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Pizza Tyme

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HONK! Festival 2026

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Five-alarm fire in East Somerville



A five-alarm fire struck several East Somerville businesses last Monday.

On Monday, October 12, at 9:58 p.m., the Somerville Fire Department responded to a report of smoke coming from the one-story commercial building located at 129-131 Broadway.

Arriving fire companies encountered heavy smoke and heat coming from the basement. Firefighters initially stretched hose lines into the basement to attempt to find and extinguish the fire. However, conditions inside the building continued to deteriorate, and all firefighters were ordered to evacuate due to safety concerns.

An exterior attack was then launched using three aerial ladders and numerous large-diameter hoses. The first floor and roof of the building collapsed, which, in addition to heavy smoke, made the fire difficult to extinguish. The fire ultimately took over 8 hours to fully extinguish.

Both the Rei Da Picanha restaurant and the Damata Barbershop are total losses. The Total Wireless store at #133 also sustained heavy damage. *Continued on page 4*

Somerville Gets Spooky at Monster Mash

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

"Monster Mash is our chance to celebrate Halloween in true Somerville style," said Mayor Wilson. "Whether you're looking to show off your costume, carve a pumpkin, or enjoy some local music, there's something for everyone."

Event Details

Date: Sunday, October 18

Time: 1-5 p.m.

Location: Somerville Ave between Church St and Union Sq

Live performances on two stages *Continued on page 12*



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

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

Community members are invited to join Mayor Jake Wilson, the City Council, and the School Committee during the 2026 Neighborhood Connect meeting series. The next meetings will be Thursday, October 15, in Ward 6 at Somerville Community Baptist Church (31 College Ave.). Meetings run from 6 to 8 p.m. Free pizza and refreshments will be available starting at 6 p.m. The final meeting in the series will be Ward 2, on Wednesday, October 21. Meetings will kick off with quick citywide updates and a brief welcome from the Mayor and Ward Councilor before breaking to allow attendees to move about for one-on-one and small group conversations. Unsure about which ward you live in? Find out with the MySomerville address lookup tool at somer-villema.gov/mysomerville.

The City of Somerville is inviting all community members to celebrate Italian American Heritage Month with an Italian flag raising on Thursday, October 15, at 5 p.m. on the City Hall concourse (93 Highland Ave.). The event will honor the history, culture, and contributions of Italian Americans in Somerville and beyond. All are welcome.

Join the Somerville Council on Aging as they celebrate fall with music from DJ Hank and a catered lunch of stuffed chicken and vegetables. Thursday, October 15, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dilboy Post, 351 Summer Street Davis Square. \$10 per *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 14 – October 20 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>October 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	75°/50°	7%	3%	W 13 mph
Thursday <i>October 15</i>	Sunny	59°/46°	3%	1%	NNW 12 mph
Friday <i>October 16</i>	Rain	62°/44°	90%	77%	S 13 mph
Saturday <i>October 17</i>	Partly Cloudy	48°/33°	10%	3%	NW 21 mph
Sunday <i>October 18</i>	Partly Cloudy	52°/35°	20%	9%	WNW 12 mph
Monday <i>October 19</i>	Partly Cloudy	60°/45°	4%	1%	SW 14 mph
Tuesday <i>October 20</i>	Partly Cloudy	64°/45°	7%	2%	W 10 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: Governor signs bill to remove offensive language from state law

Madelynn Nowviskie says:

This is an amazing thing to see. What a meaningful way to restore and ensure the dignity of those who are so often degraded.

To some people, like Lori Cesan who commented on this before me, this may seem like an unnecessary or even undeserved update to our legal system. What Lori and others fail to realize is how powerful language is, especially in how it is used to govern those who cannot always represent themselves in the public sphere.

Melissa Reilly and the community advocates who worked to pass this bill took initiative through the proper legal avenues available to them as citizens of a democracy. It is their right to do so, and good on them for doing it. As Americans, it is important we remain proponents of representation. Americans with intellectual/developmental disabilities exist in so many different ways with so many different capabilities. Their government should reflect that in how it aids and addresses them.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Notice to Readers

Political endorsements: 250 words or less will be printed as space allows. All endorsements submitted will appear online on the main page or under our Campaign Releases tab on our website.

Letters to the Editor: The Somerville Times encourages all residents to comment publicly on local issues. We will print letters sent to us that adhere to guidelines for taste, accuracy, fairness, and public interest. Letters are limited to 500 words. Letters will run only if there is an author's name and city/town or residence. Letters can be sent to news@thesomervilletimes.com.

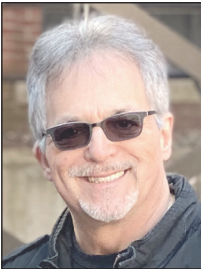
Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

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.

Pizza Tyme



Mike’s, Angelina’s, and White Sport are among my favorite pizza makers in Somerville. Back in the day, I enjoyed a good pizza from Speedy Pizza in Davis Square. I threw the question out there, looking for Somerville’s favorite pizza joints.

“Used to be Reno’s Sub shop Beacon St., Somerville, Mass, as I was growing up in the ’70s, then it was Leone’s and Mama Lisa’s.”

“Leone’s Sicilian yum in my yum.”

“ZaZa next to Premiere on Broadway ... WOW!!! If you haven’t tried them yet, please do! We also like Pepi’s on Medford Street!”

“Back in the day Mama Gina’s when Tony ran it.”

“Back in the day, La Hacienda!”

“I grew up in Somerville, and now I live

in New Hampshire. To get good pizza I have to drive down to Mama Lisa’s.”

“In Somerville, Mamma Lisa’s.

Favorite all time: Cafe Adventura (or something like that), The Garage in Harvard Sq. Long gone.”

“Leone’s Sicilian yum in my yum!”

“The Paddock back in the day hands down!! They had the best pizza!”

