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Community asks to be more involved in the Winter Hill Community Innovation School project



The future of Winter Hill Community Innovation School was recently discussed at a meeting of the city's The School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee.

By Beatriz Leite

"It's a decision for the next 50 years, so whatever choices we are making are the things that are going to impact the next several generations of students," said Laura Pitone,

Elected Ward 5 Representative for the Somerville School Committee.

This past Wednesday, October 4, The School Building Facilities and Maintenance Special Committee met to discuss the changes that are being made in the schools with plans to make improvements. The meeting was held by Chairperson and Ward 5 Councilor Beatriz Gomez Mouakad.

The meeting ultimately focused on the Winter Hill Community Innovation School, which back in June, had an incident with the ceiling falling and closing down the school.

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Somerville Winter Farmers Market set to open on November 4

The Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA) announces that it will host and manage the 14th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) every Saturday beginning November 4 through April 6.

This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, and sweets. Each market will feature more than 35 weekly vendors and several rotating guest vendors while welcoming an anticipated 1,000 visitors every Saturday.

The mission of the Somerville Winter Farmers Market is to bring healthy, local food and products to all customers regardless of economic status. In addition to cash, credit and debit, SNAP / EBT is also accepted and the market provides a free \$15 match so that SNAP/EBT customers can receive up to \$30 worth of food for only

Continued on page 4



The 14th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market will be hosted at the Center for Arts at the Armory, beginning on November 4.

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Moving Somerville Forward Climate Forward is a free event open to the entire Somerville community. At this event, you'll have the opportunity to learn about **Somerville's climate action plan update**, speak with city staff and volunteers about plan topic areas, provide your ideas and suggestions, and celebrate the progress we've made as a community already. Whether you're an environmental enthusiast or just curious about ways to reduce your carbon footprint, this event is for you. **Wednesday, October 11, Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Program will include an overview of the update process at 7:00 p.m. A gallery walk with refreshments starts at 7:30 p.m. Featured speakers include **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne**.

Join **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal Ave on **October 14** from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. as they celebrate the 30th anniversary of their very first **"Work Days"** held back in October 1993. This kickstarts the start of their 30th Anniversary Season, with lots in store and more events and opportunities to get engaged. Enjoy a tour (some child-led) and explore children's narratives and mapping of the Center; share a 30th Anniversary memory and/or hope for the space at a video station; explore archival photos and videos; and chill out to music by Mystic Jazz Trio. Free for all. Rain Date October 15. More info: www.thegrowingcenter.org/30th.

Happy birthday greetings this week to several Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday








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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 11 – October 17 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>October 11</i>	Partly Cloudy	68°/47°	11%	8%	SW 8 mph
 Thursday <i>October 12</i>	Partly Cloudy	65°/48°	4%	3%	W 11 mph
 Friday <i>October 13</i>	Partly Cloudy	62°/46°	6%	4%	NW 8 mph
 Saturday <i>October 14</i>	Rain	59°/49°	53%	43%	NE 12 mph
 Sunday <i>October 15</i>	Rain	55°/49°	72%	57%	NE 14 mph
 Monday <i>October 16</i>	Rain	56°/47°	40%	32%	N 10 mph
 Tuesday <i>October 17</i>	Partly Cloudy	58°/45°	22%	17%	NE 11 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Deteriorating Davis Square*

SomervilleTom says:

The B-Fresh is closing because it was terribly managed. Surly employees, managers who don't manage, shelves stocked with terrible goods at sky-high prices.

I'm an occasional cigar smoker. I stopped bothering with the smoke shop years before it closed because it was actually a Keno and Lottery outlet and nothing more. The few cigars it had were impossible to buy because the single employee was too busy selling lottery and keno tickets to even ask what I wanted.

Many of the shops you mention (Johnny D's and the space that replaced it, Rockin' Bob's, etc) closed because sky-high rents make it impossible for small and independent businesses to survive. The same is true of the vacant Rite-Aid and nearby gas station. It appears to me that Davis Square is following the same path as Harvard and Kenmore Square.

Your rant offers no suggestions or proposals for what the city should do differently. Johnny D's, the Rite-Aid, and the gas station all closed long before any bike lanes started happening.

My take is that, in fact, the bike lanes, bikes, and al-fresco dining has enormously improved day-to-day life in Davis Square.

Tossing innuendo at city government isn't a constructive response to the issues driving the decline of Davis Square. Snarky comments about bikes and bike lanes are particularly offensive.

Response to: *Somerville's Artsy Bites Challenge*

Rene Payzant says:

When is it opening?

Rachel Klein says:

The opening date has not yet been announced.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Hippies



In May of 1971 there was to be a huge anti-war demonstration in Washington DC.

I was a 16-year-old hippie with the hair, the beads and the bell bottoms. I had made friends with a bunch of people from Harvard Square and one of the guys was driving his Volkswagen bus to the demonstration. I decided that I had to go because of my deep beliefs against the war in Vietnam. But my problem was what was I going to tell my parents? They would definitely not let me go. But I went anyway and I was gone for two days.

I can't explain the feeling of camaraderie with the thousands of people on the Washington mall. And I remember every time I saw a TV camera I would turn and hide my face in case my parents were watching at home. I can't even remember the lie I told him to explain why I wasn't gonna be

around but I'm sure it was a whopper.

The ride to Washington in the Volkswagen bus was memorable. At one point we were passing around homemade peanut butter which was delicious. It was only missing two things, moisture and flavor. But we still ate it.

A couple of years ago I reconnected with the driver of the Volkswagen bus, my friend Bob. We talked about getting together as it had been 50 years since I saw him. I'm sure we could have a few laughs together about that weekend.

I probably told my parents I was going to spend the weekend with the imaginary family I invented. They were the Kelsos and my mother never even checked to see if they were real people. Mom trusted me!

12,000 people were arrested that weekend. I was lucky. I'll never forget the chanting and the excitement of the thousands and thousands of protesters. I really felt like I was doing something worthwhile.



If I wasn't born with that Somerville spirit, that do or die conviction, then I would never have this great memory today. I'd like to think that I still have that sense

of adventure even though the places I visit most are in front of my television.

And one last thing, once a hippie always a hippie! Right on!

Kennedy School 2023 National Blue Ribbon School

The Kennedy School was named a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School. Schools are chosen based on overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student groups on assessments.

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona says, "the honorees for our 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools Award have set a national example for what it means to raise the bar in education."

Congratulations to the Kennedy School educators, staff, students, and community! Read more in the press release.



Latin American and Caribbean Roots and Heritage

Mayor Ballantyne would like to invite all to attend this year's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, organized by Somerville community members. The celebration will showcase Latin American and Caribbean countries and their respective culture. Come learn, enjoy performances, food, and more!

Saturday, October 14th
Time: 2pm to 5pm
East Somerville Community School
50 Cross Street

For more information, contact Courtney Henderson at chenderson@somervillema.gov



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Mayor Ballantyne

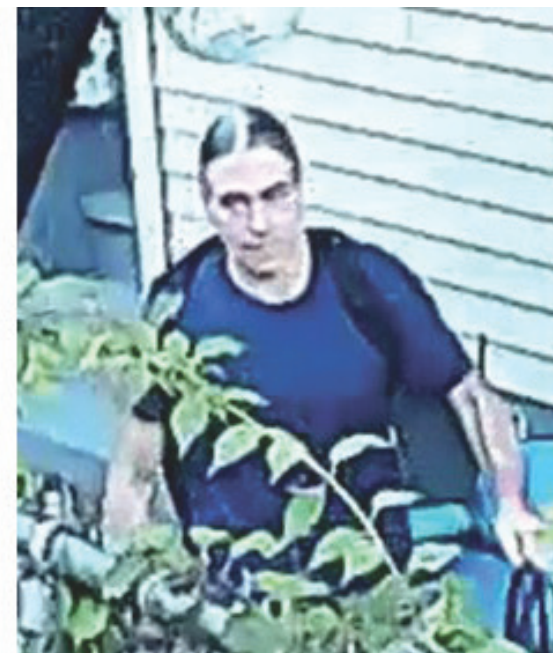
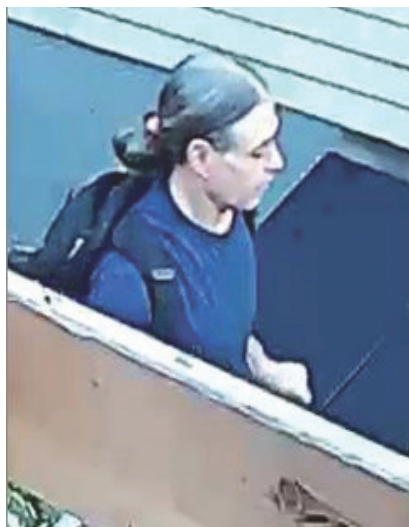


Somerville Police are seeking to identify person of interest in recent housebreaks

The Somerville Police are asking the public's help in identifying the pictured person of interest in three recent residential housebreaks that occurred near the Powder House Rotary. The unknown individual has been observed in homes between 12:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. by entering unlocked doors.

Residents are urged to lock all doors and windows overnight, particularly those on ground level. Residents are also urged to call police if they see anything unusual in their neighborhood such as loitering; persons in driveways or yards who shouldn't be; and any other suspicious behavior.

Anyone who has information is asked to contact the Somerville Police Criminal Investigation Department at 617.625.1600 x7226. — Somerville Police Department



Community asks to be more involved in the Winter Hill Community Innovation School project

CONT. FROM PG 1

The students from Winter Hill have been relocated to the Edgerly Education Center temporarily, not knowing how long they will stay in this facility.

Councilor and Vice Chair and Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan expressed concern about the lack of progress and shared information with the Winter Hill project. As a resident of the area, he is

personally hoping for some more advances in the rebuilding of the school. "I get it, it is a lot of pieces but I'm just hoping we can get something," he said.

Both Chair and Vice Chair told Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Rich Raiche, how the community wanted to be more involved in the decisions and not get informed

after decisions are made. "The talk is between if we are building a new school master plan or not, we would need a ballot initiative in 2024," Clingan said.

Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis suggested a website with updates about the school repairs. Everything would be concentrated in a single place and all the information would be accessed easily.

Even though there is a website with the master plan, the Council is planning on doing something more informative in detail to help the community feel involved and knowledgeable of the matter. Chair Gomez Moukad asked the administration to come up with a proposal of a page or ideas on how they could do that by their next meeting. "The community wants

to know when they are gonna be involved, they wanna understand these steps," Gomez Moukad said.

There was consensus about the need for more transparency and openness to discussion with the community about the projects. The price of the renovation is not known yet, because no design plan has been made yet. More will be discussed in future meetings.

Somerville Winter Farmers Market set to open on November 4

CONT. FROM PG 1

\$15. The market is also participating in the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), which allows qualifying customers to receive between \$40-\$80 worth of free farm-fresh fruits and vegetables from participating HIP vendors.

"We are proud to offer a weekly market that serves our community during the long, winter months and also provides economic opportunities for local farms and businesses. With food being a way to highlight different cultures, our vendors also reflect the rich diversity of our local community. We always have live music by local musicians, so the market is the place to be on winter Saturday mornings!" says Stephanie Scherpf, CAA Co-Director / CEO.

