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Somerville follows up park community meeting with listening session



A listening session was held last week discussing the process of developing a new park at 217 Somerville Ave.

By Jennifer Purcell

On Thursday of last week, residents of Somerville came together to discuss the transformation of 217 Somerville Ave. into a public park. Preceded by an official community meeting the night before, this listening session was held for those who had been unable to attend as well as anyone who wanted to hear more about the project or speak directly to public space planner Jon Bronenkant.

At this point in time, the kind of park this will be has yet to be decided. Bronenkant provided attendees with several posters detailing the options, which included the following:

- A park for people, which would include lots of space to walk around.
 - A park for plants, which would
- Continued on page 4*

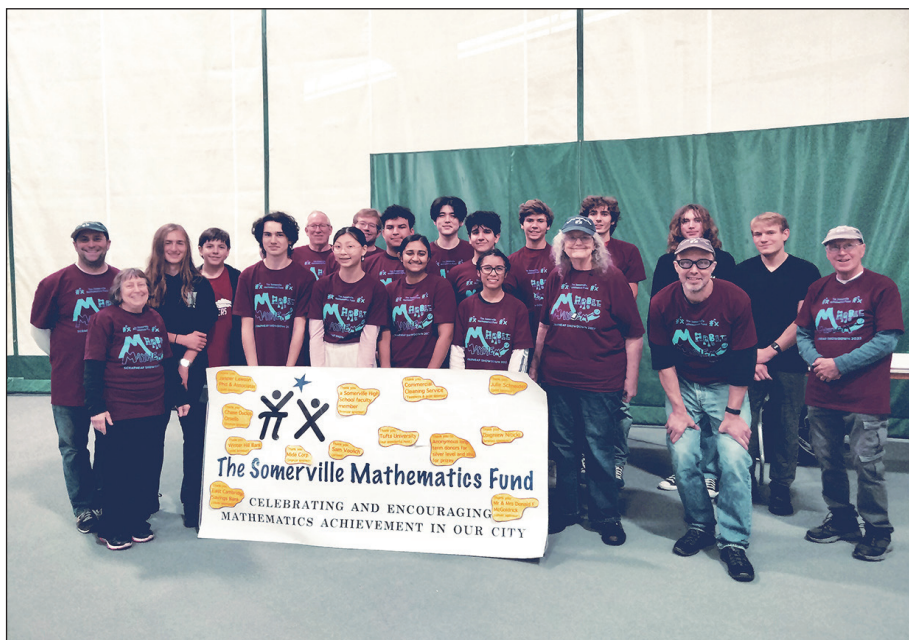
Scrapheap Showdown: Marble Mayhem

By Erica Dakin Voolich

On Sunday, October 22, 18 high school students on six teams gathered in the Gantcher Gym at Tufts University to compete in the Somerville Math Fund's 17th annual Scrapheap Showdown, Marble Mayhem.

Their challenge was to create a Rube-Goldberg device for marbles making creative use of triggers, jumps, loops, or elevators. The "field" was two side by side tables held two feet apart. One marble started its journey by being placed above one table at one corner and ended by stopping on the other table at the opposite corner. Points were awarded according to how long the marble took to traverse the maze, how many obstacles and tricks it maneuvered through along the way, and consistency of time from start to finish. Participants had up to five different sized marbles they could choose

Continued on page 4



Somerville Math Fund's 17th annual Scrapheap Showdown, Marble Mayhem, took place last Sunday at Tufts University's Gantcher Gym.

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Community members are invited to celebrate the completion of the **Phillip Reavis, Sr. Field**, the high school's first ever onsite field space. This 45,000 square foot practice field consists of artificial turf with a natural wood infill and is built in the area of a former steep slope behind the high school and adjacent to the new Gilman Square MBTA stop. A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will be held on **Thursday, October 26**, at noon, Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.).

The **City of Somerville** will be hosting Somerville's **2nd annual Truck O' Treat** on **Thursday, October 26**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Enjoy safe trick-or-treating on the **City Hall concourse** (93 Highland Ave.), a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, refreshments and more. Costumes are encouraged. **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne**, along with Somerville's **Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Office**, invite all local ghosts and ghouls. In the event of inclement weather, Truck O' Treat will move indoors to **City Hall**.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great guy and local realtor, **Clifton Verdieu**, who grew up in East Somerville. We wish him a great birthday with his family. Happy birthday to a former alderman and great guy, **Dennis Sullivan**. A nice guy who served Somerville for many years. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to poet and *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 18 – October 24 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>October 25</i>	Cloudy	71°/54°	7%	4%	SW 10 mph
 Thursday <i>October 26</i>	Sunny	74°/58°	5%	3%	SW 8 mph
 Friday <i>October 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	75°/59°	6%	3%	W 10 mph
 Saturday <i>October 28</i>	Sunny	77°/52°	10%	6%	W 12 mph
 Sunday <i>October 29</i>	Cloudy	60°/54°	22%	17%	NE 10 mph
 Monday <i>October 30</i>	Rain	66°/48°	59%	43%	SW 9 mph
 Tuesday <i>October 31</i>	Cloudy	52°/42°	25%	12%	WNW 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: **City of Somerville announces sex and gender identification no longer required to receive a marriage certificate**

Slaw says:

Another step forwards for equality in Somerville.

Tanu oberoï says:

ASuch a progressive step forward by the City of Somerville! It's wonderful to see cities prioritize the true essence of marriage – love and commitment, regardless of gender. This kind of change is a testament to creating more inclusive and accepting societies. Kudos to Mayor Ballantyne and City Clerk Kimberly M. Wells for championing equality and celebrating love in its purest form. #LoveIsLove #InclusivityInAction

Response to: **Lyrical Somerville – October 18**

Jean Dany Joachim says:

I am honored to have my poem published in Lyrical Somerville –
Thank You Mr. Holder
jdj

Response to: **Somerville Councilor-At-Large Charlotte Kelly will not be running for re-election**

Ron Newman says:

I wish she had decided this much earlier, preferably before the filing deadline, and at least before people had already started mailing in their ballots.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://www.somervilletimes.com) to leave your own comments

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Life in the

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The Spirit of America

by Jimmy Del Ponte

A 60's Halloween



This article first appeared in the October 31, 2019 edition of The Somerville Times.

I remember trick or treating back in the day. There was no such thing as “fun size” candy. We got full size bars or “dentist’s delights.” At the height of our childhood Halloween fun, we’d have to go home to empty out our pillow cases and go to more houses for more candy. Remember looking at the lousy treat the neighbor would drop in your sack? The biggest rip-off would be the houses that plopped an apple into your bag. No one wanted a stupid apple for Halloween plus it would crush the good stuff! The only thing worse than fruit was the nut who would put a handful of loose popcorn in there.

Ben Cooper Halloween costumes were purchased at Woolworths, Grants and at Bradlees in later years. That’s if you were lucky. Frugal families would make their kids throw together their own original costumes.

The year I was Zorro will always be stuck in my mind. My parents pulled a Ralphie from A Christmas Story on me. They wouldn’t let me get a sword. They bought me a lame rubber knife instead. That memory is right up there with the brown shoes with my white holy communion suit fiasco. No wonder I’m in therapy!

Remember if Halloween night was cold? The biggest bummer was when your parents made you wear your stupid coat over your costume. Yes, there were many pitfalls to trick or treating back then. Those masks got hot and sweaty too. And if you chose to wear makeup it would always smudge and smear.

The older kids would trick or treat in packs of about 15-20.

My dad would have to inspect all the candy before we were allowed to dig in. A wise thing to do, especially nowadays. Of course, he didn’t know about the pound and a half of candy we’d eat before we got home. He always snuck a couple of Nestles Crunch bars for himself while conducting his inspection.

Hated treat list: fruit, loose hard candy, loose popcorn, any granola product, pencils, loose pennies, juice boxes, or yogurt.

No bite me size candy!

A true right of maturity was when our parents stopped taking us trick or treating to our grandparents, aunts and uncles’ and neighbors houses and let us go with our friends.

I can still smell that cheap and flimsy plastic mask. The elastic usually broke on the first day you got it.

A friend of mine had a funny memory. One year his dad gave him his mother’s beret to wear, along with a ripped sweat-shirt. He then smudged cigar ashes on his face for a beard. He then said, “There you go! You’re a beatnik, now get the hell out there!”



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Scrapheap Showdown: Marble Mayhem CONT. FROM PG 1

to use in their maze.

This year when the students arrived, the usual scrapheap pile included long pieces of foam core and wooden dowels along with the miscellaneous interesting “junk” that the Somerville Math Fund pile usually includes.

The contestants were very busy, planning and trying different ideas, making adjustments while testing with their marbles. One team succeeded in jumping and catching their marble from table to table, another team built what looked like pin ball machine, triggering multiple marbles, a couple of teams had paths with zig-zagging paths downhill. It was fun to watch each of the marble structures being tested everyone hoping their marbles would do what they planned for them to do and to do it in a timely manner. Time was called after 3 hours. It was time for testing the different structures.

The first place team was “Super Seniors” (Yasmin Nazhar, Atticus Borggaard, and Ellery Borggaard) with a score of 1095 points. Second place was “Slum Gang” (Miles Eisenbraun, Miles Eisenbraun, and Robert Leoni) with 1030 points. Third place was “Tech Titans” (Ali El-Saudi, Christopher Montiel, and Julian Barney) with 180 points. Fourth place was “Calculus Crusaders”

(Liam Beretsky-Jewell and Daragh Keane) with 130 points.

The teams chose their prizes in the order they finished. The prizes donated were three sets of two tickets to the RedSox (donated by Sam Voolich) for a game in April 2024, three \$100 Target gift cards (donated by Chase Duclos-Orsello), and 3 gift cards from Anna’s Taqueria (donated by long term Somerville Math Fund supporters).

The other participating teams were the “The Rats AAAAHHRRERRHHH” (Serena Wong, Rafael Ronen, and Bhavroop Kaur), and “The LEDS” (Lily Thompson, Elias Colley, and Dash Brenner).

Designers and refiners of the challenge were members of the Somerville Math Fund Board: Fred Bernardin, Sanford Bogage, Adam Foster, Richard Graf, Dan Oshima, Jesse Stern, Erica Voolich, Susan Weiss. Amy Weiss designed the teeshirt and Monica Fernandes designed the sponsor flyer; and Susan and Sanford designed the student recruiting and registration materials, and Sanford managed registration and the Google Classroom for this event.

Michael Morgan and Patricia Murphy-Sheehy (Head of Math Department) at Somerville High helped with suggestions and

distribution help of registration materials. The math teachers at Somerville High School, recruited student teams. Bill Trudell videoed the event for Somerville Cable EdTV Channel 15.

Again, Tufts University was our wonderful host donating their gym space for a Sunday event. Last year was our first year back after a three-year COVID hiatus. This was our 17th Scrapheap Showdown and Tufts has been our host for all of these events.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, this activity was both a fund raiser for a scholarship and three teacher grants, provided prizes for the students and allowed the students to participate without paying any registration fee. We offered different levels of sponsorship for the event. Thanks to all of our wonderful donors whose donations will make one scholarship available next spring and four teacher grants in January.

Gold Level (one year of a college scholarship each):

Commercial Cleaning Co./ Bickoff Family, Jasper J. Lawson, PhD. & Associates, Julie Schneider, and Tufts University.

