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A Fall Festival

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Do the Monster Dash

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Review affirms positive direction for Somerville Public Schools



Somerville Public Schools has earned a high rating from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

An independent review of Somerville Public Schools conducted on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has highlighted the district's strong foundation for teaching and learning, supportive classroom environments, commitment to equity, investment in educators, and comprehensive student and family supports.

The review, conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in April 2026 and released in August 2026, examined the district across six areas of district effectiveness, including leadership, curriculum and instruction, assessment, educator development, student support, and financial and asset management.

Reviewers found strong alignment between the district's strategic plan, school *Continued on page 4*

City Line Laundromat collaborates with Unidos: bringing community art to the heart of East Somerville

By Eliot Josti

Art is in every corner in the city of Somerville. From museums to personal exhibitions, the creativity of the community can be found in places even where you least expect it ... like a laundromat.

The exhibit, "Re UNIDOS: Pasado Presente y Futuro/Past, Present & Future" is located at City Line Laundromat in East Somerville and is created by Mario Quiroz and Analiese Reigstad, both instructors at Unidos, the K-8 Dual Language Program at East Somerville Community School.

The program emerged about 26 years ago, starting off at the Butler Drive Building, which has since been demolished. After five years of advocacy, community building, school leadership, and planning for the program, the Spanish-to-English immersion program was created.

Continued on page 4



City Line Laundromat is currently hosting the "Re UNIDOS: Pasado Presente y Futuro/Past, Present & Future" exhibit photos. — Photos by Mario Quiroz

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

Community members are invited to join Mayor Jake Wilson, the City Council, and the School Committee during the 2026 Neighborhood Connect meeting series. The next meetings will be Ward 3 (N. Union Sq., Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central Hill) on Wednesday, October 7, at the Somerville High School Cafeteria, 81 Highland Ave., and Ward 1 (East Somerville, Assembly Sq.) on Tuesday, October 13, at the East Somerville Community School Cafeteria, 50 Cross St. Meetings will kick off with quick citywide updates and a brief welcome from the Mayor and Ward Councilor before breaking to allow attendees to move about for one-on-one and small-group conversations. Unsure about which ward you live in? Find out with the MySomerville address lookup tool at somervillema.gov/mysomerville.

Somerville's Community Collections exhibit series continues this October with Looking Back at 20 Years of HONK! Festival of Activist Street Bands, a photo and poster retrospective celebrating the homegrown festival and the worldwide movement it helped inspire. All are invited to an opening reception on Thursday, October 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. on the second floor of Somerville City Hall (93 Highland Ave). The reception is free, and light refreshments will be served.

Happy birthday greetings this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Valerie Spinale. We hope she has a great Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of October 7 – October 13 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday October 7	Sunny	69°/54°	4%	1%	SW 13 mph
Thursday October 8	Sunny	74°/52°	10%	5%	WSW 12 mph
Friday October 9	Sunny	70°/46°	7%	2%	WNW 13 mph
Saturday October 10	Sunny	65°/44°	4%	1%	NW 12 mph
Sunday October 11	Partly Cloudy	68°/56°	16%	9%	SSW 12 mph
Monday October 12	Rain	70°/51°	48%	32%	WSW 11 mph
Tuesday October 13	Partly Cloudy	63°/52°	25%	12%	NE 12 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: The bulldozers are coming to our neighborhood and the mayor is laying out the red carpet

Edward Woll says:

I agree with former Councilor White. The current Davis Square Neighborhood Planning program being promoted by the Mayor and managed by the Planning Department will most likely be pre-empted, displaced and undercut by the acquisition by developers of existing and eligible rental sites within the Davis Square neighborhood and replacement of them with high-priced condominiums.

whatwouldcolindo says:

Many in Somerville are constantly on the lookout to scold somebody who's transgressed in some way. The scolding is almost always online, rarely in person. In this case it's Bill White who is Very Wrong. Never mind he's given his life to this city. Never mind his qualifications on the subject at hand. Never mind that the existing Somerville backyard ordinance is being abused by developers. Now we are contemplating 1750 foot building on the same lot where a whole house already sits. Supposedly this is the "only way to comply with the state"? I don't buy it.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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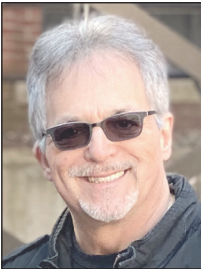
Life in the

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.

Living in TV Land



Stair lifts, hearing aids, reverse mortgages, and walk-in tubs. Welcome to my world. My TV world. When you watch a lot of TV, these are the ads you see. Being retired, I have a lot of time on my hands. A lot of that time is spent in front of my big TV. I don't mind the senior citizens targeted advertisements, except the ones for final plan insurance. I'm too busy flicking around the channels.

My part-time job playing piano only takes up very few hours. There's still plenty of time for an adequate workout at the gym, a bit of shopping and a trip or two to Dunkies. I just make sure I don't drive during rush hours.

I find it very enjoyable to watch a lot of TV. In the old days, my mother would never have let me watch as much TV as I do now. Her favorite shows were *David Susskind*, *Perry Mason*, and *Peyton Place*. *Perry Mason's* theme song was spooky. I leave my bedroom TV on all night. It's

2:04 a.m., and I'm watching Elvis Presley in the movie *Clambake*. Great color.

That's all I really ever wanted out of life, along with good health and the well-being of my family and friends ... and food! Food to enjoy while watching TV.

When I was tortured for 12 years in grade school, all I dreamed of was playing hooky and watching TV all day. And I did.

