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A royal visit to Somerville



Prince William and Princess Kate Middleton paid a visit to Greentown Labs in Somerville last week to learn more about the organization's efforts to help solve the climate crisis.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner and Monica Calvo

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

A sea of umbrellas was the scene at Boston's City Hall on Wednesday evening last week. Crowds of Bostonians eagerly awaited the UK royals as a downpour of rain fell. They were welcomed to the city by Governor-elect Maura Healy and Mayor Michele Wu.

Prince William and Princess Kate are visiting the Capital of Massachusetts to look into the work that organizations in Boston are doing to construct a more sustainable world and attend the second annual Earth Shot Prize awards ceremony. On Thursday, December 1, the couple visited Greentown Labs, here in Somerville.

The Earth Shot Prize was inspired by President John F. Kennedy's "moonshot speech" and is aimed at celebrating the current best solutions in helping to repair the planet.

Continued on page 4

Somerville to celebrate Green Line Extension opening

It's finally real. After decades of advocacy, a lawsuit, endless planning, delays, a miraculous win of federal funding, more advocacy, an 11th hour save via a \$50 million payment, bridge closures, travel disruptions, and several years of less-than-welcome construction impacts, the Green Line Extension is finally here.

Passenger service will begin on the Medford Branch's five shiny, new T stops on Monday, December 12. So, of course, Somerville is going to celebrate – two times. The city is hosting a big all-community party on Saturday, December 17, and a morning rush hour celebration at the Ball Square Station on opening day, Monday, December 12.

"We couldn't be more excited to celebrate the beginning of full Green Line service in Somerville. Expanding public transit access is vital to creating a more equitable future, more jobs, Continued on page 13



Celebrations for the opening of the five new Medford Branch Green Line stations are scheduled for December 12 and 17.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

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

The **City Charter** is somewhat like a local Constitution, it governs the structure and functions of our local government. The **City Council Special Committee on Charter Review** is examining the Charter and will recommend changes to the mayor and council. The intent is to update the Charter where needed to meet the community's evolving needs. Learn more about the Charter Review process at somervillema.gov/charterreview.








The city will kick off the holiday season on **Thursday, December 8**, with the **Holiday Lighting on the City Hall Concourse**, followed by a **meet-and-greet with Santa Claus** in the **Somerville High School cafeteria**. All children who attend will receive a special gift from Santa and will have an opportunity to take a photo with Old St. Nick. Activities begin at 5:00 p.m. with live entertainment prior to the official lighting of the City Hall Concourse. Santa Claus will, as always, be escorted by the Somerville Fire and Police Departments making his grand entrance atop a shiny red fire truck. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of November 30 – December 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>December 7</i>	Rain	54°/48°	90%	71%	SSE 9 mph
 Thursday <i>December 8</i>	Sunny	52°/32°	9%	5%	NNW 13 mph
 Friday <i>December 9</i>	Sunny	45°/30°	3%	1%	N 12 mph
 Saturday <i>December 10</i>	Cloudy	38°/31°	23%	19%	NNE 16 mph
 Sunday <i>December 11</i>	Cloudy	42°/31°	24%	18%	NNE 15 mph
 Monday <i>December 12</i>	Rain	42°/37°	42%	36%	NNE 14 mph
 Tuesday <i>December 13</i>	Rain	45°/40°	51%	43%	ENE 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: Affordable housing tools reviewed by
City Council

TheoNa says:

This presented proposal is a clear example of why this country is rapidly going downhill. First, the priorities are the reverse of what they should be. We should not be giving immigrants preference over citizens, and we definitely should not be providing any public funding to illegal immigrants. The order of priority should be:

- Priority One: Seniors and people with disabilities
- Priority Two: Families with children in Somerville public schools or preschools.

Second, there is no guaranteed right to live in Somerville. It's a personal preference. Proper stewardship of taxpayer money does not include giving away taxpayer money to people who elect to move into a place where the cost of housing is beyond their means. Instead we should be directing them to move into other areas more suitable to their means. This would also relieve some of the housing demands and potentially increase housing availability for others.

More than 60 years ago, a president from Massachusetts declared "Ask not what your county can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Many politicians today have forgotten that message and now pander to the "what can you give me?" crowd.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Yeah, and get off my lawn!

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – November 30

Paul Steven Stone says:

What a brilliantly constructed puzzle of a poem! The interlaying of puzzle/crossword elements weaves a humorous insight into the world of complex human interactions. Well done and thank you!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Demolition for progress



Over the past couple of months, I’ve done stories on businesses leaving Somerville and buildings being demolished. I didn’t think I’d be writing another one so soon but when I heard this news, I was flabbergasted. Supposedly, they’re taking four houses on Highland Street and making an 86-unit building.

What happened to the families? Did they get a fair price? Were they promised a place to live in the new structure? As usual I posted the question on social media and the following the comments were made on the subject.

“Supposedly they are working on Holland St. today to take one whole side for big a red bus lane from Davis to Teele and bike lane on the opposite side. No more parking spaces at all on the bus lane side, obviously. But

the new mayor wants people to support local businesses. Where are people gonna park to visit these businesses?”

“Don’t the same people own the homes?” (good question!)

“Sounds great! Projects like this can help relieve the extremely difficult housing and rental market that we are experiencing in the Boston area. I hope the previous residents received an appropriate buyout.”

“Chelsea has the same problem. No concern for the quality of life for people that have lived there for years.” (amen)

“Sad. Teele Square as well as all of West Somerville looks nothing like it did. Driving in west Somerville is a maze of concrete in the middle of the streets. Take the top of Cameron Ave. as an example.”

“I lived at 221 Holland Street about five houses away from Western, they turn them into condos.”

When they demolished the high school



auditorium, I started feeling very sad to see parts of my childhood destroyed. I’m sure we’re gonna see a lot of other buildings go the way of the condo of the apartment building. I guess it’s just part of progress

but it really sticks in the heart.

I didn’t realize the magnitude of the move until I went there in person to take pictures.

What a shame.

