

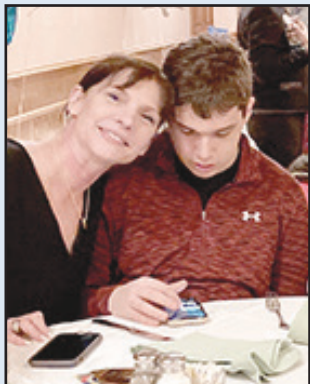


## Inside:



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of food

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## City moves forward with rent stabilization process



The Somerville City Council's Legislative Matters Committee recently discussed possible measures pertaining to rent stabilization in the city. — Photo by Maile Blume

By Jennifer Purcell

The process to stabilize rent in Somerville is now well underway. On Tuesday, November 14, Somerville's Legislative Matters Committee met once more to discuss the future of rent and how they could make the current and future situations as easy as possible for both renters and landlords by inviting the director of the Office of Housing Stability Ellen Shachter to give a presentation that detailed what enforcing rent stabilization would look like and how it would benefit the community.

There are six steps to the Home Rule Petition, with those being a.) to submit a draft to the city council, b.) for the city council to review the draft, c.) to submit the draft for the state to review, 4.) for the state to approve the draft, 5.)

Continued on page 4

## Celebrate the holidays in Somerville

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) warmly invite the Somerville community to join in the city's 2023 holiday celebrations. The city will illuminate City Hall concourse with festive tree and menorah lighting events that will include snacks, refreshments, entertainment and gifts for children.

The community is also invited to see the creativity and holiday spirit of their neighbors by embarking on either a self-guided or SAC-led Illuminations Tour. More details about each event are available below.

### Holiday Tree Lighting

Date: Thursday, December 7

Start Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave)

### Menorah Lighting

Date: Sunday, December 10

Start Time: 5:00 p.m.



Continued on page 3

Somerville's annual holiday celebrations are set to begin.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

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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.

We here at *The Times* wish everyone a happy and safe **Thanksgiving holiday**. As we approach holiday gift shopping don't forget to shop local to support local businesses.

City offices will be closed on **Thursday, November 23**, and **Friday, November 24**, for **Thanksgiving**. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will be delayed by one day.








Don't miss the epic Thanksgiving Day Somerville/Cambridge football rivalry, known as the "**Battle for the Picket Fence**." **Somerville High School vs. Cambridge Rindge and Latin School**. **November 23** (Thanksgiving Day), 10:00 a.m. at **Russell Field in Cambridge**. Tickets can be purchased on-site before the game.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Tracey Leah Pratt**, who is celebrating this week. We wish Tracey a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to **Craig Resmini**. We wish him a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such **Di-ane Johansen, Marie Coady, Todd Easton, Peggy Ryan Lookliss, Mary McGuire, Julie Adelsberger, Gamal Elfouly, Kim Volz and Brian Kirka** very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The Gobble Gobble Gobble is a family-friendly *Continued on page 7*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 22 – November 28 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>November 22</i>	Rain	54°/39°	97%	71%	E 18 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>November 23</i>	Partly Cloudy	49°/31°	15%	11%	N 12 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>November 24</i>	Partly Cloudy	49°/29°	5%	2%	NW 7 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>November 25</i>	Rain	44°/30°	37%	26%	NW 10 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>November 26</i>	Cloudy	43°/32°	22%	18%	N 9 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>November 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	48°/32°	19%	12%	SW 6 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>November 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	43°/29°	17%	8%	SW 10 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: Somerville Seniors Thanksgiving Dinner

Tom Austin, President Elect Kiwanis of Somerville says:

This article has a mistake. (mine when i sent this in).

Our email address is [KiwanisSomerville@gmail.com](mailto:KiwanisSomerville@gmail.com)

### Response to: An odd sort of City Council meeting

Jorbis says:

Thanks Chris, I appreciate your reporting. Disappointing is the word indeed.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://www.somervilletimes.com) to leave your own comments

# The Somerville Times

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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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## Supports at Somerville Public Schools

In recent weeks, local and global events have impacted many students and adults within our district. Students and staff alike may come from a community affected by violence or may be struggling to process current events. SPS strives to create a supportive, inclusive, and safe environment for all our learners. Students experiencing fear, anxiety, or any strong feelings, are encouraged to talk to their school's counselor, dean of students, or assistant principal.

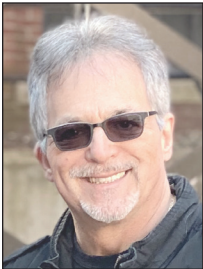
The staff in these roles are ready to provide support. If you are looking for support with speaking to your students (or loved ones and friends) at home, here are some resources from our Offices of Equity and Excellence, and Student Services: Talking to Kids about Violence (<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-families-and-educators>) and this list of resource materials about Coping with Violence (<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/coping-with-violence>).

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# No parking



It's getting harder and harder to own a car in Somerville. There are not enough municipal lots and they are taking away more and more parking meters every week. Pulling over to stop and run into a store has become very difficult. Here are social media comments from Somerville people.

"I've been in Somerville for over 50 years, the big difference now is the sheer number of cars on the road. Playing street hockey as a kid, we rarely had to move the nets. Now, kids could never play it on the street. We played stickball against the old post office (Now the parking office). You could never do that now. Parked cars, moving cars, the city is packed with vehicles. In the old days, there would be one car per household. Now, everyone has a car. I'm not smart enough to know the answer to the problem, but there has to be a way vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians can find a

way to safely coexist."

"Unfortunately, it's making Somerville a place to avoid living, working, visiting or investing in its future. Very short-sighted in my opinion."

"I grew up in Somerville. Glad I don't live there anymore. Constant traffic, horrible streets, too many one-ways, visitor parking only signs, a million and one parking meters and I could go on and on. So, so different since I was a kid in the fifties and sixties. Moved out in 1970."

Here's a good one .... "WHAT THE ACTUAL EFF?!?! I drove into Somerville today, and I can honestly tell you ... YOU COULDN'T PAY ME ENOUGH TO LIVE THERE!!! 45 minutes to get from Mystic Ave. to Union Square!!!! 2 lanes on McGrath & Highland Ave. chopped up into pieces! Not to mention the detail from Melrose not directing traffic!! It's insane!! NO THANK YOU!!! I will forever remember Somerville the way I grew up in the 80's & 90's!"

I'll end with this. Where the heck do we park?



## Celebrate the holidays in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave)

**Illuminations Tour**

Don your bike helmet for Somerville's interactive Illuminations extravaganza.

Dates:

December 9, 2023 – January 2024: Illuminations map available to take a self-guided tour

December 16, 2023:

SAC Illuminations Bike Tour (rain date

December 17)

Location:

Somerville High School main entrance (81 Highland Ave)

Time: 5:45 p.m. (departure at 6:00 p.m.)

For more information on the city's holiday events, please call 311 (617-666-3311 from outside the city). For more information on the SAC Illuminations Tour, please email Iaritz Menjivar at imenjivar@somervillema.gov.



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## BOYNTON GATEWAY CAREER RESOURCE FAIR

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**GEORGE DILBOY VFW POST**

351 SUMMER ST. | SOMERVILLE, MA

Boynton Gateway, a Life Science building that is currently under construction in Union Square, is hosting a career resource fair for persons interested in career advice and opportunities in the union construction trades and life science industries.

Individuals with or without experience in construction or life sciences are encouraged to meet representatives of construction apprenticeship programs, education, and workforce training programs in life science.



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# Somerville Police Dept Crime Log Nov. 7 – 13

## Residential Breaking and Entering

On 11/9/23 at approximately 11:30 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Somerville Ave. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated copper pipe was stolen from his basement.

## Assault

On 11/7/23 at approximately 8:29 a.m, Somerville Police responded to 403 Highland Ave. for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was in the parking garage and was approached by a female party who kicked him. A male party then came over and brandished a knife at the victim. Officers identified the male and female suspect.

## Assault

On 11/8/23 at approximately 6:10 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a restaurant on Elm St. for a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated he was involved in an argument with a customer and during the argument, the customer punched him. Officers identified the suspect.

## Assault

On 11/10/23 at approximately 10:22 p.m, Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for an unwanted. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male party began harassing him then pulled out a gun and shot a round near his head. The victim was not struck and did not have any injuries. Officers recovered a live round on the sidewalk.

## Residential Breaking and Entering

On 11/11/23 at approximately 12:45 p.m., Somerville Police took a report from a female party who stated she was out of her house and when she arrived home, noticed several pairs of gloves and two watches were missing.

## Arrest

On 11/12/23 at approximately 3:56 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Woodbine St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was involved in an argument with an employee. During the argument, the employee chased him with scissors and attempted to hit him with a water dispenser. Officers identified the suspect and he was placed under arrest.

## Arrest

On 11/9/23 at approximately 11:46 a.m., Somerville Housing Police responded to Warren Ave. for report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was involved in an argument with his neighbor. During the argument, his neighbor brandished a knife and sliced him with it. Officers located the suspect and he was placed under arrest.

**Other Crimes:** 3 Vandalisms, 5 MV thefts, 3 Bike thefts, 5 Car breaks, 2 Package thefts

# City moves forward with rent stabilization process CONT. FROM PG 1

to draft the ordinance, and 6.) to start board and regulation development. They are currently on step two: reviewing the draft before submitting it to the state. According to Shachter, the earlier it is submitted, the better.

## Rent cap and base rents

In order to make this change easier for all parties, Shachter proposed the idea of having two separate base rents: one for occupied units and another for vacant units. Any landlord who owns an occupied unit at the time of the local ordinance passage will be required to set the base rent to the amount that was charged twelve months prior, and any landlord owning a vacant unit will be required to charge the last rent charged. This is unless there has been no rent charged in the last five years, in which case the landlord can set their own base rent. Additionally, if the rent is to

be raised, she proposed an annual rent cap of 2% to 5%.

However, there would be several potential exceptions to the annual rent cap, including certain maintenance and capital costs, utility costs for which the owner is responsible, and rapid increases in property taxes.

There would also be a few exceptions to rent stabilization in general, but only under very specific circumstances that include:

1. Owner-occupied buildings that have 3 units or less.
2. New construction for the first 15 years after certificate of occupancy.
3. Public housing; multi-family housing with project-based rental subsidies.
  - a. This would not exempt units with tenant-based vouchers.
4. Units where the owner shares a kitchen and bathrooms with tenants in their

own apartments.

5. Hotels/motels/other transient guest housing.

6. Dormitories/religious facilities/extended care/residential care, etc.

However, this is where an issue arose amongst the Committee members. They seemed to be on board with a majority of these ideas with the exception of the second point regarding new construction. Committee Chair and Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis worried that exempting new buildings would cause problems for tenants 10 or 15 years in the future when the buildings do qualify for rent stabilization because of the way they will be marketed (likely as luxury buildings).

Just cause eviction protections As a part of rent stabilization, they will also be implementing just cause eviction protections which would protect tenants

from being evicted for arbitrary, discriminatory, and retaliatory reasons. The Office of Housing Stability has since compiled a list of reasons why landlords would be able to evict tenants, which they plan on following strictly:

1. Failure to pay rent.
2. Substantial violation of material term of lease.
3. Substantial damage to unit.
4. Criminal activity that threatens the health and/or safety of residents or persons lawfully on the premises.
5. Owner wants unit for own use or for family use.
6. Owner would like to convert the unit to condos, to demolish and convert to non-residential use.