Silver Level (one teacher grant each):

East Cambridge Savings Bank, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. McGol-



drick, Winter Hill Bank and a long-term sponsor.

Bronze Level (supporting Somerville Math Fund work):

Chase Duclos-Orsello, A Member of the Somerville High School Faculty,

Zbigniew Niticki, and Sam Voolich.

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was chartered in 2000 to

celebrate and encourage mathematics achievement in Somerville. On January 7, we will be looking for teacher grant applications; and in April, we will be looking for scholarship applications. For more information or to volunteer or to make a donation, call 617-666-0666, email mathfund@gmail.com, or go to www.somervillemathematicsfund.org.

Somerville follows up park community meeting with listening session

CONT. FROM PG 1

create a forest-like oasis.

- An outward focus park where people would be able to walk in freely.

- An inward focus park where there would be one or two entrances.

- An active park with a playground and/or fitness equipment.

- A passive park with benches and tables aimed more towards those who would like to go there to relax.

Of course, some of these ideas could be combined. The only issue at hand is that they are working with an incredibly small space and are therefore unsure if some of these options would be

doable. Those who did attend were completely on board with all of these options, yet there was one concern.

One resident mentioned that there will be another active park with a playground nearby and wasn't sure if it would be a good idea to have two playgrounds in such close proximity to each

other, wondering instead if it would be more beneficial to have a passive park that would cater to residents who are looking for a more peaceful environment. Bronenkant, alongside the other attendees, considered this briefly and ultimately agreed that this would be for the best.

Construction is expected to start in the spring of next year and they are hoping to open in the park in the summer of 2025.

A third listening session was held on Tuesday of this week. Additional community meetings are listed at somervillema.gov/217somervilleave.

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

Somerville community invited to annual vigil honoring victims of domestic violence



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Commission for Women, and RESPOND, Inc. are honored to invite residents to join the annual Domestic Violence Vigil on Monday, October 30, commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This year’s vigil aims to remember those who lost their lives to domestic violence in the last year, celebrate survivors’ resilience, and recommit ourselves as a community to ending domestic violence.

“I am honored to invite the Somerville community to stand united against domestic violence and offer our unwavering support to all victims,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “Domestic violence is a crime that often happens in the shadows, but by gathering together, we hope to offer a beacon of hope for survivors, and demonstrate Somerville’s commitment to creating a world where every home is a sanctuary.”

The vigil and community art-making event is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. at The Dojo @ Somernova (15 Properzi Way, Somerville).

The event is free and all are welcome to attend. There will be American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation at the event.

“It’s important for us to continually bring awareness to domestic violence because home should be a safe place,” shared Stephanie Galaitsi, chair of the Somerville Commission for Women.

Domestic violence is a life-threatening public health and social justice issue that impacts one in three women and one in four men in the United States annually.

“Abuse thrives in isolation,” says RESPOND CEO Victoria Helberg. “By gathering, we are not only taking a moment to commemorate those lives taken too early by domestic violence. We are also coming together to say that domestic violence has no home here in Somerville. We all have a role to play in ending domestic violence, and we can only do this together.”

For more information about the vigil, please contact Latoya Saulters, Commissions Coordinator at lsaulters@somervillema.gov or (857) 274-2719.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY ELECTION CITY OF SOMERVILLE



OFFICE OF BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Ordered: **In City Council**
The Board of Elections Commissioners is hereby directed to cause notice to be given in the manner prescribed by law that meetings of the qualified voters of this city will be held in the several polling places which have been designated by said Council for or within the voting precincts in which they respectively are qualified to vote, said polling places are located as follows, namely for;

WARD ONE

- Precinct 1. A room in the MICHAEL E CAPUANO SCHOOL, 150 Glen Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the MICHAEL E CAPUANO SCHOOL, 150 Glen Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;
- Precinct 4A. A room in the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Glen Street Entrance directly across from 68 Glen Street;

WARD TWO

- Precinct 1. A room in the THE POLICE STATION, 220 Washington Street;
- Precinct 1A. A room in the THE POLICE STATION, 220 Washington Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the ARGENZIANO SCHOOL at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street;

WARD THREE

- Precinct 1. A room PROPERZI MANOR, 13-25 Warren Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the CUMMINGS SCHOOL, 42 Prescott Street;
- Precinct 3. Gym at St. Catherine’s Church; 179 Summer St;
- Precinct 4. Gym at St. Catherine’s Church; 179 Summer St;

WARD FOUR

- Precinct 1. A room in the MYSTIC ACTIVITY CENTER, 530 Mystic Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the PEARL ST PARK BUILDING, 240 Pearl Street;
- Precinct 2A. A room in the PEARL ST PARK BUILDING, 240 Pearl Street;
- Precinct 3. A room in the BRAZILIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 212 School Street;
- Precinct 4. A room in the HEALEY SCHOOL, 5 Meacham Street;

WARD FIVE

- Precinct 1. A room in the ARMORY, 191 Highland Avenue;
- Precinct 2. A room in the ARMORY, 191 Highland Avenue;
- Precinct 3. Gym in the JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue;
- Precinct 4. Gym in the JOHN F KENNEDY SCHOOL, Sartwell Avenue Entrance directly across from 19 Sartwell Avenue;

WARD SIX

- Precinct 1. A room in The George Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St;
- Precinct 2. A room in the SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, 31 College Avenue;
- Precinct 3. A room in the WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, 40 College Avenue;
- Precinct 3A. A room in the WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, 40 College Avenue;
- Precinct 4. A room in The George Dilboy Post, 351 Summer St;

WARD SEVEN

- Precinct 1. A room in the SENIOR CENTER, TAB BUILDING, 167 Holland Street;
- Precinct 2. A room in the WEST SOMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, 177 Powder House Blvd Entrance;
- Precinct 3. A room in the VNA ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, 405 Alewife Brook Parkway;
- Precinct 4. A room in the WEST SOMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL, 177 Powder House Blvd Entrance;

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

AT SEVEN O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING, when the polls shall open and there and then between that time and the closing of the polls, which shall be at EIGHT O’CLOCK in the evening, the said qualified voters will give their ballots for:

A Mayor, Four Councilors-At-Large, and the said qualified voters of each of the seven wards of the city will also there and then give in their ballots for One Councilor who shall at the time of the Election be a qualified voter of the ward in which elected, and for One Member of the School Committee who shall be a qualified voter of the ward in which elected, all for the term of two years.

Nicholas P. Salerno, Chairman
Douglas M. Bosley
Kelly J. Cooper
BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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.

10/25/23 The Somerville Times

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Fair Housing Questionnaire for Candidates, 2023

Part 3

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 5: If you are elected, what will you do on the following issues to address systemic housing discrimination against protected classes and to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing in Somerville?

- a) Policies and programs Somerville can use to diversify neighborhoods
- b) Continuing to protect and enforce condominium conversion restrictions and other measures to ensure housing for families with children
- c) Preventing discrimination against disabled individuals in need of housing that have emotional support animals
- d) Preventing discrimination against households with Section 8 Vouchers or other rental subsidies

William Tauro, Candidate for Mayor

a. We have many policies and programs to aid diversification. The need to be acknowledged, enforced, and expanded. Diversification means community. Neighborhoods have been decimated rather than brought together. The power of economics has forced poorer families out. We need to focus on stability and maintaining the concept of strong connected neighborhoods. Policies must be made to encourage and support all who are here and those who come here. The term "Resident" cannot be applied if such a high number are constantly in flux. As our housing market prices continue to rise, the diversity we look for is forced out. Affirm means to make positive change that meets challenges we face. Diversification does not mean gentrification.

b. The urban sprawl has continued with the expansion of condominiums and other new housing. Working class families have been disenfranchised with condominium conversion. Many times the units are not feasible for those with children or multigenerational families. Housing discrimination takes many forms Condominiums and other housing not only are not feasible for families of many kinds but also not "affordable." Affordability is a misused word. What high paid professionals can afford became out of sight for many families. Increased efforts need to be made to insure all can live and function as valuable residents. As with all development, we need to be vigilant in our awareness of what we have and what can be utilized. There is a lot of rhetoric about what we can do about climate control and energy consumption, taking land, our natural resources and native species of animals and plants contributes negative and unsustainable consequences.

c. Disabilities come in many forms. Once documented compliance should be enforced. We live in a fragile, judgmental world that is constantly in flux. Emotional Support Animals provide a much needed service for many who suffer from loneliness, anxiety, depression and other many times unseen issues. The stigma of mental health is still with us. Remedies and concrete alleviations must be recognized and accepted. Of course in reality own-

er occupied housing must be acknowledged if there are health related or other pertinent issues that might effect compliance. Working together we can find workable and compassionate solutions.

d. Rental subsidies of every kind contribute to a viable and vibrant community. Acceptance contributes to diversification of our neighborhoods. The laws of Section 8 while being enforced must be encouraged and explained. Further expansion of programs and opportunities with widespread information that is coordinated and integrated will make all programs accessible and understood. Somerville needs to continue to be a welcoming city that recognizes all its residents and their needs.

Matthew Hunt, Candidate for City Council, Ward 1

When elected I will endeavor to prioritize a Somerville populated by a wide varied array of residents who are fully protected and secure in their place in our city. This would use all current enforcement avenues available as well as strengthening protections for underserved members of our community. Especially here in Ward 1, our neighbors are often less aware of the services available and their rights and I want to be a resource to bolster their protection in the city. Naima Sait, Candidate for City Council, Ward 5

a. The existing diversity in Somerville's neighborhoods is threatened by rising rents and profit maximizing redevelopment, so I will support measures to expand affordable housing in the City and to distribute affordable apartments throughout every neighborhood, which will mitigate those threats and, if done at scale, even increase diversity and inclusion in the City. At the same time, OHS and ISD are, respectively, the municipal agencies that can aid tenants and pressure landlords in cases of discrimination, and I will push to give them the resources to do so.

b. Somerville already has the strongest Condominium Conversion Ordinance in the Commonwealth, but its enforcement is largely left to the community and its Tenants' Right of First Refusal provision is useful only to tenants who can secure financing to exercise it. I will advocate to increase outreach efforts to inform all tenants in the City of their rights under the ordinance, advocate increased funding and staffing at OHS, ISD, and CAAS to ensure that tenants have avenues to enforce their rights. As well, I will advocate for the City to purchase and to build municipally-owned affordable and mixed income housing with greater proportions of apartments sized for families than in market-driven developments.

c. Our City should be accessible by default but our existing housing stock and public ways need extensive rework to get there. I'll advocate for increased resources for OSH and the Fair Housing Commission so that they can meet all reports of discrimination against disabled applicants for any ostensible reason, including their service animal, in a timely manner.

d. While it is illegal to deny housing to an applicant who carries a Section 8 voucher, few if any consequences currently accrue to landlords who do so. The City should invest in the administrative capacity to change that. I will advocate to give the Fair Housing Commission and OHS

the resources to respond in real time to respond to reports of discrimination with legal advice and advocacy. At least as large a problem in Somerville is that the prevailing price level of rents in the City puts many apartments out of reach for voucher holders; every measure to increase the number of affordable units in the City, and especially municipally- and state-owned affordable units in the City, will help to open to City to subsidized tenants.