“My favorite Pizza Place was Somerville House of Pizza. I understand that Matt Damon used to deliver, back in the day.”

“Mike’s in Davis Sq.”

“Leone’s and Mama Lisa’s HANDS DOWN!! If this is even a question???”

“You are all sleeping on Angelina’s man! No question it’s the best pizza left in the city.”

“My first pizza was at the Continental restaurant, a long time ago.”

“Was the Continental, Lucy’s, La Hacienda, Primo’s, and now that they are all gone, I have to go with Pini’s.”

Speedy Pizza, The Paddock, and The



Venice Cafe are tied for my faves back then. Somerville is alive and well, serving delicious pizza while remembering the joints of the old days.

Be sure to visit us online at
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

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LAST DAY TO REGISTER

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or online until midnight

FOR THE STATE ELECTION
Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Election Department: Somerville City Hall Hours

MONDAY, TUESDAY
& WEDNESDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 12:30 p.m.

- To request a voter registration form
- CALL 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 for a Voter Mail-In Registration form
 - Download a Mail-In Voter Registration form from the City Website and mail to the Election Department
 - Register Online by visiting the City Website

All mail-in voter registration forms must be post-marked by 10/24/2026.

The City of Somerville does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, national origin, sexual preference, disability, or any other protected category in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities. Auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, reasonable modifications in policies and procedures will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What parts of my W-2 should I pay the most attention to?

A: Start with your wages and the taxes withheld from your paychecks. These are among the most important numbers used to prepare your tax return.

• **Box 1 – Wages:** Shows your annual wages subject to federal income tax. Check that the amount appears reasonable based on your earnings for the year. It may differ from your total salary because certain benefits and deductions can reduce taxable wages.

• **Box 2 – Federal income tax withheld:** Shows how much federal income tax your employer withheld during the year. This amount generally counts toward the federal income tax you owe when filing your return.

• **Boxes 3–6 – Social Security and Medicare:** Show the wages subject to these taxes and the amounts withheld. These are separate from federal income tax and generally help fund Social Security and Medicare benefits.

• **Boxes 16–17 – State wages and income tax withheld:** Show your state taxable wages and state income tax withheld,

where applicable. These amounts help determine your state income tax liability.

Bottom Line: Your W-2 is more than a record of what you earned. It's also a record of taxes you've already paid through your employer. Review your wages and withholding amounts before filing, and contact your employer if something appears incorrect.

Any questions? I'm Vincent Hicks, a CPA based in the Cambridge–Somerville area. Reach out at vincent@hickscpasolutions.com or (859) 553-0788.

Disclaimer: This column provides general



financial information and should not be considered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.

Somerville Public Schools offers free screenings to assess developmental progress for Somerville residents ages 3 to 5

Somerville Public Schools (SPS) is offering free Preschool and Kindergarten Screenings for young children residing in Somerville who are not enrolled in the public schools.

Somerville Public Schools offers screenings yearly as a way to assess children's developmental progress and identify children who may need further evaluation for special education services. Screenings provide an opportunity for families to ensure their children receive the support they need for a successful early learning experience.

Child Find Preschool Screenings for 3- to 5-year-old children who are not enrolled in the public schools are scheduled on October 28, January 13, and March 3, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Capuano Early Childhood Center, located at 150 Glen Street in Somerville. Parents, guardians, and caregivers with concerns about their child's development are encouraged to register for an appointment.

SPS is also offering free screenings for Somerville residents with a student enrolled in Kindergarten at a private school or home school. The screening is scheduled on October 28 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Capuano Early Childhood Center. Screenings are by appointment only, and advance registration is required. Participation in the screening program is free and optional.

"We're thrilled to be offering Preschool and Kindergarten Screenings this year," said Ruth Santos, Director of the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative. "This allows us to provide early support that helps set Somerville children and their families on a strong path as they begin their educational journey."

The screenings are available to all Somerville residents and are conducted by trained professionals in a supportive, child-friendly environment. To schedule an appointment for a Preschool or Kindergarten Screening, families can complete an online registration form at [Tinyurl.com/Ecscreenings](https://tinyurl.com/Ecscreenings). A staff member will follow up to confirm the appointment. Families may also call Gina DiNunzio at (617) 629-5670 x3652 to schedule by phone.

Preschool and Kindergarten Screening in Somerville is a collaborative effort among the Somerville Public Schools Department of Early Education and Care, Special Education Department, and Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC).

Learn more about Somerville Public Schools at www.somervillepublicschools.org.



Five-alarm fire in East Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

damage as firefighters had to open the roof and pull down ceilings when the fire threatened to overrun a firewall. Other businesses, including the Santander Bank, sustained smoke damage.

Five Alarms were needed, bringing crews from Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Revere, and Stoneham. Other cities covered Somerville fire stations. Two Somerville firefighters suffered electrical shocks while operating at the scene. They were transported to the hospital and later released. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time.

— The Somerville Fire Department



Ribbon-cutting for Tufts Street redesign

By Keith Foster

Last week, the City of Somerville hosted a ribbon-cutting to mark the completion of the Tufts Street redesign and reconstruction and Leonard Grimes Park. The redesign included street improvements: a new mural and upgrades.

Speakers emphasized discouraging cut-through driving, prioritizing local use, and building a safer, more welcoming East Somerville. The goal is to reduce cut-through traffic, meaning non-local drivers seeking to bypass McGrath, create quieter, safer streets for neighbors and

families traveling to school, and foster community identity.

Crashes are down. Serious injuries are down. “We haven’t had a fatality on our streets in over four years now,” said Mayor Wilson.

Beyond the streets, the centerpiece is a gorgeous new mural designed by Liz Lamanche. It features a calming, nature-themed design. The modular approach uses circular spots of color, enabling future neighborhood artists to add or replace elements. Neighbors report the mural makes the street more relaxing and fun.