"The SWFM fosters a community for our vendors and

customers during the cold and potentially isolating months out of the year. We want to continue to provide local, healthy, and affordable food in a time when food insecurity has been on the rise," says Juliana Soltys, CAA's Market Manager. "Please join us in cultivating a sustainable food system by supporting local businesses and farmers."

The market will welcome back much-loved vendors, including Red Fire Farm, Heron Pond Farm, Winter Moon Roots, and Freedom Food Farm, each with a wide array of produce and winter greenhouse greens. Kimball Fruit Farm will be selling apples and other root vegetables, and Mycoterra will provide mushrooms once again this year.

Cheeses will be available from Bell & Goose Cheese and Round Table Farm, while savory meats

will be available from specialty vendors like Stillman Quality Meats and Lilac Hedge.

Fresh artisanal pastries will return from Mariposa Bakery, while frozen tamales will again be available from a market favorite, Tex Mex Eats. Delectable desserts and confections will be offered by Donut O'Clock, Scones by Isobel, Secret Stash Sweets, and Piping Plover Baking Co., with chocolate specialties from Tick Tock Chocolates and Sueños Chocolates.

Deano's Pasta and Valicenti Pasta Farm will offer fresh, homemade pastas, and Mother's Kitchen will be back to offer Indian meal kits and prepared products.

Thus far, generous grant and sponsorship support for this season's SWFM has been provided by The City of Somerville,



Somerville Health Foundation and Naveo Credit Union.

The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit [www.somwintermar-](http://www.somwintermarket.org)

[ket.org](http://www.somwintermarket.org). You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket [4], and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

*Please note that the Somerville Winter Farmers Market will not be held on November 25, 2023, or December 30, 2023.

Legislative Matters Committee discusses amendments to Somerville's laws

By Jennifer Purcell

The Legislative Matters Committee held their bi-weekly meeting last Tuesday to once again discuss more potential changes to several of the ordinances and other laws that have already been set in motion.

While the amendments that have previously been discussed are usually amendments that will greatly impact all members of the community, the topics of discussion for this meeting focused more on safety as well as providing others with more inclusive and accessible options.

Closed Captioning in Public Spaces

Ordinance 23-0076 was the first topic of discussion on the agenda, an ordinance requesting the amendment of Chapter 8, Article I of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new section regarding closed captioning accessibility.

This addition to the Code of Ordinances would change the rules so that businesses that cater or offer services would be required to have closed cap-

tioning on their televisions. The reasoning behind this being brought to the attention of the committee is that several of the Councilors believe that Somerville has been falling behind in terms of their accessibility, which is unacceptable as they believe it is their duty to move in the right direction.

Councilor At-Large Willie Burnley, Jr. stated that this ordinance will not come with any fines and will not serve to discipline any businesses in the slightest, but only goes out of its way to not contradict any state or federal laws. Due to the nature of this amendment, it was passed without much discussion.

Peace Agreements for Cannabis Dispensaries

Over the course of the past few years, many states have begun to require dispensaries to have either peace agreements or project labor agreements, which would be between an employer and a union pursuant and would prohibit members from engaging in any economic interferences with the licensee's or applicant's business. Recently,

the committee has been debating whether or not something of the sort would be appropriate to require for businesses in Somerville.

Upon hearing what these peace agreements would consist of, Committee Chair and Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis expressed some concerns as this did not seem like something that would be within the Councilors' power to approve. It's an issue of federal preemption and although four states have already passed this law, there does not seem to be a legal basis as there are no examples of municipalities. Ultimately, Chair Davis decided to place this request on file and circle back to it at a later date.

Gender-Neutral Pronouns in City Ordinances

While on the subject of inclusivity, Chair Davis brought up the idea of changing all pronouns in the city's ordinances to gender-neutral out of respect for those who don't use pronouns that are associated with the gender binary. It was made abundantly clear that this was not to be voted on for approval



as it would happen regardless of the outcome, but the topic was brought up in order to discuss the practicality of how to do it.

There will be a technology update that will allow this to happen automatically and once that has happened, the committee will be contacted and they will discuss the next steps.

Helmet Regulations for Bicyclists

The final topic of discussion regarded the safety of bicyclists in Somerville and what measures the city can take in order to keep them safe. It was

requested that the Director of Mobility review the draft act relative to the operation and regulation of electric bicycles in Salem and consider supporting similar legislation.

It is no secret that electric bicycles in particular can be incredibly dangerous, therefore one of the amendments that would be made would require anyone under the age of 16 who operates one to wear a helmet. Chair Davis concluded that there is an opportunity to take up this issue, therefore marking it as complete without much discussion.

SCES celebrates 50 years of service with The Future of Aging Forum

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) proudly marks half a century of championing independence and dignity. In this spirit, we're thrilled to present The Future of Aging Forum on Oct. 19, 2023.

"This forum serves as a spotlight on the evolving landscape of aging in Massachusetts," said SCES CEO Marta Corvelo. "It's a platform for dynamic conversations on the role of technology, social connectivity, and innovative collaborations in enhancing health, equity, and self-reliance. We envision this assembly as the ignition spark for a broader, continuous dialogue on co-creating a more enriching future for aging."

SCES is a non-profit agency dedicated to providing information, services, and advocacy to empower older adults to live on their terms in the comfort of their chosen settings. Through our tireless efforts, we've touched the lives of thousands in Cambridge and Somerville, assessing individual needs, offering personalized care, and coordinating support in their homes.

The 2020 U.S. Census highlighted a surge in the 65-and-over community, which grew five times faster than the general population since 2010. With over 18% of Massachusetts' residents aged 65-and-up – a figure set to rise to 21% by 2030 – our mis-

sion has never been more vital. This forum is uniting thought leaders from diverse sectors to explore emerging trends and pioneer strategies for a brighter aging future.

The keynote panel "The Future of Aging – Advancing Health, Equity and Independence" will feature:

Speakers:

- **Robyn I. Stone**, DrPH, SVP of Research at LeadingAge; Co-Director for the LeadingAge LTSS Center at UMASS Boston
- **Caitlin E. Coyle**, Ph.D., Director, Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging UMASS Boston
- **Manuel Lopes**, MBA, In-

terim CEO of Fenway Health; Founding Member, Health Equity Compact

Moderator: **Olivia Umoren**, MPH, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, USAging

We also welcome **Dr. Elizabeth Chen**, Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and **Dr. Kiame Mahaniah**, Undersecretary for Health at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, who will provide invaluable policy insights on aging in Massachusetts.

Our forum will also spotlight three transformative breakout sessions:

- AgeTech Design – "Under-

standing the Aging Experience"

- Driving Innovation through Social and Health Care Partnerships

- Expanding How We Think About Home-Based Healthcare

Join us on Thursday, Oct. 19, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Norton's Wood Conference Center at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (136 Irving Street, Cambridge). Let's continue the conversation and connections with a cocktail hour from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Please note that entry to this transformative event is by invitation only.

For more information about the forum, visit eldercare.org/forum.

Fair Housing Questionnaire for Candidates, 2023

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission, a nonpartisan group of citizens serving the community, asked candidates for Mayor and School Committee a set of questions about Fair Housing in 2021 and again this year, in 2023.

Question 1: Have you ever seen or personally experienced discrimination in housing (either in renting, buying, or getting a mortgage)? What did you observe, how did you handle it, and how did you feel about it?

William Tauro, Candidate for Mayor

My most powerful experience with discrimination in housing happened to people I love. My wife is a Brazilian immigrant and I saw firsthand the things her family and friends had to deal with. I heard stories of how they just gave up when they hit the discrimination wall. Some of them sought help from agencies that are often underfunded. I feel very angry about it. Sometimes credit scores are used as a reason for denial which is really thinly veiled discrimination against a group of people.

Matthew Hunt, Candidate for City Council, Ward 1

In my time living in the north of Ireland I was keenly aware of the continued housing discrimination against members of both my own community and against immigrant and ethnic minority communities. This discrimination there has been ongoing for generations, and while it is getting better, there is still much work to do. The way it manifests is in what we could call "red lining" here in the US to keep communities separate, as well as unreasonable and unequally applied requirements to renters and buyers from marginalized groups.

Naima Sait, Candidate for City Council, Ward 5

When I first moved to MA as a first-generation immigrant from Algeria, it was extremely difficult for me to find housing that I could afford. I slept on people's couches for months. Because landlords require credit checks and rental history, I was not able to rent a place for almost a year. Since I was a new immigrant, I didn't have a credit or a rental history. It took a year for me to qualify to rent a room and because I had to supply first and last month's rent and security deposit, I had to share a 1 bedroom with 2 other people who had also recently immigrated to the US. When I decided to move to Somerville, it took months to find housing that fit my budget as an educator at Somerville High School. The reason I was not selected during interviews to rent a bedroom has to do with my economic status. I was a new immigrant who didn't have credit history. Eventually, I benefited from an affordable housing opportunity in my friend group. My experience is very common in the immigrant communities. It takes months, if not years, for immigrants to qualify to rent a place and once they qualify, often they have to work 2 to 3 jobs in order to keep up with the rising rents. As a Somerville educator who worked mostly with immigrant families, I have seen many of them forced to move out of Somerville. It's also very concerning that Somerville educators cannot afford to live in the community they serve.

Jack Connolly, Candidate for City Council, Ward 6

I am fortunate enough to not have experienced personal discrimination in housing, but many others have. Discrimination of any kind is unacceptable. I personally know a few individuals that faced homelessness and the only difference between them and myself was a paycheck. These individuals were not plagued by addiction, tarnished with a criminal record, or struggling with mental health. Their lives fell apart and they found themselves without a roof over their heads and lacking enough money for a first month, last month, and a security deposit necessary to secure a place to call home. These people could have been you or me and still could be if misfortune fell upon us. In Massachusetts there are a lot of agencies tasked with assisting housing for those facing homelessness, but they also have their own definition of homelessness that is also a requirement on their applications. The individual must be able to provide evidence that they have been homeless for a minimum of one year to be eligible for assistance. I don't know about you, but a year is too long for anyone to not have a safe place to call home and this is something that needs to be changed.

After speaking with agency after agency these individuals were able to find a few of the good advocates left that were able to help them while others turned them away because they weren't homeless long enough. These individuals are both to this day housed, gainfully employed and able to look forward and away from the nightmare they once had to live.

Wilfred Mbah, Candidate for City Council At Large

I have been a victim of housing discrimination in the past. During the period of COVID disruption, I was forced to leave the apartment my family and I were renting. The details of this are personal and I will not elaborate. Happily, we have been able to stay in Somerville and now are permanently settled.

Question 2: What do you think are the most common forms of housing discrimination in Somerville?

William Tauro, Candidate for Mayor

Currently, one of the biggest factors in housing exclusivity is cost. When there is a bidding war on a piece of real estate in Somerville, the house goes to the highest bidder regardless of who they are. Huge property prices become huge rents. So, the issue becomes the groups that these huge price tags exclude from living in Somerville. People of modest income helped by housing vouchers must not be excluded from renting a unit by law. Also, condo conversions have resulted in a lot of smaller units which excludes by size, people with children. The problem arises when the voucher does not reflect the cost of the rental unit or fair market rates.

