



## Inside:



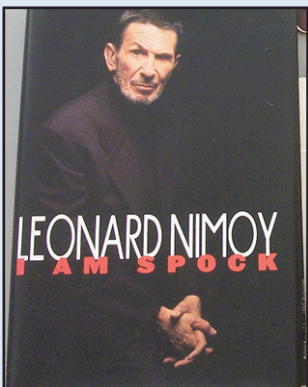
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## 2023 mid-term addresses and election ceremonies



Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne addressed the attendees of the mid-term ceremonies, highlighting her past accomplishments and her vision of the city's future.

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

With the arrival of the new year, various changes to the Somerville City Council came to fruition during the mid-term addresses and election ceremonies held at the City Council Chamber in City Hall on January 3.

During the event, city council members elected a new President and Vice-President while members of the School Committee also held elections for their leadership positions. Out of the 11 members of the City Council, 10 were present with the only absence coming from Councilor At-Large Willie Burnley Jr.

Once a quorum was established as enough members of the City Council were present, elections for City Council President were held. *Continued on page 6*

## Local artist stains glass with tinge of activism

By Ryan DiLello

Nelson Salazar, age 66, of Somerville, produces stained-glass pieces under the name Razalas Art. Last weekend, The Armory hosted an exhibit to showcase Salazar's work. On a sunny Tuesday morning, I spoke to Salazar on the phone and learned a bit more about Razalas Art and his passion for activism.

**What's the story behind the name, Razalas Art?**

"Well, Razalas is my last name spelled backwards. I got the idea from Nomar Garciapara, if you remember him. His grandfather's name is Ramón, and because his parents did not want another Ramón, they reversed it."

**How did you get into staining glass?**

"There was a stained-glass work- *Continued on page 4*



Nelson Salazar's stained-glass works have played a role in local activism and the support of worthy non-profit causes. — Photos courtesy of Nelson Salazar

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Join the **Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs** and the **Missionary Church of the Haitian Community** to reflect on the thirteenth anniversary of the **2010 earthquake in Haiti** on **Thursday, January 12**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Missionary Church, 100 Temple St. This free event will feature a keynote address from journalist and sociologist **Jean-Samuel Trezil**, remarks from the **City's Office of Immigrant Affairs** and **Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice**, food, music and dance performances, and much more.

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) will host a **MLK Day of Service Youth Workshop** on **Monday, January 16**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at **The Dojo at SomerNova**, 15 Properzi Way. The workshop is in partnership with the **Somerville Human Rights Commission**, **The Somerville Center for Teen Empowerment**, **The Dojo at SomerNova**, and the **Somerville Education Foundation**. RSVPs are not required to attend the workshop. Interested youth ages 14 and up are encouraged to RSVP by contacting **RSJ Deputy Director Steven Flythe** via email at [sflythe@somervillema.gov](mailto:sflythe@somervillema.gov) or via phone at 781-808-7502. Masks will be available on site. Volunteers are needed from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on January 16, to help collect, sort, and bag donated clothes. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the **Community Clothing Drive**, please contact RSJ Deputy Director Steven Flythe via email at [sflythe@somervillema.gov](mailto:sflythe@somervillema.gov) *Continued on page 7*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 11 – January 17 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>January 11</i>	Cloudy	37°/30°	4%	2%	NE 7 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>January 12</i>	Rain	41°/40°	40%	37%	SE 11 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>January 13</i>	Rain	53°/34°	60%	54%	SSW 13 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>January 14</i>	Cloudy	40°/27°	18%	12%	NW 10 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>January 15</i>	Partly Cloudy	38°/25°	7%	4%	NNW 14 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>January 16</i>	Sunny	40°/27°	2%	1%	NW 9 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>January 17</i>	Rain	43°/36°	33%	28%	SW 8 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

## Somerville hosting reflection on the anniversary of 2010 Earthquake in Haiti

The City of Somerville and the Missionary Church of the Haitian Community will host a reflection and resiliency event on January 12, 2023, at the Missionary Church of the Haitian Community.

The Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the Missionary Church of the Haitian Community will host a reflection on the thirteenth anniversary of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2023 from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Missionary Church of the Haitian Community (100 Temple Street, Somerville, MA, 02145).

The event offers a space to reflect and remember Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake and to affirm the resiliency of Haitian community and culture. Journalist and sociologist Jean-Samuel Trezil will deliver a keynote address, and the event will also include music and dance performances, food, and remarks from the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs and Department of Racial and Social Justice, as well as community partners.

The event is free and open to all who wish to join. Interpretation into English and Haitian Creole will be provided. Interpretation into additional languages may be requested by emailing [somervi-va@somervillema.gov](mailto:somervi-va@somervillema.gov), or by calling 311 at 617-666-3311.



# The Somerville Times

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Rats in the cellar



Back around Halloween a friend of mine who lives near us told me a scary story. She was doing laundry in the basement and she grabbed a pile of clothes and also felt a rat running right past her hand and off the table.

She got an exterminator in to look at the situation and put traps there and they caught a big pregnant rat that was just ready to give birth. Thankfully, she was dead.

There's still at least one more rat down there, at least one. She's told the landlord and reported it to the city and the city told her she was 201 on the list to have someone come out from City Hall. The exterminator was supposed to come back and

check the traps but he hasn't returned her phone calls.

In the meantime, my friend is terrorized by the idea of rats in her cellar. She's hesitant on taking down her Christmas decorations so she doesn't have to put them back down the cellar. I asked readers to share their rat stories.

"Big rat trap with a chunk of blue cheese. I've caught two. They are everywhere!"

"There was a dead rat outside of my parents' house. It took the city two days and multiple phone calls to come scoop him."

"Yes, in Davis Square right outside the Harvard Health and in the library parking lot! It's disgusting."

"Of course, there are rats aplenty with all that condo construction!"

A friend of mine who lives near the high school near the tracks picks off rats with his pellet gun. A few years ago, there



was a rat in his toilet.

As of this writing my friend with the rat in her cellar, she is still waiting nervously for a solution. An insider tells me that a city councilor is on the case. Meanwhile, Yuck!

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DEPARTMENT OF RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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The Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice is gathering critical feedback and perspectives from community members who live and work in Somerville in the Public Safety for All survey. You can make your voice heard and help shape Somerville's future by scanning the QR code and taking the survey.

Persons with disabilities can request accommodations to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville by contacting Adrienne Pomeroy at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov in advance of the event.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

# Disagreeable shoplifting suspect arrested

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Sathi Convenience located at 153 Highland Ave. on reports of a shoplifter.

Upon arrival, the officers spoke to the store clerk, who stated that he caught two parties shoplifting inside his store. The clerk said that he just wanted them to return the items without getting the police involved. One of the alleged shoplifters was identified as Rose Sheehy.

According to the officers, from the moment they entered the store, Sheehy was extremely hostile and uncooperative. She was asked if she could return the stolen items, and she reportedly shouted back that she didn't do anything and that she was late for work.

The officers explained to Sheehy that she was not free to leave and that they would like for her to calm down so they could have a conversation, after which she reportedly responded, "You're not the boss of me!"

The officers reviewed the surveillance footage with clerk, which reportedly showed Sheehy place an unpurchased item in her left inside winter jacket pocket.

While she was concealing the item inside her jacket, her companion was trying to make small talk with clerk, in an apparent attempt to distract the clerk.

Sheehy was shown the video of the incident, but she still denied any wrong doing.

An officer informed Sheehy that he was going to search her jacket for the stolen item, at which time she reportedly opened hand shoved him so hard that he lost his footing. While pushing the officer, Sheehy stated, "You're not going to touch me!"

Sheehy was informed that she was being placed her under arrest for assaulting the officer. She loudly stated that she would not be going to jail. The officers tried to place handcuffs on her, but she was able to get out of their grasp, and the momentum caused her to go head first in the store wall.

