



Inside:



Thanksgiving Memories

page 3



Thanksgiving with the mayor

pages 12-13



Fall sports roundup

pages 18-19

After saving the Community Meal, Connexion sees demand increase

By C. Scott Morris

They didn't miss a week.

When the Come to the Table Community Meal almost faltered last year, Connexion took it over, finding new ways to fund and enhance the East Somerville-based program.

Now the program is fully funded for another year thanks to \$50,000 from the City of Somerville's Community Benefits Stabilization Fund.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announced the decision on Nov. 17, directing nearly a million dollars to address food insecurity, according to a press release. The city made the decision in response to SNAP changes and diminishing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, which sustained the Come to the Table Community Meal during

Continued on page 4



From left: Mary Cassesso, Brendan Webb, Timely Johnson, and Reverend Jordan Harris host the Come to the Table Community Meal in Somerville, MA, Nov. 12, 2025.

— Photo by Christopher Morris. Copyright 2025 Christopher Morris.

Barcode Journeys

A Somerville artist's obsession with barcodes

If you are looking for a family outing everyone can enjoy this Thanksgiving weekend, don't miss the final weeks of Barcode Journeys, a whimsical, contemplative, and easily accessible art exhibition, just around the corner at Somerville Museum (through December 6).

Curated by Somerville artist Barbara Jo, fourteen local and international artists explore the pervasiveness of barcodes in our daily lives—discovering the humor, awe, meaning, and aesthetics in our coexistence with barcodes, algorithms, and AI, ultimately asking what it means to stay human.

There is a little something for everyone of all ages here: a suite of stunning contemporary pieces exhibited in this charming 19th century building; the 'ner forgotten history of the barcode on the Boston to Maine rail line and roots here MA; *Continued on page 15*



Barcode Journeys featured at Somerville Museum, Fall 2025.



BUSINESS BANKING

With a complete line of Online and Mobile Banking Services Business Banking is Better than Ever!

Let's Do Business

Contact Peter Majane at 781-443-5148 or pamajane@winterhillbank.com



Learn more at winterhillbank.com



INTRODUCING
Mobile Deposit*
SNAP, TAP & Go! Banking Made Easy
Save yourself a trip to the bank
✓ Make check deposits 24/7 from anywhere
✓ Quick, Convenient, Secure



617-666-8600 | 800-444-4300 | winterhillbank.com

*Mobile Deposit is subject to eligibility requirements, and is available only for checking accounts. Deposits are subject to verification, not available for immediate withdrawal and limits and restrictions apply. There may be charges for data usage by your cellular provider.

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

T.J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

625-9877

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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 27, and Friday, November 28, for Thanksgiving. **Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection** will be delayed by one day. **The Council on Aging** will be closed on November 27 and Friday, November 28, in observance of Thanksgiving.

The Somerville varsity football game vs. Cambridge Rindge and Latin (Cambridge, MA) takes place on **Thursday, November 27, Cambridge-Russell Field, 335 Rindge Ave., Cambridge.**

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Jason Fucile**. We wish Jason the very best birthday. Happy Birthday to **Peter Forcellese**. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to **Lisa Hastings**, celebrating her birthday this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Mary McGuire, Julie Adelsberger, Gamal Elfouly, Brian Kirk, Kim Volz, Joseph Di Pietro, Nancy Robinson Faulkner, Lee Grassia Anderson, and Dorothy Dervishian O'Malley** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The **29th Gobble Gobble** race takes place on **Thursday, November 27, at 9 a.m.** Presented by the Somerville *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 26 – December 2 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>November 26</i>	Rain	58°/41°	38%	22%	SSW 11 mph
Thursday <i>November 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	48°/33°	3%	1%	WSW 12 mph
Friday <i>November 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	40°/31°	1%	1%	SW 17 mph
Saturday <i>November 29</i>	Sunny	39°/28°	1%	1%	WNW 13 mph
Sunday <i>November 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	44°/36°	22%	13%	SW 9 mph
Monday <i>December 1</i>	Rain	50°/44°	39%	24%	W 12 mph
Tuesday <i>December 2</i>	Rain	46°/29°	6%	3%	WNW 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Taking on the housing crisis: The way forward*

Gonzalo Puigbo says:

Dear Somerville Times Staff,

Thank you for this interesting article and highlighting the work of Somerville Community Corporation to support housing in our City of Somerville. One of the questions that I get asked a lot and which is not covered by this article is: what is affordable?

We should start with the premise that Somerville only has 8.93% of the 10% Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) that is required by Massachusetts State Law, so we are significantly lagging behind.

Additionally, private housing development is focused on smaller 1-2 BR units that are supporting the new demographics of Somerville that are younger, college educated and have a significant higher income than families that have long resided in Somerville and are being displaced and gentrified out of the city.

But then, there is the inequity of the system that bases "affordability" on the percentage of the median income of the city that it resides. The current Median Income in Somerville for a household of 4 is \$160,900, so in order to qualify for "affordable" housing which are units at less than 80% HUD Median Income, your income needs to be below \$132,300 when in reality families are making significantly less than that.

So while the state designates affordable as units that are less than 80% HUD Median Income, it is important that we know who those units are really targeting and whether or not the families that are receiving are going to continue the displacement of what existed in Somerville.

Either way, we are very appreciative that you keep supporting the work of housing, but wanting to make that distinction for the future.

Cheers,

Gonzalo

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



@somervilletimes



www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane,
and Cathleen Twardzik

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte,
Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

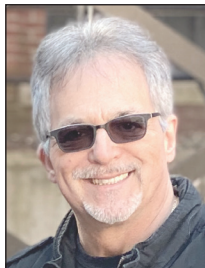
A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



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

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

Thanksgiving memories



On Thanksgiving Day, I always count my blessings. I have lots of memories of many Thanksgivings. Most of those memories began while seated at the “kids’ table.”

That was the best place to eat because the parents were away from us at the big table, so we could fool around a lot. I remember having lots of fun at that table. We were young and carefree.

The best part about those early memories is that the family was bigger. Grandma and Grandpa were still with us, and there were aunts, uncles, and cousins jam-packed into the house. There was a distinct aroma of cigar, cigarette, and turkey filling every inch of space. There was a plate of bacala, which is dried codfish with herbs, oil, and garlic. There were cans of Schlitz, Narragansett, and Ballentine Ale for the adults and Cott tonic for the kids.

Of course, there was a giant bottle of Grandpa’s homemade wine. I have the last bottle left. It’s in a Ballentine Ale quart bottle. After 50 years or so, it’s either great wine or bad vinegar. Being together as a family was always the best part of Thanksgiving. Throw in the food, the football, and the parades, and you have a day to remember.

Here are some friends’ Somerville Thanksgiving memories:

“My favorite memories of Thanksgiving were as a majorette in High School. Especially senior year, when I got to twirl two fire batons. I recall that the Thanksgiving Day game was against Waltham and then Arlington. The bus rides, the band, the football team, the boosters, and the cheerleaders were like the big finale. For years after that, I would go to the Thanksgiving Day game and see former classmates and then have dinner with my family. I still feel nostalgic when I am back in Somerville and drive by Dilboy Field.”




“Thanksgiving with all the family meant fighting for the drumsticks. I remember dad having to loosen his belt. I miss my dad, nephew, aunts and uncles, and daughter. They will always be with me in spirit and in my heart. I loved the leftovers and the family helping to clean up. I remem-


ber the conversations my dad and brothers had about going hunting, playing cards, and then going outside for a little tag rush football with neighborhood kids.”

“My favorite memory is of my Grandfather, William Matthew Winn Sr., and how he would make sure

Continued on page 17




Meet the Author
BILL MEDEIROS
A Grandfather, Storyteller,
and Lover of Life’s Little Lessons.



Bertucci’s Restaurant
4054 Mystic Valley Pkwy,
Medford, MA 02155105
November 29th, 2025

Book Signings 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM





**Are You Sitting
On A Fortune?**

Call Our Team at CRG To See
What Your Home Is Worth.

617-764-4342
699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144



S & E AUTO LCC

Accept All Insurances
Specialize in Extended Warranty

212 Broadway, Somerville



Open for inspections daily, 7:30 AM – 7:00 PM
617-628-8314

Contact Eli to schedule your appointment.

Oil Change • A/C Services • Brakes • Cooling system services
Motor & engine services • Tire rotation • Transmission services
electrical repair • Emissions diagnostics • Fuel system

After saving the Community Meal, Connexion sees demand increase

CONT. FROM PG 1

the pandemic.

The city's support means a lot to the Rev. Jordan Harris of Connexion, who leads the community meal program.

"I think it means that the work that we're doing matters. It means that people are paying attention. The city is paying attention. We are helping to fill a gap that exists for a lot of folks in the city of Somerville."

Come to the Table Community Meal is the only restaurant-catered, hot community meal in East Somerville served free of charge, and it is held every Wednesday, from 5 to 6 p.m., except during some holidays.

In the program, Connexion buys meals from local restaurants, helping to support them, and then serves those meals at 149 Broadway, providing both dine-in and take-out options.

Since Connexion took over the meal, weekly attendance has grown drastically, prompting leaders to consider how to continue the meal without running out of food, a problem that is becoming more frequent.

Increasing Demand

During their first month, in October 2024, Connexion served an average of 63 meals a week. One year after that, they served an average of 116 meals, which is nearly an 85% increase. Currently, their record for the most meals served in a single night took place on October 15 of this year, when they served 130 meals.

On Wednesday, November 24, 2024, Project SOUP served 56 people, and exactly one year later, he said, they served 160 people.

"So demand for the same day and the same month has nearly tripled in one year," he said. "It was our biggest day ever today."

Demand for services at Project SOUP, he said, increased by over 20% every month this year, compared to the same months in 2024. Apart from delayed SNAP payments, he added that he thinks one major factor driving the growing demand for these programs is the cost of living.

Year over year, food prices in the Boston area increased by 3.3%, and the cost of rent rose by 5.2% since July 2024, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Some nights, I'm not going to lie, I come here for the community"

Jera, who has been coming to the meal for over a year, said that people hear about the program more often through conversations than through online platforms or advertising.

