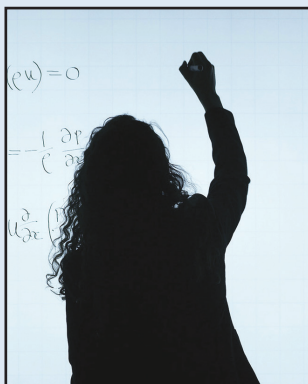




Inside:



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teaching math**
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**Song and dance at
the COA**
page 17

City Council overwhelmingly passes ceasefire resolution



Prior to the 9-2 vote, hundreds of Somerville residents rallied in support and packed the council chambers.

On January 25, the Somerville City Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution calling on the Biden administration to work toward an immediate and enduring ceasefire in Gaza. The 9 to 2 vote makes Somerville the first city in Massachusetts to call for a ceasefire, following mere hours after the Minneapolis City Council passed their own ceasefire resolution.

The months-long effort to bring forward the resolution brought many in the community out. Nearly 500 supporters rallied outside Somerville City Hall, then packed the Council Chamber and two overflow rooms, to listen to the three hours of deliberation. While emotions ran high, pro-ceasefire community members respectfully engaged with the Council, and waited patiently for hours as the resolution was debated, amended, and passed. *Continued on page 4*

Inaugural Lunar New Year event kicks off at ESCS

By Joei Chan

The City of Somerville's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Somerville Asian Family Network hosted their first-ever Lunar New Year event on January 28 at the East Somerville Community School. Opened to the general public, the event was well received as around 300 people of all ages came to celebrate.

To observe the Lunar New Year, activities such as Losar Tibetan prayer flag arts and crafts, a Chinese shadow play, The Adventure at the Kingdom of India - A Story from Journey to the West 天竺奇遇記, by the Chinese American Association of Cambridge, an author talk with Vincent Yee, and even a display of posters made by families to showcase how they celebrate the New Year. *Continued on page 15*



The city's Office of Immigrant Affairs' Lunar New Year event took place at East Somerville Community School last Sunday afternoon. — Photos by Joei Chan

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

Join MassDOT this **Wednesday, January 31**, at 6:00 p.m. for an in-person public information meeting at the **Somerville Central Library** for the **Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements Project**. The meeting will feature a presentation delivered by project team members after which attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Somerville Positive Forces (SPF) middle and high school youth will present the **2023 Middle School Student Health Survey results** in a trivia format this **Thursday, February 1**. After trivia, stay to discuss strategies for addressing topics such as substance use, mental health, physical violence, physical health, and sexual health in breakout rooms led by local professionals. This virtual event will take place online via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. To learn more and attend, visit bit.ly/surveytrivia24.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to our good friend and a great guy, **former Alderman Bob McWatters**. We wish him the very best and hope he enjoys his day Happy birthday to **John Arvantis**, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Jason Ribeiro**. We hope he has a great day this week. Happy birthday to **Eleanor Pye**. We hope she has a great day. Also celebrating this week, **Steve DeCarlo**, Director of **CityTV**. We hope he has a great day as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Matt Sullivan, Karen Crane**

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 31 – February 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>January 31</i>	Partly Cloudy	39°/25°	6%	3%	SW 5 mph
Thursday <i>February 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	44°/31°	9%	5%	SW 9 mph
Friday <i>February 2</i>	Cloudy	43°/28°	25%	17%	NW 9 mph
Saturday <i>February 3</i>	Partly Cloudy	33°/21°	20%	11%	NW 11 mph
Sunday <i>February 4</i>	Sunny	32°/20°	4%	1%	NNW 10 mph
Monday <i>February 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	34°/22°	16%	9%	NW 11 mph
Tuesday <i>February 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	36°/24°	15%	8%	N 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Community members urge Somerville City Council to pass ceasefire resolution

Dan Kimmel says:

Who violated the last ceasefire with murder, rape and atrocities? That would be Hamas. Who has violated every ceasefire in the past? That would be Hamas. So this so-called “peace” effort is simply a move to allow Hamas to regroup and rearm so they can — as they have publicly promised — murder Jews in the future. No one is calling for a ceasefire in Ukraine, knowing that that would benefit the Russian invaders. The only ceasefire needed in Gaza is the release of the hostages, including infants seized by the terrorists, and a surrender by Hamas.

Gideon says:

Thank you Somerville! It is a huge relief to me to see that my city government supports “Israel’s right to defend itself within the bounds of international law” and to use “any means to support long-lasting peace” — which necessarily includes dismantling Hamas and its infrastructure of terror paid for by billions of dollars in stolen foreign aid. (This language was not in the original text, but was added and approved via amendment and then passed.)

Slaw says:

@ Dan Kimmel: 2023 was already among the deadliest years for Palestinians before 10/7. Israel was killing about a Palestinian a day. “Who has violated every ceasefire in the past?” Israel. This is well documented by all credible sources on the topic. The ICJ just ruled that Israel is plausibly carrying out genocide in Gaza, Just like it ruled in favor of a ceasefire in Ukraine. It ordered Israel to stop and punish the politicians who are advocating the genocide. Israel has responded by saying “The Hague can’t stop us.” Israel cannot be allowed to wipe out Gaza.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Simply the best



I feel very blessed to have grown up in the Somerville of the 60's 70s 80s and 90s. If you think Somerville is cool now you should've seen it during those times.

At one point we had a Friendly's, a Dairy Queen and a couple of Brighams to hang at. Nan's Sub Shop was across the street from Somerville High and there was Angelina's across from the Western Junior High School. We had Butler's Music Store in Davis Square years before our friends' Rockin' Robs.

We had great restaurants like The Venice and The Continental at opposite ends of the city. We had two record stores, one in Davis Square and one in Porter Square. And don't forget that the very first Bertucci's was in Somerville as was Steve's Ice Cream.

We had recreational staff at just about every park in the city. We had a good run with high school basketball games. Nobody got a ride to and from school. We either walked or took the bus. Most streets were two-way but we still played right in the middle. We had paper routes and bicycles. We had pigeons and no rabbits.

We had friends with cool cars like Neal's

67 GTO. Friends started riding motorcycles. We hung out at bars like The Jumbo then ate an early morning breakfast at Kay and Chips.

We had great mayors like S. Lester Ralph and Gene Brune. We wore Members Only jackets and the girls had marvelously big hair. We had no cell phones. We kept a dime in our shoe for the phone booth.

Davis Square had a beat cop I think his name was Al. He was always smiling.

If you wanted to be an electrician, carpenter or a plumber you could attend Somerville trade high school as many of my friends did.

