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VOL.1 NO.329-2989

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday April 28th, 2026

DeRATification Week Taking on Somerville Rats



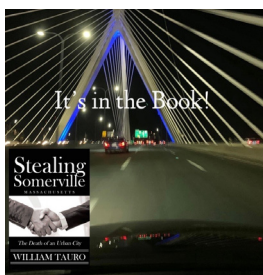
Continued to page 5



NEWS TALK OUT
LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page



LEGAL AGE TO BUY TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND OTHER ADULT- USE PRODUCTS



Continued to page 11

AGE AT WHICH A PERSON CAN BECOME A POLICE OFFICER



Continued to page 15



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The Death of an Urban City
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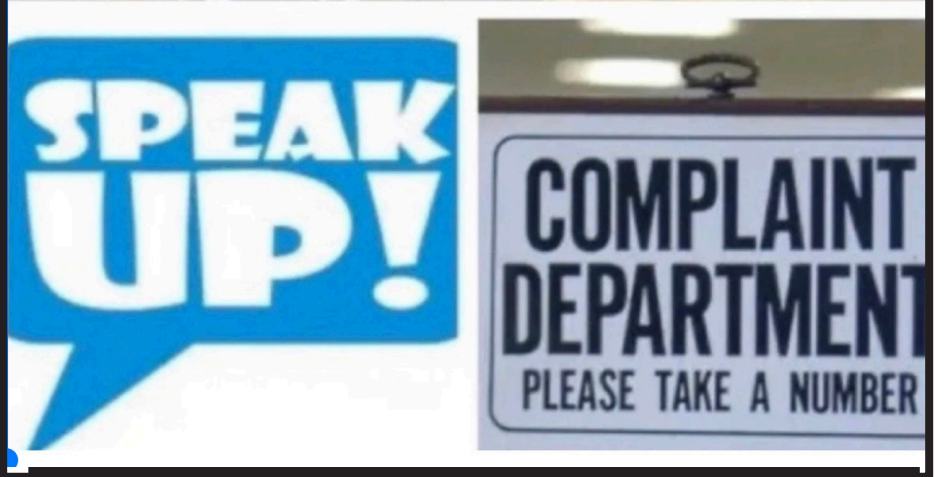
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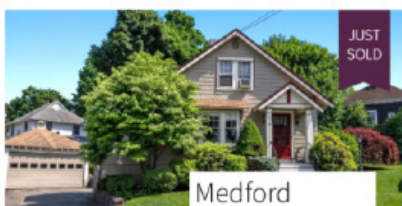
MARKET ACTIVITY

WE HAVE BEEN BUSY...

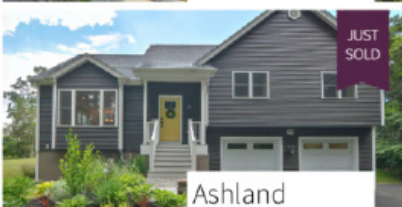
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Medford



Ashland



Westwood

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

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(617) 610-5382 Helen.Praysman@commonmoves.com

Patricia Ng Broker Associate
REALTOR®-(617) 818-5736 Patricia.Ng@commonmoves.com

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Please send both form and payment to:

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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



NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER
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APPLICATION DEADLINE
 FEBRUARY 2, 2026

NOTICES TO APPEAR
 FEBRUARY 20, 2026

WRITTEN EXAM PERIOD
 MARCH 11-14, 2026

APPLY TODAY
WWW.MASS.GOV/CIVIL-SERVICE

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 Lee Lawrence



Obituary
Lee Lawrence – Of Saugus, formerly of Medford,

passed away on Friday, April 24, 2026. She was 77 years old.

Lee was born and raised in Medford with her beloved great grandmother Francis Rose, grandparents Nicholas and Emma Alteriso, parents Orman and Rita Lee (Alteriso) Lawrence and sister Denice Lawrence. Also, Lee leaves

many close friends whom she considered family.

Lee's strong Catholic faith guided her through life's challenges which contributed much to the sense of humor she maintained throughout her life. Lee cherished hearing stories about close friends and their families. She was an avid animal lover and

especially enjoyed the company of her cats over the years.

Her faith, love, and devotion were deep and unwavering, leaving a lasting impression on all who knew her.

A funeral mass will be celebrated in St. Joseph Church 132 High St.,

Medford on Thursday, April 30th at 10:00AM. Please meet directly at church.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Services will conclude with interment at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Denis William Fermental



Obituary
Denis William Fermental – A longtime resident of Medford, passed away on Friday, April 24, 2026. He was 92 years old.

Born in North Conway, he was the son of the late William and Frances (O'Brien) Fermental.

Complete obit to be posted

Calling Hours will be held on Wednesday, May 13th in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville from 8:30AM to 10:30AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Raphael Church,

512 High St., Medford at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Services will conclude with burial at Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Leonard A. Glionna



Glionna, Leonard A., a lifelong resident of the City of Medford, devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, attorney, and public servant, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the age of 78, surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Jeanne (McDonnell) Glionna and the cherished son of the late Angelo and Rita (Moccia)Glionna.

Len is survived by his sister, Rosanne Glionna of Medford, and his three sons: Christopher Glionna and his wife Kristen of Medford; Jonathan Glionna and his wife Megan of Brooklyn; and Joshua Glionna of Medford.

Len found his greatest joy and pride in his role as Grandfather to his adored grandchildren, Nathaniel, Evangeline, Mia, and Gemma Glionna.

He proudly served in the United States Army Reserve, completing basic training at Fort Lewis in November 1971, and later attending military intel-

ligence training at Fort Huachuca.

