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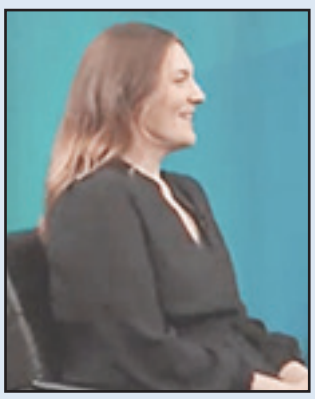
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VOL. 14 NO. 45 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026 | SOMERVILLE, MASS.

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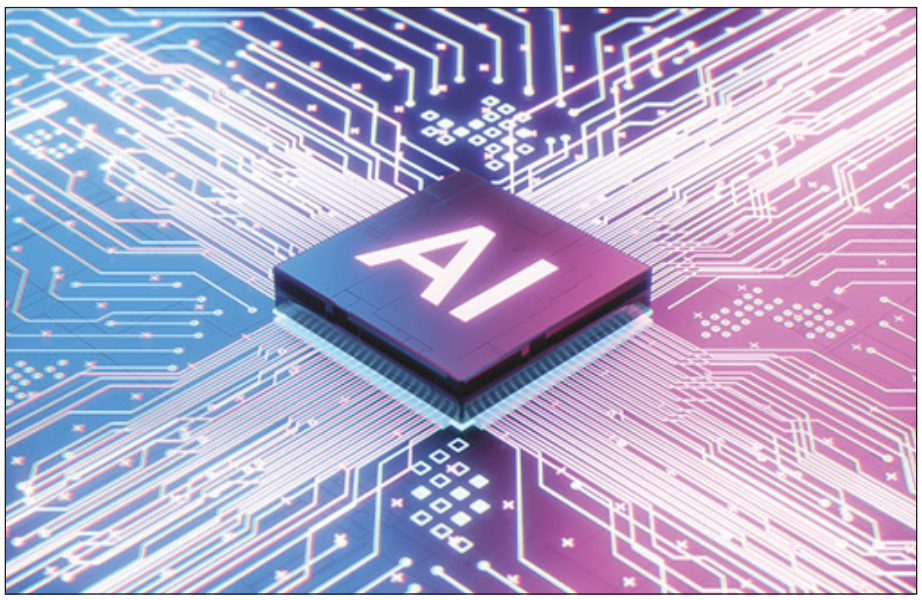


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Somerville City Councilors introduce AI oversight ordinance



The Somerville City Council is fashioning an ordinance aimed at regulating parts of AI usage by the city.

By Harry Kane

Somerville may soon be adopting an artificial intelligence ordinance to provide acceptable-use policies that govern AI technology and its physical infrastructure.

The oversight of artificial intelligence systems ordinance would set municipal guardrails for government use of AI and provide a governance structure allowing the city to use AI.

City Councilor Jon Link "expressed concerns about the potential harm artificial intelligence (AI) could cause to communities and emphasized the need to restrict certain uses," according to the minutes from the City Council meeting.

The draft ordinance was introduced at the October 22 City Council meeting and *Continued on page 4*

The Growing Center's Annual Wreath fundraiser is here

By Eliot Josti

As the holiday season approaches, Somerville's very own Growing Center begins creating several handmade wreaths, put together by volunteers around the city.

The annual wreath sale was originally developed as a fundraiser and a way to bring together volunteers during the gardening offseason. As a way to work together and sustain relationships over the winter season, locals collaborate with other community organizations.

"The sale continued all these years because the feedback says that it brings people a lot of joy. There's a lot of appreciation of the fact that each one of these are like no other and individually decorated by volunteers across generations," *Continued on page 4*



The Somerville Growing Center is getting ready for its Annual Wreath sale.
— Photos courtesy of Lisa Brukilacchio

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NEWSTALK

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

City offices, Somerville Public Schools, and district offices will be closed today, **Wednesday, November 11**, for Veterans Day. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will be delayed by one day. No street sweeping on Wednesday

****

Join the **Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, HM 10th Regiment of Foot**, and **54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry**, as well as **Mayor Jake Wilson, City Councilors**, and the **Somerville Office of Veterans' Services** as they honor our veterans at the **1863 Civil War Monument** and the gravesite of an **unknown British Soldier**. The brief ceremony and speaking program will honor all Somerville veterans, including paying tribute to the Somerville veterans buried at or commemorated by the 1863 Civil War Monument in **Milk Row Cemetery**. The event is free and open to the public, and the site is ADA accessible. Seating will be available. Milk Row Cemetery is located at 439 Somerville Ave., next to Market Basket. For more information, visit somervillemuseum.org.

****

Happy birthdays this week: Happy birthday to **Joe Lynch**, who is celebrating this week. He is a great guy who is very well-known here in the city. We wish him a great birthday and many more. Happy birthday to a former Alderman At-Large, amongst her many other accomplishments, **Helen Corrigan**. We wish her the very best of birthdays. Happy Birthday to Somerville's *Continued on page 7*

The Somerville Times
news@thesomervilletimes.com
www.thesomervilletimes.com
Phone: 857-488-5138

@somervilletimes
www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

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Editor – Jim Clark
Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner
Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane, and Cathleen Twardzik

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty
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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 11 – November 17 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday *November 11*	Partly Cloudy	57°/41°	5%	2%	WNW 10 mph
Thursday *November 12*	Cloudy	55°/41°	25%	14%	ENE 12 mph
Friday *November 13*	Rain	46°/38°	60%	49%	NNE 15 mph
Saturday *November 14*	Rain	44°/35°	45%	33%	NNW 12 mph
Sunday *November 15*	Partly Cloudy	49°/34°	9%	4%	NW 11 mph
Monday *November 16*	Partly Cloudy	51°/29°	4%	1%	NW 10 mph
Tuesday *November 17*	Sunny	54°/31°	5%	2%	WNW 7 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *City Council Should Vote to Enact the Ethical Procurement Ordinance*

Dylan says:

We don't fund Hamas. We don't arm Hamas.
We fund Israel. We arm Israel.
It's really very simple. This is not a difficult proposal. We asked that our tax dollars no support Israel's genocide and apartheid system. This ordinance addresses that, provides the city with specific third party lists of companies to avoid and even includes a safe carveout for the finance department to override those lists if need be.
This is what we voted for.

leftists for human decency says:

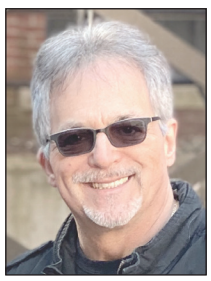
A pathetic copout…you really can't do better than that, Dylan? …An organization that supposedly speaks out against injustice in the Middle East can't spare a few words to condemn Hamas' barbaric crimes? Their silence speaks volumes…
November 8, 2026 at 9:25 pm (Edit)
What's "really very simple" is that Somerville for Palestine obviously sees Hamas as some sort of "liberation movement" and that to criticize it's barbaric murders, rapes, and hostage taking would go against its demented sense of solidarity with an organization that nearly every progressive movement in the world has spoken out against!
But hey Dylan if you want stand truth on its head and to try to convince people that all Somerville for Palestine really cares about is where our tax dollars go…go right ahead… good luck to you..I'm not going to waste my time going back and forth with an apologist for Hamas like you – have the last word if you want it.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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.*

Love those old commercials!



As I was writing the story of the old television shows a few weeks back, I started thinking about the commercials we grew up watching. I enjoy some TV commercials like the GEICO ads. They are clever and amusing. But I wonder if people will remember them and even be able to recite some of them word for word in 20, 30, and even 40 years? I doubt it. Who could ever forget the old ad against littering that shows the Native American with the tear in his eye?

"Speedy Alka-Seltzer" is also an unforgettable character, as we heard, "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh, what a relief it is!" Do you remember the Maxwell House coffee commercial around 1978 featuring a woman named Cora as the friendly storekeeper? Did she look familiar to you? It's because Cora was none other than Margaret Hamilton, who played the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*! Another cast member from that classic movie hawked Lay's potato chips. Bert Lahr, the cowardly Lion, sometimes dressed as the devil, snarled, "Bet you can't eat just one!"

Is it all coming back to you? I always had this unforgettable image of Barney Rubble and Fred Flintstone smoking cigarettes. That sounds absurd, doesn't it? Well, a few years ago I Googled "Flintstones smoking cigarettes." Sure enough, there was the commercial in black and white. Imagine cartoon characters selling cigarettes? Search it up on the Internet, and you will see our beloved Fred and Barney smoking Winstons and telling America how wonderfully tasty they are. Crazy!

Schaefer was the one beer to have "when you're having more than one!" It was also a popular jingle that The Somerville High School Boys Glee Club sang before the curtain went up at a big concert one year on stage in the high school auditorium! We drove poor Mr. Smith, the music teacher, out of his mind.

Do you remember a crazy product called "Mr. Microphone?" It was a Ronco product (of course) that amplified your voice when you put the radio dial on a certain frequency. Yes, any annoying voice would be transmitted over any radio with Mr. Microphone! That 70's TV commercial showed people at parties singing over their radios. It also showed a couple of groovy cats in a convertible driving by some swinging gals. With the help of Mr. Microphone, the obnoxious dudes in the car yell over the car radio, "Hey girls … we'll be back to pick you up later!" Mr. Whipple, the spectacle-wearing store clerk, asked, "Please don't squeeze the Charmin!"



Another unforgettable commercial line was the guy sitting on the edge of his bed muttering, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing!" This was also an ad for Alka-Seltzer. I always thought how crazy it was that I couldn't remember my multiplication tables, but I could recite TV commercials. "Oh, I wish I was an Oscar Mayer Wiener, that is what I truly want to be … 'cause if I was an Oscar Mayer Wiener, everyone would be in love with me!" I guess when something is drilled into your head over and over again, it sticks in there. Here are some more old commercials that are still in my head: "Ay-Yi-Yi-Yi … I am the Frito Bandito." "BUTTER … Parkay … BUTTER … Parkay!" "Hold the pickles, hold the lettuce, special orders don't upset us. All we ask is that you let us serve it your way."

Skipping over to the radio for a second, let's see if you can recall this old gem: "How many cookies did Andrew eat? Andrew ate 8,000. How do you keep your carpets clean? Call Andrew 8-8000" (Albany Rug Cleaners).

Some of those old ads would be offensive today, like the Virginia Slims ad that says, "You've come a long way, baby." That wouldn't fly today for two reasons. One, because we now know how deadly cigarette smoking is, and two, today it's politically incorrect to refer to women with words like "baby."

In closing, I am happy to report that apparently Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble have quit smoking.

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The Somerville Times

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What's the difference between opening a Trump Account and a Roth IRA for my child?

A: One of the biggest differences is eligibility. A Trump Account allows parents to start investing for their children even before the children begin earning money from work.

