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VOL.1 NO.329-2986

SOMERVILLE/MEDFORD MASS

Tuesday April 7th, 2026

Somerville Celebrating Week of the Young Child with Citywide Events, Family Festival



NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Firefighters Local 76 News Updates: Another Fire Truck Out Of Service



Somerville Police Real Life Somerville Police Stories Page



Continued to page 5

Congratulations Medford Police and thank you for a job well done!



Continued to page 6



MOUNT VERNON RESTAURANT

We are open for indoor dining along with take out. Our business hours are Sunday through Wednesday 11:30am to 8:30pm and Thursday through Saturday 11:30am to 9:30pm. Our full menu along with our daily specials and catering menu is available. Join us inside to cheer on your favorite sports teams!



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The Death of an Urban City WILLIAM TAURO

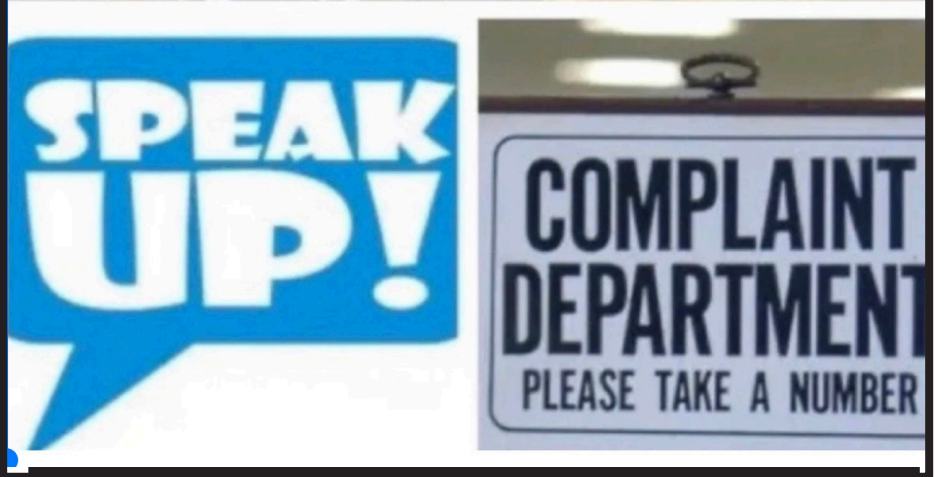
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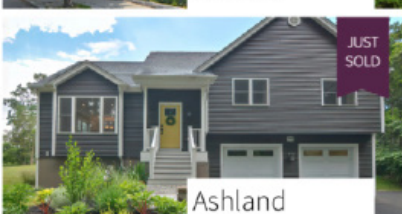
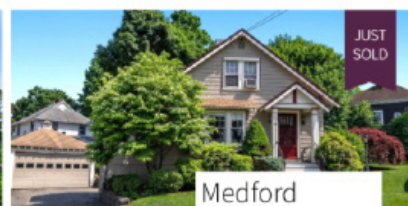
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MARKET ACTIVITY

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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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Please send both form and payment to:

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 489 Winthrop Street
 Medford, MA 02155

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.
 Tax ID 04-6601400

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
 BECOME A MEDFORD POLICE OFFICER

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 John J. Danieli



Obituary
John J. Danieli – A lifelong resident of Somerville, passed away

on March 29, 2026.

Born, raised, and educated in Somerville, he was the beloved son of the late John and Carolina (Picardo) Danieli.

John was a devoted family man who cherished the time he spent with his loved ones. One of his favorite things to do was go shopping with his daughter and spending quality time and making fond memories.

John also had a wealth of

knowledge about Star Trek. He loved watching the many reruns of the series and took great pride in his collection of memorabilia from the iconic show. John's Italian heritage shined through in the kitchen. Cooking was one of his true passions, and he loved preparing delicious meals for his family. For John, sharing food was one of the many ways he expressed his love and care for those closest to him.

Beloved husband of 45 years to

Marie A. (Sinkiewicz) Danieli. Devoted father of Carolyn Danieli and John Danieli and his wife Sarah. Cherished brother of Lawrence Danieli, Antonetta Bither and her late husband Scott, Grace Maidrand and her husband John and Josephine Baxter and her husband Michael. Also lovingly survived by many loving nieces, and nephews.

A prayer service will be conducted in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855

Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Wednesday, April 8th at 10:00AM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held on Tuesday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Services will conclude with interment at Calvary Cemetery, Winchester.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Rongwen Zhang



Obituary
Rongwen Zhang – Of Somerville, passed away on March 30, 2026. She was 88 years old.

Calling Hours will be held in

the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House SQ.) Somerville, on Saturday April 4th from 10:00AM to 12:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Interment will be private at Newton Cemetery, Newton

For those who are unable to attend the service, you may join via zoom

<https://zoom.us/join>

The put in meeting ID number and passcode

Meeting ID 894 4509 0942

Passcode 603556

Somerville/Medford Remembering Mary "Terry" Keane



Obituary
Mary "Terry" Keane, of Medford, passed away at the age of 84 after a brief illness on Monday, March 30, 2026.

Terry was born on May 23,

1941, in Boston. She grew up alongside her loving siblings, Bob, Clara, Dick, Ronnie, Ray, Marilyn, and Ralph. Although the family moved frequently, she spent much of her childhood in Charlestown, which always remained close to her heart.