A graduate of Medford High School, Suffolk University, and Suffolk University Law School, Len devoted his career to the law and to public service. He served as an attorney for the United States Government before continuing his passion for advocacy in private practice in the City of Medford.

Deeply committed to civic life, Len was active in the Democratic Party and was frequently elected as a delegate to Massachusetts Democratic Conventions. He also served the City of Medford as a member of the Logan Airport Community Advisory Committee, the Hormel Stadium Commission, and the Civic Auditorium & Convention Center Commission. In addition, he was a dedicated member of the Board of Directors of Medford Recreational Hockey and the Medford Boat Club.

Following his retirement, Len remained active in

the community, working as a substitute teacher at Arlington Catholic High School and as a supervisor at TD Garden during Boston Bruins and Boston Celtics games.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend visiting hours at Breslin Funeral Home on Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 4:00–7:00 PM. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 10:00 AM, followed by interment at Oak Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Leonard's memory to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to support cancer research and patient care:

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
P.O. Box 849168
Boston, MA 02284
or at dana-farber.org/gift.





DeRATification Week Taking on Somerville Rats



City rolling out tools and tips to tackle rodent activity head-on

SOMERVILLE – As rodent activity increases with warmer weather; Somerville is launching a push to help the community prevent and address rat activity. DeRATification Week, running April 27 through May 3, combines new tools and clearer guidance, making it easier for Somerville to make life harder for the rats. “Rats are tough and scrappy, but so is Somerville,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “DeRATification Week is about giving residents the

tools and know-how to hit rats where it hurts. When we do the basics right, rats lose their edge.”

The campaign will highlight practical steps residents and businesses can take, while improving access to the tools and resources the City provides.

“In a city like Somerville, where many residents are renters, education matters—for landlords and tenants alike,” said Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan. “Tenants are often the first to spot issues, and property owners need to act quickly. When everyone does their part, we make real progress. I’m grateful to the Wilson administration for leading this practical, citywide

effort.”

What to Expect During DeRATification Week During DeRATification Week, the City will focus on providing straightforward, accessible ways for residents and businesses to tackle rodent activity.

Key resources and activities include:

Online Rodent Service Request System Request a free City property inspection for evidence of rodents and, if needed, free rodent control services, including placement of Terad3 bait boxes and burrow treatments. City inspectors will also share tailored recommendations to help prevent future rodent activity. Request a property inspection today.

Want to show your property is helping take on the rats? Participating properties also receive a free yard sign encouraging neighbors to join the City’s DeRATification effort.

Updated SMART Box Dashboard Residents can now view an updated public SMART Box map showing where

City-owned smart traps are deployed and where activity is being detected. The dashboard offers greater visibility into ongoing mitigation efforts and shows how data is guiding targeted response citywide.

Redesigned Rodent Control Webpage A revamped somerville-ma.gov/rats provides an improved user experience, with updated City resources, prevention tips, and a multilingual resource library.

Throughout the week, the City will be rolling out DeRATification videos series sharing tips and resources to stop rats in their tracks. Stay tuned to somervillema.gov/rats and follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Bluesky to watch the latest.

Walk & Talk with Mayor Wilson (video) Join Mayor Wilson and Somerville’s rat czar on a walk through Union Square to learn how to spot early signs of rodent activity—and shut it down before it spreads.

Containerization in Action (video)

A look at how a Somerville resident has successfully containerized their trash, with practical tips on how better storage cuts off one of rats’ favorite things: easy food access.

BurrowRx Demonstration (video) See one of the City’s key rodent mitigation tools in action and how targeted treatments reduce burrow activity at the source.

Help DeRATify Somerville DeRATification Week emphasizes practical steps residents and businesses can take right away: Store trash in sealed, secure containers Eliminate food sources and clutter Report rodent activity early Maintain properties to prevent burrowing

Rodent control is a shared effort between the City, property owners, tenants, and businesses. DeRATification Week is about making it easier for everyone to do their part, and harder for rats to stick around.

For more information and updates, visit somerville-

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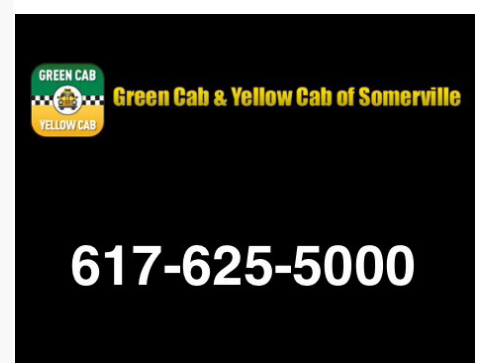
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Join a Listening Session for Somerville's 2025-26 Winter Warming Center on 4/30



SOMERVILLE – As we move into spring, Somerville's Winter Warming Center has concluded for the 2025-26 season. Located in the former Cummings School on Prescott Street, the Warming Center has provided shelter, food, and safety every night during

this record-breaking winter. Now, the City wants to get community feedback for use in future planning efforts.

Warming center neighbors, clients, and community members are invited to a listening session about the 2025-2026 Winter Warming

Center on Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.) in the lower cafeteria. Attendees will get a recap of the 2025-26 season, hear uplifting stories, and have the opportunity to give feedback. The listening session will

be hosted by Somerville Emergency Management in collaboration with the Health and Human Services division.

For more information on Somerville's Winter Warming Center, visit somerville-ma.gov/warmingcenter.

UNCOVERING STAGED SUICIDES (S 2743)

By Bob Katzen

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee held a hearing on a measure that would establish the training, education and certification standards that must be met by law enforcement officers who investigate a death if a history of domestic violence is involved in the case.