Holiday gift drive donation boxes

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing the city’s annual support of local holiday gift and toy donation drives. In the giving spirit of the season, Somerville is placing toy and gift donation boxes at city buildings through Sunday, December 18, to support two community toy drives for families in need of gifts for children and teens this holiday season. If you are able and wish to donate, please bring unwrapped toys and gifts for children of all ages and age-appropriate gifts for teens. All will be distributed to families by two local organizations: Toys for Local Children and the MAMA’s Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville. More information on their gift drives can be found at mutualaidma-mas.com and toysforlocalchildren.org.

Gift and Toy Donation Boxes are available at these city locations through December 18:

- City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, 2nd floor
- Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue
- Somerville West Branch Library, 40 College Avenue
- Somerville East Library, 115 Broadway
- City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Street
- DPW Building, One Franey Road
- Council on Aging Offices, 167 Holland Street
- Somerville Police Headquarters lobby, 220 Washington Street



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Man arraigned in connection with fatal stabbing in Somerville

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Chief of Police Charles Femino have confirmed that Darien Burns, 53, of Somerville has been arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury in connection with the fatal stabbing of Joseph Muzzi, 33, of Weymouth that occurred last night inside the Spin Cycle laundromat on Main Street in Somerville.

On Monday night around 7:00 p.m. Somerville Police responded to the laundromat for a reported stabbing. Upon arrival, police located the victim suffering from an apparent stab wound. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where he later died. The suspect, identified as Darien Burns, remained on scene and was arrested.

This case has been referred to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and additional charges are possible. This mat-

ter, including the motive, is still under investigation by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Somerville Police and Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office.

Darien Burns was arraigned Tuesday morning in Somerville District Court. He was held without bail and ordered not to get in touch with any witnesses. A "dangerousness" hearing is scheduled for next Thursday.



A royal visit to Somerville CONT. FROM PG 1

On Thursday at Greentown Labs, Prince William and Kate Middleton met with the CEO of the lab, Emily Reichert, as well as the President of the Northeast Clean Energy Council and former mayor of Somerville, Joe Curtatone. They met to learn more about the history of Greentown Labs and its contributions to addressing the climate crisis on a global scale.

Greentown Labs defines itself as "a community of climate tech pioneers working to design a more sustainable world."

Greentown Labs offers several spaces for climate tech startups to develop their products. They provide resources such as a prototyping lab, office, and community space. The Earth Shot Prize ceremony took Place Friday, December 2, at MGM Music Hall Fenway.



The royal couple at Boston's City Hall Plaza the night they arrived in Boston. — Photo by Ana Celerier Salcedo



Somerville claims partial victory in the battle against rats

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Rats are becoming a bigger problem in urban centers in Massachusetts and around the country, with residents reporting more and more rats everywhere.

Here in Somerville, this problem is being faced head-on by government officials who claimed a partial victory over rats on November 16. In a status update sent out to residents, the city of Somerville reported that its SMART pilot program has contributed to the capture of 1,050 rats.

In an interview with The Somerville Times, Colin Ziegler, Environmental Health Coordinator for the city, talked about the reaction from city officials to the results of the pilot program so far.

“A thousand is a fantastic number of rats considering that we only have 50 boxes, they’re being placed in different areas with different levels of activity,”

Ziegler said. “A thousand rats in that type of situation is some fantastic data and information for us to process.”

50 SMART boxes were set up between February and July in four different areas around Somerville including Davis Square, Lexington Street Park, and both the Gilman Street and Macarthur Street neighborhoods.

“We wanted to place these boxes, which are electronically monitored and process rodent activity data in real-time while also capturing and eliminating them. Then sending that data to us for us to look at different concentrations and to assess our rodent control programs and better orient resources,” Ziegler said.

In the update to residents, officials announced that this pilot program has been expanded to two other locations in the city to expand the rodent data for city officials.

“The pilot program has expanded to Union Square and



Lincoln Park and we are anxiously awaiting new data as we test some new environment types,” the message to residents said. “Union Square directly abuts residential and green space, and Lincoln Park – open space, near a school, dog park, community

garden, and party areas.”

Looking ahead, Ziegler hopes to expand the program to other areas across the city. The ability to have a box or something similar in all parts of the city is important in having the data required to address the rodent is-

sue in Somerville.

For more information on this and other elements of the SMART pilot program, visit: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/rodent-control-and-public-education>.

The Somerville Times Best of Somerville 2022 Cast your vote!

You have until December 28 to vote for your favorite category. To cast your vote, email us at thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com. The winners will be announced Wednesday, January 4, 2023. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it to this list.

Foods & Restaurants

- Best Breakfast
- Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch
- Best Italian Food
- Best Chinese Food
- Best Mexican Food
- Best Portuguese Food
- Best Local Deli
- Best Variety and all around Restaurant
- Best Seafood
- Best Irish Pub
- Best Local Bar
- Best Thai Food
- Best Hamburger
- Best Mac & Cheese
- Best Hot-Dog
- Best Roast Beef Sandwich
- Best Pizza
- Best Bakery
- Best Sub Shop

Best Coffee Shop Franchise

- Best Coffee Shop local
- Best Bar Food

Best of Somerville Services

- Best Electrician
- Best Plumber
- Best Attorney
- Best Teacher
- Best Politician
- Best City Worker
- Best Receptionist
- Best Real Estate Agent/Realtor
- Best Real Estate Rental Agent
- Best Bank Teller
- Best Bank Employee
- Best Waitstaff
- Best Bartender
- Best Cook
- Best Caterer

Best Barber

- Best Hair Salon
- Best Doctor
- Best Nurse
- Best Coach
- Best Police Officer
- Best Fire Fighter
- Best Photographer
- Best Somerville Historian
- Best Eye Doctor
- Best Orthodontist
- Best Mortgage Officer
- Best Somerville Artist
- Best Somerville Poet
- Best Somerville Writer
- Best Somerville Celebrity
- Best City Elected Politician
- Best City Employee DPW
- Best City Employee City Hall/Annex

Best of Somerville Businesses

- Best Somerville Bank
- Best Real Estate Company
- Best Insurance Agency
- Best Creative Business in 2022
- Best Florist
- Best Laundromat
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Gas Station
- Best Auto Body Shop
- Best Tow Company
- Best Law Firm
- Best Pest Exterminator
- Best Convenient/Neighborhood Store
- Best Somerville Non Profit Agency
- Best Bar For Bands
- Best Newspaper

- Best Idea in 2022
- Worst Idea in 2022

Somerville High School sports in action

SHS Varsity Hockey played a scrimmage game against Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School on Saturday, December 3. Somerville won 3-1, goal scorers were Chris Cassesso, Sheamus Foley and Peter Lounsberry. The team will have their season opener on December 12 against Medford at LeConte Memorial Rink. SHS Boys Varsity played a scrimmage game last weekend at Somerville High against Wilmington. Want to watch and support Somerville High sports, visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/athletics> for the seasons schedule for all Somerville High sport teams.

