Somerville's original independent newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com

VOL. 11 NO. 49 | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 | SOMERVILLE, MASS.

Inside:

Florida or bust page 3

Holiday Lighting 2023 page 12

Cozy Holiday Market page 13

Somernova recognized as Somerville's business neighbor of the year

Members of the Somernova team, Linda Kelley, Russell Preston, Collin Yip, Jhenny Saint-Suri, Kristin Phelan, Carlos Sainz Caccia, Priscilla Burnsed and Majic Alphonse, stand with Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne after receiving the Business Neighbor of the Year award.

— Photo courtesy of Somernova

By Bridget Frawley

Somernova became the first developer to receive the Business Neighbor of the Year award at the annual Somerville Chamber of Commerce Powderhouse Business and Excellence Awards on November 30.

Somernova is a 7.4-acre campus dedicated to building a community of companies and people. Rafi Properties purchased the Ames Business Center in 2018 and created office spaces to house Somernova's 18 permanent tenants and additional temporary partners.

"The Powderhouse award was truly a reflection of the team, our affiliates, and community members who make Somernova what it is," said Rafi Properties Managing Director Collin Yip in a statement. "The buildings on campus are *Continued on page 17*

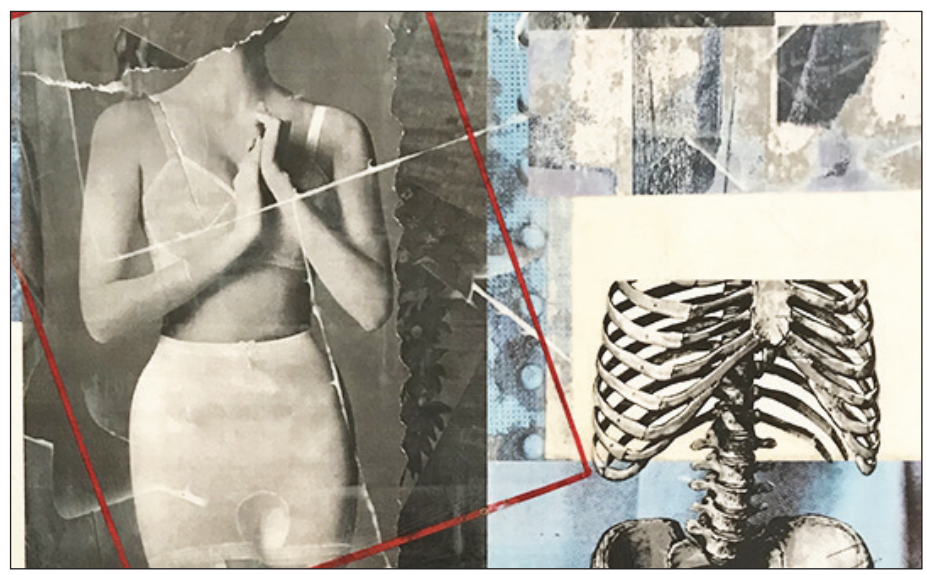
'Burning Down The House: Women and Art in an Uncertain World'

Brickbottom Gallery, a non-profit exhibition space run by the Brickbottom Artists' Association (BAA), will present an exhibition of five established Boston-area women artists in its groundbreaking new show *Burning Down The House: Women and Art in an Uncertain World*.

Curated by artist Kim Triedman, this will be the launch exhibit for a multi-city exhibition, which will next move to The PEG Center for Arts and Activism in Newburyport, MA.

Using a variety of media – drawing and painting (Kathryn Geismar), photography (Tira Khan), fiber arts (Virginia Mahoney), assemblage (Lorraine Sullivan), and collage (Kim Triedman) – the artists address the enormity of this particular moment in history.

With an emphasis on the *Continued on page 11*



"Burning Down The House: Women and Art in an Uncertain World" will be on exhibition at Brickbottom Gallery January 11 – February.

NEWSTALK

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

The **SMEA Union** will be hosting a clothing drive at their stand during the upcoming **Jingle Bell Race** on **Sunday, December 17**, in **Statue Park** to support the **Somerville Homeless Coalition's clients** experiencing homelessness this holiday season. SMEA will be collecting new and lightly used winter clothing and apparel that are crucial to keep our most vulnerable neighbors warm.

****

Visit **Magpie Kids** and shop for your little ones while supporting the **Kennedy PTA**. On **Wednesday, December 13**, from 2:30 to 8:00 p.m. Magpie Kids will donate 10% of sales to the Kennedy PTA. From 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. they will be serving wine and coffee. MAGPIE kids, 46 White St, Somerville.

****

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great photographer and a great person, **Iaritza Menjivar**. We wish her a very special day. We would like to send a special birthday wish to lifelong resident of Somerville, **Frances Vallone**, who will be celebrating her 95th birthday on December 17. We wish her a wonderful day with her family and friends and wish her many more to come. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Heather Balchunas, Kimberly Pedersen, Erin Madden Capasso, Olivia Huang, Glenn DiMasse** and **Toni Guarinoa** 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.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 13 – December 19 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday *December 13*	Sunny	44°/24°	6%	16%	W 13 mph
Thursday *December 14*	Sunny	35°/28°	1%	0%	WNW 10 mph
Friday *December 15*	Sunny	50°/34°	2%	1%	SW 11 mph
Saturday *December 16*	Partly Cloudy	46°/34°	5%	2%	NW 7 mph
Sunday *December 17*	Rain	49°/40°	35%	31%	S 9 mph
Monday *December 18*	Rain	48°/33°	50%	43%	WSW 12 mph
Tuesday *December 19*	Partly Cloudy	42°/29°	22%	17%	NW 11 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: *Family Day at Boynton Yards*

Michele Daly Taylor says:

Fantastic!

Response to: *Somerville through the eyes of Denise*

Hayward Zwerling says:

A darkly humorous, sociopolitical, anthropomorphized chronicle of a rafter of turkeys' sojourn from the Cambridge Common to their roost in Somerville's Davis Square, with some photos ihaveanidea.us/turkey/

Response to: *'The Last Day' by Krikor Hohannesian*

(Ms.) Dee E. Dale says:

Hello Lee Varon,
This is a fantastically sensitive and obviously caring sentiment and portrait of a wonderful man. I knew him too and can very much feel him and his positive impact on you and his legacy in this article. Thank you for the production and reminisces sketches, quotes, and sentifments; they are embracing, warming, and comforting. Truly a man/soul to be emulated, respectfully referenced, and so kindly remembered as you have so well done here.
Sincerely, Dee E. Dale

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com
www.thesomervilletimes.com
Phone: 857-488-5138

@somervilletimes
www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.
Editor – Jim Clark
Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner
Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr., Ryan DiLellio, Kyle Dante

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

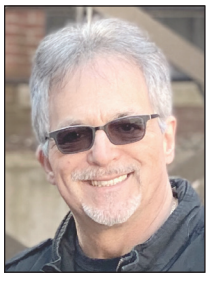
A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:

© 2022 The Somerville Times except where noted. All rights reserved.

Want to write local Somerville stories?
Call **857-488-5138** and speak to the Assignment Editor

Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

Florida or bust



This is a tale of two mischievous and bored Somerville kids back in the late 70's.

The year was 1979 and the month was January. I was working at a foreign auto dealership delivering parts. I bought an old Toyota with a bad motor for pretty cheap money and a mechanic friend of mine rebuilt the entire engine. It was a 1972 Toyota Corolla with a manual transmission.

My friend Jay was a cabbie and we met for a Saturday lunch. We were always hatching little schemes and devious plans but a Florida trip was never mentioned. Sunday came and went as we were spending a boring day in Somerville. I picked up Jay early in Monday before work. But I never made it to work and neither did he. It seems we both looked at each other and blurted out, "let's go to Florida." It was the height of spring break and we were going to attend.

I called my boss at the car dealership and told him I was quitting and so did Jay.

The next step was trying to come up with some money. I had a few bucks stashed away. Jays mother gave us a jar of change.

We filled the gas tank and headed for interstate 95 south. We were on our way.

I had been doing the driving because Jay didn't know how to drive a standard stick. Then we had the bright idea to switch while driving. So, on busy 95 south we switched drivers. He came over to the driver's seat and I slid over to the passenger side. It was pretty dangerous but we swapped places without even slowing down.

We decided to drive through the night. We stopped at Daytona beach. We drove the car on the beach and it was so cool that we recorded the experience on a portable tape recorder. For years afterwards we would listen to the tape and laugh our butts off. God knows where it is now.

We met a girl named Hillary who brought us home to meet her parents. Two bearded longhaired hippies. We enjoyed a few delicious meals there and made some friends.

The seats in a Corolla go all the way down so we slept in the car.

We had a lot of fun partying with the Spring break people. We hung out on the beach all day while keeping an eye on our finances.

We managed to save enough money for gas.

For at least 20 years there has been a bottle of Hawaiian Tropic tanning oil in our medicine cabinet. The smell reminds of laying on a Florida beach without a care in the world. I loved Florida so much that I moved there in 1986.

Student supports for winter

As we move into our New England winter, Somervill Public Schools has several avenues for supporting students with needs that may come up at this time of year.

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The school district has a tradition of supporting students by working with families to find necessary winter clothing, outerwear, food for festive meals, and gift cards for other food security issues that arise for those in need.

Students and families can connect with these resources by reaching out to a school administrator or school-based family and community liaisons. There are also local food resources listed on the Somerville Food Coalition website.

CRG
Coelho Realty Group

Are You Sitting On A Fortune?

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

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

The Welcome Project

Since 1987, The Welcome Project has worked tirelessly to give a voice to the immigrant community of Somerville and provide them with the education and support they need to advocate for themselves in their new home.

Through English language classes for parents, translator training for high school students, and workers' rights campaigns, we are always advancing the mission of equity and highlighting how immigrants are an integral piece of our Somerville community.

As we come to the end of 2023, we at The Welcome Project humbly ask if you could support our work and donate today. As the immigrant community continues to grow in Somerville, your generosity allows your new neighbors to get the education they need to succeed in their new home.

Scan Here to Donate

The Somerville Times

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log 11/21 – 12/4

Commercial Breaking and Entering

On 11/27/23 at approximately 2:02 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Alewife Brook Pkwy. for an alarm call. They viewed surveillance video which showed, at 1:46 AM, a male party take a brick off the ground and throw it at the glass door, shattering it. Nothing was reported stolen.

Assault

On 11/18/23 at approximately 6:44 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Gilman St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was involved in an argument with another male. During the argument, the male suspect brandished a knife and threatened to kill him.

Residential Breaking and Entering

On 11/26/23 at approximately 3:12 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Foley St. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was sleeping and heard the sound of a door close. He got up and noticed his laptop was stolen.

Assault

On 11/25/23 at approximately 1:31 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Franklin St. for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was approached by a male party who brandished a knife and demanded money. The victim stated he didn't have any money and the suspect truck him with a baseball bat. Officers identified the male suspect.

Residential Breaking and Entering

On 11/27/23 at approximately 3:50 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Elm St. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a male party walked up her fire escape and climbed into her kitchen window. He then climbed back out the window and fled onto Porter St. Nothing was reported stolen.

Assault

On 11/25/23 at approximately 3:14 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Elm St. for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated her son was inside the business and spilled a drink on another male. The other male then punched him causing him to suffer a broken jaw.

Assault

On 11/25/23 at approximately 11:00 a.m. a female party came into the station and reported a road rage incident. She stated she was parking her car and accidentally hit another car. The driver of the other car then exited and brandished a knife at her.