Supporters said the bill was filed because there have been cases in which domestic abusers have murdered their partners and then tampered with the crime scene to make it look like a suicide or accident. They argued that the bill would ensure that in death cases following a history of domestic violence, law enforcement officials will ask investigatory questions related to that history and interview

family members and close friends of the victim prior to determining whether or not the death was by suicide.

"I'm committed to fighting the heartbreaking scourge of intimate partner violence," said sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). "This legislation will ensure that suspicious death cases are fully investigated as a matter of course, and

that grieving family and friends are not forced to fight just to have their loved one's lived experiences respected and recognized. This bill is part of a growing national effort to honor the memories of domestic violence victims, to provide them and their families with justice even after their deaths, and to hold perpetrators accountable. I am humbled to work with survivors who have turned their profound

family tragedies into meaningful action."

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS (H 2566)

By Bob Katzen

Municipal light plants, which are local publicly-owned utilities, are trying to run broadband Internet in their communities. To do that, they need to attach fiber optic cables, or Internet lines, to existing utility poles, which are usually owned by private utility companies

like electric or telecom companies. Instead of building new expensive poles, the municipal light plant rents space on these existing poles and pays the utility company a fee that is set by the state.

A bill, given initial approval by the House, on a voice vote without a roll call, would prohibit utili-

ty companies from compelling municipal light plants to incur unreasonable direct or indirect costs, such as requiring them to produce a surety bond (a type of financial guarantee), that exceeds the fees previously established by the state.

Supporters said the bill, sponsored by Rep. Aaron Saunders

(D-Belchertown), would prohibit utility companies from charging light plants a costly and unnecessary fee, beyond the fee for the rental of the space on the poles, that utilities are currently allowed to impose on small municipal broadband providers. The surety bonds that utility companies require municipal light plants to

carry are unnecessary and noted the bond functions less as a real safeguard and more as an added expense that ultimately drives up costs for customers.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE ADULTS FROM FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION (H 5300)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to a bill that would create a law to address the fi-

ancial exploitation of persons with disabilities and adults 60 years of age or older.

The bill defines "financial exploitation" as: "the wrongful or

unauthorized taking, withholding, or use of money, assets or property of an eligible adult.

"In a state like Massachusetts, where our aging population is

growing rapidly, safeguarding vulnerable adults isn't optional, it's a responsibility," said sponsor Rep. Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham). "This bill strikes the right balance between pro-

tection, privacy and professional judgment."

Somerville Community Baptist Church Flea Market

VENDORS WANTED for a FLEA MARKET to be held at the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Avenue near Davis Square on Saturday, May 9

from 9 am to 2 pm. Seeking vendors of items either useful or fun, such as vintage finds, household items, toys, knick-knacks, handmade crafts, etc. It costs \$20 to rent

a table.

For more information or to reserve your table, contact Heather Roderick, hroderick32@gmail.com



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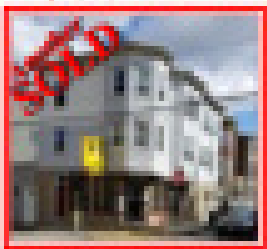


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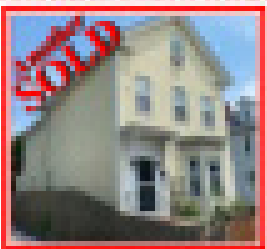
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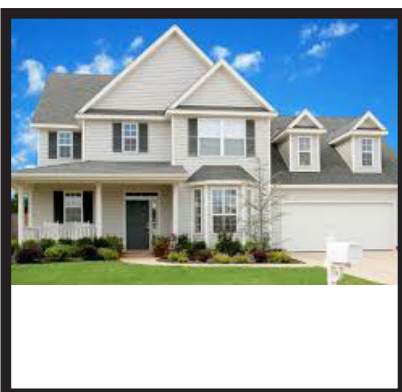
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Out dosage continued from page 2



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Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Fraudulent and Inaccurate Somerville Water Bills

By William Tauro

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.

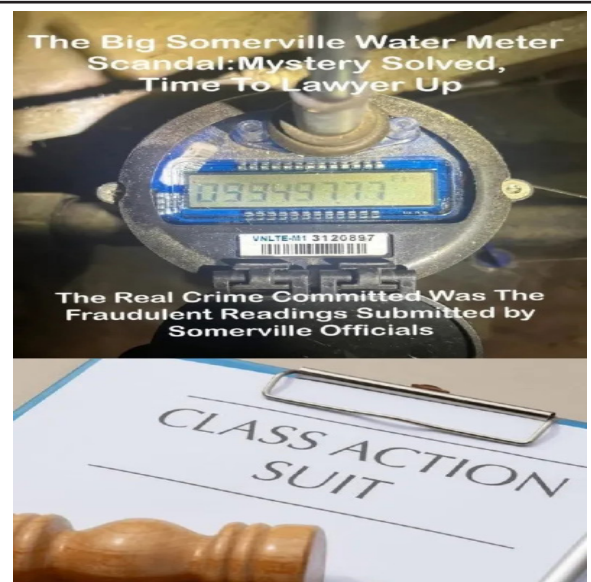
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(Please DO NOT post any contact information in the comments area)

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

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“Slice of the City” Pop-Up Series Returns to Somerville in May



Connect with Mayor, City Officials, and your neighbors over free pizza, conversation, and kids’ activities in a Somerville park near you

SOMERVILLE—It’s spring, which means Somerville’s getting ready to serve up pizza, conversation, and community connection. The ward-based “Slice of the City” pop-up series is set to return for a third season to bring

City Hall into the community.

