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Former Somerville alderman convicted for bribery scheme



Former Somerville alderman and attorney Sean O'Donovan was found guilty of several criminal offenses by a federal jury in Boston last week.

On Friday, October 27, a federal jury in Boston has convicted a former Somerville alderman of engaging in a scheme to bribe the Chief of Police in Medford to obtain approval for a client to sell recreational marijuana.

The jury convicted Sean O'Donovan, 56, of Somerville, Mass., of two counts of honest services wire fraud and one count of bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds. He is scheduled to be sentenced on February 7, 2024.

"Sean O'Donovan's greed led him to engage in this old school bribery scheme to line his own pocket," said Acting U.S. Attorney Joshua S. Levy. "His plot failed because of the unquestioned integrity of Medford Police Chief Jack Buckley and his brother. Upholding the rule of law and holding lawyers who break the law accountable is an

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Food For Free and Curio Spice Co. launch updated Seasoned Greetings collection

Thanksgiving is often a lavish feast for most people. But, many go hungry on this holiday. To spice things up and help those in need to access fresh, healthy food, Food For Free and Curio Spice Co. have launched Seasoned Greetings for the second year in a row.

The charitable curated spice collection is available for sale starting November 1 at CurioSpice.com. A portion of the proceeds from all Seasoned Greetings packet sales will support the Somerville and Cambridge-based nonprofit's food rescue and distribution efforts in 27 communities across Eastern Massachusetts.

"No family should have to worry where their next meal is from," says Marena Burnett, Chief Development Officer of Food For Free. "We are thrilled to be offering the Seasoned Greetings

Continued on page 4



Charitable spice packs sold at Curio.com will help to fight food insecurity.

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








Election Day is **Tuesday, November 7**, so don't forget to get out and vote. Eligible voters may vote one of three ways: on election day, via early voting, or vote by mail. November 7, **Election Day**: Vote at your designated polling location, Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. **Early Voting**: November 1–3 all early voting is at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave. Wed., November 1: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Thursday, November 2: 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. (note: evening hours) Friday, November 3: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (note half-day only). To look up your polling place, get instructions for voting by mail, review a sample ballot, or for other Election info, visit somervillema.gov/elections or call 311 by dialing 3-1-1 or 617-666-3311.

The **Democratic Ward Committee of Ward 7, Somerville**, has voted to endorse **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne**, **City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo**, and **Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld** for their re-election bids this November. Former City Councilor **Will Mbah** fell just one vote shy of an endorsement by the Ward 7 Committee in his bid to return to the City Council.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Amanda Fee**. We wish her the very best on her birthday. A special happy birthday to **Diane Suffredini**, who is celebrating this week. We wish her the best and hope she has a great year. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Gene Beraldi**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 1 – November 7 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>November 1</i>	Rain	46°/30°	45%	39%	N 9 mph
 Thursday <i>November 2</i>	Sunny	49°/35°	3%	1%	SW 8 mph
 Friday <i>November 3</i>	Sunny	57°/43°	2%	1%	W 11 mph
 Saturday <i>November 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	60°/46°	2%	1%	W 10 mph
 Sunday <i>November 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	58°/42°	9%	5%	WSW 10 mph
 Monday <i>November 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	54°/40°	22%	16%	NW 11 mph
 Tuesday <i>November 7</i>	Rain	50°/38°	38%	27%	NW 9 mph

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

Somerville Museum's Access for All & More campaign

An Access for All & More celebration event will be held on Saturday, November 4, at the Somerville Museum. All donors who donate \$1,000 or more will be included on an exterior donor recognition display. The last day donations can be included on this display is November 4. Donate today and be remembered forever. Their Capital Campaign Goal: Phase 1 and 2 = \$2.75 million. Check out the Givebutter fundraising site to see how close we are to raising the rest of their goal: <https://givebutter.com/accessforall>.



- What accessibility includes:
- The Museum will meet the standards required of a museum and cultural organization in the 21st century.
 - The new entrance will allow access to all three floors and public areas of this elegant building.
 - All visitors will have the opportunity to see and appreciate the beautiful, newly restored, and historic double flying staircase created by Charles Bulfinch in 1792 for a patron living in what is now Somerville.
 - All visitors will have a chance to hear live music performances, listen to stimulating lectures, and see thought-provoking exhibits.
 - All visitors will be able to access the ADA-compliant restrooms.
 - Climate control will be introduced to preserve the historic collections.
 - Access to the collections will be improved.
 - Important pieces of the collection can be conserved knowing that these efforts will be sustained by the improved environment.
 - Students, artists, researchers, and conservators will be supported in activities at the Museum through access to a new multipurpose room.
 - Civic cultural organizations will be able to use the Museum as a cultural center again.
 - As an ADA-compliant organization, the Museum will be eligible for federal and state grants.

The Access for All & More Campaign will enable the Somerville Museum to make critical upgrades to their historic building and will increase accessibility to their programming, website and museum community as a whole. Join in creating the space that will tell our stories for the next 100 years.

The Somerville Times

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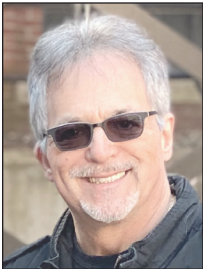


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Bye-Bye Summer



Now that another summer is in the rear view mirror the kids are back in school and the leaves are falling. Summer went by fast! I asked this question: What was your favorite summer past time growing up in Somerville?

“We had about 25 kids lived in my street. We’d play Relieveo, Buck Buck, Dilboy pool, Woodstock Park leaders, and I used to jump around on my pogo stick.”

“On Heath Street and Langmaid Ave. neighborhood, we played hide and go seek every summer ... for years. Both the kids my age, the ones 2-3 years older and the ones 2-3 years younger, probably about 15 of us. This went on for years, 1970-77. Great memories. We even hid on the roof of Belotti Olds - LOL.”

“I used to like to go to Palamacci Play-

ground when they used to be open. Run by Somerville Recreation. They used to have activities, playday and contests. It was fun. I also liked playing games in the street with the whole neighborhood kids on summer nights. We played four corners, statute, red rover and hide and seek! We had a great time!”

“Going to Albion Park, playing dodgeball and jackstones. So excited to see who our park leaders were and we always had good ones, that I remember.”

“Woodstock playground, the trip to Paragon Park. Then moving up to Dilboy to play park baseball. I have to say as proud as I am to be a combat veteran, I’m even prouder to have lived and be from Somerville. God Bless Somerville. Now that’s my home sweet home. Just to have had Mrs. De Naro in my life was a major plus of growing up.”

My summers of times gone by involved making go carts, riding bikes and playing in the street. Ah, the good old days.



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Massachusetts State Police make arrest in Somerville

On Sunday, October 29, around 2:08 p.m., Somerville officers responded to Draw Seven Park in Assembly Row for a report of an altercation where the operator of a gray Mazda 6 flashed a firearm.

Somerville officers located a parked vehicle matching the descriptions provided by the reporting party. It was occupied by the operator, who also matched the provided description, and a passenger. Given the park is Massachusetts State Police jurisdiction, MSP took control of the scene.

Inside the vehicle, they recovered two firearms, a large quantity of marijuana and small bags of a white powdery substance. The two adult occupants, Khennith Ezra Bastien and Makai Vicente both of Charlestown were arrested by the Massachusetts State Police. On Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 12:45 a.m., Somerville Police Department received a report of shots fired in the area of 299 Broadway. Somerville Officers and State Police canvassed the area extensively and were unable to locate ballistic evidence. Should anyone have additional information, please contact the SPD Criminal Investigation Division at 617.625.1600 ext 7220.



— Somerville Police Dept.

Former Somerville alderman convicted for bribery scheme CONT. FROM PG 1

essential priority of this office.”

“Today’s verdict proves that Sean O’Donovan went from practicing law to breaking it by engaging in a pay-to-play scheme in which he tried to capitalize on his insider access, in attempting to bribe the Medford Police Chief for his own financial gain. His actions were not only an affront to all the hard-working businesses that play by the rules, but a betrayal of his client’s and the community’s trust,” said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. “Rooting out public corruption is a top priority for the FBI, and we are extremely grateful to the Medford

Police Chief and his relative who did not hesitate to do what was right by working with us to thwart this nefarious scheme.”

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, O’Donovan paid a bribe to influence the Medford Police Chief in connection with O’Donovan’s client’s recreational marijuana business. In February 2021, O’Donovan approached Individual 1, a relative of the Chief, and offered to pay Individual 1 \$25,000 to speak with the Chief about his client’s anticipated application to sell recreational marijuana in Medford. At the time, the Chief had recently been appointed to serve on a commit-

tee to rank such applications on behalf of Medford’s mayor, who would ultimately select three applicants to open retail marijuana stores in Medford. After Individual 1 informed the Chief of O’Donovan’s corrupt offer, the Chief immediately alerted federal authorities.

Over the course of the investigation, O’Donovan, believing he had an agreement with Individual 1 and the Chief, offered to pay Individual 1 approximately \$25,000 in exchange for the Chief’s favorable action on his client’s application. Specifically, O’Donovan sought to have the Chief favorably rank his client’s application and, separately, ad-

vised and pressured the mayor to select the client to open a retail marijuana store in Medford. O’Donovan was slated to receive a stream of income of at least \$100,000 annually from his client’s marijuana business if its Medford application were successful. O’Donovan never informed his client of the bribery scheme with Individual 1.

O’Donovan faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each honest services wire fraud count and a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison on the federal funds bribery count. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other

statutory factors.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy; SAC Cohen; Acting Assistant Attorney General Nicole M. Argentieri of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division; and Assistant Director Luis Quesada of the FBI’s Criminal Investigative Division made the announcement today.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kristina E. Barclay with the Public Corruption Unit for the District of Massachusetts and Trial Attorney Jonathan E. Jacobson of the Criminal Division’s Public Integrity Section and are prosecuting the case.

— U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts

Food For Free and Curio Spice Co. launch updated Seasoned Greetings collection CONT. FROM PG 1

gift box for the second year and grateful for the continued collaboration with Curio Spice, Co. The sale of each beautiful gift box will enable Food For Free to provide two weeks of fresh, nutritious produce and pantry staples to a household facing food insecurity this holiday season. We hope that our community will rally behind this special fundraiser and purchase the Seasoned Greetings gift boxes for their friends, family, and business associates.”