Arrest

On 11/27/23 at approximately 8:35 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Elm St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated he noticed a male and female drinking inside the business. Both suspects fled prior to police arrival. Shortly after, the suspects were located at the MBTA station and placed under arrest.

Residential Breaking and Entering

On 11/28/23 at approximately 3:29 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Perkins St. for report of a larceny. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated that he observed his fire escape open then noticed that marijuana was stolen.

Assault

On 11/30/23 at approximately 8:15 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Canal Ln. for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was involved in a road rage incident with another male. During the argument, the other male brandished a knife. Officers identified the male suspect.

Residential Breaking and Entering

On 12/2/23 at approximately 9:24 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Conwell Ave. for report of a suspicious person. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was awoken by a noise by her door then noticed a male party running down the stairs. Nothing was reported missing.

Assault

On 12/1/23 at approximately 3:33 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Cross St for report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers were informed by a school principal that several juvenile females were involved in a fight.

Assault

On 12/4/23 at approximately 9:05 p.m.,, Somerville Police responded to Somerville Ave. and Beacon St. for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was walking in the crosswalk and was almost struck by a vehicle. The victim then hit the vehicle with his umbrella and the operator exited and began punching him. The victim suffered injuries to his eye and finger.

Assault

On 12/1/23 at approximately 11:02 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Somerville High School for report of unknown trouble. Upon arrival, officers were informed that a fight had occurred involving several juvenile females.

Other Crimes:

• 6 Bike thefts • 1 Package theft • 3 MV thefts • 3 MV tandalisms • 3 Vandalisms • 3 Car breaks

Mend the gap: MBTA vows to resolve ongoing platform gap issue

By Micah Levine

Back in October, the Riders' Transportation Access Group (RTAG) came together with MBTA officials to assess the increasing concern of platform gaps throughout many orange line stations. A rider survey conducted in September by the MBTA demonstrated a rise in concern over the prevalence and severity of these gaps, prompting the federal institution to take official action in direct conjunction with RTAG. These hazardous conditions raised the attention of the community-based group, whose mission is to ensure that riders with disabilities have their civil right to utilize public transit equally and effectively.

Platform gaps resemble the wide (horizontal gap) and/or uneven (vertical gap) space between platform and train car; they commonly occur in aging transit systems and are caused mostly by the gradation of the spatial relationship between track and platform edge.

Preliminary findings by the MBTA earlier this year showed many orange line stations, particularly along Jamaica Plain's southwest corridor, exhibiting consistent vertical and occasional horizontal gaps. (Both Assembly and Oak Grove stations showed gaps closer to the federal regulations due to the newness of their platforms, though Sullivan is host to considerable gaps.)

Furthermore, many riders criticized the quality of care taken with mobile bridge plates. These steel plates, required in heavy rail stations where gaps exceed minimum requirements, can be requested by riders to enter or exit the train over the gap. More than one group member expressed disappointment over the absence of bridge plates in particular stations, as well as overall negligence of certain Transit Ambassadors upon requesting the plate.

"I wasn't surprised to hear that, often times, a station employee is not readily available to request the mobile bridge plate," Jamaica Plain resident Colleen Flanagan expressed to the group. "That's happened to me more times than I can count." Community member Susan Backstrom later shared her experience with an Orange Line platform gap. Stopped at an unnamed Orange Line station, Backstrom stepped by the door to let other riders exit when her foot slipped through the gap. "I was kind of – I panicked. There were a couple of people that helped me [up]. I was really afraid that I'd lose my shoe."

"It wouldn't be the first time that I lost something in the pit," Backstrom said.

"Eliminating the existence of excessive gaps is essential," System-Wide Accessibility AGM Laura Brelsford shared in an exclusive interview. "Given our commitment to becoming a best-in-class system, we have no choice but to prioritize and resolve this issue." Brelsford also indicated the sense of unity across multiple departments, noting the urgency with which the MBTA is working to fully restore these gaps to federal and state regulations.

Once the consulting engineer finishes compiling initial data into a comprehensive analysis, the MBTA will begin preparations to fix the orange line's platform gaps. Internal conversation suggests platform gaps pertain to infrastructure issues rather than individual vehicles; one can therefore anticipate changes to the track beds themselves as well as platform modifications over the coming year. For now, the MBTA has installed rub rail in stations with significant horizontal gaps, and portions of certain platforms have been modified to minimize the gap until the primary solutions are clear.

"This shouldn't be this way," Braintree resident Joanne Daniels-Finegold voiced near the end of the meeting. "You have to know the territory. You have to know which platforms. *Continued on page 9*

The Riders' Transportation Access Group (RTAG) is working with the MBTA to help find solutions to current platform gap problems. *— Photo by Bobbie Toner*

ANNOUNCEMENT

315 Broadway, in conjunction with Micozzi Management
are pleased to announce an

Affordable Rental Open Waitlist Opportunity

The application period for a two-bedroom (2BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist for households earning up to 50% Area Media Income (AMI) and a two-bedroom (2BR) Affordable Rental Waitlist for households earning up to 80% AMI will begin on 12/11/2023 at 2pm and end on 1/10/2024 at 2pm.

The Household size must be a minimum of 2 people.

315 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145

Located in the Winter Hill neighborhood of Somerville, the units offer open- concept floor plans and modern features. Parking is available based on availability and for an additional fee.

Eligible households of 2 or more people whose income does not exceed the following:

Maximum Annual Income 2BR 50% AMI

50% AMI	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons
Income	$59,400	$66,800	$72,300

Maximum Annual Income 2BR 80% AMI

80% AMI	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons
Income	$94,800	$196,650	$118,450

Eligibility Requirements

- The rental unit must be used as the renters' primary residence.
- Income and residency restrictions will apply throughout tenancy. Income eligibility will be reviewed annually.
- Head of households claiming full-time student status are not eligible.
- Total Household Liquid Assets cannot exceed $75,000

Applications will be available beginning on 12/11/2023 at 2pm.
To obtain an application, please contact **Micozzi Management** and reference **"315 Broadway 50%"** or **"315 Broadway 80%"**
Telephone: 617-254-5576 ex 112 or **email:** eburkart@micozzimanagement.com

Completed applications must be submitted to Micozzi Management at eburkart@micozzimanagement.com
or mailed to **159 Cambridge Street, Suite 2, Allston, MA 02134 by 1/10/2024 at 2pm.**

Applications received after the deadline will not be added to the waitlist. All qualified applications will be ranked by date and time received. All mailed applications will receive a 7-day grace period.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

The Somerville Times

Beacon Hill Roll Call

Volume 48 – Report No. 49 • December 4-8, 2023 • Copyright © 2023 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll call votes in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports local senators' roll call attendance records for the 2023 session through December 8.

The Senate has held 99 roll calls so far in the 2023 session. Beacon Hill Roll Call tabulates the number of roll calls on which each senator voted and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

Thirty-one (77.5 percent) of the current 40 senators did not miss any roll calls and have 100 percent roll call attendance records.

It is a Senate tradition that the Senate president only votes occasionally. Current Senate President Karen Spilka follows that tradition and only voted on 19 (19.1 percent) of the 99 roll calls while not voting on 80 (80.9 percent) of them.

Eight (20 percent) of the 40 senators, other than Spilka, missed one or more roll calls. Sen. Liz Miranda (D-Boston) has the worst record. She missed nine roll calls for a roll call attendance record of 90.9 percent.

Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington) missed two roll calls for a roll call attendance record of 97.9 percent. Newly elected Sen. Peter Durant (R-Spencer), a former state representative, also missed two roll calls, His attendance record is 97.1 percent -- based on the 70 roll calls the House has held. The Senate has not held any roll calls since Durant was sworn in.

The following senators each missed one roll call resulting in a 98.9 percent roll call attendance record: Sens. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), John Keenan (D-Quincy); Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth); Mike Rush (D-West Roxbury); and John Velis (D-Westfield).

Beacon Hill Roll Call contacted the eight senators at least three times asking why they missed some roll calls. Only three of the eight responded.

– Sen. Miranda's chief of staff Kevin Higgins responded: "The roll calls [missed by] Sen. Miranda were all in a formal session on February 9th, pertaining to Senate rules, where remote participation had not yet been adopted. Sen. Miranda was not able to participate as she was home sick with COVID-19. We are grateful that the Senate adopted remote participation rules this session, following guidance that is aligned with public health recommendations."

– Sen. O'Connor's legislative director Thomas Skehill responded: "Sen. O'Connor missed … roll call #37 … due to a medical appointment."

– Sen. Gomez responded: "I am going through recovery from kidney transplant surgery. On May 4, 2023, I received my transplant. While during this 6-month period there could've been a moment that I was predisposed within my recovery process. Could've been slow trying to getting my vote in on time as well. Mobility was tough during the first couple months. Especially if it was a late vote during our marathon in closing out from summer session."

– Sens. Keenan, Rush, Velis, Durant and Barrett did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them for a statement.

SENATORS' 2023 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS THROUGH DECEMBER 8, 2023

The percentage listed next to the senator's name is the percentage of roll call votes on which the senator voted. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that he or she missed.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	100 percent (0)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT ON THE FUTURE OF OFFSHORE WIND - Offshore wind in Massachusetts is about to achieve a significant milestone while facing an uncertain future. With the cornerstone of Massachusetts' clean energy goals at stake, can the state surmount challenging economic conditions to expand wind power?

Join MASSterList and the State House News Service for an in-person event at the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) in Downtown Crossing, Boston on Dec 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Speakers include leading offshore wind executives and environmental leaders, with opening remarks from Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. More info and tickets: https://massterlist.com/headwinds-for-offshore-wind/

$3.1 BILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 4204) - The House and Senate approved and Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a $3.1 billion supplemental budget to close out fiscal year 2023. A key and controversial provision provides for $250 million for sheltering eligible families during the emergency shelter crisis created by the recent influx of thousands of migrants.

Other provisions include $2.1 billion for MassHealth to cover end of year deficiencies; $75 million for school districts impacted by special education tuition rate increases; $15 million for disaster relief for municipalities impacted by storms and naturals disasters that occurred in 2023; $378 million to fund collective bargaining agreements; and $500,000 for the Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning Youth.

The House and Senate approved the package in informal sessions during which, under House and Senate rules, roll call votes are not allowed. The Senate agreed to a GOP proposal to hold a formal session but the House did not agree and a formal session was not held.

The budget was approved on a 105-14 standing vote in the House and by a 20-3 standing vote in the Senate. During a standing vote, members who support a bill are asked to stand up and be counted. Following that, members who oppose the bill are asked to stand up and be counted. Senators do not cast an individual vote so there is no recorded roll call vote on the bill.

"I'm proud to sign this supplemental budget that dedicates critical funding for hard-earned raises for workers, supports municipalities with covering the costs of special education and flood relief, sustains our Emergency Assistance program and more," said Gov. Healey.

"The Senate understands how much of an impact our work has on the residents of the commonwealth—especially when pay raises for hard-working employees and funding for emergency shelter is on the line," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

"The House Republican Caucus understands the importance of passing a final deficiency appropriations bill to address the unfunded union contract situation, provide disaster relief funding for cities and town and meet the fiduciary responsibilities associated with closing the books on fiscal year 2023," said GOP House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "At the same time, we remain deeply concerned about the lack of meaningful reforms contained in the bill to address the emergency shelter crisis created by the recent influx of thousands of migrants, which remains an untenable situation that must be resolved."