- **Roth IRAs require earned income.** A child can contribute to a Roth IRA only if they have qualifying earnings. For 2026, the contribution limit is the lesser of the child's eligible earnings or $7,500. For example, a child earning $1,000 from a part-time job could contribute up to $1,000. A Trump Account has no earned-income requirement during childhood.
- **Trump Accounts offer special contributions.** Qualifying children born from 2025 through 2028 can receive a one-time $1,000 government contribution. Employers can also contribute up to $2,500 annually under a qualifying program, without increasing the employee's taxable income.
- **The tax treatment is different.** Both accounts allow investments to grow without annual income taxes. However, Roth IRAs offer tax-free qualified withdrawals, including investment earnings, while Trump Accounts offer tax-deferred growth. Ordinary after-tax contributions to either account generally aren't taxed again, but government and tax-excluded employer contributions to Trump Accounts may be taxable when withdrawn.

Bottom Line: Roth IRAs generally offer more favorable tax treatment of investment earnings, but Trump Accounts allow families to start investing before a child has earned income. The government contribution and special employer contributions provide additional benefits that Roth IRAs don't offer.

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



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

Somerville City Councilors introduce AI oversight ordinance CONT. FROM PG 1

is divided into sections. These sections include the use of artificial intelligence systems, the use of sensitive personally identifiable information, an AI usage report, transparency, and enforcement.

"[The ordinance] asks that we ban AI from making decisions about things like eligibility for housing stability support," said Link at the City Council meeting.

The AI ordinance would also ban things like police reports written by AI or the use of biased AI models to make decisions that could contribute to desperate outcomes, said Link.

The ordinance would require an annual report to describe what AI is being used for in the city.

"We don't want AI to decide if an artist gets a grant, if a community member goes to prison or where our next library is built," said Link.

City Councilor Ben Wheeler said, "The lines we're trying to draw here are tricky ones to define well. And for me, the guiding goal is clarity."

City Council Vice President Wilfred Mbah said AI can help government deliver services more efficiently, but transparency and accountability must be consistent with civil rights and privacy protections.

"This is about ensuring that technology serves the public interest, protects civil rights and maintains human accountability," said Mbah.

He says residents should have the right to know when AI is being used to influence decisions affecting their housing assistance, city services, benefits, employment or other important opportunities.

"We should distinguish low-risk administrative uses from higher-risk applications that could affect residents' rights while ensuring appropriate human oversight," said Mbah.

Mbah mentioned there would be a process for residents to challenge consequential decisions once the ordinance is adopted.

"Our goal is to establish a practical framework that allows our residents to benefit from innovation while protecting residents and maintaining public trust," said Mbah.

The item was referred for recommendation to the Legislative Matters Committee. At that committee meeting on October 27, Mbah spoke in more detail about the ordinance. He said the intent is "to establish clear, responsible guardrails for the use of artificial intelligence in city government."

City Council President Lance Davis said he looks forward to input from the community and the Wilson administration.

"I think it's important for organizations, including city government, to be very aware of, and conscious of, and cautious about the hazards and the risks that come with some of this new technology," said Davis. "I think it's also important to recognize the value and the inevitability of the pervasiveness of some of this technology."

The Growing Center's Annual Wreath fundraiser is here CONT. FROM PG 1

said Lisa Brukilacchio, the Growing Center Board's Vice President.

Though available to order around the holiday season, the preparations start as early as the beginning of the year.

"We start picking out flower seeds with local farmers and volunteers. We also pay attention to when the red pine cones fall, whether it is earlier in the season. It's important to stay attuned to the different seasonal fluctuations," said Brukilacchio.

The Growing Center is always looking for volunteers to help out throughout the process. Orders are just now going live, and they are now preparing for a wreath assembly marathon.

"After we get our base wreaths, we turn East Somerville's Connexion into a workshop. We put ties on them and have a group of volunteer elves that are making over 150 bows. We used to work at a café, and now we host the community to work together at the center," said Brukilacchio.

The Annual Wreath sale isn't just about selling, but is about the process of the community coming together to create something beautiful. From additions from local farms to the hands of community members, the collaboration adds to the uniqueness of each wreath.

"This area is quite rich in farm and urban programs which started around the same time as The Growing Center. Everything has been growing in Massachusetts in order to have the beautiful wreaths and keep the costs down. We appreciate the services of local gardeners who help us out," said Brukilacchio.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or purchasing a wreath, they can visit https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/.



Mayor Jake Wilson is pleased to announce:

Six (6) Income-Restricted Condos Available for Sale at 13 Warwick St. and 8 Melvin St.

Condo Units Available at 13 Warwick Street				
Unit Number and Unit Type	**AMI (Area Median Income)**	**Sales Price**	**Estimated Condo Fee**	**Minimum Downpayment**
Unit 101 (1-bedroom)	80%	$209,855	$120	$6,296
Unit 301 (2-bedroom)	80%	$247,745	$132	$7,433
Unit 204 (Studio)	110%	$256,837	$170	$7,706
Unit 107 (2-bedroom)	110%	$346,668	$209	$10,401
Unit 403 (studio)	140%	$325,237	$265	$9,758[GR1]


Exterior of 13 Warwick St.

Condo Unit Available at 8 Melvin Street				
Unit Number and Unit Type	**AMI**	**Sales Price**	**Estimated Condo Fee**	**Minimum Downpayment**
Unit 3 (2-bedroom)	140%	$489,000	$152	$14,670


Kitchen at 8 Melvin St.

Open Houses	
13 Warwick St.	• Monday, November 16 from 6 pm - 8 pm • Saturday, November 21 from 10 am - 12 pm
8 Melvin St.	• Thursday, November 19 from 6 pm - 8 pm • Sunday, November 22 from 12 pm - 2 pm[GR2]

Questions?

Visit our weekly office hours every Thursday from 5:30-7:30 pm on Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81106664399

Call in: +1 (305) 224-1968
Access code: 811-0666-4399

When is the application deadline?
December 9, 2026 at 4 PM

When is the lottery?
There will be a lottery to decide who has the first opportunity to qualify to purchase this unit on **Thursday, December 17, 2026 at 10AM on Zoom.** View the lottery here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85601722085.

Who can apply?
Review the income limits for units using the QR code to the right or at https://bit.ly/3W06uok.

There is no program minimum income for 80% AMI, and there is a minimum of 1 person per bedroom. Other exemptions and restrictions may apply, and you can find more information about them in the application packet.

Download the application online at **somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing**	To request a paper application Call: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 Email: inclusionary@somervillema.gov	Pick up a paper application at any city building.

Applications can be submitted by:
- Email: inclusionary@somervillema.gov
- Fax: 617-591-3235
- Mail or drop off: 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145

If you need assistance translating or understanding this information, please call 311 (617-666-3311) or contact us at languageaccess@somervillema.gov. The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter for free.

Persons with disabilities can request accommodations to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville by contacting the ADA Coordinator at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov in advance of the event.

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The Somerville Times

COMMENTARY

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

Statement on Hate-Bias Complaints Received by the HRC

The Somerville Human Rights Commission is committed to protecting the "constitutional, civil, and human rights of all people in Somerville." We envision a city where people of all backgrounds and identities find safety and community, and where residents commit to caring for their neighbors, and treating one another with respect and dignity.

In this new chapter of the HRC, we have an opportunity to strengthen how we put these commitments into practice, with a focus on transparency, accountability, meaningful community engagement, and respect for the dignity and rights of every resident.

We are also committed to collaborating with the residents of the city in upholding human rights. This includes being responsive to resident concerns and being transparent with information and insights we have gathered about the state of human rights in the city.

In June, 2026, after many months of advocacy, the HRC received data from human rights complaints filed in 2024 and 2025. This data gave us a window into the challenges we must address in the coming months.

Reviewing this data has also prompted us to think about the role of the HRC with respect to resident complaints. In the past, complaints have generally been addressed privately at the individual case level by the Department of Racial and Social Justice, without involvement of the HRC. The HRC now seeks to create more transparency around complaints and aims to work with complaints at two levels: we will both investigate individual complaints and also synthesize complaints data to identify patterns and opportunities for intervention. While privacy may prevent us from sharing every detail of individual complaints, we are committed to explaining how we approach complaints and what we have learned from the information available to us. We aspire to take a transformative justice approach to complaints handling that seeks collective accountability, addresses underlying reasons for harm to prevent future harms, and we aim to avoid punitive measures that may perpetuate further harm and cycles of violence.

The data we have received so far shows that out of 83 complaints, nearly half (40) were filed in relation to Jews, Muslims, Israel, or Palestine. Of those, exactly half were reported as either antisemitic, anti-Israel, or anti-Israeli. The other half were Islamophobic, anti-Arab, or anti-Palestine or anti-Palestinian.

These complaints include graffiti, vandalism, verbal assault, and social media posts among others. While not everyone will agree that each of these complaints constitute hate, they were sufficiently hurtful to someone in the community to warrant a public complaint.

The HRC acknowledges that issues related to Israel and Palestine include both personal and political dimensions, and intersect with public policies at the local, national, and international levels.

We stand against instances where political opinion or advocacy has extended into physical harm or verbal assault in Somerville. We urge that all discussions and debates proceed from the knowledge that we are all neighbors, we are all striving for what is right based on our own experiences, knowledge, and perspectives, and we all have something to learn.

In response to what we have seen in the complaints data, we at the Human Rights Commission are partnering with the City to create a program for both city staff and residents that address these and other forms of violence and dehumanization. We know that this is just a start.

As part of our commitment to transparency we are sharing a new complaints investigation process which is available on our website. We welcome input on how we can continue to improve this process in the interest of serving all residents.

We also want to manage expectations for what the HRC will be able to accomplish as we take on future complaints investigations. We are all volunteers, and the city has not given us a budget to work with. We will do our best to serve the community effectively despite these resource constraints.

Let us strive to uphold each other's dignity and let that guide how we express our core values to each other and to the wider world.

We welcome your feedback: please reach out to us at hrc@somervillema.gov and follow us on IG @friendsofsomervillehrc
Complaint Investigation Process
https://tinyurl.com/ComplaintInvestigation
[goog_2100556466]
[goog_2100556466]Complaint Form
https://tinyurl.com/HRCComplaintForm

Multilingual student enrollment declines

By The Times Staff

At the School Committee meeting on November 2, Paulina Mitropoulos, director of the multilingual education department, presented the department's focus for the year with an overview of data pertaining to both enrollment and academics.

Data trends related to ML enrollment will guide the decisions and promote equitable outcomes for all students, explained Mitropoulos.

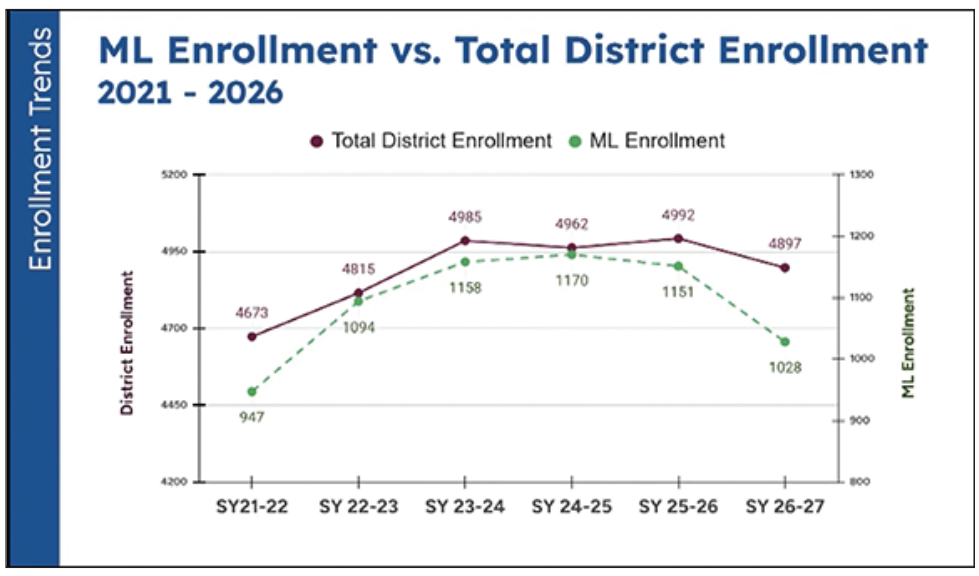
In the 2024-2025 school year, ML enrollment peaked at 1,170 students. ML enrollment has since declined to 1,027 students at the start of this school year.