Word is spreading that the meal is a great place, not just for food, but also for camaraderie, he said, attributing some of the growth to their improving reputation as a safe, nonjudgmental place.

"Some nights, I'm not going to lie, I come here for the community," he said. "And if you're hungry, they got you. And because of everything that is going on right now [with SNAP delays], a lot of us are going without incomes that we had, so this is very beneficial."

Wrap-around Services

In addition to food, Connexion offers donated clothes and hygiene products,



Free clothes hanging in the Connexion Closet in Somerville, MA, on Nov. 12, 2025.

— Photo by Christopher Morris. Copyright 2025 Christopher Morris.

and a nurse from the Cambridge Health Alliance stops by to check on visitors once a month.

"We try to make it like a multi-service center, a one-stop shop of things going on," said long-time volunteer, Mary Cassesso. "We have more integration of services," she said, compared to other programs.

When Connexion took over the meal in 2024, they ran into a logistical challenge: making over 50 meals in a single night.

"There was a couple of weeks where we had access to a large quantity of frozen meals," said Harris. "So we had, maybe, six microwaves going in different parts of the church building because we didn't want to blow any circuits. We were heating up meals for folks in the microwaves and sending folks home with frozen meals."

After the first night of large-scale microwaving, Harris said, they started looking for a better, more efficient way to operate.

Developing A New Model

"We knew that we wanted to do something that was different in terms of catering the meals, just to sort of pour back into the local economy," said Connexion Food Justice Advocate, Reverend Christy Wright. "But we weren't quite sure yet how we were going to do it."

Lindsay Allen, the executive director of East Somerville Main Streets, said that she worked with Harris to develop a new program, one that contributed to the local economy.

"Jordan and I tried to brainstorm a business model that would both support these businesses, who are already helping this community, and also live out the mission of the meal," she said, adding that many local businesses already give out free meals

to people in need throughout the week.

"We looked to the restaurants as caterers," Harris said, "and that's the model we've been following ever since."

Currently, Connexion purchases from four different nearby restaurants, and on every fifth Wednesday, they buy food from Vinny's, a local Italian restaurant.

Since Connexion first implemented the new model, they have purchased 14 meals from Rei Da Picanha, 11 meals from Lotus Xpress, eight meals from Ricón Mexicano, and two meals from Vinny's.

Once a month, Project SOUP still pays for a meal, and this November, they purchased it from Sister's Caribbean, a restaurant located only four blocks away from Connexion.

The Somerville High School Culinary Arts Program occasionally contributes a meal as well. This fall, they donated 120 handmade chicken pot pies.

Looking to the Future

However, the \$50,000 given to the meal program is not a recurring payment, according to Harris.

"At some point next year, I'll have to begin to think about 2027 and to think about what sustainability as a whole looks like," he said. "You know, we will still need help. Wednesdays will still keep coming, and so if folks are still interested in volunteering or donating, this is a new permanent thing, hopefully."

Donors can contribute to the Come to the Table Community Meal by using Connexion's Givebutter account.

To get involved, volunteers can reach out to Harris at Pastor@connexionumc.org or drop by Connexion on Wednesday at 4 p.m.



Ricón Mexicano sits three blocks away from Connexion on Broadway in Somerville, MA, on November 12.

— Photo by Christopher Morris. Copyright 2025 Christopher Morris.

Thank You!

Rep. Mike Connolly has been an unwavering advocate on Beacon Hill, standing side by side with public school educators to make sure every child in Massachusetts has access to the best possible education. **THANKS!**

This is the time of year to reflect on what we are grateful for, and this year, educators are extremely grateful for **Rep. Mike Connolly** and his work to strengthen public education in our community.



Paid for and authorized by: Massachusetts Teachers Association,
20 Ashburton Place, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02108-2705



Representative
Mike Connolly

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.

Doing Divestment Right



By Chris Dwan

Somerville's ballot question number three [1] passed last week with 55% of the votes. It instructs the Mayor and City Council to "end all current city business and prohibit future city investments and contracts with companies as long as such companies engage in business that sustains Israel's apartheid, genocide, and illegal occupation of Palestine."

While the measure is technically non-binding, I hope that Mayor Wilson [2] and the new council will act swiftly and thoughtfully. We should take this opportunity to build a framework that allows us to spend in accordance with our ethics, and that takes care to avoid burdening the city with lawsuits and credible accusations of discrimination. Put another way, it's time for our elected leaders to move past divisive campaign rhetoric and govern.

This post attempts to lay out the challenges that I see for any boycott or divestment at the municipal level. At the end, I propose an approach that I think could be effective. Somerville has decided that it's time to do this, so here's my starting point on how we might do it well.

The Challenges

Binding the city from doing business with bad-actor companies is more complex than similar choices made as an individual or a family. When I decide to go to Market Basket or Pemberton Farms rather than Whole Foods or Target, I don't have to explain my reasoning to anybody, and any differences in cost or quality

fall only on my family. The city, by contrast, uses formal purchasing processes that are subject to open meeting law and regulation at the state level. Staff authors hundreds of Requests For Proposals (RFPs) per year. These describe in meticulous detail the work to be done, the qualifications required to bid, and how the decision will be made.

In most cases, we are required by law to award the contract to the lowest qualifying bid. A boycott means, among other things, that we will be turning down otherwise qualified low bids based on the identity of the bidder. In other words, the city is going to choose to pay more to get the same work done. That's not wrong — I pay more for notionally similar stuff all the time — but good governance (and good financial stewardship) requires that we be aware of that tradeoff rather than pretending that it doesn't exist.

Documentation of the bid process becomes public once the contract is awarded, and vendors review the docs to see why they lost. If there is any wiggle room in our reasoning for denying an otherwise qualified low bid, the loser will file complaints with the state and/or sue the city. If our processes are casual, sloppy, or inappropriately biased, then we will (and should) lose.

Getting sued is nothing new. People are constantly suing the city over perceived slights and (occasionally) actual wrongs. These lawsuits and related complaints soak up a huge amount of time and civic energy that could be better spent on other things. The drain is not limited to the law department. The mayor's office and the council sit through interminable "executive sessions" discussing pending litigation out of the public eye. These private updates push the public portion of council meetings later into the

night, sapping time and attention away from other pressing issues.

The impact of legal losses will stretch far beyond Somerville: If we implement a boycott badly and then lose in court, it will establish a precedent that will discourage other cities from making similar moves. Of course, the reverse is also true — Somerville has an opportunity to take a leadership role, win against the inevitable challenges, and once again become a model for the rest of the state.

Investment is another case where my personal decisions are very different from those of the city's finance department. If I choose to avoid whole sectors of the market (fossil fuels, weapons, tobacco, and anything owned by Elon Musk are my starting point), that decision only impacts me. A similar decision by the city's pension fund manager has the potential to negatively impact the retirement accounts of thousands of current and former employees.

An investment manager's job is to find safe, legal places to keep their clients' money so it can generate consistent returns. One of the ways they do this is through diversification. Reducing the available options makes that job harder. Acting on our morals will likely mean accepting lower returns on the city's holdings. Somerville's choice to divest will not, by itself, magically cause what remains of the available market to suddenly become the best financial choice. That said, if we do this well and others follow our lead, the resultant wave of divestment might do the job. Complicating things still further, we are likely to need to ask the state's permission to tinker with our pensions via a Home Rule Petition [3].

We need to be smart and accept that there are practical limits to how much we can do

before our ethical choices to boycott and divestment create an unacceptable risk to the city's financial stability. The mayor, with the Council's advice, needs to make this a calculated decision on costs and benefits.

A Proposal

Mayor Wilson should create a commission to develop and maintain a list of companies with whom the city prefers not to do business. This list needs to name specific companies, list their objectionable behaviors, and be particular about what they would need to do to get back in our good graces. These recommendations should, wherever possible, build on external guidance from national and international organizations like the United Nations, the ACLU, or the SPLC. Involving these groups at the beginning opens the possibility that they will get involved in the inevitable lawsuits. Having their help would spread out the work and reduce the cost. As I said above, winning (or losing) in court creates a precedent that might embolden (or discourage) other cities from following our lead, so when we do this, it's important to do it right.

The commission should publish a clear decision framework showing what factors they consider, and ensure that they apply the same standards to everybody. It should also review the list at least annually, removing companies that have ceased their bad behavior. While we're at it, the commission should also have the remit to specify products and technologies that the city should avoid — no matter who is selling them.

The mayor should task the law and finance departments to create a standard operating procedure (SOP) detailing exactly how we will implement these recommendations in our purchasing and investment processes. Important things come out in the process

of really thinking through and writing down the details. "Don't buy from HP" is different from "don't buy any HP products," which is also distinct from "don't buy products that include components made by HP," which is wildly different from "don't do business with companies that do business with HP." It would be unfair, inappropriate, and legally risky to push this sort of decision down to the staff level.

Our purchasing and investment SOP should also describe the conditions and timelines under which the city might choose to defer or even ignore the recommendations of the commission. We live in an age of unregulated corporate and technological monopolies. Moving away from certain massive companies (Microsoft, Amazon, and Google in particular) is challenging. Any such moves will need to be incremental unless we are willing to accept massive disruptions in city services.

The city council should review and endorse all of this. Our surveillance oversight ordinance [4] provides a great framework for this sort of reporting and review. The council should also establish a formal process to allow the public to put companies and products before the commission without the massive effort and slow timelines of another ballot measure.

