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SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday March 24th, 2026

\$100 MILLION FOR CITIES AND TOWNS (H 5264)



Continued to page 7



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP

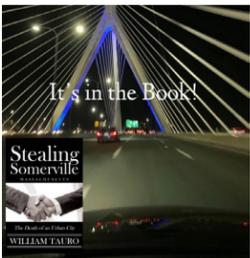


Somerville Parking Office to Be First City-Owned Building to Decarbonize

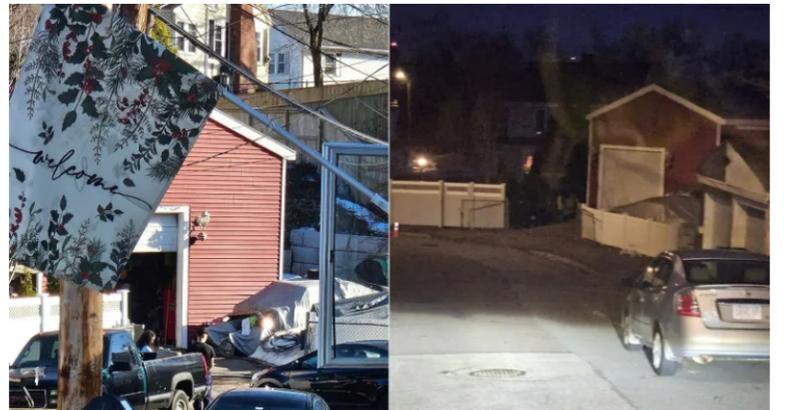
Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speak- up Line: Rebuttal to the Nosy Neighbor's Complaint About My Private Garage



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



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MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Lillian M. Rudgis (Downey)



Obituary
Lillian M. Rudgis (Downey) of Somerville passed away on March 21, 2026, at the age of 85. She was the beloved wife of the late Vincent Rudgis. Lillian was predeceased by her brother Arthur J Downey and his wife Francine Downey, as

well as her sister Barbara O'Regan and her husband Cornelius (Buddy) O'Regan. She is survived by many nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Lillian on Thursday, March 26, 2026,

at St. Joseph Church, located at 252 Washington St. Somerville, at 10:00 AM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Calling hours will be held in the church prior to the Mass from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Interment will follow at Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Lillian to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Michael D. Martelli



Obituary
Michael D. Martelli, formerly of Billerica and Somerville, passed away suddenly on March 16, 2026, in Derry, NH.

Born and raised in Somerville, Michael was the son of the late Marilyn Martelli and late Frank Martelli. Brother of Marilyn Goveia and brother-in-law Phillip, the late

Frankie Martelli and sister-in-law Gayla, the late Maria Martelli and stepson to Jeannie Martelli. Son-in-law to John O'Neil, brother-in-law to Debbie O'Neil, Linda and Dan Albertelli, Kathy and Sean Lyons, and Beth and Bob Learson. He was also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Michael grew up on Allen Street, playing until the streetlights came on, and getting into just enough mischief with friends to make the memories unforgettable. Music was deeply engrained in his soul and always played a major role in him and his family's life. He took pride in his endless stories of the band days. Everyone who knew him appreciated his love of song writing and poetry. He took center stage at endless big events to showcase his artistic and personal writings.

One of the brightest moments of his youth was a trip to Argusto, Italy, where he stayed with his grandfather, Nonno, and wandered

the streets of the city—creating memories of adventure that stayed with him for a lifetime.

Following his passion, he made Mike Perfecto Auto Body a reality, turning his lifelong love of working on cars into a place of pride and purpose, showcasing the joy he found in hands-on craftsmanship. It wasn't just work—it was a reflection of his motivation and faith in his own potential.

After meeting Peggie O'Neil, it wasn't long before they married and welcomed their daughter, Ashley. They spent many happy years together as a family in Malden and Billerica. Memorable vacations included cruises, spending time in Laconia and the yearly Martelli gatherings. Michael immediately and naturally blended into his extended family and continued to support them into his later years. Ashley and her dad loved going to Fenway to cheer on the Red Sox, playing darts, attending concerts,

Father's day camp trips, and adventures with Ashley's daughters that always ended with a pizza. Ashley's husband, Ryan, held the same place in his heart as a son would.

Climbing his way up the ladder for the MBTA as a bus driver, it was a job he was bittersweet to retire from after 30 years. He always said he wanted to write a book about the countless tales of his daily experiences. Lasting friendships were formed during that time, many being challenged to a game of pool on breaks. A prominent friend being Artie Hunt – they kept in touch and spoke on the phone every day.

He took great pride in his two granddaughters Everleigh and Freya Sylvia and grandpups Zeppelin and Lotus. They were a source of happiness and filled his life with purpose as Grandpa and Grandpaw.

Starting a new chapter of his life,

Michael moved to Derry, New Hampshire. He loved his property – tending to his garden, having fires in his woodstove, carving “walking branches”, taking his motorcycle out whenever the weather allowed, no matter the time of year, and forming new friendships in the neighborhood.

A funeral procession for Michael will commence from the George L. Doherty Home, located at 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, on Monday morning, March 23, 2026, at 9:00 AM, followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church in Somerville (Union Sq.) at 10:00 AM. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at the Funeral Home from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Interment will take place at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

In lieu of flowers, go buy a scratch ticket! He never won that million dollars he was chasing, so someone

Somerville/Medford Remembering Peter R. McIsaac



Peter R. McIsaac – Of Chelsea, formerly of Somerville, affectionately known to many as Pistol or sometimes Rhinestone,” passed away after a brief illness on Monday, March 16, 2026. He was 83 years old.

Born and raised in Cambridge, Peter was the son of the late Charles McIsaac and Helen (Straton) McIsaac.

Peter had a deep love for all things sports, he played and coached many softball teams. He also enjoyed watching his daily game shows, playing

cards, and listening and singing to oldies music.

He was a familiar and beloved presence at the Market Basket Café in Chelsea. Peter had a gift for striking up conversations, greeting everyone with a smile, and forming lasting friendships with both employees and fellow patrons.

Peter was also a proud member of Teamsters Local 25.

Beloved husband of 63 years to Janet (Higgins) McIsaac. Devoted father of Peter R. McIsaac, Jr

of Salem, and Michael McIsaac and his wife Lee of Wilton, NH. Cherished grandfather of Ashley, Carbon (Carlie), Reagan, Adam, Joseph, Annekka, Britta, and Stephen. Loving great grandfather of Neveah Adamson. Dear brother Jean Bentubo, Mary Savini and her husband Tony, Charles McIsaac and his wife Marsha, Barbara Lester and her husband Jon, the late John McIsaac and his late wife Rita and the late Patricia Armenio and her late husband Vincent. Also survived by many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends.