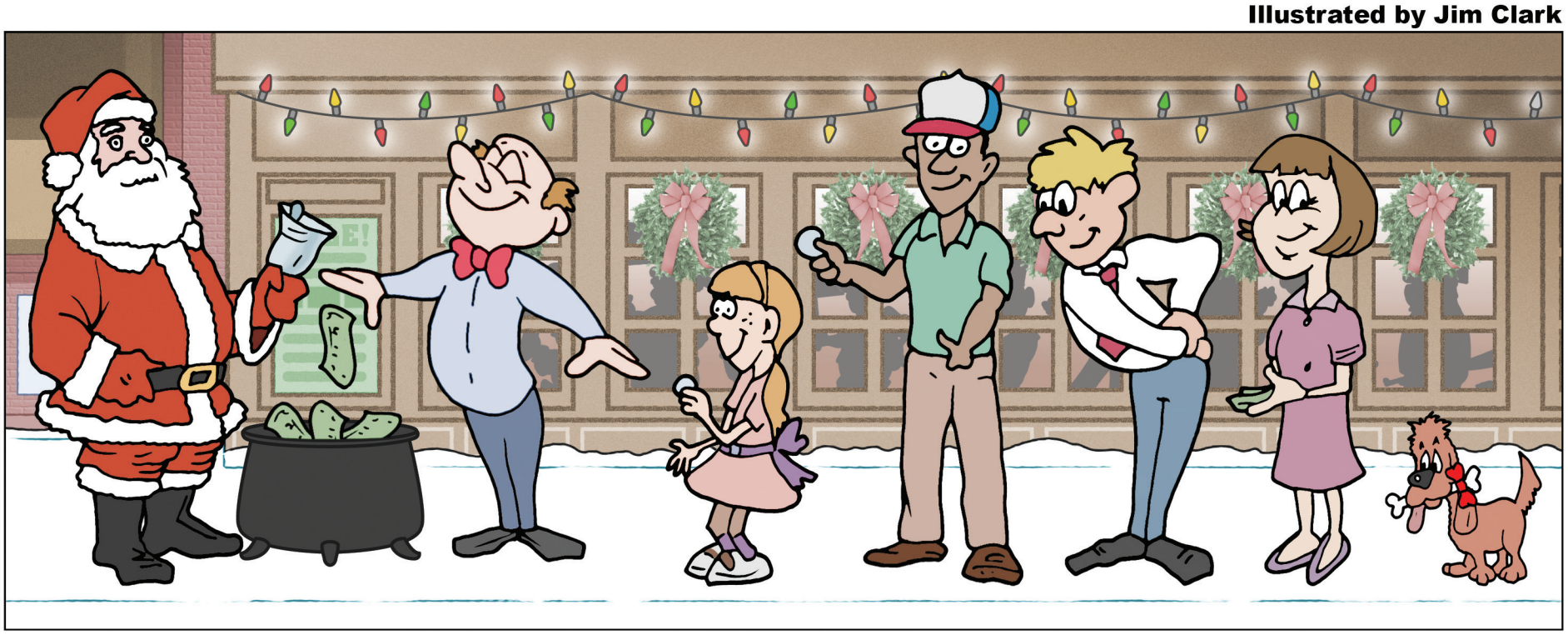
"Democratic leadership put us in an impossible situation by intentionally weaving these separate issues together," continued Jones. "There is no legitimate reason that funding for union contracts and aid for cities and towns needed to be tied to controversial immigration policy. It was done by design."

"The Senate again acted swiftly and decisively to close the books and pass the closeout supplemental budget for fiscal year 2023," said Senate Ways and Means chair Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport). "With *Continued on page 15*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's all remember to help the less fortunate this holiday season.

Our View Of The Times

The holiday season gives us that little nudge we sometimes need to take stock in what is most important for us and to share in the sense of appreciation that we feel amongst one another.

Of course, for those of us who may be blessed with material abundance, it is also important to help the less fortunate who may be in need as the winter holiday season unfolds. Consider giving a little of your time or money to make another's life a little better, particularly during the winter months to come.

For those among who may be struggling to keep it all together, remember to look at what is good in life and remain faithful that change for the better is always waiting just around the corner.

There are many ways to help those in our community who may be in need at this time. Seek out relief organizations such as the Somerville Homeless Coalition, Project Soup, Community Action Agency of Somerville, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES), Elizabeth Peabody House Pantry, MAMAS - Mutual Aid Medford & Somerville, and any number of others to make a generous donation.

Your support is vital in assuring that those in need get through the harsh winter months ahead.

Of equal importance is supporting our local businesses during the following holiday shopping season as they compete with out-of-town and online shopping alternatives. They need your support as well.

May this holiday season provide a meeting ground for all of us. One in which we can share in the goodness of life and fellowship between us all.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

See Somerville's best and brightest holiday light displays now **through early January**. This year's **Illuminations** includes both self-guided tours and a bike tour led by the Somerville Bike Advisory Committee. Celebrate the artistry and creativity of residents and businesses that transform their spaces and yards with lights, ornaments, and shrines of devotion and fantasy. Take self-guided tours using Somerville's official **online Illuminations Map**. On **December 16**, take the **Illuminations Bike Tour**, starting at **Somerville High School main entrance** at 5:45 p.m., departure at 6:00 p.m. (rain date December 17). For map and more information visit https://somervilleartscouncil.org/illuminationstour.

****

As the holiday gift shopping season intensifies, it's important to remember that **our local merchants** are depending on us all to do our best to shop local. With the challenges they have dealt with over the past couple of years, let's help them to get back to business and be here for years to come.

****

How about making your holiday a little greener by creating a **holiday greeting on video** free at the **Somerville Media Center**? Make yours by scheduling at frontdesk@somervillemedia.org.

****

Visit the Armory, 191 Highland Ave. on **Saturday, December 16**, at 7:00 p.m. (doors at 6:15 p.m.) for the **Ciricus Up 2023 Benefit Show**. Tickets available here: https://www.betterunite.com/CircusUpcircusupbenefit2023. This year's benefit will be at the beautiful **Arts at the Armory** and will feature delicious treats and refreshments, an exciting raffle, and a live performance. They will showcase their community troupe, **Kirkos**, as well as beloved local circus artists and dancers.

****

Enrolling a **prekindergarten or kindergarten student?** The next **PK8 School Open House events** are **January 9, 2024** and the online enrollment portal opens on **January 3, 2024**. Watch a video about enrolling your student in prekindergarten or kindergarten. https://youtu.be/HgdlsI8IapM, The video is also available in Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole on the **Enrollment Office website**, where you can find many more resources: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/enrollment.

****

In the giving spirit of the season, the city is collecting toy and gift donations at city buildings, libraries, and *Continued on page 22*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio #902

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What novel contains the longest sentence in literature?

2. What was Scarlett O'Hara's real first name?

3. A-Ha sang the title song for which Bond film?

4. In *The Simpsons*, which Hollywood superstar provided Maggie's first word?

5. What is the largest city in Ohio?

6. What color golf balls are used on the golf course in Antarctica?

7. In which cop series did Phil Collins appear as Phil the Shill?

8. Who produced the first jumbo jet in 1975?

9. Marilyn Monroe died during the making of which movie?

10. Which U.S. politician said, "Always forgive your enemies, but never forget their names"?

11. How long does it take for the Earth to spin once on its axis?

12. In which decade did the Super Bowl begin?

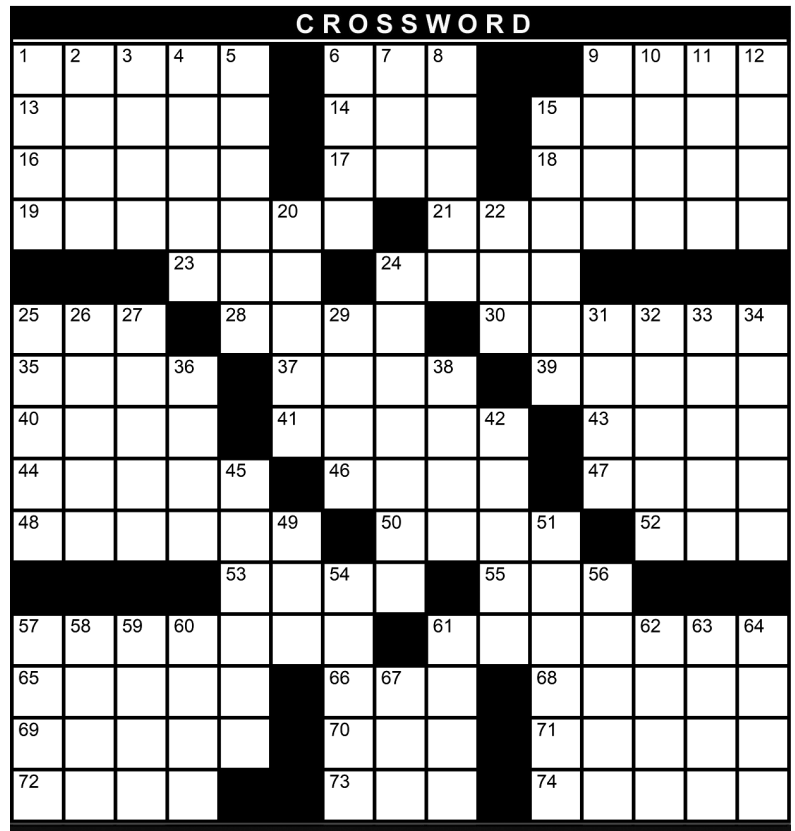
Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Licking a stamp, you consume one-tenth of a calorie.
2. Cats can't taste sweet things because of a genetic defect.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

YEAR-IN-REVIEW



ACROSS

1. Herald, Idalia or Ophelia
6. Do this in the bud
9. Parts of play
13. Cocoon dwellers
14. Paleozoic or mesozoic, e.g.
15. Alexandre Duma's "The Black ____"
16. Concerning, archaic
17. Talking Heads' "And She ____"
18. Give a speech
19. 2023 World Series winners
21. Imploded submersible's destination
23. Kali Uchis' "I Wish ____ Roses"
24. Don't step on it twice!
25. Ryan Gosling's #48 Across role
28. Winter window picture
30. Imprisons
35. Aphrodite's son
37. Hindu serpent deity
39. Toughness
40. Angler's hope
41. Stephen Curry, e.g.
43. Opposed to
44. Tastes like lemon
46. Seven-year desire
47. Turf alternative
48. Highest-grossing 2023 movie to-date
50. Chris Hemsworth's repeating role
52. Auction batch
53. Cheese on Peloponnese
55. Kombucha, e.g.
57. Retired media magnate
61. King Charles III's Royal House
65. On the radio (2 words)
66. Ryder Cup 2023 runner-up
68. 1000 kilograms
69. "Beat it!"
70. Lake, in France
71. Manila hemp
72. Foot digits
73. Freudian topic
74. Runner

DOWN

1. Joust verbally
2. Cat food flavor
3. Word before sesame
4. Gangly
5. Type of shower
6. Company from which #57 Across retired, ____ Corp
7. Nest egg, acr.
8. Trattoria staple
9. Sign of a saint
10. Kin group
11. South American monkey
12. Design detail, for short
15. Sacred objects on a pole
20. Bitterly regretting
22. Dwight D. Eisenhower
24. Boat race
25. Meat on a stick
26. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
27. Post-it user
29. Site of tragic wildfires
31. Objectivity preventer
32. Declare invalid
33. Like 1950s style, today
34. "The Eras Tour" star
36. Balkan native
38. St. Louis attraction
42. Hindu garment
45. Combining two forms
49. What kneecap and leech have in common
51. Airbnb offering
54. Northernmost land, to the ancients
56. a.k.a. adobar or carne de vinha d'alhos
57. Lion's share
58. Beyond natural, in U.K.
59. Steak preference
60. Days, in Havana
61. Showtime's "____: The Aftermath"
62. Certain social media message
63. A third of thrice
64. Infantry's last rows
67. ____-AFTRA

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

© StatePoint Media

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Green Line Extension shutdowns have been extended

The MBTA has announced that the work to regauge the track along the Green Line Extension (GLX) will not be completed by Monday, December 11, as initially anticipated under the plan presented by the project's contractor, GLX Constructors (GLXC), which requested additional time of the MBTA.