Food For Free is one of the oldest food rescue organizations in the nation. Founded in 1981, the nonprofit now serves more than 150,000 food insecure Massachusetts residents and delivers 7.5 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually.

Each Seasoned Greetings box

includes a minimum \$20 donation to Food For Free, recipes, and one jar each of the following seasoning blends: Curry, Baha-rat, Herbes de Romance, and Chili Today. They are the perfect stocking stuffer or gift to teachers, foodies, and anyone who enjoys supporting local businesses and charitable organizations during the holiday period.

“Curio Spice is a proud supporter of Food For Free and is excited to join forces to bring high quality spices and fresh, nourishing food to folks in our community with this gift box,” says Claire Cheney, Owner & Founder of Curio Spice Co. “As a certified B Corp® and benefit corporation, it’s built into our mission to give back to our community and connect with like-minded organizations do-

ing mission-driven work like Food For Free, making sure we all have the chance to eat well.”

On Wednesday, November 1 from 4pm-6pm, Food For Free will host an open house at the organization’s Somerville Packing and Distribution Center, located at 59 Inner Belt Road, during which gift boxes containing the Seasoned Greetings spice collection will be for sale. The cost of the boxes will start at \$40. All amounts over \$20 will be returned to the nonprofit, so a payment of \$100 will result in a donation of \$80 to Food For Free.

Food For Free is a Cambridge and Somerville-based, non-profit organization dedicated to providing Eastern Massachusetts with reliable access to fresh and nutritious food. Food For Free accomplishes its mission through

food rescue, partnerships with schools, colleges, and community food programs, and our own direct service programs. In the last year, Food For Free distributed 7.5 million pounds of nutritious food to over 20 different communities throughout Eastern Massachusetts and was named the 2020 Org Impact Award winner in the Fighting Hunger and Poverty category for its work improving access to healthy food within the Boston community. To learn more, please visit us at www.foodforfree.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @foodforfreeorg.

Founded in 2015, Curio Spice, based in Cambridge, Mass., is a proud certified B-corp® specializing in directly-sourced, sustainably-produced spices from around the world. Our mission

is two-pronged: First, to improve the livelihoods of spice farmers and increase transparency in the industry by sourcing directly from small, sustainable farms. Second, to inspire culinary creativity for our consumers, in part by crafting blends that feature unique flavors from around the world and celebrate the places they come from. All of our spices are sourced with the highest standards in organic and fair-trade agriculture – plus the flavor that highlights the terroir of specific regions. We also seek to support gender equality and female empowerment by sourcing from women-owned businesses as well as spice cooperatives that contribute to female education and improved livelihoods. For more information, visit: CurioSpice.com.

2023 City Election candidates' statements

The Somerville Times gave each candidate in a contested race an opportunity to reach out to the residents of Somerville to pitch their candidacies. The five candidates who responded by our publication deadline are presented in alphabetical order:



Willie Burnley Jr
City Councilor At-Large Incumbent

Hi neighbors, my name is Willie Burnley Jr; I'm a renter living on Winter Hill, a community organizer, and your At-Large Somerville City Councilor.

As someone who was displaced due to sudden rent hikes, I ran for this office to make Somerville affordable, accountable, and accessible for everyone. As a result, we earned the support of unions, environmental groups, three members of Congress - Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey - and most importantly the voters of Somerville.

That support has allowed me to propose and pass the most legislation of any councilor this term, including expansions to tenants rights, first-in-the-nation nondiscrimination ordinances, and a Safe Streets Ordinance meant to implement our City's Bicycle Network Plan, improve sidewalk accessibility, and create transparent pathways for community feedback. I've tried to use my position to uplift the voices of workers, stand with families as they advocate for safe school blacktops and buildings, and to create an inclusive community for all.

I'm running for re-election because I know that there is more work we must do. If I had to boil down my three top priorities for the next term, they would be: increasing affordability, particularly in housing, transforming public safety, and increasing local investment in our infrastructure and services.

Affordability

As someone who has experienced housing instability locally, I understand how heavily each bill and fee weigh on many of our residents struggling to stay in our community. That's why I have proposed expansions in municipal worker benefits, a plan to eliminate all medical debt for residents who make less than 400% of the poverty rate, and have been a strong advocate for the Somerville Community Land Trust and rent control. We need development without displacement.

Transforming Public Safety

I take seriously my role in protecting our residents. That is why I am supportive of establishing an Overdose Prevention Center so that we end all local overdoses, restructuring our streets so that they are safe for all road users, and establishing an unarmed alternative emergency team to intervene in non-violent situations without the involvement of police.

Local Investment

Somerville is a beautiful, vibrant community that requires our constant upkeep and maintenance in order to thrive. Instead of increasingly privatizing essential services, I will continue to advocate for more investment in our crumbling roads, buildings, and municipal union jobs so that we can have a city as wonderful as

our residents.
Willie Burnley Jr
Somerville City Councilor-at-Large
617-475-0203
linktr.ee/WillieforSomerville



Jack Connolly
Ward 6 Councilor Candidate

I'm running for the Ward 6 Councilor position because I know I can do a better job than the current City Councilor Mr. Lance Davis.

I did the Ward Six Councilor's job for years previous, and rebuilt Davis Sq. once before, and working with dozens of other concerned community members, CAN and WILL do it once more.

I'm running because crime in Ward Six is up 19% (according to Somerville Police Chief Charles Femino at the October Ward 6 Community Meeting), Davis Square is deteriorating month by month with over a dozen stores closed on Holland and Elm streets, including the Bfresh grocery store on Elm St. just this month. Don't forget the closed Rite Aid pharmacy, and the long-time closed, graffiti-fied, former Gulf Gas station on Highland Ave as you enter Davis Sq.

I'm running because current Councilor Davis admitted at our recent debate that he was not very good about answering emails or calls from constituents. I know how to provide and deliver constituent services, and it starts with listening and responding to calls, texts, and emails. "I'm Jack, and I will call you back."

Residents and small businesses in the Ball Sq., Powderhouse Sq. and Davis Sq. neighborhoods will benefit from my accomplishments (working with dozens of others) and experiences as having served as a Ward and at Large Councilor bringing the Red, Orange, and Green line T stations to Somerville.

My priorities:

1.Monthly Ward meetings, including bringing back the Davis Sq. Task Force, to allow Ward residents an in-person opportunity to voice their concerns, observations, and comments on Ward Six issues, especially the major influx of rodent activity throughout Ward Six.

2. Convene a Special Committee of the City Council to deal with the Davis Sq. deterioration, neglected infrastructure, and the 19% increase in crime, with particular focus to provide much needed mental health and rehab services to the Davis Sq. Plaza people and prioritize increased services to seniors and disabled individuals throughout Ward Six.

3. Immediately focus on Public Safety and Emergency presence throughout the Ward, including re-instituting the Community Policing method currently not in practice.

Finally, I will reach out to Tufts University to be a more active member of the Ward Six community, and seek their involvement to provide additional support for climate, health, and transportation needs of not only Ward Six, but for the City of Somerville.



Jack Perenick
Candidate for Ward 5 Councilor

I am running because with family in the city from pre-schoolers to seniors, I see our struggles. As a renter with disabled family members I know the cost and accessibility problems we need to fight, and I am ready to take them on. I want to continue Councilor Gómez Mouakad's work on the Council and continue to advocate for a more affordable and accessible Somerville.



William B. Tauro
Candidate for Mayor

My name is William Billy Tauro.
I am here to ask you for your vote to allow me the opportunity to serve, as your next Mayor.

This city has not moved forward under the current Administration to serve the people.

Our infrastructure is crumbling around us most especially within the schools that educate our young children.

The streets are in utter disrepair, and development is in disarray.

The infestation problems are not going away.
Even the new bicycle lanes are not properly planned out for safe travel and sidewalks are a joke.

Rents are out of control and homeowner taxes are over-charged.

Our Veterans and Elder care have been continuously ignored.

Crime is still on the rise with no end in sight and safety parameters need to be set in place now!

Many answers to these very issues have been provided by the citizens but have fallen upon deaf ears and closed minds.

Now is the time to bring individuals and the groups they represent, together, to work toward common goals and unify the city for everyone to enjoy.

My promise to you, will be to address these problematic issues and create positive results, within the first 100 days in office.

I also intend to immediately establish a coalition representing the smaller groups in our community to allow them a voice. This will create an open dialogue, so that they may express their concerns, and, provide input for a better understanding of our neighborhoods. I will meet monthly with two to three representatives from each group to work with them and their concerns.

My policies can be viewed by logging on to williamtauro.com.

Once elected into office, I will greet all of my constituents with an open door. In fact, I will remove the office door right off the hinges on my first day in office so that you can feel more comfortable and welcome to speak directly to me about your concerns.

My goal is to work together, creating a new chapter for a better future for Somerville.

I ask you the voter to have faith and confidence in casting your vote for me William B. Tauro, for Mayor. Thank you for your time, confidence, and

West Somerville Neighborhood School celebrates the opening of a new schoolyard

By Jennifer Purcell

It is no secret that the West Somerville Neighborhood School has been in desperate need of a new schoolyard for the children to play in for many years now and after seven long years of working on this project, Mayor Ballantyne was proud to announce the opening of the brand-new schoolyard last Tuesday.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony opened with an introduction from Arn Franzen, Senior Project Manager of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, who invited principal André Pelletier to the stand.

While they had hoped to open this playground much sooner, Pelletier was no less thrilled to

see children of all ages run out to play upon its opening. "One of my best memories so far, having been here for a couple of months only, has been how shocked and kid-like the seventh and eighth graders were to fly out to the playground the first time it was opened," he recalled with a smile. "I was not anticipating that from the oldest kids in the building."