Local officials and others at a ribbon-cutting for the brand-new Neighborway on Tufts Street in Somerville.
— Photos by Keith Foster



Mayor Jake Wilson speaking at the Neighborway Ribbon-Cutting.



The new mural, the centerpiece of the Neighborway.



Mayor Jake Wilson speaking at the Neighborway Ribbon-Cutting.



The new mural, the centerpiece of the Neighborway.

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.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

By Bill White
Former Somerville City Councilor
for 24 years

Evidently, Mayor Wilson is continuing in his efforts to destroy our residential neighborhoods! Already, developers can build buildings such as those shown in the photos as of right. No one can deny that they cause the eviction of tenants, eliminate rental units and replace them with large luxury condominiums. They create concrete jungles, provide almost no green space and are on top of next-door neighbors.

The Mayor has submitted zoning

amendments to increase these backyards cottages to three stories in height with a total square footage of 1,750 feet. Remember, these “cottages” can be built with no neighborhood input as of right, only 3 feet from your boundary line. Look at the “cottage” in the photo. Imagine the Mayor now wants this cottage to be the same height as the adjoining building. What was troubling is that the Mayor’s staff represented that these changes were required “to align with state law.” At the public hearing, there were a number of attorneys and people familiar with state law who established that state law does not require what the Mayor’s staff represented



to the public was necessary “to align with state law.” State law specifically requires that an accessory dwelling unit like our backyard cottage shall be no larger in Gross Floor Area than 1/2 the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller. State law only therefore only requires 900 square feet for a “cottage!” How did the Mayor get to 1,75 square feet? Also, state law would require the “cottage” to be up to 3 stories tall, but only if it was located 20 feet from the rear property line, not 3 feet. Why didn’t Mayor’s staff mention that requirement? These are

questions we all should ask ourselves, and, perhaps the Mayor should ask his staff. Imagine the rear cottage shown in the photo at the same height as the two front buildings.

If you believe that these proposals by the Mayor go too far, you can send comments to the City Council and Planning Board at publiccomments@somervillema.gov by Friday October 30th, 2026, and state your opposition. Maybe you should consider sending a simple email to the Mayor’s office directly at <https://www.somervillema.gov/mayor> and say ‘ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.’

Free COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics in Somerville this fall

The City of Somerville is offering free COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics at locations across the city this fall to help community members protect their health. Appointments are strongly encouraged, and walk-up availability is limited. Information on upcoming clinics scheduled for October and November can be found below. To see the most up-to-date clinic schedule, visit [somervillema.gov/vaccinations](https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations).

- ♦ Thursday, October 15, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tufts Admin Building 167 Holland St., for Seniors
- ♦ Thursday, October 15, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), 42 Cross St., for 6 months and older
- ♦ Thursday, October 22, 11:30 – 1 p.m., Tufts Admin Building 167 Holland St., for 18 and older
- ♦ Thursday, October 22, 4:15 – 6:45 p.m., City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen St., for 6 months and older
- ♦ Thursday, November 5, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen St., for 6 months and older
- ♦ Thursday, November 12, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), 42 Cross St., for 6 months and older
- ♦ Monday, November 16, 2 – 3 p.m., Council on Aging, 167 Holland St., for 18 and older
- ♦ Thursday, November 19, 4 – 6:45 p.m., City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen St., for 6 months and older

To make an appointment or learn more visit [somervillema.gov/vaccinations](https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations) or call 311 (617-666-3311).



COMMENTARY

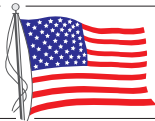
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville proudly celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Our View Of The Times



With the passage of time, more and more cities and states in America are officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in lieu of the traditional observance of Columbus Day.

Somerville has been on board for a few years now, and more of our neighboring communities across the Commonwealth, including the City of Boston, are joining in each year.

Five years ago, the Biden administration announced its proclamation endorsing the nation's adoption of the occasion.

Not everyone agrees with the abandonment of Columbus Day. Some of those who are of Italian ancestry in particular are taking umbrage with the situation, taking it as a slight to their national heritage. This point of view would seem to be unfairly skewed, however, since the primary rea-

sons for this relegation have everything to do with the explorer's own actions in the New World, and nothing at all to do with his particular nationality.

As the historical record becomes clearer over time, we must learn to adapt and revise our perceptions with regard to figures of historical import.

As Americans, we are completely free to celebrate and honor anyone we wish to. Ei-

ther as a society in its entirety or in smaller groups who share common interests.

The history of America's native peoples deserves to be celebrated and honored just as much as those who came to resettle on this continent.

In the meantime, Indigenous Peoples' Day provides a much-needed opportunity to shed light on a segment of our society that has for too long been neglected.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

person. Please call Debby to RSVP at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to City Councilor At Large, Vice President, **Will Mbah**. We hope he has a great celebration and enjoys his day. We wish a Happy birthday to former Alderman **Maryann Heuston**. We hope she has a great birthday. Happy birthday to one of our own, **Mike Reis**, who is celebrating this week. He makes sure the newspaper gets out on the streets on Wednesdays. We wish him the best. We want to wish Somerville resident and Vietnam Veteran and Marine, **Leo Min-**

gace, a happy birthday. Happy birthday to another of our own, **Harry Kane**. We appreciate all he does for the paper, and we wish him a great day. Happy birthday to **Vicki Potaris**. We wish her a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Laurie Tierno Johnson**, **Bill McCarthy**, and **Darell Lee Shanafelt**, a very 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.

We wish **Mr. Phil Chisholm** a Happy birthday. Phil is known as "**the Dogfather**" for giving treats to dogs that pass by

his steps every day. He retired from Winter Hill Innovation Community School after working there for 15 years. Phil will be celebrating his birthday on **October 17**. We wish him a special day.

