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## City Council demands new home for Somerville Media Center



The current home to the Somerville Media Center and the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers in Union Square.  
— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

In operation since 1983, the Somerville Media Center (SMC) has been providing public access to media to Somerville residents for the last 40 years. Since the beginning, the station has been operating out of the old fire station at Union Square.

Originally called SCAT or Somerville Community Access Television, the station proudly boasts its show *Dead Air Live*, the longest-running community access television show in the United States.

But with the redevelopment of Union Square, and after Mayor Katjana Ballantyne informed both the Somerville Media Center and the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers to move out of the building by the end of January, it was subsequently moved to the end of April, the

Continued on page 4

## Local artist Charlot Lucien's 'Dreams of the Ancestral Drum' at the Armory

The Armory ROOTED Café is hosting an exhibition by Haitian artist Charlot Lucien titled *Dreams of the Ancestral Drum* now through February 12, with a reception with the artist on February 4 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Charlot Lucien is a Haitian storyteller, poet, and visual artist who resides in Foxboro, MA. He is also the founder and director of the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts. He started his path as a visual artist in Haiti, where he was better known as a political illustrator and a cartoonist (*Le Nouvelliste*), before pursuing his interest in oil painting later on in the U.S. in the 1990s.

His work focuses on the interpretation, misinterpretation, and dis-interpretation of Haitian history, on humanitarian causes as they relate to migration, public health, or gender, or on

Continued on page 4



Haitian artist Charlot Lucien's "Dreams of the Ancestral Drum" exhibition is currently on display at the Armory ROOTED Café.

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Streetwise Talk next meeting will be held **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 7 years working to create safe streets in Cambridge. Attend in person at Aeronaut or Zoom in (visit [bit.ly/3ORnXHn](https://bit.ly/3ORnXHn))

\*\*\*\*\*

Protect yourself against the flu, COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. The city is holding free walk-in vaccine clinics on **Wednesday, January 18 and 25** from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the **City Hall Annex** (50 Evergreen Ave.). Bivalent Covid-19 (Pfizer) vaccines will be available for ages 12+ and flu vaccines will be available for all ages. Learn more or register to save time at [somervillema.gov/vaccines](https://somervillema.gov/vaccines).

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The City of Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice is seeking three Somerville community members to join RSJ's **Civilian Oversight Task Force**. The 13-member Task Force will consist of these three open community seats, as well as additional community members, subject matter experts, and other key stakeholders. The application is available online: [https://bit.ly/rsj\\_coapp](https://bit.ly/rsj_coapp). More details and instructions to apply in-person can be found on our website: <https://somervillema.gov/rsj>

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to the following: A big happy birthday to our own **Dorothy DiMarzo**, who gives us all *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 18 – January 24 as provided by the National Weather Service

| DAY  | CONDITIONS    | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND       |
|--|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
|  <b>Wednesday</b><br><i>January 18</i> | Partly Cloudy | 50°/34°  | 13%           | 10%      | W 11 mph   |
|  <b>Thursday</b><br><i>January 19</i>  | Rain          | 41°/36°  | 79%           | 64%      | WNW 8 mph  |
|  <b>Friday</b><br><i>January 20</i>    | Rain          | 36°/28°  | 56%           | 50%      | NNW 10 mph |
|  <b>Saturday</b><br><i>January 21</i>  | Partly Cloudy | 39°/24°  | 20%           | 14%      | NW 10 mph  |
|  <b>Sunday</b><br><i>January 22</i>    | Rain          | 39°/26°  | 6%            | 4%       | SSW 9 mph  |
|  <b>Monday</b><br><i>January 23</i>   | Rain          | 41°/31°  | 3%            | 1%       | WNW 13 mph |
|  <b>Tuesday</b><br><i>January 24</i> | Cloudy        | 44°/34°  | 25%           | 17%      | WSW 10 mph |

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

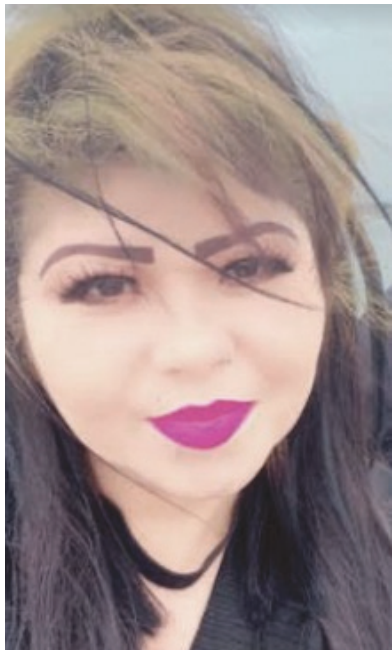
## Boston missing person last seen in Somerville

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has confirmed that Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office are working with the Boston Police Department in efforts to locate Reyna Morales Rojas, 41, of East Boston.

She is described as a Hispanic Female, 5'5", 145 lbs., black hair and brown eyes. Morales Rojas was last seen on 11/26/22.

Reyna Morales Rojas was reportedly seen entering a vehicle in the area of Bennington Street, East Boston and was dropped off on Allston Street in Somerville on the date of her disappearance.

Anyone with information regarding her whereabouts is advised to contact 911, Boston Police A-7 Detectives at (617) 343-4328 or Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office at 617-897-6600.



## The Somerville Times

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## Christmas tree disposal season in Somerville

Leave your tree curbside on your collection day, and it will be turned into free mulch. Don't wait. After January, tree collection must be scheduled via @311Somerville

Somerville Christmas tree disposal guidelines:

- Remove all decorations and leave your Christmas tree curbside on your regular trash day.
- Do not put trees in plastic bag or covering.





Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Buddy's Diner



The small, aluminum diner is at 113 Washington St. A deceased friend of mine lived next door and we met there for good eats. It was built in 1930 and is on the Somerville historical register. If you sit at the counter the seats are kind of low but work out well for me and my short legs! The decor is very vintage looking and welcoming. I asked my social media friends to share their comments about Buddy's diner.

"Absolutely, it's my favorite breakfast place of all time. I had breakfast there the morning of the blizzard of '78. I have been going there since around 1975."

"Best corned beef hash!"

"My husband went there a lot. He worked across at the railroad."

"It's been there a long time

"I used to go there as a kid. I'm 71."

"Should be a National Landmark."

"Love it. Do they still display their menu items on hanging paper plates?" (yes!)

"Glad to see all these comments on how great the place is. My 2023 resolution is to try two new restaurants each month, Buddy's is on the list."

"Been going there since 1972 when it was run by John, his dad and brother. But shortly after John sold my eating habits changed."

"A really young lady bought it. Do they still offer the same menu and great burger?"

"Yes, had breakfast there last week."

"My Dad used to take me there when I would go out to plow snow with him. Good memories! Nice people there."

I can personally recommend the Eggs Benedict.

The quaint little diner is definitely one of Somerville's gems.



## Somerville City Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld leads passage of bereavement leave for pregnancy loss

The City of Somerville has passed a new ordinance that expands bereavement leave for city employees to include up to five days of paid recovery following a miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion. Passage of the ordinance was led by City Council Vice President Judy Pineda Neufeld. It was approved by a unanimous vote of the Council on October 25, 2022 and signed into law by Mayor Katjana Ballantye on October 27.

The expanded leave is modeled off of the Support Through Loss Act, a bill proposed in Congress by Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), and versions have been implemented in several cities including Pittsburgh, Portland and Washington DC. The Somerville ordinance is similar to a rule passed last year by the Boston City Council [6] which covers paid time for pregnancy loss under an expanded parental leave program. Somerville's ordinance makes it the first municipality in Massachusetts to expand its bereavement leave to include abortion recovery, allowing for a pregnant person to get paid time off without taking away from their days for parental leave should they later have a child.

"About 10 to 20 percent of known pregnancies end in miscarriage. But the actual number is likely higher because many miscarriages occur very early on, before many even know they are pregnant," said Councilor Pineda Neufeld. "Reproductive health deserves to be treated as essential care. I'm proud to say that Somerville city employees can now take bereavement leave for pregnancy loss, and I hope other cities and employers will follow this lead."

Judy Pineda Neufeld is the daughter of immigrants, small business owner, and community organizer currently serving on the Somerville City Council as Vice President and Ward 7 Councilor. First elected to the Council in 2021, Pineda Neufeld has drawn on her lived and professional experience to advance equity and justice, and has worked to make Somerville a more affordable, accessible and livable city.

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## Local artist Charlot Lucien's 'Dreams of the Ancestral Drum' at the Armory CONT. FROM PG 1

cultural concepts such as the interpretation of the drum as a cultural agent and a symbiotic symbol.

Some of his paintings have appeared on the cover of, or within, literary or historical publications in Haiti, France and England. His works have been exhibited primarily in group exhibitions in various New England cultural spaces (Boston Center for the Arts, Museum of Afro-American Artists, Harvard University, Lasell University Gallery, Brockton Arts, Milford Library, the Boston Public Library, etc.). He has coordinated the release of the collective art book, *Migrating Colors: Haitian Arts in New England*, released in 2018 by Trilingual Press.

As Charlot states, "My father was an agronomist who traveled most of Haiti with his three sons often in tow during the late 80s. I have been exposed to Haiti's

countryside, including its ways of life, its culture, and the relentless drumbeats that accompany the communal laboring of the land ('konbit'), the birth of a child, the rara musical parades or a religious ceremony, Christian or Vaudou."

"History tells us that such drumbeats also go back to the early days of revolutionary Haiti, when they were used to transmit messages to the maroons, to the fighters to alert them about the movements of enemy troops, or to call for a secret meeting. I have further been exposed to a few gatherings and observed the symbiotic relationship between the drummer, the drum, the drumbeats, and the dancer. Various stages of possession, meditative pauses, and prostration had no obvious meaning for the non-initiated that I was, but clearly, they left their imprints somewhere in my psyche. Such powerful moments still find their way into my

art, with the drum being featured or honored as a cultural, religious, historical, and ornamental instrument. This exhibition features artworks that attempt to capture some of the moments I experienced."

"As we celebrate Black History Month, my interest also relates to the African American experience through the knowledge of history. This exhibition is an opportunity to salute black freedom fighters, through two eminent black abolitionists, Frederick Douglass and Toussaint Louverture."

"I express my sincerest gratitude to the staff of Arts at Armory for welcoming this exhibition, and to my colleagues at the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts for contributing to the evolution of my creative work."

The Armory ROOTED Café is located at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.



## City Council demands new home for Somerville Media Center CONT. FROM PG 1

station's future seems in doubt.

This came ahead last week's meeting of the Somerville City Council, where members called for Mayor Ballantyne to reverse her decision regarding the building at Union Square and help the organization find a new permanent home.

In a fiery meeting last Thursday, City Council members expressed their immense disapproval of the plans currently in place.

Councilor Matt McLaughlin from Ward 1 talked about what the Somerville Media Center meant to him and his past experiences there.

