

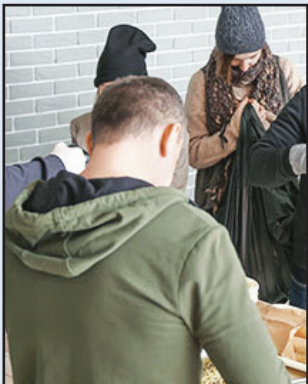


Inside:



Halloween, full-size

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Through the eyes of Denise

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City authorizes package to expand life-science ecosystem in Somerville



Assembly Square's Innovation District, possible future home of TransMedics Group, Inc.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Harry Kane

The city is offering an incentive package to TransMedics Group, Inc. that would yield a whopping \$74.56 million in tax revenue over the next decade if the medical device manufacturer moves its global headquarters to Somerville.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne requested authorization to enter into a tax increment financing agreement with TransMedics that would relocate the company to Assembly Square's Innovation District, and while the transplant professionals haven't yet decided whether to lease in Somerville, the deal is in the works.

"That represents one of the most significant economic development opportunities our city has seen in recent years," said Mayor Ballantyne. *Continued on page 4*

Preparations begin for annual wreath fundraiser

By The Times Staff

The annual wreath sale project is a long-standing tradition of the Somerville Community Growing Center. For the past 30 years, locals have attended the fundraiser to assemble one-of-a-kind wreaths.

The fundraiser started with a collaboration between the Growing Center and the Walnut Street Center in 1995. Years later, the wreath event is a holiday pastime woven into the storied history of Somerville.

"It's a way for people to get together and socialize," said Lisa Brukilacchio, Vice President of the Board of Directors and Co-Founder of the Friends of the Somerville Community Growing Center.

In the first week of December, volunteers of all ages will gather at Connexion to *Continued on page 4*



The Somerville Community Growing Center's annual wreath assembly fundraiser will take place on December 4 and 5.

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

Municipal Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. Make your voice heard. **Early Voting** will take place at **Somerville City Hall**, 93 Highland Ave., on the following dates and times: **Wednesday, October 29**, 8:30 a.m. –4:30 p.m. and **Thursday, October 30**, 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. For more information about voting in Somerville, go to www.somervillema.gov/elections.

In order to be fair to all candidates and those concerned with any ballot measures, *The Somerville Times* will not publish op-eds or letters to the Editor related to the election this week, the final edition before **Tuesday's election**. There was ample time to do so in the previous weeks. The week before gives an unfair advantage. The opportunity to offer comments on our website is still available. We thank you for your understanding.

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 **Erin DiBenedetto**, **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. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 29 – November 4 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>October 29</i>	Cloudy	50°/44°	14%	9%	NE 13 mph
Thursday <i>October 30</i>	Rain	57°/53°	68%	59%	ENE 15 mph
Friday <i>October 31</i>	Rain	60°/45°	52%	48%	W 16 mph
Saturday <i>November 1</i>	Cloudy	56°/40°	3%	1%	W 20 mph
Sunday <i>November 2</i>	Cloudy	53°/36°	5%	2%	NW 11 mph
Monday <i>November 3</i>	Cloudy	55°/40°	22%	19%	SW 12 mph
Tuesday <i>November 4</i>	Rain	54°/39°	35%	26%	W 15 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: *Why I will vote against the proposed city charter*

Liz Quinn says:

Hi Bill! This is really helpful context and history. Appreciate your writing this and appreciate your focus on direct democracy. But I guess I'm wondering whether your stance is an example of letting the perfect be the enemy of the good. My question to you is tactical: do you think that voting yes on this charter puts us further away from direct democracy? If we were to vote no, would the path to direct democracy be easier than if we vote yes? I know it took many years for the charter committee to complete their work, so going back to the beginning seems daunting. Genuinely curious and appreciate your insights.

Beverly Schwartz says:

Liz, you are better off with the new charter. It is easier to amend. It requires charter review *at least* every 10 years, but you don't need a full charter review to amend a charter. You can read about the benefits of the new charter at: <https://yes-on-charter.info> You can read about how to amend a charter at: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleVII/Chapter43B> The state procedures apply whether or not the new charter is adopted. My guess is that if there is sufficient interest from the citizens, our new city council and mayor would be receptive to filing a home rule petition to add Initiative and Referendum.

Bill Shelton says:

I see, Liz, that I did not give an unequivocal answer to one of your questions: "If we were to vote no, would the path to direct democracy be easier than if we vote yes?" The answer is "yes," because the proposed charter specifies a charter review only every ten years.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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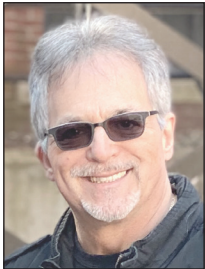
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

Halloween, full-size



If there's ever a real argument comparing these days to the good old days, two words can help win the discussion, full-size. Not just candy bars either. Back

then, there was no such thing as a fun size. And instead of a regular-sized goody bag, my friends and I carried full-size pillow-cases. Everything back then ('60s-'80s) was bigger. Cars were bigger, toys seemed bigger, and, of course, Halloween candy bars were ... full-size.

On Halloween night, the streets were full of kids. Each house on my street near Davis Square had a family with kids. There were parents and kids everywhere. As always, I've asked some of my Somerville friends to share their memories of Halloweens gone by.

Peter: "I remember sitting on the living room floor, trading candy I didn't like with my sister, and they were full-size

candy bars!"

Sophia: "We had six kids trick or treating for candy, so it was a candy store at the end of our run. We kids brought so much candy home, my mom emptied shoe boxes and filled at least a dozen of them according to the type of candy. My favorite boxes were the Milky Way bars and Milk Duds."

Pamela: "We used to leave our house in Ball Sq. to trick or treat with pillow cases for bags. We would go back when they were full. One year, we each filled six pillow cases. Wish I had that energy today!"