Turn the clock back to 1969. I'm 16 years old, in the tenth grade, and hating school. I wait for my mother to leave for work at 8:15 and climb up the back porch and into the house (I didn't want to be seen going in the front door by a nosy neighbor who might rat me out to my parents!).

Then it was TV time! Daytime TV rocked. I watched *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Bewitched*, *That Girl*, *Let's Make a Deal*, *The Newlywed Game*, and *Gomer Pyle U.S.M.C.* Today, not much has changed. I have complete seasons of *F-Troop*, *I Dream of Jeannie*, *The Odd Couple*, and others on DVD. Thanks to ME-TV, I can still watch a lot of my favorite old shows like *Leave It to Beaver*.



Match Game is on the Game Show Network like five times a day. That show really takes me back. I have a friend who has not missed an episode of *General Hospital* in 30 years.

I don't watch too many new shows. I got tired of *The Goldbergs* quickly. I was never big on *The Big Bang Theory*. I enjoy the NFL Network, NESN, and ESPN. Raymond's grumpy wife is back in a new se-

ries. I'll pass.

When we were kids, we had great locally produced shows like *Major Mudd*, *Bozo* and *Boomtown*. How cool would it be to be able to watch some of those old shows, especially if you were on one.

The old standbys are still around, like *Friends*, *Seinfeld*, and of course *The Three Stooges*. Old friends that you can always count on.

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2026 Tufts Community Day



Sunday, October 4, the Medford/Somerville community came together to celebrate arts, innovation, and a fun-filled day of live entertainment, family-friendly activities, and free food.

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: If I'm a dependent on someone else's tax return, do I have to file my own tax return?

A: It depends on how much income you have—and, more importantly, the type of income you received! Dependents have different filing rules from other taxpayers.

♦ **Even a relatively small amount of investment income can trigger a filing requirement.**

For 2026, a typical single dependent under age 65 generally needs to file if they have more than \$1,350 of unearned income, such as taxable interest, dividends,

or investment gains. By comparison, if the dependent has only earned income, such as wages, the threshold is generally \$16,100.

♦ **That can lead to a surprising result.**

For example, a dependent with \$2,000 of taxable investment income generally would need to file a tax return, while a dependent with only \$10,000 of earned income, such as wages, generally would not.

If a dependent has both earned and unearned income, an additional combined-income rule can also apply.

♦ **Being claimed as a dependent doesn't prevent you from filing your own return.**

A parent or someone else may still be able

to claim you as a dependent even when you are required to file your own tax return. These are separate questions.

Bottom Line: If you're a dependent, don't simply compare your income with the regular \$16,100 standard deduction for a single taxpayer in 2026 and assume you don't need to file. A relatively small amount of investment income can trigger a filing requirement. For dependents, whether income is earned or unearned can make a big difference.

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.

Review affirms positive direction for Somerville Public Schools CONT. FROM PG 1

improvement efforts, budget development, and instructional priorities. They also highlighted Somerville's collaborative leadership culture, growing use of data, investment in professional learning, and systems designed to support students academically, socially, and emotionally.

Classroom observations also found that students generally experience positive, supportive environments where they feel known and respected by adults, with particularly strong findings related to emotional support.

"This review gives us an important opportunity to celebrate the progress happening across Somerville Public Schools

while also identifying where we can continue to grow," said Superintendent Dr. Rubén Carmona. "The findings affirm the strong systems our educators and leaders have built around teaching and learning, student support, family engagement, and equity. We are proud of that progress and committed to building on it."

The review also identified opportunities for continued improvement. Among them are strengthening more consistent implementation of the district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), as well as providing families with greater clarity around student performance as reflected in report cards, and ensuring consistent

implementation of classroom scaffolding and supports for students with disabilities. The review also highlighted opportunities to further strengthen financial forecasting and budget planning, with new budgeting software and staff training expected to support more accurate, effective, and sustainable financial projections.

District leaders said those recommendations will help sharpen priorities already underway during the 2026–27 school year.

"One of the clearest messages from the review is that our next challenge is consistency and coherence," Dr. Carmona said. "We have strong practices happening throughout Somerville. Our responsibili-

ty now is to ensure that students experience that quality regardless of their school, classroom, background, or individual learning needs"

The district will use the findings to inform ongoing work around instructional rigor, MTSS, data use, communication with families, inclusive practices for students with disabilities, and long-term financial planning.

The 102-page DESE review examines leadership, instruction, assessment, educator development, student support, and district operations, along with key data and recommendations. The full report is now available on the Somerville Public Schools website.

City Line Laundromat collaborates with Unidos CONT. FROM PG 1

Analiere Reigstad, a Curriculum and Instruction Specialist at Unidos, first got the idea for promoting the program after teaching there for about 3 years.

"It was my third year in the program, and last year I noticed there wasn't a lot of information available online. How do you promote a school because it is a lot different than promoting a product?" said Reigstad. "I wanted to share an opportunity that belonged to the community."

She then reached out to Mario Quiroz, who worked alongside the preschoolers and happened to be a documentary photographer, focusing his work on the immigrant experience in America.

"I enjoy the notion of creating work that is about something, or art in the service of. My work is about subjects that matter, and in this case it is immigrant heritage and Spanish-speaking people. We had thousands of ideas and a counterpart that clicks...that becomes a project," said Quiroz.

The exhibit focuses on the past, present, and future of the program, capturing images of those involved. Alumni, current students, and teachers were photographed representing the passing of the baton of dual language.

"We wanted to give the community an idea of the program and what the experience was like in a few snapshots," said Reigstad.