Join community leaders to explore how we can grow city-wide efforts to **mitigate climate harms** and restore biodiversity during a period of federal setbacks, strengthen conversation between the city and area advocates, and promote justice. Free and open to the public. The event will be followed by open social time. Please RSVP: <https://bit.ly/4jkQne>. Since the weather is looking

chilly for Saturday, Building Somerville's Capacity to Respond, hosted by the **Somerville Community Growing Center**, will move to a new location. It will now take place at **The Dojo @ Somer-nova**, 15 Properzi Way. **Saturday, October 17, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

SomerStreets: Monster Mash transforms Somerville Avenue into a festive Halloween celebration for all ages on **Sunday, October 18**, from 1 to 5 p.m. (severe weather date: Sunday, October 25). Enjoy live music, interactive art activities, family fun, local food vendors, and more. If you are

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1042

1. Which president signed the legislation to expand Hispanic Heritage Week to a month?

2. Who was the first woman to run for U.S. president?

3. If you throw a pumpkin in water, will it sink or float?

4. Eric Clapton wrote the song *Layla* for the wife of which Beatle?

5. Babe Ruth's first homer came against which team?

6. When is National Pasta Day?

7. What group is famous for the song *My Generation*?
8. What actor has a child named Sage Moonblood?

9. When is Día de los Muertos celebrated?

10. Which present-day town was known as Salem Village in 1692?

11. What was the special court that tried the Salem witchcraft cases in 1692 called?

12. What do people call traveling to view colorful autumn leaves?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. There is only one walled city in North America.
2. The first email was sent by Ray Tomlinson to himself in 1971.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

BASEBALL

ACROSS

1. Diver's acronym
6. Bat wood
9. 1970s "pet"
13. High-flying fly ball
14. Tampa Bay player
15. Round loaf, in Paris
16. Oak fruit
17. Golf peg
18. Investigative report
19. Winningest World Series team
21. How many feet between bases?
23. Help
24. Queen of Hearts' pastry
25. 80-game restriction, e.g.
28. Cecum, pl.
30. Mr. Miyagi's forte
35. Some soaps have none
37. Mobile phone in Britain, slangily
39. Heat-conducting solid
40. Australian palm
41. Borders on
43. Large African antelope
44. Campus VIPs
46. Umpires: Men in ____
47. Wednesday Addams' roommate
48. Babe Ruth, a.k.a. the ____ of Swat
50. Campaign worker
52. Before, old-fashioned
53. Buck or doe
55. GDP predecessor
57. Grand slam: home run with bases ____
60. ____-inning stretch
64. Courteous and respectful
65. Large coffee pot
67. Habituate
68. Administer ceremonial oil
69. Bird word
70. Come in
71. Magnifying glass
72. Flow's partner
73. Classroom furniture pieces

DOWN

1. Fix a cat
2. Kind of cola
3. "Once ____ a time..."
4. Muslim woman's cover

CROSSWORD											
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10
13						14				15	
16						17				18	
19						20		21	22		
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71						72			73		

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Relating to apnea

6. Crafts' partner

7. Ed's request

8. Laughing predator

9. Record holder for most career hits

10. Give a boot

11. Modeling material

12. Piano's E or G, e.g.

15. Small chicken variety

20. Organ swelling

22. Rub the wrong way

24. Arranged in rows and columns

25. Record holder for most career home runs

26. Farewell, in France

27. Edible cactus

29. One of five first Hall of Fame inductees

31. Blood vessel network

32. Repent

33. Short-trunked ungulate
34. Exclude or omit

36. Rave's partner

38. Purse on red carpet

42. Swamp plant

45. Equestrian's seat

49. Born, in bio

51. Begrudged

54. Derive

56. Tubular pasta

57. Third base ____

58. Kitchen appliance

59. Pains

60. Nose-in-the-air type

61. Bonkers

62. Hiker's journey

63. Not his

64. ____ Ripken Jr.

66. Umpire's blown call

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

The 12th Annual Arabic Heritage Celebration invited the art and beauty in diversity

By Eliot Josti

On October 10, the city of Somerville hosted another event dedicated to diversity and understanding. The 12th Annual Arabic Heritage Celebration, held at Somerville High School, was a big success in connecting the community to local vendors, arts, and resources.

The Center for Arabic Culture (CAC) and Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) worked closely over the past year to plan the event. The heart of the partnership with CAC was the publishing agency Interlinked.

Interlinked Publishing, a Palestinian-owned agency located in North Hampton, Massachusetts, was at the heart of the festival. Primarily a book fair, the Arabic Heritage Celebration provided many books targeting all ages. From topics ranging from friendship and food to history and conflict, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

"When you walked into the festival, the second table you were met with was the wide table of books. It was beautiful," said María Teresa Nagel, Director of Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Along with a wide variety of books, over 40 vendors shared their work with the community. With 23 vendors attending last year, the number of sellers doubled, causing the event to attract a line out the door, even before it started.

"A big piece of this festival is the book fair and the selling of art. There was beautiful light coming in through the windows shining on amazing jewelry, paintings, cookies, and chocolates," said Nagel.

In addition, non-profit organizations sold many products where all proceeds went to Lebanon.



The 12th Annual Arabic Heritage Celebration took place last week at Somerville High School. — Photos courtesy of the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)



"Their funds touch upon everything from restoring medical buildings, institutions, and schools, and rebuilding life that has been struck by war and disaster in an economy that is trying to reemerge," said Nagel.

Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs also had its own table to connect the community with important information. They provided resources that explain updated policies and rights and could connect them to legal services where needed.

The vendors were not the only part of the festival that drew in the community. Performances from Nahda Project

Dabkeh Troupe, the Center for Arabic Culture Children's Choir, Egyptian American Folklore, and Akram Abdulfatah Quintet guided the evening through celebration.

"Opportunities like art exhibits really put artists at the forefront of being able to display the beauty in differences," said Nagel. "Showing differences between these nations is doing something very powerful. Showing diversity creates unity. Somerville is so unique in the way it presents itself and the community. It is like one colorful, loud palette, and it is what makes the city so special."

