Somerville's original independent newspaper

# The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com

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# Somerville releases updated Capital Investment Plan for FY2027




An updated Capital Investment Plan (CIP) was released by the city last week.

On Thursday, October 22, the City of Somerville released an updated Capital Investment Plan (CIP). The plan provides a 5-year planning roadmap for the city's major investments in critical infrastructure such as buildings, streetscapes, parks, and equipment. It serves as a companion to the city's Annual Budget – providing a guide to spending on major improvements and maintaining the long-term fiscal health of the city.

"It's absolutely critical that we do this long-range planning for investing in our municipal infrastructure – from school and municipal buildings to our streets and sidewalks to our vehicles and fire apparatus – that improve the lives of our residents. This means showing our work and sharing this plan with our community, so we are transparent and accountable with our investments," said

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# 'Confessions of a Jumbotron Addict' makes it to Yahoo

**By Eliot Josti**

Yahoo x Nonfiction Hotlist, a series of small documentary films, recently picked up a story by filmmaker Mickey Duzyj centered around Somerville's own Ben Wheeler.

Before making the film, Duzyj had known Wheeler for about ten years prior, describing him as a "Kramer," the iconic eccentric neighbor from *Seinfeld*.

"He always had the best stories about new jobs and experiences. He is a charming out-of-the-box thinker, and I love to have him as a friend in my life," said Duzyj.

The first interview with Wheeler happened during the pandemic. Duzyj was missing the rush and excitement of live events such as concerts and sports, and wanted to honor the energy

*Continued on page 4*



Ben Wheeler portrayed in a frame from Mickey Duzyj's short film *Confessions of a Jumbotron Addict*.

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# NEWSTALK

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

Join Somerville's **Department of Equity and Belonging** for a **Domestic Violence Vigil** tonight, **October 28**. The vigil offers an opportunity to come together to remember those lost to domestic violence, support survivors, and stand with everyone whose lives have been affected. All community members are welcome. The vigil will be held at **Somernova**, 15 Properzi Way, Somerville, 6 – 8 p.m.

**********

**State Election Day** is **Tuesday, November 3**. Somerville voters can vote early in person at City Hall, or on Election Day. **October 26–28, Monday to Wednesday**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **October 29, Thursday**, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and **October 30, Friday**, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Learn more and get all election information at somervillema.gov/elections.

**********

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great guy and local realtor, **Clifton Verdieu**. We wish him a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Amanda Fee**. We wish her the very best on her birthday. A special happy birthday to **Diane Suffredini**, who is celebrating this week. We wish her the best and hope she has a great year. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Diana Riel, Dorothy O'Malley, Jeffery Varney, Erin DiBenedetto, Diane Jacome Fabrizio, Gene Beraldi, Candy Feldt, Diane Sylvester Ames**, and **Katie Marsh**, 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.

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The Somerville Times

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# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 21 – November 3 as provided by the National Weather Service

| DAY | CONDITIONS | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wednesday** *October 28* | Sunny | 58°/43° | 4% | 1% | W 6 mph |
| **Thursday** *October 29* | Partly Cloudy | 70°/51° | 5% | 2% | SW 11 mph |
| **Friday** *October 30* | Sunny | 70°/30° | 6% | 2% | WNW 13 mph |
| **Saturday** *October 31* | Partly Cloudy | 58°/37° | 5% | 3% | NNE 6 mph |
| **Sunday** *November 1* | Partly Cloudy | 60°/46° | 6% | 3% | SW 7 mph |
| **Monday** *November 2* | Partly Cloudy | 66°/50° | 12% | 7% | SW 10 mph |
| **Tuesday** *November 3* | Cloudy | 65°/50° | 22% | 9% | SSW 12 mph |

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

# Early voting




On Saturday, former Alderman Bob McWatters took advantage of early voting hours at City Hall. While at City Hall he ran into Governor Maura Healey, who stopped by to greet early voters.

# Notice to Readers

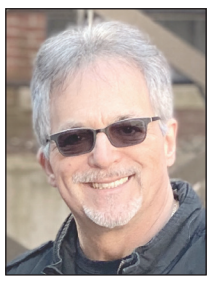
Political endorsements: 250 words or less will be printed as space allows. All endorsements submitted will appear online on the main page or under our Campaign Releases tab on our website.

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

## Life in the Massachusetts VILLE The Spirit of America by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

# Those homemade Halloween costumes



Mom's Beret, turtleneck, cigar-ash goatees, and you have instant Beatnik!

The worst part of trick-or-treating when we were kids was having to wear your clunky winter coat over your costume. We prayed for mild weather. The second worst thing was your parents refusing to spend money on a store-bought costume and forcing you to make one.

I asked my friends to share their homemade costume memories. A friend of mine entered a costume contest by building a stereo speaker that actually worked. He plugged himself in and won first prize. Here are some more stories about original homemade Halloween costumes.

"Half man, half woman. My mom did the whole costume, even cut the yarn off of her bathroom rug for my mustache, and the other part of my mouth was lipstick. Jeans on one side, sewed a skirt onto the zipper of the jeans for the other side! I know she had more fun than me making the costume. Those were the days. Fun times with my mother Marcia!"

"I had caught my cousin's flowers at her wedding a month before. I dressed up as a bride ditched at the altar. Mascara flowing down my face. Veil, dress and all."

"6 of us as a 6-pack of Heineken won first prize at 6 Lansdowne Street."

"Grants or Kressgee had the best costumes! My sister was a bride one year, and I was Honey West! Those plastic face masks steamed up, making my nose wet!"

"My kid costume was a default hobo. My dad's flannel shirt, baggy big jeans, messy hair, and makeup to make me look dirty and done, ha-ha-ha. Another was the short people. My mother was a den mother and made short people with pillowcases with faces drawn on them. Pillowcase goes over your head, draw your face on the pillowcase, cut eye holes out, put overhead, belted at knees. Can you picture this?"



"Harpo Marx."

"Hawkeye from M*A*S*H."

"Bag of pretzels and a box of popcorn! Table and chair! Devil in a shower."

"An angel costume I made for my daughter's Halloween party at St. Catherine of Genoa school about 7 years ago. I handstitched the entire costume from halo to wings and gown. She won first place that year."

"Work boots, pair of shorts and Hawaiian shirt, white beard and wig red Santa hat. I was Santa in the off-season."

"A nun! It was so good that people actually thought I was a real

*Continued on page 5*

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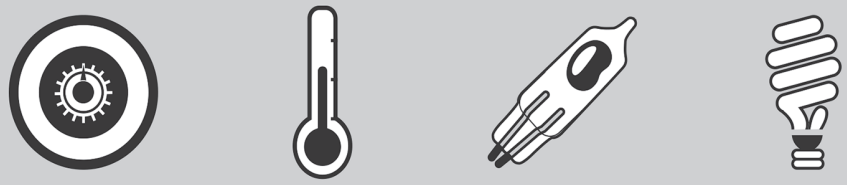


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# Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: If I can't use an entire tax deduction this year, do I lose the remaining deduction forever?**

A: Not necessarily. Some unused deductions and losses can be carried forward to future years, potentially reducing your taxes later.