A funeral mass will be celebrated on Friday, March 27th in Immaculate Conception Church 600 Pleasant St., at 10:00AM. Please meet directly at church.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

At the conclusion of the services please join the family for a celebration of Peter's life at Anthony's of Malden 105 Canal St., Malden, Ma.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Brian F. Bransfield



Obituary
Brian F. Bransfield – A longtime resident of Somerville, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. He was 102 years old.

Born in New Brunswick, Canada, he was the son of the late Oswald J. and

Winifred F. (Shea) Bransfield.

Devoted husband of the late Ellen M. (Spry) Bransfield. Beloved father of Steve Bransfield and his wife Marie-France. Cherished grandfather of Ellen-Marie Bransfield and her partner Tyler

Schreyack, Elizabeth Bransfield and her partner Lee Drinkwater. Loving step-father of Peter Stickney.

Brian was laid to rest with his beloved wife Ellen at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.



Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Is There an Illegal Business Operating in Medford

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

Hi Billy,

For the past few years, our neighbor at 36 Roosevelt Road in Medford has been operating an auto repair shop out of their residential garage and driveway. His garage is at the back of his property, which faces Circuit Road. He is using Circuit Road as his parking lot for his clients vehicles that are waiting to be repaired and also washed, as it appears he has hired a woman to clean them after they are serviced. This location is zoned for residential use only, and the use of this property in this way is impacting our community.

The garage has a functioning car lift inside which was originally per the building department to be used for our neighbor's hobby of fixing his old cars. However, over the past couple of years that has changed into a very lucrative auto repair business. He is now fixing cars five to seven days a week. This has resulted in a very congested area of the street.

Other issues include:

- Increase in traffic coming down the street,

often speeding.

- Parking congestion, there are frequently multiple cars on the street in various states of repair.

- Customers coming and going.

- Occasional tow trucks bringing vehicles to his garage.

- Oil stains on the street and trash dumped by his clients.

- Concern for safety, i.e has the garage been inspected by the fire department for safety?

- Where is he dumping waste from the garage?

- That end of the street is blocked on occasion by cars coming out of the garage or parked on the street, which would make it tough for emergency vehicles to get by.

- Is he paying taxes?

- He is probably not insured to be running a fully functioning auto repair garage.

- Bottom line, he is running a business on a residential street that is part of the Lawrence Estates.

Back in approximately 2022 I contacted city hall and the police, but nothing was done as they said we couldn't prove he was running a business. Over the last year or so, his business has increased dramatically. He is now working five to seven days a week with

more and more cars on the street. As recently as March 12th 2026, I left a message with city hall with zero response.

I also spoke to the building department inspector, Micheal Malerba, and he agreed to look into the issue but told us he did not see a working garage. He also said he spoke with neighbors, who had no complaints about the building. I also recently spoke with the Medford fire department, but they can't help either as they say the garage is not registered with the city.

There does not appear to be anyone to help us with this situation, I believe our neighbor must have connections with someone at city hall and the police department. Our neighbor is using his property as a full time mechanic shop, which I believe violates local zoning laws, and the city is turning its back on the residents of Circuit Road.

Thank you,

A concerned Circuit Road resident



Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Rebuttal to the Nosy Neighbor's Complaint About My Private Garage

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

This is a rebuttal to original article complaint that a neighbor filed against me:

To the concerned constituent on Circuit Road please be advised of the following first and for most.

#1. You should get your information clear and straight. I the owner of that garage and property have lived on circuit Road for over 60 repeat 60+ years

#2. I do not reside on Roosevelt Rd.,

#3. I did not hiring a girl to work on vehicles. That young lady happens to be my future wife and those are her cars.

#4. She owns 15 cars yes 15 so if you see her washing or waxing or vacuuming her cars she has every right to do that, the city knows what I'm doing. This is my custom build garage to build my hot rods or my motorcycles and whatever I want to do.

5. I do not run a business out of here, so whatever cars you may see in and out of there those are our own vehicles by myself, family members and/or my future wife.

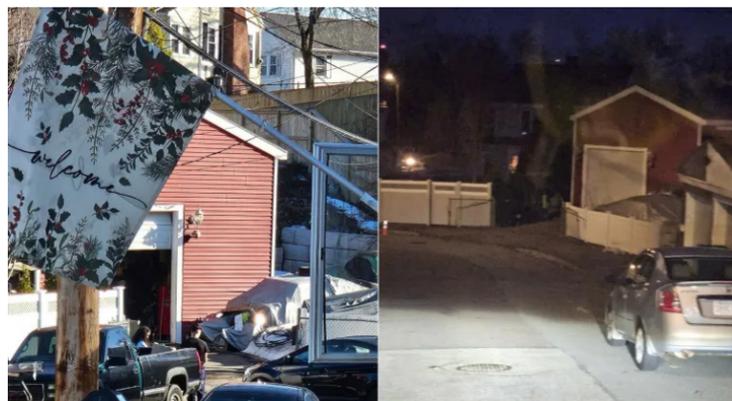
6. I do not fill the streets with automobiles. I have pictures of

just about every single person's car on that street.

Last but not least my attorney advised me to say to you that I can and would take out a complaint against you one stalking me and two for harassing me and three for making a false allegations about me so with that in mind, I respectfully ask that you go about your business.

Mind your business and worry about your life and not someone else's thank you and you have yourself a wonderful day!

James Tello, the owner of 60 Circuit Rd.



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Medford Lions and VFW Host HEART NIGHT

Have a HEART Night, Medford

More than anytime, people feel excited, emotional, and heartfelt when seeing a Soldier, Veteran, Parade and KIDS of all ages. With information on the distinguished Purple Heart and a Director from Salem Foster-Care, these two Clubs had a successful, meaningful night on March 6. Over 30 bags chockful of items for the Youth in Salem and informative notes on the history

of the Purple Heart were applauded. Medford is noted for its historic quality and in during the past 3 decades it's Charity Clubs; this Night should be noted.

The reopening of the historic Caroline Plummer House for the Youth will be this May... an important

feat and a home deserved for Foster Youth!

ANYONE who has a heart and an hour or two monthly

should consider supporting Veterans at Post #1012 or joining the famous LIONS Club.. The rewarding zest is worth it.

Thank you and Spring Regards,
Sharon Deyeso, VP
Usha Sharma, PR
sharondeyeso@yahoo.com



Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Missing Somerville Monuments

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

What's the story with this statue? Found in city temp storage next to Deano's Pasta. Seems like a sad story.

Billy Tauro's response: It used to be at the in the sacred war memorial located on Highland Avenue Somerville. A few years back until the then

Looney Tune progressive administration up at city hall had them removed and put into storage and never put them back! Some of the monuments which I provided video on my Facebook site, which they are still there, of the administration hiring contractors to forcefully cut apart the statues with saws-alls and in the process destroying some of them in the process! Sad!



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!

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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.



