

Medford Gets New Graduates



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Are Somerville’s Bluebikes paying rent for the curb space they take, or is the city the one writing the checks?

Somerville Shares Community Path Safety Improvements



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NEWS TALK OUT LOUD/SPEAK UP



Somerville Police
Real Life Somerville
Police Stories Page

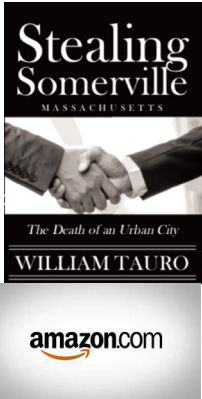


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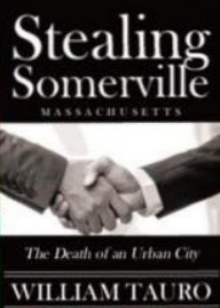
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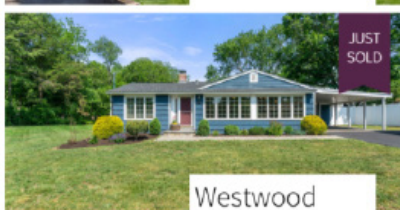
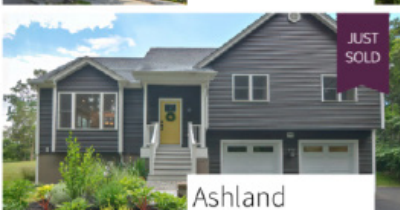
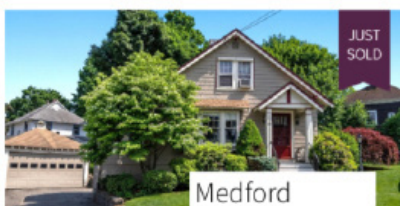
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1. Civil Service Exam Route: The first step in this pathway is taking the Massachusetts Civil Service Exam, which is now offered twice a year. Applications are NOW OPEN for the spring 2026 police officer entrance exam. Deadline to apply is February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



William J. Dill, known affectionately to all as Bill, passed away on September 29, 2026, in Sun City West, Arizona. He was 70 years old.

Born on July 5, 1956, in Boston, Massachusetts, Bill was a son of the late Edward Dill and Lucille (Serena) Dill. As a young man, Bill answered the call to serve his country, proudly enlisting in the United States Navy. He served aboard the USS Constellation, an experience that instilled in him a lifelong sense of discipline, loyalty, and pride.

Following his military service, Bill built a successful career as a salesman for Snap-On Tools. With his natural charisma, determination, and persistence, there was not a sale he couldn't make. Whatever he set his mind to, he pur-

sued with dedication and good humor.

Bill lived life fully and on his own terms. He loved the open road on his Harley, the challenge of a good round of golf, and the energy of a live concert. A devoted and lifelong Boston sports fan, his loyalty never wavered regardless of the season. Among his simplest pleasures was swimming with his beloved dog, Dachi, a faithful companion who brought him great happiness.

Above all, Bill cherished his family. He was a loving father to Erick and Deandra, and his devotion to his children remained at the heart of all he was.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Lucille Dill, by his son, Erick Dill, and nephew Eddie

Dill. He is survived by his daughter, Deandra Owen and her husband Christopher; his devoted former wife Joanne Bonanno; his brothers, Jack Dill and his spouse Jody, Bob Dill and his wife Rose; his sisters, Donna (Dill) MacAuley and her late husband James "Buff", Margie (Dill) Wright and her husband Ken, and Anita (Dill) Fusco; his first spouse and mother to their children Kathleen Carroll, and many nieces and nephews. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A man of faith, Bill now rests in the loving arms of his Lord, reunited with those who went before him. May his memory bring comfort to those who grieve, and may his family find peace in the hope of eternal life.

The family is grateful for the love, prayers, and support of friends and loved ones during this time.

A Funeral Mass will be held in St. Clement Church, Somerville, at 10:00am on Saturday November 7, 2026 followed by a luncheon with details to follow. Relatives and friends invited.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to support veterans through the Gary Sinise Foundation <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/donate>

Somerville/Medford Remembering Eleanor M. Mitrano (Fustolo)



Eleanor M. Mitrano (Fustolo) of Arlington passed away peacefully on October 2, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of the late Vincent Mitrano and a devoted mother to Frank Mitrano of Arlington, the late Vincent Mitrano, and Roseann Mitrano. Eleanor was the cherished daughter

of the late Cosmo and Rose (Camelio) Fustolo and a dear sister to Gilda Ferreira of Sudbury, the late Costanzo Fustolo, and Jean Clark. She was a loving grandmother to Olivia, Henry, Vincent Michael, Marissa, and Anthony, and is also survived by two great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass in her honor

will take place on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Agnes Church, Arlington. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Eleanor will be laid to rest alongside her husband, Vincent, at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge. In lieu of flowers, donations in Eleanor's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's

Hospital at Stjude.org. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of George L. Doherty Funeral Service, Somerville, MA.

Somerville/Medford Remembering Stephen T. Wright



Stephen T. Wright – A life long resident of Somerville, passed away at his home on Saturday, September 26, 2026. He was 66 years old.

Born in Everett and raised and educated in Somerville, he was the beloved son of the late Rose J. (Foley) and John F. Wright.

Stephen was a simple man who found joy in the little things in life. He was kind,

caring, and always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. Stephen will be remembered for his gentle nature, generous heart, and the kindness he showed to those around him.

He is survived by his loving siblings Deborah Fallon and her husband Kick, Robert Wright, Kenneth Wright and his wife Margie, James Wright and the late John Wright.

The former husband of Kathleen Wright and their son Shane. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Calling Hours will be held on Wednesday, October 7th in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway Somerville from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

A prayer service will be held Wednesday evening at 6:30PM.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made in Stephen's name to the American Cancer Society.

Somerville/Medford Remembering MAHONEY, JAMES FRANCIS



MAHONEY, JAMES FRANCIS – 80, of Somerville passed away peacefully on September 29, 2026 following a brief

illness. Jimmy was born, and raised, in Somerville and was the son of the late John and Dorothy (Kelleher)Mahoney.

Beloved husband of 49 years to Constance (Ferola) Mahoney. Dear Father to Julia Welch, and her late husband Richard of Medford, Kathy Nionakis of Maine, Michael Nionakis, and his wife Susan of Somerville, John Nionakis, and his wife Maria of Florida and the late Maureen Nionakis.