After calling in additional officers for backup, they were able to safely place the handcuffs on Sheehy.

According to police, Sheehy was out of control and would not listen to what any officer had to say. She reportedly jumped in the air and lost her footing. Due to her hands being in handcuffs, she was not able to brace her fall and went face first into the floor. This caused her to acquire a minor cut above her right eyebrow.

Medical assistance was called for, which Sheehy refused. At no point did Sheehy gain her composure, according to police.

Sheehy was transported to the Somerville Police Station and booked in the usual manner on charges of assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest, shoplifting by asportation, shoplifting by concealing merchandise, and disorderly conduct.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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Help Keep Somerville Safe!

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

<b>Arrests:</b>			
<b>Rose Sheehy</b> , January 5, 10:33 a.m., arrested at Highland Ave. on charges of assault and battery	on a police officer, resisting arrest, shoplifting by asportation, shoplifting by concealing merchandise, and disorderly conduct.	<b>Samuel Valera</b> , of Chelsea, January 6, 1:00 p.m., arrested at Washington St. on warrant charges of larceny from a person,	assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and leaving the scene of property damage.
		<b>Karl Maurice</b> , of Arlington,	January 6, 7:45 p.m., arrested at Canal Ln. on charges of trafficking in cocaine and distribution of a class B drug.

# Local artist stains glass with tinge of activism

CONT. FROM PG 1

shop in Somerville, and I used to walk there and look at his work in the windows. One day, I decided to go in and ask him whether he did classes. Once I was done with the course, I thought what should I do with these tools? I've been doing this for about 12 years now, working from my workshop in my basement. Last year, I decided to stop working my regular job and focus on stained glass. I see it more as a hobby – people enjoy and buy my work, but I feel like I'm doing it more for my own mental health.

I don't have any formal, academic art background, but I'm known in the community for being a troublemaker. That's what they call you when you're an activist (*laughs*). I've done a lot of work in the community as an activist, founding Just Us Somerville in the wake of George Floyd's death. As a group of residents concerned about social issues, we organized candle vigils and a march."

In addition to leading Just Us Somerville, Salazar has used his art as a fundraising mechanism. In 2021, he fundraised for the local non-profit-organization, The Welcome Project's Immigrant Assistant Fund program. Every day from December 1 to 24, Salazar gave away a different stained-glass piece to the first donor of the day. The Welcome Project used the funds to help immigrants who had lost their jobs due to the COVID pandemic. Last year, Salazar fundraised for Groundwork Somerville, an environmental non-profit.

**How does your activism relate to your art?**

"Although the city of Somerville is well known for its arts community, artists of color lack recognition. I think art is a privilege, so a lot of people with privilege are able to do this kind of work. You can't really survive from art work, but those people can afford the time. I feel like there isn't enough recognition for artists of color.

As you go through different fields – I worked in human services, they lacked resources and communications to help spread awareness about existing resources. I've always felt part of the voiceless community. As I lean more into my art, I've realized there is a big gap for people of color. There are big gaps everywhere."

**What purpose does your art serve?**

"The colors bring me back home and enable me to momentarily escape the social issues of reality. This gives me the energy to sustain my activism. My stained glass is non-traditional.

When you go to church, you'll notice they use the same five primary colors. I'm from El Salvador, a warm country, so I use warm colors which reflect my cultural background."

View Nelson Salazar's art here: <https://cuzcatlan.weebly.com>.





# Somerville Hosting MLK Day of Service Youth Workshop and Community Clothing Drive

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is pleased to announce that Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) will host a MLK Day of Service Youth Workshop on Monday, January 16, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at The Dojo at SomerNova (15 Properzi Way). The workshop is in partnership with the Somerville Human Rights Commission, The Somerville Center for Teen Empowerment, The Dojo at SomerNova, and the Somerville Education Foundation.

The workshop will offer youth an opportunity to explore Dr. King's legacy and share their ideas, concerns, and perspectives on ways the Somerville commu-

nity can further King's vision. The workshop will include setting an agenda for future work with Somerville-based businesses, non-profits, and City agencies committed to social, racial, and economic justice in Somerville.

RSVPs are not required to attend the workshop. Interested youth ages 14 and up are encouraged to RSVP by contacting RSJ Deputy Director Steven Flythe via email at [sflythe@somervillema.gov](mailto:sflythe@somervillema.gov) or via phone at 781-808-7502. Masks will be available on site.

"MLK Day is an opportunity to take action and honor Dr. King's incredible life through acts of service that build towards

an equitable society for all," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I look forward to engaging with Somerville's youth at the Day of Service Workshop, and encourage everyone to help our unhoused neighbors by donating to our MLK Day Community Clothing Drive."

"Dr. King committed his life to advocacy and service, and we are thrilled to join our community partners and youth from across Somerville on MLK Day to remember his life and impact through community action," said RSJ Director Denise Molina Capers. "We also remind everyone that RSJ will host events throughout the upcoming year

inviting our neighbors to join the fight to dismantle systemic racism and elevate social justice for everyone."

Somerville residents of all ages are invited to share in the spirit of service by donating or volunteering their time to the MLK Day Community Clothing Drive. Donated items will help support our unhoused neighbors.

Volunteers are needed from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on January 16, to help collect, sort, and bag donated clothes. Masks will be available. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Community Clothing Drive, please contact RSJ Deputy Director Steven Flythe via email at [sflythe@somervillema.gov](mailto:sflythe@somervillema.gov) or via phone at 781-808-7502.

Residents can donate new or gently-used adult-sized blankets, beanies, gloves, socks, and scarves at several sites throughout the city:

Somerville Armory - 191 Highland Ave.  
Connexion Church - 149 Broadway  
The Dojo at SomerNova - 19 Properzi Way  
Somerville Police Department Headquarters - 220 Washington St.  
Somerville Fire Department - 651 Somerville Ave  
Somerville Fire Department - 6 Newbury Street

Register now for spring classes!



Spring classes start throughout January

Visit: [rcc.mass.edu/register](https://rcc.mass.edu/register)  
Call: 857-701-1200







# State Democratic Party calls on lawmakers to decriminalize overdose prevention centers

The Massachusetts Democratic State Committee announced last week that it has overwhelmingly endorsed legislation to legalize life-saving drug consumption care and grant municipalities the option of creating dedicated overdose prevention centers to combat the surge in fatal drug overdoses in Massachusetts. In doing so, the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee has become one of the first state Democratic Parties in the country to formally endorse the creation of overdose prevention centers to save lives and connect people who use drugs to a range of medical, behavioral health, and substance use disorder services.

"We need common-sense law enforcement, and that doesn't mean preventing our doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers from providing life-saving medical care. If we change the law, we will save lives," said Democratic State Committee member Justin Klekota, who sponsored the resolution. "These settings prevent overdose deaths in the short term, and over the long term, overdose prevention centers connect people who use drugs to rehabilita-

tion services and place them on a path to recovery."

"We have an opioid crisis. Let's make sure that consumption care is a tool that our communities can use for those who suffer from the disease of addiction," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Between 2020 and 2021, deaths from drug overdoses increased 8.8 percent in Massachusetts. In 2021, 2,290 residents died of an opioid-related overdose with fentanyl present in 93 percent of the cases where a toxicology report was available. Overdose prevention centers have been shown to save lives by reducing overdose fatalities and, to date, there have been no overdose fatalities recorded at any of the 120 overdose prevention centers operating in 10 countries.

"I don't believe we can count out any option that has the potential to save lives from substance use disorder," said State Senator Julian Cyr (D - Truro), chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. "The Mass Dems State Committee's passage of a resolution in support of overdose prevention sites adds to the

chorus of support for utilizing a tool to save lives in an epidemic that continues to ravage families and communities across the Commonwealth."