Maureen: "Lasting memory for me until the end of time, Mrs. O'Hare on Highland Rd., dressed up in costume and scaring all the kids. One year, it was a gorilla with Tarzan-like sound effects played in the background, another year, a witch. She was unrecognizable, and the attention to detail was insanely good. What good times."

Bob: "I remember hiding the wood for the bonfire in the Northeastern JR High schoolyard from the 'authorities' until we were sure the coast was clear, and then it



was 'burn baby burn.'"

Jon: "There was an elderly couple somewhere in our neighborhood who used to make 4-5 dozen homemade taffy apples.

They made the taffy themselves. When they ran out, they would apologize and offer you either some homemade cookies or a quarter."

Continued on page 5



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log October 14–20

Residential Breaking and Entering

25064383: On 10/15/25 at approximately 2:40 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Broadway for report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the residents who stated a male party entered their apartment and stole numerous belongings.

Assault

25064581: On 10/16/25 at approximately 10:56 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Park St. for a check condition. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who stated he was involved in a road rage altercation with a female party. During the altercation, the female brandished a knife at the victim. Officers identified the female suspect.

Assault

25065239: On 10/19/25 at approximately 2:16 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Jaques St. for a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who stated she was approached by a male and female inside Foss Park. The female party then attempted to hit the victim.

Other Crimes: 9 Car breaks · 2 Package thefts · 3 Bike thefts · 2 MV vandalisms

— Somerville Police Department



City authorizes package to expand life-science ecosystem in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

during the City Council meeting on October 23.

TransMedics is an Andover-based medical technology company that offers organ transplant therapy for patients worldwide. The company was founded by CEO Dr. Waleed H. Hassanein in August 1998.

Their organ care system technology “is a complete, end-to-end donor organ retrieval & clinical management service” that preserves lungs, hearts and livers for transplantation, according to their website.

TransMedics utilizes a nationwide network of clinical and surgical experts. They currently have a dedicated air and ground transport logistics network, including a fleet of 22 jets, that can get to anywhere in the continental United States within two hours, explained a member of the executive leadership team during the City Council meeting presentation.

“This proposal is a vital milestone to advance our prospects,” said Mayor Ballan-

tine. “This proposal represents a genuine win-win, supporting good jobs and tax revenue, cutting-edge innovation and opportunity to forge a community partnership that will strengthen both Somerville’s future economy and the Commonwealth as a whole.”

Tax increment financing is a tax incentive specifically tied to the investment made by a company that is making both a capital investment and adding jobs, explained Director of Economic Development Rachel Nadkarni.

Nadkarni said that this project will bring “momentum” to Somerville’s expansion of lab science businesses.

“It is a really strong signal to the rest of the world that Somerville is part of the life-science ecosystem,” said Nadkarni.

If the deal goes through, TransMedics would receive an \$18 million tax break over the next 10 years. The medical technology company would fill the entire

500,000-square-foot life-science building at 188 Assembly Park Drive.

In addition to the TIF exemptions, the city has provided permit fee waivers of \$2,275,000 million.

The lab building will go through a process called tenant fit-out for customizing the commercial leased space. There are currently no interior walls and the expectation is that customizing the inside will take 1-2 years to complete.

The medical technology company would invest an estimated \$175 to \$225 million to fit-out for occupancy and an additional \$50 to \$75 million for the acquisition and installation of personal property, according to the TIF draft agreement.

The assessed value of the lab building, which is owned by BioMed Realty, is \$223,664,700.

Currently, the medical technology company employs some 300 workers, but they plan on expanding to 900 permanent, full-

time employees by the end of 2032. If the company fails to meet their job growth commitments, there is a clawback provision that is standard to a TIF agreement, said Nadkarni.

During the City Council meeting on October 23, the executive leadership team from TransMedics presented their vision for their future partnership with the city.

TransMedics’ presence will help Somerville become an emerging destination for life-science and healthcare innovation, create jobs and economic growth, stimulate local businesses like restaurants and contribute to the community.

As part of the package deal, TransMedics is committed to creating a long-term partnership with the community by making annual donations of \$100,000 to the Somerville Public School District, \$50,000 to the Somerville Fire Department and \$50,000 to the Somerville Police Department.

Preparations begin for annual wreath fundraiser

CONT. FROM PG 1

decorate locally-sourced wreaths using dried flowers and other decorative plant material. Each wreath is unique, and the quantity is limited, explained Brukilacchio.

Though the event only becomes public in early December, planning starts in early January to plan for seeds to be grown into dried flowers at the Center or by friendly local farms. Volunteers collect evergreen cones, the garden team harvests and dries blossoms, and colorful hydrangeas are donated to the cause by local home gardeners.

In late October and into November, more volunteers start preparing flowers with wooden pics, wiring cones, and making festive bows.

The volunteers have already started prepping the wreaths for assembly, and there will be more prepping this upcoming weekend at the Somerville Community Growing Center. They are prepping for 130 wreaths, which will be sold for \$50 each.

On December 4 and December 5, from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., the wreaths are assembled at Connexion. “People can participate in different ways,” says Brukilacchio. “They can purchase one, or they can just come and spend a day inhaling evergreens and enjoying pretty flowers.”

Proceeds from the sale directly benefit the Friends of the Somerville Community Growing Center, the 501(c)3 nonprofit

that stewards the Growing Center space to serve as a community resource and manages over 150 free events.

“Our lean budget covers the cost of part-time staff to support the frequent use of the Center by many local organizations serving young children, as well as supporting the many volunteers and activities, in addition to mundane but necessary costs of supplies, porta-potty cleanings, and liability insurance,” said Brukilacchio.

All sales and donations contribute to this special Somerville institution’s capacity to continue to serve the city’s residents into another generation.

“We are grateful to the many volunteers and customers who make the wreath sale a

successful fundraiser year after year,” said Brukilacchio.

Join in the fun of co-creating seasonal beauty as a volunteer (sign up at bit.ly/scgc-volunteer under tab for “Wreath Project” -or as a patron (check out the online ordering at <https://friends-of-the-community-growing-center-wreath-sale.square.site/>).