Matthew Hunt, Candidate for City Council, Ward 1

A profit driven model that prefers short term gains over community building. Gentrification and a lack of affordability is a shrouded means to continue to discriminate against protected classes.

Naima Sait, Candidate for City Council, Ward 5

Enforcement of Fair Housing laws is left largely to private legal action, so even many people who belong to protected classes (thanks to race, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, marital status, etc.) lack the resources to sue and so suffer illegal discrimination. The high price level of housing in Somerville is a major barrier to housing access for people in most income brackets. Practices that are common among local landlords such as checking credit scores, checking public eviction records, and requiring renters to pay their first and last months' rents alongside their security deposit, often as well as a broker's fee, can exclude even many people who can make the rent payments but whose financial histories are imperfect. Somerville's existing housing stock also presents barriers to many people. Few smaller buildings have accommodations for people with disabilities. Families struggle to find apartments with three or more bedrooms that have either been de-leadged apartments or are held by landlords willing to bear the risk of children living in apartments that have not been de-leadged. Tenants who live in unsafe conditions in apartments that do not meet code may be reluctant to call Inspectional Services out of fear of retaliation by their landlord or the loss of their housing if ISD should declare their unit unfit for habitation.

Jack Connolly, Candidate for City Council, Ward 6

Housing is denied most often because the process seemingly has been made too difficult almost as if on purpose to sort out who should and shouldn't have it. Housing should be made available to anyone who needs it and we need to use our resources that we already have to make it more accessible. Groups like Somerville Housing Authority should receive more support from the city and no one should ever be turned away from the opportunity to have housing of any kind in this city.

The City of Somerville has hosted housing lotteries frequently but they could offer more, they could also make a better effort at letting the community know more about them and providing assistance with the application for those needing it. One of the worst things about the lotteries is what do you do if you don't win? Your hope of finding a home that you found to be perfect for you and your needs in a City you couldn't wait to live in have gone away. There should be follow up with applicants that didn't win the housing lottery to go over other housing options, assistance, and programs that could be available to them.

Wilfred Mbah, Candidate for City Council At Large

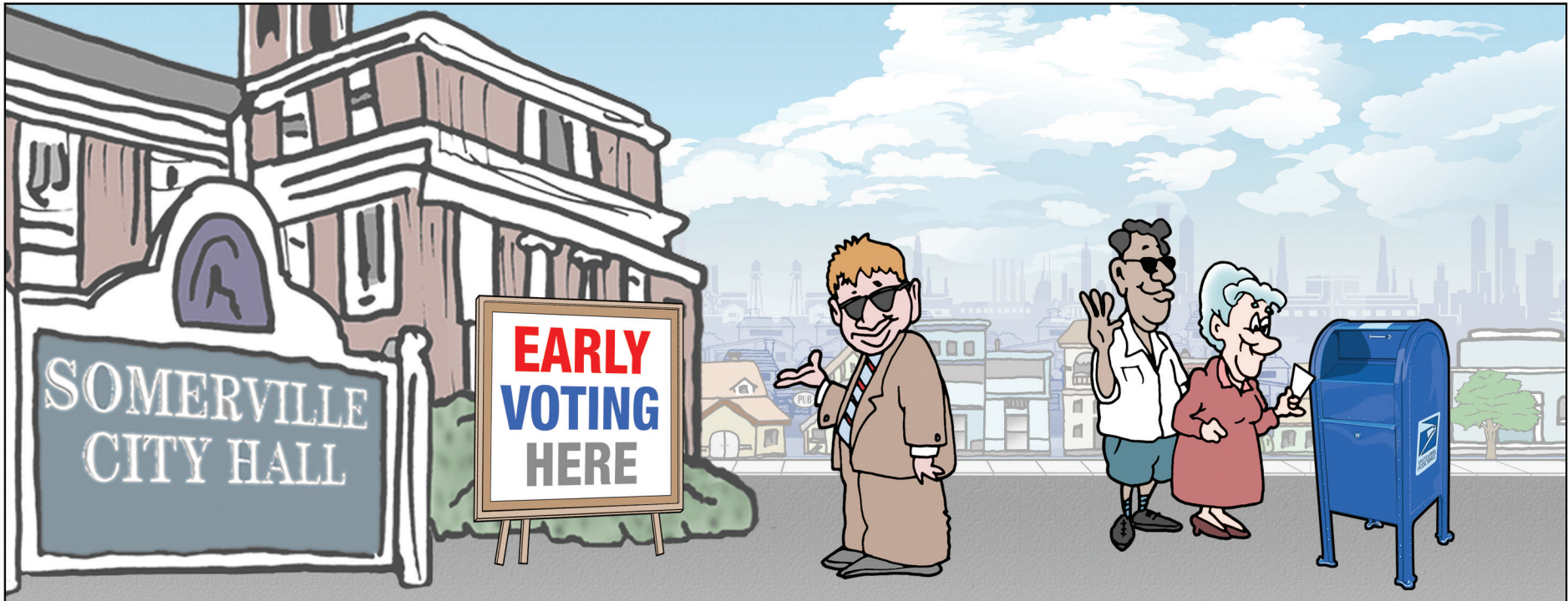
We need to understand that racism and discrimination are deeply embedded within our society and, as a result, people of color are often denied housing. But it does not end at race, there are several other groups that landlords and property managers discriminate against -- national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, age, source of income, disability, gender and pregnancy, or veteran status.

Additional questions and answers will be presented in next week's edition of The Somerville Times.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Be sure to register to vote on November 7.

Our View Of The Times



For some of us it feels like forever since we’ve shaken off the cares and concerns that seem to be bearing down so heavily as we observe the divisions and discord that has been so prevalent in our society over the past few years.

Another election is just around the corner, and the national election is coming up next year. The balance of power in Washington will still be in play, and more than

ever it seems as though so much will be at stake in that particular election cycle, no matter which side we align with.

So, in just a few weeks we will be facing the results of a very consequential election. Many feel that a lot of important aspects of our lives will be affected.

But first comes an old friendly tradition: the celebration of Halloween. We are treated to the sights and sounds of kids

dressing up and role playing, going door-to-door gather their sweets, and just plain having fun in the doing.

Grown-ups have their celebration traditions too. Maybe it would be smart to cut loose a little bit this time around – safely, of course. Let out a little steam and spend at least one day when we don’t quite take the world as seriously as we normally do. Somehow it seems like this just might be

what we all need.

So, take this advice and join in with the kids a little. Wear a silly costume. Cut loose at a festive party. Be a kid again yourself, if only for this one day.

In the meantime, though, don’t forget to make sure that you’re properly registered to vote. Any questions? Go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/electionsfor> all the info.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

locals: Happy birthday to former Alderman **Maryann Heuston**, who is celebrating this week. Not sure if she will have a beach day but hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to former City Councilor **Will Mbah**. We wish him a very happy birthday as well. Happy birthday to **Valerie Spinale**. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to **Steve Hardy**, we wish him a great day. Happy birthday to **Naomi Harrison**, daughter of **Kaitlin Denk**. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Sue Casazza Smith**, **Alan Ball Blydenburgh**, **Phyllis D’Anna**, **George Bevans**, **Pamelibra Bono Bromberg**, **Mary Marshall**, **Ron Sensale**, **Courtney**

Nelson, Bill McCarthy and **Laurie Tierno Johnson** a happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The **Union Square Walking Tour** takes place this **Sunday, October 15**, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. The tour will be led by architectural historian **Edward Gordon**. It will start at 282 Somerville Ave. (Dunkin’ Donuts) and finish at a local eatery in Union Square (TBD). RSVPs are encouraged: bwilson@somervillema.gov. Phone: 617-776-3938.

The **Somerville Council on Aging Flu Clinic** takes place **Thursday, October 12**, at the **Holland Street Center** from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and **Thursday, October 26** at the **Holland Street Center** from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The **City of Somerville’s Public Health nurse** will be hosting the two flu clinics. For more information or to book an appointment please call the COA at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Visit the **Armory Cafe** on **Saturday, October 14**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., 191 Highland Ave., for the exhibit reception for **Glitch Art** by **Jael Whitney**

(@w3rmwood). **Jael Whitney** is a member of the **Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma** actively engaged with the arts community in the Greater Boston area. With her glitch art as **@w3rmwood**, she creates art by painting with pixels using digital errors and data disruption. Her art has been displayed by the **New Alliance Gallery**, **The Umbrella Arts Center**, **CAA at Canal**, **Brickbottom Artists’ Association’s Gallery**, and more. The full exhibit rund through **October 22**. More info on the Armory website artsatthearmory.org.

Fall 2023 City Hall *Continued on page 22*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#893

1. Triskaideka-phobia is a fear of what?

2. When did Tupac Shakur die?

3. What is the name of October's full moon?

4. When is National Grouch Day?

5. When is Thanksgiving celebrated in Canada?

6. Who sang *Da Ya Think I'm Sexy*?

7. Who directed the 2018 movie *A*
- Star Is Born?

8. What was the Beatles' first album?

9. Which battle did Napoleon lose against the British?

10. Which country is Canberra the capital of?

11. Which river flows through Paris?

12. Which country is Justin Trudeau the Prime Minister of?

Answers on page 21

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. You spray 2.5 drops of saliva per word.
2. The tallest bamboo sculpture is 164-feet high.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
SWEET TOOTH

- ACROSS
1. Bow Wow Wow's "I ____ Candy"

5. Money source

8. ____'s Root Beer

11. Pelvic parts

12. Start of something big?

13. Round openings

15. RPM gauge

16. Cantina cooker

17. Car sound, to a toddler

18. Ninepins namesake

20. Kiln for drying hops

21. They had

22. Division, abbr.

23. Informal wear

26. "Tail" on letter C

30. Kamakawiwo'ole's strings

31. Real estate sale agreement

34. Denials

35. 9 a.m. prayer

37. Even, to a poet

38. *Desert plant harvested for sweet syrup

39. Forbidden

40. Quickly or slowly, e.g.

42. Sweet ____ brew

43. Breathe in

45. Westernmost city in Germany

47. Soldier's bed

48. Mensch, alt. sp.

50. Italian car brand

52. Jolly livestock raisers?

55. Russia's hard liquor

56. Ctrl + Z

57. Consumes food

59. Checks out

60. Famous French couturier (1905-1957)

61. Heavy Metal's Quiet ____

62. Caustic soda

63. Newsman Rather

64. Kill, as in dragon

- DOWN
1. Clever humor

2. Unfortunately, exclamation

3. Actor Nolte

4. Island in French Polynesia

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7			8	9	10
11					12					13	14	
15					16					17		
	18			19						20		
				21					22			
23	24	25					26				27	28
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37				38		
39					40				41		42	
43				44					45		46	
				47			48	49				
	50	51				52					53	54
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