- **Capital losses are a common example.** If you sell investments at a loss, those losses can offset capital gains. This strategy, when done intentionally to reduce taxes, is called tax-loss harvesting. If your losses exceed your gains, you can generally deduct up to $3,000 against other income each year. For example, with a $10,000 net capital loss and no capital gains, you could deduct $3,000 this year and carry the remaining $7,000 forward.
- **Those losses may save you taxes next year, too.** If you have $5,000 in capital gains the following year, the $7,000 loss carryover could offset those gains entirely, leaving $2,000 of losses available under the applicable rules.
- **Check your prior-year tax return.** It may contain unused losses or deductions that could reduce your current-year taxes. Using the same tax software may make this easier because carryovers can transfer automatically, but you should still verify that they're included.

**Bottom Line:** A deduction you can't use this year isn't necessarily lost forever. Capital losses are just one example. Certain business losses, charitable contributions, and other deductions may also carry forward. Reviewing your prior-year tax return can help ensure you don't leave valuable tax benefits on the table.

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



*Disclaimer: This column provides general financial information and should not be considered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.*

# Somerville releases updated Capital Investment Plan for FY2027

CONT. FROM PG 1

Mayor Wilson. "Despite the fiscal constraints of the financial moment we're in, I'm thrilled to provide this update, and I want to celebrate the careful planning and forward-thinking financial management that enable us to continue making meaningful investments in Somerville's future."

**Where Somerville is Investing (Proposed Allocations Through 2031)**

The plan outlines essential investments in our city's infrastructure designed to improve core services, mitigate risk, and advance pursuit of key priorities.

- **Our school buildings** – More than $25 million dedicated to essential repairs and modernization of our school buildings so they can continue to support our students over the decades to come.
- **Our streets and sidewalks** – Over $59 million to be invested in our streets and sidewalks to advance safety and accessibility.
- **Our fleet of vehicles and fire apparatus** – More than $16 million dedicated to replacing aging vehicles to ensure crews have what they need to plow snow, suppress fires, and perform other essential work.

Projects designated for investment in the FY2027 CIP are those necessary to ensure the city can deliver on its commitments to residents, continue to improve services, and pursue our long-term goals. They also represent efforts where the risk of deferring repairs and improvements is greatest.

The CIP also includes projects identified as future city priorities that are still in the planning process. While the CIP charts priorities for both the near-term and projects that could unfold over the coming decade or longer, it is revisited annually and evolves based on community needs and circumstances.

To learn more about the CIP and review the full plan visit somervillema.gov/CIP.

# 'Confessions of a Jumbotron Addict' makes it to Yahoo

CONT. FROM PG 1

and crowds during a time when it was missing.

It all started when Wheeler first got onto the Jumbotron. After dancing with high energy and a quirky style, the fans grew wild. He realized that it wasn't the spotlight that mattered. It was the effect he had on the crowd's energy.

"I think that it all starts with Ben having a really generous spirit. You can look at these people as just wanting to see their face on a big screen, but he wants to get people together. I saw him single-handedly start a wave at Fenway Park," said Duzyj.

The filmmaking process started with just the audio, and expanded to something more.

"My filmmaking always includes animation to some degree. All of my films have been hybrid, this one in particular, because I started it during the pandemic. I only had the audio interview. The pragmatic reason to be fully animated was having it be stylized."

The film was then picked up by the Yahoo x Nonfiction Hotlist.

"The collection honored individuals and stories that display an idiosyncrasy in humanity that, right now in the world with AI, we feel we are living in this cold time. These films are the opposite of that," said Duzyj. "I feel our intentions were very clear. These kinds of stories are good medicine. These things are still happening and humanity in this life-affirming way."

Wheeler, now a city counselor in Somerville, uses his energy and spirit to give back to the community,

"In the world today we are all afraid to stick our necks out and do something. Ben shows that if you do that, it can be a great way to connect with other people," said Duzyj.

# Somerville signs new agreement with SMEU Unit A

The City of Somerville has signed a new agreement with Unit A of the Somerville Municipal Employees Union (SMEU), providing wage increases, updated salary scales, and expanded benefits for employees who deliver essential services across city government. The agreement covers Fiscal Years 2023 through 2025.

"Our employees make city services possible. They deserve fair pay, good benefits, and a workplace where they feel valued," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I'm grateful to Unit A and our city team for the work that brought us to this signing."

Key provisions include:

- A 3% COLA for FY23 and a 3% COLA for FY24.
- FY25 wage adjustments based on the city-wide wage and compensation study, including a new classification system and salary scales.
- One additional week of vacation and a transition to a vacation accrual system.
- Increases to the bonus recognizing employees' years of service.
- Eligibility for the city's new paid family and medical leave benefit.

The agreement advances the administration's focus on making Somerville an employer of choice, with competitive wages and benefits that help the city recruit and retain a strong municipal workforce.

# Interview with retiring State Senator Patricia Jehlen

By Claire Q. Wood

Massachusetts State Senator Patricia Jehlen will retire at the end of this term following over 20 years in the Massachusetts Senate. Jehlen represents the Second Middlesex District, comprising Somerville, Medford and portions of Cambridge and Winchester. Before her time in the Senate, Jehlen served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for over a decade and on the Somerville School Committee for 15 years.

Jehlen studied history at Swarthmore College and began her career through AmeriCorps VISTA.

"I served in Chicago Heights, Illinois, with … people who had been migrants and were settling down, and that was my first real experience thinking about poverty," Jehlen said.

It was the middle of the Vietnam War, and Jehlen was weighing how to best serve her community.

"I said, 'What's the best way to change the world?'" Jehlen ultimately decided she wanted to "be an educator and work with young people."

Jehlen received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University and began teaching at Brookline High School.

Working in education and seeing her children go through the Massachusetts education system, Jehlen decided to run for local office. This was during Somerville's reform movement, and Jehlen had been involved in various reform campaigns.

"I'd been involved in a lot of local organizing," Jehlen said. She had been organizing for the choice program and decided to run for the Somerville School Committee.

"I ran. I won. We got choice. We evaluated the superintendent for the first time. We hired a new superintendent," Jehlen said. "But one of the biggest things that happened is I found out Somerville was spending half of what neighboring communities were on schools and paying taxes that were twice as high."

This revelation about school funding led to Jehlen forming the Council for Fair School Finance.

Jehlen remained dedicated to funding education and, in 1990, decided to run for the Massachusetts House of Representatives so she could make a larger impact. The court suit she initiated through the Council for Fair School Finance succeeded in 1993.

"We were required to equally cherish all public education for all kids, and we passed the 1993 ed reform, and that brought a lot more money into public schools across the state, particularly into low-income communities."