— Photos by Alex Fredette



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville loves celebrating the holidays.

Our View Of The Times



The shopping is well underway, and all the presents should be wrapped on time. And once the plans for the big day have been made, don't forget to slow down, relax and enjoy the holiday season and all the finer things that come with it.

Whatever faith one may adhere to, we can all agree that the spirit of the season can be meaningful to one and all. Kindness, charity and camaraderie are ideals

that we particularly embrace at this time, and wish to uphold throughout the year. If we can be firm enough in our convictions to see that through, then our world will be a better place for us all to share.

We try our best, and that is all that can be asked of us.

Let us enjoy this holiday season to the fullest. Exchange gifts with those closest to us, keep in touch with our loved ones

remotely, catch up on our big dramatic doings in life, and all the rest. But let us also give a little thought to extending that warmth and sense of solidarity into the year to come as we look forward to the better times ahead.

Looking into the joyful face of a child filled with wonder as the lights are brightened fills us with a sense of resolve that we will persevere and protect our own. That

the most important thing we can do as responsible citizens is to make certain that our future is safe and secure as we launch into the future.

We may certainly face adversity and disagreement from time to time, but we can hold that spirit of tolerance and magnanimity within ourselves as we deal with it.

We are only human, and often fall short of it. But it is well worth the effort to try.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a great 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 of our Facebook friends, such as **Steve Prescod**, **Kat Rutkin**, **James V Avila**, **Rita VanSteensburg**, **Nicholas Cubides**, **Kristen Chiaraluce**, **Annmarie Costante**, **Sandy Piccolomini Ryle**, **Barbara Jewers**, and **Barbara J Pin-**

nelle Vivian 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.

This year, **USQ - Union Square** has organized its **Second Annual Donation Drive** in order to support the **Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC)** and their clients. 10 Union Square businesses and organizations are participating by hosting a donation bin from through December 16. You can help by visiting the USQ offices at 31 Union Square with a bag full of the items listed on the attached poster. Make a donation to

SHC and add "Holiday Give - USQ" in the comments. Donate: <https://somer-villehomelesscoalition.org>.

Local **small business owners** can now apply for **forgivable loans** of up to \$15,000 to assist with financial losses related to COVID-19 via **Somerville's Small Business Recovery Program**. To qualify, businesses must be located within the **City of Somerville**, have 20 or fewer full-time employees, and be able to demonstrate a decline in revenue during the past two years. Home-based and brick-and-mortar businesses are welcome to apply. Learn more and apply

www.somervillema.gov/bizrelief.

The **Somerville Museum** offers unique items with a Somerville connection that are perfect for holiday gifts, birthdays, or any occasion! Visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/shop>.

SeedMoney Challenge time is now! The **Somerville Community Growing Center** hopes to raise \$1500 over the next 30 days of this crowdsourced fundraiser (**November 15 – December 15**). If they raise enough money fast, they qualify for more funding. To donate visit bit.ly/seedsforsomerville.

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#854

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What country won the first FIFA World Cup in 1930?

2. How many World Cups have Brazil won?

3. Which coach led France to a World Cup win in 1998?

4. Which goalkeeper won the World Cup Golden Glove award in 2002?

5. Which national team player scored the most goals in a single World Cup final match?

6. What is the longest river in South America?
7. What decade is the hit single *Love Shack* by the B-52s from?

8. What tool uses a magnetic needle that points north?

9. What does HB mean in biological terms?

10. How many degrees are there in a circle?

11. Where is the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame located?

12. What does the white dove symbolize?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Every time you lick a stamp, you consume one-tenth of a calorie.
2. According to the Bible, the chicken came before the egg.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
YEAR-IN-REVIEW

- ACROSS
1. Use a bayonet

5. Late Sager

8. Greek salad staple

12. Meal in a shell

13. Lowest brass

14. Like daytime energy

15. 2022

16. Van Gogh's famous flower

17. Poodle minus d

18. Late Queen

20. Volcano off Sicily coast

21. Leaves out

22. Elf's distinctive body part

23. Olympic host

25. Russia's target

29. Black sheep sound

30. Treat badly

33. Reason for Thanksgiving

34. Carl Jung's inner self

36. "But I heard him exclaim '___ he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas..."