S	H	I	L	L		A	L	A			M	A	S	S
P	O	L	I	O		P	A	M			C	A	C	H
A	L	I	S	T		E	B	B			L	A	M	I
		M	A	T	T	E	R			E	L	E	M	E
			S	O	P			A	R	I	A			
B	A	D		S	O	F	T			P	R	O	T	O
O	T	I	S			C	L	E	G		S	N	A	R
Y	E	A	H			H	A	L	O	S		E	L	B
L	I	N	U	M			W	I	L	T		S	K	I
E	N	A	T	I	C			E	D	E	N		S	T
				S	P	A	R			L	A	O		
N	U	C	L	E	U	S			C	A	R	B	O	N
U	S	H	E	R			P	T	A		R	E	N	E
D	E	I	T	Y			I	I	I		O	S	C	A
E	R	N	S				C	N	N		W	E	E	P

5. Donut filler

6. Checked out

7. Bleats

8. Rocky & Bullwinkle and Mary Kate & Ashley, pl.

9. To a very great degree (2 words)

10. Not bright

12. Sacred choral compositions

13. Roundish

14. Sweet tooth, technically

19. ____ Musketeers, spelled out

22. Drops at dawn

23. ____-Frutti

24. Highlander's dagger

25. Sage and rosemary

26. Scoop holder

27. Averse

28. "Drove my chevy to the ____"

29. Southeast Asian org.
32. Relinquish, as in property

33. Clergyman's title, abbr.

36. Single serving treat

38. Embarrass

40. Arthur, to friends

41. Hard feelings

44. I to Greeks, pl.

46. TV's "Where everybody knows your name"

48. Opposite of depression

49. " ____ a high note"

50. Same as fogey

51. Inactive

52. "Ant-Man" leading actor

53. Not top-shelf in a bar

54. Greek portico

55. Radio knob, abbr.

58. Farm pen
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Fluffernutter Historic Bike Ride

The 11-mile Historic Bike Ride on Sunday, October 8, collecting ingredients to make fluffernutter sandwiches included 25 hardy cyclists, including young Simon who traveled in his mom Jamie's e-cargo bike.

The group started at City Hall at 2:15 p.m. and almost all made it back to create and enjoy fluffernutter sandwiches in the Somernova courtyard with key donations from Lyn-dell's Bakery (bread), Teddie's Peanut Butter (plant in Everett) and Marshmallow Fluff from Union Square Main Streets, plus historic Somerville root beer and other craft sodas from Tower Beverages (originally based and known as Prospect Hill Bottling and Soda Water Co. launched in Union Square in 1914) and Aeronaut beer to wash all of the stickiness down.

The rides leaders were Brandon Wilson, Dick Bauer, Jeanine Farley, and Alan Moore.

To download the cue sheet for the Fluffernutter Historic Bike Ride, go to http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/fluffernutter_cues.pdf.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Simple Asparagus

As a kid during the 1970's, I couldn't stand asparagus. The reason, asparagus was served out of a can, at least in my home, yuck!

One of the staples, usually on a Saturday, was an asparagus and egg frittata. Just picture mushy with some hard chewy watered down gray colored nastiness spread throughout the frittata. I would save up my allowance to treat myself on a Saturday for a delicious burger at the Stephen James House, or a luncheon special of chicken chow mein, chicken fingers, rice and crab rangoon at Yee's Village. Sorry for the digression.

Now I must say this vegetable has made it to one of my top favorites. A truly corrective emotional experience.

1-2 Bunches of Asparagus, Medium Thickness
2-4 Tablespoons Olive oil
3/4-1-1/2 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
1/2-1 Teaspoon Pepper
Lemon Zest and Juice
Maldon Flaked Sea Salt, optional

Preheat oven to 400°. Prepare the asparagus by cutting off the woody ends, about 2 inches from the bottom. For extra tender asparagus, using a vegetable peeler, peel the lower third around the whole stalk of all the asparagus. Place on a sheet pan. Add the olive oil and coat the asparagus. Add the salt and pepper and toss until evenly coated. Place the sheet pan in the preheated oven and set timer for 7 minutes.

Once the asparagus is done, it should be bright green and still have some texture to it. Add some lemon zest and a squeeze of lemon juice. Orange zest and juice may be substituted.

Feel free to add shaved Parmesan cheese when serving. Or add some flaked Maldon sea salt for finishing.

If you really want to make it decadent, add poached eggs and add hollandaise sauce over the top for a special breakfast. I even use leftover asparagus for a salad topping. Your options are endless.

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix>.



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 10/21/2023

Pro Tech Towing notice to owner. The following abandoned motor vehicle will be privately sold unless claimed.

Car information	VIN#	Last registered owner	Address
2008 Land Rover Range Rover Sport	SALSK25438122117	Ali Zaiter	2258 Pawtucket Ave. East Providence RI 02914
Date of Sale 10/21/2023 . A 5-day notice to the Waltham Police Department Chief will be provided before sale. Location: ProTech Towing, 205 Willow St. Waltham, MA, Phone: 781-894-5058			
9/27/23, 10/4/23, 10/11/23 The Somerville Times			



Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Funds are available for Affordable Housing Support Programs in the City of Somerville.

The Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (SAHTF) is reopening its annual process of local distribution of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and non-CPA funds that are designated for Somerville community housing projects and programs. Up to \$500,000 of combined CPA and non-CPA Housing funds will be made available through one competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) processes to provide funding for:

- The support of affordable housing in Somerville by housing program providers (Tenancy Stabilization Programs).

The RFP will be posted and available starting on **October 2nd, 2023**. The proposal submission deadline for the RFP is **12:00pm on November 2nd, 2023**.

Full instructions for proposal submission are included in the RFP. The RFP will be available for download at the City of Somerville's website at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/affordable-housing-trust-fund> by clicking on "Funding and Opportunities".

More information about eligible uses and funding priorities is available on pages 1-2 of the RFP. For questions, please contact City of Somerville, (617) 625-6600 x2587 or by email at pgoldstein@somervillema.gov.

10/4/23, 10/11/23 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of an Entertainment by Performers, Barra Bars LLC d/b/a Barra, 23A Bow St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_OnOTMpMCRkeYEApl1gw6WQ
3. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
4. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD

BERNABE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

10/11/23 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REBID IFB # 24-12

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

Residential Property
Rodent Control Assistance Program

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, October 11, 2023**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, October 26, 2023**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

10/11/23 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #24-26

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

On-Call Repairs, Replacements and Maintenance of Overhead Doors

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, October 11th, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, November 1st, 2023**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply. DCAMM Certification and Update Statement required for Doors and Windows.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of an All Forms Alcohol License, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors and a Sunday Hours License for An Nam Group Inc. d/b/a An Nam, 310 Foley Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_OnOTMpMCRkeYEApl1gw6WQ
3. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
4. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD

BERNABE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

10/11/23 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Private Patio Seating, Mike's Bar Inc d/b/a Parise's Cafe, 97 Washington St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_OnOTMpMCRkeYEApl1gw6WQ
3. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
4. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD

BERNABE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

LEGAL NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR WRITTEN QUOTES

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites written quotes from Contractors for the **Rooftop Unit Replacement at the Administration Building** for the **Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts**, in accordance with the documents prepared by **C.A. Crowley Engineering**.

The Project consists of: Replacement of (1) existing rooftop unit with (1) new rooftop unit.

The work is estimated to cost **\$ 35,000.00**.

Quotes are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A (2)(B) & to state prevailing wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

Written Quotes will be received until **2:00 p.m., October 26, 2023**.

All Quotes should be emailed to: BrianL@sha-web.org and received no later than the date & time specified above. Quotes must be emailed.

Contract Documents will be available at electronically or for purchase at www.Projectdog.com on

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, Project Code **858425**.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection at **10 A.M. on October 18, 2021**.

For an appointment call **Brian Langton at the SHA at 617-625-1152**.

10/11/23 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISING

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is seeking competitive sealed proposals from qualified web-based software companies interested in providing Hosted Web-based Payroll Time and Attendance, and HR document storage system/software.

Bids are subject to provisions of M.G.L. c.30B

RFP Issued on: October 11, 2023

Proposals Due: October 25, 2023

Term of Contract: The term of this contract will be for a period of Five years, (1825 days)

The RFP may be obtained at the Somerville Housing Authority website, www.SHA-web.org- Bid opportunities tab. It will be the responder's responsibility to download bid documents and to register if you're submitting a proposal. To register email Anthony Crespo at tonyc@sha-web.org and provide a valid email, Company Name, Contact person's name and a telephone number. Please enter Web-based Payroll system registration on subject line. Addendum's or updates will also be posted on www.SHA-web.org- Bid opportunities tab. You must confirm reception of being registered. Once registration is received, you will receive an email confirming reception of registration.

10/11/23 The Somerville Times

TIER CLASSIFICATION SUBMITTAL

282 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

Release Tracking Number 3-35920 & 3-36156

TPursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0530), a Revised Tier Classification Submittal has been submitted for the above referenced site. Releases of oil and/or hazardous materials occurred at this location, which is a disposal site (defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, Section 2). On October 14, 2020, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation Report and a Tier Classification Submittal classifying the release as Tier I disposal site, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500 was submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP). The site was classified as Tier I because it met the Tier I Criteria of implementing an Immediate Response Action (IRA) to eliminate or mitigate a Critical Exposure Pathway pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0414(3). On October 7, 2022, the IRA was closed and the site no longer meets the Tier I Criteria. Therefore a Revised Tier Classification Submittal has been submitted reclassifying the release as Tier II. The 282 Broadway Nominee Trust employed Geological Field Services, Inc. to manage the response actions at this site in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.000). Any person interested in obtaining additional information or reviewing the disposal site file may contact Luke Fabbri, President, Geological Field Services, Inc., 14 Hubon Street, Salem, MA 01970 at (978) 594-1376. These documents and other site related reports are available online at the MADEP home page.

10/11/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, October 19, 2023** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SrJ_ZchATd6IKhkFEHgamQ

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinances, Sections 3.1 Neighborhood Residence and 3.2 Urban Residence, to permit the house and triple decker building types without any conditions, and to repeal the lot depth, dwelling units per lot, and development benefits requirements.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to repeal Section 10.9 Steep Slopes.
- John Fragione and Agostino Feola, Trustees of Frala Realty Trust, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) to Mid-Rise 5 (MR5).
- Mai Lau, 635 Somerville Avenue LLC, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 627 Somerville Avenue from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Mid-Rise 3 (MR3).
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinances to replace the text of Section 9.1.11 Residential Use Categories and revise Table 9.1.1 Permitted Uses and the corresponding permitted use table of each zoning district, in accordance with changes to Table 9.1.1, to replace the two residential use categories.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for the address or item number.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to the Planning Board at planning@somervillema.gov and the City Council at publiccomments@somervillema.gov.

10/4/23, 10/11/23 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning
and Community Development (OSPCD)
Office of Housing Stability (OHS)
and

Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (SAHTF)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP #24-Flex-SAHTF

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invites sealed proposals to administer the Flex-SAHTF Rental Assistance Fund

The Request for Proposal (RFP) package for contract(s) to administer the Flex-SAHTF Rental Assistance Fund will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **8:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 11, 2023** at www.somervilleMA.gov/OHS/Flex-SAHTF-RFP/ Print copies are available upon request to Ellen Shachter eshachter@somervillema.gov.