What makes the exhibit so unique is the location of the artwork.

"The exhibit is made of 72 photos displayed on 6 pieces of fabric in the heart of the laundromat. It is a way to directly see and believe art going back to the community," said Quiroz.

For more information regarding the program, check out their website <https://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/unidos/>. In addition, Quiroz's work can be found at <https://www.marioquiros.com/home.html>.

"When people view the photographs, I



hope they, in some small way, feel pride in the community. So many students had big smiles and pride to be a part of this project and recognize people in the program over

the years," said Reigstad. "It's about understanding that what they experience today is a combined effort of generations who fought for this before."

Ward 7's turn for a Neighborhood Connect Meeting

By Keith Foster

Ward 7 took its turn at a Neighborhood Connect Meeting last Thursday, October 1, at West Somerville Neighborhood School near Teele Square for an update on the city, followed by a “walk and talk” with city organizations setting up tables in the cafeteria.

It kicked off with Councilor Emily Hardt thanking the city for the first responders and city staff after the Teele Square fire. There was a QR code displayed to support and donate to the fire victims.

Mayor Jake Wilson, now nine months into the job, met with all department heads on Monday morning to discuss how best to serve the residents of Somerville. He first provided an update on the Clarendon Hill Redevelopment Project, which will house 260 families in phases 1 and 2. There will be 214-216 new parking spaces. With three new streets and a new 16,000-square-foot park. Phase one is complete, while Phase

two is in progress.

Next was the West Broadway Reconstruction to fix sidewalks and add a new floating bus stop at Weston Ave. The city anticipates completion in summer 2027.

All memorials in the Veterans Cemetery have been refinished. Concerning new solutions to the housing crisis, the Somerville immigrant services Viva table was there. Their tagline is We Speak Your Language. They connect immigrant and multilingual neighbors with the services they need. There were updates on projects such as Davis Square Glow Up, crime, and state elections.

Somerville’s FY27 budget will mark the largest School Budget increase in history.

Crime was also brought up; citywide, Part 1 crime decreased 5% over 1 year. Car breaks and commercial burglary increased while larceny and aggravated assault decreased. In Ward 4, Part 1 crime has increased 24% over 1 year. Car crashes have decreased in the last year. In the last year, to make the roads safer, Somerville built



Ward 7 residents and city officials meet at their Neighborhood Connect Meeting last Thursday, October 1.

more than 70 traffic calming features.

Other issues included rodent prevention, food access in Somerville, and preparing for snow season. Parking on the even side during winter unless otherwise posted.

Upcoming city events for Halloween season include the SomerStreets Monster Mash on October 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. on Somerville Ave. between Church St. and Union Sq. Rain date is October 25, and the Truck O’Treat on October 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. at City Hall concourse. Rain date: November 5.

Emergency fund activated for residents displaced by Teele Square fire

Community members encouraged to donate to support 43 residents displaced by the September 30 fire.

The City of Somerville and Somerville Homeless Coalition have activated the Emergency Displacement Fund to support residents displaced by the September 30 five-alarm fire in Teele Square.

The fire impacted 32 homes at 1137-1147 Broadway, displacing 43 residents. All residents were able to evacuate safely. City staff and the American Red Cross are working directly with those affected to provide temporary accommodations and assistance with immediate needs.

The Emergency Displacement Fund provides direct financial assistance to Somerville residents displaced by fires and other emergencies. Only financial donations are being requested at this time.



How to Help

To donate to the Somerville Homeless Coalition Emergency Displacement Fund, visit bit.ly/shcfund or scan the below QR code.

No donation is too small. Every contribution will help provide immediate relief to neighbors facing an unexpected displacement.

— City of Somerville



Public Health Committee meeting shortened by fire

By Ewan Henrie

The Public Health and Public Safety Committee gathered for a virtual meeting on September 30 at 6 p.m. At the beginning of the meeting, it was announced that the Somerville Winter Warming Center would not be discussed. A fire had

broken out at that location mere minutes before the meeting began. The center was scheduled to be open to the public once again in December, through the end of April 2027.

The fire also affected a few nearby apartment buildings. Over 40 people have been displaced due to the damage

to their homes. There have been no reports of major damage or injuries to civilians, while three firefighters reported minor injuries.

Several buildings have been damaged alongside the Warming Center. The fire also damaged six businesses in Teele Square. Other buildings destroyed by the

fire include Marsala, an Indian restaurant, and a dry cleaning establishment.

Mayor Jake Wilson is looking for the city to have a faster response time in future incidents. No information has been released about how the fire started. The city will continue its investigation into the incident.

Somerville Recreation's Fall Festival

Somerville Recreation's Fall Festival was held this past weekend on Saturday, October 3, at Founders Memorial Rink. The fall afternoon featured bounce houses, music, a magician, pumpkin decorating, face painting, and plenty of fall-themed fun for kids of all ages. Costumes and cozy sweaters were welcome. To learn about more programming from Somerville Recreation, be sure to sign up for the Parks and Recreation newsletter at somervillema.gov/subscribe. — Photos by Mina Rose Morales



A child smiles while getting his face painted.



Children dance to the Macarena.



Kids huddle and wait for their prizes.



Resource tables at the fall festival at Founders Memorial Rink.



Mother and daughter make crowns for the fall festival.



A father and daughter at the fall festival at Founders Memorial Rink.



Children slide down a jumper while parents wait on the other side.



Kids form a limbo line.



Somerville mother hugs her daughter.