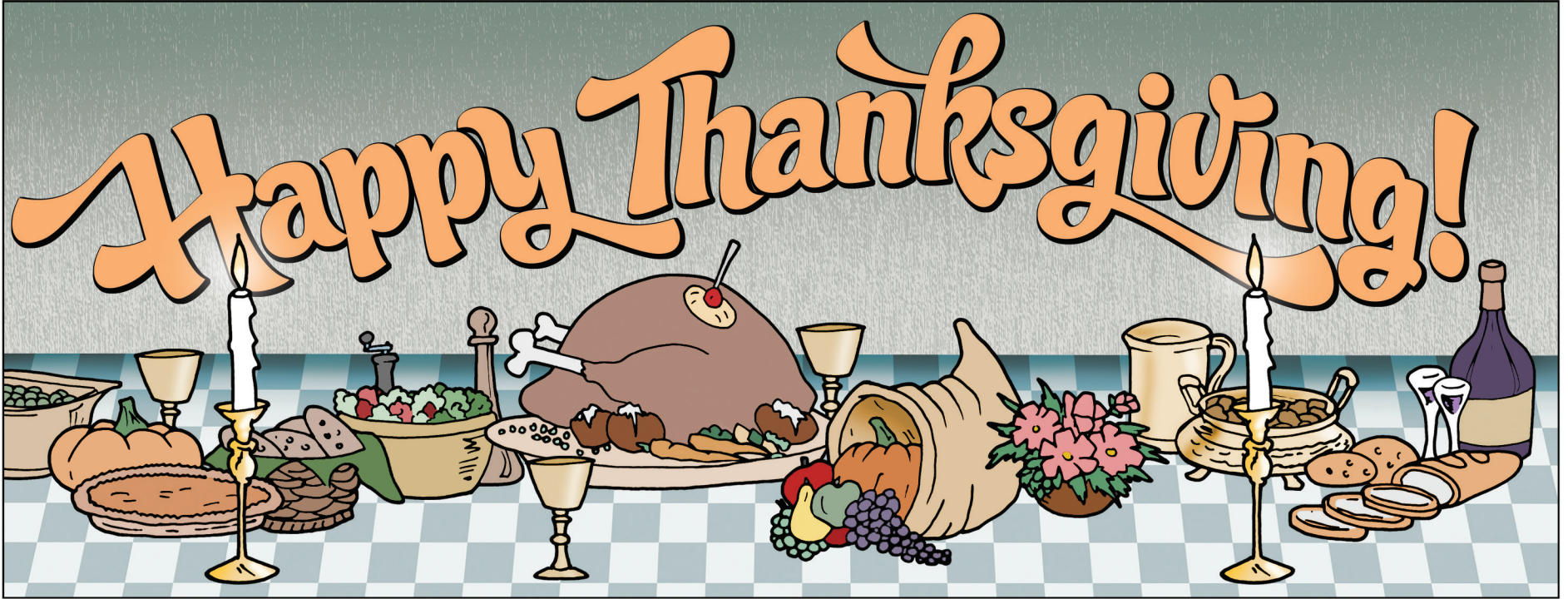
It's worth calling out that I am absolutely not suggesting yet another consultant-led boondoggle. We have too many expensive reports [5] that were out of date by the time they were published, and that were created with no thought to who might implement them or when. Rather, I am suggesting that we act swiftly to put in the work required to turn the admirable intent behind the ballot measure into practical and effective municipal government.

Continued on page 10

COMMENTARY

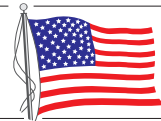
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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 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, despite 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

Road Runners, the Gobble Gobble Gobble road race starts and ends in Davis Square (at the heart of Somerville), features a unique 4-mile course, and offers a fun opportunity to start Thanksgiving on a high and healthy note. Proceeds benefit Somerville Homeless Coalition, Somerville Track PAC, Stride for Stride, and Dilboy VFW Veterans Relief Fund. For more information and registration, visit https://runsignup.com/gobblegobble.

Both flu and COVID-19 vaccines are conveniently offered at multiple locations across Somerville, improving access for

all residents with no out-of-pocket costs. Visit https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations to see more clinics.

Our condolences go out to the family of Dolores Breen, the mother of Chief Engineer Charles Breen Jr, Senior Fire Alarm Operator Todd Breen, and Fire Alarm Operator and Local 76 Union Steward Scott Breen. Mrs. Breen was also the wife of the late Somerville Firefighter Charles Breen Sr. Our thoughts are with the family during this sad time.

The Connexion closet is accepting clothing donations, all seasons, all genders, and

all sizes. The most wanted items are pants and jackets. You can drop off donations at Connexion, 149 Broadway, this week, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please make sure you leave donations inside the building with a label that says, "For Connexion closet". Need clothes? The Connexion closet opens Mondays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesdays 4 to 6 p.m. Want to donate and can't drop it off? Email closet@connexionmc.org to coordinate a pickup. Questions email: closet@connexionmc.org.

On Thursday, December 4, the Christmas Tree Lighting will take place on the

City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.). Activities begin at 5 p.m. Special gifts will be available for children. Includes live entertainment and light refreshments. Rain date: December 9.

Shop 50+ artisan, maker, and vintage vendors at Small Mart Holiday Markets on December 6 and 20, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom, Davis Sq. Small Mart brings together over 50 artisan, maker, and vintage vendors offering unique, thoughtfully made gifts. You'll find hand-printed art, cozy ceramics, standout vintage fashion, and locally crafted goods that make Continued on page 22

Somerville Finance Committee Meetings see revised Combined Sewer Overflow Plan

By Alyssa Buford

On November 19, the Somerville Finance Committee hosted a meeting via Zoom. The committee reviewed various mayoral, municipal, and citizen funding requests for property acquisition, staffing charges, interest payments, and resource loans.

Communications and Discussions

The first official item on the meeting's agenda had been a conveyance of an early draft of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Plan. The presentation, given by Infrastructure and Asset Management Director Richard Raiche, acted as an informal proposal to identify the thoughts of the counselors and answer questions after giving a 65-slide presentation at a previous council meeting.

"There has been some discussion with the board of directors on the MWRA (Massachusetts Water Resource Authority), the Charles Water Association has been very vocal about their desire for a higher and more costly amount of control," said Raiche, alongside Counselor Jake Wilson, exploring the possibility of a final vote being delayed to December.

MWRA Loan

The second item, a direct request from

Mayor Ballantyne, requested the appropriation of \$407,090 from the reserved Water Enterprise to fund a debt service for an MWRA loan. The city can borrow from the MWRA short-term for a two-year period, and will have to pay additional principal and interest for long-term borrowing.

"We usually budget for this, but the paper from the MWRA to apply for the loan had come late," confirmed Raiche. "They have a very good bond rating, and they're able to offer this to communities immediately rather than have the other communities go out on their own, typically at higher interest rates," Raiche continued.

Interest payment for the acquisition of 90 Washington Street

Since the city's acquisition of 90 Washington Street in 2019 via eminent domain, the city has spent \$39 million dollars from the initial purchase plus supplemental expenses. Said expenses have resulted in \$403,980 in interest payments, of which Mayor Ballantyne seeks to resolve via the reappropriation of "free cash" in an unreserved fund.

"We were warned this would happen, and are prepared," said Counselor Wilson.

Appropriation of \$100,000 Armory Revolving Fund

Another mayoral request called for a Community Benefits Stabilization Reserve to support the onboarding and tenant acquisition for the Somerville Armory. The city is converting the Armory building into a public community arts center with individual rehearsal, meeting, class, and performance spaces for local arts organizations and artists on a revolving basis at affordable prices. The matter was reported out of committee as of November 13th, but was ultimately presented by Somerville Arts Council Director Gregory Jenkins and Director of Economic Development Rachel Nadkarni.

"We reviewed varying rent prices throughout the city and are trying to find a mix of a rent structure that makes sense to support the arts community, but brings in enough money to create stabilization for our building," stated Jenkins during the presentation.

According to both Jenkins and Nadkarni, the armory project would only need the reserve funds once, and the arts center would self-sustain long-term. "What [the funding] will allow us to do is really line up all of our storeship support for the building in the form of maintenance, staffing, and onboarding new tenants. This

funding will only be a one-time thing," said Nadkarni.

Public Safety Education Costs

The finishing items on the agenda included the request and approval to expand \$87,450 and \$109,296 grants for public safety staffing within the fire and police departments. This motion was presented by the Director of Finance and Administration of the Somerville Police Department, Emily Wisdom. The grants, from the Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research, require a municipality to have a population of sixty thousand residents as well as "demonstrated need" as proof of police understanding. Somerville is one of ten communities in Massachusetts to qualify.

"Towards the holidays and elections is where there's a spike in public safety needs, so the grant really helps to fill those gaps," Wisdom said.

Additional items on the docket included outstanding invoices, the payout of SomerStat temporary and wage accounts, pedestrian access easement, and a grant for a maintenance license for 495 Columbia Street, freight charges, transfers to the police and school salary systems, and approval to pay various invoices.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Cranberry Raspberry Sauce

I never purchase store-bought cranberry sauce anymore because homemade is easy to make, and tastes so much better. The rosemary and orange essence complement the tartness of the cranberries perfectly. Feel free to substitute a cinnamon stick for the star anise.

12 oz. Fresh Cranberries
1 Medium Orange, Zested & Juiced
1 Rosemary Sprig
1 Star Anise, Optional
1/4 Cup Maple Syrup
1/2 Cup Sugar
1 Pint Fresh Raspberries

In a 3-quart saucepan, add all the ingredients except for the raspberries,

mix well, and cook over medium/low heat. Stir often. When the mixture slowly boils, you will hear the cranberries popping. Cook for about 10 minutes. Add the raspberries and stir thoroughly. Turn off the heat and let the mixture cool down. It will thicken while it cools down. Discard the rosemary and star anise. Transfer to a well-sealed container and refrigerate. This can be made a couple of days before the big meal.

This recipe was amended by adding the raspberries on behalf of my dear friend Ross. Thank you, Ross, what a fantastic addition! Yield approximately 2 1/2 cups.

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



LEGAL NOTICES

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



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 4, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planningboard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KtcGQr0DSOGkLU9_w-PnWw
Webinar ID: 834 8760 1432

TO CALL IN

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

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

152-158 Broadway The Law Offices of Michael LaRosa seeks to establish Formula Business principal use, a Btone Pilates studio, in the Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) district, which requires a Special Permit.

Zoning Amendment Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Sections 10.10.3, 15.1.2, 15.1.6, 15.1.8, 15.2.1, 15.2.2, 15.2.3, 15.2.4, 15.3.1, 15.3.2, and 15.5.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to make pre-submittal meetings optional for most permits and to improve clarity and consistency.

Zoning Amendment Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Tables 4.1.13, 4.2.13, 4.3.13, 4.4.13, 5.1.14, 7.2.7, 7.4.8, 8.4.16 (c), and 9.1.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to permit Home-Based Child Day Care accessory uses and make corrections.