Compared with the relatively modest decline in overall district enrollment, ML enrollment has declined at a higher rate.

"Several factors contribute to this decline, including lower newcomer enrollment over the last two years, as well as an increasing number of students exiting [Former English Learner] (FEL) status, which is great news," said Mitropoulos.

While ML enrollment has declined, the proportion of multilingual learners within total district enrollment has remained "relatively stable," with ML students representing 20 to 24 percent of SPS students over the last 6 years, she said.

Multilingual learners are represented in every school in Somerville, with the highest proportion of these learners at the East Somerville Community School, which houses the Unidos K-8 Dual Language Program and Sonrisa, a bilingual preschool program.



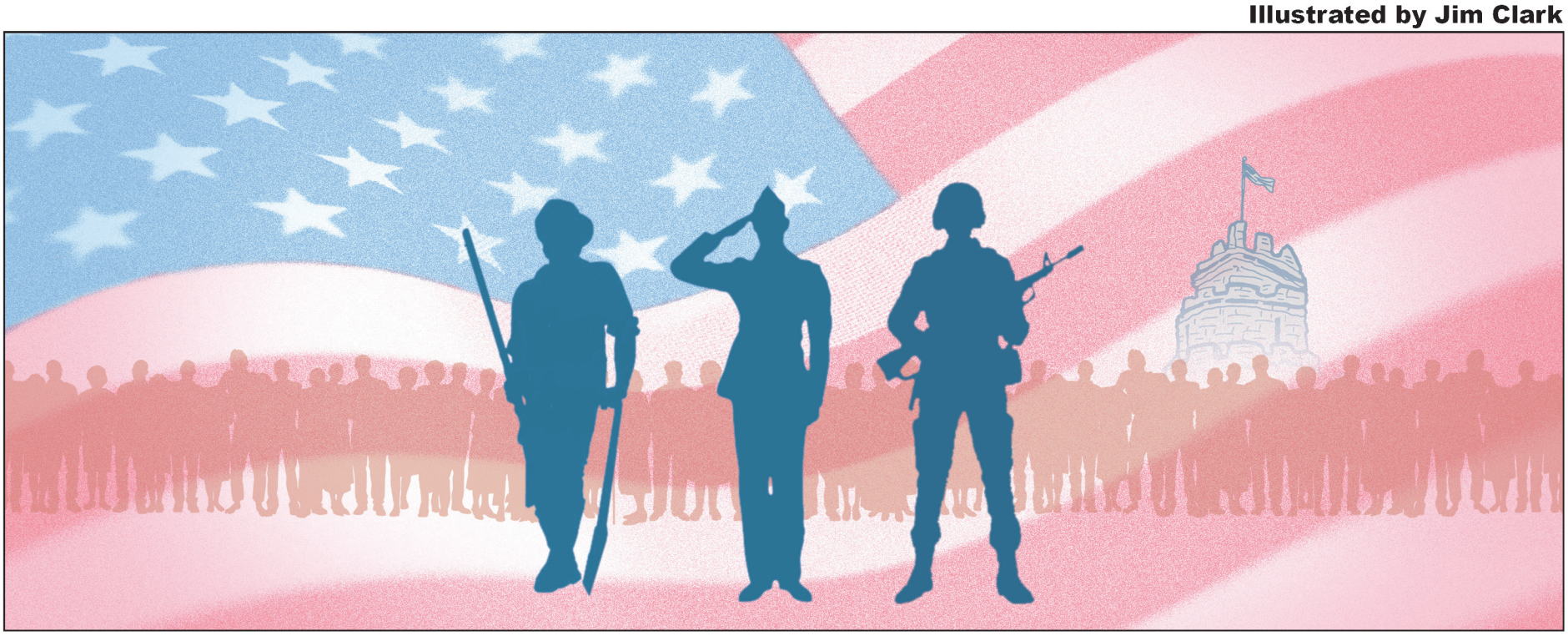
Mitropoulos noted that significant progress has been made for multilingual students with disabilities across the district.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville gratefully honors its veterans.

Our View Of The Times

We see them every year, and we regard them with awe and deepest admiration. Stoic and humble in countenance, they seem to simply play their part in our ritualistic celebration of their courageous contributions to the well-being of our nation. The well-being of ourselves as a society.

The flesh-and-blood reality is even more awe-inspiring as we realize how fragile life truly is, and yet these brave men and women each took a stand and declared that no harm should come to their fellow countrymen. Not on their watch.

Veterans Day is a time when each of us has a rare opportunity to reflect a small fraction of that magnificent commitment to humanity back upon the heroes who helped to make us all so much safer in a sometimes savage world.

Those of us who never served in the military cannot know the hardship, privation, and sacrifice that these people have made on behalf of all of us.

Some have made the supreme sacrifice. It is for them most of all that we bow our heads and utter prayers of solace and of gratitude for the precious gifts that they have laid before us. Those of liberty and a future free from fear of enemies, both seen and unseen.

We must endeavor to express our thanks at every possible opportunity. Veterans Day is one opportunity, but there can be many more if we choose to make them. It is up to us to do just that. It is vitally important that we do so.

We can take a stand and commit ourselves to celebrating the contributions of our beloved champions, one and all, each and every day to come.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

oldest recycler, **Allen Nisenbaum**, who always says he is going to be 90 (some day!). He will be celebrating on November 17. We wish him the best day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Donald Gallarelli, Victoria Macrokanis, Mark Aubuchon, Jerry DiGiovanni, Cheryl Bertocchi, John Kane, Antonette Almeida, Dottie Bowman, Antonette Biondo, Tanya Kalousdian, Jim Power**, and **Sandrine Jeffreson**, 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.

****

The **Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)**, in collaboration with the **Somerville Council on Aging** and **Housing Department**, warmly invites you to their **Detant Kreyòl gathering** on **Thursday, November 12**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 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 also have an opportunity to connect with SOIA staff and other community members. The theme for this session is **"What You Should Know: Cholesterol."**

****

Toss a Turkey In a Cruiser. The Somerville Police Department is proudly presenting an event to help families of the **Mystic Learning Center** and those in need with **Thanksgiving meals**. They will be at the **Market Basket** at 400 Somerville Ave, Somerville, **Saturday, November 14**, from 12 to 7 p.m., and **Sunday, November 15**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help your neighbors with a special guest appearance by **K9 Fluff**.

****

The city is offering **free COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics** at locations across the city this fall to help community members protect their health. The next free vaccine clinic (ages 18+), **Monday, November 16**, 2 – 3:30 p.m., **Tufts Admin Building**, 167 Holland St. Appointments are strongly encouraged, and walk-up availability is limited. To see the most up-to-date clinic schedule or make an appointment, visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations. You can also call 311 (617-666-3311) for information or to make an appointment.

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Latin Dance at the **Council on Aging, Friday, November 13**, 9 a.m., **Holland Street Center**, 167 Holland Street. Latin Dance will get you moving and grooving to a wide variety of Latin *Continued on page 21*

The Somerville Times

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio #1046

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. The armistice ending World War I took effect on November 11, 1918 at what hour?

2. When was the first Unknown Soldier buried at Arlington National Cemetery?

3. What symbol is commonly associated with Veterans Day?

4. Which poem that inspired the adoption of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance for Veterans Day?

5. Which U.S. President officially declared the National Veterans Award, and who was the first award presented to?

6. What is the newest branch of the U.S. military?

7. Which is the oldest branch of the U.S. military?

8. In which country would you find Machu Picchu?

9. Which country is known as the Land of the Rising Sun?

10. What kind of oranges are used to make marmalade?

11. *Hopelessly Devoted to You* is sung in which movie?

12. Which character did Liza Minnelli play in *Cabaret*?

Answers on page 10

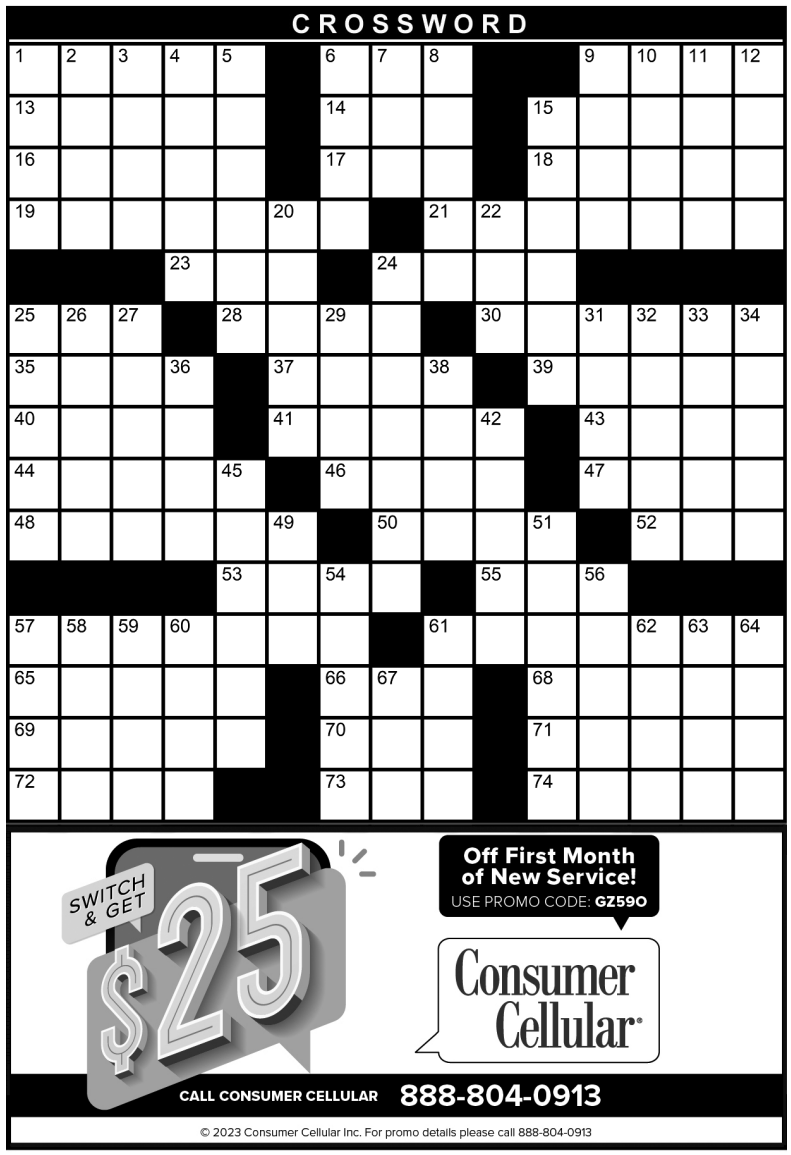
The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Almonds are members of the peach family.