The MBTA has granted the contractor an additional seven nights to continue the work – until at least Sunday, December 17. Evening Green Line trains on both the Union Square and Medford/Tufts branches of GLX have been replaced with shuttle bus service beginning at 8:45 p.m. since November 27, which will continue during this time.

"The MBTA is committed to ensuring that GLXC completes this work safely, thoroughly and expeditiously. We are disappointed that they could not complete their work on the Green Line Extension on the timeline that they previously projected and, at our direction, they will be bringing in more resources, including more crews," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "We apologize to riders for this inconvenience, and we will continue to do everything in our power to deliver the longer-term, safe, and reliable service that they expect and deserve."

The MBTA is committed to ensuring that GLXC completes this work correctly and safely. The MBTA has directed GLXC to provide additional resources to accelerate the repair work. Following GLXC's request for additional evening suspensions in GLX service, the MBTA also directed GLXC to submit the complete list of their staff, staff experience level of the on-site workforce who will be committed and held accountable for completing the work, and a production schedule that includes GLXC's full list of resources dedicated to this effort.

In close coordination with GLXC, the MBTA is committed to accomplishing the GLX narrow-gauge repairs as efficiently as possible while minimizing impacts to riders. The MBTA is committed to reporting this progress and will share more with the public on any plans to further disrupt service in order to complete this narrow-gauge work following additional review of work.

For more information, please visit mbta.com, or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA and @MBTA_CR, Facebook / TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

— MBTA

Mend the gap: MBTA vows to resolve ongoing platform gap issue CONT. FROM PG 5

you know will have the vertical gaps … you have to prepare for it, or just not use that platform or station." As the MBTA proceeds to mend the gap, RTAG inches one step closer to achieving its ultimate mission of equal rights in public transit.

Micah Levine is a student at Lesley University, where he studies counseling psychology. He resides in Cambridge and enjoys '70s movies.

Very special thanks to Dr. Frank Trocco for his invaluable support.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

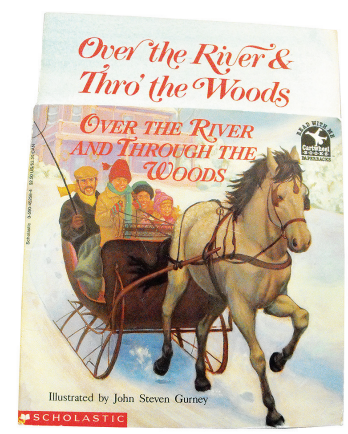
Eagle Feathers #294

This article first appeared in the November 27, 2013, edition of The Somerville Times.

Sleds and sleighs

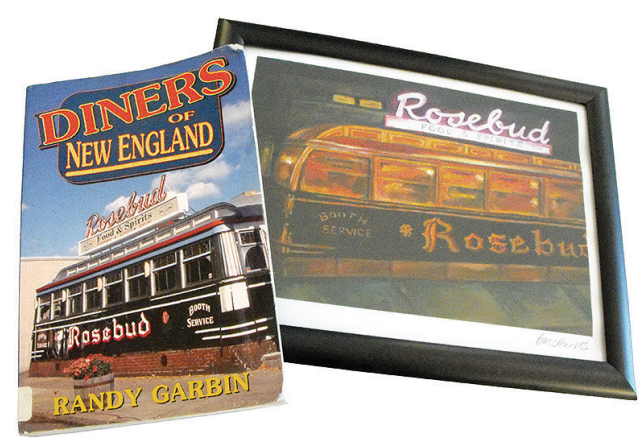
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Boston Street on Prospect Hill is aptly named. From the top of the street on a winter day, it looks like you could coast down her elevation and not stop until you crossed the Charles and continued on into Boston. From this spot, your line of sight to the Prudential Building is dead on.



Somerville is known as a city of hills and, as you go back in time, her hills and parks were enjoyed during the winter months by many a generation. Sledding or coasting was so popular that the city would close off motor vehicle access to many streets for the sole purpose of sledding and winter enjoyment.

What do you do today when the snow falls deep? For many, just jump into your 4-wheel drive and go. But not too many years ago, the sled was the answer. The stories go back to the revolution and beyond. Colonel Henry Knox used over 40 sleds to carry captured cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Somerville and Dorchester forts. This caused the evacuation of the British from Boston. The Somerville/Medford region has many romantic accounts about sledding. For over 160 years, Tufts students found escape from their studies in coasting down the sides of Walnut Hill.



In the Thanksgiving poem *Over the River and Through the Woods*, the river refers to The Mystic and the trip through the woods on the Medford/Somerville line was made by horse-drawn sleigh. The song *Jingle Bells*, composed by James Pierpont in Medford Square, was originally called *One Horse Open Sleigh*. He wrote it after observing the sleigh races between Medford and Malden Squares.

Even the Somerville Fire Department, as late as the early 1940s, reverted to the use of sleds (also known as pungs) to get to fires during serious snowstorms and blizzards. This was needed because resources were severely depleted *Continued on page 10*

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iJ8ezpxhQOqG77dp1xeFWA

Webinar ID: 814 0303 0734

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

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

HP23-000064 - 326 Lowell Street
Applicant: Alfa Excavation Inc
Owner: 326-328 Lowell Street, LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building that is at least 75 years of age.

HP23-022084 – 9 Olive Ave
Applicant: Robert DiPierro
Owner: Robert DiPierro
The Applicant proposes to demolish fifty percent or more of a structure that is at least 75 years old.

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.*

12/13/23 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, December 21, 2023**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AVwB7LxlTrSKkUwYq4_6uw
Webinar ID: 869 2211 2364

TO CALL IN

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

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

30 Bow Street Modern Love, LLC seeks to establish an Alcohol Sales principal use along a Pedestrian Street in the Mid-Rise 3 (MR3) District, which requires a Special Permit.

288 Highland Ave Lotus Yoga Studio LLC seeks to establish a Fitness Service principal use along a Pedestrian Street in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) District, which required a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at
https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions.
Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

12/6/23, 12/13/23 The Somerville Times

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

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 24-21

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

Database for the Consolidated Inclusionary Rental Housing Waitlist

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, December 13, 2023**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: 2:00 pm, **Wednesday, January 10, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

12/13/23 The Somerville Times

Battle for the Picket Fence

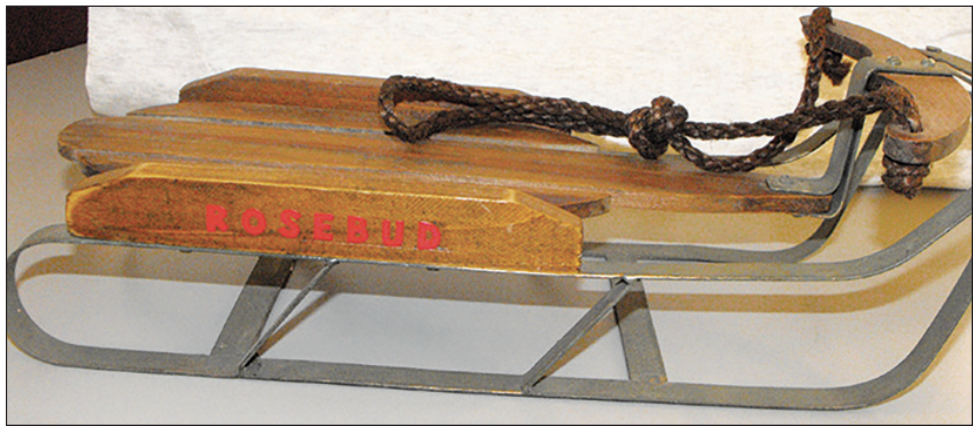
Somerville High School battled Cambridge Rindge and Latin School at the annual Battle for the Picket Fence on Thanksgiving Day at Russell Field, Cambridge. Somerville lost to Cambridge in this year's showdown, but our Highlanders played their hearts out and we are proud of our home team. Watch the pre-game SHS Fall Sports Rally, highlighting Somerville athletes, thanks to Somerville EdTV: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IYGvFo8TzU

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

during the war effort.

Davis Square's Rosebud Diner arrived in Somerville in 1941, the same year that Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane*, the #1 greatest movie of all time according to most sources, won the Academy Award for Best Picture. The movie opens and closes focusing on a sled called Rosebud, namesake of the Rosebud Diner in Davis Square. The diner is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is often the subject of many paintings and photographs.

In 1982, dozens of trunks holding many sleds utilized during the expeditions of the famous Admiral Richard Byrd were uncovered in a Somerville warehouse. On Thanksgiving Day, 1929, Byrd and his crew flew over the Antarctic South Pole. More notably, four years earlier, in 1925, Byrd and his co-pilot made history as the first humans to fly over the North Pole. We all know deep down that perhaps the most important sled of all is that one which is drawn by eight tiny reindeer. Who knows, perhaps Byrd got a glimpse of it during his fateful journey.



City follows up on citizens' rights and protection ideas

By Jennifer Purcell

Last Tuesday, December 5, the Somerville City Council's Legislative Matters Committee held their final meeting of the year, following up on a variety of subjects that have been prominent topics of discussion all throughout the year.

The primary focus this year has been the topic of rent stabilization and how it can be implemented here in Somerville. This was the first topic that Ward 6 Councilor and Committee Chair Lance Davis wanted to bring up.

For this particular meeting, the Committee wanted to discuss the Council's ability to ban landlords from passing real estate agent fees onto tenants. While it was agreed that the idea was favorable, City Solicitor Cindy Amara was unsure if it would be doable. "You can't interfere with civil relationships without legislative authority," she pointed out. "It can't be done without a Home Rule Petition."

After some discussion, the Committee decided that it would be best to mark the item as completed as there is nothing they can do given the fact that they are still in the early stages of developing the Home Rule Petition. This is an item that they might be able to revisit once the Home Rule Petition is put in place.

Additionally, the Committee covered several other pressing issues that were unrelated to rent stabilization, one of them being the legality of requiring businesses to post Worker's Rights Bills in clearly visible spaces. These bills would include the right to form a union without retaliation and consequences for violating workers' rights. They agreed that it would be a good idea, however, there isn't much they can do as there would be no severe consequences for businesses that do not post these bills.

Ordinance Drafts

To conclude the meeting, the Committee discussed the possibilities of drafting several ordinances, the first of which would protect homeowners from developer and realtor mail, phone, and email harassment. This item is one that had been kept in the Committee for several months while they attempted to get in touch with an attorney in Chicago to speak to them about the details regarding the ordinance that they have implemented in their city. After speaking with an attorney, the Committee decided that the chances of this ordinance being drafted would be slim to none due to the level of enforcement and capacity. Furthermore, they do not currently have adequate funds to go through with this.

The final topic the Committee discussed was the possibility of drafting an ordinance requiring pollution mitigation for new housing built along high transit roads and highways. This is also something that the Committee has been talking about for some time as it was first proposed pre-Covid.

Although they had already come up with ideas regarding how they would go about this, they ultimately opted to mark the item as completed as it was not their decision to make and that the Board of Health would be better suited to take care of the issue.