Jimmy was a proud graduate of Somerville High School, Class of 1966, where he lettered in both football and

track.

Post graduation, he went on to become a master craftsman, and one of the most sought-after hardwood flooring contractors, and finish carpenters who always took tremendous pride in his skills. He was the dearest brother to his surviving siblings, John "Jack" Mahoney, and his wife Pat of Taunton, David Mahoney, and his wife Dottie of Woburn, Thomas Mahoney of Maynard and Michael Mahoney, and his wife Diane of Clinton.

He was predeceased by his late siblings Maryann (Ma-

honey) O'Brien, Redmond, Richard and Kevin Mahoney. Loving Papa to Michela, Michael, John and Alexander Nionakis, and Michael Hamilton. He is also survived by three great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and his special fur baby, and loyal dog companion, Fi. Jimmy was an avid sportsman who enjoyed watching his beloved Boston sports teams with his many friends at his favorite watering holes. He will be fondly remembered by the many wonderful friends he was blessed to share his life with many of which were lifelong friendships. To know Jimmy was to love him and

despite his sometimes-booming voice, and boisterous style, he was a true and loving man who relished life's simple blessings of family, friendship and loyalty. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral procession for Jimmy will take from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Tuesday morning October 6, 2026 at 9:00am, followed by his Funeral Mass in St. Ann Church, Somerville at 10:00. Relatives and friends invited. Calling hours, Monday October 5, 2026, 4:00 – 7:00. Interment Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.



Are Somerville’s Bluebikes paying rent for the curb space they take, or is the city the one writing the checks?



By William Tauro
The Bluebike parking docks from Winter Hill to East

Somerville do not work like a hot-dog cart or a sidewalk café. Bluebikes is not a private company leasing city land. Somerville says the system is publicly owned by the municipalities, with Lyft running day-to-day operations and Blue Cross Blue Shield as title sponsor. Riders pay the fares. The stations sit on public property, or on private property only where the city has an agreement.

Nobody is cutting Somerville a monthly rent check for that square footage. The money has mostly run the other way. Later-joining cities paid monthly operations fees for docks they owned. Somerville, an original owner city, has kept spending to grow the system: \$56,215 from the bike-share stabilization fund for a 19-dock station at 495 Columbia Street, plus grant matches for e-bikes and repairs drawn from Bluebikes revenue set aside for the city, not the general fund. Still public money.

A five-year Lyft contract announced in April 2026 drops those municipal operations fees. Lyft will pay the owner cities \$100,000 a month from sponsorship revenue, plus a small share of day-pass revenue. That is regional money, not a Somerville-only rent payment for the curb in front of your house. Casual-rider prices also rose: \$3 to unlock, \$11.99 for a day pass, 33 cents a minute.

Riders use the bikes, and some car trips come off the road. The open question is whether taxpayers get a straight accounting of lost parking, lost sidewalk, and staff time, and whether any of that new revenue actually lands in Somerville’s pocket.

Should the city charge a station fee for the public land these docks occupy? Or is public ownership fine, so long as City Hall publishes what Somerville spends and what it gets back?

I wonder if this opens up the door to any other local city vendor or business where they can’t set up shop and put their businesses on the street like Bluebikes?

Send your opinion. Are the Bluebikes paying their way, or should the city start collecting?

STATE AUDITOR DIZOGLIO UNCOVERS \$10.6 MILLION IN PUBLIC BENEFITS FRAUD



State Auditor Diana DiZoglio’s Bureau of Special Investigations revealed that it has flagged \$10.6 million in public benefit fraud in the second half of fiscal year 2026.

The investigation showed that the most fraud found was more than \$6 million in MassHealth fraud and some \$3.9 million in SNAP fraud. MassHealth is the state’s Medicaid program that provides health care for low-income and disabled persons. SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously known as food stamps, is a federal nutrition program administered by the state to provide food and other nutrition-related benefits to qualified low-income Massachusetts residents. Other fraud includes \$538,330 tied to the Personal Care Attendant program; \$130,480 in the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children program; and \$38,460 in the Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children program.

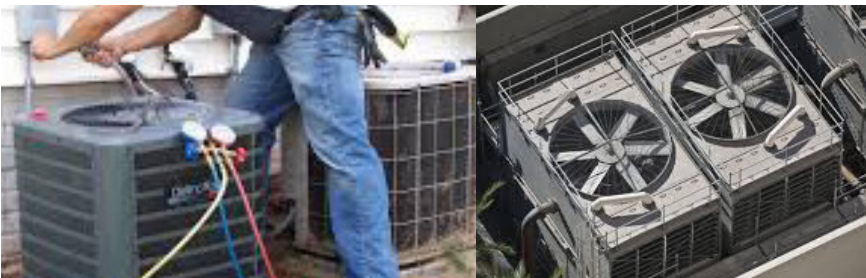
“These important programs are meant for the people who need them – not for those looking to game the system,” DiZoglio said. “When someone commits fraud, they’re taking resources away from the people these programs were created to serve. Our office will continue to work with our partners to identify fraud because taxpayers deserve to have their hard-earned money protected.”

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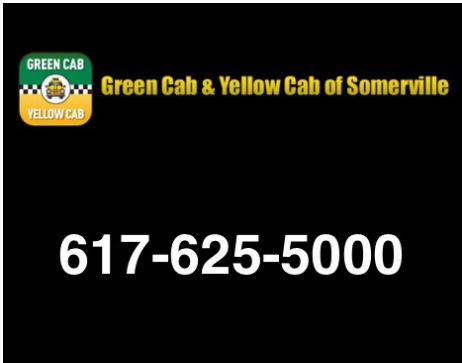
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Honor Italian American Heritage Month at City Hall Flag Raising



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is inviting all community members to honor Italian American Heritage Month with an Italian flag raising on Thursday, October 15 at 5 p.m. on the City Hall concourse (93

Highland Ave.). The event will celebrate the history and contributions of Italian Americans in Somerville and beyond. All are welcome.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somer ville.ma.gov/news.

Somerville Gets Spooky at Monster Mash on October 18



Free festival brings live music, a costume parade, and fall fun to Union Square

SOMERVILLE – From fluff to frights, Somerville is celebrating its hometown heroes. On Sunday, October 18 (rain date October 25), the Arts & Culture Division is holding its annual Monster Mash celebration in honor of the Halloween classic co-written by Somerville native Bobby “Boris” Pickett. The afternoon-long event will include a costume parade, pumpkin carving, face painting and local food vendors.

