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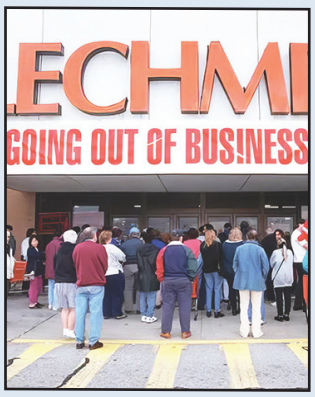
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58 YEARS

VOL. 14 NO. 44 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026 | SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Inside:



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A four-legged Halloween party page 19

State Election: Unofficial results



Gov. Maura Healey was among the Democratic candidates who won their races on Election Day, securing her second term as Governor of Massachusettes. — *Photo courtesy of Gov. Maura Healey*

By The Times Staff

A historic election took place on Tuesday, as Democrats regained control of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

Just as impressively, all Democratic candidates in Massachusetts made a clean sweep of their races in the State Election, with Sen. Ed Markey and Gov. Maura Healey both winning reelection.

The preliminary results of the State races are as follows:

U.S. Senator: Democrat Ed Markey wins reelection to the U.S. Senate, continuing the seat he has held since 2013.

Governor: Democrat Maura Healey wins reelection and will serve a second term as Massachusetts governor.

Attorney General: Democrat Andrea Joy Campbell.

Continued on page 4

Somerville Winter Farmers Market opens 17th season

The Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA) announces that it will host and manage the 17th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) every Saturday beginning November 7 through April 17. This weekly market offers the best locally grown and regionally produced agricultural items, including vegetable produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, and sweets. Each market will feature more than 30 weekly and biweekly vendors and several rotating guest vendors while welcoming an anticipated 1,000+ visitors every Saturday.

The mission of the Somerville Winter Farmers Market is to bring healthy, local food and products to all customers regardless of economic status. In addition to cash, credit and debit, SNAP / EBT is also accepted at the market. CAA raises funds to be able to provide a $15 match for

Continued on page 11



The Somerville Winter Farmers Market kicks off its 17th season on Saturday, November 7.

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NEWSTALK

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

The city is hosting its second **citywide cleanup** as part of the **Year of the Neighbor initiative.** Somerville community members are invited to spend a couple of hours outside, meet people nearby, and leave your street a little better than you found it. Join in on **Saturday, November 7**, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Cleanup events have been scheduled in all seven wards. Learn more and find your ward's meeting point here. https://www.somerville-ma.gov/news/somerville-invites-neighbors-join-fall-neighborhood-cleanups-november-7.

****

Turn pumpkins into compost at the **2nd Annual "Pumpkin Smash"** on **November 7**. As spooky season comes to a close, don't trash your pumpkins, smash 'em. Community members are invited from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at **Chuckie Harris Park** (17 Cross St. East). The rain date is Sunday, November 8. Bring and smash your Halloween pumpkins (our smash one provided). Enjoy additional family-friendly activities, a bake sale, learn about Somerville's **Food Waste Collection Pilot**, and more.

****

Congratulations to all the **elected officials** who won their respective races on **Election Day**. We wish them the best as they take on the jobs that they have successfully earned.

****

Happy birthdays this week: We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Edward Robaczewski, Herc Kalos,** *Continued on page 7*

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 4 – November 0 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday *November 4*	Sunny	77°/54°	8%	3%	SW 10 mph
Thursday *November 5*	Cloudy	75°/60°	20%	12%	SW 14 mph
Friday *November 6*	Rain	68°/56°	89%	63%	S 7 mph
Saturday *November 7*	Rain	59°/46°	68%	41%	NNE 9 mph
Sunday *November 8*	Partly Cloudy	57°/41°	15%	7%	WNW 7 mph
Monday *November 9*	Rain	57°/38°	36%	22%	WNW 10 mph
Tuesday *November 10*	Partly Cloudy	54°/37°	22%	11%	WNW 14 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: *ENOUGH IS ENOUGH*

Jared 27 Rossmore says:

The era of looking out your bedroom window over the rolling hills of Somerville, while birds chirp and cats paw lazily on porches in the midday sun, has not been seen 'round these parts for the past 35 years or so.

The birds? Torn asunder by hawks.
The cats? Conceded porches to the rats.

Stuff on other people's property is getting taller.

And closer to Their Side of the Line.

One wonders: Where *exactly* outside your private property would you like your aesthetic preferences to start being enforced by State-wielded firearms and taxation powers?

"Twenty to thirty feet back from the line"?
W h y w o u l d I c a r e a b o u t t h a t ?

On the other hand, it's impossible to ask Bill to go "touch grass" because you can't grow grass in a yard if there's a giant f'ing ADU blocking all the sunlight back there. The man has a point.

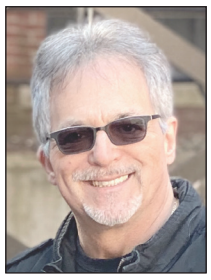
Can we talk about how only ultra-wealthy or pro-developers can actually afford to Build Anything right now, whatever the zoning says?

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the Massachusetts VILLE The Spirit of America by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

Lechmere Sales: Where you pocket the difference!



"Started in 1913, the shop grew from carriage needs to auto needs and then in the 1940's … the addition of electrical appliances came along … and the name was changed to Lechmere Tire and Sales Company. The word "tire" would be dropped by 1950, and most of us would fondly call the sprawling retailer located just over in East Cambridge Lechmere's." From *Shopping Days* in *Retro Boston*.

Lechmere Sales was gone by 1997. In its heyday, the store at 88 First St. in Cambridge was the place to go for major appliances, household and electrical goods at reasonable prices. At that location since 1963, not only did it boast of a large parking area, but it was also on the Green Line (Lechmere), making it quite convenient. Do you remember that all the prices ended with 88 cents to depict the store's address?

My dad bought our first color TV there around 1964 or so. I can still see the excitement on my little brother's face that Christmas morning. Lots of people tell me they got their first credit card there.

LP vinyl record albums cost $2.99. A friend got two 19" Zenith color TVs there in 1982 and just replaced them last year. Lots of young married couples got their washers, dryers, and refrigerators at Lechmere's.

Many Somerville friends remember working there. One guy made $1.88 an hour in the office, and others worked on the floor and in the stock room. The cafeteria workers wore pink jumpsuits and one friend was an undercover store detective. One lady worked there for 25 years right up until it closed.

Many couples met while working at Lechmere. Some are still together, some aren't. Joey says, "I got my first portable stereo FM radio there in 1969. Most of the radio stations were still on AM. There were some college stations, some classical stations, and WBCN! I loved that radio!" A young lady recalls, "I purchased my first wooden kitchen set there … my daughter still uses it … they don't make them like they used to." Lisa says, "I got my ears pierced there when I was 14 or 15." Sandy remembers, "I bought my first cellphone there, and I got a stove, a fridge and tons of stuff!"



A former Lechmere customer shares this, "I bought my first big screen TV there. It was a huge piece of black furniture. It was a floor model, so I got an even better deal. Honestly, it just died last year! It was difficult to see it go, but it lived a very long and impressive life!" Rick tells us, "I worked my butt off at the Stephen James House to scrape together a nice amount of cash and off to Lechmere for my first top-of-the-line stereo hi-fi!"

My old Somerville and Kiss 108 pal, comedian Tony V, told me that he bought a lava lamp at Lechmere! Mauzy said, "My first non-hand-me-down bike came from Lechmere. It was painted a metallic teal and had a silver glitter seat. I got it for my ninth birthday, and I rode it everywhere!" I think my sister had the same bike! Charlie and I used to take the bus over and test out all the new guitars at Lechmere.

Remember the items coming down the conveyor belt from the stockroom? People remember buying 8-track tapes, their first huge old computers, and Grand Funk Railroad albums. Someone actually met singer Tony Bennett there.

Wikipedia notes, "November 7, 1997 was the last day of business for all locations, and all remaining items, which had been increasingly discounted, were offered at 90% off. Wow! Now that was a true bargain!

Lechmere Sales is in the same category as Somerville Lumber and Bradlees. They were great stores with great prices. They were places where we purchased our memories. Try as they may, there are no stores today with the integrity, personality, and charm of those old businesses. You may still have an item in your home that was purchased at Lechmere's, but even if you don't, you surely have a memory that will last a lifetime'

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November 10 Community Forum

Last year, the city welcomed residents to a Community Forum for feedback on the 115 Sycamore St new school project. As planning moves forward, a second Community Meeting is now scheduled for November 10 at 6 p.m. This will be a chance to learn more about where the project currently stands, and will serve as an opportunity for families and community members to offer feedback and and share ideas. Visit the City's website for complete details as they become available: https://www.somervillema.gov/newschool

The Somerville Times

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: I've heard there have been some recent changes to Trump Accounts. What's new, and do parents need to do anything?
A: Yes. There have been important developments since Trump Accounts were introduced earlier this year. Here are three things parents should know:

• **1. The government is now automatically opening accounts.** Beginning October 1, 2026, the federal government started establishing Trump Accounts for eligible children under age 18 with valid Social Security numbers, including those whose families hadn't previously signed up.

