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Prominent changes to Somerville's school systems discussed



The School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee met online recently to discuss several items of concern regarding Somerville's public schools.

By Jennifer Purcell

On Wednesday, November 29, Somerville's School Building Facilities and Maintenance Committee met via Zoom to discuss several potential changes and improvements to the city's schools.

This particular meeting focused mainly on the issues that are currently affecting the public the most. The first Item that was touched upon was Order #22-1528, asking the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management, Rich Raiche, to provide an update on the status of the School Building Systems Feasibility Study.

The most recent update is that after Kennedy's existing chiller failed, Capital Projects decided to mobilize with a consulting team on the current design. Due to the issue's complexity,

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Latinx Arts and Crafts Sale

For the first time in Somerville, Nelson Salazar is hosting and producing a Latinx Arts and Crafts Sale at ROOTED Armory Café on Sunday, December 10, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

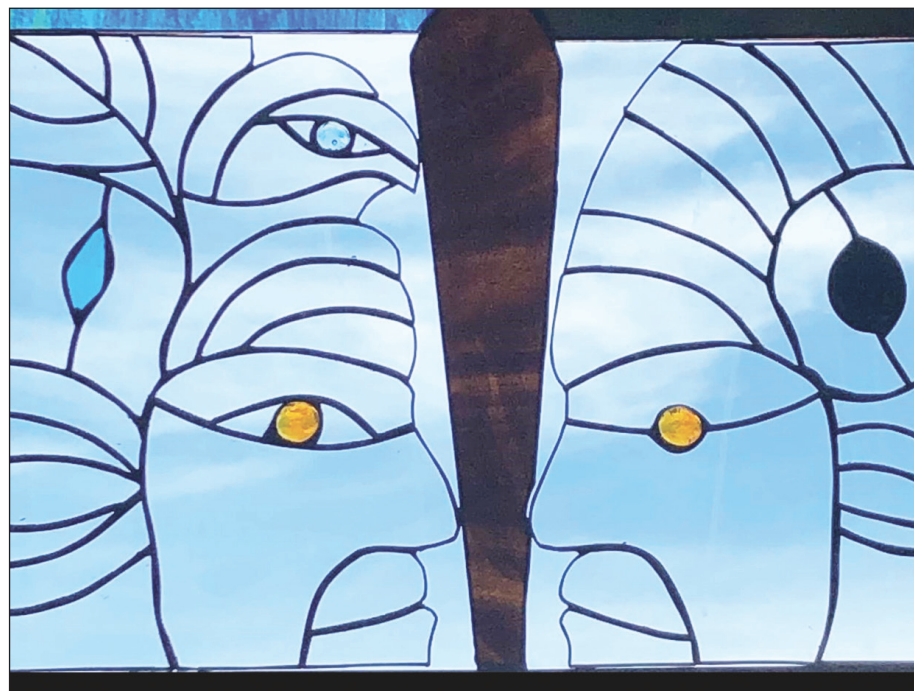
There will be three artists participating: Trash to Treasure (Consuelo Perez), ItemsByLes (Leslie Apanecat) and Razalas Art (Nelson Salazar).

Consuelo Perez is Peruvian. Her art entails creating objects with recycled materials. When people first look at her work, they do not realize how they are made. However, once they see that they are made from ordinary household items that are not appreciated, they realize that they can give a second life to those items.

Leslie Apanecat is a Latinx-Indigenous creator, focusing on jewelry and creating handmade earrings, bracelets, and necklaces.

Nelson Salazar is originally from El Salvador, and his visual art medium is stained glass.

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A Latinx Arts and Crafts Sale will take place at ROOTED Armory Café on this coming Sunday.

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Kick off the holiday season with the **City of Somerville** on **Thursday, December 7**, at 5:00 p.m. at the **Holiday Lighting on the City Hall Concourse**. Enjoy live entertainment, a meet-and-greet with **Santa Claus** in the **Somerville High School Cafeteria**, and light refreshments. All children who attend will receive a special gift from Santa. Santa Claus will be escorted by the **Somerville Fire and Police Departments** making his grand entrance atop a shiny red fire truck.

Join the **City of Somerville** on **Sunday, December 10**, for a ceremonial **Menorah Lighting** event on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.) beginning at 5:00 p.m. A program of traditional songs and sing-alongs will be performed, special gifts will be available for children, and light refreshments will be served. The Menorah will be lit each night of Hanukkah.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great guy and good friend, **Billy Murphy**, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Irene Bremis**. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to **Kevin McDevitt**. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to **Ann Cassesso-Ercolini**. We wish her the very best of birthdays as well. Happy birthday to **Cheryl Callahan**, we wish her a great day. We wish all our Facebook friends, such **Rochelle Jennings**, **Gordon Crook**, **Jason Castle**, **Steve Prescod**, **Kat Rutkin**, **James V Avila**, **Rita VanSteensburg**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of December 6 – December 12 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>December 6</i>	Cloudy	36°/21°	23%	16%	N 12 mph
 Thursday <i>December 7</i>	Partly Cloudy	36°/27°	3%	1%	NW 6 mph
 Friday <i>December 8</i>	Partly Cloudy	44°/34°	7%	3%	SW 8 mph
 Saturday <i>December 9</i>	Cloudy	53°/41°	9%	6%	SW 6 mph
 Sunday <i>December 10</i>	Rain	60°/48°	60%	41%	SE 14 mph
 Monday <i>December 11</i>	Rain	51°/35°	54%	37%	WSW 15 mph
 Tuesday <i>December 12</i>	Sunny	44°/33°	11%	8%	SW 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: Thank You Somerville Fire, Police and Inspectional Services!

Joe Lynch says:

Michele, what's that old saying? "You never miss the water till the well runs dry?" Lovely to see you take the time to thank our first responders and great neighbors. Made my day.

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – November 29

Stan Dan says:

Poignant poem and relevant for the times.

Response to: No parking

Bill McCann says:

We lived on Whitfield Road, our family, 1942-1956. Dad was born (1912) and raised in Somerville. Manuvering through side streets in Somerville in the 50s was crazy with those big cars. I still miss the convenient public transportation I enjoyed back in the day. And at 81, I'd love living on Whitfield Road again.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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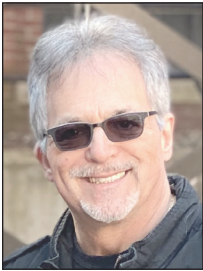


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Our favorite toys



Now that another Christmas is upon us, I thought it would be fun to ask Somerville what their favorite toy ever was. My best gifts were a race car set and a Beatles and an Elton John album. Here are the comments from our friends in the Ville. Here come the comments:

“Anything LEGO, and then there was the year I got a new bike. Being the youngest of four boys, every bike I had was handed down. I was so happy to fi-



nally have a new one.”
“My Chatty Kathy Doll. I drove every-one crazy with it!”
“Saucer for sledding, then a handheld hairdryer!”
“Barbie camper and Barbie airplane. One of them, can’t remember which, got two of and gave one of them to a best friend.”
I got an Aurora slot car racing set which was very cool.”

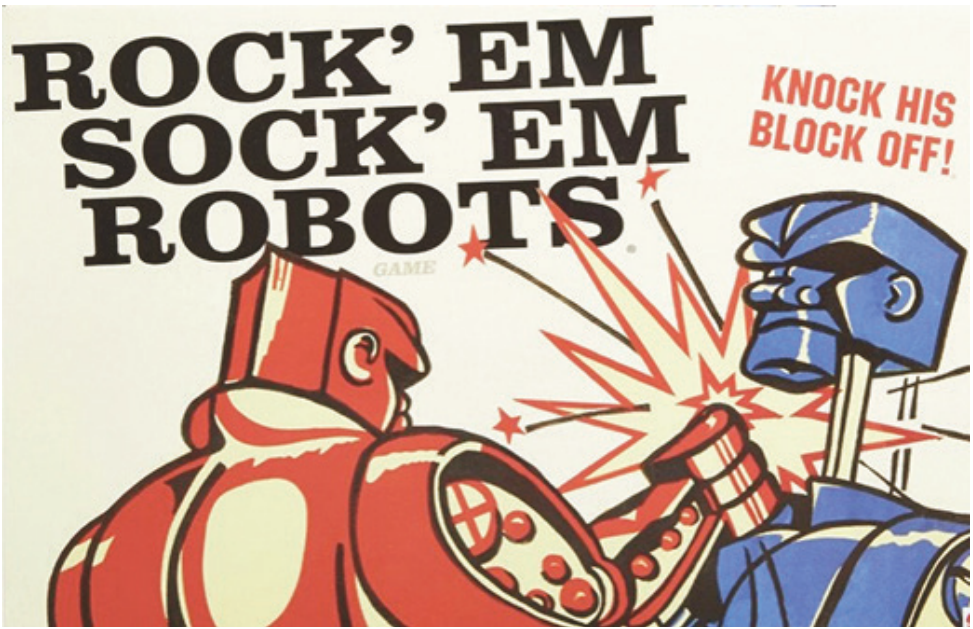
I remember I got a Kenner Give a Show projector. You could show colorful slides on a wall or a white sheet.”

“We got a few gifts from The Bargain Center which was in Davis Square. They sold fire damaged stuff so my GI Joe smelled like smoke.”

“An Erector set, only appropriately appreciated Christmas present over the years. I didn’t like the dolls, nylons, etc., that were my presents the other years.”