The topic of rent stabilization being possibly implemented in Somerville was among the issues discussed by the city's Legislative Matters Committee at their latest meeting.

'Burning Down The House: Women and Art in an Uncertain World'

CONT. FROM PG 1

backward slide in women's rights 50 years after Roe v. Wade was passed, the artists have all lived long enough to remember what was before – all with work relating to the ongoing struggle for dignity, independence, equality, and the power to make personal, sexual, and medical decisions.

The timing is critical: As the Supreme Court falls increasingly out of step with the inclinations of the American public, the exhibit shines a light on where we have come from, where we are headed, and the p rice to be paid for political inertia. There is an opportunity for important conversation here – not just between the artworks themselves but also about this uncertain tipping point in our national story.

Running January 11 – February 11, 2024 at One Fitchburg St, Somerville, the gallery will hold an opening reception on January 13 (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.) as well as an associated artists' talk/closing reception on February 11 (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.).

A portion of all earnings will be donated Rosie's Place of Boston, which offers women in need shelter, support, opportunity, and important life tools.

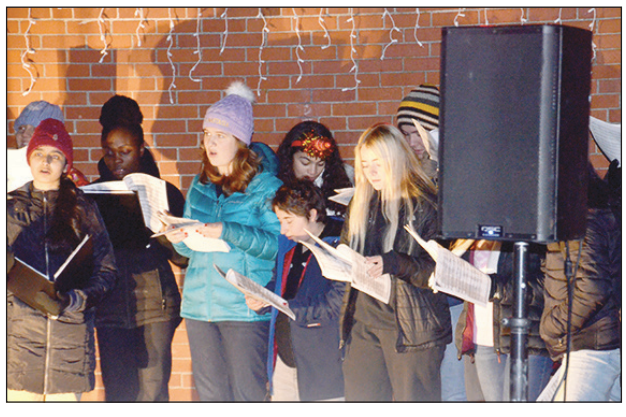
All events are open to the public.

"Art is its own form of resistance," says curator Kim Triedman. "To the viewer it offers a window onto the times we are living through. To the artist – a release valve when that world veers into injustice and inhumanity."

The Somerville Times

Somerville's Holiday Lighting 2023

The City of Somerville's Holiday Lighting on the City Hall Concourse took place on Thursday, December 7, kicking off the holiday season in the city. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment, a meet-and-greet with Santa Claus in the Somerville High School Cafeteria, and more. All children who attended received a special gift from Santa, who was escorted by the Somerville Fire and Police Departments, making his grand entrance atop a shiny red fire truck. *— Photos by Claudia Ferro*



Cozy Holiday Market

East Somerville Main Streets hosted their Cozy Holiday Market for Santa photos, warm drinks, tasty treats, art shopping, and an amazing time on Friday, December 8, in the parking lot of Deano's Pasta, 15 Garfield Ave.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro

CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOS WANTED

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 1-866-258-6720

FINANCIAL

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over $50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

FOR RENT

Warm Weather Is Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

FOR SALE

YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS TIMESHARE. Orange Lake, Florida. Near Disney. Weeks 8 & 9 (February) One floor living with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, laundry. Purchase both for $19,000. Call 978.371.2442 or email carol@actionunlimited.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL $99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

Dental Insurance - Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Covers 350 procedures. Real in-surance - not a discount plan. Get your free dental info kit! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads #6258

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

HOME SERVICES

Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your fami-ly and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

MISCELLANEOUS

4G LTE HOME INTERNET Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as $109.99/mo! 1-877-452-1183

CARING FOR AN AGING LOVED ONE? Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation:1-844-556-4158

DISH NETWORK $59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, $19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE $100. Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-833-800-0411

DISH TV $64.99 For 190 Channels + $14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some Restrictions Apply. Promo Expires 01/31/2024. 1-877-494-7039

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-723-0883

FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time $20 copay. Free shipping and handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-877-559-8698

HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET Finally, no hard data limits! Call Today for speeds up to 25mbps as low as $59.99/mo! $75 gift card, terms apply. 1-877-459-1615

SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe-Step 1-844-610-9711

SWITCH AND SAVE UP TO $250/YEAR on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer: get 50% off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-866-926-5071

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator $0 Down + Low Monthly Pmt Request a free Quote. Call before the next power outage: 1-855-948-6176

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protec-tion. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

HughesNet - Finally, super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just $59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call 866-499-0141

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

DISH TV $64.99 For 190 Channels + $14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/31/24. 1-866-479-1516

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & $1600 off - limited time! Fi-nancing available. 1-855-417-1306

MobileHelp, America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time $20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxsip Telecom! 1-833-758-3892

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation ExpertsOver $50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package $89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/ Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405

Are you a pet owner? Do you want to get up to 100% back on vet bills? Physicians Mutual In-surance Company has pet coverage that can help! Call 1-844-774-0206 to get a free quote or visit insurebarkmeow.com/ads

Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obliga-tion! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707

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

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. Limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/31/23 Call 1-844-501-3208

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

Ms. Cam's Olio Answers

From page 8

1. *Les Miserables*, with 823 words
2. Katie
3. *The Living Daylights*
4. Elizabeth Taylor
5. Cleveland
6. Orange
7. *Miami Vice*
8. Boeing
9. *Something's Got To Give*
10. Bobby Kennedy
11. One day
12. 1960's

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

$250 million in emergency funding, we met the challenge of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis head-on. We also allocated $378 million to fully fund over 90 collective bargaining agreements for state workers, absolved a $100 million pension liability from the 2015 Early Retirement Incentive Program and dedicated substantial funding to special education and disaster relief for municipalities across the commomwealth."

"Massachusetts taxpayers deserved a [rollcall] vote and transparency on this controversial spending bill," said Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "Statehouse leadership routinely use procedural loopholes to pass controversial items outside of good legislative practices. "It's refreshing to see some lawmakers try to change that. Let's hope this sets a precedent for good government practices over backroom deals."

FINES FOR NOISE VIOLATIONS (H 2026) – The Municipalities and Regional Government Committee held a hearing on legislation that would allow cities and towns to make a property owner responsible for the cost of excessive noise complaint calls made to the police about noise at the owner's address. Under the bill, the property owner would be required to reimburse the city or town for each police call that exceeds more than ten in a calendar year.

"When our police departments respond to a disturbance, it represents a cost to the municipality and the taxpayers," said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy)."This bill creates a method by which cities and towns can recoup that cost when it comes to frequent offenders of issues such as disturbing the peace, excessive noise or suspicious activity. After ten police calls regarding complaints for a specific address or location within one calendar year, this bill permits local municipalities to impart the costs associated with these calls and subsequent actions taken on the property owner. This creates a further incentive to curb the behavior while also easing the burden on the police department, municipality and the taxpayers."

EQUIP ALL FIRST RESPONDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES WITH AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (S 1517) – The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee held a hearing on a bill that would create the Automatic External Defibrillator Trust Fund which would provide grants to municipalities, public colleges and universities to purchase Automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The fund would be financed by a new 50-cent tax on the rental of cars and other vehicles in the Bay State.

"Passage of this legislation is critical to enhancing public safety. AEDs are life-saving devices which can be incredibly instrumental for individuals who undergo sudden cardiac arrest," said sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "Setting aside dedicated funding to ensure all the commonwealth's public safety vehicles are equipped with this device is paramount, especially in communities and locations where AEDs are not readily available and accessible."

REQUIRE SEAT BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSSES (S 1504) – Another proposal heard by the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee would require that, effective July 1, 2026, every school bus transporting students to or from a public, vocational, private or parochial school be equipped with a seatbelt for each permanent seating accommodation. The bill permits a municipality to enact an earlier implementation date. It also prohibits lawsuits against cities and towns based on the failure of a school bus operator, school or municipality to ensure a passenger was wearing the restraint.

"Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children throughout the commonwealth is one of my top priorities," said sponsor Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). "This commonsense proposal will protect countless kids on their way to and from school each day without placing any significant financial burdens on our school districts."

BAN DISCRIMINATION BASED ON HEIGHT AND WEIGHT (H 1705) – A bill that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of a person's height or weight, unless for the purpose of compliance with any established state, federal or industry safety standard, was heard by the Judiciary Committee.

"This bill takes an important step towards rectifying biases about a person's height and weight factors often beyond their control," said sponsor Rep. Tram Nguyen (D-Andover). "Body size discrimination affects all aspects of an individual's life, from the workplace, to healthcare, to their education. By safeguarding individuals from discrimination based on their looks we not only promote equal opportunities but also foster a healthier and more equitable community."

INVESTIGATE WHY WOMEN PAY MORE FOR THE SAME PRODUCTS BOUGHT BY MEN (H 1639) – Another bill heard by the Judiciary Committee would establish a working group on gender equity to investigate the price differentiations between products marketed to males versus those marketed to females.

Supporters said this so-called "pink tax" refers to a markup on goods and services marketed to women in which men pay less for similar or even identical products and services. They said price discrimination, especially when based on gender, is unjust and should not be tolerated. Everyday transactions, including purchases for jeans, haircuts, children's toys and hundreds of other products, are marked up for women.

"The price of similar goods and services offered to men and women suffers from an embedded disparity along gendered lines," said sponsor Rep. Jay Livingston (D-Boston). "I have proposed this legislation to start a commission that will examine potential solutions that will address this pricing discrimination issue."

APPLY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS TO TOWN MEETING ARTICLES (H 4173) – A bill before the Election Laws Committee would apply the state's campaign finance election laws to political entities or expenditures made to influence the outcome of articles that appear on Town Meeting warrants.

"Local policy decisions should be made by town residents, but a loophole in campaign finance law allows for unfettered spending by outside groups to sway town decisions," said co-sponsor Rep. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth). "Our bill closes the loophole and stems the flow of dark money that too often drowns out the voice of locals. It's time to give power back to the people."

"Political spending on issues before Town Meetings should be required to follow the same rules of the road as candidates, ballot questions and other political campaigns," said co-sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "It's bewildering and distressing that people with deep pockets and financial interests think they can buy their way into our local governance. We're done with monied interests trying to sway town politics on the Cape and Islands. Voters deserve to know who is behind campaigns seeking to influence local policies that will impact those of us who live here year-round. Our robust laws on political spending have served the commonwealth's representative democracy well for a half century — those should apply to lobbying at Town Meeting."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Well, I'm proud of the things that we were able to get done this year. You know, as I look back, and it's a time of reflection to a certain extent, as I look back on the year, I mean, the budget that we passed that I signed, [had] really, really important investments, education, workforce, climate initiatives, housing. Tax cuts for the first time in over 20 years." — *Gov. Maura Healey reflecting on her first year in office.*

"The Digital Equity Partnerships Program supports organizations across Massachusetts that help residents build their digital skills and get online so they can participate fully in our state economy, access modern health services, get connected to loved ones and so much more. We are excited to announce today's grants through the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which will help make technology more accessible for everyone across the state." — *Massachusetts Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao announcing $20 million in new grants through the state's Digital Equity Partnerships Program, which supports high-impact and scalable initiatives that reach residents most affected by the digital divide.*

"These benefits help all Massachusetts residents, whether they are taking leave for themselves, a loved one or to welcome a new member of their family. Eliminating language barriers for these benefits can be lifesaving for people, and I applaud the Paid Family and Medical Leave team for their commitment to accessibility." — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on the Healey administration launching accessibility and equitability enhancements to the Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave including allowing applicants for benefits to now select Spanish, Portuguese,* Continued on page 17

COMMENTARY

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

Act on the police staffing study

By Chris Dwan

On November 30, the administration presented the long-awaited police staffing and operations study [1] to the full City Council [2].The consulting team was led by Cassandra Deck-Brown, the former chief of the Raleigh Police [3], who was a powerful presence in the room. She engaged directly and thoughtfully through an hour-long presentation [4] followed by nearly three additional hours of discussion and questions. Deck-Brown noted more than once that nobody is winning in the current situation — morale on the force is low and the police and the public share a feeling of disconnection and mutual distrust.