• **2. Parents still need to claim the account.** Although the account may already exist, an authorized parent or guardian must claim and activate it to manage the investments. This can be done through the official website, TrumpAccounts.gov, or its app.

• **3. Not every child receives the $1,000 government contribution.** Trump Accounts are investment accounts for children that offer tax-deferred growth. However, the $1,000 government contribution is available only to qualifying U.S. citizen children born from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2028 – roughly the years of Trump's second presidency. Parents must separately request this contribution using IRS Form 4547.

Bottom Line: Automatic enrollment doesn't mean there's nothing left to do—or that every child receives $1,000. If you have an eligible child, visit TrumpAccounts.gov to claim the account and, if your child qualifies, request the government contribution.

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



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

State Election: Unoficial results CONT. FROM PG 1

Secretary of the Commonwealth: Democrat William Francis Galvin.

U.S. House of Representatives

5th Congressional District: Democrat Katherine M. Clark — unopposed.

7th Congressional District: Democrat Ayanna S. Pressley — unopposed.

8th Congressional District: Democrat Stephen F. Lynch — contested race.

State Senator, 2nd Middlesex: Erika Uyterhoeven

State Representative, 26th Middlesex: Mike Connolly

State Representative, 27th Middlesex: Ben Ewen-Campen

State Representative, 34th Middlesex: Will Mbah

Middlesex District Attorney: Marian Ryan

Middlesex Register of Probate: Tara DeCristofaro

Governor's Councillor: Terrence W. Kennedy

Ballot questions

The unoficial results of the State Election ballot questions are as follows:

QUESTION 1:

This proposed law would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. This proposed law would exempt documents related to the development of public policy and communications between legislators and their constituents, if those communications are reasonably related to a constituent's request for assistance in obtaining government-provided benefits or services or interacting with a government agency.

A YES VOTE would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

QUESTION 2:

This proposed law would specify that employees of the Committee for Public Counsel Services ("CPCS") are permitted to engage in collective bargaining with their employer. It would also require CPCS, after executing a collective bargaining agreement, to request the appropriation necessary to fund such agreement from the Governor.

A YES VOTE would specify that Committee for Public Counsel Services employees may form a union to collectively bargain with their employer.

QUESTION 3:

This proposed law would eliminate political party primaries for state elections and instead establish a system where there would be a single, all-party primary in which all candidates, regardless of their party affiliation, would be listed on one ballot, and voters could vote for any candidate on the ballot. The two candidates receiving the most votes in the primary would advance to the general election ballot.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the laws governing primary elections.

QUESTION 4:

This proposed law would permit eligible individuals to register to vote or update their voter registration address on Election Day.

A YES VOTE would permit eligible citizens to register to vote or to update their voter registration address at their polling place on Election Day.

QUESTION 5:

This proposed law would change the limit on how much revenue the state can collect in a given year. The proposal would limit state revenue in a given year to the net amount of state revenue from the year before, increased by a rate equal to the average growth of wages and salaries in Massachusetts over the most recent three years.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to state revenue collection.

QUESTION 6:

This proposed law would establish a Nature for All Fund that, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, would receive 50% of state taxes collected from the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses for the first year of its operation. After July 1, 2028, the Nature for All Fund would begin receiving, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, 100% of state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses.

A YES VOTE would create a fund that could be utilized for natural resource conservation that would receive some state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods and recreational vehicles, and the use of golf courses.

QUESTION 7:

This proposed law would allow single-family homes to be built in a residentially zoned area as long as the land on which it is to be constructed is at least 5,000 square feet, has at least 50 feet of land bordering the street, road, or public way that it faces, and has access to public sewer and water services.

A YES VOTE would allow single-family homes to be built on lots of 5,000 square feet or more in residential areas, subject to reasonable local regulation of certain aspects of those homes.

QUESTION 8:

The proposed law would change the type and amount of marijuana that may legally be possessed in Massachusetts by repealing the laws that legalize, regulate, and tax the retail sale of adult recreational use marijuana in Massachusetts. The proposed law would also permit persons 21 years of age and older to possess 1 ounce or less of marijuana including no more than 5 grams in the form of concentrate, and to gift or transfer to another person 21 years of age and older 1 ounce or less of marijuana including no more than 5 grams in the form of concentrate. The proposed law would also impose a civil penalty of $100 and forfeiture of the marijuana for the possession of marijuana between the weight of 1 and 2 ounces.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the law relative to marijuana.

QUESTION 9: REFERENDUM ON AN EXISTING LAW

This law makes a number of changes to Massachusetts laws governing firearms.

The law adds school administrators and licensed healthcare providers as parties permitted to ask a court to issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order – requiring an individual to surrender or relinquish their firearm licenses, permits, and firearms - if an individual is a present danger to self or others. The law also provides that, when issuing an Harassment Prevention Order, a court may also order the surrender of firearms licenses, permits, and firearms.

A YES VOTE would keep in place the law, which increases the regulation of firearms, including ghost guns, machine guns, and assault-style weapons.

Visit our website for updates on the results and to see how Somerville voted at www.thesomervilletimes.com.

Somerville Homeless Coalition begins its winter preparations for the unhoused community

By Bella Grimaldi

The Somerville Homeless Coalition, which was established through a community-led effort in 1985, now serves over 4,500 people.

Hannah O'Halloran, the Director of Homeless Services, said that as winter approaches, there is an influx of people in Somerville who require support. "The need grows, and the City of Somerville opens up a warming center, which tends to increase the number of people staying in Somerville," she said.

O'Halloran said in addition to the warming center, other spaces available for unhoused people to stay are the coalition's shelter and St. Patrick's Homeless Shelter for Women. She added that the coalition evaluates whether their shelter and engagement hours can be extended to deal with colder weather and snow.

To prepare for the winter, the coalition continues its usual programming but changes its focus, according to O'Halloran.

"Outreach again switches to the warmer gear," she said. "We start narrowing in on wool socks, and hand warmers, hats, gloves, winter jackets. We take a look at subzero sleeping bags – all that sort of stuff."

O'Halloran said winter gear is distributed through the coalition's street outreach, which visits homeless encampments, or through its engagement center, which is a drop-in program accessible to unhoused people.

She said in addition to the winter gear, a great way to show support is through donations, which can be made through the coalition's website.

"Separate from supporting the organization, I think if people are walking around outside in the winter offering to buy somebody a hot cup of coffee or giving them a gift card so then they can actually go inside a restaurant for a little while and sit in the warmth is important," she said.

Overall, she said treating the unhoused community like they are neighbors is one of the best ways to give support.



The Somerville Homeless Coalition is preparing for the needs of the unhoused community as they face the upcoming winter season.

City of Somerville hosts Domestic Violence Vigil

By Eliot Josti

Last Wednesday, Somerville's Department of Equity and Belonging hosted a Domestic Violence Vigil at Somernova in order to support and connect with those affected.

"The vigil offers an opportunity to come together to remember those lost to domestic violence, support survivors, and stand with everyone whose lives have been affected," said the City of Somerville's website.

As attendees arrived, they were greeted by resources provided by the City of Somerville as well as refreshments provided by local businesses.

"When people walked in, they were greeted with a purple ribbon and a flyer that outlined the agenda of the evening. Then, an Equity and Belonging staff member was available for anyone to ask any questions and to explain who was in the room," said Catherine Nakato, Director of the Department of Equity and Belonging.

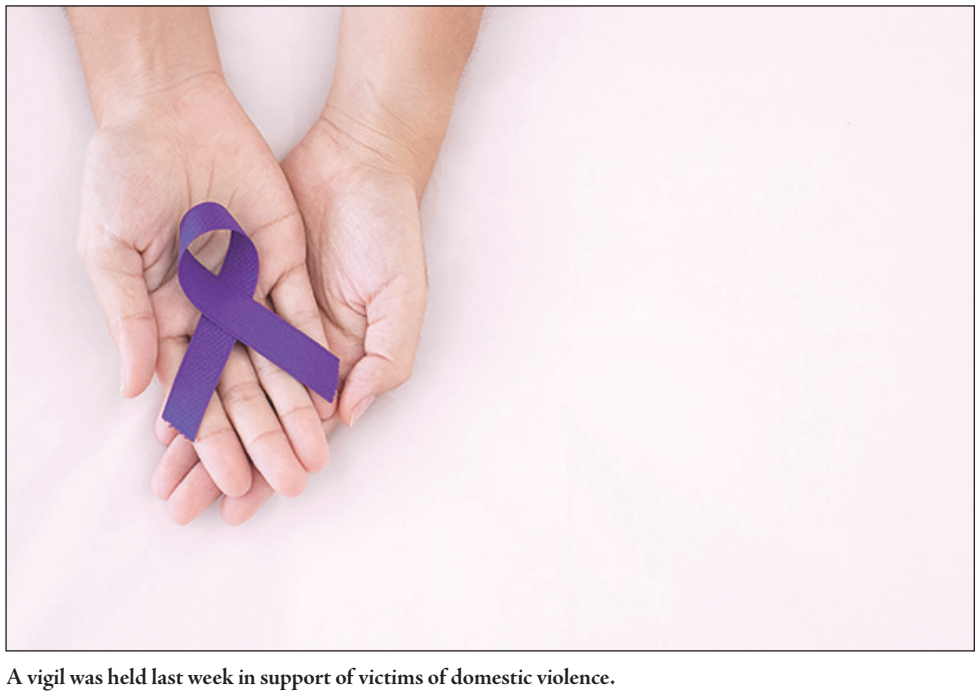
Carolicious Venezuelan Food generously made arepas that were passed out alongside water and seltzers.