“The weather’s getting better, people are coming back outside, and Slice of the City is a chance to meet your elected officials and City staff, ask a question, raise an issue or idea, or just grab a slice in the park and meet your neighbors,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “Strong communities are built when people know each other, get involved,

and feel connected to the place they call home. This series pairs government access with a simple, fun way to build community here in Somerville.”

Slice of the City brings seven early evening, drop-in style meetups at parks or playgrounds in each of Somerville’s seven wards. All events will run from 5 to 7 p.m. throughout the month of May and early June.

The gatherings are an opportunity to mingle with Mayor Wilson, your Ward and At-Large City Councilors, School Committee members, and State Delegation representatives, as well as City staff and neighbors. Attending staff will be happy to discuss neighborhood projects, City programs and services, questions or concerns, or your favorite pizza topping. Members of our 311 team will also be in attendance to

intake service requests. Low-key kids’ activities will be provided by the Recreation Department.

Somerville has declared 2026 The Year of the Neighbor (somervillema.gov/neighbor), and in that spirit, Slice will include a special get to know you activity for anyone who wishes to participate.

Slice of the City Schedule

Tuesday, May 5: Ward 5 at Trum Field Playground (1 Franey Rd. At Cedar St.)

Monday, May 11: Ward 1 at Chuckie Harris Park (17 Cross St. East)

Tuesday, May 12: Ward 6 at Powderhouse Park (850 Broadway, Powderhouse side)

Tuesday, May 19: Ward 7 at Lou Ann David Park (1060 Broadway, between

Holland St. and Broadway next to the TAB building)
Wednesday, May 20: Ward 4 at Healey Schoolyard (5 Meacham St.)
Monday, June 1: Ward 2 at Lincoln Park (290 Washington St., near Argenziano entrance)
Wednesday, June 3: Ward 3 at Prospect Hill Park (68 Munroe St.)

Not sure which ward you live in? Visit somervillema.gov/mysomerville to look up your ward. In the event of inclement weather, events will be rescheduled to a later date. Sign up for the City e-newsletter for updates at somervillema.gov/subscribe or contact 311 the day of to check on possible weather plans (617-666-3311).

For all event information and updates, visit somervillema.gov/slice.

THE AI REVOLUTION IN MASSACHUSETTS

By Bob Katzen

As Massachusetts looks to both lead and regulate the AI revolution, join leading

legislators and thought leaders for a timely forum on AI’s challenges and opportunities, hosted by the State House News Service

and MASterList.

The timely policy forum is on Thursday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the

MCLE Conference Center (Downtown Crossing), 10 Winter Place, Boston. Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/massai>

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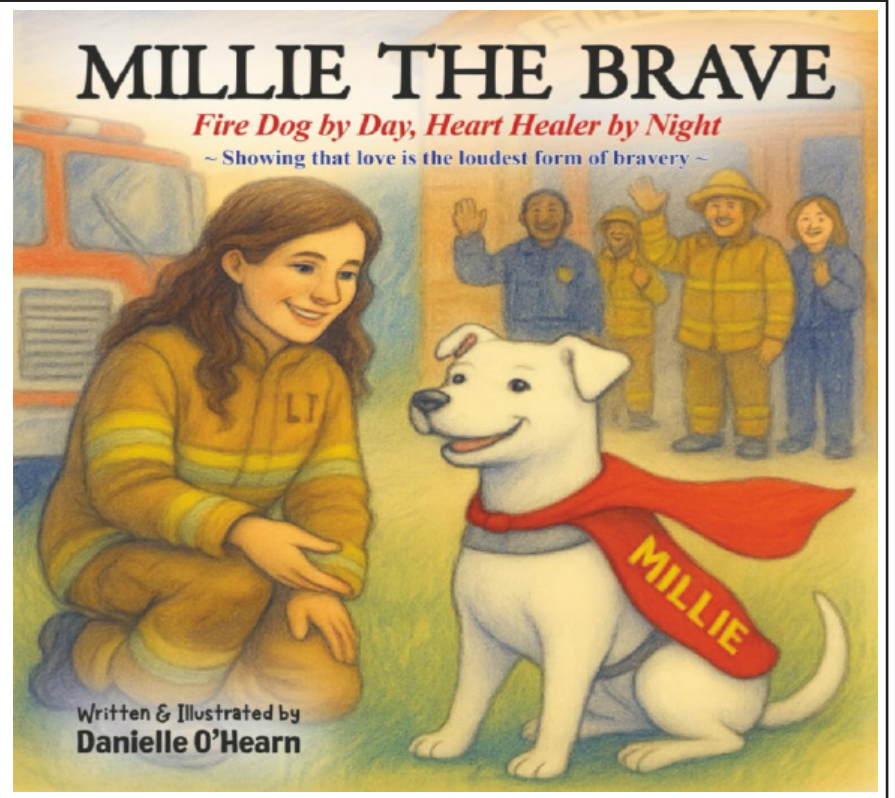
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

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

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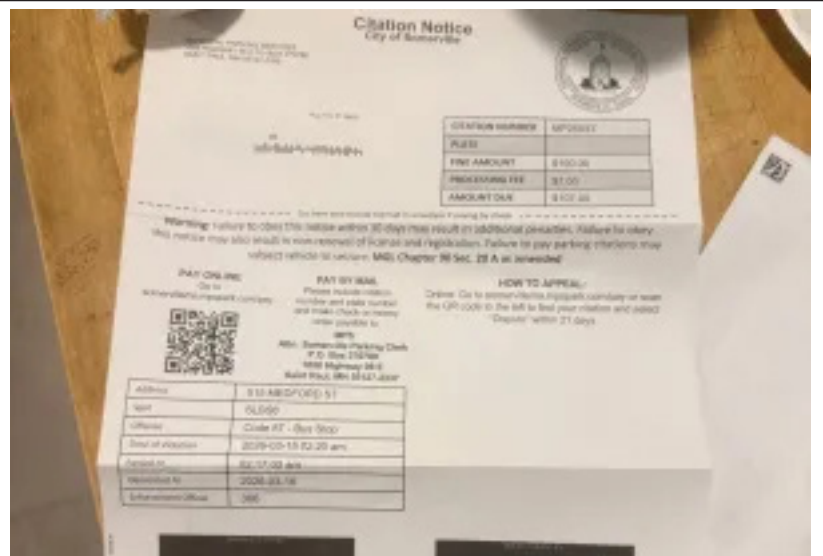


Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Fake Somerville Bills

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

Billy, please post this in your news paper and online. A Somerville resident received this notice in the mail.

