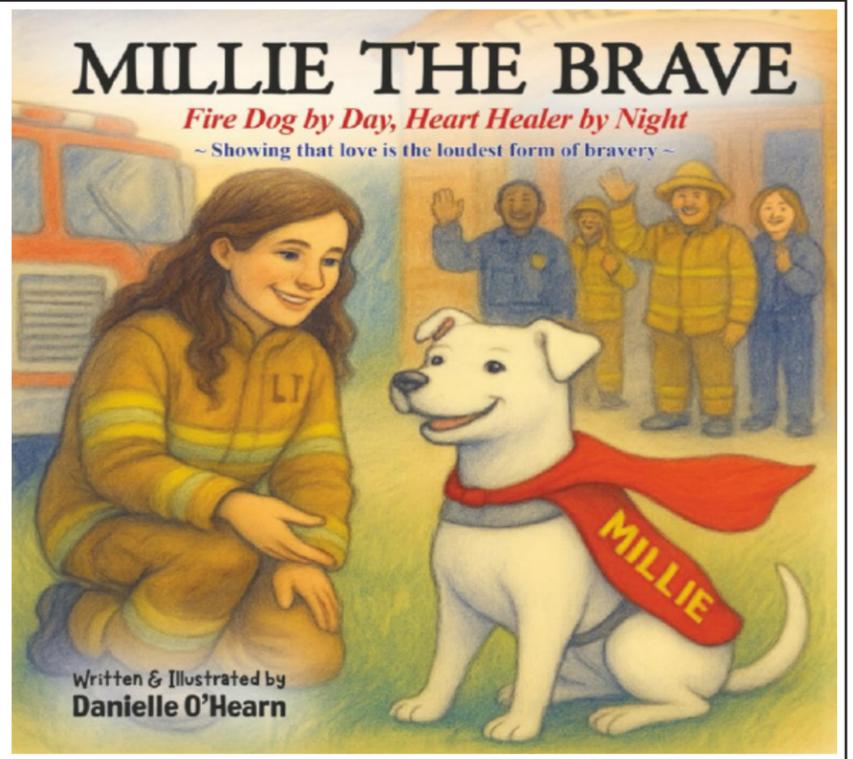
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

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.

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EARLIER READING INTERVENTION (H 4672)

By Bob Katzen

House 23-131, rejected an amendment to a bill that would provide a framework for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to identify and approve a list of high-quality curricula that school districts will select from for kindergarten through third grade literacy.

The amendment would require early intervention by the school when a student is "at risk" of falling behind in reading skills. It would replace language that requires early intervention only when a student is already behind.

Amendment sponsor Rep.

Alyson Sullivan-Almeida (R-Abington) said the amendment would make a small but significant change that would require schools to act proactively rather than waiting for significant underperformance before providing support for that child. She said that earlier intervention would give students a better chance of success.

Rep. Ken Gordon (D-Bedford) said the amendment will create a vague, non-precise and unenforceable standard. He said it is hard to determine when a student is "at risk" of falling behind.

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

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

SPECIAL COMMISSION ON FAMILY CAREGIVING (H 4704)

By Bob Katzen

House 154-0, approved an amendment that would create a special legislative commission to conduct a comprehensive study on family caregiving policy in the Bay State including an evaluation of all state-funded efforts in caregiving research, clinical care, institutional and home-based and community-based services and an investigation into the potential fiscal, access and quality

impacts of allowing spouses to serve as paid caregivers in the MassHealth program.

Amendment sponsor Rep. Mike Kushmerek (D-Fitchburg) said that one in ten Massachusetts residents serve as a caregiver to a loved one and noted this is one of the most important and difficult jobs. He said that the commission will work to find innovative ways to keep seniors aging in place at home

and our young, disabled population in our communities with their families. He noted it will study ways to help the caregivers perform this overwhelming task.