Interested parties should email Ellen Shachter eshachter@somervillema.gov and Fred Berman fberman@somervillema.gov stating their **preliminary intent to submit a proposal** and indicating any questions they might have regarding this RFP **using the subject line, "Intent to Submit - Flex-SAHTF"**. Responses to such questions will be shared with all organizations that have submitted an email indicating such preliminary intent to submit.

The deadline for stating preliminary intent / posing questions is 12 noon on Friday, October 20, 2023.

To be considered for funding, proposers must submit an electronic PDF file containing the proposal package by email to eshachter@somervillema.gov and fberman@somervillema.gov no later than **12 noon on Monday, October 30, 2023. Please use the subject line "Proposal in Response to RFP to Administer Flex-SAHTF"**

Thomas Galligani, Executive Director,
Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
617- 625-6600 x2531, tgalligani@somervillema.gov

Andrea Shapiro, Managing Trustee,
Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund

10/11/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP #24-20

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites proposals for:

Boot and Tow Services

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, October 11th, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Thursday, October 26th, 2023**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

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HONK! Festival 2023

HONK! Festival 2023 took place last weekend, with this year's participants hailing from all across the United States.

HONK! is a very unique musical movement that first began right here in Somerville back in 2006. Out of those humble beginnings, HONK! has become a recognizable worldwide phenomenon.

Held in Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston neighborhoods, these bands create an irresistible spectacle of creative movement and sonic self-expression directed at making the world a better place.

The annual 3-day free festival brought brass bands from all over the United States and the world to the local region for a celebration of music, community and activism.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



Beacon Hill Roll Call

Volume 48 – Report No. 40 • October 2-6, 2023 • Copyright © 2023 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives’ and senators’ votes from the week of October 2-6. All Senate roll calls are on overriding Gov. Maura Healey’s veto of several items in the fiscal 2024 budget. The House already overrode the vetoes.

EMPLOYERS MUST DISCLOSE A SALARY RANGE WHEN POSTING A JOB (H 4109)
House 148-8 approved and sent to the Senate a bill, dubbed the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, which would require employers with 25 or more employees to disclose a salary range when posting a job position.

Supporters said that in the Greater Boston area in 2021, women on average were paid 70 cents for every dollar earned by a man. They noted this gap widens among communities of color, where Black and Latina women have the highest gender and racial wage gaps of 51 and 55 cents, respectively.

“With the passage of this legislation, the House takes bold action to empower workers, reduce persistent gender and racial wage gaps and help businesses attract and retain talent,” said chief sponsor Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury), House chair of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. “Pay transparency is good policy for employees and employers alike.”

“As House vice chair of the Women’s Caucus, I can attest to the dedication and hard work behind the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act from leaders throughout Massachusetts,” said Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville). “Significant gender and racial wage gaps continue to exist today and this legislation takes concrete steps to ensure that women get fair wages to create pay equity in the commonwealth.”

“I voted against [the bill] because I was concerned about the mandates it would have imposed on Massachusetts businesses, especially small businesses, which I do not believe were adequately resolved by the final bill,” said Rep. Steve Xiarhos (R-Barnstable). “Imposing undue burdens on small businesses stifles their ability to grow and invest back into their employees and communities,” said Rep. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick), another opponent of the measure. “These progressive mandates threaten the state’s economic vitality and hinder the entrepreneurial spirit.”

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

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

\$1 MILLION FOR HEADSTART PROGRAMS (H 4040)

Senate 38-0, overrode Gov. Healey’s veto of \$1 million (reducing funding from \$17.5 million to \$16.5 million) in funding for grants to Head Start programs.

“I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary,” said Healey in her veto message. “The adjusted funding level proposed here is consistent with the fiscal year 2023 General Appropriations Act and sustains significant expansion to this line-item in recent fiscal years.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1 million.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$1.4 MILLION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES (H 4040)

Senate 38-0, overrode Gov. Healey’s veto of \$1.4 million (reducing funding from \$1.8 million to \$400,000) in funding for suicide prevention programs.

“I am reducing this item to an amount consistent with my House [budget] ... recommendation,” said Healey in her veto message. “The program goals are sufficiently funded through an expansion in the Suicide Prevention and Intervention ... line item.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1.4 million.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$250,000 FOR PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH (H 4040)

Senate 38-0, overrode Gov. Healey’s veto of \$250,000 (reducing funding from \$1.25 million to \$1 million) in funding for prostate cancer research.

“I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary,” said Healey in her veto message. “This will allow the program to continue its current level of services.”

(A “Yes” vote is for \$250,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$250,000 FOR PARENT-CHILD PLUS PROGRAM (H 4040)

Senate 37-1, overrode Gov. Healey’s veto of \$250,000 (reducing funding from \$4,250,000 to \$4,000,000) in funding for the Parent-Child Plus Program. According to its website, “The goals of this intensive, evidence-based home visiting model are to promote school readiness and academic success by strengthening parent-child verbal interaction and reading and play activities in the home.”

“I am reducing this item to the amount projected to be necessary,” said Healey in her veto message. “The adjusted

funding level proposed here is consistent with the fiscal year 2023 General Appropriations Act and sustains significant expansion to this line-item in recent fiscal years.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$250,000. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$880,000 FOR MASSACHUSETTS SERVICE ALLIANCE (H 4040)

Senate 37-1, overrode Gov. Healey’s veto of \$880,000 (reducing funding from \$2,280,000 to \$1,400,000) in funding for the Massachusetts Service Alliance. According to its website, the Massachusetts Service Alliance is a “private, nonprofit ... organization, established in 1991, that expands volunteerism and service in Massachusetts. It provides funding, training and support to individuals and organizations, enabling them to tackle pressing issues, strengthen communities, and make our commonwealth a better place to live.”

“I am vetoing this item because it is not consistent with my House [budget] ... recommendation,” said Healey in her veto message. “This is a passthrough and will not impact core Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development programming.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$880,000 million. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

GOV. MAURA HEALEY SIGNS TAX RELIEF PACKAGE (H 4104) - Gov. Healey signed into law the conference committee version of a tax relief package. It was drafted and approved by the Legislature as a compromise to the different versions approved by the House and Senate. Supporters say this will provide \$561.3 million in tax relief in fiscal year 2024 and \$1.02 billion per year in subsequent years.

Provisions include increasing the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000; reducing the estate tax for all taxpayers and eliminating the tax for all estates under \$2 million by allowing a uniform credit of \$99,600; increasing the refundable tax credit for a dependent child, disabled adult or senior from \$180 to \$310 per dependent in taxable year 2023, and then to \$440 in subsequent years while eliminating the child/dependent cap; doubling the refundable senior circuit breaker tax credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400; increasing the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit from 30 percent to 40 percent of the federal credit; and reducing the short-term capital gains tax rate from 12 percent to 8.5 percent.

Continued on page 18

Somerville Planning Board seeks new member

The City of Somerville seeks one new member for the Planning Board, and all Somerville residents are invited to apply. A background in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, urban planning, and/or land-use law is beneficial but not required. Applicants should be interested in job creation, affordable housing development, and open space and multimodal transportation strategies.

The Planning Board reviews long-term and large-scale planning throughout the city. It approves and implements the SomerVision Comprehensive Plan, and it grants special permits for development projects in key transformational areas. The Planning Board also provides recommendations to the City Council on amendments to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance.

The Board typically meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Full members earn a monthly stipend of \$495.33. Applications will be reviewed by the Mayor’s Appointments Advisory Committee. New members must be approved by the City Council. All Trustees must comply with and sign the City of Somerville’s Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members.

Applications are due Tuesday, October 31. Interested residents should send a resume and cover letter to planning@somervillema.gov or to the Planning, Preservation, & Zoning Division, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. Please contact planning@somervillema.gov or (617) 625-6600 ext. 2500 with questions.



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SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

Open Enrollment Begins on October 15th and runs to December 7th – Medicare recipients can change their health insurance plans for January 1, 2024. While having the freedom to change your health insurance plan can save you money, there are many health insurance plans and companies to choose from. You don't have to make the decision alone, the Somerville Council on Aging has SHINE Counseling available in person, over the phone, or on Zoom, to assist you with comparing what health insurance options are available for you. You can call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or Molly Pagliuca at ext. 2318 to book an appointment.

Medicare Open Enrollment Seminar – Wednesday, October 25th at the Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. Marion Severynse, a SHINE counselor from Minute-man Senior Services will be hosting a seminar to speak about open enrollment, introduce different health insurance options, and will provide an opportunity for you to have your questions answered in a group setting. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318 or mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Mayor Ballantyne's Thanksgiving Luncheon – Tuesday, November 14th at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy a Thanksgiving Celebration of turkey, stuffing and all the fixings! Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner – Thursday, November 9th at the Highlander Café at Somerville High School. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Somerville Kiwanis and prepared by the Somerville Culinary Arts program. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

The A & W Ukulele Players – Thursday, October 19th at the Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. The A & W Ukulele Players are ukulele enthusiasts from all over the Greater Boston area. For the last five years, they have been delighting audiences with their mix of holiday songs and favorites spanning the decades from the 1920s to the 2010s. Lunch and performance is brought to you at no cost by Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Multicultural Meal Program. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Multicultural Meals Program – Congratulations to Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) who was the recent recipient of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding from the

City of Somerville. SCES will use this funding to provide free, hot, lunches to Somerville's older adults at both the Holland Street Center and the Ralph and Jenny Senior Centers through June of 2024. Multicultural lunches will be catered by Somerville businesses and will be served at noon, following BINGO or Special Programming.

Tuesday, October 17th Ralph & Jenny Center: Chinese - Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Tuesday, October 24th Ralph & Jenny Center: Haitian - Highland Creole Cuisine

Thursday, October 5th Holland Street Center: Chinese - Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Thursday, October 12th Holland Street Center: Haitian - Highland Creole Cuisine

Thursday, October 19th Holland Street Center: Portuguese - J&J Restaurant

Thursday, October 26th Holland Street Center: Italian - Alfredo's Italian Kitchen

All are welcome! Registration is required as space is limited. Please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. Grab and Go lunches are still available.