"The 8.8 percent increase in overdose deaths from 2020 to 2021 indicates the need for a stronger public health response to this epidemic," said Democratic State and National Committee member Melvin C. Poindexter. "The resolution in support of overdose prevention centers affirms the Massachusetts Democratic Party's commitment to prioritizing public health and safety in the Commonwealth."

The Massachusetts Medical Society, Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, and the Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers have endorsed overdose prevention centers as an effective harm reduction tool that saves lives.

"The lives of people with substance use disorder and their families are often governed by chaos and worry. Connecting high-risk users with health and social services through consumption care is a legitimate and com-

passionate pathway to accessing addiction treatment," said Debby Kozikowski, Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party.

In 2019, the Commonwealth's Harm Reduction Commission, chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, formally recommended the use of overdose prevention centers (a.k.a. supervised consumption sites) in Massachusetts as a means to reducing drug overdose fatalities. In its final report to the Massachusetts Legislature, the Harm Reduction Commission identified current law as an obstacle to public health, writing: "In order to pursue a pilot program of one or more supervised consumption sites, the challenges the Commonwealth must address include any gaps in legal protections for organizations and individuals who would staff a supervised consumption site and any state criminal and civil laws that may pose a barrier."

"No one has to look far to find someone they care about who has been impacted by substance use and addiction. We know that overdose prevention centers are an important tool in keep-

ing people alive. This resolution is very much in alignment with the Democratic Party principles of valuing all life and meeting people where they are," said state Rep. Marjorie Decker (D - Cambridge), Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health.

"Treating people who use drugs with dignity and respect is the first step in allowing them space to make decisions about their own bodies. When people are trusted and empowered to participate in their healthcare choices, we see better health outcomes," said Carl Sciortino, Executive Vice President of External Relations at Fenway Health. "The rates of overdose deaths are continuing to rise and there is an urgent need to keep people alive and engaged in community. Overdose prevention centers provide a safe space for that opportunity and serve as a gateway to an array of healthcare interventions and services that keep people engaged in care."

*The full text of the proposed legislation can be downloaded at: [http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/Resolution\\_overdose\\_prevention\\_Klekota\\_11172022.pdf](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/downloads/Resolution_overdose_prevention_Klekota_11172022.pdf)*

## 2023 mid-term addresses and election ceremonies CONT. FROM PG 1

Only one person was nominated for the position with Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen from Ward 3, who was unanimously elected. Ewen-Campen previously served as a City Council Vice-President before this election.

Additionally, a new City Council Vice-President was elected with Councilor Judy Pineda-Newfeld from Ward 7 being unanimously elected.

During the event, the School Committee also elected their leaders, Andre Green of Ward 4 as the School Committee Chair and Ilana Krepchin of Ward 2 as School Committee Vice-Chair.

Following the elections, both School Committee Chair Green and City Councilor President Ewen Campen gave speeches following their election.

"This year will see this body

not only select new leadership for the district. We will also tackle issues of enrollment, of school assignments, we will develop building plans that ensure that every Somerville student can learn in well maintained; modern educational spaces," Green said.

City Council President Ewen-Campen talked about the continuing affordability crisis in the city and its impacts on Somerville.

"We have a crisis here, a displacement crisis and an affordability crisis that is existential and it is continuing to push out people who have made Somerville the amazing place that it is," Ewen-Campen said. "The political will that we have here in Somerville is the best thing we have going and we need to use it."

Finally, Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne delivered her

mid-term address after a year on the job, having been initially inaugurated in 2022.

"When I think back to a year ago and the progress we have made, I'm really proud of what we have accomplished and again I want to thank every City Councilor, our delegation and all the workers in this room and across the city for helping me steer this city towards a vision of progress for all," Ballantyne said.

## Somerville State of the City

On January 3, 2023, Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen, and School Committee Chair Andre Green shared Somerville's annual mid-

term addresses, reflecting on 2022 issues and efforts, as well as work to come in 2023.

All three addresses can be viewed on the City's CityTV Youtube channel at: [youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV](https://www.youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV).

[youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV](https://www.youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV).

In her Mid-Term Address, the first to take place in person at City Hall since 2020, Mayor Ballantyne outlined how her administration has worked to put her prom-

ise of progress for all into practice, and upcoming initiatives "to create a future where all – not just some – can thrive in Somerville."

The mayor's blueprint for the city takes impactful steps to in-

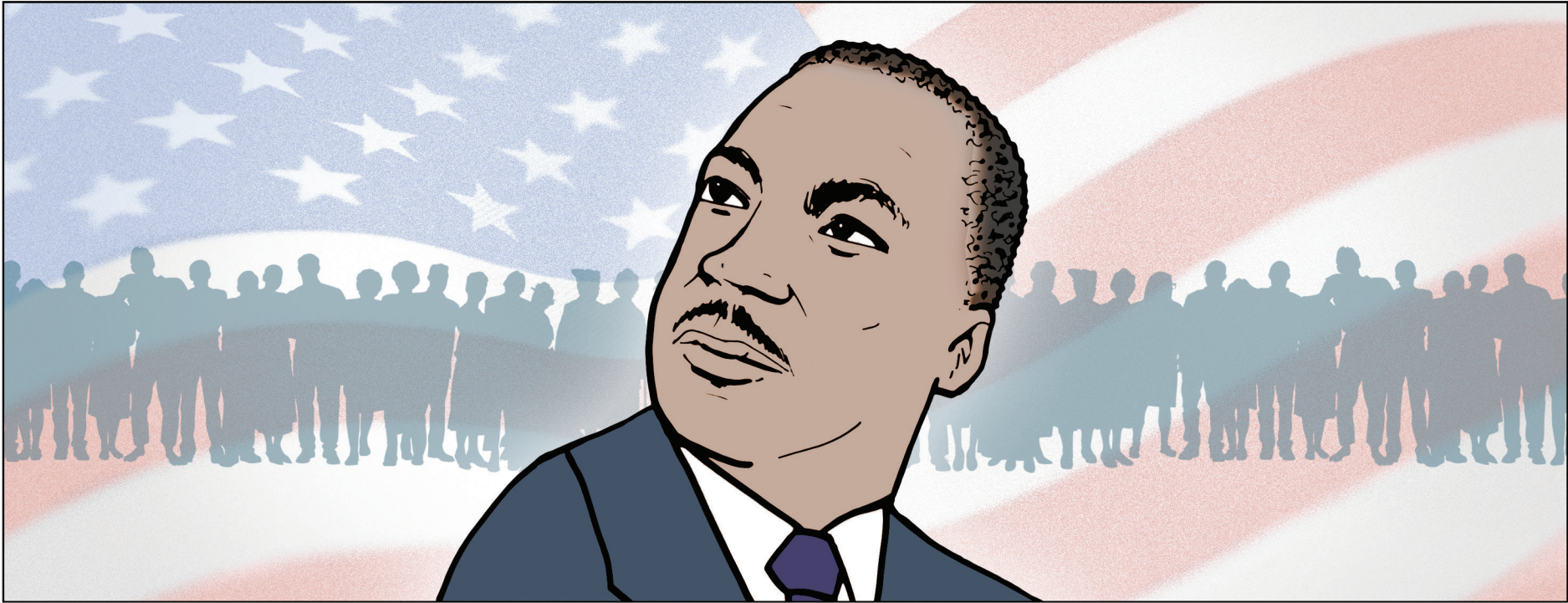
crease equity, safety, and sustainability for residents, the full community, and the local ecosystem with initiatives ranging from housing to infrastructure, and from butterflies *Continued on page 15*



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville honors the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Our View Of The Times



The annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us of the importance of tolerance and embracing diversity in this modern age, just as it was in the days when Dr. King walked among us.