2. Footprints on the moon will be there for 100 million years.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THANKSGIVING



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ACROSS

1. Chevy of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
6. Broadcast breaks
9. Electrical current unit, pl.
13. Mineral veins
14. Neighbor of Ger.
15. Gem state
16. 1960s abstractionism
17. "I" mania
18. The only First Lady to issue official Thanksgiving Day proclamation
19. First department store to host Thanksgiving parade
21. Keeping turkey juicy
23. Use one's eyes
24. Same as island
25. Chasing game
28. 4th planet from sun
30. Milk-related
35. 1952 Olympic site
37. Brad who starred in a Friends Thanksgiving episode
39. Remus Lupin's nickname
40. Continent
41. Most common vowel in English language
43. Try
44. Ascetic holy Hindu
46. Fail to mention
47. Ditty
48. Interruptions
50. "Do ____ others..."
52. P in m.p.g.
53. Partiality
55. Pie ____ ____ mode
57. Gizzard, heart, liver, neck
61. Soaking turkey
65. Heart chambers
66. Polite form of address
68. Outspoken
69. Behave like a coquette
70. "But I heard him exclaim, ____ he drove out of sight..."
71. Allergic reaction to bee sting
72. Bloodsucking hopper
73. "Ideas worth spreading" talk
74. Counseled

DOWN

1. Heidi's shoe
2. Kachina doll maker
3. "The Thanksgiving Song" performer
4. Some Slavs
5. Put on a pedestal
6. Gorillas and orangutans
7. National ____ Show
8. Pigsty dwellers
9. Mine passage
10. Neither mini nor midi
11. What phonics and cacophony have in common
12. Playlist item
15. Trouser measurement
20. Bounds' partners
22. Opposite of nothing
24. Isthmi, sing.
25. Charlie Brown's meal: ____, popcorn, pretzels, jelly beans
26. Allegro ____, in music
27. Move like on ice
29. Organized crime-related ____ Act, acr.
31. Selling price minus profit
32. Add (2 words)
33. Absurd
34. ____ Monday after Thanksgiving
36. Hawaiian island
38. "The Parent Trap" child
42. Rose oil
45. Cheerful
49. Dog command
51. Dickens' Twist
54. Opposite of liability
56. Positive electrode
57. Gamecock's spur
58. It will
59. French hors d'oeuvre staple
60. Turkish money
61. Raised
62. Like some cakes
63. ID info
64. Happy
67. Ill temper

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

OBITUARY

Andreas Kariotis



Andreas Kariotis, 93, passed away unexpectedly on October 24, 2026.

Born in Athens, Greece, on April 10, 1933, Andreas lived a life defined by courage, intellect, and an adventurous spirit that never shied away from something new. In his younger years in Greece, he was both athletic and dedicated to his country, playing semi-professional soccer and proudly serving in the Greek Air Force for two years.

In 1960, he immigrated to the United States with little more than his shore bag, working his way across the ocean as an engineer on an oil tanker. Upon arriving in the U.S., his sharp mind and determination led him to pursue higher education at MIT and Northeastern University. He built a distinguished career as an electrical engineer, lending his talents to prominent companies including Jarrel Ash, Fisher Scientific, Baird, and Thermo Electron. He possessed a rare, brilliant talent for understanding how things worked; Andreas could fix absolutely anything, a practical wisdom and hands-on skill that he proudly passed down to his sons.

While his professional pursuits took him around the globe, his true passion was always his family. He shared a beautiful first chapter of family life with his first wife, Marilyn MacEachern, who preceded him in death in June 2019. Together, they raised their three boys, instilling in them a love for the outdoors through fond childhood memories of summers at Hampton Beach, camping along the Cape Cod Canal, and winter camping and snowmobiling adventures.

Later in life, Andreas was blessed with another deep love in his wife, Louise C. Kariotis. Together, they shared 44 wonderful years of marriage. They initially explored the vast landscapes of the United States and Canada from the driver's seat of their 34-foot motorhome. Their love for travel eventually led them to a new adventure in retirement: opening their home in Lévis, Quebec, Canada, to establish On the Cliff Bed & Breakfast. Overlooking the St. Lawrence River and Old Quebec City, the B&B brought Andreas and Louise immense happiness. Their greatest joy was welcoming guests from all walks of life, sharing stories, and connecting over shared human experiences.

He is survived by his devoted spouse, Louise; his three sons and daughters-in-law, Stefan and Donna, Tony and Deana, and Jason and Bridget; his 8 cherished grandchildren; and his 8 beloved great-grandchildren. He leaves behind a family that will forever cherish his inspiring legacy of bravery, curiosity, and deep love.

In accordance with Andreas' wishes, no formal funeral services will be held. His remains will be buried in the spring of 2027 in Lévis, Quebec, Canada, at Louise's family plot. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made in his honor to the Holy Archangels Greek Orthodox Monastery, Kendalia, TX 78027. https://holyarchangels.com/donate.

OBITUARY

Kaliopy Kaliontzis



Kaliopy Kaliontzis, 94, of Somerville, passed away peacefully on November 6, 2026. She was the beloved daughter of the late Alexander and Anastasia Kaliontzis and sister of the late George Kaliontzis and his late wife Ernestine. She leaves behind her loving nieces Joanne Kaliontzis of Boston and Maria Tinglof and her late husband Michael of Matlacha, FL as well as two great-nephews, Seth and George.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit in the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church 29 Central St., Somerville, MA on Saturday November 14th from 10:00 - 11:00am. Her funeral service will begin at 11:00am. Interment to follow at The Gardens at Gethsemane Cemetery in West Roxbury.

Want to write local Somerville stories?
Call 857-488-5138
and speak to the Assignment Editor

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle Feathers #367

This article first appeared in the November 9, 2022, edition of The Somerville Times.

Flanders Fields

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

For the last one hundred years, much of the world has paid homage to November 11, 1918. On this day, commencing in 1919, the annual celebration of the end of World War I, or The War To End All Wars began. It was called Armistice Day in the United States and France, and Remembrance Day in England and Canada.



Armistice Day and Somerville were deeply entrenched from the outset in the American history of the Great War, as it was also called. In 1915, three prominent Somerville citizens perished on the torpedoed British ocean liner, the RMS Lusitania. This incident helped launch America into the conflict. World War I memorials are scattered across the city in the form of street names, parks, statues, and squares.



Army Corporal Richard Trum was killed just ten days before the Armistice was signed. Somerville's centrally located Trum Field honors him, while its abutting Charles E. Ryan Road honors another Somerville soldier killed three months earlier.

This holiday honors 29 other World War I servicemen from Magoun Square and 107 more throughout the city who lost their lives in the Great War. After World War II, 34 more names were added to the Trum Field list. In addition, 415 Somerville residents were added to the sacred World War II Memorial Honor Roll located on Central Hill. Since 1952, Armistice Day has been called Veterans Day.

Today, the number of Somerville residents who died in service since the Armistice is as follows:



World War I – 148
World War II – 417
Korean War – 30
Vietnam War – 33
Beirut, Lebanon – 1
Total service deaths – 629

All of our heroes this coming Veterans *Continued on page 23*

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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 18, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y-06vC5DQmaCWK-D1oESbw

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:

102 Morrison Ave — Paul Lavelle seeks relief from SZO 3.1.12.b to develop a backyard cottage that does not comply with the primary front setback of 60 feet, which requires a Variance.

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

11/4/26, 11/11/26 The Somerville Times

SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Garage License.

New Garage License, Toucan Auto Center Inc, 619 Somerville Avenue, 39 vehicles inside, 1 vehicle outside, for autobody work, spray painting, and operating a tow, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-AlyjC0jSaawMqVLvgq0lw
You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. 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 PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

COURTNEY HENDERSON, CITY CLERK
CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

11/4/26, 11/11/26 The Somerville Times

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

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Vestibule Addition and Renovation - Bryant Manor at Bryant Manor (667-4) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **REVERSE ARCHITECTURE**.

The Project consists of but not limited to: Work consists of a new accessible entry vestibule and repairs and replacement of accessible exterior walkways, ramps and stairs. The work includes:

•Selective demolition of storefront systems, entry doors, flooring finishes, glass and gypsum board partitions, ceiling systems, lighting and misc fittings and devices in the area of work.
•Selective demolition of exterior concrete stairs, railings, and walkways.
•Modifications to fire alarm and fire protection systems as indicated.
•Modifications to intercom system, security system, and access control system.
•Relocated and new interior and exterior lighting.
•Vestibule extension on new slab on grade on new footings.
•New automatic sliding entrance doors and new fixed storefront glazing.
•New interior partitions, door, floor and ceiling finishes and painting.
•New wall-mounted convective heater.
•New exterior concrete walkways, ramps, paving, and stairs.
•New galvanized steel and stainless steel handrails.

The work is estimated to cost **$440,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 11/30/2026 at 9:00AM EST for filed sub-bids and by 12/11/2026 at 5:00PM EST for general bids.

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

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

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

General Bids will be received until **18 December 2026 at 3:00PM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **03 December 2026 at 3:00PM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

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

TRADES
Miscellaneous and Ornamental Metals
Glass and Glazing
Electrical Work

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under $50,000.

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: 11/24/2026 at 10:00AM EST
Address: 75 Myrtle St, Somerville, MA 02143
Instructions: Meet at front entrance

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

11/11/26 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS IN
THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US
BY 12 PM MONDAY • PHONE: 857-488-5138

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS IFB # P-AC-HVAC110926

The **Somerville Housing Authority** and the Board of Commissioners, the Awarding Authority, invite sealed bids from Contractors for On-Call AC-HVAC Services for multiple locations located in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with IFB P-AC-HVAC110926 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

Bids documents will be made available at www.Biddocs.com by **2:00 p.m. November 11, 2026**.

Electronic Submission Only: All responses to this Invitation for Bids (IFB) must be submitted electronically via www.Biddocs.com. No paper or faxed bids will be accepted.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., November 30, 2026**.

The work is estimated to cost approximately **$65,000.00** during the 1-year contract period or **$195,000.00** if all options are taken. The authority has the sole, unilateral right to extend the contract for two separate periods of 1-year.

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.

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

A site visit is scheduled for **November 18, 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.

11/11/26 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: **www.TheSomervilleTimes.com**

From on page 8

Ms. Cam's Olio Answers

1. 11 a.m.
2. November 11, 1921
3. Red poppy
4. *In Flanders Fields* by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae
5. President Dwight D. Eisenhower – the first award was presented to Congressman Edward H. Rees
6. The United States Space Force (USSF)
7. The U.S. Army (founded June 14, 1775)
8. Peru
9. Japan
10. Seville oranges
11. Grease
12. Sally Bowles

Open Door Chats with new Arts and Culture Director

By Harry Kane

The new Arts and Culture Director for the City of Somerville is Dr. Lydia Warren. She recently sat down with Mayor Jake Wilson to talk about the dynamic mix of music, local artist collectives, community events, and so much more that makes the City of Somerville a vibrant and diverse arts scene.