Jehlen later ran for the Massachusetts State Senate in a special election. She was elected in 2005 and has served ever since. Jehlen has found her time in the Senate to be where she's had the largest impact.

"There [are] only 40 people. You could make a bigger difference," Jehlen said.

Jehlen has written many bills and served on many committees in her time in the Senate.

Jehlen has served as Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence, Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Education, and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Revenue. She has also been a member of the Joint Committees on Cannabis Policy, Labor and Workforce Development, and the Judiciary.

Jehlen is proud to have witnessed and been part of many key transformations, including legalizing equal marriage. In fact, equal marriage was a big conversation topic during her Senate campaign.

"The Supreme Judicial Court had legalized equal marriage, and it was still a very live question," Jehlen said. "So when I ran, I talked about it. I said, 'I'm in favor of equal marriage,' and everybody else didn't. And I won, and I think that encouraged my colleagues to say it's not dangerous to support equal marriage, so that was a way that unintentionally I contributed to that."

Jehlen has also been very dedicated to criminal justice reform.

"I had a constituent write to me about his friend who was dying in the hospital, guarded all the time, shackled, with two guards paid full time to watch him when he couldn't get out of bed." With regard to the death penalty and the existing criminal justice system, Jehlen said, it's "not just inhumane – it's expensive."

She was inspired by the case of Lawyer Johnson, who was wrongfully convicted in 1972.

"[He was the] last man on death row in Massachusetts, got out, had nothing. No compensation, no place to live," Jehlen said. "I thought, that's not right."

In 2004, Jehlen passed legislation compensating victims of wrongful convictions.

"That's probably the biggest bill I passed when I was in the House," Jehlen said. Now, in the Senate, Jehlen continues to advocate for criminal justice reform.

Jehlen has chaired the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence, formerly Elder Affairs, for the majority of her time in the Senate.

"There's more money going into home care. There's more money going into nursing homes too. And then in the last session we passed two bills. We have one this year: nursing home reform and assisted living," Jehlen said. "We also passed a bill last session to create a path towards long-term care insurance that everybody would pay in, and everybody would get to pay out. There's going to be a long-term services and supports commission to design it, and then hopefully the legislature will pass it because right now most people can't afford to get old."

Jehlen mentioned "having adequate and equitable revenue" as a key but relatively unknown struggle. "We are underfunding a lot of things," she said.

A number of things have changed throughout Jehlen's governance, including what it looks like to be a woman as a legislator.



Retiring Senator Patricia Jehlen recently spoke candidly about her endeavors and accomplishments in the State Senate.

"When I got to the House, men had a bathroom right outside the chamber, so they didn't have to be in public or anything and be seen. They could walk into a private area, but women had to go to a different one," Jehlen said. "Not only is there a women's room [now], … but at one point the women's caucus went and met with the speaker and said, 'We've noticed that women are not proportionally represented in leadership; they do not chair committees.' And the speaker said, 'Oh, I don't see gender.' That has really changed." Now, the President of the Massachusetts State Senate is a woman.

The demographics of the Second Middlesex District have also transformed throughout Jehlen's time as its representative, but she has found that her values still align very closely with the community.

"My core values are very similar to what most people here think and feel," Jehlen said. "It's not hard to speak for them because I agree with them."

And when asked what she loves most about Somerville, Jehlen simply said, "The people."

# Those homemade Halloween costumes

CONT. FROM PG 3

nun. Funny that I'm not even Catholic."

"Spider with eight legs that turned into an octopus the following year. I cut the suction cups off a rubber bathmat and glued them along the legs."

"When my son was in kindergarten, he wanted to be a tree. We used brown paper bags and taped twigs and leaves all over them. He was so cute and got rave reviews from all the houses we visited. Still makes me smile even though he celebrated his 50th birthday last week."

"I have quite a few. Cousin Itt (from *The Addams Family*) was one of my favorites, but I've won or placed in many, many contests. I absolutely love Halloween and going to parties dressed up!"

"Marty McFly and Doc Brown."

My mom made me up as a Chinese doll in a brocade silk kimono (which she made). Braided my hair, perfect makeup, shoes, headpiece. A cute doll, I might add. Lol."

The third worst part of Halloween was getting a piece of fruit that crushes your candy bars when it's dropped into your goody bag.

I wanted to dress as Zorro around 1959, and my parents bought the hat, mask, and cape but wouldn't get me the sword. They thought it was too dangerous, so I ended up with a small plastic knife. Lame! The experience was much like the brown shoes I wore with my white holy communion suit!

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# Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Month celebration

Community members gathered on Sunday, October 25, at Somerville High School to celebrate Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Month. The event, hosted by Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), the City's Division of Equity and Belonging, and the Somerville Commu-nity Corporation (SCC), featured a wide selection of Latin American and Caribbean foods and refreshments, along with an afternoon of music and cultural performances. The event was free and open to all, bringing residents together to celebrate the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of Latin American and Caribbean communities. *— Photos by Joseph Klepeis*

















# 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 have been so prevalent in our society over the past few years.

The state election is just around the corner, and most of us are giving it a lot of thought. 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, 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 to gather their sweets, and just plain having fun in the doing.

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

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

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

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

**********

Turn pumpkins into compost at the **2nd Annual "Pumpkin Smash"** on **November 7**. As spooky season comes to a close, don't trash your pumpkins, smash 'em. Community members are invited to Somerville's second annual "Pumpkin Smash" from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at **Chuckie Harris Park** (17 Cross St. East). Rain date is Sunday, November 8. Bring and smash your Halloween pumpkins (our smash one provided). Enjoy additional family-friendly activities, a bake sale, learn about Somerville's Food Waste Collection Pilot, and more.

**********

On **Thursday, October 29**, at 7:00 pm, the **Arts at the Armory** presents their 5th annual screening of ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show*** with the **Teseracte Players**. More info and tickets available here: www.artsatthearmory.org. Jump into the 1975 musical comedy horror cult classic in-person and live this Halloween. Costumes and callbacks are highly encouraged; the Teseracte Players will lead the charge and make sure you don't miss a moment of the raucous ride. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the viewing starts at 8 p.m. Go early and enjoy wine, beer, and snacks from the Performance Hall bar.

**********

Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of **Marie A. Danieli**. Marie was fondly known to many in Somerville and beyond for her many years of dedication working at the **Winter Hill Bank** and her work with the **Somerville Kiwanis** and **Chamber of Commerce**. Her full obituary can be seen here: https://www.dohertyfuneralservice.com/.

**********

**Halloween Bulb Blitz**. The **Somerville Horticulture Heroes** are again partnering with the **City of Somerville** to improve our city. They invite you to join a bulb blitz, adding hundreds of bulbs to the garden planters along Somerville Ave. No gardening experience or tools necessary. Just bring your enthusiasm for making Somerville Ave look better. Please bring weather-appropriate clothing, sun protection, personal *Continued on page 13*

The Somerville Times

# FUN & GAMES

## Ms. Cam's Olio #1044

**Olio** - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. According to the lyrics of *Monster Mash*, who were the guests at the Halloween party?