“Spirograph and Etch A Sketch were fun toys. I spent hours playing with them.”

“My Mom made me a red wool ice skat-



ing outfit that was beautiful. Along with this was a pair of white ice skates and the dance skating began for me. Oh, how I loved this on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.”

“Atari changed my life.”

It was so exciting getting great gifts for Christmas. Today I’d be happy with some

new socks and maybe a few scratch tick-ets. I can still hear the sound my Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots made when you knocked off the other guy’s block.

I should say my first guitar was my best gift because it started me on my life as a musician/ songwriter.

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Opera Ensemble: From Mozart to Sondheim'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents “Opera Ensemble: Mozart to Sondheim” in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Sunday, December 7, at 8:00 pm. The Tufts Opera Ensemble, directed by Carol Mastrodomenico and Thomas Stumpf, presents scenes both sad and comical from the worlds of opera, operetta, and musical theater. This event will be live-streamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream.



The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts’ Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617.627.3679.



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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.



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Kitty Connection's Holiday Online Auction: December 8 – 10

Shop for the holidays while helping to fund medical care for cats and kittens awaiting adoption

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and Kitty Connection is ready to help you get ready. An all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to rescuing and finding safe, loving homes for local cats and dogs, Kitty Connection will hold a holiday-themed Online Auction from Friday, December 8 through Sunday, December 10. Auction proceeds will go toward the cost of pre-adoption medical procedures for cats and kittens.

Visit <https://www.myminiauction.com/kittyconnection> for more information.

"Often, cats and kittens that come into our care need medical procedures before they can be adopted into their new forever homes," Kitty Connection President Marie Mazzeo said, adding that proceeds from this auction will help pay for echocardiograms, dental work, and blood tests for four cats. "In the holiday spirit, we hope our friends, neighbors and supporters will shop online at our December auction and, in doing so, help fund medical care for pets awaiting adoption. It's a two-fer: take advantage of some great deals on unique items and help animals at the same time!"

For details on potential adoptees and how auction proceeds help Kitty Connection pay for a wide range of medical procedures, please visit the website. Kitty Connection annually rescues more than 450 homeless animals and funds over 375 spay and neuter procedures for pet owners in need. Volunteers provide foster homes for cats and kittens until they are adopted, and Kitty Connection ensures that they are spayed/neutered, tested for common illnesses, and vaccinated before they go to their new homes. Kitty Connection also provides community education and outreach about the importance of responsible pet ownership.

Kitty Connection's upcoming online auction will feature toys, cat and dog accessories, and a wide array of other quality items for bidders and their furry friends. Bidding will open at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8, and continue through 9:00 p.m. Sunday, December 10. Bidding guidelines and other information are available at: <https://www.myminiauction.com/kittyconnection>. Winning bidders will be notified after the auction closes.



Prominent changes to Somerville's school systems discussed CONT. FROM PG 1

it was decided that they would not be able to begin working on the new chiller until next winter, so the school will have to use the current chiller for another year.

As for updates on the chillers in the Healey School and West Somerville Neighborhood School, they have completed the conceptual designs for both and are progressing into design development of mechanical and roof upgrades. This scope of work will include the roof, chiller, boiler, and control systems replacement.

While all of these changes are important and very much welcome, Committee Chair Ward 5 City Councilor Beatriz Gomez Mouakad expressed frustration as they are long overdue. "Parents are losing trust in our work and our schools," she stated. "Somerville is becoming known for its school's failing systems. I don't think any parent should tolerate disruptions to the school day."

Edgerly School Improvements for the Winter Hill Community Innovation School

Several of this meeting's items focused specifically on the changes that they are hoping to make to the Edgerly School. After many students attending the Winter Hill Community Innovation School were temporarily placed at Edgerly back in August of this year due to asbestos and a failing roof, the committee realized that major changes would need to be made to Edgerly in order to properly accommodate them.

Recently, the administration was asked to provide an update on the building's kitchen equipment and to discuss the plan to serve the Winter Hill Community Innovation School youth and further city programs. Fortunately, it was shared that several electrical upgrades were made as well as plumbing modifications so the kitchen is now deemed usable. Additionally, items of equipment that have long lead times were put on order.

Aside from upgrades to the kitchen, the Committee wants the administration to work with

the School Department to discuss emergency plans for at-risk school relocation should anything like this ever happen again. While this will be kept in the committee for now there is no plan in place yet, they are working hard to create one. However, it was decided that for now, a website will be opened that will contain regular updates regarding the Winter Hill school situation, including links to publicly filed documents.

Unresolved Items

There were several more items discussed that Chair Gomez Mouakad opted to keep open and in Committee, which are as follows:

- It was asked that the Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management deliver a study showing the steps to de-carbonize mechanical systems in existing school buildings as part of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Feasibility Study, and assess potential grants and funding to help accel-



erate this process. However, they don't currently have funding to do a separate study for something of the sort.

- They wanted the Director of Infrastructure and Asset management to provide an update on the status of School Building Feasibility Study. This Item was dropped without much discussion because it was mentioned that there will be a meeting on Saturday the 9th to discuss the outcome of this.

However, the Item that prompted the longest discussion

out of these three was the Item that suggested that the Commissioner of Public Works should provide quarterly reports to the Committee on any major repairs and 311 work orders in the school buildings. The main question was what they should consider to be a major issue vs. a minor one, given that minor issues could quickly turn into major ones at any point in time. The committee was unable to come to an agreement on this subject, therefore this Item will remain open and be further discussed at a later date.

10 things to do in Somerville over the holiday season

By Mandile Mpofu

1. Attend a holiday tree or Menorah lighting

Ring in the festive seasons at this year’s holiday tree and Menorah lighting events where Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council will light up City Hall concourse. The holiday celebration will include refreshments and entertainment.

What: Holiday tree lighting
When: Thursday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m.
Where: 93 Highland Ave.
Cost: Free

What: Menorah lighting
When: Sunday, December. 10 at 5:00 p.m.
Where: 93 Highland Ave.
Cost: Free

2. Light up your night with the Illuminations Tour

Walk, bike or drive through the city to marvel at brightly decorated homes during SAC’s month-long self-guided Illuminations tour. Participants can use the interactive map to plan their route, and a special Illuminations Bike Tour is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, with Sunday, December 17 as a rain date.

When: Starting Saturday, December 9
Cost: Free

3. Get into the festive mood at the library

The Somerville Public Library’s event calendar is chock-full of events, with special holiday-themed activities scheduled for December, including a teen holiday party, a DIY gifts workshop, a holiday cookie swap and more.

Where: 79 Highland Ave.
Cost: Free

4. Catch a holiday movie at the Somerville Theatre

The Somerville Theatre has been “en-

tertaining the community with stage and screen” for over a century, and this December, the longstanding fixture is showing The Holdovers, an award-winning film about a grumpy teacher, a problematic student, and their turbulent holiday adventure.

Where: 55 Davis Square
Cost: \$10 to \$16

5. Buy your gifts early at local holiday markets

There is no shortage of holiday markets to choose from in the greater Boston area, and two of them are right here in Somerville. On Dec. 8, head to East Somerville for the Cozy Holiday Market where you can drink and snap a picture with Santa in between shopping for gifts. On December 17, the Somerville Flea Holiday Market returns to the Center for Arts at the Armory with two floors’ and over 30 vendors’ worth of “vintage and artisan wonders.”

What: Cozy Holiday Market
Where: Deano’s Pasta parking lot, 15 Garfield Ave.
Cost: Free

What: Somerville Flea Holiday Market
Where: 191 Highland Ave.
Cost: Free

6. Watch a holiday classic with an adult twist

You’ve heard of, or maybe watched, “The Nutcracker,” but do you know about The Slutcracker? It’s a burlesque take on Tchaikovsky’s famed ballet, and you can catch it all month long at the Somerville Theatre.

When: Sunday, December 3 to Sunday, December 31
Where: 55 Davis Square
Cost: \$35

7. Have a Lego play date

Visit the Lego Discovery Center in As-



sembly Row to take part in the Holiday Bricktacular, a seasonal event featuring festive-themed builds. Embrace your inner child or make it a family event and attend workshops, take pictures with a sleigh, or meet a gingerbread man.

When: Saturday, November 18 to Sunday, December 31
Where: 355 Artisan Way
Cost: From \$26.99

8. Stock your fridge with winter produce

Almost every Saturday, more than 70 vendors, offering the “best locally grown and regionally produced foods, set up stalls at the Center for Arts at the Armory for the Somerville Winter Farmers Market. Choose from an assortment of cheeses, chocolates, pastries and more.

When: Saturday, November. 4 to Saturday, April 6, 2024 (except Saturday, November 25 and Saturday, December 30)
Where: 191 Highland Ave.
Cost: Free

9. Take an ice sculpture stroll

Put your navigation skills to use in Assembly Row where nine ice sculptures will decorate the shopping venue. Take a break from shopping and use the holiday map to view elaborate sculptures and participate in holiday-themed giveaways while sipping on hot chocolate.

When: Thursday, December 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Where: 355 Artisan Way
Cost: Free

10. Celebrate with a community holiday concert and party

Boston Singers Resource will hold a casual “No Stress Studio” at Somerville Music Spaces, an organization that provides rooms for musicians and their students to rehearse, record and perform. The event promises “good, old-fashioned holiday spirit.”

When: Friday, December 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Where: 1060 Broadway C101B
Cost: Free, suggested donations of \$15

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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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 representatives’ roll call attendance records for the 2023 session through December 1.