As people settled in, statements were made by Somerville's own. From the District Attorney to Mayor Jake Wilson, all shared words of support representing the care that the city brings to domestic violence awareness.

"We want the city of Somerville to know that we care and have the resources to help them. We are all learning so many things as we go. We want to position somebody to sit with them as they go through the process and walk alongside that journey," said Nakato.

They then read off the names of the individuals who lost their lives in the past year, followed by a moment of silence. Families provided statements to share that honored their loved ones who have been affected.

Afterward, the evening was open to networking with local resources and members of the community. The Somerville Police Department, as well as the Witness Advocate, provided information that may be needed by those in the community. Riverside Community Care also provided information on how to respond to certain situations.



A vigil was held last week in support of victims of domestic violence.

"We want to remind people that they are not alone. There are people that care. There are elected officials that care. We want to take the steps that are going to make differences. Making people seen and heard is going to make a better Somerville," said Nakato.

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The Somerville Times

COMMENTARY

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

America's Moral Obligation to Afghan Allies

By Sasha Chanoff

A young mother named Mariam was on the Taliban's hit list when they took control of Afghanistan during the U.S. withdrawal five years ago. (I'm using a pseudonym out of concern for the safety of her family members overseas). She had worked with the U.S. government promoting women's rights. "I knew the Taliban would kill me and my family," she said. "I had to escape to save myself and my three children and husband."

They made it to Kabul airport, where she described chaos, explosions, and gunfire as thousands desperately tried to reach the evacuation flights: "My young daughter and I saw people shot down in front of us. I was begging the U.S. military guarding the gate to let us through. I thought we would die there. Then someone found my name on a list and they let us board."

The U.S. airlifted Mariam's family out along with some 76,000 Afghans to America – a historic marker of our country's moral obligation to Afghans.

That obligation is sacred for veterans whose Afghan interpreters protected and sometimes fought and died [1] alongside them. Veterans spearheaded special evacuations and brought their interpreters into their own homes and communities.

This same struggle to bring allies to the U.S. is Mariam's now in a personal way. Her father worked with the U.S. Army, and the Taliban have marked him for death. He and Mariam's mother hold Special Immigrant Visas – a pathway Congress created for wartime allies whose service placed them in danger – but they remain stuck overseas. "I wake up every morning scared they won't survive," she said.

Representative Michael McCaul (R-Texas), the former chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, implored Congress to help allies like them in a House floor speech [2]: "There is a saying – no man left behind, no one left behind. That is the promise we made to the interpreters, to our Afghan partners. They have a bullseye on their back. They will be killed if we don't get them out of there."

In addition to Mariam's parents, thousands [3] of others have been left behind. As a result, some veterans have suffered from a particular kind of Post Traumatic Stress known as Moral Injury [4] – feelings of helplessness, betrayal, shame, and guilt that the US government has abandoned allies to danger and death. It has contributed significantly to veteran suicides [5].

The betrayal of these Afghan allies is most visible at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar, where more than 1,000 fully vetted wartime allies – most of whom have already been approved for U.S. relocation – have been stranded since being evacuated from Afghanistan. A bipartisan group from the Senate and House has written [6] to the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Homeland Security, asking that all eligible families be brought to America quickly. The Trump administration has considered other options, including sending them to the Congo, where there is an Ebola outbreak – an idea dropped after backlash.

But many Afghans already in the US aren't safe either. Some have been detained [7] at routine immigration appointments, and a combat veteran who served alongside U.S. forces for over a decade recently died in ICE custody [8]. Now deportation flights [9] are starting. The veterans' advocacy group #AfghanEvac has been sounding the alarm [10] – issuing urgent warnings to Afghan allies to seek legal representation and know their rights if approached by federal authorities.

This climate of fear stands in stark contrast to the sanctuary they were promised. Mariam's own story shows what's possible when America keeps its word. RefugePoint [11], an organization I started in 2005 that partners with refugees to find life-changing solutions, was part of the coalition that launched the Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans – an initiative enabling every-day Americans to directly sponsor families.

Mariam was evacuated to Fort Dix, New Jersey, where the program connected her with sponsors in Massachusetts. One of them, a retired business leader, says the connection became "a wonderful, rich relationship that is a blessing in my life."

Sponsors helped America successfully welcome and integrate tens of thousands of Afghans. Since then, over 2.4 million Americans [12] in all 50 states and 26,000 zip codes have welcomed Afghans and others – including in my home city of Somerville.

Mariam now works at a tech company.



American sponsors welcoming Afghans. *— Photo by Katelyn King*

Her husband, a dentist, works in his profession, and her oldest son is almost finished with college. "We contribute to our community here," she told me. "My oldest son even started his own company."

Today we have a chance to live up to our promise – no one left behind. Call your representatives and ask them to pass the bipartisan Afghan TPS Act [13], which would protect Afghans already here from deportation and let them keep working and supporting their families. Ask them, too, to press the administration to resume the SIV and resettlement programs for those most at risk, starting with Mariam's parents and the families stranded in Qatar. If you want to do more, consider joining or supporting a sponsor group [14] in your community.

Our Afghan allies put their lives on the line for our troops. Now it's our turn to stand up for them.

Sasha Chanoff is the CEO and Founder of RefugePoint, a humanitarian organization that partners with refugees for life-changing solutions, and the co-author of From Crisis to Calling: Finding Your Moral Center in the Toughest Decisions [15]. *Follow him on LinkedIn* [16].

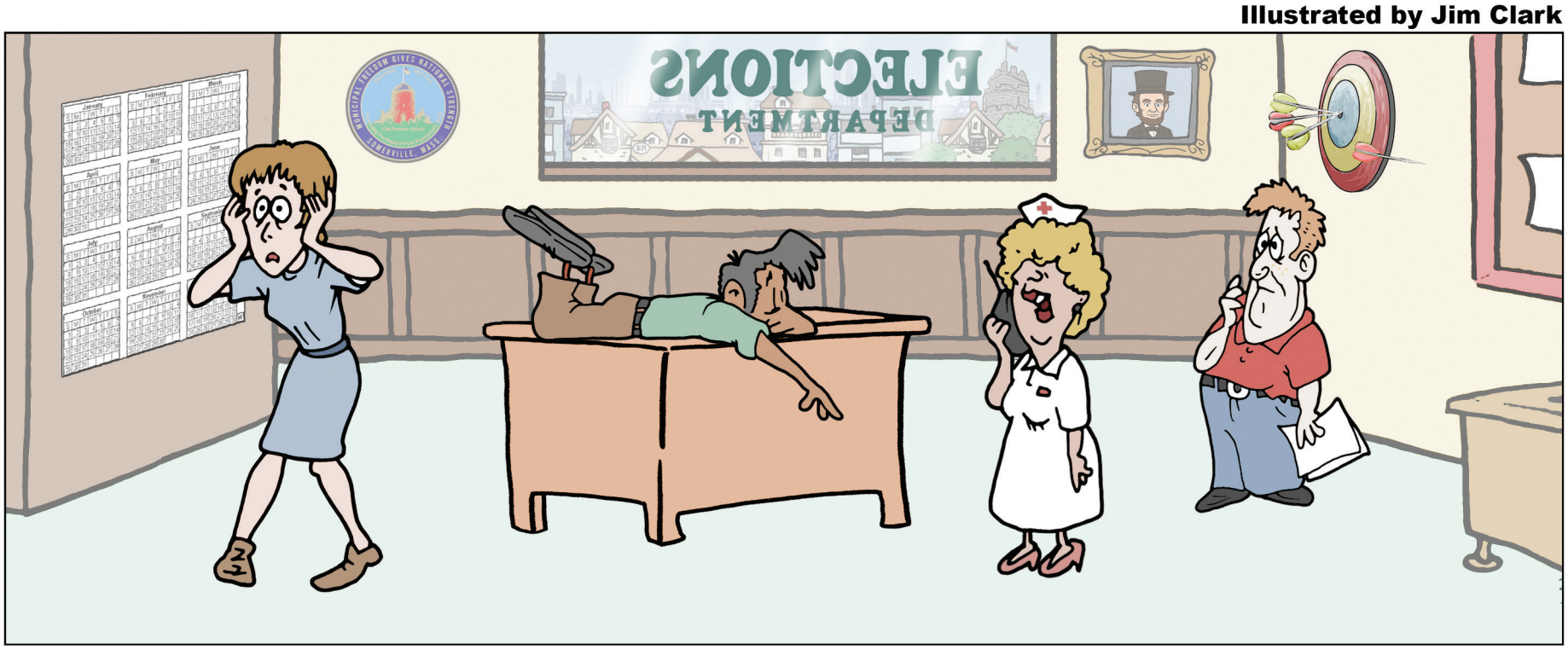
Links:

