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## Somerville Public Schools receives \$897,000 in preschool funding



Somerville Public Schools received \$897,000 through the CPPI in support of high-quality preschool programming.

On the heels of Governor Healey's first State of the Commonwealth in which she emphasized her commitment to expanding access to early education and laid out her "Gateway to Pre-K" agenda, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that they have delivered \$13.1 million to 21 school districts through the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) to support their efforts to expand access to high-quality preschool. Among the recipients of the funds was Somerville Public Schools, which received \$897,000.

The Administration announced that applications are now open with \$5 million in additional funding available for new districts to apply to implement CPPI, with a priority focus on Gateway Cities. Current grantees can also apply to expand the reach of their programs. The deadline to

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## Career and Technical Education program prepares students for the future

By Bridget Frawley

Somerville High School offers 14 career pathways for students enrolled in their Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. The CTE program is considered a Chapter 74 program, so it abides by course guidelines outlined by the state of Massachusetts and are overseen by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"The intended purpose is to prepare our students for either college or career," Assistant Principal and Director of CTE James Hachey said. "Our students, when they leave here, they're ready for the world of work, or we're preparing them to go on to a two- or four-year school."

This year, 798 students are enrolled, including Full Circle students, an alternative

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Instructor Sylvain Lebrun teaching sophomore students welding techniques in the Welding Metal Fabrication program.  
— Photo courtesy of SHS CTE Department

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“What do you want to see in Somerville’s community live arts center?” The **Somerville Armory** currently has six tenants and several other spaces that could become arts spaces. Already the building is home to music building education, production, and live performances. Help develop the vision and guiding principles for the Somerville Armory as they transition it from private ownership to public stewardship. They are looking for the **voices of diverse performing artists** who have connections to Somerville, residents, and community partners to participate in this upcoming meeting series. Read more: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan>. **Meeting I: Our Arts Ecosystem, January 24, 6:00 p.m.** at **Warehouse XI**, 11 Sanborn Ct., Somerville.

\*\*\*\*\*








Cheer on the **Somerville High School Quiz Show** team on **Saturday, January 27**, at 9:30 a.m. Attend as part of the studio audience of this Jeopardy-like TV show to cheer on the team. Taping takes place at **WGBH Studios in Boston** and tickets are free at this link: <https://gbhhighschoolquizshow.ticketbud.com/> If the team wins the Saturday match, they will go on to compete on Sunday as well. Go **#SHSHighlanders!**

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to **Denise Cosby**, a local real estate agent. Denise published her book, **Murder at Harvard’s Kirkland House-A Mother’s Worst Nightmare**, which tells the real story of the murder of *Continued on page 7*

# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 24 – January 30 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>January 24</i>	Rain	37°/35°	44%	38%	SSE 5 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>January 25</i>	Rain	46°/42°	60%	41%	SW 9 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>January 26</i>	Rain	52°/36°	83%	66%	NW 10 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>January 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	47°/33°	14%	9%	NW 7 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>January 28</i>	Cloudy	45°/27°	22%	13%	NNW 10 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>January 29</i>	Snow	30°/20°	37%	29%	N 11 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>January 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	36°/23°	6%	4%	W 10 mph

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

## Learn more about Davis Square commercial area plan



Somerville community members are invited to join a community meeting on Monday, January 29, to learn more about the updated commercial area plan for Davis Square. The presentation will review changes to the previous draft of the plan released in 2020 and offer the opportunity for initial feedback from attendees.

**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2024  
**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
**Place:** West Branch Library (40 College Ave)

The January Public Meeting will be only the first of a series of in-person and online engagement opportunities for community members, and there will be numerous opportunities to share feedback and help shape development and implementation of the plan for Davis Square.

To learn more about the Davis Square Commercial Area Plan, please visit [somervillebydesign.com/neighborhoods/davis](https://somervillebydesign.com/neighborhoods/davis) and sign up for the Somerville by Design mailing list for updates [somervillebydesign.com/mailling-list](https://somervillebydesign.com/mailling-list)

# The Somerville Times

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Life in the

MASSACHUSETTS  
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by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Treacherous sidewalks



It's up to the homeowner to clear the snow from their sidewalks. The city did a great job of plowing but it's up to the homeowner to get the snow off. When the snow isn't shoveled it turns to ice and makes safe walking impossible.

If the landlord lives out of the city it's up to him to make sure that his sidewalks are being shoveled properly. A fall can be deadly to a senior citizen. I asked our fellow neighbors to comment on the subject.

"Sometimes tough for older residents. if

you plow and clear bike lanes why not do the same for sidewalks?"

"Because the city doesn't care about older or disabled residents. It's very sad that bike lanes take priority over pedestrians."

"Call 311 or your City Councilor and report them. When property owners pay enough tickets, they'll manage it as they should."

"That should be a 500 dollar fine."

"I'd be making some \$\$\$ shoveling if I still lived there."

I'm pretty sure there is a student shoveling Service. Check with 311.

Absentee landlords are responsible for the upkeep of their property.



## Career and Technical Education program prepares students for the future

CONT. FROM PG 1

school connected to the high school. This is an increase from two years ago when 634 students were enrolled and last year when 687 students were enrolled.

Students enrolled in CTE programs apply their experience in either college or a career. For the class of 2023, about 57% of students went to college, with 43% of those students majoring in a study related to their CTE program.

"The program benefits the students by building a future," Hachey said. "We always say, '(We are) building (the community's) future one student at a time.'"

Freshman students participate in an exploratory program of 17 rotations over a minimum six-day period. Students spend a little over a week in each of the programs in addition to Embedded Health, Careers and College and Career programs. By the end of the year, students choose which CTE program they want to pursue for

their remaining three years.

The number of classes students take for their CTE program increases each year, and by graduation enrolled students have acquired over 900 hours in their respective program. Students take classes for their CTE program while taking their academic classes. Academic requirements are also embedded in CTE program curricula, including Cosmetology which relates science concepts to the profession. Students learn the science behind hair, skin and nails, along with understanding diseases and disorders clientele can have so they know how to best service them.

"It's such a great opportunity for students to learn more about interaction and communication with people," Cosmetology instructor Grace Torino said. "The one thing that we like to enforce is to see how they change someone's life with just having them sit in your chair. It can have a su-

perficial aspect to it, you're caring about your looks, but sometimes you're there helping someone go through the hardest point in their lives."

The Cosmetology program is fully licensed, so it is equivalent to a beauty school. The 50 students enrolled engage with a curriculum that follows the Massachusetts State Board of Cosmetology, so they are prepared to earn certification as a cosmetologist upon graduation when they can test for their licensure.

Alongside the curriculum, students in the program practice with machinery and equipment housed at the school, including a clinic that is open to the public two days a week for salon services.

"When I have clients sit in my chair and they have such a big smile because they feel so good about themselves, it makes me feel so good about me, and I want to give that back to people," Torino said. "It's a fuzzy, warm feeling type of opportunity that I tell the students 'I can't explain it until you experience it for the first time.'"

The CTE program coincides with Somerville High School's Cooperative Education program, allowing students to enter the workforce in an occupation related to their CTE program. The Plumbing program is partnered with the Metropolitan Plumbing Supply in Somerville which has

hired students on co-op to work during their designated plumbing classes.

"Having everything within Somerville High School means students get exposed to all these great careers without actually having to make a choice to leave their friends behind," Plumbing instructor Jim McGrath said. "I think it's given them a great opportunity to be exposed to a career that they might not even have known was an option for them."

Hachey said he wants to increase community partnerships to connect students with more occupational opportunities. Currently, students enrolled in the Health Careers program go to local long-term care and assisted living facilities, students in the Dental Assistant program practice in dental offices and Early Education students apply the curriculum's teachings in city classrooms. Hachey is trying to connect with Habitat for Humanity to have students in Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry, and HVAC to help build a house.

"I just see our CTE programs and the high school continue to flourish over the next several years," Hachey said. "Hopefully someday we can have all 1,400 students in CTE."

To learn more, go to <https://somerville.k12.ma.us> to search the CTE programs.



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## Somerville Police Dept Crime Log 1/9 – 1/15

### Commercial Breaking and Entering

24001998: On 1/11/24 at approximately 5:08 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a property on Walnut Sts for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated he came to close the property and noticed a glass door was broken and the alarm was triggered. Nothing was reported missing.

### Residential Breaking and Entering

24001598: On 1/9/24 at approximately 10:12 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Craigie St. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he left his apartment and when he returned, noticed several electronics and marijuana were stolen.

Other Crimes: 2 MV thefts; 2 package thefts; 3 MV vandalisms; 3 bike thefts; 3 car breaks; 1 moped theft



## Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Do your part - Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential – Your Privacy is Assured. If you choose, you can leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned (not required). Also, if you prefer you may e-mail directly with your crime tip. We will follow up on all information provided to the best of our ability.

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## Somerville Public Schools receives \$897,000 in preschool funding

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apply is February 16, 2024.

The \$13.1 million in funding will support 2,456 slots for children across 164 classrooms. This funding, including the \$5 million now available to apply, was included in Governor Healey's fiscal year 2024 budget proposal to increase access to high quality preschool experiences and put the state on a path towards universal access to preschool.

The proposal was supported by the Legislature and included in the final budget. This expansion of CPPI is being funded through revenue generated by the Fair Share Amendment.

"We delivered historic investments in early education and child care in our first budget, and I'm thrilled to see that funding at work, expanding access to high-quality preschool, lowering costs for families and building a strong economy and livable communities," said Governor Maura Healey. "We are using Fair

Share revenue to bring universal access to preschool to more communities, strengthening our education system as the voters intended. We are grateful to the Legislature for making this funding available. Our new 'Gateway to Pre-K' agenda is going to build on these successes by expanding high-quality Pre-K access to even more communities, lowering costs for more families, and ensuring our hardworking providers have the support they need to deliver high-quality care."

"As a former Mayor, I know how important access to high-quality preschool is for families and for closing the learning gap before kids enter kindergarten, particularly in our gateway cities," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "That's why our first budget included a focus on setting us on the path toward universal access to pre-k, helping Massachusetts reach its potential by educating our littlest learners and investing

in vibrant, healthy, livable communities. And that's why last week we announced bold actions to take these efforts further – with the aim of delivering universal, high-quality preschool access for four-year-olds in all Gateway Cities by the end of 2026."

A main driver in the administration's approach to expanding preschool access, CPPI establishes a district-wide preschool program across classes in public and community-based early education and care programs. This approach promotes kindergarten readiness across the community, regardless of where a child is enrolled in pre-k.

