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Somerville has a new mayor: Municipal Election preliminary results



City Councilor-At-Large Jake Wilson has prevailed in his bid for the office of Mayor of Somerville.

By The Times Staff

As the preliminary results of the Municipal Election indicate, current City Councilor Jake Wilson will serve as the city's new mayor. Wilson bested opponent Willie Burnley in the race by a margin of 11,185 to 9,054 votes.

Wilson announced his candidacy in December of 2024, citing what he felt was a need for "accessible, collaborative, and decisive leadership" in the office of mayor. "With the right leadership, I believe Somerville can be a model municipal government," said Wilson while announcing his bid for mayor. "I want the City of Somerville to be an employer where top talent wants to come work – and keep working. By recruiting and retaining skilled workers and using data-informed approaches to work" *Continued on page 4*

EPH food pantry provides lifeline to indigent residents

By Harry Kane

The Elizabeth Peabody House provides free groceries at its food pantry for those in need, but since the government shutdown and SNAP freeze, there is a greater demand.

The local distribution center provides a lifeline to households experiencing food insecurity amid a looming crisis. Last week, EPH served groceries to some 425 households, an uptick of 15 to 20 percent since the shutdown began.

"We're seeing a pretty dramatic increase already," said Matthew Caughey, executive director at EPH.

The pantry operates on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are the only food pantry open on" *Continued on page 4*



The Elizabeth Peabody House's food pantry provides much-needed food to those in need locally. — Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Peabody House

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Congratulations to the new Mayor of Somerville, Jake Wilson, the City Councilors, and School Committee members. We congratulate them all on their well-run campaigns and wish them the best as they delve into their roles as Somerville's latest group of civic leaders.

Somerville's Pumpkin Smash takes place this weekend. Bring and smash your Halloween pumpkins (or smash one provided) at this family-friendly event on November 8, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featuring pumpkin-smashing, other fun composting activities, a bake sale, and more. Let's divert our pumpkins from the trash and compost them instead. Don't trash 'em, smash 'em! City staff will be at the event to share information about Somerville's Curbside Food Waste Collection Pilot. Rain date November 9. More information at www.somervillema.gov/events/2025/11/08/pumpkin-smash.

This Thursday, November 6, from 2:45 to 4:30 p.m., the Somerville Public School District will host its monthly food markets at both East Somerville Community School and West Somerville Neighborhood School. They encourage families in need to connect with their school's family liaison to learn more about markets and to access food support through local resources. The date change was made to accommodate Election Day. Regularly scheduled Tuesday food markets will resume in December.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 5 – November 11 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday November 5	Cloudy	58°/44°	5%	2%	SW 13 mph
Thursday November 6	Partly Cloudy	50°/30°	2%	1%	WNW 20 mph
Friday November 7	Cloudy	54°/51°	6%	3%	SW 13 mph
Saturday November 8	Rain	62°/40°	51%	44%	W 10 mph
Sunday November 9	Rain	54°/40°	60%	51%	S 9 mph
Monday November 10	Partly Cloudy	47°/28°	22%	12%	N 12 mph
Tuesday November 11	Partly Cloudy	40°/33°	3%	1%	W 16 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: Vote NO on Question 3

Baruch says:

The amount of thinly veiled antisemitic comments in this section is disappointing yet not shocking. You know who you are and we see you raising your flag of hatred.

Flavia says:

VOTE YES

Jim (Ward 6) says:

This is Jew hatred, plain and simple. If it isn't directly, it's a start. Every leftist, Marxist, and socialist organization is behind it. What happened to "hate has no home here," or does that not apply to Jews. Any Jew who supports BDS isn't a Jew in my eyes.

Fedup says:

It's the only genocide that matters to morons.

If it doesn't have to do with road paving, I don't care. Do your job.

Simon says:

There is no genocide in gaza, there is just a terrorist regime (Hamas) and a humanitarian crisis, Benjamin netanyahu is a moron, but BDS supports a second holocaust. The real genocide is being committed against the Jewish People. Antisemitism is not acceptable. There is no apartheid, because 74% of Israel is jewish. I will report all of the anti Israel comments to the ADL. Am Yisrael Chai.

VoteYES says:

This article is misleading. The city of Somerville should not and must not do any business with any entity that is involved in discrimination, war crimes, genocide and apartheid full stop.

Voting YES is the best choice for anyone with morals and conscience.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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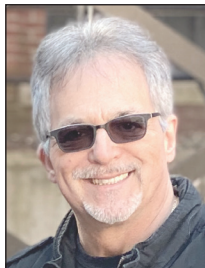
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

The Railside Lounge and Bar-B-Que



Walking into The Railside Lounge and restaurant in the '70s was not like walking into one of the bars/restaurants in Davis Square today. You were met with

a blast of cigarette smoke that stayed on your clothes and your hair. If you weren't supposed to be there, your pungent scent ratted you out! The clientele was a lot different, too, because Somerville back then was different. Salt of the earth, slice of life, work with your hands, shot and a draft beer, different. They called that drink a boilermaker, and you could get a good one at The Railside.

The jukebox was filled with classic oldies, but for some reason, *Mack the Knife* got more play than any other song. The Railside was always filled with classic Somerville blue-collar workers in the old-school tradition. Everyone knew each other, and it was like hanging around with family members. The Railside had it all ... the tough guys, the bookies, and the wise guys. They were honest folks who worked hard and played hard. The manager lived upstairs, and the patrons lived close by.

A former Railside customer recalls, "During the blizzard of 1978, we all got snowed in at the Railside. We ate (and drank) for two days straight, and we all slept in the booths. Lol — good times!"

You can see in the picture that The Railside was across from Johnny D's on Holland Street. Au Bon Pain occupies the space where The Railside was. I remember two guys who, at one time or another, ran or owned The Railside. They were Jimmy and Billy.

Someone with a great memory who lived right around the corner (within stumbling distance!) shares this gem: "The Railside ... wow! A mixed crowd, everyone from underage kids to old timers, and everyone in between. I remember the back room. You could play darts (for money), get your drinks in a "to go" cup, so you could enjoy it while you walked around the square. College kids would open the door, look in, and turn right around and leave. I remember going in there one Sunday afternoon, and the place was trashed.

Some rowdy guys from a bar on Somerville Ave. went in there and went crazy (some bars didn't get along with others back then), squirting mustard and ketchup all over the walls, tipping over tables, and roughing up a couple of old guys. I spent many a night in there." Today, it would be just the opposite: A blue-collar guy coming off of an eight-hour shift may open the door of one of those bars in Davis Square today, look around, see the tattoos, brightly colored hair, and piercings, and turn around and leave. What goes around...

In the '60s and '70s, every bar in Somerville had a bouncer and a bookie. Some bookies would go from bar to bar, but some would be "stationed" at one particular joint. They took action on sports teams, horses, and the dogs (or "the puppies" as they were called!) Everyone knew the bookies, and the ones I knew were all good guys. When there was a death in one particular customer's family, one of the most popular bookies was the one who started up a collection for the person's daughter. Bookies would also lend you money if you needed it.

Also, in The Railside's heyday, there was



always merchandise available for sale that "fell off the truck." It wasn't uncommon to pick up a few pounds of cheese, a TV, or a car battery at a very low price. The patrons of the old clubs and bars of Somerville were, at the very least, colorful. The daily (and nightly) goings on would have made a great TV show. Oh, by the way, my cousin

wasn't allowed to walk past The Railside. Geez, I can't imagine why!

It seems like only yesterday that you'd be sitting at the bar at The Railside and your glass would start shaking because of the freight train rolling through the square. After all, why do you think they named it The Railside?



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log October 21–27

Residential Breaking and Entering

25065663: On 10/21/25 at approximately 12:19 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Lincoln St. for a report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who stated someone broke into her residence and stole cash and jewelry.

Commercial Breaking and Entering

25066025: On 10/23/25 at approximately 4:51 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for a report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim, who stated a male party smashed the window to his store and stole cigarettes.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25067110: On 10/27/25 at approximately 5:51 p.m., Somerville Police took a report regarding a past breaking and entering. The victim stated someone broke into his basement and stole a bicycle.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25066669: On 10/25/25 at approximately 6:05 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a vacant residence on Elm St. for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers observed three individuals inside the residence sleeping. All individuals were identified.

Assault

25066454: On 10/24/25 at approximately 6:54 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Davis Sq. for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated she got into an argument with a female customer. During the argument, the female threw a bag of candy at her.

Other Crimes: 10 Car breaks + 2 Vandalisms + 3 Bike thefts + 2 Package thefts + 3 MV vandalisms

— Somerville Police Department



Somerville has a new mayor: Municipal Election preliminary results

CONT. FROM PG 1

smarter, faster, and more efficiently, I know we can better deliver programs and services that improve the lives of Somerville residents of all ages, small business owners, and local workers.”