A Field Day for Somernova

A dozen teams from the Somernova community stepped away from their desks to compete in an unconventional lineup of challenges, including flip cup, Rubik's Cubes, and parkour. The winning team took home a \$1,000 grand prize and plenty of bragging rights.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



HONK! if you love fun, music, and socio-political activism.

Our View Of The Times



Whether it be homegrown or imported, we have at our fingertips an incredibly diverse and nearly exhaustive supply of mellifluous entertainment to keep us amused and amazed as we watch it pass through our community.

The same goes for commitment to political and social issues. It's natural for the HONK! Festival organizers to choose our community in which to hold this event.

Activism thrives here, driven by a long tradition of dialog on important issues of the day and a genuine concern for the betterment of our own community as well as that of the world at large.

Of course, our city has a rich history to tell, from the days of the Revolutionary War right up to today's most pressing issues.

We enjoy gathering together and celebrating life at its fullest and most reward-

ing, while at the same time coming to terms with vital issues that affect all our lives. And, of course, doing it in a responsible and efficient way is also something that we strive for.

Somerville's got talent. That we know. And it's got commitment as well. It extends to many forms of expression, both artistic and pragmatic.

In seeking a workable balance of the

two, we may yet create a symphony of sorts. One based in harmony and keeping perfect time. After the dust of the busy day settles, we know we've done our part to make it all a bit better.

The upcoming HONK! festival event will not only celebrate music combined with socio-political activism, it will show that we can do it in the spirit of fun and community engagement.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

day. Happy birthday to Naomi Harrison, daughter of Kaitlin Denk. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Kerri Shannon Schaefer, Michael Buckley, Ben Echevarria, Lusann Wishart, Sue Casazza Smith, Alan Ball Blydenburgh, Phyllis D'Anna, George Bevans, and Mary Marshall, a happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

East Somerville Lantern Parade with HONK! Join East Somerville Main Streets for an evening of music, lights, crafts, and community. Go early to make

your own lantern, enjoy a snack, and then walk with us as we light up the neighborhood together. Friday, October 9, 5 p.m. Lantern Making, 6 p.m. Snack Break, 6:30 p.m. Line up for the parade. Connexion, 149 Broadway. Bring your family and friends and join the fun.

HONK! Festival 21st Annual Festival of Activist Street Bands will take place October 9-11, throughout Somerville and Cambridge. This year's on-site U.S. bands total 35, plus on-site video livestream participation from several international bands; w/plenty of ways for audience participation. Rain or shine. Free and

open to all; if interested in volunteering, contact volunteer@honkfest.org. If interested in hosting visiting musicians in your home, please contact housing@honkfest.org. For HONK! updates: honkfest.org, facebook.com/honkfestival, instagram.com/honkfest/. Contact info: honkfest.org/contact/, info@honkfest.org, (617) 702-2977.

Free Vaccine Clinic (Seniors Only) Thursday, October 8, 3 - 5:30 p.m., at the Council on Aging, 167 Holland Street. The City of Somerville holds regular vaccine clinics. This clinic is for seniors only. Pre-registration is highly

encouraged. Limited walk-in availability. Register for this clinic. Visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations> for more information and additional clinics.

The Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), in collaboration with the Somerville Council on Aging and Housing Department, warmly invites you to our Detant Kreyòl gathering on Thursday, October 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 20 Stephenson Aman Street, Somerville. Relax, meet new friends, and enjoy snacks while learning "How to Manage Your Health" with a special guest health professional. You will

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1041

1. How many yards is the penalty in the NFL for using a helmet as a weapon?

2. In 1977, Miami quarterback Bob Griese the first NFL football player to wear what in a game?

3. What multi-colored ears of corn are used for decor?

4. What happens if hay bales get too wet?

5. In colonial times, what were apples called?

6. Who was the first group of people in history to use scarecrows?

7. What is Barney and

Betty's surname in the TV Series *The Flintstones*?

8. Before his murder, Christopher Wallace was known as which rapper?

9. What newspaper did Peter Parker work for in Spider-Man?

10. Wright was the last name of what two flight pioneers?

11. What TV show centered on the company Dunder Mifflin?

12. How many members made up the music group Tears For Fears?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. New Jersey grows two-thirds of the world's eggplants.

2. Ravens know when someone is spying on them.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK

ACROSS

1. If it fits...

5. Accounting pro

8. What Pinocchio did

12. What discern and concern have in common

13. "The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical"

14. Sack fabric

15. A in UAE

16. Not with us, prefix

17. Opposite of cathode

18. Late Parton's amusement venture

20. Dog is ____ best friend

21. Made of certain hardwood

22. Tiny sip

23. Trite one

26. Type of rummy

30. Bajillion years

31. Appoint #40 Across

34. Film wheel

35. "Saturday Night Fever" music

37. Adam of "Stand and Deliver"

38. Smokeless tobacco brand

39. Region

40. Religious minister

42. Wear and tear

43. Opposite of advance

45. ____ World, Griswalds' destination

47. Not in

48. Worship like god

50. Music genre

52. Like funnel cakes and elephant ears

56. Halt

57. Disney World in Florida spans over 25,000 of these

58. Not out of

59. Like complete nonsense

60. Podium

61. Cottontail's tail

62. Willy Wonka's creator

63. Bass, e.g.

64. Not that

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

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21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32 33 34