The civil rights movement of the 60s may seem like a distant and detached part of American history for some, perhaps as remote as the civil war itself in the minds of the young who did not live in that time.

And yet, there was never a time in our history when the principles involved in that struggle were more relevant and meaningful than today, and even more so as we step forward into the future.

The great melting pot that is at the heart of the American dream is constantly tasked with the challenge of people of mixed racial, ethnic, and national identity blending and working together as equal

partners with a common goal: to live freely and prosper in a land still stands as the best possible hope for so many.

As we all strive to surmount the wearisome onus of turning back the economic downturn that has kept many down over the past few years, and at the same time celebrate all that is good and count our blessings each day, the great equalizer remains in effect. We recognize and embrace

the common humanity in all of us.

The tireless efforts of those like Dr. King helped to teach us the importance of knowing these things. As we acknowledge and celebrate the legacy of the man this week, let us take time to consider what has taken place in this country since he was taken from us. We are a better society now, and that should never be taken for granted.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

sflythe@somervillema.gov or via phone at 781-808-7502.

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Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Katie McDaid**. We wish her a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to retired high school teacher **Marion Joyce**. We hope she enjoys her day. Happy birthday **Phil Forsyth**, we wish him the best. Happy birthday to **Donna Desrescente**. We wish her the very best. Big birthday greetings to **Ken Kotch**, a great photographer. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Rose Amabile, Chris Walsh, Livia E. Sharpe, Alberta Healey, Janice Burpee,**

**Rick Jackson, Suzanne Ryan Marks, Paul Nunziato and Leslie Figueira** 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to **The Best of Somerville 2022 winners!** Please support their businesses and let them know you saw them in *The Somerville Times*.

\*\*\*\*\*

The bike path **Girl Scout cookie sign** is back for another year. **Troop 82122** is saving their proceeds to take a trip to **Savannah, Georgia** this spring. Girl deliv-

ery in Somerville/Cambridge/Medford <http://villecookies.info>

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** is seeking **new Board Members** for 2023. They are looking for energetic individuals with diverse backgrounds and life experiences to help lead them into their 30th year. Interested in supporting and growing with them? To learn more and apply visit: <https://www.thegrowing-center.org/board-search>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** announces that the **City of Somerville** is now seeking proposals that aim to address the

**gender wage gap**, particularly for women of color who face the greatest pay disparity. Programs that create and maintain employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income women residing in the city are sought. The grants are made possible by the **City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Job Creation and Retention Trust, City funds, and funds generated from development impact fees.** Proposals will be accepted until **January 31**. Interested organizations can download the Request for Proposal package here: [www.somervillema.gov/wfd](http://www.somervillema.gov/wfd). Print copies are available by emailing [WFD@somervillema](mailto:WFD@somervillema). *Continued on page 12*



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**Olio**  
#858

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. When did Martin Luther King receive the Nobel Peace Prize?

2. How old was Martin Luthur King Jr. when he was assassinated?

3. In what year was the very first model of the iPhone released?

4. Who is often called the father of computing?

5. What is the name of the man who launched eBay back in 1995?

6. Which planet has the most gravity?

7. Which was the first
- cold breakfast cereal?

8. Night Crawler, member of the X-Men, has what kind of powers?

9. How many films did Sean Connery play James Bond in?

10. How many *Lord of the Rings* films are there?

11. Who did Forbes name the youngest self-made billionaire in 2019?

12. Who played Anita in the first Broadway production of *West Side Story*?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Pogonophobia is the fear of beards.
2. Edgar Allan Poe married his thirteen-year-old cousin.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
AT THE SUPERMARKET

- ACROSS
1. Rock bottom

6. Attorneys' org.

9. Hefty volume

13. Cast \_\_\_\_\_

14. It's all the rage

15. Miserable

16. Fit for a king

17. Back then

18. Do like Demosthenes

19. \*Checkout clerk

21. Meat professional

23. "\_\_\_\_\_ the land of the free..."

24. Fictional Himalayan

25. Meme move

28. Man Ray's art movement

30. On cloud nine

35. Crude group

37. Seaside bird

39. Formerly known as dropsy

40. Make-up artist?

41. Blast from the past

43. Bruce Willis' ex

44. Chocolate substitute

46. Mischievous sprites

47. Plaintiff

48. Advantageous display

50. \_\_\_\_\_ Spumante

52. Meddle

53. Largest share owner

55. "\_\_\_\_\_ to Joy"

57. Coldest display

61. "What's on \_\_\_\_\_?"

65. Main artery in the body

66. Feathery neckwear

68. Isolated

69. Hipbone-related

70. Octopus' defense

71. Espresso plus steamed milk

72. Eye contact

73. Word from #32 Down

74. Goes up or down

- DOWN
1. D.E.A. agent

2. On a deck, perhaps

3. Pad

4. Gem State

5. Depended on

6. From a distance

7. Reusable one

8. Hacienda brick

9. Cleopatra's necklace

10. Moonfish

11. Boundary line

12. Looker or ogler

15. Capable of movement

20. One of the Muses

22. Shoshonean

24. Railyard worker

25. Gabbana's partner

26. Relating to bees

27. Edward Teach's facial feature

29. Prepared food department

31. Contributes

32. Get ready to drive (2 words)

33. Type of wheat

34. Ricotta and eggs section

36. Semiaquatic tetrapod, for short

38. Sips from a flask?

42. Bar by estoppel

45. Novelist Honoré de \_\_\_\_\_

49. Blackbird dessert

51. Paragons

54. Galactic path

56. Pomp

57. Be unsuccessful

58. Dramatic part

59. Sportscaster Andrews

60. JFK or ORD postings

61. Japanese alcoholic beverage

62. Tiny amount

63. Not in favor of

64. Lecherous look

67. O in BOGO

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							
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48					49		50			51		52		
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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:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



# Highlanders basketball falls to Lynn English

The Somerville High School boys basketball squad lost a match to Lynn English at SHS on Thursday, January 5, with a final score of 35-88.

— Photos by Alex Fredette



## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #270

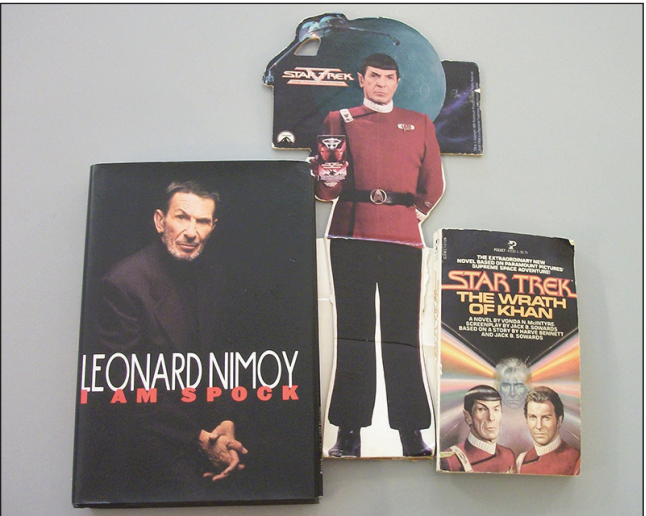
### A Salute

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Looking back, his roots dove deep. They navigated from the mythical deck of the USS Starship Enterprise to the shore of the Charles River Basin at Boston’s West End. For eighty-three years, he sailed on a literary ship from outer space back to his youth on the acting stage of the Elizabeth Peabody House.



Acting on this stage was a great training ground for young thespians. One former Peabody House stage student was Leonard Nimoy or as the world grew to know him, “Spock.” He began his star-trekking acting career at age eight. This was at the Peabody Playhouse performing the character of Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*. He later followed with summer drama classes at Boston College, and this famous performer went on to prove that the sky is obviously not the limit.