“Monster Mash is our chance

to celebrate Halloween in true Somerville style,” said Mayor Wilson. “Whether you’re looking to show off your costume, carve a pumpkin, or enjoy some local music, there’s something for everyone.”

Event Details
Date: Sunday, October 18
Time: 1-5 p.m.
Location: Somerville Ave between Church St and Union Sq

Live performances on two stages will include the BosWitches,

Proyecto Tempo, Los Mambiseros, and a lineup curated by Mass Ave Music.

“Where else can you run into your neighbors in costume, a brass band, and giant puppets all in one afternoon?” said City-Councilor-at-Large Kristin Strezo. “Monster Mash brings out so much of what makes Somerville fun. I’m grateful to the artists, local businesses, and organizers who make it a celebration everyone can enjoy.”

For event details and updates, visit somer villearts council.org/monstermash.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somer ville.ma.gov/news.

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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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.



Medford Gets New Graduates From Police Academy

Yesterday we welcomed the newest graduates from the Police Academy to the force.

Congratulations to Officers Owen Hilliard, Caesar Al-Hedri, Aidan Cawley and Frank Cas-sarino Jr., for successfully completing the academy and becoming a member of the Medford Police Department. I know you will serve our City with integrity, compassion and dedication.

(As posted on Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn Facebook page)





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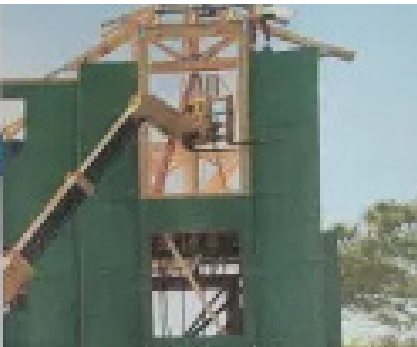






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Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Fraudulent and Inaccurate Somerville Water Bills

By William Tauro

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

inaccurate readings.

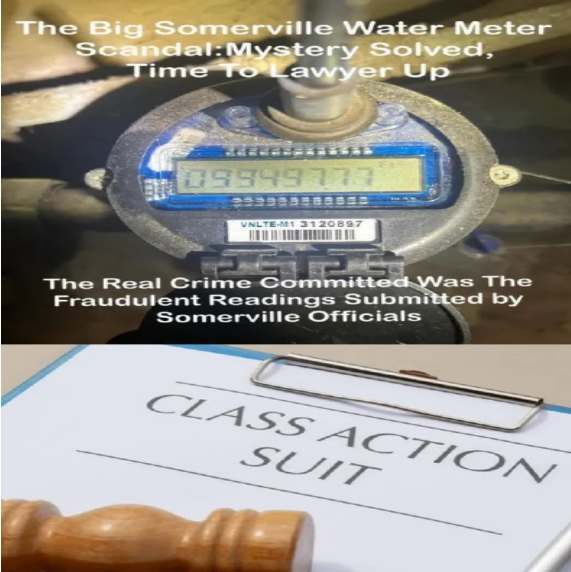
All contacts and information will remain confidential.

Send to email : Wmtauro@aol.com
or
Inbox me

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

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

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



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

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

CLASS ACTION SUIT

Medford VFW #1012 Karaoke Night

Medford VFW #1012 located at 114 Mystic Avenue in Medford is having karaoke on 7/24 and 8/21 , 8:00 PM till 12:00 PM!

Somerville's own Scotty Lombardo will be the DJ so don't miss it!







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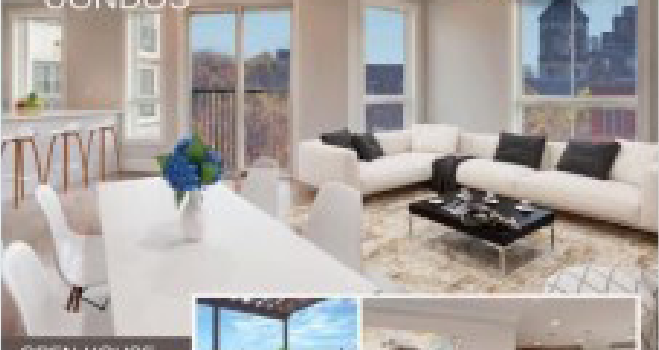
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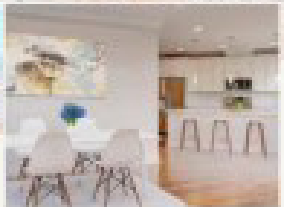
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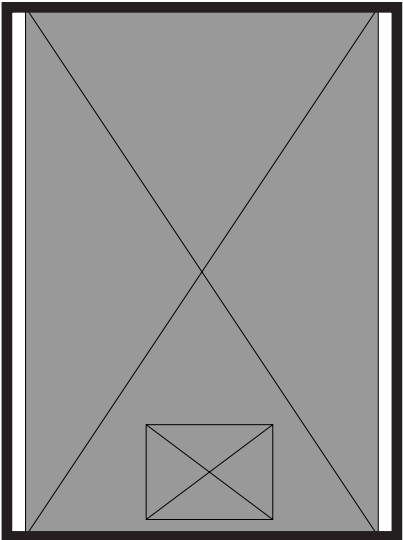
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Somerville Shares Community Path Safety Improvements



Community-informed safety upgrades will begin Fall 2026 on well-loved and heavily used path.

SOMERVILLE – Somerville’s Community Path is getting some community-focused safety upgrades. This fall, the City plans to address the top safety concerns shared by over 1,000

path users including speeding, motorized vehicles on the path, failure to yield at street crossings, and visibility issues.

Since the extension leading to East Cambridge opened in 2023, the path regularly sees thousands of daily users. Visit the path and you’ll see people heading to work, bringing

their children to school, out for a morning jog, catching up with a friend, and more. Now, Somerville is taking additional steps to ensure using the path is safer and more comfortable for everyone—whether they are walking/rolling or riding a bike or scooter.

Planned Community Path Updates – Fall 2026

Near-term, quick-build interventions to address the concerns this fall will include:

- Adding pavement markings and quick build curb extensions at crossings to increase visibility and prompt path users to slow down
- Installing flex posts along the

centerline at key locations to emphasize lanes and reduce speeds

Improving signage with universal symbols to encourage sharing the path and emphasizing restrictions on motor vehicles

Prior to implementation, all planned changes are reviewed with staff from across City divisions, including the Department of Public Works and Emergency Services to ensure compatibility with essential municipal operations.

Learn More and Sign Up for Mobility Division Newsletter

Learn more about the project as well as the community input

that helped inform it and read a summary report on the plans at voice.somervillema.gov/communitypathsafety.