A two-term Councilor-At-Large, Wilson has served as the chair of the Finance Committee since 2022. Prior to his election to the City Council, Wilson worked in journalism and communications before moving into community non-profit administration in 2017.

Other election results

The top four finishers in the Councilor-At-Large race are:

Will Mbah with 13,381 votes.
Ben Wheeler with 11,187 votes.

Kristin Strezo with 10,493 votes.

Jonathan Link with 8,300 votes.

Councilor Ward 1:

Matthew McLaughlin with 1,547 votes.

Councilor Ward 2:

JT Scott with 2,253 votes.

Councilor Ward 3:

Ben Ewen-Campen with 2,722 votes.

Councilor Ward 4:

Jesse Claingan with 1,740 votes.

Councilor Ward 5:

Naima Sait with 2,771 votes.

Councilor Ward 6:

Lance Davis with 2,311 votes.

Councilor Ward 7:

Emily E. Hardt with 2,022 votes.

School Committee Ward 1:

Emily R. Ackman with 1,480 votes.

School Committee Ward 2:

Elizabeth Eldridge with 1,383 votes.

School Committee Ward 3:

Michele Lippens with 1,574 votes.

School Committee Ward 4:

Andre L. Green with 1,641 votes.

School Committee Ward 5:

Laura J. Pitone with 2,715 votes.

School Committee Ward 6:

Emma Stellman with 2,304 votes.

School Committee Ward 7:

Leiran Biton with 2,139 votes.

On the ballot questions

Question 1 – they voted yes to approve a new city charter (17,202 votes).

Question 2 – they voted yes to extend the

term of the mayor from 2 to 4 years. This will go into effect no earlier than the 2028 term (11,054 votes).

Question 3 – this question is not binding – Shall the Mayor of Somerville and all Somerville elected leaders be instructed to end all current city business and prohibit future city investments and contracts with companies as long as such companies engage in business that sustains Israel's apartheid, genocide and illegal occupation of Palestine? They voted yes (11,409 votes).

20,612 ballots in total were cast.

Go to our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com for official results and further election updates.

EPH food pantry provides lifeline to indigent residents

CONT. FROM PG 1

Sundays in Somerville.

EPH distributes bags filled with food to meet basic nutritional needs. Items include pasta, rice, beans, dairy, meats, bread, canned goods, veggies, and fruits. Eggs and coffee are in high demand, but not always available.

“Our goal is to help people put food on the table and give people the essentials,” said Caughey.

There are two full-time staff members and two part-time staff members working

at the food pantry. This is a free service that does not partake in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The pantry opened for students' families in 2009 and has been serving the general public since 2011.

The majority of people on the food bank guest list are from Somerville, but the pantry doesn't have city requirements.

“We're really just here to serve the need for the community and fill that food gap for people,” said Caughey.

The pantry receives deliveries throughout the week from food partners like Greater Boston Food Bank, Food for Free, and Spoonfuls.

While the food is handed out at EPH, they do make some deliveries to local public housing buildings and homebound individuals. On any given week, they have the capacity to make 10-12 deliveries, said Caughey.

EPH's annual Thanksgiving fundraiser to help out those in need this holiday sea-

son is ongoing, and donations can be made on their website.

Last year, the EPH team provided some 450 families with turkeys and the fixings for their Thanksgiving meal. This year, they hope to help out 500 families.

To donate, text “Thanksgiving” to 617-500-1101.

Elizabeth Peabody House
275 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02145
<https://www.teph.org/>

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Committee debates AV testing, proposes measures to curb speed and parking violations

By Jordan Pagkalinawan

The Traffic and Parking Committee met on Monday, October 27, to discuss various speed control measures and debate several issues related to the testing of autonomous vehicles.

Walnut Street “No Parking Here to Corner” Sign

The committee first heard from Director of Parking Suzanne Rinfret, who explained a work order to evaluate a request for a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign at Walnut Street and Sunnyside Avenue. After the department frequently checked the intersection and noticed only three tickets issued between October 24 and 27, Rinfret said such a sign would not need to be installed.

Instead of a sign, Rinfret said the first step would be to enforce the law more often, so people would be used to not parking within 20 feet of an intersection.

“We would like to continue with that, and if we don’t see a change in behavior or we see the situation getting any worse, we can certainly add a sign,” Rinfret added.

Proposed traffic calming measures

Director of Mobility Brad Rawson then addressed the committee to evaluate two orders related to traffic calming requests.

The first order requested a speed bump along Ashland Street near John F. Kennedy School, where residents signed a traffic calming petition after a pet was killed by a speeding vehicle. Rawson directed the pet’s owner to the city’s online resources

for traffic calming requests.

He also explained the department’s standard process of collecting data on “the number and speed of motor vehicles on a given street.” Such an evaluation will be given to Ashland Street next spring, according to Rawson.

“Once we have the data, our staff will ... communicate in writing with petitioners and neighborhood residents,” Rawson said. “On the city’s traffic calming webpage, folks can find written responses [and] technical memoranda that we provide to petitioners, so they can see how their street stacks up against other candidates.”

The second order was to install a solar-powered digital “Your Speed Is” sign on the westbound portion of Shore Drive. Rawson said that the city staff had collected data and worked with Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan and local residents. However, he noted such a sign would not be considered at this time, especially with raised intersections being present at Shore Drive and Putnam Road.

“I think it’s important to remind constituents and councilors that a speed feedback sign can be a helpful intervention, but typically, they are less helpful than physical traffic calming [measures], like raised-table intersections,” he said.

Rawson added that the sign would conflict with a “large-scale capital project” with the Mystic River Watershed Association, which would rebuild elements of Shore Drive with attention to vehicular speeds. The digital sign would be covered by new



The Traffic and Parking Committee is considering further traffic calming measures throughout the city.

trees and water planters, but Rawson said he is willing to work with Councilor Clingan on another solution.

Autonomous vehicle testing

The meeting’s final four items were taken up together and related to autonomous vehicle testing, including potential bans or restrictions if permitted by law.

Special Counsel Catherine Lester Salchert said that while the city can restrict autonomous driving within city limits, several pending state and federal bills would preempt municipal regulation.

“We have this ability right now. It could go away,” Salchert added. “A ban would most likely be challenged, even though [AV testing] hasn’t been banned yet, the state has, in a sense, occupied the field. They’re handling it on a state level and they’re allowing a little bit of room for municipalities to be involved.”

State officials, according to Salchert, are still collecting data around autonomous vehicle testing to understand the “lay of the land” in each city.

In explaining his decision to put these four items on the table, councilor Willie Burnley Jr. pointed to Waymo’s past testing of autonomous vehicles in the Greater Boston area, where the company operated its vehicles with drivers behind the wheel in an effort to map the city’s roads. He sought to bring in accountability measures, considering the construction of Boston’s streets and the behavior of the city’s drivers.

Addressing his colleagues, Burnley added: “If we want to move forward with some specific restrictions, based on the attorney’s input, we should move quickly to do so.”

Rawson noted that city staff had worked on this issue for years, including contacting other cities to understand the testing’s benefits and drawbacks. While autonomous vehicle testing can improve key outcomes in transportation, it can also lead to various concerns, similar to those brought up in the advent of ride-sharing services in Massachusetts.

“These industries tend to result in net increases in vehicle miles traveled,” Rawson said. “And so, congested streets in places like metropolitan Boston can become that much trickier for many of our day-to-day requirements and realities.”

Rawson added that the Somerville Fire Department and Assistant Chief Sean Tierney have worked with the Department of Mobility to understand how emergency medical services should interact with autonomous vehicles. He also highlighted the national praise the state has received for a balanced regulatory framework around AV testing, which includes “protecting the public interest, fostering innovation, and allowing for private investment and scaling.”

“It’s going to be important for Somerville and for many other cities and towns in the Commonwealth to continue to have access through that regulatory framework,” Rawson said.

He also echoed the importance of transparency with the public, citing past misunderstandings around surveillance management: “If this conversation continues and we anticipate any additional steps in the future, Somerville staff will be sure to follow up and make sure that we [have] communications protocols for the city council and for the public at large.”



The Traffic and Parking Committee is considering further traffic calming measures throughout the city. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of October 27-31. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

FINANCIAL LITERACY (H 4670)

House 155-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would create a Financial Literacy Trust Fund for educating middle- and high-school students on personal financial literacy. The funds would be used for procurement, development and distribution of personal financial literacy educational resources and materials, as well as professional development opportunities, including training, seminars, conferences and materials for educators to use in teaching personal financial literacy.

Provisions include requiring school districts to provide instruction to middle- and high-school students on personal financial literacy, starting in the 2026 school year. The instruction would include earning and spending income; local, state and federal taxes; charitable giving; methods of payment; consumer protection; balancing ledgers and checkbooks; budgeting; long-term saving; simple and compound interest; planning for the future; using credit; making investments; risks of various financial instruments and basic diversification of assets; and rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a home or making other large purchases or investments.