Warren recalled her formative years when she studied music ecosystems in an academic setting while at community college and her fond memories of jamming out at Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant and Music Club in Davis Square.

"The work that I was already doing in music really translated well to ethnomusicology, which is sort of the art and science of talking to people about the music that they're making in the community," said Warren. "I don't deal so much with like notes on the page, just the communities that are making music and sustaining music."

Her focus was on music ecosystems, music tourism and the economics and equity of how those areas work, she explained.

Amplifying new artistic voices with an eye to equity

In her new job as the Arts & Culture Director, Warren says she is now making time to meet artists and visit different art galleries in Somerville. She says her inbox is open and her phone is on, and she is working to support artists and build community partnerships.

Continuing a thriving arts community means amplifying the ideas and voices of the artists who are already out there doing the work, she says.

The other component is doing outreach to make sure to include community members who may not feel connected, she added. She says the team has had discussions in the office about increasing outreach, which may include non-English language speaking community members or the incorporation of American Sign Language services.

The arts are the soul of the city

While some community members may be concerned that future developments could negatively affect the arts scene, Warren says that the new Diamond Factory is a prime example of a space for artwork that was reimagined in Davis Square.

"It really is blossoming now under the guidance of local artists whose work is being shown there," said Warren about the pop-up art gallery that replaced a vacant Starbucks storefront.

She says her goal is to continue this trend, and likened the art scene to a diamond that is formed under pressure, which she says is much like the pressure to allow the rise of developments in Davis Square.

"Diamonds are formed under pressure, right? So, we just have to keep using the tools that we have to make sure that as the pressure grows on our arts communities, we're really making sure that people can shine and places can exist," said Warren.



The city's new Director of Arts and Culture was recently interviewed by Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson.

Empowering communities through events and securing funding for the future

Many legendary events attract folks to Somerville, such as Porchfest, What the Fluff? Festival, HONK! Festival, Somerville Open Studios, SomerStreets events, and ArtBeat.

"One of the most exciting things about the events is they are community-driven, community-controlled," said Warren. "They might be city-sponsored, they might be city-run, but it's real people who live here making these events."

The events have been a huge economic driver of local tourism, and community members have been heavily engaged. "It's really exciting that there are so many local residents in the driver's seat, kind of steering the ship on these," said Warren.

To secure long-term funding for the arts, Warren's team is working on starting a cultural trust. Often, cultural trusts are started as a nonprofit entity, and they hold money that can be used to maintain art spaces.

"So, what we're really looking at in the simplest terms is a vessel that holds money, and that money can then be used to sustain and preserve art spaces," said Warren.

The cultural trust, she says, would act as a "protective bubble around the arts" to protect against developers who don't benefit economically from art spaces.

City to Honor Veterans Day with Remembrance Ceremony and Commemorative Wreaths



The City of Somerville and the Somerville Museum invite the community to the 2026 Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony at Somerville's historic Milk Row Cemetery on Somerville Avenue. The ceremony will take place on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Join the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, HM 10th Regiment of Foot, and 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, as well as Mayor Jake Wilson, City Councilors, and the Somerville Office of Veterans' Services as they honor our veterans at the 1863 Civil War Monument and the gravesite of an unknown British Soldier.

The brief ceremony and speaking program will honor all Somerville veterans including paying tribute to the Somerville veterans buried at or commemorated by the 1863 Civil War Monument in Milk Row Cemetery. The event is free and open to the public, and the site is ADA accessible. Seating will be available.

Milk Row Cemetery is located at 439 Somerville Ave., next to Market Basket. An optional online RSVP is requested (it helps staff plan), but RSVP is not required. This event is co-hosted by the City of Somerville and the Somerville Museum, which is contracted by the City to organize historic events and ceremonies, with support by the Somerville Historic Commission.

In observance of Veterans Day, the Somerville Office of Veterans Services will also place wreaths at City Hall and North Street Cemetery and provide wreaths for the George Dilboy Post VFW 529 and Disabled American Veterans Somerville #27.

For more information, contact info@somervillemuseum.org or visit somervillemuseum.org.

The Somerville Times

OBITUARY

Margaret "Honey" M. Kennedy

June 10, 1939 — November 7, 2026



Margaret Mae Kennedy passed away in Falmouth, Massachusetts, on November 7th, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was 87. Margaret was a lifelong resident of Somerville and Medford. She enjoyed spending most of her summers in Falmouth, on Cape Cod.

Margaret was the loving daughter of the late John E. Kennedy and the late Florence (Graham) Kennedy, of Somerville.

Margaret was the loving sister of the late John Kennedy of Quincy and the late Florence (Kennedy) McWatters of Somerville.

Margaret was the cherished aunt of Robbie, Sissy, Kevin, Marylynn, Janice, Kathy, Maureen, Jackie, Linda and Eddie. She was also the Great-Aunt to many great-nieces and nephews.

Margaret was employed by the George Macomber Construction Company in Boston for over 50 years, working up to being the executive secretary.

Margaret had many lifelong friends, beginning at St. John's High School in Cambridge, George Macomber Construction Company in Boston, the Ski Club at Wildcat Mountain in NH, the 12th hole at Paul Harney's Golf Course in Falmouth, MA, and many more friends all over the Cape. Honey was loved by all.

The funeral service will be held at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Friday morning, November 13, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited. Calling hours Friday morning prior to her service will be 10 – 11:30 a.m. The burial will be private.

In Lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Tunnel to Towers Foundation at https://dogood.t2t.org/give/320847/#!/donation/checkout. Please choose an "in the memory of" option and send the ecard to anken4@aol.com.

Somerville's Fall Citywide Cleanup

On Saturday, November 7, Somerville community members were invited to spend a couple of hours outside, meet people nearby, and leave their street a little better than they found it. This was the second citywide cleanup as part of Somerville's Year of the Neighbor initiative, a yearlong push to strengthen connections, build community, and tap into everyone's ability to have a positive impact across Somerville. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/neighbor.

— Photos by Ewan Henrie









City provides Magoun Broadway Reconstruction Project update

By Keith Foster

The City of Somerville provided an updated design open house for the Magoun Square Reconstruction Project for residents on November 4 at the Arthur D. Healey School.

The city is planning to reconstruct sidewalks, repave, and redesign Broadway between Winchester Street and Central Street to increase safety, improve accessibility, incorporate more sustainability, and create a more comfortable street.

The city published conceptual designs in May 2026 and sought community feedback to help determine the design direction for the Magoun Square intersection and clarify design ideas for the street. It has now developed an updated design that includes protected bike lanes, a roundabout for the Magoun Square intersection, shortened crossing distances, raised crosswalks, traffic calming, and floating bus stops.

Annie MacKenzie, a resident of Somerville, said pedestrian safety is the top priority at the Magoun Square intersection. Cars approach from five different directions, making it scary to cross, especially when the days get shorter.

Adam Polinski of the mobility division had a lot to say about the roundabout. They hope to settle on an avocado or peanut shape for the roundabout due to how Medford Street and Broadway meet. The lanes will be 15 feet wide, with one entry lane on each approach. A dedicated perimeter path will enable bikes to circulate on the outside. Crosswalks will be marked on all legs, set back farther from the circulating lane, and designed as raised crosswalks, with pedestrian signals, raised push buttons, and beacons provided to support safe crossings. The roundabout will tighten things up. There will be raised bus stops, and the traffic light will be eliminated.

Visit somervillema.gov/broadwaymagoun for more information and project details.



The Magoun Broadway Reconstruction Project open house provided the latest info for the public's perusal.

Somerville Schools' annual wreath sale supports students and celebrates a holiday tradition

The holiday spirit is in full bloom at Somerville's Next Wave Middle School and Full Circle High School (NWFC) as students keep a beloved tradition alive with their annual wreath sale. The longtime seasonal fundraiser brings students together with the community to not only spread seasonal cheer, but also help fund enriching experiences and memorable opportunities for students.



The Somerville community has enthusiastically embraced the NWFC wreath sale over the years, helping sustain this close-knit, therapeutic learning community, where project-based learning and individualized attention help students thrive.

Proceeds from the sale directly support student activities and enrichment opportunities. This fall, students visited Connors Farm to pick apples and climbed Mount Monadnock, with a roller-skating trip planned for later in the season. Funds also support NWFC athletics, allowing the schools to field both junior varsity and varsity basketball teams this year. The soccer team also received new uniforms and welcomed four other schools for competition.

As for the fundraiser, this effort dates back several decades to when the school hosted a Christmas tree lot. Managing a tree lot at the high school became too logistically challenging, leading the staff to adapt the tradition into the wreath sale. Today, NWFC staff begins planning in late September to coordinate the many details that make the fundraiser possible.

The wreaths, shipped from Nova Scotia, Canada, are known for their quality. "We try to keep these wreaths at the same price as other wreaths, but these are nice, full wreaths," said interim principal Jack Haverty. "Even the bows are high-quality."

NWFC students play an important role in the fundraiser, preparing each wreath with a festive red bow and label before helping with deliveries. This year, students will deliver wreaths to their former schools, giving them an opportunity to reconnect with familiar staff and communities. The experience helps students strengthen community relationships while gaining hands-on experience participating in a fundraising project.

Wreaths are $28 each and are available for purchase through November 24. Orders can be placed online at tinyurl.com/NWFCwreathsale. Community members are encouraged to place their orders soon, as the wreaths typically sell out quickly. Pickup begins December 1 at NWFC, located within Somerville High School.

The Somerville Times

COMMENTARY

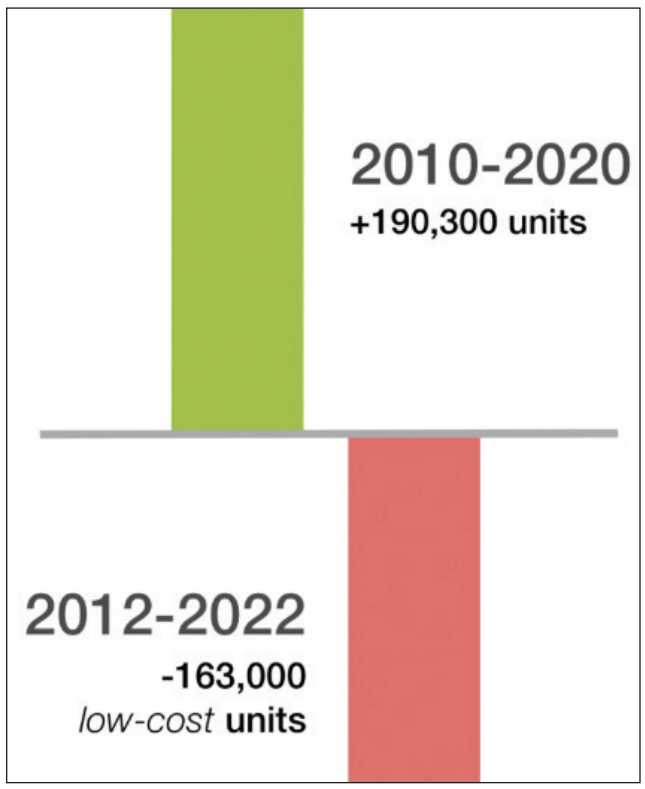
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Housing: There's a hole in the bucket!