\$100 MILLION FOR CITIES AND TOWNS (H 5264)

By Bob Katzen

House 25-128, rejected an amendment that would provide a minimum of \$100 million annually from the surtax surplus to cities and towns which must use 50 percent of the funds for the repair, maintenance, construction or reconstruction of roads and bridges and 50 percent for public school facilities and equipment. Each city and town would receive a proportional share of the \$100 million based on its population as a percentage of the state's total population as determined by the most recent federal decennial census or the most recent annual municipal census certified by the secretary of state, whichever is more recent.

Amendment supporters said this would average roughly \$14 per person based on 7.2 million Massachusetts residents broken up into legislative districts each comprised of some 44,000 residents. They noted this

would guarantee each district more than \$600,000 per year. Each district would be required to spend \$300,000 for roads and bridges and \$300,000 for education.

They said that the state currently has allocated the majority of these surplus surtax funds to programs such as \$867 million for the MBTA, \$419 million for free school meals, \$287 million for free community college tuition and \$422 million for regional transit. Directing funds toward these priorities has come at the expense of greater local aid. This shift has exacerbated budget shortfalls in many cities and towns, where rising costs like inflation, mandated education expenses outpace the limited 2.5 percent annual growth allowed under Proposition 2½. As a result, local governments have been forced to raise property taxes, cut essential services like teaching positions or public safety, or both, effectively shifting the funding burden for

these "free" statewide programs back onto middle-class and working-class homeowners through higher local property taxes.

Amendment sponsor Rep. Justin Thurber (R-Somerset) said the amendment would provide meaningful relief to the 95 percent to 99 percent of Massachusetts cities and towns facing fiscal struggles while fulfilling the original intent of the Fair Share Amendment to support public needs. "Though disheartened it didn't pass, the proposal highlights important questions about current revenue allocation and whether redirecting more surplus funds could better aid struggling communities and residents amid ongoing local pressures," continued Thurber. "I hope this sparks broader discussions on ensuring the Fair Share surtax, now generating billions beyond expectations, truly meets voter expectations for funding public schools and road and bridge maintenance."

Rep. James Arciero (D-Westford) opposed the amendment and said the distribution formula in the amendment does not adequately serve the road and bridge repair needs of rural and less populated areas across the state. Historically, this House has heard from our rural communities how funding distribution formulas that weigh population as a determining factor harms rural communities due to their lower population numbers. Rural municipalities have been clear that road mileage is the most important factor in addressing their repair needs since these towns have extensive local road networks.

He continued that last year, the Legislature authorized \$300 million for the Chapter 90 program, a 50 percent increase over historical funding levels. Of this funding, \$200 million was distributed to all municipalities based on the standard Chapter 90 pro-

gram distribution formula of 60 percent road mileage, 20 percent population and 20 percent employment. Then in support of our rural communities, the remaining \$100 million of that funding was distributed to all municipalities based on their proportional amount of local road mileage. The passage of this amendment would undermine that progress we've made to build regional equity across the state for rural and less populated communities.

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

Rep. Christine Barber No Rep. Mike Connolly No Rep. Paul Donato Didn't Vote Rep. Erika Uyerhoeven No

Somerville/Medford Remembering Joanne J. Gallo



Joanne J. Gallo of Somerville passed away on March 20, 2026. She was the beloved wife of the late Peter P. Gallo, with whom she shared 63 years of marriage. Joanne was a devoted mother to John P. Gallo, Debra Mahoney, and her husband Edward C. Mahoney Jr., all residing in Somerville. She was the cherished grand-

mother of Thomas E. Mahoney, Angela Seeley-Gallo, and Anthony R. Gallo, and a loving great-grandmother to Renata J. Gallo and Caden Seeley. Joanne is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Barbara Hanscom.

Joanne found joy in many activities, including visits

to Salisbury Beach, dining at Browns restaurant, playing bingo, going to the Casino, and playing cards. Above all, she treasured spending time with her family, especially during Christmas parties.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in her honor at St. Benedict Church in Somerville on Thurs-

day morning, March 26, 2026, at 10:00. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.



PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS AWARENESS DAY (S 2145)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 38-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would establish October 15th as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day to increase public awareness of the prevalence of pregnancy loss and the physical and mental toll individuals face following a pregnancy loss. The day would also include

loss from an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, a failed adoption arrangement, a failed surrogacy arrangement, a diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility, a stillbirth or the death of the newborn child.

"For many people, the

journey to starting a family is a joyful time filled with hope and excitement for the future," said sponsor Sen. Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough). "For others, the path is devastating and a constant reminder of what could have been. I filed this legislation on behalf of families like mine: those that may have heard a slight heartbeat, only to have that flicker disappear

at the next visit; those enduring IVF treatment, only to see their hopes dashed; and those who gave birth to a baby who was already an angel. These forms of loss are heartbreaking beyond words, yet far more common than we may realize."

Feeney continued, "It is my hope that by designating October 15th as Pregnancy

and Infant Loss Awareness Day, we can create the space to recognize this form of loss, bring hope where there is despair and hold all those impacted in a collective embrace."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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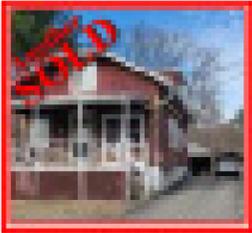
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Out dosage continued from page 2



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Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Fraudulent and Inaccurate Somerville Water Bills

By William Tauro

inaccurate readings.

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

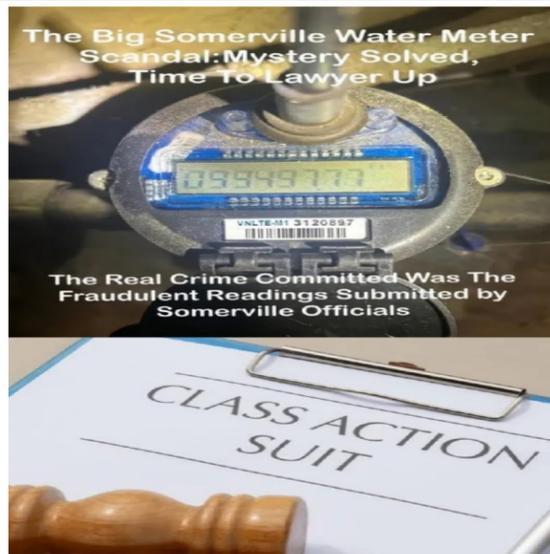
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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Totally Uncalled for Ridiculous Amounts of Salt on our Streets Everywhere Today

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

If you notice in these photos of West Somerville they are out dumping salt everywhere. When we approached a driver we asked why are you putting this excessive amount of salt out there and it's not even snowing nor is it freezing and the temperatures are way above freezing all week.

The driver's response was "The city over bought the salt and our boss told us to get rid of it all and come back empty!" Now the streets look like Bolivian Desert with

all this salt everywhere blowing up salt dust everywhere.