"Too many young people graduate without understanding how credit, loans or savings work," said Rep. Patrick Kearney (D-Scituate) "This bill gives them the foundation to make informed financial decisions that will impact their entire lives."

"I taught Financial Literacy as an elective at Attleboro High School and my point was always long-term planning," said Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro). "Ten years ago it mattered that students learn about their credit score. It can affect not just buying a house but also car purchases and admission to schools and other programs. Now the economy is a threat since young people may want to buy a house but with \$200,000 in student debt and \$1,000 monthly car payments, they may have used up the limits of their indebtedness before even applying for a mortgage. And should they want to save up to a 20 percent down payment, that would be a challenge with \$2500+ monthly apartment."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

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

STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY (H 4671)

House 155-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that makes it easier for students to receive a State Seal of Biliteracy which is awarded by school districts to students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and at least one other language. The seal appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future college admission and employers.

Under current law, in order to qualify for the seal, a student must meet criteria established by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) including a specified level of performance on the 10th grade language arts exams of the MCAS, and at least one nationally recognized and readily available assessment that measures literacy in a language other than English.

The bill that the House approved updates these criteria by changing the MCAS requirement to allow another assessment or equivalent alternative to be established by BESE.

"Under the current law, some bilingual students have been unintentionally excluded," said sponsor Rep. Jack Lewis (D-Framingham). "Until now, the only way to prove English proficiency was by passing the 10th grade English MCAS. That meant if you attended a private school that didn't administer the MCAS, you were ineligible, even if you earned a five on your AP English exam and a perfect score on the SAT."

"[My] bill addresses this issue," continued Lewis. "Once it becomes law, all bilingual students, regardless of the high school they attend, will be eligible for this important designation."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

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

TEACHER PREPARATION AND STUDENT LITERACY (H 4672)

House 155-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would provide a framework for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to identify and approve a list of high-quality curricula that school districts will select from for kindergarten through third grade literacy. It also allows districts to apply to DESE to use a K-3 literacy instruction curriculum that is not on DESE's list of high-quality curricula, provided DESE verifies that it uses evidence-based literacy instruction.

Supporters said this bill would define evidence-based early literacy as grounded in scientific research methods and demonstrated to produce significant and positive effects on student learning outcomes. They noted that many school districts in Massachusetts have switched to evidence-based early literacy curricula, and some have been assisted by grants awarded through the state's Literacy Launch Program. They said that some school districts have yet to fully adopt proven literacy curricula, despite it being the most effective way to improve reading outcomes.

Supporters also argued that the bill supports teachers by requiring DESE to provide tools and resources, including online materials and free training modules, to aid districts with professional development aligned with evidence-based literacy instruction for K-3. It also ensures that educator preparation programs are preparing future educators in alignment with evidence-based literacy instruction.

"We filed this legislation because literacy is not just an academic skill — it is a life skill," said Rep. Danillo Sena (D-Acton), the co-sponsor of an earlier version of the bill. "It is the foundation for all future learning, for civic participation, and for economic opportunity. This bill ensures that our students learn through evidence-based and high-quality strategies."

"As a former special education teacher and as a father of four young kids, making sure all students are taught to read using effective, scientifically proven methods is deeply personal to me," said Rep. Simon Cataldo (D-Concord) also the co-sponsor of an earlier version of the bill. "I am proud to have co-filed the bill."

"Currently, fewer than half of Massachusetts third graders are reading at grade level," said Rep. Alice Pesich (D-Wellesley), another co-sponsor of an earlier version of the bill. "Research shows that children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are far more likely to fall behind academically, drop out of school or face limited opportunities later in life. We must ensure that every student in Massachusetts has access to high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction."

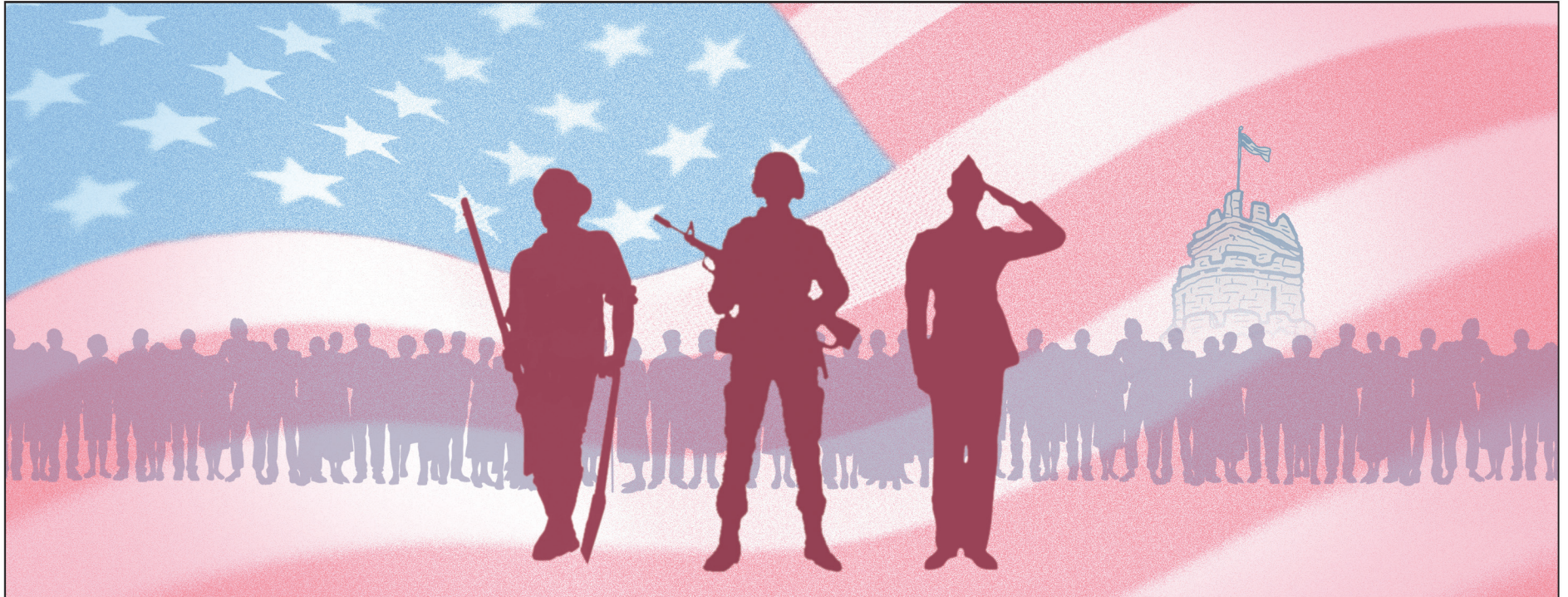
American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts President Jessica Tang has her doubts about parts of the bill.

"As passed today, this bill establishes a limited, blanket curriculum that is concerning, particularly to veteran educators who have developed rich and effective evidence-based literacy curriculum over the years," said Tang. "Even more concerning is that it bans important, proven tools our educators currently use and *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

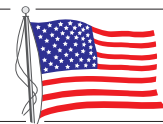
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let us all honor our veterans on their special day.

Our View Of The Times



We honor them every year and we regard them with awe and deepest admiration. Proud, but humble in countenance, they seem to simply play their part in our annual celebration of appreciation for their courageous contributions to the wellbeing of our nation. The well-being of ourselves as a society.

The flesh and blood reality is even more awe-inspiring as we realize how fragile life

truly is, and yet these brave men and women each took a stand and declared that no harm should come to their fellow countrymen. Not on their watch.

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

Those of us who never served in the military cannot know the hardship, privation, and sacrifice that these people have made on behalf of all of us. Some have made the supreme sacrifice. It is for them most of all that we bow our heads and utter prayers of solace and of gratitude for the precious gifts that they have laid before us. Those of liberty and a future free from fear of enemies seen and unseen.

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

We can take a stand and commit ourselves to celebrating the contributions of our beloved champions, one and all, each and every day to come. We ask that everyone here and elsewhere do just that.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthdays this week: We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Edward Robaczewski, Herc Kalos, 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.

The Green Line service will be suspended between Park Street and Union Square as well as Medford/Tufts beginning at approximately 8 p.m. through the end of service on Tuesday, November

4, and continuing for the following nine days, November 5 – 13. For more information, please visit www.mbta.com/GreenLine or connect with the T on X @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or Tik-Tok @thembta.

Helpful updates about SNAP from the City of Somerville. Find more information at <https://www.somervillema.gov/snap>. Here are some locations where you can find free food at Somerville's Community Fridges can be found at 35 Prospect St., Elizabeth Peabody House, 275-277 Broadway, St. Clements, across

from 29 St. Clements Road. Donations are welcome at these locations.