37. Pick on

38. Pro ___

39. Bank, usually

41. Driver's aid

42. Jalopy

44. Back of the neck, pl.

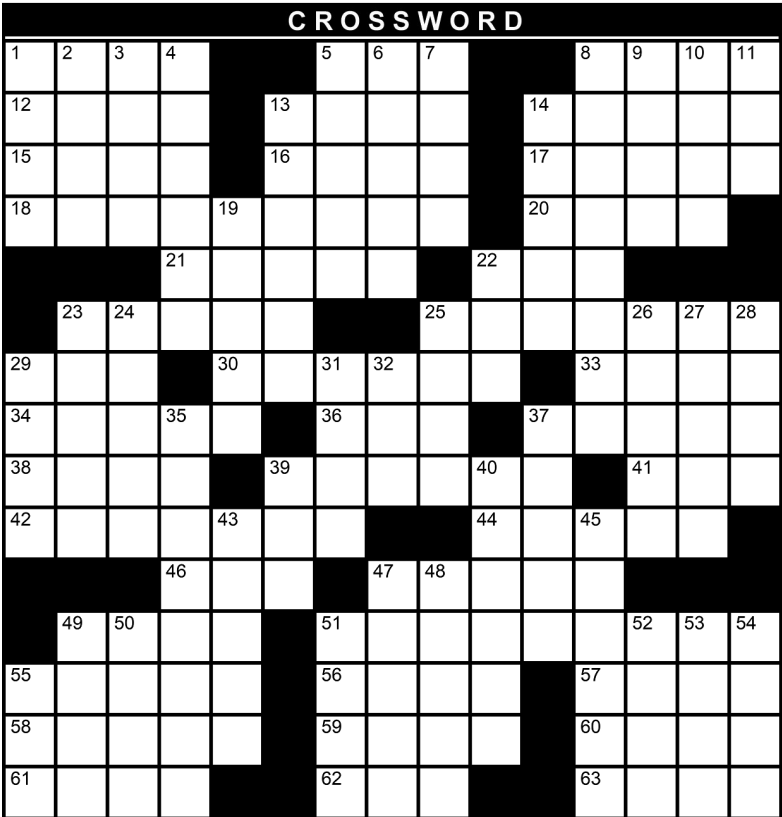
46. Finish line

47. Fur of the marten

49. Paul Bunyan story, e.g.
- DOWN
1. Eyelid affliction

2. Asian weight unit

3. Smoothie bowl flavor



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

4. Russian hunting sighthound

5. Chemistry lab measuring device

6. Parting words

7. New Year's Eve get-together, e.g.

8. Running competition

9. Twitter's new proprietor

10. Western Samoan money

11. "___ you ready?"

13. Relating to shinbone

14. Asparagus unit

19. Amnion, pl.

22. Barely obtain

23. Erie or Suez

24. Port-au-Prince country

25. Like something vintage, usually

26. About to explode

27. Olfactory organs

28. Athos' or Porthos' weapon
29. Throw up

31. Lecherous look

32. Funereal container

35. Tom Cruise's callsign

37. "___-___-la"

39. Type of Christmas lights

40. All together

43. T-shirt style

45. Small bomb

47. Rabbit trap

48. 1970s big dos

49. "Musical" constellation

50. Dollar bills

51. 7-year affliction

52. International Civil Aviation Org.

53. Electrical resistance units

54. Egg holder

55. 100 lbs.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Lyndell's Bakery celebrates 135th anniversary



In 2022, Lyndell's Bakery located at 720 Broadway Somerville, MA celebrates its 135th Anniversary opening for business in December of 1887. Lyndells, which is the oldest scratch bakery in New England, has been selling fresh bakery goods to the public ever since and will continue the great tradition for years to come.

Lyndell's has helped celebrate special family occasions for over 13 decades and thanks to our bakers, decorators and counter staff expects to celebrate many more.

Over those many years, the owners of Lyndell's have always found ways to give back to the community and participate in efforts to help others. In 2013 when the Marathon bombing occurred and MIT officer Sean Collier was gunned down, the current owner, Bill Galatis, led by his nephew David Galatis, created a fundraiser that would help perpetuate Sean's memory and heroism.

In 2014, David along with help from the Somerville Auxiliary Police and the Collier Family established The Sean Collier Memorial Scholarship that would be awarded annually to Somerville High School seniors interested in pursuing a career in Law enforcement. Lyndell's offered to contribute \$1.00 for every famous halfmoon sold and also sponsor a raffle with extraordinary prizes. In 9 years, since 2014, the annual drive has raised over \$50,000 for the fund with Lyndell's setting aside one weekend each year for the fundraising activities.



This year, the Galatis Family is pleased to announce that Lyndell's Bakery will once again re-new its pledge to continue to host and support this annual event until the \$100,000 mark is reached. In 2023, the fundraiser will take place on Marathon weekend from Friday, April 15, to Marathon Monday April 17. It's the Family's way of paying tribute to Sean Collier's memory and assuring that others understand the sacrifice Sean made to protect us all.

The Sean Collier Memorial Scholarship Fund is a separate permanent endowment fund under the auspices of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation.

For more information about Lyndell's Bakery, go to Lyndells.com

The Somerville Times
Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #268

Reuben James

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Reuben James was born in Boston and was a sailor and Boatswain's mate in the United States Navy during the Barbary Wars. He fought alongside Commander Richard Somers, namesake of our city, and under the command of Somers' best friend Lieutenant Stephen Decatur, who later commanded the Constitution.



When James was already severely wounded in both arms during battle, he vaulted himself between his prone leader and a cutlass-wielding pirate. Undaunted, he took the slash of the sword, saving his leader from certain death. Both miraculously survived and fought again.



Since 1804, a span of almost 220 years, our Navy has named seven ships honoring James. The most famous was USS Reuben James (DD-245), a convoy escort destroyer.

All Hallows Eve or All Saints Day is a day dedicated to the remembrance of the dead. On Halloween night, October 31, 1941, one hundred and fifteen American officers and sailors died on the Reuben James while escorting a 44-ship convoy with supplies to England. It was torpedoed and sunk west of the Irish coast by a German U-boat, Continued on page 12

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SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online.

GENERAL BIDS

The Somerville Housing Authority invites **HVAC Contractors** to submit Bid Proposals for the **Chiller Replacement Project** at the **Capen Court (667-1) Senior Housing Development** in **Somerville, Massachusetts**. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the **Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) category**. Bidders must include a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Update Statement.

The Project consists of: Removal and replacement of the existing air cooled chiller located on the roof with a new air cooled chiller in the same location. New piping, valves, accessories and piping insulation to be installed for the new chiller as shown on the drawings.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 PM**, (local legal time) Thursday **January 12, 2023** and publicly opened on-line, forthwith.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount in the form of a bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. The Bid Deposit shall be satisfactory to the Awarding Authority and conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the Bid.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Construction costs are estimated to be **\$244,950.00**.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A pre-bid walkthrough shall be held at the site located at 1 Capen Court, Somerville, MA 02144 on Thursday, **January 5, 2023 @ 10:00 AM**. Contractors shall meet at the site. Contractors shall meet all COVID-19 safety requirements.

BID DOCUMENTS AND DEPOSIT

All Bids shall be submitted electronically online at www.BidDocsOnline.com no later than the date & time specified above. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.BidDocsOnline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.BidDocsOnline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at **Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167)**There is a plan deposit of **\$50** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to **BidDocs Online, Inc.**

Deposits must be a certified or cashier's check, or money order. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **\$50.00**Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or **\$65.00** per set for UPS Overnight), payable to **BidDocs Online, Inc.** to cover mail handling costs.