Pop-up work sessions for flower and cone prep take place this weekend, November 1 and 2: help prep the dried flowers and pinecones in preparation for wreath assembly, and learn how to make bows! Sign up to help <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AA9AC-2DA5FD07-59207939-wreath#/>

New shade structure at Capuano Playground

Halloween, full-size

CONT. FROM PG 3

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin invite community members to join the City of Somerville for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the new shade structure at Capuano Playground. The event will take place on Thursday, October 30, at 3 p.m., at Capuano Playground (150 Glen St).



The Capuano Playground shade structure was funded by Somerville residents through the city's Participatory Budgeting program, which empowers community members to propose and vote on projects that directly benefit

their neighborhoods.

This new structure provides a comfortable, sun-safe space for park visitors and supports Somerville's broader efforts to make public spaces more accessible and welcoming for all.

Mike: "Some of the things we did on Halloween (as kids) could still get us jail time today! Thank God we could run fast in those days!"

This year, because of the virus, we will

have a scaled-down, fun-size Halloween. Exercising safety precautions, including masks, under your masks, and social distancing, hopefully will ensure that we go back to a full-size Halloween next year.



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- ✓ **Driving Growth through Partnerships**
Negotiated partnerships with major technology companies expanding product offerings, strategic investments, employee certification training, and created new jobs.
- ✓ **Leading Innovation**
Led a 30+ engineering team to produce the validation software for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to test the first paperless New Drug Applications (NDA). Modernizing and accelerating the approval of life-saving drug therapies and medical devices.
- ✓ **Policy Reform**
Governor appointed Chair of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities council lead statewide policy efforts - meeting with legislators, partnering with advocacy coalitions and community members, sharing her own story as testimony to humanize the issues of key legislation



"I have a different lens and will be a voice for the underserved and marginalized communities that do not have a seat at the table when it comes to important city decisions. I'm asking for one of your four votes for City Council At Large so we can do better as a city." –Holly Simione.

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Teamsters Local 122



SHEET METAL WORKERS LOCAL 17

Sheet Metal Workers Local 17



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Finance Committee approves funding for 2026 Warming Center, EV charging stations

By Jordan Pagkalinawan

On Tuesday, October 21, the Somerville Finance Committee met to review requests to fund three community-oriented projects, approve prior-year invoices, and extend two design services contracts.

The committee first approved an appropriation of nearly \$148,000 from the COVID-19 Stabilization Fund toward the 2026 Warming Center, which will run from Dec. 1, 2025, to April 12, 2026. Director of Health and Human Services Karin Karroll explained that the financial increase is needed to accommodate additional beds and rising operational costs, including “inflation, external contracting needs, and personnel.”

Karroll said HHS plans to use over \$424,000 from state grant funds to cover operational costs for 14 of the 19 weeks the Warming Center will operate. The department asked the committee to approve “the first five weeks” of operation, from the beginning of December to Jan. 4, 2026. In addition to operational expenses, the appropriated funds will cover the cost of an external security firm hired by the city.

“The funds need to be allocated in October in order to meet a starting deadline of December 1st,” Karroll added.

Members then greenlit a \$500,000 grant toward six dual-port electric vehicle charging stations, gifted by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center as part of the On-Street Charging Solutions Program. According to Christine Blais, the Director of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, those six stations would “double the amount of publicly-accessible ports” EV owners could use.

The stations would be constructed in

the spring and become fully operational by mid-2026. They would be installed in the following locations:

- Newbury Street at Teele Square
- Monroe Street at Prospect Hill Park
- Josephine Avenue at Ball Square
- Evergreen Avenue at the Winter Hill School
- Hudson Street at Labyrinth
- Stone Avenue at Union Square

With the addition of six EV charging stations, Blais said the Office of Sustainability would “be on our way towards our climate forward goals of decarbonizing our electric vehicle supply.”

Prior year invoices

The committee approved two prior-year invoices totaling roughly \$14,500 to the Parks and Recreation Department for pool chemicals to maintain the Ginny Smithers Pool and Dilboyl Pool.

“These invoices were for orders that were placed in June,” Parks and Recreation Finance Manager Linda Duong said. “But because of turnover within the pool manager position, the invoices weren’t received until September, which is why they weren’t able to be paid in fiscal year 2025.”

Infrastructure fund creation

The committee then heard from Director of Finance and Community Development Alan Inacio, who explained a request to establish two infrastructure stabilization funds for BrickBottom and Boynton Yards. The BrickBottom fund came with a request for nearly \$764,000, while the Boynton Yards fund had a request for nearly \$384,000.

“Finally, after many, many years, many of our larger development projects are hitting the stages of their covenant agreements, where their phase of completion is trigger-



Funding for the 2025-2026 Warming Center operation was approved at the Finance Committee’s latest meeting.

ing certain payout times and off-site infrastructure payments,” Inacio said. “They are meant to be spent primarily in the adjacent vicinity of development. These will mostly be engineering, mobility, open-space type projects.”

Inacio also clarified a query from Councilor Wilfred Mbah, noting that the funds are “net new funds” and not being repurposed like other stabilization funds.

Design services contract extensions

The committee’s final agenda items focused on a pair of time-only contract extensions for design services on several projects.

The city’s contract with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners was extended until the end of 2028 for design services on the Building Master Plan. Director of Infrastructure Asset Management Richard Raiche said that has strong knowledge on several current projects—including the Winter Hill School’s Edgerly site

and the roof and clock tower of City Hall. That trust led the department to request a three-year extension with BBB.

“Their understanding of these buildings give them a great start on these projects, and their work is absolutely outstanding,” Raiche added. “We don’t have a specific project lined up for them, but we want to keep the ability to tap them at a moment’s notice to do projects like that.”

A similar three-year, time-only extension with Kleinfelder Northeast Inc. was also approved, with work focusing on the Morrison Avenue Linear Sewage Project.