By working across the state's mixed early education system, districts are expanding access to a range of programs that meet different needs, including those of working families, and reduce unnecessary transitions for children. CPPI also promotes equitable access to special education

to ensure full inclusion of children with disabilities across all settings. Through this program, the CPPI funding also provides scholarships to participating families to enroll at no or low cost and enables full day/full year services through the mix of public and community classrooms.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration is committed to expanding access to preschool. With \$13 million out the door to districts, and \$5 million available now, we're making the necessary investments to expand capacity in the system," said Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler. "This is not just an investment in our children and families, early childhood educators, and local communities – it's a down payment on the future success of our state."

"The Administration is committed to supporting an accessible, affordable, and equitable early education and care system that helps families work and prepares

their children for school and life success. We are focused on expanding access to low or no cost preschool to provide all children across the Commonwealth with the high-quality early education experiences we know give them the academic and social-emotional skills they need to enter kindergarten," said Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw.

"Expanded access to high-quality preschool will mean more students are showing up to kindergarten ready to learn," said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley. "I'm glad to see this cross-sector collaboration for the benefit of students and families."

The \$13 million in grant awards is funded through the state's fiscal year 2024 budget.

Learn more about CPPI and find the applications at Mass.gov/CPPI.



# 7 ways to stop constant worrying in your life

By Stan Popovich

Do you find yourself worrying about everything that is going on around you?

It can be very tiring and depressing to constantly worry about your family, your job, your health, and everything else that is happening. Having things out of your control is very scary.

As a result, here are 7 tips on how to overcome the cycle of worry and fear in your life.

1. Focus on the facts of your situation; not your thoughts: When people are stressed out, they rely on their fearful and depressing thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you

are anxious, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think.

2. You can't predict the future: Remember that no one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you are afraid of does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage.

For example, you miss the deadline for a project you have been working on. Everything you feared is coming true. Suddenly, your boss tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.

3. Take a break: Take a deep

breath and try to find something to do to get your mind off of your anxieties and stresses. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, watch TV, play on the computer, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things. This will distract you from your current worries.

4. Take it one day at a time: Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or month, focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems.

5. Learn how to manage your thoughts: Challenge your negative thinking with positive state-

ments and realistic thinking. When encountering thoughts that make you fearful, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense.

6. Things change over time: Regardless of your circumstances, your current situation will not stay the same. Everything changes over time. Knowing that your situation will improve will help give you the confidence that things will get better.

7. Get some help: Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone about your stressful situations. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor, or clergyman can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with the



fear of the unknown. Remember that there is nothing wrong in asking for assistance.

## BIOGRAPHY

Stan is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>.

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# 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:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes from the week of January 15-19. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

## BAN DECLAWING OF CATS (S 2552)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would prohibit surgeries that declaw cats, tendonectomies and similar procedures except in cases of medical necessity in which a veterinarian determines that the surgery would address a condition that jeopardizes the cat's health. Declawing a cat means amputating the first bone on each toe and tendonectomies involve cutting a tendon in each toe that controls the extension of claws.

The penalty for violating this ban is \$1,000 for the first offense, \$1,500 for a second offense and \$2,500 for a third or subsequent offense. In addition, veterinarians who perform a declawing without it being medically necessary may be subject to disciplinary action by their licensure board.

Many cat owners often declaw their pets to prevent scratches or damage to household items like rugs or furniture. However, veterinarians and the Humane Society of the U.S. have said that cats who have had their claws removed are more likely to experience paw pain, back pain, infection and the inability to use their legs properly.

"Declawing is an abhorrent practice that most veterinarians view as inhumane, but it is also a procedure that is widely misunderstood and requested by owners," said sponsor Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford). "By passing this legislation, veterinarians will no longer have to weigh the choice knowing that if they don't provide the procedure the owner is likely to just look for someone who will."

"This is another step in my commitment to protect animals in the commonwealth," continued Montigny. "As a state we have done far too little to punish heartless abusers and to push back against a weak court system that has too often failed to hold them accountable. There are too many people who have committed horrendous abuses to animals that have been unpunished and are walking free to continue to do harm."

"We thank the Senate for advancing this bill and again demonstrating their commitment to animal protection," said Kara Holmquist, Director of Advocacy for the MSP-CA-Angell. "Our animal hospital, Angell Animal Medical Center, has not performed declawing surgery for decades because it is not in the interest of the animal, often involves painful complications and can create lifelong behavior problems. We are grateful that this unnecessary amputation will be prohibited in the state."

## REPEAL ARCHAIC LAWS (S 2979)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a measure that would repeal several archaic laws, still on the books in Massachusetts, which many people no longer see as criminal and/or may be unconstitutional.

The bill would repeal archaic laws that intrude on an individual's privacy regarding sexual activity by removing the statute that criminalizes sodomy, removing language that criminalizes "unnatural" acts and removing language pertaining to "common nightwalkers." It would also establish a permanent law revision commission and leaves in place statutes prohibiting prostitution and statutes prohibiting sex with animals.

"This bill sends a message that Massachusetts is a place that cares about the freedom of individuals," said Senate sponsor Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont). "I look forward to working with my House colleagues to get this on the governor's desk."

"Repealing homophobic and transphobic language in state law helps to build a safer and more inclusive commonwealth," said Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "In Massachusetts, we take pride in being a welcoming state, and our laws must reflect our values. The archaic and discriminatory language found in ... the General Laws dates back to 1887 and historically was deployed to criminalize LGBTQ+ people. By removing harmful, homophobic and transphobic language from our statutes, we ensure the letter of the law promotes equity and justice for all."

"I filed this legislation with Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa to modernize the commonwealth's statutes to better codify the social progress that has been made and have our laws reflect our values," said Rep. Jay Livingstone (D-Boston) who along with Sabadosa filed an earlier version of the bill in the House. "The law revision commission is particularly important to ensure that Massachusetts statutes do not have discriminatory laws that infringe on ... civil liberties. Given the current political climate around the country, we can no longer assume that some archaic laws are not enforceable."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS (S 2550)** - The Sen-

ate approved and sent to the House legislation that would require that all real estate appraisals in the Bay State be conducted by certified or licensed appraisers who are subject to regulatory oversight.

Supporters said that under current law, anyone – without having to meet any standards of education or experience – can perform valuations for proceedings including estate settlements, divorces, business dissolutions and litigation. An unlicensed and uncertified person may prepare unsupportable valuations that expose consumers to considerable risk, and they are not subject to any regulatory oversight or accountability.

"People are surprised to learn that under current Massachusetts law, anyone can conduct a real estate appraisal, even if they don't have the appropriate education and experience," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "By mandating that real estate appraisals be conducted by certified and licensed professionals, we are protecting Massachusetts consumers from sham or inaccurate appraisals that can have serious financial consequences."

**PET CEMETERIES (H 4206)** – The Agriculture Committee held a hearing on legislation that would require the owner of any property used or to be used for a pet cemetery to file in the Registry of Deeds a dedication restricting the property to be used only for the operation of a pet cemetery.

Supporters said the bill would preserve existing pet cemeteries by preventing the construction and development on the property that is or holds out to be a pet cemetery.

"Our pets hold a special place in our hearts, and the places where they are laid to rest deserve the same level of reverence and protection as any other memorial site," said sponsor Rep. Rodney Elliott (D-Lowell). "This legislation ensures that pet cemeteries are upheld with the dignity and respect they deserve."

**ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH (H 2984)** – The House gave initial approval to a bill designating October as Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, to increase public awareness and encourage the adoption of shelter and rescue dogs in Massachusetts.

"Last year alone, over 22,000 pets entered Massachusetts animal shelters in need of a home," said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). "By establishing October as Adopt a Shelter Dog Month annually, this bill will create greater public awareness of the need for pet adoption and will encourage people to give these dogs a forever home in a safe and loving environment."

*Continued on page 13*



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Hey! That stuff is for dangerous rodents, not for friendly woodland critters.

Our View Of The Times



All of us want to put an end to the rampant rodent infestation taking place in and around the city, as do our neighboring communities. Caution, though, ought to be taken in terms of what measures should be taken and how best to implement them.

Concerns have arisen recently about the use of so-called rodenticides (rat poison) and the dangers they pose to our pets and wildlife. The effectiveness of these agents

has also been called into question.

Green & Open Somerville hosted a presentation on rat poison, with Save Arlington Wildlife founder Laura Kiesel. The presentation explained how rodenticides harm the natural environment and the predators that kill rodents.

In the presentation, it was pointed out that Massachusetts has been hit by a string of high profile wildlife deaths due to ro-

denticide poisoning, such as a Mystic River watershed resident bald eagle this past March. Further, incidents like these point to a wider epidemic taking place out of the spotlight.

According to Kiesel, climate change, a construction boom, and increased human density have led to a dramatic rise in rats in metro areas like Boston. Rat poison usually is the main method for dealing

with the problem. But these poisons are killing local wildlife and pets and endanger our young children, while not actually proving at all effective in reducing rodents.

There are alternatives available to aid in rodent abatement, such as Somerville's SMART pilot program that has contributed to the capture of thousands of rats.

So, let's keep up the fight, but please use safe and sensible tactics as we do battle.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

her son **Justin**. She also has a podcast <https://www.facebook.com/justintime>. initiative. **Just-in Time Initiative for Families** who lost loved ones to murder. A big happy birthday to our own **Dorothy Di-Marzo**, who gives us all those delicious recipes every other week in our paper. We wish her the very best of birthdays this week. Another local who is celebrating this week is **Maria Nella Nunes**. We wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such **James Casazza**, **Cathy Palumbo Demasi**, **Edward Hardy**, **Kai Su** and **Michael Kennelly** 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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Join in celebrating the **Lunar New Year** on **January 28**, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at **50 Cross Street**. Immerse yourself in the rich traditions and vibrant cultures of the Asian community as we welcome the year. The event will feature performances and engaging activities for all ages. Come together with friends and family to embrace the spirit of unity, joy, and new beginnings.

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Families with young children may register for **SFLC playgroups** until **Friday, January 26**. Learn more and find the right

time and language option for your family at the **SFLC Playgroups** webpage. All playgroups are free, open to Somerville residents, and held at locations around Somerville. <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/playgroups>. This week is **priority registration**, but families are welcome to register **after Friday, 1/26** and will be placed in groups on a rolling basis, where space is available.

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The **City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Office**, and **Housing Families Inc.**, opened an **overnight warming center** for the remainder of the winter 2024 season. The warming center

will operate seven nights a week from 6:45 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., on the second floor of the **Armory** (191 Highland Ave). Guests will have access to free hot and cold meals, water, bathrooms, yoga mats, and space to sleep. Learn more at [somervillema.gov/warmingcenter](https://somervillema.gov/warmingcenter).