"I was fortunate to have someone, to have an organization to intervene and give me something positive. So that's why it's something that's very important to me.

To keep the Somerville Media Center in Somerville and to find an actual home for them," said McLaughlin.

Councilor JT Scott from Ward 2 further expressed his disapproval of the current state of the building and the long-running maintenance problems the building has seen, from leaky roofs to other major problems.

"The neglect of public realm and public goods is to the point where the only option is to privatize them. To have them so neglected that even residents or the non-profits within them beg to have them privatized just to see them maintained," said Scott.

Councilor Scott also highlighted the conditions that the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers endure in their space

within the building.

"I saw where these people at this incredibly vital non-profit serving the immigrant community here in Somerville, Portuguese, Brazilian, they're working in conditions that can generally be described as squalid," said Scott.

*"This is displacement,  
this is gentrification.  
You have a sexy, af-  
fluent, new non-profit.  
Let's move out the old  
non-profit and make  
room for the new..."*

Councilor McLaughlin also described the current relation-

ship between the city and the SMC as an "absentee landlord/tenant" relationship. Moreover, he also went on to talk about the plans to place a new non-profit called "FabLab" in the same space.

"This is displacement, this is gentrification. You have a sexy, affluent, new non-profit. Let's move out the old non-profit and make room for the new. It's just unacceptable to me," said McLaughlin.

Moreover, Councilor McLaughlin also talked about what could happen if the Somerville Media Center is evicted without a permanent home.

"I will be damned if we replace the Media Center with the FabLab and just go on about our day. We only have one thing in our

wheelhouse, which is, eventually they'll be asking us for some kind of approval for the FabLab and I'm not supporting anything," said McLaughlin.

In an email from the Executive Director of the Somerville Media Center, Kat Powers, she expressed her gratitude for the support the City Council and members of the community have expressed for them.

"We're grateful for the support the Council has shown us, particularly our former students, Matt McLaughlin and Jesse Clingan," Powers said. "We just want to make sure we're around for the next 40 years to help give opportunities to Somerville kids who will someday become our leaders, maybe even become our city councilors."

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# Commission on Climate Change favors specialized stretch codes

By Emilia Wisniewski

Specialized stretch codes were unanimously supported by members of the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change during a January 10 meeting.

The code was released by the Department of Energy Resources as the third-tier to the state's Stretch Building Energy Code to allow for more cost-effective and energy-efficient buildings, as well as reaching the state's goal of reducing 50% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, according to the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

"It's a really exciting and necessary step to see the state take towards net-zero 2050 goals," said Christine Blais, director of the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Environment.

Since 2010, municipalities could adopt either the base energy code or the stretch code, with Somerville having been a stretch code community since June 2011.

The specialized code offers three pathways – zero-energy,

all-electric pathway or mixed-fuel – that residential buildings need to comply with. It also applies to both new construction projects and existing buildings, said commissioner Liz Galloway.

"That was a big difference between the old stretch code, which only applied to new construction, and the specialized opt-in code which now has requirements for existing buildings that are being upgraded as well," said Galloway.

Somerville resident Ron Cavallo works as a developer outside of the city and said he thought the stretch codes were harming and disincentivizing small development by enforcing large restrictions.

"I consider myself a very progressive developer and do all the things that are available to make the things that we build very energy efficient," Cavallo said. "(But) it has to make economic sense. The small developers have left the city, what is largely going on is large-scale commercial development. I think that's wrong."

Chair Larry Yu noted that Cavallo's point was "an important one" and asked what he thought the commission should do to drive small development in Somerville.



The second-tier stretch codes were updated along with the specialized code, which added ventilation requirements, wiring to allow for electric vehicle charging and reduced Home Energy Rating Score (HERS) requirements, according to the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

In a raise of hands, all seven present commission members moved to support a proposal to be made and presented to the City Council in favor of adopting the specialized stretch code.

Discussions of filling the vacancy of former commission member Aladdine Joroff and transitioning from online to in-person meetings, with a resounding opinion for a hybrid model, also took place during the meeting.

The next meeting for the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change will take place on February 14.

# Traffic Commission extends school zone parking restrictions to June 2024

By Ryan DiLello

On Thursday, January 12, members of the Somerville Traffic Commission convened to vote on several proposed motions for the month. The commission approved the installation of three accessible parking spaces and two fire lines, but spent the majority of its time on a motion that would extend parking restrictions along Highland Avenue, School Street, and Walnut Street during the school drop-off hours of 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.

The new parking policy comes

as part of the Central Hill curbside management pilot. Launched on January 24, 2022, the pilot restricts parking on three high-traffic streets near Somerville High School to ease parking pains during school-drop-off hours.

On Thursday, the commission heard a request for an extension of the pilot to June 30, 2024. Data collected by the commission shows that the pilot regulations are being used as intended, with a highest utilization on Highland Avenue between 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Resident parking is still available overnight, provided

cars are moved before 7:00 a.m.

The pilot comes at a critical time as traffic patterns change in wake of the Green Line extension opening in December and the community path extension yet to come. In addition to ongoing construction and changing requirements in City Hall staffing, the pilot helps optimize parking at peak times for school versus residential use.

The commission voted unanimously to extend the pilot program into June, but requested that the team continue to monitor parking utilization especially by season.



— Photo by Bobbie Toner



# Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** There were no roll calls in the House and Senate last week.

**“THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW”** – Friday, January 20 at 5 p.m. is the “soft deadline” for legislation to be filed for consideration by the Legislature during the 2023-2024 legislative session. However, under House and Senate rules, bills filed after January 20 can still be admitted to the Legislature following the deadline if the Legislature agrees to admit it by a four-fifths vote of the members of the branch where the bill is introduced.