[1] https://www.dvidshub.net/news/537220/us-soldier-afghan-interpreter-killed-attack
[2] https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/news/press-releases/mccaul-speaks-house-floor-in-support-allies-act
[3] https://afghanevac.org/siv-current-state
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[13] https://www.coons.senate.gov/news/press-releases/senators-coons-murkowski-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-use-temporary-protected-status-to-help-vulnerable-afghans-in-the-united-states/
[14] https://www.welcomenst.org/
[15] https://www.amazon.com/Crisis-Calling-Finding-Toughest-Decisions/dp/1626564493
[16] https://www.linkedin.com/in/sasha-chanoff/

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Well, that was fun.

Our View Of The Times

The State Election has come and gone, and those who fought long and hard – candidates and their supporters alike – are to be congratulated for once again participating in our democratic process in these difficult times. Alternatives were presented, and the voters made their choices. That's what it's all about.

Even as we await the final tally of votes in the congressional races, we can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that we have done our part. All we can do now is sit back, relax, and let the results come in as they will.

We should, however, not forget the efforts made by our election officials and the many volunteers who gave their all under difficult circumstances to make sure we all had every possible opportunity to cast our votes.

Whether voting by mail, making use of drop boxes, or early voting at City Hall, we were presented with safe and secure means of making our voices heard.

Last but far from least, the voters themselves should be thanked for taking the time and making the effort to exercise their franchise in the process. All the hooplah and hype, debate and drama, would mean nothing if the common citizen refused to get involved.

And to do this in the face of such political divisiveness, the likes of which have not been experienced in our own lifetimes, is truly extraordinary.

Democracy is the one system that assures the little guy and gal that they are, in fact, the big kids on the block after all. Public service to the public is the highest calling in the land. Let us once again give thanks that we enjoy this precious gift.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Mike Campbell, Betsy Almeida Pesce, Ivy Powers, Peggy Foley Arbeene, Mary Bean Fitzgerald, Victoria Macrokanis, and **Donald Gallarelli**, 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.

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Serena Hollmeyer Taylor, a longtime community advocate, social entrepreneur, and nonprofit leader, announced her candidacy for **Somerville City Council** in **Ward 3**. Taylor, who serves as **President Emeritus** of the **Somerville Homeless Coalition**, is running to bring her experience solving problems, building coalitions, and delivering results to City Hall. For more information about the campaign, visit serenaforward3.com.

****

Layne Staley Tribute East returns following a powerful inaugural year as a mission-driven concert honoring the legacies of **Layne Staley** and **Mike Starr** while raising awareness and support for people affected by addiction. Modeled after the long-running Seattle Layne Staley Tribute, now in its 24th year, the East Coast event carries that spirit forward through a night of music, remembrance, and purpose. Proceeds will support musicians struggling with fentanyl and opioid addiction and provide resources for their families through donations to the Layne Staley Memorial Fund via **Therapeutic Health Services** (**THS**) in Seattle and the **CASPAR Men's Recovery Home** in Somerville. **Saturday, November 7**. Doors: 6:45 p.m. Show: 7:45 p.m., **Crystal Ballroom** at **Somerville Theatre**, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, All ages. Standing room only. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

****

The last days for **hazardous and yard waste collection** this season are quickly approaching. **DPW collection** of these materials will resume in **Spring 2027** as per the usual seasonal cycle. The two final hazardous waste drop-off events this fall at the DPW yard (1 Franey Road) are on: **Thursday, November 5**, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and **Saturday, November 14**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information on materials accepted and how to safely prep them, visit somervillema.gov/HazWaste or download the Somerville Waste Wizard (somerville-ma.gov/wastewizard) app for Android or Apple phones. The final week for residential yard waste collection in 2026 will be Monday through Friday, December 7–11. Place yard waste curbside for pickup on *Continued on page 21*

The Somerville Times

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio #1045

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What is the Spanish name for Day of the Dead?

2. When is Day of the Dead celebrated??

3. What are Catrinas?

4. What is placed on an ofrenda (altar)?

5. What U.S. President was given a speeding ticket for riding his horse too fast down a Washington street?

6. What U.S. President banned alcohol from the White House?

7. What U.S. President was the first presidential candidate to campaign using the telephone?

8. What day was John F. Kennedy assassinated?

9. What day in November did Parker Brothers introduced the Monopoly game?

10. When did the apartheid system in South Africa come to an end?

11. What was Dr. Frankenstein's first name in the novel by Mary Shelley?

12. What Florida gym teacher with a strict policy against long hair inspired a rock band to name their band after him?

Answers on page 14

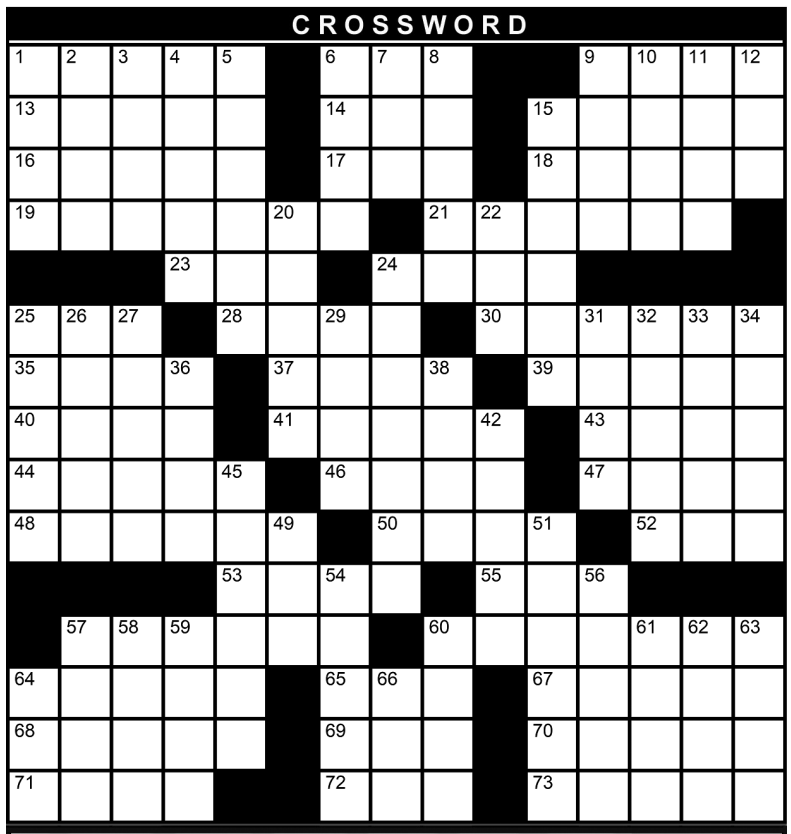
The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backward.

2. The average American produces 4.5 pounds of trash per day.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

HOLIDAY MOVIES





© StatePoint Media

ACROSS

1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. HomeExchange story, with The
21. Rudolph's father
23. Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. "Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN

1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Public food compost bins launching in Somerville

The City of Somerville is making it easier for residents to compost their food scraps with 10 new food waste drop-off bins across the city.

The bins have been installed citywide and are ready for use. Community members can search the City's location map to find one nearby.

"Even a banana peel can be part of our response to climate change," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "Residents voted for this project because they wanted composting to be an option for more of their neighbors. These bins give everyone in Somerville a free way to turn food scraps into something useful while keeping food out of the trash and away from rats."

The new network builds on existing composting efforts, including the city's curbside food waste collection pilot in East Somerville and the thousands of households that subscribe to private curbside collection services.

How to Use the Bins

Visit somervillema.gov/foodwaste to register, find bin locations, and view the full list of accepted items.

Register: Complete a one-time registration online, scan the QR code on a bin, or call 311 to get an access code. Registration helps the City understand how residents use the bins and plan next steps for the program.

Find a bin: Check the online map for a convenient location. Your access code works at all 10 bins.

Drop off your food scraps: Place food scraps or accepted food-soiled paper (for example, coffee filters or paper towels) in a compostable or paper bag before putting them in a bin.

Don't trash the compost: Compost bins are for food scraps, not for regular trash. Put items like pet waste, vapes, or recyclables in the trash.