“Kleinfelder did all the preliminary design for that project,” Raiche said. “We’ve been happy with their performance and successfully negotiated a scope and fee for them to continue on to the next phase for final design. We’ve already allocated the money for it. This is the contract extension that allows us to continue that relationship with Kleinfelder for this work.”

Join the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee

The City of Somerville is seeking one new youth member to join the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee. If you’re passionate about protecting and cultivating our local urban forest, this is a great opportunity to make an impact. The Urban Forestry Committee provides public guidance, builds support, and engages in outreach to help protect and cultivate all of Somerville’s trees citywide, which is called our urban forest. We are your concerned neighbors, advocates, environmental professionals, and community partners working together to foster an equitable urban forest. Together, we will grow a healthy and resilient forest for the future. Any Somerville youth between the ages of 14 and 17 may apply for this vacancy. The committee meets virtually once per month, typically on the third Thursday of the month, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Committee members occasionally develop educational materials, prepare and conduct community presentations, attend site visits, or support City staff during Arbor Day celebrations. Overall time commitment is expected to be 2–5 hours per month. Committee members are selected by the mayor and appointed by the City Council.

To apply, please submit a brief statement of interest by the end of the day on Monday, December 1, 2025. Your statement can simply be a paragraph on what inspires you to want to join and why you feel you would be a good addition to the committee. Apply via email or U.S. Mail to: Email: vboukili@somervillema.gov
Mail: Attn: Vanessa Boukili, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02145 Drop off: At the City Hall Welcome Desk, in the main entrance of City Hall, in a sealed envelope addressed to Vanessa Boukili, Public Space and Urban Forestry For questions or more information, contact Vanessa Boukili at vboukili@somervillema.gov or by calling 617-625-6600 x 2516 or call 311 (617-666-3311).

COMMENTARY

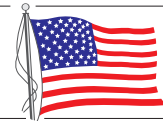
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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 local election is just around the corner, and the midterms are 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 to gather their sweets, and just plain having fun in the process.

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

The city will be hosting meetings for business operators interested in opening a **cannabis social consumption establishment** in Somerville, and in-person and virtual meetings for the public to learn more and offer feedback about cannabis social consumption license types. **Cannabis Social Consumption Meeting for Somerville Residents and the Public (In-Person), Wednesday, October 29, 6 – 7:30 p.m.,** West Somerville Neighborhood School, 177 Powder House Blvd. For more information, including the full list of meetings, visit: www.somervillema.gov/socialconsumption.

The **Council on Aging's Halloween Celebration** will take place on **Thursday, October 30, 167 Holland St.,** at 10 a.m. Enjoy music, a costume contest, and trick or treating with the COA staff. Lunch to be served at noon, following trick or treat. RSVP to **Debby** by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

SOIA October Community Get Together Event, Thursday, October 30, 5 – 7 p.m., 42 Cross St., Somerville. Enjoy an afternoon of fall flavors, connection, and fun. Dress up in your best Halloween costume, enjoy pumpkin spice coffee, chai, and apple cider, as well

as family-friendly activities, like coloring pumpkins. This is a great chance to meet neighbors, explore new flavors, and learn about upcoming city programming and events. All ages are welcome.

Join in on the **East Somerville Fall Clean Up 2025.** Enjoy community time, meet your neighbors, and take a walk through a brand-new East Somerville. Join them on **Saturday, November 1,** from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. They will provide delicious coffee and pastries from **Ola Café.** Meet at 115 Broadway, East Branch Library.

Stop by the **Mystic Activity Center, 530**

Mystic Ave., on Saturday, November 1, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. for a **free clothing shopping experience.** There will be winter clothing of all sizes, and everything will be free of charge.

The **federal shutdown** means millions may soon lose access to **SNAP food assistance,** and the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is already preparing for the impact. They are looking for help for their clients fed by cooking a meal or donating a donor dash or restaurant gift card through their **Meal Train link** - <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/vgelkg>.

Continued on page 15

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#995

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What vegetable was once thought to have supernatural powers on Halloween? | Jamie Lee Curtis appeared in? |
| 2. What Halloween movie features three witches trying to stay young forever? | 7. Which famous book features the Headless Horseman? |
| 3. What historic weather event occurred on Halloween in 1991? | 8. What's the name of the hotel in <i>The Shining</i> ? |
| 4. Which U.S. city hosts the world's largest Halloween parade? | 9. Where can you be fined for using Silly String on Halloween? |
| 5. Which famous Halloween movie features the line "Do you like scary movies?" | 10. Who played Edward Scissorhands? |
| 6. How many Halloween movies has | 11. When will the next full moon on Halloween occur? |
| | 12. What was the name of Dracula's sidekick? |

Answers on page 13

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Dolphins give each other names.
- Frank Sinatra was offered the starring role in *Die Hard*.