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

Everyone agrees we need a lot more housing in Massachusetts. We're spending billions of dollars and passing laws like the Affordable Homes Act and the MBTA Communities Act, hoping to create that housing.

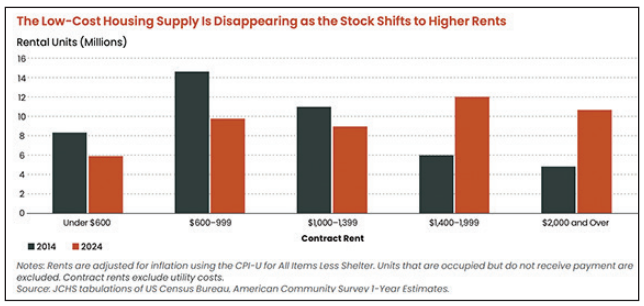


But at the same time, **we're losing housing for low and moderate income people**. This chart compares data from the Healey administration [1] and Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies [2].

In A Home for Everyone [3] the Healey administration adds, "We are at risk of losing the homes we have, especially the affordable ones…The availability of modestly priced homes and apartments is dwindling as they are acquired and upscaled by investors who sell or rent at a much higher price point."

Nationally, we see the same trend: more total housing, but less housing for low and middle income people. The New York Times [4] reported that "In cities that aggressively built housing in recent years, rents rose dramatically for low-income households and stabilized for wealthier ones. The new rental housing that was built was often luxury housing, with studios and one-bedrooms, units that targeted young, single professionals but were too small and too expensive for low-income households with children. New single-family homes for sale were larger than they were in the past, aimed at wealthier buyers, rather than cash-strapped, first-time home buyers."

Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies wrote in "The State of the Nation's Housing" [5] that "rather than being replenished by units filtering down to lower rents, the existing stock of low-rent units is shrinking." (p. 3) This chart is from the report:

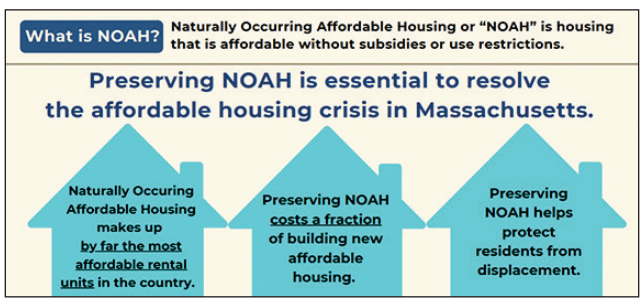


WE NEED PRESERVATION, NOT JUST BUILDING!

Chris Dwan, a Somerville writer, observed that "You can't build old and cheap."

The CEO of Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation wrote in the *Globe* [6], "The state cannot build its way out of the current housing shortage. It must also prioritize purchasing existing affordable housing that is at risk of conversion to market-rate units. In many cases, acquisition costs are nearly half that of new construction."

Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing is not the same as "affordable housing," which is income-restricted and subsidized.



NOAH is rapidly being replaced by luxury housing in many communities. (Graphic from Homes for All) [7]

ZONING CAN ELIMINATE MODERATELY PRICED HOUSING

One example of many: A multi-family in Somerville was sold two years ago for $710,000. Under current zoning, the buyer demolished it and built four condos by right, each selling for between $925,000 and $1,350,000. So there's more housing, but fewer units available for people with modest incomes. (Want a tour of the new condos [8]?)

Moreover, upzoning can raise the market value of a property because of the opportunity to build more expensive units. Potential homeowners are outbid by corporations who can pay cash with no conditions. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council report, Homes for Profit, Speculation and Investment in Greater Boston [9], reported that from 2004-2018 in East Somerville over half the 3-deckers and almost 2/3 of 2-families were sold to investors. The situation is much worse now, but there's no more recent data.

A recent opinion piece [10] by a developer in Commonwealth Beacon made a similar point about upzoning in suburbs: Zoning "affects what land is worth. If an older $600,000 house sits on land that can suddenly support two more valuable homes, that property is no longer competing only as a $600,000 residence. It is competing as redevelopment land. A builder can pay more for it because the development rights are worth more. The existing house may become more valuable to demolish than to preserve."

In earlier years, a 3-decker could be a "starter home," allowing a family to rent units to help pay their mortgage, or sharing with their extended family. This is no longer possible.

We need to preserve some naturally occurring affordable homes by removing them from the speculative market. Zoning should not create or increase incentives to demolish those homes and replace them with luxury units.

Links:

[1] https://www.mass.gov/info-details/historical-housing-production
[2] https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/arh-2024-low-rent-supply-shrinking
[3] https://www.mass.gov/doc/statewide-housing-needs-assessment/download
[4] https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/05/real-estate/affordable-housing-insurance-studies.html?unlocked_article_code=1.clA.RsKG.86Ut2c1sIL-vd&smid=url-share#commentsContainer
[5] https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/state-nations-housing-2026
[6] https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/04/17/opinion/massachusetts-affordable-housing-crisis-acquisition-preservation/
[7] https://www.homesforallmass.org/
[8] https://www.instagram.com/reels/DOeKML-VDyvn/
[9] https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/homes-for-profit/
[10] https://commonwealthbeacon.org/opinion/a-developers-warning-question-7-is-not-an-affordable-housing-plan/

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Book review: 'Watching the Dark' by Peter Robinson

By Dennis Fischman

Do you enjoy one-off novels more than series, or vice versa? Each has its charms. When I read a book that's self-contained, I enter its world completely, and I know I won't be subjected to cliffhangers or to plot twists that are there simply to set up the next book. When I read a series, however, I can count on some people and events being familiar, so I can pick up where I left off.

I first began reading the Inspector Banks series [1] in 2016, long before I began writing reviews. But it's been a bit since I've spent time with Alan Banks and his department, friends, family, lovers, ex-lovers, etc. So, I picked up Watching the Dark [2] the same way I would go back to an old favorite restaurant. Reading it, I enjoyed the taste of coming home.

If you are visiting for the first time, here is what you'll find on the daily specials:

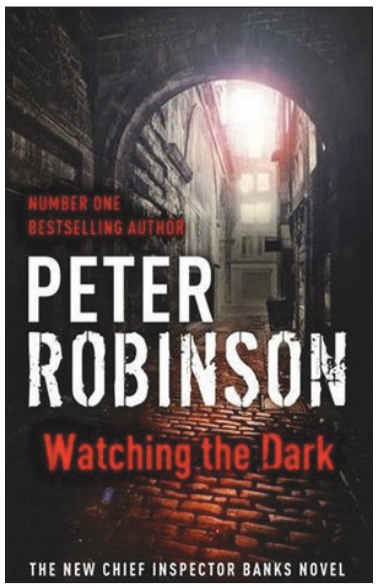
In a convalescent home for injured and disabled police, one of the residents is found dead--shot with an arrow from a crossbow. Is the murderer a fellow cop who's a resident in the home? Or someone who works there, or someone else entirely?

And if it's an outsider, how does this death connect with the victim's wife's recent death by natural causes, or the murder of a reporter whose path crossed his when he was investigating the disappearance of a young British woman in Estonia?

As you can see, the plot gets complicated (and even more so when some of the detectives are back in Britain while others are in Tallinn). The settings are well described, and (unlike another reviewer who said "This is a murder mystery, not Thomas Hardy" [3]), I enjoyed that.

I also enjoyed the insights into our hero's mind and that of his protegee, Annie Cabbot. There's a new character, a woman from the British equivalent of an Internal Affairs Department (to this reader's U.S. eyes), and although we don't hear her internal monologue, we do get glimpses of a complex personality. I hope Inspector Joanna Passerio appears again in other books!

If the book were published today, the chapters might be shorter, and each change of scene might cause a chapter break. Then again, it may be part of Peter Robinson's literary style. Give yourself more than a few minutes at a sitting to enjoy the story.



Watching the Dark by Peter Robinson. William Morrow, 2013.



Dennis Fischman is a member of the Somerville Public Library's Mystery Book Club and an inveterate reader.

Links:

[1] https://www.goodreads.com/series/40970-inspector-banks

[2] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13331170-watching-the-dark

[3] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/15905.Thomas_Hardy

Stocking up the Food Pantry

Former Somerville Mayor Joe Curtatone and City Councilor Will Mbah joined forces on Saturday to lend a helping hand, delivering turkeys to the Missionary Church of the Haitian Community Food Pantry, located at 100 Temple Street. Their visit helped support local families in need ahead of the holiday season.







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The Somerville Times

Great Artpectations: Vernon Street and Central Street Open Studios

On December 5 and 6, creativity gets "centralized" with the first-ever collaboration with Vernon Street Studios and Central Street Studios. During this art showcase, mid-career and emerging artists working across a broad spectrum of fine art genres and craft media will display and sell their work – just in time for the holiday season.

It's a tale of two spaces, one that bridges two of Somerville's most vital creative communities. Vernon Street Studios, one of the oldest artist spaces in the Greater Boston area, is celebrating its ongoing legacy alongside the recently preserved Central Street Studios. Located in the heart of Somerville, art-lovers can "ease on down the road" to have a multi-faceted art experience across both buildings that all can enjoy.

Each space has its own unique vibe and has something for everyone. From painters, photographers, sculptors, jewelers, and multimedia artists, this eclectic collaboration has a wide array of artists that display the breadth of Somerville's vibrant art scene. So, join the "great artpectations" showcase and centralize your creative curiosity.

Parking is available in the large lot behind Vernon Street Studios off Central Street. Supported and sponsored in part by Artscope Magazine and the Arts and Business Council

About Vernon Street Studios

Located in a historic 19th century brick industrial building, Vernon Street was one of the first groups of artists in the Greater Boston area to open their studios to the public in 1974. The Open Studios event allows attendees to learn about the creative process, interact with artists in the spaces where they create, purchase original artwork, and discover new talent.

The studios are located in the Rogers Foam facility, which comprises two buildings on the corner of Central and Vernon Streets.

About Central Street Studios

Located on Central Street (across from the Somerville Museum), 57 Central Street Studios is a four-story artist workspace in Somerville with a 40-year history as a home for working artists. Originally founded in 1983, the building has long served as an affordable, community-driven makerspace. Within its unassuming walls, there is a bustling energy of visual artists, filmmakers, writers, and musicians who hone their craft, creating a unique vibe



that feels distinctly Somerville—quirky, creative, and fun. In April 2026, with support from the City of Somerville, the Arts & Business Council acquired the property to ensure this legacy continues for the next generation of artists.

Vernon Street & Central Street Open Studios

Date & Time: December 5 & 6, 2026 (Saturday & Sunday 12-6pm)

Studio Locations:

6 and 20 Vernon Street, Somerville, MA 02145

57 Central Street, Somerville, MA 02145

For more info visit:

www.vernonstreet.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VernonStreetStudios

Instagram @vernonStreetStudios

www.artsandbusinesscouncil.org/central-street-studios

Instagram @centralststudios

Apply now for a two-bedroom affordable rental unit in Union Square

Applications are now open for a rent-restricted, two-bedroom unit at 16-20 Medford St. (Verge) near Union Square through the City of Somerville's Inclusionary Housing Program. The unit is available to all households making between 81% and 110% of the Area Median Income and to households with mobile vouchers making between 0% and 110% of the Area Median Income.