2. Which famous Halloween movie features the line "Do you like scary movies?"

3. In *Twilight*, what year did Edward Cullen turn into a vampire?

4. What vegetable was once thought to have supernatural powers on Halloween?

5. How many witches are in Shakespeare's Macbeth?

6. What were the Salem witch trials?

7. How many were found guilty in the Salem witch trials?

8. Which first lady was the first to decorate the White House for Halloween?

9. Which U.S. president told a group of schoolkids that the White House was haunted by the ghost of Abraham Lincoln?

10. Who wrote *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*?

11. Which two-word mnemonic tells you which way to move the clocks?

12. Why was DST introduced?

*Answers on page 10*

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. More Monopoly money is printed in a year than real money.

2. Space travel makes mice run in loops.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

*BIRDS*

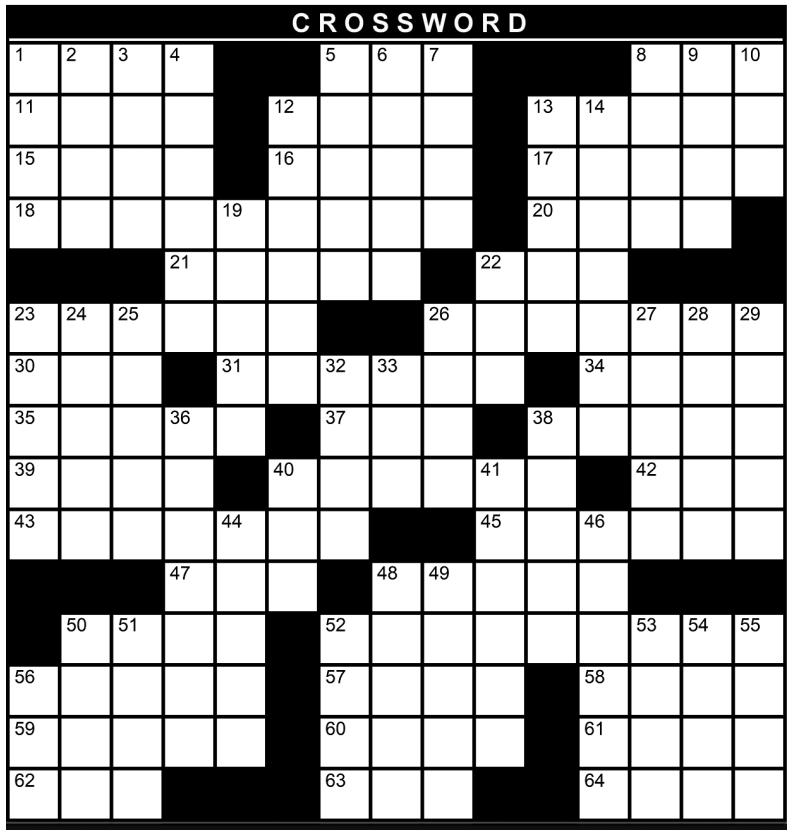
**ACROSS**

1. Consumer
5. Drivel
8. Mary of direct marketing fame
11. Taxon, pl.
12. Mosaic piece
13. Speculate
15. Similar
16. Eye part
17. Belgian port city
18. "The Birds" producer and director
20. "Mourning" bird
21. Kicks out
22. "Birds do it, ____ do it," sing.
23. "Hot" prefix
26. Suggest
30. Treaty of Rome org.
31. Dump
34. Horus' mother
35. Spills over a container edge
37. Hole puncher
38. Finals
39. Type of balsam
40. Thumb, anatomically speaking
42. New Zealand parrot
43. Suppresses
45. Big Bird, e.g.
47. Shark part
48. Yo-Yo's instrument
50. Bleak
52. Bird with largest wingspan
56. Popular origami bird
57. Mongolian desert
58. Hen to chick
59. Silly and scatterbrained
60. Affirm with confidence
61. Sailor's call
62. Number cruncher, acr.
63. Color
64. Totes

**DOWN**

1. D-Day beach
2. H. H. Munro's pseudonym
3. Sign of escape
4. Ill will
5. Basketball foot maneuver
6. Smart ones?
7. Reach a high
8. a,k.a. Kyiv
9. Green Gables resident
10. Hitherto
12. U of A home
13. Poet Nash
14. Albus Dumbledore's companion
19. Dark fertile soil
22. Board of Directors, acr.
23. MCAT and LSAT, e.g.
24. Serf
25. Cause for food recall
26. Pay a visit
27. Japanese port city
28. Sand clock, e.g.
29. Test form
32. Vietnam's neighbor
33. Parliament member
36. Barbara's ____ Cereal
38. Glorify
40. Mightier than sword
41. Oblong cream puff
44. British sailor, slangily
46. Conventional
48. Garlic unit
49. What tide did
50. Golf club handle
51. Pro ____
52. Lab culture
53. Pearl Harbor island
54. Urban haze
55. Simon does what?
56. Public health org.

*Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.*




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## Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

## OBITUARY

**Marie A. (Sinkiewicz) Danieli** **Jun 20, 1958 — Oct 22, 2026**



**Marie A. (Sinkiewicz) Danieli** of Somerville, formerly of South Boston, passed away on Thursday, October 22, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 68 years old.

Born in Boston and proudly raised in Southie, Marie was the beloved daughter of the late Anthony J. and Ann (Shyp) Sinkiewicz. She spent many dedicated years as the Executive Corporate Secretary at Winter Hill Bank on Broadway in Somerville, a position she took great pride in. Marie was known for her diligence, organization, and ability to keep everything running smoothly. She always seemed to have an answer to every question and a solution to every problem before it even arose.

Outside of work, Marie was actively involved with the Somerville Kiwanis Club and the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, generously giving her time to help plan and volunteer at numerous community events. She took great pride in being involved in her community and was always willing to lend a helping hand wherever one was needed.

Of all the roles Marie held throughout her life, the ones she cherished most were being a wife and mother. Her love for her husband and children was immeasurable, and she always put their needs before her own, even when she was facing challenges herself. Caring for others came naturally to Marie, and her kindness extended well beyond her family. Whenever someone needed help, support, or simply someone to count on, Marie was there without hesitation.

Although Marie may not have been Italian by heritage, she certainly knew her way around an Italian kitchen! She loved preparing delicious meals, hosting holiday gatherings, and welcoming family and friends into her home. Nothing brought her greater happiness than seeing others enjoy the food she had lovingly prepared and spending time surrounded by the people she cared about. In her quieter moments, Marie enjoyed playing word games and crocheting, finding pleasure in the simple things that made life special.