Salt is not good for in a large dry quantities. According to Google: "Excessive road salt accelerates the deterioration of infrastructure, corroding steel reinforcements in bridges and crumbling concrete surfaces. It causes pitting in pavement, allowing water to seep in and create potholes. Beyond roads, it pollutes drinking water, kills roadside vegetation, and damages vehicle bodies."

A frustrated Somerville resident



WIDOWED SPOUSES AND FORECLOSURES (H 1329)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to a bill requiring banks and other mortgage lenders to delay fore-

closure proceedings for 60 days after the death of a borrower and to refrain from taking any action to accelerate foreclosure proceedings. The surviving spouse or family member must notify the

lender and provide proof of the death of the borrower for the halt on foreclosure to take effect.

Supporters say that widowed spouses are going through a

difficult time and should not be harassed by mortgage lenders who are trying to foreclose on their property.

Rep. Priscilla Sousa (D-Framing-

ham), the sponsor of the proposal, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her why she filed the bill and how she feels about its passage.

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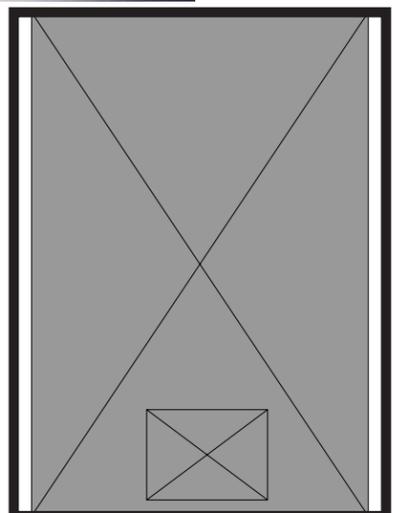
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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING: 2026-29 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and Prohi-

bitions" is amended with the addition of the following regulation: two-hour parking except by permit 8:00am-2:30am, permit parking only 2:30am-8:00am on north side of Bow St, from approximately 108 feet east of Bow St Pl to approximately 173 feet east of Bow St Pl (formerly an MBTA bus stop). 2026-30 Article V Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" is amended with the addition of the following regulation: three metered spaces on south side of Bow St, from approximately 182 feet east of Bow St Pl to approximately 286

feet east of Bow St Pl (formerly two hour except by permit parking). 2026-31 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" is amended with the addition of the following regulation: loading zone on the south side of Bow St, from approximately 0 feet east of Wesley Park to approximately 85 feet east of Wesley Park (formerly three meters and a 25 ft loading zone). 2026-32 Article V Section 5-2 "Loading/Service Zones" and Section 5-9.1 "Parking Meter Locations and Regulations" are amended with the addition of the following regulation:

loading zone from 8:00am-2:00pm and metered parking from 2:00pm-8:00pm at 197 Washington St (formerly metered parking and 15 minute parking). 2026-33 Article V Section 5-15 "Parking for Persons with Disabilities" is amended with the addition of the following location: 191 Washington St (public). 2026-34 Article V Section 5-11 is amended with the removal of the following location: westbound Washington St at Washington Terrace. 2026-35 Article V Section 5-11 is amended with the removal of the following location: eastbound Washington St at Merriam St.

2026-36 Article V Section 5-11 is amended with the following: relocate the eastbound bus stop on Washington St at McGrath Highway to Washington St at Rossmore St.
PROMULGATED: MARCH 12, 2026
ADVERTISED: MARCH 24, 2026
MARCH 31, 2026
APRIL 7, 2026
EFFECTIVE: APRIL 15, 2026
Somerville/Medford News Weekly 3/24/26, 3/31/26, 4/7/26

Somerville Parking Office to Be First City-Owned Building to Decarbonize



Parking Office to 95% decarbonize with largest City-owned solar array and more – final 5% to come over time

SOMERVILLE—The aging gas-fired boilers and cooling system at the City of Somerville Parking Office building will soon make way for new, green solutions including solar and heat pumps, making it the first city-owned building to essentially decarbonize. The project will not only deliver energy cost savings and advance the community's climate goals but will also give city staff experience operating and maintaining the kind of electrified building systems envisioned for all of the City's buildings in time.

"Our buildings make up the largest

portion of the City's fossil fuel use and decarbonizing these structures is a monumental undertaking — but you don't wait for the perfect moment or try to do it all at once," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "You take the next right step. Our Parking building is running on ancient boilers and a leaking cooling system. Soon it will be powered by 95% clean energy and can serve as a model for what comes next. That's how this City turns challenges into steady steps forward. This is us walking the walk on climate action."

The building on Holland Street in West Somerville is a prime target for sustainable upgrades. The structure is currently served by three gas-fired boilers and a traditional rooftop cooling unit. The boiler plant is beginning to fail, with numerous piping leaks, and the boilers are beyond their useful life. But the building is also unique among City-owned buildings: it already has electrical service from the utility capable of handling the added electrical load of an electric HVAC system.

To decarbonize the building, three projects are planned for this summer (2026) including a new 67 kilowatt DC rooftop solar array that will be the largest City-owned solar installation (larger leased arrays exist on the East Somerville Community School and the High School). The gas-fired

boilers and old rooftop unit will also be replaced with a new heat pump air handler and basement heat pump units for heating and cooling. Finally, weatherization and improvements to the building's exterior aim to improve staff comfort in the basement work areas, where the City's street signs and parking meters are maintained.

Combined, the three projects will bring the building to approximately 95% decarbonized. The final 5% will be achieved when the current relatively new gas-fired hot water heater (similar to those found in residential homes) reaches the end of its useful life and is replaced with an electric-powered unit.

As the charts farther below detail, the three projects are expected to collectively produce more than \$18,000 per year in energy cost savings. Total reductions in fossil fuel use are also projected to equal the total energy use of eight Massachusetts homes or the gas consumption of 38 passenger vehicles.

The upgrades are funded by the city's Energy Stabilization Fund. The fund sets aside money for projects that reduce carbon emissions and energy costs for City operations. This project is a prime example of how the fund can effectively be used to work toward the community's Climate

Forward municipal decarbonization goals. Learn more about Climate Forward at somervillema.gov/climateforward.