Although many cherished memories were created on the old playground, every speaker agreed that it was time for them to create a safer and more scenic environment for the children. Judy Pineda-Neufeld noted that the previous schoolyard had essentially been a blacktop with a variety of trip hazards and injury reports. Before they began

this process back in 2016, they went around to the classrooms and asked students to recall their least favorite aspects of the playground. Most of these complaints included random nails sticking out, disgusting soccer balls that were continuously getting fished out of the dumpster, and woodchips that were constantly causing splinters. Nowadays, there is a beautiful new turf where the blacktop and woodchips used to be with no sharp objects to be seen, alongside thirty new trees for students and parents to enjoy.

The ceremony was concluded with the official ribbon cutting, which was done by Mayor Ballantyne with the help of four West Somerville Neighborhood School students.



2023 City Election candidates' statements CONT. FROM PG 5

support. I look forward to serving you all!

Sincerely, Billy

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all at (617)293-2016

Please visit my website at: www.Williamtauro.com.



Jake Wilson

City Councilor At-Large Incumbent

I've had the privilege of working for Somerville as your City Councilor-At-Large for the past two years. Every day I wake up thinking about how to make our city the best it can be. I really love working for you and I'm running for re-election this fall in hopes the voters of Somerville feel the same way about me.

As your Councilor-At-Large, I've shown up. For city council and committee meetings, where I've only missed one so far — and that was when I was double-booked with

a public hearing but still submitted questions that the chair asked. At the State House, testifying on behalf of our residents. At ward, community, and neighborhood meetings. At community and school events. And for you, my constituents, by being extremely accessible to everyone.

During my first term on the council, I've been an outspoken advocate for the large-scale creation of affordable housing units, safer streets, supporting working families, and better communication and transparency. And it hasn't been just talk. I've sponsored and co-sponsored council items related to each of those things and achieved actual results on all of these fronts.

As chair of the Finance Committee, I've innovated with a new process for identifying the council's top shared budget priorities and conveying them to the mayor, and by making the annual budget review process more efficient and humane.

Coming from a journalism and communications background, making sure people know what's happening in

their city is an absolute top priority of mine. I do a regular newsletter that's packed full of information on issues, meetings, and events in Somerville, and I've averaged two of these newsletters per month during my time on the council.

If the voters see fit to give me another term, I'll continue fighting for good, responsive, transparent government that makes the lives of residents and business owners better and easier. I'm always here for you — by phone, by email, by text, on social media, at my regular weekly office hours, and by appointment at a time that's convenient for you.

I humbly ask for one of your four votes in the At-Large race this year.

Email: jake@jakeforsomerville.org

Phone: 617-817-3725

Calendly: [@jakeforsomerville](https://calendly.com/jakeforsomerville)

Twitter: [@jake4somerville](https://twitter.com/jake4somerville)

Facebook: [@jake4somerville](https://facebook.com/jake4somerville)

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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's all get out there and vote on November 7.

Our View Of The Times



As we do our best to give the little ones some semblance of normalcy as they look to celebrate Halloween, we are doubly tasked with searching our souls for the right answers to questions posed at the ballot box next week.

For some of us the choices are blessedly clear, while others may have difficulty culling the wheat from the chaff amidst all of the various messages put forward

on each side of almost every issue. Politics as usual, really. But at the core of it all, common sense will prevail.

As we are tasked with deciding who will be mayor along with a number of City Councilors, it is an important election day. Every eligible voter should consider it their duty to vote and do the thing that makes life in this land such a precious gift: helping to decide the course that we are to fol-

low in the immediate future, and play their parts in writing the historical record for what is to follow.

Every single vote does count, be assured of that. Vote by mail ballots can be returned by mail to Somerville Elections Department, or through one of five drop boxes located around the city.

So, don't let a little rain or chilly weather or anything else stop you. From the

troops at Valley Forge straight through to our men and women in military service and our humble present-day letter carriers, service to one's country should not be hindered or halted due to a bit of inconvenient inclement weather. Or almost anything else, actually.

Let it be so for us as well. We are no less important, so let's get out there and make our choices count.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Candy Feldt, John Blute, Diane Sylvester Ames, Katie Marsh, Edward Robaczewski and Herc Kalos, 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.

Premiere on Broadway at 571 Broadway, Somerville, and the Friends of Somerville are hosting a fundraiser for Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll on November 14 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and meet the Lieutenant Governor. Suggested Donations \$100, \$250, \$500 and \$1000. Seniors are

encouraged to attend free of charge.

Fall 2023 City Hall Community meetings are underway. These meetings are held twice a year in each of Somerville's seven wards to share the latest city and neighborhood updates with community members. They are an opportunity to get an overview of the latest city news, learn more about city programs and initiatives, meet your neighbors, find ways to get involved, and talk with elected officials and city staff. Join them in person from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to ask questions and get updates from the mayor and city staff. Swing by early at 6:00 p.m. for pizza. Vis-

it somervillema.gov/communitymeetings

The Somerville Community Growing Center and Earthwise Aware team introduce how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, they contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. They will also tell you about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at this location. November 11, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 22 Vinal Ave.

Congratulations to the #SHSHighlanders Girls Varsity Soccer Team, they beat Revere on Friday 2-0 to win the Greater Boston League Championship.

The Somerville Homeless Coalition's food pantry is hosting a Halloween Tooth Care Drive to collect dental essentials for their clients. If you have any toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, or other dental hygiene products that you would like to donate please drop them off at Project SOUP during their open hours, visit <https://somervillehomelesscoalition.org/food-security/>.

Continued on page 23

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#896

1. On what day does daylight savings time end in November?

2. What is the Witch of November?

3. Who is often credited with creating the world's first car?

4. Why do onions make your eyes water?

5. What's the only kind of parrot that can't fly?

6. Which is the highest-grossing R-rated film in the U.S.?

7. What are people with Alektorophobia
- afraid of?

8. What is the only U.S. state that borders just one other?

9. What is the pop band that was called "Kara's Flowers" up until 2001?

10. What singer holds record for the most Grammy wins?

11. Which country originated the sport of curling?

12. What is the maximum number of players on court in one basketball team?
- Answers on page 19

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. An earthquake might have shrunk Mount Everest.
2. Apple seeds contain cyanide.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
FAMOUS SCIENTISTS

- ACROSS
1. Dylan lyric, "There was music in the ____ at night and revolution in the air"

6. Many scientists have this

9. Alpha Centauri B, e.g.

13. Measured in kilowatt-hours, on electric bill

14. Ring of flowers

15. TV's " ____ Blinders"

16. Make believe

17. Public promotions

18. Appropriate for Halloween

19. F unit of capacitance named in whose honor?

21. Marine biologist and "Silent Spring" author

23. L.A. baller

24. Not on a rolling stone?

25. Value added reseller

28. New Zealand fruit

30. Option at a hot dog stand, adj.

35. One's final notice

37. Without, in French

39. Time being

40. Toy construction set brand

41. Turning token taker

43. Jewish month

44. Jab on field of play

46. A ride up ski hill

47. Short for Milton

48. A unit of electric current named in whose honor?

50. Home to Zion National Park

52. Wood-shaping tool

53. Morays, pl.

55. One little piggy

57. A telescope was named in his honor

60. Primatologist and world's foremost expert on chimpanzees

64. Popular snorkeler's attraction

65. Have a cold

67. Sphere in Las Vegas, e.g.

68. Pond buildup

69. To and ____

70. Gives off

71. Goes with a rod

72. Small dog's bark

73. Tears down

CROSSWORD											
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10
13						14				15	
16						17				18	
19						20		21	22		
			23				24				
25	26	27		28		29			30	31	32
35			36		37			38		39	
40					41			42		43	
44				45		46				47	
48					49		50			51	52
				53		54			55		56
	57	58	59				60			61	62
64						65	66			67	
68						69				70	
71						72				73	

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

- DOWN
1. Take into custody

2. On a deck?

3. So-so

4. a.k.a. tent caterpillar or lappet moth

5. Maurice of "Where the Wild Things Are"

6. Eugene O'Neill's creation

7. He had

8. Popular 70s genre

9. Witnesses

10. Hawaiian tuber

11. Similar

12. Kind of bourbon

15. P in POI

20. Out of whack

22. Cleopatra's killer, according to legend

24. Not a full size bus

25. V unit of electric potential named in whose honor?

26. Crosswise, on deck

27. Build temporarily (2 words)

29. W unit of power named in whose honor?

31. Type of rich soil

32. Most populous country

33. Burn with water
34. Synonymous with unit of frequency and a car rental company

36. Muscle quality

38. Floor plank

42. Muse of love poetry

45. The ____ makers of "Pitch Perfect"

49. #53 Across, sing.

51. Vacuum cleaner, in U.K.

54. Like kale or spinach

56. Swelling of human organs

57. Golfer's destination

58. Desires

59. Ancient Semitic deity

60. Lump of stuff

61. Black tropical cuckoos

62. Guitar forerunner

63. Is it really more?

64. Carl Benz invented the first practical modern one in the 1880s

66. Retirement plan, acr.
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Carol Ann Bradley



Carol Ann (O’Connell) Bradley, age 76, of East Longmeadow, MA died Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Facility.

Born in Somerville, MA to the late Jeremiah O’Connell and Catherine (King) Casey.

In addition to her parents, Carol was predeceased by her loving husband Lawrence J. Bradley, whom she shared 51 years of marriage, her three infant daughters, sisters

Catherine, Jean Marie and brother John.

Carol is survived by her two sons, Lawrence J. Jr. of East Longmeadow, MA and Gregory S. of Leominster, MA. Carol was the loving and doting grandmother to Ayden-Maeve and Jameson Bradley of East Longmeadow, MA and Dove Bradley of Leominster, MA. Sister Eileen Capone, and husband Al Johnson of Somerville, sister Frances Sanborn of Hampton Beach, NH, sister Mary Ellen Gil of Somerville and brother James O’Connell of Somerville. Carol will be missed by her several nieces and nephews.

Carol graduated from Somerville High School class of 1965. Carol retired after a career as a medical records specialist at Leominster Hospital. When her children were young, Carol was a teacher’s aide in the Princeton

School System and a legal secretary. Her passion in life was her husband, sons and grandchildren who call her “Nani”.