Terry was predeceased by the love of her life, her husband Pat, who passed away less than three years ago. They shared a deep and enduring love, and she missed him dearly every day.

She is survived by her four children: Sean and his wife Joanne; Jayem; Patrick and his wife

Christine; and Anne Marie and her husband Gerard. She was a devoted grandmother to eleven grandchildren – Matthew, Veronica, Rebecca, Alexandra, Nathan, Padraig, Ronin, Catriona, Colin, Kiercen, and Finian, and a proud great-grandmother to Cillian, Cashel, and Keltie.

Terry also leaves behind a large and loving extended family, including 49 nieces and nephews, as well as many great-nieces and great-nephews from the Keane, Lane, Hughes, and Freitas families.

After Pat's retirement, the

couple moved from Somerville to North Conway, New Hampshire, where they enjoyed many happy years together. In 2021, Terry and Pat moved to Medford to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

A woman of deep and abiding faith, Terry attended daily Mass and had a special devotion to the Rosary. She dedicated many years to both St. Ann's and St. Anthony's parishes in Somerville, helping to clean and decorate the churches. She also worked as a cashier at Demoulas, where she took great joy in meeting and connecting with

customers. Terry will be remembered for her faith, her love of family, and the warmth she shared with everyone she met.

A funeral procession will commence from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Thursday, April 9 at 10:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Francis of Assisi Church 441 Fellsway West at 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Somerville/Medford Remembering MARY HICKEY

MARY HICKEY Obituary
HICKEY, Mary L. (McGonagle) Of Somerville, formerly of Charlestown, April 8. Beloved mother of Eileen Doherty, Marie Cook, Philip Hickey, Maureen Fucill, Joseph Hickey, Robert Hickey, and Denise Iverson, and the late John and Patrick Hickey.

Sister of Ann Greatorex, Margie Carr, Sadie Fallon, Philip McGonagle, Eileen Fleming, Frances Carr, and the late John, Joseph, and Patrick McGonagle. Also survived by 23 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. Funeral from the John H. Sawyer Funeral Home, 329 Bunker Hill St., CHARLESTOWN, Thursday, April 12 at 9:10 AM. Funeral Mass in St.

Francis de Sales Church at 10 o'clock. Relatives and friends invited. Visiting hours Wednesday 4-8 PM. Interment Gethsemane Cemetery, West Roxbury. In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Mary's name may be made to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 44 Binny St., Boston, MA 02115. Parking area opposite Funeral Home.



Somerville/Medford Remembering Monica M. (Campo) Stepanian

Obituary
Monica M. (Campo) Stepanian – Of Somerville, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Friday, November 7, 2025. She was 58 years young.

Born, raised, and educated in Somerville, she was the beloved daughter of the late Robert V. and Joan M. (Burke) Campo. Monica was a kind and compassionate soul who found great joy in helping others. Seeing someone smile or hearing a simple thank you made her

heart full.

Monica was also a talented figure skater. When she was on the ice, she felt truly at home; as if the rest of the world faded away. Beyond skating, she had a deep love for her family, especially her two boys, who were the light of her life and her greatest joy. She was an avid Boston Bruins fan and a gifted cook who loved bringing people together around a good meal.

Beloved mother of Richard Stepanian Jr., and Thomas

Stepanian. Wife of Richard Stepanian. Cherished sister of Joan M. McKenna and her late husband Michael of Somerville, and the late Robert V. Campo Jr., Christopher J. Campo, James M. Campo. The loving aunt of Kevin McKenna, Sean McKenna, Marc McKenna, Michael McKenna, the late Denis McKenna, Nicole Campo, Michael Campo and many other nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

A memorial mass will be held on Saturday, April 11th in St. Catherine Church 179 Sum-

mer St., Somerville at 1:00PM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend and may visit with the family from 12:00PM to 1:00PM prior to mass in the church.

Following the services, the family would like to invite everyone to continue to celebrate Monica's life back to Anthony's of Malden, 105 Canal St, Malden from 2:00pm to 5:00PM





Somerville Firefighters Local 76 News Updates

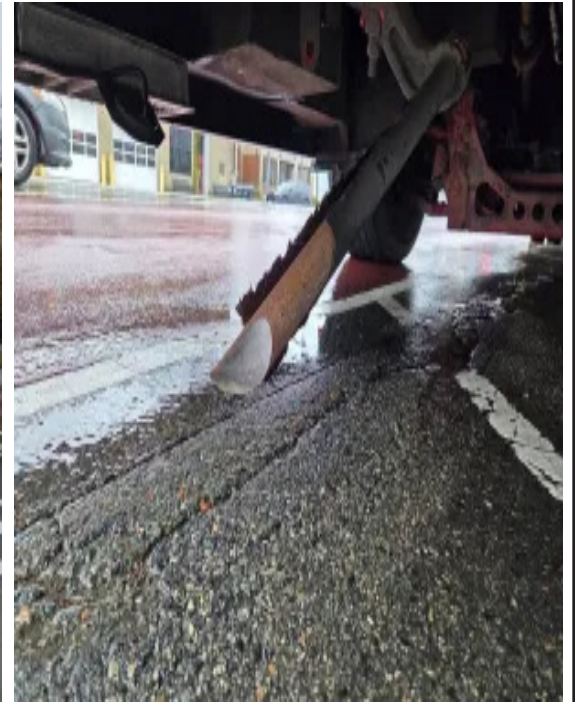
Even if they service the out of service apparatus asap, we cant fix them fast enough because as soon as they are repaired they have to start navigating Somerville streets again, leading to more damage.