How about how close we are to Boston and Cambridge? When I was a hippie in the 60s and 70s we could go to the Cambridge common or the Boston common to participate in peace rallies and enjoy free concerts.

Somerville high had the best choruses and glee clubs. We now have a beautiful new high school to boast about.

I've lived in Somerville my entire life and I'm grateful to be able to stay here now in retirement. There's a great Facebook page called the Pride of Somerville. Check it out.

We had the best city then and the best city today.



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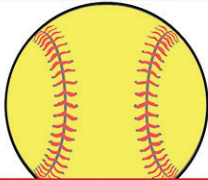
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JrHighlanderSoftball@gmail.com

The deadline to register is March 29th.
There is currently a clinic running at the Edgerly School on Sundays.
You can register on the Somerville Recreation website.

City Council overwhelmingly passes ceasefire resolution

CONT. FROM PG 1

The grassroots turnout was organized by Somerville for Palestine, a newly formed inter-faith, intergenerational, interracial group of Somerville residents standing in solidarity with the Palestinian people and demanding an immediate and lasting ceasefire. About 10 people opposed to the resolution attended as well.

Council President Ben Ewen-Campen introduced the resolution, saying that “for the last 100-plus days, we have seen a military campaign that has been the most devastating bombing campaign in our generation, killing tens of thousands of people, huge numbers of them innocent children. Something like two million people are now homeless and hungry, on the brink of starvation, being denied basic humanitarian aid. I am one of the many, many people in our community and beyond who believes that this needs to end, and it needs to end now.”

Explaining that Ewen-Campen struggled for many months with the decision to bring forward this resolution, he said, “The truth is that this is an issue that is coming from the bottom of my heart. My moral convictions compelled me to draft this resolution, pure and simple.” Councilor Ewen-Campen’s full statement can be read at: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IVGVd-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IVGVd-0CEYS-EZHMD_eW_yLf-pzc4dyXbGAUdQR-zWQnX3Y/edit)

[0CEYS-EZHMD_eW_yLf-pzc4dyXbGAUdQR-zWQnX3Y/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IVGVd-0CEYS-EZHMD_eW_yLf-pzc4dyXbGAUdQR-zWQnX3Y/edit).

Councilor Ewen-Campen and other councilors supportive of the resolution sponsored Somerville residents to speak about why this resolution was meaningful to them.

"We need a permanent ceasefire, and for Israel to be held accountable"

Jamal Halawa, a Somerville High Teacher and Palestinian American resident who has lived in the city for over twenty years, testified before the council urging them to support the ceasefire resolution. “Simply put, voting for a ceasefire signal to Palestinian and Arab Americans and Muslims in Somerville that our lives matter,” Halawa said. Halawa’s full speech can be found at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C7NYwNjSASd-3nch5aW86L4_Hgu5J8NX-FEp76YwDjbtU/edit.

Carina Kurban, the granddaughter of a Palestinian refugee who was ethnically cleansed from



Haifa in 1948, shared the stories of direct brutality her family has faced at the hands of Israel, including when their home in Southern Lebanon was commandeered by the Israeli military for nearly two decades.

As a 20-year-old college student, Kurban told the council, she was stopped at Ben Gurion airport while traveling to the West Bank, “interrogated and humiliated for 8 hours, denied entry, strip searched, jailed, sexually harassed, assaulted, deported in handcuffs, and banned from the country indefinitely – and I was given no reason other than ‘terrorism.’” Kurban said, “We need a permanent ceasefire, and

for Israel to be held accountable. Because without both, the situation will go back to what scholars like Noam Chomsky have called ‘an incremental genocide’ rather than an accelerated one.” Kurban’s full speech can be found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZwYideWPrXAF-B4Hb-A5pQcVwd28ea82bZfx-8gid-Sgo/edit>.

Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. was also supportive of the resolution, having spoken previously at Somerville for Palestine rallies about his efforts to pressure the federal partners to call for a ceasefire and his experiences in Palestine. “For 110 days, the Apartheid State of Israel has dropped tens of thousands of bombs on Gaza, destroying more than 70% of homes, killing more than 25,000 people (the vast majority of which are women and children). We have a duty to listen to our constituents, to demand that our elected leaders put pressure on President Biden, and to end this genocide before it is too late!” Councilor Burnley Jr.’s full speech can be found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n1zW5RUh-PZNZ6QvPhMIGJ5A1wvY-iVB7n2xpVFX4N4eI/edit>.

Long time Somerville resident Alain Jehlen, the son of a Holocaust survivor and husband of State Senator Pat Jehlen, urged Somerville Councilors to vote in

favor of the Ceasefire Resolution. “It makes me furious that the Israeli government is using Holocaust victims like my family as a reason to slaughter Palestinians. Mass bombing, the systematic demolition of homes, and depriving everyone of food and water have nothing to do with defending Jews. The lesson for us from centuries of oppression capped by the murder of millions is that nobody should ever go through that again. Not just Jews, but nobody. Every human life is equal.” Jehlen’s full comments can be found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/18IiQ2_Urzzga04N-lOqqGD9gS3Q6WdKnP/edit.

Somerville for Palestine has been circulating a public letter to Senators Markey and Warren calling for a ceasefire and solidarity with Palestinians, with over 800 signatures from Somerville residents. Somerville for Palestine organizer Sara Halawa stated, “I’m so incredibly proud of my city for being the first in Massachusetts to call for a ceasefire. Like our SHS fight song says, ‘Somerville leads the way!’”



SCES offering Chronic Disease Self-Management classes

By Nathan Lamb

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is offering free Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSMP) workshops via Zoom, starting in February. Participants who finish the course will also receive \$50 grocery gift cards.

CDSMP is an education workshop that aims to build confidence in managing health and help participants stay engaged with their lives. Developed by a team of researchers at Stanford University, it is for adults with chronic health problems, such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, and other ongoing health concerns.

CDSMP focuses on problem solving and decision making,

helping participants set goals and develop action plans to address effects of chronic disease, improve health and communicate better with friends, family and health professionals.

The SCES CDSMP workshop will be facilitated by:

Meghan Ostrander, who is Director of Nutrition and Community Programs at SCES.

Andrea Svartstrom, a registered dietitian with the SCES Nutrition program.

The six-week workshop will convene on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., starting on February 29. For more information or to register call Meghan Ostrander at 617-628-2601 ext. 3172 or email meghan.ostrander@eldercare.org.



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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House and Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports on the number of times each representative sided with Gov. Maura Healey on her 24 vetoes of mostly state budget items in the 2023 legislative session.