Zoning Map Amendment 12 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 363 Highland Avenue from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) and from MR4 to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6), and the zoning district of 110 Willow Avenue from Civic (CIV) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).

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 email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

11/19/25, 11/26/25 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, December 16, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YkBepEy3SlerhwasorUzBA
Webinar ID: 863 3159 2163

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 REVIEW PROCESS)

HP25-000098 - 28 Vinal Avenue

Applicant: 28 Vinal LLC

Owner: 28 Vinal LLC

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>.

Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard.

Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

11/26/25 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q8WfTrXGTByckyZEsPhR4Q
Webinar ID: 894 5466 0848

TO CALL IN

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

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

17 Hudson Street Denise Provost seeks an Administrative Appeal of the Building Official's issuance of Building Permits B25-000078, B25-000079, and B25-000081.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

11/19/25, 11/26/25 The Somerville Times

CellCo Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at centerline heights of 67.5 feet, 68.2 feet, and 69.1 on a 71.5-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 422 Mystic Avenue, Somerville, Middlesex County, MA 02145. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Maggie Vincent, m.vincent@trileaf.com, 303 International Circle, Suite 150, Hunt Valley, MD 21030, 410-853-7128.

11/26/25 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS
IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES,

CONTACT US

BY 12 PM MONDAY

PHONE: 857-488-5138

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Doing Divestment Right

CONT. FROM PG 6

Coda

Real talk: I was planning to write this article no matter how the vote went.

I waited because I knew that no matter what I said, people were going to be angry. I could not see any way to write this during the campaign that would

have done anything other than be dismissed out of hand, further inflame an already fraught conversation, or both.

If I thought for a moment that the Council or the Mayor could act directly to spare any of the victims of Israel's murderous and genocidal campaign,

I would enthusiastically support it. Unfortunately, nothing we do in law or policy here in Somerville will stop even one bullet or provide even one meal in Gaza. The impact will be mostly, maybe entirely, felt in Somerville itself.

Let's be smart and get it right.

Links:

[1] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/elections/sample-ballots>

[2] <https://www.jakeforsomerville.org/>

[3] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/vote-yes-on-somervilles->

charter-80e9691a098e

[4] <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/new-somerville-policy-first-ma-add-controls-require-public-transparency-surveillance-technology>

[5] <https://www.somervillema.gov/spd-updates>

Committee hears updates on rental assistance, playground accessibility, and small business support

By Jordan Pagkalinawan

The Somerville Housing and Community Development Committee met on Tuesday, November 18, to hear from city officials regarding the status of residents facing displacement, updates on inclusive playground design, and plans to support and sustain small businesses.

OHS director talks rental assistance, cuts to Continuum of Care funding

Ellen Shachter, the Director of the Office of Housing and Stability, first addressed the committee by updating them on the city's efforts to curb displacement and offer rental assistance to affected tenants. She explained that from the beginning of the year through the end of September, the office received 637 referrals seeking housing stability assistance. Of those, 312 of them (nearly 49%) were at "imminent risk of displacement." 118 of those at-risk households had already received a Notice to Quit, or court summons for evictions.

As for rental assistance, Shachter noted that OHS assisted 102 unique households with applications for city, state, and federal programs. Approximately \$42,600 was obtained through the state's Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program [1], which offers \$7,000 per 12-month period for families to stay in their homes or move to new ones. She added that city-funded rental assistance programs totaled nearly \$2.6 million in the first nine months of the year, though it does not include cases served by the Somerville Homeless Coalition or Community Action Agency of Somerville, both of which partner with OHS in their efforts.

Shachter then outlined the office's eviction data through the end of October, in which 167 cases were filed but only 42 were executed, which is higher than Medford (31) but lower than Waltham (65), Cambridge (70), and Malden (137).

"From my perspective, this is evidence that the programs that we have and the investments we make are worth it," she said.

However, she also expressed concern over federal cuts to Continuum of Care funding, where only 30% can go toward permanent housing, including Section 8 vouchers. An attached memo to the committee confirmed that the state's Continuum of Care funding will decrease from roughly \$27.3 million to \$9.9 million.

"No general Section 8s are being issued by the Somerville Housing Authority," Shachter's memo added. "Landlords have been asked not to raise rents. There have been no terminations to date due to funding cuts."

"They're not cutting the funding, but they're redirecting and reorienting so that the funding can really only be used for the other 70% [of] supportive services—mental health treatments, substance abuse, et cetera," Shachter said. "They also make clear that none of it can be used for homelessness prevention at this time. The pot has really, really changed."

However, Shachter highlighted the office's "municipally funded voucher program" that is tied to families with children in public schools that "are not eligible for federal housing due to immigration status." That program is funded through the fiscal year 2027. Another initiative, Somerville's Older Adult Bridge Program, has allocated around \$220,000 to help senior citizens on a fixed income find subsidized housing. Still, Shachter pointed out that prioritizing funds may come down to tapping into the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund [2].

"It's critical that, as there are populations really impacted, we look together and see if there's a way to help those families stay in the city," Shachter said.

Playground accessibility and Kennedy School project

Director of Public Space and Urban Forestry Luisa Oliveira then updated the committee on how accessibility is being considered in future playground plans and redesign projects. She emphasized that complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act is a baseline and minimum for all of the city's public spaces. Oliveira said that such compliance is met by including accessible routes, surface materials, parking spaces, and facilities within parks and public spaces.

Oliviera also outlined principles of "inclusive play," where "everyone of all physical abilities is able to participate in play." She highlighted the inclusive swings recently installed across ten local parks, which include a Y-shaped hard yoke harness and an additional strap for children who may need it.

The Public Spaces and Urban Forestry Division is also working on an inclusive playground at John F. Kennedy School. They have already held several engagement

events throughout the school year and are working to put the project out to bid this winter, with the goal of beginning construction in the summer of 2026. According to Oliveira, the project has not been funded yet, though it is part of the Capital Investment Plan.

"We are constantly learning more about what can be done [with inclusive play]," Oliveira said. "It's sometimes difficult because some of our playgrounds are very small, so it's hard to do some of the things that require more space."

She added that the division is considering expanding the Kennedy School playground, though that would require changing the configuration of the nearby parking lot.

"There is a balance here between retaining parking and increasing the schoolyard," Oliveira said.

A virtual community meeting for the project will take place on December 2nd, where community members can provide input on potential designs for the playground.

Supporting small businesses

Finally, the city's Director of Economic Development, Rachel Nadkarni, and deputy director Dana Whiteside updated the committee on the financial and technical support of small businesses.

Nadkarni and Whiteside explained that while businesses received help from the COVID Emergency Fund and ARPA funds, they are now only receiving assistance from the Community Development Block Grant (CBDG), a federal funding source through the Somerville Housing Authority, as well as the General Fund. The East Somerville and Union Square Main Streets districts are two of the areas funded by those measures.

The Economic Development Division has also established virtual Small Business Office Hours [3] in an effort to "meet business owners where they are," Whiteside said. They are held on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m., where owners can meet city staff to gain clarity on licensing and permitting processes. There is also Small Business Block Walking, another weekly initiative where staff members walk in business districts to meet with owners and employees.

"What we've found is that the rapport that our team is able to build with owners there has been incredibly impactful," Whiteside said. "Because it's providing an-

swers to questions and providing access to resources. It's not money, but it is access, it is information, and [it is] education."

Both also championed the Urban Agenda Grant, a \$100,000 grant administered by the state's Executive Office of Economic Development that ran from January to June. As a result, 27 businesses received one-on-one technical assistance and nine Small Business Workshops on several topics, including financial literacy and digital marketing. Additionally, 17 home-based childcare businesses—a "focal group" of the grant, according to Nadkarni—received a \$350 stipend and participated in numerous training programs. The grant also offered two Food Safety Certification Courses in Spanish and Portuguese.

Among the department's latest efforts is a campaign supporting businesses called "Loyal 2 Local." It's a social media and marketing initiative aimed at highlighting events around all small business districts, and will run from Small Business Saturday (November 29) through the end of February. Other key dates include the Davis Square Holiday [4] (December 6), Union Square Jingle [5] (December 7), and Wednesdays' Eat Out on East.

"Businesses hurt in January and February, so our goal here is really to tell folks, 'What can you be doing to help small businesses throughout this season?'" Nadkarni said.

The department also updated several processes to help small businesses better engage with the city, which include changes to the front page of the permit portal CitizenServe, and improvements to the license renewal process, allowing businesses to simultaneously renew applications for alcohol licenses and fire safety inspections for alcohol, as well as pay for both electronically.

Links:

- [1] <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-raft-emergency-help-for-housing-costs>
- [2] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/affordable-housing-trust-fund>
- [3] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/doing-business-somerville>
- [4] <http://happeningnext.com/event/davis-square-holiday-eid3a0d5hnf97>
- [5] <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/jingle>

Mayor Ballantyne's Thanksgiving Luncheon

The Council on Aging held Mayor Ballantyne's Thanksgiving Luncheon on Tuesday, November 18, at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. Seniors enjoyed a Thanksgiving lunch sponsored by Mayor Ballantyne and prepaid by Brett Henry Catering. More than 100 seniors were able to share laughter, music, and the spirit of the holiday together.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

AUTOS/MISC

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 800-245-0398

HELP WANTED

Commercialization Engineer at CHANGEWATER LABS INC d/b/a change:WATER Labs in Somerville, MA (2 pos): Commercialize novel offgrid sanitation tech, cover PDLC. MS in Mech Engg or Engg Mgmt +3yrs exp w/ frugal engg practices to dsgn & wrk w/novel offline sanitatn syss, human-waste, air flow modls & psychrometrics-driven syss; rapid prototypg using advd fabricatn techniqs; & comp-aided modlg, dsgn, simultn. 2yrs contributg to deploy of novel hw prods into low-resource, low-infrastructr envirs & mechatronic syss inclg codg, smart sensor/IoT syss, sensor feedbk loops. 1yr dsgng prods for scale productn & deploy. Hybrid office(lab)/home wrk sched. <10% dom travel to proj sites. Apply admin@change-water.com, CE25

MISCELLANEOUS

TOP DOLLAR PAID for old vintage guitars! Gibson, Fender, Martin, Greesch, Rickenbacker, Epiphone, Etc. 1930's to 1980's. Call 866-433-8277

Reach millions of homes nationwide with one easy, affordable buy in the ADS Network! For more information www.communitypublishers.com/category/all-products

Peace of mind & early detection - Now more than ever, it's important to get screened for Stroke & Cardiovascular Disease risk. Life Line Screening is simple & painless. 833-970-4172

We buy houses for cash as is! No repairs or fuss. Any condition. Easy 3-step process: Call, get cash offer, get paid. Get your fair cash

offer today. Liz Buys Houses: 844-877-5833

Portable oxygen concentrator may be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence & mobility w/the compact design & long-lasting battery. Inogen One free info kit! 877-305-1535

Consumer Cellular - same reliable, nationwide coverage as large carriers. No long-term contract or hidden fees, free activation. All plans unlimited talk & text starting at just \$20/mo. 877-751-0866

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Free author's guide 877-729-4998 or dorranceinfo.com/ads

No more cleaning gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter backed by no-clog guarantee & lifetime warranty. Call 1-833-610-1936 to schedule FREE inspection/estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Military & Seniors get additional 10% off. Limited time. Restrictions apply, see rep for details.