The City Council will determine any additional grounds for eviction by the local Ordinance.

## Vacancy decontrol

After much discussion, it was

decided by the Office of Housing Stability and the Council that they will not implement vacancy decontrol in this Home Rule Petition. Shachter's reasoning for this is that "vacancy decontrol creates a strong financial incentive to force tenants out of their homes." If vacancy decontrol were to be implemented, it would allow landlords to set base rents for new tenants with no limit whatsoever.

## Conclusion

After a long discussion on the matter, Chair Davis and Ward 3 Councilor Ewen-Campen expressed that they did not feel that this draft was ready to send to the state. The meeting ran for the full time and Davis felt that there was still more to be discussed, therefore it was decided that they would keep this in the committee for now and circle back to it in the near future.



# Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee on elevating safety, accessibility, and urban sustainability

By Beatriz Leite

This past Thursday, November 16, the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee met to further discuss the plans for Tufts Street reconstruction. The meeting primarily centered on the concept design with a focus on the overarching goals to improve safety and accessibility.

As part of the City of Somerville's Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program, there are plans to overhaul sidewalks and repave Tufts Street, stretching from Cross Street to Washington Street. This initiative presents an opportunity for the city to introduce a new design that prioritizes the safety and comfort of pedes-

trians, cyclists, and drivers alike. Alongside the scheduled enhancements on Tufts Street, the MBTA intends to implement a novel crosswalk on Washington Street adjacent to Tufts Street. This crosswalk will feature a floating bus stop, aiming to reduce crossing distances and enhance visibility. Floating bus stops are sidewalk extensions designed to offer designated waiting and boarding areas for bus passengers. This approach not only streamlines bus services but also enhances accessibility by allowing buses to stop in the travel lane instead of pulling over to the curb. The Committee's objective is to enhance safety for cyclists by reducing the number of vehicles,



The Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee is weighing in on its views regarding plans to overhaul sidewalks and repave Tufts Street and its immediate environs. — Photos by Bobbie Toner



without excluding them from the reconstruction plans. One of the possible plans involves conducting car pull-overs at intersections of Cross St., Glen St., and Washington St., raising sidewalks, while also creating bicycle pull-overs and a bicycle protected lane. The project is also concerned with buses, and for that a bus stopping island will be built. For the curb usage, the Com-

mittee is proposing pull-overs and two accessible parking spaces. As for the remaining space, which consists of 4-5 parking spaces, the Committee is considering two alternatives. Option A involves maintaining areas for a wider sidewalk, planting approximately one tree per space, and creating green spaces, and option B which consists of adding parking spaces.

The plan is not yet finalized and remains open to modifications. To gather public input and opinions, the city conducted a Tufts Street Concept Design Feedback session on November 13. Take the survey at [somervillema.gov/tuftsstreet](https://somervillema.gov/tuftsstreet) to share your comments, thoughts, and ideas. If you have any questions, email [transportation@somervillema.gov](mailto:transportation@somervillema.gov).

## Somerville community encouraged to prepare now for upcoming snow season

The City of Somerville is encouraging the community to get ready now for potential snow storms this winter season by signing up for city alerts and reviewing protocols for snow emergencies in advance. Preparing now will help keep the community safe, and reduce ticketing or towing for snow emergency parking violations and ticketing for failure to follow sidewalk shoveling requirements. All information below can also be found by visiting [somervillema.gov/snow](https://somervillema.gov/snow).

### Alerts

Snow emergencies are announced in a variety of ways, including through phone, text, and email City alerts. Community members are urged to sign up for alerts in every way they can receive them and at their current address to receive alerts specific to their neighborhood.

Alerts are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Nepali, and Mandarin. Resident information can be updated by visiting [somervillema.gov/alerts](https://somervillema.gov/alerts) or calling 311.

In addition to city alerts, snow emergencies are announced the following ways:

- City website
- City social media feeds
- CityTV
- Flashing blue lights at major intersections
- Information is shared with local media

### Street Parking

Because this winter begins in an odd-numbered year, snow emergency parking will be on the odd side of the street all winter, unless posted signage says differently. Residents should check street signs in their

Continued on page 11





Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives’ and senators’ votes from the week of November 13-17.

LONG TERM CARE CHANGES (H 4178)

House 158-0, approved and sent to the Senate legislation that supporters say will “take a comprehensive approach towards reforming the long-term care industry by supporting and expanding the workforce, enhancing oversight of facilities and ensuring greater access, all while prioritizing quality of care.”

Rep. Tom Stanley (D-Waltham), House chair of the Committee on Elder Affairs, said “the comprehensive measure is a major step toward enhancing the standards and care within the long-term care industry.”

“Building upon past successes and allocations, including significant funding for caregiver shortages and nursing home rate increases, this bill marks a pivotal step in the ongoing enhancement of long-term care in the commonwealth,” continued Stanley. “It is our collective effort to ensure the highest standards of care and access for all individuals in need of long-term care services.”

“The nursing home sector has long faced workforce and financial challenges that have only been exacerbated by the pandemic,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “Addressing persistent challenges within this important sector will not only improve the quality of care that residents receive, it will increase capacity and help acute care hospitals more efficiently discharge patients to the appropriate post-acute care setting.”

Mariano continued, “Building off of key investments in the industry in recent budgets, this comprehensive legislation takes the necessary steps to ensure that the commonwealth’s nursing homes, and the patients that they care for, are supported.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytendaele	Yes

\$2.81 BILLION FISCAL 2023 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (S 2502)

Senate 36-3, approved a \$2.81 billion supplemental budget to close out the books for fiscal year 2023. Provisions include \$2.1 billion for MassHealth to cover end of year deficiencies; \$250 million for emergency housing; \$75 million for school districts impacted by special education tuition rate increases; \$15 million for disaster relief for municipalities impacted by storms and natural disasters

that occurred in 2023; funding to support collective bargaining agreements; and \$500,000 for the Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning Youth.

According to Senate President Karen Spilka’s office, “The Senate budget stipulates that a portion of the \$250 million for emergency housing be spent on community-based, broad, and individualized support services and resources so that individuals and families can address the complex issues and challenges they face, as well as reimbursements to school districts for increased enrollment costs associated with an influx of migrant students. It also authorizes a portion of the \$250 million to be spent to address costs associated with sheltering eligible families, as well as creating temporary emergency shelter sites.”

“Today the Senate took a bold step forward, and passed a supplemental budget that not only closes the books on fiscal year 2023, but also acts swiftly to meet the challenges of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that deserves our full attention, care and assistance,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “In addition, we allocated \$378 million to fully fund all ratified Collective Bargaining Agreements, dedicated \$15 million for climate change disaster relief and deposited \$100 million to fully pay down the pension liability from the 2015 Early Retirement Incentive Program.”

“I voted ‘no’ on the \$250 million that the Healey Administration requested for the migrant crisis,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “If we continue on this path, it will cost taxpayers \$1.2 billion this year alone with no end in sight. This will place substantial stress on other social safety net programs intended for Massachusetts residents.”

The House has already approved a different version of the budget and a conference committee will eventually hammer out a compromise version.

(A “Yes” vote is for the supplemental budget. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT (S 2502)

Senate 3-36, rejected an amendment that would amend the state’s Right to Shelter Law which requires the state to provide shelter and other necessities to homeless parents with young children, pregnant women and recently the many migrant families arriving in the Bay State. Homeless individuals are not covered by the Right to Shelter law.

The amendment would require that people provide proof

that they have lived in the state for at least one year to qualify for the program. It also exempts from the requirement a victim of domestic violence or a person whose living situation has been affected by a fire or other natural disaster that occurred in Massachusetts.

Amendment supporters said the current interpretation of residency in Massachusetts by the Healey administration is that the person can be in the state for a matter of minutes to qualify to get services.

“During today’s Senate session I proposed an amendment that would restore the residency requirement for the emergency shelter program here in Massachusetts,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman. “Unfortunately, the amendment was not adopted in the Senate. If we continue on this path and do not modify the state’s Right-to-Shelter Law, it will cost taxpayers \$1.2 billion this year alone with no end in sight, placing substantial stress on other social safety net programs intended for Massachusetts residents.”

“While apparently intended to address the migrant issue, the amendment, in my view, called for broader changes to a program that has been in place helping people for decades,” said opponent Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). “Such changes to a statute I believe need greater review than what the amendment process provided. Further, an amendment filed by Sen. Velis, which was adopted unanimously, provides an opportunity for that review.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the 1-year requirement. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No
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PHARMACEUTICAL ACCESS, COSTS AND TRANSPARENCY (S 2499)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that supporters say would make major changes and reforms to the state’s pharmaceutical system by “lowering the cost of drugs at the pharmacy counter and improving oversight of the pharmaceutical industry.”

“The Senate has made pharmaceutical cost containment and oversight a priority for a long time, and I’m proud that we’ve had the opportunity to pass this bill in three consecutive sessions, improving it as we learn more and more about the industry,” said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), Senate chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing. “While we are supportive of the work of the pharmaceutical industry, we also know that far too many Massachusetts residents are struggling to access life saving, essential medication due to outrageous and skyrocketing costs. [This legislation] will

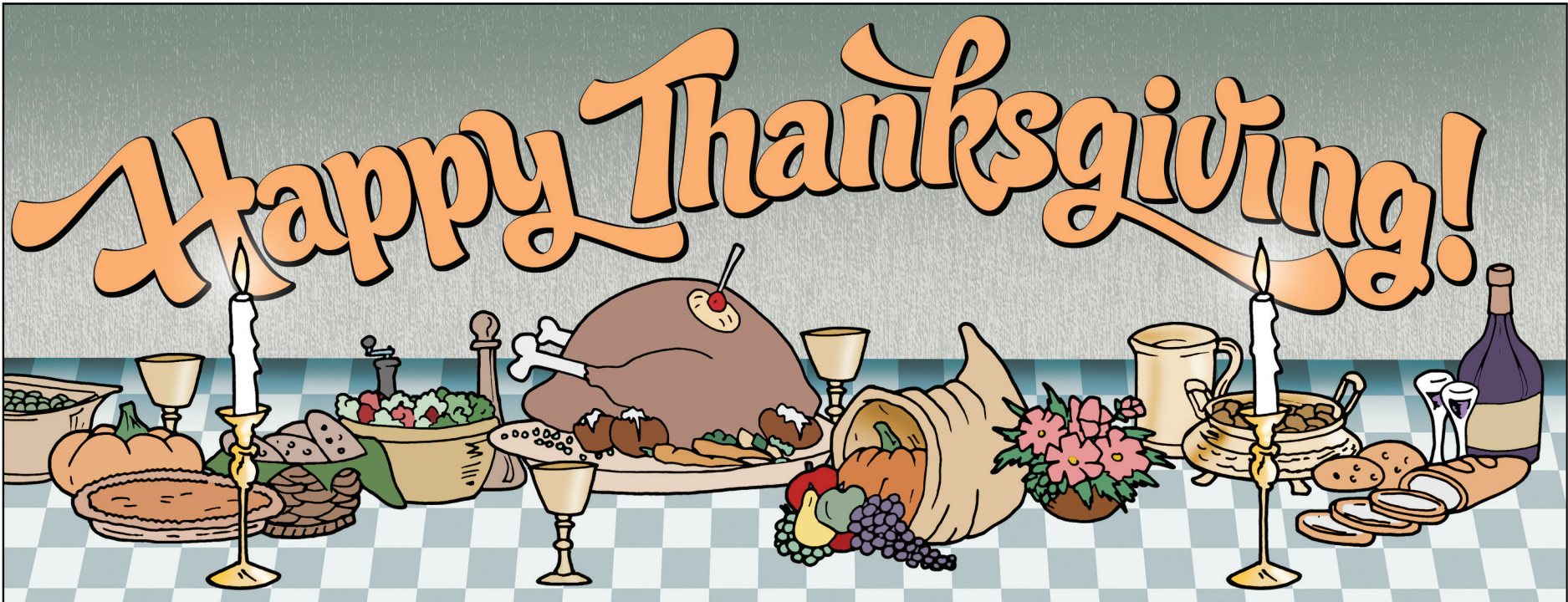
*Continued on page 17*



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

Our View Of The Times



Giving thanks for our blessings is normally an easy thing to do. We may often get caught up in the day-to-day trappings of scratching out a living, ducking misfortune, and seeking out an occasional highlight to add to our mental scrapbooks. Usually, though, we come around to feeling and expressing that special sense of appreciation and gratitude that comes in moments of quiet reflection just in time to