Marie will be remembered for her generous heart, her unwavering dedication to her family, her strong work ethic, and the countless ways she made life a little easier and brighter for those around her. Above all, she will be deeply missed by the many people who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

Beloved wife of 45 years to the late John J. Danieli who passed away in March of this year. Devoted mother of Carolyn Danieli and John Danieli and his wife Sarah. Loving sister of Kenneth Sinkiewicz and his wife Mary-Ellen, Beverly Sinkiewicz, Joann Adrian and her husband Tom, Joseph Sinkiewicz, Susan Cotnam and her husband Dale, and Paul Sinkiewicz and his partner Linda Manning.Also lovingly survived by many loving nieces, nephews and in-laws.

A funeral procession will be held on Friday, October 30th from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) at 10:00 a.m. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Raphael Church, 512 High St. at 11:00 a.m.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Services will conclude with interment at Calvery Cemetery, Winchester.

## Somerville's Truck O' Treat Returns to City Hall

Calling all ghouls, goblins, and spooky season lovers to Somerville's annual "Truck O' Treat" on Thursday, October 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. outside City Hall (93 Highland Avenue). Rain date: Thursday, November 5.



Costumes are encouraged at this family-friendly event, which will include safe Trick-or-Treating on the City Hall concourse, a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, lawn games, light refreshments, and more.

"This year Halloween falls on the weekend, but on Thursday, October 29, City Hall will be Truck O' Treating!"

# The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week




## Eagle Feathers #366

*This article first appeared in the March 4, 2015, edition of The Somerville Times.*

### Hidden Henry Hansen

**By Bob (Monty) Doherty**

It has been eighty-one years since the United States landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. At an appalling cost of nearly 6,800 lives and 17,000 injured, the month-long struggle proved to be the toughest in the Marine Corps' history.



The battle was highlighted by the early American flag raising on the island's highest peak, Mt. Suribachi. It was a photo of the second and larger flag raising by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal that became a national, iconic image.

Two American flags would be flown on that day. First, a small flag was raised under fire and combat. Hours later, a larger, more visible flag was raised after the elevation had been secured.



On February 23, six-year veteran, twenty-five-year-old Sergeant Henry Hansen of Somerville, along with his lieutenant and another sergeant, led their forty-four-man platoon in seizing the hill.

After Hansen shot holes in a long section of water pipe, he fed a rope through and secured the ensign. Together, the three men then raised the first American flag over the soil of the Japanese empire.

This was the first foreign flag to do so in a thousand years and was recorded by a Marine photographer. The Marines had lost 2,000 men in the first

*Continued on page 11*

# LEGAL NOTICES

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

**City of Somerville**
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
**City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of these proceedings can be found online here: Agendas, Minutes, & More.

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mRoijL2OQKaQ_4wsLkQsFA

**TO CALL IN**

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

The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the following pursuant to 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.

**Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties**

**25 Atherton Street** Applicant: Matthew Boyes-Watson
Owner: Matthew Boyes-Watson
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing a heat pump on the side elevation of the existing building.

**25 Atherton Street** Applicant: Niccolo Oleary-Taguiri
Owner: Niccolo Oleary-Taguiri
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing a heat pump on the side elevation of the existing building.

**52 Powderhouse Blvd** Applicant: Vanita Wagner
Owner: Vanita Wagner
The applicant is requesting the replacement of original wood gutter system with fiberglass gutters on a Local Historic District (LHD) property.

**Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMO REVIEW PROCESS)**

**374 Broadway** Applicant: Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo
Owner: Richard G. DiGirolamo
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

**165 Sycamore Street** Applicant: Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo
Owner: Richard G. DiGirolamo
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

**13-15 Thorndike Street** Applicant: Creative Properties- Leon Navickas
Owner: ASCP, LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

**Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMO REVIEW PROCESS)**

**3 Cameron Avenue** Applicant: Niranjan Gawli
Owner: Cameron Rei LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

**65 Derby Street (Carriage Barn)** Applicant: Sal Queruio - Tradition Construction Inc.
Owner: 65 Derby St Somerville LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases.
Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to historic@somervillema.gov.
Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov.

10/28/26 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 4, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of these proceedings can be found online here: Agendas, Minutes, & More.

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4_RF8otESliC3djdb3NR2Q

**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:

**36-38 Magnus Avenue** Emily Sandler seeks relief from SZO 3.1.11.c to modify an existing building that does not comply with the minimum facade build out, which requires a Hardship Variance.

**34R Clyde Street** Adam Dash Esq, on behalf of Nathan Aparo, seeks relief from SZO 3.1.18.c.iiii regarding the frontage area parking in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

**34R Clyde Street** Adam Dash Esq, on behalf of Nathan Aparo, seeks relief from SZO 3.1.18.c.iv regarding the maximum driveway width for a proposed drive way in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

**34R Clyde Street** Adam Dash Esq, on behalf of Nathan Aparo, seeks relief from SZO 3.1.7.b. regarding the minimum sum of side setbacks in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

**34R Clyde Street** Adam Dash Esq, on behalf of Nathan Aparo, seeks relief from SZO 3.1.7.a. regarding the minimum lot width in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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 ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.
Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov.

10/21/26, 10/28/26 The Somerville Times

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**PH: 857-488-5138**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**
**JAKE WILSON**
**MAYOR**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville City Council's **Land Use Committee** and the **Somerville Planning Board** will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, November 5th, 2026**, at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

**REGISTER ONLINE**
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OZ4FTDNZSeCPriLCH12_Vw

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:
1. Enter the link exactly as it appears into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 4:00 PM on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council and Planning Board for inclusion with the Hearing testimony.

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

- Boynton Yards LandCo LLC and Windsor Place Owner LLC requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend section 8.4.12.e.ii.
- 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 12.1.2 regarding affordable dwelling units.
- 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 15.7.2.d Zoning Board of Appeals Board Rules.
- 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.
- 36 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching for the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for the meeting or request information.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. The Chair(s) may opt to extend the period for written comments, in which case additional comments will be accepted until the date indicated. This information can be found in the minutes of the meeting.

10/21/26, 10/28/26 The Somerville Times

## Ms. Cam's Olio Answers

*From on page 8*

1. Wolf Man, Dracula, and his son
2. *Scream*
3. 1918
4. Cabbage
5. Three
6. Hearings and prosecutions of people accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts
7. 30 people were found guilty, 19 of whom were executed by hanging (14 women and 5 men)
8. Mamie Eisenhower, in 1958
9. George H.W. Bush, in 1989
10. Washington Irving
11. Spring forward, fall back
12. To conserve energy, especially fuel during WWI

# 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.*

## Community path safety improved... now, it's our turn to do better

**By Jeffrey Shwom**

Somerville's local government apparatus has shown up and made quick build changes on the community path this fall. Now, it's on us to be better neighbors and users.

I want to applaud the city for implementing calming measures, better signage, and road treatments along the community path, especially near School Street. As a tri-weekly runner, I thank you. And more importantly, as a four-times-a-week Blue Bike user, I hear you.