Somerville Firefighters Local 76 reports that Ladder 3 is currently out of service due to mechanical issues. We are once again relying on a borrowed apparatus from Medford.

This marks the sixth apparatus taken out of service in

recent months, largely due to poor road conditions, current landscape of the city, and the strain they place on our fleet.

This ongoing issue poses serious safety risks to our firefighters and the residents of Somerville. Immediate attention is needed to ensure reliable emergency response



The New Mcgrath Highway at Mystic Avenue Street Design.

By William Tauro

Expect everyday delays from here on!

From three lanes of traffic down the two lanes of traffic because of an overextended sidewalks and bike lanes installed. McGrath Highway will never be the same!



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TAX EXEMPTIONS (S 3029)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 38-0, approved an amendment that would allow cities and towns to give temporary property tax breaks to farmers for building new buildings and/or renovating structures that are essential to farming – including barns, stor-

age facilities, worker housing structures and structures used as indoor arenas for training and exercising horses that are used to help on the farm. The tax exemption applies only to the added value from new or rebuilt buildings and is valid for five years. If the building is used for non-agricultural purposes

prior to the 5-year period, the owner would be required to pay back the taxes that were exempt.

“This measure provides our farmers with the support they need to invest in their operations without being immediately burdened by higher prop-

erty taxes,” said Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth). “By offering targeted, temporary relief, we’re helping to sustain local agriculture and protect working lands. This is a practical step toward strengthening food security and the economy.”

Amendment sponsor Sen.

Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on his amendment and its passage.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

Congratulations Medford Police and thank you for a job well done!

Medford Police Department has completed a significant operational training milestone, with 65 officers—including senior leadership—successfully completing Introduction to #TECC training delivered by Dirigo Readiness Group LLC.

This program enhances

the department’s ability to respond effectively to high-threat incidents while delivering immediate life-saving care. DRG commends Medford PD’s leadership for prioritizing readiness, capability, and the safety of both officers and the community.



Somerville/Medford Remembering Mercegrace Norrinvil



Obituary
Mercegrace Norrinvil – Of Everett, formerly of Haiti, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2026. She was 95 years young. Complete obit to be posted. Services to be announced.



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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“It’s as close as you can get for a real authentic Italian dining experience that will keep you coming back for more” “Definitely a two thumbs up rating

and absolutely worth checking them out!” Somerville/Medford News Weekly/Boston News Group

State of A Tavola:

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

A special menu and special hours will be posted on our website as well as our social me-

dia channels. Please stay tuned for any and all details.

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

If there is anything in particular you would like to see from us or if you need help preparing food at home for your families

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

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

Thank you for your continued support.



Somerville Marks 'Start by Believing Day' to Support Survivors



SOMERVILLE—Mayor Jake Wilson has signed a proclamation supporting the City's annual observance of "Start by Believing Day" in Somerville on the first Wednesday in April, recognizing the importance of believing survivors of sexual violence and strengthening community response.

The proclamation highlights the critical role that friends, family members, and community members play when survivors first come forward, noting that victims are far more likely to disclose assaults to someone they know rather than law enforcement. It also underscores

the need for compassionate, informed responses that connect survivors to support and resources.

The "Start By Believing" campaign is a global initiative led by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) to transform the way society

responds to sexual assault. In Somerville, City departments and community organizations are joining together to take the pledge and support a cultural shift that prioritizes survivor support.

DISTRIBUTION OF 26,368 COMPUTERS AND OTHER INTERNET DEVICES

By Bob Katzen

The Healey Administration announced the distribution of 26,368 Internet-enabled devices to organizations across the state through the Connected and Online Program to improve quality of life for Massachusetts residents by providing access to essential

services and resources online.

The devices include laptops, tablets and desktop computers. In addition, more than 20,000 pieces of supporting equipment including monitors, assistive technology and remote patient monitoring tools will be made accessible to more than 200 organizations

statewide, including nonprofits, hospitals, libraries and elder and youth aid organizations. Devices will be used in public spaces such as schools, libraries and learning centers, or incorporated into free-to-borrow lending programs.

"Massachusetts residents rely on the Internet every day to

find work, take classes, access health care and build stronger community ties," said Gov. Maura Healey. "The Connected and Online Program helps residents improve their lives by equipping them with the capacity to directly access services and opportunities."

"Access to digital tools is

essential for connecting people to opportunity," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. "The Connected and Online Program helps residents access jobs, training and essential services while supporting a stronger workforce across Massachusetts."

MEN'S HEALTH (SD 3556)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate referred to the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery a late-filed bill that would create a vehicle for the state to raise awareness of the existence of the MassMen Initiative that promotes wellness and empowers working-age men across the

Bay State to take action to feel better emotionally, physically and spiritually.

The proposal would require state agencies that serve men with a higher risk of mental health conditions or suicide to display resources and communicate best practices derived from the MassMen Program internally. The bill

further calls for a public relations campaign subject to budget appropriations.

Supporters said that many men struggle to maintain mental wellbeing and noted the MassMen initiative is a way for men to get connected to resources, so they don't have to struggle alone.