Bids and the Contract are subject to: M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Equal Opportunity provisions of Executive Order 11246, Non-Discrimination provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Labor Standards of the Davis-Bacon Act and related acts and Contract Work Hours Standard Act, and prevailing wage determinations as issued by the U.S. Secretary of Labor. The work performed under this contract is funded in part through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and is subject to all provisions and regulations issued pursuant to this act. This project is covered by Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

All Bids for the project are subject to the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws (Ter. Ed.), Chapter 149, Sections 44A to 44L inclusive as amended.

RIGHT OF THE AWARDING AUTHORITY TO REJECT BIDS

The right is reserved by the Somerville Housing Authority to reject any or all Bids, if it be in their interest to do so.

MINIMUM WAGE RATES

Bids are subject to the Federal Davis-Bacon wage rates and Related Acts.

12/7/22 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
& COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYORTHOMAS 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 20, 2022** 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://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1471215155116654429>

Webinar ID: 203-777-459

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8321

Access Code: 630-397-618

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**HPC.DMO 2022.40 – 11 Chester Place**

Applicant: Jim Chen

Owner: Hong Ying Li

*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.**While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, 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.*

11/30/22, 12/7/22 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

SMALL MART holiday market at Crystal Ballroom in Somerville

Attention SMALL MART shoppers: you have two opportunities to support local businesses this holiday season with a new curated vendor market. The SMALL MART shopping experience will feature over 50 local vendors of vintage, handmade, fine art goods.

The SMALL MART marketplace promotes a sense of humor and aims to turn the idea of the big box store on its head by empowering local businesses to come together to create a space of accessibility for a thoughtful shopper. The vendors have been carefully chosen, and their wares are hand-selected, homemade, handcrafted, and in small batches.

The market will take place on two dates this winter, on December 3 and December 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Crystal Ballroom at the Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, steps away from the Davis Square T-stop.

It is free and open to the public.



LEGAL NOTICES

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Date of Publication: December 7, 2022
City of Somerville
93 Highland Ave
Somerville MA, 02143
617-625-6600

On or after December 22nd, 2022, the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Small Business Resiliency
Purpose: Enhancing urban environment through additional and improved recreational spaces
Location: Income eligible areas including but not limited to East Somerville, Winter Hill, and Union Square. Specific addresses will be assessed in the site-specific reviews.
Project/Program Description: This project will create and revitalize quality recreational open spaces in the city's most densely populated and under-served neighborhoods.
Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.
Level of Environmental Review Citation: 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)
Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review: Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)], Endangered Species Act of 1973, Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988], National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990], and Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898].

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any): Tier 2 reviews will be conducted to ensure projects comply with the above listed federal regulations. Sites will be reviewed to ensure they are not located in FEMA designated flood area and that there are not on-site or nearby hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials that could harm the health and safety of occupants. Project sites will be evaluated to determine that the site and surrounding neighborhood do not suffer from adverse environmental conditions and that the proposed action will not create an adverse and disproportionate environmental impact or aggravate an existing impact. The Massachusetts Historical Society/State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted to ensure the project does not adversely affect a historical site; when warranted by HUD guidance, relevant Tribal Historical Preservation Officers will also be consulted. Sites will be reviewed to ensure projects do not have an adverse effect on endangered or threatened species or critical habitats. Due to potential ground disturbances, potential effects on endangered species, important farmland, and wetlands will also be reviewed. If adverse conditions are identified related to the above listed regulations, HUD guidance will be consulted to ensure proper mitigation occurs for each project site.

Estimated Project Cost: HUD funding: \$100,000, Total estimated project cost: \$100,000

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be examined or copied Monday - Wednesday 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Thursday 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M. or Friday 8:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M. or can be requested through an email to emutkoski@somervillema.gov

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by December 22nd, 2022 will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Alan Inacio, the Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Director of Finance and Administration, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Somerville to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Somerville's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092, (617) 994-8350 or via [email: ma_webmanager@hud.gov](mailto:ma_webmanager@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Administration, City of Somerville, Certifying Officer

12/7/22 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
(OSPCD)

WFD-23.2

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning
and Community Development (OSPCD)

invites sealed proposals for programs that focus on addressing the
wage gap for women in Somerville, particularly women of color:

Workforce Development Grant Programs

Workforce Development Grant Programs. Proposals must be for programs that assist in the creation and maintenance of employment and career opportunities for low- and moderate-income women residing in the City of Somerville. Funds for training in high demand industries, digital literacy training programs, financial literacy training programs, internship programming for low-income first-generation students, CORI expungement, and innovative programs that address the wage gap for women and girls residing in Somerville. Consideration will also be given to proposals that identify other needs that will contribute to addressing the wage gap for women, particularly women of color. Grants are provided by ARPA funding, the Job Creation and Retention Trust, City funds, and/or other available funds generated from development impact fees.

Bid Number WFD-23.2

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at 10 am December 7, 2022 at www.somervillema.gov/wfd. Print copies available upon request to Staff Name at email WFD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email address and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **January 31, 2023** for responses to WFD-23.2

to the above email address.

Please contact the City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff,
by email at WFD@somervillema.gov, for
information and proposal packages.

Thomas Galligani, Executive Director

617- 625-6600, x 2500

12/7/22 The Somerville Times

Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Uruguay | 6. The Amazon |
| 2. Five FIFA World Cup titles | 7. The 80's |
| 3. Deschamps | 8. The compass |
| 4. German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn | 9. Hemoglobin |
| 5. France's Just Fontaine | 10. 360 |
| | 11. Cleveland, Ohio |
| | 12. Peace |

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

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**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6539228185885014614>
Webinar ID: 201-677-211

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 708-197-237

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

292-294 Beacon Street Capital Equity Partners requests an extension to a previously approved Variance (ZBA 2018-118).

231 Morrison Avenue David Fang seeks relief from the maximum height requirement for a pergola accessory structure in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

11/30/22, 12/7/22 The Somerville Times

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Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

part of a submarine wolf-pack patrolling the cold Atlantic. The Reuben James was the first American warship destroyed during World War II. The attack took place only thirty-seven days before the shocking strike on Pearl Harbor, and its sinking fortified allied resolve to win the Battle of the Atlantic.

There are many references to the Reuben James:

- One of the top songs of the early forties was *The Sinking of the Reuben James* by Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. So haunted by the incident, Guthrie originally wanted to list the names of every crew member in his creation, but decided against it. As time passed, many singing groups honored the ballad in their albums and Will Gear narrated it with Guthrie.