In the late 1950s, the Elizabeth Peabody House, along with most of the West End of Boston, fell victim to urban renewal. Floating along with the large wave of West Enders who came to East Somerville to live, the Peabody House relocated here. For the last 60 years, it has been part of the ever-changing fabric of this city helping families and the needy.

Continued on page 12



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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES  
RFP # 23-34**

**Acquisition of Commercial Office Space by Lease for Police Station**

The City of Somerville, acting through the Department of Procurement and Contracting Services, invites sealed bids for a lease of commercial space for use as a police substation serving the neighborhood of West Somerville.

A request for proposals (RFP) and specifications may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's electronic bidding platform at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after **Wednesday, January 11, 2023**. Sealed proposals will be received at the Procurement department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave. Somerville, MA 02143 or via Bid Express until **Friday February 10, 2023**, noon. at which time sealed proposals will be opened. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

The ideal location will be in a visible and easily accessible area in the West Somerville community. The desired lease term is three years plus options to extend the lease for up to two additional years. Lease start date shall be March 1, 2023.

**Sandra Wackman  
PCS Administrative Assistant  
617-625-6600 x3400**

1/11/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 23-32**

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

**Housing Search and Stabilization Services**

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, January 11th, 2023**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 PM, Wednesday, January 25th, 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 [tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov](mailto:tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400**

1/11/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB#23-33**

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

**Various Trips for Older Adults in 2023**


The bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, January 11th, 2023**. Sealed bids 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, January 25th, 2023**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor informality in the bid process, and accept the bid(s) deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Somerville.

Please email [tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov](mailto:tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400**

1/11/23 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY  
30 Memorial Road  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145  
Telephone (617) 625-1152 Fax (617) 628-7057  
TDD (617) 628-8889**

**ADVERTISEMENT  
REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace one of the existing elevators at our Properzi Manor development located in Somerville, MA 02144. The replacement will include evaluation and design of a new elevator sized for Properzi Manor, 10 story elderly housing development.


A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Thursday, January 26th, 2023**, at the Properzi Manor elderly facility located at 15 Warren Ave, Somerville, MA 02144.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM Thursday, February 9th, 2023**.

The RFS may be obtained after **11:00 AM on Thursday, January 19th, 2023**, by contacting [ryanc@sha-web.org](mailto:ryanc@sha-web.org) or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.331.

Questions must be sent in writing to [ryanc@sha-web.org](mailto:ryanc@sha-web.org) no later than **Monday, February 2nd, 2023**.

1/11/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 23-31**

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

**ON-CALL CARPENTER**

The IFB package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's Bid Express page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, January 9, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **1:00 pm, Wednesday, February 1st, 2023**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor informality in the bid process, and accept the lowest most responsive bidder deemed to be in the best interest of the City of Somerville.

Please email [dmcmanus@somervillema.gov](mailto:dmcmanus@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Donnette McManus  
Construction Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400**

1/11/23 The Somerville Times

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS  
OF  
WINTER HILL BANK, FSB**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Members of the Winter Hill Bank, FSB will be held at its office located at 337 Broadway, Somerville, Massachusetts, on the **18th day of January, 2023** at the hour of 2:00 P.M. of said day. The business to be taken up at said Annual Meeting shall be;

- (1) Considering and voting upon approval of the minutes of the last members' meeting;
- (2) Considering and voting upon reports of Officers and Committees of the Bank;
- (3) Considering and acting upon ratifications of the acts of the Directors and Officers of the Bank;
- (4) Election of Directors to fill the offices of the terms of which are then expiring; and
- (5) New business.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2023 at Somerville, Massachusetts.

*Per Order of the Board of Directors*

**Marie A. Danieli  
Corporate Secretary**

1/4/23, 1/11/23 The Somerville Times

Ms. Cam's

*From page 8*

**Olio** Answers

1. 1964, for combating racial inequality through nonviolent resistance	7. Granula
2. Thirty-nine	8. Can teleport
3. 2007	9. Seven
4. Charles Babbage	10. Three
5. Pierre Omidyar	11. Kylie Jenner
6. Jupiter	12. Chita Rivera

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Bobbie Toner:  
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of a Change of Officer/Directors, a Change of Ownership Interest, a Transfer of Stock and a Change of Manager, for Keltar Corp. d/b/a Sligo Pub, 237A Elm St.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting will be conducted both in person in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall and by remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143
2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5258577515526197342> You can also find this link on the City website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to [licensing@somervillema.gov](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov). Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV)

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of a New All Forms 7 Day Alcohol Restaurant – City Quota, a Common Victualler, an Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and a Sunday Hours License for Soba Ya Inc. d/b/a Sugidama, 234 Elm St.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting will be conducted both in person in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall and by remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

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1/11/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of a New Wine and Malt Alcohol 7 Day Alcohol Restaurant– City Quota, a Common Victualler, and a Sunday Hours License for, X & W Papa Inc. d/b/a Papa Sushi, 499 Broadway

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting will be conducted both in person in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall and by remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV)

1/11/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of a Transfer for an All Forms 7 Day Alcohol Restaurant – Private, a Common Victualler, an Entertainment by Devices Indoors and a Sunday Hours License for Carlos & Mike Inc. d/b/a Fang's Restaurant, 282 Beacon St.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting will be conducted both in person in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall and by remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of a New All Forms 7 Day Alcohol Restaurant, Chap. 42, Acts of 2016, a Common Victualler and an Entertainment by Devices – Indoors License, for Tasty MoMo LLC d/b/a Tasty MoMo, 508 Medford St.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting will be conducted both in person in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall and by remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143
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[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV)

1/11/23 The Somerville Times

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI22P6361EA

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of:  

<u>Kathryn</u>	<u>Alice</u>	<u>Westfall-Tharp</u>
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

Also Known As: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death: January 29, 2020

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner Eugene Mirman of Somerville MA  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

[x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

[x] Eugene Mirman of Somerville MA  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [ ] with [x] without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

gov. For further information, please contact [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

Join in on the fourth Tuesday of each month for the Boston's The Moth StorySLAM. This month's Juggle is on January 24 at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave, doors at 6:30 pm. This community-focused, open mic storytelling competition is open to anyone to share a story on the night's theme. The Arts at the Armory bar will be serving a special food menu including a selection of delectable house-made appetizers, in addition to wine, beer, and snacks. Don't miss The Moth Special—two appetizers and a bottle of wine for \$35. Tickets available here: <https://themoth.org/events/juggle-boston>

\*\*\*\*\*

CAAS would like to hear from you in their Community Needs Assessment survey. They will use the results to improve their understanding of the challenges facing this community and to develop a plan to meet them. They will also share the assessment with you and the broader community. This survey is available in several languages. Your responses to this survey will be kept confidential and anonymous. Deadline is January 31. Survey in English: <https://forms.gle/JE-VTUXo5c652Pdzd7>; Survey in Spanish: <https://forms.gle/DcMsXVFnyQeYmLck9>; Survey in Portuguese: <https://forms.gle/Vv626PAMaRVmJNDD9>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Streetwise Talk next meeting will be held on January 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Aeronaut

Brewing Company, 14 Tyler St. Come hear Joe Barr, former Director of Transportation for Cambridge, talk about his seven years working to create safe streets in Cambridge. Attend in person at Aeronaut or Zoom in at: [bit.ly/3ORnXHn](https://bit.ly/3ORnXHn).