"For too long, policy leaders have neglected the fact that men in America need help," said sponsor Sen. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth). "Men represent 80 percent of suicide deaths, 70 percent of drug overdose deaths, and live, on average, five years less than women — a gap that is widening in large part due to untreated mental

health and substance use crises. This legislation breaks down barriers to healthcare resources for men and helps expand access to care for this hidden epidemic that deserves urgent attention."

THIS WEEK'S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

By Bob Katzen

"Providing affordable financing to our cities and towns takes the pressure off local budgets and helps our communities move forward with critical infrastructure projects. State Revolving Funds create construction jobs and ensure safer, healthier communities."

—Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on the Healey Administration announcing that 70 projects across Massachusetts are eligible to receive over \$1 billion in low-interest rate loans to upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and cut treatment plant energy

use and costs.

"This loan repayment program is a crucial part of efforts to strengthen our early educator workforce. By supporting our early educators, we're supporting our economy and the educational journeys of our youngest learners."

—Higher Education Commissioner Noe Ortega on the launch of a \$15 million program that is designed to support and retain the early education workforce by helping eligible educators reduce their student loan debt.

"We are proud to be a longstanding part-

ner of the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition. Last season, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) completed nearly 3,600 tax returns and brought more than \$7 million in federal and state refunds back to the community. For hardworking people who are struggling, seniors and those who live with disabilities, a potential tax refund makes a big difference."

—ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler urging Greater Boston and Mystic Valley residents who earned \$69,000 or less in 2025, have disabilities or are limited English-speaking tax-

payers to schedule a free in-person tax preparation appointment at one of its 12 neighborhood sites by calling 617-348-6329 or visiting bostonabcd.org/tax

"A record of an eviction case, even if the case has been dismissed or was brought in retaliation for a tenant exercising their rights, can have devastating impacts on a person's ability to obtain housing. I am proud to partner with these eight incredible organizations to support projects across the state helping residents seal their eviction records and open the door to stable housing for thousands of individuals."

—Attorney General Andrea Campbell on awarding more than \$500,000 in grant funding to eight organizations across the state supporting the implementation of Massachusetts' eviction sealing law. The awards grant funding to organizations that will provide eviction sealing legal services, clinics, educational materials and more to ensure eligible residents are able to seal their records and have an opportunity for a fresh start.

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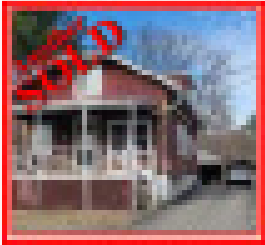
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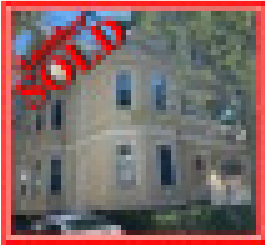


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31 Beacon Street, Somerville
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22 Francis Street, Everett
Listed for \$1,100,000, Sold for \$1,100,000

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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

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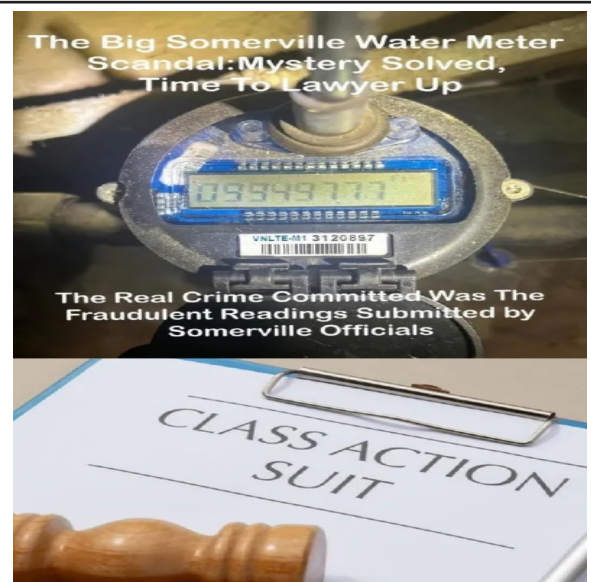
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THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION, BY THE POWER VESTED IN IT THROUGH A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, CHAPTER 397 OF THE ACTS OF 1978, HEREBY AMENDS THE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING: 2026-29 Article V Section 5-5 "Parking Location and 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/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Is it admirable for people to fight rent increases

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

Is it admirable for people to fight rent increases, or refuse to move after a lease expires? Inspired by the Gary Rogers case but not directly related, I'm more interested in the widespread "tenants rights" celebrations around it.

Forget what the landlord did procedurally incorrectly in this case. If someone's lease is up, they've refused to sign a new lease with higher rent, and they refuse to move and require eviction proceedings to start - should this approach be

celebrated?
 I'm a small time (1 unit in my house) landlord where I keep the rent as low as I can, deliberately. If someone decided to stay after not renewing and dragged it out for a year plus I'd be hosed. Yet from what it sounds like the broader community would be celebrating that happening?
 Billy's Response: I don't give a flying fuck who you are if a landlord asked for you to rent pay the fucking rent which you are obligated to do, pay the fucking rent! If you don't pay the fucking rent move out don't be a scumbag! back in the old days you get your frigin ass kicked!



Congratulations to Medford Police Department's New Officers!