validate ourselves as worthy recipients of such blessings. Thanksgiving Day gives us that little nudge we sometimes need to take stock in what is most important for us and to share in the sense of appreciation that we feel amongst one another. Of course, for those of us who may be blessed with material abundance, it is also important to help the less fortunate who

may be in need as the winter holiday season unfolds. Consider giving a little of your time or money to make another's life a little better, particularly during the winter months to come. For those among who may be struggling to keep it all together, remember to look at what is good in life and remain faithful that change for the better is always waiting just around the corner.

Sadly, in spite of most people's best intentions, many in the Native American community bemoan the occasion as glossing over the troubled relationship their ancestors had with the "new world" settlers. Still, may this holiday provide a meeting ground for all of us. One in which we can share in the goodness of life and fellowship between us all. There's no better way to express our gratitude.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

4-mile turkey trot that takes place every year on Thanksgiving. **November 23, 9:00 a.m. in Davis Square.** Race proceeds benefit the **Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville High School Track team, Dilboy VFW Veterans' fund and Stride for Stride.** Advance registration is recommended as this event typically sells out. More details at <https://srr.org/gobble>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Fuel Assistance Program**, also known as the **Home Energy Assistance Program**, helps low-income households pay their winter heating bills **between November 1 and April 30.** Renters and

homeowners in Somerville are eligible to apply if they meet federal income guidelines. Learn more at [somervillema.gov/heatingassistance](http://somervillema.gov/heatingassistance).

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Fire Dept.** is happy to announce that as of Monday afternoon, the structural repairs to the **Teele Square Station** were completed and both Ladder 3 and Engine 6 are back inside the building.

\*\*\*\*\*

Join **Boston Women's Market** for a **Holiday Market** on **Saturday, November 25** and **Sunday, November 26** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at **Arts at the**

**Armory**, 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville. Shop for handmade gifts, jewelry, beauty, and more. BWM is a catalyst for women to create, innovate, and claim their power as entrepreneurs. More info on their website: <https://www.boston-womensmarket.com/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets on sale now for **Urban Waggle** on **Thursday, November 30, 6:00 p.m., at Arts at the Armory.** Urban Waggle is a live storytelling event in support of the mission and programs at the **Urban Bee Lab**, a registered non-profit organization. They choose to amplify voices from the Greater Boston area that may not oth-

erwise be heard. Audience members will leave feeling inspired, entertained, and more connected to one another through the uniquely human art of storytelling. More info here: <https://urbanbeelab.org/urbanwaggle>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is **your teen** looking to make some extra money? The city's **Snow Shoveling Program** is hiring youth to assist shoveling seniors and homeowners with disabilities out after snowstorms this winter. Teens and homeowners are paired for the season. After each storm, the homeowner will contact their assigned youth to request shoveling services. *Continued on page 23*



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's  
*Olio*  
#899

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What town is home to the Libby's pumpkin canning plant?

2. Where did the Pilgrims first land when arriving on America's shores?

3. How many places in the U.S. have the word "Pilgrim" in their name?

4. Where is the Pilgrim Monument located?

5. In what year did Adam Sandler release *The Thanksgiving Song*?

6. What U.S. President signed a joint resolution of Congress changing the national Thanksgiving Day from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday?
7. What was the the first balloon character in the Macy's day parade?

8. Who campaigned for Thanksgiving to be made a national holiday and wrote *Mary Had a Little Lamb*?

9. What is the name of the Native American tribe that shared the first Thanksgiving feast with the Pilgrims?

10. Who is the winner of the tradition of breaking the wishbone of a turkey?

11. What is Giving Tuesday?

12. When is Giving Tuesday?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Marie Curie's 100-year-old items are still radioactive.
2. A dentist invented the electric chair.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
THE 1980s

- ACROSS
1. "Heaven's on Fire" band

5. Setting of "Cheers" TV show

8. Derive

13. "I'm \_\_\_\_ you!"

14. Gas station brand

15. Affirmatives

16. Image in Orthodox Church

17. Robert Wagner or Stephanie Powers

18. Vote for H.W. Bush, e.g.

19. Weird Al's last name

21. Forum, pl.

22. Dog-\_\_\_\_ book

23. Clingy plant

24. Spiky succulent

27. Accumulates (2 words)

31. Turkish military leader

32. Consequence

35. Wintour of Vogue

36. Zoroaster follower

38. E in B.C.E.

39. #53 Down, third person singular

40. Do like exhaust pipe

41. Hertz' offering

43. Extra cost

44. Expert, in U.K. (2 words)

46. Ricky Martin's boy band

48. Arrival time acronym

49. Piano player Lee Curreri on "Fame"

51. Baltimore player

53. Mikhail Gorbachev's policy

- DOWN
1. Ornamental pond dweller

2. Deep black

3. Greek promenade

4. Shakespeare's output

5. Lou Reed's "Home of the \_\_\_\_"

6. Like thick smoke

7. Campus military org.

8. Attractive to look at

9. "Back to the Future" car

10. One on drugs

11. Cecum, pl.

12. Is, in Paris

14. "A horse is \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, of course, of course"

20. Resin-producing tree

23. Took the bait

24. Christopher Reeve's sartorial style in "Superman II"

25. Old World lizard

26. Indigenous person from Suriname or Guyana

27. Surveyor's map

28. Mix-up

29. Not married

30. Promenade in Spain

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15				
16					17				18				
	19			20					21				
			22					23					
24	25	26					27				28	29	30
31				32		33	34			35			
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40					41				42		43		
44				45					46		47		
			48				49	50					
	51	52				53					54	55	
56						57				58			59
60						61				62			
63						64				65			

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



# Friendsgiving Dinner at Mount Vernon Restaurant

On Tuesday, November 14, the Somerville Police Department and the Community Outreach, Help and Recovery (COHR) unit partnered with Autism Eats to host a very special Friendsgiving Dinner at Mount Vernon Restaurant.

Everyone had the opportunity to meet and greet their Public Safety Officers. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo stopped by for the festivities as well. Special guest, Sasha the Comfort Dog (@sasha\_hupd) from Harvard University also joined in the fun. Together, everyone enjoyed a judgement free relaxing meal with their loved ones.

Autism Eats is a non-profit organization that aims to provide families of children diagnosed with autism with an enjoyable night out with no judgement and low stress. Children with any developmental challenge are also welcome. To learn more about other Autism Eats events including special Holiday themed dinners, visit their website at: <https://www.autismeats.org/>

— Somerville Police Dept.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



## Stuffed Mushrooms

Whenever I ask what I can bring to a gathering, this particular appetizer is the most requested. I have made other recipes over the years for stuffed mushrooms, but have been disappointed with the stuffing coming out soggy. After multiple testings of my own recipe I finally came up with a combination where multiple textures are experienced, moist on the inside and crunchy on the top.

- Serves 6-8
- 2 Packages of white (stuffing mushrooms)
  - 1 Cup of seasoned bread crumbs
  - 1 1/2 Panko (Japanese) bread crumbs
  - 2 Cloves of finely minced garlic
  - 1/2 Cup of freshly grated Pecorino Romano Cheese
  - 3 Tablespoons dried parsley
  - 4 Tablespoons melted, unsalted butter

- 1/4 Cup of extra virgin olive oil
- 1/8 Teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
- Optional – White truffle oil for drizzling (Highly recommended this elevates the flavor to the next level.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Prepare the baking sheet(s) with foil and lightly oil the surface. Prepare the mushrooms by removing the stems and cleaning the outside with a damp paper towel. Mix all of the ingredients together in a medium sized bowl EXCEPT for the truffle oil. Now you're ready to stuff the mushrooms.

With a teaspoon, scoop some of the stuffing into the mushroom cavity. If the stuffing doesn't quite hold together, you can add a teaspoon or two of water to the stuffing mixture. Once all the mushrooms are stuffed and right before you put them in the oven, driz-



zle with the truffle oil. Just a couple of drops on each mushroom goes a long way. Bake for 15-20 minutes until slightly browned on top.

Here's the best part. You can pre-stuff your mushrooms the day before and refrigerate. Once you're ready to put them in the oven, drizzle with the truffle oil.

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



## LEGAL NOTICES

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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, 7th day of December, 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: **52 RUSSELL ST**  
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): CHURCH OF THE NAZERENE  
PARCEL ID: **026-E.00001-000000** TAX ACCOUNT: **09200276**  
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 840 (more or less)  
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 30474, Page: 551

This land is taken because taxes, as defined in Chapter 60, Section 43, assessed on the property to CHURCH OF THE NAZERENE for the fiscal year 2020, which were not paid within fourteen days after a demand for payment was made on July 16, 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	<b>\$2,148.45</b>
Interest to Date of Taking	<b>\$470.60</b>
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Total for which Land will be Taken</b>	<b>\$2,844.05</b>

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LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **0 BELMONT ST**  
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): SOMERVILLE HOSPITAL  
PARCEL ID: **043-C.00028-000000** TAX ACCOUNT: **09200059**  
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 16,200 (more or less)  
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 13953, Page: 155

This land is taken because taxes, as defined in Chapter 60, Section 43, assessed on the property to SOMERVILLE HOSPITAL for the fiscal year 2020, which were not paid within fourteen days after a demand for payment was made on July 16, 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	<b>\$93.00</b>
Interest to Date of Taking	<b>\$0.00</b>
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Total for which Land will be Taken</b>	<b>\$318.00</b>

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City of Somerville  
PLANNING BOARD

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, December 7, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJN-MwblzEnpQc-Fjr3hjlLrg>  
Webinar ID: 857-269-499

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 930-5321  
Access code: 851 8488 4625

The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

**2-4 Alpine Street** 2-4 Alpine Somerville, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story General building and establish a Household Living use in the Mid-Rise 4 zoning (MR4) district, which requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit for the Household Living use.

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](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

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Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on **12/13/2023 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Mariah Jordan unit #0171; Marki Lockery Gaffey unit #0791; Carl Esperance unit #318B; Cleston Jose Nunes/Orion Builders INC. unit #368MZ. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT: 10 POPLAR STREET,  
SOMERVILLE, MA

Commissioning & Start-Up Engineering

CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
Commissioning/Start-Up Engineering Firms

City of Somerville and its OPM, PMA Consultants, LLC are soliciting proposals for Independent Cx and Start-Up Engineering Scope.