For folks who use the path a lot, we did not need The Somerville Beacon's[1] well-organized statistical analysis to tell us what we already saw: there are some bicycle and e-bike users that just go way too fast and make it more dangerous for the more vulnerable users. I'm talking about walkers and pedestrians. I'm also talking about commuters and students.

Mayor Wilson declared this year the year of the neighbor. I couldn't think of a more apt expression for how we move forward with these changes.

When we fly by on our two-wheeled bikes, we should use empathy and try to understand our impact of riding so fast within 2 ft of someone who's moving slower than us. We should understand that our legs, which do burn or get tired from the ups and downs of the path, are not as important as the safety of those around us. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing like riding a bike and feeling 15 mph air flowing by. That being said, is my commute or my workout, at speed, more important than my neighbors?

I know it took a year and a half or more to get to this point. Some would argue it's taken since 2023, when the community path opened. The journey to get here is complicated: the city didn't take full ownership and responsibility for the path until a year or two after the MBTA Green Line extension opened. By then, some of the intersections, including School Street, were already designed by Mass DOT architects and designers who didn't understand the local focus.

Now that the city is in charge, and community members and City councilors are on the case, improvements will be made. Part of that agreement between government and its citizens is a largely unspoken truth: there's no police on the path and no enforcement beyond ourselves.

I'm certainly not advocating for police presence on the path at all. What I am advocating for is holding each other accountable ... and being nice to one another.

I am hopeful that the Somerville community will get this right and use this as a starting point to share the community path in a better way. I know I can improve when I'm on a bike, and you can too.

**Link:**

[1] https://www.somervillebeacon.com/p/average-e-bike-speeds-on-the-somerville

## Popular repertory series with historic theme now running

**By Keith Foster**

It's time to F—k the Nazis again with a fun repertory series at the Somerville Theatre in Davis Square, running through November 9. On hiatus for Halloween, when it returns it will feature Quentin Tarantino's Inglourious Basterds, followed the next week by the legendary The Blues Brothers film. Some of the movies in the series are among the greatest films of all time and follow the theme of destroying Nazism once and for all. Unfortunately, history seems to be repeating itself.

Ian Judge, the Chief of Operations at the Somerville Theatre, can't believe how quickly the series flew by. "Yes, the series is almost over. Only two more left. This is the third time we have run this series, and it is incredibly popular. The artwork is by local artist Burnzig (he has a great Instagram account)."

The series was inspired by a late-night viewing of The Blues Brothers and the scene where they drive the Illinois Nazis off the bridge while the crowd cheers, leaving one feeling great. It is always fun to see the Nazis lose or get their butts kicked in a movie.

"And it's sad that these dumbasses are still around today, that hate, fascism, and antisemitism are still a problem for the world, and for this country too," Judge says. "I mean, what did my grandfather fight in WWII for, so these bastards' ideas could still be a problem, so flaccid white power people could march in the streets even still?"

According to Judge, "This series is both a fun way to watch these bad guys – maybe the most notorious bad guys in modern history – lose, and to remind audiences that hey, remember when we were growing up it was very clear these guys were the bad guys? And somehow for a few people this still isn't clear? So let's remember who the enemy is, and have some fun watching them lose."

"Our customer base loves the series," says Judge. "That's why we have brought it back repeatedly. The big classics like Casablanca and The Sound of Music pull in huge audiences, but the ones the crowds really have the most fun with are Raiders of the Lost Ark and The Blues Brothers. The energy after seeing those with a big crowd puts watching it at home to shame."




**The Somerville Theatre marquee listing Halloween movies and the F—k the Nazis again series.**
*— Photo by Keith Foster*

## Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

three days, while fighting their way to the foot of Suribachi. They reached its base on February 22, George Washington's birthday.

As far as Hansen was concerned, this action was entirely fitting for a soldier who was accustomed to flags. He had grown up in the shadow of Prospect Hill in Somerville, where General George Washington had ordered and observed the first American flag raising 170 years before. He was also his company's flag, or Guide Arm Bearer, during training.

After the first flag raising, both his lieutenant and platoon sergeant were ordered back aboard ship to report their actions, leaving Henry as senior man that afternoon. Four hours later, he and others were filmed and photographed raising the second, larger flag, and taking down the first, smaller flag. He participated in both actions, but was only credited for the first raising.

His favorite headgear was an identifiable soft, field cap, which he wore during both flag raisings. He was the only Marine to do so. If you look at Joe Rosenthal's famous still photo, you will not see him; but if you observe the Marine's "filming" of the flag raising, you can clearly spot him wearing his trademark field cap.

Hansen's Lieutenant, who helped raise the first flag, and the second flag's filmmaker were killed on March 3, Somerville's birthday. Sergeant Henry Hansen was killed two days earlier by a machine gun burst, on March 1, 1945, the tenth day of the battle.

Eighty-one ago, Sgt. Henry O. Hansen raised "The *Flags* of Iwo Jima."

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## Somerville Fair Housing Commission
### Question of the week

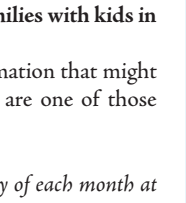
**Q: My realtor won't answer basic questions like whether there are other families with kids in the neighborhood. Why?**
**A:** Your realtor is doing the right thing. She or he cannot give you any information that might help you discriminate against a protected class, and families with children are one of those classes. You can talk to the neighbors yourself, and use your own eyes.

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

A **GoFundMe** has been launched by our own Doug Holder to help keep The Somerville Times free and thriving. Every dollar helps us stay independent and serve our community.
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## Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner



By Bobbygeorge Potaris

Why don't mummies take vacations?
They're afraid they'll relax and unwind

The "Original"
***All Types Vent Cleaning***
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
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# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Haunted?… — *Photo by Denise Provost*

## On This Day in History

### October 28

***312*** – Constantine the Great defeats Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maxentius at the Mulvian Bridge.

***1636*** – Harvard College, the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States, is founded in Cambridge, Mass.

***1886*** – The Statue of Liberty is dedicated at Liberty Island, N. Y.

***1904*** – The St. Louis police try a new investigation method: fingerprints.

***1914*** – George Eastman announces the invention of the color photographic process.

***1919*** – Congress passes the National Prohibition Act, or Volstead Act.

***1927*** – Pan American Airways launches the first scheduled international flight.

***1962*** – Soviet missiles are removed from Cuba, ending the Cuban Missile Crisis.

***1965*** – Construction is completed on St. Louis Arch, the world's tallest arch.

***2005*** – Libby "Scooter" Lewis, chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, resigns after being indicted for "outing" CIA agent Valerie Plame.

***2007*** – Argentina elects its first woman president, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner.

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

water, and snacks. Optionally, bring gardening equipment (trowels, gloves) if you have any. Safety vests, gardening gloves, and plenty of flower bulbs will be provided. Meet in front of **The Independent**, 75 Union Square, **Saturday, October 31**, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you have questions, email membership@somervillegardenclub.org.