Carol and her husband enjoyed traveling and taking many trips on their motorcycle across country. When not traveling, Carol enjoyed the company of her good friends. Carol had a love for line dancing with her husband as they were known for the “couple” to watch on the dance floor. She adored her time with her grandchildren.

Carol was a communicant of Saint Patrick’s Church in Springfield, MA.

A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.

Forastiere Smith Funeral & Cremation, East Longmeadow has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.forastiere.com.

Broderick/Sullivan nuptials



PJ Broderick and Mary (Sullivan) Broderick, both lifelong residents of Somerville, were married on Sunday, October 22, 2023. Congratulations to the Brodericks.

The Somerville Times
Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #291

Foss Park

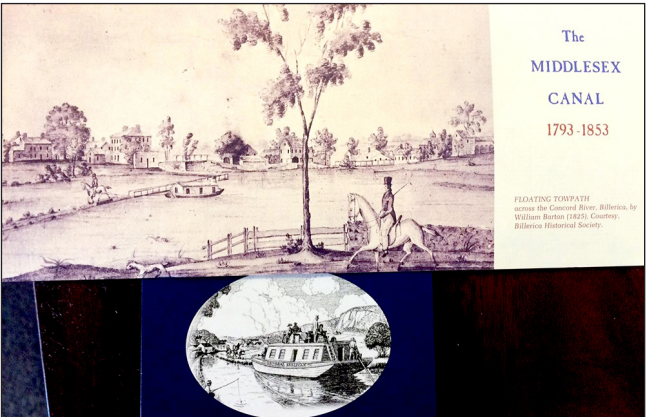
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Construction of what is known as today’s Foss Park began in 1872, the year Somerville became a city. For two years prior, there was intense bitterness and controversy regarding its location, layout and design.



Residents throughout the then town wanted Broadway Park, its original name, to be more centrally located. One score or 20 years later, an 1892 newspaper article suggested that it was used more by Charlestown citizens than Somerville residents.

United States Army Private Saxton Conant Foss, enlisted for service in June, 1917. He was the son of renowned poet Samuel Walter Foss who was considered by many to be the most beloved man in Somerville.




While fighting as part of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division, Saxton volunteered to flank a German machine gun nest which was holding his battalion from moving forward. While doing so, he was fatally wounded four days before his thirtieth birthday. For this act, he was cited by Congress for extraordinary heroism in action and posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star.

In 1926, Broadway Park was renamed Foss Park in honor of Saxton Conant Foss who sacrificed his life for America and its allies during World War I. Somerville honors him with memorials in both Foss Park

Continued on page 15

LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, November 21, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RDMY8QvdR6Oc4APLcwJwdQ

Webinar ID: 899 5208 6095

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP23-000054 – 141 Central Street
Applicant: David Bischoff
Owner: : Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace wood windows.

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

HP23-000043– 11 Auburn Avenue
Applicant: Garrett Einis
Owner: 11 Auburn Avenue, LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HP23-000044 - 45 Broadway
Applicant: Somerville Gateway Development LLC
Owner: CDA Realty, LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.


HP23-000029 - 181 Pearl Street
Applicant: 181 Pearl St. LLC
Owner: Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

HP23 -000024 – 97 Highland Avenue
Applicant: Somerville Young Men's Christian Association
Owner: Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

11/1/23 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152 Fax (617) 628-7057
TDD (617) 628-8889

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) announces a **PUBLIC HEARING** regarding the FY2024 Federal Annual Plan and the FY2025 State-Aided Annual Plan on **Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.** This hearing will be held remotely. The public is invited to listen to the meeting via phone, computer, laptop, or tablet.

SHA December Board Meeting & Public Hearing
Dec 21, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (America/New_York)


Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/972737485>

You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 972-737-485
United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073
United States: +1 (646) 749-3129


Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://meet.goto.com/install>

The Plan(s) and related documents are available on the Somerville Housing Authority's website at <http://www.sha-web.org/>. You may also view the Plan(s) at 30 Memorial Road in Somerville, MA by appointment only. Substantive comments will be summarized and included in the Annual Plan when it is submitted to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A forty-five (45) day review and comment period will commence on Friday, October 27, 2023. Written comments will be accepted until Saturday, December 16, 2023.

Translation and interpretation services are available upon request by appointment only
Sevis tradiksyon ak interpretasyon disponib si w bezon
Servicio de traducción e interpretación estan disponibles, con cita, una vez que lo solicite
Serviço de tradução e interpretação estão disponíveis somente após agendamento



11/1/23 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, November 15, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5TNcDxMJRumXXZIAAg0p9A
Webinar ID: 824 7883 7394

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:

35 McGrath Hwy 35 McGrath Highway Realty Trust seeks zoning relief from the following requirements of the High Rise (HR) district, all of which require Hardship Variances: front setback requirements, driveway in the frontage area, and façade not parallel to the front lot line.

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

11/1/23 The Somerville Times



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

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

The Project consists of but not limited to:

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

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

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

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

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

10/25/23, 11/1/23 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
City of Somerville
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Thursday, the 16th day of November, 2023**, at **10:00 o'clock A.M.**, at **Treasury, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE for the **City of Somerville** the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and an incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same has been paid before that date.
Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **11 MALVERN AVE**
CURRENT OWNER(S): KATHLEEN M KELLEY
ASSESSED OWNER(S): KATHLEEN M KELLEY
PARCEL ID: **013A00036000000** ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **03097180**
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,848 (more or less)
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 54648, Page: 326

This land is taken because taxes, as defined in Chapter 60, Section 43, assessed on the property to KATHLEEN M KELLEY for the fiscal year 2020, which were not paid within fourteen days after a demand for payment was made on July 16th, 2020. After notice of intention to take said land was given as required by law, they remain unpaid along with interest and incidental interests and costs to the date of taking as follows:

Fiscal Year 2020 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$1,545.11
Interest to Date of Taking	\$740.20
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$2,510.31

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LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **411 NORFOLK ST**
CURRENT OWNER(S): JUSTIN ROSS
ASSESSED OWNER(S): JUSTIN ROSS
PARCEL ID: **096D00004411-1G** ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **20040770**
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 0 (more or less)
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 45430, Page: 048

This land is taken because taxes, as defined in Chapter 60, Section 43, assessed on the property to JUSTIN ROSS for the fiscal year 2020, which were not paid within fourteen days after a demand for payment was made on July 16th, 2020. After notice of intention to take said land was given as required by law, they remain unpaid along with interest and incidental interests and costs to the date of taking as follows:

Fiscal Year 2020 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$178.22
Interest to Date of Taking	\$81.27
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$484.49

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LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **514 MEDFORD ST**
CURRENT OWNER(S): JOSEPH BOLOGNA, TRUSTEE, THE L.A.B. TRUST
ASSESSED OWNER(S): JOSEPH BOLOGNA, TRUSTEE, THE L.A.B. TRUST
PARCEL ID: **032C00008000000** ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **07279123**
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 5,115 (more or less)
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 21584, Page: 306

This land is taken because taxes, as defined in Chapter 60, Section 43, assessed on the property to JOSEPH BOLOGNA, TRUSTEE, THE L.A.B. TRUST for the fiscal year 2020, which were not paid within fourteen days after a demand for payment was made on July 16th, 2020. After notice of intention to take said land was given as required by law, they remain unpaid along with interest and incidental interests and costs to the date of taking as follows:

Fiscal Year 2020 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$11,762.42
Interest to Date of Taking	\$2,700.65
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$14,688.07

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LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **36 SOUTH ST**
CURRENT OWNER(S): SAM R MOY & EVADNE C MOY, TRUSTEES, THE MOY FAMILY LIVING TRUST
ASSESSED OWNER(S): SAM R MOY & EVADNE C MOY, TRUSTEES, THE MOY FAMILY LIVING TRUST
PARCEL ID: **097F00001000000** ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **89000283**
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 19,171 (more or less)
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 24090, Page: 080

This land is taken because taxes, as defined in Chapter 60, Section 43, assessed on the property to SAM R MOY & EVADNE C MOY, TRUSTEES, THE MOY FAMILY LIVING TRUST for the fiscal year 2020, which were not paid within fourteen days after a demand for payment was made on July 16th, 2020. After notice of intention to take said land was given as required by law, they remain unpaid along with interest and incidental interests and costs to the date of taking as follows:

Fiscal Year 2020 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$2,721.13
Interest to Date of Taking	\$926.82
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$3,872.95

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LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **31 PRINCETON ST**
CURRENT OWNER(S): LAUREL M WILKINSON, TRUSTEE, THE WILKINSON FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST
ASSESSED OWNER(S): LAUREL M WILKINSON, TRUSTEE, THE WILKINSON FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST
PARCEL ID: **034B00006000000** ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **23712029**
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,946 (more or less)
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 32496, Page: 476

This land is taken because taxes, as defined in Chapter 60, Section 43, assessed on the property to LAUREL M WILKINSON, TRUSTEE, THE WILKINSON FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST, which were not paid within fourteen days after a demand for payment was made on July 16th, 2020. After notice of intention to take said land was given as required by law, they remain unpaid along with interest and incidental interests and costs to the date of taking as follows:

Fiscal Year 2020 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$35.73
Interest to Date of Taking	\$16.68
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$277.41

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #24-13

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

Traffic Signal Maintenance and Repair

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, November 1st, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, November 22nd, 2023**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro scastr@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply. DCAMM Certification and Update Statement required for Traffic Signal Maintenance.

Sonia Castro
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, November 13, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Private Patio Seating, Mike's Bar Inc d/b/a Parise's Cafe, 97 Washington St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJf6G46kuSZCS1Sz7jBs1DA> You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.
BERNABE RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

11/1/23 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
RFP# 24-HOME-ARP
The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
invites sealed proposals for the 2024-2025 for the:
HOME American Rescue Plan Grant Program

HOME- ARP Grant Program. Proposals must address the housing and service needs of households who face an elevated risk of homelessness and housing instability in the City of Somerville. Funds for the HOME-ARP Grant Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Bid Number **RFP # 24-HOME-ARP**

Request for Proposal packages for HOME-ARP will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **8:30 A.M. Wednesday, November 1, 2023**, at www.somervillema.gov/HOME-ARPGFRFP
Print copies available upon request to Julie Melgar at OSPCD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to OSPCD@somervillema.gov and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **12:00 P.M. Monday, December 11, 2023**, for HOME American Rescue Plan Grant to the above email address.