Annual Energy and Cost Savings from Decarbonizing the Traffic and Parking Building

Gas Savings in Therms
Electrical Savings in KWh
Gas Savings in Dollars
Electrical Savings in Dollars
Totalled Projected Annual Savings
6,422
32,932
\$10,468
\$8,365
\$18,833

*Based on current utility costs at 133 Holland \$0.254/kwh and \$1.63/therm

The projects interact to produce annual Green House Emissions Savings in the following ways:

Project
Gas Savings and Green House Gas savings
Electric Savings and Green House Gas savings
Total Project Green House Gas Impact
Boiler to Heat Pump Work
6,230 therms
73,069 lbs
-49,329 kwh
-27,682 lbs
About 5 MA homes total energy use

Weatherization Work
192 therms
2,252 lbs
75 kwh
42 lbs
About 1/4 of a MA passenger vehicle's annual energy use
Solar Array Installation
N/A
82,186 kwh
46,120 lbs
About 3 MA homes total energy use
All Projects Collectively
6,422 therms
75,321 lbs
32,932 kwh
18,480 lbs
8 Homes or 38 Passenger Vehicles total use
*Using Massachusetts Leading By Example GHG Emissions Calculator <https://www.mass.gov/doc/lbe-conversions-and-ghg-emissions-calculator/download>

For more information and updates on Somerville's progress on decarbonization visit the Climate Forward dashboard at <http://www.somervillema.gov/climatedashboard>. Sign up for the SustainaVille newsletter at somervillema.gov/subscribe to stay up to date on all of OSE's decarbonization efforts and sustainability initiatives.

\$1.8 BILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PARTIALLY FUNDED BY MILLIONAIRE'S TAX (H 5264)

By Bob Katzen

House 150-5, approved and sent to the Senate a \$1.8 billion supplemental budget that funds \$885 million in public transportation including \$740 million for the MBTA; \$417 million for public education; and millions for several fiscal year 2026 deficiencies.

The \$1.8 billion bill is funded in part by \$1.3 billion from the 2022 voter-approved constitutional amendment, known by supporters as the Millionaire's Tax and the Fair Share Amendment, which imposes a surtax of an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the current flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually. Language in the constitutional amendment requires that "subject to appropriation, the revenue will go to fund quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation."

MBTA funding in the supplemental budget includes \$525 million for the

Deficiency Reserve; \$125 million for the Workforce and Safety Reserve; \$60 million for physical infrastructure with a focus on the core subway system; and \$20 million for low-income reduced fares.

Education funding includes \$150 million for Special Education Circuit Breaker costs; \$150 million to fund Early Education Child Care costs; \$8 million for childcare providers; \$7.5 million for the loan forgiveness program for these providers; a \$20 million endowment Match for UMass and other state colleges and universities; and \$5.1 million for Tomorrow's Teachers Loan Forgiveness program.

Another provision would permanently decouple Massachusetts from recently approved federal tax provisions that reduce federal taxes if voters approve a possible November 2016 state ballot question that would lower the state income tax rate from 5 percent to 4 percent.

Other provisions include \$10 million for FIFA Boston for World Cup related

expenses; establishment of a food donation tax credit of up to \$5,000 per individual for farm businesses based on the amount of food donated to a nonprofit food distribution organization; and ratification of eight Collective Bargaining Agreements.

"From significant investments in public transportation and public education, to support for Department of Transitional Assistance caseworkers and expenses related to the World Cup, to fiscally prudent tax conformity measures – this legislation is representative of the responsible approach that the House will continue to take as we navigate a period of significant economic uncertainty," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

"The use of these one-time surplus funds provides us with a unique opportunity to better strengthen the commonwealth in numerous ways," said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. "By further improving our educational and transportation sectors, we will build off the work we

have done in the last several budget cycles with a judicious use of the Fair Share funds. The tax changes contained in this bill will help support the state's economic competitiveness, while giving us time to absorb the expected loss in revenue."

"I voted against ... the supplemental [budget] simply because there is too much unnecessary spending in this bill," said Rep. John Gaskey (R-Carver). "This was essentially an earmark bill. If it had been narrowly focused on public safety, it would've been a good bill. Unfortunately, it becomes a free-for-all bill to hand out cash driving further spending."

Some opponents criticized the language in the bill that would permanently decouple Massachusetts from key federal tax provisions if voters approve a possible November 2026 ballot question to lower the state income tax rate from 5 percent to 4 percent. They said this would tie the hands of future policymakers and denies Massachusetts taxpayers the benefit of federal tax relief.

"This is not fiscal responsibility," said Paul Craney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "This is political retaliation against taxpayers. Beacon Hill leadership is telling voters that if they choose to lower their own taxes, the Legislature will step in and make sure they don't see the full benefit. It's petty, and an outrageous abuse of power. They cannot help themselves. Even before the ink is dry on federal tax changes, Beacon Hill politicians are already scheming ways to block relief and keep more money in government hands. That's exactly why voters are demanding change, change that actually delivers transparency with legislative audits, openness in public records and policies that prioritize taxpayers over seemingly limitless growth in state government spending."

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

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Paul Donato Didn't Vote Rep. Erika Uytendaele Yes



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



What a wonderful book check it out!

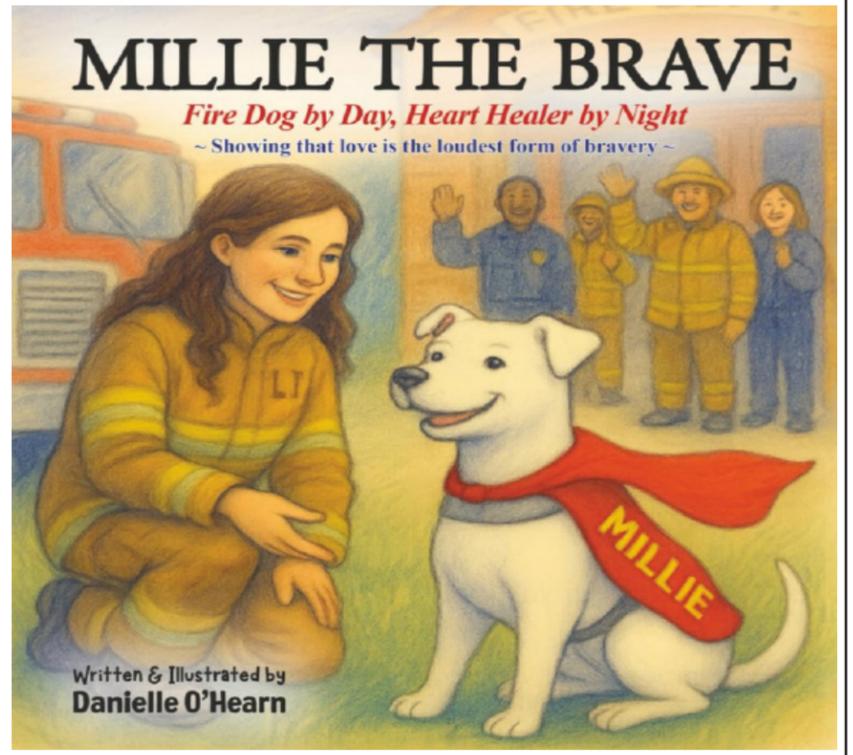
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

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.