To stay up to date on this project and other efforts to make getting around Somerville safer and more accessible, sign up for the Mobility Division’s monthly newsletter.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

Honor Italian American Heritage Month at City Hall Flag Raising



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is inviting all community members to honor Italian American Heritage Month with an Italian flag raising on Thursday, October 15 at 5

p.m. on the City Hall course (93 Highland Ave.).

The event will celebrate the history and contributions of Italian Americans in Somerville and beyond.

All are welcome.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

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SUSPEND THE GAS TAX



By Bob Katzen

House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) was non-committal but pessimistic about whether the House will approve one of the pending proposals to suspend the state’s 24-cent-per-gallon gas tax.

Mike Monogue, the Republican candidate for governor, proposed a

suspension of the gas tax whenever prices climb above \$4 per gallon. Gov. Maura Healey filed a supplemental budget that includes a two-month suspension of the gas tax.

Mariano told the State House News Service, “I think we’ve taken votes on this conversation in the past ... going to work with — to find where the

membership is on it going forward. But you know, obviously those votes were pretty significantly against previously.”

Supporters of the suspension say that gas tax relief would help individuals with the rising costs of gas, transportation, groceries, goods and services. Opponents say the state cannot afford the

revenue loss and that the suspension would affect the state’s bond rating and possibly also result in cuts in state spending for programs that help many people.

The House has voted overwhelmingly several times in the past against similar proposals.

DECEASED ANIMALS ON STATE HIGHWAYS (H 3678)

By Bob Katzen

Legislation that would require any State Department of Transportation (DOT) highway employees who find deceased dogs or cats on roads with identification, to either attempt to directly contact the owner or to notify local animal control officers or the police department, was given initial approval by the House in February.

The House has not taken any further action on the measure which has since been languishing in the Committee on Bills in Third Reading.

“Losing a pet is hard enough,” said sponsor Rep. Richard Haggerty (D-Woburn) when the bill was approved in February. “Not knowing what happened to them makes it even harder. Right now, if a DOT employee finds a dog or cat, with an ID tag

or microchip, which has been hit and killed on a state highway, there is no requirement for them to let the owner know. Families are left waiting and wondering, sometimes never getting answers. It is a straightforward, compassionate step that asks very little of the state but gives grieving families the one thing they need most — closure.”



THIS WEEK’S QUOTABLE QUOTES ON BEACON HILL

By Bob Katzen

“We have repeatedly tried to get Mass General Brigham to negotiate and avoid a second strike, but the billionaires who run MGB have shut the door on us. There is still time to reach an agreement that protects patient care and respects nurses. MGB needs to come back to the table and negotiate without preconditions.”

— Kelly Morgan, chair of the Brigham bargaining committee, announcing

ing that 4,000 nurses at MGB plan to start their open-ended strike on Wednesday, Oct. 14 unless a contract deal is reached.

“We take seriously the union’s decision to issue a strike notice and are fully prepared to continue providing safe, high-quality care for our patients throughout a strike. While we had hoped to avoid another strike, our teams have comprehensive plans in place, informed by our experience during the five-day work stoppage in July, to support continuity

of care across Brigham and Women’s Hospital.” — MGB spokesperson Jessica Pastore.

“For ten years, we’ve listened closely to people living this experience. They’ve told us, time and again, that support needs to be there around the clock. What we’re offering now is a direct response to what they’ve asked for. It doesn’t replace the helpline — it extends it, so people feel supported whenever they need us.” — Victor Ortiz, director of the Office of Problem

Gambling Services, commenting on a new mobile app for those seeking help for problem gambling.

“If he’d taken that million dollars that he gave to the president and used it to to buy oil at the Strait of Hormuz and given it to the state, we would have been better off.” —House Speaker Ron Mariano criticizing Republican Mike Monogue, the Republican candidate for governor, for his past donations to President Donald Trump and the Republican National

Committee.

“It makes sense to support nuclear energy, and although it comes with a price, our study from earlier this year shows that New Englanders would still save between \$400 billion and \$700 billion by replacing planned wind and solar with a combination of nuclear and natural gas.” —Paul Craney, executive director of the Mass Fiscal Alliance.





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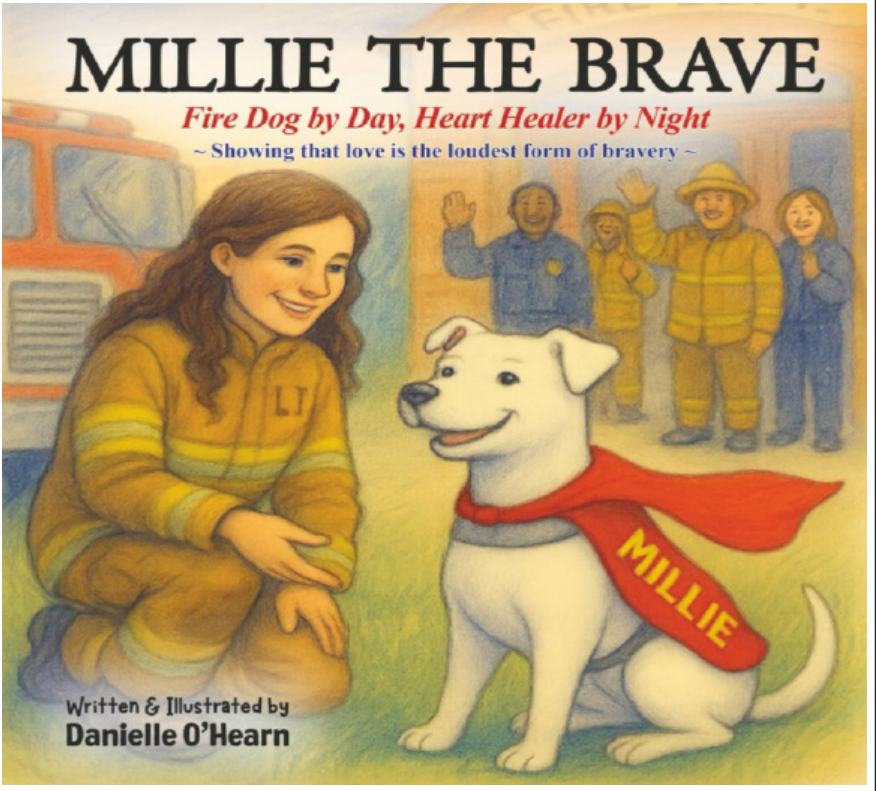
Dear Billy T and Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line,

Hey Billy
My name is Danielle we've met a few times before, I'm a firefighter in Somerville. I just came out with a children's book.