**********

Want to share feedback with the **City Council**? Public comments are accepted on a rolling basis via email at publiccomments@somervillema.gov. Find information about the Council or see the **full schedule** of Council meetings at somervillema.gov/council. Stream meetings at youtube.com/somervillecityTV.

**********

**Lydia Warren, PhD**, an award-winning arts administrator and musician whose work has connected cultural organizations with the communities they serve, joined the **City of Somerville** as its new **Arts and Culture** (SAC) **Director** on **October 19**. Her appointment follows an extensive national search led by a hiring team that included **Mayor Jake Wilson** and his team, the **SAC interim director**, and the **SAC Board Chair**. We wish her well in her new position.

**********

**Bow Market** is launching a campaign to bring free rent to **Experiential Artists** for the full year. The pitch to artists is simple: use space to bring experiential art to Somerville; pay $0 in rent. To make it sustainable, Bow Market is working to attract roughly 300 people to pay $100 to become a 2027 Patron. As patrons, they'll receive access to artist-led events, exclusive merch, name recognition outside the YEA space, and inclusion in this burgeoning arts community. To learn more and become a Patron, visit www.bowmarketsomerville.com/experientialart. For more information on becoming an artist in residence, visit https://www.bowmarketsomerville.com/yea-artist-faq.

**********

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market 2026 Season** ends on **October 31**. The market is selling fresh, local produce at affordable prices. It accepts cash, debit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market coupons, and Senior Farmers Market coupons. All are welcome. For more information and locations, visit https://www.somervillemobilefarmersmarket.org/.

**********

The city is hosting its **second citywide cleanup** as part of the Y**ear of the Neighbor initiative**. Somerville community members are invited to spend a couple of hours outside, meet people nearby, and leave your street a little better than you found it. Join in on **Saturday, November 7,** between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Cleanup events have been scheduled in all seven wards. Learn more and find your ward's meeting point here. https://www.somervillema.gov/news/somerville-invites-neighbors-join-fall-neighborhood-cleanups-november-7

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***The Commute*** is playing at **The Rockwell** this **Sunday, November 1**, 255 Elm Street. Four strangers are trapped in a tunnel during a sudden stop on the Red Line. As tension builds, they are forced to confront each other-and themselves. The Commute is a dark, thought-provoking comedy by **Karin Anell**, exploring human behavior under pressure. Where do we go when there is no exit? And who are we really, behind our masks? There are two shows on **November 1**: 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The evening show will be followed by an interactive panel hosted by **Joint Family**, an organization committed to building connections across generations through science, art, and technology.

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Registration is now open for the **2026 Gobble GOBBLE GOBBLE race**. The 30th annual race takes place on **November 26** at 9 a.m. Presented by the **Somerville Road Runners**, the Gobble Gobble Gobble road race starts and ends in Davis Square (at the heart of Somerville), features a unique 4-mile course, and offers a fun opportunity to start Thanksgiving on a high and healthy note. *Continued on page 15*


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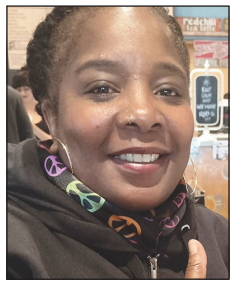
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# Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder



Bridget Brown is a professor at Roxbury Community College. She has an upcoming poetry collection, *Songs Beside A River That Refuses to Forget*, to be released by the Ibbetson Street Press in December, 2026.

**Dead Ham**

Bunk said it the way the old folks said it, *Dead Ham*,
like meat hung too long in a smokehouse nobody visits anymore,
and I was nine and believed her, believed a town could be named for spoil.

Fourth grade, the yellow bus left Dorchester before the streetlights quit,
past three-deckers leaning on each other like tired aunts,
past the river, past the last corner store I knew the name of,
into lawns so wide and green they looked painted on.

The Joyce Kilmer School sat back from the road among its trees,
and the teachers said our names carefully, the way you carry a full pot.

In the gym they taught us the serpentine march:
single file, eyes on the neck in front of you,
fold back on yourself and pass the ones behind,
keep the line, keep the line, don't you dare break the line.
I learned I could walk a long way and end up where I started.

In math we drew the right-angle triangle,
two short sides meeting clean at the corner, square as a kitchen table,
and the long side leaning off by itself, the hypotenuse,
the one that touches both and belongs to neither.
I copied it three times. I knew which side I was.

Afternoons the bus carried me back across the line, and Bunk asked, *How was Dead Ham today?*
and I said *fine*, and set my books down,
and did not tell her the town smelled like cut grass, not meat,
and did not tell her I was learning to march.

*— Bridget Brown*

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

OFF THE SHELF
by Doug Holder

# Somerville's Jessa Piaia channels Isabella Stewart Gardner for her garden projects



I recently caught up with Jessa Piaia about her Isabella Stewart Gardner garden project in Somerville.

**Doug Holder:** How has Somerville been for you as a creative person?

**Jessa Piaia:** Somerville is a vibrant community of artists of diverse genres. That's what makes this city such a great place to live, and our local Arts Council is proactive with their support of the creative climate here. I am grateful to the Somerville Arts Council which awarded a SAC/MCC Fellowship last year for me to partner with Friends of the Somerville Community Growing Center (FCGC) for my Isabella Stewart Gardner program. My "community benefit" performance focused on Mrs. Gardner's gardening activities, scheduled at the Community, Architecture, Landscape & Art (aka CALA) building, 1060 Broadway Ave., adjacent to Lou Ann Park in Teele Square in September 2025. Interestingly, CALA's structural design is akin to the Gardner Museum, in that each has a central courtyard garden, filled with plants, murals, a music space, plus (3) "green roofs," which align with Mrs. Gardner's 'glass rooftop.' Before & after my performance last year, the FCGC and Garden Club presented Somerville Pollinators for Action Plan (SPAP) materials to educate attendees on the value of cultivating native pollinator plants to support our ecosystem in our home and community garden settings.

This year the Somerville Arts Council awarded a project grant for us to expand the program across the community, as part of Mass Cultural Council's "Cultural Heritage" category. So we focused on Mrs. Gardner's vision of bestowing annual "Garden Prizes" in Somerville.

**DH:** You are a historical reenactor. How do you choose your subjects? How do you get into character?

**JP:** As a historical reenactor, I research the person's "character," studying their strengths and weaknesses, goals and aspirations, and what they accomplished during their lifetime. The aspect of Isabella Gardner's character I am most drawn to is her sense of determination against all odds. And just before opening her house-museum, Isabella collaborated with her close artist friend, Sarah Wyman Whitman, to design a mythological "Phoenix shield" to hang above her Fenway Court entryway. This shield symbolizes the challenges and risks she undertook to achieve her vision, with the steadfast, transcendent perseverance it took after the grief of losing her only child, and later when she constructed the 4th-story house-museum as a widow. A devout Episcopalian, Isabella was a deeply spiritual person who quietly gave sums of money to her Church of the Advent, and to the Anglican priests and nuns to help those in need.