Trick or Treat at the COA – Tuesday, October 31st at the Holland Street Center, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Celebrate Halloween at the Council on Aging. Enjoy music, a costume contest and trick or treating with the COA staff. Lunch will be served following Trick or Treat - \$5 per person. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Council on Aging Flu Clinic – Thursday, October 12th at the Holland Street Center from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 26th at the Holland Street Center from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The City of Somerville's Public Health nurse will be hosting the two flu clinics. For more information or to book an appointment please call the COA at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Knitting with Natasha Group – Tuesday, October 24th at the Holland Street Center starting at 2:00 p.m. If you are looking to learn how to knit, rekindle your love of knitting, or knit with others, join us for our new knitting group. This October we will be making mittens. Drop-in sessions or extra help will be held on Tuesday, October 17th and 31st at the Holland Street Center starting at 2:00 p.m. Students can use this time to knit together, ask Natasha any questions or receive additional help. All supplies, including yarn and needles will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov

Bingo – Every Tuesday except October 31st at the Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Bingo – Every Thursday, except October 19th at our Holland Street Center - starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Tech Open Hours – Every Tuesday starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Bring your phones, computers, and tablets or borrow one from the COA. This is a drop-in style individual help to answer your technology questions and frustrations. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

October Double Feature – Friday, October 20th at the Holland Street Center starting at 10:00 a.m. Feature #2 - Hocus Pocus 2 - Starring: Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, Kathy Najimy Two young women accidentally bring back the Sanderson Sisters to modern day Salem and must figure out how to stop the child-hungry witches from wreaking havoc on the world. Rated PG Running Time 1 hour 43 minutes. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov - \$2 per person for Pizza Lunch.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

CultureHouse and the Union Square Neighborhood Council announce development of pop-up community center in Union Square

CultureHouse and the Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC) has announced the development of CultureHouse Union Square, a community-driven pop-up located in a vacant storefront at 64 Union Square that will serve as a living room for the community, a one-stop-shop for healthcare resources, performance space, community meetings and gatherings, information for new neighborhood residents, a senior and youth center, and a library. The project's community input phase has launched, and will be open till December, inviting community members to be part of the process and share their input to help shape the free-to-enter intergenerational pop-up public space pilot, expected to open on January 10, 2024.

CultureHouse Union Square, funded by an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant from the City of Somerville, will serve as a pilot to help inform and shape a long-term community center long sought by the Union Square neighborhood. The project aligns with CultureHouse's mission to transform spaces into vibrant social infrastructure that highlights and builds upon the historic and growing arts and culture footprint of communities across the region. For the Union Square Neighborhood Council, it's about maximizing the benefits of new development while minimizing

displacement by integrating long-term residents and newcomers into the community fabric.

"The Union Square neighborhood is ever-growing and changing," said Aaron Greiner, Executive Director of CultureHouse. "And these changes come with many opportunities to ensure the community continues to build social connections in a place where they feel welcomed, represented, and connected to the neighborhood and to the arts, culture, programming, and businesses that make Union Square the vibrant and diverse neighborhood it is today. CultureHouse Union Square will help do just that, mapping out a path for a future community center in the area. We're excited to build upon CultureHouse's previous successes in East Somerville and throughout the region – especially in the neighborhood where we held our first pop-up, where our organization is headquartered, and where I live myself."

The pop-up will be a community-driven public space to test out potential uses for a community center in Union Square as the neighborhood continues to grow and undergo changes with the onset of new developments.

"Shaping the future of Union Square as an increasingly inclusive and vibrant neighborhood and commercial center built around the aspirations of the



people who live and work here has always been a critical part of our mission," said Ann Camara and Michele Hansen, Co-Chairs of the Union Square Neighborhood Council. "And a large-scale intergenerational community center is critical to reinvigorating a sense of community and identity in a place where people can gather and connect – especially in a neighborhood where increased demand for housing has resulted in the displacement of many long-term resident and local businesses making the need to rebuild social connections ever critical. The pop-up gives the

Union Square community the opportunity to see and advocate for what we have been missing in our neighborhood."

CultureHouse Union Square will function as an intergenerational gathering space catering to all ages through regular programming, collaboration, and informal events and gatherings. All while uplifting local businesses and creatives and providing a space for the public to convene and access important community-based information.

CultureHouse and USNC will work closely with the Union Square community to ensure the

pop-up meets local needs and that residents are active participants in determining the future of their neighborhood. There will be several opportunities to engage with the project before opening day. CultureHouse and USNC are gathering community input through a multi-lingual community survey that will inform the design and programming of the pop-up public space. To take the survey in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese, learn more about the project and get updates on next steps, please visit www.culturehouse.cc/union.

The Center for Arts at the Armory Welcomes Gary Stoloff to its Board of Directors

The Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA) is delighted to announce the appointment of Gary Stoloff to its Board of Directors. Gary has been a director of the Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation for more than two decades where he was a key player in the conceptualization, design, fundraising and construction of The Coolidge's new wing, nearly doubling the size of the facility, scheduled to open this Fall.

Gary is a real estate executive and his career includes redevelopment of the Somerville Theater and Capitol Theatre, and development of artist studios at Joy Street Studios. Gary intends to be active at The Center for Arts at the Armory in managing and improving The Center's facilities as well as assisting in further Board development. Gary Stoloff joins Hathalee Higgs (President), Neil Berman (Treasurer), Ruth Faris (Clerk), Ivan Abarca and Amanda Klein as members of CAA's Board of Directors.



Beacon Hill Roll Call

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Other provisions double the lead paint tax credit to \$3,000 for full abatement and \$1,000 for partial abatement; ensure that employer student loan payments are not treated as taxable compensation; make public transit fares, as well as ferry and regional transit passes and bike commuter expenses, eligible for the commuter expense tax deduction; increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000 the maximum that municipalities may pay seniors to do volunteer work to reduce their property taxes; raise the annual authorization for the low income housing tax credit from \$40 million to \$60 million; and allow cities and towns to adopt a local property tax exemption for affordable real estate that is rented by a person whose income is less than a certain level set by the municipality.

The measure also includes two provisions which the Mass Fiscal Alliance says will result in tax hikes. One would require Massachusetts married couples who file income tax returns jointly at the federal level to do the same at the state level. The other changes the system under Chapter 62F that requires that annual tax revenue above a certain amount collected by the state go back to the taxpayers. Under current law, the money is returned to taxpayers based on what he or she earned and paid in taxes. The new tax package changed that and provides that each taxpayer will receive a flat rate refund, unrelated to what they earned or paid in taxes.

“We are thrilled to deliver on our promise to pass tax cuts that will result in real savings for the people of Massachusetts, including the country’s largest child and family tax credit that will go back in the pockets of parents and caregivers,” said Gov. Healey. “Everywhere we go, we hear about how people are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living. This tax package delivers savings for those who need it most, while making long overdue changes that will better allow Massachusetts to compete with other states.”

“The High Tech Council appreciates the effort Gov. Healey and the Legislature put into this first step towards addressing the state’s tax outlier status,” said High Tech Council President Chris Anderson. “Unfortunately, the final tax ‘relief’ legislation falls short of delivering the meaningful change needed, as it includes both an expansion of the voter-approved income surtax and an unconstitutional redistribution of income through changes to the voter-approved Chapter 62F rebate formula.”

Anderson concluded, “The High Tech Council looks forward to collaborating with Gov. Healey, her cabinet and legislators across the commonwealth who are committed to defending and strengthening our business climate and the associated high quality of life it brings to Massachusetts residents.”

“These tax cuts translate to real money back in the pockets of the people of Massachusetts every single year,” said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. “Families, seniors, renters, businesses and commuters will see hundreds of dollars in savings each year. Gov. Healey and I look forward to spreading the word across the state that savings are here

for the people of Massachusetts.”

“The modest tax relief package signed by the governor is nothing more than modest, it’s at best an adjustment for inflation,” said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. “If the goal was to pass a piece of legislation that would make Massachusetts more economically competitive, keep taxpayers here or attract taxpayers to Massachusetts, then this tax relief package is not nearly enough.”

Craney continued, “In reality, after this tax relief package is passed into law, Massachusetts goes from the state with the highest short term capital gains tax in the country to the second highest. Massachusetts goes from the state with the most aggressive estate tax in the country to now only better than Oregon and Rhode Island. Meanwhile, states like New Hampshire and Florida don’t even have these taxes. Taxpayers should hold their applause until the governor and Statehouse leaders do more.”

“When Massachusetts’ middle-class families succeed, we all succeed—and that is exactly what this tax relief bill will help us do,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “This legislation answers the calls that we have heard from people around the state, saying that their costs are rising, they cannot find housing and it’s becoming hard to operate a business. It puts real dollars back into the bank accounts of working families, relieves financial strains for our young professionals, puts meaningful incentives into developing affordable housing and will keep our state competitive for businesses who will invest in our workforce.”

EQUITY IN EDUCATION EVENT - What can our business, political and education leaders do differently to connect Black and Latino students to pathways to careers that our thriving life sciences, health, clean tech and other sectors so urgently need to fill?

COVER \$5,000 FOR RELOCATION EXPENSES FOLLOWING A FIRE (H 1109) – The Financial Services Committee held a hearing on a measure that would require insurance companies to provide \$5,000 to cover relocation and other expenses for tenants displaced by a fire or by damage caused by a fire. Current law requires the companies to provide only up to \$750.

“I sponsored this bill after a three-alarm fire broke out in the Folly Hill Meadows apartment complex in Beverly, leaving about 40 residents homeless,” said sponsor Rep. Jerry Parisella (D-Beverly). “Insurance only covered up to \$750 for their relocation, leaving most of them in limbo and scrambling to find help from the city, state and local nonprofits. This bill would raise that amount and help residents like these across the commonwealth who are displaced by a fire.”

INCREASE FINES FOR VIOLATING HANDICAPPED PARKING (H 3261) – The Transportation Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would allow cities and towns to increase the fines for handicap park-

ing violations from a maximum of \$350 to a maximum of \$450. The measure also would place the money into a specialized account to be used for ADA upgrades in the city or town where the violation occurred.

“This bill would accomplish two things,” said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). “It would strengthen our current laws on handicap parking protection, while raising funds to make our communities more handicap accessible. Passage of this bill would help our towns and cities cultivate a more independent lifestyle for our seniors, veterans and people with disabilities, by raising these funds on the backs of those who break laws meant to protect our vulnerable citizens.”

RENAME COLUMBUS DAY (H 2989, S 1976) – The Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight held a hearing on two bills that would designate the second Monday in October, now known as Columbus Day, as Indigenous Peoples Day and recommends appropriate exercises in schools to acknowledge the history of genocide and discrimination against Indigenous people.

The hearing was held on October 3 with only six days left until this year’s Columbus Day on October 9. Neither the House nor Senate have voted on the bill itself so any name change, if approved, would have to wait until 2024 to take effect.

“Christopher Columbus did not discover the Americas,” said co-sponsors Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) and Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville) in a joint statement. “That myth — steeped in racism and violence — has allowed generations to credit a European man with discovering a land already teeming with societies. Indigenous communities and tribal nations in the commonwealth and across the United States call us to act. It is thanks to their courageous truth telling that we recognize the legacy of colonization in the name of Columbus as one not worthy of extraordinary memorialization or celebration.”

“Twenty states and the District of Columbia observe Native American or Indigenous Peoples Day in addition to or in replacement of Columbus Day,” continued the statement. “In 2021, President Joe Biden formally commemorated Indigenous Peoples Day with a presidential proclamation, becoming the first U.S. president to do so. Massachusetts should do the same. Let us change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day — a holiday to honor those who first settled this land. This holiday will pay rightful tribute to the contributions of Indigenous people in Massachusetts -- past, present and future.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“We’re glad to see the Legislature is seriously considering reducing the plastic that contaminates our state. This statewide law is overdue.” — *Lydia Churchill of Environment Massachusetts and Janet Domenitz of MASSPIRG following a public hearing on legislation that would restrict the Use of Styrofoam and other Polystyrene products.*

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COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

Chamber of Commerce Issues



By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large

Last week I met with members of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce to discuss their issues of concern on city policies and plans. As always, in these meetings I got insights about how the city’s economy is performing and how recent government actions are impacting business in positive and negative ways.