Massachusetts is one of a handful of states that give citizens the “right of free petition” – the power to propose their own legislation. A citizen’s proposal can be filed in conjunction with his or her representative or senator or any other representative or senator from another district. Sometimes a legislator will support the legislation and sponsor it along with the constituent. Other times, a legislator might disagree with the bill but will file it anyway as a courtesy. In those cases, the bill is listed as being filed “by request”—indicating that the legislator is doing so at the request of the constituent and does not necessarily support it. Citizens that are interested in filing legislation should contact their own or any other representative or senator. The legislator will likely help you draft the language of the bill.

Perhaps one of the most famous bills filed “by request” goes all the way back to 1969 when a constituent opposed to the Vietnam War asked the late Newton Democratic Rep. James Shea to file a bill prohibiting Massachusetts citizens from being forced to fight in an “undeclared war.” The bill challenged the constitutionality of sending Bay State men to fight without a Congressional declaration of war. It was approved by the House and Senate and signed by the late Gov. Frank Sargent. The new law made national headlines.

To comply with the new law, Massachusetts initially filed a complaint in the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court declined to hear the case, which was later refiled in the U.S. District Court federal court and dismissed—rejecting the state’s argument that President Richard Nixon had usurped the war-making powers of Congress. In a tragic footnote, Rep. Shea committed suicide in the fall of the year the legislation passed.

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**FOOD INSECURITY EVENT** - As the costs for basic necessities rise, more Massachusetts residents living on the economic margins must choose between buying groceries and paying for housing, transportation, child-care and other basic utilities. It’s a dilemma that plays out in hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts households

every day. Hunger and access to proper nutrition remain pervasive, with nearly 1 in 3 adults experiencing food insecurity in Massachusetts in 2021.

Join a State House News Service/MASsterList forum featuring leaders, advocates, and experts for a discussion of opportunities and obstacles for Massachusetts to stem food insecurity. The event is at Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) in Boston’s Downtown Crossing at 10 Winter Place, Suite #4751 at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25. U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern will provide keynote remarks. All ticket proceeds benefit The Greater Boston Food Bank. Tickets are available at [MASsterList.com/ending-hunger-in-massachusetts/](http://MASsterList.com/ending-hunger-in-massachusetts/)

**WRAPPING UP THE 2022 SESSION** – Before the 2022 session ended on January 3, the House and Senate acted on several bills including:

**REVENGE PORN (H 4498, S 3167)** – The House and Senate approved different versions of a proposal that would prohibit the posting of sexually explicit images of another person online without their permission—commonly referred to as “revenge porn.” The practice is often used by ex-spouses or ex-partners. Massachusetts is one of only two states that does not have a law about this crime. The measure died in the House when the House did not take action on the Senate version of the legislation.

Another provision changes current law under which minors, under 18 years of age, who share explicit images of themselves or other minors can be charged with violating Massachusetts child pornography laws and be required to register with the Sex Offender Registry. The bill allows minors to be diverted to an educational program that would provide them with information about the consequences of posting or transmitting indecent visual depictions of minors.

Supporters say that currently law enforcement are faced with either charging offenders with a felony or doing nothing. They note the bill provides a middle ground that will allow law enforcement to sentence kids to a diversion program to educate them about the consequences of their actions without ruining their lives and giving them a criminal record.

Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton), the Senate chair of the Judiciary Committee, did not respond to repeated attempts by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking how he felt about the measure dying in the House.

“Rep. Roy is on an overseas trade mission so I am unable to provide a quote for you,” responded a spokesman for the bill’s sponsor Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). The spokesman did say that Roy plans to refile the bill in the 2023-2024 session.

**DEATH OF A CHILD UNDER 2 (H 5422)** – The House and Senate both approved a bill that would require that the autopsy report for a child under the age of two be reviewed and approved by the Chief Medical Examiner to determine the cause of death. Changes to the autopsy report would also have to be reviewed and approved by the Chief Medical Examiner. The bill needed a final round of approval by the House and Senate before going to the governor’s desk but neither branch acted upon it and the bill died.

Supporters said the measure addresses recent cases in which the Chief Medical Examiner’s office changed the cause of death for deaths of children under two, creating serious implications for ongoing court cases and for the families of those children. They noted that the most experienced person in the office should provide oversight to what are typically junior medical examiners without pediatric autopsy experience. They argued this will provide more confidence and peace of mind for families who have tragically lost infants.

Sponsor of the bill Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge) did not respond to repeated attempts by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking how she felt about her measure dying, not reaching the governor’s desk and whether she will refile the bill for the 2023-2024 session.

**FOSTER PARENTS (S 2954)** – The House and Senate approved and former-Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law a bill establishing a foster parents’ bill of rights, which will govern the Department of Children and Families’ (DCF) relationship with, and responsibilities to foster parents, and would be publicly available on the department’s website.

Provisions include requiring foster parents to be treated with dignity, respect, privacy and consideration; prohibiting foster parents from being discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age or disability; requiring the department to give the foster parents information about the foster child, prior to placement, including the child’s physical and behavioral health history, any history of trauma or high-risk behavior and his or her education needs.

Another provision requires DCF to provide a current foster parent, with the permission of the previous foster parent, the name and phone number of the previous foster parent if DCF determines that contact between the current foster parent and previous foster parent would promote the foster child’s best interest.