\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for a way to practice social distancing but remain connected to other people? Look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

\*\*\*\*\*

The 13th Annual Somerville Winter Farmers Market (SWFM) is held every Saturday through April 8. The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more and for a complete listing of vendors, weekly specials, and live entertainment, please visit [www.som-wintermarket.org](http://www.som-wintermarket.org). You can find the market on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket), and on Instagram @SomWinterMarket.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

When Nimoy came east, he fund-raised for the Peabody House at Winter Hill and spoke for them at the Somerville Theatre.

Leonard Nimoy pursued his craft in many ways, through poetry, music, photography, teaching, directing, and most of all, acting. As world-wide fans would probably agree, he hit his bull's-eye when he landed and helped create the role of Mr. Spock.

- In 2012, he received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at Boston University's 139th commencement.

- He played in dozens of stage and movie roles and was an acting teacher in Los Angeles.
- Nimoy mentored a community of young actors. Some of them were the singer Bobby Vee, Fabian, and Somerville's Alex Rocco, who portrayed Moe Green in the movie *The Godfather*.
- In 1985, he earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame located between Red Skelton and Nat King Cole.
- Boston honored him by celebrating March 26, 2021, as Leonard Nimoy Day.
- In his book, Leonard, William Shatner

wrote about his fifty-year unrivaled friendship with Leonard.

- For decades, his famous voice has been the introduction film to the Mugar Omni Theatre events at the Museum of Science in Boston. A fundraising drive is now ongoing for the creation of a 20-foot sculpture of his famous "Vulcan salute" to be placed near the museum's entrance at Science Park.


Even though the old West Boston is gone, her Charles River shore represents her history. This new Leonard Nimoy Memorial Sculpture will give added di-

mension to the list of some of the Charles River Basin's monuments:

- "Music" - Arthur Fiedler's bust and the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge
- "Freedom" - General George S. Patton's Statue and the Fourth of July Pops concerts at the Hatch Memorial Shell.
- "Statesmanship" - Massachusetts Governor and Boston Mayor, Maurice Tobin's statue and the Maurice J. Tobin Bridge.

Now a "Science Fiction" tribute to Leonard Nimoy will be represented in the Boston's Science Museum's salute ... "Live Long and Prosper."

**BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER**  
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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## On This Day in History

### January 11

0049 – Julius Caesar leads his army across the Rubicon River, plunging Rome into civil war.

1843 – Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," dies in Baltimore.

1923 – The French enter the town of Essen in the Ruhr valley, to extract Germany's resources as war payment.

1940 – Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., becomes the U.S. Army's first black general, his son would later become a general as well.

1942 – Japan invades the Dutch East Indies at Borneo.

1948 – President Harry S. Truman proposes free, two-year community colleges for all who want an education.

1980 – Honda announces it will build the first Japanese-owned passenger-car assembly plant in the United States—in Ohio.

1994 – The Irish Government announces an end to a 15-year ban on broadcasting by the IRA and its political branch, Sinn Fein.



# The winners of The Somerville Times Reader's Choice results for THE BEST OF SOMERVILLE 2022

**Congratulations to the winners! Please support their businesses and let them know you saw them in The Somerville Times**

## Readers choices for 2022

### Best Idea in 2022: 🏆

Green Line opens to Medford

### Worst Idea in 2022: 🏆

A proposal that would charge a higher permit price for people with off-street access

### Best Somerville Food & Restaurants: 🏆

Best Breakfast: **Neighborhood Restaurant**, 25 Bow St.  
 Best Breakfast Sandwiches: **Forge Baking Company**, 626 Somerville Ave.  
 Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch: **Ball Sq. Cafe**, 708 Broadway  
 Best Italian Take Out Food: **Vinny's at Night**, 76 Broadway  
 Best Italian Specialty Store: **Dave's Fresh Pasta**, 81 Holland St.  
 Best Portuguese Restaurant: **J and J Restaurant**, 157 Washington St.  
 Best Brazilian Restaurant: **Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine**, 102 Broadway  
 Best Chinese Food: **China Delight**, 524 Somerville Ave.  
 Best Mexican Food: **El Porto Mexican Grill**, 61 Union Sq.  
 Best Variety and All-Around Restaurant: **Mount Vernon Restaurant**, 14 Broadway  
 Best New Restaurant: **Celeste**, 21 Bow St.  
 Best Seafood Restaurant: **Out of the Blue**, 215 Elm St.  
 Best Irish Pub: **The Burren**, 247 Elm St.  
 Best Hamburger: **R.F. O'Sullivan's & Son**, 282 Beacon St.  
 Best Roast Beef Sandwich: **Mortadella Head**, 20 College Ave.  
 Best Vegan Tacos: **Taco Party**, 711 Broadway  
 Best Bar Food: **Sally O'Brien's**, 335 Somerville Ave.  
 Best Vegetarian Pizza: **Veggie Crust**, 445 Somerville Ave.  
 Best Pizza: **Ernesto's Pizza**, 641 Assembly Row  
 Best Pan Pizza: **Leone's**, 292 Broadway  
 Best Detroit Style Pizza: **Avenue Kitchen and Bar**, 158 Boston Ave.  
 Best BBQ: **Redbones**, 55 Chester St.  
 Best Soul Food: **FoodDy's Kitchen**, 235 Holland St.  
 Best Sub Shop: **Vinal General Store**, 220 Somerville Ave.  
 Best Sandwiches: **Dave's Fresh Pasta**, 81 Holland St.  
 Best Waiter/Waitress: **Mount Vernon Waitstaff**, 14 Broadway  
 Best Chef: **Cassie Piuma**, Sarma, 249 Pearl St.  
 Best Homemade Pasta: **Deano's Pasta**, 15 Garfield Ave.  
 Best Chocolate: **Taza Chocolate**, 561 Windsor St.  
 Best Donuts: **Union Square Donuts**, 20 Bow St.  
 Best Muffins: **Magnificent Muffin & Bagel Shoppe**, 1118 Broadway  
 Best Cakes: **Lyndell's Bakery**, 720 Broadway  
 Best Cannoli: **Mike's Pastry**, 445 Revolution Dr.  
 Best Half Moons: **Lyndell's Bakery**, 720 Broadway  
 Best Pies: **Petsi Pies**, 285 Beacon St.  
 Best Cheesecake: **7ATE9 Bakery**, 199C Highland Ave.  
 Best Ice Cream: **Tipping Cow**, 415 Medford St.  
 Best Diner: **Kelly's Diner**, 674 Broadway  
 Best Liquor Store: **Sav Mor Liquors**  
 Best Brewery: **Remnant Brewing**, 2 Bow Market Way  
 Best Farmers Market: **Union Square Farmers Market**  
 Best Asian Market: **Reliable Market**, 45 Union Sq.