Jack Connolly, Candidate for City Council, Ward 6

I would propose that we enforce strict penalties for anyone found discriminating against housing in the City of Somerville.

a. Somerville has a lot of great programs already we can use to diversify neighborhoods, we just have to offer them more support so they can be proactive and serve their purpose. When it comes to policies I am open to reviewing any standing policies to see what changes we can make that will lead to a positive impact and I will welcome and review proposals for initiatives that can assist diversity in any way.

b. Glad to do all possible to insure housing not just for families with children, but for all in need; The goal must be to increase more affordable housing for all in Somerville.

c. Discrimination of any kind is not something I tolerate, nor is it something that the City of Somerville should either. Individuals with emotional support animals need them for a reason and we should have options made available for this particular need.

d. Anyone with a housing voucher should be treated equally and never turned away. If they are able to submit a proper application for any kind of eligible housing their application should always be considered with a voucher or not and treated the same way as any other applicant. We need more housing vouchers and rental subsidies made available in this city and we need landlords to not discriminate against those with them.

Wilfred Mbah, Candidate for City Council At Large

a. I will work with my City Council colleagues to expand and add to the programs that create more affordable housing units and insure that these units are located throughout Somerville. Too often in the past these units have been concentrated in a few neighborhood. This requires a three-fold strategy to reach each of the types of neighborhoods that the Somer Vision plan has defined:

- In the transformation zones, where large-scale and T-station oriented development is being planning and built, we must insure that these do not become simply concentrations of luxury condo units and studio's for fast-turnover young renters. Zoning provisions to increase unit mix and family-sized units in new buildings, as well as additional programs like overlay bonus provisions to achieve a higher than 20% inclusionary component will be needed.

- In the mid-rise zones of the corridors and squares, where Somer Vision foresees infill housing at incrementally large scale, similar strategies of housing overlay zoning have been defined already, but not yet put into place.

- In the low-density NR and UR zones, *Continued on page 15*

COMMENTARY

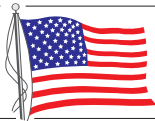
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Halloween, Somerville!

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.

The local election is just around the corner, and the national election is coming up next year. The balance of power in Washington will 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.

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 tradi-

tions 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 your-

self, if only for this one day.

We often spend too much time at odds with each other. Let’s consider uniting for once, in the name of good clean fun. It couldn’t hurt, and it just might ease a few unwanted tensions.

And, of course, safety comes first for all of us. Watch out for the little ones as they head out trick-or-treating, and keep an eye out for some of the big ones too!

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

writer **Timothy Gager**, a very talented guy. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to our own Mike Rais, we hope he enjoyed his birthday. If you see him out delivering the papers for us, say “Hi” and wish him a great year to come. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Harry Levasseur, Kip Lyall, Patricia Capadanno, Diana Riel, Dorothy O’Malley, Jeffery Varney, Russell Chiary, Erin DiBenedetto, Gene Berardi, Candy Feldt, John Blute, Katie Marsh** and **Diane Sylvester Ames** 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.

East Somerville Main Streets Halloween Block Party And Pet Spectacular 2023 is here. They have a wide range of family activities, a pet costume contest, raffles, vendors, food, music, and so much more. Come and see the spookiest and cutest costumes on **Saturday, October 28**, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at **Chuckie Harris Park**.

Tufts University invites families to attend the annual **"Halloween on the Hill,"** a family-friendly and free afternoon of fun activities, live student performances, and

trick or treating on **Sunday, October 29**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on **Tufts’ Medford/Somerville campus**. The event will begin inside **Barnum Hall** from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. with live student performances and then will move directly outside to the **Academic Quad** for trick or treating.

Somerville’s Municipal Election is on **Tuesday, November 7**. Take steps to make sure you are prepared. Register to vote or submit a change of address by **October 27**. Submit your **"Vote by Mail"** application by **October 31** at 5:00 p.m. Vote early at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.) **November 1-3**. To find your poll-

ing place and more information visit: www.somervillema.gov.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Commission for Women, and RESPOND, Inc. are honored to invite residents to join the annual **Domestic Violence Vigil** on **Monday, October 30**, commemorating **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. This year’s vigil aims to remember those who lost their lives to domestic violence in the last year, celebrate survivors’ resilience, and recommit ourselves as a community to ending domestic violence. The vigil and community art-making event is

Continued on page 18

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#895

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Where is the largest Halloween parade held?

2. Where did the game of bobbing for apples originate?

3. What was Bram Stoker's original name for Dracula in his vampire novel?

4. Which story originated the Headless Horseman?

5. How many Michael Myers movies are there?

6. Which Halloween mask of a famous actor did Michael Myers wear in the
- movie *Halloween*?

7. In golf, what name is given to the no.3 wood?

8. Ringo Starr narrated which children's TV series?

9. Who did Ray Bolger play in *The Wizard of Oz*?

10. Which 1993 Disney film starred Bette Midler as a witch?

11. What was Casanova's day job?

12. What was the Rolling Stones first no. 1 hit?

Answers on page 23

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Massachusetts is home to Busta Rhymes Island.
2. A tiny home in Virginia is called the "Spite House."

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
THE 1940s

- ACROSS
1. Sylvester Stallone's " ____ King"

6. And so forth, abbr.

9. Mongolian desert

13. Uniate church member

14. Additionally

15. Modified "will"

16. Heart surgery prop

17. Remains container

18. Follow

19. Thor Heyerdahl's raft

21. Jackie Robinson's new team, 1947

23. Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., born in 1942

24. Animal prod

25. Give a nickname

28. Dwarf buffalo

30. Edible corn part

35. Functions

37. ____ Strip on Mediterranean Sea, 1948

39. Roman goddess, patroness of hunters

40. Moscow ____ cocktail, created in 1940s

41. Beach souvenir

43. Inspiring horror

44. Not long

46. Home to Bryce Canyon

47. Smoothie bowl flavor

48. Become available (2 words)

50. Links hazard

52. Mozart's "L' ____ del Cairo"

53. Back of the neck

55. Transgression

57. Carmen of "The Gang's All Here"

61. United ____, established 1945

65. Popeye's sweetie

66. The BAA and NBL merged, forming this

68. Battle royal

69. Denigrating statement

70. What divots and divas have in common

71. Audience's approval

72. Lad's counterpart

73. Number on a birthday cake

74. Not o'er

- DOWN
1. Poacher's trophy

2. "Do ____ others..."

3. Bank claim

4. 1947's "Here Comes ____ Claus"

5. King of the Huns

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
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25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
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48					49		50			51		52		
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

6. Purse for the red carpet

7. High craggy hill

8. Type of dwelling

9. "The ____ Show" (1976-1980)

10. Yorkshire river

11. Hangover memory?

12. 15th of March

15. Tied the knot

20. Leopold III of Belgium and Christian X of Denmark, e.g.

22. Acorn producer

24. Common newspaper name

25. "When I See an Elephant Fly" elephant,

26. Steal a throne

27. Misrepresent

29. *Pearl Harbor location

31. Capital of Latvia

32. Narcotics agent

33. Considered first general-purpose computer
34. a.k.a. vampire

36. Espied

38. a.k.a. Daminozide

42. ____ Apso

45. Tornado visual

49. Helicopter landing

51. Coal miners

54. Bear of bamboo forest

56. Brother's daughter

57. Gangster's gal

58. Hip bones

59. Barbecued anatomy

60. Birds

61. Part of cathedral

62. Cantina cooker

63. Sans mixers

64. Comedian Meyers

67. "The ____ Sleep," 1946
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Senate passes Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act

Last Thursday, October 19, the Massachusetts Senate voted and passed Senator Patricia Jehlen’s (D-Somerville) bill S.1191 An Act relative to pay range transparency for a vote. Known as the “Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act,” after the first woman to serve as U.S. Labor Secretary, this legislation builds on the state’s landmark Equal Pay Act, also originally sponsored by Senator Jehlen.

This bill would require the disclosure of a pay range for any job being offered or posted by an employer. Employees would be allowed to request the pay range for their current position. Employers would be required to include in a job posting a pay range they reasonably expect to use for the position offered. The bill would cover employers with at least 25 employees and would cover agents of the employer, like recruiters.

“Many workers, especially women and people of color, underestimate their own value in the job market,” said Senator Jehlen. “The 2016 Equal Pay Act made real progress on breaking down barriers by banning employers asking applicants for salary history. This helped women and people of color who were changing jobs because their past low pay didn’t follow them their whole lives. However, it didn’t help applicants learn how much a job could pay or how to assess their work’s value to be able to get past the new barrier of their ‘salary expectations.’ This bill will give workers a better chance to be paid fairly by giving them straight forward information and help them have reasonable expectations.”

The bill also includes new data collection provisions to help identify gender and racial wage gaps within business sectors. Research shows that salary range transparency in the hiring process is one of the best tools to help close gender and racial wage gaps. Access to salary information has been shown to be critical in closing gender and racial wage gaps. It will allow people to better understand the value of their labor and negotiate for better pay. It also benefits employers by reducing applications from jobs where the applicant will never take the job once they know the pay range.

“Data collection is vital as we cannot fix what we don’t measure. Together these measures will help level the playing field for all workers and employers. I am so grateful for the many people who have helped improve and move this legislation forward!” said Senator Jehlen.

“This is simple: everyone deserves equal pay for equal work,”

“This is simple: everyone deserves equal pay for equal work, regardless of your gender, race, ethnicity, or background”

regardless of your gender, race, ethnicity, or background,” said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland), who sponsored previous pay equity legislation that was enacted into law in 2016. “It is far too common for women and people of color to be paid less than their coworkers nationwide, and we are not immune to this discrepancy here. By passing this bill, the Senate stands united behind every worker – and with every business – in Massachusetts in our steadfast commitment to the fundamental principle that every person has the right to be treated and compensated fairly in the workplace.”

The bill is also supported by the Wage Equity Now (WEN) coalition, a group of more than 50 labor, business, civil rights, social service, racial justice and women’s rights organizations. The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators was also a strong proponent of the bill, choosing the bill as one its priorities out of over 6,000 bills.

“The Wage Equity Now coalition worked hard for years to achieve passage of this bill,” stated former Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Murphy, the founder of the WAGE (Women Are Getting Even) Project Inc. “The transparency in this bill provides workers with knowledge that they are paid fairly and have opportunities to advance. That’s good for the Massachusetts economy and especially good for workers of color and women. The most powerful incentive to building the Massachusetts workforce is to provide workers with the knowledge that they are paid fairly and have opportunities to advance. This law advances that for all workers.”

“We are grateful for the leadership of Senate President Spilka and Senators Jehlen and Feeney to pass this historic legislation,” said Keith A. Mahoney, Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs at the Boston Foundation (TBF), the convener of the Wage Equity Now Coalition. “TBF’s commitment is to equity and closing opportunity gaps, and this is a bold step and long overdue step that enhances transparency and the increases our ability to attract talent and improve our Commonwealth’s competitiveness.”

Continued on page 19



State Senator Pat Jehlen.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Brunch Oats

A perfect recipe for brunch. I use a rice maker to cook, then keep the oats warm until I’m ready to serve. That means I can prepare other dishes without having to constantly stir the pot. Well, at least not this pot anyway.