It's almost believable with the exception of the payment address, the photo is incorrectly poised. Please warn residents to ignore this fake notice it's a scam. If you can highlight the areas that prove it's fraud



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AGE AT WHICH A PERSON CAN BECOME A POLICE OFFICER (H 4093 and H 3929)

By Bob Katzen

The House, on a voice vote without a roll call, gave initial approval to two bills that would raise the age at which a person can become a police officer.

The first measure, approved as a home rule petition in Boston and sponsored by Rep. Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston) would increase from 40 to 45 the current maximum age requirement for those seeking to enter the Boston Police

Academy. Madaro said the current limit of age 40 excludes many capable Boston residents during an ongoing officer shortage in several Boston neighborhoods. He argued that raising the maximum age to 45 would expand the pool of eligible applicants, strengthen community representation and support the timely recruitment of experienced individuals to meet the city's public safety needs.

The second measure would increase from 32 to 39 the maximum

age of eligibility to be certified for original appointment as a police officer in Worcester. "Making sure the city of Worcester has the resources and manpower to keep its residents safe is one of my top priorities in the Legislature," said sponsor Sen. Michael Moore (D-Millbury). "By increasing the age of eligibility for the Worcester Police Department, we'd be expanding the pool of qualified and capable candidates to do these tough jobs."



BAN CONVERSION THERAPY FOR ANYONE UNDER 18 (H 140)

By Bob Katzen

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled 8 to 1 against a law banning "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ+ children under 18 in Colorado. The court sided with a therapist who argued that the law violates the First Amendment and sent it back to a lower court for review. Conversion therapy is primarily used to try to convert gays and lesbians to be straight. LGBTQ+ groups and some mental health experts charge that the practice is scientifically unproven and unsound and can trigger depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts in these youngsters.

Massachusetts is one of several states that currently ban or restrict conversion therapy. The Supreme Court's decision to send the case back down to the lower court to make a determination regarding the future of Colorado's law doesn't change the laws of the Bay State or any other state.

On March 13, 2019, the House 149-8 and then 148-8, approved a bill that prohibits psychiatrists, psychologists and other health care providers from attempting to change the sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression of anyone under 18. On March 28, 2019, the Senate 34-0, approved a different version of the bill. A few days later the House and Senate agreed on a final version of the bill and approved it on a voice vote without a

roll call vote. Former Gov. Charlie Baker signed that final version of the bill into law on April 8, 2019.

"I'm incredibly disappointed by the Supreme Court's ruling," said Gov. Maura Healey. "So-called conversion therapy is dangerous, discredited and has been shown to cause real harm to young people. That's why Massachusetts banned this practice on a bipartisan basis in 2019, and it was signed into law by a Republican governor. That's who we are as a state. We are reviewing the impact of this decision, but our commitment is unchanged. In Massachusetts, we will always stand up for LGBTQ+ young people and their families and make sure they are safe, healthy and able to be who they are."

"[The] decision not only undermines efforts to protect LGBTQ+ youth but also disregards years of scientific research showing that conversion therapy can have a devastating impact on the mental, emotional and physical health of young people," said Attorney General Andrea Campbell. "We are reviewing the court's decision, and I will continue using every tool available to stand firmly against any attempt to legitimize practices that put our young people at risk."

"I am disheartened by the Supreme Court's decision regarding Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors,"

said Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "All persons, but especially young people, should not be subject to harmful treatments premised on the incorrect and outdated idea that it is possible to change anyone's sexual or gender identity. Fortunately, the scope of the ruling is narrow and does not invalidate our law. I continue to work with my colleagues to examine the ruling for its potential impact on Massachusetts and assess whether we need to amend our statute. As ugly debates about the dignity of LGBTQ+ people swirl at the national level, I remain committed to defending marginalized youth here in Massachusetts."

"I oppose a blanket ban on so-called conversion therapy because I am concerned that it is too broadly interpreted and in fact infringes on legitimate, patient-centered talk therapy that explores underlying issues through open dialogue and thoughtful questioning," said Rep. Joe McKenna (R-Sutton). "Patients should have the freedom to engage in therapeutic conversations that challenge, rather than simply affirm, their perspectives when appropriate. To be sure, abusive coercion and shaming of a patient is wrong and should not be allowed. However, the other side of that coin is overly broad prohibitions that could unintentionally limit clinicians' ability to provide genuine care based on each patient's needs."

"The Supreme Court made clear that

counseling conversations are protected speech, and the government cannot favor one viewpoint over another," said a spokesperson for the Massachusetts Liberty Legal Center. "We are hopeful this decision will open the door to challenging similar laws in Massachusetts and restoring the freedom of counselors to speak honestly with those they serve."

"The vote regarding conversion therapy contained provisions regarding professional government compelled speech," said Rep. Dave DeCoste (R-Norwell). "There was no aversive therapy conducted in Massachusetts. Anything like that would have been child abuse under the law."