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

Here's the link the title is Millie the brave

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

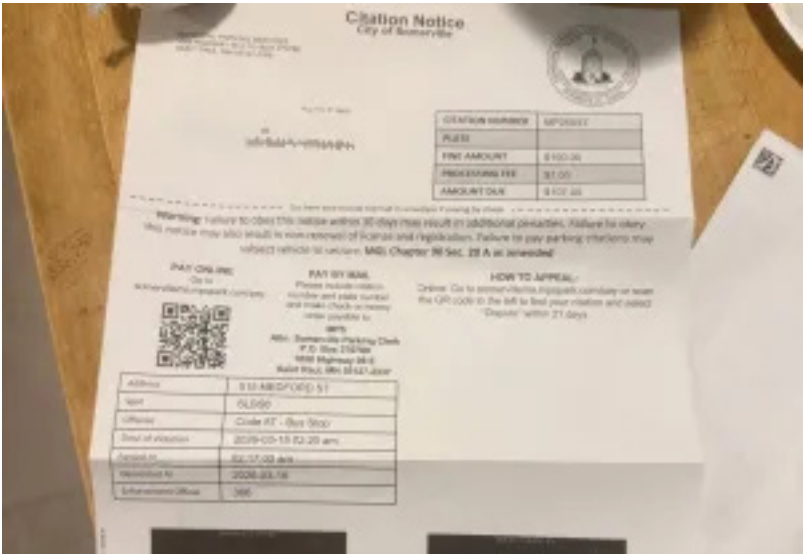


Somerville/Medford News Weekly Speakup Line: Fake Somerville Bills

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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Join the Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is seeking one new member to join the Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee as a volunteer member. This vacancy is for a person with a passion and energy to assist high school students (public and private) with pursuing higher education.

What is the Municipal Scholarship Committee?
The mission of the committee is to award scholarships to high school graduates to use toward their higher education expenses. The funding for the scholarships comes from voluntary contributions made by Somerville taxpayers. Scholarship Committee members develop a meeting schedule, review redacted scholarship applications, set criteria for scholarship awards, and make award recommendations.

Who Can Join?
All Somerville residents are invited to apply. Desired qualifications include:
Willingness to spend time individually evaluating and reviewing anonymous scholarship applications based on materials that will

be supplied to you.
Openness to learning a numerical rating system and submitting written notes to keep in files to document process and decisions that were made.
Ability to work with other reviewers in a team environment, in-person and/or remotely.
Openness in revealing any conflict of interest with potential scholarship applicants.
Understanding the need for fairness, objectivity and nondiscrimination within the scholarship selection process.
Ability to recognize a need to modify scholarship criteria and other aspects of the award process, if required, and make recommendations for change.
Ability to focus on the specific Committee selection criteria in

determining the award winners.
Using Committee selection criteria, make recommendations on recipients for scholarship for final approval by the mayor.

What is the Time Commitment?
The Municipal Scholarship Committee meets once a month during the day or evening from October through April or May. Additional time to meet during the application-to-award process, January through May/June, is required.

What is the Appointment Process?
Members are appointed by the Mayor.

How Do I Apply?
To apply, please send a letter of interest to ldubuque@somervillema.gov with ‘Scholarship Committee’

and your name in the subject line by Friday, October 30, 2026. Please include your full name, address, and telephone number with your inquiry.

For questions, accommodations, or more information, contact the Treasury at (617) 625-6600 ext. 3510 or Linda Dubuque at ldubuque@somervillema.gov.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

Somerville’s Building Sale Notice Requirement Takes Effect October 14



Property owners required to notify tenants within 48 hours of putting their residence on the market

SOMERVILLE – Finding out your home is up for sale shouldn’t come as a surprise. A new Somerville ordinance taking effect October 14, 2026, will require rental property owners to notify tenants in writing within 48 hours of putting their residence on the market.

Somerville’s Notice of Building Sale Ordinance establishes clear notification requirements, so renters know when their home is being offered for sale and where to turn for housing support.

“Tenants shouldn’t be the last to know their home is for sale,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “This ordinance gives renters an earlier opportunity to understand their

options, connect with support, and plan for what comes next. More time crucially can mean more options for staying in the community they call home. Keeping Somerville a place where people can put down roots starts with looking out for our neighbors who already live here.”

Under the ordinance, property owners must notify every tenant within 48 hours of putting the residence on the market by taking both of the following steps:
Delivering the City’s Notice of Building Sale form either in person with a signed acknowledgment, or by certified mail.
Posting the form in a location where tenants can see it.

The notice must include the owner’s intent to sell, contact information, a description of the property, the asking price, and contact information for the City’s Office of Housing Stability (OHS).

“This Ordinance is about basic decency and fairness,” said Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. “We’ve also unfortunately learned through experience that it is necessary, so that Somerville residents aren’t caught unaware when their building is put up for sale.”

The required form and additional information will be available on the OHS website in October at use somervillema.gov/OHS. Questions

about the ordinance can be sent to buildingsale@somervillema.gov.

Tenants who learn their building is for sale but have not received a notice should contact OHS. Residents can request housing assistance online, calling OHS directly at 617-625-6600, ext. 2581, or dialing 311 and asking for OHS.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

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Make Your Voting Plan: MA State Election on Nov. 3



City sharing deadlines for voter registration and vote-by-mail applications, early voting dates, and more

SOMERVILLE–On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Massachusetts will hold its State Election. Offices and items on the ballot include Governor, Senator in Congress, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, District Attorney, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Councillor, Senator in General Court, Representative in General Court, Representative in Congress, and Register of Probate – and nine ballot questions.

Keep in mind: with ballots including nine binding questions on various subjects, you can help keep lines at the polls shorter several ways.

Please consider these options to save yourself time:

Vote by mail
Vote early
Review ballot questions in advance. Bring notes with your choices: You may bring materials into the voting booth such as pre-printed brochures or pamphlets or your own notes, but you cannot display those materials while in the polling location. You must take any materials with you when you leave the voting booth. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on Election Day. The state election is open to all registered voters in Somerville.

Below are additional reminders as you prepare for November 3.

Register to Vote in the State Election by Saturday, October 24

You can register in one of three ways:

Online at somervillema.gov/register
In-person at Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave.)
By phone: call the Elections Department at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 and request a voter registration form. Or call 311 (617-666-3311) and they will connect you to Elections.
The registration deadline is Saturday, October 24, by midnight online or in person by 5 p.m. City Hall will be open on October 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You also may mail in your form, but it must be postmarked on or

before October 24.