- In 1991, a World At War United States Postal Service Commemorative Stamp was released honoring The Reuben James.

- In the movie Hunt for Red October, the namesake of the Reuben James fired a warning shot across the bow of the Red October to impress the abandoning crew.

- In Star Trek, the Reuben James was a constitution-class, Federation Starship in the 23rd century.

- The 2020 film Greyhound features Tom Hanks as a destroyer captain fighting in the Battle of the Atlantic. It brings to mind the atmosphere of the cold North Atlantic that the Reuben James was in at that time. Hanks, who wrote the original screenplay, is said to be making a sequel, Greyhound 2.

- The destroyer USS Reuben James (DD 245) was torpedoed in the North Atlantic on Halloween in 1941



with a loss of 97 men. Thirteen of the lost crew members came from New England. One of them was, Coxswain John J. Ryan Jr. of Somerville, Massachusetts. He was 20 years old and the only child of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Ryan. The boy's father served 15 years in the United States Navy and incredibly was one of eleven men who survived the July 11, 1918, torpedoing of the USS Westover off the coast of France during World War I. The family lived at 43 Mystic Avenue which is the corner of today's Mystic Avenue and Grand Union Boulevard at Assembly Square.

- In recognition of John J. Ryan, Jr. and his father, an Alfred Street baseball park on the Somerville/Charlestown line honored them in 1945.

**Want to write local Somerville stories?
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and speak to the Assignment Editor**

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did the salt say to the pepper on Christmas?
Seasonings greetings!

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

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Somerville
Times
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857-488-5138

On This Day in History

December 7

1787 – Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

1917 – The United States declares war on Austria-Hungary with only one dissenting vote in Congress.

1931 – A report indicates that Nazis would ensure "Nordic dominance" by sterilizing certain races.

1941 – Japanese planes raid Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in a surprise attack, bringing the U.S. into WWII.

1972 – The crew of Apollo 17, the last manned mission to the moon, lifts off at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

1981 – The Reagan Administration predicts a record deficit in 1982 of \$109 billion.

1988 – Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat recognizes Israel's right to exist.

1995 – Galileo spacecraft arrives at Jupiter after a 6-year journey.

1999 – The Recording Industry Association of America files a copyright infringement suit against the file-sharing website Napster.

Somerville to celebrate Green Line Extension opening

CONT. FROM PG 1

cleaner air, and greater sustainability,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “Our transit advocates, our elected officials, and city, state, and MBTA staff all deserve immense gratitude for their tireless work to bring this historical public transit expansion to our area. As a frequent rider myself, I look forward to seeing my neighbors on the T soon – and at our two upcoming celebrations.”

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invites the community to celebrate this historic milestone at two events:

Go Green Line! Community Celebration
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Community Celebration (rain or shine, choo-choo train is weather permitting): The main event is the Saturday, December 17,

Go Green Line! Community Celebration at Somerville High School (81 Highland Avenue). The indoor-outdoor celebration will feature a kid’s choo-choo train ride (outside), live music, indoor children’s activities, an oral history project, a food truck and hot cocoa, other refreshments, a speaking program, and more. Event attendees will also be close enough to walk down and check out the new Gilman Square T-stop behind the High School before or after the event.

Opening Day Celebration at Ball Square Station

4:45 a.m., First Ride: Passenger service begins.

Rush hour celebration at Ball Square Station: Mayor Ballantyne, advocates, and city staff will greet T riders and all inter-



ested T fans at Ball Square Station to celebrate the opening of the full Green Line Extension with a band and free opening day memorabilia. Exact timing is dependent upon MBTA activities

planned for the day.

The city will announce specific times soon and will post them as well to www.somervillema.gov/GLX. Come join in at Ball Square station, which has a

good-sized public gathering area to celebrate all five new stations.

For more information on the Green Line, including a full-service map and daily schedules visit mbta.com/green.

Newstalk

CONT. FROM PG 7

The second annual **Boynton Yards Winter Fest** is happening on **December 10** with music from **The Velvet Dirtmunchers** and **Al Watkins**, activities from **EventThem**, craft vendors, and free food from **Cuisine en Locale**. RSVP: <http://ow.ly/NyYb50LCRN6>.

The **8th Annual Union Square Holiday Stroll**, a celebration of Union Square sparkle, discovery, and holiday delight on **Saturday, December 10**, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. www.unionsquaremain.org/holiday-stroll. Stroll the Square to see participating businesses light up the night with the splendid **Storefront Decoration Contest** and take elfie selfies with incredible inflatables on the **Festivus Trail**. Dozens of locally-owned businesses await with all you need to stuff your stockings, deck your halls with local art, make your tastebuds celebrate.

Because this winter begins in an **even-numbered year**, snow emergency parking will be on the **even side of the street** all winter, unless posted signage says differently. Check street signs in your neighborhood so you know where you can park ahead of winter weather. You can also learn more about the city’s snow policies at somervillema.gov/snow.

Somerville teens 13 years and older are

invited to earn some extra money by snow shoveling this winter with the **City of Somerville Teen Snow Shoveling Crew**. www.somervillema.gov/applytos shovel.

The **Somerville School Committee** officially launched the search for Somerville’s next **Superintendent of Schools** in November 2022 with the selection of the **Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)** to lead the district’s Superintendent search process. A new Superintendent is tentatively slated to begin their term in July 2023, pending the outcome of the search process. Interested applicants for the Somerville Superintendent of Schools position are encouraged to view materials and access the application portal at www.somerville.k12.ma.us/superintendent-search. Members of the public can access this page for updated meeting minutes, materials, and important public meeting dates. Information will also be shared on the Somerville Public Schools Facebook page.

A **holiday toy drive** to support **Elizabeth Peabody House** is coming up. Please bring a toy or gift card to support a toy drive for Elizabeth Peabody House, 275 Broadway in Somerville on **December 17**.

The **Somerville Flea 10th Holiday Market** takes place **Sunday, December 18** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. You will find two floors and over 30 vendors of vintage and artisan wonders. Shop local and find that perfect gift that you never even knew existed.

Get your **flu shot and updated COVID-19 booster** at a **City of Somerville clinic** this fall. Visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccineclinics. The flu vaccine and the updated COVID-19 booster dose are provided at no cost, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. Advance registration is required.