Give Your Jack-o'-Lantern a Smashing Send-Off on Nov. 7

Bring your own pumpkins or smash some of ours to help turn them into compost at the City's annual Pumpkin Smash on Saturday, November 7, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants can also join a walk to the new bin outside the East Somerville Branch Library to see how it works. Information about the East Somerville Curbside Food Waste Collection Pilot will also be available.

Supporting a More Sustainable Somerville

Expanding food waste collection is part of the city's work to meet the goals outlined in Somerville's Zero Waste Plan and Climate Forward, including reducing waste by 30% by 2030 and 90% by 2050. Plant and animal waste and compostable paper make up approximately 30% of municipal solid waste in Massachusetts. Collecting these materials separately helps keep them out of the trash and allows them to be turned into compost that can be used to fertilize the soil.



— City of Somerville

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO

Zucchini – Gold Bar Squash

This is my take on a dish I had while visiting the café at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. The combination of flavors, sweet and tangy and a mixture of textures go very well together. It makes for a beautiful presentation if you're having a dinner party. You can place these on an individual dish or on a platter for a buffet. Either way, your guests will be impressed with the presentation.

3 small Zucchini or Gold Bar Squash *see note below
1/2 cup Hazelnuts, toasted and skins removed *see note below
2 Teaspoons Olive Oil, divided
1/2 cup Trumpet Mushrooms or Shiitake, cleaned and chopped small
1 Granny Smith Apple, peeled, 1/2 chopped small (save the other 1/2 for a snack)
4 Tablespoons Cream Cheese
1/2 cup Cherry Tomatoes, cut in half
Hazelnut Oil for finishing drizzle, or substitute a good Olive Oil
Balsamic Glaze for drizzle
Salt & Pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place the hazelnuts on a small sheet pan and place in the oven for 10 minutes. Put the hazelnuts in the middle of a clean dish towel and rub the skins off. It's fine if the hazelnuts break into pieces. Cut all 3 squashes in half, put 4 halves aside. Seed the 2 halves that are left and small dice along with the apple and the mushrooms so they are uniform in size. In a 10" sauté pan, add 1 teaspoon of olive oil over medium/low heat, add the diced squash, apple, and mushrooms and cook down for 4-5 minutes, add a pinch of salt and pepper and put aside in a small bowl. Wipe out the same pan, add the remaining 1 teaspoon of olive oil to the pan, add the squash and 2 tablespoons water to the pan. Set on medium/low heat and cover for 5 minutes. Remove lid and continue to cook the squash just until fork tender, another 3-5 minutes. On individual plates, or on a platter, spread 1 tablespoon of cream cheese at a time to hold each squash from sliding on the plate and for additional flavor. Add the cooked squash, apple and mushroom mixture over each piece of squash. Add the tomato garnish around the plate. Drizzle 1 teaspoon of hazelnut oil and 1 teaspoon of balsamic drizzle over each squash. Add the hazelnuts around the plate. Add a pinch of salt over each squash. If you have a finishing salt such as Himalayan or another type of sea salt, this is the time to use it. Serves 4.



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

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City of Somerville
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mRoijL2OQKaQ_4wsLkQsFA

TO CALL IN

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

The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the following pursuant to the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

25 Atherton Street — Applicant: Matthew Boyes-Watson
Owner: Matthew Boyes-Watson
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing a heat pump on the side elevation of the existing building.

25 Atherton Street — Applicant: Niccolo Oleary-Taguiri
Owner: Niccolo Oleary-Taguiri
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing a heat pump on the side elevation of the existing building.

52 Powderhouse Blvd — Applicant: Vanita Wagner
Owner: Vanita Wagner
The applicant is requesting the replacement of original wood gutter system with fiberglass gutters on a Local Historic District (LHD) property.

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

374 Broadway — Applicant: Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo
Owner: Richard G. DiGirolamo
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

165 Sycamore Street — Applicant: Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo
Owner: Richard G. DiGirolamo
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

13-15 Thorndike Street — Applicant: Creative Properties- Leon Navickas
Owner: ASCP, LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

3 Cameron Avenue — Applicant: Niranjan Gawli
Owner: Cameron Rei LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

65 Derby Street (Carriage Barn) — Applicant: Sal Queruio - Tradition Construction Inc.
Owner: 65 Derby St Somerville LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

10/28/26, 11/4/26 The Somerville Times

SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

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

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

COURTNEY HENDERSON, CITY CLERK
CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

11/4/26 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON SETTING THE TAX LEVY PERCENTAGES FOR FY2027

There will be a public hearing at a regular meeting of the Somerville City Council on **Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM**, on the Order of President Lance L. Davis, to determine the percentage of local tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2027, as required by MGL c40 s56. At this public hearing, Frank Golden, Chief Assessor and Chairman of the Somerville Board of Assessors, will provide information and data relevant to making a determination, including the fiscal effects of the available alternatives. It should be noted that Fiscal Year 2027 is a State Department of Revenue required Reevaluation or Certification Year.

This meeting of the City Council will be conducted both in person and by remote participation, using the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person at the City Council Chamber, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.

2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_osHEk1dPS8CzilvbFs8eBQ

3. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

4. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

COURTNEY HENDERSON, CITY CLERK
CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

11/4/26 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 27-26

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department, invites proposals for:

Translation Management System (TMS) and Computer Aided Translation (CAT) Platform

The RFP package may be obtained online at https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement or from the City of Somerville's Bid Express page at http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress on or after: **Wednesday, October 28th, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, November 25th, 2026**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email jhustins@somervillema.gov for more information.

Joey Hustins
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3409

11/4/26 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #27-27

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

HVAC Preventative Maintenance and Repairs

A bid package may be obtained online at https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress on or after: **Wednesday, November 4, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, December 2, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Logan Carroll Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

11/4/26 The Somerville Times

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

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

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

11/4/26 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on **Tuesday, November 17, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, and Sunday Hours for Space Bistro Somerville LLC d/b/a Space Bistro at 122-126 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_noz4wqhtTuGcZC8PIIcHjg You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

11/4/26 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
RFP # 27-25

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

On-Call Utility Billing Assistance Services

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, November 4, 2026**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, November 18, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Logan Carroll Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

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Somerville Winter Farmers Market opens 17th season CONT. FROM PG 1

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.

"Anyone who has been to our farmers market knows how special it is. For twenty-two Saturdays, our spaces transform into a bustling utopic marketplace where the community connects with the people who grow and make their food. It is an incredibly vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. As an arts center, we of course have local artists playing music both on stage in the Performance Hall and in our Café.

Customers are literally dancing while they buy their veggies. This market nourishes body and soul." says Stephanie Scherpf, CAA Co-Director / CEO.

"The market is about more than just food at SWFM. It's about community and breaking down the barriers that separate us from each other. When you step into the Armory on a cold Saturday in January, it doesn't matter if you are a vendor, volunteer, shopper, musician, community organization member, or staff - we all are there as a community centered on providing local, healthy food for all," says Elise Molinaro, CAA'S Market Manager. "Creating a sustainable food system is about supporting the producers who bring food to the table and ensuring there is a seat for everyone at that table. SWFM allows us to do just that by giving us a space to support local businesses and having the opportunity to offer the SNAP Match to all SNAP/EBT customers."

The market will welcome back much-loved vendors, including Red Fire Farm, Heron Pond Farm, Winter Moon Roots, Brookford Farm, Good Food Farm, and Freedom Food Farm, each with a wide array of produce and winter greenhouse greens. Kimball Fruit Farm will be selling apples and other root vegetables, and four mushroom vendors including the returning Amherst Mushroom Co. & Traveling Cap Mushroom Co. will provide mushrooms this year. Cheeses will be available from Round Table Farm and Hickory Nut Farm, while savory meats will be available from vendors like Stillman Quality Meats and Lilac Hedge. Local seafood will be available from Boston Smoked Fish Co. and Captain Marden's Seafood. Fresh artisanal pastries will return from Mariposa Bakery and NAVAD, while frozen tamales will again be available from a market favorite, Tex Mex Eats. Oven-baked bread will be offered from Bread Obsession and Hi-Rise Bread, while delectable desserts and chocolates will be offered by Drive-By Pies, Melt in Your Mouth, Myrtille Bakery, and Tick Tock Chocolates. Mocha Connection, Del's Coffee Roasters, and Cafes Duarte are some of the coffee vendors, and a variety of spice blends from Indian and Korean cuisines will be available from Mother's Kitchen, Sarita's Pantry, and Parallel Foods. Specialty guest vendors will be offering items ranging from hummus and hot sauces to handcrafted pottery and candles.

Thus far, generous grant and sponsorship support for this season's SWFM has been provided by a City of Somerville Health and Human Services Grant, the Cummings Foundation, Mt Auburn Hospital Community Benefits Program, Cambridge Naturals, and Middlesex Federal Bank.

The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket, and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

*Please note that the Somerville Winter Farmers Market will not be held on November 28, 2026, or December 26, 2026.