Vote Early at City Hall, October 17-30

Vote early in the State Election in the lower level of City Hall from Saturday, October 17, through Friday, October 30. The schedule is as follows:

October 17, 18 – Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
October 19, 20, 21 – Monday-Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 22 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
October 23 – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
October 24, 25 – Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
October 26, 27, 28 – Monday-Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
October 29 – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
October 30 – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
How to Vote in the State Election by Mail

Vote by Mail application deadline: Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. by Tuesday, October 27
A postmark alone is not sufficient; it must arrive at the Elections Office by the deadline.
Where to get an application:

Download an application or fill it out online at somervillema.gov/voteby-mail, pick one up in the Elections office at City Hall, or request one be mailed to you by calling 311 or calling Elections at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200. Eligible voters who submit valid applications will receive their ballot in the mail.
Vote by Mail deadline: Ballots dropped in city boxes or in person at City Hall must be completed, signed, sealed, and received by 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 3. Mailed ballots (from within the U.S.) must be POSTMARKED by November 3 and received in office by November 6. Voters can check the status of their ballot on the state’s website.
How to return your application and ballot:
Elections Office: Return directly to the Elections Department at City Hall
Mail: Send to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143
Email or fax (for applications only): Completed applications can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.
Drop boxes: Leave it in a drop box at one of the following locations:
City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.

East Somerville Community School, across from 66 Glen St.
Behind the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Ave.
In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.
In front of Saint Catherine of Genoa Church parking lot, 182 Summer St. (near corner of Spring St.)
In front of the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.
In front of Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St.
In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.
In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.
Sample Ballots and Ballot Questions Information
Sample ballots are available now on somervillema.gov/elections.
Ballots will include nine binding questions for Massachusetts voters to consider.
Review questions in advance to save yourself time at the polls.
For more information about voting in Somerville, go to somervillema.gov/elections.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

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Join the Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals



SOMERVILLE – The City of Somerville is seeking one new member to join the Somerville Zoning Board of

Appeals (ZBA).

What is the Zoning Board of Appeals?

The ZBA is the decision-making authority for development that requires Site Plan Approval or a Special Permit in the Neighborhood Residence, Urban Residence, Commercial Industry, Commercial Business, and Tufts University zoning districts; the ZBA is also the decision-making authority for all Hardship Variances, Comprehensive Permits, and Admin-

istrative Appeals.

Who Can Join?

All Somerville residents are invited to apply.

What is the Time Commitment?

The ZBA meets every first and third Wednesday of the month, with meetings lasting between one and two hours. Additional time for review of submitted materials may be needed, for an estimated total of 10-15 hours

per month.

What is the Appointment Process?

Members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

How Do I Apply?

Applications are due by Friday, October 30, and should include a resume and letter of interest.

Where to Apply:

Applications can be sent via email or U.S. Mail to:

Email: zoningboard@somervillema.gov
Mail: Attn: Planning Division, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA 02144
For questions or more information, contact zoningboard@somervillema.gov or call 311 (671-666-3311).

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

Somerville Community Invited to Arabic Heritage Celebration on Saturday, October 10



Free, all-ages celebration with music, food, art, and more to

celebrate Somerville’s Arabic community

SOMERVILLE—The Center for Arabic Culture (CAC) and Somerville’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) invite all community members to the CAC’s 12th annual festival and book fair on Saturday, October 10, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.).

Explore a bookfair, shop local vendors, and hear readings from Arabic authors while enjoying Arabic food, music, and art. Local advocacy organizations and community groups will also be on hand to share resources and connect with residents.

Full performance schedule is below:

3:30 to 4 p.m.: Nahda Project Dabkeh Troupe: Sibling duo spreading community joy and solidarity through dabke (stomp) dancing.
4:30 to 5 p.m.: Center for Arabic Culture Children’s Choir: Sharing songs from around the world to celebrate Arab culture.
5:45 to 6:30 p.m.: Egyptian American Folklore Group: Tannoura, Saidi, and other Egyptian folklore dances.

7 p.m.: Akram Abdulfatah Quintet: Palestinian-American violinist, composer, and producer.

To view this update and more City news on the City website, visit somervillema.gov/news.

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CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN FALL RIVER, SPRINGFIELD AND WORCESTER CATHOLIC DIOCESES

By Bob Katzen

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell released a report detailing the findings of her office's investigation into child sexual abuse in the Catholic Dioceses of Fall River, Springfield and Worcester.

The investigation found evidence that more than 270 Catholic clerics abused nearly 1,000 children at the three dioceses. The report documents decades of failures by diocesan leaders to ade-

quately respond to allegations of child sexual abuse and protect children from further harm. The investigation found instances in which diocesan leaders failed to act on allegations and warning signs; transferred accused and offending priests to other parishes without disclosing the reasons for their transfers; returned priests to ministry following treatment without adequate supervision; failed to meaningfully enforce restrictions; concealed the reasons priests were

removed from ministry; and failed to consistently report allegations to law enforcement.

"For decades, survivors of clergy sexual abuse, including those who are no longer alive, have carried the devastating consequences of abuse, while the institutions entrusted with their care too often failed to protect them," said Campbell.

"This report provides for the first time a public accounting of the unimaginable harms afflicted on children in the Fall River,

Springfield and Worcester dioceses. While important reforms have been made, the report documents decades of failures by diocesan leaders to adequately respond to allegations of child sexual abuse and protect children from further harm."

Campbell continued, "As a woman of deep faith, it is my prayer and profound hope that this report honors the courage and stories of survivors and serves as a renewed catalyst for Massachusetts to finally do all that is necessary to

ensure the safety of our children. No institution should ever put its own reputation and interest above the safety and well-being of its constituents, especially children."

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BALLOT QUESTION 3 – Here is a look at Question 3:



QUESTION 3: ELIMINATE POLITICAL PARTY PRIMARIES FOR STATE ELECTIONS AND INSTEAD ESTABLISH A SINGLE, ALL-PARTY PRIMARY. SEVERAL STATES ALREADY HAVE THIS ALL-PARTY PRIMARY SYSTEM WHICH HAS EARNED THE NICKNAME “JUNGLE PRIMARY.”

This question asks voters if they approve of a bill that would eliminate political party primaries for state elections and instead establish a system where there would be a single, all-party primary in which all candidates, regardless of their party affiliation, would be listed on one ballot, and voters could vote for any candidate on the ballot. The two candidates receiving the most votes in the all-party primary would advance to the general election, regardless of their party affiliation.