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39 40 41 42

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56 57 58

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62 63 64

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

T R O D M P H S H H

W I P E V I L E E T H E R

O M E N A L A R D R U M S

S C O T L A N D G U L P

T H I N K G E M

R A N E E S R E S P E C T

E D O R E G G A E E A R S

H O R S E R A G A T S E A

A B I T C A R E E R E E R

B E A R C U B S H E L L S

I R E P E C A N

P A N E F L A U T I S T

F A N G S Y A R D G O O S

C R O S S K I L O M A L I

C A N E N S A P E X

4. All together (2 words)

5. Not kayak?

6. Mountain climber's spike

7. Like dry clime

8. Coney Island's original (2 words)

9. Aware of a secret (2 words)

10. Make them meet

11. Food coloring, e.g.

13. a.k.a. game barker

14. Gavroche, e.g.

19. Cowboy's cry of joy

22. Bobbsey twin

23. Wood in the closet?

24. France's longest river

25. Garment insert

26. Quote

27. "Gangnam Style" capital

28. Badger

29. 2021 movie "Nightmare ____"

32. Balloon popper

33. "Wheel of Fortune" request, 2 words

36. a.k.a. merry-go-round

38. Walking stick

40. Singer Benatar

41. Steals

44. Famous Swiss mathematician Leonhard ____

46. Lyre player

48. Hot rod sticker

49. Spooky

50. ____ good example

51. Four-letter word

52. Bit of baby talk

53. Mark on a ruler

54. Tiny purse

55. Popular movie candy

56. Something to chew on

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

5th Annual Somerville Monster Dash 5K and youth runs

SHS Track Parents & Alumni Club, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, is running its 5th Annual Somerville Monster Dash 5K (3.1 miles) and youth runs (200 meters and 800 meters) on Sunday, October 25 at Riverfront Park/ Assembly Row starting at 10:30 a.m.

All proceeds benefit the Somerville High Athletics programs, including SHS Cross-Country and Track and Field Teams for Girls and Boys. Registration information can be found by going online to <https://www.somervillemonsterdash.org/>.

Pictured here in two photos are volunteers before the start and participants at the 2025 awards ceremony, where prizes were awarded to age-group race and costume design category winners in a fun event for all.

Last year, 500+ runners and walkers registered for the 4th annual event. They are hoping to continue the growth in participation and support for their “spooktacular” event on Sunday, October 25.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



White Bean & Kale Bruschetta

There are many variations of bruschetta, but this, in my opinion, is a hearty and delicious combination that will make you feel guilt free eating this delicious snack. It can also be served as a pre dinner appetizer or as a side to go with a steaming bowl of soup.

- 1 Ciabatta Loaf
- 1 Bunch Lacinato (Tuscan) Kale, rinsed, stem removed and chopped
- 4 Tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil, plus extra for drizzling
- 1/4 Teaspoon Red Pepper Flakes
- 1 Rosemary Stem
- 3 Garlic Cloves Sliced, plus 1 Whole
- 1 Can Cannellini Beans, drained and rinsed
- Salt to taste
- Parmesan Cheese, 6 Tablespoons grated

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Slice the ciabatta into 6 slices about 3/4" in

thickness each, cutting from the center of the loaf. Reserve the leftover bread for another use, like homemade bread-crumbs or croutons.

Place the bread slices on a lined baking sheet using parchment or foil for easy cleanup. Place the sliced bread into the oven and toast on the first side for 6 minutes.

Flip the bread and toast it for another 6 minutes. At this point you don't want to over toast the bread. It should still be pale in color and slightly dried out. If it is over toasted, the bread will be too hard and break apart when you bite into it.

Once the bread comes out of the oven, rub the whole clove of garlic on all 6 pieces of the bread. In a 12" skillet, add 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil over medium heat.

Heat for 1 minute, then add the pepper flakes, the sliced garlic and rosemary stem. Lower the heat to medium low and let the flavors infuse into the olive oil for about 4



minutes, or until the garlic is slightly browned.

Add the beans, kale and a healthy pinch of salt and cook until the kale is wilted but tender, about 7 minutes. Remove the rosemary stem and discard.

Evenly distribute the mixture onto the bread slices, add the grated

cheese over each slice. Place back into the oven for another 5 minutes. Once done, remove from oven, drizzle with a fruity olive oil, cut in half and serve. Serves 4-6 people.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



Notice of names of persons appearing to be owners of funds held by City of Somerville and deemed abandoned.

To claim funds, please go to www.somervillema.gov/treasury and complete the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form and send completed form together with required documentation to the City of Somerville Treasury Department by **October 31, 2027**. Mail to **City of Somerville Treasury, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143** or email treasury@somervillema.gov. If you would like a printed copy of the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form mailed to you, please email treasury or call 617-625-6600 ext. 3500. Funds not claimed by **October 31, 2027** will be deemed abandoned.

VENDOR NAME

ADAMS, LYNNMARIE
AIKEN, PEYTON
ALDONZA, KERNADE
ALLEN, CHRISTOPHER
APPLBAUM, EMMA
BARISH, ELENOR
BARSOTTI, CLAUDE
BURNLEY, CRYSTAL R.
CANAVAN, STEPHANIE
CASPARRIELLO, SALVATORE
CONTRERAS, IRIS

COOKE, FINLAY S.
DAILY GOURMET INC
DIETZ, ELLAYNA
DIGAETANO, PAULA
DUANE, EAMON
ENGVAL, CHARLOTTE
FERGUSON, LORNA
FIGUEIREDO, SANDY
FUENTES, LEONARDO
FULCO, FRANK
GOULD, VERITY
GUAN, WING CHING