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**Somerville Public Schools** is looking for **substitute teachers**. Join an amazing team of educators, earn \$150/day, and play an important role in our schools. Learn more about job requirements and apply here: <https://somerville.tedk12.com/hire/ViewJob.aspx?JobID=1146>.



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#907

1. Who created the famous "Night Watch" painting?

2. In which country did the first season of Survivor take place?

3. What is the name of the unit used to measure radio frequency?

4. Who created the iconic "Campbell's Soup Cans" artwork in the 1960s?

5. Which singer is known for her hit song like Rolling in the Deep?

6. How many pieces does each player start with in a game of checkers?
7. In the game of Clue, what is the name of the victim?

8. Which pizza topping is commonly associated with the Hawaiian pizza?

9. Who is the youngest person to win an Oscar?

10. Which dog breed is commonly used as a police dog?

11. Which actor played the character of Tony Montana in the movie Scarface?

12. Which singer is known for her hit song Bad Romance?
- Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Most car horns are in the key of F.
2. Riding roller coasters can help you pass kidney stones.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
CLASSIC TOYS

- ACROSS
1. Sri Lankan language

6. Something to chew on, especially for cows

9. Mascara holder

13. Muscat resident

14. " \_\_\_\_ Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"

15. Father, colloquially

16. Jewish folklore creature

17. Debtor's letters

18. Art class prop

19. Barbie's little sister

21. \_\_\_\_ 4 game

23. One less than jack

24. \_\_\_\_ Frog educational toy

25. Nutcracker's distinguishing feature

28. Taboo, alt. sp.

30. Cooking fat

35. Deserter's acronym

37. President's David

39. Shower accessory

40. Pro \_\_\_\_

41. Conical dwellings

43. Prep flour

44. Thomas or Henry, e.g.

46. Law school test acronym

47. Genealogist's creation

48. Maurice of "Where the Wild Things Are"

50. Flying saucers

52. Make mistakes

53. Chemically-induced curls

55. Harry Potter's Hedwig

57. Certain Patch

61. Not real dough

65. Normal

66. Clingy seed container

68. \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - la

69. Theater curtain fabric

70. Put into service

71. Female deer, pl.

72. Pub offering

73. Goo on a trunk

74. What's in your e-wallet?

- DOWN
1. Duds or threads

2. Wildly

3. French Sudan after 1960

4. All thumbs

5. Marine gastropod

6. Coconut fiber

7. Shedding-type card game

8. Tie in tennis

9. Shark's provision

10. Part of cathedral

11. Work detail

12. "Stop!" to marchers

15. Correspondence friend (2 words)

20. Make, as in a law

22. Edible type of grass

24. Complete payment (2 words)

25. Banned lawn darts

26. Fully informed

27. Supreme Teutonic god

29. Get-out-of-jail money

31. Like Neverland boys

32. France's longest river

33. Bid on a house, e.g.

34. Certain gun ammo

36. "Best \_\_\_\_ schemes o'Mice an' Men"

38. "La Vie en rose" singer

42. Counter seat

45. Flamethrower fuel

49. Party barrel

51. Swaddle

54. Type of puzzle

56. Words in song, sing.

57. Intersection of two arcs

58. Ascus, pl.

59. " \_\_\_\_ after reading"

60. Switch's partner

61. Get ready, for short

62. Comedian Carvey

63. Ford contemporary

64. Jumble

67. North American country

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



OBITUARY

Diane M. Dyko



Diane M. Dyko, 87, of Peabody, formerly of Somerville, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at Beverly Hospital surrounded by her loving

family. She was the beloved wife of the late James Dyko. She was born in Boston on July 20, 1936 and was the cherished daughter of the late Louis and Mary (DeFalco) Itrato. Diane is survived by her son, Joseph O'Brien; her two daughters, Diana Dyko and Lorraine Huber and her husband Ken; her two grandchildren, Brittany and Ryan Huber; her sister, Roseann Mahar of Everett; and many loving nieces, nephews and cousins. Sadly, in addition to her parents and husband, she is predeceased by her siblings, Louis Itrato and

Marylou Costante. Diane touched many people's lives and she will be missed dearly by her family and friends. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Adelaide Church, 708 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA on Monday, January 29, 2024 at 10AM. Interment will follow at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Diane's memory to St. Adelaide Church, 708 Lowell St. Peabody, MA 01960. For guestbook and directions please visit [www.ccb-funeral.com](http://www.ccb-funeral.com)

Somerville Road Runners honor John Gorvin as Unsung Hero



We are incredibly grateful for John's many years of service to SRR, especially in recognition of his time on the Mill Cities Alliance board. After many years of service to the Mill Cities Alliance, John is ending his time as president of that organization.

The Mill Cities relay is a very special event in the region, with the 2023 event being one of the largest in the event's 40-year history. John has been a great job advocate for SRR and has made sure that race continues to be a pillar of the New England club running scene. We are incredibly proud to send him off with back-to-back SRR Mill Cities Relay championship!

Thank you, John, for all your hard work out of the view of many of our club members! We're glad to give you a little bit of recognition so maybe your contributions aren't actually "unsung"!

— Somerville Road Runners  
— Photo by Aaron Doucett/2023 Mill Cities Relay

The Somerville Times  
Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #296

The Rose

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

On November 20, 1986, at the White House Rose Garden, President Ronald Reagan designated the rose as the National Floral Emblem of the United States of America.

Through past years, historic Union Square has been the first and largest of Somerville's trading districts. She is Somerville's chronicle. Resting in the shadow of Prospect Hill, she has been far more than a smidgin of America's history.



Paul Revere's path to Lexington originally was headed toward Union Square but English cavalry altered his route detouring him over Winter Hill. Before their march to Lexington, British troops checked their gear and filled their canteens from a small pond at today's Walnut and Bow Streets' location. On their retreat back to Boston, many stopped there again, but this time it was to nurse their many wounded.



Bunker-Hill-bound American troops mustered and marched from Union Square. General Washington and his troops raised our first Grand Union Flag above her and guarded over four thousand British and German prisoners for a year. They also created Revolutionary Fort #3 within her which was built to protect Cambridge.

Continued on page 19



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_y0BKU90nTmq4V-B9LFk5dA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y0BKU90nTmq4V-B9LFk5dA)

Webinar ID: 879 8457 3750

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP23-000059 - 22 Porter Street #2

Applicant: Renewal by Andersen LLC  
Owner: Dan Mikesch

*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing original or early replacement windows.*

HP23-000058 - 15 Adams Street

Applicant: Just Woodcraft Inc  
Owner: Catherine Haines

*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by altering window openings.*

HP23-000085 - 93 Highland Ave

Applicant: City of Somerville  
Owner: Same as applicant

*Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace cupola windows and deteriorated trim.*

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 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.

1/17/24, 1/24/24 The Somerville Times

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.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) on **2/13/2024** at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Todd Doughty unit #0481; Margaret Morrissey unit #270B; Melissa Ewer unit #4632. 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.

1/24/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE 5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The City of Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development is preparing its 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan as mandated by the federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This plan guides how the City will spend federal CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds over the next five years. To develop the Consolidated Plan the City seeks input from residents, businesses, and social service organizations. Information about this project can be found at <https://www.somervillema.gov/content/5-year-consolidated-plan-2024-2028>

- The City will hold a virtual public hearing on February 8th, 2024 at 6:30 PM to gather input on community needs and priorities. Members of the public may attend this hearing through the following link: <https://bit.ly/3vmi0Nu>
- Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Adrienne Pomeroy, at [APomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:APomeroy@somervillema.gov).
- Interpretation into other languages may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at [somerviva@somervillema.gov](mailto:somerviva@somervillema.gov) or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.
- Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the development of the Consolidated Plan to Miranda Rubin ([mrubin@somervillema.gov](mailto:mrubin@somervillema.gov)) at the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (City Hall, 3rd Floor). All comments received by February 29th, 2024, will be considered by the City of Somerville in drafting of the Plan.
- Following the gathering of community input, the City will prepare a draft plan that describes Somerville's housing and community development needs and establishes funding priorities and goals or targets for the use of federal funds that the City expects to receive over the next five years. The draft plan will be made available for a 30-day public comment period, during which a second public hearing will be held.

1/24/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB #24-38

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

Repair Services and Parts for Ford Fleet vehicles

A 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 24th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Tuesday, February 13th 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro [scastro@somervillema.gov](mailto:scastro@somervillema.gov) for more information.

Sonia Castro  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407

1/24/24 The Somerville Times

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PARTIAL TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF ACTIVITY  
AND USE LIMITATION  
26 Chestnut Street, Somerville, Massachusetts  
Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-2312

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. On January 19, 2024, Brickbottom I QOZB LP recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds a PARTIAL TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION (AUL) for the above-referenced property, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1083.

The PARTIAL TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION releases a portion of the disposal site described in the previous Notice of AUL that was recorded for the above-referenced property on September 12, 2019 in Book 73303, Page 185 at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds. A Revised Partial Permanent Solution with Conditions Statement was submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to demonstrate that an AUL is no longer necessary to maintain a Condition of No Significant Risk as required by 310 CMR 40.1083(1)(a) on the portion of the disposal site described in the PARTIAL TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION.

Any person interested in obtaining additional information about the PARTIAL TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION may contact Jedd Steinglass of Woodard & Curran, Inc., 12 Mountfort Street, Portland, Maine 04101, phone (207) 558-3732. The PARTIAL TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION can be viewed at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 82413, Page 65, and the disposal site file at the MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) 3-2312 at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#/1/search/wastesite> or at MassDEP, Northeast Regional Office, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, MA 01801, (978) 694-3200.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB #24-34

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

Ready Mix Concrete

A 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 24th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, February 7th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro [scastro@somervillema.gov](mailto:scastro@somervillema.gov) for more information.

Sonia Castro  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407

1/24/24 The Somerville Times


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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
REBID IFB #24-29

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

**Water Distribution System Maintenance & Repairs**


A 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 24th, 2024**. Sealed responses 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, February 7th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

**Felisa Garate**  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3406

1/24/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
IFB #24-38

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

**Repairs to Water Main Gate Valves and Appurtenance**

A 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 24th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, February 7th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at [fgarate@somervillema.gov](mailto:fgarate@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

**Felisa Garate**  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3406

1/24/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #24-40

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

**2024 Street Resurfacing and Complete Streets Project**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **1/18/2024**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **02/08/2024 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves 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.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Highway Construction, for the project with an estimated value of \$7,119,522.75. will be required.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at [acaruth@somervillema.gov](mailto:acaruth@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

**Andrea Caruth**  
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer  
617-625-6600 x3400

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

The Somerville Times

Best of Somerville 2023

Cast your vote!