Please contact Julie Melgar, Program Compliance Officer, by email Jmelgar@somervillema.gov, for information and proposal packages.

Thomas F. Galligani Jr, Executive Director
617- 625-6600, x 2500

11/1/23 The Somerville Times

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

East Somerville Main Streets Halloween Block Party and Pet Spectacular

East Somerville Main Streets' Halloween Block Party and Pet Spectacular 2023 took place on Saturday, October 28, at Chuckie Harris Park. The special event included a wide range of family activities, a pet costume contest, raffles, vendors, food, music, and so much more.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



Fair Housing questionnaire, follow-up questions 2023 for incumbent candidates

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission, a nonpartisan group of citizens serving the community, asked candidates for Mayor and City Council a set of questions about Fair Housing in 2021 and again this year, in 2023. The following are answers from the incumbent candidates.

1. (As a follow-up to question #1) Now that you have served in your current position, would you have handled the housing discrimination that you experienced in a different way? What advice would you now give to Somerville residents who may be facing housing discrimination?

2. (As a follow-up to question 5) Since being elected to your current position, how do you feel that you have addressed systemic housing discrimination against protected classes in Somerville and affirmatively furthered fair housing in Somerville?

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne

Incumbent and Candidate for Mayor

Question 1:

Obviously, someone who is a member of a protected class should report any such discrimination to the Fair Housing Commission so that appropriate action can be taken. I am committed to enforcing the law. Discrimination, though, can take many forms, including people being priced out of the market. The lack of affordable housing is an issue not only in Somerville but throughout the Commonwealth and, indeed, our entire country. To address that, my administration has been working on several tracks.

Since becoming Mayor in 2022 we have created a first time ever Land Acquisition Fund so that affordable housing developers can compete in the competitive market housing arena. We now have over 700 affordability housing units actively in the construction pipeline. I favor a multipronged approach including collaborating with non-profit developers and/or the Somerville Housing Authority to develop new affordable housing.

In addition to promoting the construction of new housing, my administration created our landmark Municipal Voucher Program, the first of its kind in the state to aid against the displacement of our residents. This new program will deliver essential rental aid to residents in crisis, predominantly low-income families with children, including immigrant families that are often not eligible for other supports.

Finally, the City's Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF) is currently in the process of drafting a rent stabilization law, and we are reaching out to community members to share their input on what should be

included. Two separate sessions have been offered so that everyone can be heard: one for property owners, and one for renters.

Question 5:

In addition to everything I have outlined above, I support further strengthening the Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO) relaxing height, density, and permitting rules for buildings dedicated to income-restricted housing. This would not only allow an increase in the number of affordable units but bring a significant increase in the number of family-sized (3+BR) units. Just as importantly, we must strengthen the Inclusionary Zoning provisions to ensure that small units and family size units follow an identical pattern of affordability.

Willie Burnley, Jr

Incumbent and Candidate for Councilor At-Large

Question 1:

There have been significant improvements in the availability of institutional support for renters facing displacement since 2017 when I was pushed out of Somerville. Like many people experiencing an economic crisis in our community, I was incredibly ashamed of what I perceived as my failure to be able to provide for myself amidst an increasingly hostile housing market. I wish that I felt equipped at that time to transcend those feelings and move to a place of action, of resilience, of community organizing and communal support. My advice to anyone currently struggling is to immediately seek out support - from CAAS (the Community Action Agency of Somerville), to Somerville's Office of Housing Stability, to your city councilors, and to your neighbors. The most beautiful thing about Somerville is how many people will show up for a neighbor in need.

Question 5:

As I've previously indicated, addressing housing stability and ensuring an end to housing discrimination have been core values that I have practiced for years, up to and including when I worked at the civil rights non-profit the Equal Rights Center on housing discrimination referrals. With my pride as a renter at stake, I have been proud to lead on this front. The first law that I passed in my role was a Renter's Know Your Rights law that requires landlords to provide new tenants with a city-drafted document containing renters' legal rights and financial resources at the start of their tenancy in their preferred language. In doing so, the City has taken a leading approach to equip tens of thousands of residents with more information and power to act against illegal activities on the part of their landlord. Moreover,

I have also passed a first-in-the-nation non-discrimination ordinance that prevents anyone from facing housing discrimination on the basis of their actual or perceived family or relationship structure, which will give polyamorous and non-traditional families greater protections in the market. Further, it will also give the City the opportunity to collect data to assess the scope of this issue - as we know there are many of these such individuals and families in Somerville. In short, as a councilor, I have increased access to the information available to renters when facing housing discrimination and expanded the protected classes that Somerville recognizes as being deserving of support. Finally, there are so many ways in which the council has its hands tied in terms of supporting housing stability that I do not believe that the work we do within the chamber can be sufficient. That is why I continue to stand with CAAS, the La Court Tenant Union, and all members of our community organizing against evictions and displacement.

Kristen Strezo

Incumbent and Candidate for Councilor At-Large

Question 1:


When I first experienced housing discrimination, I didn't know I actually had an option of reporting this discrimination. I also didn't know that it was illegal to discriminate against families or ask certain questions that reveal likely scenarios, making it harder to receive affordable housing. My goal and my hope is to make sure that I am doing as much as I can in my capacity to make other residents aware that there are lots of people and organizations that are willing to help and can act as an additional resource. To current Somerville residents facing housing discrimination, don't give up. This system is frustrating and it is easy to be scared away by the process and long waitlists. Take the risk when it comes to applying and sign up anyway. Be your own best advocate, keep asking questions, and exhaust all of your options. There are resources available and while they are strained, justice can and does prevail.

Question 5:

As the chair of the Housing and Community Development Committee, I handled several conversations about housing discrimination in the city and the lack of funding for resources. I am looking at what exists at the state level to understand what we can do at a municipal level to prevent housing discrimination. I am hopeful that the fall and winter will bring more concrete action responses to the fair housing commission's concerns. Moreover, I will do everything I can to support the commission in every way

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LEGAL NOTICE



Somerville Housing Authority

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

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

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

Issued on 10/18/2023, 2023

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Pre-Proposal Meeting/Site Tour:

11/01/2023 11:00 AM

at 30R Memorial Rd. Somerville

Proposal Submission Deadline:

11/21/2023 1:00 PM

Developer Selection:

12/20/23

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

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

OBJECTIVES

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

10/18/23, 10/25/23, 11/1/23 The Somerville Times

‘A Nightmare on Highland Ave.’

Former City Councilor Bob McWatters encountered Michael Myers on Highland Ave Halloween Eve.

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

and Trum Field.

Foss was born in Somerville on October 13, 1888. He attended the Morse Grammar School and the Somerville Latin School and graduated in 1906. He then went on to Harvard College and graduated in 1910. Before entering the service, he worked for the Somerville Journal, the Christian Science Monitor and the Boston Globe. While overseas, he wrote

letters home presenting a soldier’s point of view.

Originally Foss Park was graced with gardens, walkways and fountains. Today, it offers baseball, softball and soccer fields and includes tennis courts, a children’s park and a swimming pool.

Through the years, the site of Saxton’s Park has witnessed much history.

• The path of Paul Revere’s ride

skirted its edge; and to this day, annual reenactments are reminders of this historic event.

• The twenty-six-mile Middlesex Canal ran from Lowell to Boston and delivered historic Concord River water through the park for over a half century.

• Today, Canal Lane and Middlesex Avenue honor the canal, and four monuments salt its path throughout the city. They

are located

• in front of the East Somerville library

• in front of the former St. Polycarp’s Church

• at the intersection of Boston Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway

• at Foss Park with two stone markers which reveal a partial location of the historic canal.

Saxton loved his famous fa-

ther. Samuel was a learned poet and head of the Somerville library for thirteen years which he ultimately transformed into the second largest library in New England.

During the war, a friend of Saxton asked him why he enlisted. He made no reply, but emotionally pointed to a picture of his father. This is where the heroic soldier drew his inspiration.

Annual NECEC Gala at the Westin Copley

On Thursday, October 26, Rafi Properties' CEO Collin Yip was proud to sponsor and attend the Northeast Clean Energy Conference's (NECEC) 14th Annual Green Future Gala.

NECEC leads the just, equitable and rapid transition to a clean energy future and diverse climate economy and is committed to ensuring all people in the Northeast, regardless of their socioeconomic background, have access to the clean energy future and equitable climate economy.

At the event, NECEC honored companies who are leading the decarbonization of the North-

east including Somerville-based Sublime Systems, who was recognized as one of the "Emerging Companies of the Year" for their development of an electrified process to produce clean concrete. Sublime is headquartered at Somernova, Somerville's leading innovation ecosystem and hub for climate technology and tough-tech companies.

Pictured are members of the following organizations:

- Somerville Media Center
- Mystic Learning Center
- Somernova
- Greentown Labs
- Green & Open Somerville

- Tender Foods
- Mother's Out Front
- Sublime Systems
- Racial and Social Justice Dept. of City of Somerville
- Teen Empowerment

Leading Somerville-based tough-tech company Sublime Systems was recognized as one of the "Emerging Companies of the Year" for their development of an electrified process to produce clean concrete. Sublime is headquartered at Somernova, Somerville's leading innovation ecosystem and hub for climate technology and tough-tech companies.



Attendees representing Somernova, Greentown Labs, Sublime Systems, Tender Foods, Somerville Media Center, City of Somerville, Mothers OutFront, Mystic Learning Center, Green & Open Somerville, The Dojo @ Somernova, Union Square Main Streets, Buro Happold and Teen Empowerment.



Majic Alphonse, Program Director, The Dojo @ Somernova, with Collin Yip, Managing Director, Rafi Properties, (Owner and Operator, Somernova).



L to R: Randi Soltysiak, Nancy Curtatone, Yvette Wilks, Senator Ed Markey, Collin Yip, Joe Curtatone, Tori Antonino, and Steven Flythe.