Firm to work with the Owner, project engineer and CMR to develop and supervise the implementation of comprehensive building systems start up and testing for all systems/sub-systems included by not limited to electrical, HVAC and system components/major equipment sequence of operations for the entire storm water system. Project consists of 50 MGD Storm Water Pump Station, Storm Water Storage Tank, landscaping for public park and community gardens.

RFP will be available on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023** via [www.projectdog.com](http://www.projectdog.com); Projectdog Code #858851. Project being electronically bid.

Proposal submissions will be due **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 2PM**.

Project contact: Clark McCormick, email: [cmccormick@pmaconsultants.com](mailto:cmccormick@pmaconsultants.com), Cell: 781-910-6571.

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PHONE: 857-488-5138



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, December 5, 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](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tJN-PyH-T4zkQEWa7Xwu0qn0qA>

Webinar ID: 834 9108 9062

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**

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION)

HP23-000035– 69 Clarendon Avenue

Applicant: North America Development LLC  
Owner: Arindam Samanta and Leah M. Samanta  
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](mailto: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](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.

11/15/23 11/22/23 The Somerville Times

Ms. Cam's

From on page 8

Olío

Answers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Morton, Illinois  | 7. Felix the Cat   |
| 2. Provincetown Harbor, MA                                   | 8. Sarah Josepha Hale  |
| 3. Two, Pilgrim, Michigan and Pilgrim, Dade County, Missouri | 9. The Wampanoags  |
| 4. Provincetown, MA  | 10. The one who breaks off the bigger part wins                            |
| 5. 1992  | 11. International day at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season |
| 6. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1941                  | 12. Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the U.S.                                 |



LEGAL NOTICES

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BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING NOTICE  
City of Somerville

The City of Somerville’s Board of Health will meet to review potential changes to the Regulation of the Somerville Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Smoke Accessories.

Individuals from the public are welcomed to attend the meeting which will be held virtually at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 21, 2023** and will be accessible via the following link: <https://bit.ly/decboh>.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Adrienne Pomeroy, at [APomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:APomeroy@somervillema.gov).

The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at [www.somervillema.gov/ContactSomerviva](http://www.somervillema.gov/ContactSomerviva) or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.

All requests for accommodation should be made by the close of business on **Tuesday, December 19th, 2023**. General questions about the hearing should be directed to the Health and Human Services department at [kcarroll@somervillema.gov](mailto:kcarroll@somervillema.gov). Written comments will be accepted until **Thursday January 4, 2024** @ 7:30 p.m. and should be sent to the attention of Karin Carroll at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145 or via email to [kcarroll@somervillema.gov](mailto:kcarroll@somervillema.gov).

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council’s Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, December 7, 2023** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6eB-FjICR5mp2eAxyFebwA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6eB-FjICR5mp2eAxyFebwA)

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

- Councilor Pineda Neufeld proposes amending Section 7.2.7 of the Zoning Ordinances to add Shared Workspace & Arts Education to Table 7.2.7 Permitted Uses.
- Charles Zammuto requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 563-565 Broadway from Urban Residence (UR) to Mid-Rise 4 (MR4).

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council’s [online meeting calendar](#) for the address or item number.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to the Planning Board at [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov) and the City Council at [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov) no later than 12 Noon the day of the Hearing to ensure they are conveyed to the Committee.

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[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

Tufts University President Sunil Kumar to deliver Chamber dinner keynote

Tufts University President Sunil Kumar is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the Somerville Chamber’s Annual Dinner and Awards on November 30.

Dr. Kumar was a professor and senior associate dean for academic affairs, overseeing the MBA program at Stanford Graduate School of Business. He served as dean of the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business, where he also was a professor of operations management. In 2016, he became provost of Johns Hopkins University. On July 1, 2023 he became the 14th President of Tufts University.

Dr. Kumar, whose father was a police officer, was born and raised in India, graduating in 1990 with a bachelor’s in engineering from Mangalore University. He received a master’s degree in 1992 in computer science and automation from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1996.

The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 30th at the Holiday Inn, 30 Washington Street. Tickets are: \$125 per person for Chamber members, \$1000 per table of eight guests. Non-member tickets are \$175 per person, or \$1400 for a table of eight guests. Reservations are being accepted on the Chamber website <https://somervillechamber.org/> or by contacting Joanne Haley 617-776-4100, [joanne@somervillechamber.org](mailto:joanne@somervillechamber.org)



Somerville community encouraged to prepare now for upcoming snow season

CONT. FROM PG 5

neighborhood to know where to park ahead of winter weather.

Once a snow emergency is declared, residents will have four hours to move their car to the odd-numbered side of the street, or to municipal lots available for resident use during a snow emergency. Parking is not allowed in school lots during snow emergencies. Parking is also allowed at meters on the odd-numbered side of a street during a snow emergency, as long as there is no sign stating otherwise. Meters and time-parking rules are not enforced during snow emergencies. The city does not enforce an ordinance prohibiting cars from being parked in the same spot for more than 48 hours during snow emergencies.

Vehicles may be ticketed and towed if in violation of Snow Emergency parking rules.

Municipal Lot Parking

Municipal lots will be available for residents to park their cars during snow emergencies. Once the emergency is declared over, all cars must be moved from the lots within two hours.

For the 2023/24 snow season residents will be permitted to use the following lots. Please note that parking is NOT allowed in school lots during snow emergencies:

Municipal Buildings; City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.); All

metered municipal parking lots; Municipal Parking Lots; Buena Vista Lot, Buena Vista Road (via Holland St. or Meacham Rd.); Cutter Square Lot (Elm St./Summer St. at Cutter Ave.); Day Street Lot (Day St.); Dilboy Pool Lot (110 Alewife Brook Pkwy.); Foss Park Lot (Foss Park at Broadway); Grove Street Lot A (Grove St. at Highland Ave., referred to as "Rite Aid Lot"); Grove Street Lot B (Grove St. east side, between Highland Ave. & Elm St., "Grove Street Lot"); Magoun Square Lot (Broadway at Medford St.); Mount Vernon St. Lot (Broadway between Mount Vernon St. and Mt. Pleasant St.); Union Square Lot (Off Washington St., entrance at Washington St./Bonner Ave.); Founder’s Ice Arena (Rear - 581 Somerville Ave.); Winter Hill Lot A (Broadway & Wheatland, north side); Winter Hill Lot B (Broadway & Grant St., north side)

Snow Shoveling Support Program

The Somerville Youth Shoveling program, a paid opportunity for youth to help local seniors and homeowners with disabilities after a snowstorm, is returning for the 2023/24 snow season.

Seniors interested in signing up to receive the service should contact Debby Higgins at the Somerville Council on Aging by emailing

[dhiggins@somervillema.onmicro-soft.com](mailto:dhiggins@somervillema.onmicro-soft.com) or calling 617-625-6600 x 2321. Youth looking to sign up should contact Youth Services Coordinator Dan Harris by emailing [dharris@somervillema.gov](mailto:dharris@somervillema.gov) or calling 617-625-6600 x2406.

Snow Shoveling Requirements

Property owners are responsible for removing ice and snow from sidewalks and accessible ramps that abut their property. The city places buckets of sand where possible in neighborhoods that may be used to prevent slipping on your public walkways.

To comply with all city shoveling rules:

Sidewalks need to be cleared within six daylight hours after the snow stops.

Shovel a path at least 36 inches wide on sidewalks down to the pavement.

Do not shovel snow onto city streets unless the temperature is 40 degrees or higher, it is during daylight hours, and snow and ice are broken up and spread evenly on the street so they will melt quickly.

These rules apply to all snowfall, not just when a snow emergency is declared.

Failure to comply may result in increasing fines issued daily until the walkway is clear.

More information about the snow shoveling program will be shared in the coming weeks.



## 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.

## Somernova



By Chris Dwan

Somernova [1] — a subsidiary of Rafi Properties [2] — is applying for a zoning overlay under which they would demolish the low-slung industrial buildings along the railroad tracks between Market Basket and Park Street, replacing them with new buildings 9 to 16 stories tall — well beyond the four stories allowed by current zoning.

Rafi says they need the additional height to create space around the buildings for community amenities and a beautiful campus while still expanding their rentable square footage enough to justify the work. Their current proposal includes more than three acres of open space and a 25,000 square foot community center. It also includes a ludicrous 1,200 parking spaces, which they justify by pointing to the very same zoning that they are asking to change. In addition, the proposal lacks a sufficient commitment to our artistic and creative communities, who would be losing the admittedly limited protections afforded by the current fabrication zoning (see my previous piece on FAB [3] for more on that).

I think that the proposal could be a great thing for the city, but as presented it contains deal-breaking flaws.

**To the community:** Nothing is perfect, but this could be really great. Let's hear them out.

**To the City Council:** We should fix our zoning, citywide, remove parking minimums and create permanently affordable spaces for arts and creative enter-

prises everywhere.

To Rafi / Somernova: Cut the parking, commit to a startlingly huge arts campus, and I'll grit my teeth and live with the construction.

### The Pitch

Somernova laid out their initial pitch to the community several months ago in a glossy 468-page document [4] that couldn't seem to figure out what it wanted to be. The booklet spent untold pages on owner Collin Yip's passion project — a youth-focused community center that he calls "The Dojo." [5] It rambled for 85 pages before finally showing a massing diagram of high-rises towering over the neighborhood.

The development team has convened two community meetings, each a three-hour marathon attended by more than 100 people. Ward Councilor JT Scott hosted the first one in late September (video here [6]). The Union Square Neighborhood Council [7] co-hosted another meeting last Wednesday. At that latter meeting, we finally heard the business drivers that are pushing the scale and the timing of the project.

One of Somernova's anchor tenants, Form Energy [8], needs a global headquarters. Somernova wants to build it for them. Form got their start in Greentown Labs [9], and four of the five founders are Somerville residents. Form's needs are an example of the "tough tech" building specification. They need good power and cooling, high ceilings, sturdy floors, and not too many structural elements cluttering up the spaces.

The story resonates with how the current campus was originally built: American Tube Works (ATW) was founded in Somerville in the 1850s. They obtained a pair of patents for manufacturing 'seamless' (extruded, rather than rolled and welded) brass



The lights at the front entrance of City Hall are all either burned out or turned off.

and copper tubes, and went on to build the current campus between 1890 and 1920. The Ames Safety Envelope company bought up many of the buildings in the 1930s, and operated for nearly 80 years before closing in 2010.

There's a good story about Somerville businesses innovating and growing within the community. I have no idea why Somernova didn't lead with it.

### Alternatives

Of course, Rafi could build to current zoning "by right" without all this process. That would still be a massive years-long project of heavy construction. Instead of a spacious, human-scale campus we are told that they would create hulking four-story buildings to the lot lines, include tons of parking (still required under current zoning!), and provide limited benefits to the community.

In the extreme case, Rafi might even walk away entirely, leaving us with aging buildings under new ownership who are certain to be less community-minded.

It's a heavy hand, but it's what we're dealing with.

The fact that we have a developer who chose to get to know the community, asked our opinion, and is trying to invest billions of dollars to "co-create" something like this is a rare opportunity. Even so, we should still be willing to walk away from infra-

structure mistakes that will outlive all of us.