The House has held 70 roll calls so far in 2023. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* tabulates the number of roll calls on which each representative was present and voting, 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.

In the House, 70.6 percent (113 representatives out of 160) did not miss any roll calls and have 100 percent roll call attendance records, while 29.4 percent (47 representatives out of 160) have missed one or more roll calls.

There were 13 representatives who missed eight or more roll calls resulting in roll call attendance records below 90 percent. The four representatives who missed the most roll calls are Reps. Michelle Ciccolo (D-Lexington), Richard Haggerty (D-Woburn), Daniel Hunt (D-Dorchester) and Joan Meschino (D-Hull) who each missed 25 roll calls for a 64.2 percent roll call attendance record.

Rounding out the list of 13 representatives who missed eight or more roll calls are the following: Reps. Tram Nguyen (D-Andover) who missed 23 roll calls (67.1 percent roll call attendance record); Mary Keefe (D-Worcester) who missed 13 roll calls (81.4 percent roll call attendance record); Kenneth Gordon (D-Bedford) and Chynah Tyler (D-Roxbury) who each missed 12 roll calls (82.8 percent roll call attendance record); Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield), Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough), Kim Ferguson (R-Holden), and Fred Barrows (R-Mansfield) who each missed nine roll calls (87.1 percent roll call attendance record); and Margaret Scarsdale (D-Pepperell) who missed eight roll calls (88.5 percent roll call attendance record).

Beacon Hill Roll Call contacted the 13 representatives to ask why they missed some roll calls. Only five of the 13 responded. The other eight were contacted three times but did not respond. The list of nonrespondents consists of Reps. Nguyen, Keefe, Gordon, Tyler, Farley-Bouvier, Scanlon, Ferguson and Barrows.

Here are the responses:

Rep. Hunt responded: “Up until this date I have not missed a roll call. Last minute, I had to go get my child from daycare because they had a fever. I’ve previously voted in favor of the budget line items and the tax proposal.”

Rep. Scarsdale responded: “On September 27 I had to leave the chamber subsequent to roll call #49 due to a

preplanned meeting with first responders in my district. This is the only day I have left the chamber during roll call votes during my tenure. I therefore missed roll calls #50 through #57. [Acting] Speaker Alice Peisch made a statement on the floor reflecting the reason I had to leave, and the fact that had I been present I would have voted in the affirmative for all eight of those roll calls, and this statement is recorded in the House Journal for the day. All eight of those votes resulted in an affirmative outcome either unanimously or by a substantial margin.”

Rep. Haggerty responded: “I missed a single day of voting this session on September 27, 2023, when I was unfortunately not able to attend a session due to a family commitment. The first roll call vote was for the tax relief legislation which I had previously voted in favor of, and I would have voted in favor of again. The remaining procedural votes were overrides of the governor’s budget vetoes which were budget items I had previously voted in favor of. I would have voted in favor of each of those as well.”

Rep. Ciccolo responded: “This session, I was away from the House chamber during [a] formal session on a single day: September 27th, to attend a work-related conference at which I was learning about single use plastic reduction strategies through reuse and refill. This was the day the budget overrides were being taken up and H 4104 was being enacted. There were an unusually high number of roll call votes on that single day. Fortunately, the vast majority of the items voted on were items on which I had previously voted during the budget and during H 4104’s original engrossment, so my record in the affirmative on these matters should be clear.”

Rep. Meschino responded: “I was traveling internationally in September when the House scheduled a formal session. I made the commitment well over 15 months earlier. I had no way to know [what] the session schedule would be. The House voted [for] two conference committee reports and a series of budget veto overrides. I only missed the one day of formal session, but the House took up quite a few votes that day.”

REPRESENTATIVES’ 2023 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2023

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

Rep. Christine Barber	100 percent (0)
Rep. Mike Connolly	100 percent (0)
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven	97.1 percent (2)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

BAN HOSTILE ARCHITECTURE THAT TARGETS THE HOMELESS (H 3963) – The State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would prohibit the state, the MBTA and cities and towns from constructing “hostile architecture” that supporters of the ban say targets the homeless and tries to push them out of certain areas. The bill defines hostile architecture as “any building or structure that is designed or intended to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level.”

According to Robert Rosenberger, an associate professor of philosophy at Georgia Institute of Technology, who has studied and written extensively on the subject, hostile architecture includes armrests that divide benches so that the bench is not long enough to sleep on, sprinklers that are turned on at night and certain trash cans. “Garbage cans ... serve several functions for people living unhoused,” said Rosenberger. “Some people use garbage cans as a source of recyclable materials [which] can often be exchanged for a small sum of money. Garbage cans are also sometimes approached as a source of discarded food.” He notes that many newer garbage cans are built so that people cannot reach inside them to obtain recycled bottles or cans or leftover food.

Supporters say that family homelessness in Greater Boston has doubled over the last decade, shelters are overcrowded and waiting lists for affordable housing are in the tens of thousands. They note that policies that sterilize the homelessness crisis in public spaces are not only inhumane, but they also only serve to mask the problem.

“Housing ought to be a human right and combating homelessness will require a comprehensive approach that includes housing production, tenant protections and bigger investments in affordability and services,” said sponsor Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge). “What will not work is designing public spaces that are hostile to unhoused people. This only sends the issue deeper into the shadows.”

BAN SOME ARTIFICIAL TURFS (H 3948) – Another measure heard by the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee would ban municipalities and the state from installing or subsidizing new artificial turf fields that contain zinc, plastic, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or other toxins. It would not affect current turf fields which would be grandfathered in under the bill, but it would assure that no new public artificial turf construction would take place.

“Based on the growing body of evidence that shows that these turf fields pose a danger for athletes from heat stress, severe abrasions and toxic chemical

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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Remember, it's ODD side parking this season during snow emergencies.

Our View Of The Times

As we get into the snowy months of winter it's good for all of us to make sure we understand what the odd-even rules are and where we stand this season.

Here is a reminder of what the city's snow parking rules and guidelines are for the 23/24 winter season:

During snow emergencies this winter, residents must park on the ODD side of the road only, unless otherwise posted.

Once a snow emergency has been declared, residents have four hours to move vehicles to the correct side of the street, or into a designated municipal parking lot.

Vehicles not moved during this window of time may be ticketed (\$100 fine) and towed (\$100 fine assessed by the tow company for the tow).

Vehicles parked within 20 feet of any intersection may be ticketed and towed.

For a list of designated municipal parking lots available for snow emergency parking, visit www.somervillema.gov/snow. Residents are encouraged to sign up for phone, email, and text alerts by visiting www.somervillema.gov/alerts.

Also, parking is no longer allowed in school parking lots during snow emergencies. Four hours after a snow emergency is called, gates to school parking

lots will be closed and locked until the emergency is lifted.

More info can be found online at www.somervillema.gov/snow, or download the city's 311 app in iTunes or Google Play, by searching "311Somerville."

Be safe and be legal. If we all cooperate and keep these simple rules and guidelines in mind, we can get through the season unscathed and happy.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Kristen Chiaraluce, Annmarie Costante, Sandy Piccolomini Ryle, Barbara J Pinnelle Vivian and Barbara Jewers 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.

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.

Families and students in grades kindergarten to 8 are invited to join Somerville High School students and teachers in exploring computer science and robotics in a fun, relaxed environment. You are encouraged to sign up at bit.ly/familycode23 but you should join in even if you do not register. December 6, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Somerville High School Café.

Visit Assembly Row, Thursday, December 7, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for their annual holiday Ice Sculpture Stroll. Enjoy live ice sculpture carvings, giveaways, and

more. Use the holiday map to visit each sculpture, collect holiday-themed freebies, and turn your map in once you're finished for a free Christmas ornament. Details on more holiday happenings here: <https://assemblyrow.com/visit/events/>

Visit Mudflat's annual holiday exhibition and sale of functional and sculptural clay by 96 Mudflat artists, faculty and students. Purchase unique handmade pottery for holiday gifts or for your own home. Take a chance on the pottery raffle of over 50 beautiful pieces to benefit Mudflat's scholarship funds. Stop by on Friday, December 8, 12:00 – 8:00 p.m.,

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 10, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.