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

The **13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM)** is held **every Saturday through April 8, 2023**. The **Center for Arts at the Armory** is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a com-

plete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit www.somwintermarket.org. You can find the market on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket, and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the **City of Somerville Housing Division** are pleased to announce **two affordable rental opportunities**: one 4-bedroom unit at 126 Cross St. and one 2-bedroom unit at 29 Alpine St. Income-eligible households with a combined gross income at or below 50% of the Median Family Income (Cross St.) or between 81% and 110% of the Median Family Income (Alpine St.) will be eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted by **Thursday, December 22**, at 2:00 p.m. Multilingual applications and full eligibility requirements are available at somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing. Printed copies are available at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), the City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), and the Somerville Public Library East and Central branches.

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Working 9 to 5'

Working 9 to 5: A Women's Movement, A Labor Union, and the Iconic Movie

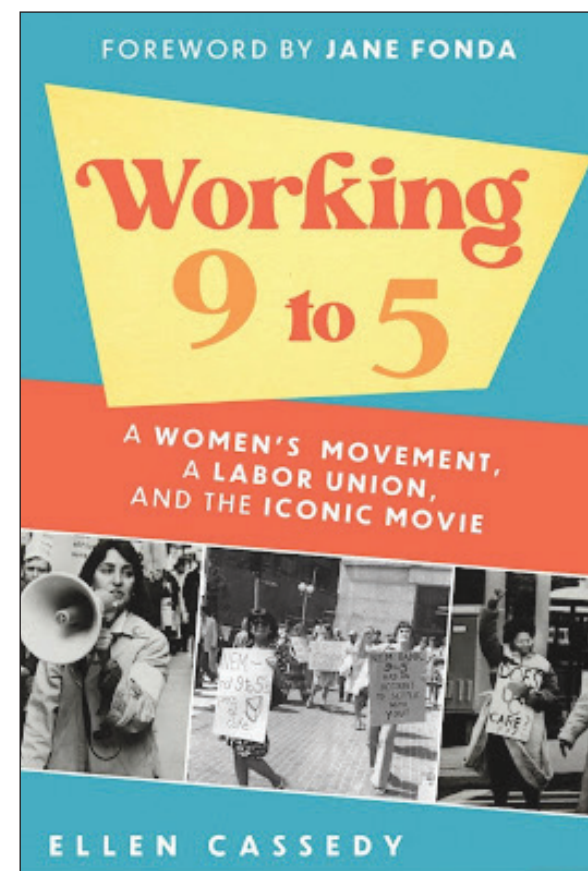
By Ellen Cassedy

Chicago Review Press, Chicago, IL, 2022

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Karen Klein

In her foreword, Jane Fonda, actor, activist, and maker of the film 9 to 5, praises the women of 9 to 5 who built a nationwide movement, started a women-led union, changed the image of working women and "made it clear that women[are]workers in the own right...with rights." She claims their story will inspire you. It does. I need only quote from the numerous examples of male bosses' bad behavior toward their secretaries to convince you of the need for the 9 to 5 movement.

Take, for example, banks in Boston in the 1970's when this movement began. In these banks profits increased annually about 27% or more; pay for women clerical workers – and almost all the clerical workers were women – was close to minimum wage. Boston's cost of living higher than national average; clerical women paid less than national average. Much of the forward movement of this book includes an abundance of personal stories which makes the narrative compelling and real. Diane, a bank secretary, asked for a raise; her boss suggested she see a psychiatrist. Gail worked for eleven years at the same



bank and was the sole support of her 8-year-old. She applied for a job opening, but a 19-year-old male got hired instead. When she asked why, she was told "he has a new house and wife to support."

Ellen Cassedy's way of telling *Continued on page 15*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet writes: Hello! My name is Cassidy Butt and I am a junior at Endicott College with a major in English and a concentration in Secondary Education. I have lived in Massachusetts my whole life with my mom, dad, sister, and two dogs! Writing is something I have always had a passion for and I cannot wait to become an English teacher one day!



This is Boston

This is Boston.

The Citgo sign on 660 Beacon Street lighting up in the distance
Bright red, white, and blue lights color the walkway
Seeing it time and time again as walking towards Fenway and
somehow
she never gets old
Her old triangle outline
for all of Back Bay to see if looking from the correct angle
She is double faced overlooking Kenmore Square
When you see her
You know you are close to the park
She is beautiful.

The smell of sausage peppers and onions filling the air
A distinctive smell that lets you know you are entering the park
The kind of smell that you can still smell at midnight even after
changing your clothes and taking a shower
Fenway Franks that are freshly steamed in the hands of most
Ketchup and mustard covering the top and smeared in the bun
Sweet cold vanilla and chocolate ice cream swirled into a Red
Sox souvenir helmet in the hands of little ones
As the other hand holds their mother's hand
Reminding one to enjoy their life before it melts away
As melted soft serve is dripping down the hands of a four year old
Even though she has not stopped to inhale once
And her mother has wiped her hands and face numerous times
Life is short

Do not let your life melt away
no matter how messy it may get.

Touching hands during the seventh inning stretch
Greasy hands reaching out
Screaming Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond
What everyone looks forward to when they go to
Fenway
Especially when the game becomes boring
Everyone at that moment becomes family
Becomes equal
Skin color
and
Race
Do not matter
Everyone is singing, holding, and loving
Beers spilling
Time passing
Before you know it the team is back on the field
You remain seated
But do not stop dancing
And your adrenaline is rushing and throat is hoarse
from cheering and singing
Let's go Red Sox echoing through Kenmore Square.

My blue jeans with a few rips at the knee and fringe
at the bottom covered in peanuts shavings
A Camouflage ball cap visor in my peripheral vision
when watching Devers knock it out of the park
And a denim jacket covered with bedazzled Red
Sox patches covering my arms
Smiling from ear to ear for a picture to send my
mother
Taking more than one because it is blurry from the
stadium lights
On top of
My fathers photography of course.

The sound of music filling the air
People with their jerseys and ball caps
Walking down the street
Chanting Yankees Suck
Celebrating the win
People rushing to get into the train station
Lining along the staircase
Even though the train has not arrived
This is Boston.