Despite persistent rumors of being an eccentric nd strong-willed woman, the recent biography, *Chasing Beauty* by Nathalie Dykstra, depicts a vivid sketch of Mrs. Gardner as a mature woman confident in her abilities and sound of judgment, who relied on her instincts when selecting "quality" art. While facing the demands of overseeing construction of her house-museum on "reclaimed swampland" along the Muddy River, she would not be deterred from realizing her vision – that America had not yet developed an art aesthetic and culture of our own, we were still looking to Europe and Asia for our inspiration. So this became her quest, starting with procuring the Old Masters, while sponsoring local artists & musicians. Once the Museum was completed, she opened its doors to the public, while she resided on the 4th floor.

**DH:** For many years you have presented " Isabella Stewart Gardner and her passion for horticulture. What was it about Gardner that drew you in? Do you see anything in yourself that is similar to this eccentric collector and patron of the arts?

**JP:** Gardening is one of my favorite pastimes. I enjoy watching a narrow strip of pollinator plants alongside my house throughout the seasons. As a historical reenactor, I have researched and portrayed Isabella Stewart Gardner for over 30 years, and more recently I am focusing on her gardening activities. Mrs. Gardner began cultivating the 40-acre Gardner Estate, called Green Hill, Brookline, MA, alongside her in-laws, when she arrived in Boston as a young bride in 1860, as they would win ongoing Massachusetts Horticultural Society prizes over the years. Decades later, she and Jack inherited the Green Hill property when his parents passed. Isabella would also cultivate a variety of plants in two Green Hill greenhouses to display at her Fenway Court "Courtyard," transporting them to create *Continued on page 15*

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 13

Proceeds benefit the **Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville Track PAC, Stride for Stride**, and the **Dilboy VFW Veterans Relief Fund**. For more information, visit https://www.srr.org/.

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

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

**********

**Somerville neighbors** need your help. On **Tuesday, September 8**, a **fire on Dartmouth Street** left four households, including multiple vulnerable residents and their pets, without homes. On September 30, there was a five-alarm fire in Teele Square. The fire impacted 32 homes at 1137-1147 Broadway, displacing 43 residents. Please consider donating whatever you can to the **Somerville Homeless Coalition's Emergency Displacement Fund**, developed in partnership with the city. https://secure.qgiv.com/for/emerfun.

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

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

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## Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

(6) displays throughout the seasons. These floral arrangements were part of her "living collection" – in contrast to the Old Masters artwork and décor she displayed throughout her house-museum.

What drew me to portraying Mrs. Gardner is that she is the "first woman in America to conceive, design, and construct a house-museum." Collecting art was a passion she and Jack had shared. However, her husband passed before their vision was realized. So in her grief, Isabella held fast to her vision of bringing joy and uplifting beauty to others through the Art and the Flowers she arranged. When she opened the museum to the public in 1903, she dedicated it "to the City of Boston, for the education and the enjoyment of the Public, forever." Upon her passing, her Fenway Court house-museum was renamed The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, to signify it had been accomplished by a woman.

**DH:** Tell us a bit about your project with the Growing Center in Somerville.

**JP:** The Somerville Community Growing Center is a vibrant nexus of cultural and educational programming run by a steadfast team of volunteer members – all are welcome. Founded in 1994, their mission "Gather, Create, Experience" includes ongoing programming with live music, nature-themed films, poetry, opera, maker fairs, climate awareness performances, an annual maple boil, and the teddy bear picnic. I am grateful to partner with Lisa Brukilacchio, urban agriculturist, co-founder on the FCGC board, and the Growing Center team.

In June 2026, we announced the "Model Pollinator Garden Prizes" for residents and community groups to register their "Pollinator-friendly gardens" for consideration of an award. Over the summer, local AV artist Ami Feldman designed posters and later drew maps connecting the Pollinator garden addresses. We are also grateful to Mahoney's Garden Center for their $50 donation, ie (5) gift cards. After Labor Day, we contacted the awardees, and on October 3rd, we gathered for the culminating Ceremony at CALA, at which "Mrs. Gardner" made brief remarks for historical context, then presented the awards.

The two categories of recognition are: (5) home gardens: Marion Davis (Cross St. Place, E. Somerville); Beth Kevles and Mieke Citroen (Hancock St); William Bennett and Jonathan Rich (Lexington St); Rosa Carson, Mary Miratrix and Rie Macchiarolo (Broadway Ave); Alice Lee / Jonah and Courtney Petri / Leslie Beale / Cynthia Waite nd Ed Barton, ie, the (4) Highland Road neighbors who collectively cultivated a "verdant corridor" from their front porch to the curb; and Kit Cangardel (Rodgers St) received a "Certificate of Recognition" for her front yard container garden.

Also the (7) public and community gardens to receive a Certificate of Recognition include:

(1) Native Pollinator Garden along the Community Path – maintained by Somerville Garden Club, presented to Irene Heim;

(2) "The Wedding Nook" Native Pollinator Garden at Prospect Hill Tower, presented to Luisa Olivera, Director, Public Space and Urban Forestry;

(3) Somerville Pollinators Action Plan (SPAP) for their citywide plantings, including Lincoln Park and at CALA, presented to Alison Maurer, Planner of Ecological Restoration, who's currently seeking volunteers for their next Pollinator planting at CALA on OCT 24.

(4) Green and Open Somerville has organized Pollinator plantings throughout the city, including Lowell Street ramp on the Community Path, as well as citywide depavings. The Certificate was presented to Joel Bennett, co-founder of the Community Path on behalf of Green and Open; and Tim Lasker, Manager of Sustainability at MBTA spoke to the T's ongoing efforts of fostering community engagement.

(5) Native Pollinator Meadow at Blessings of the Bay Park, Mystic River Watershed Assn. (the meadow, situated along the Route 93 corridor, is located on lands of the Massachusetts, Nipmuck and Pawtucket tribes). The certificate was presented to Karl Alexander, Greenways Program Senior Manager, with Offshoots Productive Landscape whom they worked with to develop the site.

(6) Glen Park Community Garden, a vibrant oasis in East Somerville, presented to Leeane Darrigo, Lesley Ballantyne, and Sam Musher, who shared what being part of a community garden has meant to them. Jen Fries, also gardens here, but had a previous commitment.

(7) The Residential Life Team at CALA, who are sharing their vision of this magnificent public space with our Community, presented to Deb Pacini and Jane Carpineto, both CALA residents.

**DH:** Could you call Somerville a city of gardens?

**JP:** Yes, definitely, we can call Somerville a "City of Gardens." In addition to the Department of Urban Space and Public Forestry, the City's Public Works (DPW) manages an array of areas which support the challenges of living in a densely populated urban environment, ie, nearly 5 square mile circumference. I believe we are a vital example of Frederick Law Olmsted's vision, through our home gardens and our public spaces, we are cultivating a 21st-century "Emerald Necklace," of flourishing "pollinator pathways" throughout Somerville.




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