“I am thrilled that the House and Senate passed the Foster Parents Bill of Rights legislation,” *Continued on page 9*



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark

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

Our View Of The Times

As we get into the snowy months of winter it's good for all of us to make sure we understand what the odd-even rules are and where we stand this season. Here is a reminder of what the city's snow parking rules and guidelines are for the 22/23 winter season:

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

Vehicles parked on the odd-numbered side of the street must either be moved to the even side or to another location. Due to parking limitations in the city, municipal lots will be made available to residents during snow emergencies. The city maintains a list and map of available lots.

Vehicles must be moved to the even side within four hours after the snow emergency has been declared, or they will be ticketed and towed in accordance with the City Code of Ordinances.

Parking meters and timed parking limits are not enforced during snow emergencies. As long as there is no posted sign stating otherwise, and as long as the spot is on the even-numbered side of the road, you may park your vehicle there during the snow emergency.

It is important that vehicles be parked only on one side of the street as noted above to ensure plows can make all roads accessible and safe, particularly for emergency vehicles. Ticketing and towing of vehicles parked on the odd-numbered side of the road (or as otherwise posted) will commence four hours after the snow emergency is declared.

Get all the details at <https://www.somervillema.gov/snow>.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

those delicious recipes every other week in our paper. We wish her the very best of birthdays this week. Check out her recipes in our print edition and online, you will enjoy them. Happy Birthday to **Philip Ercolini**, from East Somerville. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to **Katie Lathasha Harris**, we wish her the very best of birthdays as well. To **Nancy Huber Coutoumas**, who is celebrating this week as well, we wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Rachel Tonello**, **Rosemary Ardagna**, **Joseph William Schenkenfelder**, **Bob Crowley LeBlanc**, **Roy Moulton** and **Linda LoPresti** 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.

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**This year's election** is already starting to gain momentum. We are hearing rumors of who might be throwing their hat in the race for **Council At-Large** here in Somerville. The names so far that were rumored are long time resident of Somerville, **Joe Lynch**, who has been involved in the city for many years and former **City Councilor At-Large Will Mbah**, who held that position in the past. If they run, we wish them the best. We will keep you posted with any other election rumors.

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Congratulations to **The Best of Somerville 2022 winners!** Please support their businesses and let them know you saw them in *The Somerville Times*. You can go to the side panel of our website [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com) and click on the winners of 2022.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 delivery 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

Continued on page 12



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#859

1. Who wrote the original Cinderella story?

2. Which sweet thing is generated by bees?

3. Which country's flag is known as the Union Jack?

4. In what year was the American Professional Football Association founded?

5. Which is the only vitamin you will not find in an egg?

6. At what age was Princess Diana when she married Prince Charles?
7. How many types of teeth are there?

8. In film, who was known as The King of Comedy?

9. Bella is the Italian word for what?

10. What kind of dog did Elvis sing *Hound Dog* to on *The Steve Allen Show* in 1956?

11. Cheesecake is believed to have been served at the first what?

12. What is the price of the most expensive pizza in the world?
- Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
2. The real name of Monopoly mascot is Milburn Pennybags.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
THE GRAMMYS

- ACROSS
1. Spencer of Hollywood's Golden Age

6. Eyeball, e.g.

9. "Tosca" song, e.g.

13. Theater passage

14. Bovine call

15. "\_\_\_\_\_ came a spider..."

16. Univision's \_\_\_\_\_ Grammy Awards

17. Barley bristle

18. Turning token taker

19. President with a Grammy

21. Diabolical

23. Sold at the pump

24. Russian monarch

25. Back of a boat

28. "Shallow," 2018 recipient from "A \_\_\_\_\_ Is Born" movie

30. Camila Cabello and Ed Sheeran's nominated song

35. College dwelling

37. Footnote note

39. Shade of violet

40. Huron's neighbor

41. Head of the abbey

43. Done in a pot

44. City in Bolivia

46. Not manual

47. Mend, healthwise

48. Eye cover

50. Egghead

52. Four quarters

53. Dog in yoga

55. Triple \_\_\_\_\_

57. \_\_\_\_\_com Arena

60. "Vegas" and "Woman" nominee (2 words)

64. Unit of electrical energy

65. Hoover's agency, acr.

67. Discompose

68. Shade of yellow

69. I in T.G.I.F.

70. Small, olive-gray bird

71. "Cheers" regular

72. Inquire

73. Open up

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



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

- DOWN
1. Bath powder

2. Iranian coin

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Spumante

4. Be needy

5. Gossipy ones

6. Arabian Peninsula country

7. Column's counterpart

8. Holiday surprise for employee

9. Palo \_\_\_\_\_, CA

10. Agitate

11. Inwardly

12. 1970 two-time winner "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Aquarius"

15. Hindu retreat

20. Ancient Rome's neighbor

22. Nail a criminal

24. Popular newspaper name

25. "30" performer

26. Pillage

27. Beef \_\_\_\_\_, dim sum choice

29. "Don't Shut Me Down" group

31. Alan Alda's classic TV show

32. Type of hawk

33. Type of flu

34. Multi-colored dog coat

36. One of three square ones

38. Shower with affection

42. Human trunk

45. Sliding fastener

49. Part of "i"

51. Past-life experience? (2 words)

54. Capital of Bulgaria

56. Airbnb option

57. Chanel of fashion

58. German industrial valley

59. Big Bang's original matter

60. Disc, alt. sp.

61. Popular dieter's foe

62. Between ports

63. Chris Hemsworth's superhero

64. Award-winning Bon Jovi's lead singer

66. Coldplay's collaborators
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “Foster parents are true unsung heroes, providing unmatched dedication, commitment, compassion and love to those who need it the most. This bill creates a framework for foster parents to be honored with dignity, respect, privacy and consideration in caring for children, so they can provide nurturing, loving homes. As a foster parent myself, I filed this bill to strengthen our vital foster care system.”

**INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER (H 3147)** – The House and Senate approved, and former-Gov. Baker signed into law, a bill that would establish the second Tuesday of every October as “Inflammatory Breast Cancer Awareness Day” in the Bay State.

“This designation will go a long way to increase awareness and strengthen efforts to provide education about this rare and aggressive disease,” said sponsor Rep. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington). “Inflammatory Breast Cancer is the most aggressive form of breast cancer and the least understood. Many women receiving this diagnosis have never heard of Inflammatory Breast Cancer or its presentation. Inflammatory Breast Cancer accounts for 1 percent to 5 percent of all breast cancer cases yet represents 10 percent of all deaths due to breast cancer.”

**RIGHT WHALE DAY (H 3869)** – The House and Senate approved and former Gov. Baker signed into law a

bill that designates April 24 as Right Whale Day to promote the preservation of the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale.

“The North Atlantic right whale is part of our rich maritime history and yet our official state marine mammal is at risk of extinction,” said sponsor Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury). “Establishing this annual day to celebrate right whales will help promote education and protection efforts.”

Rep. Cutler credited his constituent Matt Delaney of Pembroke for coming up with this idea.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“The governor has committed to electrifying the public fleet and will be evaluating the best methods and timeline for that transition.” — Gov. Maura Healey’s press secretary Karissa Hand when asked why Gov. Healey is still being driven by state police in a 17 to 20 mile-per-gallon Ford Expedition that she used as attorney general.

**HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?**  
*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that

their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of January 9-13, the House met for a total nine minutes and the Senate met for a total of 17 minutes.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Mon. Jan. 9  | House 11:02 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.<br>Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. |
| Tues. Jan. 10  | No House session<br>No Senate session                             |
| Wed. Jan. 11   | No House session<br>No Senate session                             |
| Thurs. Jan. 12   | House 11:03 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.<br>Senate 11:19 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. |
| Fri. Jan. 13   | No House session<br>No Senate session                             |
| Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com |   |

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Skordalia

Skordalia is a Greek puree/dip typically comprised of garlic, potatoes, soaked bread, and in some recipes, soaked nuts, usually walnuts, cashews, or almonds. It usually accompanies fried vegetables, like eggplant and zucchini. As a dip on a meze platter, it goes great with beets, crackers, and pita. It can be served hot or at room temperature.

I was introduced to this dish last year and enjoyed it so much that I have it as often as I can. I actually experimented with some of my own flavors and have come up with my own interpretation of this dish that I use as a dip.

- 1 medium russet potato
- 2 medium parsnips
- 6 medium cloves garlic, roasted
- 1 teaspoon red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black

pepper  
Pinch of nutmeg  
1/8 cup light olive oil, plus extra for finishing  
1-1/2 teaspoons Z   atar

Preheat oven to 375  . Wrap the garlic cloves in foil and place in the oven. Peel the potato and parsnips. Cut the potato into 1/2" pieces, and do the same with the parsnips. Place the potato and parsnips into a pot and cover with cold water by about an inch. Boil until they potato and parsnips are falling apart, about 15-20 minutes. Drain and place into a food processor bowl. Check on the garlic, it should be soft and browned.

Add the garlic to the potato and parsnips, along with the vinegar, yogurt, parsley, salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Process until all combined, about a minute. With the processor running, slowly stream in the olive oil. The mixture should be thick and creamy. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed. Trans-



fer to a small serving bowl and even out the top and make swirls with a spoon to allow the additional olive oil to disburse over the top.

Add the Z   atar and either serve right away, or refrigerate for later. Best served with pita, crackers, or vegetables of your choice.


Serves 6-8.

Visit Dorothy’s website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief>.



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

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

**LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)**

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

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2093004374802430560>

Webinar ID: 953-052-579

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (415) 930-5321

Access Code: 596-518-791

**ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**

**Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties**


**HPC.ALT 2022.75 – 78 Sycamore Street**  
Applicant: Daniel Macheras  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of wood gutters with aluminum gutters.*

**HPC.ALT 2022.76 – 88 College Avenue**  
Applicant: Melissa & Chris Frost  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to place two air condensers on the right side of the property and visible from the Right-of-Way.*

*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](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments are due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.*

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, February 2, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7501659301995062872>  
Webinar ID: 935-758-619  
TO CALL IN  
Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422  
Access code: 211-223-243


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

**256-260 Elm Street** AP Davis Square Plaza, LLC proposes to develop a LEED Platinum four (4) story Lab Building in the Commercial Core 4 (CC4) district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

**270 Elm Street** AP Davis Square Plaza, LLC proposes to modify an existing Through Block Plaza in the Commercial Core 4 (CC4) district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**KATJANA BALLANTYNE**  
**MAYOR**

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, February 2, 2023** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5835036069244513883>


The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- **Mayor Ballantyne proposes an amendment to Section 6.1 Commercial Districts: Fabrication of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to permit additional uses for ground story commercial spaces fronting a Pedestrian Street.**
- **David Einis proposes a map amendment to the Official Zoning Atlas to change the zoning district of 14 White Street Place from Neighborhood Residence (NR) to Mid-Rise 4 (MR4).**
- **The Somerville Planning Board proposes an amendment to Section 15.1.3 Neighborhood Meetings of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to improve the neighborhood meeting process.**
- **Mayor Ballantyne proposes an amendment to Section 10.8 Commercial Signs of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance to permit commercial signs by right.**

Proposed zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting portal at <https://somervillema.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

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**ADVERTISEMENT**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to upgrade the electrical systems at our Properzi Manor Development located at 15 Warren Ave, Somerville, MA 02144. The upgrade consists of new smoke detectors, load centers, as well as intercoms.