The city will be hosting meetings for business operators interested in opening a cannabis social consumption establishment in Somerville, and in-person and virtual meetings for the public to learn more and offer feedback about cannabis social consumption license types. The next Cannabis Social Consumption Meeting for Somerville Residents and the Public (In-Person), Wednesday, Thursday, November 6, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. West Somerville Neighborhood School, 177 Powder House Blvd.

For more information, including the full list of meetings, visit: www.somerville-ma.gov/socialconsumption.

Dilboy Post will be holding its third Annual Comedy Fundraiser, Elaine Pelino & Friends, hosted by John Harrington. The event will be held on November 9, 2 – 5 p.m., 351 Summer St. For tickets (\$25) and more information: www.dilboylvf529.com, dilboy.post@comcast.net, 617-666-8794.

The city will honor our local veteran community and all those who have served in the U.S. Military this *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#996

- How many U.S. presidents have served in the military?
- Which branch of the military was established first in the United States?
- What does "Día de los Muertos" translate to in English?
- Which type of flower is commonly associated with Day of the Dead?
- What country originated the Day of the Dead celebration?
- Where and when was the first Rotary Club founded?
- In books by Beatrix Potter, what creature was Mr. Tod?
- In which sport would you have an Eskimo roll?
- What was the name of the agent in *The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.*?
- What are the tiny air sacs in the lungs called?
- Who played the role of Ralph Malph in *Happy Days*?
- How many staircases are located in Hogwarts?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- A man set a world record by putting on 260 T-shirts at once.
- There is an asteroid shaped like a dog bone named "Kleopatra."

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD NORTH & SOUTH POLES

ACROSS

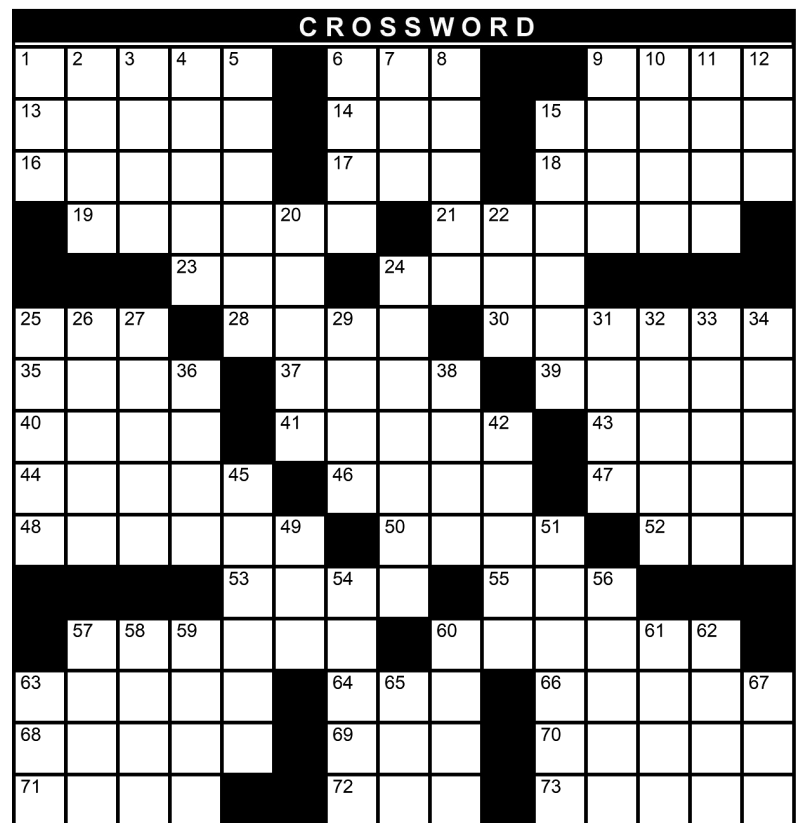
- Impromptu (2 words)
- Chop
- Little bit, in Cancun
- Luffa, alt. sp.
- The day before
- Rn, a health hazard
- Surveyor's maps
- Black gunk
- Run off, as in couple
- *Mount ____, Earth's southernmost active volcano
- *Antarctica - world's largest ____
- A Bobsey twin
- Not to be broken?
- Eyeball shape
- Minimal distortion
- *Polar bear, a ____ mammal
- Goldfish or koi
- Memorial Day solo
- Red-dot pointer, e.g.
- Purse to match a gown
- *Amundsen-____ South Pole Station
- Hipbones
- Letter H, phonetically speaking
- Biblical twin
- Frog delicacy
- Intellectual
- Novice or beginner
- Café alternative
- You, in bygone era
- Ciao, in the U.S.
- * ____ Nast, imagined Santa at North Pole
- *The largest lake near South Pole
- Hotel room option
- *Barents or Laptev
- Blackfin and bluefin
- Remove location from digital map
- Paul Simon's former partner
- Swelling
- Monster's loch
- An affirmative
- Button on electrical outlet

DOWN

- Mountain peak
- Pineapple producer
- Gray-haired
- As a rule
- The Clash: "Rock the ____"
- Answer to "Shall we?"
- Female gametes
- Lost, in Marseille
- Opposite of sun-kissed
- Deodorant's target
- Native Egyptian, in Roman times
- *How many sunsets in a year on either pole?
- Close again, as in envelope
- Yards and miles, e.g.
- "Slippery" tree
- Quick and clever reply
- *North Pole "base"
- Fraction, e.g.
- Beastly person
- Front of the head
- Not top-shelf
- Part of archipelago
- Sound like Secretariat

- Clear the whiteboard
- Ancient Briton
- Dog command
- Supercharger
- Glen Powell's 2023 role, pl. (2 words)
- Cuban dance step
- Half-shell delicacy
- English homework
- Chopin's composition
- Ad jingle, e.g.
- Shakira's don't lie
- Milo's adventurous canine friend
- Giant kettles
- Change for a five
- Glacier's deposit
- *Midnight ____, opposite of polar night
- Old-fashioned "before"
- Aptitude test, acr.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Somerville Honoring Veterans Day 2025



Help honor our local veteran community and all those who have served in the U.S. Military this Veterans Day. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services invite community members to attend a Veterans Day Wreath-Laying ceremony at the George Dilboy VFW Post 529 (351 Summer St.), on Tuesday, November 11.

The service will begin at 11 a.m. with a speaking program, and a wreath-laying ceremony will follow. This event is rain or shine. At the conclusion of the ceremony, veterans and their families are invited to have lunch inside the Dilboy VFW.

For more information, please contact the Somerville Department of Veterans' Services by calling 617-625-6600 x4700 or emailing veterans@somervillema.gov.

Halloween Party at Brady Tower



Former Alderman Bob McWatters visited the Brady Towers on Halloween with Holly Simione, a candidate for City Councilor at Large. Bob is shown here with Eleanor Rances, Commissioner for the Somerville Housing Authority.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #341

This article first appeared in the September 17, 2014, edition of *The Somerville Times*.

Trum Field

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

War memorials salt the city's landscape from East Somerville to West Somerville. If you read them – and you should – they bring remembrance and note the dedicated sacrifice of this city's residents during all the wars America has been involved in. Being the most densely populated city in New England, this regrettably translates into very large losses. The sons and daughters of this patriotic city, commonly referred to as the Brooklyn of Boston, or the city of homes, or the blue-collar bedroom of Boston, suffered more than her small area would show.



The city has tried to remember its heroic acts by naming streets, squares, and parks after many of them. Conway Park, Foss Park, Dilboy Field, and Wilson Square at Somerville Ave. and Elm St. just scratch the surface. The beautifully refurbished Trum Field is one of the most sacred plots of land in Somerville. Early on, it was used as a holding area for wandering cows, runaway horses, livestock, and the first city pound. This land, in front of the then city stables and Water Department, was acquired by the city in 1901. It was turned into a park in 1903, and in 1923 was named in memory of Corporal Richard Trum, who was killed during "The Great War," or "The War to end all Wars," as it was mistakenly called.



This park, near the heart of the city, honors the memory of sixty-four heroes from the Magoun Square area who lost their lives in the two World Wars. The eagle-topped Richard Trum Memorial honors 29 Magoun Square servicemen who lost their lives in World War I. Pvt. Charles E. Ryan Road honors one of them. Franey Road was named in honor of the Franey brothers, Joseph and Richard, who lost their lives in World War II. Their father was the Commissioner of Parks at the time, and sadly performed the landscaping for his sons' monument. *Continued on page 17*

LEGAL NOTICES

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

**THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QX6f5M57QIGS_HYFqupeNA
Webinar ID: 817 4832 3303

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP24-000066 - 76 Highland Avenue

Applicant: Li Liu
Owner: Li Liu
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing existing gutters and downspouts with aluminum gutters and downspouts.