2 Parts Steel Cut Oats* see note
4 Parts Water
Salt-Just a Pinch
1/3 Cup Almond Butter, Cashew Butter or Peanut Butter
1 Teaspoon Cinnamon
3 Tablespoons Brown Sugar (optional)
1/3 Cup Slivered Almonds
2 Bananas, Diced

*I use the quick cooking oats. They take about 20 minutes in a rice cooker, or 5-7 minutes stovetop. Place the oats, water and pinch of salt into the rice cooker or a pot on the stovetop. Once cooked, add the nut butter of your choice, cinnamon and brown sugar and blend. Scoop into 4-6 small servings or 4 healthy size serving and garnish with diced bananas and slivered almonds. If you opted not to add in the brown sugar, you can sprinkle some over the finished servings or drizzle with honey.

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



LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, November 7, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tEgZP0IIRBaspkJDXVSOKg>
Webinar ID: 821 7191 6393

TO CALL IN

An attendee must register for the meeting online in order for a call-in number to be emailed to them by Zoom.

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP23-000043– 11 Auburn Avenue

Applicant: Garrett Einis
Owner: 11 Auburn Avenue, LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

10/18/23, 10/25/23 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, 10/18/23, 10/25/23 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, November 2, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tEgZP0IIRBaspkJDXVSOKg>
Webinar ID: 884 3933 8708

TO CALL IN

An attendee must register for the meeting online in order for a call-in number to be emailed to them by Zoom.

The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

28-44 Broadway Lower Broadway Development LLC seeks approval of a Major Amendment to a previously approved general building in the MR6 zoning district (P&Z 21-029), which required Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit for Household Living.

32 Prospect Street Life Alive seeks to establish a Formula Business principal use along a Pedestrian Street in the High Rise (HR) District, which requires a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

10/18/23, 10/25/23 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tEgZP0IIRBaspkJDXVSOKg>
Webinar ID: 846 2557 9117

TO CALL IN

An attendee must register for the meeting online in order for a call-in number to be emailed to them by Zoom.

The Zoning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

620 Broadway 620 Broadway, LLC seeks an administrative appeal of the Building Official's determination that the dimensional Variance for the subject property (P&Z 21 140) has not been exercised, and/or a determination that said Variance is equitably tolled and is in full force and effect.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

10/18/23, 10/25/23 The Somerville Times



Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Elevator Modernization – Properzi Manor in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **NV5 Planning & Design, Inc.**

The Project consists of but not limited to:

This project includes the replacement of the existing elevators and the upgrading of the cooling and heating systems for the elevator pent-house. Selective demolition of existing systems shall be required. This work includes the installation of a new split DX heat pump for the two levels, a damper for the combustion air louver and associated controls.

The work is estimated to cost **\$1,625,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by November 21, 2023 at 5:00PM EDT for filed sub-bids and by November 29, 2023 at 5:00PM EDT for general bids.

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.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 PM on Wednesday, December 6, 2023** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **2:00 PM EDT on Wednesday, November 29, 2023** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

TRADES

Elevators
Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning (HVAC)
Electrical Work

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 (including all alternates) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost) on November 1, 2023.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: November 8, 2023 at 10:00AM EDT Address: 40 13-25 Warren Ave., Somerville, MA 02145 Instructions: None


The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167	Somerville Housing Authority 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145
--	--

10/25/23 The Somerville Times

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LEGAL NOTICE



Somerville Housing Authority

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Phase 1B (Lot C1) of the Clarendon Hills Redevelopment

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE LONG-TERM LEASE OR DISPOSITION OF SHA LAND AT 34 NORTH ST (LOT C1), SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS LAND FOR MARKET RATE AND MIXED-INCOME HOUSING

Issued on 10/18/2023, 2023

To select a developer partner to assist the Somerville Housing Authority (“SHA”) in implementing Phase 1B at Lot C1 of the mixed-income redevelopment of its state-aided public housing development at 34 North St., Somerville, MA in conformance with the 40B Permit (as defined below) issued for the site, subject to modifications approved by SHA as discussed further below.

IMPORTANT DATES

Pre-Proposal Meeting/Site Tour:11/01/2023 11:00 AM

Proposal Submission Deadline:11/21/2023 1:00 PM

Developer Selection:12/20/23

at 30R Memorial Rd. Somerville

Request for Proposal Documents should be made through email to BrianL@SHA-web.org on or after Wednesday Oct 18th. Brian Langton 617-625-1152 Ext.331

Please submit proposals to Brian Langton, no later than 12/21/23 at 1:00 PM.

OBJECTIVES

SHA desires to procure a developer who will (i) maximize the purchase price/upfront ground lease rent payment for Lot C1, while proposing a budget for the redevelopment of Phase 1B that covers costs for relocation and infrastructure and utilities (to the extent not covered by public funds already awarded as described more fully below), and (ii) complete the redevelopment of Phase 1B, Lot C1 on an expeditious timeline.

Background

On or about March 18, 2016, SHA issued a request for proposals entitled “Request for Proposals for the Long-Term Lease of SHA Land at 34 North St., Somerville, Massachusetts and the Development of this Land for Mixed-Income Housing,” in connection with the contemplated development, rehabilitation, construction and operation of mixed income rental housing, including at least 216 units of state-aided public housing on 34 North St.

On or about April 8, 2016, Preservation of Affordable Housing LLC, a Massachusetts limited liability company, Gate Residential Properties, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and The Somerville Community Corporation, Inc., a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation, collectively (the “Original Developer”) submitted a proposal to develop 34 North St. On or about May 6, 2016, SHA designated the Original Developer as the developer for 34 North St. As of January 11, 2023, SHA entered into a Land Disposition/Development Agreement with the Original Developer with respect to 34 North St. (the “Original LDA”).

The Original LDA divided the redevelopment of 34 North St. into the following three projects:

First Building E (Phase 1A), followed by Buildings A & B (Phase 1B), and finally completed with Building D and Townhouses (Phase 2) as detailed further in the chart below (although the order of development of Phase 1B and Phase 2 is flexible). The full redevelopment includes 3 new streets, a new park, and demolition of 9 total buildings. Infrastructure, access and utility matters will be documented through one or more cross-easement agreements, and each phase shall pay its share of construction and maintenance of the same. Respondents should assume a baseline of \$3,100,000 for its share of construction costs of infrastructure, access and utilities.

SUMMARY	TOTAL	Phase 1A Building E	Phase 1B Buildings A&B	Phase 2 Building D and Townhouses
Replacement Units	216	130	15	71
Affordable (<80% AMI) [Inclusionary zoning requirement]	75	38	16	21
Affordable (<110% AMI) [Inclusionary zoning requirement]	5	0	5	0
Market Units	295	0	295	0
Total Units	591	168	331	92

10/18/23, 10/25/23 The Somerville Times

City of Somerville announces
sex and gender identification
no longer required to receive
a marriage certificate

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and City Clerk Kimberly M. Wells are pleased to announce that the City of Somerville has updated its marriage certification process, so partners are no longer compelled to share their sex or gender identification. The update is part of Somerville’s ongoing commitment to creating a more equitable environment for all residents, and mirrors the recent example set by the City of Boston.

“At its core, the purpose of a marriage license is to legally bind two individuals in love, regard-less of their gender identity or expression,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “Our city believes in cele-brating love in all its forms, and this change reflects our unwavering dedication to creating a Somerville where every resident is treat-ed with the respect and dignity they deserve.”

While the application for a marriage license, a form set by the Commonwealth, will continue to include a field for gender, ap-plicants may choose to leave the field blank. Any information en-tered into that field will not appear on a marriage certificate issued by the City of Somerville.

Residents who have previously received a marriage certificate from the City of Somerville that contains a sex or gender iden-tifier and who wish to have it reprinted without that identifier should contact the City Clerk’s office in person at City Hall, via email at cityclerksoffice@somervillema.gov, or by phone at (617) 625-6600 x4100.

Somerville participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing that the City of Somerville’s Community, Help, Out-reach, and Recovery (COHR) department and Somerville Prevention Services division of Health and Human Services will host two National Prescription Drug Take Back Day locations on Satur-day, October 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 220 Washington Street and 6 Newbury Street. The City of Somerville will have staff on-site at both locations, collecting any unused or expired medications as well as provide overdose prevention information and resources. Each location will distribute free Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and COVID-19 tests for any residents interested.

For bottled medications, residents should remove or scratch out any personal information while leaving the name of the medication visible before disposing. Sharps should be placed in a se-cure container (like a coffee can or laundry detergent bottle) before disposing. Liquid medica-tions can also now be disposed. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsi-ble means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the poten-tial for misuse of medications. Somerville offers 24/7, year-round disposal at the Somerville Public Safety Building (220 Washington Street) in addition to a sharps disposal kiosk.

For more information, please contact COHR Director, Patty Contente, at pcon-tente@somervillema.gov or Prevention Services Manager, Matthew Mitchell, at mmitch-ell@somervillema.gov.

SomerStreets: Monster Mash 2023

SomerStreets: Monster Mash took place last Sunday on Somerville Ave. A free and family friendly event, attendees dressed up in their best Halloween costumes and showed them off at the Halloween Parade led by School of Honk.

— Photos by Anastasia Petridis



A community member celebrates after successfully throwing a fabric bean bag into a cornhole board, with equipment on Somerville Ave. from Knucklebones events and rentals.



Pupusas are cooked fresh and ready to be sold to customers at the Dos Manos Kitchen street vendor tent.



Good News Gus the puppet, puppetered by Harry LaCoste, greets and jokes with children and parents as they visit his cart on Somerville Ave.



Children and parents gather on Somerville Ave. and Bow St. to play with various toys and objects provided by Event Them.



Two young children count their money in order to purchase pupusas at the Dos Manos Kitchen street vendor tent.



The School of Honk leads a Halloween costume parade on Somerville Ave. from Warren Ave. to School St.



A comedic performer fakes falling off of his unicycle while juggling three bowling pins during the Halloween costume parade on Somerville Ave. from Warren Ave. to School St.



A family wearing pink and green dragon onesies marches along in the Halloween parade, dancing and swaying in step with the music played by the School of Honk.



School of Honk marchers play the French horn and trombone as they march in step behind the rest of the band in the Halloween parade, followed by festive paraders in their costumes.



Caroline DeBrotta (right) and Shawyoun Shaidani (left), dressed in handmade couples' costumes of Fish and Chips, dance and wave along the Halloween parade to spectators on Somerville Ave.



A unicycle rider attempts to play cornhole on Somerville Ave. while riding his tall unicycle, striking the hole and nearly getting the bean bag inside, leading him and spectators to cheer.



Children and parents carve pumpkins at a table on Somerville Ave. provided by Somerville Recreation as the Halloween parade passed by behind them.

Ghosts of Somerville at Milk Row Cemetery

Members of the public visited the city's 19th century burial grounds, Milk Row Cemetery, last Sunday as part of the city's October SomerStreets Festival "Monster Mash!" This ghostly gath-ering treated visitors to a guided tour of the cemetery's grave sites, tombs, and Civil War mon-ument. At each site, a ghost engaged in conversation about their life in Somerville in centuries past.

— Photos by Jeanine Farley



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.

Did we defund the police or not?



By Chris Dwan

I have heard from people I trust that the police are unable to cover critical services like traffic details for construction and community engagement because the department was “defunded” in the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder in 2020. I have also heard, from other people I trust, that the force is slow-rolling popular initiatives, not for lack of funds, but because the officers are aggrieved at having their motives so publicly questioned.