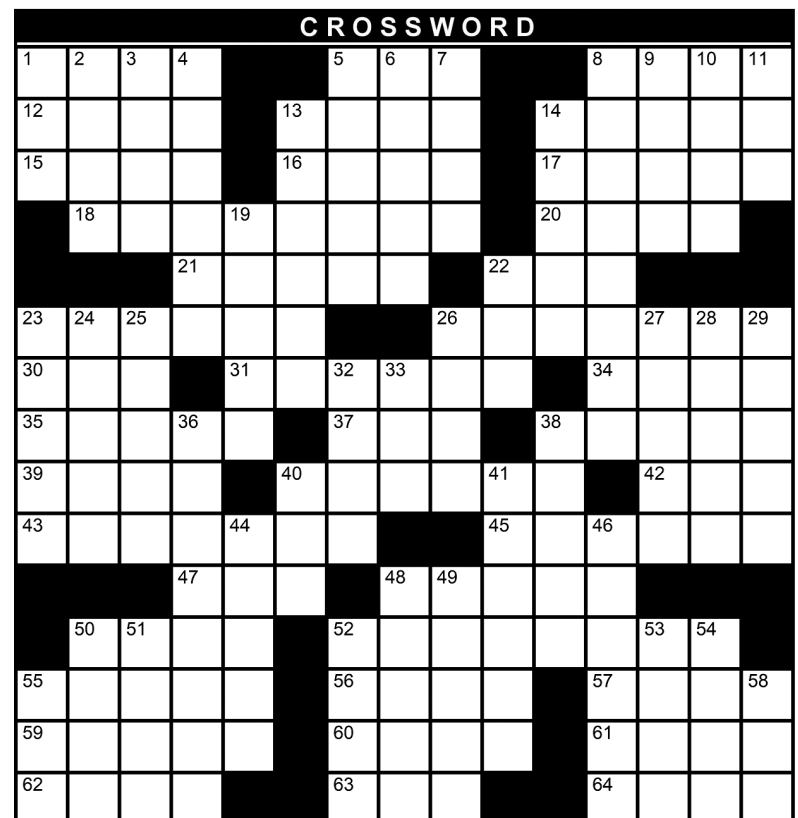
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD IN THE WOODS

ACROSS

- Flows' partners
- "When Harry ____ Sally..."
- Sound of laughter
- "Hide" behind the bush
- Bébé's mother
- Age units in the woods
- Rum cake
- Placido Domingo's solo, e.g.
- Concluded
- "Into the Woods" star Anna
- Come clean, with up
- Terra ____
- Urge Spot to attack
- One of seven gnomes
- Prior to the present (3 words)
- FEMA provisions, e.g.
- Erratum, pl.
- Int. org. in Brussels
- Merge
- Time frame
- Right-hand page
- 1920s art style
- Cause of wheezing
- Like The Hot Chili Peppers
- ____ God we ____," on U.S. currency
- Some vipers
- Clairvoyant's gift
- Source of chocolate
- Form of payment
- Edible fungus
- Multi-layered cake
- Mêlange
- Utah's national park
- Bake an egg
- Plural of #22 Down
- "____ the Woods" play and movie
- Prefix for multiple
- Japanese honorific
- Barely got by

DOWN

- Singular of #1 Across
- Woodpecker's pecker
- One lost in the woods
- Posture



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 5. Boy Scout's badge | 32. Catch one's breath |
| 6. "Fear of Flying" author ____ Jong | 33. A in MOMA |
| 7. Furniture wood | 36. Scientific study in woodlands |
| 8. Conifer's dropping | 38. Meteorologist's tool |
| 9. Peters out | 40. Nile reptile |
| 10. Def Leppard's "Rock of ____" | 41. Masculine one and proud of it, pl. |
| 11. Psychedelic drug, acr. | 44. Theater greeter |
| 13. St. Valentine, e.g. | 46. Something extraordinary |
| 14. Equip again | 48. "Mea ____," or "my fault" |
| 19. One of Seven Dwarfs | 49. Hailing from the East |
| 22. Rejuvenating spot | 50. Type of salmon |
| 23. ____ Arabia | 51. Seed covering |
| 24. Wrinkle-prone fabric | 52. Trunk growth |
| 25. Declaration of Independence, e.g. | 53. Sty cry |
| 26. 2002 Winter Olympics state | 54. Speck |
| 27. Mother-of-pearl | 55. Recipe amt. |
| 28. Weasel's cousin | 58. Go-ahead |
| 29. Golf's great | |

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

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Are there any lessons Halloween can teach us to improve our finances?

A: Yes! Halloween reminds us that scary things lose power when we face them directly. So let's use the spirit of these classic costumes to scare off some financial bad habits:

Ghost

Disappearing dollars?

Action: Set a recurring calendar reminder to review your finances each month — before your money vanishes!

Skeleton

No structure?

Action: Draft or update your will — even a basic one — so your financial skeleton is strong beneath the surface.

Bat

Flying blind?

Action: Check your credit report at AnnualCreditReport.com to spot what's lurking in the dark!

Wizard

Waiting for magic?

Action: Increase your retirement savings by even 1%. Compound growth makes your money work like magic over time.

This Halloween, don't just dress up — level up your finances. A few smart moves

now can help keep real-life monsters (like debt and confusion) far away!

Any questions? I'd be happy to help.

I'm Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vchicksconnect@gmail.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.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Stuffed Artichokes

The artichoke is a great appetizer that can be made ahead the day before or the morning of your gathering. Of course, I don't usually wait for a gathering as an excuse to make these. I was very lucky as a child as these were practically a staple in my house. If given the choice of sweets or an artichoke for a snack, I chose the artichoke.

There are many different ways to serve these delicious vegetables that are high in antioxidants. The small artichokes are very tender and are often steamed, grilled or baked and served as a side dish or often added to salads. I also use the small marinated artichokes in a jar to serve as an antipasto.

For those of you who are not familiar with preparing an artichoke for stuffing, I have included a link for you to watch a video to familiarize yourself with the process. <http://youtu.be/aDxaIUJzd5Y> (Preparing Artichokes-Martha Stewart Cooking Show via YouTube)

A good tip for choosing an artichoke, make sure the leaves are tight, they are uniform in color with minimum or no brown spots visible and heavy for its size.

- 2 large artichokes
- 1-1/2 cups of seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan Cheese
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. Kosher Salt

- 2 Tbl. dried parsley
- 2 medium garlic cloves, finely minced or run through a garlic press
- Kettle of hot water
- Olive oil for drizzling

In a medium bowl, add bread crumbs, cheese, pepper, salt, parsley and garlic. Blend well, making sure the garlic is evenly disbursed throughout your mix and put aside. Fill your kettle about 3/4 of the way and boil. Prepare the artichokes by cutting the stem flush with the bottom of the artichoke. Place the artichoke on a flat surface to make sure it stands on its own, if not, trim if needed. Peel the stem, chop it into small pieces and add to the stuffing mix. Repeat for each additional artichoke. Never waste the stem, it's an extension of the heart in the center of the artichoke! Cut the leaves of the artichoke, refer to the above video if needed.