You have until February 2 to vote for your favorites in each category. To cast your vote, email us at [thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com). The winners will be announced on Wednesday, February 7. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it to this list.

<b>Foods &amp; Restaurants</b> Best Breakfast Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch Best Italian Food Best Chinese Food Best Mexican Food Best Portuguese Food Best Local Deli Best Variety and all around Restaurant Best Seafood Best Irish Pub Best Local Bar Best Thai Food Best Hamburger Best Mac & Cheese Best Hot-Dog Best Roast Beef Sandwich Best Pizza Best Bakery Best Sub Shop	Best Coffee Shop Franchise Best Coffee Shop local Best Bar Food  <b>Best of Somerville Services</b> Best Electrician Best Plumber Best Attorney Best Teacher Best Politician Best City Worker Best Receptionist Best Real Estate Agent/Realtor Best Real Estate Rental Agent Best Bank Teller Best Bank Employee Best Waitstaff Best Bartender Best Cook Best Caterer	Best Barber Best Hair Salon Best Doctor Best Nurse Best Coach Best Police Officer Best Fire Fighter Best Photographer Best Somerville Historian Best Eye Doctor Best Orthodontist Best Mortgage Officer Best Somerville Artist Best Somerville Poet Best Somerville Writer Best Somerville Celebrity Best City Elected Politician Best City Employee DPW Best City Employee City Hall/Annex	<b>Best of Somerville Businesses</b> Best Somerville Bank Best Real Estate Company Best Insurance Agency Best Creative Business in 2022 Best Florist Best Laundromat Best Liquor Store Best Gas Station Best Auto Body Shop Best Tow Company Best Law Firm Best Pest Exterminator Best Convenient/Neighborhood Store Best Somerville Non Profit Agency Best Bar For Bands Best Newspaper  <b>Best Idea in 2023</b> <b>Worst Idea in 2023</b>
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COMMENTARY

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

Who's buying homes?



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

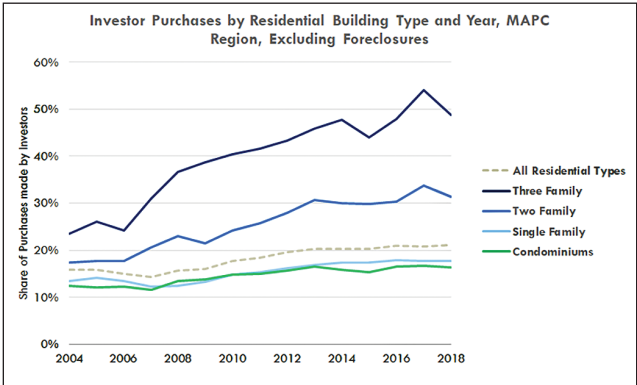
There's a strong consensus that we need hundreds of thousands of new housing units in Massachusetts. Governor Healey said in her State of the Commonwealth address that housing is our greatest challenge.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council's recent report, Homes for Profit: Speculation and Investment in Greater Boston [1], uncovered another problem that prevents potential homebuyers from competing in the market, and raises rents for tenants. A large and increasing share of homes are sold to large investors

Individual families are out-bid by investors, who can pay cash with no conditions. These investor-buyers then raise rents up to 70%, effectively evicting long-term renters, or simply evict them with no cause.

Across the metropolitan area, the report found that investor purchases increased from 16% of housing sales in 2004 to 23% in 2018.

Three-family homes are commonly purchased by investors



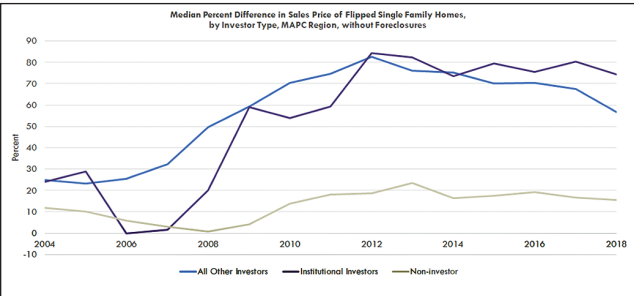
Though the report goes through 2022, this chart stops in 2018 for reasons related to methodology.

One of my previous newsletters [2] focused on the importance of 3-deckers for potential homebuyers, and the decline in home ownership in Somerville.

I wrote, "When I moved to Somerville, 3-deckers were the way many working families were able to buy their homes, with multiple generations in the apartments or tenants helping pay off the mortgage. Now, when 3-deckers and even condos are sold, they are fast increasing as a way for investors and corporations to make profits, rather than a chance for homeownership." The report finds more evidence for this across Greater Boston, especially in Gateway Cities.

At least in our district, three-deckers are being converted to the ubiquitous luxury condos, removing relatively affordable rental units. Tenants are priced out or evicted, and the new condos are not within the budget of working families.

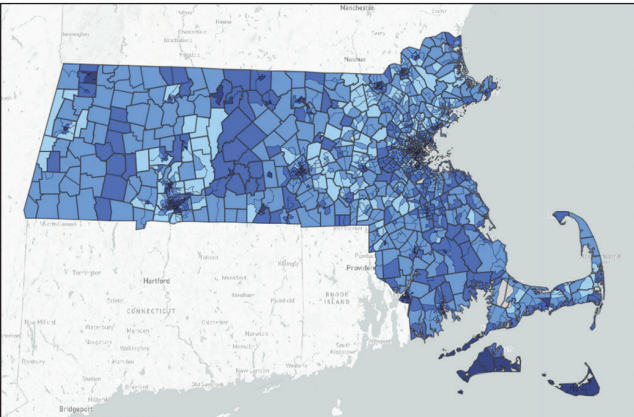
Flipping raises prices



Between eight and ten percent of residential buildings bought between 2014 and 2020 were flipped, i.e., sold within 2 years.

Large apartment buildings and 3-family homes are the most likely to be flipped, and the largest investors are the most likely to flip. When properties are flipped, the sales price increase for large investors is over 70%. The property may have been renovated, but it has become far less affordable for buyers or renters.

Neighborhood by Neighborhood Impact



This map [3] in the report allows you to look at different kinds of investor activity by census tract, by municipality, and for the state. It is really fascinating. For example, here's a summary for our district.

property sales	Cambridge	Medford	Somerville	Winchester	state
% sold to investors	21.10%	17%	23.90%	19.20%	21%
% cash sales	26.50%	16.80%	15.90%	15.90%	23.50%
% flipped	7.50%	7.60%	8.40%	8.70%	8.40%

Even within communities, neighborhoods are very different. For example, in census tract 25017351500 (East Somerville) [4], over half the 3-deckers and almost 2/3 of 2-families were sold to investors, although other statistics for the neighborhood don't show investor activity that different from the rest of the city. East Somerville has lower income, higher poverty, and lower housing prices than the rest of Somerville.

The report finds that, in general, in neighborhoods like East Somerville (high-density, lower-priced, high shares of renters and immigrants), there are high rates of investor purchases, of foreclosures and cash sales, and rapid price escalation. (To help locate census tracts, look here [5])

On the other hand, in Winchester, there are few

multi-family homes, and zero three-family buildings were sold.

One example of Investor Purchase

In this case, the self-described young "small property owner" ended up allowing a mother to stay two years so her son could graduate from Somerville High, thanks to tenant organizing by CAAS.

Somerville 6 Unit Building

- When an investor purchased her 6 unit building in 2021, they told Vanessa and her family to leave the apartment they'd lived in for over a decade
- The Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) helped Vanessa negotiate to stay for 2 more years so that her son could graduate from Somerville High School
- Our data shows 11 properties in Greater Boston purchased by the same investor since 2016 for a total of \$9,385,145 (2022 USD)
- A 2022 Boston Globe article noted this investor had a 61-unit real estate portfolio valued at \$21 million shared on his public Instagram page
- Some of these additional properties MAY have been purchased through one of the 19 LLCs this investor is involved with, which may explain why they didn't appear in our data

What do you see in your neighborhood?

Do you see examples of neighborhood change due to investor activity? Tell me what you've noticed. Or explore the maps and make observations about different neighborhoods.

And tell me if you think you can recognize houses that have been, or are being renovated, by investors. "You can't build old and cheap"

At a recent meeting about Somerville zoning and the Somernova proposal, one resident made this insightful comment. The cheapest, fastest, and most environmentally friendly way to reduce housing costs is to remove existing homes from the speculative market. Of course, we need a lot more housing, but we also need tools to protect naturally-occurring relatively-affordable homes.

Who buys ugly houses?

I've always wondered about these signs saying "We Buy Ugly Houses." (This sign is near Porter Square.). Here's the Ugly Houses Boston website [6], which says they are America's #1 home buyer. I don't know who the local franchise owners are, and they get generally favorable reviews. But this ProPublica report, "The Ugly Truth Behind 'We Buy Ugly Houses,'" [7] suggests "caveat venditor;" [seller beware]. The article says the company, HomeVestors, targets, misleads, and pressures vulnerable people, often older people or those in financial difficulty, to sell their homes quickly for far below market value.

Policy recommendations

MAPC recommends policies such as:

- Local Option Right of First Refusal
- Local Option Rent Stabilization
- LLC Transparency
- Local Option Transfer Fees
- Deeds Excise Fee Increase



# Boston Storyslam by The Moth at Arts at the Armory

By Joei Chan

The Arts at the Armory is pleased to announce a series of events named Boston Storyslam by The Moth, which began on January 23 with the theme “Wonders”. On the fourth Tuesday of every month, come by and participate in a community-focused, open-mic storytelling competition, where anyone can share a

five-minute story that is based around the theme of the night.


The dates and themes of each Boston Storyslam are:  
February 27th: Chemistry  
April 23: Grudge  
May 21: Backfired  
June 25: Baggage  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at the night of each event and the Arts at the Armory bar will serve up house-made appetizers along

with wine, beer, and snacks. Stories will officially begin at 7:30pm.

The Moth, founded by novelist George Dawes Green and launched in 1997, is an organization that promotes storytelling, along with honoring the diversity and similarity of human experiences. The Moth showcases a wide range of human experiences, and since each show starts with a theme, each storyteller can

often tell stories that is not just unexpected, but unique to themselves. The Moth, alongside organizing shows, has also published four books: The Moth: 50 True Stories, All These Wonders: True Stories about Facing the Unknown, and The New York Times Best Sellers, Occasional Magic: True Stories About Defying the Impossible and How to Tell a Story: The Essential Guide

THE MOTH



to Memorable Storytelling from The Moth.  
Visit <https://themoth.org/>

## Beacon Hill Roll CallCONT. FROM PG 6

SIKH APPRECIATION MONTH (H 3026) - The House gave initial approval to legislation designating the month of April as Sikh Appreciation Month in recognition of the significant contributions Sikhs have made to the state and to the nation.