More briefly: If you listen to enough people around the city, you will hear that we both did and also that we did not defund the police.

I think that a historical perspective might be in order to help resolve this apparent contradiction.

In the 1875 “Annual Report of the City of Somerville,” [1] the Chief of Police – M.C. Parkhurst – writes that “*The rapid growth of our city during the past few years, and the act of the Legislature of 1873 respecting Truant Children has very materially increased the labors devolving upon our Police Department.*” He writes that the Police force numbered 19 men at that time, including a Chief and a Captain. The Chief “[does] not hesitate to recommend an addition to the force of six or seven men ... to secure three reliefs in every twenty-four hours ... the labor of the department would be more equally divided, and less special duty would be required.” He also bemoans delays in “*the building ... designed to meet the requirements of the police ... the business of which is now conducted with great inconvenience.*”

He concludes with a funding ask: “*The cost of sustaining this department the past year was about twenty-four thousand dollars, which will necessarily be increased some six or seven thousand dollars if the changes proposed are consummated.*”

Nearly 150 years ago, the police were suffering excessive overtime, asking for additional staff to cover un-funded state mandates, and complaining about delays in construction of a new headquarters. It’s shockingly similar to the present-day complaints.

The ledger of accounts in that same report shows payments of about \$1,090 to each of 24 patrolmen, plus a Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Chief. That’s a total of 28 people in 1875, 50% more than the Chief’s claim of a 19-person force, without even counting the 10 “extras” who were paid smaller amounts. The total expenditure for the department according to the finance department was \$32k, not \$24k, with a similar amount going towards construction of that delayed police station.

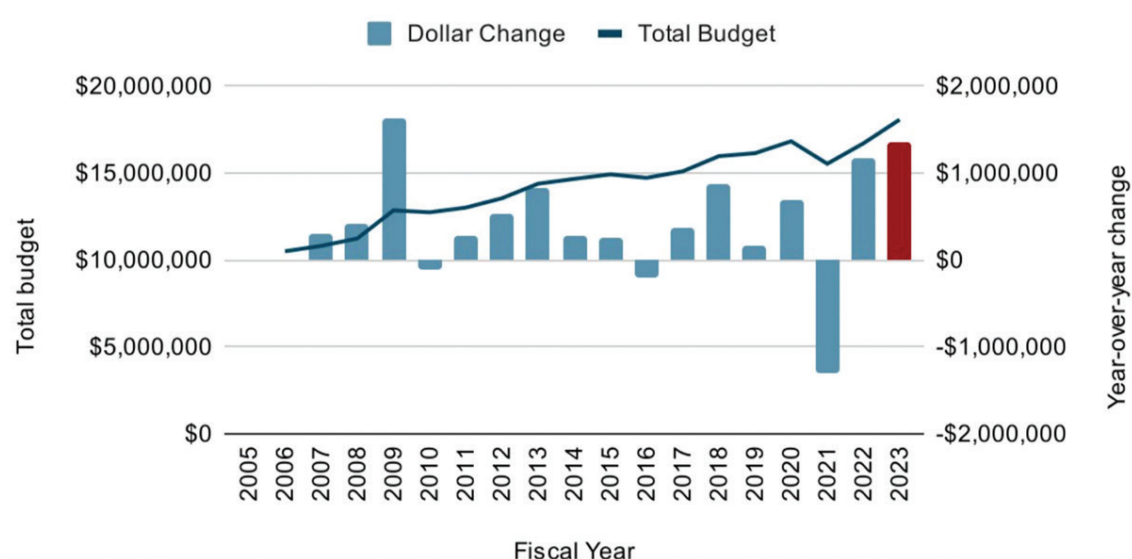
This sort of discrepancy will be familiar to anybody who has watched the City Council’s Finance Committee meetings. In civics, it’s often not a question of determining the best number, but of figuring out what the numbers actually are.

Thirty years later, that same Melville C. Parkhurst authored the Police chapter in the Annual Report of 1905. [2] By then the department had grown to “*a chief of police, one captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, one inspector, forty-four regular, and ten reserve patrolmen.*” The chief notes that “*With our present population,*” (69,272 — about 80% of present-day Somerville), “*it cannot be said the department is too large.*”

The 1905 report notes, “*a growing necessity for ways and means to keep pace with the up-to-date methods of criminals in pursuing*

Police Budget Over Time

FY2023 Proposed



their calling.” The Chief notes that “*horses, as well as human beings, are too slow in their movements to overtake thieves in automobiles.*” He recommends the purchase of at least one automobile, which he says might find good additional use “[patrolling] sections where licensed automobilists defy the speed laws, not so much for the purpose of making arrests, but to have a general supervision over and caution such offenders, and command a respect for the laws.” The report also calls for better facilities, noting the “lack of station houses in East Somerville, Winter Hill, and Davis Square.”

I heard much the same pitch at last year’s Ward 2 community meeting, and also as part of a capital request from the Ballantyne administration at a recent meeting of the City Council. If only we had more, and better equipped officers, we might have the capacity to address the modern dangers on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

Skimming ahead through decades of history, the parallels continue. Mayor S. Lester Ralph’s inaugural address in 1970 [3] says: “*It has been one of the saddest sights I have ever seen to witness the condition of our school buildings in this city. I consider it absolutely immor-*

al to spend a penny on anything else until we have provided a setting in which our children can study and learn properly, happily and safely. None of these conditions are now present in most of our schools.” Mayor Ralph also says that he is “*conferring almost daily with business people ... to encourage them to come into Somerville and build high rise office and apartment complexes.*”

Our 1970 police department employed 151 officers, including the chief, three deputy chiefs, five captains, nine lieutenants, seventeen sergeants and 115 patrolmen. Chief Thomas O’Brien makes only a brief note in the report, thanking the Mayor, the Aldermen, and the heads of the various departments, “*for their loyal support, cooperation and assistance.*” At that time, Somerville’s population was 87,000 people — within measurement error of today’s total. That was, give or take, the high-water mark of the department — at least in terms of personnel.

By the 1995 report [4], the police department was down to 134 officers. Despite that decline, Chief Donald Caliguri submitted a brisk single page report saying that “*we have seen a marked decrease in crime in the city ... attributed to our increased interac-*

tion with the community. The various partnerships formed with social service agencies has also brought about a combined effort at attacking the root cause of much crime and social disorder.”

The last annual report I can find [5] is from 2001, during Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay’s administration. 22 years ago, we had a population of 77,478 people — 10,000 fewer than six years before. The three listed achievements of the uniformed patrol section were targeting truck restricted roadways, enforcing crosswalk violations, and conducting “selective” traffic enforcement. Unfortunately, that report does not contain budget or staffing details.

So far as I can tell, the city no longer publishes these annual reports — at least not as a singular 200–700-page document that you can find printed at the library on Central Hill, online at <https://archive.org>, or with the help of our city’s archivist (who is a civic treasure). Instead, we are left to sift through the wealth of confusing and occasionally contradictory data that can be scraped from various websites. The numbers always seem to shift under me as I try to answer simple numerical questions like “did we defund the police in 2020?” *Continued on page 15*

Fair Housing Questionnaire for Candidates, 2023 – Part 3

CONT. FROM PG 6

we must encourage and oversee the application of the permissive zoning regulations already in place – such as allowing fourth units and backyard cottages to increase housing stock and we need to look for more such incremental-infill methods to apply.

Throughout the city we must support and fund the programs, by which the city and non-profit developers can acquire housing units and buildings and re-organize them as deed restricted units or units available with subsidies. The opportunities to acquire such properties in foreclosures, estate sales, tax liens or similar circumstance arise sporadically and require quick intervention and fast organization of financing by the Housing Trust, the Community Land Trust, 100 Homes and other programs. As a council member, I will try to insure continual oversight and be ready to quickly act in support of these programs.

b. In 2019 as a member of the city council, I supported the amendments that gave the Condo Review Board stronger tools of enforcement, and in 2023, as a citizen, I have given support to the additional changes made in the Condo Conversion Ordinance. I would also consider going somewhat further, increasing the amount of relocation costs and extending the relocation notification period for tenants impacts by condo conversion.

I will also continue the city’s lead abatement program so that there are more housing units that are safer for families with young children. Finally we should consider zoning ordinances that require more family units in large developments.

c. We need to increase the purview of the Fair Housing Commission so it can actually enforce penalties and issue fines against property owners that discriminate against individuals with emotional support animals. A rental licensure program that provides prospective tenants with a history of each landlord or property manager will also incentivize landlords not to discriminate.

d. Answer: This is a timely problem as the city gets ready in fall 2023 to launch its local voucher program – directed at families not eligible for federal Section 8. Again, the role of council members will be to closely monitor and be ready to support and fund as necessary actions

by the Fair Housing Commission and Housing Stabilization staff to make these voucher programs successful

One related change I will try to address will be to update the tenant selection policies for inclusionary housing to prioritize the applications of households that have an expiring Section 8 voucher.

Question 6: What reforms do you see as feasible to ensure that older housing stock is maintained in a manner that supports the health and safety of all residents, including lowincome residents?

William Tauro, Candidate for Mayor

90% of Somerville’s housing stock was built from before 1939 to 1979. Some of these units have lead, asbestos, narrow steep stairs and, because we are a city of hills, they have many steps to enter them. The expense of addressing an issue such as de leading (\$8,000 -\$20,000) brings property owners pause, the same with asbestos removal (\$7,500+). One priority is to keep elderly residents in their home and not have them taxed out because they now find themselves in a community desirable to others. Another is to help moderate to low-income property owners with tax credits to help offset the cost of renovations needed for health and safety. Funding incentives for below market rent rates, money to supplement housing vouchers, and helping nonprofits working on fair housing issues are all things I will do when mayor to help both property owners and low-income renters.

Matthew Hunt, Candidate for City Council, Ward 1

Because of the age of much of Somerville’s housing stock, special care is needed to ensure that the health and safety of residents is being looked after. This disproportionately affects lowincome members of our community and those facing mobility challenges. Tenants and buyers should have robust support and advocates to inform them of their rights and protect their interests.

Naima Sait, Candidate for City Council, Ward 5

The Inspectional Services Department is responsible for

ensuring the safety and habitability of all buildings in the City, but its current structure is inadequate to that task. ISD needs transformative levels of funding and staffing to move beyond its current, reactive posture and into proactive activity to guarantee that no landlord forgoes necessary maintenance. A public registry of all landlords in the City, with attached records of complaints and enforcement actions, would let tenants make informed decisions when renting (and let tenants know that they are not alone, a step toward organizing effective tenants’ unions); I will advocate for the creation of such a system. I will also advocate for the City to establish a dedicated fund to assist property owners with building updates not just for health and safety but for energy efficiency and fossil fuel removal (with strings attached, such as frozen rents).

Jack Connolly, Candidate for City Council, Ward 6

Better communication with the City of Somerville, housing authorities, landlords, and rental agencies is something we need much more of in order to maintain the health and safety of all residents. We need to do more as a community to prevent neglect of housing in our city in order to assure we can live here safely.