A two-thirds vote is required to override a gubernatorial veto. In a full 160-member House, the governor needs the support of 54 representatives to sustain a veto when all 160 representatives vote—and fewer votes when some members are absent or a seat is vacant. Healey fell short of that goal as 25 votes was the most support she received on any veto. The House easily overrode all 24 vetoes, including nine that were overridden unanimously.

No Democrats voted with Healey to sustain any vetoes. All 134 voted to override all the vetoes. Only GOP members voted with Healey to sustain the vetoes, but no Republican representative voted with Healey 100 percent of the time.

The three GOP members who voted with Healey the most times are Reps. Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) and Nicholas Boldyga (R-Southwick) who both voted with her 14 times (58.3 percent); and Donald Berthiaume (R-Spencer) who voted with her 12 times (50 percent).

The GOP member who supported Healey the least number of times was Rep. David Vieira (R-Falmouth) who voted with Healey only seven times (29.1 percent).

NUMBER OF TIMES REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTED GOV. HEALEY’S VETOES IN THE 2023 SESSION

Gov. Healey vetoed 24 proposals that were approved by the Legislature in 2023.

Here is how your representative fared in his or her support of Gov. Healey on the vetoes.

The percentage next to the representative’s name represents the percentage of times that he or she supported Healey. The number in parentheses represents the actual number of times the representative supported Healey.

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

HEALEY FILES \$58.15 BILLION FISCAL YEAR 2025 STATE BUDGET – Gov. Maura Healey filed her second annual state budget, this one with a price tag of \$58.15 billion. The package calls for about \$2.07 billion

or 3.7 percent more spending compared to the fiscal 2024 budget she signed in August 2023.

"We are tightening our belts," Healey said. "I want to be clear about that, Our economy remains strong, but the revenue picture is changing. Pandemic-era funding relief has gone away, and nationally, the economic recovery has stabilized. So, in this environment, it is important that we manage spending in a way that is making strategic choices, examining the impact of every dollar we propose to spend and that we bring our budget in line with a rate of inflation and in line with the resources and the revenue that we have."

"What Gov. Maura Healey is proposing is an irresponsible budget, coming in higher than last year which was already too high, while missing the much-needed reforms to curtail our immigration problems along with making our state more competitive," said Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "The governor is continuing to spend taxpayer money on immigrants, while cutting spending on taxpayers, closing a state jail and shifting money away from dedicated savings. The governor describes this budget as fiscally responsible, but this budget reflects a state that is fiscally crumbling from the top down."

"As a former mayor, and someone who has traveled around the state listening to our local officials, I'm proud of the way that this budget proposal responds to local needs," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "We're fully funding the Student Opportunity Act to make sure our K-12 schools have equitable access to the resources their students and educators need. We're also increasing the amount of local aid going to cities and towns and boosting Chapter 90 funding to improve roads and bridges, particularly in rural communities."

"Gov. Healey has filed a fiscal year 2025 budget that calls for significantly increased spending across state government, but those aspirations need to be tempered by the fiscal realities facing the commonwealth," said House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "After six-plus months of tax revenues coming in lower than expected, Gov. Healey has already implemented hundreds of millions of dollars in mid-year cuts and downgraded projected revenues by \$1 billion for fiscal year 2024. At the same time, funding for the migrant shelter crisis continues to drain much-needed revenues that would otherwise have been spent on other programs and services, with no end in sight."

The budget now goes to the House which will craft and approve its own version and then it moves to the Senate which will offer a different plan. A House-Senate confer-

ence committee will eventually hammer out a compromise version that will be approved by both branches and sent to Gov. Healey who has the power to veto any spending and any other items. The House and Senate can then choose to override any of the governor’s vetoes.

GOV. HEALEY SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER INSTITUTING SKILLS-BASED HIRING – Gov.

Healey signed an executive order requiring all state agencies to institute skills-based hiring practices. The order requires hiring to focus primarily on an applicant’s skills, knowledge and abilities rather than educational credentials. The only jobs exempt from the requirement are jobs when education degree conditions are absolutely necessary for the performance of the job. In addition, people in charge of hiring will receive training to help them implement these new hiring policies.

"As the state’s largest employer, we rely on a strong, diverse workforce to deliver crucial services and programs for Massachusetts residents, businesses and communities every day," said Healey. "But too many job applicants are being held back by unnecessary degree requirements. This Executive Order directs our administration to focus on applicants’ skills and experiences, rather than college credentials. It will expand our applicant pool and help us build a more inclusive and skilled workforce than ever before. Our administration is leading by example, and we encourage the business community to join us by adopting similar skills-based hiring practices."

"Massachusetts has an incredible opportunity to leverage its platform as a major employer, lead by example, and encourage more employers to do the same," said Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Lauren Jones. "As employers, including the commonwealth, embrace a skills-based hiring practice, we will collectively open more opportunities to hire, retain and develop the diverse, skilled talent employers need to grow and thrive in regions across the state."

FREE BUSES (H 3266) - The Transportation Committee held a hearing on legislation that would create a 1-year pilot program for free access to bus service for the MBTA and regional transit authorities. The measure also would establish advisory committees to evaluate the impacts of the pilot program on ridership, equity, increased access, efficiency, on-time performance, cost savings and other metrics.

"Sen. [Pat Jehlen] and I filed [the bill] because access to public transit is critical to the well-being and economic development of our communities," said House sponsor Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville). "As we continue to see lower ridership compared to before

Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Groundhog Day...again?

Our View Of The Times



The quaint old custom of looking to an oversized rodent every February 2 for a generalized weather forecast for the following immediate future is warmly amusing to some, irksome to others.

Groundhog Day is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada. Its origins are traced to the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow

on the given day and sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will go back into its den and winter weather will continue for six more weeks. If it fails to see its shadow because of cloudiness, then spring will invariably arrive early.

Of course, studies have found no consistent association between a groundhog seeing its shadow and the subsequent arrival time of spring-like weather. Still, many are

so enamored of the legend that the annual ritual is played out with glee throughout many communities across the land.

Most notable among these celebrations is the famous Groundhog Day ceremony held at Punxsutawney in western Pennsylvania, centering on a semi-mythical groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil. News outlets nationwide file their annual tongue-in-cheek reports of the event,

as notably depicted in the popular film *Groundhog Day*.

One wonders how such an event held in Somerville might play out. Do we even have groundhogs native to our environs? Or would we gather around a trash barrel, awaiting a sign from some oracular rat as it rears its head upward?

Whatever prediction comes forth, may the weeks ahead be amenable to all.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Brisbois, Sarah Martino, Alan Carvalho and Carolyn Dacey Corbett 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.