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles/multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited time offer up to 50% off install + additional 10% off install military, health & 1st responders. 833-370-1234

Inflation at 40-year highs. Interest rates are up. Credit cards, medical bills, car loans. Have \$10k+ in debt? Call National Debt Relief to find out how to pay off your debt for much less than you owe! Free quote: 844-955-4930

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire

home. AmeriGlide 833-399-3595

Home break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, home, assets now for as little as 70¢/day! 833-890-1262

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as 1-day. Limited time, waving all installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change & vary by dealer. Ends 12/28/25. 844-501-3208

Pest control: Protect your home from pests safely. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders & more. Locally owned & affordable. For service or inspection today! 833-860-0657 Have zip code ready!

MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical alert system. Home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts, free brochure! 888-489-3936

Aging roof? New homeowner? Storm damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. 833-640-4753 Have zip code ready when calling!

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do repairs to protect your family & home value! 833-887-0117. Have zip code ready!

Professional lawn service: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration & mosquito control. Free quote. Ask about first application special! 833-860-0811

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB games! Choice Pkg \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices. HBO Max included for 3 mos w/Choice Package or higher. No contract or hidden fees! Restrictions apply. IVS 866-

859-0405

Wesley Financial Group, LLC timeshare cancellation experts over \$50 million timeshare debt/fees cancelled in 2019. Free info package. Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1-day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Prepare for power outages today - Generac Home Standby Generator. Receive free 5-Year warranty w/qualifying purchase. 855-948-6176 to schedule free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not a discount plan. Free info kit! 855-526-1060 [#](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads)

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Ms. Cam's

Olio
Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 3 Days | 7. Flour and cornstarch |
| 2. Only male turkeys gobble | 8. Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the U.S. |
| 3. A symbol of abundance and nourishment | 9. Squanto |
| 4. Felix the Cat | 10. To thank them for their assistance after the 1917 Halifax Explosion |
| 5. The one who breaks off the bigger part wins | 11. Colchester, Connecticut, in 1705 |
| 6. The float with Santa to kick off the holiday season | 12. Norfolk Island |

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What do pyramids have to do with personal finance?

A: A lot, actually!

Think of your finances like a pyramid: the strongest structures start with a wide, solid base—and so should your financial life. Here’s how to build yours, from the ground up:

♦ **Foundation: Protection & Compliance**

Secure the basics—like health, auto, renters/homeowners, and life insurance. File and pay taxes on time. These may not be glamorous, but they protect everything else.

♦ **Next Level: Stability**

Ensure steady income streams. Set up a will or estate plan to protect loved ones. These are essential blocks before planning growth.

♦ **Middle Tier: Structure & Control**

Build a simple monthly budget tied to your real-life priorities. Set financial boundaries. Use your money with purpose.

♦ **Upper Tier: Credit Health**

Monitor your credit report. Strengthen your credit score to lower borrowing costs and boost future options.

♦ **Top: Growth & Strategy**

Only once the base is strong should you focus on investing, tax planning, and wealth building.

Takeaway:

Financial wellness isn’t about skipping to the top—it’s about building from the ground up. The base may be boring, but it’s what holds the whole thing together.

Any questions? I’d be happy to help.

I’m Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vchicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

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

Somerville Chamber of Commerce 79th Annual Dinner and Powderhouse Awards



The Somerville Chamber of Commerce held its 79th Annual Dinner and Powderhouse Awards on Thursday, November 13, at the Holiday Inn. This year’s recipients were:

- ♦ John W. Fitzgerald Lifetime Achievement Award: Joseph A. Curtatone
- ♦ Business Neighbor of the Year Award: The Goods
- ♦ Distinguished Service Greater Somerville Award: Adam Dash
- ♦ Distinguished Service to the Somerville Chamber Award: Rocco DiRico, Tufts University
- ♦ Excellence in Dining and Nightlife Award: The Neighborhood Restaurant
- ♦ Excellence in Economic Development Award: Bristol Myers Squibb
- ♦ Excellence in Public Service Award: Thomas Bent, Bent Electrical Contractors
- ♦ Innovation Award: Ultragenyx
- ♦ Non-Profit of the Year Award: Second Chances
- ♦ Small Business of the Year Award: EventThem

Barcode Journeys

CONT. FROM PG 1

a delightful array of paper symbolgies; a Lego QR, breezy soft sculpture; the human DNA and Barcode of Life pieces bridge science and art; questioning textiles, dazzling ceramics, and ancient cultures reimaged.

Relax watching two contemplative barcode art videos, including footage at everyone’s favorite Somerville Market Basket; itchy hands can go Rip it Good; There’s innovative barcode jamming on video; and into the future components in the small gallery; stop at the Code Bar and enjoy a zine; oh, and don’t forget to look up ... for the Quiet Zone. You’ll laugh, you’ll learn, you’ll imagine, you’ll be inspired.

What is your barcode journey?

We asked the exhibit curator, artist Barbara Jo. She started collecting barcodes because they annoyed her. After carting around that bag of codes for years, she started making art with them. One thread led to another to understanding more about their impact and underpinnings.

Laying her codes out and studying

them allowed her to find meaning in the patterns, creating the meandering Glyph Poem, lively Codex, ironic Aloha, and wry Flight Delay. One is greeted by her bold Bars papier-mâché wall sculpture and soothed by collaborative videos. People also started sharing their barcode stories with her, and soon this themed art show emerged.

Jo says, “Barcodes are something that touch us all, modern-day hieroglyphs created to communicate with machines, now so pervasive we forget they are there. I wanted this exhibition to remind people not to lose sight of our humanity as technology becomes increasingly sophisticated.”

Evenings and weekends, Jo works out of her Milk Row studio next to Market Basket. After decades as an archaeological illustrator, her personal art explorations are important for self-expression. What is next?

“I’ve been painting an abstract series using oil on paper with handmade stencils. They are window-like, reflecting season-

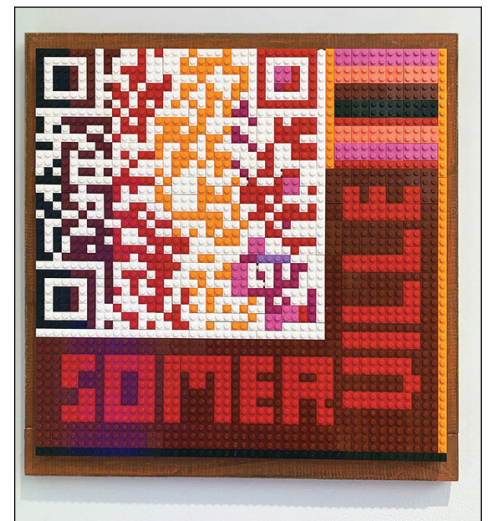
al colors and emotions. I hope to exhibit them in 2026,” says Jo.

Reflecting on its impact, Jo says, “The Somerville Museum Community Curator experience has been intense and exhilarating for me. Working with so many talented people, family and friends, and sharing our amazement at overlapping interests and concepts has brought me great joy, confidence, and new insights. I’m so grateful for the opportunity and encourage others to take that step and support our vibrant community and the Somerville Museum.”

Participating Artists: Lesley Banatyan, Lynn Cannici, Woolsey Cole Chesterman, Greg Duerhr, Lydia Fash, Nathan Fash, Janine Fay, Kyle Huffman, Barbara Jo, Olga Mesa, Elizabeth Pacini, Cindy Ramirez, Leddy R. Saenz, Charlie Warren, Sandra Wascher.

25% of the proceeds of Barcode Journeys’ artworks support the museum. Price list available at the reception desk. Small exhibition merchandise for sale.

Holiday hours: 11/28 Friday 2-5, 11/29



QR Lego, by Barbara Jo and Leo Fash, 2025.

Sat 12–5

Reg hours: Th 2–7, Fri 2-5, Sat 12–5

Closing reception Sat, Dec 6, 5-6:30

Directions: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/gettinghere>

Somerville Council for the Arts: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/aotm/2025/barbara-jo/>

Barbara Jo’s website: <https://barbarajo-creates.com/>

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
 Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

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.

Question 3: Ideology Over Students, Pensions, and Common Sense

By Evan James Fontana

Fifty-five percent of Somervilleans who voted on November 4 voted 'Yes' on Question 3: "Shall the Mayor of Somerville and all Somerville elected leaders be instructed to end all current city business and prohibit future city investments and contracts with companies as long as such companies engage in business that sustains Israel's apartheid, genocide, and illegal occupation of Palestine?"

Now, as the low-turnout results settle, we owe it to ourselves to think critically: is this initiative rooted in independent judgment, or are we importing someone else's agenda at our community's expense? This isn't about choosing sides in distant conflicts. It's about whether Somerville's public policy should be outsourced to activist networks with shifting priorities, simplistic narratives rooted in Soviet propaganda [1], and no accountability to our City's needs and budget.