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



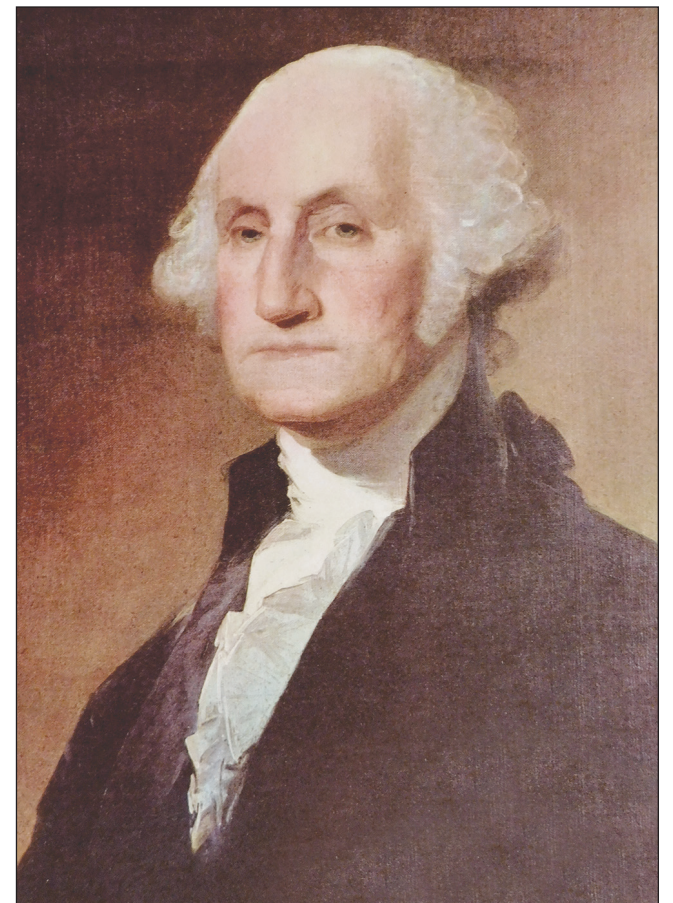
Eagle feathers #365

This article first appeared in the February 24, 2021, edition of The Somerville Times.

Washington Irving

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Washington Irving was born in 1783 in Manhattan near the Hudson River during the last week of the Revolutionary War and died 76 patriotic years later. During his lifetime, he was known as a man of stories and letters.



His early writings spawned a wondrous mythology of Dutch Colonial New York, coining its townsmen the Knickerbockers and their city Gotham. He loved the Hudson River and built his home, Sunnyside, near its shore in Tarrytown.

Irving's mother named him after President George Washington, and when he was six years old, he was blessed by him. It seemed fitting because Irving went on to write a five-volume biography, *The Life of George Washington*.



What Bobby Boris Pickett and his Halloween song, *Monster Mash*, are to Somerville, the Headless Horseman is to Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow.

Early on, Irving brought romance to the Hudson Valley with his famous works of *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. He also brought historic romance to our Mystic River Valley with his *Tales of a Traveller*, which include stories of Kidd the Pirate and The Devil and Tom Walker.

Continued on page 15

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 27-22

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

Youth Employment Program

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 14th, 2026**. 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, October 28th, 2026**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email cmoriarty@somervillema.gov for more information.

Cameron Moriarty
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3403

10/14/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 27-21

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

Youth Council & Provider Network

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 14th, 2026**. 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, Wednesday, October 28th, 2026**.

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Please email cmoriarty@somervillema.gov for more information.

Cameron Moriarty
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3403

10/14/26 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from electrical contractors for the Intercom System Replacement at the Fr. Properzi Manor development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Inc. The Project consists of: intercom system replacement with video intercom system.

The work is estimated to cost \$125,000.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, October 22, 2026** and posted online, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at www.Projectdog.com. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. E-Bid tutorials and instructions are available within the specifications and online at www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, call Projectdog, Inc at (978)499-9014, M-F 8:30AM-5PM.

General bids and sub bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available in electronic form and without cost or charge at Projectdog.com, project code **262307** beginning **Wednesday, October 7, 2026**. Persons desiring hard copies of the documents shall be solely responsible for all printing costs. Go to www.Projectdog.com and login with an existing account or click Sign Up to register for free. Enter Project Code 262307 in the project locator box. Select "Acquire Documents" to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog's physical location, or request a free project CD.

The existing building will be available for observation on the morning of **Friday, October 16, 2026**. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. (gpnangle@nangleengineering.com or (978)777-7650) prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment to attend the site observation.

The inspection is an opportunity to visit and observe the site only. Any oral interpretations offered at the site observation are non-binding. Any questions must be submitted in writing to the Designer, at the e-mail address on the Project Manual cover, no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the date stated above for the receipt of bids. Questions after that time may not be responded to, at the sole discretion of the designer.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Diane Cohen, Executive Director
Somerville Housing Authority
October 7, 2026

10/7/26, 10/14/26 The Somerville Times

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
IFB # P-BOIL102026

The **Somerville Housing Authority** and the Board of Commissioners, the Awarding Authority, invite sealed bids from Contractors for On-Call Boiler and Associated Equipment Services for multiple locations located in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with **IFB # P-BOIL102026** documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority Purchasing Department.

The Project consists of: Providing all labor, materials, equipment, routine, and emergency maintenance services necessary for miscellaneous services for boilers, water heaters, storage tanks, and associated equipment at various properties on an as needed basis.

Term is for 1 year with Two 1-Year options, at the Somerville Housing Authority's sole option to renew for each additional 1-year contract period after the first-year term.

The work is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000.00 for the one-year contract period or \$600,000.00 if all options are taken.