The Somerville Times

Somerville Council on Aging Halloween Celebration

The Somerville Council on Aging's Halloween Celebration was held at the Holland Street Center on Thursday, October 29. Seniors had a fun-filled day featuring music, a costume contest, trick-or-treating, and lunch.



























Photos by Claudia Ferro









The Somerville Times

Somerville Public Schools to Host Pre-K and Kindergarten Enrollment Information Sessions



Somerville Public Schools (SPS) will host three Enrollment Information Sessions in November to help families prepare for the 2027–2028 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten enrollment process.

Sessions will provide a detailed overview on choosing a school, completing enrollment, and accessing after-school care.

School tours for prospective families will also be offered in December and January. The district's enrollment period opens Monday, January 4, 2027.

Enrollment Information Sessions
Families are invited to attend the session that best fits their needs. Two virtual sessions and one in-person session will be offered.

Tuesday, November 10 | 9–10 a.m.
Pre-Kindergarten Virtual Enrollment Information Session
Register at https://tinyurl.com/enrollsessions.

Tuesday, November 10 | 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten In-Person Enrollment Information Session
East Somerville Community School, 50 Cross Street

Thursday, November 12 | 9–10 a.m.
Kindergarten Virtual Enrollment Information Session
Register at https://tinyurl.com/enrollsessions2.

Students who will be 4 years old by August 31, 2027 are eligible for the district's Pre-K program. Students who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2027 are eligible for Kindergarten.

Somerville Public Schools will offer public drop-in tours at all Pre-K to Grade 8 schools on December 3, January 13, and January 26. Additional details about participating schools and tour times will be shared in a forthcoming announcement.

The SPS Enrollment Office staff is available to answer questions and support families who cannot access online services and/or families needing additional support. Parents and guardians are encouraged to schedule an appointment by calling 617-629-5670. The office is located at 167 Holland Street, Room 209.

For more complete information and office hours, please visit https://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/schools/enrollment/.

Somerville Fall neighborhood cleanups

November 7 is the second citywide cleanup as part of Somerville's Year of the Neighbor initiative, a yearlong push to strengthen connections, build community, and tap into everyone's ability to have a positive impact across Somerville. Whether you can stay for the full two hours or just stop by to lend a hand, the goal is the same: take care of your block and meet the people who make it home.

The City will provide supplies, and DPW crews will handle pickup, so residents can focus on the satisfying part: making their block a little better. Participants will also receive a City of Somerville water bottle or small thank-you item while supplies last.

Cleanup locations will be hosted in each ward with the support of the City Council and School Committee:

Ward 1: East Branch Library, 115 Broadway

Ward 2: Union Square Plaza, 90 Union Square

Ward 3: City Hall, 93 Highland Ave

Ward 4: Corner of Temple Street and Broadway

Ward 5: DPW Building, 1 Franey Rd

Ward 6: Statue Park, Davis Square (the central plaza opposite One Davis Square)

Ward 7: Corner of Holland Street and Broadway, Teele Square

From page 8

Ms. Cam's Olio *Answers*

1. Día de Muertos
2. November 1 and 2
3. Fancy decorated female skeleton figures representing death
4. Photos, candles, marigolds, food, and offerings for deceased loved ones
5. Ulysses S. Grant
6. Rutherford B. Hayes
7. William McKinley
8. November 22, 1963
9. November 5, 1935
10. November 1, 1995
11. Victor
12. Leonard Skinner, band Lynyrd Skynyrd

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.*

City Council Should Vote to Enact the Ethical Procurement Ordinance

As we've witnessed Israel's live-streamed genocide of Palestinians over the last three years, thousands of residents have called on Somerville to cut our support for Israel's crimes. What began as a grassroots campaign to boycott and divest from companies complicit in the oppression of Palestinians is now a week away from becoming City law.

Last week, the City Council Legislative Matters Committee approved the proposed Ethical Procurement Ordinance to move to the full council, with a final vote scheduled for November 12. Councilor Mbah voiced his support, "I believe that we in Somerville can make a difference by leading [with this ordinance,] so this is not our impact alone, and any further delay would be outright disrespectful to the residents who voted for this measure [last November] and who expect their elected representatives, us, to take their voices seriously."

Somerville for Palestine fully supports this ordinance. We believe it is true to Palestinian civil society calls for boycott and divestment because it names Israel and Palestine, and employs reputable databases of companies complicit in Israel's violent oppression of Palestinians. Naming Israel as the oppressor echoes our historic boycotts calling out South Africa and Northern Ireland, and promotes clarity and accountability when enacting policy. It is vital that the ordinance language focuses on companies complicit in Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine, as over 11,600 voters mandated last year.

This proposed ordinance is practicable, clear, and legal with a self-attestation component that requires companies to confirm they are not conducting human rights abuses outlined in the ordinance. Somerville already utilizes self-attestation forms to ensure compliance with local laws, such as ensuring a living wage to employees, during the procurement process. As Councilor Ewen-Campen explained, "We have been asked by voters to try to screen for companies that are involved in very extreme crimes and, to me, this is of the same lineage in our city to things like the prison labor ordinance, the living wage ordinance, and the history of other cities that did similar things [during] South African apartheid where we don't want our money to support these companies."

The Finance Department can rely on the American Friends Services Committee's (AFSC) BDS Divestment Shortlist and the United Nations (UN) Database of Business Enterprises Pursuant to UN Human Rights Council Resolutions 31/36 and 53/25, both developed and maintained using rigorous methodologies, to define which companies are complicit. It would also have the discretion to employ exemptions when needed to avoid significant financial burden on the city.

Two companies identified in these databases are Axon Enterprise Inc and Palantir Technologies Inc. Axon produces TASERS used by Israeli police to physically torture Palestinians. Their TASERs are also used by the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with which Axon maintains a multi-million dollar contract. Palantir proudly supports Israel's genocidal campaign and provides AI analytics for Israel to track and murder Palestinians. Palantir is also extensively employed by ICE to surveil and detain immigrants in the U.S. By boycotting and divesting from these companies, we are standing up not only for Palestinians, but for our immigrant neighbors here as well.

Our city has achieved this Boycott and Divestment Ordinance through massive grassroots mobilization. The public campaign began in Spring of 2025, when over 300 volunteers spent 6 months collecting over 10,000 signatures to place the Palestine Solidarity Question on the ballot. Our team knocked on thousands of doors in Somerville and over 30 local organizations endorsed the ballot question, including the Somerville Educators Union, Union Square Neighborhood Council, and Somerville Jewish Caucus.

When the Palestine Solidarity Ballot Question overwhelmingly won, Palestinians in Somerville celebrated their city's solidarity. Hala Jadallah, a lifelong Somerville resident and Palestinian-American, reflected, "I have been working to boycott and divest in Somerville since 2006 when we tried for the first time to put a question on the ballot. To finally see my community embrace me and stand with my family, the emotions were overwhelming. Somerville finally loves me."

Just weeks after the 2025 election, the City Council resolved "to work toward passing an ordinance within a year that implements the will of the majority of Somerville voters." That deadline is November 25, 2026.

When this ordinance passes the full City Council, Somerville will join a growing list of cities that have shown the courage and moral clarity to act against the genocide in Gaza and the systemic oppression of Palestinians. This ordinance has earned the endorsement from local groups like Medford for Palestine, human rights groups such as Massachusetts Peace Action, and faith groups such as Connexion Church. As Pastor Jordan Harris of Connexion says, "My faith teaches me that we must claim the freedom and power granted to us to resist evil and injustice wherever they appear, including in our own city's investment portfolio. Divestment is one way Somerville can stop profiting from harm and to stand for the dignity and safety of every person, including Palestinians surviving the ongoing genocide and apartheid."

Somerville has a history of making policies to reinforce our values. As Israel continues to bomb Gaza, as Israeli settlers continue to attack Palestinians harvesting their olives in the West Bank, and as an independent UN commission has concluded Israel has continued to commit genocide

since the October 2025 ceasefire, now is the time for Somerville to pass this ordinance to end our city's business ties with companies profiting off of the death and displacement of Palestinians. As Jewish community member Sam Geheren explains, "I feel an urgent responsibility to ensure that neither my identity nor tax dollars are used to buttress the brutal genocide against Palestinians. The Ethical Procurement Ordinance is a small but meaningful step to think globally, act locally in the face of such atrocity. Passing it would bring me pride, comfort, and a sense of relief." We urge our Somerville neighbors to call on our city council to pass the Ethical Procurement Ordinance in solidarity with Palestine.

— *Somerville For Palestine*

Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir" in the Cohen Auditorium at the Aidekman Arts Center on Friday, November 20, at 5 p.m.

Join the 220-voice Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir as they present their fall concert under the direction of David Coleman. Free admission; no tickets required.

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.