L to R: Senator Edward Markey, Kevin Knobloch of Greentown Labs, Collin Yip of Rafi Properties, and Julia Travaglini of Greentown Labs.

Senate passes I AM bill

On Thursday of last week, the Senate voted to pass An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools, offered by Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Somerville).

This bill ensures menstrual products be provided at no cost and free of stigma in public schools, homeless shelters, and prisons. Current policies vary from setting to setting due to lack of resources, capacity, or awareness. This legislation would help fill the gaps by setting a floor for what would be determined as an adequate supply of free products, and therefore, an expectation that all menstruators' needs could be met.

"I learned about this issue from young people at Medford High School, Somerville High School, and Cambridge Rindge and Latin who took leadership at the local level to make menstrual hygiene

products available in their own communities," said Senator Jehlen. "This is a true grassroots movement starting with girls talking about their experiences of missing valuable class time or feeling embarrassed to access products during the school day. These conversations have already started to change the culture and have motivated us to expand this initiative across the state. I am so thankful for the advocacy of students, Mass NOW and the support of Chairs Cyr, Decker as well as Senate President Spilka."

One of the starkest examples of such gaps is that students miss classes or whole days of school because of challenges they face accessing products both at home and at school during their menstrual cycles. In pre-pandemic years, over half of MA school nurses reported seeing students miss class to access products.

"We filed this bill based on the work of young people in our communities who have made their voices heard and whose dedication to menstrual equity has not wavered," said Representative Christine Barber and Representative Jay Livingstone. "We are pleased by the Senate's vote and look forward to building upon their momentum and continuing the work to make this legislation a reality."

"Menstruation is not a choice," said Representative Marjorie Decker, Co-Chair of the Public Health Committee. "Half of the world menstruates, and period products are a necessity, not a luxury. This is a human rights issue; one's dignity should not come at the expense of buying food or medication. Everyone deserves access to menstrual products."

This bill has the support of many organizations in the Massachusetts Menstrual Equity Co-

alition, led by Mass NOW. The coalition works for menstrual equity, education and removing the stigma around talking about menstruation.

"By providing access to free, quality menstrual products to public school students, incarcerated people who menstruate and homeless people who menstruate, we are taking on issues of public health, economic inequality, educational equity, and gender equity all at once," said Sasha

Goodfriend, Executive Director of Mass NOW. "It's one of the best examples of intersectional lawmaking and feminist policy."

"The 62-member bipartisan and bicameral Women's Caucus chose this important piece of legislation as one of just five legislative priorities for this session," said Women's Caucus Senate Chair Senator Joan Lovely (D-Salem). "Lack of access to



State Senator Pat Jehlen.

menstrual products impacts the ability of menstruators to fully participate in society. This bill takes a step toward tackling period poverty, and we are pleased to see it pass the Senate today."

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives to be taken up for a vote.

— The Office of
State Senator Patricia D. Jehlen

'Truck O' Treat' at City Hall

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, along with Somerville's Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation Office, invited all local ghosts and ghouls to "Truck O'Treat" on Thursday, October 26, on the City Hall concourse. Costumes were encouraged at the family-friendly event, which included safe Trick-or-Treating, a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, refreshments and more.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



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.

Communication around Combined Sewage Overflows in Alewife Brook needs Significant Improvement

By Tyler Mourey

As a resident of West Somerville, I frequently use the wooded refuge of the Alewife Brook Reservation to briefly escape from urban life. After a stressful commute home in Boston traffic, a jog across the boardwalk that runs along the brook, past wildflower meadows, mute swans, and great blue herons, is often all it takes to soothe my nerves that have been frazzled by staring at brake lights, surrounded by irate commuters and blaring horns.

My typical running route takes me up Broadway, past the Stop and Shop on Alewife Brook Parkway, and across the street, with a right turn onto the Alewife Brook Reservation walking path. If I run along the brook after heavy rainfall, however, a pungent smell is likely to rip me out of this escapism, back to reality. With summer 2023 being the second wettest on record across much of New England, this past year saw numerous occurrences of municipal sewage overflowing into the Alewife Brook, turning the idyllic reservation into a smelly, polluted mess.

This slow, shallow brook, bordered by a lush riparian habitat has endured many changes throughout its natural (and unnatural) history. According to Mass.gov, in pre-colonial times, the region surrounding the brook was wetland, all part of the regional Great Swamp. This expansive wetland stored water from storm runoff and served as a massive biogeochemical filter for the local watershed. Urbanization and industrialization saw fit to change that, and the wetland was drained in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, resulting in over 90% of the surface area of the original Great Swamp being lost to development. With the decline of this gargantuan natural water filter, water that would originally have been stored in the marsh now has nowhere to go, causing it to backflow into homes

and businesses unless allowed to overflow into the Alewife Brook, along with municipal sewage.

These discharges of sewage into the brook are known as Combined Sewage Overflows, or CSO's. State law requires local municipalities to alert residents when CSO's "create a risk to public health," with occurrences being reported on town websites. In Somerville, residents may sign up for a notification system; receiving emails when CSO's occur, with a detailed notification plan revised as recently as June, 2023. Despite these plans, many residents seem unaware of the issue. I do not believe the current method for notifying the public is efficient or timely enough to reach residents who may be unaware of the occurrence of CSO's and be put in harm's way by utilizing a public greenspace.

On August 8th, 2023, torrential rains and subsequent CSO's caused the brook to overflow onto public walkways with many residents continuing to run, bike, and push baby carriages through the contaminated water, unaware of the unsavory, and unsafe nature of the water they were walking through. This spurred outcry from some local residents, culminating in an online petition and letter being written to the EPA, that dismissed the existing CSO notification system as a "failure," and firmly expressing that residents "need to know immediately if the discharge has made using the Alewife path unsafe" and that "they also need to know when an elevated level of risk has passed." The letter also stressed that effective methods of communicating CSO events have been implemented in other locations. For example, the Potomac River in Washington D.C. has four separate CSO indicator light stations, that glow red when CSO events happen. Similar indicator lights, with interpretive signage, could be an effective method of warning users of

the Alewife Brook pathway.

Even though municipalities are complying with the legal obligation to publicly post when CSO's occur, it does not seem to effectively reach the masses, which is gross negligence of local governments to fulfill their responsibilities to their residents. I personally was not aware of the occurrence of CSO's until I heard about them through word-of-mouth and took it upon myself to research the issue online. This should not be how someone learns about a serious environmental and public safety issue in their own community. Residents walking through untreated wastewater with infants in carriages shows that the way this information is disseminated to the community needs to be fully reevaluated.

As a local resident with a professional and academic interest in climate change and resiliency, I am particularly concerned with how this issue is going to develop as annual rainfall totals are expected to increase with climate change. How will this impact the Alewife Brook Reservation's recreational amenities? Personally, my proximity to this greenspace adds significant value to living in the area. If there is no transparency regarding how CSO's will be controlled and mitigated by governing bodies, the attractiveness of living in this area will certainly be negatively impacted.

Local municipalities have profited immensely off the development and urbanization of the Great Swamp, to the detriment of the local ecosystem and those who seek to enjoy it. They now owe it to the citizens they serve to stem the negative consequences of this development and act as responsible stewards for a fragile natural resource. At the very least, they can find a better way to tell people when their local park is flooded with untreated sewage.

Lesley University's leftovers feed the hungry

As 1 in 3 Massachusetts households faces food insecurity, it is estimated that Bay Staters discard one million pounds of food per year. To tackle both issues of food waste and food insecurity, Lesley University has partnered with Food For Free – the leading food rescue and distribution nonprofit in Eastern Massachusetts – to repurpose excess food from the school's dining halls to feed those in need through the nonprofit's Heat-n-Eats program.

Through Heat-n-Eats, Food For Free takes prepared food from corporate, university, and hospital dining services and turns it into nutritious, balanced, single-serving meals that they distribute to food-insecure populations. These meals are distributed to the community through schools, colleges, homeless shelters, and youth-based support centers. The program packs and distributes more than 1,700 meals per week.

The program was launched at Lesley University at the top of this school year. Food For Free makes biweekly pickups on campus, yielding between 50 and 75 lbs. of food that would otherwise end up in a landfill. University dining hall staff members repackage and freeze the food with support from student volunteers.

"At Food For Free, our core mission has always been clear: to strengthen our community food system through innovative partnerships and programming," says Jessica Cantin, CEO of Food For Free. "With the Heat-n-Eats program, we're not just providing meals; we're weaving a stronger community fabric, emphasizing the profound impact of every single meal. We are grateful to partners, like Lesley University, whose generous contributions are testaments to our collective commitment working toward a hunger-free society."



Tim Grills, Director of Hospitality at Lesley University, plays a pivotal role in this initiative. With prior experience at Meals on Wheels, Grills oversees all campus anti-hunger initiatives. For Food For Free's Heat-n-Eats program, he manages dining hall staff *Continued on page 19*

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.

School debt and a possible
Tax Limit Override Referendum



By Will Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large

I tuned in last week to follow the discussion of the School Committee and City Council about the plans to replace or fully renovate the Winter Hill and Brown schools and about how we can finance and pay for this project.

The mayor and superintendent explained the two alternative methods of school construction finance that state law will allow:

(i) Application by the city to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for reimbursement of school construction costs; or

(ii) Regular General Obligation bonding by the city.

The Mayor made clear that the city will be making preparations to pursue both procedures. First, it will apply for MSBA grant funding, which we have successfully used in the past to cover part of the High School costs. However, because these MSBA grants are competitive among all cities and towns of the Commonwealth and because the procedures run in yearly cycles, we cannot be certain that Somerville can get a grant next year.

Therefore, given our emergency situation with Winter Hill, the Finance Department and School Department will simultaneously prepare for the city itself to borrow and fund school construction. (It can gain reimbursement from the state in later year grant cycles.)

The solution of preparing for both possible methods will be prudent. However, using the alternative of city borrowing may give rise to another problem of debt and spending limitations under the state law, known as Proposition 2.5.

osition 2.5.

We might need to put on the ballot in November 2024 a Property Tax Limit Override. This would ask the voters to allow an increase of property taxes in FY 25 more than 2.5% of its FY24 tax levy. Everyone hopes this will not be necessary, but to be prudent and be prepared, planning for this action will be done in the coming months.