The 'Yes' campaign misled voters by telling them Question 3 was symbolic and would have no effect on the City and their community because it was non-binding, all the while planning to press the matter later as if it were binding. Moreover, it used deliberately vague language that en-

compasses virtually any company doing business in or with Israel. Promotional materials highlighted Caterpillar, which provides equipment used to pave our roads and even the City's backup generators, and HP, which provides laptops to Somerville Public School students, while referencing nameless "large multi-national corporations." The organizers' social media proudly touts affiliation with the international BDS movement, which publishes an ever-changing list of "complicit" companies—including Disney, Facebook, Caterpillar, Volvo, Hyundai, Komatsu, Apple, Google, Amazon, OpenAI (ChatGPT), Microsoft - even Pizza Hut.

The practical absurdity becomes clear when they demand ending the City's contract with HP, ignoring that Intel, AMD, Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, Lenovo, and IBM, along with most major tech companies, have significant operations in Israel and are also on the BDS divestment list. Should Somerville be subject to an outside organization's radical agenda that conflicts with our City building schools, paving streets, and maintaining critical infrastructure, let alone in a fiscally responsible manner? Those behind Question 3 would rather sacrifice our City and stu-

dents at the altar of their misguided crusade.

The extremism demanded by such organizations has already taken root locally. Activists occupy Tatte because its founder is Israeli-American, despite Panera now owning the chain, along with Life Alive. Similar pressure already drove medical device company KMC Systems (now HiArc) out of Cambridge's Central Square. They demonstrated outside Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center's pediatric wing in New York, ranked second nationally for pediatric care. Mass General could face similar protests for lifesaving partnerships with Israeli medical technology. When activist lists replace informed policymaking, essential services suffer and communities lose the ability to govern themselves.

Cities cannot be governed by viral hashtags. Procurement, pension decisions, and municipal contracts require stability and fiduciary duty. If Somerville follows BDS investment logic, our public workers' retirement funds would miss opportunities like Caterpillar's 231% stock growth over the past five years. NVIDIA, a BDS target and the world's first \$5 trillion company, is tripling its Israel investment and just welcomed

back an employee held hostage for 738 days [2]. Nope, that's off limits. Our dedicated teachers, firefighters, police officers, and city employees deserve secure retirements, not ideology-driven boycotts. A city budget isn't moral theater—it's a promise to those who keep this city running. If symbolic gestures mattered more than results, we'd boycott China [3] and protest an actual genocide in Sudan [4].

I know Somerville voters value justice, compassion, and competence. We can care about human rights while recognizing that discriminatory business targeting isn't sound municipal policy. True leadership means thinking for ourselves and resisting pressure from outside groups that don't bear the costs of their demands. The campaign's organizers claim Question 3 reflects community values. Yet its targets, its language, and its pivots reveal a campaign following outside directives rather than local judgment, measuring success in moral theater and hate rather than improved outcomes.

The vote happened. Question 3 was non-binding. Mayor-Elect Jake Wilson has stated publicly that implementation is not legal, as confirmed by the City Solicitor. Still, the Yes on Question 3 campaign is relentlessly pushing

implementation, as we saw at last week's city council meeting (11/13). We must speak up. We must encourage our leaders to reject this imported extremism, hate, and financial recklessness. The most morally principled path forward protects Somerville's ability to govern responsibly, invest wisely, and act with independent integrity. Our City Council should affirm that Somerville sets its own priorities based on facts, fairness, and long-term impact—not on who's targeted by this week's internet-driven boycott.

Links:

- [1] <https://www.meforum.org/izabella-tabarovsky-the-sinister-legacy-of-soviet-indiatimes.com/technology/tech-news/read-nvidia-ceo-jensen-huangs-letter-to-all-employees-on-return-of-israeli-hostage-738-days-in-captivity/articleshow/124547760.cms>
- [2] <https://timesofindia.technology/tech-news/read-nvidia-ceo-jensen-huangs-letter-to-all-employees-on-return-of-israeli-hostage-738-days-in-captivity/articleshow/124547760.cms>
- [3] <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/NIC-Unclassified-Report-Uyghur-Genocide-Concentrated-Reeducation-Camps-China-Oct2024.pdf>
- [4] <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjel2nn22z9o>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include a name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Here's another compelling reason to go vegan: A new study from Mass General Brigham in Massachusetts suggests that women under 50 who eat a lot of ultra-processed foods have a 45% higher risk of early-onset colorectal cancer.

Let's all stop eating a lot of ultra-processed foods, including processed meats.

Animal-derived foods are ultra-processed because cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and other animals are confined, mutilated, slaughtered, or otherwise modified to produce meat, eggs, or dairy.

Scientists believe that meat should have warning labels similar to cigarettes, as it's linked to both colon and rectal cancer.

Fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, and other vegan foods, on the other hand, are typically high in fiber and phytochemicals, which help eliminate carcinogens and fight inflammation.

By eating healthy vegan foods, you'll not only reduce your risk for colorectal cancer and other life-threatening diseases, but

you'll also help save animals, conserve resources, and combat the climate catastrophe. See PETA.org for more information and a free vegan starter kit.

Sincerely,
Heather Moore
Vegan Living Specialist
PETA Foundation

Gobble Gobble Gobble Road Race

This Thanksgiving morning, Thursday (11/27), the Somerville Road Runners' 29th annual Gobble Gobble Gobble road race will be held in and around the Davis, Teele, Ball, and Magoun Square areas. Beginning around 8 a.m., detours will be in place around the start and finish lines in Davis Square. (Holland St. at Elmwood St./Elm St. at Grove St.). The race is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., after which point short traffic delays may occur on the following roadways:

Holland Street • Broadway in Teele Square • North Street • Powder House Boulevard • Broadway in Ball Square • Medford Street in Magoun Square • Central St. and Summer St. heading into Davis Square.

Any traffic delays are expected to be brief, and the entire race is expected to be complete by approximately noon. MBTA bus service may be temporarily modified.

Visit mbta.com/bus for details. Temporary on-street parking restrictions will be in place at select locations. For all event info, visit srr.org/gobble.

Thanksgiving memories

CONT. FROM PG 3

everything was in order for the holidays. He was the rock of our family. We never had a Thanksgiving without everyone in the family being there, and all of us had to be seated at the dinner table, no questions asked! He believed in the old school way as opposed to the way families eat in separate rooms nowadays. He was also very big on enforcing table edicts, and we could not touch a crumb of food until we all went around the table saying what we were thankful for. Then, of course, giving thanks to our Lord for blessing us with Nana's yummy food, which she stayed up cooking since the morning prior to Thanksgiving just so she could see those smiles on our

faces. After dinner, we would all gather in the parlor for some good old football while nodding off because we all ate too much, but still somehow finding room in our bellies for Nana's homemade Hot Apple Pie with vanilla ice cream on top! Those were the good old days, and I truly do miss those times we all shared together. I especially miss my Papa, the greatest man you could ever know or meet! Things just haven't been the same since you went away!"

A friend tells me, "We'd have appetizers consisting of shrimp cocktail, scallops, cheese, and crackers. My mom would make a meat stuffing. She told me it was Greek stuffing. Enjoyed the turkey. Rela-

tives would come over for coffee and dessert. I have fond memories of the Jubilee Roll Ice Cream from Friendly's."

"We had no fancy dining room; all of us were squeezed into the kitchen. Kids sat at a folding table at the end of the kitchen table. The 'relish tray' made its yearly appearance with celery and olives all neatly presented. Appetizers were chips, dip, and corn curls. Apple cider was the drink of the day, and the house smelled of turkey, turnip, and canned vegetables. Dad always made us laugh as he would be first in line to eat the Flintstone-sized turkey leg. It was a wonderful time. Wonderful memories."

My friend, who shall remain nameless,

chimes in with the next gem. "[Thanksgiving was] so much good food with my family and Aunt Rosie's family who lived next door! I hated doing all those freaking dishes. I'm 56 years old and now cooking and still doing the dishes. What's up with that?"

I remember more than one year when we had to run down to the Quick Shop because we needed more butter. By the way, the Quick Shop turned into the Store 24 and is now Tedeschi's.

Remember to look around the table and be thankful for your friends and family. As Carly Simon said in a song, "these are the good old days." Don't forget to help with the dishes! Happy Thanksgiving!

The Somerville Times BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To advertise in our Business Directory, call 857-488-5138.

T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106 **625-9877**

The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire
Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire
Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense
Family Law
Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200

FAX: (617) 776-5435

EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net

424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

SERVPRO® of Arlington,
Somerville, Charlestown

617-629-5331

Independently owned and operated

LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT

Artist and art teacher Geoffrey Halverson



www.geoffreyhalverson.com

Flexible Schedule - 2 hour classes
Perfect for beginners and intermediate students
Location of classes in North Cambridge (Huron Village)
Call: 617-501-6217 • halverson12g@yahoo.com

Monica Calvo Realtor®

Real Estate Professional
Cell: 617-605-3308

Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

RE/MAX
PARTNERS RELOCATION
44 Park ST
Andover MA 01810

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



Advertise your
business here

call **857-488-5138**

Be sure to visit us online at
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

2025 Somerville Athletics Fall Sports Roundup

2025 GREATER BOSTON LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: Girls Cross Country and Boys Cross Country

Greater Boston League MVP: Girls' Soccer - Camila Plata

Greater Boston League Runner of the Year: Girls' Cross Country - Aly Amin

Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Coaches Association (EMSCA) All-Star: Boys Soccer - Marco Hoxholli

20 Student-Athletes named Greater Boston League All-Stars

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament Information (MIAA):

Volleyball: Won 3-0 in the preliminary round of the MIAA tournament to Revere. Lost to 3-0 to Minnechaug Regional High School in a tough match in the Round of 32 of tournament play.

Girls Soccer: Lost 4-1 to a strong West Springfield team in the preliminary round of the tournament

Boys Soccer: Lost 2-0 to Plymouth North High School in the preliminary round of the tournament

• **Volleyball (16-6):** This past season was a successful one for the girls' volleyball team, who finished with an impressive 15-5 regular season record and secured 2nd place in the GBL. Their strong performance earned them a home MIAA playoff game, where they swept Revere 3-0. Unfortunately, the team lost in the next round to a very strong Minnechaug squad. None of this would have been possible without the tremendous leadership and dedication

of our five seniors. **GBL ALL-STARS:** Alexis Bowie and Cate Timmins.