Rinse the artichoke in cold water while spreading the leaves, allowing the water to flow through. Invert and let the remaining water drain out. Since I'm only making two of these, and plan to stuff and cook right away, I didn't use acidulated water since they didn't have enough time to oxidize. However, if you decide to make more than two, I highly recommend soaking the artichokes in acidulated water.

Have a 3 quart pot ready to place the stuffed chokes into. Using 1/2 the mix, I start stuffing the outside leaves open



all while adding the stuffing. The stuffing falls right in between the leaves, it's much easier using this technique. I typically stuff the first 2-3 rows using a spoon. Once the leaves are stuffed, place the remaining stuffing mix over the top of the choke and press with your hand to work the stuffing around the center of the artichoke. Place the stuffed artichoke into the pot. Repeat with the second artichoke. You want a tight fit so that neither of the artichokes tip over. Once secure in the pot, pour the hot water into the side of the pot, filling it half way up the artichokes.

Now, with the remaining water, pour over the artichoke itself slowly using a fine stream of water, making sure you don't flush the stuffing out of the leaves and wet the whole top of the choke. This will moisten all the

stuffing, which is important to ensure even cooking. Once finished, drizzle olive oil over the top of each choke, about a tablespoon for each one. Turn the heat onto medium/high, once the water starts to slightly boil, cover and turn heat to medium, simmer for about 35 minutes. To check if cooked, use a sharp knife and punch into the center of each choke, there should be little resistance and easily go through the bottom of the artichoke. If not, just cook additionally in 5 minute increments until cooked through. Once cooked, remove from heat and let stand for 5 minutes before removing to a platter. Serve at room temperature.

Serves 2.

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, November 6th, 2025** at 6:30 pm.

This meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, and by remote participation, using the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue.
2. Enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tjQZ9av1QSA>
3. 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 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the City Council and Planning Board.

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

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 10.10.3, 15.1.2, 15.1.6, 15.1.8, 15.2.1, 15.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.4, 15.3.1, 15.3.2, and 15.5.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to make pre-submittal meetings optional for most permits and to improve clarity and consistency.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Tables 4.1.13, 4.2.13, 4.3.13, 4.4.13, 5.1.14, 7.2.7, 7.4.8, 8.4.16 (c), and 9.1.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to permit Home-Based Child Day Care accessory uses and make corrections.
- 12 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 363 Highland Avenue from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) and from MR4 to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6), and 110 Willow Avenue MR4 to MR6.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar – <https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> – for the address or item number.

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

10/22/25, 10/29/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Rebid IFB #26-21**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

On-Call Repairs, Replacements and Maintenance of Overhead Doors

A bid package may be obtained online at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, October 29th, 2025**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3pm, Wednesday, November 12th, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Logan Carroll.Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more info.
Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

10/29/25 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
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 18, 2025** 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 2 of the Acts of 2025, 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/9tjQZ9av1QSA>
Webinar ID: 817 4832 3303

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

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP24-000066 - 76 Highland Avenue
Applicant: Li Liu
Owner: Li Liu
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing existing gutters and downspouts with aluminum gutters and downspouts.

HP24-000066 - 76 Highland Avenue
Applicant: Li Liu
Owner: Li Liu
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing a total of twenty-nine (29) windows.

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

HP25-000078 – 58 Main Street
Applicant: Patrick Easley
Owner: Doug Keah
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HP25-000080 – 21 Avon Street (House)
Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa LLC- Michael LaRosa
Owner: Joseph A. Ferro, Trustee of 21 Avon Street Realty Trust
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HP25-000081 – 21 Avon Street (Barn)
Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa LLC- Michael LaRosa
Owner: Joseph A. Ferro, Trustee of 21 Avon Street Realty Trust
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.*

10/29/25 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 5, 2025**, 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. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tjQZ9av1QSA>
Webinar ID: 839 9106 4941

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:

156-158 Summer Street Somerset LLC - Kevin Foley (Manager), seeks a Hardship Variance for a transformer in the frontage area per Section 2.4.3.d.v of the SZO.

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.

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 26-25**

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

Networked Geothermal Systems Financing and Operations Study

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, October 27, 2025**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, November 13, 2025**.

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

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3409

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
 MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Redevelopment Authority will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, November 6th, 2025** at 6:30 pm on the following item:

Requesting that this City Council schedule a joint public hearing with the Somerville Redevelopment Authority regarding updating the 90 Washington Street Demonstration Project Plan.

This meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, and by remote participation, using the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue.
2. Enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting. https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register?WV_XKqTDtiQTeiqFZ9avi1QSA
3. 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 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the City Council and Redevelopment Authority.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK
CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

HVAC Automated Controls System Maintenance - Open Protocol

A bid package may be obtained online at:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at

<http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, October 29th, 2025**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:30pm, Wednesday, November 12th, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Logan Carroll.Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more info.

Logan Carroll
 Procurement Manager
 617-625-6600 x3407

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Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: If your landlord wants to convert your apartment to a condominium, there are steps they have to go through, including giving you notice and possibly paying you relocation benefits?

A: Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/somerville-strengthens-tenant-protections-condo-conversion-ordinance>
(The Fair Housing Commission took part in the Anti-Displacement Task Force whose work helped create these protections.)

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



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Dead ends.

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**Somerville through
the eyes of Denise**



It is a beautiful day in the neighborhood... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

October 29

- 1618 – Sir Walter Raleigh is executed.
- 1787 – Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni* opens in Prague.
- 1814 – The Demologos, the first steam-powered warship, launched in NYC.
- 1929 – Black Tuesday—the most catastrophic day in stock market history, the herald of the Great Depression.
- 1945 – The first ball-point pen is sold by Gimbell's department store in New York for a price of \$12.
- 1964 – Thieves steal a jewel collection from the Museum of Natural History in NYC.
- 1969 – First computer-to-computer link – accomplished through ARPANET, forerunner of the Internet.
- 1972 – Palestinian guerrillas kill an airport employee and hijack a plane, carrying 27 passengers, to Cuba.
- 1998 – John Glenn, at age 77, becomes the oldest person to go into outer space. He is part of the crew of Space Shuttle Discovery, STS-95.