How does Proposition 2.5 work?

The state law, known as Proposition 2.5, was adopted twenty years ago as a way to protect taxpayers from facing large tax increases year-to-year. The law imposes two limitations on city borrowing and spending. Understanding how these two limits might apply to a new school project can give us insight into the city’s overall financial situation. I am thinking about these questions in the following ways.

First, under the law, the city’s total outstanding debt cannot go above 2.5% of its total tax base value.

Broadly, Somerville will have no problem staying within this limit because our current tax base (called the “equalization value”) is over \$22 billion. It has growing every year as new research, commercial and residential buildings are finished. Today our outstanding debt is \$394 million (1.7% of the \$22 billion). So we could easily add a great deal more debt for a school and other capital needs without hitting the ceiling.

Second, the city cannot increase its annual spending and taxing beyond 2.5% of the previous year’s property levy and new growth.

This is the problem that the city might have to face if we need a new school in the range of \$100 million. The problem would arise because interest rates will be high. If we issue school bonds for \$100 million, the cost of interest and principal (the “debt service”) will be over \$8 million each year for 25 or 30 years afterwards. This would be

added to the \$21 million per year that we are now paying on our city debt. We will also have more capital projects to pay for – such as the remaining work on sewers and streets and other school and city building repairs.

The numbers could add up to amounts of new debt service that will push beyond the 2.5% ceiling of the property tax. The City Finance Department (overseen by the state) will do all the detailed calculations, but roughly it will look like the following:

In FY2023 our property tax levy has been \$221.9 million; therefore the permitted 2.5% increase would be \$5.5 million plus the new taxes on any buildings that finish during the year. In FY2023 this new growth amount has been \$12 million.

If we anticipate a similar amount of growth next year, then we can calculate a range of \$15 to \$17 million capacity. Our spending and new debt in the FY25 and FY26 budgets will have to stay within that amount each year, or else we will need to have the Override Referendum.

We will not know the detailed numbers until early 2024, when the schools planning and budget analyses are complete. But, as a matter of policy, we clearly want to insure that our children have high quality facilities for their safety and learning. If it becomes necessary to ask the taxpayers to pay more for this purpose, we should be ready to carefully consider an override. In preparation, it rests on our elected officers and city staff to fully explain the needs and how their plans and financing will work.

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

Lesley University’s leftovers feed the hungry

CONT. FROM PG 18

members through the entire meal prep process from food collection to repackaging so that repurposed meals are ready for pick-up by the nonprofit.

“To witness the pressing need in our community and on campus and realize that we have the means to ensure someone receives a hot meal is

both humbling and outstanding. In a country as affluent as ours, no one should grapple with hunger,” said Grills. “People must grasp that it’s not just one single meal you are providing for someone – the implications run far deeper and resonate much wider.”

Lesley University also operates its

own on-campus food pantry, where students can grab free food whenever they need. By the Spring 2024 semester, the school hopes to become a recipient in addition to being a donor of Food For Free’s Heat-n-Eats program to expand access to meals for its 2,000 commuter students.

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and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1
and follow us on Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

Ms. Cam's

Olíio

Answers

From on page 8

1. It ends on the first Sunday in November

2. Strong winds blowing across the Great Lakes in autumn

3. Karl Benz

4. They release a volatile gas, which stimulates nerves in the eye

5. The kakapo

6. The Joker

7. Chickens

8. Maine

9. Maroon 5

10. Beyoncé

11. Scotland

12. Five

MBTA Transit Police are seeking to ID two people of interest



MBTA Transit Police are seeking to ID the two people in this photo as people of interest in an incident that took place Saturday night around 11 p.m. on a Green Line train in the vicinity of Gilman Sq. The subjects are wanted for allegedly harassing a 37 year old male instigating a fight. The victim refused to engage and alleged he was struck in the face by the subject. If you recognize anyone in this photo, please contact MBTA Transit Police with any information, 617-222-1050.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Photography affirmation, Union Square... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What kind of lion doesn't roar?
A dandelion

On This Day in History
November 1

- 0079 – The city of Pompeii is buried by eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.
- 1512 – Michelangelo's painting on the Sistine Chapel ceiling is shown for the first time.
- 1755 – A great earthquake at Lisbon, Portugal, kills over 50,000 people.
- 1765 – The Stamp Act goes into effect in the British colonies.
- 1923 – Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company buys the rights to manufacture Zeppelin dirigibles.
- 1936 – Italian Fascist leader Benito Mussolini announces the Rome-Berlin axis after Count Ciano's visit to Germany.
- 1945 – John H. Johnson publishes the first issue of *Ebony* magazine.
- 1967 – The first issue of *Rolling Stone* hits the streets.
- 1968 – The Motion Picture Association of America officially introduces its rating system to indicate age-appropriateness of film content.
- 1973 – Leon Jaworski appointed as new Watergate Special Prosecutor.
- 2000 – Serbia joins the United Nations.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Grief touched the Sky at Night'
By Gloria Mindock

For poet Gloria Mindock, "The doves are in the trash" in her new poetry collection *Grief Touched the Sky at Night*.

Gloria Mindock, former Somerville Poet Laureate and the founder of the Červená Barva Press, has published a new book of poetry, *Grief Touched the Sky at Night*. It is inspired by the Ukrainian/Russian War, and it is unflinching with its depictions of violence and the horror of war. I caught up recently with Mindock to talk about her new collection.

Doug Holder: First off, how has it been for you as a writer in Somerville, Massachusetts for all these years?

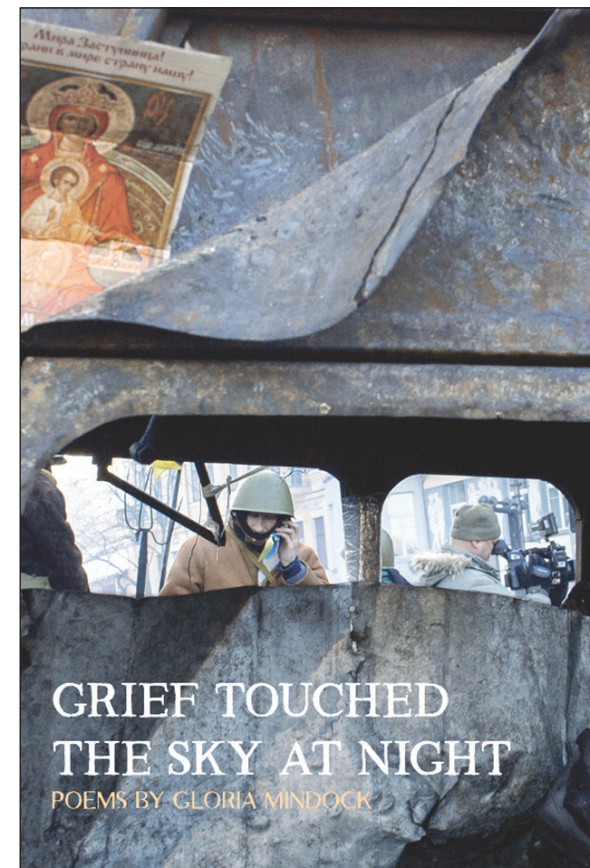
Gloria Mindock: I moved to Somerville in 1984 from the Midwest. Somerville is a wonderful place to live and write. I feel right at home because there are so many writers and artists that live in Somerville and the area. The community is very supportive of one another. When I tell writers (from all over the world) about this place, they cannot believe all that this city offers. There are so many events happening all the time. I can't think of a better place to live.

DH: You dedicated your poetry collection to the Bulgarian writer Svetoslav Nahum, who wrote *Escape from Crimea*. Tell us why?

GM: Svetoslav Nahum (Svet DiNahum) is a hero and a dissident. His actions against Putin's men are enormous. It is amazing to see what one man can do. His book, *Escape from Crimea*, was published in Bulgaria, Ukraine and Červená Barva Press published it in 2021. Since this book came out, he has been persecuted and harassed in Bulgaria by organizations that are defending the interests of Putin's regime in the Kremlin. He was threatened with "friendly advice." A Bulgarian writers union member told him to be careful and that he will be defeated. He was referring to the nerve agent used against a former Russian military intelligence officer who defected to Britain, that same "friend" warned him: "You might eat Novichok just like Sergei Skripal."

(Some of the above paragraph was paraphrased and quoted from a letter Svet wrote to the American people in his book *Escape from Crimea*)

Svet has a show called *Counterpropaganda*. He has had some interesting people on this show which can be watched on YouTube. The interviews are discussions and information about the war between Ukraine and Russia, global security, Balkans security, China danger, Iran threats, Crimea, Russian danger for Bulgaria, and Mriya Aid which helps Ukraine. Guests have been many including: General Ben Hodges, Dr. Fred Hoffman, Mark Voyger, Alex Plitas, Professor Janusy Bugajski, Alexander Bakus



and Paul Massaro. Experts have appeared from Congress, the Pentagon, think tanks, DC foundations, professors, and NATO. Svet has many other broadcasts on TV and other platforms, but they are in the Bulgarian language.

Over the years, I have gotten to know Svet very well. His courageousness speaks volumes. Svet continues to speak up against Putin's regime. He risks his life for freedom, for Ukraine, for Bulgaria, and for Europe. I am so honored to call him a friend.

This year Svet was the recipient of the first Červená Barva Press Dissident Award. This award will be given every year to a dissident who has stood up for freedom.

DH: Your poems deal with the Russian/Ukrainian War. They are unsparing, the poems bleed from page to page. If these poems have a mission what would that be?

GM: My mission is to be a voice for the Ukrainian people and to show my support. One of the most important things about my poetry is to bring awareness to those in the US and abroad. What Putin is doing is wrong. I believe he will attack the Baltics and other countries if given the chance. He will continue to advance if not stopped. My poems show the evil of this man, this dictator, who will stop at nothing to defeat the Ukrainians.

DH: In one of your poems, you write, "The doves are in the trash." If the doves returned from the ashes, would you be able to write as

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet writes, "My name is Katherine Davis and I am a junior at Endicott College. I am a film and television major, with a minor in creative writing. Currently I am taking Poetry with Professor Sklar, the class in which I wrote the poem *George* about my late grandfather. I took up poetry writing as a hobby a little over a year ago, and I have found I am most often inspired by the people I am closest to."