The Chamber group is especially helpful because it has representatives from the full range of business activity – small retailers and food services, start-ups, mid-size employers, and some of the largest companies in the Boston region. Their different perspectives tie in with the work of city officials, who deal at the immediate level of streets and neighborhoods but also must plan for the long-term growth of the city within the region and the state.

What were the questions and observations that arose in our discussion?

From the small business point of view, Chamber members cited the problem of growing numbers of vacant storefronts around the city, particularly in Davis Square and East Broadway. They attributed the causes to be a combination of factors: declining demand for many goods and services as e-commerce increases and consumers’ needs change; a slow response by the city in making improvements to infrastructure and streets, and solving traffic problems. As an example, these problems, they cited the announced closure of the BFresh store and other vacancies at Davis Square.

From the perspective of mid-size enterprises, the business leaders were concerned about the accumulation of new burdens of regulatory compliance, permitting and

zoning, which impose costs and delays on business investment and planning. Innovative companies work in a competitive environment that requires flexibility – to expand or change quickly in response to market conditions and investment opportunities. If a bio-tech business gets the opportunity to grown and double its leased lab space, but then is required by zoning or code regulations to spend months of planning process and make costly changes to building systems, the opportunity can be lost.

From the perspective of large companies, the Chamber members questioned whether the city can continue growing in life sciences, clean energy and other technologies and services. The recent success of getting new labs and office projects built and attracting innovative companies has come at a time of strong regional growth and investment. Now, however, federal funding is winding down; the regional “pipeline” of new lab and office space is becoming over-saturated; and competition among cities and towns to attract businesses is becoming more competitive.

In this context, Chamber members fear that Somerville’s complicated zoning and planning rules, slow procedures to get approvals, community opposition and uncertain outcomes, will be obstacles to its continuing growth of jobs, investments and tax base gains.

Finally, all the business owners were dissatisfied with the ineffective methods of communication that the city agencies have used in their planning and policy-making. Despite all the supposed activities of community and “stakeholder” participation, business people feel they have little effective input and get little meaningful response from elected officers and agency staff.

In broad terms, Chamber members agree with the overall goals and policies now guiding the city – long-term sustainability and response to climate change; programs to protect and increase the stock of affordable housing

units and to assist families facing displacement or homelessness; responding to emergency situation with mental health and social services alongside police and security responses. However, they said that the introduction of many new regulations and requirements in these areas have caught them by surprise. The city has piled on too many changes in too short a time.

For example, when the Stretch Code requirements of 100% electrification of all new buildings went into effect in July, it interrupted the design and planning of several lab and commercial development projects. The architects and engineers had to stop and start all over again. The delays and extra costs are likely to make these projects non-competitive and they may hinder the city’s goals of increasing the commercial tax base.

If the city agencies had done a better job of engaging the business community in the legislative drafting, they might have worked out a phase-in method or given earlier guidance of what was coming to the project architects and engineers.

Another example that the Chamber members cited was the dissolution of the business advocacy group DavisNOW. The group issued an open letter last week, explaining that it has been ignored over the years. In 2018 they offered the city agencies a “punch list” of repairs and improvements to the streets, sidewalks and public spaces the Davis Square. But none of these recommendations were ever incorporated into the city plans or projects.

At the end of our discussion, the members of the Chamber of Commerce asked me to commit to keeping open a regular dialogue with them, if I am re-elected to the City Council. I did this in my past terms on the council, as I did with other groups, representing labor, residents and neighborhoods. I, of course, said yes.

If you want to learn more or support my campaign, please visit my website at willmbah.com.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 19

“We know that there are innovative, brilliant companies across Massachusetts with the potential to scale, and we know they don’t all have connections to resources, friends and family to fundraise from, and existing networks from which to tap talent. With Massachusetts Founders Network (MFN) we can support founders no matter where they are in Massachusetts—and ultimately level the playing field when it comes to connections, capital, and other support.” — Director Jeffrey Thomas of Lever, an economic development nonprofit, commenting on the creation of the MFN, a new initiative that gives start-up founders equitable access to resources that will help their companies grow.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?
Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many leg-

islators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions.

During the week of October 2-6, the House met for a total of four hours and 37 minutes while the Senate met for a total of four hours and 12 minutes.

Mon. Oct. 2 House 11:01 a.m. to 11:26 a.m.

	Senate 11:12 a.m. to 11:41 a.m.
Tues. Oct. 3	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Oct. 4	House 11:01 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. Oct. 5	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 1:01 p.m. to 4:44 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 6	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Tufts Wind Ensemble: Pax et Lux



The Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Wind Ensemble: Pax et Lux in the Distler Performance Hall at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Tufts' motto "Pax et Lux" was adopted in 1857 and inspires this program. Repertoire includes Frank Ticheli's Lux Perpetua and David Maslanka's Hymn for World Peace. TUWE will also present music written for Tufts College some 100 years ago. John McCann, director.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617.627.3679.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Wired up... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

What is the best thing about October? All the cobwebs in your house become Halloween decorations.

On This Day in History

October 11

- 1531 – The Catholics defeat the Protestants at Kappel during Switzerland's second civil war.
- 1727 – George II of England crowned.
- 1899 – South African Boers, settler from the Netherlands, declare war on Great Britain.
- 1906 – San Francisco school board orders the segregation of schoolchildren, inciting Japanese outrage.
- 1950 – The Federal Communications Commission authorizes the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) to begin commercial color TV broadcasts.
- 1975 – Saturday Night Live comedy-variety show premiers on NBC, with guest host comedian George Carlin.
- 1984 – Astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan, part of the crew of Space Shuttle Challenger, becomes the first American woman to walk in space.
- 2001 – The Polaroid Corporation files for bankruptcy.

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Judicial inquest finds the fatal shooting of Sayed Arif Faisal by Cambridge police officer was justified

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has announced that, following an inquest, Judge John Coffey has issued a Report regarding the death of 20-year-old Sayed Arif Faisal. Faisal died after being shot by Cambridge Police Officer Liam McMahon on January 4, 2023, in Cambridge. The inquest was conducted between May 22-25, 2023. The Court heard sworn testimony from twenty-nine (29) witnesses, received fifty-three (53) exhibits into evidence and conducted an in-person viewing of the scene. In his Report, Judge Coffey found that:

“Officer McMahon’s decision to fire his weapon was objectively reasonable, within the meaning of [Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 396-397 (1989)]. Officers had been pursuing Faisal through Cambridge streets for approximately ten minutes, during which time Faisal was cutting himself with a knife with a foot-long blade. Faisal never responded to the officers’ commands to stop and drop the knife, and Faisal refused to engage with any of the officers’ attempts to communicate with him. Faisal was not subdued or seemingly affected by the less-lethal shot, and instead turned and walked directly

toward Officer McMahon while holding the knife out towards him. At the moment that Officer McMahon fired his weapon, a reasonable law enforcement officer in the same position would reasonably believe that he, along with his fellow officers and others, were in imminent danger of being seriously injured or killed.

Therefore, the Court finds that the fatal shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023, was justified and does not constitute a criminal act.”

District Attorney Ryan has accepted the findings of the Court and has subsequently filed a certificate in the Superior Court which closes this matter.

District Attorney Ryan’s Office has also forwarded the Report to the Cambridge Police Department for whatever internal review and action the Department may deem appropriate.

District Attorney Ryan stated, “My condolences have been and remain with the family of Sayed Arif Faisal and those who continue to feel the profound pain of his passing.”

In the past, police officer-involved deaths that occurred within Middlesex County were investigated internally by the District

Attorney’s Office. However, in December, 2018, District Attorney Ryan decided, after much consideration, to replace that policy with a practice of requesting a judicial inquest in every police officer-involved death. In her view, this practice is appropriate given the particularly sensitive nature of these tragic events.

An inquest is a judicial proceeding in which the Court investigates the circumstances surrounding a death and determines whether the death was the result of an unlawful act. Although the proceedings themselves are closed to the public, both the officer involved and family of the decedent (with their counsel) are allowed to be present, to hear the evidence and to participate as permitted by the Court. At the conclusion of the inquest, the Court must issue detailed written findings which are then sent to the District Attorney, who, in turn, decides whether to go forward with criminal charges in light of those findings. District Attorney Ryan’s use of inquests serves at least three (3) important policy goals: (1) ensuring that conclusions of fact and law are made by an impartial third-party legal expert and factfinder (i.e., a sitting Judge); (2) allowing for a com-



Sayed Arif Faisal.
— Photo courtesy of Somerville Arts Council

prehensive and rigorous examination of the evidence, which is received from live witnesses, who are under oath and subject to cross-examination, as well as exhibits received by the Court; and, (3) providing for robust transparency since the decedent’s family attend the proceedings, and, following the conclusion of the inquest, the Court’s Report and the transcripts automatically become public. In addition, District Attorney Ryan elects to publish all additional records, photos and audio recordings that are allowed by statute to be disclosed. To that end, please view those materials on District Attorney Ryan’s website: [here](#).

— Middlesex District Attorney’s Office

Statement from the Cambridge Police Patrol Officers Association (CPPOA)

Any incident involving deadly force is a traumatic experience for all involved. Judge Coffey’s findings validate that Cambridge police acted properly and professionally on January 4, and that the use of force was “objectively reasonable” and “justified.”

All the officers involved cooperated fully with the investigation. The Cambridge Police Patrol Officers Association is also fully supportive of complete transparency and accountability when it comes to interactions with people in our communities and neighborhoods. The CPPOA is committed to maintaining the public’s trust in the professionalism of its members.

We understand, however, that this does not erase the pain and loss being felt by Mr. Faisal’s family, nor the emotional trauma that our brother-officer and others who responded that day experienced. The hearts of all CPPOA members are with each of these people who are coping with this tragedy on very personal terms.

Members of the CPPOA – on a yearly basis – deliver on-the-scene crisis intervention and emergency counseling to more than 1,000 people in mental health crisis; administer well over 50 life-saving doses of NARCAN to persons in drug-induced cardiac arrest; provide compassionate assistance and first-responder care to hundreds of citizens experiencing a variety of medical emergencies; and perform many other duties that demonstrate the care, commitment and dedication with which Cambridge police officers approach their job every day.

— CPPOA Executive Board

Want to write local Somerville stories?
Call 857-488-5138
and speak to the Assignment Editor

Ms. Cam’s

Olíio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The number 13 | 7. Bradley Cooper |
| 2. Friday, September 13, 1996 | 8. Please Please Me |
| 3. Hunter’s Moon | 9. The Battle of Waterloo |
| 4. October 15 | 10. Australia |
| 5. Second Monday of October | 11. The Seine River |
| 6. Rod Stewart | 12. Canada |

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Community meetings are underway. These meetings are held twice a year in each of Somerville's seven wards to share the latest city and neighborhood updates with community members. They are an opportunity to get an overview of the latest city news, learn more about city programs and initiatives, meet your neighbors, find ways to get involved, and talk with elected officials and city staff. Join them in person from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to ask questions and get updates from the mayor and city staff. Swing by early at 6:00 p.m. for pizza and refreshments. To learn more and find the meeting in your ward visit somervillema.gov/communitymeetings.