Wilfred Mbah, Candidate for City Council At Large

Many of the older housing stock apartments are in the public housing programs of the state and federal government. Thus, an important strategy will be to ensure that the flow of funds for maintenance and upgrades is sustained and that other grant monies that become available can be directed toward the improvement of these properties. Another strategy will involve building regional partnerships and working with our neighboring cities to pressure the state. For buildings and units that are not in the direct funding programs – such as the Mystic area buildings impacted by noise and air pollution for I-93, I would pursue a pilot program to provide low-income residents with a free HEPA indoor filter system. Similarly, we must also continue the programs of toxic paint and lead pipe removal.

Did we defund the police or not?

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In one jarring example, the website that hosts the current year’s budget [6], which was approved by the City Council in June, notes that it was last updated on October 17. The revenue section is missing entirely. I am told that this is due to some end-of-year cleanup within the finance department.

The numbers that I and others have been able to gather about the past couple of decades show a one-year dip in funding in 2020 which was more than replaced the following year. Since then, we have resumed a decades long trend in which police funding broadly tracks with inflation, headcount remains steady or gradually drops, and overall crime numbers – both violent and property related – decrease year over year.

In one important sense, though, the police were absolutely defunded in 2020. That year saw a national groundswell of public outrage, demanding accountability and reform in policing. It is tempting to call that social movement “unprecedented,” but having

just skimmed 150 years of history – there is plenty of precedent. The report where I started, in 1875, was printed just ten years after General Lee surrendered at Appomattox and President Lincoln was assassinated.

For all that 150 years have passed, the injustices in our society remain fresh and raw, and history is replete with stories of armed forces grown aggrieved and surly against the populations they swore to protect.

Steven Pinker, in his recent book *Rationality* [7], says that

“each of us has a motive to prefer our truth, but together we’re better off with the truth.” Admiral Rickover, architect of the nuclear navy, said it more bluntly: “Don’t push out figures when facts are going in the opposite direction.”

It is possible to learn from history’s lessons, but it requires discipline, lest we be condemned to repeat them.

Links:

[1] <https://archive.org/details/annualreportofci1875some>

[2] <https://archive.org/details/annualreportofci1905some>

[3] <https://archive.org/details/annualreportofci1970some>

[4] <https://archive.org/details/annualreportofci1995some>

[5] <https://archive.org/details/annualreportofci2001some>

[6] <https://city-somerville-ma-budget-book.cleargov.com/8848/introduction/fy-23-budget-process>

[7] <https://stevenpinker.com/publications/rationality-what-it-why-it-seems-so-scarce-and-why-it-matters>



Beacon Hill Roll Call

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' and senators' votes from the week of October 16-20.

GUN BILL (H 4135)

House 120-38, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that changes some of the state's gun laws. Provisions include limiting the carrying of guns into public places including schools, polling places, government buildings and the private residences of others, with an exemption for law enforcement; cracking down on the spread of ghost guns with new registration requirements; updating the state-wide ban on assault weapons; streamlining the licensing process; and changing the state's "red flag" law by expanding who may petition a court for an extreme risk protection order against a person who poses a risk of causing bodily injury to themselves or others beyond just household members and law enforcement to include school administrators, medical professionals and employers.

"Today, as we have always done in the area of firearm safety, the House takes the lead in acting to make the commonwealth a safer place by giving law enforcement the tools they need to go after ghost guns, keeping battlefield weapons out of our neighborhoods and keeping our schools, homes, town halls and polling locations safe," said chief sponsor Rep. Mike Day (D-Stoneham), House Chair of the Judiciary Committee. "While Washington is paralyzed by dysfunction that endangers Americans across the country, we in Massachusetts address our challenges directly and take the steps necessary to modernize our firearms laws to keep us safe."

"The comprehensive gun reform legislation that the House passed today will make Massachusetts residents safer and will further strengthen the commonwealth's status as a national leader in the effort to combat gun violence," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "While the commonwealth annually ranks as one of the safest states in the entire country from gun violence, the Supreme Court's [New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc. v.] Bruen decision nullified existing components of our gun laws, threatening the safety of the commonwealth's residents. With the passage of this legislation, the House has once again displayed an unwavering commitment to ensuring that Massachusetts remains one of the safest states in the country."

"Massachusetts already has some of the strictest firearms laws in the country, along with the lowest rate of deaths associated with gun violence," said Rep. Steve Xiarhos (R-Barnstable). "The vast majority of gun-related crimes are committed with illegal weapons and not with legally owned firearms, and the focus of the bill should be based on listening to our Massachusetts Police Chiefs and on punishing those who break the

law rather than targeting law-abiding citizens."

"Instead of focusing on the elimination of ghost guns and the link between mental health and gun ownership, this legislation attacks legal, law abiding gun owners who follow the rules," said Rep. Tood Smola (R-Warren). "The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association unanimously opposed this legislation, yet the proponents of this bill never said a single word to address their objection. Unfortunately, we missed an opportunity to target the real issues related to gun violence in this bill."

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

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

FIND OUT THE COST OF THE GUN BILL (H 4135)

House 130-27, upheld the ruling of the chair that the debate can begin on the gun bill despite the fact that it does not include a fiscal note detailing the cost of the proposal.

House GOP Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading) moved to delay action on the bill because he said that House rules require any legislation reported from the House Ways and Means Committee which has a cost attached to it exceeding \$100,000 must be accompanied by a fiscal note detailing the amount of public money which will be required to be spent to carry out the provisions of the proposal.

Acting House Speaker Rep. Kate Hogan (D-Stow) ruled that a fiscal note is not necessary. "This is not within our province to the internal workings of a particular subject matter committee and feel the order is not well taken," said Hogan. This led to Jones' doubting the ruling of the chair.

Beacon Hill Roll Call asked the top two Democratic leaders in the House to comment on the ruling and why they voted in favor of it. House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) and Majority Leader Frank Moran (D-Lawrence) did not respond to repeated requests for a comment.

"In my opinion, the lack of a fiscal note on [the bill] is a clear violation of House Rule 33," said Jones. "There is no way that implementing the many provisions contained in this bill will not exceed a cost of \$100,000. Based on my conversations with stakeholders, the provision requiring the State Police to take over the inspections of firearms dealers from local jurisdictions alone is likely to cost \$1 million to \$2 million per year. Before voting on such an expansive bill, House members and the public have a right to know how much its implemen-

tation is going to cost the state's taxpayers."

(A "Yes" vote supports the ruling of the chair that debate can proceed despite the lack of a fiscal note. A "No" vote is against allowing debate to proceed and supports the requirement that a fiscal note be included before debate can begin.)

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

OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICERS (H 4135)

House 158-0, approved an amendment designed to clarify that the bill does not ban off-duty police officers from carrying firearms in certain restricted spaces, as long as the weapon is provided by their department. The legislation originally allowed only active, on-duty police to carry guns in those spaces.

"Most, if not all of us, have heard from our law enforcement community with concerns about when and where they would be allowed to carry firearms when not on official duty," said amendment sponsor Rep. Mark Cusack (D-Braintree). "I am offering this amendment ... to clarify that off-duty active law enforcement officers would be allowed to carry their department-issued firearms in the following places: a place owned, leased or under the control of state, county or municipal government and used for the purpose of government administration; a location in use at the time of possession as a polling place and for the storage and tabulation of ballots; and an elementary school, secondary school, college and university, including transport used for the students, in the areas contained within."

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

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

DANGEROUSNESS (H 4135)

House 26-132, rejected an amendment that would allow the state to move, based on dangerousness, for an order of pretrial detention or release on conditions when a person has been charged with covert weapons violations or illegal possession of a firearm.

Supporters said the amendment would give prosecutors the tools necessary to hold dangerous people accountable and protect victims of gun violence.

Rep. Alyson Sullivan (R-Abington), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* to comment on

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her amendment.

“This amendment is actually part of a number of bills that are currently before the Judiciary Committee,” said Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville) who urged members to vote against the amendment. “A number of those bills would expand the pretrial detention of people. And this committee takes the issue of expanding pretrial detention very seriously. The committee is currently vetting those proposals, and rather than taking a piecemeal approach of this one piece, that committee is looking at all the related bills in a thoughtful manner. And so we’re continuing to take a full look at this issue and I look forward to those discussions.”

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

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

EMPLOYERS MUST DISCLOSE A SALARY RANGE WHEN POSTING A JOB (S 2468)

Senate 38-1, approved a bill, named the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, in honor of the first woman to serve as U.S. Labor Secretary. The measure would require employers with 25 or more employees to disclose a salary range when posting a job position. The measure also would require employers with 100 or more employees to file annual employment data reports, including information on employee demographics and salaries, with the state. In addition, the bill directs the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to track compensation data and file an annual report on data showing the state’s progress toward equal pay for equal work.

The House has already approved a different version of the proposal. The Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

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.

“Many workers, especially women and people of color, underestimate their own value in the job market,” said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). “The 2016 Equal Pay Act made real progress on breaking down barriers by banning employers asking applicants for salary history. This helped women and people of color who were changing jobs because their past low pay didn’t follow them their whole lives. However, it didn’t help applicants learn how much a job could pay or how to assess their work’s value to be able to get past the new barrier of their salary expectations. This bill will give workers a better chance to be paid fairly by giving them straight forward information and help them have reasonable expectations.”

“In the commonwealth of Massachusetts, we take pride in our world-class academic institutions, competitive talent

pool and vast opportunities for economic success,” said Sen. Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough). “Yet when we take a closer look at the earnings of commonwealth residents, it is clear we continue to fall short of closing long-standing racial and gender wage gaps that dramatically suppress the earnings of women and people of color. By requiring disclosure of salary ranges for an open job posting, publishing aggregate demographic data to track wage inequities by race and gender across industries, and protecting an employee’s right to ask for salary range information in the workplace, we have the opportunity to recruit and retain skilled workers while closing the wage gap and ultimately boosting our commonwealth’s competitive edge.”

“While I agree with the overarching concept of salary range transparency postings for larger businesses, I voted no on this bill because it would place an undue burden on small business,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton), the lone opponent of the measure. “Subjecting small businesses, who employ even as few as 25 individuals, to the salary range posting portion of the bill with violation fines for failing to properly disclose said information is unnecessary. Most small businesses are not equipped with the technical tools to develop the most accurate salary ranges for their job postings. With its existing laws, Massachusetts already makes it difficult to run a business free of excessive government mandates and penalties.”

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

REGULATE TICKETS TO CONCERTS AND OTHER EVENTS (S 2442)

The Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee held a hearing on legislation that would require that the total price of tickets for live entertainment events, including fees, be displayed to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner at the beginning of the purchasing process. The measure would also prohibit price increases during the purchasing process.

“Far too often, surprise fees pop up at the end of the ticket purchasing process that consumers throughout Massachusetts had no idea about,” said sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). “Whether it’s tickets to a Taylor Swift concert or a Patriots game, people shouldn’t have to struggle through the process of finding tickets and then learn that they can’t even afford them anymore. At the most fundamental level, this legislation enables folks to know their budget when they go in to buy tickets and know the amount that they’re ultimately going to be asked to spend.”

HEARING AIDS (H 3554) – The Financial Services Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would require all health care plans to provide coverage for hearing aids.

“I have heard from constituents about the high cost of hearing aids, and as a caregiver myself, I witnessed the vital need for seniors to be able to hear in order to com-

municate and advocate for themselves,” said sponsor Rep. Kristin Kassner (D-Hamilton). “It’s stunning to me that these important medical devices are not covered by insurance. This bill seeks to rectify that.”