East Somerville Main Streets' Cozy Holiday Market invites you to savor a warm drink while exploring a variety of artisans, materials, and charming supplies to prepare for the winter ahead. Gather with friends, family, and even bring your pets to relish in the cozy atmosphere. Unearth that festive, ugly sweater from the back of your closet and capture memorable moments with Santa. Embrace the joy of the season and have fun at our cozy market. Friday,

Continued on page 22

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#901

1. What is the month of December called in Spanish?

2. When is National Crossword Solvers Day?

3. Crossword puzzles were first introduced in the New York World newspaper in 1913 by whom?

4. When is Human Rights Day?

5. When does Hanukkah 2023 begin?

6. Who discovered human cells?
7. Who is fifth in line to the British throne?

8. What is the official currency of India?

9. Who wrote the book *Around the world in Eighty Days*?

10. What is a fear of a pattern of holes called?

11. Which male tennis player has won the highest number of grand slams?

12. Basenji is what type of Dog?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Cats are not mentioned in the Bible.
2. Ketchup was used medicinally in the early 1800s.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
MATH 101

- ACROSS
1. Loaded up

6. Tube in old TV

9. Pouches

13. Tequila source

14. Stick in water

15. Jig's French cousin

16. TV's "____ Secretary"

17. Money in Myanmar

18. Photoshop maker

19. Result of multiplication

21. Whole number

23. Say 2+2 is 5, e.g.

24. Arctic floater

25. Dashboard acronym

28. Fountain serving

30. Spanky or Alfalfa

35. Short for "hurry up"

37. Live bait

39. Turn upside down

40. Cassette contents

41. Retire from military, for short

43. Jason's vessel

44. Sicker

46. "Sight for ____ eyes"

47. Puppy cry

48. Denver option, at a diner

50. Apartment

52. Green turtle's domain

53. Final

55. Personal trainer's place of employment

57. Venn ____

61. Point in 2.5

65. Barrel racing meet

66. Gobbled up

68. On the rocks (2 words)

69. Fields Medal to a mathematician, e.g.

70. Sports official, for short

71. 8 of something

72. Like Gulf Stream

73. Big bang maker

74. Required things

- DOWN
1. "I lift my ____ beside the golden door"

2. Petri dish gel

3. Carpenter's groove

4. Dodge, as in tax bill

5. Takes exception to

6. Native Egyptian, in Roman times

7. Line with one endpoint

8. Path in the woods

9. Left or right, e.g.

10. Awestruck

11. Three-dimensional figure with 6 square faces

12. Palm reader, e.g.

15. Cake with filling

20. Three people?

22. Neither here ____ there

24. Subcontract (2 words)

25. 1:2, e.g.

26. Sacred song

27. Canada's favorite tree?

29. "Nobody ____ It Better"

31. Fix a cat

32. First discovered asteroid

33. *Measured in degrees

34. Parkinson's disease drug

36. Banana remnant

38. Between dawn and noon

42. Brown shade

45. Retread, past tense

49. Non-alcoholic brew

51. Rockefeller or Bezos

54. Like today's phone

56. Kind of pie

57. No-win situation

58. Wisconsin neighbor

59. Jewish month of Purim

60. Disease-causing organism

61. Clever

62. Indoor allergy cause

63. Crushed it, as in a test

64. "____ Make a Deal"

67. X

59. "Peggy ____ Got Married"

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Urban Waggle Bzzs to Somerville

By Jason Gutierrez

Sticky, sweet, raw. The Urban Bee Lab's inaugural Urban Waggle fundraiser hosted Boston's brightest performers for an evening of honey-saturated stories at Somerville's Arts at the Armory. The event's namesake "waggle" dance performed by honey bees to signal nearby food, water, and safety. To the hive, the figure eight motion symbolizes hope, excitement and life.

Storytelling does the same for us.

Sharing a memory, be it sugar-coated or distasteful, can be a cathartic experience for the speaker and audience alike. More than a synopsis of yester days, storytelling reminds us what it means to love, laugh, hurt. To be human.

Buzzing about our lives, we move along intricately constructed paths, brush shoulders with one another, share spaces, smiles, moments. We preserve

these memories and pass them to friends, cashiers, and strangers on planes, pollinating the world with our collective joy, ache, and the triumph of seeing another day.

The Urban Bee Lab is a 501(c)(3) non-profit on a mission to improve bee health, enhancing initiatives related to food security, climate change, natural disaster mitigation, and ecological preservation. Visit <https://urbanbeelab.org/> to learn more.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Chocolate Holiday Cookies

These are not your traditional Italian chocolate spice cookies made for the Christmas season, but make a great tradition nonetheless. Over the years this recipe has been adjusted many times and this year's batch is the best one yet! These light and airy cookies are not too sweet and pack a concentrated dark chocolate flavor. The secret? Espresso.

Cookies

- 6 large eggs
- 1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1-1/8 cups canola oil
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups flour, plus extra for rolling out the cookies
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 cups cocoa (unsweetened)
- 4-1/2 teaspoons baking powder

Frosting

- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2/3 cups cocoa (unsweetened)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 oz. espresso or strong coffee
- 1/4 cup whole milk

Holiday sprinkles for decoration (optional)

This batter can be made up to two days ahead of time. I find using a stand

mixer is much more efficient, but not totally necessary. A hand held mixer is fine for the wet ingredients, but use a large spoon to incorporate the dry ingredients into the wet mixture. This dough is thick and may be difficult for the hand mixer to do the full job.

Add the eggs and sugar and blend well, about two minutes. Add the oil and vanilla and mix at low speed for an additional two minutes. In a separate bowl, add the flour, salt, baking powder and cocoa, blend well. Put the mixer on low speed and gradually add the dry ingredients and mix until fully incorporated.

Preheat oven 400°. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough into a long 1/2" rope. Without cutting the dough, hold in one hand and make a small circle of dough, tucking it under itself and breaking it off once tucked under the top piece, like a knot.

The cookies should be about 1-1/2" in diameter. Place them on the cookie sheet about 2" apart from each other. Bake for 15 minutes, until the tops are soft, but firm to the touch. This batter will make approximately six dozen cookies.

Once the cookies come out of the oven, remove them from the sheet pan and place them on a cool surface. An extra cookie sheet works well or even a platter. It is important to place the cookies on a cool sheet pan when reus-



ing the pan or the cookies will spread and come out flat. Once the cookies are cooled completely, mix the frosting as follows. Add the confectioners' sugar and cocoa to a bowl and blend slowly by hand. Once blended, add the vanilla and espresso and stir. The frosting will be dry, so add 1/2 the milk and keep stirring. Once incorporated, it may still be dry, add the rest of the milk and blend thoroughly. It should still be thick, like a brownie mix and definitely wet enough to spread on each cookie.

Dip the round part of the cookie into the frosting and use a spoon to spread

around the whole top of the cookie. Frost liberally. There may be a little left over frosting so no need to worry about running out.

Once frosted, place the cookies on a tray and decorate while the frosting is still wet so the sprinkles adhere. Let them dry completely, about an hour before placing them in an airtight container and store them in a cool dry place. They should last for weeks, that is if you don't eat them by then!

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_y7lcyg6cQUmshk2mfwKfNA

Webinar ID: 846 0190 5121

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP23-000060 – 56 Bow Street

Applicant: Ashley Blum

Owner: Same as Applicant

The Applicant seeks to install an AC unit on the side of the property.

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

Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

11/29/23, 12/6/23 The Somerville Times



**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/join/wn_AVvB7LxTrSKkUwYq4_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 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday December 13, 2023** at 6:00 PM, on a petition for a New Garage License.

New Garage License, Greentown Labs, 444 Somerville Avenue, for 5 inside, 0 outside for storing vehicles, Mon-Sun: 7am-8pm.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_Wur5lzEaTHmEx1ywmCudfg.

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

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

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK
CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

12/6/23 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 24-31**

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

Legal Services for Tenants

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, December 6th, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 PM, Wednesday, December 20th, 2023**.

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

Please email tchukhsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

12/6/23 The Somerville Times

Somerville youth invited to the Teen Spaces Holiday Tour

Somerville Recreation is gearing up for its second Teen Spaces Holiday Tour, a multi-day event across five dedicated teen spaces with activities that are free and open to the Somerville community. Here's the schedule:

- Monday, December 11: Gift Making and Gift Wrapping, Powder House Teen Center (850 Broadway), 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13: Volleyball Tournament, Edgerly School Gym (3 Otis St.), 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17ctuf8zAkCRr6Q_TSbfxfvFPKjFfGfTH1uKWxp0Jj8E/viewform?edit_requested=true
- Thursday, December 14: Laser Ornament Making, FabLab at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave, Room B302), 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 14: Ping Pong, Holiday Candy Sushi and more, Somerville Public Library Central Branch Teen Room (79 Highland Ave.), 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 15: Holiday Party & Toy Drive, The Dojo (15 Properzi Way), 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Somerville teens can participate in all Parks and Recreation programming through the Teen Center and Powderhouse Teen Center memberships. For any questions, contact Brooke Metivier at bmetivier@somervillema.gov.

Keep up with the Teen Centers on Instagram (@somerville_teencenters).



Volunteers power SCES Thanksgiving meal deliveries

By Nathan Lamb

More than 90 volunteers converged at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) on Thanksgiving morning to help deliver 375 holiday meals.

SCES delivers a Thanksgiving meal – with turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and pumpkin pie—to local older adults who request one each year.

Thanksgiving is a day off for SCES Meals on Wheels drivers, thanks to the volunteers. The holiday deliveries are the single largest volunteer event at SCES each year, said SCES Volunteer Coordinator Lindsey Smilack.

“This turnout from volunteers is heartwarming and gratifying,”

said Smilack. “I hope that the message shines through to our recipients that their neighbors and community appreciate and value them.”

“I think it also speaks to the increasing public awareness of the challenges of aging and the importance of social interaction,” she added. “To everyone who helped make this day special – thank you!”

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, call 617-628-2601, x3214 or e-mail to vol@eldercare.org.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and



As has become tradition in recent years, members of the Chi Eta Zeta chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority volunteered to deliver holiday meals on Thanksgiving.

well-being of older adults and adults with disabilities in Somerville and Cambridge. For free ad-

vice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving or disability, contact our Community Support Cen-

ter at 617-628-2601, email info@eldercare.org, or visit our website eldercare.org.

Thank You Somerville Fire, Police and Inspectional Services!

On Wednesday, November 29, Pearl Street Park, an 86 unit building for Elders and Persons with Disabilities, suffered a fire in a second-floor unit. The Somerville Fire, Police and Inspectional Service Department

responded within minutes, accounting for all occupants and bringing them down from their apartments. They were kind, patient and understanding with everyone during this very stressful time while we waited

to see if the building would be cleared for tenants to return to their apartments. Thankfully, tenants were able to return within a few hours.