The proposed law would provide political party status to any group whose candidates for any statewide office received at least 3% of the ballots cast in the prior

state primary. It would require candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to run and be listed jointly on the ballot in the all-party primary.

WHAT SUPPORTERS TOLD BEACON HILL ROLL CALL “Question 3 makes Massachusetts elections more competitive and opens the door to new, fresh voices,” Danielle Allen, chair of the “Yes” on 3 Campaign told Beacon Hill Roll Call. “Right now, too many popular candidates never make it past low-turnout primaries and gatekeepers, and in 2024, 61% of our elections had just one name on the ballot. Under Question 3, every voter and every candidate takes part in the same primary, and the top two vote-getters advance to November, where they face a much larger, more diverse and more representative general election electorate.”

Allen continued, “Opponents are trying to scare voters because the status quo suits them and their incumbent friends, but the truth

is that all-party primaries give voters more choices; produces a dynamic, voter-driven general election instead of one decided months earlier by a small slice of insiders; incentivizes officials to deliver; and is familiar to them already — it’s how we vote in mayoral and municipal elections across the commonwealth. Massachusetts is ready for a democracy that inspires action from our elected leaders to solve the numerous problems we’re facing — on affordability, health care, housing and too many more. “Yes” on Question 3 has a strong, broad coalition of voting rights, civil rights, grassroots, labor, climate and civic groups, along with former and current officials, and is growing every week. With majority support across demographics, we’re building real momentum toward November.”

WHAT OPPONENTS TOLD BEACON HILL ROLL CALL “Private equity executives are trying to buy a more favorable election system and making promises they never intend to keep, and once they rig the system in their favor, it becomes nearly impossible to undo,” Berg Powers, chair of Voter Rights MA told Beacon Hill Roll Call. “The overwhelming majority of this campaign’s funding comes from obscenely wealthy individuals, which is why this isn’t a grassroots movement. It’s a hedge fund with a ballot question. Independent voters are not shut out of party primaries today, because unenrolled voters can already choose either party’s ballot without joining a party.”

Berg continued, “And Question 3 doesn’t fix the real competition problem in Massachusetts, where people don’t run for office

because of time and money, since it makes campaigns longer and more expensive. Unions, community groups and everyday activists from across the political spectrum have come together to urge a No vote on 3, and as voters learn what’s at stake, they’ll join the people and groups they trust most.”

OFFICIAL ARGUMENTS: Here are the official arguments, gathered by the secretary of state, from both sides of the question. Each side was allowed to submit up to a 150-word statement supporting their position.

IN FAVOR: “Massachusetts elected officials should work for us, not insiders. But for years insiders have held the advantage. Many elections are over before most of us ever cast a ballot. Candidates can be blocked at party conventions. Today, two-thirds of the legislature is running unopposed. They can take voters for granted and ignore important issues like affordable housing, energy costs, better schools and the audit 72% of us demanded.

All-party primaries will bring accountability and transparency to Massachusetts politics by making elections more competitive, forcing politicians to listen. All candidates appear on your primary ballot, and the top two advance to November where they need a majority of votes to win. Insiders have less control and we get fresh voices running for office.

More competition means more accountability. Legislators who know voters can replace them. Listen to us and deliver real results.

Vote Yes on Question 3 for accountability and competition.”

AGAINST: “Similar top two systems in California and Washington have favored wealthy, self-funded candidates who can out-advertise crowded fields and the corporate PACs seeking to purchase offices, while sidelining grassroots candidates and historically marginalized and underrepresented groups such as candidates of color and women. Third-party and independent candidates would be shut out of the general election, and working-class candidates would lose out on institutional support and access to party resources.

This proposal would limit voter choice by allowing only two candidates to advance to November — even if they belong to the same party — reducing competition, lowering voter participation, worsening inequities and narrowing debate.

Massachusetts voters deserve real choices, not a system that rewards money and name recognition over community support. Vote No.”

WHAT YOUR VOTE DOES: A “Yes” vote would eliminate separate party primaries for state elections and require a single all-party primary in which all candidates appear on one ballot, voters can vote for any candidate, and the top two candidates would advance to the general election.

A “No” would make no change to the laws governing primary elections.