Today, we proudly welcomed three new officers to our department. Officers Jordan Manning, Jaret Botelho, and Maria Mariano-Dolhopiaty graduated from the NECC Police Academy in Haverhill.

The officers will now begin a 12-week field training program as they transition into their new roles serving our community. Please join us in congratulating and warmly welcoming Officers Manning, Botelho, and Mariano-Dolhopiaty!





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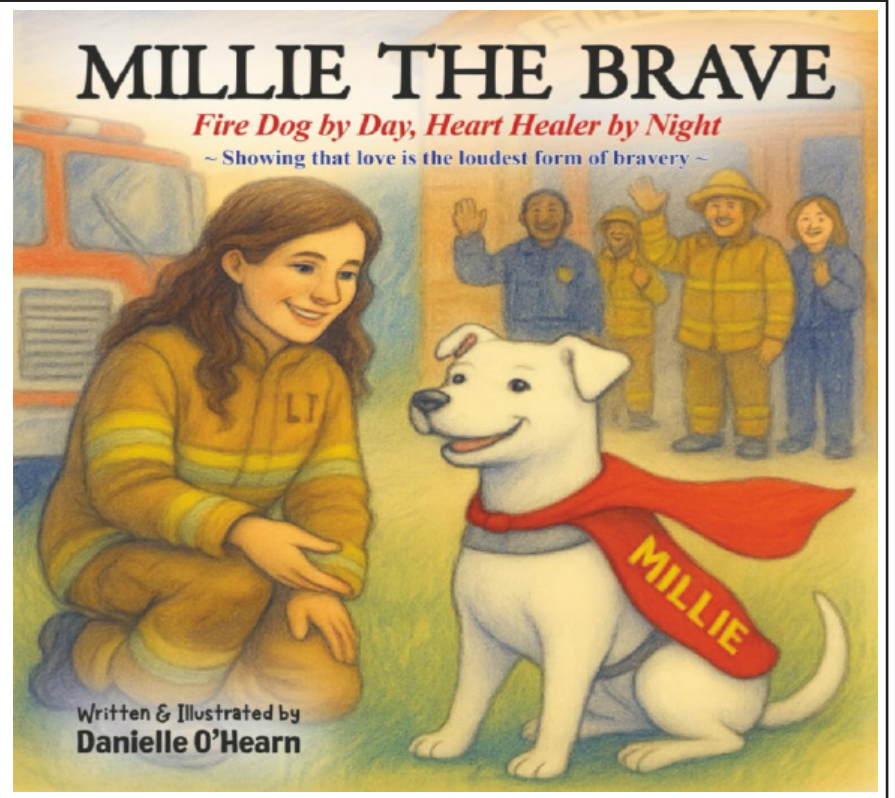
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

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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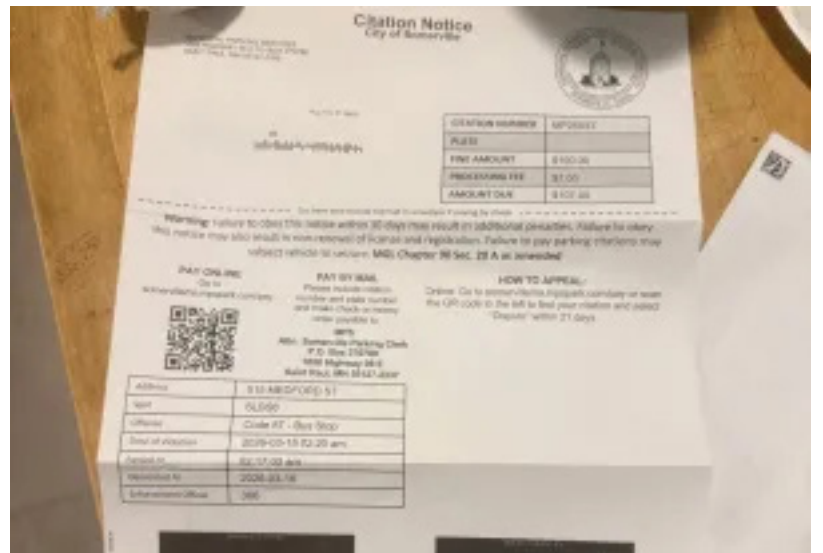


Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Fake Somerville Bills

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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Somerville/Medford Remembering Paul J. Liberatore



Paul J. Liberatore, of Florida, formerly of Somerville, passed away at 74 after a courageous four-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born and raised in Somerville, Paul was the beloved son of the late Donald and Eva (Ricci) Liberatore and a proud graduate of Somerville High School. Paul dedicated 30 years to the phone company and also worked evenings as a bartender at the TWA Ambassador Club at Logan International Airport. He loved to work and brought his warmth and energy to every role, making lifelong friendships wherever he went.

After retiring, Paul opened an ice cream shop in Long Island, which he ran with the same passion. He later made his home in Florida, where he embraced the sunshine, volunteered at his church's food bank, and formed friendships that became as close as family. In his golden years, he discovered a love for international travel. His weeks were full with golf, senior softball—winning several championships—playing cards, and breakfast outings with friends.

A loyal Boston sports fan, Paul could always be found cheering on his

teams.