This IFB is subject to the provisions of M.G.L. c.30B sec.5. and to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

Bids are subject to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive and federal wage rates established by the Davis Bacon Wage Act and the Secretary of Labor, under the provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended and OSHA Certifications.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., October 29, 2026**, and publicly opened forthwith, at Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Building, located at 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145

All Bids should be clearly labeled and delivered to: Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 Attn: Anthony Crespo and received no later than the date and time specified above.

Bids will be evaluated and awarded in accordance with the provisions established under Massachusetts General Law Chapter M.G.L. 30B. Vendors will be required to abide by the guidelines established under this statute.

Bid and Contract Documents will be available for download on Somerville Housing Authority web site, <https://www.sha-web.org/bids.aspx> by 2:00 p.m. by October 14, 2026, there will be no charge for these documents.

If bidding, contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org and leave contact information including telephone number, Company name, Contact name, and email, if received you will receive a reply to your email. Bidders/Contractors are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received.

A site visit is scheduled for **October 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, You are not required to attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org or at (617) 996-0906, if you are attending. All interested parties will meet at of Somerville Housing Authority, Administrative Building, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

10/14/26 The Somerville Times

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Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ronald Reagan | 7. The Who |
| 2. Victoria Woodhull, 1872 | 8. Sylvester Stallone |
| 3. Float | 9. November 1 and 2 |
| 4. George Harrison | 10. Danvers, MA |
| 5. New York Yankees | 11. The Court of Oyer and Terminer |
| 6. October 17 | 12. Leaf peeping |

21st Annual HONK! Festival of Activist Street Bands

The 21st Annual HONK! Festival of Activist Street Bands took over Davis Square this past weekend. This year’s festival featured 35 U.S. bands performing on-site, along with livestream participation from several international bands. With perfect fall weather, it was a wonderful day for the community to come together, enjoy the music, and celebrate the energy, creativity, and spirit of activist street bands.

— Photos by Joseph Klepeis



Attendees of the Honk Festival crowd the merchandise table in Statue Park.



Over 100 people gather to listen to the Forward Marching Band at Statue Park.



Attendees gather at 7 Hills Park for the ceremonial first honk of this year's Honk Festival on Oct. 10.



Brass Solidarity and The Leftist Marching Band lead attendees of the Honk Festival out of 7 Hills Park to kick off the festival.



The Unity Street Band performs for a crowd of over 30 people at Kenney Park.



Members of The Brass Balagan dance along to the music at the intersection of Elm Street and Grove Street.



The Ideal Maine Social Aid & Sanctuary Band performs for a crowd of over 60 people in Davis Square Plaza.



School of Honk performs for a crowd of over 100 people in Davis Square Plaza.



A member of the Forward Marching Band performs a trumpet solo at Statue Park.



Good Trouble performs at 7 Hills Park.



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: My dog is essential to my physical and mental health. Do I have a right to have my dog live with me in my apartment?

A: It depends on whether it's a service dog or a companion for emotional support. They are categorized differently under the law. Service dogs are included in Fair Housing. "Enforcement agencies under the state statute and the Fair Housing Act encourage accommodations of comfort animals as well," according to Attorney William McKamie.

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. online. Call 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 for the login information.

Somerville Gets Spooky at Monster Mash

CONT. FROM PG 1

will include the BosWitches, Proyecto Tempo, Los Mambiseros, and a lineup curated by Mass Ave Music.

"Where else can you run into your neighbors in costume, a brass band, and giant puppets all in one afternoon?" said city Councilor-at-Large Kristin Strezo. "Monster Mash brings out so much of

what makes Somerville fun. I'm grateful to the artists, local businesses, and organizers who make it a celebration everyone can enjoy."

For event details and updates, visit somervilleartscouncil.org/monster-mash.

— City of Somerville

Want to write local Somerville stories?

Call **857-488-5138**

and speak to the Assignment Editor

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What's the best way to fix a broken pumpkin?

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Changes... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

October 14

1066 – William of Normandy defeats King Harold in the Battle of Hastings.

1651 – Laws are passed in Massachusetts forbidding the poor to adopt excessive styles of dress.

1773 – Britain's East India Company tea ships' cargo is burned at Annapolis, MD.

1806 – Napoleon Bonaparte crushes the Prussian army at Jena, Germany.

1884 – Transparent paper-strip photographic film is patented by George Eastman.

1912 – Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt is shot and wounded in an assassination attempt in Milwaukee.

1947 – Test pilot Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier aboard a Bell X-1 plane.

1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis begins.

1964 – Rev. Martin Luther King is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1966 – Montreal, Quebec, Canada, opens its rapid-transit system.

1994 – Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

2012 – Felix Baumgartner breaks the world record for highest manned balloon flight.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

interested in volunteering at Monster Mash, please sign up here: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/somerstreets/monster-mash-volunteer/>.

Somerville’s annual “Truck O’ Treat” is on **Thursday, October 29**, from 5 to 7 p.m. outside **City Hall** (93 Highland Avenue). Rain date: Thursday, November 5. Costumes are encouraged at this family-friendly event, which will include safe Trick-or-Treating on the City Hall concourse, a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, lawn games, light refreshments, and more.

The city is offering **free COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics** at locations across the city this fall to help community members protect their health. Appointments are strongly encouraged, and walk-up availability is limited. To see the most up-to-date clinic schedule or make an appointment, visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations. You can also call 311 (617-666-3311) for information or to make an appointment.

BOO! Bingo for Kids. Join the **East Branch Library** for bingo with a spooky theme. Win stickers to create a seasonal scene. Children under 5 years old need adult assistance. The event will take place on **Wednesday, October 28**, at **East Branch Library** (115 Broadway) from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

This year, the **SHS football team** will be playing their **Thanksgiving Game** against **Cambridge Rindge & Latin** at **Fenway Park** on **Thursday, November 24**, at 5:00pm. For tickets, visit: <http://www.redsox.com/highschoolfootball>.