### Best of Somerville Services: 🏆

Best Optometrists: **Eye Associates of Somerville**, 174 Broadway  
 Best Medical Services: **Somerville Family Practice**, 1020 Broadway  
 Best Wellness Clinic: **KenkoDo**, 735 Broadway  
 Best Dentist Office: **West Somerville Dental Associates**, 124 College Ave.  
 Best Electricians: **Bent Electrical Contractors**, 59A Inner Belt Rd.  
 Best Plumbers: **T.J. Sillari, Inc.**, 99 Albion St.  
 Best Law Firm: **Rumery & Smith**, 403 Highland Ave.  
 Best Paralegal: **Paula LeBlanc**, O'Donovan Law Office, 741 Broadway  
 Best Bank: **Winter Hill Bank**, winterhillbank.com  
 Best Bank President: **Sandra L. McGoldrick**, Winter Hill Bank  
 Best Branch Manager: **Lisa Ramos**, Eastern Bank  
 Best Teller: **Britanny Kluber**, Eastern Bank  
 Best Real Estate Rental Agent: **Bill Murphy**, Colony Real Estate, 1242 Broadway  
 Best Florist: **Wagner Floral Designs**, 508 Somerville Ave.  
 Best Barbershop: **Alibrandi's Barber Shop**, 194 Holland St.  
 Best Hair Salon: **HAIR by Christine & Company**, 290 Highland Ave.  
 Best Hair Stylist: **Lori Pino**, Amal Niccoli, 731 Broadway  
 Best Exercise Program: **Parkour Generations**  
 Best Mechanic: **Pat Lydon**, Auto Plus, 229A Lowell St.  
 Best Auto Body: **A Plus Autobody**, 297 Medford St.  
 Best Pest Exterminator: **Best Pest Control Services**, 63 Elm St.  
 Best Nature Space: **Somerville Community Growing Center**  
 Best Garden Center: **Ricky's Flower Market**, 238 Washington St.  
 Best Dry Cleaners: **Family Dry Cleaners**, 5 Main St.  
 Best City Hall Employee: **Brandon Wilson**, Historic Preservation Commission  
 Best Teacher: **David Aronofsky**, New Wave and Full Circle  
 Best Volunteer Executive Director: **Evelyn Battinelli**, Somerville Museum  
 Best Nurse: **Mary Hart**, Cambridge Health Alliance  
 Best Caretaker: **Lorraine (Lori) Murphy**  
 Best Police Officer: **Sgt. Michael McCarey**  
 Best Firefighter: **Joe Barry**  
 Best of Somerville Arts/Entertainment: 🏆  
 Best Bowling: **Flatbread Company**, 45 Day St.  
 Best local Bar: **Sally O'Brien's**, 335 Somerville Ave.  
 Best Bar for Bands: **The Jungle**, 6 Sanborn Ct.  
 Best Restaurant/Entertainment: **Premiere on Broadway**, 517 Broadway  
 Best Somerville Poet: **Doug Holder**  
 Best Photographer: **Claudia Ferro**  
 Best Food Columnist: **Dorothy DiMarzo**, Dorothy's Corner  
 Best Somerville Stories: **Jimmy Del Ponte**  
 Best Somerville Celebrity: **Michael Katz** aka portrayer of Archibald Query  
 Best Somerville Historian: **Bob "Monty" Doherty**  
 Best Somerville Non-Profit Agency: **Somerville Homeless Coalition**, 1 Davis Sq.  
 Best Somerville Charity: **Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville**, mutualaidmamas.com  
 Best Neighborhood Charity: **Community Fridges & Micropantries**





## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'My Report from the Uwharries'  
by Irene Mitchell*My Report from the Uwharries*

By Irene Mitchell

Dos Madres Press

www.dosmadres.com

Loveland, Ohio

ISBN: 978-1-953252-69-2

64 Pages

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

Ranging over and through the world of the imagination, gathering details, and illuminating the poetic high ground found between the unfathomable and the understood is no mean feat. In her newest collection of poetry, *My Report from the Uwharries*, Irene Mitchell leads us along the ancient paths of mood and metaphor finding, of all things, a wry, contemplative vision of harmony.

Underlying truths depend on the seeker maintaining the goals that originally propelled the quest. Mitchell's poem *Illusion* lays out the power of perception and the need to follow, with some shrewdness, the trail of building wonder, sometimes in the face of adversity. The poet puts it this way,

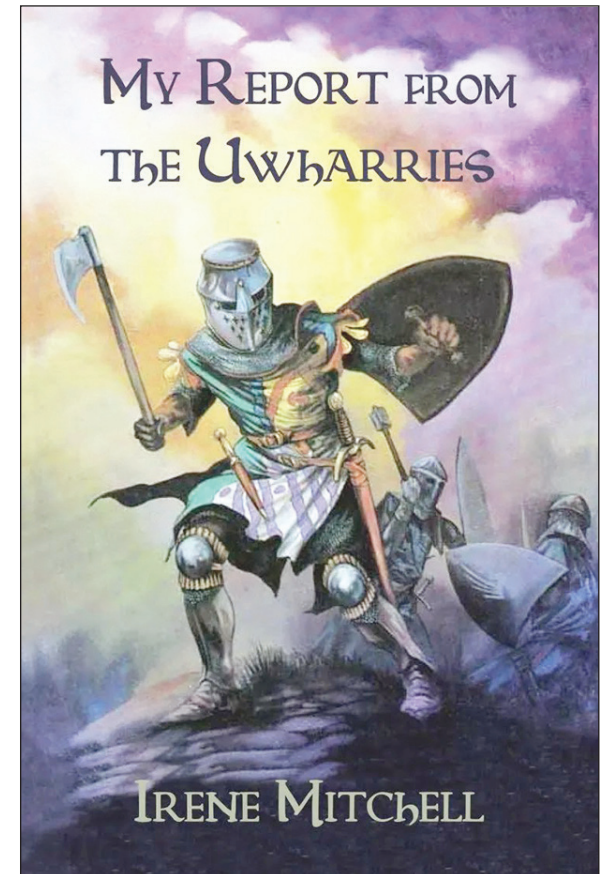
What a curious thing it is,  
this exploration under the roof of stars  
of that un-rejectable map  
yielding what one never quite wanted  
to know.

Each frayed opportunity thus weighed  
is found insufficient in its own world,  
but in this illusory world  
every chance shines  
with a smooth coat and smart figuration

*Fallout*, Mitchell's poem denying causality, at least in the artistic imagination, in the mad, mad world at hand, asks a question of degree: How much can one tolerate? The peacefulness of the poet's craft enables her to utilize logic to justify the encroaching opposition and, seemingly, to plea for redundancy and purposeful deceleration. Mitchell opens the poem with candor,

In a hurry to disclose the particulars,  
I will tell you right now  
that the resulting fallout  
had nothing to do with my actions.

I was not responsible  
for the wind that brought down  
the power lines but spared the roof  
while I was under it  
in my room so peacefully versifying  
about how the opposition  
only wanted to plant the wheat of thought  
in the arid field.  
They were busy rototilling



Just when the power went out  
So the tillers had to go to sleep out there.

The title poem, *My Report from the Uwharries*, makes clear the nature of Mitchell's explorations. She searches for inspiration and a sense of mystery or awe. Speed and first impressions are everything. Her poetry demands immediacy, and its unfolding universe permits no corrections. Mitchell opens her piece this way,

I go now with magnificent velocity  
to the imagined place, driven  
to explore its diversity,  
I go there seeking any surprises  
and wonders of the universe  
that may present themselves to me.  
The stratosphere and I  
will then become acquainted  
in a subtle, convenient fashion.  
There will be no need  
for correction, either of content  
or pronunciation...

Under a disapproving and prescient moon, the poet in her piece entitled *Making Good the Way* reports the phenomena of melting glaciers and the current lack of honeyed inspiration in the natural world. However, the imagined universe picks up the slack and carries the day. Time connects the photons of goodness together into a powerful and joyous introspection. The poem concludes this way,

Continued on page 15

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet writes: "My name is Emi Vaughan and I am a liberal studies major at Endicott College as part of the class of 2026. I attended Thetford Academy in my home state of Vermont where I took many English classes – my favorite subject. For this reason I was excited to take the Creative Writing course offered at Endicott this semester with Professor Daniel Sklar. This class was a great opportunity to express myself creatively, improve my writing skills, and write poems like this one. Although I have not committed to a concentrated major yet, I hope to continue writing throughout college and post-graduation, and am so thankful for the chance to already have a piece published here!"