### My Deal Breakers

Much of my reticence on this project stems from the fact that the proposed construction will put mess, noise, dirt, and disruption on the scale of what we have seen in Union Square within two blocks of my home. It's a bit selfish, for sure, but that's real for me and it would be disingenuous to claim otherwise. It is certainly real for the people who live even closer to the site — along Taylor Street and by the tracks in Duck Village.

I suspect that I could grit my teeth and accept the construction if I was certain that the whole thing was not a catastrophic mistake.

There are two catastrophic mistakes on offer in the current proposal:

**Ludicrous Amounts of Parking:** The proposal includes 1,200 new parking spaces, which will lead to an estimated 5,000 additional automobile trips per day to and from the site. Beyond the fact that this plan is, on the face of it, unworkable (go on, drive Somerville Ave. at rush hour)—building a new car-centric campus in Somerville is wildly irresponsible. This site is a quarter mile from the new Union Square station and directly adjacent to train tracks that might someday

extend the Green Line to Porter Square.

The vast majority of the parking should be removed. Instead, Rafi should make specific commitments to support shuttles, micromobility, cyclists, and similar measures that will allow increased density while putting people, not cars, at the center.

The fact that our current zoning still requires this scale of parking is a mistake that the current city council would do well to fix.

**Not Enough Space for Art:** Our artistic and creative community is already being pushed out of the city, despite the good intentions of our Fabrication zoning. The proposal as written accelerates that loss. Venture firms, corporate incubators, and tech companies are muscling in to our FAB spaces and raising rents. FAB is clearly not enough.

I would like to see Somernova commit to a frankly breathtaking space that would be a permanently affordable home for our artistic and creative community. The model I have in mind is SOWA Boston [10], specifically the artist studios at 450 Harrison Ave. That building is about 100,000 square feet and is home to enough artists that they can host weekly open studio events and a month-long holiday market that draws visitors

Continued on page 19



# Robin Hood x food access beyond the holidays

Thanksgiving is a lavish feast for most people. But many go hungry on this holiday. As 1 in 3 Massachusetts households faces food insecurity, it is estimated that Bay Staters discard one million pounds of food per year. Food For Free – the Robin Hood of the Greater Boston emergency food system - is dedicated to evening out this disparity by picking up food that would otherwise go to waste and re-distributing it to those in need.

Food For Free is one of the oldest food rescue organizations in the nation. Founded by a group of volunteers in Cambridge in the 1980s, the nonprofit has grown over four decades to provide 6.25 million meals to 150,000 individuals in 27 Eastern Massachusetts communities annually. The organization acquires rescued, donated, and purchased food from several sources, including grocery stores, farms, universities, hospitals, and corporate dining facilities, and delivers it to emergency food programs, schools and colleges, youth programs, and other programs that reach food-insecure individuals.

"We are addressing twin problems -- food waste and food insecurity -- and that's something that affects everyone in every community," says Jessica Cantin, CEO of Food For Free. "If you've ever cooked a Thanksgiving dinner you know that there will always be leftovers, or a surplus in

this instance. Well, at Food For Free we work year-round to help ensure that no one needs to worry about where their next meal is coming from by creating partnerships and pathways to keep food out of landfills and bridge access gaps in local communities."

Please consider including Food For Free in your upcoming nonprofit roundup this holiday season. As the leading food rescue and distribution organization in the region continues to deepen its roots in the community in the year ahead, they have a continued need for volunteers and support to ensure everyone in the community – regardless of age, income, or ability – has consistent access to nutrition.

Area residents are at the heart of Food For Free's work and mission. Each week, nearly 200 volunteers roll up their sleeves at the nonprofit's Somerville facility and their kitchen at Biogen's headquarters in Kendall Square to curate tailored food boxes and pallets, deliver groceries, and package nutritious, microwavable meals to be transported to the organization's 111 distribution partners. Providing food that is familiar and that meets cultural and dietary needs is important to Food For Free as the organization works to reach underserved populations in the Eastern Massachusetts community.

Food For Free's impact has been felt by individuals, families,

school districts, and community centers across the region. To date in 2023, the nonprofit has:

- Rescued 17,000 lbs. of prepared food from dining halls and repackaged them into 44,000 single-serving frozen meals that are distributed to food-insecure populations through the Heat-n-Eats program.
- Distributed 70,200 grocery boxes and an additional 1,800,000 lbs. of bulk produce and shelf-stable food to community pantries and low-income housing sites through the nonprofit's Just Eats program.
- Provided 2,311 student families with Weekend Eats Carrot Cards, reloadable debit cards, to purchase food that allows families to purchase food they know and like, when and where they want.
- Partnered with 11 host sites in Cambridge and Somerville to host pop up pantry-style School Markets that had 8,700 visits for distribution of fresh produce and pantry staples.
- Delivered 7,082 grocery boxes to 387 low-income seniors and people with disabilities, bringing boxes of food right to their doorsteps through Food For Free's Healthy Eats program.

"Reducing food losses by just 15 percent would be enough food to feed more than 25 million Americans every year according to the Natural Resources Defense Council," says Cantin. "We need the public's support and partnership to do this work here."



Heat-n-Eats: Two community volunteers pose for a picture at Food For Free's Heat-n-Eats kitchen at Biogen in Kendall Square, where the nonprofit turns rescued prepared food into single-serve microwavable meals on October 19.



Healthy Eats: Akboti Saudabayeva of Food For Free delivers a Healthy Eats home delivery grocery box filled with fresh produce, proteins, and pantry foods to a Cambridge resident on September 15.



Just Eats: Corporate volunteers from Kymera Therapeutics add fresh produce and pantry foods to Just Eats grocery boxes along a production line at Food For Free's Packing & Distribution Center in Somerville on May 29.



School Markets: A community volunteer stocks a table laden with pantry foods for a Food For Free School Market at Winter Hill Community School in Somerville on July 12.



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# Brown Schoolyard ribbon cutting ceremony

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Superintendent Rubén Carmona invited the Somerville community to join a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Brown Schoolyard on Tuesday, November 14. New schoolyard features including ADA accessible surfaces, colorful court game markings, a small turf field, seating, garden beds, stormwater management

features to prevent puddling and flooding, and more were introduced to those who attended.

The Brown School is the oldest operating elementary school in Somerville and due to limited indoor assembly space, the school's community utilizes the schoolyard space for activities year-round. This upgrade is the schoolyard's first modern renovation.

Residents and school staff informed the design via a community-driven process. That input helped create a unique, accessible, and modern space for Brown School students and educators. Funding was provided by the Community Preservation Act, the federal American Rescue Plan Act, and the city bonding.

The ceremony began with remarks from Mayor Ballantyne, Ward 6 City Councilor Lance Davis, Somerville Public Schools Superintendent Carmona, and Ward 6 School Committee Member Ellenor Barish, among others. Following the ribbon cutting, guests were encouraged to explore the new schoolyard.

The ribbon cutting was recorded and made available for later viewing by the city's GovTV team. Watch on-demand with optional closed-captioning (select the CC icon) on YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV. Or watch on cable TV at GovTV Comcast Ch. 22 and GovTV Astound (RCN) Ch. 13 and 613.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner and the City of Somerville



## Make spirits bright by keeping small strong with local businesses in Union Square

Union Square Main Streets (USMS) and 30+ local businesses crank up the jolly for the 9th Annual Holiday Stroll featuring rad retail, unique eats, an incredible inflatable Festivus Village, the Stroll the Square Challenge, and much more. This free and family-friendly celebration makes spirits bright on Saturday, December 2 from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date 12/3) throughout Union Square in Somerville.

30+ local businesses entice customers to keep small strong with festive fares. Be sure not to miss the permanent jewelry pop-up and festive goody bag at Clementine Hair Studio; South American sweets and treats at Union Market; Panettone (Pan Dulce) empanadas at Buenas; local music showcases and teen-run raffles at Somernova; Winter Fest, featuring warm drinks & treats, crafts, and construction equipment for exploring at Boynton Yards; strolling carolers from Revels, among many other holiday happenings. Visitors can Stroll the Square with ease using FREE hop-on-hop-off shuttles thanks to Boynton Yards.

"For the 9th year, Union Square is getting dressed up with merry window displays, over the top inflatables, DJs, and carolers to make spirits bright this holiday season," said Jessica Eshleman, Executive Director of Union Square Main Streets who produces the Holiday Stroll. "Shopping local in our unique and spirited neighborhood offers something for everyone, naughty or nice, while keeping more of your dollars in Somerville – and small strong."

Three people who bundle up and come on down will win cash prizes, with winners announced on December 8. People who Stroll will score multiple chances to win \$100 when participating in these activities:

**Stroll the Square Challenge:** Stay loyal to local Union Square businesses by shopping, dining, and strolling. Pick up a stamp card at information booths on the Union Square Plaza and at Bow Market or Union Square Main Streets' Keeping Small Strong Street Team offices at 26 Union Square, or print at home, and collect stamps when visiting participating Union Square businesses during the Stroll. Return completed stamp cards, generously underwritten by Tiny Turns Paperie, at information booths or snap a photo of the card and send to [Stroll@unionsquaremain.org](mailto:Stroll@unionsquaremain.org). Multiple entries are encouraged.

**Visit incredible inflatables at the Festivus Village:** Snap an Elfie-Selfie, post and tag @unionsquarems & #LoveUnionSquare on social media for a chance to win one of three \$100 prizes. Thanks to Somernova, the chance to win is just a selfie away.

"Too often with the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, customers may look for what seems quick and convenient and overlook the importance of keeping it local," said Joe Carreiro, Somerville native and owner of participating business El Potro Mexican Bar & Grill. "The small shops, restaurants, retail and service providers who are our neighbors and friends...this is who we are and what we in Union Square are all about."

The 9th Annual Holiday Stroll is presented by Union Square Main Streets, Inc. and made possible by generous support from Tiny Turns Paperie, Boynton—Yards, a DLJ + Leggat McCall Project, SOMERNOVA, USQ, Play Union, Revels, Rockland Trust, and Thalia Tringo & Associates Real Estate.





## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

**Upcoming events:****Open Enrollment runs to December 7th.**

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.

**COA Holiday Luncheon** – Thursday, December 14th – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$10 per person. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Joel Light & Dan Moore-Cultural Series Event** – Thursday, November 30th starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Seasonal Holiday songs, Broadway tunes and familiar singalongs performed by Joel Light and Dan More with live piano music. Lunch and performance is brought to you at no cost by the Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Multicultural Meal Program, a City of Somerville, ARPA funded program. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-615-6600, ext. 2321.

**Multicultural Meals Program** – Congratulations to Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) who was the recent recipient of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding from the City of Somerville. SCES will use this funding to provide free, hot, lunches to Somerville's older adults at both the Holland Street Center and the Ralph and Jenny Senior Centers through June of 2024. Multicultural lunches will be catered by Somerville businesses and will be served at noon, following BINGO or Special Programming.

**Tuesday, November 28th** - Ralph & Jenny Center: Haitian - Highland Creole Cuisine.

**Thursday, November 30th** - Holland Street Center: Italian - Alfredo's Italian Kitchen.

All are welcome! Registration is required as space is limited. Please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. Grab and Go lunches are still available.