There were two roll calls on the bill in the House. Two representatives changed their votes on the second roll call.

Rep. Susannah Whipps (U-Athol) was first recorded as voting "No" and then was recorded as voting "Yes" on the second roll call. Whipps told Beacon Hill Roll Call, "During the 2019 roll call, my vote was incorrectly recorded. I immediately notified the clerk and speaker and requested a correction. A second roll call was taken to reflect my actual position, and I voted against conversion therapy. That reflects my position then and now."

Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) was first recorded as voting "Yes" and then

was recorded as voting "No" on the second roll call. Boldyga did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to explain why he was recorded as voting differently on the two roll calls.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill banning conversion therapy. A "No" vote is against the bill banning conversion therapy and supports allowing the therapy. There was only one roll call in the Senate while the House held two roll calls.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes/Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes/Yes Rep. Paul Donato Yes/Yes Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven was not elected Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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Somerville Launches Racial and Social Justice Public Grants, Opening \$100,000 in Micro-Grants for Community-Led Justice Work



Applications open May 1 through May 29 for Somerville residents, advocates, and service providers

SOMERVILLE, MA – The City of Somerville is putting money directly into the hands of residents, advocates, and service providers working to advance racial and social justice at the local and neighborhood level. Mayor Jake Wilson and the Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) today announced the launch of the City’s first ever RSJ Fund Public Grants round, a new micro-grant program offering up community programming grants — with individual awards ranging from \$250 to \$9,999. Applications will be accepted from Friday, May 1, through Friday, May 29, 2026.

During the pilot round, the RSJ Fund will make available up to \$100,000 in community programming grants in total. Individual applicants may request between \$250 and \$9,999. The fund is open to Somerville residents, local advocates, and service providers with a vision for making Somerville a more just and equitable place to live, work, and thrive in.

“Somerville doesn’t work without community builders, and those community builders can’t work without resources,” said Mayor Wilson. “The RSJ Fund public grants are about making sure our people have real resources to match their vision.”

What the RSJ Fund Public Grants

Support
The RSJ Fund public grants support projects that align with Somerville’s commitment to racial and social justice. Proposals should address at least one of three focus areas:

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB): Projects that work to make Somerville a place where everyone, regardless of race, background, is valued, treated with dignity, and has fair and equitable access to resources and opportunities. Examples include but are not limited to mentorship programs, cultural showcases, and accessibility audits for community organizations.
Community Engagement: Projects that build trust and connection across neighborhoods and ensure residents have a voice in the decisions that affect their daily lives. Examples include neighborhood resource guides, youth-led campaigns, and shared community spaces.
Education & Trainings: Projects that share skills, knowledge, and tools so that people can advocate for themselves and their neighbors. Examples include tenant rights workshops, civic participation trainings, and restorative justice programming.

“This fund exists because we know that some of the most powerful ideas for change come from people who are already doing the work right here in our neighborhoods,” said Interim RSJ Director, Catherine Nakato. “This is an opportunity to close the gap in how projects are financed. We’re excited to invest in ideas and people in a real, tangible

way, and we encourage anyone to apply.”

Grantees will be selected by a Review Committee appointed by the Mayor’s office and consist of City staff and community members whose work is centered around equity, social justice, and community engagement.

How to Apply
Deadline: Applications for the RSJ Fund Public Grants open Friday, May 1, 2026. The deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 29.

Proposals: Applicants will be asked to share a brief project concept that describes their connection to Somerville, a proposed timeline, and an overview of how awarded funds would be used.
More information: Please see the Fund webpage at somervillema.gov/rsj-fund for more detailed information.

Eligibility: Applicants must be at least 18 years old and must live or work in Somerville.
Award range: \$250 – \$9,999 per award. All awards are subject to approval by the review committee.

Where to submit application: Please submit your application online at somervillema.gov/rsj-fund. Anyone who requires assistance with the online form or an alternate form of submission may contact rsj@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

How funds will be paid: The RSJ Fund operates on a reimbursement basis. Partial reimbursements may be requested as the work on a project grant is being conducted. Applicants may request payments to third party vendors, who have

conducted work on the project grant; thereby ensuring funds go directly to appropriate expenses. Final reimbursement, typically no less than 30% of the award, will not be made until the project is completed as proposed and a final report is submitted.

About the Review Process
Applications will be reviewed by a committee of City of Somerville staff and community members appointed by the Mayor’s office. Projects will be evaluated on their vision, project design, community impact, and the lived and professional experience of the applicant as well as budget details. The review committee will seek to support strong proposals from both first-time project managers as well as applicants who bring demonstrated track records of success.

This is the RSJ Fund’s Public Grants inaugural round. The City looks forward to growing and refining the program in future cycles based on the learnings and community feedback generated this year.

For questions or more information, please contact: rsj@somervillema.gov.

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Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Looking for a Porch for Porch Fest!

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

I'm just forwarding my friend's Porch Fest request here thinking maybe you can help?

"Hello, I'm a homeowner on School St. but School St. is not allowed to

participate in Porch Fest. I am a DJ of 25 years with current residencies internationally. Looking to play fun classics, house, funk and more. I have all gear and live sound. Looking to collaborate, or rent a porch just for fun and good times. Thanks!"



Explore Somerville Mobility's Designs for Broadway in Magoun Square at May 6 Open House



Project aims to improve safety on Broadway and reimagine intersection

SOMERVILLE – More than 500 community members have shared their perspectives on the segment

of Broadway that runs through Somerville's Magoun Square—among the feedback were concerns about long crossings, congestion, speeding, red light running, and more.