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From page 8

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. Cabbage	7. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
2. Hocus Pocus	8. The Overlook Hotel
3. The Halloween Blizard of 1991	9. Los Angeles
4. New York City, Greenwich Village Halloween Parade	10. Johnny Depp
5. <i>Scream</i>	11. 2039
6. Seven	12. Renfield



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Tribute to Danielle Legros Georges (1964–2025)'

This essay is in *Ibbetson Street 57*, the latest issue of this Somerville-based magazine:

Tribute to Danielle Legros Georges (1964–2025)

By *Off the Shelf* Correspondent Martha Collins

When Danielle Legros Georges passed away earlier this year, I, like many others, lost a dear friend.

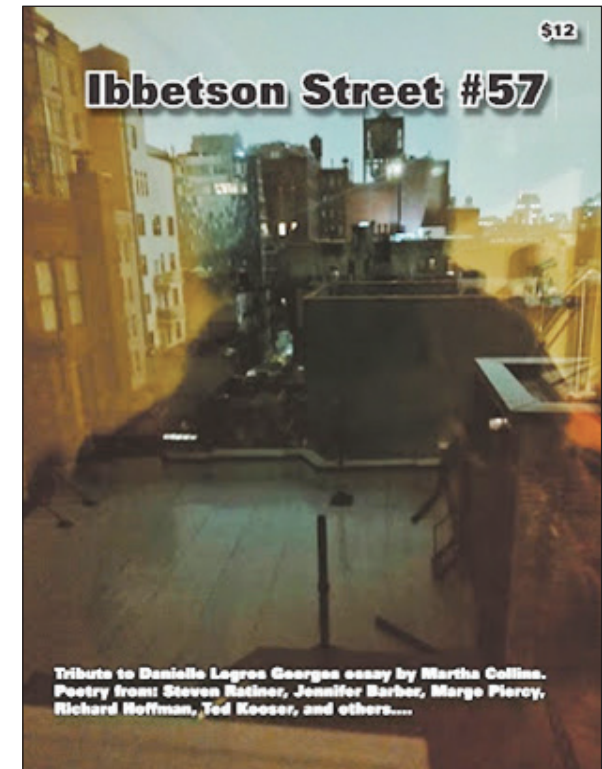
I met Danielle in the 1990s, when she was a participant in a summer translation workshop at the William Joiner Institute at UMass Boston. Some years later she became a colleague who taught that workshop herself and was instrumental in welcoming more writers of color into the Joiner community.

In the years between and beyond, I knew her as a writer whose stunning poems seamlessly fused the personal and the political; as a poetic innovator who took enormous risks in her work; as a researcher who transformed history into beautiful poems; as a translator who carefully brought the important work of Haitian women poets to our attention; as a social activist whose work on behalf of others extended far beyond her written work; and as a friend with whom I shared both deep sadness and grief, and abundant laughter and joy—a woman who shared herself and her many gifts both deeply and widely.

Born in Haiti and raised in Boston, Danielle graduated from Emerson College, earned her MFA in Creative Writing from New York University, and served as Professor and later Director of the Creative Writing MFA Program at Lesley University. She received numerous fellowships and awards, including an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Emerson College, and in 2024 was inducted into the American Antiquarian Society and named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by France's Ministry of Culture.

Many of her awards and recognitions were also opportunities for service. As Boston's Poet Laureate from 2015 until 2019, she worked tirelessly to bring poetry to the lives of ordinary Bostonians. She partnered with museums and libraries, sponsored poetry workshops for students and elders, collaborated with musicians and photographers, and brought poetry to the attention of the entire city through *POETRY*

love, and not until years later
could even contemplate
such improbable odds against her.



ON THE T, the innovative sidewalk installation *Raining Poetry*, *City of Notions: An Anthology of Contemporary Boston Poems*, and other projects. She was on the Board of Directors of the New England Poetry Club, for which she spearheaded the creation of two awards for BIPOC poets and projects, one of which is now named for her. She was also a valued member of the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston's Artist Advisory Council, a founding member of the the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts (HAAM), and one of the lead editors of HAAM's *Anthology of Haitian Poets of Massachusetts*. Her public service will extend beyond her lifetime, as it continues to touch people in the many communities she loved and served.

But Danielle will be remembered best and longest for her poems, which draw from all of these communities, small and large. She first explored her Haitian heritage, as well as her early life in Boston, in *Maroon* (2001). In *The Dear Remote Nearness of You* (2016), winner of the New England Poetry Club's Sheila Margaret Motton prize, she created boldly experimental poems to deal with such disturbingly timely subjects as racism in Boston and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, as well as exquisite *Continued on page 15*

Machines purr endlessly, coolant systems,
regulators beeping in various rooms,
the doctors will be with them in a minute.

— Greg Hill

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Poet Greg Hill writes: "It has been some time since I myself lived in Somerville (54 Bay State with four roommates), but I am fond of the time I spent there in the Davis Square area and in and around Boston." Greg Hill is a poet and a flash fiction writer in West Hartford, Connecticut. His work has appeared in *Barzakh*, *Grub Street*, *Have Has Had*, *NonBinary Review*, and elsewhere. He and his wife enjoy the struggle of raising three determined feminists. Website: <https://www.gregjhill.com>.



Waiting

She is there now, shambling down
the cold corridor, holding her husband's hand,
their walk is somber, but unintentionally so,
they have little fear of the surgery,
they know the doctors well,
it is just that they have been here before.

Their quiet conversation, unheard
at the other end of that bright, barren hall,
is about their boys, the one who is driving in to see them now,
the other teaching in his distant classroom,
perhaps a lesson on Keats.