Families are invited to join Leigh Baltzer of **Through Me to You Puppetry** for an interactive Saturday morning story time. Newton and his puppet friends will read stories and lead us in our favorite songs. This event will take place on **Saturday, February 3**, at the **Somerville Public Library East Branch** (115 East Broadway) from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

The City of Somerville is hiring **polling place workers** for the upcoming **2024 Presidential Primary Election**. Poll workers must be available on **Election Day: Tuesday, March 5**. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after the polls close at 8:00 p.m., with a two-hour break. Poll workers earn \$200 for the day. Interested? Register to attend an **information session** on **Tuesday, February 6**, at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.) at 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. If you cannot make an information session but would like to learn more, please call the **Elections Office** at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

Somerville teens are invited to the **Career Exploration Workshop**. Is your teen planning for the future? Somerville's **Youth Services division** is hosting a career exploration workshop for teens on **Thursday, February 8**, at the **Somerville Public Library West Branch** (40 College Ave.) from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Teens will gain insight into their strengths, interests, values, and personality traits to help better understand themselves and potential career options. Register your teen or contact **Dan Harris** at dharris@somervillema.gov with any questions.

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.

Somerville Public Schools is looking for **substitute teachers**. Join an amazing team of educators,

Continued on page 18

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#908

1. When was the only time Groundhog Day got skipped?

2. What type of stroke is typically used for a pickleball serve?

3. How many points does a player or team need to win a game of pickleball?

4. What is the name of a coffee drink prepared by diluting espresso with water?

5. When is National Thank a Mail Carrier Day?

6. What actor played counterterrorist agent
- Jack Bauer on the TV series 24?

7. Ph.D. stands for what?

8. Which author wrote *Partners in Crime*?

9. How tall was the world's largest snowman/snowwoman?

10. What is a fear of snow called?

11. What fruit has a variety called a winter banana?

12. What is February's birth flower?
- Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Jupiter is twice as large as all the other planets combined.
2. Your body contains about 100,000 miles of blood vessels.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
SUPER BOWL

- ACROSS
1. Desert bloomers

6. Request for tailor

9. Paul Bunyan's companion

13. Delivered by plane

14. Boiling emotion

15. Match play result?

16. Like the North vs. the South war

17. Bag, Paris

18. Nymph of lakes and springs

19. Team that never made it to Super Bowl

21. Last year's Super Bowl winner

23. Safety value

24. Disfigure

25. Birthplace of NFL

28. Roofed colonnade

30. Dr. Seuss' Yertle

35. Auctioneer's final word

37. Sea eagles

39. Popular winter boot brand

40. Largest ethnic group in Rwanda

41. User's destination

43. Like Twiggy's skirt

44. Former anesthetic

46. Not all

47. Death notice

48. Like r in American English

50. Luau souvenirs

52. Opposite of WSW

53. Vatican's head

55. Cattle prod

57. AFC's top seed

60. Host state of this year's Super Bowl

63. Like allergy spray

64. Second person of be

66. Pleasant odor

68. Fervent

69. Grazing ground

70. "When pigs fly!"

71. Modeling material

72. NFL Honors' announcement

73. Trento's Council of ____

- DOWN
1. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.

2. Alight, past tense

3. Boat mooring spot, e.g.

4. Short for betwixt

5. Wife's parents

6. Serpenterium noise

7. Time period

8. Hajj destination

9. Hillside, in Scotland

10. "Dream on!" (2 words)

11. Constricting snakes

12. ____ zone

15. Bad blood

20. Post-it user

22. Not miss

24. Street opening

25. Half-time show entertainer

26. Compass point

27. In spite of the fact, arch.

29. Loads from lodes

31. CBS announcer and former QB

32. Native American group

33. Famous Bolshevik

34. Like the Super Bowl players

36. Sonny & Cher, e.g.

38. Ditto

42. Neutral shade

45. With mature appearance

49. Bamboozle

51. Learned one

54. Religious song

56. Defier

57. Not top-shelf

58. On the ocean

59. Deviate

60. Type of tide

61. Peace symbol

62. End of grace

63. 49ers' conference

65. Short for one time around

67. Short for Arthur

CROSSWORD

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

T	A	M	I	L		C	U	D			L	A	S	H
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P	I	N	T				S	A	P			E	C	A

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. The winners will be announced on Wednesday, February 7. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it to this list.

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

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Chicken Caesar Salad

One of the best things about this salad is that everything can be made in advance and assembled right before you're ready to serve it. Whenever I have leftover bread, I also like to make croutons so I have them on hand pretty much most of the time. See the recipe below for the salad and a link for the crouton recipe.

Baby Kale (5oz package)
Grilled Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts, sliced (1 1/2-2, 6oz each serving per person)
Croutons 1 Cup, here's my recipe, <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/73172>

Caesar Dressing
1 Cup Mayonnaise
2 Garlic Cloves, pressed or finely

minced to a paste consistency
1 Teaspoon Worcestershire
1 Teaspoon Dijon Mustard
2 Tablespoons Lemon Juice
5 Drops Fish Sauce
1/4 Cup Grated Parmesan Cheese, plus extra to add to the salad
1/4 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
1/2 Teaspoon Freshly Grated Black Pepper

In a small bowl, add all the ingredients listed above and blend well. Store it in the refrigerator in an airtight container for up to a week. To assemble, place 1/3 cup of the Caesar dressing into a large bowl, then add the package of baby kale and the croutons to the bowl and toss it well until everything is lightly coated with the dressing. You can always add more dressing to your liking and serve extra on the side. Divide the mixture between three bowls or plates. Add the sliced



grilled chicken and top off with either grated or shaved Parmesan cheese. Serving size for 3.

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

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 607981

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**.

WHEN: **Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 – 6:30pm**

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 the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

1/31/24 The Somerville Times



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 20, 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.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XAyhMw1YQ7ukqyWT7z6zxA

Webinar ID: 868 4883 5598

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

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP23-000064 - 326 Lowell Street
Applicant: Alfa Excavation Inc
Owner: 326-328 Lowell Street, LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building that is at least 75 years of age.

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP23-000051 - 57 Columbus Ave
Applicant: David Bell & Monique Cole
Owner: Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter the exterior of an LHD property through the removal of existing exterior features and the installation of new exterior features.

HP23-000083 - 30 Bow Street
Applicant: Modern Love, LLC
Owner: 30 Bow St LLC
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing a mechanical platform lift, and adding an accessible path.