A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Friday, January 27th, 2023**, at the Properzi Manor elderly facility located at 15 Warren Ave, Somerville, MA 02144.

Response to this RFP must be submitted by emailing [ryanc@sha-web.org](mailto:ryanc@sha-web.org) no later than **2:00 Thursday, February 9th, 2023**.

The RFP may be obtained after **11:00AM on Wednesday, January 18th, 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**.

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**

**MIDDLESEX Division** **Docket No. MI23P0120EA**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate of: **Joan B. Butler**  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

**Also Known As:**

**Date of Death: September 26, 2022**

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

Petitioner **Lauren E. Stone of No. Andover MA**  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

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

[x] **Lauren E. Stone of No. Andover 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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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**

**MIDDLESEX Division** **Docket No. MI23P0098EA**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate of: **Rita Louise McRitchie**  
First Name Middle Name Last Name

**Also Known As: Rita L. McRitchie**

**Date of Death: June 17, 2021**

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

Petitioner **Kenneth J. McRitchie of Somerville MA**  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

Petitioner **Daniel McCarthy of Hamilton MA**  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

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

[x] **Kenneth J. McRitchie of Somerville MA**  
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

[x] **Daniel McCarthy of Hamilton 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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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 on-line 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, 1/18/23 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, 1/18/23 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Architecture firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace two asphalt shingle roofs at our Mystic View Development. Mystic View is a 3-story brick with synthetic stucco and gable roof building located at River Road and Canal Lane in Somerville MA, 02145

A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Wednesday January 25th, 2023**, at the Mystic View family development. Please meet at our Modernization Office located at 30R Memorial Road, Somerville MA, 02145.

Response to this RFP must be submitted by emailing [ryanc@sha-web.org](mailto:ryanc@sha-web.org) no later than **2:00 Thursday, February 9th, 2023**.

The RFP may be obtained after **11:00AM on Wednesday, January 18th, 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**.

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

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) on 2/8/2023 at 12:00 PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Valdemar dos Santos unit #0111; Steven McCluskey unit #1282; Laqueen Battle unit #4252. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

1/18/23 The Somerville Times

Powder House Boulevard and Alewife Brook Parkway  
intersection redesign community meeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld invite you to a virtual community meeting to learn about the city's reconstruction of the intersection at Powder House Boulevard and Alewife Brook Parkway.

City contractors will reconstruct the existing traffic circle to create a T-shaped intersection with traffic signals. Construction will begin this winter and is expected to continue through the fall of 2024.

The meeting will take place virtually Wednesday, February 1, at 6:00 p.m. Visit [somervillema.gov/intersectionredesign](http://somervillema.gov/intersectionredesign) to register to attend.

The new intersection design is intended to improve safety for all road users by enhancing pedestrian and bicycle connections, improving access for residents, and slowing drivers. This project is funded with support from the Commonwealth's MassWorks Infrastructure Program.

The current intersection is a high-crash location (48 crashes between 2014 and 2021). Focusing efforts on the intersections where the greatest number of crashes occur is a key part of the city's Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries from our transportation system.

In addition to improving the intersection design, this project will also rehabilitate aging underground infrastructure and create a new shared street. A shared street is a low-volume residential street that prioritizes people walking, rolling, and biking.

At this meeting, city staff will review the final design and planned improvements as well as provide an overview of the construction process and timeline. Residents will then have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and construction process.



Ms. Cam's  
Olio  
Answers

From on page 8

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Charles Perrault                        | 7. Four main types                |
| 2. Honey                                   | 8. Robert De Niro                 |
| 3. The national flag of the United Kingdom | 9. Beautiful                      |
| 4. 1920                                    | 10. A bassett hound               |
| 5. Vitamin C                               | 11. First Olympic Games in 776 BC |
| 6. 20                                      | 12. Louis XIII Pizza, \$12,000    |



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

The **Somerville Arts Council** has shared the news that one of the **Mystic Mural students**, from the summer of 2017, was recently shot to death by a Cambridge Police officer. **Arif Sayed Faisal**, age 20, will be remembered as a kind youth with curiosity about life and the world. Arif embraced the summer he worked on the Mystic River Mural with quiet curiosity, a collaborative spirit, and a passion for art and environmental education. His loss is felt within the Mystic Mural community, within Somerville. There is a gofundme site to support the family <https://gofund.me/77ff124c>

**Students in grades 6-8** are invited to participate in this year's **All City Middle Grades Musical**. Learn more at: <https://highlandertheatre.org/allcity>

The **Arts at the Armory's Performance Hall** is available to rent for weddings, parties, and private work functions. With a new stage, aesthetic improvements to the space, and a capacity of 395, the Performance Hall is a versatile, conveniently-located venue in the heart of Somerville's Spring Hill neighborhood. Did we mention there is ample off-street parking? Learn more at [artsatthearmory.org](http://artsatthearmory.org), and fill out the **Event Contact Form** to book the Performance Hall.

**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. The deadline is **January 31**. Survey in English: (<https://forms.gle/JEVTUxo5c652Pdzd7>). Survey in

Spanish: (<https://forms.gle/DcMsX-VFnyQeYmLck9>), Survey in Portuguese (<https://forms.gle/Vv626PAMaRVm-JNDD9>)

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**. They have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. 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.