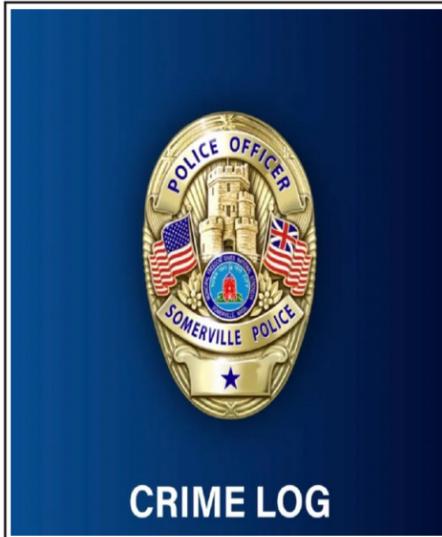
It's about my dog Millie it was a real life, first responder therapy, dog and rescue and her adventures in firefighting and being a therapy dog. I know you have a huge following. Any shout out about the book would be greatly appreciated. It's available currently on Amazon and hopefully in bookstore soon.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

Here's the link the title is Millie the brave

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



Somerville Police Department Weekly Crime Log



Assault
26014583: On 3/11/26 at approximately 7:48 PM, Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated two males were shoplifting items and a fight ensued. During the fight, the male suspects began punching the victim.

Arrest
26015675: On 3/15/26 at approximately 12:33 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Jaques St for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated the house is under construction and his

tools were missing from inside. He then pointed to a male party who he believed was in possession of the tools. Officers stopped the male and he stated the tools were in a nearby park. Officers then proceeded to the park and recovered the tools and the male suspect was placed under arrest.

- Other Crimes:**
- 3 Package Thefts
 - 2 MV Thefts
 - 9 Car Breaks
 - 2 MV Vandalisms
 - 7 Bike Thefts

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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Somerville's poorly maintained Streets in the past four years

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

This is how your city sidewalks and streets were treated and neglected for the past four years in

Somerville! Where is the outrage? Where were and now are our city counselors?

This is Elm Street Somerville and looking at it doesn't it make you feel

that when like walking on that sidewalk you would take your life into your own hands?



FIREFIGHTER RIGHTS (S 2960)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to a bill that would ensure that firefighters who become full-time can receive creditable service for their time as call firefighters, or part-time firefighters,

regardless of what fire department they worked at.

The office of Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) who is currently on an active duty deployment with the Massachusetts National Guard, told Beacon Hill Roll Call, "The bill cre-

ates parity between our dedicated first responder professions as currently local law enforcement officers can purchase similar time from any department and are not restricted to the same standards as call firefighters currently are."



LEASE SIGNING (H 336)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to a measure that would mandate that the signing of a residential lease for renewal cannot be required to be executed more than four

months in advance of the termination date of the current lease agreement.

"For years now, constituents have brought to my attention that they have experienced landlords pushing lease renewals six months or longer in ad-

vance," said sponsor Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy). "This is an unreasonably short time for tenants to figure out where they will live next, especially if the landlord will not renew the lease otherwise. This legislation is similar to a New York City ordinance."



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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: TIKTOK Fad Doorbell Ring and Kick In Door Mystery solved

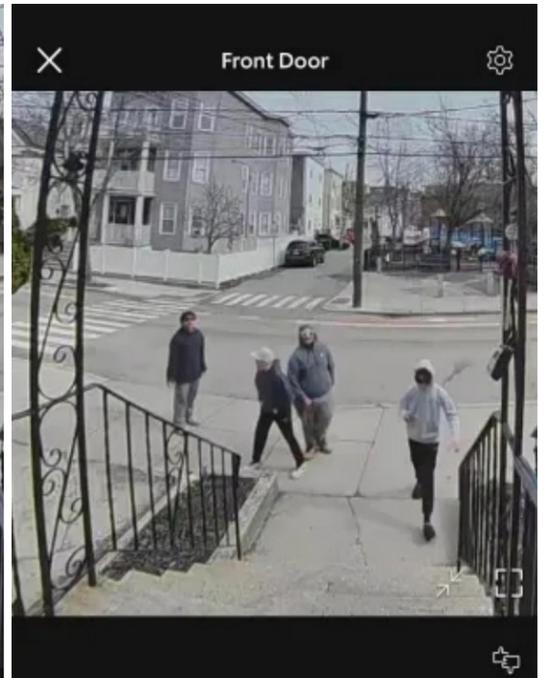
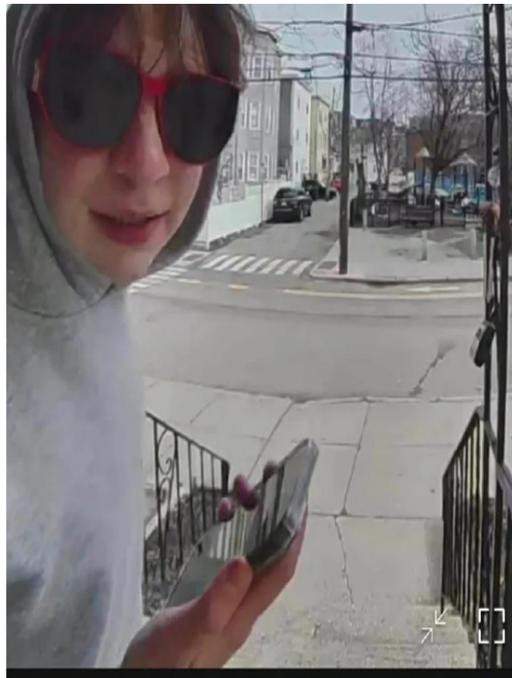
UPDATE: The teenager in the photo who rang the doorbell, his mother called us to apologize and we arranged a meeting with her and her son with the victim who she apologized to as well.

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

Hi Billy. This afternoon four punks walking up my street, Marshall St and one of them walked up my

porch and was kicking the shit out of my front door. They scared the crap out of my parents.

Can you please post this video and pictures on your page? I sent it to the Somerville page and they didn't post it. Thank you so much!



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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: People living in the Salvation Army store on Broadway Somerville

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

People are living in the Salvation Army store on Broadway is that legal?

Please let us know so we can expose them!

Sincerely,
A concerned Somerville citizen



City-Funded Scholarships Available for Somerville Class of 2026



Seven scholarships available to Somerville residents in the Class of 2026; Apply by deadline March 27, 2026

SOMERVILLE— Somerville's 2026 high school graduates are invited to apply for City of Somerville Municipal Scholarships designed to help students launch their next steps be

that professional training, college, or a job in the trades. Selected applicants will receive \$2,000 to help with post-secondary education expenses including tuition, professional programs and certifications, and union fees. The deadline to apply is March 27, 2026.

To qualify for consideration,

students must be in high school, a resident of the City of Somerville at the time the financial aid is awarded and be accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution. Awards are granted both on the basis of merit and need.

To apply, students must complete the online application at bit.ly/municipalschol26

by Friday, March 27, 2026, at midnight.

For more information, visit somer-villema.gov/scholarship or contact 311 (617-666-3311).