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

1/31/24 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 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.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, February 15, 2024** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bIW4TJz1REGz9LF4zqRGkq

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

- 15 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinances to add Section 8.4.19, Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District
- 13 registered voters requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 8 Park Street, 10 Park Street, 504 Somerville Avenue, and 7-9 Properzi Way from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District, and 15-27 Properzi Way, 29 Properzi Way, 26-32 Park Street, 8-14 Tyler Street, 40 Park Street, 15 Dane Street, 7-9 Tyler Street, 460 Somerville Avenue, 444 Somerville Avenue, 440 Somerville Avenue, 30 Dane Street, and 24-28 Dane Street from Fabrication (FAB) to Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Overlay District.
- 234 Pearl Street Realty Trust and Goodpitch, LLC requesting a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 234 and 236 Pearl Street from Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinances to amend Article 9: Use Provisions, and the Permitted Uses tables of all zoning districts, to establish a Recreational Camp for Children use within the Recreational Services use category.
- Gregg Donovan requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 321 Washington Street from Fabrication (FAB) to Commercial Industry (CI).

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's [online meeting calendar](#) for the address or item number.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Public comments may be provided by email to the Planning Board at planning@somervillema.gov and the City Council at publiccomments@somervillema.gov, prior to the written comment period deadline set by the Chairs at the hearing.

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Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. 1942, during World War II | 8. Agatha Christie |
| 2. Underhand serve | 9. 122 Feet, 1 inch tall, weighing 13,000,000 lbs., the Olympia Snow-woman was built in Bethel, ME in 2008 |
| 3. 11 points | 10. Chionophobia |
| 4. Americano | 11. Apple |
| 5. February 4 | 12. Violet |
| 6. Kiefer Sutherland | |
| 7. Doctor of Philosophy | |

LEGAL NOTICES

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SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the **City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, on a petition for a New Garage License:

John's Auto Sales Inc, 181 Somerville Ave, for 2 vehicles inside and 22 vehicles outside for mechanical repairs only, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: Closed.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JmKtZ9v7t>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the Webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the Hearing in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

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SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the **City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, on a petition for a New Extended Operating Hours License:

Everfitness, 14 McGrath Highway, opening Monday-Friday 24/5 for in-store service only.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JmKtZ9v7t>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the Webinar.

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SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the **City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, on petitions for two new licenses:

Broadway Gulf Inc, 212 Broadway:

- New Garage License, 3 vehicles inside, 7 vehicles outside, for mechanical repairs and storing vehicles, Mon-Fri: 6am-10pm, Sat: 7am-3pm, Sun: closed; and

- New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, 3 vehicles inside, 10 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JmKtZ9v7t>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the Webinar.

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CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the **City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, on a petition for a New Extended Operating Hours License:

Dunkin, 504 Broadway, opening 24/7 for in store and take-out services.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JmKtZ9v7t>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the Webinar.

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CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

1/31/24 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the **City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, on petitions for two new licenses:

Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Drive:

- New Extended Operating Hours License, opening Monday-Sunday until 2am for in-store service only; and

- New Billiards and Bowling License, for 5 billiard tables and 8 bowling lanes.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JmKtZ9v7t>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the Webinar.

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

1/31/24 The Somerville Times



BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY OF SOMERVILLE

The City of Somerville's Board of Health will host a public hearing to review potential changes to the Regulation of the Somerville Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Smoke Accessories. The proposed regulation changes are available for review in draft form here - <https://www.somervillema.gov/event-documents>.

Individuals from the public are welcome to attend the meeting which will be held virtually at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, February 15, 2024** and will be accessible via the following link: <https://bit.ly/somboh24>.

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.

The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at www.somervillema.gov/ContactSomervilla or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.

All requests for accommodation should be made by the close of business on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**. General questions about the hearing should be directed to the Health and Human Services department at kcarroll@somervillema.gov. Written comments will also be accepted until **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.** and should be sent to the attention of Karin Carroll at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145 or via e-mail to kcarroll@somervillema.gov.

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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.
- Interpretation into other languages may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at 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) 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, 1/31/24 The Somerville Times

Sunday Concert Series:

'Jazz Divas & Women Who Rock'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents *Sunday Concert Series: Jazz Divas & Women Who Rock* in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Sunday, February 11, at 3:00 p.m.

Jazz Divas & Women Who Rock, takes you on a fun and inspiring journey through the lives and music of the women who paved the way: from early blues and jazz singers like Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday to sixties songwriters like Joni Mitchell and Carole King. Celia weaves the iconic songs together with an entertaining narrative, exploring how these women were affected by the issues of their times but overcame barriers to bring about change through their enduring music. With a "storied career of mixing music and monologue into exuberantly theatrical form" (*Metronome Magazine*), Celia Slattery has entertained audiences from Boston to Bangkok with her original songs, one-woman shows and interpretations of jazz and pop standards. Celia is a Private Voice Instructor at Tufts and Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music. Featuring guest artists Mark Shilansky, piano; Fernando Huergo, bass; Steve Kirby, guitar; and Austin McMahon, drums. This event will be livestreamed at go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream.

Have a great idea on how to teach math? These teachers do!

By Erica Voolich

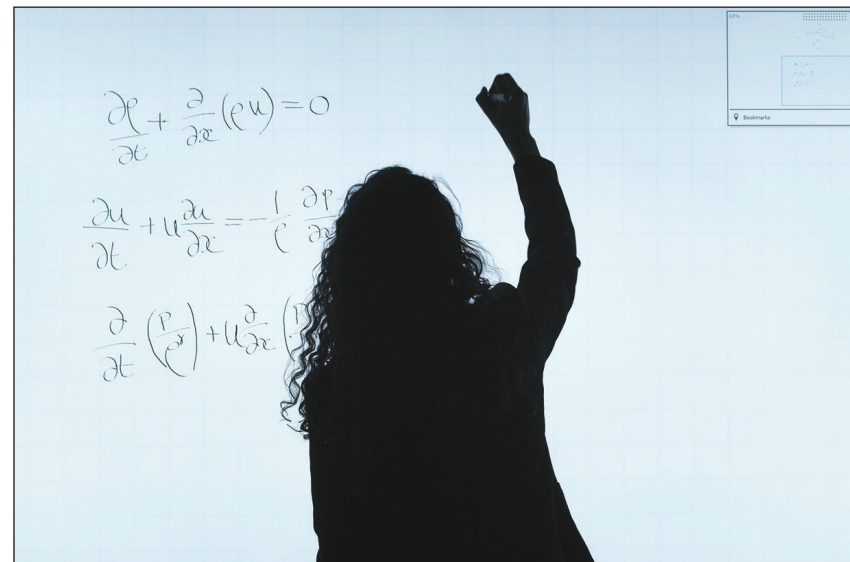
Many teachers have great ideas on how to make their classrooms a better place for their students to learn math. The teachers' ideas frequently outrun the budget schools have for supplies and their own ability to subsidize their classroom. The Somerville Mathematics Fund tries to fill this need through the generosity of their donors with grants up to \$500.