The Somerville Times

Somerville celebrates 30 Years of the Mystic Ave. Mural

To celebrate the latest installation, Somerville Arts and Culture (SAC) invited community mem-bers to a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, October 27, on the corner of Temple St. and Mystic Ave. Initiated in 1996 by former SAC Director Cecily Miller, the Mystic Mural Program creates a space where students from all backgrounds can create, learn, and contribute to the vibrancy of their community. During the ceremony, attendees viewed the 2026 mural and heard from Mayor Jake Wilson and Muralist David Fichter.



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.

Honor Pie Traynor at Trum Field

To the Editor:

I led the effort to honor baseball great Harold "Pie" Traynor in his birthplace, Framingham. Now, I hope Somerville, where he grew up, will do the same. Richard J. Trum Field would be the perfect spot.

The Somerville Times reports that Traynor learned to play baseball at Trum Field. He later starred for the Pittsburgh Pirates, finishing with a .320 career batting average and being elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1948.

But today, Trum Field offers no recognition of him.

Picture a young player pausing to read a plaque and learning that a Hall of Famer started out on this field. That kind of connection would make local history real and give kids another reason to be proud of Somerville.

A permanent marker with Traynor's photo and story would keep the field's name and its dedication to Richard J. Trum, while also sharing another important part of its history.

I encourage the City Council and city staff to partner with local historians and youth baseball groups to install a permanent marker. Holding a dedication during a youth baseball game would be a great way to introduce Traynor to today's kids.

Cooperstown remembers Pie Traynor. Let's help kids in Somerville know his name, too.

Mark Alexander Shibley Trainor

Somerville's Truck O' Treat at City Hall

Somerville's annual "Truck O' Treat" was held on Thursday, October 29, outside City Hall. Many came out in costumes to enjoy this family-friendly event, which included safe Trick-or-Treating, a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, lawn games, light refreshments, and more.

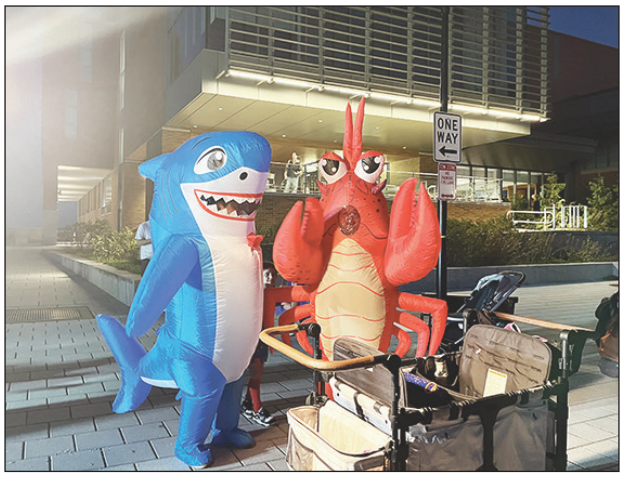













Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS:

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

Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner - Tuesday, November 10th at the Highlander Caf located at Somerville High School, 81 Highland Avenue. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Somerville Kiwanis and prepared by the Somerville Culinary Arts program. This event is for Somerville Residents only.

Or

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

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

Playwriting with John – Wednesday, November 4th, 18th, 25th and December 2nd from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Do you have an interest in plays and have you been curious about how to create your own. Playwriting with John consists of learning more about the structure of plays and how to write a scene. We will also read and discuss plays to understand their structure. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617 625-6600 ext. 2317.

Health Plan Options Presentation – Wednesday, November 4th starting at 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Medicare Annual Election, or Open Enrollment runs from October 15th through December 7th. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will be presenting Medicare Health Plan Options. This is a 45-minute presentation geared towards individuals on Medicare or approaching Medicare who may have questions about their health plan or other available plan types. The presentation will focus on the differences between Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and explain when enrollees can switch plans. All are invited to attend regardless of insurance coverage. Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register.

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

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

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

Memory Café – Tuesday, November 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. A week later due to election day. A Memory Caf is a safe space for those with cognitive decline and their caregivers. It is a place to gather and socialize without stigma or judgement. For Novembers Caf, we will be crafting! Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information, or to register.

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

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

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

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

Bingo – Thursdays, November 9th, 12th & 19th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. $1. per bingo card. For more information contact Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Bingo – Tuesday, November 3rd, 10th& 24th starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. $1. per bingo card. For more information contact Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Introduction to Mahjong Thursday, November 5th & 19th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Come learn the basics of Mahjong. Space is limited. Preference will be given to Somerville residents. Please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 to join the fun.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

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

Halloween goes to our four-legged friends

By Keith Foster

Chuckie Harris Park went to our four-legged friends this Halloween for a pet costume contest. There were also activities for families and kids.

Lindsay Allen, Executive Director at East Somerville Main Streets, who was dressed as the Cowardly Lion from The Wizard of Oz, spoke as the host of the dog parade and contest, welcoming a broad range of pets.

There were a total of twenty participants in the contest. The costumes ranged from food to animated characters.

When the contest concluded, the band played a couple of songs then the winners were announced. The categories were "Most Creative Pet Costume," "Best Combo," and "Most Funny."

A Dog dressed as a baked potato won "Most Funny." The winner of the "Most Creative Pet Costume" was a dog dressed as a member of the Torrin Army, honoring the people from Scotland who were here for the World Cup earlier this summer. And the winners of the "Best Combo" were two cats dressed as "Lilo and Stitch."



Two Cats as Lilo and Stitch winning Best Combo. — *Photos by Keith Foster*



Face painting stand.



A dog dressed as a lobster.



A Dachshund as a stick of salted butter.



Dachshund as a Chicken Sausage.



A Dog as a baked potato won "Most Funny"



Dog as a lion.

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Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: On the list of protected classes, you have both sex and sexual preference. What's the difference between them?
A: Sex is whether you are male, female, or don't find either of those labels applies to you. (And that's true whether your sex is the one stated on your birth certificate or not.) Sexual preference is whether the people you are attracted to are male, female, or both, or it's irrelevant to you. Discriminating against people because of their sex OR their sexual preference is illegal, and it is not Fair Housing.

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

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Here to stay…Hooray!… — *Photo by Denise Provost*

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

Why was the apple grower sent to federal prison?
In-cider trading

On This Day in History
November 4

644 – Umar of Arabia is assassinated at Medina and is succeeded as caliph by Uthman.

1493 – Christopher Columbus discovers Guadeloupe during his second expedition.

1842 – Abraham Lincoln marries Mary Todd in Springfield, Ill.

1854 – Florence Nightingale and her nurses arrive in the Crimea.

1922 – The entrance to King Tut's tomb is discovered.

1946 – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is established.

1979 – At the American Embassy in Teheran, Iran, 90 people, including 63 Americans, are taken hostage by militant student followers of Ayatollah Khomeini.

1992 – Carol Moseley Braun becomes the first African American woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

1995 – Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated at a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

2008 – Senator Barack Obama of Illinois elected 44th president of the United States, the first African American to hold that position.

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

your scheduled trash collection day. **After December 11**, yard waste may be brought to the **DPW yard** (1 Franey Rd.) on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. or between 1 and 3:30 p.m. To learn more, please visit somerville-ma.gov/trash.

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The **City of Somerville** is seeking two new **volunteer members** to join the **Somerville Human Rights Commission (HRC)**. Responsibilities include: Investigating human rights issues and concerns affecting the community. Promoting public discourse on issues of discrimination and equity. Educating residents about their rights under federal, state, and local law. Working collaboratively with other city departments and commissions to advance equity. The Human Rights Commission meets monthly. Additional participation in subcommittees is voluntary at the discretion of the member. To apply, please submit a letter of interest. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications can be sent via email: hrc@somervillema.gov or U.S. Mail to: Attn: **Sarah Anders**, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. For questions or more information, email hrc@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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Want to **share feedback** with the **City Council**? Public comments are accepted on a rolling basis via email at publiccomments@somervillema.gov. Find information about the Council or see the full schedule of Council meetings at somervillema.gov/council. Stream meetings at youtube.com/somervillecityTV.

****

Bow Market is launching a campaign to bring **free rent to Experiential Artists** for the full year. The pitch to artists is simple: use space to bring experiential art to Somerville; pay $0 in rent. To make it sustainable, Bow Market is working to attract roughly **300 people** to pay $100 to become a **2027 Patron**. As patrons, they will receive access to artist-led events, exclusive merch, name recognition outside the **YEA space**, and inclusion in this burgeoning arts community. To learn more and become a Patron, visit www.bowmarketsomerville.com/experientialart. For more information on becoming an artist in residence, visit https://www.bowmarketsomerville.com/yea-artist-faq.

****

The city is planning to build a **new school at 115 Sycamore Street**. All community members are invited to come learn more about the project and share their perspectives at an upcoming **community forum: Tuesday, November 10**, from 6 to 8 p.m., Somerville High School, Highlander Forum, 81 Highland Avenue. During this meeting, **Mayor Wilson** and **Superintendent Carmona** will speak to the city and district's shared vision for the project, which is informed both by community process as well as district needs. Project architects, **Perkins Eastman**, will then present the preferred design option for the project, which was submitted to the state in late August, providing an overview of how the building will support the diverse learning needs of Somerville's students and incorporate a range of community priorities into the design.