Rei Da Picanha, which was open on Broadway in East Somerville for 15 years, was destroyed by a devastating fire that affected their block on the night of **Monday, October 12**. Losing the restaurant means the family lost their income and their ability to cover the immediate costs of daily life and emergencies. They now face the daunting reality of starting over again. There is a **GoFundMe account**

set up to help the family: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-somervilles-nona-to-family-after-devastating-fire>.

The **City of Somerville** is seeking one new member to join the **Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee** as a volunteer member. This vacancy is for a person with a passion and energy to assist high school students (public and private) with pursuing higher education. To apply, please send a letter of interest to ldubueque@somervillema.gov with ‘Scholarship Committee’ and your name in the subject line by **Friday, October 30, 2026**. Please include your full name, address, and telephone number with your inquiry. For questions, accommodations, or more information, contact the **Treasury** at (617) 625-6600 ext. 3510 or **Linda Dubuque** at ldubueque@somervillema.gov.

Visit the **Holiday Craft Fair, Saturday, October 17**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church**, 31 College Ave. in Davis Square. In addition to a variety of craft tables offering Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas gifts and other items, the Fair will also feature raffles, food gift baskets, and a Meatball Contest.

Celebrate Halloween in East Somerville with an afternoon of spooky fun for the whole community! The **Halloween Block Party & Pet Spooktacular** brings neighbors, families, and furry friends together for a festive day filled with activities, local vendors, live music, a pet costume contest, raffles, and much more. Come dressed in your favorite costume, bring your pets, and enjoy a fun-filled Halloween celebration in the heart of East Somerville! **Volunteers Wanted.** They are looking for volunteers to help with activities, event set up, welcoming families, and keeping the celebration running smoothly. **October 31, 1 – 4 p.m., Chuckie Harris Park.** Sign up to volunteer! (<https://forms.gle/oAWkUYySYrmNvKBz9>).

Somerville neighbors need your help. On **Tuesday, September 8**, a fire on Dartmouth Street left four households,

including multiple vulnerable residents and their pets, without homes. On **September 30**, there was a **five-alarm fire** in Teele Square. The fire impacted 32 homes at 1137-1147 Broadway, displacing 43 residents. Please consider donating whatever you can to the **Somerville Homeless Coalition’s Emergency Displacement Fund** developed in partnership with the city. <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/emergfun>.

On **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**, Massachusetts will hold its **State Election**. Somerville voters can vote early in person or by mail or on **Election Day**. The state election is open to all registered voters in Somerville. Register to vote by **Saturday, October 24**. Learn more and get all election information at www.somervillema.gov/elections.

A **new Somerville ordinance** that took effect **October 14, 2026**, will require rental property owners to notify tenants in writing within 48 hours of putting their residence on the market. Somerville’s **Notice of Building Sale Ordinance** establishes clear notification requirements, so renters know when their home is being offered for sale and where to turn for housing support. The required form and additional information will be available on the OHS website in October at somervillema.gov/OHS. Questions about the ordinance can be sent to buildingsale@somervillema.gov. Tenants who learn their building is for sale but have not received notice should contact OHS. Residents can request housing assistance online, calling OHS directly at 617-625-6600, ext. 2581, or dialing 311 and asking for OHS.

Somerville’s **Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Month celebration** will take place **Sunday, October 25**, inside **Somerville High School** (81 Highland Ave.) from 2 to 5 p.m. Somerville’s **Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)**, with support from the city’s **Division of Equity and Belonging** and the **Somerville Community Corporation (SCC)**, invites all community members to the celebration. Enjoy a wide selection of

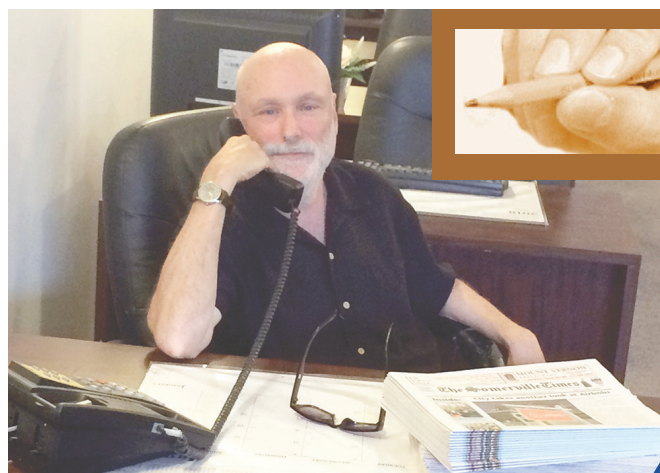
Latin American and Caribbean food and refreshments, from Brazilian cheese bread to Haitian griot, alongside an afternoon of music, movement, and opportunities to join in.

Somerville PorchFest feedback is sought via a community survey. As planning for 2027 gets underway, community members are invited to complete the PorchFest survey to give input on what’s working and identify areas for improvement as the event continues to evolve. Take the survey now **through Sunday, October 25**, at bit.ly/somporchsurvey.

The **Somerville Museum** presents **Common Ground: Photography, Place, and Community, September 17. December 5, One Westwood Rd.** This exhibition features 15 photographers who have chosen Somerville as their home. The works on view range from documentary to conceptual and are united by the perspective of artists living and working within this evolving urban environment. “Common Ground” explores how artists navigate and contribute to Somerville’s shifting identity, examining the relationship between place, community, and creative practice. Visit <https://www.somerville-museum.org/>.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe campaign** for *The Somerville Times*. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Nirmal Raja: A Somerville artist who archives beloved objects from immigrants

Recently, I caught up with Somerville artist Nirmal Raja to talk about a project she is working on that will be presented by the Somerville Museum in January.

Doug Holder: How has it been for you as an artist working in Somerville?