HP24-000066 - 76 Highland Avenue

Applicant: Li Liu
Owner: Li Liu
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing a total of twenty-nine (29) windows.

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP25-000078 – 58 Main Street

Applicant: Patrick Easley
Owner: Doug Keah
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HP25-000080 – 21 Avon Street (House)

Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa LLC- Michael LaRosa
Owner: Joseph A. Ferro, Trustee of 21 Avon Street Realty Trust
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HP25-000081 – 21 Avon Street (Barn)

Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa LLC- Michael LaRosa
Owner: Joseph A. Ferro, Trustee of 21 Avon Street Realty Trust
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

10/29/25, 11/5/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Entertainment by Devices, and Outdoor Private Patio for The Lawn Bar Inc d/b/a The Lawn Bar at 300 Assembly Row.

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_rqu33pEUQHm8-JwG8HRnZw

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**

11/5/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Change of DBA, Outdoor Sidewalk and Private Patio, Entertainment by Performers, and 2AM License for Ebi Sushi Inc d/b/a Ebi Sushi and Dashizen at 10 Prospect Street.

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_rqu33pEUQHm8-JwG8HRnZw

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11/5/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Common Victualer, and Entertainment by Devices, for L'Emporio Inc d/b/a Olivia's Kitchen at 711 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.
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11/5/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Private Club (No Alcohol), Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons for King's Court Comedy LLC d/b/a King's Court Comedy at 71 Union Square.

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_rqu33pEUQHm8-JwG8HRnZw

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11/5/25 The Somerville Times

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Council on Aging's Halloween Celebration

The Council on Aging's Halloween Celebration took place on Thursday, October 30, at its Holland Street Center. Participants enjoyed music, a costume contest, and trick-or-treating with the COA staff and other guests.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



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Ms. Cam's

Olivo

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 31 | 7. A fox |
| 2. U.S. Army | 8. Kayaking or canoeing |
| 3. Day of the Dead | 9. April Dancer |
| 4. Marigolds | 10. Alveoli |
| 5. Mexico | 11. Donny Most |
| 6. Chicago, Illinois, 1905 | 12. 142 |

Kennedy schoolyard renovation project update

By The Times Staff

During the October 22 Somerville Community Preservation Committee meeting, a new timeline was established for the long-awaited schoolyard renovation project at the John F. Kennedy School (PK-8), which will replace the blacktop space.

The project area includes the basketball courts, parking lot, and bus drop-off located on Cherry Street.

The Kennedy Schoolyard is the “first inclusive playground,” explained Jon Bronenkant, senior public space planner from the Office of Sustainability and Community Development Public Space & Urban Forestry.

Inclusive play incorporates universally inclusive design principles to support creativity, interaction, and multiple forms of play for children of all abilities.

Project goals include community collaboration, sustainability and resilience, active and passive recreation, educational features, shade and comfort, tree and pollinator support, and site reconfiguration.

“There are a lot of opportunities to kind of reformat the space to expand the play-

ground, to make better drop-offs, to make a seamless and safer experience at the Kennedy School,” said Bronenkant.

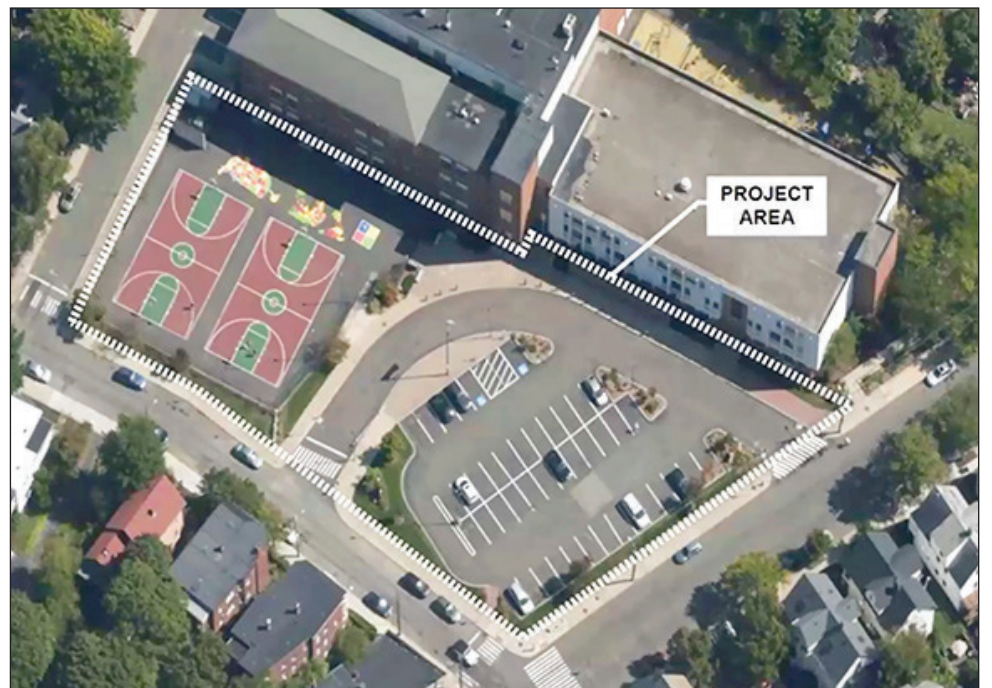
School and community input will occur over the next few months, with an upcoming first community meeting in mid-November, followed by a second community meeting in mid-December.

The team is working with CBA Landscape Architects, LLC. They are in the design stage of the project.

The construction schedule has yet to be determined and will most likely be constructed in two phases, with the initial phase starting in the Summer of 2026 and the second phase in the Summer of 2027 to avoid school-year disruptions.

At the Community Preservation Committee meeting on October 22, there was an initial CPA funding request for \$1 million, and Bronenkant says that in November, there will be an anticipated \$2 million bonding request, which would then result in a total funding cost of \$3 million for the construction of the schoolyard project.

After the presentation, the team listened to feedback from the public. Kat



An update on the schoolyard renovation project at the John F. Kennedy School was provided at the latest Somerville Community Preservation Committee meeting.

Johnston, a mother of two, who spoke at a city council meeting last November about the schoolyard project, provided feedback. Johnston says that the project is important and she doesn't want to see it stalled any longer.

“The Kennedy community has had over

300 students move through this space with the promise of a new playground since 2019, and they still haven't broken ground,” said Johnston. “There is so much support from this community, from the children who use this every day, and the need has just been there for a long time.”

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Are there any end-of-year moves I can make to lower my tax bill or boost my refund next year?

A: Yes! Taking action before December 31 can make a real difference. Here are three of the most effective strategies:

♦ Tax-Smart Health Accounts

If your employer offers them, consider contributing to a Health Savings Account (HSA) or Flexible Spending Account (FSA). Even a \$2,000 HSA contribution could save over \$400 in taxes. FSAs are “use it or lose it,” so spend down any remaining balance before year-end to avoid losing the funds.

♦ Boost Retirement Contributions

Increasing contributions to a 401(k), traditional IRA, or SEP IRA can reduce your taxable income. Just note: most workplace plans have a Dec. 31 deadline. Traditional IRAs allow contributions up to April 15, 2026 for the 2025 tax year.

♦ Special Year-End Moves

If you're 73 or older (or inherited an IRA),

don't forget to take your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) by Dec. 31 to avoid penalties.

Use up remaining FSA funds if your plan doesn't offer a grace period.

And if you expect to be in a higher tax bracket later, consider a Roth conversion before year-end—you'll pay taxes now but enjoy tax-free growth in retirement.

Each of these can shrink your tax bill—if you act in time! A quick conversation with a tax advisor or review of your benefits can help you take advantage of what's available to you.

Any questions? I'd be happy to help.

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

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



Survey and focus group input on new PK-8 school building released

The results of an extensive community engagement process regarding the city's plans for a new prekindergarten through eighth-grade (PK-8) School Building were shared at Monday, October 27, night's Construction Advisory Group (CAG) meeting and are now available online.

Over 2,400 community members shared their opinions on key questions facing the City and CAG through a survey developed by members of the CAG along with the urban planning firm, DREAM Collaborative, and city staff.

Questions explored whether the new school should be located on the Winter Hill Community Innovation School's (WHCIS) former Sycamore Street site or on a portion of Trum Field, and if the needs of the Benjamin G. Brown School community should also be addressed through this project. Participants also shared their perspective on what matters most for the new school, as well as what other city funding priorities are most important to them.

Among the key findings from the survey are:

"a clear and strong preference" not to use Trum Field for a new school building.

"survey respondents are largely split, with a slight preference for maintaining two separate schools over a new combined school."

Where survey respondents lived (indicated by ward) and school affiliation (where applicable) were important predictors of whether respondents expressed a preference for maintaining two separate schools or for building a combined school:

"Wards 4, 5, and 6 all clearly prefer separate schools, with Ward 6 (Brown School) the most in favor of separate schools. Residents of all other Wards did not take the survey in as high numbers, but survey respondents in these other Wards (1, 2, 3, and 7) clearly prefer a combined school."