**I Think about Death Quite Often**

I think about death quite often  
and the things I'll leave behind.  
I wonder if someone will find my initials in the  
children's books  
on my shelf at home.  
I wonder if people will see my face in yearbook photos,  
in the pictures of the girl's soccer team,  
Division III champions at one point in time.  
I wonder how long my favorite pair of boots will  
sit in the local thrift store,  
If someone will wear them and give them new life  
Or if, covered in dust, they'll be thrown away  
and recycled into leather.  
I wonder where the disks of our home videos will go,  
And who, if anyone, my necklaces will belong to.  
I wonder how many generations it takes for a person to be forgotten.  
I've never thought it to be a bad thing,  
To be forgotten as time changes tide,  
Natural as life is.  
But I like to wonder about the ways  
my life will remain here when I'm gone.  
Like the color of the flowers that will  
grow around my headstone:  
Maybe yellow,  
Maybe blue.

— Emi Vaughan

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

Somerville State of the City

CONT. FROM PG 6

to businesses.

“It’s been an exciting first year in office – we made unprecedented investments in our Somerville Public Schools students, developed new tools to build affordable housing and keep people in their homes, and welcomed the Green Line to Somerville,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I’m extremely proud of what we’ve achieved together in 2022, and can’t wait to build and expand on these accomplishments in 2023.”

Highlights of the Ballantyne administration’s first year in office include:

• Delivering a 10% budget increase in Somerville Public Schools, its largest financial increase ever and the largest in Massachusetts last year to strengthen core academics, expand social service and mental health supports, and invest in the workforce.

• Committing to helping women in the workforce with an infusion of \$7 million into local child care programs and \$2 million to fund local nonprofit projects focused on closing the gender wage gap.

• Allocating \$8.3 million to the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund to acquire land or properties for affordable housing, expanding housing stability staff, launching local rental subsidies for low-income families, and accelerating affordable housing starts with 500 units active-

ly in the pipeline.

• Raising Somerville’s carbon-reduction goals and committing unprecedented investments to sustainability initiatives to address climate change.

Signing legislation protecting the rights of individuals seeking gender-affirming and reproductive health care.

• Accelerating Safe Streets initiatives including delivering improvements to College Avenue and Holland Street and installing more speed bumps, curb extensions, and crossing islands than ever before to slow down drivers and help the city achieve its Vision Zero goal to prevent traffic fatalities and serious injury.

• Building out the Office of Racial and Social Justice, carrying extensive and intensive citywide public outreach, establishing the Racial and Social Justice Youth League and the RSJ Community Engagement Ambassadors, laying the groundwork for Civilian Oversight and Public Safety for All efforts set to advance in the coming months, and gathering feedback from more than 1,000 community members for the Public Safety for All Survey.

• Setting up two interim teen centers at the Edgerly and Powderhouse Park, while working with local teens to envision and shape youth-driven plans for permanent teen centers in

Somerville.

Beginning work on a first-of-its-kind Pollinator Action Plan, which will support threatened pollinators like bees, wasps, and butterflies.

Mayor Ballantyne also outlined exciting new projects and goals for the upcoming year, including:

• Piloting a Universal Basic Income program to provide funds to eligible low-income residents to spend on needs they themselves identify.

• Launching the City’s first Participatory Budgeting effort, allowing residents to decide how to spend \$1 million in City funds.

• Partnering with the Somerville Homeless Coalition to open a daytime Engagement Center where unhoused residents can access services, supports, and supplies.

• Announcing the focus areas that will be prioritized by the City’s first-ever Racial and Social Justice Fund, which was seeded with \$750,000.

• Developing a five-year multilingual language access plan, which includes American Sign Language and Braille.

• Intensifying anti-displacement efforts by reviving and expanding the Fair Housing Task Force to serve as an anti-displacement task force for residents, businesses, nonprofits, and artists.

Launching the Clean Green pro-

gram that will make energy-efficient upgrades more affordable for eligible low- and moderate-income households.

• Committing to triple the number of raised crosswalks, speed bumps, protected bike lanes, and more traffic-calming facilities across the city to greatly accelerate efforts to increase safety.

Getting shovels in the ground to rebuild Pearl Street, prioritizing pedestrian safety at intersections in East Somerville and Winter Hill around schools, day cares, parks, and senior housing, as well as strengthening safe routes to school near the Healey, Brown, Argenziano, and the High School.

• Breaking ground on the long-awaited Poplar Street Pump Station to reduce flooding citywide, reduce water pollution, and build resilience to the severe weather wrought by climate change.

Rebuilding schoolyards at the Brown School and the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen, and School Committee Chair Andre Green, also shared their takeaways from 2022, and outlined their goals for the City Council and School Committee for the upcoming year.

“We can never take Somerville’s political will for granted. There are

municipalities in Massachusetts where pushing for more affordable housing is the opposite of a popular political platform,” said City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen. “There are municipalities in Massachusetts that actively oppose new public transit, and vote down new community paths. So never take for granted what we have here. The political will we have in Somerville is the best thing we have going for us.”

“This year we’ll see this body not only select new leadership for the district, we will also tackle issues of enrollment, of school assignments, we will develop building plans that ensure every Somerville student can learn in well-maintained, modern educational spaces,” said School Committee Chair Andre Green. “We will double down on our commitment to the whole child by continuing to improve our school supports, and we will continue to develop equity-minded instruction and curriculum.”

Somerville community members can watch the individual speeches via the links below:

• Mayor Katjana Ballantyne: [youtu.be/sc24GVawx3U](https://youtu.be/sc24GVawx3U)

• City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen: [youtu.be/kYlhIuMZ-KY](https://youtu.be/kYlhIuMZ-KY)

• School Committee Chair Andre Green: [youtu.be/e0mjURtPHBU](https://youtu.be/e0mjURtPHBU)

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 14

Hallelujah that the report  
uncovers evidence  
that there are draughts of clear air to spare  
in one’s private room  
on silver earth  
where moments of icy moonlight  
conjoin to make good the way.

Awaiting Sentence, Mitchell’s poem contemplating the art of poetry, finds that solitary space that nurtures creation. The mystery of its strange logic and texture feels palpable. Time’s fluidity flows both ways as tenses mesh in a self-sustaining dynamic. The ponderous waiting as art develops gnaws at the poet’s essence with no mitigation, even in this cocoon of innocence. Consider these lines in the interior of the poem,

Like rain disappearing into the atmosphere,  
even those breaths brimming  
with goodness  
in traditional fashion  
can be lost at any time.

Hardly had the words been written,  
night’s harness freighting each syllable,  
then the versifier sped toward the one sanctified

response, a sleep during which the distant  
future seemed inconsequential.

Most complex actions in life collapse in transit. Mitchell’s geographical survey takes note of each stunted adventure and highlights it as she passes. Her poem *Presence* observes the jittery crowd in her wake and their general disinterest. The poet also points out a potential for engagement. She says,

Although such reconnaissance  
May prove a tiring exercise,  
It brings to the fore  
The many incompletes harboring  
Along the way, waiting to be reawakened  
Through some artful conveyance.

Take more tests.  
Find Tripoli on the map,  
Define tidal pool.  
Explain sorry.

Emphasize  
pain, neglect, achievements, glory.

“What a piece of work is she,” says Mitchell in her dazzling

poem entitled **The Harmony of Good Genes**, praising the eloquence, inspiration, and infinity of poetic choices. Even under intense assault the poet formalizes her wry commentaries as she is defended by the ever-benevolent foot knight. She eschews complaints and tedium and pleasures others with the harmony of her unhesitant visions. Here is the heart of the piece,

Harken back to the first pleasure,  
deep breaths in the gold bathing suit  
with sea-green stripes front to back  
and she emerged from the sea a swimmer  
slapped down by waves no more, now able to slough off  
the brine even though the wrought iron spokes  
of an incoming storm.

Meanwhile, light and air tooled at their workbench  
her agreeable complexion.  
She did not pry into why that was,  
Only took pleasure from it

Mitchell’s delightful collection, created wholly out of light and air, deserves serious attention for her craft, her mischief, and her pantheon of visionary and wonder-filled moments.

— Dennis Daly





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