"Both Rep. Barber and I represent vibrant Sikh communities and seek to honor their values and contributions to our cities," said Rep. Patricia Duffy (D-Holyoke), who sponsored the bill along with Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville). We ... will continue to advocate for this legislation's passage."

DON'T MISS THIS "BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE" EVENT ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31: – Join Amplify Latinx in partnership with Salem State University, MassBudget, the Boston Foundation and the State House News Service for an insightful and empowering event, "The Massachusetts Latino Electoral Project and Economic Empowerment Summit." This gathering is dedicated to advancing the Massachusetts Latino community's political engagement and economic prosperity. Details and sign up: <https://massterlist.com/building-a-brighter-future/>

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We set high goals for our first year in office. I stood here a year ago and made promises. And because we came together, and we acted with urgency, we delivered results. We met every one of our goals. Today, Massachusetts is

more affordable, more competitive and more equitable than it was a year ago. And the state of our commonwealth, like the spirit of our people, is stronger than ever." — Gov. Maura Healey from her State of the State" address last week.

"Gov. Healey also needs to address the elephant in the room, which is the immigration crisis precipitated by our open southern border, as well as the budget and housing crises that have accompanied it. Massachusetts desperately needs our governor to confront the Biden-Harris administration for failing to secure our southern border." — Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

"No we're not going to raise taxes, we just lowered taxes. We're not schizophrenic. We've chosen the course of action and we think the competitiveness that the tax cut gets us is an important fact." — House Speaker Ron Mariano when asked if he would consider tax hikes to pay for some of the proposals in Gov. Healy's "State of the State" address.

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 im-

portant 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 15-19, the House met for a total of THREE hours and 29 minutes and the Senate met for a total of six hours and 21 minutes.

Mon. Jan. 15	No House session No Senate session
Tues. Jan. 16	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:47 a.m. Senate 11:25 a.m. to 11:58 a.m.
Wed. Jan. 17	House 5:48 p.m. to 8:19 p.m. Senate 6:17 p.m. to 8:16 p.m.
Thurs. Jan. 18	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:14 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 2:58 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 19	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)

## Who's buying homes?CONT. FROM PG 12

- Assistance to Renters and Homebuyers  
- Foreclosure Protections  
- Higher local tax rates for non-owner-occupied homes  
I'm lead sponsor of bills for the first two recommendations. I've included others in my testimony in favor of Governor Healey's Affordable Homes Act [8], which had a hearing last Thursday. I'll share some of my testimony soon.

Links:  
[1] <https://homesforprofit.mapc.org/report>

[2] [https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/home-ownership-down-prices-and-rents-up?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/electpatjehlen/home-ownership-down-prices-and-rents-up?e=[UNIQID])  
[3] <https://homesforprofit.mapc.org/>  
[4] [https://opportunitydb.com/zones/25017351500/chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc-10map/tract/st25\\_ma/c25017\\_middlesex/DC10CT\\_C25017\\_005.pdf](https://opportunitydb.com/zones/25017351500/chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www2.census.gov/geo/maps/dc-10map/tract/st25_ma/c25017_middlesex/DC10CT_C25017_005.pdf)  
[6] [https://www.webuyuglyhouses.com/boston/wbuh1-we-buy-ugly-houses/?utm\\_source=google\\_search&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_cam-](https://www.webuyuglyhouses.com/boston/wbuh1-we-buy-ugly-houses/?utm_source=google_search&utm_medium=cpc&utm_cam-)

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[7] <https://www.propublica.org/article/ugly-truth-behind-we-buy-ugly-houses>  
[8] <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H4138>



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8. Pineapple

9. Tatum O'Neal

10. German Shepard

11. Al Pacino

12. Lady Gaga



# Food For Free to receive \$262,500 worth of fresh produce

With a new year comes an increased capacity to connect individuals and families facing food insecurity with nutrition for Food For Free, the largest food rescue and redistribution organization in Eastern Massachusetts.

The nonprofit will receive \$262,500 worth of fresh produce purchased with grant funds sourced by Boston Area Gleaners from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) through the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Plus Program (LFPA Plus).

The grant funding will be distributed over the course of 18 months to purchase locally grown produce, a majority of which will be sourced from socially disadvantaged farmers, and distribute goods to those in need across the region.

"We are grateful and excited for

this opportunity to deepen our partnership with Boston Area Gleaners," said Jessica Cantin, CEO of Food For Free. "It directly results in the opportunity to bring fresh produce to the communities we serve that is sourced locally from farmers.


These kinds of partnerships are the catalyst for impact on every level within the communities we serve, from the recipients of the food to the farmers who are able to strengthen their business from the revenue."

Starting this month, Food For Free will receive a weekly delivery of nearly 2,000 lbs. of fresh seasonal produce, such as beets, daikon radishes, and fresh shiitake mushrooms, from the Boston Area Gleaners through the LFPA Plus funding.

Each Friday, the Boston Area Gleaners will deliver pallets to Food For Free's Somerville facility where the nonprofit

will package and distribute the produce to neighboring food access organizations, including East Boston Community Soup Kitchen, Cambridge Community Center and Somerville Housing Authority. Beyond Food For Free's involvement, Boston Area Gleaners' total LFPA Plus award of \$750,000 extends this impact across Eastern and Central Massachusetts.

"We are honored to have received two rounds of LFPA funding from MDAR," said Usha Thakrar, Executive Director of Boston Area Gleaners. "The funding allows our farm partners to have a secure source of revenue and gives us and our food access partners a consistent supply of locally grown fresh produce year-round. This is especially important as food insecurity rates in Massachusetts are at an all-time high. Partners like Food For Free are



critical to distributing healthy food to our communities."

Headquartered in Cambridge and Somerville, MA, Food For Free rescues food that would otherwise go to waste and creates new distribution channels to reach underserved populations in 27 communities across

the region. Founded in 1981 as one of the nation's first food rescue organizations, the nonprofit now serves more than 150,000 Massachusetts residents facing food insecurity and distributes 7.5 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually.

Food For Free is benefiting from a grant by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR).

## Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust Committee seeks one new member

The City of Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust (JCRT) is now accepting applications for one local business representative to join the committee as a new member.

The JCRT assists the City of Somerville in the creation and maintenance of employment opportunities within and near Somerville for local residents.

The time commitment for JCRT committee members is typically two-three hours per month, including a monthly evening meeting.

Other potential time commitments include possible subcommittee meetings, and reviewing meeting materials. Members serve three-year terms in a volunteer capacity. All members are appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council. All Trustees must comply with and sign the City of Somerville's Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members.

Applications are due Monday, February 26 by 12:00 p.m. Interested candidates are asked to submit a resume and brief answers to the following questions by email to [wblackmer@somervillema.gov](mailto:wblackmer@somervillema.gov) or by mail to William Blackmer, City of Somerville, OSPCD, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143.

Questions for Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust Committee Applicants

What is your connection to a Somerville business? What is your experience with hiring locally? Detail your/your organization's experience hiring individuals from diverse backgrounds (including individuals without post-secondary education, individuals who speak English as a second or other language, individuals from low-income backgrounds, individuals from underrepresented racial and gender backgrounds, etc.


What has been your interaction with the workforce development system, agencies, or nonprofits as a job seeker, employer, professional, or other stakeholder?

Have you served on a nonprofit board or governmental advisory committee in the past or currently? If so, what is one lesson you would take from that experience to the Job Creation and Retention Trust Board of Trustees?

What do you believe is the biggest threat facing the regional labor market in the next 10 years?

What do you believe is the most urgent issue facing job seekers or employers today that the Job Creation and Retention Trust could address?

Please contact William at the email above or 617-625-6600 ext. 2547 with any questions or for more information.





## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

**Upcoming events:**

**Movie Day** - Wednesday, January 24th at 1:00pm Holland Street Center – Book Club, The Next Chapter. - Starring: Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda and Mary Steenburgen. Rated PG-13 - Running Time 1 hour & 48minutes. This highly anticipated sequel follows the four best friends as they take their book club to Italy! RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov \$2 per person for Pizza Lunch.

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

**Thursday, January 25th** - Holland Street Center Italian - Alfredo's Italian Kitchen

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

**Knitting with Natasha Group** – Looking to start off the new year learning or improving your knitting skills? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a drop-in knitting group in January. To learn how to knit, or if you find yourself with any questions regarding your knitting project consider attending. January 30th from 2-3pm at 167 Holland St. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

**Bingo** – Tuesday at the Holland Street Center – Every Tuesday - starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**Bingo** – Thursday at our Holland Street Center - starting at 10:00 a.m. Every Thursday except January 18th. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**Project Outlook, Low Vision Group** - Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (January 25th) starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Special guest this month is Joel Light. Joel will sing a medley of popular songs. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Out-

look has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. All are welcome. Pizza will be served. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro at 857-237-1801 or Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

**Tech Time Drop In Hours** - Tuesday, January 30th at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center - RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318 or mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

**Coffee & Conversation** – Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. January 29th - Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation and good coffee. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabstardi@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program** – PICK UP Thursday, January 25th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

**General Nutrition Classes** – Virtual classes, via Zoom on Monday, January 29th at 11:00am via Zoom and 12:30pm in person at the Holland Street Center. Wednesdays January 17th, January 24th & January 31st at 10:00am at the Holland Street Center. New and returning members are welcome! To RSVP, please call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

**Tai Chi** – 9:00 a.m. January 26th, February 2nd, 9th and 16th at our Holland Street Center. Tai Chi is a practice that uses slow, gentle movements and postures to help improve mindfulness, balance and ease of motion. It originated as an ancient martial art from China and promotes wellness and rehabilitation. The mind-body exercise incorporates breathing techniques with fluid motion and a meditative state to boost positive energy overall. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

**General Exercise at Holland Street** – Monday, January 29th starting at 9:00am and 11:00 a.m. Every Wednesday at 9:00am. Join Michelle as she leads a general exercise program. All levels of participants are welcome to attend. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

**Virtual General Exercise Class** – Every Wednesday & Thursday with Michelle, at 1:00 p.m. Please email Michelle Deutsch at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov for the

Zoom link.

**Virtual Exercise, Strength and Balance**— Monday, January 29th with John at 1:00 p.m. Instructor, John Pecchia, will be leading a class geared towards gaining strength and stability through balance exercises. Please email John Pecchia at jrpecchia@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

**Yoga** – Tuesday, January 30th starting at 9:00 a.m. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

**Virtual & In Person LGBTQIA+ Exercise Class** – Thursday, January 25th at 6:00pm via Zoom. January 11th in person at 6:00 p.m. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov for Zoom link.