The **Somerville Museum** is pleased to announce the annual call for **Community Curators**. This program is open to everyone: artists, historians, collectors, curators, students, etc., and all are encouraged to apply. Proposal ideas can be on any topic but the most successful applications include some combination of history, art, and culture and a relationship to the **City of Somerville**. Chosen applications will receive a seed grant of \$2,500 towards exhibition costs. This information session on **October 11**, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., One Westwood Rd., will review the application process and expectations along with a view of the current Community Curator exhibition, *BLUE: The Celebration of a Color*. Learn more about past, present, and future exhibitions: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/exhibitions> Learn more about the Community Curator program: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/community-curators>.

Reminder: Green Line Union Branch service is suspended through Thursday, October 12, to allow for MassDOT work on the Route 28 Squires Bridge. Riders can use Routes 86, 91, and CT2 between Union Square and East Somerville Station on the Medford Branch. These routes also service Sullivan Square Station on the Orange Line. Route 87 can also be used between Union Square and Lechmere Station.

Are you looking for a job and want the opportunity to speak with employers in person? **Somerville Community Corporation (SCC)** wants to connect you with employers and resource providers in Somerville and surrounding areas on

Thursday, October 12, Center at The Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., starting at 10:00 a.m. Go to bit.ly/SCCcareerfair to register and learn more. Questions? Please email us at FirstSourceExt@somervillecdc.org or call 617-410-9905 and press 2. Are you an employer looking to fill positions? Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) wants to connect employers with job seekers and residents in the city of Somerville and surrounding. Please email at rtaylor@somervillecdc.org or call 617-410-9907.

Open enrollment begins on **October 15** and runs to **December 7**. Medicare recipients can change their health insurance plans for **January 1, 2024**. While having the freedom to change your health insurance plan can save you money, there are many health insurance plans and companies to choose from. You don't have to make the decision alone, the **Somerville Council on Aging has SHINE Counseling** available in person, over the phone, or on Zoom, to assist you with comparing what health insurance options are available for you. You can call **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or Molly Pagliuca at ext. 2318 to book an appointment.

East Somerville Main Streets will be holding their **East Somerville fall clean up** on **November 4**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Help them beautify the neighborhood. Pastries and coffee provided by **Ola Cafe**. Meet at 115 Broadway at 10:00 a.m.

Lyndell's Bakery has announced that they will extend the **Moon Madness promotion** to **every day of the week until Sunday December 31**. Buy 1 Half Moon, Get 1 Half Moon free. (limit 1 per customer) To date, Lyndell's has sold over 50,000 Half Moons and expects to sell over 75,000 by the end of the year. Half Moons are the signature sweet at the bakery for over 100 years. Visit Lyndell's today at 720 Broadway.

The city is hiring **polling place workers** in preparation for the **2023 election cycle**. Polling place staffers work on **November 7** and earn at least \$200. Contact the **Elections Office** at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 to learn more.

Save the date for **SomerStreets: Monster Mash** on **Sunday, October 22**,

from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. (rain date 10/29) on Somerville Ave. between School St. to Warren Ave. A free and family friendly event. Make sure to dress up in your best Halloween costume and show it off at the Halloween Parade led by **School of Honk**.

Visit the *Blue: the Celebration of a Color* exhibit at the **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood Rd. The exhibit showcases paintings, photography, installation, fashion, and video works of local artists who incorporate blue in their studio practice. For hours visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

Registration is open for **Learn to Skate and Learn to Play Somerville Youth Hockey**. All sessions take place at either **Veterans or Founders rinks** in Somerville. Beginner classes are geared towards kids 3-9 who have never skated nor played hockey before. There's also a new Advanced option for kids aged 9 and older who are ready for a more fast-paced introduction to the fundamentals of hockey and skating. Financial aid (and some equipment) is available. To learn more and register, visit <https://www.somervilleyouthhockey.org/ltsltp>.

Congratulations to **Maura Mendoza** for being named an **Aspiring Latino Leader Fellow** by **Latinos for Education**. She is one of 25 leaders from across Massachusetts to be chosen. This 9-month program advances Latino leaders through culturally responsive professional development, while nurturing a strong local network of educators. **Superintendent Carmona** is an alumnus of the fellowship as well as **MLE Assistant Director Gladys Valle**. Mendoza is their Multilingual Services Coordinator, supporting SPS staff with translation and interpretation needs.

The **Somerville Education Foundation** presents **Try-A-Sport Day**. 1st-6th graders are invited to the **Healey School** on **Sunday, October 15**, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Children can try out different sports and families can pick up program registration information. Children are encouraged to bring water and a snack. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleEducationFoundation>.

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** is holding their **2nd annual Sea-**

sonal Salvage Sale & Makers' Market on **October 21**, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m., 22 Vinal Ave. Rather than a traditional yard sale, it became a two-part shopping experience: a curated, seasonally-themed secondhand sale where 100% of the proceeds go to the Growing Center, and a new **"Makers' Market"** filled with local craft vendors who participate for a nominal fee but get to keep all the proceeds of their sales. To volunteer, be a vendor or donate visit: www.thegrowingcenter.org/yard-sale

Free Beginner English/U.S. Citizenship class. This is a 12-week beginner ESOL/civics class for adults who are interested in improving their English skills in order to apply for U.S. citizenship. ESOL workbooks will be provided. Classes are in-person at **East Branch Library** (115 Broadway) on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Requirements: Must have a green card or in the process of getting one in order to attend. Register here: tinyurl.com/pathwaystocitizenshipfall2023. For questions or help with registration, please contact **Brigid Pigott**: Email: bpigott@somervillema.gov or 617-623-5000 x.2935. The **Pathways to Citizenship class** is being offered in partnership with **St. Mark Community Education Program** and **MIRA**.

Talk with **representatives from over 50 colleges and universities** at the **Somerville High School College Fair** on **Thursday, October 19**, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the **Somerville High School Cafeteria**. Find the complete list of institutions sending representatives here: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/ccr>. All grades are welcome to participate.

Elm Street Taproom, 256 Elm Street, Somerville, will be holding a **Nightmare on Elm Street Halloween Bash** on **Friday, October 28**, at 6:00 p.m. There will be lots of spooky fun and cool prizes.

Somerville teens are invited to get a **free membership** to the **Somerville Recreation Teen Center**. Please visit their website to find hours and more information. somervillema.myrec.com.

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a **digital edition** of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville artist Jael Whitney's work is full of 'glitches'

I know many people have glitches in their work. But here is an artist who celebrates them. Have if you will, one Jael Whitney.

Doug Holder: First off, how has it been for you working as an artist in the "Paris of New England" Somerville, MA?

Jael Whitney: I love living and working in one of the communities with the highest per-capita of creatives in the United States. I have found that the artistic community here is very welcoming, and a lot of my opportunities to exhibit have come from people saying my name in rooms where I wasn't present.

DH: You are a practitioner of Glitch art. One could say your work is full of glitches. In laymen's terms what is Glitch art—are you trying to see the wildness behind the tangible, ordered world?

JW: I like that description. I often describe my work as w3rmwood as utopian and apocalyptic visions of the future through creative destruction of data. Readers can also try it out for themselves by downloading apps like Glitch Lab or Mirror Lab.

DH: You identify yourself as a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. How has Native American culture, spirituality, music, etc., informed your own work?

JW: I think about the relationship between indigeneity and technology a lot. One of the pieces I've attached is one that I'm working on for the Indigenous Student Center at MIT. I created it by glitching a

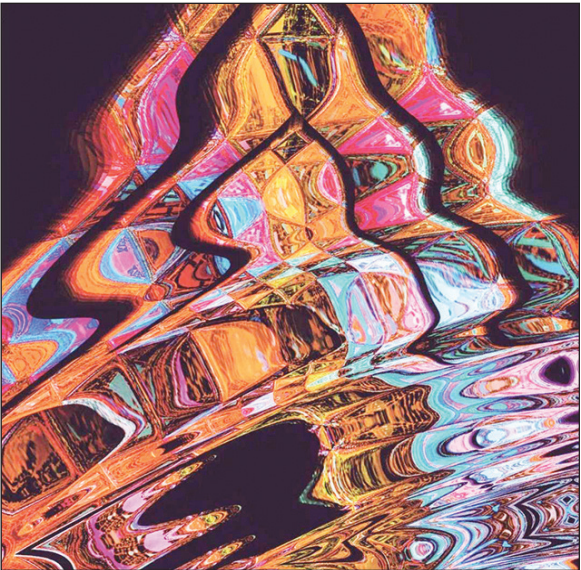


photo I took when some of my Indigenous Communities Fellows were meeting with indigenous MIT students at the Center. In some ways our survival in these lands is a "glitch" – colonialism didn't want us to be here, but we still are.

DH: Why should we view your work?
JW: Glitch Art is an emerging form of digital art that explores the intersection between technology and aesthetics. There are several active glitch artists in the Greater Boston area, including Allison Tanenhaus and Deb Step. I would check them out too so readers can get a broader sense of what "glitch art" can be.

Dorothy Shubow Nelson's poems have appeared in: *Pangyrus*; *Carrying the Branch: Poets in Search of Peace*; *Polis IV*; *Human Architecture VII*; *Consequence Magazine*; *Atelier*; *Café Review*; *Sojourner*; and various newspapers and magazines. Her collection, *The Dream of the Sea* was published in 2008. She initiated a Veterans Writing Group in Gloucester MA. in 2013 and has led this group for nine years. She served as editor of the anthology *The Inner Voice and The Outer World: Writings by Veterans and Their Families from the Cape Ann Veterans Writing Workshop* published in 2017, 2018 by The Gloucester Writers Center.



Writing Grief

Once before this strange time
I had a vision of you
Walking around outside
In the sun by yourself
Then years later I saw you
In real time -- I came to
Your room in the hospital
You were lying on your side
Facing the door.
I appeared and you called
My name
Dorothy
There was no rancor
A true welcoming
Gladness even
You had let go, perhaps, of that
Time of wondering why, why
This direction of your life, why
This bed to be your last.
But I have not
Let go. I see you
In that bed and then the shroud of
Dirt on your casket, and still have
Not let go -- still thinking we
could do something.

— Dorothy Shubow Nelson

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Arts at the Armory Spotlight Series presents Fabiola Méndez and the Rocky Horror Picture Show w/live cast

October 29: CAA Spotlight Series Presents Fabiola Méndez
5:00 p.m. Doors | 6:00 p.m. Screening of short film *Negrura* by Fabiola Méndez | 7:00 p.m. Performance.
Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arts-at-the-armory-spotlight-series-presents-fabiola-mendez-tickets-654349225147>

Oct 30: CAA and ONCE Present The Rocky Horror Picture Show w/Live Cast
7:00 p.m. Doors | 8:00 p.m. Screening
Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arts-at-the-armory-and-once-present-the-rocky-horror-picture-show-tickets-706242659807>



The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more please visit their website, artsatthearmory.org, our Facebook page, and follow on Instagram at @ArtsattheArmory.



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