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](http://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/applytoshovel](http://www.somervillema.gov/applytoshovel).

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](http://somervillema.gov/fuelassistance).


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.somwintermarket.org](http://www.somwintermarket.org). You can find the market on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/SomervilleWinterFarmersMarket), and on Instagram @Som-WinterMarket.

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

January 18

1778 – Captain James Cook discovers the Hawaiian Islands, naming them the 'Sandwich Islands' after the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Sandwich.

1836 – Jim Bowie arrives at the Alamo to assist its Texas defenders.

1902 – The Isthmus Canal Commission in Washington shifts its support from Nicaragua to Panama as a favored canal site.

1942 – General MacArthur repels the Japanese in Bataan. The United States takes the lead in the Far East war criminal trials.

1948 – Gandhi breaks a 121-hour fast after halting Muslim-Hindu riots.

1962 – The United States begins spraying foliage with herbicides in South Vietnam, in order to reveal the whereabouts of Vietcong guerrillas.

1964 – Plans are disclosed for the World Trade Center in New York.

1978 – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) isolate the cause of Legionnaire's disease.

1991 – Iraq starts firing Scud missiles at Israeli cities.



# 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**



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## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Somerville Photographer JJ Gonson brings the Boston Music Scene and more to the walls of the Bloc11 Cafe

You might know JJ Gonson. You may have seen her ubiquitous photograph of Kurt Cobain floating around in the ether on the Internet. You may have attended her music venue the ONCE Lounge and Ballroom, or you might have sampled some of her food from her catering company. In any case, I became more familiar with the punk/rock/grunge scene after talking with her at my favorite haunt, the Bloc 11 Café, where she has an exhibit of her work.

JJ Gonson works as a caterer, in order to make the daily nut. She told me she first got her foothold in Somerville at Kitchen, Inc., which was located on Somerville Ave., across from where Target is now. Then she move to 156 Highland Ave. to another kitchen/catering space.

As for her time running the ONCE Ballroom and Lounge, she told me a plethora of musicians performed there. People like Amanda Palmer, Phoebe Bridgers, Mitszi, a lot of heavy metal bands hit the stage, to name just a few. The ambitious Gonson told me, "I also run a Somerville-based summer music series at the Boynton Yards development. We use their huge parking lot for our venue. People hear bands playing all day, and have a great time."

During Gonson's college years in the 80s, she was always at clubs like the Rat in Kenmore Square, T.T. the Bear, in Central Square, Cambridge, and many others. The bands playing there were her friends, and she took photos of them in action. Her work was appreciated and bought by such publications as *The Boston Globe*, *The Boston Phoenix*, *Boston Rock*, and others.

In terms of her photography, which started when she was a student at the Massachusetts College of Art, she said, "Photos are about memory, what we hold on to, what we choose to preserve." And indeed, Gonson is a curator of her own memory.

One of the many musicians that Gonson befriended and photographed was Elliot Smith. Smith was an acclaimed song writer with a melancholic sound. He was part of the vibrant music milieu of Portland, Oregon, and released some highly influential albums. Gonson recalled, "I was working in a cafe in Portland, where I met some of Smith's friends. I wound up going to the second concert he ever did. His talent just oozed out of him, his voice, his mastery of



Elliot Smith photographed by JJ Gonson.

the guitar, etc." Gonson said she did the cover for his first album, and they were close friends for 2 or 3 years. Gonson reflected, "We moved to different places eventually and lost touch. He later committed suicide. He came from a troubled and abusive background. I am still in touch with his sister."

As for her display at the Bloc, she explained, "A lot of my pictures are in 'visual storage.' Some are in record stores, and some are stored at a production company. So I took a lot of them to display on the walls at the Bloc."

Gonson pointed out a portrait she did of Billy Ruane, a champion of the Boston music scene, who passed about 12 years ago. He was responsible for bringing the music scene to the Middle East, a famed venue in Cambridge, MA. Like Smith, Ruane was troubled, suffering from alcoholism and manic depression, thus his early death at 52.

As we looked around the said café Gonson had photos of Henry Rollins, Elliot Smith, Kurt Cobain and many more on the walls. There was an intensity to these photos that made you stop and look.

Gonson does not make a living from her collection of photography. She said, "My pictures are all over the internet. To track down everyone would be a major project, time-consuming and not a very lucrative one at that." Her photo of Kurt Cobain for instance, has been used by thousands on the Internet. Gonson laughed, "They even made tattoos of that photo."

Gonson hopes that her passion will eventually be her sole living. But until then she will cater delicious food, and keep an eye, or lens out for another fabulous shot.

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Chad Parenteau hosts Boston's long-running Stone Soup Poetry series. His latest collection is *The Collapsed Bookshelf*. His poetry has appeared in journals such as *Résonancee*, *Molecule*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Pocket Lint*, *Cape Cod Poetry Review*, *Tell-Tale Inkings*, *Off The Coast*, *The Skinny Poetry Journal*, *The New Verse News*, *The Rye Whiskey Review*, *Nixes Mate Review* and anthologies such as *French Connections* and *Sounds of Wind: New American Lyrics*, where his work was translated into Albanian. He serves as Associate Editor of the online journal *Oddball Magazine*.



### "I Thought You Were Off All Week"

I am the king  
of has been,  
brushed off  
among phones,  
left to call  
in my day.  
No more  
ripples  
from every  
thrown stone.  
Gifted with  
obsolescence.  
Thanks for  
everything  
they can't  
remember.  
Stay here  
long enough,  
become part  
of story  
no one  
ever heard.

— Chad Parenteau

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