He noted that his first-hand experience as a caregiver for his parents for ten years showed him how difficult the job is. He said it was among the best and most heartbreaking experiences of his lifetime. He said that you give up a

part of yourself to be a caregiver. You do it because you love the people, and you do it because often there's nobody else. He noted that nothing could have prepared him for the job — going from being a 22-year-old student focused on college parties and final exams to learning MassHealth waivers and leaning medication management. He noted that caregivers often do not have significant resources, support or education on how best to advocate for those they love.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

INCREASE TAX RELIEF TO VETERANS (S 1948)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to a Senate-approved bill that would allow cities and towns to hike from the current \$1,500 to \$2,000, the property tax break for veterans and spouses of deceased or disabled

veterans in exchange for their providing volunteer services to their municipality.

Supporters said that veteran and senior work-off programs were originally designed to operate in parallel but while the Legislature recently raised the senior cap to reflect rising

costs of living, the veteran cap was not updated, creating an unintended disparity.

"Our veterans have already given so much in service to our nation, and they deserve to be able to remain in the communities they call home," said the bill's sponsor Sen.

Julian Cyr (D-Provincetown). "For many veterans on Cape Cod, the Islands and across Massachusetts, rising property taxes are putting undue pressure on household budgets that are already razor thin. This bill gives communities a meaningful property tax relief tool while recognizing the service veterans

have already given so they may live with the dignity they have earned."

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



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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.

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.

More information on household income limits is below:

2025 Income Limits for 110% AMI units

1 Person	Minimum	\$92,651
2 People	Minimum	\$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.

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. To sign up for updates, click the green box labeled “Affordable Housing Alerts: Sign Up Now.”

INFECTUOUS DISEASES (H 2836)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to legislation that would provide that any condition of impairment of health caused by an infectious disease resulting in

total or partial disability or death to an employee of a correctional facility would be presumed to have been suffered in the line of duty, unless shown otherwise by competent evidence.

“Corrections officers work

in an inherently high-risk environment where close quarters and daily physical interactions make exposure to infectious disease an occupational hazard unlike almost any other profession,” said sponsor Rep. Mike Finn (D-West Springfield).

“This legislation recognizes that reality by ensuring that when an officer gets sick, they aren’t forced to fight a bureaucratic battle to prove where they contracted an illness that may be impossible to trace to a single exposure. It’s the least we can do for the

men and women who keep our correctional facilities safe.”

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Free Trees Available for Somerville Residents Through MyRWA Program



SOMERVILLE – Dreaming of warmer days and a yard in full bloom? In preparation for spring, Somerville residents can apply for a free tree to be planted in their yard through the Mystic River Watershed Association’s (MyRWA) Tree Planting Program. All Somerville residents are invited to apply (for renters, with landlord permission). Sign

up now through Friday, March 13.

How It Works

Interested residents should complete the online form at mysticriver.org/trees. Upon receipt, a Somerville Resident Tree Ambassador will reach out to schedule an onsite meeting to determine tree placement and size. Residents are then able to select from a

list of native tree species. MyRWA provides the tree, works with local partners to help coordinate planting, and offers guidance to help it grow strong and healthy.

Why Plant a Tree?

Planting a tree is one of the simplest ways to make a lasting impact on your block while expanding Somerville’s tree canopy.

Trees help clean the air, provide shade and cooling, enhance property value, support local wildlife and pollinators, filter rainwater, and much more.

To learn more and sign up, visit mysticriver.org/trees.

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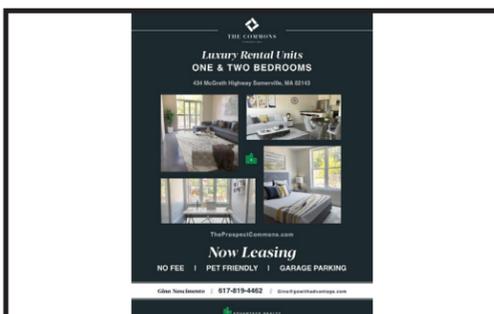
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ISSUE MOBILE ID (S 2905)

By Bob Katzen

The Transportation Committee will hold a public hearing on March 3 on legislation that would require the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to issue a mobile ID—compliant with American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

standards—to any individual eligible for a physical driver's license, learner's permit or state ID. The mobile ID would not replace the physical version, and individuals would still be required to carry their physical ID while driving.