East Cambridge Savings Bank, Jeremy Gale, Will Kuhlman, Jasper Lawson PhD Associates, Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGoldrick, Spring Hill Dental, and Winter Hill Bank each sponsored a teacher's grant. The rest of the grants were funded thanks to the Morris S & Florence Bender Foundation. Thank you to our annual donors who make these grants possible.

The following teachers won grants to encourage and support mathematics achievement in the classrooms of Somerville.

The Math Fund wants to thank the Morris S. and Florence Bender Foundation for generously underwriting the following teacher grants:

- Matthew Burch, Argenziano School (Math Instructional Coach K-2), Math Instructional Materials.
- Johanna Cooney, Brown School (1st), Math Enrichment & STEM materials.
- Katherine Adelaide Downs, Healey School (K), Number Sense Materials.
- Julie Gallardo, Healey School (3rd SEI-1), Math Workshop and Intervention Materials.
- Julie Jones & Lauren McGlashan, Capuano School (K), Math Night for Capuano and Winter Hill Community Innovation School Schools.
- Diana Garity, Argenziano School (2 SEI Newcomers), Geometry Materials.
- Anna Perham, Healey School



(3rd), Math Materials.

- Charlotte Ross, Argenziano School (Math Interventionist), Math Manipulatives.

- Sabrina Soriano, Healey School (5th Math), Math Manipulatives.

- Katie Starbuck, Healey School & East Somerville Community School (Math Coach), Math Manipulatives

The Math Fund wants to thank each of the following for generously underwriting a teacher grant:

East Cambridge Savings Bank:

- Diana Quintanilla, East Somerville Community School (K), Math Manipulatives.

Jeremy Gale:

- Swetha Kalluri, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (Math Interventionist, 2-8), Math Games and Puzzles.

William Kuhlman:

- Nicole Alimena, Healey School (5th, SEI-1), Math Station Manipulatives.

- Marie Clevering, Healey School (4th), Math Games & Creation Supplies.

Jasper Lawson, PhD Associates

- Laura Peters, Somerville High School (STEAM & Robotics), Girls Who Code Club for Middle School

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGoldrick:

- Andrea Palmer, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (K-8 Math Coach), Math Game Centers.

Spring Hill Dental:

- Filomena Arruda, East Somerville Community School (Pre-K), STEM materials.

Winter Hill Bank:

- Mary Beth Morgan, Winter Hill Community Innovation School (K), Math Games for the Winter Hill and Capuano Schools to share.

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was chartered in 2000 to celebrate and encourage achievement in mathematics in the city of Somerville, Massachusetts. Over twenty-three years, the Somerville Math Fund has awarded \$154,614 in teacher grants supporting three hundred ninety teachers' projects in the city of Somerville along with emergency grants to East Somerville teachers after the devastating school fire.

On April 7, the fund will be seeking applications from students who reside in Somerville for college mathematics scholarships. Over twenty-three years, the Somerville Math Fund has awarded a total of \$631,000 in four-year mathematics scholarships to one hundred thirty students. Links to the scholarship application form is available at www.somervillemathematicsfund.org For more information, to volunteer or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please contact Erica Voolich (617-666-0666 or math-fund@gmail.com).

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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.

The second worst telephone call I have ever received in my life



By Denise Cosby

My name is Denise Cosby. I am a resident of Cambridge, MA. On May 18, 2009, I received a call alerting me to get to a hospital because my 21-year-old son Justin Cosby had been shot. The next morning my son succumbed from his injuries and died. This was the most devastating call I had ever received. This call was indeed a mother's worst nightmare.

On Friday, January 10, 2024, I received the second most horrific phone call that turned my life into another tail spin. This time it was from District Attorney Marian Ryan herself and one of the trial prosecutors, David Solet who tried the case in the murder of my son Justin. They told me about a new decision from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. The new decision meant that anyone who had committed first degree murder between the ages of 18-20 and received a sentence of "life without parole" would instead be resentenced to "life" which is only 15 years in Massachusetts and now he would be granted eligibility for parole. In the case of my son, his killer would be paroled eligible after

serving only 15 years, which is only a few months away.

On May 18, 2009, Jabrai Copney invited his cohorts Blayn Jiggetts and Jason Aquino to come from New York to Cambridge and attempt to rob my son and ultimately they murdered him.

It was hard enough to accept that I had just lost my only son and my baby child but I was reminded that the law would punish the murderers and justice would be served under the law. There were four people involved in carrying out this murder. They were all apprehended.

I attended every court proceeding and trial for each of the defendants. I agreed to the court offering a plea bargain for the shooter's girlfriend and Harvard student, Brittany Smith who misled the police and another of his cohorts Blayn Jiggetts for their role in the murder. This was because the ADA's told me that the person who was the most culpable of the murder should receive the strongest sentence and in order to do that someone who was involved in the murder would give truthful information to the court as to who was the master mind and the trigger man in my son's murder.

After two and a half years of court appearances, arraignments and trials each of the defendants were sentenced. On April 11, 2011, the shooter, Jabrai Jordan Copney was sentenced in the Massachusetts Superior Court and received a sentence of life

without parole.

Two years later, I attended a hearing at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court where it upheld Jabrai Copney's conviction for the murder of my son Justin.

I knew this would not bring my son back but I found some comfort in knowing that no other families would have to experience the agony and live through the pain I endured by Jabrai's plans or cut down by his hands.

I feel that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has reneged on the promise it made when it upheld the conviction of Jabrai Jordan Copney, the mastermind of my son Justin's murder in 2009. Many young victims who were murdered at the time of this ruling were under 21. Their brains did not lead them to murder. The media, home life, television, video games and social norms teach children not to kill, harm themselves or others and the consequences they can receive by doing so. The Bible teaches you not to kill. 18-year-olds are encouraged to enlist in the military where many are taught to handle weapons responsibly to protect our country. What is the difference with the development and maturity of their brains at that age for those young people, opposed to thugs who sit around, plot and plan robberies and murders?

I can't get out of my mind the text message conversation that Jabrai and one of his cohorts had on the bus ride back to New York asking him if he thought

the bullet he shot at Justin hit him and Jabrai had the audacity to respond "I don't miss." Does that sound like somebody whose brain wasn't fully mature enough to know what shooting somebody down meant and also gave the impression, that he was confident enough to know what murder meant?