"Brown and Winter Hill-affiliated respondents strongly prefer separate schools. Similarly, respondents affiliated with Kennedy, and to a lesser extent those affiliated with Capuano, and independent and religious schools, also prefer separate schools. Respondents affiliated with the other public schools (Argenziano, East, Healey, Somerville High, West, and Prospect Hill Charter) prefer a combined school, to varying degrees."

The report explores responses to the survey across key demographic categories, including age, race, ward, income level, parental status, and more.

A series of focus groups was also conducted to provide additional insight into the "why" behind people's preferences for the school.

Full reports on both the survey results and focus group discussions are available on the city's New PK-8 School Building Project Website at somervillema.gov/newpkto8. Data from the survey responses is also available through the city's Open Data Portal at data.somervillema.gov.

The CAG will incorporate not only the survey and focus group findings but also a wide range of information into its final deliberations, including SPS enrollment patterns, recreational space needs, district-wide maintenance needs, educational factors, community feedback, and more. They are expected to deliver their recommendation to the mayor on the size and location of the school building this November.

More information on this process is available at somervillema.gov/newpkto8.



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

use successfully, particularly with our English language learners and students with special needs. As educators, we fully support evidence-based literacy curriculum. We also know that it will take more than just curriculum for our students to fully thrive as they progress from learning to read to reading to learn."

Tang continued, "Even though we have concerns, we are pleased that the bill passed today includes key provisions we were proud to advocate for, including reporting and tracking measures, expanding funding opportunities for critical positions and establishing a commission to continue the important work to advance literacy in the commonwealth. We will continue to work with legislative and state allies on this issue and we look forward to seeing what comes out of the Senate."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

STUDY EDUCATION WORKFORCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (H 4672)

House 132-22, approved an amendment to a bill that would provide a framework for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to identify and approve a list of high-quality curricula that school districts will select from for kindergarten through third grade literacy.

The amendment would provide that DESE, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents study and make recommendations about the education workforce in public school districts in the area of reading and literacy development.

Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge), the sponsor of the

amendment, did not offer any arguments in favor of her amendment during debate on the House floor. She also did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking her why she sponsored the amendment.

"I opposed this amendment because it would hand groups such as the Massachusetts Teachers Association and American Federation of Teachers an outsized role in determining how schools staff their literacy and reading workforce," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "These groups were opposed to this bill in its entirety; thus, it would be counterproductive to have them play such a prominent role in producing those recommendations."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

Continued on page 22

City councilors advocate for \$200 million DRIVE Act to support public higher education

By Harry Kane

Federal cuts for public higher education are deeply concerning, which is why the city council is supporting Governor Maura Healey's DRIVE Act, which hopes to offset recent federal funding reductions.

A resolution was passed at the city council meeting on October 23 that supports a new state initiative to allocate \$200 million for public higher education, which would be dispensed from the Fair Share surtax on annual incomes over \$1 million.

"This resolution affirms our city council's strong support for Governor Healey's DRIVE Act," said Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah. "The DRIVE Act represents a bold commitment to stabilizing and strengthening our state's community colleges, state universities, and the University of Massachusetts system."

Councilor Mbah sponsored the resolution at the October 23 meeting, and all the other city councilors signed on in support.

"This council calls on the legislature to dedicate at least \$200 million towards stabilizing public higher education funding and to continue expanding

long-term investment to reduce dependence on tuition fees and privatization," said Councilor Mbah.

The Massachusetts Discovery, Research, and Innovation for a Vibrant Economy, or DRIVE Act, is a proposal for \$400 million in state funding. Half of that would go towards "Massachusetts public higher education campuses doing research, cross-regional partnerships and joint ventures," according to the DRIVE Initiative October 30 press release.

Councilor Mbah sponsored three community members to testify in support of the new legislation during the city council meeting.

"The slashing of this funding by the Trump administration is an all-hands-on-deck emergency for higher ed.," said Daniel Rourke, a Somerville resident and PhD student in the renewable energy engineering program at UMass Lowell.

Rourke says he has seen his co-workers' grants get canceled, well after they've been awarded, and he's seen emails saying no more PhD students will be admitted for the following year, which he explained essentially freezes all research



Somerville resident Marissa Fried addressed the council, advocating for the resolution.

going forward.

"This not only jeopardizes the jobs of UMass Lowell workers, but tens of thousands of jobs that ripple out from there in the sectors of higher ed," said Rourke.

Joy Solon, graduate program manager at UMass Boston in the sociology department, testified in support of the resolution.

"As the program manager, I work closely with graduate students and faculty members who have been directly affected by these federal cuts to research," said Solon.

Students who work in research have lost grants and tuition waivers, putting their education in jeopardy, she explained.

"I'm here to lift up the importance of ensuring that access to free and affordable higher education is provided for all members of our community," said Marissa Fried, a Somerville resident and teacher in the Cambridge Public School District. "We must raise up the importance of providing for my higher education colleagues, because without them, higher education students such as myself would not have access to the resources necessary to ensure

that our studies lead us on a pathway to a lifetime of success."

Fried says that Somerville can help by supporting the proposed DRIVE Act and assisting the Commonwealth as the first state in the nation to address the Trump administration's politically motivated attacks on higher education.

"The Trump administration is sowing chaos in our state's public higher education system by freezing and canceling federal funding used to support research and other academic programs. So, hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake," said Fried.

Councilor Mbah thanked the three speakers and said, "We all reaffirm our vision for debt-free public higher education that ensures affordable access to all students while providing fair compensation and professional support for faculty and staff. Supporting this higher education resolution expresses our collective commitment to maintaining strong, equitable, and inclusive public higher education in the Commonwealth."



Sponsor of the DRIVE Act resolution, Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah.

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

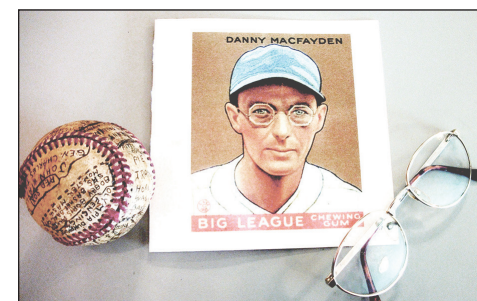
The Broadway Memorial is a tribute to 35 young men who died in World War II.

Over 800 men and women from this small district served in that war. Pie Traynor, said to be the best professional third baseman for ten years straight, and Danny MacFayden, who struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in one

game wearing his bottle-thick eyeglasses, both learned to play at Trum. Also, Somerville's Joe Galvin, the father of two Somerville firefighters and grandfather of another, was the only high school student to rifle a home run out of Fenway Park.

Through the years, thousands of

Somerville's young men and women acquired their own memories of baseball, basketball, and other activities that they played out in this park. When there, one collective memory for all should be the appreciation of the sixty-four honored young men – "the boys of Trum Field."



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Beginners De-Cluttering – A support group will be meeting on Monday, November 10, November 17, November 24, and December 1st from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Free of charge. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Memory Café – Tuesday, November 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. A Memory Café is a safe space for those with cognitive decline and their caregivers. It's a place to gather and socialize without stigma or judgment. For November's Café, Jane will be leading a sing-along. Free of charge. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Council on Aging Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Dates – Tuesday, November 4 at the Holland Street Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and Tuesday, November 18 at the Holland Street Center from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. These sessions are for all those who are 18 years of age or older. Appointments can be made by registering online at www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations.

House Plants 101 – Thursday, November 6, starting at 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Interested in starting an indoor garden or looking for a refresher about how to care for your plants? Please join Alexandra in learning more about how to best take care of houseplants. We will discuss best practices for caring for your plant, ideal lighting for different types of plants, as well as the best soil choice for your plant. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Advanced De-Cluttering – Thursday, November 6, November 13, and November 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 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 free advanced de-cluttering group sessions to help support you as you continue to de-clutter. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Caregiver Support Group – Wednesdays, November 5, 12, 19, December 3, 10, and 17 at our Holland Street Center from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Are you a caregiver of an older adult and would like a safe place to discuss the challenges, stresses, strengths, and joys that come along with caregiving? Join our Caregiver Support Group. Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register. This program has been implemented as a result of the Aging in Somerville Community Needs Assessment. It is thanks to feedback from our community that we are able to offer programs to help older adults continue to age well in Somerville.