**Intergenerational Literacy Day** – Wednesday, November 29th at 11:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. The Somerville Council on Aging, the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative and SomerPromise invite parents and young children to a heartwarming gathering where generations will bond through shared

stories and books. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Knitting with Natasha Group** – Drop-in date Thursday, November 28th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are looking to learn how to knit, rekindle your love of knitting, or knit with others, join us for our new knitting group. Students can use this time to knit together, ask Natasha any questions or receive additional help. All supplies, including yarn and needles will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

**Bingo** – Tuesday at the Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. November 28th. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Game Hour** – Mondays from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center. Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

**Coffee & Conversation** – Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center. Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**General Nutrition Classes** – Virtual classes, via Zoom on Monday, November 27th at 11:00 a.m. In-person classes at Ralph & Jenny on Monday, November 27th at 12:30 p.m. New and returning members are welcome! To RSVP, please call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

**Virtual Yoga** – Tuesday, November 28th via Zoom starting at 3:00 p.m. Enjoy a meditative flow of stretching and strengthening postures. This class will use a chair for support in both seated and balance exercises. Join for mindful journey that will bring positive energy to your life. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

**Bowling** - Flatbread Company/Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square. Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – Free - RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**General Exercise Classes at the Holland Street Center** – Every Monday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Every Wednesday at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at

mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

**Virtual General Exercise Class** – Every Wednesday & Thursday with Michelle, at 1:00 p.m. Please email Michelle Deutsch at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov for the Zoom link. No classes on Thursday, November 9th or 23rd.

**Virtual Exercise, Strength and Balance**— Mondays with John at 1:00 p.m. Instructor, John Pecchia, will be leading a class geared towards gaining strength and stability through balance exercises. Please email John Pecchia at jrpecchia@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

**The Council on Aging will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.**

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Stay connected via our Facebook page** - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

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

**JOIN OUR MAILING LIST**

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov. If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program**

The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

provide necessary transparency and oversight measures, so that consumers can trust that this system is putting patients and their health before profits.”

“I am pleased the Senate has passed this crucial prescription drug legislation,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Healthcare is all about accessibility and affordability, and this reform-minded consumer focused bill will allow increased access to prescription drugs while also considerably driving down the cost of everyday medications.”

“Relief from prescription drug costs can’t wait when lives are at stake,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “I look forward to this bill getting signed into law so that residents and seniors who go to the pharmacy counter will finally pay less for the medications they use to stay alive and maintain their quality of life. This reform is in line with the Senate’s commitment to addressing affordability, equity and transparency and maintaining the commonwealth’s competitiveness as a place to live and work.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**4-DAY WORK WEEK PILOT PROGRAM (H 3849)**- The Labor and Workforce Development Committee held a hearing on legislation that would create a voluntary 4-day work week pilot program in the Bay State. Participating employers would transition employees to a 4-day work week without any reduction in pay in return for a tax credit administered by the Department of Revenue.

“Americans are overstressed and overworked,” said Rep. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth). The data shows that a 4-day work week creates a happier workforce, fuels company productivity and helps businesses attract top talent,” said co-sponsor Rep. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth). “This pilot program studies its efficacy in Massachusetts to determine whether the four-day work week could benefit commonwealth employees and businesses.”

“In this era of tight labor markets, we need to get creative to keep our economy growing,” said co-sponsor Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. “This bill creates new incentives for Massachusetts businesses to explore shifting to a 4-day work week which can offer a myriad of benefits, including boosting worker satisfaction and productivity, and reducing absenteeism and commuting time.”

“Our research with hundreds of companies and thousands of workers shows that a 4-day, 32-hour week with no reduction in pay not only yields tremendous well-be-

ing improvements for workers, but is highly beneficial for companies,” said Professor Juliet Schor, a leading supporter of the measure. “After trialing this model, a mere 6 percent are returning to the 5-day week. [This bill] will put Massachusetts on the map once again leading the nation, as we have done on same-sex marriage and climate.”

**PROHIBIT USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (H 477, S 245)** – A bill heard by the Education Committee would prohibit public schools from using an athletic team name, logo or mascot which is associated with Native Americans, or which denigrates any racial, ethnic, gender or religious group.

“In the past few years, the nation has seemed to finally come awake and recognize the hurt caused by racist mascots and imagery,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “This bill acknowledges the common humanity of all, corrects historical wrongs and addresses the profound psychological harm caused by perpetuating racist stereotypes — harm caused to both people who are of Native American heritage and those who are not.”

“I sponsored [the bill] because of the numerous conversations I’ve had with community leaders that have been doing the work to protect students in the commonwealth from the negative impacts of Native American mascots,” said House sponsor Rep. Brandy Fluker Oakley (D-Mattapan). “We know based on years of research, that these mascots lead to the perpetuation of negative stereotypes and psychological ramifications like lower self-esteem and diminished perceptions of community worth. This bill will prevent students from further psychosocial harm.”

**RENT CONTROL QUESTION WILL NOT APPEAR ON THE 2024 BALLOT** – It’s the end of this year’s campaign to put on the November 2024 ballot a question that would allow cities and towns the right to impose rent control, a practice which voters banned nearly 30 years ago on a 1994 ballot question.

Organizers announced that they will fall far short of the 74,574 signatures needed by November 22 to qualify for the ballot.

“While this isn’t the outcome we hoped for with our petition, I am more confident than ever that if given the opportunity to do so, Massachusetts voters will elect to lift the ban on rent control,” said long time rent control advocate Rep. Michael Connolly (D-Cambridge). “At this point, however, it makes sense to focus on Tuesday’s Statehouse hearing on rent control bills and other landlord-tenant matters.”

“Massachusetts property owners and renters should wake up this morning knowing that their futures are better off,” said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Mass Fiscal Alliance which opposes rent control. “Rep. Connolly’s potential ballot question would have done nothing but make life

more expensive and miserable for property owners and renters alike. Rent control does not work, it would only stop new housing development, particularly new affordable multi-family housing and put a complete halt in maintenance and upkeep.”

In the meantime, the focus now turns to Beacon Hill where the Housing Committee held a hearing last week on several pieces of rent control legislation.

“This is not an issue about the market,” testified Rep. Sam Montano (D-Jamaica Plain), a sponsor of one of several bills debated at the hearing. “This is not an issue about how we use capitalism. This is an issue about morals. Morally, we need to house people. That’s it. Doesn’t matter. People need homes, they need a warm place to sleep, they need a place to shower, they need a place to feel safe. And we are failing at providing that for people by allowing landlords to try to charge huge increases year to year and constantly displacing people.”

“Rent control reduces the supply of housing which drives rents up,” said Amir Shahsavari, vice president of the Small Property Owners Association. “It makes it more difficult for owners to keep up with rising operating costs, it leads to disrepair, and it makes it nearly impossible to remove non-complying tenants, not only to the detriment of owners and their properties, but also to the detriment of the other tenants who depend on us to provide them with safe, maintained living spaces.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“The MBTA is one of the oldest transit agencies in the country, and while there are a number of contributing factors, it’s clear that years of underinvestment have added to the cost of bringing our system back to a state of good repair.” — *MBTA General Manager Phil Eng following the release of the T’s report noting that it would take \$24.5 billion to fix nearly two-thirds of all MBTA that assets are not in a state of good repair.*

“This program invests federal funds to make Massachusetts communities safer and stronger. [It] allows towns and cities to identify their most pressing needs and direct funding to address those challenges. The ability of local public safety leaders to guide funds toward priority safety initiatives encourages a holistic approach to improving safety in communities with diverse needs.” — *Gov. Maura Healey announcing nearly \$5 million in federal funds awarded to 130 police departments across the state to address their communities’ unmet public safety priorities.*

“It’s chilling to learn what some of these toys can do. Smart toys can be useful, fun or educational, but Interacting with some of them can create frightening situations for too many families.” — *R.J. Cross, one of the authors of MASSPIRG Education Fund’s report which warns about the dangers of the smart devices surrounding kids including microphones, cameras, connectivity, location* Continued on page 19



GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

7:00 AM Cultural Capacity Forum  
8:05 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV  
9:00 AM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023  
9:16 AM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery  
9:32 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
10:00 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
11:10 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
11:31 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23  
3:00 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
4:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2  
4:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
6:00 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23  
7:30 PM Cultural Capacity Forum  
8:35 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
9:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
9:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
10:45 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 11-21-23  
7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy  
7:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23  
8:30 AM City Council Spotlight Ben Ewen-Campen  
9:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
9:30 AM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023  
10:00 AM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
10:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23  
12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
12:30 PM City Council Meeting 11-21-23  
4:00 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
4:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
5:00 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023  
5:30 PM Cultural Capacity Forum  
6:35 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
7:00 PM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023  
7:30 PM HONK! Parade  
8:00 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23

11:00 PM Reavis Field Ribbon Cutting  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
12:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
1:00 AM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023  
2:40 AM Union Sq Plaza Ribbon Cutting  
7:00 AM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
7:20 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV  
8:03 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips

8:31 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
9:00 AM Historic Bicycle Ride  
9:30 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
10:10 AM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023  
10:30 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
11:00 AM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
11:30 AM City Council Spotlight Ben Ewen-Campen  
12:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
12:30 PM Cultural Capacity Forum  
2:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
2:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23  
3:30 PM HONK! Parade  
4:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
5:30 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington  
7:01 PM Cultural Capacity Forum  
8:10 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
8:30 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
9:00 PM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery  
9:15 PM Somerville Civic Day: If I Were Mayor  
9:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
10:00 PM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023  
10:30 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
11:10 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
11:30 PM City Council Spotlight Ben Ewen-Campen

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

12:00 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
1:06 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
1:30 AM Cultural Capacity Forum  
7:00 AM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery  
7:15 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I  
8:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
9:00 AM Historic Bicycle Ride  
9:30 AM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23  
12:00 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All

12:30 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
1:08 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
1:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
2:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum  
3:30 PM HONK! Parade  
4:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2  
5:00 PM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23  
8:00 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington  
9:31 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
10:00 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023  
10:16 PM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery  
10:32 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
11:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:05 AM City Council Meeting 11-21-23  
7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy  
7:30 AM HONK! Parade  
8:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
8:40 AM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
9:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
9:30 AM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023  
10:00 AM Historic Bicycle Ride  
10:30 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
12:30 PM City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting Santa Visit 2022  
1:00 PM City Hall Menorah Lighting  
1:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
2:00 PM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23  
4:30 PM Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant  
5:00 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
5:30 PM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023  
6:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
6:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
12:30 AM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023  
1:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
2:00 AM Union Sq. Walking Tour  
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II  
8:00 AM HONK! Parade  
8:30 AM Historic Bicycle Ride

9:00 AM Cultural Capacity Forum  
10:05 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
10:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
11:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23  
12:00 PM City Council Meeting 11-21-23  
4:30 PM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy  
5:00 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
6:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
7:06 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
7:30 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023  
8:00 PM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23  
10:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
11:00 PM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023  
11:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

12:00 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
1:10 AM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
1:30 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III  
7:45 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
9:00 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
10:10 AM Reavis Field Ribbon Cutting  
11:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023  
11:40 AM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery  
12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
12:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
1:00 PM Historic Bicycle Ride  
1:30 PM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023  
3:10 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All  
4:00 PM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV  
5:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23  
6:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum  
7:05 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating  
7:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America  
8:40 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
10:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
10:30 PM Cultural Capacity Forum