I'm told that this new ruling affects around 200 families across the State of Massachusetts. Where are the laws that protect victims and assure them that they can depend on the laws that mislead them and falsely provided justice to families and victims who have been harmed.

These criminals are now able to go up for parole and have another chance at living a full life, produce children, grandchildren and a legacy of generations to come. What about my son and other victims who will not be able to receive another chance at life? What about the legacy that has been stolen from young men who will not be able to produce children and allow parents such as myself the opportunity to be grandparents and enjoy helping raise and nurture the off springs of our murdered children that are no longer possible? What about the young women whose life has been taken and will never enjoy motherhood or leaving a legacy for their families' future generations.

This law is triggering and mentally debilitating for victims. Now each of us victims have to relive

the moments of our loved ones' murder again, as we get ready to re-write victim impact statements when these murderers go up for parole. Instead of the laws protecting and supporting the victims and their families, this law re-victimizes victims, families, friends and communities.

I appeal to any lawyers, victims and law-abiding citizens who have been affected by this law to come forward and stand with me to correct this injustice. I have been advised that the only way to change this ruling by amending the Massachusetts Constitution. If that is the case, then that is what we have to do.

If you would like your voice to be heard, please messenger me on Facebook or email me at survivingmurder1@gmail.com.

Denise Cosby, a Somerville Realtor, worked many years for The Norton Group. Author of Forthcoming Memoir: Murder at Harvard University Kirkland House - A Mother's Worst Nightmare and co-founder of the Just-in-Time Initiative. She is a writer and a parent of a murdered child.

About the court ruling:

A 4-3 ruling by the State Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) overruled the Legislature and ruled that life sentences without the possibility of parole for offenders who were 18, 19 or 20 when they committed their crimes violate the prohibition against cruel or unusual punishment and are unconstitutional.

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Inaugural Lunar New Year event kicks off at ESCS

CONT. FROM PG 1

A selection of snacks for everyone was also available, making this truly an inclusive event for everyone of all ages and backgrounds. There were also several community partners and members of

city departments in attendance conducting outreaches by bringing in representatives and materials for those who came to the celebration. Community partners included

the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC), the Chinese American Association of Cambridge (CAAC), the Somerville Asian Family Network (SAFN), Groundwork

Somerville, Nepali Class Boston, and the Tibetan Association of Boston - Sunday School. City Departments included the Human Rights Commission, Office of Strategic Planning and

Community Development, RSJ (Racial and Social Justice), Somerville Promise and the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC), and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA).



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

the pandemic, removing barriers to public transit is an important method to get people out of their cars, decrease bus waiting time, decrease carbon emissions, reduce traffic and improve health.”

PRIVACY OF COLLEGE STUDENTS (H 4266) – The House gave initial approval to a bill that would prohibit colleges from being required to release certain student education records to third parties that request the records. The prohibition would not apply to federal, state or municipal agency requests. “This bill is about protecting and safeguarding the privacy of our students in public higher ed and ensuring they have the same rights as all students who are afforded the same protections under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,” said Senate sponsor Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow).

WAIVE FIRST ANNUAL INSPECTION FOR NEW CARS (H 3255) - Another proposal before the Transportation Committee, offered by Rep. Jim Arciero (D-Westford), would eliminate the initial state-required annual inspection for brand new vehicles for one year.

Supporters said that the legislation is based on the fact that pre-delivery inspections (PDIs) are required by each motor vehicle manufacturer from their dealers prior to the sale of a vehicle to a consumer. The PDI check list parallels the state’s vehicle inspection checklist and is an unnecessary duplication of the state’s inspection process.

STATE PANEL DENIES EFFORT TO REMOVE FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FROM MARCH 5 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY BALLOT – The State Ballot Law Commission dismissed a challenge that alleged Donald Trump is ineligible for office due to his role in the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, ruling that it does not have jurisdiction over the case. “The commission, having reviewed the materials submitted, has determined that the State Ballot Law Commission does not have jurisdiction over the matters presented,” the panel wrote.

“Donald Trump’s name will not be appearing on the presidential primary ballot as a result of the submission of nomination papers or a certificate of nomination over which the commission does have jurisdiction,” the panel continued. “Rather, Donald Trump’s name will appear on the presidential primary ballot as a result of the Republican State Committee’s submission of his name to the Secretary of the commonwealth on September 29, 2023 ... This submission from the state party should not be confused with a certificate of nomination.”

GOV. HEALEY PLANS TO CLOSE OPERATION AT MCI-CONCORD – The Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) announced its intention to shut down MCI-Concord, a medium-security men’s prison which currently operates at 50 percent capacity with an incarcerated population of approximately 300. The shutdown is proposed by Gov. Healey in her fiscal 2025 budget proposal. The shutdown needs legislative approval before it goes into effect.

The DOC said in a press release that the decision to end operations at MCI-Concord and relocate its staff and population is based on a “thorough assessment of decreased housing needs and the aging facility’s high maintenance costs.” It noted that the closing “allows the department to dispose of the property, making it available for non-correctional purposes and potential redevelopment to the benefit of the surrounding community.”

“During its first year, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has worked closely with the Legislature, community partners and advocates to invest in justice initiatives that have contributed to the lowest rates of incarceration and recidivism in decades,” said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy. “Strategically consolidating DOC resources makes financial sense and enables the department to build upon the proven, evidence-based rehabilitative programs that support successful reentry and improve outcomes.”

The Massachusetts Correction Officers Federated Union’s Executive Board announced it is adamantly against the closing of MCI-Concord or any other prison. “The Executive Board feels that the closing of MCI-Concord or any other prison will burden our already violent and dangerous prisons,” the group said in a statement. “We are witnessing extreme and daily violence at the Souza-Barranowski Correctional Center [in Lancaster] after the closing of Walpole.” The statement continued, “With over three hundred inmates at Concord our classification system will undoubtedly need to reclassify many of these and other inmates statewide. This will potentially place higher risk inmates in lower-level facilities, thus placing our officer’s safety at risk. We ask the governor, Public Safety Secretary and DOC Commissioner to halt any plans to close Concord until a comprehensive plan is in place.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Partnership between law enforcement and the communities they serve is the cornerstone of effective public safety. This funding is an investment in the enduring success of strong partnerships. Through this grant program, we provide public safety with essential resources to enhance community engagement and deliver evidence-based programs.” — Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on awarding a \$1.9 million grant to support statewide strategies for violence prevention and enhance community-based partnerships.