****

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

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

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

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Please reserve your spot for the **Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner** or the **Somerville Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon** by calling the **COA Reservation Line** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2323. Please leave your name, phone number, and your preference for celebration. It is our goal that everyone gets to enjoy a Thanksgiving celebration with friends this year. As space is limited, please reserve your spot for one event. They will call you to confirm your reservation. **Tuesday, November 10**, at the **Highlander Café** located at **Somerville High School**, 81 Highland Avenue. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Somerville Kiwanis and prepared by the Somerville Culinary Arts program. This event is for Somerville Residents only.

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

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

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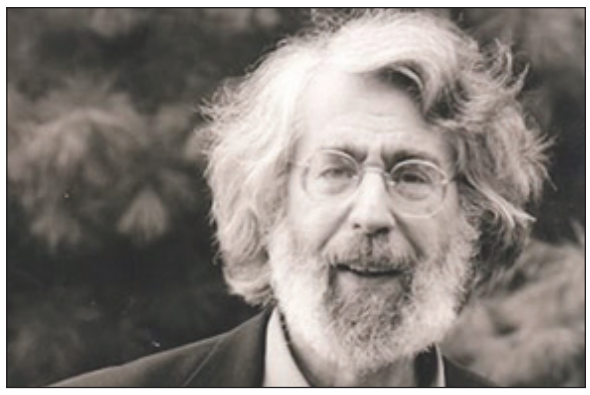


OFF THE SHELF
by Doug Holder

A Handpicked Poem presented by Michael Steffen

A Handpicked Poem presented by Off the Shelf Correspondent Michael Steffen.

By Lloyd Schwartz, from the book *Artur Schnabel and Joseph Szigeti Play Mozart at the Frick Collection (April 4, 1948) and Other Poems*, published by Arrowsmith, 2026



Titian's Marsyas

The 16th-century Venetian master's very last painting—as
big as life—is the story of the pan-piping satyr who dared to
challenge a god.
Titian painted his crucifixion.
He hangs by has ankles from the branches of a tree, his goat-
legs askew, as Apollo, kneeling, tenderly skins him alive.
Upside down, his tormented expression reads like a smile.
A thirsty pup is lapping up his blood.
Seated close—rapt—old King Midas, with his golden
coronet, contemplates the horrific scene.
It's the 90-year-old artist's self-portrait.
Someone who's learned the cost of making art, the cost of
challenging the gods.
And has accepted it.
Except for the glittering crown, most of the surface is rougher,
murkier than the master's earlier dazzle.
Close inspection reveals paint smeared by his own fingers.
He put his whole body into this painting.
It was found in his studio after his death.
After how many years could anything still have been left for
him to do?
A work is complete, Rembrandt said, if in it the master's
intentions have been realized.

The Augustan poet of odes and epistles, Horace, tells us that a poem is like a picture, it should place, or make, in its medium of language, a picture before us, in our mind's eye. Poets have taken Horace to the letter of wit by basing poems on famous paintings. John Ashbury wrote his landmark *Self Portrait in a Convex Mirror* after the early 16th-century masterpiece of the same title by the Italian mannerist Parmigianino. Browning famously meditated on Andrea del Sarto, Auden on Breughel. It's very likely you will find at least one poem by your favorite poet(s) based on a celebrated painting. So in *Titian's Marsyas* Lloyd Schwartz is well within an established inspiration, what Seamus Heaney would call a "set piece." Though Schwartz has not chosen such a famous or familiar work by the great master. It is a posthumously discovered life sized painting and, for Titian, a dark and rough work, which makes the poem's final statement from Rembrandt so relevant.

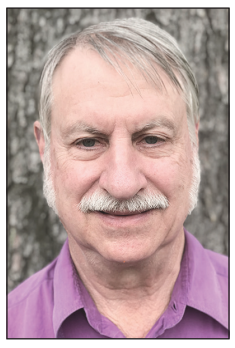
We know something is very out of character anytime divinity is depicted kneeling, especially when it is Apollo. We keep in mind Titian is a painter of the Renaissance, an age when neoclassicism in philosophy and art confused classical and Christian sources, Mary and Venus (Botticelli), Apollo and Christ (who appears at different moments throughout the gospels exemplifying humility and servitude, kneeling to wash his disciples' feet, exhorting those made to carry a master's cloak one mile to carry it another). The Greek myth of the satyr Marsyas, however, has little to do with the good news concept of grace, of the pains and indulgence of divinity, and rather takes us back to the Greek tragic sense of the gods' ultimate vengeance upon the hubris which dares to affront their power.

Here is one poignant, insightful employ of poetry: to voice the visual, and Schwartz's choice of the word "kneeling" for Apollo's posture is so mindful. We might characterize this posture, in its act of violent labor, as "crouching" or "stooping." The yoking of divinity with the humble bodily position, for leverage, strikes a subtle but sharp minor note in a major arpeggio, for the softest hearing and attention, to the subtle powers at work in our lives. The word in the line of poetry has the same effect on me as a sudden soft breeze combing a wind chime on my neighbor's porch. It reminds me of one of Franz Wright's book titles, *God's Silence*.

Titian's satyr is a musician, a piper, his instrument a reeded double flute. Venus had cast the pipe away because somebody told her she looked funny with her cheeks puffed out playing it. Marsyas grew accomplished at his instrument and *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder



Keith Tornheim has six books of poetry, *Fireflies: Poems of Love and Family; I Am Lilith, Dancer on the Wind; Spoiled Fruit: Adam and Eve in Eden and Beyond; Spirit Boat: Poems of Crossing Over; Can You Say Kaddish for the Living?; The Sacrifice of Isaac*. His poems have appeared in *Ibbetson Street, The Somerville Times, Boston Literary Magazine, Muddy River Poetry Review* and *Poetica*.

Bottlenose

We bottlenose dolphins

don't hit the bottle.

Instead, we have developed group

recreational use of the pufferfish:

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within our mouths to release

a small, nonlethal dose

of the hallucinogenic goody,

then pass the fish to our fellow.

When all have partaken,

we release him for a future hit,

then lie back in our watery couch

and stare for an hour or so

at our rhythmic rippled images

on the underside of waves.

— Keith Tornheim

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

Granoff Music Center Colloquium: Terri Lyne Carrington

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Granoff Music Center Colloquium: Terri Lyne Carrington" in the Varis Lecture Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Monday, November 23, at 12 pm.

A conversation with jazz drummer/composer and 2026 Tufts honorary doctorate recipient, Terri Lyne Carrington, discussing her new album Trip the Night Fantastic, and her work at the Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice. Free admission; no tickets required.

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.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

came to challenge the muses' master and his harp, and consequently Apollo skinned the satyr alive. The myth parallels that of Arachne the maiden weaver, and her challenge to Athena in a weaving contest, and Arachne's subsequent metamorphosis into a spider dangling on her own thread.

We bear in mind also, the satyr, like a centaur, is a half-beast half-human, with emphasis on passion and sensuality over reason, and the painting and the poem have the creature upside down. The image invokes art's signature embodiment of the human experience, with its suffering, compassion and beauty, over the principles of our mind's better-knowing, getting artists into such dilemmas. Thus the insight of the poem, commenting, this is "the ninety-year-old artist's self-portrait" and its subject "the cost of making art, the cost of challenging the gods."

And were it not for Lloyd's poem, we might easily miss how the satyr's grimace, because he is hung from his feet upside down, appears to the right-side-up viewer as a smile. The artist even in his defeat and undoing has accomplished something worthy enough in his music to betray some hint of joy, in spite of this anguish. Again, the subtlety.

"It's like finding a needle in the eye of the beholder," Schwartz wryly announced in his well-known poem *Proverbs from Purgatory* from his 2000 collection Cairo Traffic. Like that poem, "Marsyas" displays Schwartz's characteristic preference for the line. He's a master at irony, juxtaposition, contrast and comparison, with the torsion of these figures' highlighted best in the balance of the single line, along with the poet's deft use of resonance, as with the author's name and the religious term for a public execution: "Titian painted his crucifixion."

Lloyd Schwartz is Somerville's third poet laureate. Among his awards are a Pulitzer Prize and three Deems Taylor Awards for his music reviews and fellowships in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. Lloyd's poems have appeared in nearly every major literary magazine and in *The Best American Poetry* anthologies. His most recent book, *Artur Schnabel and Joseph Szigeti Play Mozart at the Frick Collection*, was published by Arrowsmith in April 2026.

Lloyd will be reading with Daniel Tobin for The Hastings Room Readings November segment, on Thursday November 19 at 7 p.m., at First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, at the back of Cambridge Common. The reading is free and open to the public. Please join us.

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