Now, the City's Mobility Division is hosting an open house to share preliminary design concepts that seek to address these concerns and provide a safer, more comfortable experience for everyone using the street.

Join the May 6 Broadway Magoun Open House
Date/Time: Wednesday, May 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Arthur D. Healey School Cafeteria, 5 Meacham Street.

Info: Community members will have the opportunity to dive into the details of the concept designs and talk directly to the project team about their questions and comments.

Redesign Highlights
Along with repaving the roadway and rebuilding the sidewalks on Broadway between Winchester Street and Central Street, the new concept designs include:
Safer more, comfortable crosswalks
Protected bike lanes

Bus rider experience improvements
Parking regulation changes
Accessibility improvements
Changes to traffic operations at signalized intersections
New space to add trees and greenery plantings

In addition to the community feedback and data gathered, this effort is informed by Somerville's commitment to Vision Zero (a commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injury) and the City's Bicycle Network Plan (a roadmap to expanding bicycle safety and features across the city).

More Info and Other Opportunities to Engage
If community members cannot attend the open house, there will be multiple other ways to share feedback such as through an online feedback survey, a virtual office hour, street outreach pop-ups, and more.

More information about the project and opportunities to share feedback is available at somervillema.gov/broadwaymagoun.

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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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Applications Now Open for Mayor's Summer Jobs Program



From running rec games to assisting with community outreach, teens can earn \$18.85/hour; Apply by April 30

SOMERVILLE – Somerville

teens (ages 14+) can now apply for the 2026 Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, a six-week paid opportunity to earn money, build skills, and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the City runs.

Each summer, local teens take on roles across more than 20 City departments — everything from helping with Parks and Recreation programs and supporting library events, to assisting with community outreach, and organizing city data.

The program is open to Somerville teens ages 14 through the summer of high school graduation. Opportunities are designed to give teens early work experience while staying connected to their community.

Program Details
 Compensation: \$18.85/hour for all positions
 Time Commitment: Most positions are 20 hours per week and run July 6 through August 14
 Eligibility:
 o Applicants must be 14

years old by May 4, 2026
 o Must be a Somerville resident or enrolled in a Somerville school
 Deadline to Apply: Interested youth can apply now through Thursday, April 30, by completing the online application at somervillema.gov/summerjobs. All applicants will be interviewed in early May.

Participants are placed across a wide variety of City departments including Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police and

Fire, Libraries, and more. Limited positions will also be available in non-municipal, private businesses and non-profits around Somerville. Schedules will vary by jobsite and placement. All positions require onboarding and orientation.

For any questions, please email summerjobs@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Give Feedback on Designs for Inner Belt-Brickbottom Crossing at May 7 Open House



Learn about the crossing project, review design alternatives, and share feedback.

SOMERVILLE— The Brickbottom and Inner Belt neighborhoods are separated from one another by train tracks.

Currently residents and visitors looking to move between these areas must follow a lengthy route that includes walking under McGrath Highway via the underpass on Washington Street.

To enhance connections between the neighborhoods, provide easier access to community and arts spaces as well as support economic growth, the City is designing an accessible crossing for people walking, rolling, or biking from one side of the green line tracks

to the other near the East Somerville MBTA station. A temporary crossing at East Somerville Station is now in place while designs for a permanent crossing are developed.

Six alternatives were introduced to the public in fall 2025, of which two finalists were chosen in early winter 2026. The two designs, including one bridge and one ground-level crossing, are now actively being advanced and the project team is seeking the community's input.

About the Open House

Time and Date: Thursday, May 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.
 Location: Ralph and Jenny Center, 9 New Washington St.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the project, review the design alternatives, and ask questions. Residents are welcome to drop in at any time during the event.

Community members unable to attend the open

house can review the designs and provide feedback through an online survey that will be posted to the project website closer to the May 7 event.

For more project information and to access the designs and survey, visit somervillema.gov/innerbeltbrickbottom.