Supporters say that the bill authorizes the RMV to

contract with third parties for development and maintenance of the mobile ID system, charge fees for issuance and determine the ID's validity period. They argue the measure includes strong privacy protections, requiring data use to mirror that of physical IDs, prohibiting tracking without consent

and mandating compliance with data security laws.

“We are living in a digital world, and our public systems should evolve responsibly to meet people where they are,” said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). “This bill modernizes identifica-

tion in Massachusetts while maintaining strong privacy protections and civil liberties safeguards. A mobile ID offers convenience and security without replacing physical IDs when they are actually necessary or required.”

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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-

itects 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. Email capitalprojects@somervillema.gov or contact 311 with any questions.

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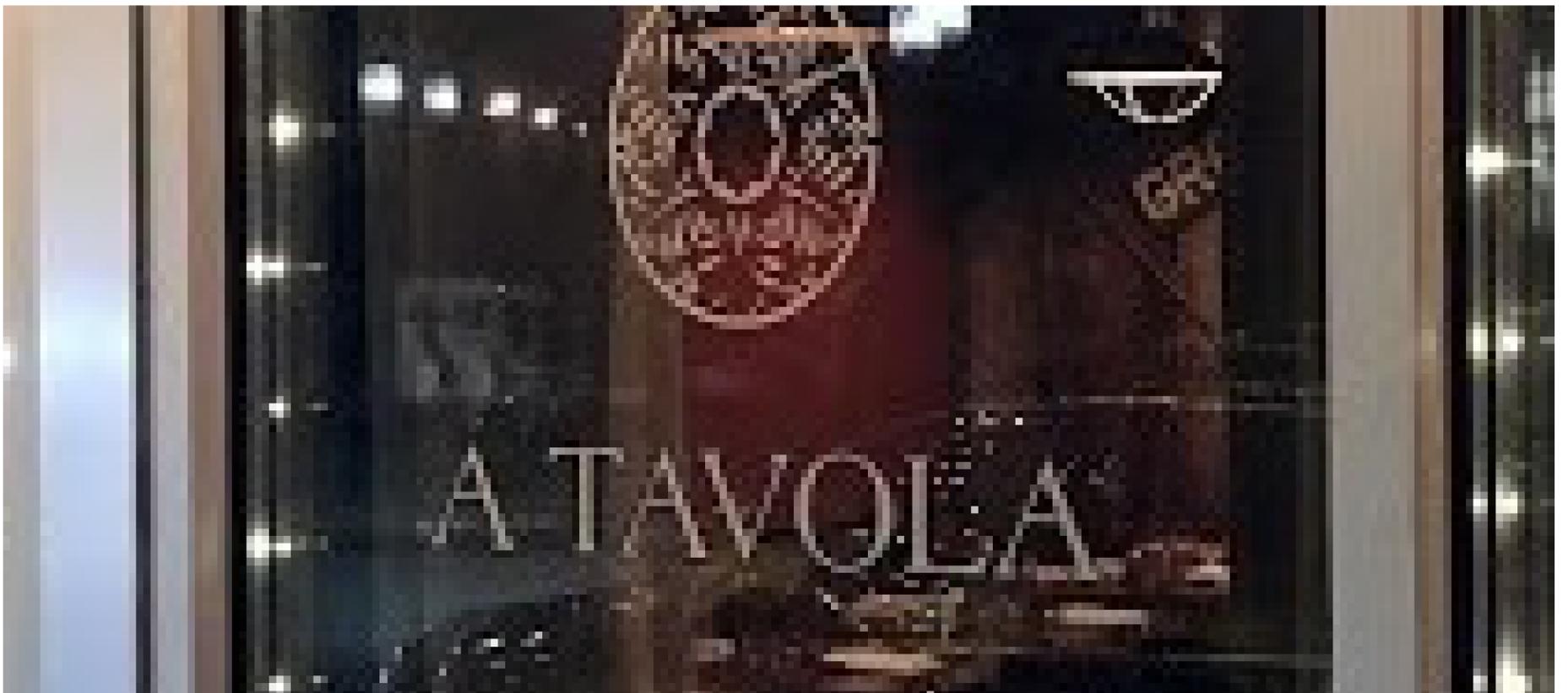
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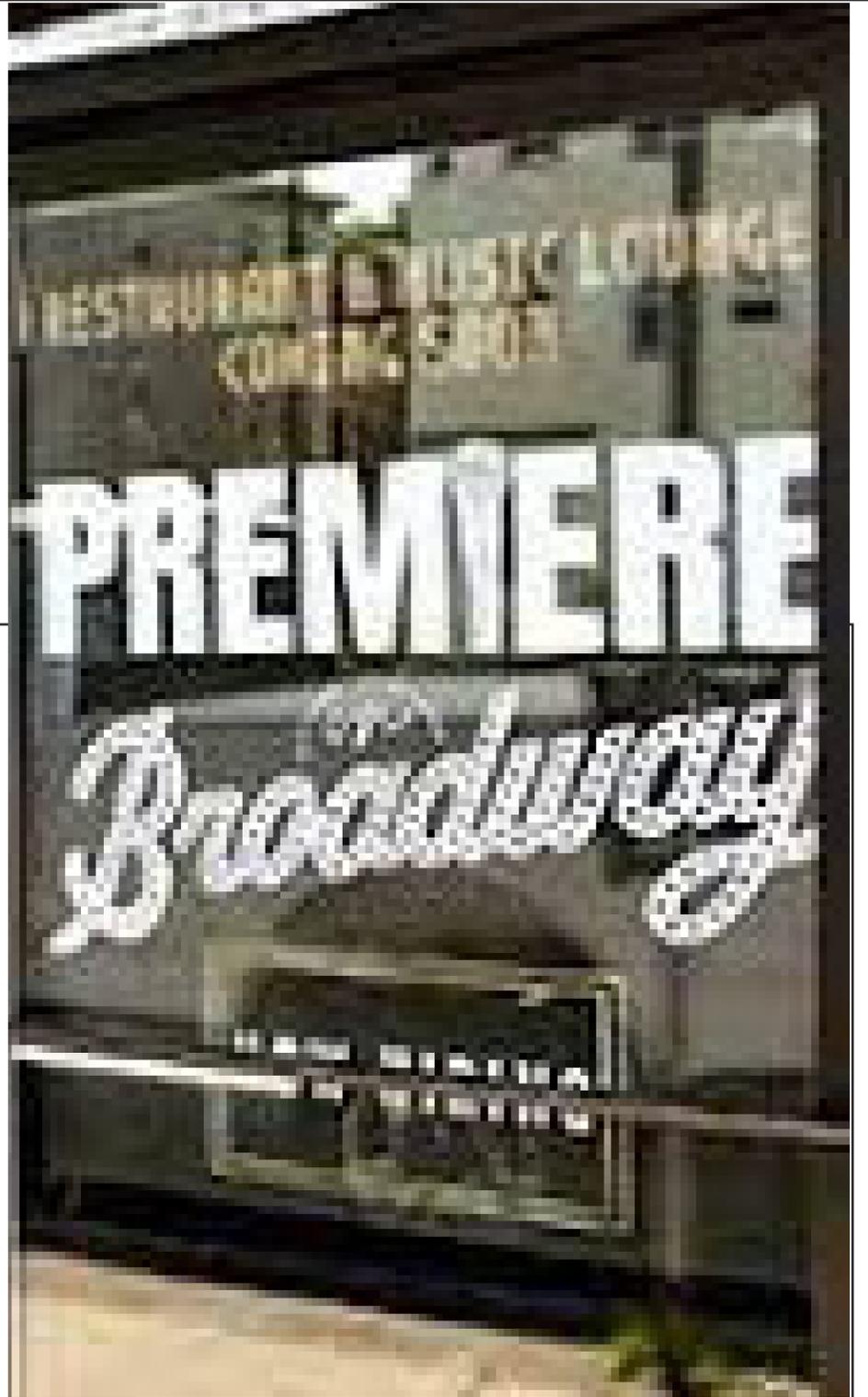
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