GUTIERREZ, DAVID I.
HAHN-MACMILLAN, MCKAYLA E.
HASTINGS, EMMA
HERNANDEZ MADRUGA, LIZ R.
HORTON, LINDA D.
JDS INDUSTRIES INC
KAUR, SARABJIT
KELP, MAKOTO MICHAEL
LEANDRO, JULIA N.
LOPEZ, MARGARITA
MCNULTY, KRISTINE
MORGANTE, SOFIA

NARDONE, KATIANNA
NARH-BOTCHWAY, MARCIA
NEELY, BRIDGET
O'BRIEN, THEODORE
PARKE, EMILY
PIRES, DELILIA
PREET, KAUR BANGA
RAFTERY, PATRICK A.
REYES HERNANDEZ, ALICIA MERCEDES
RIVERO, GABRIELA
ROSEMOND, STEFFLINE R.
SAINT CYR, DENIS

SANDHU, BALVIR
SANDOVAL, ZETINO GENESIS
SINTON, JULIA
SMITH, NOAH
SNOW, HANA R.
TELMA, LEITAO
TERRELL, ARIADNE
TRINITY SOLAR
VACA BELO, LUIS
VIEL, IGNACE JR

10/7/26 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

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

The work is estimated to cost \$125,000.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The **Somerville Housing Authority** and the Board of Commissioners, the Awarding Authority, invite sealed bids from Contractors for On-Call HVAC Services for multiple locations located in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with IFB P-HVAC102026 documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority Purchasing Department.

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

Term is for 1 year with Two 1-Year options The authority reserves the right at its sole option to renew for two additional one-year contract period after the first-year term.

The work is estimated to cost approximately \$65,000.00 during a one-year contract period or \$195,000.00 if all options are taken.

These specifications are in anticipation of funding. All contracts are voided if funds are not available.

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

Bids are subject to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive and federal wage rates established by the Davis Bacon Wage Act and the Secretary of Labor, under the provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended and OSHA Certifications.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., October 23, 2026**, and publicly opened forthwith, at Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Building, located at 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

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

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

Bid and Contract Documents will be available for download on Somerville Housing Authority web site, <https://www.sha-web.org/bids.aspx> by **2:00 p.m. by October 8, 2026**, there will be no charge for these documents.

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

A site visit is scheduled for **October 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, You are not required to attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org or at 617-625-1152 extension 336 if you are attending. All interested parties will meet at of Somerville Housing Authority, Administrative Building, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

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BY 12 PM MONDAY
PH: 857-488-5138



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REBID IFB #27-01

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

77 Broadway Sub Station Renovation

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, October 7, 2026**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **3:00PM Wednesday, October 21, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

5% Bid Deposit required. Prevailing wages apply.

Please email fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Gárate
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 15 yards | 7. Rubble |
| 2. Glasses | 8. The Notorious B.I.G. |
| 3. Flint corn | 9. Daily Bugle |
| 4. They can spontaneously combust | 10. Orville and Wilbur |
| 5. Winter bananas | 11. The Office |
| 6. Ancient Egyptian farmers | |

LEGAL NOTICES

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):
Application of Alteration of Premises for Soba Ya LLC d/b/a Sugidama at 234 Elm Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJfzeu8v7Q> You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

10/7/26 The Somerville Times



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, October 20, 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/join/9tJfzeu8v7Q>

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 23 Chester Street | Applicant: Rebel Builders LLC - Juan Barrios
Owner: Brown Jason & Tamara A Trustees
The applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing three windows. |
| 15 Adams Street | Applicant: Justin Santolucito - Just Woodcraft Inc.
Owner: Catherine and Eric Haines
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by demolishing and reducing the size of the deck. |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 65 DerbyStreet (Carriage Barn) | Applicant: Sal Queruo - Tradition Construction Inc.
Owner: 65 Derby St Somerville 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)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 333 Highland Avenue | Applicant: Fan Wang
Owner: Fan Wang
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.

9/30/26, 10/7/26 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Common Victualer, and Entertainment by Devices for Rumruay7895 LLC d/b/a Larb Studio at 257 Washington Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJfzeu8v7Q> You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

10/7/26 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Legislative Matters on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM**. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJfzeu8v7Q>

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, 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 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

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

- A Mayor's Communication conveying an update on the Civilian Oversight policy development process.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

COURTNEY HENDERSON
CITY CLERK

9/30/26, 10/7/26 The Somerville Times

Wish Benefit Tour
comes to Somerville

On October 9, Oteil Burbridge, founding member of Dead & Company and longtime bassist for the Allman Brothers Band, will perform for one night only with Vermont-based groove trio LaMP (Russ Lawton, Scott Metzger, Ray Paczkowski) in Somerville!

Tickets to see the group perform live are available at: <https://www.somervilletheatre.com/production/oteil-burbridge-with-lamp-wish-benefit-tour/>

Hosted at the Somerville Theater, this is one stop on the four-city Wish Benefit Tour, presented by Fiddlehead Brewing Company, with proceeds supporting Make-A-Wish and its work granting wishes for children facing critical illness across the Northeast.

The partnership is personal: Fiddlehead co-owner Amy Cohen's son received a wish more than a decade ago, and the tour grew out of her family's experience with the organization. Now the jam community and Dead-Heads alike are showing up for other Wish Kids – one show, one city, one audience at a time.

— Wish Benefit Tour

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PHONE: 857-488-5138



Somerville Fair Housing Commission *Question of the week*

Q: If a person is a member of a protected class, do I HAVE to rent to them?

A: No. What you have to do is to treat them the same way as any other tenant who applies. Show them the apartment, check their references and their credit, and do not pass them over just because they are (for instance) unmarried, or Salvadoran, or veterans.

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.