If you have questions, please email construction@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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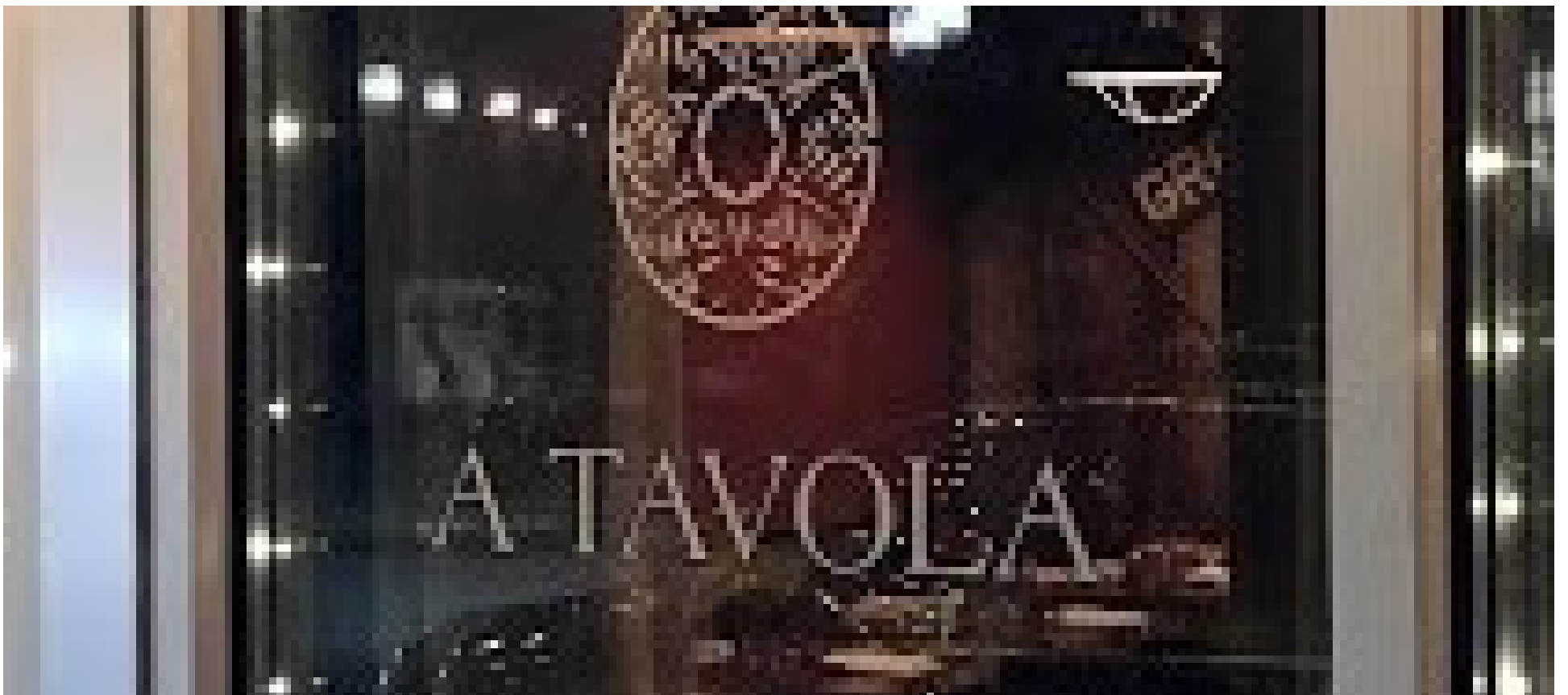
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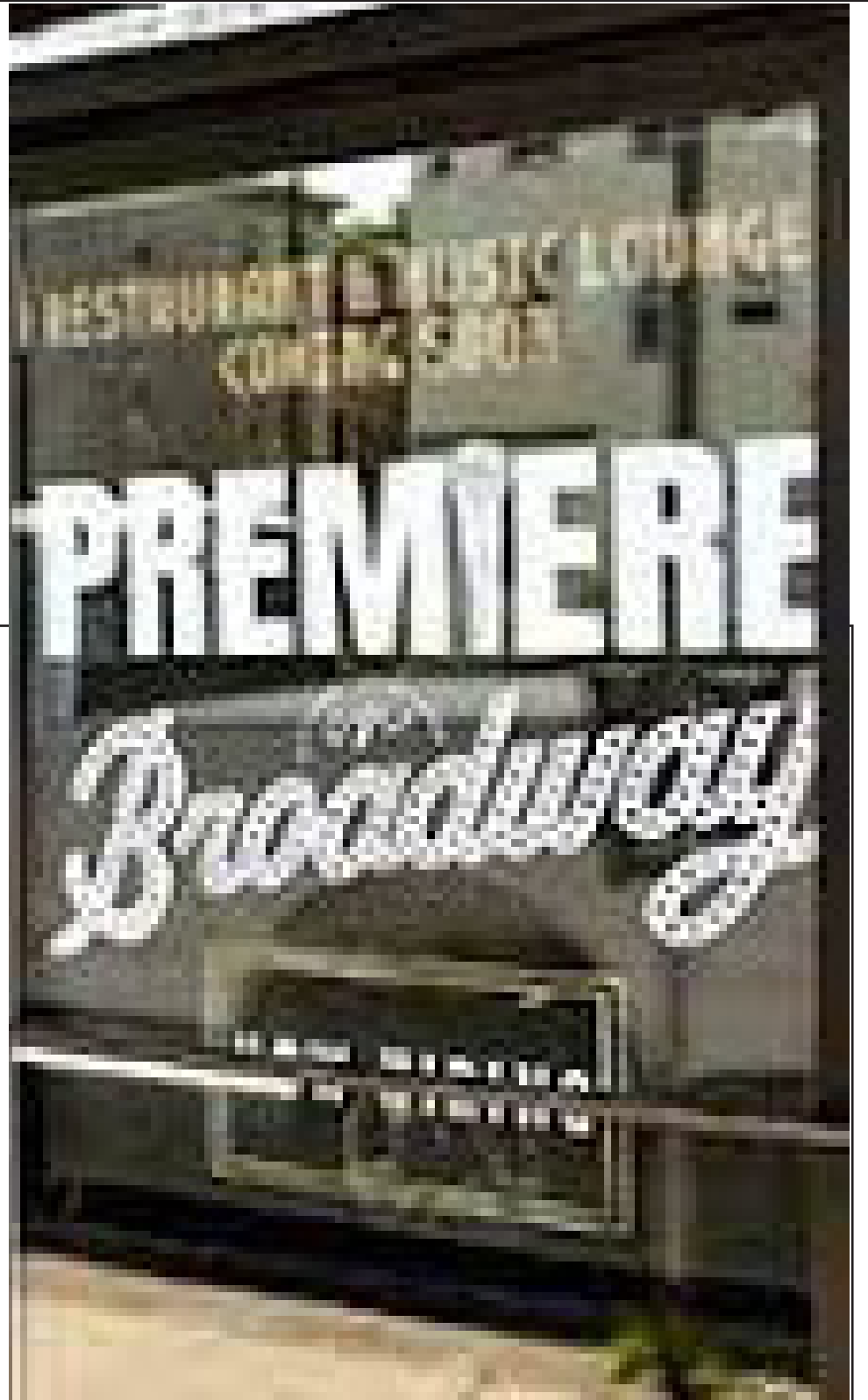
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