Bingo – Thursdays, November 6, 13, and 20, starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. \$1.

per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, or emailing Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Medicare Open Enrollment Workshop – Friday, November 7, at our Holland Street Center from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Medicare Annual Open enrollment is October 15 – December 7, and it's time to review your Medicare coverage, compare benefits and premiums, and make changes based on your current health, medications, and finances. Whether you are new to Medicare or have been enrolled for years, Minuteman Senior Services SHINE counselors are here to help you identify the best coverage using the Medicare Planfinder. SHINE counselors can also provide a public benefits screening that may result in additional savings. To learn more, join us on November 7th for a Medicare Open Enrollment workshop with Marion Severynse, state-certified SHINE counselor. SHINE is a free service funded, in part, by the Executive Office of Aging and Independence. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Virtual Reality Meditation – Monday, November 10, at 12 p.m. and Friday, November 14, at 9:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

FDIC: Money Smart Financial Exploitation – Friday, November 14, starting at 11:00 at our Holland Street Center. Back by popular demand, the FDIC's Money Smart series has returned. This month, representatives from Northern Bank will be discussing different types of investments. During the presentation, we will learn more about different types of investment options, investment advisors, and how to avoid investment schemes. Free workshop. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Living Well with Hearing Loss Part 2 – Monday, November 17, starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This program is presented by Speech-Language Pathologist, Cheryl Bakey. Hearing loss can cause difficulty with communication for both the person who has hearing loss and the communication partner. Hearing devices (ex., hearing aids, cochlear implants) can help, but they do not completely fix the problem. Research supports the idea that the use of specific strategies, either alone or in addition to hearing devices, can help to improve participation and enjoyment in activities. This class will review strategies to use, along with reviewing hearing technology to improve communication. Family and friends are welcome to participate in this program with their loved ones. Presentation is in person, and closed captioning is available. Free of charge. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Thanksgiving Celebrations – Please reserve your spot for the Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner or Mayor Ballantyne's Thanksgiving Luncheon by calling the COA Reservation Line at 617-625-6600, ext. 2323. Please leave your name, telephone number, and your preferred celebration. It is our goal that everyone gets to enjoy a Thanksgiving celebration with

friends this year. Preference will go to Somerville residents, as space is limited. We will call you to confirm your reservation.

Kiwanis Thanksgiving Dinner – Friday, November 14, at the Highlander Café located at Somerville High School. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Somerville Kiwanis and prepared by the Somerville Culinary Arts program.

Mayor Ballantyne's Thanksgiving Luncheon – Tuesday, November 18, at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch sponsored by Mayor Ballantyne and prepaid by Brett Henry Catering.

Senior Listening Session – Wednesday, November 19, at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The SCOA Board of Directors and Mass Senior Action, Somerville Committee invites you to the Senior Listening Session. The purpose of these sessions is for you to have your voices heard. Come share what programs and services are working for you and tell us about the challenges you face as you grow older. If you have any questions about the listening session, please contact the SCOA at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 or Mass Senior Action, Tess Johnson, 617-216-2918.

Drop-In Hours with the Somerville Council on Aging Board of Directors – Thursday, November 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. The SCOA has been hard at work making sure the voices of Somerville's seniors are heard. Together with UMass Boston, the City of Somerville conducted the Somerville Community Needs Assessment. Since the results were shared in May of this year, we have been working to implement recommendations. While we are introducing new programs, we want to make sure you still have opportunities to share your views and opinions. Each month, a member of the Board of Directors will be at the Holland Street Senior Center to meet with you individually. This November, you will meet with COA Board Member Tania Mederios.

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.

SNAP delay: Food resources in Somerville and how to help

November SNAP benefits are delayed due to the federal government not resolving the shutdown and not providing emergency funding. SNAP provides about \$212 million each month to Massachusetts residents. Benefits are issued between the 1st and 14th. Both SNAP recipients as well as grocery stores and farmers (who will see decreased food purchases) will be affected. **If you need food for you or your family, here are some places you can find help:**

- The Food Coalition Website at <https://somervillefoodcoalition.org/> has a list of free food resources.
- Our gov/SNAP webpage – <https://www.somervillema.gov/snap> – has information on food pantries, community fridges, community dinners, and more, as well as quick guides in multiple languages for:
 - Food Resource Information - <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/flyer-somerville-food-resources-all-languages.pdf>
 - Food Pantry Calendar - <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/flyer-food-pantry-calendar-somerville.pdf>
- Children in Somerville Public Schools can get free lunch and breakfast at school.
- People who have SNAP and shop at farmers markets can extend benefits with HIP in November if they have even \$1 of SNAP left from October.

- The Winter Market runs Saturdays starting November 1.

- The Davis Square Market runs Wednesdays through November 26.

What else to know about the likely SNAP delay:

- At this time, no other benefits are impacted. WIC, Cash Assistance (TAFDC and EAEDC), School Meals, and HIP are not impacted. Existing SNAP balances won't be affected.
- The possible delay in benefits is separate from the SNAP cuts, which will be rolled out over the next year and beyond.
- Check your SNAP balance at any time by calling the number on the back of your card.
- People can and should still apply for SNAP.

How long will this last?

- The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) is still working to get information about how long the SNAP delay might last.

If you received a message from DTA that you may not get your November SNAP benefits:

- Benefits should be issued when the shutdown ends. If you are a SNAP participant, stay alert for communications from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) about your benefits.

How to help:

If you are looking for ways to help, consider the following ways you can support your neighbors:

- Give money or gift cards to a local



organization.

- Find a list of local organizations at <https://www.somervillema.gov/snap>. This will have the most impact on households that rely on SNAP.
- PTAs partner with school liaisons to distribute food gift cards to families. Donate grocery store gift cards by contacting your local PTA by looking up the "Community" section of the school nearest to you: k12.ma.us/schools
- Donate a frozen meal to support home-bound individuals who rely on SNAP.
- Frozen, pre-packaged, store-bought meals are being collected from Monday, November 3, to Friday, November 7.

- Drop-off at the City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

- To help ensure food safety, donations will not be accepted outside of these hours.
- Bring food to your Community Fridge.
- Raise awareness about food resources and needs in Somerville.

Share out food resources for those who need it:

- Food Coalition Website – <https://somervillefoodcoalition.org/find-food/>
- The multilingual Food Resources Flyer and Food Pantry Calendar Flyer are available at <https://www.somervillema.gov/snap>.

Somerville's hazardous and yard waste pickup deadlines approaching

The Somerville Department of Public Works (DPW) wishes to remind residents that the last days for hazardous and yard waste collection this season are quickly approaching. DPW collection of these materials will resume in Spring 2026 as per the usual seasonal cycle.

Hazardous Waste

The last day to drop off hazardous waste this fall at the DPW yard (1 Franey Road) is Saturday, November 8. Drop-offs will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Accepted hazardous waste materials include motor oil, aerosol paint, household cleaning chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and more. Proof of residence, such as a driver's license or utility bill, is required. Waste materials should be placed in sturdy boxes and not in loose or plastic bags. For more information on materials accepted and how to safely prep them, visit somervillema.gov/HazWaste or download the Somerville Waste Wizard (somervillema.gov/wastewizard) app for Android or Apple phones.

Yard Waste

The week for yard waste collection will be Monday to Friday, December 8-12, 2025. Yard waste can be left out for pickup by DPW on residents' scheduled trash collection days. Please note: Yard waste cannot be collected if it is put in plastic bags.

To learn more, please visit somervillema.gov/trash or call 311 (617-666-3311).





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>

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Call **857-488-5138**

and speak to the Assignment Editor

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Garden of Eden?... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

November 5

- 1556 – The Emperor Akbar defeats the Hindus at Panipat and secures control of the Mogul Empire.
- 1605 – Guy Fawkes is betrayed and arrested in an attempt to blow up the British Parliament in the "Gunpowder Plot."
- 1872 – Susan B. Anthony is arrested for trying to vote.
- 1911 – Calbraith P. Rodgers ends first transcontinental flight—49 days from New York to Pasadena, CA.
- 1917 – General John Pershing leads U.S. troops into the first American action against German forces.
- 1935 – Parker Brothers company launches "Monopoly," a game of real estate and capitalism.
- 1940 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt is re-elected for third term.
- 2009 – The deadliest mass shooting at a US military installation occurs at Fort Hood, Texas, when US Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan kills 13 and wounds 29.

Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Third Day Gospel Choir at the Cohen Auditorium in Aidekman Arts Center on Friday, November 14, 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.

The Aidekman Arts Center is located at 40 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus.

For more information, please visit as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Veterans Day. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services invite community members to attend a **Veterans Day Wreath-Laying ceremony** at the **George Dilboy VFW Post 529** (351 Summer St.), on **Tuesday, November 11**. The service will begin at 11 a.m. with a speaking program, and a wreath-laying ceremony will follow. This event is rain or shine. At the conclusion of the ceremony, veterans and their families are invited to have lunch inside the Dilboy VFW. For more information, please contact the Somerville Department of Veterans' Services by calling 617-625-6600 x4700 or emailing veterans@somervillema.gov.