To donate visit:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>

Share with your friends and neighbors!
Let's keep local news alive, together.

And to advertise in The Times, call **857-488-5138**

**Want to write local
Somerville stories?**

Call 857-488-5138

and speak to the Assignment Editor

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What's a tree's favorite song in autumn?
Don't Stop Be-Leafin.

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
Power Washing
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in Massachusetts
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857-488-5138

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



October already?... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

October 7

1571 – The Ottoman navy is defeated at Lepanto, Greece.

1765 – Delegates from nine of the American colonies meet in New York to discuss the Stamp Act Crisis and colonial response to it.

1849 – Edgar Allan Poe, aged 40, dies a tragic death in Baltimore.

1944 – Prisoner uprising at Birkenau concentration camp.

1949 – East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, is formed.

1976 – Hua Guofeng, premier of the People's Republic of China, succeeds the late Mao Zedong as chairman of the Communist Party of China.

1985 – Four Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) hijackers seize the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro and demand the release of 50 Palestinians held by Israel.

1993 – The Great Flood of 1993 on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers ends.

1996 – Fox News Channel begins broadcasting.

2001 – US invasion of Afghanistan in reaction to the terrorist attacks of 9/11 begins.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

also have an opportunity to connect with SOIA staff and other community members. The theme for this session is “Manage Your Health: Hypertension.”

Wish Benefit Tour 2026 with Oteil Burbridge & LaMP, Friday, October 9, 7 – 10 p.m., at the **Somerville Theatre**, 55 Davis Square. For the first time ever, Grammy Award-winning bassist **Oteil Burbridge** takes the stage with Vermont-based groove trio **LaMP** for a night of jam-rooted, improvisational rock, a one-night-only pairing you won't see anywhere else, presented by **Fiddlehead Brewing Company**. Tickets available at www.wishbenefit.org.

All city offices are closed **Monday, October 12**, for Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day.

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

The city will hold a **lottery for the income-restricted homeownership unit at 143 Cedar Street**. Only those who submitted complete applications and were found eligible prior to the application deadline at 12 p.m. on **October 9, 2026**, will be included in the lottery selection process. Income-Restricted Condominium Unit at 143 Cedar St Lottery, **Thursday, October 15, 2026** at 10 a.m. View the lottery here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87160682052>. For more information about this opportunity, visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/news>.

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! Vol-

unteers 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>)

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

Join the **Somerville Council on Aging** as they celebrate fall with music from **DJ Hank** and a catered lunch of stuffed chicken and vegetables. **Thursday, October 15**, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Dilboy Post, 351 Summer Street, Davis Square. \$10 per person. Please call **Debby** to RSVP at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321

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>.

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

A new **Somerville ordinance** taking effect **October 14, 2026**, will require rental property owners to **notify tenants in writing** within 48 hours of putting their residence on the market. Somerville’s **Notice of Building Sale Ordinance** establishes clear notification requirements,

so renters know when their home is being offered for sale and where to turn for housing support. The required form and additional information will be available on the OHS website in October at somervillema.gov/OHS. Questions about the ordinance can be sent to buildingsale@somervillema.gov. Tenants who learn their building is for sale but have not received a notice should contact OHS. Residents can request housing assistance online, calling OHS directly at 617-625-6600, ext. 2581, or dialing 311 and asking for OHS.

The **Center for Arabic Culture (CAC)** and **Somerville’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)** invite all community members to the CAC’s **12th annual festival and book fair** on **Saturday, October 10**, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.). Explore a book fair, shop local vendors, and hear readings from Arabic authors while enjoying Arabic food, music, and art. Local advocacy organizations and community groups will also be on hand to share resources and connect with residents.

SomerStreets: Monster Mash transforms Somerville Avenue into a festive Halloween celebration for all ages on **Sunday, October 18**, from 1 to 5 p.m. (severe weather date: Sunday, October 25). Enjoy live music, interactive art activities, family fun, local food vendors, and more. If you are interested in volunteering at Monster Mash, please sign up here: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/somerstreets/monster-mash-volunteer/>.

Somerville’s **Latin American and Caribbean Heritage Month** celebration will take place **Sunday, October 25**, inside **Somerville High School** (81 Highland Ave.) from 2 to 5 p.m. Somerville’s **Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)**, with support from the city’s **Division of Equity and Belonging** and the **Somerville Community Corporation (SCC)**, invites all community members to the celebration. Enjoy a wide selection of Latin American and Caribbean food and refreshments, from Brazilian cheese bread to Haitian griot, alongside an afternoon of music, movement, and opportunities to join in.

Calling all local musicians! The interest form for the **Somerville Winter Farmer’s Market 2026-27 season** is now live

on the website. Share your talents with the community this winter by filling out the form and getting on stage at the Winter Market. You can find the sign-up form at: <https://www.somwintermarket.org/musicians>. The market will open on **November 7, 2026, Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave.