ESTABLISH STUDENTS ENTREPRENEURIAL AND ECONOMIC INVESTMENT FUND (H 415)

The Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies held a hearing on a measure that would create a Student Entrepreneurial and Economic Investment Fund to provide an opportunity for interested students to gain experience in entrepreneurialism and early-stage business development while fostering an economic environment that will attract students to the commonwealth and forge a relationship between the public higher education system and the Massachusetts business community.

“Under Massachusetts’ current exam-driven public education system, attention to entrepreneurship and personal improvement beyond the classroom is often forgotten,” said sponsor House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “This legislation will provide valuable opportunities for students, encourage them to develop relationships with the public higher education system and the Massachusetts business community, and contribute to the present and future economic growth of the commonwealth.”

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 legislators 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 16-20, the House met for a total of seven hours while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 37 minutes.

Mon. Oct. 16	House	11:01 a.m. to 11:06 a.m.
	Senate	11:26 a.m. to 11:34 a.m.
Tues. Oct. 17		No House session No Senate session
Wed. Oct. 18		House 11:00 a.m. to 5:48 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. Oct. 19		House 11:00 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. Senate 1:00 p.m. to 2:29 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 20		No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. at **The Dojo @ Somernova** (15 Properzi Way, Somerville). The event is free and all are welcome to attend. There will be American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation at the event. For more information about the vigil, please contact **Latoya Saulters**, Commissions Coordinator at lsaulters@somervillema.gov

MAMAS Free Clothing store takes place on **November 11** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the **East Somerville Community School**. They are looking for volunteers to help organize and fold clothes the day of. Email askyourmamas@gmail.com. They are also accepting monetary donations to purchase clothing: opencollective.com/mamas (Select Free Clothing Store). La tienda de ropa gratuita MAMAS está el 11 de noviembre de 9:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m. en la Escuela Comunitaria de East Somerville en Somerville. A loja de roupas gratuitas será dia 11 de Novembro, das 9h às 13h, na East Somerville Community School. Magazen rad gratis la se 11 novanm soti 9 am jiska 1 pm nan East Somerville Community School.

Join a **Tufts University Community Relations Family and Children's Concert** called *Testimony: A Jazz Trio Concert* at the **Distler Performance Hall, Granoff Music Center**, 20 Talbot Ave., Medford. This **Saturday, October 28**, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Joel LaRue Smith** and guest performers **Evan Palmer** on bass and **Yoron Israel** on drums will explore jazz, blues, funk, and Afro-Latin compositions with his trio and the audience and examine the connection between play, improvisation, and imagination.

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition** has announced their **4th Annual Sleep Out event** will take place on **Friday, November 17**, at **Tufts University**. This year, the SHC is partnering with Tuft's student led group **Jumbos For Nonprofits** to spread awareness for our neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. While SHC staff and Tuft's students sleep outdoors, they are asking you, the community, to spend a night in your car, backyard, couch, or anywhere that isn't the comfort

of your bed. Visit their website for updates about the event <https://somerville-homelesscoalition.org>.

Great week for **Somerville Public School Athletics**. Boys varsity soccer team clinched the Greater Boston League Championship. Last time they won the league championship was 2019. Highlander soccer is having a great season! Boys' varsity soccer team is currently 13-2-1 and Girls varsity soccer team 13-1-2. Middle grades Boys cross country team also won the **Greater Boston League Championship**.

The **Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA)** has announced 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 market accepts SNAP/EBT and HIP benefits. And they also offer a \$15 SNAP match to customers each week. For more information and weekly updates visit: www.artsatthearmory.org.

The **Somerville Council on Aging Flu Clinic** takes place on **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 info or to book an appointment please call the COA at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Fall 2023 City Hall 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 somerville-ma.gov/communitymeetings.

Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin Parish Annual Christmas Bazaar, Friday, November 3, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, November 4**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located in **St. Catharine's Hall**, 179 Summer St., Somerville. There will be a silent auction, raffles, games, punch board, refreshments, and much more. Free admission. Plenty of parking. For more info please call (617) 666-2087.

Open enrollment began 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.

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.

On the night before Halloween, **Arts at the Armory** co-presents *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, the 1975 musi-

cal comedy horror cult classic in-person. Costumes and call backs are highly encouraged. **The Tesseracte Players** of Boston, who have roamed New England, bringing Dr. Frank-N-Furter and friends to life for 20+ years, will lead the raucous ride. **October 30**, Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Screening at 8:00 p.m. 191 Highland Ave. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arts-at-the-armory-and-once-present-the-rocky-horror-picture-show-tickets-706242659807>.

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>.

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.

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

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.

Electric vehicles transformation



By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large

As an environmental scientist, I have been following closely the city's actions to support the transition to electric vehicles. I and my colleagues on the City Council

took the first steps in 2018, when we adopted the Climate Forward Plan. In 2019, we authorized the Office of Sustainability and Environment to study and fix a strategy for installing EV Charging Stations around the city. And in 2020 the consultant's report on siting Public Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment was received. It has guided subsequent city actions with the goal of reducing to Net Zero our vehicle carbon emissions by 2050. Today, the city is re-launching the Climate Forward Task Force to carry out a five-year review and revision of the Climate Forward Plan and it has just awarded a new consultant contract for an updated Charging Station siting study. It is the right moment to check back on our progress to date and clarify the steps that lie ahead.

The city plays four roles in regulating, assisting and encouraging the transition from gas-powered to electric vehicles.

First, the city must insure that EV Charging stations can be sited in an orderly way by zoning and street/curb use regulations.

Second, the city must gradually replace the gas-powered vehicles in its fleets of police cars, DPW repair trucks, fire engines, etc., by careful capital planning, budgeting, and procurement.

Third, in its contracting, the city should be encouraging its vendors of transportation services to send electric school buses, livery and delivery vans for city jobs.

Fourth, the city helps residents and businesses to learn about and apply for the tax benefits and grants that the utility company, state and federal programs provide to help cover the costs of electric, hybrid or hydrogen-fueled vehicles and charging stations.

What have we already done?

In 2021 the City Council and Planning Board amended the Zoning Ordinance to define the rules that permit the installation of EV charging equipment:

- Low-voltage charging stations are permitted as accessory equipment in yards, garages or driveways of private residences and businesses.
- Higher-voltage units are permitted as auto-related uses, to be located in commercial zones on curbs or public spaces, or in parking garages and lots.

Applying the zoning, Inspectional Services now routinely grants construction permits to install EV charging equipment at business premises and the Planning Board and ZBA approve new large-scale projects with EV charging stations in their basement garages for use by their tenants.

The city has been installing Public Charging Stations on streets and in city-owned parking areas, working with the company Verdek with Charge Point as the software system manager. So far it has placed 12 stations each with two plugs on easily accessible sites at public facilities like the Ice Rink, Union Square and the city building lots on Highland Avenue. A state grant of \$14,500 was received to contribute to the cost of the first two stations.

The city has also begun acquiring electric vehicles for its fleet, using a \$45,000 state grant. The first purchase has been six new battery-powered cars for the ... ??

The important test of success must be whether city residents and businesses are following the city's lead and making the transition to EV.

Today the website maps for drivers to locate charging stations show a total of 65 Level 2 stations and 11 Level 3 (fast-charge) stations around Somerville. These numbers include many of the stations that private owners and businesses have installed for their own fleets and customers' use.

How many electric vehicles are there in the city today? According to the state Department of Environmental Protection database, in September 2023 a total of 439 electric and hybrid vehicles have been bought and registered by Somerville residents and businesses. This covers all the purchasers since 2014, who have claimed the tax-deduction.

Comparing this current number of 439 EV with the

consultant's estimate of 185 in 2019, the rate of purchase per year appears to be gradually accelerating. However, in Somerville there are over 46,000 registered vehicles, so the EV percentage is still tiny.

Some other evidence of growing EV use

As would be expected, the electric utility Eversource is leading the way for businesses to transition to electric vehicles. In 2018, the company submitted to the state utility board its plans for reducing carbon emissions, pledging (i) to install 400 EV charging stations on highways around New England and (ii) to replace all of the 5,500 trucks, cars and vans in its New England fleet with EV by 2030. Eversource has reported in September 2023, that it has so far changed over 26% of its fleet.

Here in Somerville, at the Eversource regional facility in Brickbottom, the company installed EV charging stations in July 2019. Today, Brickbottom neighbors every morning watch the repair trucks, vans and sedans getting charged before their emergency and repair dispatch. Just up the street at the Herb Chambers facility on McGrath Highway and Linwood, five more charging stations, installed in September 2021, are regularly in use.

Next steps

The City Council Committee on Open Space and Environment has been discussing practical issues that are likely to arise as increased numbers of residents and employees will compete for time and space at the charging stations.

Should there be a parking fee or penalty to discipline people, who keep their cars in the spaces beyond the time they need to charge up? Some people seem to be using the EV stations as resident parking spots.

Should the city have some arrangement of ownership or fee-sharing to get revenue from the charging station network? Is the city infrastructure system prepared to handle the volume of electric power that will need to flow as numbers of EV users grow? How will curbside EV charging impact the other bicycle, open space and pedestrian uses of curb space on shared streets?

I will be looking for answers to these questions in the new study that is underway.

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

Senate passes Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act CONT. FROM PG 9

"The Women's Caucus selected this bill as one of just five legislative priorities for this session, and we are pleased to see that it passed the Senate today," said Women's Caucus Co-Chair Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). "With 62 members comprising 31% of the legislature, our bipartisan and

bicameral Caucus supports this bill because we know that this represents the next step to ensure true equity and competitiveness in our workplaces. Women, particularly of color, continue to make less than what white men earn, and it is critical that we close these persistent gaps. We

are grateful to Senate President Spilka for bringing it to the floor for a vote."

"Associated Industries of Massachusetts and its 3,400 members thank the Senate for passing a bill that will make the Commonwealth a leader in wage equity and transparency," said Brooke

Thomson, President of Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM). "AIM is proud to have worked with the Legislature on a bill encouraging employers to create fair compensation systems that will give them a leg up in the competitive market for skilled employees. We look forward to

continuing our collaboration with lawmakers to ensure that this bill reaches Governor Maura Healey's desk as soon as possible."

Having passed the House and the Senate, the branches will need to resolve any differences between the bills before it moves to the Governor for her signature.

OTIS SHANTY

W/ SURGEON GENERAL

2023 TOUR

EARLY BIRDS

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10.21 - SOMERVILLE, MA

10.27 - PORTLAND, ME

10.28 - BURLINGTON, VT

10.29 - BENNINGTON, VT

10.30 - NORTHAMPTON, MA

11.1 - NYC, NY

11.2 - PROVIDENCE, RI


Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Trick or treat – if you dare!... — Photo by Denise Provost

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On This Day in History

October 25

1760 – George III of England crowned.

1923 – The Teapot Dome scandal comes to public attention as Senator Thomas J. Walsh reveals the findings of the past 18 months of investigation.

1940 – German troops capture Kharkov and launch a new drive toward Moscow.

1944 – The Japanese are defeated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the world's largest sea engagement.

1950 – Chinese Communist Forces launch their first-phase offensive across the Yalu River into North Korea.

1954 – President Eisenhower conducts the first televised Cabinet meeting.

1960 – Martin Luther King, Jr., is sentenced to four months in jail for a sit-in.