Nirmal Raja: My husband and I moved to Cambridge from Milwaukee a couple of years ago, and the realtor showed us 11 Miller Street Studios in Somerville as a possibility for my studio as it is close to where we will live. I feel really fortunate that space was available in the building when we moved. I love the location and the community.

DH: You have an exhibit coming up at the Somerville Museum this January. It concerns objects from immigrant women that tell a story. You chose to focus only on women. Why? Is there a story that stands out for you?

NR: The online archive I am working on (www.amaanatarchive.com) collects stories from all immigrants or 1st-generation Americans who have immigrant objects to share. This project is not limited to women.

However, my personal artwork is mostly inspired by immigrant women like me. Mainly because we carry the extra burden as keepers of culture. We experience the pressure to navigate the often clashing expectations of the society we left and the society we live in now. As mothers, we are often seen as the primary medium for keeping cultural roots alive in the family through language, food, customs, religion, etc.

DH: Have you read the short story *The Things They Carry* by Tim O'Brien? He concentrates on what grunt soldiers in the Vietnam War carried with them. Often the objects they carry tell the reader a story from deep in their interior. Do you feel objects are charms that break open a flood of memories?

NR: Yes, that is a great book and really captures the power of objects to comfort, to remember, and to carry people through the war. What I particularly took from that book is the notion of two truths: "happening-truth" and "story-truth." The object is more than its utility. It is a memory keeper, and it is also a myth holder as our imaginations and our emotions mingle with the "happening truth" and become a "story-truth."

I also read the book *All That She Carried*, a touching true story about slavery. The book revolves around a sack of objects a mother packed for her daughter Ashley when she was sold to a different owner. Ashley's granddaughter, Ruth, embroidered this family history on the sack. What I took away



from this book was the power of objects to hold our histories and how important passing the story on to the next generation is. When a story is not recorded, the object is in danger of losing this history and sometimes, its very meaning.

The online archive "Amaanat" (inheritance) is about unlocking and recording memories of migration, cultural and familial roots that are embedded in objects. We hold on to things for more than just their material value. Often the emotional and sentimental value is more powerful, poignant, and moving.

DH: You are an interdisciplinary artist. What genres do you work in?

NR: I love material experimentation and often choose materials based on the ideas I explore. Recently, my work has been on paper and fabric, and I consider the Amaanat online archive a social practice that gets me out in the community as an empathic listener and a collector of stories. As someone fairly new to the community, this is my way of getting to know the immigrant people around me. Previously, I've worked with drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, photo/video-performance, and installation. I consider all of these a material and skill "palette" of sorts and will utilize them when my ideas call for them.

DH: How do you cope with all the violence toward immigrants in this country?

NR: The role of an artist is that of a witness and an amplifier. We absorb our surroundings and make sense of them through our practice. In that sense, the studio becomes a place to process what we see in the world around us. The current violence toward immigrants is alarming and unacceptable. We seem to have forgotten that we are not only just "American" but also human. I recently returned after seeing the Venice Biennale. More than the Biennale, I was struck by a collateral exhibition titled *The only true protest is beauty*. The title was

Continued on page 15

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Lee Varon is a social worker and writer. Her forthcoming co-authored chapbook *MS Meets Parkinson's* will be published in 2027.



Another Poem for Sandra

I decided I was lonely—
it occurred to me
eating grilled cheese at the S&S Deli—closing
after 107 years—
the Deli where you used to sit
(often solitary) having dinner
before returning to your empty
apartment on Marion Street
where we friends
once ate turkey dinner
none of us knowing Bob (healthy)
would fall off his roof replacing tiles
and you (unhealthy) stage 3 maybe 4—
hosting us, would go on for a while...

There is no way to set this table again.

— Lee Varon

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
Doug Holder, dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

These tales feature the notorious Captain Kidd's treasure, pirates, the devil, and the Mystic River. Kidd became rich from his ill-gotten fortune. It is said that he buried gold and jewels from Maine to Florida. Many people suspected his treasure was buried near Boston close to where he was captured.

One site was thought to be on the southern shore of the Mystic River. For years, treasure hunters dug holes in the hillsides of Plowed, Winter, and Ten Hills. They were spurred on by hunches, legends, and counterfeit maps but to no avail. It is said that before Captain Kidd was captured, he was hiding in a house on the old Governor Winthrop's Estate.

How ironic ... Ten Hills was the birthplace of anti-piracy in America because the Blessing of the Bay was the first colonial ship to be armed against piracy.

After Irving's death, he was honored before the Massachusetts Historical Society as the First American Man of Letters in a tribute given by Winter Hill's Edward Everett.



Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 14

inspired by this quote by the activist Phil Ochs. Throughout my time in Venice visiting various exhibitions, I kept returning to this quote. I saw the mingling and juxtaposition of horrific representations of violence and sublime beauty next to each other, with each highlighting the power of the other. I cope with the violence of this world by believing in beauty and putting more of it out there as an artist. Art is so very human and necessary for our humanity. Art makes us pause, think, and place ourselves in another's shoes and view point.

DH: Why should we view this exhibit?

NR: This exhibition will include my object-inspired artwork, the online archive "Amaanat," and the actual objects in the archive loaned for the exhibition. Amaanat (which means inheritance) is a subversive way of recording first-person immigrant stories when our other histories are being sidelined. It is a space to record fast-disappearing voices. Immigrant objects are especially vulnerable to erasure as the connection between story and object disappears between two or three generations if not recorded. Our history is being erased and rewritten at a drastic pace right now in classrooms and beyond. BIPOC and immi-

grant stories are actively neglected or censored. One of my professors in grad school used to say, "People can disagree and dig in their heels on any number of things and refuse to engage with one another, but when you put a piece of art in front of them, they suddenly have a third thing to connect over, to speak about, exchange opinions, etc."

I am hoping that this exhibition will trigger many conversations on the objects we hold on to, why our histories are important, why people leave their homes, what is lost when stories are lost, the richness of diversity, the power of story in human connection, and more.

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