George

He is cigarettes
The rumble of a bar filled with old Irish men.
He is flowers in a field
After a heavy rain
He is a green pull out couch
Metal that prods through a thinning cushion.
He is hospitals, a rooftop, and cold danish pastries
He is ice cream sundaes, no nuts—
Chocolate fudge and traded cherries.
He is my favorite book
A note in the margins
He is a city with smokey sidewalks and spotty sun.
He is the beach by the water in a blue bucket hat
He is a white t-shirt, white sheets, powdered donuts—
He is the victory of a card game
Watching E.T.
And riding a bicycle for the third time.
He is dentures in a cup, green mouthwash
And a shiny wooden hairbrush for a shiny bald head.
He is bags of laundry and quarters tinged with age
He is pacemakers and pill bottles and
Something strange in a jar on the hutch.
He is never quite saying goodbye, warm ginger-ale, and glasses perched
At the end of your nose.
He is bacon and sundays and milkshakes.
He is glasses of milk with ice cubes.
He is cigarette smoke that lingers outside the old Irish bar

— Katherine Davis

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Somerville hazardous and yard waste pickup seasonal deadlines are approaching. The last day to drop off **hazardous waste** this fall at the DPW yard (1 Franey Road) is **Saturday, November 4**. Drop-offs will be accepted from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The last day for **yard waste collection** will be **Friday, December 8**. Yard waste can be left out for pickup by DPW on residents’ scheduled trash collection days. Please note: yard waste cannot be collected if it is put in plastic bags. To learn more, please visit somervillema.gov/trash or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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

Help keep our waterways clean in your neighborhood by joining Somerville’s **Adopt-a-Drain program**. A storm drain clear of leaves, trash or other debris allows water to flow into the catch basin sump and can prevent flooding. When you adopt a drain (or drains), you commit

to caring for a local storm drain of your choice by checking on it before and after heavy rain, wind, or snow. Bonus perk: you can also give it a name. Claim your drain at somerville.mysticdrains.org.

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

The **Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA)** has announced that it will host and manage the **14th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) every Saturday beginning November 4 through April 6**. This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, and sweets. Each market will feature more than 35 weekly vendors and several rotating guest vendors while welcoming an anticipated 1,000 visitors every Saturday. The market accepts SNAP/EBT and HIP benefits. And they also offer a \$15 SNAP match to customers each week. For more information and weekly updates visit: www.artsatthearmory.org.

Join the **Somerville Public Library** and a **representative from the ACLU** for a workshop on understanding **your legal rights in the US**. Visit the **Central Library November 9**, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. to learn more about your right to be free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or national origin, and how the law protects you. This workshop will look at: What does discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin look like? What your rights are and how to exercise them. What to do if you believe your rights have been violated. Register: <https://somervillepubliclibrary.org>.

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

Open enrollment began on October 15 and runs to **December 7**. Medicare recipients can change their **health insurance plans for January 1, 2024**. While having the freedom to change your health insurance plan can save you money, there are many health insurance plans and companies to choose from. You don’t have to make the decision alone, the **Somerville Council on Aging** has **SHINE Counseling** available in person, over the phone, or on Zoom, to assist you with comparing what health insurance options are available for you. You can call

Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or **Molly Pagliuca** at ext. 2318 to book an appointment.

East Somerville Main Streets will be holding their **East Somerville fall clean up** on **November 4**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Help them beautify the neighborhood. Pastries and coffee provided by **Ola Cafe**. Meet at 115 Broadway at 10:00 a.m.

Visit the **Blue: The Celebration of a Color exhibit** at the **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood Rd. The exhibit showcases paintings, photography, installation, fashion, and video works of local artists who incorporate blue in their studio practice. For hours visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

Registration is open for **Learn to Skate and Learn to Play Somerville Youth Hockey**. All sessions take place at either **Veterans or Founders rinks** in Somerville. Beginner classes are geared towards kids 3-9 who have never skated nor played hockey before. There’s also a new Advanced option for kids aged 9 and older who are ready for a more fast-paced introduction to the fundamentals of hockey and skating. Financial aid (and some equipment) is available. To learn more and register, visit <https://www.somervilleyouthhockey.org/ltsltp>.

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

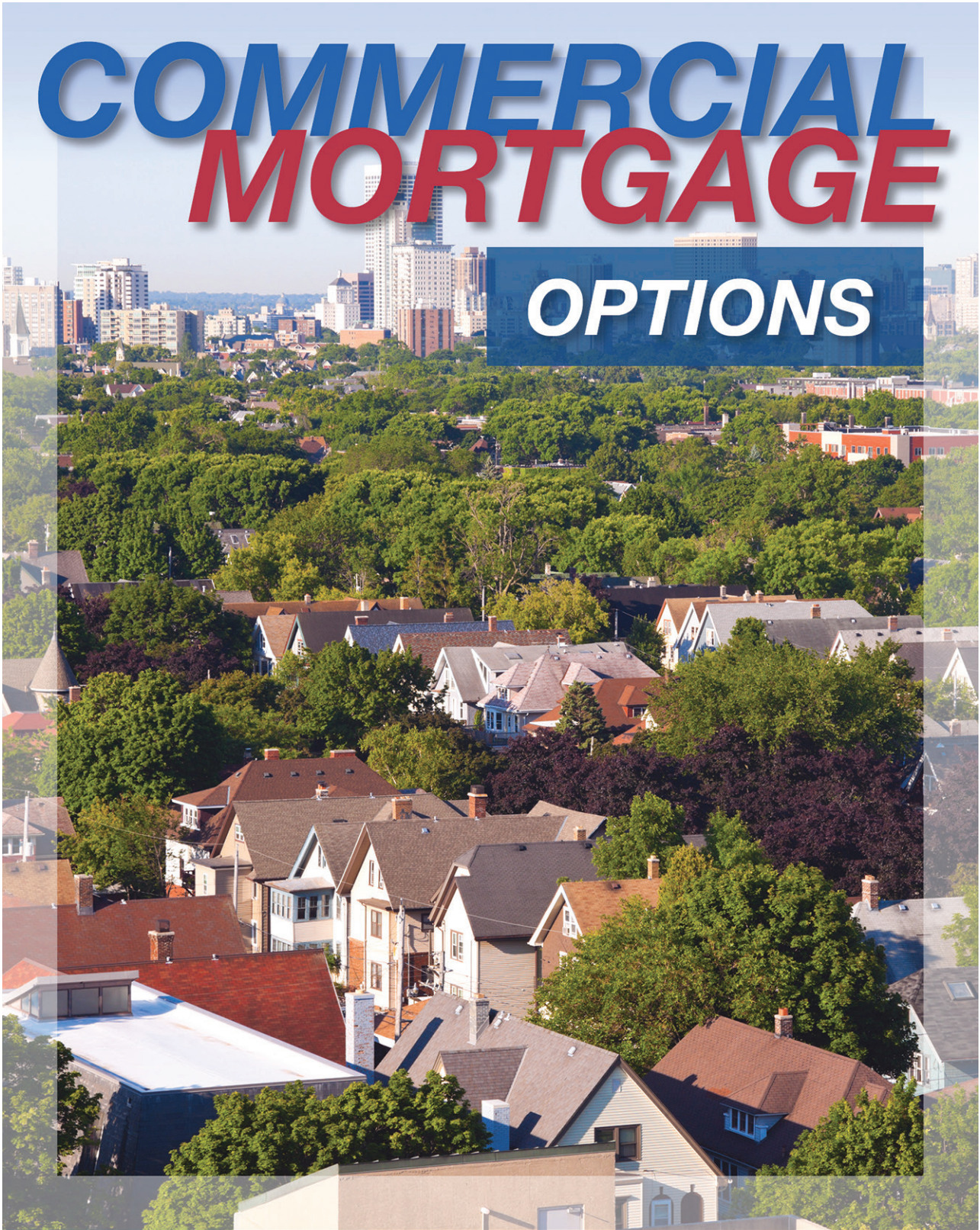
Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

passionately about that?
GM: Probably not. I tend to focus on the atrocities committed. This planet has never been at peace. I just don’t see that ever happening. I pray for it, wish for it, but it is only a dream. Therefore, I feel the doves will stay in the trash. I do not have to worry about them returning to us from the ashes.
Doves have been a symbol of peace. I saw them on posters and images with the word “PEACE” in the 1960’s and 1970’s. I even had them on my bedroom wall as I was growing up. I have a peace symbol in my living room now but no doves. Here it is years later, and mankind is still killing each other. Unfortunately, I do not see the symbol of doves much. Sad. I have seen the symbol used in Ukraine. This brings hope for freedom.
DH: Birds, nature are balms for the horrors of war in

your book. But nature can be brutal as well. How can you reconcile that fact?
GM: We are all surrounded by different landscapes and every place has its own weather woes. Some places are more prone to floods, tornadoes, earthquakes etc. Not everyone can choose where they live or are born.
Nature is nature whether mankind contributed to its disasters or not. Most families have two cars or more, plastic ends up in our oceans, fracking is happening in many states, and I could keep listing the “bad” things that destroy earth. We all know what they are. Many people just don’t care. Thankfully, there are some people who speak out and try to bring awareness. The fact is we need to change if this planet will survive.
War is man-made. It is a choice. Mankind continues to destroy each other. We must change if peace is going

to be achieved. Money, power, ethnic cleansing, religion, land, are just some of the things that starts a war. This needs to stop but it won’t. This world is pitiful at times. I look at the bright side of things and have faith because I have met so many wonderful people who speak out for change peacefully.
DH: Why should we read this book?
GM: I put my heart and soul into this book like I do all my books. Putin is power hungry, brutal and a force of evil. Grief Touches the Sky at Night should be read just like my other books on atrocities. I speak up for the oppressed, the slaughtered. I want my voice to be heard. I want their voice to be heard.
My book is not a lecture on what one should do. It is simply looking at the toll war has on the innocent, oppressed, and a country fighting for freedom.

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