1962 – Adlai Stevenson shows photos to the UN Security Council that prove Soviet missiles have been installed in Cuba.

1971 – United Nations expels the Republic of China and seats the People's Republic of China.

SHS Class of '60 supports Somerville Museum



By Mayor Emeritus
Eugene C. Brune
Museum Trustee

The Somerville Museum would like to thank the Somerville High School Class of 1960 for support-

ing our Access for All & More Fundraising Campaign.

The Class of 1960 have been supporters of the museum for many years and will be remembered on our exterior donor display that include those that have donated \$1,000 or more to allow the museum to reach our ever-important goal of making the Somerville Museum more accessible to the community.

The 1960 Class has also been actively supporting the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation for the past thirteen years

by donating and awarding scholarships to graduating students. It's so great to see many of the graduating classes participate in helping important Somerville causes and keeping with the great theme of the high school.

"Somerville Leads the Way" is also called "Pay Forward." The Somerville Museum would welcome others that would like to donate any amount or donate \$1,000 or more and be listed on our exterior donor display.

Shown here are some of the members of the Somerville Class



of 1960 at a recent lunch at the Mt. Vernon Restaurant where I happened to be at the same time. I

thought that I would thank them once again for all the good work that they do.

The Somerville Times

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Swift River Ballad'

Poems by Thomas DeFreitas

Swift River Ballad
Poems by Thomas DeFreitas
Kelsay Books
Kelsaybooks.com
ISBN: 978-1-63980-416-0
41 Pages – \$17.00

Review by Dennis Daly

When tonality rides along the surface in poetry the results often appear strangely profound. In Thomas DeFreitas' new book, *Swift River Ballad*, the poet pilots his paper boat of sorts down a torrent of uplifting canticles and unsettling hymns, seeking the truth, but missing the dangerous rocks and eddies along the way.

DeFreitas stops his readers in their too comfortable tracks with curiously numinous images and sacerdotal references. His technique strikes one as unusual (in the sense of modern verse) and new. Depth is never a problem here. The poet's perfect pitch phraseology allows submergence into subconscious levels when necessary and proper in an emotive sense.

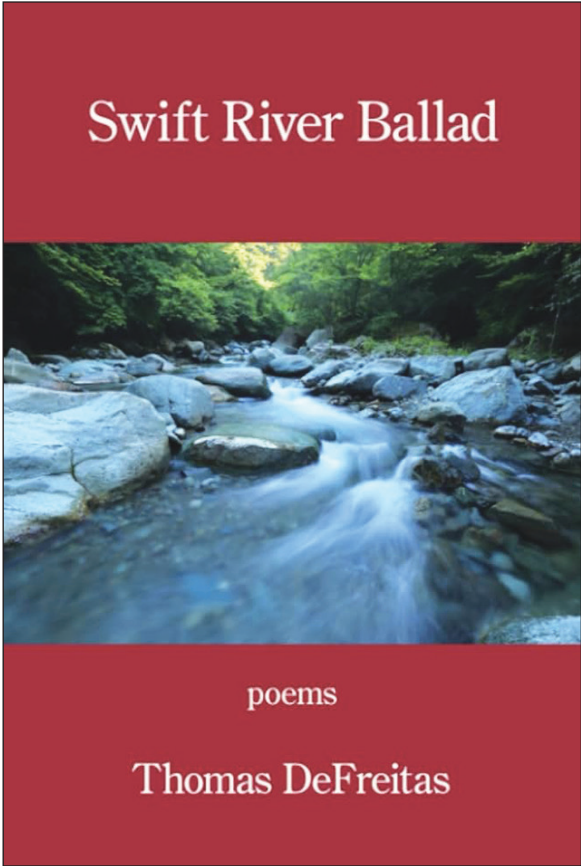
In his opening poem, *Autumnography*, DeFreitas follows "the undermutter of stiffening leaves" and with it the unveiling of the season. The sun, of course, plays off these well-said, if standard, natural phenomena using spy craft, then letting things deepen into mortality and garishness,

Furtive now, clandestine,
whisper-witted gestures,
but soon enough: blatant,

reckless flamboyance,
spending fire-colors
in a glorious death-gamble.

Elegy, DeFreitas' poem of sorrow and hope, resounds with empathy for a little girl afflicted with the illnesses of humankind, who ages into a wintery dependency. She lived and lives in a world of lost children, a world that begs for attention and, perhaps, safeguards a metaphysical secret. Even Dolores' name reverberates with sadness. The last two imploring stanzas read like a formal prayer,

Every living voice
sings with Dolores,
Queen of Limerick,
Lady of Sorrows,
fierce as Freya
when she's at the guitar,
brave as St. Brigid,



this whiskey soprano,
this pint-sized fighter.

Every parched spirit
drinks with Dolores,
from a well of solace,
from a lake of grace
pure as the first star
kindled in Genesis,
wide as the mantle
of the sheltering Virgin.

DeFreitas becomes a double for Shakespeare's Falstaff in his piece entitled *My Belly*. The poem, written in prosaic form, flies across the page, propelled by humor, interesting word choices and touches of vulgarity. The poet personifies his gut and imbues it with majesty and power. He opens the piece this way,

is ample and accepting, catholic and capacious; it takes up space, it gives you room: my big old liberal belly, filled with poached eggs and coffee, subversive stories and baritone dollops of whimsy.

Today I am thanking my belly for being so well-rounded: truly, a civil and impeccable gentlebelly, eager with factoids, brave with

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

The poet writes, "My name is Holly Grover and I am a student at Endicott College majoring in early childhood education. In my free time I like to hang out with my friends and go to the beach. This poem was written in free verse for a poetry class with Professor Dan Sklar. I am also an after school prek/k teacher in Beverly. My experiences and interactions with my students at work influenced this poem."



Things I Thought I Would Never Have To Say As a Teacher

You can not go potty on that bush.

No, you can not hit him with that stick.

Please do not touch my eyeball.

Why are we throwing rocks at the security camera?

Please don't bite me.

We don't lick our friends.

Let's color the paper, not our bodies.

Our shoes are not for licking.

Please keep my shoes on.

Let's pull up our pants first before we play.

We do not jump on our friends.

We keep the dirt on the ground, not in our hair.

No you can not eat that caterpillar, it's yucky.

— Holly Grover

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

Continued on page 23

Ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for new Phillip Reavis, Sr. Field

All are invited to celebrate the completion of Somerville High School's new athletic field, the Philip Reavis, Sr. Field. The High School has long operated without a practice field onsite making this a momentous occasion. Join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Rubén Carmona, City Council President and Ward Three Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, and more for a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. Events will take place on Thursday, October 26 at 12:00 p.m.

The new 45,000 square foot practice field consists of an artificial turf with a natural wood infill. It is an engineering feat built in the area of a former steep slope behind the high school and adjacent to the new Gilman Square MBTA stop. For the first time in modern history, it will offer Somerville High School students onsite field space for physical education and athletics drills and practices. As with all Somerville fields, it will also increase field space accessible to the community.

At the ribbon cutting, the field will be formally dedicated. It is named in honor of Somerville High School athlete, class of 1954, and U.S. Olympian, Phillip Reavis Sr. In addition to his many achievements on the track as a high jumper, Phillip Reavis Sr. was a dedicated member of the Somerville community and a determined advocate for youth, working as a teacher at Western Junior High School, mentoring local students, and running programming through the City's Recreation Commission.

"It is so exciting to welcome the community to Somerville High School's new Reavis Field. Phillip Reavis Sr. dedicated his life to helping students grow and learn through both academic and athletic achievements, and I believe this groundbreaking new space honors his vision and legacy," said Mayor Ballantyne. "I want to thank School and City staff who have worked tirelessly to create a world class home for generations of Highlander athletics."

The event will commence at 12:00 p.m. with welcoming remarks from Mayor Ballantyne, and a short speaking program and dedication. Following remarks, the ribbon cutting will take place and attendees will have the opportunity to explore the new field and enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and other refreshments.

The ribbon cutting will also be recorded and made available for later viewing by the city's Gov-TV team. Watch on-demand with optional closed-captioning (select the CC icon) on YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV. Or watch on cable TV at Gov-TV Comcast Ch. 22 and Gov-TV Astound (RCN) Ch. 13 and 613. Videos generally post within one to two business days of recording.

Want to write local Somerville stories?
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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. New York City, The annual Greenwich Village Halloween Parade

2. Britain

3. Count Wampyr

4. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

5. 13

6. William Shatner, created from the Star Trek

Captain Kirk mask

7. Spoon

8. Thomas the Tank Engine

9. Scarecrow

10. Hocus Pocus

11. Librarian

12. It's All Over Now, 1964

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

bombast, adroit at a quadrillion gaucheries. No joke! There's nothing prim or diminutive about my belly.

Parts of conversation from one person, who has something original to say, can sometimes morph into a peculiar type of poetry. But it does take a skilled poet to set that natter into a frame. DeFreitas accomplishes this task in his poem *She, Barkeep, to Him, Barfly*. Both bartender and regular drinker are plausibly retired from their former professions. Here the bartender takes stock,

Fifty-cent vocab and a slacker's gut,
you'd guzzle Newcastle `til you browned out
on the barstool you wore your cheek-prints into.

Ridiculous tipper! No, you'd never stiff me,
but Jesus, forty percent? Dude, you must've
wanted me more than the dark English stout
you'd gulp down to dial back your lovestruck fluster.

I gave you grief. You took it straight, no chaser,
never flinching from my ashtray trash-talk,
my moods as changeable as late October.

I miss you sometimes, bro. You weren't a jerk.

Swift River Ballad serves as both the title poem and my favorite poem in this DeFreitas collection. Set in a honky-tonk type of bar, and written in pantoum form, it reads gritty as hell, and it's lovely. A seemingly thrown in line: "Larry, that's Butch's kid, his wife just left him," brings great power and enormous depth into an emotive setup. Consider this context,

A grit-voiced redhead staggers from cheap gin.

There's a faint smell of sawdust and spent dreams:
Five or six local boys get high out back.
A grit-voiced redhead staggers from cheap gin:
Who's gonna buy the lady another drink?

Five or six local boys get high out back:
Money is scarce and jobs are hard to come by.
Some guy buys Julianne another drink—
Larry, that's Butch's kid, his wife just left him...

Money is scarce and jobs are hard to come by:
"I Fall to Pieces" plays on the old jukebox.
Like a comfortless man whose wife's just left him,
A winter sky darkens above Swift River.

In DeFreitas' poem, *The Widow at Ninety*, he deals with love, low expectations, and loss, not to mention a certain grim wisdom that comes with age. The elderly protagonist rattles off an old, sad story experienced by many women. But here the matter-of-factness detonates in the piece's final line. The ambiguity says a lot, especially following a prideful breaking-out line. The actual venting of the story takes on high significance by giving meaning to desperate action. Note the multiple exclamation marks. These are the key lines,

... I had to
learn how to pay the bills. I did it!
Would you like another cup of tea?
No trouble! Oh, I miss him—still!

He always did the shopping, not me.
He was a better cook than I was,
And believe you me, I'm no slouch!
Not once did he ever hit me or the kids.

Thomas DeFreitas speaks clearly in this collection of righteous poetry. It rings of lyrical truths. Honesty in poetry should not deter readership in these days of gathering darkness. And DeFreitas is nothing if not reverently honest.



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