She used to teach English too, long ago,
before the first bout with cancer
when her teeming brain first accepted
the dark possibility—a lonely walk down
a moonlit shore of the wide world,
separating finite beach and infinite black ocean.

They remember their boys at eight and five,
twenty years back, when they knew only

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Do you have a future **prekindergarten or kindergarten child**? Join an in-person or online **Enrollment Information Session**. Sessions are being held on **November 12 and 13**. Find more information go to: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/tours>.

Artwork: Creating a visual brand to suit your music. Musicians, learn how artwork enhances and amplifies your music through logos, gig flyers, merch, websites, and more. Get some fresh ideas, tools, tips, and tricks to discover what works for you. **November 15**, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., **Somerville Public Library**, 79 Highland Ave. Free, open to the public. RSVP: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/artwork-creating-a-visual-brand-to-suit-your-music/>.

Letters Rewoven, a new community art installation by local artist **Anna Fubini**, will be on view at **Lou Ann David Park**, 1060 Broadway, **through Spring 2026**. Join in for a small inauguration reception on **Saturday, November 8**, from 12 to 1 p.m. to meet the artist and celebrate the unveiling of this work. Visitors can learn more about Letters Rewoven and explore ways to contribute their own writing at annafubini.com. Visit: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/letters-rewoven>.

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off: Final event of the year will take place **Saturday, November 2**, at the **DPW Yard** (1 Franey Rd.) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Proof of residency is required. Learn more at somervillema.gov/hazwaste. **Yard Waste Pickup:** Collection wraps up the week of December 8. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your

normal pickup day. Yard waste should be stored in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a “Yard Waste Only” sticker. Tree branches should be tied into 3ft x 3ft bundles. Learn more at www.somervillema.gov/yardwaste.

The **City of Somerville** is seeking **polling place workers** and **standby poll workers** for the upcoming **Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 4**. Many poll workers are needed to support operations and conduct a successful election. Poll workers must be ready to step in as needed on Election Day. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after the polls close at 8 p.m., with a two-hour break. The compensation is \$240 per day. To apply, please email **Human Resources** at hradmin@somervillema.gov. To learn more, please contact the **Elections Office** at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

Sign up for **Somerville Police’s R.A.D Self Defense Classes**. Empower yourself and build community. The **Somerville Police Department (SPD)** is hosting a free, six-week R.A.D. self-defense class for women. This program is designed to empower through awareness, prevention, and hands-on self-defense techniques. The program consists of six classes to be held on **Thursdays starting November 6** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. To learn more and sign up, please email rad@police.somerville.ma.us.

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 Bobbieton@aol.com. We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

We have a new tab on our website, “**Campaign Releases**.” Go there to see the latest endorsements and campaign info for this year’s election candidates. To be fair to all candidates, letters and op-eds will not be published in print the week before the election.

The **Boston Circus Guild’s Cirque of the Dead adults-only Halloween circus show** is back at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave., **Friday, October 31**, at 8 p.m. More info and tickets available at: <https://artsatthearmory.org/>.

The **Somerville Mobile Farmers Market** will be open **Thursdays through Saturdays, through November 1**. All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. For the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market’s website at somervillemobilefarmersmarket.org.

Veterans Day Service at the **Dilboy Post**

VFW 529, 351 Summer Street, Somerville, **Tuesday, November 11** at 11 a.m. Coffee and donuts before, coalition to follow. www.dilboylvfw529.com.

The two recordings of the **candidate debates** are available for viewing on **Somerville Media Center’s YouTube channels**. City Councilor At Large Debate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0cEO8L-3cks>. Mayoral Candidate Debate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5jMVMRmQ0n0>.

Dilboy Post will be holding its **third Annual Comedy Fundraiser, Elaine Pelino & Friends**, hosted by **John Harrington**. The event will be held on **November 9**, 2 – 5 p.m., 351 Summer St. For tickets (\$25) and more information: www.dilboylvfw529.com, dilboy.post@comcast.net, 617-666-8794.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** and under the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** can provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60 or have a permanent disability and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

lyrics in praise of her friends and loves, her neighborhood and its people, her city and its surroundings.

A year later, she published the chapbook *Letters from Congo*, which included translations of letters her parents wrote from the Congo when they worked there in the 1960s. The chapbook was a precursor to her stunning full-length collection *Three Leaves, Three Roots: Poems on the Haiti-Congo Story*, which was published less than a month before her passing and from which she gave an impressive number of readings during the final weeks of her life.

Expanding her territory beyond family stories into the histories of colonial and post-colonial Haiti and Congo required an enormous amount of research, and transforming it into dazzlingly memorable poems led Danielle

into an ever-expanding reservoir of poetic innovation.

In her final published book, a chapbook completed before and published just months after her passing, Danielle continued to transform history into poetry as she turned once again to the city and region where she lived. Aided by research grants, *Acts of Resistance to New England Slavery by Africans Themselves in New England* took her far back into history as she continued to integrate documentary material into deeply moving lyrics.

Danielle’s adept adaptation of research into poems was paralleled by, and I think related to, her practice of literary translation. In the last years of her life, she translated and published two volumes of poems by Haitian women: *Island Heart: The Poems of Ida Faubert* (2021) and *Blue*

Flare: Three Haitian Poets: Évelyne Trouillot, Marie-Célie Agnant, Maggy de Coster (2024). A similarly transformative work was *Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Re-imagine the Verse of Phillis Wheatley Peters*, co-edited with Bethany Artress White and published in 2023. I think it’s no accident that these books feature women poets. All of Danielle’s books, from the earliest on, include memorable portraits and mentions of women, and in her poetic accounts of the Haiti-Congo connection and New England slavery, she was careful, as history often is not, to focus on women as much as men.

As in her poems, so in her friendships. Even in the darkest times, knowing Danielle Legros Georges was a joy. I miss her. I will always miss her. But I will always have her poems.

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