I, myself, have been frustrated by the lack of transparency and slow tempo of this process. I am also deeply skeptical any time an organization attempts to reform itself. However, I was impressed by the presentation and enthusiastic about its recommendations. Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen commented that "reading this report felt like the opposite of being gas-lit."

I agree. This report validates years of public conversation. We should act on it without further delay.

The 16 recommendations from the Police Staffing and Operations report

A brief summary:

- Adopt a patrol schedule based on patterns in calls for police rather than the "one cruiser per ward" model we use today. According to the report, we could increase the police presence in the low number wards (where most of the calls originate) while also reducing the total number of patrol officers.
- Establish a non-sworn (unarmed) Community Services Officer program who would be trained and equipped to respond to calls that are unlikely to require arrest or place officers in danger. Examples include investigating abandoned or disabled motor vehicles; helping people who are injured, sick, confused, or drunk; responding to traffic complaints and crashes; and performing welfare checks on neighbors and family members.
- Civilianize administrative roles within the department, including the station desk officers, the city hall liaison (who serves as the mayor's chauffer), and the crossing guard supervisor.
- Improve outreach and community engagement.
- Establish a civilian review board.

This report validates years of public conversation

This aligns with other reports commissioned by the city since 2001, when MMA Consulting delivered their "Management Study," which makes many points that remain fresh today. That study is easily accessible thanks to work by Defund SPD, who pushed through an onerous public records request to get it and with other relevant documents attached to another recent city council meeting [5].

Councilor Charlotte Kelly brought this history to the fore, noting that "literally these exact recommendations have been made multiple times over the past 20 years. How can the public have any trust in this process, or in us?" Deck-Brown responded, "if you've had multiple studies and haven't acted on them over so many years, the responsibility fundamentally rests with you."

In Somerville, that "you" refers mostly to the mayor and her administration, who held off on releasing this report for nearly a year, ostensibly to allow our Department of Racial and Social Justice time for a deep-dive into public sentiment to find out if it might change any of the assumptions driving the report (it did not). The City Council has extremely limited practical power to implement these recommendations – though it can and should continue the work of creating a Civilian Oversight Committee, without further delay.

I am left optimistic that we have taken a small but meaningful step forward here in the closing days of 2023. I hope that it is the first of several steps along a path to better, safer, more modern, more equitable policing and public safety in our city.

If you agree, please consider reaching out to the mayor (mayor@somervillema.gov) and your city councilors (city council@somervillema.gov). Tell them that we have had enough studies, they all recommend the same things, and it is time for decisive action.

Table 1: List of Report Recommendations

Number	Recommendation
Patrol Staffing	
1	Establish a proactive policing target for Patrol Officers.
2	Adjust the patrol staffing level to align with the proactive policing Service Level Target and community needs.
3	Evaluate options for reallocating officer positions.
4	Eliminate the ward-based patrol beat structure.
5	Consider establishing a non-sworn Community Services Officer program.
Investigations	
6	Convert one Patrol Officer position to Property Crimes Detective.
Civilianization	
7	Replace four Desk Officer positions with clerical staff.
8	Consider reallocating the officer serving as City Hall Liaison.
9	Consider civilianizing the Crossing Guard Supervisor/Safety Officer position.
Engagement and Transparency	
10	Regularly engage the community both formally and informally in a variety of ways.
11	Define "proactive policing" based on community priorities.
12	Engage with the community to develop a policy on the use of body-worn cameras by SPD.
Professional Development and Accountability	
13	Enhance performance monitoring in the 911/Dispatch function.
14	Revise the bid system to create more flexibility for assigning staff.
15	Continue the process of establishing a Civilian Review Board.
16	Be intentional about cultivating diversity at the command level.

Links:

[1] https://somervillema.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=AO&ID=139146&GUID=ab4b38cc-d049-4cc6-82aa-b002e566d74a&N=QyBvZiBBUE0gLSAyMDIzLTExLTMwIFNvbWVydmlsbGUgUG9saWNlIFN0YWZmaW5nIEZpbmFsIFJlcG9ydCAod2l0aCAyMi0xODQ0LCAyMy0xNzM0KQ%3D%3D

[2] https://somervillema.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=1139675&GUID=D90E5470-5314-4919-9FC0-AD7188DC9714&Options=info%7Cnotes%7C&Search=

[3] https://waltermagazine.com/community/people/armed-and-disarming-cassandra-deck-brown-is-the-chief/

[4] https://somervillema.granicus.com/player/clip/2431?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=f1baefeef32433332b4c0cd698f7480d

[5] https://somervillecityma.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3373

Somerville Fair Housing Commission seeks new member

The City of Somerville's Fair Housing Commission (FHC), which works to ensure that all current and prospective Somerville have equitable housing access, seeks one new member. The person who fills this opening must be a Somerville tenant who is at or below the 80% Area Median Income tier in the city; for one individual living alone that annual income maximum is $82,950. Upon being recommended for this seat, you will need to sign a statement self-certifying that you meet the income and residency requirements. Potential members will not be asked about their immigration or citizenship status.

Applicants should have demonstrated interest or experience in housing, social services, or civil rights.The FHC plans annual events, reviews complaints submitted in the last month, discusses member participation in Anti-Displacement Task Force meetings, and meets with City of Somerville legislative staff on fair housing issues. Commissioners serve three-year terms in a volunteer capacity.

The FHC typically meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from 3 to 4 p.m. on Zoom. This time is subject to change to meet member availability, we encourage you to apply regardless of whether you can make the current meeting day or time. There are occasional commitments outside of regular meeting hours, such as Fair Housing Month events. FHC members are appointed by the Mayor.

All Commissioners must comply with and sign the City of Somerville's Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members. Applications are due January 19, 2024. Interested candidates should submit a statement of interest no longer than one page and a resume via email to Hanalei Steinhart at hsteinhart@somervillema.gov or by mail to 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145, ATTN: Hanalei Steinhart. Applicants can also leave a voicemail at 617-625-6600 ext. 2584 and a staff member will get back to you as soon as possible.

Please contact Hanalei Steinhart at the email or phone number above with any questions about the Commission or application process.

Somernova recognized as Somerville's business neighbor of the year

CONT. FROM PG 1

just space. It's the people behind us, driving our mission forward, that is making it into so much more."

The Somerville Chamber of Commerce started the Powerhouse Business and Excellence Awards in 1996 to recognize economic community excellence across 11 categories.

"It's healthy for the community to see that business and business leaders are engaged in the community (and) do have the community in the forefront of their minds," said President and CEO of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce Stephen Mackey. "All of them, to one degree or another, are essential to the urban quality of life."

Recipients of the awards are determined by a panel of representatives from the chamber, including Mackey. When determining the recipient of the Business Neighbor of the Year award, the selection committee evaluated how much a business engages with the Somerville community.

"Somernova stood out for two reasons," said Mackey. "One is what they mean to the community in terms of that complex being a welcoming place for innovation and participation. And then you'll have the owner's developers engaging the community in terms of a dialogue on developing that site and that whole complex. They stood out because they're doing that in a sensitive fashion."

Among Somernova's tenants is Somerville Media Company. In 2019, Somerville Media Company was forced to evacuate the property they were based in for almost 40 years. Somernova offered them office space in their development. While COVID-19 paused their plans to move, in 2023 Somerville Media Center received temporary placement from Somernova.

"I am extremely grateful for developers who, for lack of a better term, put their money where their mouth is," said Somerville Media Company Board of Directors member and former board President Joe Lynch. "Somernova was the only developer that came to us and said, 'Look, we know what straits you're in. Let us help you.'"

Placement on the Somernova campus allowed Somerville Media Center to expand its operations. The nonprofit has an after-school program for youth to learn media production skills through attending educational classes.

"The vast majority of our members and the public are excited about the partnership we're creating with Somernova," said Lynch. "We have a built-in knowledge pool with a lot of the folks that are tenants of Somernova. The partnership has been ongoing, but we're looking forward to a bright future being part of the Somernova campus."

Mystic Learning Center is another one of Somernova's partners. The center organizes programming for schools, school vacations and summer camps. In 2022, Somernova offered Mystic Learning Center space in their youth-driven pilot program, the Dojo, to operate a robotics program.

"I have never, in all my years in the city, seen a developer come in and actually want to give back to the community," said mental health counselor for Mystic Learning Center Linda Kelley.

Yip describes Somernova as "Somerville's innovation hub" and hopes to expand into working with climate change and social injustice issues.

"The entire team at Somernova has and will remain focused on listening to the needs of others," said Yip. "We've had thousands of conversations with community members and civic organizations who are essential components of the fabric of Somerville to better understand their needs."

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 15

Haitian, Creole or Chinese, in addition to English, when applying for benefits.

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 December 4-8, the House met for a total of seven hours and 11 minutes and the Senate met for a total of five hours and 37 minutes.

Mon. Dec. 4	House 10:01 a.m. to 4:35 p.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 4:36 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 5	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Dec. 6	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Dec. 7	House 11:08 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Senate 11:37 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.
Fri. Dec. 8	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

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

Technology Course for Beginners - Sign up for this 5-week course that includes lessons on how to navigate the basics of technology. Bring your phone, laptop, or tablet from home, or borrow a tablet or Chromebook from the COA! Wednesdays at The Holland St. Center, December 13th, & 20th and January 3rd & 10th from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318 or mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Pottery Class - Wednesday, December 13th 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. The COA welcomes Fern, owner of Commonwealth Clayworks! During class we will learn handbuilding techniques to make tableware. This is a 1.5 hour class. Your work will be made from white, food-safe clay and glazes - fired and ready for pick up in January. Space is very limited. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

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

Tuesday, December 19th Ralph & Jenny Center: Chinese - Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Thursday, December 7th Holland Street Center: Chinese - Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Thursday, December 21st Holland Street Center: Portuguese - J&J Restaurant

Thursday, December 28th Holland Street Center: Italian - Alfredo's Italian Kitchen

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

Knitting with Natasha Group – Tuesday, December 19th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Knitting has gained in popularity in the last few years and if you are looking to learn how to knit or to pick up new knitting skills, join us for knitting group! This month we will learn how to knit a potholder. All supplies, including yarn and needles will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

LCR Game Day - Wednesday, December 20th starting at 12:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center LCR-Left Center Right is a fun, fast-paced dice game that you won't be able to put down! Players roll the dice to determine where they pass their chips. The last player with chips is the winner and wins the center pot. Lunch, from Somerville Cambridge Elder Services will be served at noon Please RSVP to Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

Bingo – Tuesday at the Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. December 19th. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Thursday at our Holland Street Center - starting at 10:00 a.m. December 21st & 28th. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

LGBTQIA+ & Allies Social – Thursday, December 14th at the Holland Street Center 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Light dinner will be served. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov

Project Outlook, Low Vision Group – Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (December 28th) starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. All are welcome. Pizza will be served. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro at 857-237-1801 or Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

Tech Time – Drop In Hours Tuesdays, December 19th. at 10:00am at the Holland St. Center RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318 or mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

Game Hour – Mondays from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center. December 4th, 11th & 18th. Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

Coffee & Conversation – Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center. December 4th, 11th & 18th. Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation and good coffee. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabstardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

Book Club – Meets the 3rd Friday of each month (December 15th) starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining Book Club. Group meets in person and concurrently via Zoom. Please RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov as space is limited.