He is survived by his daughters, Danielle and Angela Liberatore; his siblings, David Liberatore and his wife Kim, and Rita Lynch; his former wives, Rosa (Stella) Liberatore and Lisa Kaytis-Winters; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

He will be remembered for his strength, loyalty, and the love he shared with all who knew him.

Calling Hours will be held on Saturday, April 25th in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway

(Powder House Sq.) from 9:00AM to 11:00AM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

In lieu of flower's memorial contributions may be made in Paul's name to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168 or to Shriners Children's Attn: Office of Philanthropy PO Box 1525 Ransom, WV 25438

THE FARM BILL (S 3029)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill titled "Fostering Agricultural Resilience in Massachusetts," nicknamed the FARM bill, that proponents said will support Massachusetts' 7,000 farms; make it easier for families to buy fresh and nutritious food; protect the state's food supply for the future; and continue the state's response to federal actions that threaten food access.

A key provision in the bill builds on tax policy designed to keep farms financially viable through the Chapter 61A program, which allows farmland to be taxed based on agricultural value rather than market

value.

Other provisions include helping owners of small farms to grow their businesses by removing hurdles and making agritourism ventures possible, such as corn mazes and "pick your own" berry and fruit operations; supporting expanding farm operations with a local option property tax exemption for owners who build new agricultural structures; making permanent the Healthy Incentives Program to help families afford fresh produce and the Farm to School program to bring local ingredients into schools; and requiring regular reporting on the distribution of local produce through food assistance programs

including food banks, universal school meals, Meals on Wheels and the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program.

"I'm proud to support the Senate's effort to build a more resilient and sustainable food system in the commonwealth," said Sen. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth), Senate Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries. "The FARM bill will expand access to fresh, locally grown food while putting more money into the hands of our farmers and fishermen. By reducing costs, strengthening supply chains and expanding reliable markets, this legislation makes strategic investments into an industry that is

essential for our economy, environment and the health of our communities."

"Today, the Senate advanced urgently needed legislation to support the farms, producers and fisheries that are the foundation of our local and regional food systems," said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Senate vice chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries. "In Western and North Central Massachusetts, where agriculture is core to our economy and identity, we know that when we lose farmland, we lose far more than fields—we lose livelihoods, food security and community."

She continued, "This leg-

islation reflects the recommendations of the Special Commission on Agriculture in the 21st Century—a body that I was proud to co-chair ... With the FARM Bill, Massachusetts is stepping up—investing in the next generation of farms and fisheries while ensuring more local, nutritious food reaches Massachusetts families."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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Somerville/Medford Remembering Robert T Halpin Obituary



Another Somerville icon gone too soon! Rob Halpin, 59, owned Rudy's Cafe in Somerville's Teele Square

Rob Halpin was a natural. A quick wit, encyclopedic knowledge, and progressive outlook contributed to the magic that was Robbie and won him many life-long

friends. But it was his genuine heart of gold and the open, easy-going, down-to-earth way about him that truly set him apart. These were his greatest gifts.

Robert Thomas Halpin II passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Born on August 24, 1966, Rob was raised in the rural town of Somers, CT, where several generations of Halpins worked in the mill and where his mother from Boras, Sweden, settled after a summer adventure caring for the mill owners' children. From his father Robert (Buddy), he inherited his natural charisma, fun-loving personality, musical talent and strong sense of community. From his mother Britta, he inherited his international

and socially-progressive outlook, and his love of learning and all things Swedish.

After graduating from Tufts University in 1988, Robbie settled in the Greater Boston area with his friend and wife Ann and sons Eli and Caleb. Robbie maintained strong ties to friends and the music and restaurant scene in Cambridge and Somerville while living on a lakeside home in Natick. He managed, and then owned, Rudy's Cafe in Teele Square for decades, building many memorable moments and close-knit, long-term friendships there as he had in all spheres of his life. He employed people from across the globe—at least five of the seven continents—and took pride in

the fact that nearly every employee—including himself—was an immigrant or child of an immigrant. He had a gift to connect with all on things funny and quirky or interesting and meaningful, instinctively bridging divides since he truly never saw any.

Robbie made this world a better place and lives in all of our hearts. He is survived by his wife Ann Clifford, sons Eli and Caleb, daughter-in-law Sofia, grandson Lucas, brother Peter, sister Maria Geryk, and a much larger loving extended family, all of whom he cherished.

Please join Robbie's family and friends this Saturday, April 4th, 2026 2:00 pm -5:00 pm at the John Bryant Funeral Home, 56

Pemberton Road, Wayland, MA, to be followed by a celebration of his life probably in June.

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“GRAB-AND-GO” ALCOHOL SALES (S 225)

By Bob Katzen

The Senate sent to a study committee a bill that would regulate alcohol sales at large entertainment venues that seat more than 4,900 people by establishing new restrictions on how alcoholic beverages are sold and served. Under the bill, alcoholic beverages would only be allowed to be sold and served at these

large venues directly by employees who are licensed by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC).

Bills sent to study committees are rarely actually studied and are essentially defeated. It is a way to kill a proposal without holding a vote on the bill itself.

Supporters said that currently some

customers are allowed to purchase and pick up their drink without the involvement of any employee. They noted that the bill would require that an employee complete the sale and actually hand the buyer the beverage. Supporters continued that this makes it very difficult for employees to monitor alcohol consumption and intervene when they think a customer has been

overserved.