Special thanks go out to our neighbors, Molly Van-Ice and

Jane Carey who came over and brought some tenants across the street to their common room and sat with them.

I’m writing this letter because sometimes we don’t fully realize how fortunate we are

until we are in a situation like this to witness these professionals in action.

E.P. Management Corp.
Michelle Daly Taylor
Property Manager

SOMERNOVA receives prestigious Powderhouse Award from Somerville



On Thursday, November 30, SOMERNOVA was received of a Powderhouse Award for Business and Economic Excellence [2] from the Somerville Chamber of Commerce. SOMERNOVA is the first developer to ever receive this prestigious award. Pictured here L to R: Linda Kelley, Russell Preston, Collin Yip, Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Jhenny Saint-Suri, Kristin Phelan, Carlos Sainz Caccia, Priscilla Burnsed, and Majic Alphonse.

Family and Children's Concert: WE Sow, WE Grow

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Family and Children's Concert: WE Sow, WE Grow at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Saturday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m.

The Tufts Wind Ensemble celebrates nature's gifts through music. Music includes Grainger's Harvest Hymn, Bernstein's Make Our Garden Grow, and a sing-along of David Mallett's The Garden Song. Special Guests include vocalists Elize Howells, Kenan Oktay, and "Rainbow Jeff" Rawitsch, guest conductor Jadine Louie. The program also includes the premiere of Bo Konigsmark's "Transformations".

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit as.tufts.edu/music/musiccen or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253

Due to university COVID regulations, live audience attendees at Tufts Music events must be prepared to present a Tufts ID or Covid Vaccination Card showing that they have been VACCINATED and BOOSTED.



Family Day at Boynton Yards

On Saturday, December 2, DLJ Developers at Boynton Yards held a family day for the Holiday Stroll in Union Sq. Special thanks to the DPW, Fire Department and the Police Department for bringing their trucks, rigs and motorcycles to the event.



9th annual Holiday Stroll

Union Square Main Streets and El Potro Mexican Bar & Grill presented the 9th annual Holiday Stroll on Saturday, December 2, in Union Square. The annual neighborhood tradition featured the Elfie Selfie and Stroll the Square Challenges, as well as the splendid Storefront Decoration Contest and with the incredible inflatables on the Festus Trail.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



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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

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Ms. Cam's

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Answers

1. Diciembre

2. December 8

3. Journalist Arthur Wynne

4. December 10

5. Thursday, December 7

6. Robert Hooke

7. Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

8. Indian rupee

9. Jules Verne

10. Trypophobia

11. Novak Djokovic

12. Hound dog

US2 in Somerville kicks-off its Third Annual ‘USQ Holiday Give’ to benefit Somerville Homeless Coalition

US2 in Somerville has officially kicked-off the Third Annual USQ Holiday Give, a donation drive in support of the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC). SHC is a non-profit which has been fighting homelessness and food insecurity in Somerville since 1985. Today, SHC transforms lives by providing services, support, and housing for nearly 9,000 individuals.

The USQ Holiday Give started two years ago when US2, the master developer for the Union Square Revitalization (USQ), partnered with SHC to create an event aimed at providing more resources for the one of the most vulnerable populations in Somerville. The donation drive brings together Union Square residents, workers, companies, and organizations during the holiday season to help make a difference for our neighbors in need.

A total of 11 Union Square businesses and organizations are participating in the USQ Holiday Give this year by hosting donation bins from now through December 19th and encouraging their staff, patrons and neighbors to contribute goods. Participants include Union Square Main Streets, Cambria Boston Somerville Hotel, Bow Market, the residences at Prospect Union Square, Greentown Labs, Somerville

Community Corporation, Gilbane Building Company, Cranshaw Construction, Somerville Media Center, and more. Participants are encouraged to donate goods that are most needed by SHC’s clients, including diapers, soap, toothpaste, tea bags, pasta, rice, and healthy snacks.

To join in the USQ Holiday Give, Somerville residents are encouraged to drop donation items directly at any of the locations noted below or to donate directly to SHC:

- Donate Goods
- Non-Perishable Food:
- Cooking Oil (any)
- Crackers
- Pasta
- Rice
- Healthy snacks
- Fruit Cups
- Apple Sauce
- Kids Juice Boxes
- Toiletries and Baby:
- Diapers, any size
- Body Wash
- Razors
- Feminine Hygiene
- Hand Sanitizer
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Soap

Donation locations for public donation drop-off:

- USQ offices, 31 Union Square
- Bow Market, 1 Bow Market Way



Donations at Somerville Homeless Coalition.

— Photo courtesy of US2.



Drop off at Somerville Homeless Coalition.

- Cambria Boston Somerville Hotel, 515 Somerville Avenue
- City of Somerville, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, 93 Highland Avenue
- Prospect Union Square, 50 Prospect Street
- Somerville Media Center, 12 Tyler Avenue
- Union Square Main Streets (Block by Block Office), 26 Union Square

Financial Contributions

To make a financial contribution, visit the Somerville Homeless Coalition website at www.somervillehomelesscoalition.org

and select “USQ Holiday Give” in the drop-down menu.

Last year, the USQ Holiday Give raised over \$8,500 in financial contributions and collected more than 700 lbs of donated goods. Each year, US2 awards the company or organization with the most collected goods the “Union Square Fezziwig” trophy and a \$500 gift card to Remnant Brewing.

“We hope that our collective efforts will bring even more aid to the Somerville Homeless Coalition, and we appreciate every contribution our neighbors can make to support the Coalition’s

incredibly important work in Somerville,” says Greg Karczewski, President of US2, the development company behind USQ.

“We are proud to once again partner with US2 for the USQ Holiday Give which is helping to deliver essential support, food, and toiletry items to our clients this holiday season. We can’t thank US2 and their partners enough for their continued efforts to help keep our clients safe in preparation for the cold winter months ahead,” shared Paul Murphy, Development and Communications Coordinator at Somerville Homeless Coalition.

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Tufts Composers'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents “Tufts Composers” in the Distler Performance Hall at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Friday, December 1, at 8:00pm. Tufts Composers Chamber Music Evening: Games of Form. We are only a collection of transitory moments with form. (Pavana Dharma). Chamber music by Tufts faculty and guest composers Julia Cavallaro, Mark DeVoto, Michael McLaughlin, John McDona-ld, Sid Richardson, Kareem Roustom, and Thomas Stumpf, interspersed with new graduate and undergraduate composers’ miniatures.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts’ Medford/Somerville campus. For more in-formation, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253.



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

exposure, and cause substantial environmental harm to the local environment,” said sponsor Rep. Carmine Gen- tile (D-Sudbury). “These concerns have led the U.S. Men and Women’s soccer teams to stop playing on turf, and have compelled towns and cities, including Boston, to is- sue moratoriums on new turf construction.”

GUN LEGISLATION – The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee held a hearing on several bills dealing with guns including these three:

GHOST GUNS (S 1496) – Would make ghost guns illegal in Massachusetts. Sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton) explains that ghost guns are unfinished fire- arms that allow individuals to easily build their own guns from unregulated kits. “Once constructed, these firearms are unserialized and untraceable,” she said. “To address this loophole, this bill would make it illegal to manufac- ture, sell or purchase any firearm without a valid serial number, which would include the unfinished frames and receivers. In addition, this bill would make it illegal to manufacture, or 3D print, firearms without a license.

“I filed this legislation, because although Massachusetts has some of the strongest gun laws in the country, these laws are being undermined by the proliferation and avail- ability of these untraceable ghost guns,” continued Creem. “We cannot sit idly by as people continue to exploit this loophole to skirt our state’s firearms regulations and con- tribute to gun violence across the commonwealth.”

CANNOT CONFISCATE LEGAL GUNS (S 1513) - Would prohibit police, other law enforcement officers and other government officials from confiscating any law- fully owned firearm, rifle, shotgun, machinegun or am- munition. A civil fine of between \$500 and \$5,000 or up to a 2.5 year prison sentence would be imposed for each confiscated weapon. The legislation does not prohibit the confiscation of a firearm from any person who has been placed under arrest, is the subject of a protection order or has had their firearm identification card or license to carry revoked or suspended.

“I filed this legislation to provide lawful Massachusetts gun owners an extra guarantee of their Second Amend- ment rights,” said sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “This bill would make it unlawful for police or other gov- ernment officials acting on behalf of the commonwealth to seize legally owned weapons in the event that a state of

emergency is declared in the commonwealth.”

RAISE THE AGE FOR GUN POSSESSION (H 2369) – Would raise the minimum age for acquiring a Firearm Identification Card (FID) from 18 years old (or 14-17 years of age with parental consent) to 21 years old. FID permits the purchase, possession and transportation of non-large-capacity rifles, shotguns and ammunition.