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: omervillecouncilonaging 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

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
7:36 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
8:00 AM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery
8:15 AM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
8:32 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
9:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
9:30 AM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa
10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
11:00 AM Menorah Lighting 2023
11:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
12:00 PM City Council Meeting 11-21-23
4:00 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All
4:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
5:00 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
5:40 PM Somerville Civic Day: If I Were Mayor
6:00 PM Historic Bicycle Ride
6:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
7:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa
8:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
8:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
9:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum
10:05 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
11:15 PM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery
11:31 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 11-21-23
7:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23
8:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
8:30 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
9:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
9:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
10:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
11:10 AM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa\
1:30 PM Menorah Lighting 2023
2:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
2:30 PM Reavis Field Ribbon Cutting
3:30 PM Entrepreneur Spotlight S1E2 Himalayan Kitchen
7:00 PM City Council Meeting - LIVE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

12:30 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
1:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
1:30 AM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
7:00 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
8:10 AM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
8:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
9:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
10:00 AM Historic Bicycle Ride
10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
11:00 AM Cultural Capacity Forum
12:05 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
1:15 PM SPD Ride Along
1:30 PM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023
3:30 PM HONK! Parade
4:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa
5:00 PM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023
7:00 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
7:30 PM Menorah Lighting 2023
8:30 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa
9:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
10:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
11:10 PM SPD Ride Along
11:30 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
12:30 AM HONK! Parade
1:00 AM Historic Bicycle Ride
1:30 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
7:30 AM Historic Bicycle Ride
8:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
8:45 AM SPD Ride Along
9:00 AM Menorah Lighting 2023
10:00 AM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
11:31 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
1:10 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
1:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
3:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
3:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
4:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
4:30 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
5:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23
6:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
7:10 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
7:30 PM School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
10:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum
11:05 PM Reavis Field Ribbon Cutting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 12-14-23
7:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
8:10 AM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
8:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
9:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
9:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
10:00 AM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa
11:00 AM Cultural Capacity Forum
12:05 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
1:40 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All
2:00 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
2:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
4:00 PM Menorah Lighting 2023
5:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa6:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol
6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
7:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
8:00 PM City Council Meeting 12-14-23

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

12:30 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
1:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
1:30 AM Menorah Lighting 2023
2:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
8:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
8:40 AM SPD Ride Along
9:00 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
10:06 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
11:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
12:00 PM City Council Meeting 12-14-23
4:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
5:10 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
7:00 PM School Committee Meeting - LIVE
10:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
11:00 PM Menorah Lighting 2023

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

12:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
12:30 AM Reavis Field Ribbon Cutting
1:15 AM Somerville Civic Day: If I Were Mayor
1:30 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
2:15 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
7:30 AM Historic Bicycle Ride
8:00 AM Menorah Lighting 2023
8:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
9:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
9:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
10:00 AM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa
11:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
11:30 AM Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant
12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
1:40 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
2:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum
3:05 PM Menorah Lighting 2023
4:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
5:10 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
7:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
8:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol
8:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
9:00 PM School Committee Meeting 12-18-23

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 AM HONK! Parade
1:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
2:10 AM Menorah Lighting 2023

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
11:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
1:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
3:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
4:00 PM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett
5:00 PM School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
8:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
10:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

12:00 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
1:00 AM SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett
8:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
9:00 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
10:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
12:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023
2:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
3:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
5:30 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
6:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
7:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
8:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
10:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

12:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
1:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
3:30 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
8:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
9:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
11:00 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
12:00 PM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
2:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
3:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
5:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
6:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
8:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
9:00 PM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
11:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
2:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
3:13 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
8:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
10:00 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
11:00 AM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
1:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
2:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
4:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
5:00 PM el Sistema Winter Concert
6:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
8:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
9:00 PM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
11:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
2:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
3:00 AM el Sistema Winter Concert
8:00 AM el Sistema Winter Concert
9:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
11:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
12:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
1:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
3:00 PM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
5:00 PM el Sistema Winter Concert
6:00 PM el Sistema Winter Concert
7:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
9:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
10:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
11:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

1:00 AM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
3:00 AM el Sistema Winter Concert
8:00 AM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
10:00 AM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
11:00 AM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
1:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
2:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
4:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
5:00 PM el Sistema Winter Concert
6:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
8:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
9:00 PM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
11:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

12:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
2:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
3:00 AM el Sistema Winter Concert
8:00 AM el Sistema Winter Concert
9:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
11:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
12:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
1:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
3:00 PM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
5:00 PM el Sistema Winter Concert
6:00 PM el Sistema Winter Concert
7:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Boston Latin
9:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
10:00 PM ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert
11:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

1:00 AM All-City K-8 Winter Concert
3:00 AM el Sistema Winter Concert

Now enjoy Somerville City Cable and SCATV in HD with *Ville TV* on RCN channel 613

Somernova holidayNOVA party

Somernova hosted their annual holidayNOVA party on Wednesday, December 6, featuring live music by the Green Freaks, local vendors, rolling skating, a performance by the Somerville High Step Team, and holiday cheer. At the event, Somernova announced it has officially filed a Zoning Text Amendment application and Zoning Map Amendment application for the first of its kind Climate and Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District with the Clerk's Office at the City of Somerville. The event was made possible by Also Does Events, EventThem, Green Freaks, Chez Vous Catering and Aeronaut Brewing Company.

(L-R) Program Director Majic Alphonse, The Dojo Youth Extraordinaire Award Recipient Liovens Myrtil, and Rafi Properties Managing Director Collin Yip. At holidayNOVA, Liovens was presented with the first annual The Dojo Youth Extraordinaire Award.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise

Sunset over Seven Hills Park… — *Photo by Denise Provost*

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

What do snowmen call their offspring?
Chill-dren.

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

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

On This Day in History

December 13

1812 – The last remnants of Napoleon Bonaparte's Grand Armeé reach the safety of Kovno, Poland, after the failed Russian campaign.

1814 – General Andrew Jackson announces martial law in New Orleans, Louisiana, as British troops disembark at Lake Borne

1937 – The Japanese army occupies Nanking, China.

1940 – Adolf Hitler issues preparations for Operation Martita, the German invasion of Greece.

1951 – After meeting with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, President Harry S Truman vows to purge all disloyal government workers.

1972 – Astronaut Gene Cernan, the last man to set foot on the moon, climbs into his lunar lander and prepares to lift off.

1985 – France sues the United States over the discovery of an AIDS serum.

2003 – Deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein captured; he is found hiding in near his home town of Tikrit.

The Somerville Times

*To advertise in our Business Directory, call **857-488-5138**. Let your customers find you in Somerville's most widely read newspaper!*

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Monica Calvo Realtor®
Real Estate Professional
Cell: 617-605-3308
Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com
RE/MAX
PARTNERS RELOCATION
44 Park ST
Andover MA 01810
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

The Law Offices of
Richard G. Di Girolamo
Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire
Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire
Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
Real Estate Law
Zoning
Civil Litigation
Criminal Defense
Family Law
Personal Injury
TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200
FAX: (617) 776-5435
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net
424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

NINASABLE
sell with sable
508.733.8935
Email: Nina.Sable@raveis.com
Web: NinaSable.raveis.com
15 West Central St. | Natick | MA 01760

Juscelia's Cakes
Juscelia LoRusso
617.686.8095
Cakes for all occasions
facebook.com/JusceliasCakes
facebook.com/Juscelia.Lorusso

MESSINA
REALTY COLLECTIVE
Bobbie Toner – Real Estate Consultant
Bobbietoner@aol.com 857 488 5138

Closed Wednesday
Alibrandi's Barber Shop
Men & Boys Haircuts
"Best Somerville Barber"
194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144
617-628-4282

VELNEY
DEVELOPMENT
Josué Velney
President and CEO
Velney Development
VBE/MBE Certified
(617) 401-9339 | (617) 201-5769
www.velneydevelopment.com

Martin B. Dropkin
Nancy G. Matza
Tel: 617-623-4600
Attorneys at Law
Fax: 617-625-7315
DROPKIN & MATZA LLP
Attorneys at Law
424 Broadway
Somerville MA 02145
Bankruptcy
Family Law
Immigration
Personal Injury
Business Law
Estate Planning and Probate
Real Estate
Elder Law
Civil Litigation
mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com

T. J. SILLARI, INC.
Over 50 Years Experience
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident

• Plumbing • Heating
• Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
• Water Heater Replacement
• Complete Drain Service
Residential - Industrial - Commercial
Master Plmb. Lic. #6106 625-9877

Telephone:
(617) 625-2244
(617) 625-4344
Fax:
(617) 625-4350
EDWIN J. SMITH
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
RUMERY & SMITH
403 HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144
edsmithlaw@gmail.com

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

firehouses through **Friday, December 22**. If you are able and wish to donate, please bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts for children of all ages and age-appropriate gifts, clothes, and winter boots for teens. Donations will support two community gift drives: **Toys for Local Children** and **MAMAS – Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville**. More information on their gift drives and other ways to help support the drives can be found at mutualaidmamas.com and toysforlocalchildren.org. Learn more and find a donation box near you: bit.ly/47O4wYK.

****

Join **The Somerville Flea** for their annual **Holiday Market**. Find two floors and over 30 vendors of vintage and artisan wonders. Shop local and keep it in the community. Find that perfect gift that you never even knew existed. **Sunday, December 17**, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

****

Learn about **The Growing Center's Maple Syrup Project, December 13**, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the **Somerville Public Library**, 79 Highland Ave. The project is right around the corner (tapping starts at the end of January, and the boil will happen in early March). The Maple Project is an opportunity for Somerville residents to connect with each other and the natural world by tapping local maple trees, boiling sap, and making delicious maple syrup. If you are interested in helping, join in to learn more about how you can get involved and to help set intentions for this year's activities with some related writings by professor, botanist, author and enrolled member of the **Citizen Potawatomi Nation Robin Wall Kimmerer**. Share herbal tea from the Center (and maybe even some Maple Project maple syrup). Contact: **Connor** at crohwer@hds.harvard.ed.

****

Small Mart Holiday Market, your favorite fun sized vendor market, is back. The Small Mart marketplace has a sense of humor and wants to turn the idea of the big box store on its head by empowering local businesses to come together to create a space of accessibility for a thoughtful shopper. The vendors have been carefully chosen and their goods are unique and small. Stop by **December 23**, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the **Crystal Ballroom** at the **Somerville Theatre**, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, crystalballroomboston.com.

****

The **Somerville Police Department** has chosen the **Mystic Learning Center** to be the recipient of the **"Fill the Cruiser" Toy Drive Campaign**. In partnership with **Target**, the SPD will be collecting new, unopened gifts that will directly benefit the families of the MLC Community. Stop by the **Somerville Target** over the next three weekends during the listed times to support. **Friday, December 15**, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., **Saturday, December 16**, 12:00 – 8:00 p.m., and **Sunday, December 17**, 12:00 – 8:00 p.m.

****

COA's Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program pick up is **Thursday, December 21** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the **Ralph & Jenny Center** located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application contact **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

****

Children and caregivers are welcome to come create **mini "gingerbread" houses** out of graham crackers. Supplies will be provided. Ages 3-10, younger kids please be accompanied by an adult. **December 23**, 2:00 p.m. **Somerville Public Library**, 79 Highland Ave. To register visit www.somervillepubliclibrary.org.