Rent is $2,900 per month. This is a first-come, first-served opportunity.

How to Apply:

Find additional information in multiple languages at somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing or apply now at affordablelistings.com/rental-properties/verge. Completed applications can be emailed to info@acrescompliance.com or call 311 (617-666-3311) to get assistance.

For more information on the City's Inclusionary Housing Program, visit somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing.



More About Verge (16-20 Medford St.):

The building has a work from home space, fitness room, bike storage, and roof deck at the property. The unit includes a private balcony, a modern kitchen, and in-unit laundry. For more information on unit layouts and features, contact ACRES at (617) 675-1083.

Somerville High School receives $25,000 grant to expand biotechnology learning

Somerville High School has been selected as a partner school of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd), bringing a $25,000 grant to Somerville Public Schools to expand biotechnology and life sciences education.

The grant is supported through a statewide STEM initiative funded by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) and awarded to MassBioEd to strengthen life sciences education and workforce development in public schools across Massachusetts.

Through MassBioEd's ACCESS Program, teachers, administrators, and scientists work together to provide vertically aligned, hands-on life science lessons and career experiences for students in Grades 6–10. As part of the three-year program, Somerville High School life sciences educators will participate in workshops focused on ACCESS lessons and equipment, as well as in-school or remote coaching and mentoring to incorporate these experiences into their existing curriculum.

Students will benefit from new laboratory equipment, tools, and opportunities to engage with current biotechnology practices and real-world applications. MassBioEd scientists will also work alongside SHS educators and students throughout the 2026–2027 school year, helping students build technical skills and explore careers in the life sciences.

"This partnership gives our students an exciting opportunity to connect what they are learning in the classroom to the rapidly growing field of biotechnology and life sciences," said Superintendent Dr. Rubén Carmona. "Investing in our educators and providing students with authentic, hands-on experiences is an important part of preparing them for college, careers, and continued learning."

Six Somerville High School educators are participating in the program.

"We are grateful to MassBioEd and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for this investment in Somerville High School," said Marianna Zimbardo Hosking, Science Department Head at SHS. "Our teachers are excited to incorporate new tools and biotechnology experiences into our 9th Grade Biology and AP Biology courses, and give students opportunities to learn by doing."



City to host cold weather preparedness workshops on November 17 and 18



Though it may not feel like it with the recent summer-like temperatures, winter is fast approaching. To learn how to stay safe and be ready for winter weather, community members are invited to join Somerville Emergency Management and the Somerville Fire Department for a free workshop on cold weather preparedness.

Participants will learn about:

- building an emergency kit for the winter season,
- protecting yourself and loved ones during cold weather,
- signs of cold-related illnesses,
- winter pet safety,
- testing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms,
- home heating safety,
- power outages and loss of heat,
- how to be a good neighbor this winter,
- and more.

Workshops will be held:

Tuesday, November 17, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Central Library (79 Highland Ave.)

- Open to all.
- No RSVP required.

Wednesday, November 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Council on Aging's Holland Street Center (167 Holland St.)

- Open to older community members and seniors (age 60 and up).
- To RSVP, call 617-625-6600 ext. 2318 or email mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Both workshops are one hour and free to attend. Informational handouts on cold weather safety and winter emergency preparedness will also be available for attendees to take home.

These events are the final workshops in the 2026 Preparedness and Resiliency Through Neighborhood Engagement and Readiness (PARTNER) Program training series. For more information on the PARTNER program and other emergency management events, visit somervillema.gov/em.

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SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS:

Thanksgiving Celebration! – Please reserve your spot for the Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner or the Somerville Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon by calling the COA Reservation Line at 617-625-6600, ext. 2323. Please leave your name, phone number and your preference of celebration. It is our goal that everyone gets to enjoy a Thanksgiving celebration with friends this year, as space is limited, please reserve your spot for one event. We will call you to confirm your reservation.

Somerville Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon – Tuesday, November 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. Enjoy a Thanksgiving Lunch sponsored by the City of Somerville and prepared by Brett Henry Catering.

Ready for Winter Weather? – Wednesday, November 18th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join the Office of Emergency Management for a friendly, informative talk on getting ready for severe cold weather. Learn easy steps older adults can take to stay warm and safe, plus helpful tips and local resources to support you when winter weather hits and your power may go out. Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information, or to register.

Playwriting with John – Wednesday, November 18th, 25th and December 2nd from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Do you have an interest in plays and have you been curious about how to create your own. Playwriting with John consists of learning more about the structure of plays and how to write a scene. We will also read and discuss plays to understand their structure. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617 625-6600 ext. 2317.

FDIC: Money Smart – Friday, November 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Have you ever wondered how much power a power of attorney has in regards to your money? This month, representatives from Northern Bank discuss how to select someone to manage your finances if you are not able to do so. We will also discuss signs to look for if you suspect that your representative is not acting in your best interest. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Beginners De-Cluttering Group – Tuesdays, November 10th and 17th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 am. Are you curious about de-cluttering but feel overwhelmed by the process of starting to sort through your items? The Somerville Council on Aging offers a support group to help build skills to make de-cluttering feel less daunting. Participants must be residents of Somerville or Cambridge and over the age of 60. To RSVP of for more information, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Advanced De-Cluttering Group – Wednesdays, November 18th and 25th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Have you taken our beginners de-cluttering group and are you looking to improve your de-cluttering skills in a group format? Are you a resident of Somerville or Cambridge and are over the age of 60? The Somerville Council on Aging has advanced de-cluttering group sessions to help support you as you continue to de-clutter. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Project Outlook – Thursday, November 19th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. A week early due to Thanksgiving. Project Outlook is a group for low vision and blind seniors to gather, socialize, and enjoy a meal together. Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register.

Nutrition Classes – Virtual Via Zoom Every Monday in November from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Contact Mary for the Zoom link. In Person at the Ralph & Jenny Center Every Monday in November from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. In person at the **Holland Street Center** – Wednesdays, November 18th & 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. For more information on any of the classes, to schedule consultation or address your nutrition concerns please contact Mary Marshall at headtofitness10@yahoo.com or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2316.

Make Up Nutrition & Question and Answer Time Virtual Via Zoom – Every Monday in November from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Contact Mary for the Zoom link. This is a time to ask any questions you may have on any of the class work previously covered, please feel free to join this class before the scheduled zoom class on Mondays. For more information on any of the classes, or to schedule a consultation, contact Mary Marshall at headtofitness10@yahoo.com or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2316.

Looking for a location to chat with your friends? – Come to the COA on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the senior center is open, and the coffee is on as we wait for the start of Bingo.

Bingo – Thursdays, November 12th & 19th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. $1. per bingo card. For more information contact Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Tuesday, November 24th starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. $1. per bingo card. For more information contact Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

The Council on Aging is collecting blankets for Project Linus – Project Linus is an organization that collects new, handmade, blankets for children under the age of 18 who are experiencing hardship. If you have a handmade sewn, knitted or quilted blanket to donate, please stop by the Somerville Council on Aging social services office to drop it off.

Knitting with Natasha – Every Tuesday in November from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Hoping to learn how to knit or practice your knitting skills in a supportive group, considering joining Knitting with Natasha. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

LCR (Left, Center, Right) – Friday, November 20th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Left Center Right is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won't be able to put down! Players roll the dice to de-termine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. $1 per game. To register please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Technology Drop-In – Tuesday, November 10th, 17th & 24th starting at 9:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Cen-ter. Have questions about technology? Come on by and work with the Technology Access Program. Free! No RSVP needed but if you have questions, please feel free to contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Coffee & Conversation Groups – Every Monday in November from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street, and every Thursday in November except for the 26th at the Holland Street Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Free! Join us for this staff-led discussion group which covers a range of topics thought up by participants. This is a friendly group where all topics are discussed respectfully. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335, or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

Book Club – Friday, November 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center and/or via Zoom. Looking to talk about your love of books or hoping to meet more people who enjoy reading? Look no further than the Book Club at SCOA. Free of Charge. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page – Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at https://www.facebook.com/Somerville-COA/.

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: Have YOU been discriminated against?
A: Call the Somerville Housing Division (617-625-6600 x2569) if someone has denied you housing in any of the following ways:
*Refused to rent, lease, or sell housing to you because you are a member of a protected class
*Set discriminatory terms, conditions, and/or privileges of housing
*Asked whether you were a member of any of the protected classes
*Falsely stated that housing is unavailable
*Advertised in a discriminatory way (includes oral or written statements)
Because none of that behavior is Fair Housing, and it's against the law!

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

Someone complimented my parking today! They left a note on my windshield that said "parking fine."

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To advertise in The Somerville Times call Bobbie Toner 857-488-5138

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Where has our daylight gone?… — *Photo by Denise Provost*

On This Day in History
November 11

1499 – Pretender to the throne Perkin Warbeck is executed.

1778 – Indians, led by William Butler, massacre the inhabitants of Cherry Valley, N.Y.

1831 – Nat Turner, a slave who led a revolt against slave owners, is hanged in Jerusalem, Virginia.

1909 – Construction begins on the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

1918 – The German leaders sign the armistice ending World War I.

1921 – The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery is dedicated.

1938 – *God Bless America* is performed for the first time by singer Kate Smith.

1953 – The polio virus is identified for the first time in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1970 – U.S. Army Special Forces raid the Son Tay prison camp in North Vietnam but find no prisoners.

1973 – Israel and Egypt sign a cease-fire.

1987 – Vincent Van Gogh's painting *Irises* sells for $53.9 million at Sotheby's.

2004 – The Palestine Liberation organization confirms the death of Yasser Arafat.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

rhythms. This is a low-impact aerobic dance class with a party atmosphere. Explore music ranging from merengue to salsa, cumbia, samba, flamenco, rumba, cha-cha, paso doble, and much more. For more information and to register, contact **Michelle Deutsch** at 617-625-6600 x2315.

****

Four new firefighters graduated from the **Massachusetts Firefighting Academy** in Stow on **Friday, November 6**. **Fire Department command staff**, along with **Mayor Wilso**n, attended the ceremony. Congratulations to **Robert Lyons IV, Timothy Cedrone, Matteo Mustone**, and **Joseph Desmond**.

****

The last days for **hazardous and yard waste collection** this season are quickly approaching. **DPW collection** of these materials will resume in Spring 2027 as per the usual seasonal cycle. The last hazardous waste drop-off event this fall at the DPW yard (1 Franey Road) is **Saturday, November 14**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information on materials accepted and how to safely prep them, visit somerville-ma.gov/HazWaste or download the Somerville Waste Wizard (somerville-ma.gov/wastewizard) app for Android or Apple phones. The final week for residential yard waste collection in 2026 will be **Monday through Friday, December 7–11**. Place yard waste curbside for pickup on your scheduled trash collection day. After December 11, yard waste may be brought to the DPW yard (1 Franey Rd.) on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. or between 1 and 3:30 p.m. To learn more, please visit somerville-ma.gov/trash.