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

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

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

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

A Handpicked Poem

A Handpicked Poem

Presented by Off the Shelf Correspondent Michael Steffen

...from Rattle Fall 2026 (presented online 23 September 2026)

Psalm 131

by George David Clark

My heart is not proud.
I am satisfied with generic cereal.
I drive a Toyota Camry
to work in the right-hand lane
and do not rush
through yellow traffic lights.
My most important meetings
are not important
to the welfare of states
or peoples or businesses.
They mean nothing
to the ebb and flow of history,
and somehow less
to today's financial markets.
Lawyers look through me
and bankers, makers
of deals. As they should.
Strong men and beautiful women
see all the way through me
as though I were dust
set briefly in motion by wind,
which I am.
I am not proud of heart,
not very. But I woke early
this morning for an audience
with the Most High God
in which we decided
after some dispute
that He would keep doing
what He's been doing
since the earth was young:
putting sleeves of ice
on the limbs of dogwood
and taking them off again,
sending the nuthatch
and the chickadee to sift
sunflower seeds in the feeder,
smiling on the wicked and a few
of the just, and stabbing

my prideful heart
invisibly, twisting the icicle
blade and ruffling
the hair I just combed.
That's fine. That's fine.
Frees me to ignore
what the president's up to,
to forget the celebrities
who every once in a while
stop hating me just long enough
to demand my love and attention,
to neglect the mob
justifiably indifferent
to my rapidly decomposing
accomplishments,
my feelings, and my thoughts—
which I only borrowed anyways.
Frees me up to disregard
a future I won't own
and the past that never
knew me, to light
my one square foot
of the present on fire
and let Him blow me wherever.
I get on my knees. I should stay
on my knees and gnaw
at the pride in my heart.



I wanted to let go of Clark's poem. I could have loved it ending with I get on my knees. But I didn't like the drawn-out ending with its cynical resignation and reversal of sense, the shift from My heart is not proud at the beginning of the poem to the wholly contradictory state of having pride enough left to get down on one's knees and keep gnawing on it. Which makes enough sense in that no humility can ever be enough, just as no vanity can ever. Critics cry contradiction, religion with its allowance of mystery admits paradox. Poetry operates more freely in its wide range from solemnity and praise to irony, scrutiny and even desecration.

The title of the poem with its evocation of a religious text directs me to the comparison between the two distinct bodies of inspiration, religion and poetry ... Religion's primary purpose is to edify and make faith durable, and so it allows itself little if any confusion about its expression. That does lay the discipline open to hypocrisy— one of poetry's *Continued on page 15*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Christopher Cavallo is a writer living and working in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts. He and his wife Amy make their home in Haverhill, MA, sharing all their love with two gorgeous and adopted "faun" greyhounds, Phoebe and Caliope. While poetry is his preferred genre of writing, Chris has interest in writing in the categories of both short fiction as well as screenplay.



Don't Give It A Name
after Keats, and for Amy

I could write a poem
about your back alone.

I'd start with the blades,
sharpest parts; place

my big, stupid head upon
your small, stay there one

or two days; just as you think
to leave I would attack.

Throw all my dull blubber around
—with or without any sounds.

Is there anything dumber
than our most primal, core

instincts? Please don't answer;
I might not like what I hear.

Just let us find
one more time

that sole and singular
ecstasy-moment together.

And what then, my dear, is Love?!
why, we can't even explain it to God.

— Christopher Cavallo

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 14

most coveted preys.

The rascals of poetry have for long profited from the stricter demands on religion. When the lights of worldliness stray— and when have they failed to? — from our understanding of the better way, be it from God or just from a long tradition of precedents that have helped our better minds know right from wrong, religion marks its quiet difference and holds to the truth and grace it knows, while poetry opens the door to the rags and bones of the day, to mimicry and mockery and also, perhaps even more perilous or sorrowful, to intellectual resignation. But where the buck stops.

Underlying sarcasm is no short supply in Clark’s poem, especially in the heart of it where he speaks of the allowances granted by his dearest democratic right: He is free. Free to ignore what the president’s up to, and to forget the celebrities and their vanity so in the public’s eye, and to neglect the mob who’s indifferent to his poetry. (Clark rightfully airs, as a poet with a mission to bring value and meaning and weight to the prompts of language and thought, his frustration — even resignation about our culture’s celebrities who command so much attention and authority and so dictate vacuous materialism to the happening core of our society, the once dangerous but now for the most part deer-in-the-headlights youth culture and young professionals — Strong men and beautiful women...)

Reading the poem, moreover, I’m reminded it’s nothing less than our most powerful instinct at play when we talk about our pride. Our first nature’s command is: Be Proudful! Survive, above all, and on that impulse — climb, climb, be at the top of the heap if at all possible. Even in the event of an air disaster, we’re reminded to secure our own oxygen masks before helping others.

Only our capacity for imagination and delusion equals our vanity (under nature’s command to live, to be). That is why humility is so hard to come by, and why, all in all, acceptance is indispensable to our sanity and best thinking — in clarity, for most of us, about our own just averageness. Lucidity of his common belonging is what made the character Tom Joad and his author John Steinbeck so memorable to us. Dickens and Twain empower us with Romantic imagination, to elevate the plainest among us, or often the oppressed, to spellbinding compassion, onto social reversals and triumph and self-esteem (often with a lot of humor). Yet the mind full of unpurchased entitlement, holiness, nobility and splendor coming to terms with the clay, ashes and dust (generic cereal and driving a Toyota Camry), this catches our attention (admiration) in the other direction, reminding us that our true ideals lie in the middle ground. Much as we need to inflate ourselves with inspiration, we need to weigh ourselves soberly with common sense and what is actually possible. This is what classicists mean when they say they go both ways.

Finally, though something in me squirms as Clark’s irony devolves into sarcasm, I catch glimpses of how the uncomfortable progression is in fact an adequate reflection of what people are really feeling these days, with the economy breaking away from its chains. Our growing unease about being able to make ends meet. And that stemming in large part from the nation’s commitment in a war few of us think we should be in. Too many innocent lives are being cast to destitution. Few of us have the space or where-withal to articulate the gravity we’re acquiescing to. But we feel it. The poet citing the psalm won’t let the complex, elusive hypocrisy rest.

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