“I am committed to workers’ rights, which is why I filed [the bill],” said sponsor Sen. Lydia Edwards (D-Boston). “When over-service does occur, responsibility too often falls on our members, who are blamed for failing to do their jobs—when in reality, the issue stems from the design and implementa-

tion of these stands themselves.”

She continued, “I was aware that the bill was being sent to study and want to note that Unite Here Local 26 has secured a new contract for Fenway concession workers, protecting workers jobs. And I am still committed to protecting consumers.”

Somerville Celebrating Week of the Young Child with Citywide Events, Family Festival

Enjoy free music, food and family activities at community celebration on Thursday, April 16

SOMERVILLE – Somerville families, educators, and caregivers are invited to take part in the Week of the Young Child, a citywide series of events from April 11 through April 17 celebrating early childhood and the people who support it every day.

“As a dad, I know how much it takes to raise a kid well—and how much it depends on the people around you,” said Mayor

Wilson. “This week is about celebrating the families, educators, and neighbors who show up for our kids every day and make Somerville the kind of place they can grow up strong.”

Somerville’s week of celebrations will include programming and activities across the city, family-friendly specials in local restaurants, and will culminate in a community-wide celebration on Thursday, April 16, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the Somerville High School concourse (81 Highland Ave). The event will include family-friendly music, food, and

activities. “Week of the Young Child is a great way to celebrate the long history of Early Childhood work in Somerville,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rubén Carmona. “In Somerville Public Schools, we’re committed to making sure our youngest learners have access to high quality learning opportunities and to providing inclusive, multilingual programming and wrap-around services for families, and we are grateful for strong partnerships between the Public Schools, the city, and multiple community partners.”

About Week of the Young Child Marking its 55th year, Week of the Young Child was designated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NaEYC) to focus public attention on the needs of young children, their families, and the communities that help them thrive.

City of Somerville Youth and Family Supports The One Somerville, Every Child umbrella tagline reflects Somerville’s commitment to equity and its collective approach to supporting all children and youth in our city.

The City’s newest addition to support this goal is the Child Care Career Advancement Initiative, which focuses on supporting licensed family child-care providers, as well as residents interested in entering the field of early childhood education. This work is funded by the city’s Jobs Creation and Retention Trust and managed by the SomerPromise Department.

For more information regarding Somerville child and youth programs or initiatives, please visit somervillehub.org.

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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).

STUDY OPENING MORE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS (S 3029)

By Bob Katzen

Senate 37-0, approved an amendment that would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Department of Agricultural Resources, to conduct a study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing additional county agricultural schools in the Bay

State. The bill requires that at least four public hearings be held on the matter and that an initial draft of the results be finished by December 31, 2016; and then following another public hearing on the draft, the final version with recommendations must be filed with the House of Representatives by July 1, 2027.

The study would include

assessing the statewide and regional demand for agricultural and agricultural technical education; evaluating the workforce needs across agricultural and other related sectors; and identifying potential sites or host districts for new or expanded agricultural schools.

“This is a huge step toward regional equity in education offerings

for agricultural school districts across Central Massachusetts,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “School districts are spending hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars for out of district school placements. If Central Massachusetts had an agricultural school, we could save tremendous money on transportation costs while

still offering competitive agricultural education to students who are interested.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