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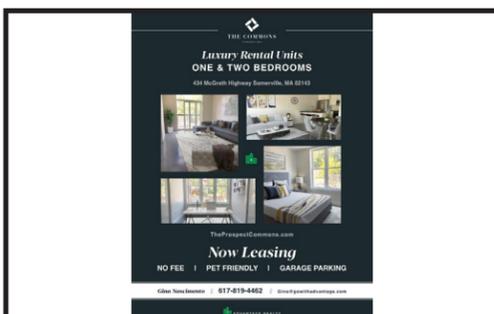
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Somerville's Porchfest Returns Saturday, May 9: Applications Now Open



Volunteers Invited to be Porchfest Ambassadors

SOMERVILLE — PorchFest returns to Somerville on Saturday, May 9, and applications are now open for participants. The annual event organized by the City's Somerville Arts Council features mini concerts hosted by residents on their porches, yards — and even on stoops — across the city. All musical genres are welcome from alt rock to zither quartets, and hosts are invited to apply by the April 21 deadline to participate. Volunteers are also invited to apply to be Porchfest ambassadors to assist visitors.

"PorchFest is one of Somerville's most awaited events for good reason. Not only is it a sign that spring is truly here but there's nothing quite like seeing porches transform into stages and hosting a citywide jam fest," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "To keep this tradition strong, our Arts Council and public safety teams are working closely together to make sure this year's event is welcoming for everyone, and I can't wait to see it come to life."

In addition to hosting or performing, community members can get involved by volunteering to be a Porchfest Ambassador. Volunteers will orient visitors, answer questions, monitor safety, and serve as points of contact. It's a great way to help make the event a success, and ambassadors get a cool, limited edition Porchfest T-shirt.

Key Updates & Changes for 2026: Porchfest has become popular, so the City needs all hosts and participants to help keep the event organized and safe. Please review and follow the information and guidance below as you plan to host, perform, volunteer, or attend:

Locations & Timing
To bring music to a range of neighborhoods

— and to keep the noise impacts in any one area to just two hours — Porchfest is held in 2-hour blocks in three City zones.

This year, Porchfest will move across Somerville in these three timed zones:
West Zone (West of Willow Avenue): 12–2 p.m.
Central Zone (between Willow and Central Streets): 2–4 p.m.
East Zone (East of Central Street): 4–6 p.m.
To ease congestion on streets and sidewalks, attendees are encouraged to use Somerville's Community Path to travel between zones. If nature calls, there will be additional porta-a-johns available to help keep Somerville clean and safe for everyone. Please use them!

Street Limitations for Safety:
To ensure firetrucks and ambulances are not impeded, and to keep pedestrians safe, the Somerville Fire and Engineering Departments identify key safety routes for us, and performances are not allowed on those streets.

In some cases, we also need to restrict areas at the ends of the side streets that form intersections with safety routes. But you still have options even if you are on a restricted street or corner. Residents on ineligible streets or corners are

encouraged to partner with a neighbor on a nearby designated street. This is a great way to get to know your neighbors while helping keep Porchfest safe.

Spacing Between Performances:
Imagine if you could hear, say, eight concerts at once. That's not a great way to enjoy music, so performances have to be spread out. Participating performance locations need to be at least 8 houses apart from another approved PorchFest performance location. Participants are responsible for managing their volume so each show nearby can be heard. Use the map to see where performances have already been approved to know if where bands are already playing.

Apply to Host a Porch Concert:
Applications are due April 21 at 11:59 p.m. Applying does not guarantee participation. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by Public Safety officials and the Arts Council. A map of approved locations will be published online as applications are approved. Apply at somerilleartscouncil.org/porchfest.

Apply to Host a Block Party:
Block parties must apply separately through Citizen Serve (somerillema.gov/citizen-serve) to request a block party permit. Applications are open March 17 – April 20 and will be reviewed based on the same street safety restrictions above.

Apply to be an Ambassador Volunteer:
This is an excellent opportunity for community members who love PorchFest, have seen this event grow, and are interested in keeping it safe, accessible, organized, and neighborly. Apply to be an ambassador at somerilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-ambassador.

Be sure to note the deadlines! To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, we can't make any exceptions to the deadlines. All information and the application link are available at somerilleartscouncil.org/porchfest.

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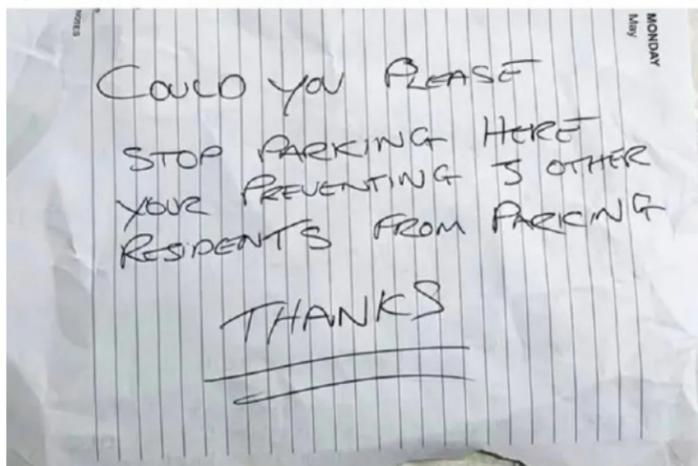
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

Respectively I'm a three year Somerville resident living in a triple-decker and I received this note on my car windshield. I am afraid of a retaliation measures by whoever left this note what should I do?

Somerville resident who parks legally

Billy's response: Granted you live there, but you should start by moving your car once in a while to give one of your neighbors a chance to park as well because there is a 48 hour parking ordinance in Somerville that will cause your vehicle to be ticketed and/or towed. To be honest with you if my neighbor did the same, I'd be pissed myself and I would probably do more than just leave a note on your windshield, but that's just my opinion!

Billy



DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING	Docket No. SU26D0285DR	Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court
Joel Francois Berakah		vs. Arena Patricia Jimenez
To the Defendant:		Suffolk Probate and Family Court 24 New Chardon Street Boston, MA02114
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for <u>Irretrievable Breakdown</u>		
The Complaint is on file at the Court.		
An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.		
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Joel Francois Berakah 25 Maple Ave Apt 428 New Rochelle, NY 10801		
your answer, if any, on or before 05/12/2026. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.		