“So much of gun violence can be attributed to accidents that occur with minors,” said sponsor Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick). “My hope is that everyone who has an FID card is responsible enough to own a firearm, and that starts with being of the appropriate age and maturity.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“I promise all the constituents of this district that I will work hard to ensure that your interests are represented on Beacon Hill. I will work continuously to make a positive difference for our district and our commonwealth. I will always stand with the taxpayers, help small businesses and ensure that our state government is accountable.” — *Sen. Peter Durant (R-Spencer) upon being sworn into the Senate to fill the seat vacated by Former Sen. Anne Gobi.*

“Using creativity as a foundation, our cultural districts have proven themselves as drivers of economic activity within communities. With this investment, we’re not only supporting the creative and cultural sector, but the com- munities that host cultural districts as they continue to leverage their unique character to attract visitors and sup- port economic growth.” — *Michael Bobbitt, Executive Di- rector of the Mass Cultural Council, announcing \$810,000 in grants funding 54 state-designated cultural districts to en- courage the development and success of the cultural districts and foster local cultural preservation.*

“I am proud of my team’s dedication in securing a settle- ment with Rent-A-Center, which sadly utilized egregious tactics to target and exploit low-income communities for profit. My office will continue to protect all consumers from harmful and exploitive practices by those who do business in our state.” — *Attorney General Andrea Cam- pell announcing the state will receive \$8.75 million from a settlement with Rent-A-Center to resolve allegations that the company engaged in a pattern of unfair and deceptive busi- ness practices against consumers in violation of state consum- er protection laws.*

“Nourishing and healthy food is grown right here in Mas- sachusetts, but not all of our residents have access to these local farms. This funding will help bridge that gap by in- vesting in our Buy Local organizations, farmers and en- vironmental justice communities. Everyone, regardless of race or income, deserves access to fresh, local products.” — *Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announcing \$800,000 in grants to support the efforts of ten re- gional Buy Local organizations that work to help generate con- sumer awareness and demand for locally grown food products.*

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 leg- islators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions.

During the week of November 27-December 2, the House met for a total of 13 hours and 58 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 12 hours and 41 minutes.

Mon. Nov. 27	House 11:01 a.m. to 2:59 p.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.
Tues. Nov. 28	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Mon. 29	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:14 a.m. Senate 11:12 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.
Thurs. Nov. 30	House 11:00 a.m. to 6:02 p.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 6:18 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 1	House 11:02 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Senate 1:21 p.m. to 2:12 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 2	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

City of Somerville announces Police Department Staffing and Operations Analysis final report

Last week, Mayor Ballantyne and the Department of Racial and Social Justice announced the completion of the Somerville Police Department Staffing and Operations Analysis study. Representatives from Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. – the firm contracted to lead the Analysis – presented the findings to the Somerville City Council on Thursday, November 30.

The full report is available at somervillema.gov/spd-updates and will be posted on the Somerville Police Department website as well.

In March, 2022, the city's Department of Racial and Social Justice contracted Raftelis Consultants to conduct the staffing and operations analysis study as a key part of the Public Safety for All initiative. Raftelis was tasked with measuring the workload of the SPD, studying staffing, operations, and organization, and analyzing that data. This work was undertaken to support and

inform both the Administration as well as community members engaged in reimagining efforts on the city's public safety resources and needs.

"We are deeply grateful to the Somerville Police Department for their openness and collaboration in this study. This constitutes one part of many important steps toward reshaping our public safety infrastructure. Intentional strategies and collaboration are vital to the success of our shared goals," shared Denise Molina Capers, Director of the Racial and Social Justice Department.

"Keeping our community safe is one of our most fundamental duties as a municipal government, and I want to thank our Police Department for continually striving to apply evolving best practices to their efforts to serve and protect all in our community. I want to thank the Department of Racial and Social Justice as well arranging for this study," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "This



report will offer one more tool to help inform staffing decisions that will support the Police Department's ongoing and unwavering commitment to keep our people and neighborhoods safe."

The recommendations included in the final report will be tak-

en under consideration by the Administration. It is important to note that any changes pursued would be subject to collective bargaining with SPD unions and would also require approval via the city budget process.

View the Report and the Pre-

sensation

For more information about the findings and to view the report, visit somervillema.gov/spd-updates. To learn more about the Public Safety for All initiative, visit somervillema.gov/psfa.

Exhibition by Raynel Shepard on view at ROOTED Armory Café through January 7

Raynel Shepard is a renaissance woman: jazz vocalist, visual artist, educator and home chef. She was born in Chicago and grew up in Berkeley, California. She moved to the East Coast after two years of service in the Peace Corps in the Congo. She holds a doctorate from Harvard. Raynel comes from a family with deep roots in the Black Creole community of New Orleans. She performs Jazz and the American Songbook, as "Lady Ray", with her trio of musicians at ROOTED Armory Café, other venues, and in New Orleans, where she winters.

She was featured in the documentary film (funded by the Somerville Arts Council), *We Are Here, Too*, as one of four women artists of color in Somerville. She began experimenting with mixed media during the Covid epidemic. This is her first art exhibition. Raynel is based in Somerville and New Orleans and lives with her loving husband, Nigel Hamilton, and loyal dog, Matisse.

"I create colorful, textured, abstract art using mixed media and collage. My process is intuitive. I let materials and technique guide that process. I start without a plan and respond to what emerges as I apply layers of paint and materials. The goal or "story" of the finished product reveals itself through adding and taking away layers by sanding, collaging, painting, and repainting. Because I am also a performing jazz vocalist, I incorporate music in what I create visually. I collage printed music on to a piece, or I imagine how a picture I create suggests lyrics to songs that I sing and the stories those lyrics tell." – Raynel Shepard



Visit a reception with Raynel Shepard on Saturday, December 9, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., 191 Highland Ave.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

Open Enrollment – runs to December 7th. Medicare recipients can change their health insurance plans for January 1, 2024. While having the freedom to change your health insurance plan can save you money, there are many health insurance plans and companies to choose from. You don't have to make the decision alone, the Somerville Council on Aging has SHINE Counseling available in person, over the phone, or on Zoom to assist you with comparing what health insurance options are available for you. You can call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or Molly Pagliuca at ext. 2318 to book an appointment.

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

Healthy Holiday Dessert Workshop – Wednesday, December 6th starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Make healthy and delicious desserts with your friends! Join your Nutrition Consultant, Mary Marshall, in learning how to sweeten your treats naturally, use superfoods to boost your health, and feel satisfied with nourishing treats. Space is limited, please call Mary at 617 625-6600 ext. 2316 or email headtofitness10@yahoo.com to reserve your spot.

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 6th, 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.

Movie Day - Monday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m. Holland Street Center - Love at First Sight Starring: Haley Lu Richardson, Ben Hardy, Rob Delaney. Hadley and Oliver begin to fall for each other on their flight from New York to London. The probability of ever finding each other again seems impossible, but love - and London - may have a way of defying the odds. Rated PG-13 Running Time 1hr 31min RSVP to

Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov \$2 per person for Pizza Lunch.

Memory Café - A Memory Café is a safe space for those with cognitive decline and their caregivers. It's a place to gather and socialize without stigma or judgement. The Café will be held on the first Tuesday of each month from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center and will include dinner and an activity. The December 5th Café will include interactive music (featuring great oldie hits) and movement with Steve Gintz! RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318 or mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

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 5th Ralph & Jenny Center: Portuguese - J&J Restaurant

Tuesday, December 12th Ralph & Jenny Center: Italian - Alfredo's Italian Kitchen

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 5th and 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 5th, 12th & 19th. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

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 6

7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
9:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
2023
11:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
11:30 AM School Committee Update:
Sarah Phillips
12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
3:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill
Changed America
4:06 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
4:30 PM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery
5:00 PM City Council Meeting 11-21-23
9:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
10:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
2023

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

12:00 AM	Somerville Museum: Access for All
12:30 AM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
1:40 AM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
2:30 AM	Historic Bicycle Ride
6:30 AM	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
7:00 AM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
8:31 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
9:00 AM	Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023
10:45 AM	SPD Ride Along
11:00 AM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
12:00 PM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
1:00 PM	Cultural Capacity Forum
2:05 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All
2:30 PM	Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
3:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23
4:00 PM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
5:00 PM	City Hall Christmas Tree Lighting Santa Visit 2022
5:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
6:00 PM	Reavis Field Ribbon Cutting
7:00 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
8:06 PM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
8:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol
9:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
11:30 PM	School Committee Update:

Sarah Phillips

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:00 AM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023
2:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
2:30 AM Cultural Capacity Forum
6:30 AM Historic Bicycle Ride
7:00 AM Cultural Capacity Forum
8:05 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
9:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
2023
11:00 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill
Changed America
12:10 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
12:30 PM Entrepreneur Spotlight at the
Neighborhood Restaurant
1:00 PM Solar Array Deployment for Somerville
1:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
2:00 PM City Council Meeting 11-21-23
6:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
2023
8:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum
9:05 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
9:30 PM HONK! Parade
10:00 PM COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel
11:15 PM SPD Ride Along
11:30 PM City Council Spotlight:
Willie Burnley, Jr.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

12:00 AM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
1:00 AM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
7:00 AM	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
7:30 AM	Historic Bicycle Ride
8:00 AM	Cultural Capacity Forum
9:05 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
9:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
10:00 AM	Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023
11:00 AM	Somerville Museum: Access for All
11:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
12:00 PM	City Council Meeting 11-21-23
4:00 PM	Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023
5:00 PM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
5:40 PM	Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
6:00 PM	An Afternoon with General and Mrs. Washington
7:31 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips

8:00 PM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023
9:40 PM Cultural Capacity Forum
10:45 PM Somerville Civic Day: If I Were Mayor
11:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
11:30 PM School Committee Update:
Sarah Phillips