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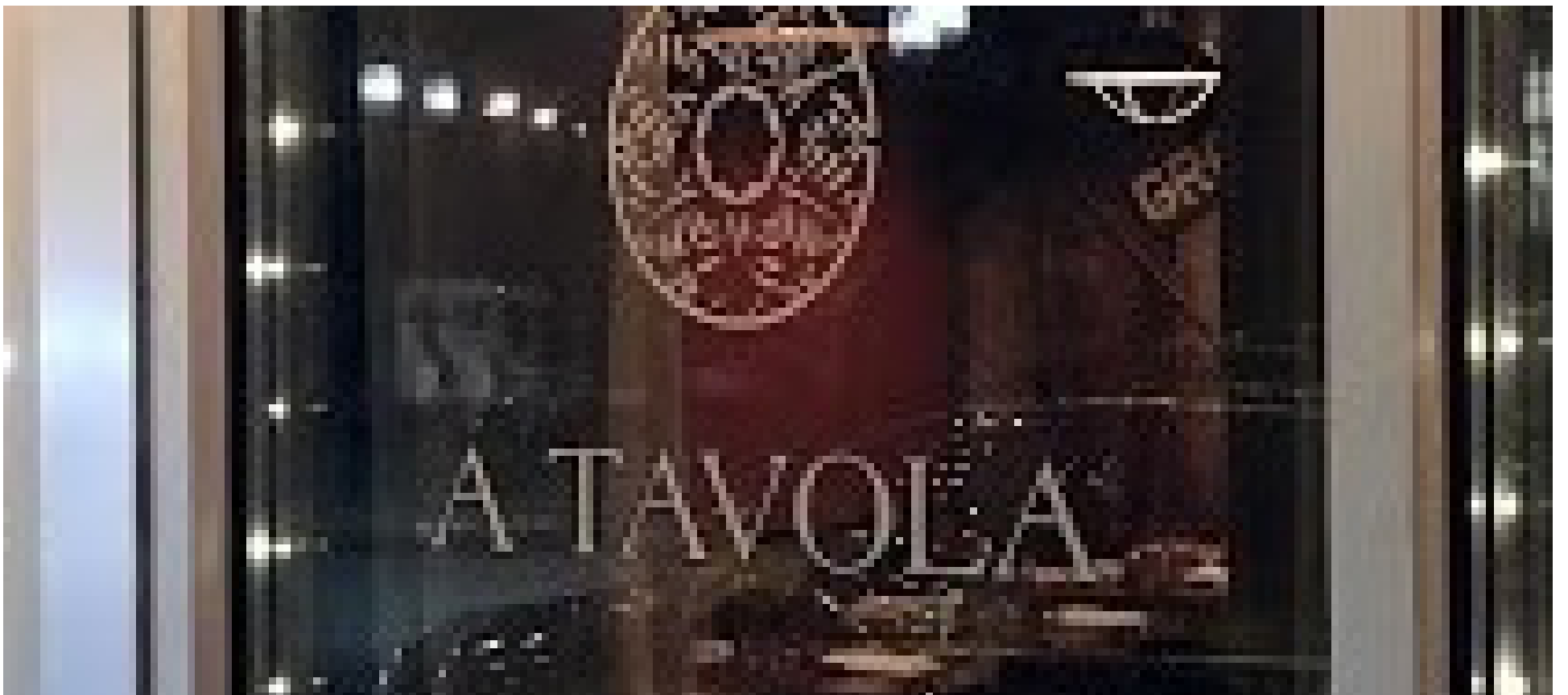
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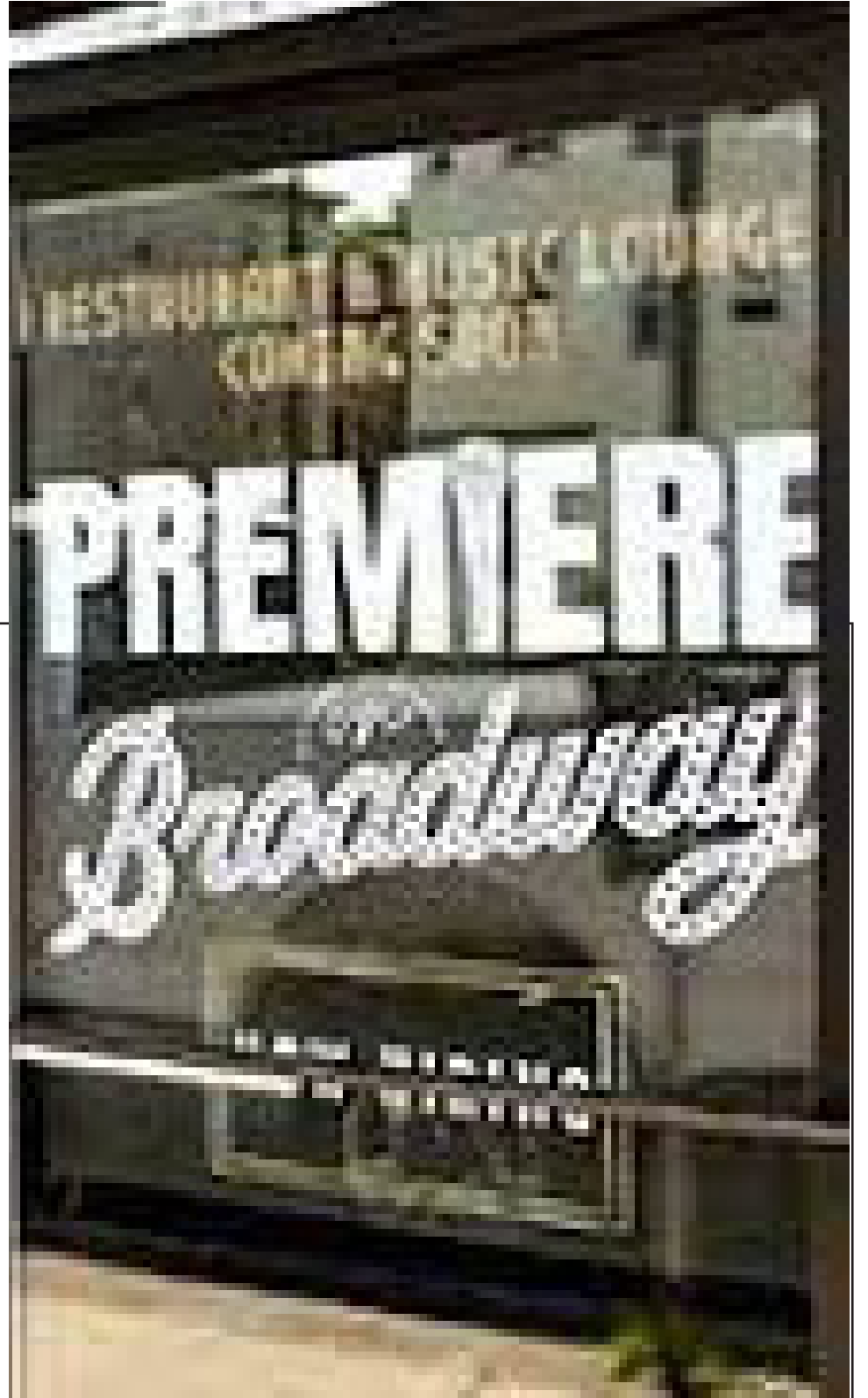
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