**Friendly Caller Program** - We 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.

**JOIN OUR MAILING LIST**

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

**The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program**

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



# Somerville High School team competing on the 'High School Quiz Show'

Cheer on the Somerville High School Quiz Show team as they compete on the High School Quiz Show®, GBH's academic tournament for Massachusetts high school students, premiering its 15th season on Saturday, January 27 at 9:30 a.m. Attend as part of the studio audience of this Jeopardy-like TV show to cheer on the team.

Over 16 weeks, 17 teams from across Massachusetts will go head-to-head for the chance to advance in the bracket.

"For more than a decade, High School Quiz Show has provided a consistent and exciting opportunity for local high school students to showcase their academic excellence within our community," said Susan Goldberg, GBH president and CEO. "As we kick-off the 15th season, I wish the best of luck to all of the competing teams and look forward to seeing who will be crowned High School Quiz Show State Champion!"

Joe Hanson, creator and host of PBS Digital Studios' Be Smart, will host the upcoming season, replacing long-time host Billy Costa who stepped away to focus on other professional ventures.

Hanson is a science writer, biologist, educator, and YouTube creator. He is the creator and host of Be Smart, an award-winning science education show from PBS that celebrates curiosity and the pleasure of finding things out. Be Smart has amassed more than 5 million subscribers across all platforms and more than half a billion views on YouTube. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, and his science writing has been published

by WIRED, Nautilus, Scientific American and Texas Monthly.

"I am unbelievably excited to host the 15th season of High School Quiz Show and to have the opportunity to celebrate curiosity and the pleasure of finding things out, the very premise of Be Smart, within a new format and community," said Hanson. "I was the captain of my junior high academic team and feel as though life has come full circle. I look forward to getting to know this season's coaches, team members, and school communities and to an exciting competition amidst so many others who know that it's okay to be smart!"

Each week, teams of four students representing schools from across the Commonwealth will compete in categories including math, history, science, literature, civics and current events. At the culmination of the competition on May 18, the top-scoring team will be named Season 15 High School Quiz Show state champions.

Season 14 State Champion, Buckingham Browne & Nichols School will return to the competition after an impressive win last year against Mansfield High School. Several previous champions are also competing to reclaim their titles including Acton-Boxborough Regional High School (season 5), Andover High School (season 9), Lexington High School (seasons 7 and 8), and North Quincy High School (seasons 4 and 13).

Four schools will be making their High School Quiz Show debuts including Boston College High School, Maynard High School, Roxbury Latin School and Saint John's High School.

The season premieres with a



Your Somerville High School Quiz Show team.

Wild Card match between Maynard High School and Saint John's High School, airing Saturday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m. on GBH 2 and the High School Quiz Show YouTube channel.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating our 15th Season of High School Quiz Show and could not be more grateful to Billy Costa for his tremendous contribution to the success and longevity of the series," said High School Quiz Show co-creator and Executive Producer Hillary Wells. "We are also delighted to introduce Joe Hanson as the host of season 15. Joe brings a palpable love and excitement for learning that's well aligned with High School Quiz Show competitors and fans. He'll fit right in!"

The 17 teams competing in Season 15 of High School Quiz Show are:

+ Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Acton

- + Andover High School, Andover
- + Boston College High School, Dorchester
- + Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, Cambridge
- + Commonwealth School, Boston
- + Hopkinton High School, Hopkinton
- + Lexington High School, Lexington
- + Littleton High School, Littleton
- + Mansfield High School, Mansfield
- + Maynard High School, Maynard
- + North Quincy High School, Quincy
- + Phillips Academy, Andover
- + Roxbury Latin School, West Roxbury
- + Saint John's High School, Shrewsbury
- + Somerville High School, Somerville
- + South High Community

School, Worcester

+ Weston High School, Weston

Season 15 of High School Quiz Show will be filmed during the weekends of January 20-21 and 27-28. Links for free tickets to attend the live tapings can be found at: [highschoolquizshow.org](http://highschoolquizshow.org).

Major funding for High School Quiz Show is provided by Safety Insurance. Additional funding is provided by the Museum of Science, Massachusetts Teachers Association, Xfinity, UMass Amherst, Peabody Essex Museum and Subaru of New England. High School Quiz Show is endorsed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the Massachusetts PTA.

For more information, visit [highschoolquizshow.org](http://highschoolquizshow.org) and follow the show on YouTube, Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram.

Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1](http://www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1) and follow us on Twitter at @somervilletimes



## Public Informational Meeting: Roadway reconstruction project on McGrath Hwy (Route 28)

A Live Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Roadway Reconstruction project on McGrath Hwy. in Somerville, MA.

Tuesday, February 13 (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.) Register for this meeting at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_\\_3Bc5PqkSvqNr4yEk7aWHw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__3Bc5PqkSvqNr4yEk7aWHw#/registration)

### Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed roadway reconstruction project. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

### Proposal:

The proposed project consists of reconstruction of McGrath Hwy. (Route 28) between Broadway in Somerville and Rufo Rd/3rd St. in Cambridge. The current design proposes to remove the McCarthy Overpass and replace it with at-grade signalized intersections. The project focuses on improving community connectivity between different neighborhoods and accommodation for all roadway users through provision, expansion, and enhancement of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities. The project also includes safety improvements, increased green space, physical separation of bicycles and pedestrians from motor vehicles wherever feasible, and the removal of a physical and visual barrier (the overpass) within the community.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

This meeting will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on this website.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Feb 13, 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Public Information Meeting: Somerville – Roadway Reconstruction on McGrath Hwy. (Route 28)

Register in advance for this webinar: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_\\_3Bc5PqkSvqNr4yEk7aWHw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__3Bc5PqkSvqNr4yEk7aWHw) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



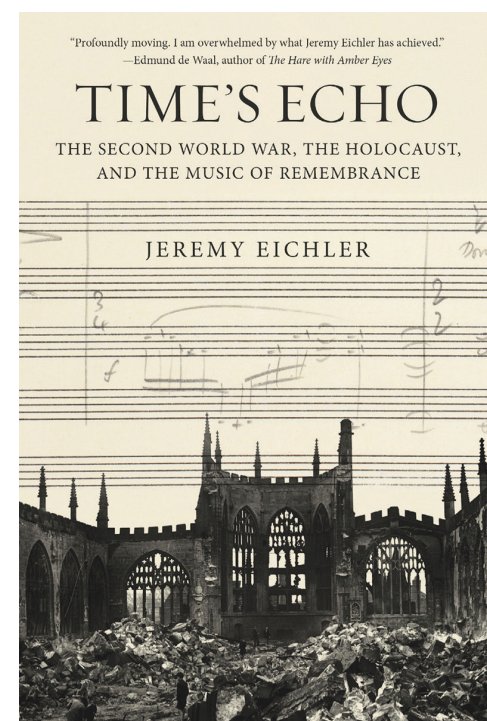
## 'Time's Echo: A Conversation about Art and Memory'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents *Time's Echo: A Conversation about Art and Memory* with author and critic Jeremy Eichler in the Distler Performance Hall at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Wednesday, February 14, at 6:00 p.m.

*Times Echo: The Second World War, The Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance* by Jeremy Eichler, chief classical music critic of *The Boston Globe*, is a new genre-blurring book on art, war and memory that has been named History Book of the Year by *The Sunday Times of London*; praised as "the outstanding music book of this and several years" by the TLS; and hailed as "a masterpiece of nonfiction writing" by the jury of the UK's premier nonfiction prize. Published by Knopf in 2023 yet "already classic" (Samuel Moyn, Yale University) it proposes new ways of listening to music as culture's memory, and learning to hear between its notes the resonances of what another era has written, heard, dreamed, hoped, and mourned.

Join faculty from across A&S to explore the broader implications of the book's arguments, its literary style, and its spirited defense of humanism and the arts for many forms of artistic expression and ways of deepening how we think about the legacies of war, the memory of culture, and the renewed promise of art for our lives today. [www.timesecho.com](http://www.timesecho.com). The event will include performances of excerpts from Olivier Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* (1941) and Kareem Roustom's *Aleppo Songs* (2016).

Opening reception preceding the event from 5:30-6:00. Co-sponsored by Office of the Vice Provost for Research, the Toupin-Bolwell fund of Arts and Sciences, Center for the Humanities at Tufts, Tisch College-Civic Studies, and the Departments of Music, Sound, and Culture, History, German, Judaic Studies, and International Literary, and Cultural Studies. The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit [go.tufts.edu/musicevents](http://go.tufts.edu/musicevents) or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at (617) 627-2253.





# The Center for Arts at the Armory Spotlight Series presents Peter Mulvey with Lyle Brewer

Arts at the Armory's Spotlight Series is thrilled to bring Peter Mulvey to their historic Performance Hall stage with Lyle Brewer as the tour opener on February 3.

Peter Mulvey has been a songwriter, road-dog, raconteur, and almost-poet since before he can remember. In 1989 he spent a year in Ireland, busking on the streets of Dublin and hitchhiking to whatever gigs he could find. Back stateside, he spent a couple years gigging through the bars of his native Midwest before taking off for Boston, where he returned to subway busking and coffeehouses. Small shows led to larger shows, which eventually led to regional and then national touring. The wheels have not stopped since.

Just last week Mulvey released a new album entitled *More Notes From Elsewhere*, which includes 18 songs, some of which were written over 20 years ago. The new album is a companion album to *Notes From Elsewhere*, released in 2007. The two albums are Mulvey's only full-length recordings featuring him solo on vocals and guitar, which is how he plays most of his concerts.

Lyle Brewer is a guitarist from Massachusetts. He plays original instrumental music and is influenced by folk, jazz and classical music. He studied at The New England Conservatory of Music starting in 2004 and has maintained a strong presence in the Boston music scene ever since.

The Peter Mulvey performance is Arts at the Armory's first Spotlight Series show to make use of significant recent capital upgrades in sound, lights and projection made possible by a City of Somerville ARPA grant and a MA Cultural Council Cultural Facilities Fund grant. Ticket holders are invited to arrive at 6:30pm for a special Capital Upgrades Demo and Cocktail Hour. RSVPs for the Cocktail Hour are being collected at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFsPcrXG2bs4cWaDyr\\_plaf4QSnxn\\_8bpX7RRwwoy-jyk8Crg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfFsPcrXG2bs4cWaDyr_plaf4QSnxn_8bpX7RRwwoy-jyk8Crg/viewform).