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23  
3:00 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:00 AM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
9:00 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
9:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
10:00 AM SHS Football vs Boston English  
12:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Brockton  
2:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Billerica 11-3-23  
4:00 PM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
5:00 PM Scrapheap Showdown 2023  
5:30 PM Kennedy School 1st Gr 1998 Thanksgiving Play  
6:00 PM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
7:00 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
7:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
8:00 PM SHS Football vs Boston English  
10:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Brockton

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

12:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Billerica 11-3-23  
2:00 AM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
3:00 AM Scrapheap Showdown 2023  
3:30 AM Kennedy School 1st Gr 1998 Thanksgiving Play  
8:00 AM Kennedy School 1st Gr 1998 Thanksgiving Play  
8:30 AM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
9:30 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
10:00 AM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
11:00 AM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
1:00 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-25-21

3:00 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge 2019  
5:05 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge 11-21-18  
8:00 PM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
9:00 PM Kennedy School 1st Gr 1998 Thanksgiving Play  
9:30 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

12:00 AM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
1:00 AM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
8:00 AM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
9:00 AM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
11:30 AM SHS Football vs Boston English  
1:00 PM Scrapheap Showdown 2023  
2:00 PM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
3:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Revere  
4:30 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Haverhill  
6:30 PM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
7:30 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
10:00 PM SHS Football vs Boston English  
11:33 PM Scrapheap Showdown 2023

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

12:30 AM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
1:30 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Revere  
3:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Haverhill  
8:00 AM SHS Boys Soccer vs Chelsea  
9:30 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Medford  
11:02 AM Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville  
1:00 PM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
2:00 PM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
3:00 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
5:00 PM SHS Football vs Boston English  
7:00 PM SHS Boys Soccer vs Chelsea  
8:30 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Medford  
10:02 PM Songs & Stories from Tbilisi &

Somerville

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:00 AM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
1:00 AM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
2:00 AM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
8:00 AM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
9:00 AM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
11:00 AM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
12:00 PM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
1:00 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
1:30 PM WSNS Playground Ribbon Cutting  
2:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech  
4:00 PM SHS Football vs Boston English  
6:00 PM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
7:00 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
9:00 PM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
10:00 PM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
11:00 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
11:30 PM WSNS Playground Ribbon Cutting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

12:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech  
2:00 AM SHS Football vs Boston English  
8:00 AM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
9:00 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
9:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
10:00 AM SHS Football vs Boston English  
12:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech  
2:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Billerica 11-3-23  
4:00 PM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship

5:00 PM Scrapheap Showdown 2023  
5:30 PM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
7:00 PM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett  
8:00 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
8:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
9:00 PM SHS Football vs Boston English  
11:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

1:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Billerica 11-3-23  
3:00 AM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
4:00 AM Scrapheap Showdown 2023  
4:30 AM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
8:00 AM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
9:00 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
9:30 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
10:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech  
12:00 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
2:00 PM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden Catholic  
4:00 PM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
5:00 PM Scrapheap Showdown 2023  
6:00 PM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023  
7:00 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips  
7:30 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting  
8:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech  
10:00 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge  
12:00 AM SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden Catholic  
2:00 AM 2023 GBL Cross Country Championship  
3:00 AM Scrapheap Showdown 2023



# December service changes will allow crews to continue improvement work across MBTA System

The MBTA has announced service changes in December on the Green, Orange, Silver, and Newburyport/Rockport Commuter Rail lines. The MBTA will continue working to improve service reliability across the system.

Evening Green Line trains on both Green Line Extension (GLX) branches between North Station and Union Square Station as well as Medford/Tufts station will be suspended beginning at approximately 8:45 PM through the end of service every day from November 27-December 10, 2023.

Accessible shuttle bus service will replace trains between North Station and Medford/Tufts station.

Train service between Lechmere and Union Square Stations will be suspended. Green Line Union Square branch riders are instead encouraged to consider alternative routes, including the 86, 91, and CT2 bus routes between Union Square and East Somerville Station on the Medford Branch. These bus routes also travel to Sullivan Square Station on the Orange Line. In addition, Route 87 travels between Union Square and Lechmere Station.

GLX riders should also note that shuttle buses will replace Green Line trains between Lechmere and North Station all day from start to end of service on December 4 and December 5. More details are below.

This service change is in place while crews perform critical track work that alleviates current tight gauge conditions. Additionally, crews will perform track work on the Lechmere Viaduct.

As previously announced, Green Line service will be suspended all day from start to end of service from Monday, November 27, through Sunday, December 3, on the B branch between North Station and Babcock Street Station, on the E branch between North Station and Heath Street Station, and on the C and D branches between North Station and Kenmore station. Additionally, all day from start to end of service on December 4-5, the Green Line service change will be extended to Lechmere. This service change is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement Plan and will accommodate structural repairs at Boylston Station, track reconstruction throughout the Green Line underground central subway, and work to alleviate a speed restriction on Commonwealth Avenue in Allston. A page with dedicated information for riders will be available soon at [mbta.com/GreenLine](https://mbta.com/GreenLine).



## Beacon Hill Roll CallCONT. FROM PG 17

trackers, poor security as well as several low-tech threats, including water beads, button batteries and recalled and counterfeit toys for sale.

“With over 130,000 signatures, the public’s voice is loud and clear: They stand with educators against high-stakes testing. Our stance against an accountability system solely based on high-stakes testing resonates with the community, highlighting the need for change in how we evaluate student achievement. It’s time to move past a 30-year-old system that narrows learning and fails to address diverse student needs.” — *Massachusetts Teachers Association President Max Page on the collection of more than 130,000 signatures which, if certified, will place a question on the 2024 ballot ending the controversial graduation requirement tied to the MCAS exam.*

**HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?**  
*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions. During the week of November 13-17, the House met for a total of 14 hours and five minutes while the Senate met for a total of 23

hours and 29 minutes.	
Mon. Nov. 13	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:27 a.m. Senate 11:19 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Tues. Nov. 14	No House session Senate 11:08 a.m. to 8:11 p.m
Wed. Mon. 15	House 11:03 a.m. to 12:42 a.m. Senate 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Thurs. Nov. 16	No House session No Senate session
Fri. Nov. 17	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)

## SomernovaCONT. FROM PG 12

from across New England.  
A hundred thousand square feet is a mere 5% of this proposal. We should double that to 10% — 200,000 square feet for the arts. I would include the 25,000 square feet allocated for the community center, AKA the Dojo 2.0, in that total.

To the council again: We would do well to put this sort of requirement in place for all commercial zoning, similar to how we require that 20% of the units be affordable at a certain scale of residential development. If we had done that a decade ago, we would be build-

ing a very different – and better – Assembly Row and Union Square.  
**To the community:** We can’t have everything, but this could be pretty good.  
**To Somernova:** What do you say?

**Links:**  
[1] <https://somernova.com/>  
[2] <https://rafiproperties.com/>  
[3] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-and-fabrication-districts-1dccd94f1d7c>  
[4] <https://www.somernova.community/vision>  
[5] <https://somernova.com/dojo/>  
[6] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5K4CUzphzXQ>  
[7] <https://sites.google.com/view/usnc>  
[8] <https://formenergy.com/>  
[9] <https://greentownlabs.com/>  
[10] <https://www.sowaboston.com/>



## Glen Park Community Garden expansion groundbreaking ceremony



The City of Somerville kicked-off the construction of the Glen Park Community Garden expansion on Monday, November 20. Area residents and others joined Mayor Katjana Ballantyne in celebrating more inclusive access to community gardening amenities in Somerville.

This project began in 2017 with the acquisition of a residential property with the intention of expanding the existing community garden at Glen Park. After demolishing the house, completing design, and hiring a contractor, they are now ready to begin construction.

The new garden will feature 18 raised beds with different levels of accessibility (including accessible beds for gardeners in a wheelchair), a new shed, new spigots, and a renovated gathering area outside of the garden.

Support and funding come from the Community Preservation Commission with funds from the Community Preservation Act and the Community Development Block Grant Program. — Photo courtesy of the City of Somerville

## Somerville through the eyes of Denise



A serious case of holiday confusion...

— Photo by Denise Provost

### BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What kind of music do Pilgrims listen to?  
Plymouth rock

**The "Original"**  
**All Types Vent Cleaning**  
Restaurant Hood Cleaning  
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning  
Power Washing  
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## On This Day in History November 22

1542 – New laws are passed in Spain giving Indians in America protection against enslavement.

1847 – In New York, the Astor Place Opera House, is opened.

1919 – A Labor conference committee in the United States urges an eight-hour workday and a 48-hour week.

1935 – Pan Am inaugurates the first transpacific airmail service from San Francisco to Manila.

1942 – Soviet troops surround the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad.

1948 – Ho Chi Minh's Democratic Republic of Vietnam requests admittance to the UN.

1963 – Lee Harvey Oswald assassinates President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas.

1995 – Premier of the first feature-length film created entirely with computer generated imagery, *Toy Story*.

2008 – Hamas and Israel begin a cease-fire following eight days of violence and 150 deaths.



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## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Somerville Found Artist Martha Friend: Brings obscurity to the light of day

I have heard about Somerville artist Martha Friend and her expansive "found" projects for a while now. So I decided to contact for an interview.

**Doug Holder:** First off, how has it been for you as an artist to live in Somerville?

**Martha Friend:** I moved to Somerville almost 50 years ago when I was in college, and I never left. A big part of the reason I think I never left was that the funky, arty, slightly eccentric, and accepting atmosphere, that I always found in Somerville. It sustained me and ultimately it felt like home. After my husband and I had three kids and had outgrown our apartment we looked around a bit for a bigger place. We looked in Arlington and other neighboring towns, but realized pretty quickly that we belonged in Somerville.

**DH:** You are a "Found" artist. We could also say you are a lost and found artist. You bring things back from obscurity to the light of day. Do you have an emotional connection to these found items, for in a sense you saved them.

**MF:** Yes, I feel connected to old and discarded items, especially worn, antiquey, things you might find in an old Country barn. I grew up in a small town in NH with farmers as parents and a pile of siblings- my parents reused everything, nothing ever got wasted. Scouring old farm dumps and barn sales is like looking for hidden treasure. So fun.

**DH:** You were a professional photographer, and this informs your work. Do you still envision your work with a camera's lens?

**MF:** Yes, sort of. Photography is always about



framing the scene to include just what you need and nothing more. Photography is ubiquitous these days with cell phones, and I'm always saying to myself "crop that image! Get rid of all that extraneous stuff!" Editing is important. I learned that with photography.

**DH:** You have had installations on your own property in Somerville. How do your neighbors feel about this? Where else are your installations?

**MF:** My neighbors in Somerville are great, really. They're very appreciative. Passersby only compliment me, never criticize. If people don't like what I'm doing, they're keeping it to themselves, which I like. "The kids love it." My installations are family friendly – why not? I have some inside installations which people don't generally get to see, and I'm always trying to figure out how to change that without opening my home as a "real" museum. I travel quite a bit, have a beautiful grandson, don't want to get tied down to running a museum. Any ideas?