• **Girls Soccer (13-6):** The girls' soccer team had yet another strong season, showing resilience and grit throughout. Although they fell just short of defending their GBL title to Medford this year, their consistent performance and dedication earned them a spot in the MIAA tournament for the fourth consecutive year. A great accomplishment and testament to their hard work this season! Junior Camila Plata was named the league MVP, a well-deserved honor for her outstanding play and leadership. With a talented group returning next year, the future is exciting for this team. **GBL MVP: Camila Plata**
GBL ALL-STARS: Camila Plata and Anika Johnson.

• **Boys Soccer (8-7-4):** The boys soccer team had another strong season. Their hard work earned them a spot in the MIAA tournament for the fourth consecutive year. The freshman boys' soccer team went undefeated with a 10-0 record, highlighting the bright future of Somerville soccer. With a young and talented roster returning, the program's future looks even more promising in the years to come. Senior Marco Hoxholli capped off his high school career by being named an Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Coaches Association (EMSCA) All-Star. **GBL ALL-STARS: Marco Hoxholli and Hector Alvarado Bermudez.**

• **Girls Cross Country (7-0):** The girls cross country team went undefeated this

season, and won an extremely close GBL Championship Meet, beating Medford on a tie-breaker that involved the 6th runner! Freshman standout Aly Amin went undefeated in GBL Meets and advanced to the State Open "Meet of Champions." The team's success sets the stage to continue to have a strong presence in the GBL. **GBL Runner of the Year: Aly Amin**
GBL ALL-STARS: Aly Amin, Greta O'Sullivan, and Jennifer Gordon.

• **Boys Cross Country (7-0):** The boys cross country team had yet another undefeated season, marking their fifth straight GBL championship. Their consistency has solidified them as a dominant force in the league. This incredible streak reflects the hard work of the athletes and coaches. **GBL ALL-STARS: Henry Zarecor, Robert Leoni, Henry Omura, Ranjan Warren, and Gabriel Sloss.**

• **Golf (8-5):** The golf team had an impressive 2025 season, highlighted by consistent play, determination, resiliency, and a trip to the state tournament. The team's balanced scoring and contributions from the entire roster led to success throughout the season. The team represented Somerville High School with pride, competing against some of the top programs in the state. Qualifying for states was a goal the team set early, and seeing it come to life was rewarding. With several key players returning next season, the team will look to build on this year's success and continue to raise the standard for excellence both on and off the course. **GBL ALL-STAR:**

Emmett Easton.

• **Football (6-3):** The Highlanders have put together a strong campaign this year, with a great start to the season and steadily improving on both sides of the ball as the season went on. Against a demanding GBL schedule, the team has demonstrated consistent development, toughness, and determination every week. They'll finish the year with their annual Thanksgiving rivalry game versus Cambridge on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, at 10 a.m. at Russell Field. **GBL ALL-STARS: Marcos Pineda, Esmael Mack, Ryan Louis, Ousman Kaba, and Kerry Alphonse.**

• **Unified Basketball:** This was a great third year of Unified Basketball! Exciting to see the program continue to grow. Our athletes and partners showed incredible teamwork and team spirit throughout. The future is exciting!

• **Cheer:** The Somerville cheer team had a successful fall season. Despite facing obstacles, they pushed through and overcame them with strength and determination. Both the varsity and JV teams competed in multiple competitions. Our varsity team went out in a very challenging division and had amazing performances. The varsity team came in second in the GBL division and advanced to the regional competition, coming in 8th in Division 2! The JV team had an amazing season, winning the GBL title for the first time ever. The cheer team is very excited for the winter season to begin!



Golf Seniors



Cheer Team.



Cross Country GBL champions.



Eastern Mass All-Star, Marco Hoxholli.



SHS Football.



League MVP Girls Soccer, Camila Plata.



Girls Cross Country.



Unified Basketball 2025



Girls Volleyball Team



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Fair Housing question of the week! And this time, it's from the Somerville Fair Housing Commission to you!

Q: Do you live in Somerville and care that no one is discriminated against in housing?

A: Then consider attending the Commission! We meet once a month--a little more often just before and during Fair Housing Month in April. We're really nice people. And we help make sure that Somerville stays the interesting mix that it is by protecting people's right to live here.

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. online. Call 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 for the login information.

A **GoFundMe** has been launched by our own Doug Holder to help keep The Somerville Times free and thriving. Every dollar helps us stay independent and serve our community.

To donate visit:

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

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

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

Want to write local Somerville stories?

Call **857-488-5138**

and speak to the Assignment Editor

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the pie go to the dentist?
It needed a filling!

The "Original"
All Types Vent Cleaning
Restaurant Hood Cleaning
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
Power Washing
Licensed and Insured
in Massachusetts
We travel all over
Massachusetts
Call today to find out
our weekly specials!
Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

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

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Forgot dentures... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

November 26

- 1774 – A congress of colonial leaders criticizes British influence in the colonies and affirms their right to "Life, liberty and property."
- 1789 – George Washington proclaims this a National Thanksgiving Day.
- 1825 – The Kappa Alpha Society, the second American college Greek-letter fraternity, is founded.
- 1922 – Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter, archeologists, open King Tut's tomb, undisturbed for 3,000 years.
- 1941 – The Japanese fleet departs from the Kuril Islands en route to its attack on Pearl Harbor.
- 1949 – India becomes a sovereign Democratic republic.
- 1975 – Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme is found guilty of an attempt on President Gerald Ford's life.
- 2000 – Republican candidate George W. Bush is certified the winner of Florida's electoral votes, giving him enough electoral votes to defeat Democrat Al Gore Jr.

Donate to local holiday gift drives at city buildings

In the giving spirit of the season, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing the city's annual support of local holiday gift and toy donation drives. Toy and gift donation collection boxes will be placed at City buildings, libraries, and firehouses from Monday, December 1, through Wednesday, December 17. Donated gifts will support two community gift drives for families in need of gifts for children and teens this holiday season.

All gifts will be distributed to families by two local efforts: Toys for Local Children, a long-standing local charity that organizes annual holiday gift drives, and The Somerville Toy Drive (somervilletoydrive.org), an initiative organized by community members (including the organizers of the MAMAS Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville annual gift drive as well as other residents). More information on their gift drives and other ways to help can be found at toysforlocalchildren.org or via email at somervilletoydrive@gmail.com.

What to Donate:

To donate, please bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children as well as age-appropriate gifts for teens. Please donate only new items. Gifts are needed for all ages from infants to age 14. Gifts are especially welcome for ages 0-2 years and 8-14 years.

Where to Donate:

Donate at the following Somerville City buildings, libraries, and firehouses. Collection boxes will be in place from Monday, December 1, through Wednesday, December 17, at 4:30 p.m.:



Locations and Boxes:

Note: Boxes located inside City buildings are only accessible during normal business hours
 City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Welcome Desk, 1st floor, and Mayor's Office, 2nd floor

Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue
 Somerville West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue

Somerville East Branch Library, 115 Broadway
 City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Avenue

DPW Building, One Franey Road
 Council on Aging Offices, 167 Holland Street

Somerville Police Headquarters lobby, 220 Washington Street
 Fire Stations:

Somerville Fire Department Headquarters, 266 Broadway
 Highland Ave. Station, 265 Highland Avenue

Union Square Station, 255 Somerville Avenue
 Teele Square Station, 6 Newbury Street (corner of Holland Street)

Lowell Street Station, 651 Somerville Avenue (corner of Lowell Street)
 Assembly Square Station, 455 Middlesex Avenue



Somerville's 2025 holiday celebrations

'Tis the season for community cheer. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) invite the Somerville community to join in the City's 2025 holiday celebrations. Once again, the City Hall concourse will be aglow with festive Christmas tree and menorah lighting events that will include snacks, refreshments, entertainment, and gifts for children.

Community members are also invited to experience sparkling holiday displays created by their neighbors when they embark on a self-guided Illuminations tour. Start the year off with the annual Grand Union Flag Raising on New Years Day. Gift donations are also welcome for the City's annual support of local Holiday Gift Drives. More details about each event and opportunity are below.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025 (Rain date: December 9). Start Time: 5 p.m. Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)

Activities: Music, treats, Christmas tree lighting, children's gifts, and Santa's grand entrance on a shiny red fire truck followed by visits and photos with Santa.

Menorah Lighting

Date: Monday, December 15, 2025 (Rain date: December 16). Start Time: 6 p.m. Location: City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.)

Activities: Music, words, treats, Menorah lighting, and gifts for children.

For more information on the city's holiday events, please call 311 (617-666-3311 from outside the city).



Tufts Composers: New Sounds Now #2 (Caught in the Act of Breathing)

The Tufts University Department of Music presents “Tufts Composers: New Sounds Now #2 (Caught in the Act of Breathing)” in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Wednesday, December 3, at 11 a.m. Tufts Composers explore writing for wind instruments--specifically the trombone--and what breath means for musical shape and pace. Featuring works by Michael Batkin, Jeannette Chechile, John McDonald, Sarah Moeller, Roxanne Oh, Jimmy Wang, guest composer David Yudis, and others. With guest soloists Mikayla Frank-Martin, trombone and Yuseok Seol, piano.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

giving (and shopping) feel good.

Davis Square Holidate takes place on **Saturday, December 6**, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 409 Highland Ave., Somerville. Join over 20 local businesses celebrating the Holiday Season with special promotions, give-a-ways, and Holiday sales. Every purchase at a participating business will also give you the chance to win one of 4 gift packages worth more than \$200 of local dining, shopping, and services.

The Union Square Jingle Shop, Sip & Mingle takes place **Sunday, December 7**, 1 to 6 p.m. In Union Sq. Union Square businesses are decked with sparkling lights, dressed up windows, and instagrammable inflatables that are ready to help you be a holiday host with the most: Make your way to Union Square in Somerville on Sunday, December 7, from 1 to 6 p.m. (extreme weather date December 14) by foot, bike, bus, Greenline, or sleigh. Metered parking is free on Sundays.