Arts at the Armory Spotlight Series puts the spotlight on local, national and international artists from diverse communities, and provides platforms that amplify these voices. The series includes music, theatre, dance, comedy, multimedia, literary and interdisciplinary arts performances that create immersive experiences sparking joy, inspiration, reflection, and intercultural learning.

Feb 3: The Center for Arts at the Armory Spotlight Series Presents Peter Mulvey with Lyle Brewer.

6:30 p.m. Performance Hall Capital Upgrades Demo and Cocktail Hour | 8:00 p.m. show

Tickets: <https://the-center-for-arts-at-the-armory.ticketleap.com/peter-mulvey-with-lyle-brewer/>

The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more please visit, [artsatthearmory.org](http://artsatthearmory.org), Facebook page, and on Instagram at @ArtsattheArmory. Join their mailing list at: <https://artsatthearmory.org/about/monthly-newsletter/>.

There is still time to enter to win two tickets to Peter Mulvey's concert. Go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2CZ3oNt74FtTkVenUAFGOApJNbhu-bMZkgkK9HI6LCDc194w/viewform> to submit your email address via a secure Google form. Ticket giveaway ends January 23.



## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

What's in a name? Shakespeare's writing implies that a rose by any other name would stay the same or smell as sweet. Somerville's most historic rose is Union Square. Her Union Square's Rose Street area and Porter Square's Roseland Street in Somerville were where these wild flowers once grew. Since 1941, the landmark Rosebud Diner (now Rosebud Bar and Kitchen) has brought popularity and recognition to Davis Square.

Somerville's Washington Street was originally called the Road to Newtowne. Before bridges crossed the Charles River, this street became a much-traveled thoroughfare laid out through what is today's Union Square. It was the halfway mark of the eight to ten-mile trek to Boston.

Through the years, Union Square and its surrounding squares have morphed through many names.

The Square was originally called Sand Pit Square in reference to her fine silica deposits found in her sandy soil along the Millers River. This was used by local glass works.

Liberty poles, which were common before and during the Revolution, were revived before the Civil War. In 1853, Somerville firefighters constructed one in the center of Sand Pit Square to honor the flag and the freedom she represented and renamed it Liberty Pole Square.

Before the liberty pole was erected, the square was called Hour Glass Square referring to its early hour-glass shape formed by the Millers River and its twice-a-day

tidal marshes. Bow Street, with its curved shape, formed the neck of the glass.

Following the Civil War, the Square's name was changed once again in honor of its role as a notable recruiting point for Union volunteers. A memorial stone at the corner of Webster Avenue and Washington Street notes its location. From this marker, a short stroll west on Somerville Avenue brings you to the old Milk Row Cemetery. This was the first publicly funded Civil War Memorial in the country. This memorial honors the 1,135 soldiers who set off from Somerville to save the Union. Ninety-eight of them were killed and 250 were wounded. These were the Minutemen of April 19, 1861, the Minutemen of Union Square.



For 155 years, the unmatched vista of Union Square and its enchantment has been pleasantly observed through the stunning rose window of St. Joseph's Church.



# 'What Being an Immigrant Means to Me'



Are you interested in hearing more about the Latino immigrant experience in Somerville? Would you like to gather at the museum to meet other neighbors for conversation and snacks?

Join in this Friday, January 26, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for a panel of local leaders and parents sharing their thoughts on what it means to be an immigrant and how the city and local organizations serve immigrant communities. Bring your questions – and a friend or two!

Admission: \$10; free to members and visitors 12 years of age and under.

Active Somerville Museum members use code MEMBER for discount; members of Padres Latinos use code PADRESEVENT.

RSVP: We encourage reserving advanced tickets as space will be limited. TIMING: Please arrive by 5:45 p.m.

Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143.

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

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the orchestra get struck by lightning?  
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# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Snow rooster... — Photo by Denise Provost

## On This Day in History January 24

- 0041 – Shortly after declaring himself a god, Caligula is assassinated.
- 1639 – Representatives from three Connecticut towns band together to write the Fundamental Orders, the first constitution in the New World.
- 1722 – Czar Peter the Great caps his reforms in Russia with the “Table of Rank” which decrees a commoner can climb on merit to the highest positions.
- 1848 – Gold is discovered by James Wilson Marshall at his partner Johann August Sutter’s sawmill on the South Fork of the American River, near Coloma, CA.
- 1903 – U.S. Secretary of State John Hay and British Ambassador Herbert create a joint commission to establish the Alaskan border.
- 1911 – U.S. Cavalry is sent to preserve the neutrality of the Rio Grande during the Mexican Civil War.
- 1946 – The UN establishes the International Atomic Energy Commission.
- 1982 – A draft of Air Force history reports that the U.S. secretly sprayed herbicides on Laos during the Vietnam War.



GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24</b>			1:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	9:00 AM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024	12:00 PM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24
6:30 AM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond		2:01 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	11:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing	4:00 PM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
7:40 AM	Somerville Museum: Access for All		7:00 PM	City Council Meeting - LIVE			5:10 PM	SPD Ride Along
8:00 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising		<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 26</b>		12:00 PM	SPS Capacity Study Community Presentation	5:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
10:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol		12:30 AM	Three Kings Celebration	1:30 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	6:00 PM	First Flag Raising 2024
10:31 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips		2:00 AM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024	3:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	7:00 PM	Talking Business: Night Life
11:00 AM	Talking Business: Night Life		7:00 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1	4:01 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24	7:30 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising
11:30 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating		7:30 AM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America	6:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	9:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol
12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24		8:40 AM	SPD Ride Along	7:00 PM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing	10:01 PM	SPS Capacity Study Community Presentation
3:00 PM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing		9:00 AM	Talking Business: Night Life	8:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 12-12-23	11:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
4:00 PM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2		9:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023	9:05 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 30</b>	
4:30 PM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023		11:00 AM	Three Kings Celebration	9:30 PM	Three Kings Celebration	12:00 AM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
5:40 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All		1:00 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	11:00 PM	First Flag Raising 2024	2:00 AM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
6:00 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America		3:00 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 28</b>		6:30 AM	2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
7:06 PM	Talking Business: Night Life		3:31 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All	12:00 AM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24	7:05 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
7:30 PM	City Council Meeting 1-11-24		4:00 PM	COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel	7:00 AM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024	7:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
8:00 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising		5:13 PM	SPD Ride Along	9:00 AM	SPS Capacity Study Community Presentation	8:01 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing
10:00 PM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024		5:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura	10:30 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	9:00 AM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 25</b>			6:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.	11:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing	10:06 AM	SPS Capacity Study Community Presentation
12:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing		6:30 PM	First Flag Raising 2024	12:00 PM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24	11:30 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
1:00 AM	2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24		7:30 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	4:00 PM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2	12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24
1:35 AM	Talking Business: Night Life		8:00 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America	4:30 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	3:30 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
2:00 AM	First Flag Raising 2024		9:06 PM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating	6:30 PM	SPS Capacity Study Community Presentation	5:00 PM	Three Kings Celebration
7:00 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV		9:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	8:00 PM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24	6:30 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising
8:00 AM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura		10:00 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond	<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 29</b>		8:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol
8:30 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips		11:10 PM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023	12:30 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating	9:01 PM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
9:00 AM	Three Kings Celebration		<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 27</b>		1:00 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	9:30 PM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
10:30 AM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura		12:00 AM	Cultural Capacity Forum	7:00 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice III	11:25 PM	2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
11:00 AM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond		1:05 AM	Talking Business: Night Life	8:00 AM	2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24	<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31</b>	
12:10 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America		1:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023	8:34 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating	12:00 AM	SPS Capacity Study Community Presentation
			7:00 AM	2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24	9:00 AM	Three Kings Celebration	1:30 AM	Three Kings Celebration
			7:35 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating	11:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol		
			8:00 AM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023	11:31 AM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura		
			8:40 AM	SPD Ride Along				

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24</b>			8:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly	8:30 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert	10:00 AM	Brown School Winter Concert
8:00 AM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023		10:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	9:30 PM	Hockey vs Beverly	11:00 AM	Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
8:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere		<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 26</b>		11:00 PM	Hockey vs Everett/REMM	12:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Malden
10:00 AM	Brown School Winter Concert		12:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 28</b>		1:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English
11:00 AM	Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert		2:00 AM	Winter Concert	12:30 AM	Girls Basketball vs Everett	3:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM
12:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Malden		8:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Malden	2:00 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford - Tufts	4:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
1:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English		9:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	8:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	6:00 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023
3:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM		11:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM	10:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly	6:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
4:30 PM	WHCIS Kindergarten Winter Concert		12:30 PM	SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy	11:30 AM	ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert	8:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert
5:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24		2:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24	12:10 PM	Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert	9:00 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
8:00 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023		4:30 PM	Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert	1:00 PM	WHCIS 1-3 Winter Concert	10:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Malden
8:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere		5:30 PM	Brown School Winter Concert	1:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	11:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English
10:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert		7:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Malden	3:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert	<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 30</b>	
11:00 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert		8:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	4:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM	1:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM
<b>THURSDAY, JANUARY 25</b>			10:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	5:15 PM	el Sistema Winter Concert	2:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
12:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Malden		<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 27</b>		6:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	8:00 AM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24
1:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English		1:30 AM	Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert	8:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly	10:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical
3:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM		2:15 AM	Brown School Winter Concert	9:30 PM	ESCS gr. 3-8 Winter Concert	12:02 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
8:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy		8:00 AM	Hockey vs Beverly	10:10 PM	Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert	1:06 PM	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott
9:30 AM	Brown School Winter Concert		9:30 AM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM	11:00 PM	WHCIS 1-3 Winter Concert	2:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
10:30 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford 1-14		11:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford 1-14	11:30 PM	Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	4:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly
12:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford - Tufts		12:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford - Tufts	<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 29</b>		6:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24
1:30 PM	SHS Jazz Ensemble Concert		2:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English	1:00 AM	Brown School Winter Concert	8:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical
2:05 PM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly		4:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert	2:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM	10:02 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
3:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English		5:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	3:15 AM	el Sistema Winter Concert	11:06 PM	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott
5:00 PM	Winter Concert		6:30 PM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville	8:00 AM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023	12:30 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
6:30 PM	Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert				8:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere	2:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly
7:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert							

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## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Poet January O'Neil is making her own myth in her new collection 'Glitter Road'

Interview with Doug Holder/co-president of the New England Poetry Club

I think I first met the poet January O'Neil quite a few years ago at a meeting of the Somerville Bagel Bards in Davis Square. Since then, she has become a respected English professor at Salem State University, and an acclaimed poet. She generously accepted my offer to interview her about her new collection of verse, *Glitter Road* (CavanKerry). On her publisher's website it states:

"*Glitter Road* reflects on the end of a marriage, loss, and a new relationship against the backdrop of a Mississippi season. She explores the history and legacy of Emmett Till, how his story is braided with hers, and how race binds us all together. These poems reclaim the vulnerable, intimate parts of a life in transition and celebrate womanhood through awakenings, landscapes, meanders, and possibilities."