****

Join the **Somerville Museum** for an evening of objects, memories, and neighbors sharing the history they keep at home. **Your Home is a Museum, November 19**, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Every home holds treasures with a story. Bring a special object, like a family heirloom, a keepsake from your travels, or something you can't part with. They will put it on a pedestal, and you'll tell the story behind it.

****

2026 Davis Sq. Farmers Market, closing date will be **November 25**, 12 – 6 p.m. **Day and Herbert St.**, Somerville. This market has more than two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers selling fresh produce, meats, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, and other local products. It's held weekly on **Wednesday** in the municipal parking lot next to **Davis Square Plaza**, across from American Flatbread. Stop by and support your local food system at davissquarefarmersmarket.org.

****

El Día de Canción Criolla Celebration, Sunday, November 15, 1 – 4 p.m., upstairs at **Bow, 1 Bow Market Way**. Enjoy a vibrant afternoon honoring Peruvian **Música Criolla**. Orchestrated by the versatile **Chef Krysia of Chiqui's Kitchen** and hosted by the delightful local storyteller **Karina Liendo**, this special event brings together exceptional music, dance, and authentic cuisine. Admission: $10 per individual (includes one Chiqui's Kitchen empanada). $30 per family of up to 5 (includes four empanadas).

****

Somerville's **Sustainability and Environment Division** is launching its **2027 Climate Ambassadors group**, and all residents ages 16 and up are invited to apply to be a member. Applications are open until the end of the day on **Tuesday, December 1**. The program seeks to empower residents by providing an opportunity to learn and directly engage in climate action. The 2027 program runs **from Saturday, January 23, to Thursday, May 27**, and will consist of ten meetings held in person and virtually to explore local government's role in climate action, environmental justice, community organizing, and more. There is also a group project component to put these topics into action. All program participants will receive a $400 stipend. Apply by the end of the day on **Tuesday, December 1**, online at somervillema.gov/climate-ambassadors or contact 311 (617-666-3311) for assistance.

****

Movie Day at the **Council on Aging, Friday, November 13**, 10 a.m., **Holland Street Center**, 167 Holland Street. This month, they are showing ***Solo Mio***, starring **Kevin James, Nicole Grimaudo**, and **Kim Coates**. Left heartbroken in Rome after a wedding disaster, a stranded groom finds his ruined honeymoon transformed by a determined local and a few meddling travelers, proving that sometimes heartbreak is only the beginning. Rated PG. The movie is free, but if you are staying for a pizza lunch, there will be a $2.00 fee. To register, call **Debb**y at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

****

Apply now for a **Two-Bedroom Affordable Rental Unit in Union Square**. The city's **Inclusionary Housing Program** has one two-bedroom, rent-restricted rental unit available at **16-20 Medford Street in Union Square**. Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and eligibility criteria, visit somervillema.gov/inclusionary.

****

Registration is now open for the **2026 Gobble GOBBLE GOBBLE** race. The 30th annual race takes place on **November 26** at 9 a.m. Presented by the **Somerville Road Runners**, the Gobble Gobble Gobble road race starts and ends in **Davis Square** (at the heart of Somerville), features a unique 4-mile course, and offers a fun opportunity to start Thanksgiving on a high and healthy note. Proceeds benefit the **Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville Track PAC, Stride for Stride**, and the **Dilboy VFW Veterans Relief Fund**. For more information, visit https://www.srr.org/.

****

The **Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA)** will host and manage the **17th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) every Saturday beginning November 7 through April 17**. This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, and sweets. In addition to cash, credit and debit, SNAP / EBT is also accepted at the market. CAA raises funds to be able to provide a $15 match for every SNAP/EBT customer who spends at least $15 of their SNAP/EBT dollars at the market. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org.

****

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. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches and chairs, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking). For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

****

Community members are invited to attend Somerville's annual **Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience** on **Thursday, November 1**9, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the **Tufts Administration Building**, second-floor **Council on Aging community room** (167 Holland St). Each year, Somerville gathers to remember the transgender and gender-diverse individuals whose lives have been lost to anti-trans violence, and to honor the strength and resilience of the trans community. The official observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance is **Friday, November 20**. The event is free and open to all. For more information about LGBTQ+ programming, events, and resources, please email lgbtqservices@somervillema.gov or visit somervillema.gov/lgbtqservices.

****

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

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

****

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

The Somerville Times



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder



Liam Almond writes, "I am a Junior Film Production major at Endicott College, with an interest in poetry."

MY Howl

**a reaction to Allen Ginsberg's poem "Howl"*

I saw my generation

through the screen of a computer.

Eager for connection

lacking socially,

Who-- overrun with algorithms,

camera flashes that play God

Who bowed their head in narrow rooms

with glass ceilings

blinding themselves to save face,

Who listen to the words of the wise endlessly

in a world they barely even reside...

Who speak words of future promise

to the ears of the deaf

The generation that wanted to press play

but was forced to play by decree.

— Liam Almond

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

Somerville artist Stephanie Richardson: explores how the divine and mundane exist together



— Photo by Molly Tomlinson

Somerville artist Stephanie Richardson writes: "I'm a visual artist and former costume designer. My formal training began in the '90s when I earned a master's degree in costume design for theatre from Brandeis, but I stepped away from art to support my family. Over time, I pursued an MBA and built a career in higher ed administration. What brought me back to making art was the need to process and respond to this ever-darkening political moment. Making art – whether protest posters or paintings – became essential to my own resilience. Now, I'm in what I'd call my creative renaissance, finally with the time and energy to do the work I've always wanted to do."

Doug Holder: How is it for you as an artist to live in Somerville? I saw that you commented on the housing crisis in the city. Do you see a time when you might be forced to leave the city?

Stephanie Richardson: I've been fortunate. I had access to family resources that allowed me to buy a home here, which has been a gift I don't take lightly. For years, I served on the board of the Somerville Community Corporation, which builds affordable housing for low-income families. That work opened my eyes to how precarious housing is for so many in our community.

Would I be forced to leave if I didn't own my home? Probably. The city I moved to 30 years ago has changed dramatically due to [universal] economic policies that reward the wealthy and punish the poor. I think about this often. This said, I truly appreciate this community—the friends I've raised my child with, the relationships I've built, and the other artists whose life experiences are teaching me new things about myself every day. That sense of belonging matters as much as the physical space.

DH: You talk about your exploration in your work of the feminine divine and the day-to-day reality of our lives. Please explain?

SR: I was recently in Spain and saw something that stopped me: images of the Madonna in every corner – on cathedral walls, in storefronts, next to advertisements and graffiti. Right there alongside people doing ordinary things – buying groceries, walking their dogs, living their lives.

That juxtaposition sparked something in me. We live in a world that feels fractured. On one hand, we hunger for meaning and something sacred. On the other, we're just trying to get through our days. I'm interested in that collision – how the divine and the mundane exist together, not separate.

Many of us have complicated relationships with religion and spirituality, but we're still searching for belonging, for reassurance that there's something watching over us, something that believes in us. My work tries to express that: there's encouragement and belonging available to you, even now, especially now.

DH: Some of your work is political. Who do you count as role models? Offhand, I can think of Picasso's *Guernica*, and the murals of Diego Rivera, and the work of Frieda Kahlo. Do any of these ring a bell for you?

SR: Art is always political. It's about what we choose to see and show others. My work is absolutely political. I create protest posters – drawing on WWII anti-Nazi propaganda, the bold graphic language of Mucha and Lichtenstein – and I bring them to rallies and marches. It feels essential to put art directly into the streets in service of what I believe in.

I was fortunate to see Frida Kahlo's work in person at the Tate last summer, and it was transformative. Her unflinching honesty about pain, class, and the socialism of the period speaks to me deeply. I also love Diego Rivera's murals, that commitment to making art for and about people, not just for galleries. Someday, I hope to make murals of my own. We certainly have enough bare walls in this city.

DH: Tell us about the Athena Project you are involved with.

SR: We just launched this on the bike path in Somerville during Honk!, and it's been extraordinary. The Athena Project is a participatory art installation where Somerville residents put on a custom costume – helmet, shield, chiton, cape – and step in front of a camera. But here's what makes it different: before you're photographed, we give you a prompt card. On it is a question designed to help you name something you're carrying – a challenge at work, a struggle in your relationships, something weighing on your heart.

The idea is that when you step in front of the camera, don't escape from that weight. Instead, you transform how you see yourself meeting it. See yourself standing in your power with clarity and courage. That's what we photograph – not *Continued on page 23*

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

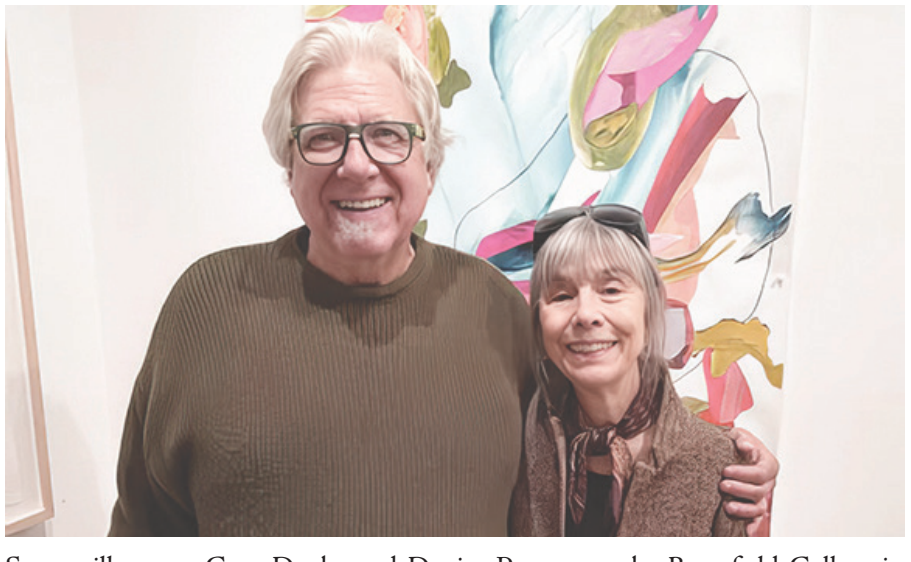
Day can best be acknowledged by the words written by one of their own, Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a World War I soldier, on December 8, 1915:

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

Bromfield Gallery poetry reading



Somerville poets Gary Duehr and Denise Provost at the Bromfield Gallery in Boston this Sunday for a reading of their work. Poet Bernard Horn joined them.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

imagined capabilities, but your actual capacity to bring strength and wisdom to the problems that affect you and your community. You leave with a portrait that reminds you that you already are that person.

We're a collective of local artists – neighbors and friends with expertise in costume, photography, lighting, fabric work, and painting. We want to host a number of these events, and eventually generate a community portrait of resilience and courage in a moment when so many of us feel exhausted and uncertain.

DH: Why should we view your work?

SR: Because right now, people are grieving. People are afraid. And what we need isn't false reassurance or escape – we need to remember what we already carry inside us.

My work is an invitation to see that. To see the divine in yourself and your neighbors. To remember that you have wisdom and strength; that the universe wants you to succeed, even when the world feels like it's on fire. And then to take that knowing into your relationships, your family, your community, where it matters most.

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