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

12:00 AM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023
1:36 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
2:00 AM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023
7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
8:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
8:40 AM Somerville Museum: Access for All
9:00 AM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023
10:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
2023
12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 PM City Council Spotlight:
Willie Burnley, Jr.
1:00 PM City Council Meeting 11-21-23
5:00 PM An Afternoon with General and Mrs.
Washington
6:31 PM School Committee Update:
Sarah Phillips
7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
8:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023
9:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner
2023
11:00 PM Cultural Capacity Forum

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

12:05 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
1:00 AM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
2:00 AM	Historic Bicycle Ride
7:00 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
7:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
8:00 AM	Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023
8:40 AM	Somerville Civic Day: If I Were Mayor
9:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
9:30 AM	Cultural Capacity Forum
10:35 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
11:00 AM	Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023
12:00 PM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
2:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
4:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
5:00 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America

6:10 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All
6:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
7:00 PM Union Sq Plaza Ribbon Cutting
7:30 PM HONK! Parade
8:00 PM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023
9:00 PM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery
9:15 PM Veterans Day Ceremony 2023
9:32 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
10:00 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to
Olympian & Beyond
11:10 PM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
12:30 AM Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023
1:10 AM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
1:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
2:00 AM School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
7:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
8:00 AM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023
9:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
10:00 AM School Committee Meeting 12-4-23
12:30 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
1:00 PM Veterans Day at Milk Row Cemetery
1:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
2:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
4:30 PM Union Sq Plaza Ribbon Cutting
5:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23
7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
7:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
8:36 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
10:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
11:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 11-6-23
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
12:30 AM Historic Bicycle Ride
1:00 AM Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa 2023
2:00 AM Cultural Capacity Forum

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00 AM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
9:00 AM	SHS Football vs Cambridge
11:30 AM	2023 GBL Cross Country Championship
12:30 PM	Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
1:00 PM	WSNS Playground Ribbon Cutting
1:30 PM	SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech
3:30 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023
4:00 PM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville
6:00 PM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
7:00 PM	SHS Football vs Cambridge
9:30 PM	2023 GBL Cross Country Championship
10:30 PM	Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
11:00 PM	WSNS Playground Ribbon Cutting
11:30 PM	SHS Volleyball vs Lynn Tech
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7	
1:30 AM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023
2:00 AM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville
8:00 AM	SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett
9:00 AM	SHS Boys Soccer vs Brockton
11:00 AM	SHS Boys Soccer vs Lynn English
1:00 PM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville
3:00 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023
3:30 PM	Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
4:00 PM	Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
5:00 PM	SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett

6:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
7:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
9:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
11:00 PM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

1:00 AM	Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
2:00 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden
8:00 AM	WSNS Winter Concert
9:00 AM	ESCS Winter Concert 2023
10:00 AM	SHS Football vs Cambridge
12:10 PM	GBL All-Star Girls Soccer
2:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage
3:00 PM	Christmas Tree Lighting & Visit from Santa
4:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
6:00 PM	WSNS Winter Concert
7:00 PM	ESCS Winter Concert 2023
8:00 PM	SHS Football vs Cambridge
10:10 PM	GBL All-Star Girls Soccer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

12:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball Alumni Scrimmage
1:00 AM	Christmas Tree Lighting & Visit from Santa
2:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
8:00 AM	Scrapheap Showdown 202
8:30 AM	Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
9:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
11:00 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
12:30 PM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
1:30 PM	SHS Football vs Boston English

3:03 PM School Committee Meeting 11-20-23
4:30 PM SHS Football vs Cambridge
7:00 PM Scrapheap Showdown 2023
7:30 PM Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
8:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
10:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Reverse
11:30 PM SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

12:30 AM	SHS Football vs Boston English
2:03 AM	School Committee Meeting 11-20-23
3:30 AM	SHS Football vs Cambridge
8:00 AM	WSNS Winter Concert
9:00 AM	el Sistema Somerville Winter Concert
9:30 AM	Healey School 3-8 Winter Concert
10:05 AM	SHS Unified Basketball vs Everett
11:00 AM	SHS Girls Soccer vs Revere
1:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
3:00 PM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
4:00 PM	SHS Football vs Boston English
6:00 PM	WSNS Winter Concert
7:00 PM	el Sistema Somerville Winter Concert
7:30 PM	Healey School 3-8 Winter Concert
8:05 PM	SHS Co-Ed Unified Basketball vs Everett
9:00 PM	SHS Girls Soccer vs Revere
11:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball Whittier

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

1:00 AM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
2:00 AM	SHS Football vs Boston English
8:00 AM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
9:00 AM	SHS Football vs Cambridge
11:30 AM	2023 GBL Cross Country Championship
12:30 PM	Brown School Playground Ribbon

	Cutting
1:00 PM	WSNS Playground Ribbon Cutting
1:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
3:30 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023
4:00 PM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville
6:00 PM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
7:00 PM	SHS Football vs Cambridge
9:10 PM	Brown School Playground Ribbon Cutting
10:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball Whittier

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:00 AM	SHS Unified Basketball vs Everett
1:00 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Tech
8:00 AM	All-City Middle Grades Winter Concert 2022
9:00 AM	SHS Boys Basketball Alumni Games
11:05 AM	SHS Jazz Ensemble Concert
12:00 PM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
1:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
3:00 PM	Kennedy K-3 Winter Concert
4:00 PM	Kennedy 4th-8th Winter Concert
5:00 PM	All-City Middle Grades Winter Concert 2022
6:00 PM	All-City Middle Grades Winter Concert 2022
7:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball Alumni Games
9:05 PM	SHS Jazz Ensemble Concert
10:00 PM	SHS Fall Sports Rally 2023
11:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
1:00 AM	Kennedy K-3 Winter Concert
2:00 AM	Kennedy 4th-8th Winter Concert
3:00 AM	All-City Middle Grades Winter Concert 2022

Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Kiniwe'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents "Kiniwe" in the Distler Performance Hall at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Friday, December 8, at 8:00 p.m.

Kiniwe and guests will perform music and dance from the Ashanti, Dagomba, and Ewe people of Ghana.

Kiniwe, directed by Attah Poku, will be joined by Mohammed Alidu, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute African Drumming Ensemble, Emmanuel Agbeli, and the Agbekor Drumming and Dance Society.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicvents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-2253.



Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Thanksgiving escapee, I'm hiding... — Photo by Denise Provost

Latinx Arts and Crafts Sale

CONT. FROM PG 1

Go to: <https://artsatthearmory.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b690012934eed8ac6a09c-8ca&id=2923073d2c&e=02c63fea1e> for more info.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did one snowman say to the other?
Do you smell carrots?

On This Day in History
December 6

- 1492 – Christopher Columbus lands on the island of Santo Domingo in search of gold.
- 1776 – Phi Beta Kappa, the first scholastic fraternity, is founded at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.
- 1812 – The majority of Napoleon Bonaparte's Grand Armée staggers into Vilna, Lithuania, ending the failed Russian campaign.
- 1865 – The 13th Amendment is ratified, abolishing slavery.
- 1877 – Thomas A. Edison makes the first sound recording when he recites "Mary had a Little Lamb" into his phonograph machine.
- 1917 – The Bolsheviks imprison Czar Nicholas II and his family in Tobolsk.
- 1922 – Benito Mussolini threatens Italian newspapers with censorship if they keep reporting "false" information.
- 1967 – Adrian Kantrowitz performs first human heart transplant in the US.
- 2006 – NASA reveals photographs from Mars Global Surveyor that suggest the presence of water on the red planet.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

December 8, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., 15 Garfield Ave., Somerville.

In the giving spirit of the season, the city is collecting **toy and gift donations** at city buildings, libraries, and 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.**

Somerville Youth Soccer will host a **Holiday Registration and Information Event** on **Sunday, December 10**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at **Bow Market** (1 Bow Market Way) in the second-floor meeting area. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more and to register on-site for their **Spring 2024 programs** for players from ages 2-18 (Tykes, In-Town, and Travel) as well as their new six-week **Just For Kicks Clinic** for players in grades 2-4 who are looking to learn to play in a relaxed environment. Learn more about the programs and receive a \$10 one day in-person only discount off your registration purchase.

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 8** and **December 15, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 9** and **December 16, 12:00 – 8:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, December 10** and **December 17,**

12:00 – 8:00 p.m.
The **Somerville Public Library** will host **Asian Art Series: When the Tiger Smoked a Pipe: The Art of Korea** on **Sunday, December 10, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.** on Zoom. Spend your Sunday afternoon learning about the arts of Asia from experts at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. Each session will focus on a unique topic from this vast, diverse, and ever evolving continent. Korean stories of long ago begin “When the tiger smoked a pipe...” Explore the varied and fascinating art that Koreans have produced for thousands of years. Renowned throughout Asia for their ceramics and textiles, Korea also has created, adapted, and refined a broad spectrum of art forms. Today Korea is one of the leaders in contemporary art production. To register visit www.somervillepubliclibrary.org.

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.somervillmuseum.org/historic-events-manager>.

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 dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Take steps to protect yourself and loved ones against **COVID-19**. Somerville's **Health and Human Services Department** is hosting a series of **COVID-19 booster (Moderna) vaccine clinics throughout December** at locations across the city. Vaccines are available for community members age six months

and older. Register for a vaccine clinic at somerville-ma.gov/vaccines.