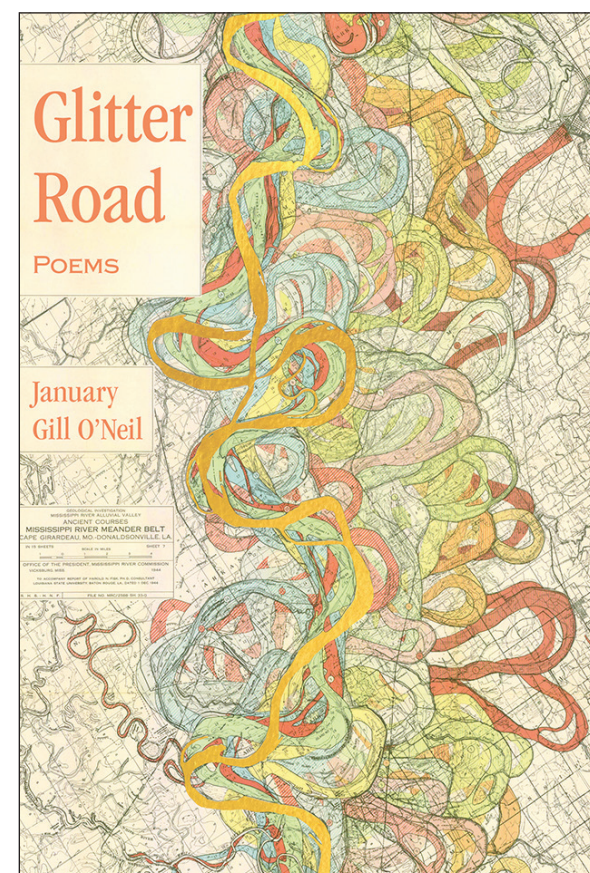
**Doug Holder:** *Glitter Road* deals with the many losses, transitions, as well as possibilities in life. You write about your poetry collection and yourself, "I am done telling the kinder story. I am a myth of my own making." Can you talk a bit about this statement, and its reflection in your poetry?

**January Gill O'Neil:** My favorite line! It is the truest line in the book. That line is from the poem *Woman Swallowed by Python in Her Cornfield*. As a writer of a certain age (I turn 55 in February), I am finding that all of the things I used to fret about – not having enough time, opportunities, love – all of those worries melt away as I get older and gain more experience. I am telling my story my way. If I don't do it, who will?

**DH:** In your poem *Autopsy* you write about your deceased ex-husband. You take a hard look at yourself – the things that were said and perhaps not said. You write in the poem, "This is a memory coming up for air." It seems that this memory is festering, and the only elixir for it is to bring it to the surface – the light of day. Did you have a catharsis of sorts, writing the poem?

**JGO:** It was cathartic in the way that saying that unsayable thing is cathartic. Making *Autopsy* the first poem in *Glitter Road* is scary and makes me feel extremely vulnerable. It's also necessary for the book's narrative.

**DH:** In the poem *On the Edge of a Field in Summer, Mississippi* you write about your trip to the town where Emmett Till's killers were acquitted. The landscape is the main character in this poem, and it pulls you in to this poignant reflection about the plight of



past and present African American men and women – and indeed, your own life. Did this poem come to you deliberately, or did it hit when you arrived in town, and saw that field of nightmares?

**JGO:** I imagined a field of my ancestors picking cotton. So much of what I felt in the Delta was the trauma of the land. At the time, the feeling hit me in a wave all at once. But it took me months to write it down. I needed to live with it, to decide how I felt about it, and to reveal it in a poem.

In 2019, I was awarded a fellowship to the University of Mississippi, Oxford, as the John and Renée Grisham Writer in Residence. I moved my then-teenagers (and new puppy) down for one academic year, and we became part of the community. Everyone we met was kind and welcoming. In October, my daughter and I attended the re-dedication of the Emmett Till River Site Memorial Marker at Graball Landing. Previous markers had been vandalized on three separate occasions. We stood beside the turbid waters of the Tallahatchie where Till's bloated body was pulled out. For the rest of my time, I researched Till's story, went to sites and spoke with people who had first-hand knowledge of what happened back in 1955.

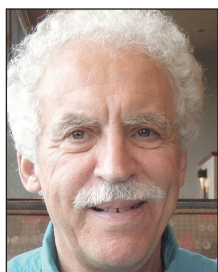
To my surprise, I found a part of myself in the red dirt, in every wild daffodil that was, most likely, on a plot of land worked by an enslaved person.

**DH:** Your poems deal with a lot *Continued on page 23*

## Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Henry Stimpson's poems have appeared in *Poet Lore*, *Rolling Stone*, *Delmarva Review*, *Mad River Review*, *Aethlon*, *The MacGuffin*, *The Aurean*, *Lighten Up Online*, *Common Ground Review*, *California Quarterly*, *Asses of Parnassus*, *Bluepepper*, *The Boston Phoenix*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Snakeskinpoetry*, *Atlanta Review*, *On the Seawall* and others. A Massachusetts resident, he also writes creative nonfiction and hopes to see a Boston Celtics championship soon.



### The Mad Knotty Piner

nailed up knotty pine panels  
in cabins all over New Hampshire,  
I told my little cousin one night  
in our dim rented cottage.

Look, I said, each dark knot  
marks a dead child's soul!  
Beside those staring eyes,  
Karen drifted into haunted sleep.

In her 50s, alone,  
she wrestles with the cancer  
that will pinch her soul  
into a dark knot soon.

— Henry Stimpson

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



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

**Call to artists: East Somerville Main Streets** is gearing up for **Carnaval 2024** and they are looking for your talent to create the perfect poster that captures the essence of the festivities. Fill out the Google form to participate: <https://forms.gle/unApjMVwYagLHbRn6>

Visit the **ROOTED Armory Café** for their **Sunday Brunch**, 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. with live music 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. 191 Highland Ave. Enjoy French toast, pancakes, frittata, pulled pork tacos, mimosas, espresso drinks and much more. This week's line up will be **January 28: Eva Gertz** (Singer Songwriter).

Visit the **Somerville Museum** for the ongoing *Museo Inmigrante: Stories of Resilience from Somerville's Padres Latinos* exhibit. A **Community Collaboration Project** with Somerville's Padres Latinos. Padres Latinos is a mutual aid group of more than 230 Spanish and Portuguese-speaking parents with children in the **Somerville Public Schools (SPS)**. Visit the museum website for more information and hours [www.somervillemuseum.org](http://www.somervillemuseum.org).

Be sure to cast your ballot for **'The Somerville Times' Best of Somerville 2023**. Categories are listed on our ballot (see page 11), and If you don't see your favorite category there, you can simply add it to the list. To cast your vote, email us at [thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com). You have until **February 2** to vote for your favorites in each category. The winners will be announced on **Wednesday, February 7**.

On **Friday, January 26**, at 7:00 p.m., visit the **Rooted Café at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. in Somerville for an evening of music and laughs. The night will feature three hilarious musical acts: a fully improvised musical by **Uncomposed**, the solo-improv talents of **Party of One**, the mini-musical mashup **Mam-**

**ma Misérables**. After the show will be an all-access **Musical Improv Jam** for anybody who wants to get on stage and join the fun, with a mixture of musical games and montages. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., show begins at 8:30 p.m.

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition** announced the return of their annual **Spring Into Action** event to be held on **Thursday, March 28**, at the **Crystal Ballroom** in Davis Square. Join them for an evening packed with live music, local Somerville grub, and get the opportunity to meet the SHC team as they share impactful updates about our work and discuss our new transformative vision for the future. To learn more and buy tickets please see the link below. Tickets and Information: [bit.ly/SIA24](http://bit.ly/SIA24).

**CultureHouse at 64 Union Square** is now open, visit their newest pop-up and enjoy coffee and tea, games and comfy seating, and a line-up of exciting events happening. Working alongside the **Union Square Neighborhood Council**, CultureHouse has transformed a vacant storefront into a community-driven pop-up to test ideas for a future community center. This free-to-enter intergenerational pop-up will be a public space pilot, a living room for the community, a resource center, and an arts, culture, and business incubator. They will be there until **June 9**, Monday–Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday–Sunday: 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. For more information, visit: <https://culturehouse.cc/projects/union-square/>.

Give feedback on **Somerville's Climate Forward Plan Update**. Launched in 2018, Climate Forward established 13 top strategies to reduce Somerville's contribution to climate change and create a more climate-resilient community. It's updated every five years to meet changing needs and seize new strategies to meet our goals. Now at the five-year

mark, the city has released the latest draft goals, strategies, and actions for the Climate Forward plan update. Review the plan and submit comments on what's proposed and prioritized: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m\\_EGwkHa7mGJ9xxj5crnZeLVb-CV3W3yW/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m_EGwkHa7mGJ9xxj5crnZeLVb-CV3W3yW/edit). Comments will be accepted until **Wednesday, January 31**.

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

Join the **Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly 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.

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

In preparation for the cold months ahead, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is in urgent need of **winter cloth-**

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

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

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

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

of sorrow, but there are ample doses of humor and hope. How do you keep the faith?  
**JGO:** I love that question, Doug! It's not easy. But that's precisely why poetry is a necessary art. We go to poetry for connection. To feel something. To not feel so alone. At my center is joy, which is the other side of the pain. I make a conscious effort to stay open to possibility and see the world anew each and every day. It doesn't always happen, of course. Life intrudes: the

dog wakes me up at 4:00 a.m.; the kids, home on break, leave dishes in the sink (a pet peeve of mine); someone cuts me off in traffic. And with so much unrest in the world today, it's easy to lose faith. That's when I need poetry the most.  
**DH:** Why should we read your book?  
**JGO:** Another excellent question! I hope your readers discover *Glitter Road* because it captures a story of self-discovery and transformation. My experience is both

intimate and universal. I hope readers will be able to see themselves in these pages, and find community while exploring the themes of love, loss, race, history, and identity. *Glitter Road* weaves a personal narrative with the legacy of Emmett Till against a Southern backdrop. But there is so much wonder and joy in these pages. My story is an American one that revels in the beauty and complexities of life. I invite everyone to join me on this journey that celebrates what connects us all.



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