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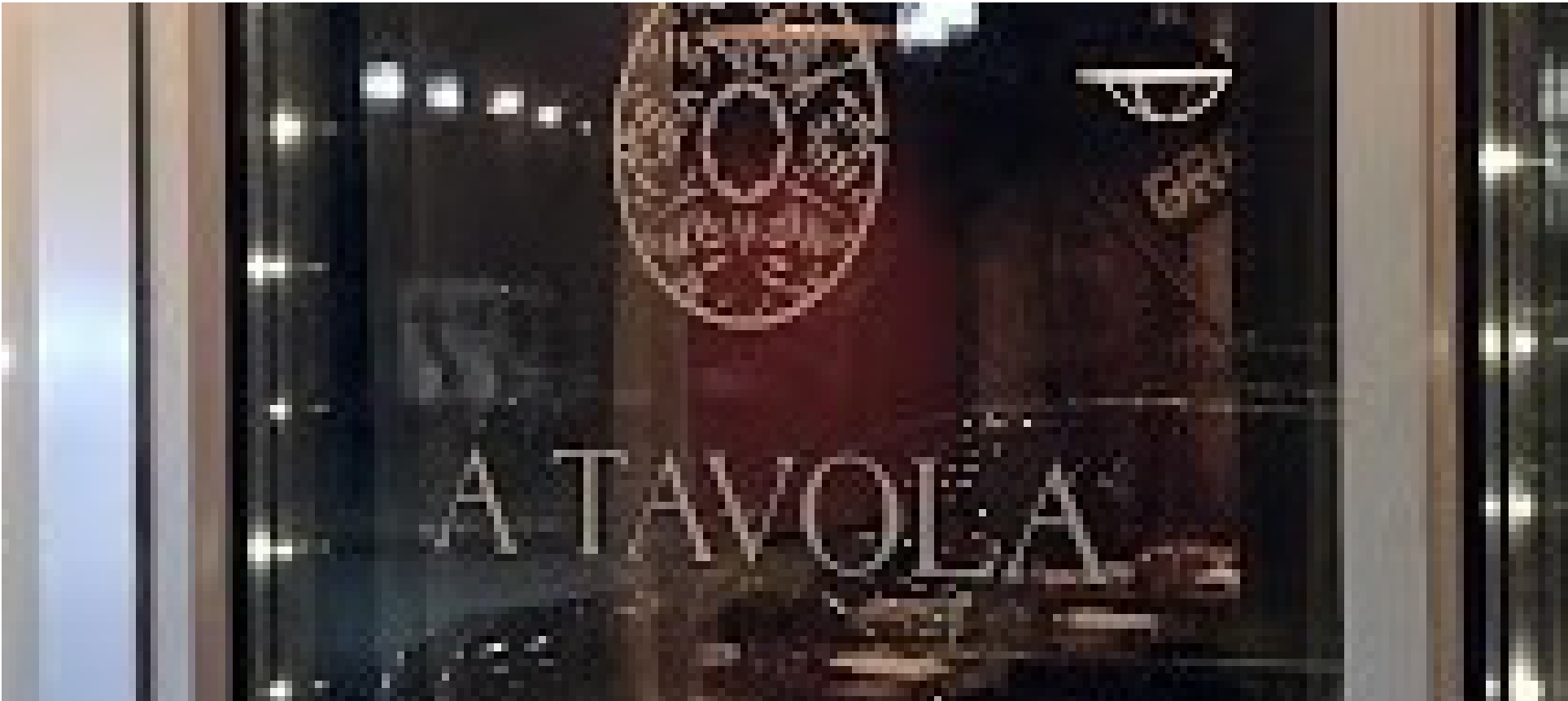
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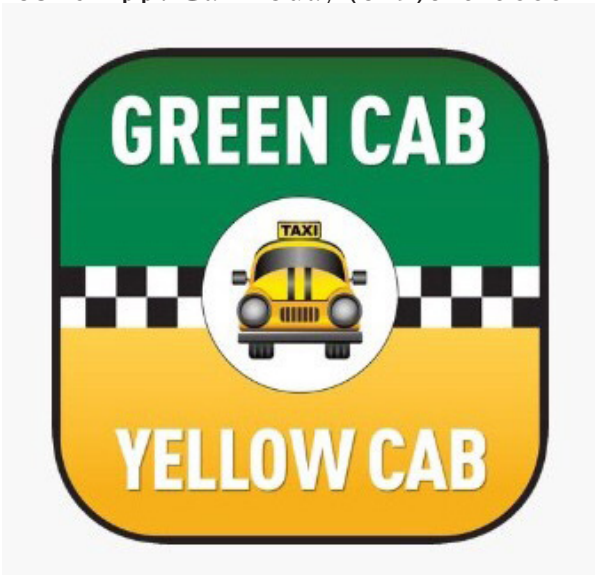


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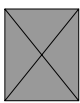
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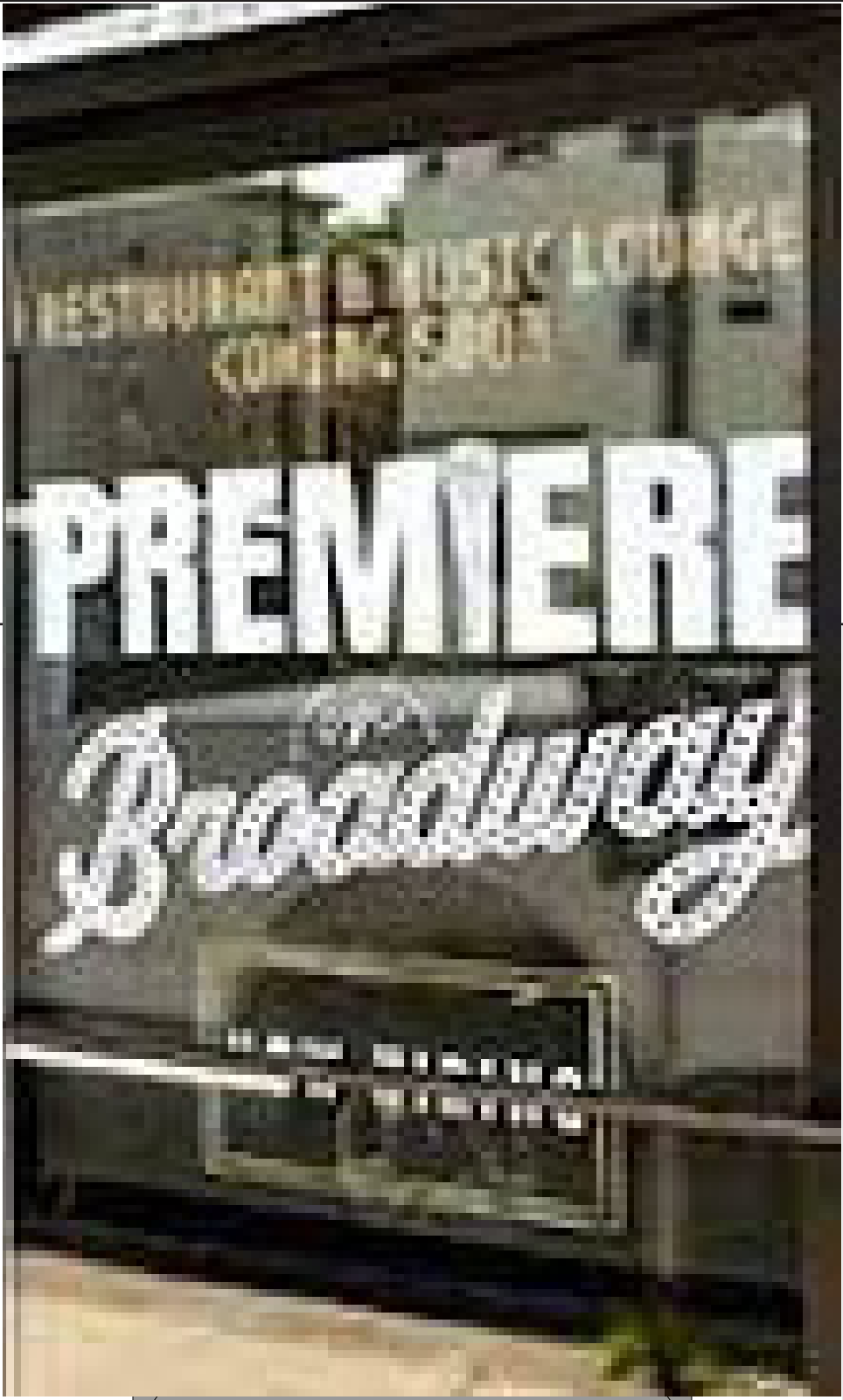
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