Somerville Illuminations begins **Friday, December 12**. Showcase and admire Somerville's best and brightest holiday lights. Add your home or business by **Thursday, December 11**, to be featured on the online Illuminations map <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminations/>.

On **Monday, December 15**, the **Menorah Lighting** takes place on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.). Activities begin at 6 p.m. Traditional songs and sing-alongs. Special gifts will be available for children. Light refreshments will be served.

For anyone in need of **food resources**, go to the **Somerville Food Coalition's** website: [www.https://bit.ly/4ocJ6NB](https://bit.ly/4ocJ6NB). Free local pantries, community meals, community fridges, and more. Find more information at <https://www.somervillema.gov>.

gov/snap. Here are some locations where you can find free food at **Somerville's Community Fridges** can be found at 35 Prospect St., **Elizabeth Peabody House**, 275-277 Broadway, **St. Clements**, across from 29 St. Clements Road. Donations are welcome at these locations.

Next Wave and Full Circle Wreath Sale is the district's alternative therapeutic middle and high school. They work with kids from across the district who have experienced academic setbacks and need support getting back on track. They are selling wreaths to help fund field trips, experiential learning, community building, and incentives. Wreaths cost \$25 and can be purchased at this order link: <https://trst.in/s0aASi>

The Center for Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., will host and manage the **16th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM)** every Saturday beginning November 1 **through April 11**, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, and sweets. In addition to cash, credit, and debit, SNAP / EBT is also accepted at the market. CAA raises funds to be able to provide a \$15 match so that SNAP / EBT for every SNAP/EBT customer who spends at least \$15 of their SNAP/EBT dollars at the market. The market is also participating in the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), which allows qualifying customers to receive between \$40 – \$80 worth of free farm-fresh fruits and vegetables from participating HIP vendors. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org.

The Somerville Police Department is now accepting **direct hires**. They are looking for dedicated, motivated individ-

uals ready to serve one of the most diverse and dynamic communities in the Northeast. If you're MPTC-trained and looking for a department that values teamwork, community engagement, career growth, and competitive benefits, this is your opportunity. Join our team and make a real impact. Apply at: CityOfSomerville.ApplyToJob.com.

Visit **ROOTED Armory Café** for their monthly recurring Café events this November. Upcoming events include: **Nova Comedy Collective's Big Bang Stand-up, Friday, November 28**, at 7:30 p.m. More info available for each event on their website.

Somerville Community Growing Center's annual wreath sale is its biggest fundraiser of the year. Consider purchasing a beautiful, handcrafted holiday wreath **through December 1**, and help support programming and care for the Growing Center. Wreaths feature a homemade bow and are adorned with locally sourced pinecones, delicate dried flowers, and ornamental peppers and berries. Visit <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/wreathsale>.

Somerville Water and Sewer billing is now on a quarterly schedule. As of November 2025, all Somerville Water and Sewer residents will move to a quarterly billing schedule, designed to make managing your water and sewer payments simpler, more predictable, and easier to budget throughout the year. Under this schedule, bills will be issued four times per year. <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/water-and-sewer/billing-schedule>.

The Cosmetology Salon at Somerville High School is open. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. by appointment only. Make an appointment by calling 617-629-5250 x611550. All ser-

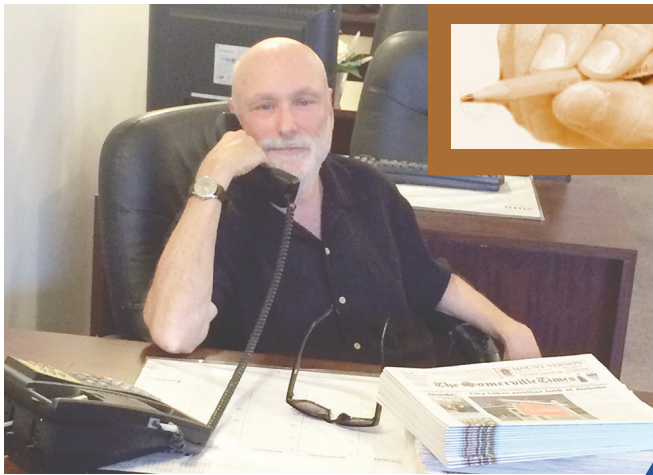
vices are provided for a nominal fee.

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

The Somerville Museum presents **Discover "Ring It On"** at **Market Basket** in Somerville. A glimpse into modern life through digital video projection. By **Barbara Jo, Nathan, Fash, and Olga Mesa**. On view **until December 6**. Visit today (2 – 5 p.m.) or Saturday (12 – 5 p.m.). One Westwood Road. For more information, visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

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

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

A HANDPICKED POEM

A HANDPICKED POEM

presented by Off the Shelf Correspondent Michael Todd Steffen

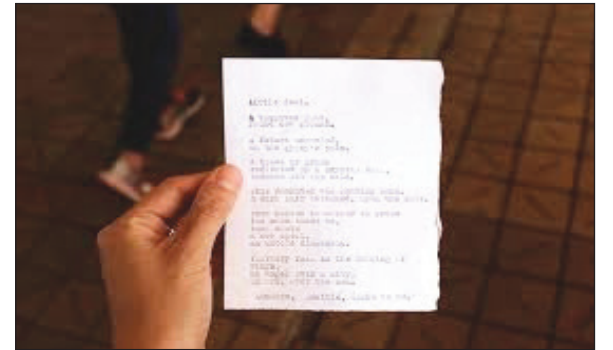
From AGNI 102, autumn 2025

Let Me Put It This Way

by Katherine Indermaur

When I light my lighthouse's lantern, the ships come, their hard bodies creaking, snouts first to breach the bay, to beach on my glistening shores. Men pour out to dry their salt-crested beards and their angry laughter. They burn red and blister and bully. They cut off each other's fingers, cut out each other's eyes, and more besides. From my window, I watch the lantern knit its shadows into the waves. Then the men, bored with bloodshed, turn to me, singing, Come to the window, let down your hair. They call me one wrong name after another. They are climbing my stairs. I could say that, in a panic, I seized the lantern and hurled it into the sea, that I survived long enough to bear a child who had so many fathers that he inherited every kingdom on earth and on every shore built a lighthouse for me but that would just be the prayer I recite as they reach the final step.

I was so taken with Katherine Indermaur's poem the first time I read it and had to reread it over and over, that night it kept piecing itself back to me in my dreams, the ships drifting to the lighthouse's shore, the sterns of the vessels described as "snouts" like pigs, with the vivid nearly cartoonish pirates and their behavior, wearing their half-naked sun burns, bullying one another, cutting off each other's fingers and cutting out each other's eyes. Caricatures of exaggerated violence, the sort that makes us laugh—yeah, right—as at so much other dubious language, though formally belonging to the genre of Napoleonic romance—all this is more than familiar to us,



ubiquitous in our media, at the highest official levels, these days. Such a politically prominent notion—conspicuous immigration—dolloped up in these terms casts a wholly different light on what can easily be reduced to demographics and conflicting national ideals. Oddly lampooning, the poem is winding toward a deeper humanization of alienation.

So many levels are at work in Indermaur's positioning herself in that lighthouse, New England and California, shore to shining shore, making the invention of her speaker in the poem mythic and even colossal, and, even more endearing, part of our bedtimes (involving deeper, more intimate levels of meaning, childhood and adult) when the men's call to her transforms her into Rapunzel: let down your hair ... after she has worded her lantern into magic, having knit its shadows into the waves. Above all, brilliant poems turn brilliant phrases.

Dig a little, like a pirate for a treasure map, a lot of potential homemade guilt is buried in this mesmerizing incantatory poem, latticed for absolution (hence her title, *Let Me Put It This Way*) in a verbalization of what's going on here. Not all poets are childless—and thus prone to evoke the demigod-like child who had so many fathers, which is like the writing produced of loneliness, the body of desperation illuminated by creative insight, intelligence, enlightenment, entertainment that potentially carries the parent-writer's all but DNA code on in the world.

Katherin Indermaur's poems have also appeared in *Ecotone*, *Frontier Poetry*, *New Delta Review*, *Seneca*, just to name a few of her prominent literary journal credits. Her essays and poems have won many awards, including the 2022 Deborah Tall Lyric Essay Book Prize and the 2023 Colorado Book Award. She currently edits for *Sugar House Review* and *Alpinist*.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

My students and I were discussing the poem *Howl* by Allen Ginsberg. I asked them to write their own *Howl* poem. Grant Crosby has let out his own howl, inspired by Ginsberg:

"My name is Grant Crosby. I am a Senior here at Endicott College. I am from Portland, Maine, and play football here at Endicott. Some of my hobbies that I love to do are hunting, fishing, skiing, and exploring the outdoors. I gather a lot of my writing material from my personal experiences with life, and especially the outdoors. I always looked at writing as a chore, but when given the opportunity to write about something I am passionate about, I really enjoy the process and the ability to express emotions I honestly would not."



Howl Poem About Death:

I saw the best parts of myself taken by Death, the cold-fingered fugitive of houses and bedrooms, the thief of family, friends, and every warm breath that dared to live too brightly in this cold world.

Death, you are a monster, you empty-eyed killer, I watched you creep into hospital rooms and farm fields and long winter nights, ripping souls from bodies like pages torn from a book still being written.

I watched people I love fall into your arms, men who worked 14-hour days just to get devoured by your grin, mothers and brothers and neighbors taken without warning, leaving us holding their names like broken glass.

— Grant Crosby

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

After School Clubs sign up period

December 3–12. Families of students in grades K–8 are invited to register for free after school clubs starting on December 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Visit the page now to see the types of clubs available from this semester's list: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/out-school-time-programming/afterschool-programs-overview/afterschool-clubs>.



Commercial Mortgage

OPTIONS

Local real estate investors, builders, and developers need commercial mortgage options and best rates.

We've got both!

- Residential Apartment Buildings of 5 or More Units
- Mixed Use Properties
- Office/Retail Properties
- Construction & Permanent Financing
- Competitive Rates and Programs

Quick, local decisions

Richard Brenner, VP/Commercial

Direct 617-629-3349

WINTER HILL BANK[®]

617-666-8600 | 1-800-444-4300 | winterhillbank.com

A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906