Come hear about what the **City of Somerville** is doing for **climate and environmental health**. What can the city do for you regarding high heat, flooding, air pollution, water quality? Plus, share your priorities for your family and community. Spanish and Portuguese translation will be provided. This event will take place on **Monday, December 11, at Somerville Public Library East Branch** (115 Broadway) at 6:30 p.m. Register to attend, www.somervillepubliclibrary.org.

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

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 The Welcome Project humbly ask 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

An all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to rescuing and finding safe, loving homes for local cats and dogs, **Kitty Connection** will hold a holiday-themed **Online Auction from Friday, December 8 through Sunday, December 10**. Auction proceeds will go toward the cost of pre-adoption medical procedures for cats and kittens. Visit <https://www.myminiuction.com/kittyconnection> for more information.

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 Monday-Friday** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed each day from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. Help keep our neighbors safe this winter.

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

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

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.som-wintermarket.org

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Artist C. Marlo Feinberg makes sure every dog has its day

I recently caught up with Somerville artist C. Marlo Feinberg. From her website:

Marlo currently focuses on working in pen and ink, and oils. Her subjects capture her own personal life and her deep interests through her own eyes. Some of those are counterculture, dogs, music, architecture, history, movement, and the abstract.

Marlo has had her art shown in galleries starting at age 15 where she sold her first painting, she has since written and illustrated 2 children's books that have sold worldwide, a poetry book, and has been designing logos/ album covers since the age of 16. She continues to do all of the above plus freelance writing for publications, and now resides in Somerville, Massachusetts with her pianist husband, Jesse Feinberg and dog Charles Montgomery.

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

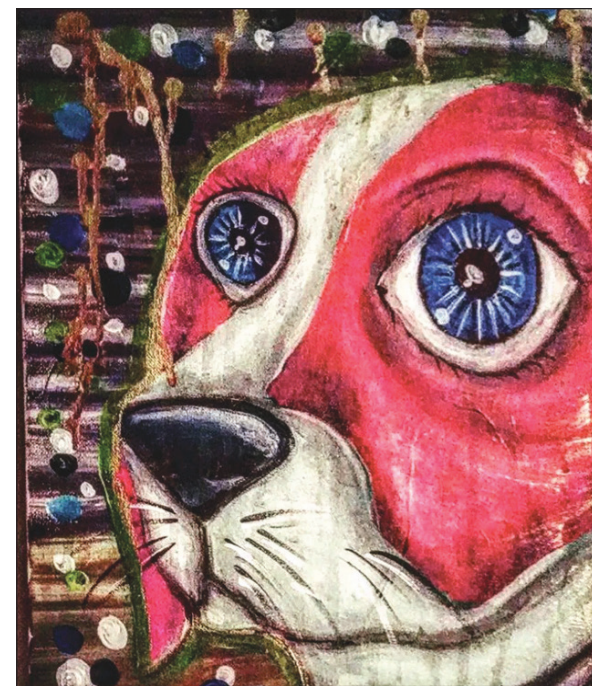
C. Marlos Feinberg: It's been incredible. I have slowly been working my way towards the Boston area for nearly two decades because of art and music. Somerville is so concentrated with art that the surroundings inspire me to produce some form of art every day.

DH: Your husband is a pianist. Does this fact influence your own work?

CMF: Yes, because I love seeing how things work and then drawing them, and he has two pianos that I have been able to study, draw, and paint pictures of. Jesse also teaches me piano and I teach him painting.

DH: You have illustrated many books. I noticed you illustrated a poetry book. As a poet, I would be interested to know how you come up with ideas for illustrating poetry?

CMF: I love this question because my father-in-law, Michael writes poetry and he sent me an email with poems about the High Holidays. I read one called *Mountain Air* and as I started reading it, this image popped into my head of a man walking barefoot on mossy, dark green terrain, that is crinkled like the human brain. There is a blue sky, one fluffy cloud, a sun with a smile, etc. That's how my thought process works.



Old cartoons also really influenced me, especially the ones to classical music.

DH: I noticed you have a series of painting of dogs, some with vivid color and hypnotic eyes. Does your own dog inspire you? I own a cat. For me cats are eye candy. Do have the same fascination with our feline friends?

CMF: Monty does inspire me to paint! I study him frequently and he is the model for most of my dog paintings. The eyes are important to me, the windows to the soul. Cat's eyes are like marbles!

DH: You paint faces as well. Do you just conjure them up or are they real people?

CMF: Thank you. I've never actually tried studying and painting someone's face either in person or from a reference. This is all from practicing over time and memory. It may be the reason that my faces aren't exactly real looking, but I enjoy them distorted a bit.

DH: Is there any mission or message in your work?

CMF: Yes, one is to be kind to animals, especially dogs. The other is resilience. I have painted, drawn, and dug my way through some very dark times and it's important to stay strong.

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Linda Lerner's *Taking the F Train* (NYQ Books, 2021) was chosen as a finalist in the 2022 Paterson Poetry Prize. *How It Was* (2020—2021) *And Is* (Iniquity Press/venetta Books, 2023) is her most recent collection. Her poems have appeared in and are forthcoming from: *Gargoyle*, *One Art*, *Big City Lit*, *Pinyon Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *The Raven's Perch* and *Maintenant*, among others.

This Morning's Buzz

A large alien looking hornet
from Asia spotted in Philadelphia
got into my head and jump started

a lifetime of scary things
like when he drank too much, turned
into someone I wanted to kill so
he'd release the person he held hostage
scary like when my father came home from
work, ranting to my mother he blamed for
everything, and she began packing her things
scary like the faces of children hiding behind
desks, what we did in grade school
to prepare for when the Russians bombed us
who didn't, only this isn't a rehearsal,
not everyone today will get beneath a desk
fast enough to make it home in time
to be stung by a murder hornet.
not yet

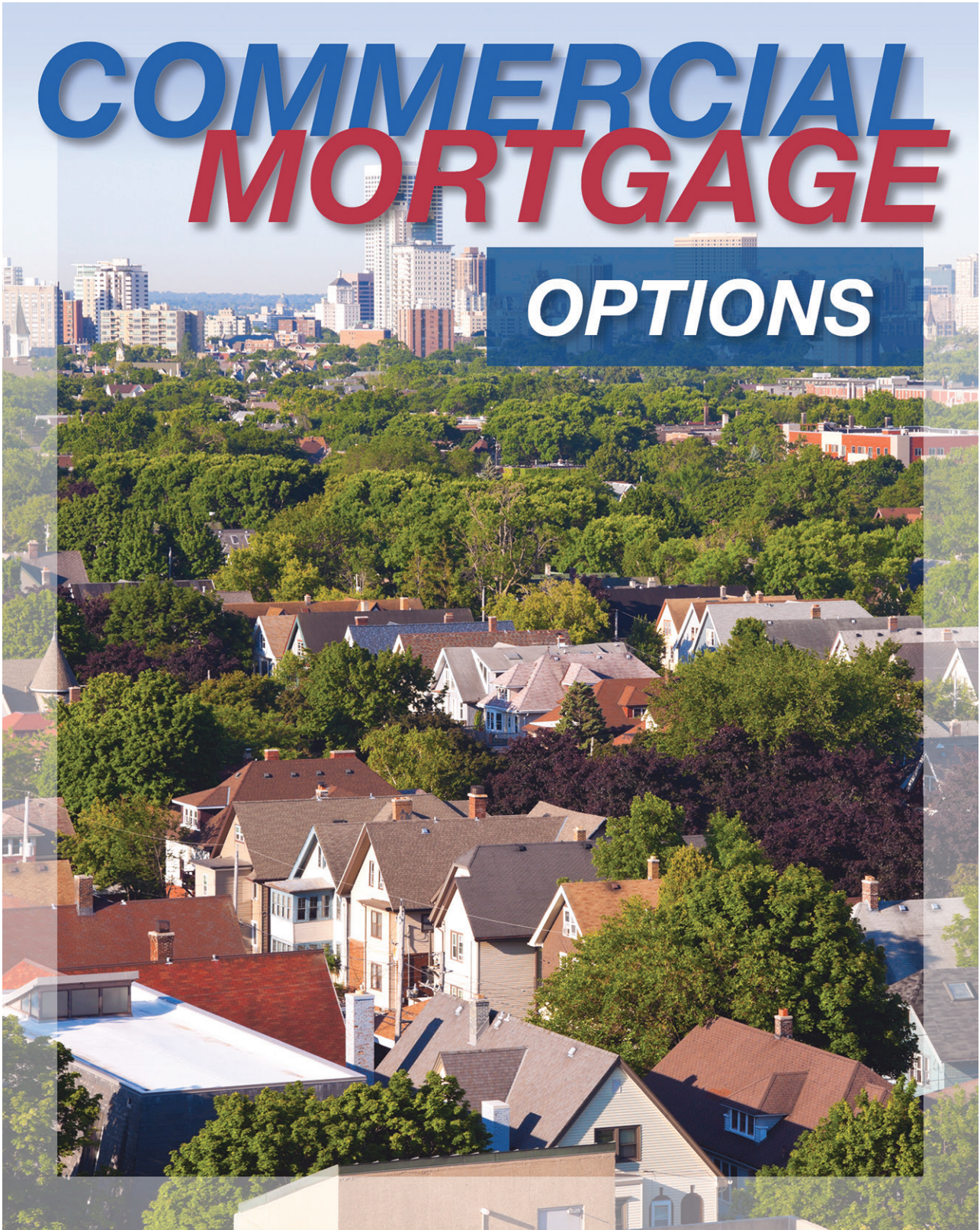
— Linda Lerner

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
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