WITNESS, Hon. Janine D Rivers, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 18, 2026

Register of Probate

Somerville/Medford News Weekly
 03/24/26

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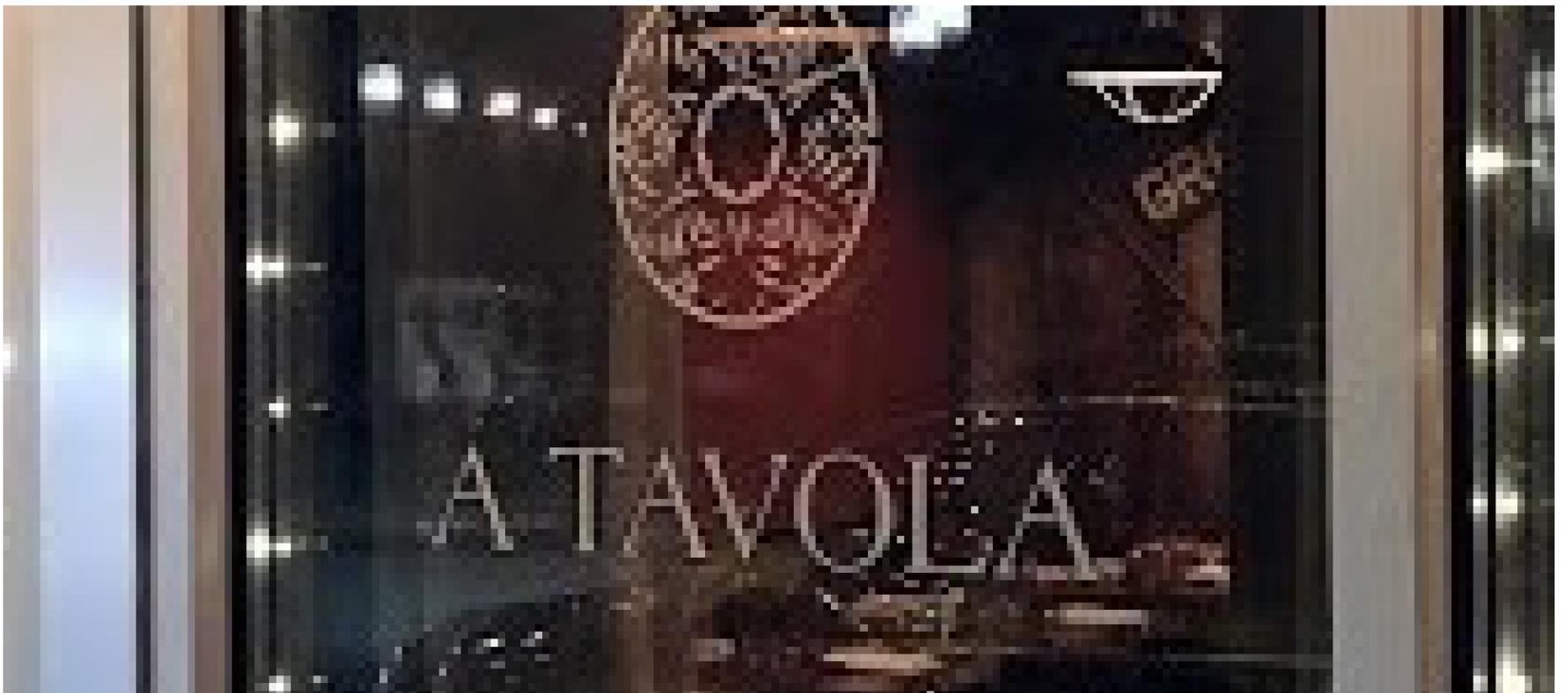
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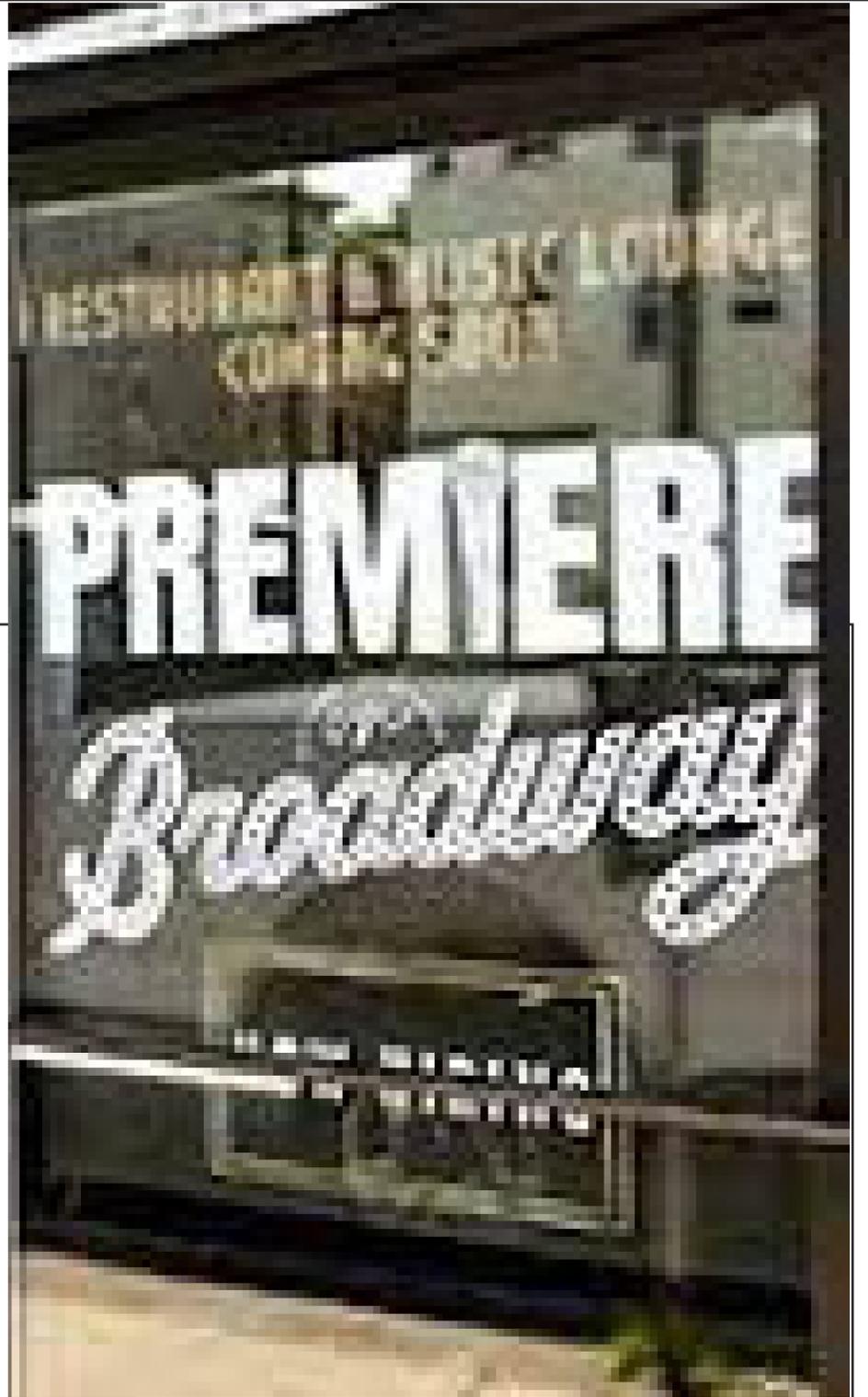
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