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

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off takes place **Saturday, November 8**, from 9 a.m. to

12 p.m. DPW, 1 Franey Rd. Drop-off events occur on the **second Saturday of each month, April through November**. Learn more at www.somervillema.gov/hazardouswaste.

Visit **ROOTED Armory Café** for their monthly recurring Café events this November. Upcoming events include: **Nova Comedy Collective's Nebula Night, Friday, November 14**, at 8:00 p.m., **WYRD Queer Comedy, Saturday, November 15**, at 7:00 p.m., **Atomic Comedy Improv Night, Thursday, November 20**, at 7:30 p.m., **GottaBal! Balboa Dance, Sunday, November 23**, at 4:00 p.m., **Nova Comedy Collective's Big Bang Standup, Friday, November 28**, at 7:30 p.m. More info available for each event on their website.

The **federal shutdown** has caused millions to lose access to **SNAP food assistance**, and the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is preparing for the impact. They are looking for help for their clients fed by cooking a meal or donating a donor dash or restaurant gift card through their **Meal Train** link - <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/vgelkg>.

Do you have a future **prekindergarten or kindergarten child**? Join an in-person or online **Enrollment Information Session**. Sessions are being held on **November 12 and 13**. Find more information go to: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/tours>.

Artwork: Creating a visual brand to suit your music. Musicians, learn how artwork enhances and amplifies your music through logos, gig flyers, merch, websites, and more. Get some fresh ideas, tools, tips, and tricks to discover what works for you. **November 15**, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., **Somerville Public Library**, 79 Highland Ave. Free, open to the public. RSVP: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/>

events/artwork-creating-a-visual-brand-to-suit-your-music/.

Letters Rewoven, a new community art installation by local artist **Anna Fubini**, will be on view at **Lou Ann David Park**, 1060 Broadway, **through Spring 2026**. Join in for a small inauguration reception on **Saturday, November 8**, from 12 to 1 p.m. to meet the artist and celebrate the unveiling of this work. Visitors can learn more about Letters Rewoven and explore ways to contribute their own writing at annafubini.com. Visit: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/letters-rewoven>.

Yard Waste Pickup: Collection wraps up **the week of December 8**. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day. Yard waste should be stored in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Tree branches should be tied into 3 ft. x 3 ft. bundles. Learn more at www.somervillema.gov/yardwaste.

Sign up for the **Somerville Police's R.A.D. Self Defense Classes**. Empower yourself and build community. The Somerville Police Department (SPD) is hosting a free, six-week R.A.D. self-defense class for women. This program is designed to empower through awareness, prevention, and hands-on self-defense techniques. The program consists of six classes to be held on **Thursdays starting November 6** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. To learn more and sign up, please email rad@police.somerville.ma.us.

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!

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

Generative AI and the Art of Co-Creation by the **Somerville Museum** takes place on **November 13** from 7 to 8 p.m. One Westwood Rd. Explore how humans and AI create together, blending imagination, code, and questions of creativity, bias, and belonging. For more information, visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

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

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Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST REPORT ANNUALLY (H 4672)

House 133-22, approved an amendment requiring that each school district report annually to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education the number of reading specialists, reading interventionists, literacy coordinators, school librarians, library aides, education support professionals and other staff employed by the district that directly support student reading and literacy development.

Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge), the sponsor of the amendment again did not offer any arguments in favor of her amendment during debate on the House floor. She also did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking her why she sponsored the amendment.

"I opposed this amendment because it imposes an unfunded reporting mandate on school districts at a time when cities and towns are facing increased financial constraints," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "Also, there are already extensive reporting requirements included in the underlying bill, so this would only add to that burden."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes

Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Massachusetts' innovation economy is the foundation of our competitiveness. It fuels discovery, drives growth and sustains good jobs in every region of the state. Through the DRIVE Initiative, we are taking action to protect our leadership in science and technology and support the institutions and workers that make it possible and ensure that Massachusetts continues to lead the nation in solving the world's hardest problems." — *Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley on Gov. Healey's DRIVE Initiative, designed to grow Massachusetts' renowned research and innovation economy and create thousands of new jobs.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in

public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of October 27-31, the House met for a total of seven hours and five minutes and the Senate met for a total of four hours and nine minutes.

Mon. Oct. 27 House 11:01 a.m. to 11:28 a.m.
Senate 11:22 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.

Tues. Oct. 28 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. Oct. 29 House 11:00 a.m. to 4:50 p.m.
No Senate session

Thurs. Oct. 30 House 11:04 a.m. to 11:52 a.m.
Senate 11:17 a.m. to 3:08 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 31 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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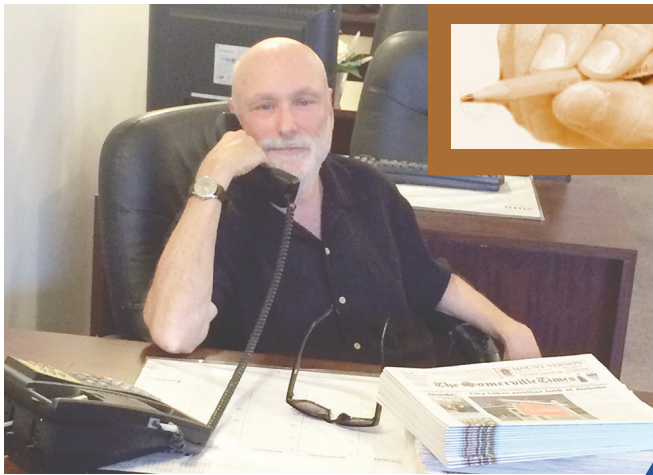
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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville artist Robert Wright: A 'shell' of an artist

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

One day I got an email from the accomplished Somerville sculptor Ann Hirsch about a talented outsider artist-- Robert Wright. She told me he has this strange but very compelling art on display in a little park in Gilman Square. On a crisp morning in October, I walked over to Gilman Square in Somerville, to meet the man and view his art. It was a bit nostalgic, as the old Paddock Restaurant site was across the street, a place I used to frequent years back. Wright was walking with a friend of his, and I introduced myself. Wright told me that he is a resident of the Park Street Senior Center and started working on this art among a little warren of trees next to his residence. He revealed that he had once been an ironworker, and was severely injured in a work-related accident, and since then he had been looking to fill his time with something interesting. His canvas for his artwork is trees, where his creations are posted. He is not a formally trained artist. His medium is mostly seashells. One creation which is inventively arranged is in the form of a turtle--that has now reached the ripe old age of 20. He also created a Halloween mask from shells, that can be lit up at night. In addition, he formed a seashell rose for his mother, who of course is named Rose. He also has a few abstract paintings on display. Wright told me he has lived in Somerville for thirty-five years, and had made friends through his artwork, and takes pleasure in the many comments he gets. He has formed a community around this special place. Wright is just one of the creative people that makes Somerville the "Paris of New England."



Parmit Kumar Singh is a scientist at Harvard and a multilingual poet based in Arlington, Massachusetts. He writes in Hindi, Bhojpuri, and English, and is the founder of *Global Voices in Verse*, a series that celebrates world poetry across languages. His work bridges cultures, revives Bhojpuri folk traditions, and explores the shared humanity in poetic expression. He was a featured reader at the Old Manse Reading (New England Poetry Club, 2022) and has participated in events such as the Boston Poetry Marathon.



The Way of Will and Desire

The light brings the energy,
and the dream brings the desire,
yet a man's future is shaped
not in his longing,
but in the strength of his will.

The wind flows with fragrance
when it carries clouds for the soil,
nurturing the seed buried beneath the earth,
but it is empty and hollow
when it turns to raise a mountain of sand,
blinding the eyes,
yet bearing no fruit.

Water finds its purity
as it percolates through soils,
a gentle sip nourishing the throat,
learning patience in every layer of stone and clay.
But water, full of desire for the ocean,
races without understanding,
and carries the weight of impatience,
forgetting the lessons of the path it travels.

So too is the heart of man:
his intentions must flow like the soil-fed stream,
slow, deliberate, conscious of each stone it passes,
rather than like a river eager only for the sea,
chasing dreams without planting roots.

The light brings the energy,
but energy without guidance
becomes fire uncontained,
burning that which it should sustain.
The dream brings the desire,
but desire without discipline
becomes wind that scatters,
never nurturing, never fulfilling.

Man must learn the art of patience,
to let the soil feed the seed,
to let the wind bear fragrance,

to let water gain wisdom in its journey.
For in will lies the shape of mountains,
and in understanding, the course of rivers.

Let the light awaken your hands to action,
and the dream awaken your heart to longing.
But let your will steady the hand,
and your wisdom guide the dream,
so that life may bear fruit
and not dissolve into dust.

The light, the wind, the water—
all teach the same lesson:
that desire alone cannot create,
that only with will, patience, and understanding
does the universe unfold its beauty,
and the soul find its path.

— Parmit Kumar Singh

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