****

The **Fuel Assistance Program**, also known as the **Home Energy Assistance Program**, helps low-income households pay their winter heating bills **between November 1 and April 30**. Renters and homeowners in Somerville are eligible to apply if they meet federal income guidelines. Learn more at somervillema.gov/heatingassistance.

****

The **Somerville Museum** is hiring. Are you interested in history? Do you like planning community events and working with volunteers? This might be the role for you. They have recently received funding for a new position, **Historic Events Manager**. Check out their website for more information: https://www.somervillemuseum.org/historiceventsmanager.

****

Last day for **street sweeping** until spring is **December 31**. Street sweeping resumes **April 1**.

****

Is **your teen** looking to make some **extra money**? The city's **Snow Shoveling Program** is hiring youth to assist shoveling seniors and homeowners with disabilities out after snowstorms this winter. Teens and homeowners are paired for the season. After each storm, the homeowner will contact their assigned youth to request shoveling services. Somerville teens **ages 14 to 19** are welcome to apply. Learn more and apply at somervillema.gov/shoveling. Looking for snow shoveling services? Contact **Debby Higgins** at dhiggings@somervillema.gov.

****

Take steps to **protect yourself and loved ones** against COVID19. Somerville's **Health and Human Services Department** is hosting a series of **COVID19 booster (Moderna) vaccine clinics throughout December** at locations across the city. Vaccines are available for community members age six months and older. Register for a vaccine clinic at somervillema.gov/vaccines.

****

COA Holiday Luncheon takes place **Thursday, December 14**, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the **Dilboy Post** located at 351 Summer Street. $10 per person. Please reserve your spot by calling **Debby Higgins** at 6176256600, ext. 2321.

****

Since 1987, **The Welcome Project** has worked tirelessly to give a voice to the **immigrant community** of Somerville and provide them with the education and support they need to advocate for themselves in their new home. Through English language classes for parents, translator training for high school students, and workers' rights campaigns, we are always advancing the mission of equity and highlighting how immigrants are an integral piece of our Somerville community. As we come to the end of 2023, The Welcome Project humbly asks if you could support their work and donate today. As the immigrant community continues to grow in Somerville, your generosity allows your new neighbors to get the education they need to succeed in their new home. To donate visit: https://www.welcomeproject.org/eoy_appeal.html.

****

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

****

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

****

Help keep our waterways clean in your neighborhood by joining Somerville's **Adopt-a-Drain** program. A storm drain clear of leaves, trash or other debris allows water to flow into the catch basin sump and can prevent flooding. When you adopt a drain (or drains), you commit to caring for a local storm drain of your choice by checking on it before and after heavy rain, wind, or snow. Bonus perk: you can also give it a name. Claim your drain at somerville.mysticdrains.org.

****

The **Center for the Arts at the Armory** offers a weekly winter market with 71+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. The market accepts SNAP/EBT and HIP benefits. They also offer a $15 SNAP match to customers each week. Visit the **Somerville Winter Farmers Market** on **Saturdays**, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., 191 Highland Ave. **Through April 6**, except 12/30. For a list of weekly events visit www.somwintermarket.org

****

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

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Heart Sellers'

A play by Lloyd Suh

Review of *The Heart Sellers*, a play by Lloyd Suh

At the Calderwood Pavilion of the Huntington Theater through December 23, 2023

Review By Off the Shelf Correspondent Andy Hoffman

Lloyd Suh has written in *The Heart Sellers*, a play that will run in repertory theaters around the country for the next generation. You can see it now at the Calderwood Pavilion of the Huntington Theatre.

The Heart Sellers concerns two women in an unnamed city in the United States on the evening of November 22, 1973, Thanksgiving, the night that Richard Nixon delivered his "I am not a crook" speech to a national audience. The women have come to the US accompanying their husbands, both physicians doing their training rotations at a nearby university hospital.

The play opens with Luna bringing Jane into her modest apartment, carrying a turkey for the holiday meal. Luna is voluble, words – Jane is Korean and Luna is Filipino – spilling from her in a torrent, as though she's locked them away for too long. She tells Jane that they both sit in the same boat, foreigners without a clear reason for living where and as they do, except for the men they have married. While the play has more of an arc than a plot, it keeps moving forward through deep laughter and thoughtful silences.

Jane volunteers that she knows how to cook a turkey because she has watched Julia Child cook one on TV. In fact, watching television forms the bulk of Jane's life. Fortunately, she has learned some English from the experience, and she can communicate, albeit haltingly, with Luna in this language. The frozen turkey won't cook in time for a Thanksgiving meal, but the women make do with yams and lots of wine.

What begins as an awkward meeting in the supermarket becomes a foundational evening of confessions. Luna has stalked Jane, in hopes of creating a friendship. Jane's husband has warned her against befriending Luna; he would prefer she make friends with American women. They joke about going to see a porn film, so they can compare the size of their husband's penises with other men, since neither has seen any others, but they quickly realize how recognizable they have become as the wives of doctors admitted to the United States under the terms of the Hart-Celler Act.

Luna plays with the language and imagines several heart-sellers, realizing over the course of the night that they have sold their futures in their native lands – where they have left their hearts – to have an unknown and perhaps undesirable future in America. The Philippines under the Marcos regime might not welcome Luna and her husband back. Jane has almost no family left in Korea, her sister and parents having died mysteriously, perhaps due to their communist sympathies.

The two women, Jane and Luna, have seen their lives play out in political contexts around the globe. They have come together, as Luna explains, in large part because of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, that removed national-origins quota from US immigration policy and paved the way for these women to meet. Also known as the Hart-Celler Act for the congressmen who sponsored it, this change in policy establishes the political context for the play. Whatever the politics, the audience becomes witness to the birth of a meaningful friendship between people from different corners of the world, in yet another corner.

The Heart Sellers reveals Jane and Luna's surface and deep similarities, especially their passive roles in the political drama around them. This play, with only two characters and simple set, will prove attractive to theaters everywhere, especially since audiences hunger for depictions of true minority experiences.

The Huntington's production, directed by May Adrales, imbues an authenticity to the lives of Luna and Jane. Interestingly, the set, by Junghyun Georgia Lee, looks like a television, raised off the stage floor and bordered in black, offering a counterpoint between the real-life sense we have of the blossoming friendship and the artifice of lives lived in a political and public context beyond the hands of the principals.

In the sumptuous program – a significant improvement Loretta Greco has brought to the Huntington since becoming Artistic director, Lloyd Suh notes, "I never thought of this as, 'I'm writing a play about immigrant women.' I thought of it as 'I'm writing a play about my mother.' Suddenly you become the only person who can tell that story." As a result, his play will make you laugh, and it will make you think. In a nation of immigrants, this story belongs to everyone.

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Hilary Sallick is the author of two full-length poetry collections, *love is a shore* (Lily Poetry Review Books, 2023) and *Asking the Form* (Cervena Barva Press, 2020). Her poems appear or are forthcoming in *Permafrost, Jet Fuel Review, Notre Dame Review, Ibbetson Street, Poetry Porch*, and other journals. A teacher with a longtime focus on adult literacy, she serves on the Board of the New England Poetry Club. She lives and works in Somerville. (www.hilarysallick.com)

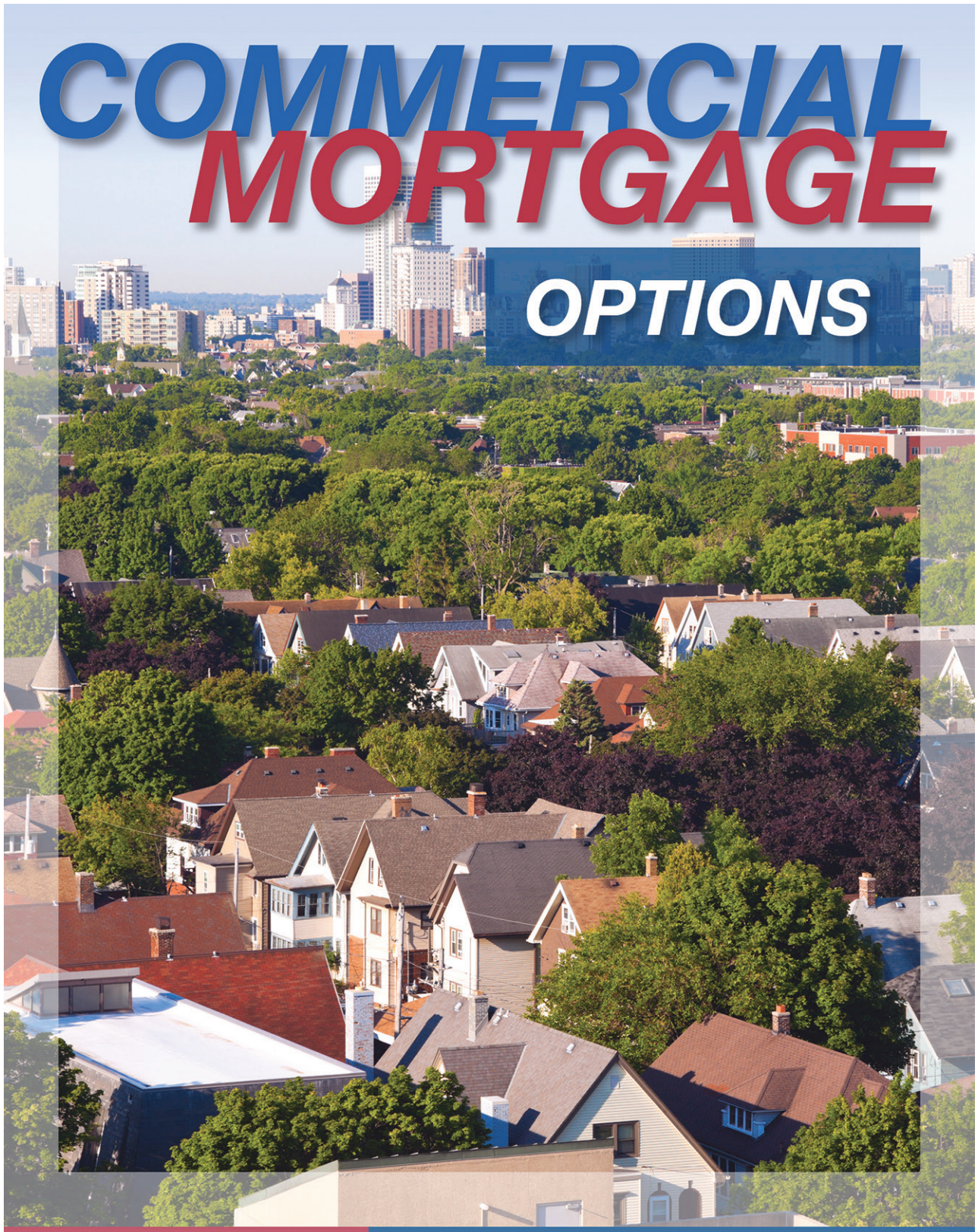
A poem from *love is a shore*:

September

Later we went to the beach
almost sunset the Sound
dark and lush and foamy
Da and I walked step by step
through the splash
cold wind blowing then
into the water's shelter we swam
the waves sloshing over us
Mom Verna and Abe stood shivering
on the shore
and those few who'd come for the day
were packing up to go home
A flock of gulls perched in rows
facing the water intent as if receiving
solemn news
Then we came out
dripping and laughing
and wrapped towels
around ourselves

— *Hilary Sallick*

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



Local real estate investors, builders, and developers need commercial mortgage options and best rates. We've got both!

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

QUICK, LOCAL DECISIONS

VP Richard Brenner
617-629-3349

WINTER HILL BANK®
CustomServe Lending

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

A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906. NYCE mastercard SUM Member FDIC