— Cassidy Butt

Somerville opens new funding for local nonprofits

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing new city funding support for area nonprofits, leveraging funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The online program portal opens on December 5, 2022, and will accept applications until February 3, 2023.

"Somerville's nonprofit organizations provide invaluable services and supports to the residents of our city but both the pandemic and ongoing need has increasingly stretched their resources. This needed funding will help local providers to both continue and expand their programming," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I am so happy to share that ARPA funding is proving

another avenue of growth for our nonprofit community."

The first round of funding will provide \$10M in project support for 501(c)3 nonprofits serving the Somerville community. Only applications supporting specific projects or programs, and requesting \$50,000 or more, will be accepted for funding consideration. Applications will be reviewed after the portal closes on February 3, 2023, and recipients are expected to receive notice of funding in spring 2023.

Interested nonprofits can review the ARPA website for more information, including an ARPA application package to plan their projects: www.somervillema.gov/arpa.

The City of Somerville has been allocated \$77,504,170 from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid in local pandemic recovery efforts. Informed by input from nearly 2,000 survey responses, dozens of focus groups, two public forums, and a 14-member advisory committee, the city has been designating ARPA funds for a wide range of recovery purposes. To date, \$47,600,000 of ARPA funding has been allocated to pandemic recovery efforts ranging from direct aid for households to critical infrastructure investments. Of those allocations, over \$6,800,000 has been granted to Somerville nonprofits to administer emergency pandem-



ic-related relief programs.

In line with the recommendations of the mayor's ARPA Advisory Committee, ARPA applicants must detail how their projects meet core values and

funding priorities as noted in the applicant package. To learn more about the city's current ARPA projects and funding parameters, visit www.somervillema.gov/arpa.

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the story of the 9 to 5 movement is an example of a guidepost of second wave feminism: the personal is the political and vice versa. She tells the story of a remarkable coming together of women to make a miracle with hard work and interweaves the movement's historical growth with her personal journey. It all begins in 1972 with a group of ten young White women who work in clerical positions at Harvard. All are educated or skills trained and have hopes for career advancement. When they meet for coffee and talk, meeting in each other's homes, they all have the same issues. Not only are there no prospects for their advancement, but also, they are asked to do things that are not filing and typing, the job for which they were initially hired.

One woman's boss asked her to take down a calendar in his office; a philosopher professor hired one to type out his handwritten notes which detailed all the sexual services he had ever received. All made the coffee or were sent out to get it. By the time, 1974, they wrote a 13-point Bill of Rights for Women Office Workers, it's not surprising that the First Right was "the right to respect as women and as office workers" and the Second Right was "the right to comprehensive, written job descriptions specifying the nature of all duties expected of the employee."

The ten women brainstormed, coined the name 9 to 5, created and reproduced with old technology a newsletter for Boston area office workers which they leafleted every morning in the office buildings and business neighborhoods of Boston. They went into coffee shops, talked with working women 9 to 5ers, visited their offices, got contact numbers, called them, invited them for coffee, joined them for lunch breaks. Gradually their numbers and their strength grew; they were getting known by management, government, and media. By 1974 they hold a public meeting and over 100 people come.

But in 1973 Ellen and her coworker best friend from college, Karen Nussbaum, realize they needed to learn how to organize efficiently and effectively. They learn of a

summer school in Chicago for women organizers, partly run by Saul Alinsky-trained Heather Booth, who should be a household name for all the wonderful work she has done and continues to do to make this world a better place. Going to Chicago to learn to be an organizer brings the author into the tangled personal dilemma of how to be an organizer and a girlfriend, as she is already in a serious relationship with a man. This relationship which ends in marriage, kids, grandkids, parallels the author's personal growth throughout the book and increased confidence in her ability to be a leader, to create a union, a movement, and to balance the life she wants.

Ellen Cassedy is honest and forthright in telling of the particular roadblocks, social, cultural that women organizing for change face. Many women are not comfortable speaking in public, or confronting strangers on the street with a leaflet, or standing up to a male boss. Comfortable speaking to other women office workers, complaining about work conditions is one thing. Confronting the bosses, the huge institutions, the cultural dicta about being 'good girls' quite another. But, as she says, "we see what happens when women join together and figure out how to turn their complaints into action."

Working 9 to 5 tells that history of "complaints into action." Cassedy begins with the origin story of the ten office workers. The first three chapters document their beginning struggles and achievements. Chapter Four ends with the triumph of the public meeting for office workers in Boston November 19, 1973, where one of the few Black women in the office workforce was among the speakers. Hundreds came; the Boston Globe headline:

Hub Office Workers Unite for Higher Pay, Overworked, Underpaid, Undervalued. They were launched.

Subsequent chapters are devoted to the work of 9 to 5 as it becomes the union 925 affiliated with SEIU, the service employees union. Most office workers hadn't thought of themselves as labor, but realized unionizing would fur-

ther their cause. Women had been in the labor unions before 925 came in, but office workers thought those union members were blue collar. They had to learn earning a living is all about work and pay.

Based on the 1912 women mill workers demand, "give us bread and roses." 925 took the lyrics farther and adopted the slogan "Raises not Roses." and printed it on T-shirts.

As subsequent chapters show 925 battle giant industries in finance, insurance, publications, facing down New England Telephone and Telegraph, John Hancock Insurance, Bank of Boston, readers might be confused about the exact time or year these fights for maternity leave coverage, for adequate salaries, for enforcing laws against discrimination, etc. or for going national with chapters forming all over the United States happened. But take heart because there is a most helpful and specific Time Line after the Acknowledgements. I referred to it frequently, found it grounded me in 9 to 5 to 925 to District 925's developmental history and the historical events through which they lived.

A final word to the young women and men who will, I hope, read this book. If some of what happened, if the prejudice, the misogyny, the harassment sexual and otherwise seem excessive or unbelievable, remember this remarkable movement began in the early 1970's, 50 some years ago. We didn't have "me, too" then; but we had everything that that movement exposed. Diversity wasn't a governmental or business policy yet. Very few women were in public life, elected to office or heading companies. It was a different world then, though some old problems have an unfortunate way of lingering. But in this, our current time when all good policies and changes for the better country and planet seem to be fighting an uphill battle, read this book. It will give you hope, lots of gasps of astonishment, and laughter. It's a good read.

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