**DH:** If you had a mission statement what would that be?

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## Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Tom Driscoll is a poet, columnist, and essayist. He lives in Lowell, Massachusetts with his wife, artist Denise Driscoll. *The Champion of Doubt* was published in the summer 2023 from Finishing Line Press. Previously, he had released several collections of poetry, including *Odd Numbers* and *Absence Singing* as well as a volume of song lyrics, *Songs For All The Wrong Reasons* and *Personal Histories* a collection of short prose. Tom's poem *Duty Leave Home* won the Robert P. Collén Poetry Prize in 2017. *Notes on Demolition* was selected an Editor's Choice for the Allen Ginsberg Prize and *This isn't the first time* received Third Place in The Frank O'Hara Prize, both in 2021.



### Paul

Yeah, I've missed a couple of meetings lately.  
He stops a shiver, half-gestures  
a laugh at his own expense as he lifts the blunt  
cupped in his hand toward me in offer.  
I missed Addicts Group today, too —you can see  
how well that one's going —smoke?

I tell him I'm already dull-witted and paranoid  
enough without the assistance, thank you.  
He smiles, takes in a long deep drag.  
I'm still working on that, he says, closes his eyes, leans back  
and I worry he's mistaken my self-deprecation for insult.  
Maybe I should go, maybe he's embarrassed  
—found out, failing.

What I thought I knew about Paul, I'd taken from the book  
he was trying to write about a man in mid-life, a man puzzled  
by his own sadness, mulling his gripes and griefs,  
something strangely stinging in how he loved, was loved.  
The relationship between the novel's protagonist and daughter  
character

—one could tell Paul actually had a daughter.

This park bench faces the river rolling by. When I  
read Paul my poem  
a few weeks back, the one about the cormorant dry-  
ing its wings  
in a yogin's tree pose out there on a rock, he told me  
he knew just the rock I was talking about.

You, you always try for somewhere slow and easy, but  
me

—me, I'm calling from between a rock and a hard place,  
my very own Scylla and Charybdis  
—or maybe it's Laverne and Shirley —see how my  
head works

—less taste —great filling

—that noise —my mind—the language, not the story,  
not—

I don't know, really, I don't.

But there might be something—trying.

He's leaned forward now, opened his eyes, his beet  
red eyes.

The two of us watch the water a while, wordless.

— Tom Driscoll



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Somerville teens ages 14 to 19 are welcome to apply. Learn more and apply at [somervillema.gov/shoveling](https://somervillema.gov/shoveling). Looking for snow shoveling services? Contact **Debby Higgins** at [dhiggings@somervillema.gov](mailto:dhiggings@somervillema.gov).

Last month the **Somerville Council on Aging** launched a community survey in partnership with **UMASS Boston** to better understand the needs of Somerville residents age 60+ to improve programs and services provided. The survey is now open until **Friday, December 1**. Take the survey online, over the phone, or print and submit a paper copy. Learn more at [somervillema.gov/coa](https://somervillema.gov/coa).

A celebration of **Union Square** sparkle, discovery, and delight that is sure to jumpstart your holiday shopping and get you exploring all that the Square has to offer. Make your way to Union Square in Somerville on **Saturday, December 2** from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date December 3) for the **9th Annual Holiday Stroll**. Revel in this festive neighborhood tradition and enter to win cash prizes by conquering the Elfie Selfie and Stroll the Square Challenges while enjoying unique eats and rad retail around the Square. Participating businesses are sure to make the Square shine with the return of the splendid Storefront Decoration Contest. And don't forget about the incredible inflatables on the Festivus Trail. Dozens of locally-owned businesses await with all you need to stuff your stockings, deck your halls, make your tastebuds celebrate, and more. Bundle up and come on down to unwrap Union Square in all its wintry wonderment.

**Wreath sales** have begun. Buy a wreath from the **Next Wave / Full Circle Annual Wreath Fundraiser** (donations welcome). Wreath pickup for the community at NW/FC on **November 28 and 29** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. (There will be no tree lot this year.) Wreaths sold to staff

members will be delivered to schools. The cost is \$25. To order, go to the Somerville Public Schools Facebook page.

Take steps to protect yourself and loved ones against **COVID-19**. Somerville's Health and Human Services department is hosting a series of COVID-19 booster (Moderna) vaccine clinics in **November and throughout December** at locations across the city. Vaccines are available for community members age 6 months and older. Register for a vaccine clinic at [somervillema.gov/vaccines](https://somervillema.gov/vaccines).

Experience the bursts of colorful hues in the **Somerville Arts Council's** latest exhibit, **Art in Bloom: Works by Alison Drasner**, at the **Inside-Out Gallery** in the CVS window in Davis Square. As a designer and painter to stalwart community member, Alison Drasner is an active participant in the local cultural art scene in Somerville. To learn more about Alison go to [somervilleartscouncil.org/insideout/drasner](https://somervilleartscouncil.org/insideout/drasner).

Share your thoughts about **school food**. Fill out the **Somerville Food and Nutrition Services Department Survey**. Help them develop menus, education curriculum, and communication plans for the next three to five years. Find the survey in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole on the FNSD website: [somerville.k12.ma.us/fnsd](https://somerville.k12.ma.us/fnsd).

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** is turning 30. Record a memory from the comfort of your own home or from anywhere on your mobile device. [bit.ly/gc-30](https://bit.ly/gc-30).

**East Somerville Main Streets' Cozy Holiday Market** invites you to savor a warm drink while exploring a variety of artisans, materials, and charming supplies to prepare for the winter ahead. Gather with friends, family, and even

bring your pets to relish in the cozy atmosphere. Unearth that festive, ugly sweater from the back of your closet and capture memorable moments with Santa. Embrace the joy of the season and have fun at our cozy market. **Friday, December 8**, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., 15 Garfield Ave., Somerville.

In preparation for the cold months ahead, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is in urgent need of **winter clothing and apparel** to keep their clients warm and safe. Donations of socks, hats, jackets, hand warmers, sweatpants, and more will go a long way towards keeping the most vulnerable clients protected against the unpredictable New England weather. All donations can be dropped off at their **Engagement Center** located at 1 Davis Square, Somerville between Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed each day from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. Help keep our neighbors safe this winter.

Call for new **Nibble** culinary entrepreneurs for **Winter 2024 workshop series**. Application deadline: **December 18**. For more information and to fill out an application, go to: <https://nibblesomerville.com/culinary-entrepreneurship>.

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](https://somerville.mysticdrains.org).

**Somerville Public Schools Winter Sports registration** is now open for both

middle grades and high school athletes. Learn more and register for middle grades sports: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/mgathletics>. Learn more and register for high school sports: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/teams>.

The **Center for the Arts at the Armory** offers a weekly winter market with 71+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. Visit the **Somerville Winter Farmers Market on Saturdays**, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., 191 Highland Ave. **November 4 – April 6**, except 11/25 & 12/30.

Visit the **Blue: The Celebration of a Color** exhibit at the **Somerville Museum, through December 2**, 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](https://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

**MF:** Hmmm ... ok, different than an artist's statement. (I have one of those on my website: [marthafriend.com](https://marthafriend.com))

My original mission when I retired from public school teaching nine years ago was to build something that was big and complex enough that it would engage me fully for a few months. I had missed making art while working full time and raising kids etc. I built Emerald City that

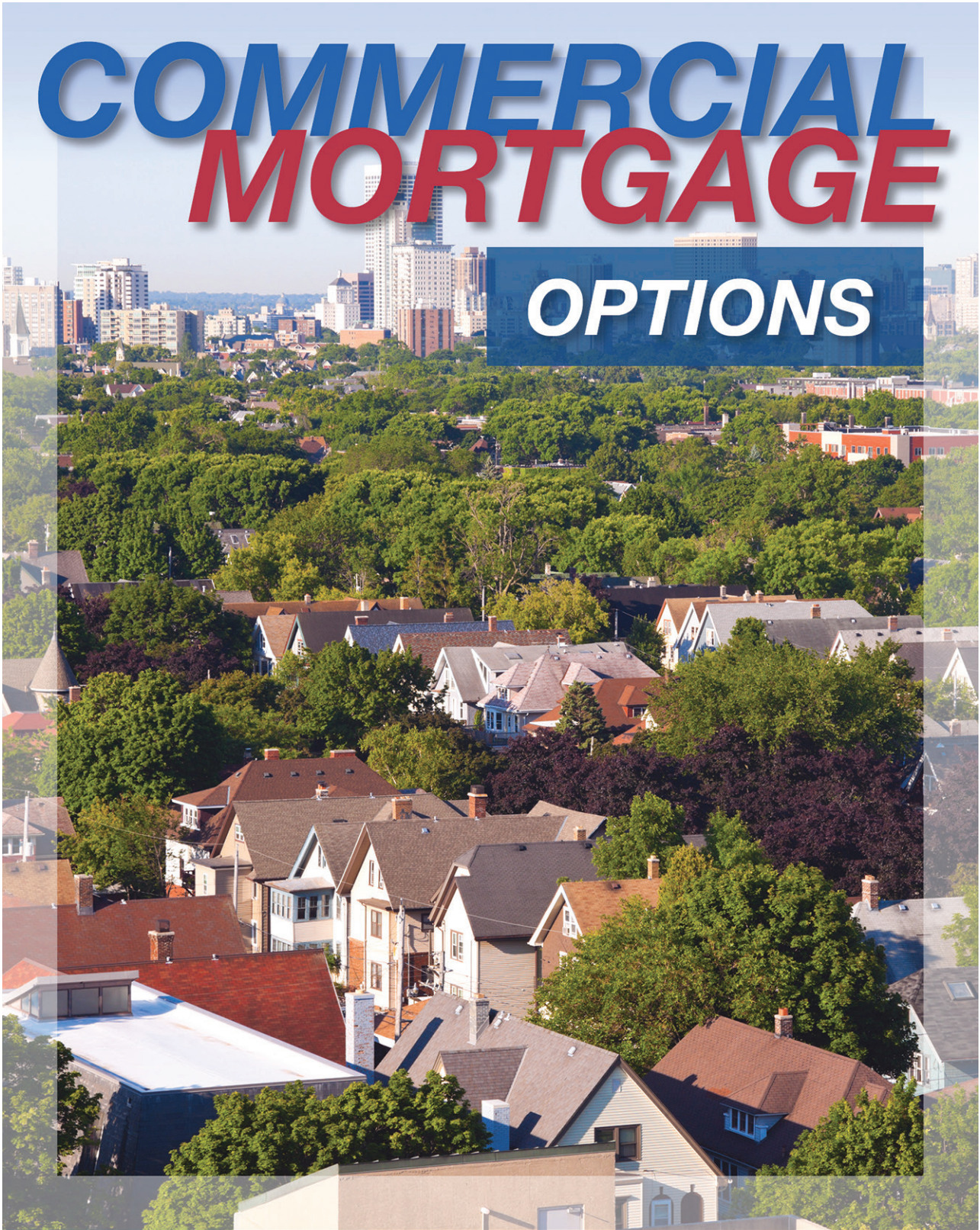
summer, and it was pretty much ALL I DID that summer – SO FUN! Folks loved it, so I built Sapphire City and the Tiny Museum. I was hooked on making people happy I guess, after that. The public really seems to enjoy what I make, and it's gratifying and fun. I feel creative and feel challenged to invent new ideas. My mission at the moment: to use ordinary objects and new creative ideas to

create works that all kinds of people, artsy types or not, can enjoy and appreciate and perhaps feel inspired by. Art is everywhere, it doesn't need to be complicated or obtuse, and can bring everyone some joy.

For more info about Martha go to <http://www.marthafriend.com>



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