“We are incredibly excited about this program, which will make a difference in the lives of residents across the state and provide greater affordability, opportunity, and access to all MBTA service for residents as they travel throughout the week. This underscores the bold vision and commitment of the Healey-Driscoll Administration to deliver equitable, reliable and resilient transportation in a big way.” — Massachusetts Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt on the MBTA’s announcement of several fare change proposals, including the introduction of a reduced fare program for riders with low income, that aim to improve equity, increase ridership and simplify fare rules.

“Climbing rents have propelled cost burdens to staggering new heights. In 2022, half of all U.S. renters were cost burdened. The number of renter households spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities rose by 2 million in just three years to a record high of 22.4 million. Among these renters, 12.1 million had severe burdens, paying over half of their income for housing -- also an all-time high. And while rental markets are finally cooling, evictions have risen, the country is seeing the highest homelessness counts on record and the need for rental assistance is greater than ever.” — From “America’s Rental Housing 2024,” a new report by the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies.

“Overall, the story of criminal justice reform in Massachusetts since 2018 is largely positive. This research finds crime and incarceration have fallen, and we have significantly expanded services for many. Our challenge now is to continue with a focus on reducing the large racial and ethnic disparities in our prison populations with housing, treatment and restorative justice practices.” — Lee Pelton, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, on its new report “Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts: A Five-Year Progress Assessment.”

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of January 22-26, the House met for a total of one hour and two minutes and the Senate met for a total of five hours and five minutes

Mon. Jan. 22	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:22 a.m. to 11:38 a.m
Tues. Jan. 23	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Jan. 24	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Jan. 25	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. Senate 11:13 a.m. to 4:02 p.m.
Fri. Jan. 26	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Song and dance at COA's Project Outlook meeting

Joel Light was the special guest last Thursday at the Somerville COA's Project Outlook's monthly meeting. Members enjoyed an afternoon singing a medley of popular songs with Joel. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Join the conversation, they look forward to meeting you. They meet the fourth Thursday of each month. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro or Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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>.

FabVille Family Night: FabVille invites parents to join their kids on the last Wednesday of every month for open shop hours, where they can participate in guided projects together. This is an excellent way for parents and kids to bond over shared interests, learn new skills, and create unique projects that they can take home. At the end of every get-together, the group gets to choose a new project for the following month's open shop hours. This way, parents and children can work together on something that interests them and learn new skills while having fun. **Wednesday, January 31**, at 6:00 p.m., **Somerville High School**, 81 Highland Ave. Email contact@fabville.org with any questions. Event will take place in Room B032 (FabVille).

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.google/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.

The **Somerville Community Baptist Church** will be holding a free **Gospel Concert**, **Saturday, February 17**, 6:30 p.m. at Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Avenue, Somerville (2 blocks from Davis Square). The concert will feature the **Community Gospel Choir** and **SCBC Gospel-Jazz Band**. With special guests **Ballet Africa Teranga**. For more information, see www.ILoveSCBC.org.

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)**. The exhibit runs **through March 23**. Visit the museum website for more information and hours 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 9), 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 bestofsomerville@yahoo.com. You have until **February 2** to vote for your favorites in each category. The winners will be announced on **Wednesday, February 7**.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** is now able to provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Chairs, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking). For additional information, or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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.

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/>.

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.

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. Looking for snow shovel-

ing services? Contact **Debby Higgins** at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

In preparation for the cold months ahead, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is in urgent need of **winter clothing and apparel** to keep their clients warm and safe. Donations of socks, hats, jackets, hand warmers, sweatpants, and more will go a long way towards keeping the most vulnerable clients protected against the unpredictable New England weather. All donations can be dropped off at their **Engagement Center** located at 1 Davis Square, Somerville between 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.

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.

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Interim paving and streetscape planning for Highland Avenue

To help community members stay informed on planned work for Highland Avenue, the City of Somerville is sharing important information regarding the current timeline for utility work, upcoming interim paving, and the streetscape redesign process.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne’s fiscal year 2024 budget, approved by the City Council in June, allocates \$375,000 for interim paving of eastern Highland Avenue from Central Street to McGrath Highway. This stretch is one of Somerville’s most traveled roadways, and the administration identified it as a priority for interim repaving prior to a full, multi-modal streetscape redesign and reconstruction.

Critical utility work currently underway along Highland Avenue planned for Winter/ Spring 2024 requires digging that can cause damages to the roadway surface. Once this work is complete, the interim paving of the roadway will be undertaken as a measure to support safe travel for all users. A full redesign and reconstruction of Highland Avenue that will be informed by community process will follow beginning in 2025. More information on each of these items can be found below.

Utility Upgrades on Eastern Highland Ave. (Winter/Spring 2024)

Ongoing utility work as part of the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project is underway. In addition, the City and Eversource Gas have coordinated to prioritize Eversource’s Gas Main Upgrades project. Gas main upgrades are currently expected to start in early February 2024 (weather permitting).



Recently completed and upcoming utility improvements along eastern Highland Avenue include:

- Spring Hill Sewer Separation (Sewer, Drainage, and Water Main Upgrades)
- Central St. - Walnut St. - completed fall 2023
- Walnut St. - Thorpe St. - spring 2024
- Eversource Gas Main Replacement
- Benton Rd. - School St. - winter/spring 2024

This schedule ensures that the newly paved roadway will not be disturbed by major utility work.

Interim Paving Work

The first step for interim repaving is the completion of underground utility work. Over recent months, Engineering Division staff have coordinated closely with contractors from the City’s Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project and partners at Eversource Gas to accelerate this work.

The next step, following completion of utility work, will be paving of the two travel lanes of the roadway (approximately 28-feet wide). This partial paving, which does not include the parking areas next to the curbs, is intended to restore the road surface travel areas. This is an interim measure to support safe travel for all users of the road until the full redesign and reconstruction of Highland Avenue.

Paving is on schedule for early summer of 2024. This interim paving is expected to extend from roughly McGrath Highway to Central Street.

Future Phases: Full Redesign and Reconstruction of Highland Avenue

The City’s Five-Year Capital Investment Plan includes a larger-scale redesign and reconstruction of Highland Avenue. This effort is currently planned to begin as early as July 2025, but the city is exploring options for moving this timeline forward. For more details visit somervillema.gov/highlandave.

To ensure consistency with the city’s Vision Zero Action Plan and Citywide Bicycle Network Plan, this larger project will include:

- Reconstructed sidewalks.
- Traffic calming and crosswalk safety enhancements.
- Two directions of separated bicycle lanes.
- Bus priority infrastructure.
- Green stormwater infrastructure elements.

The project development process will include a thorough evaluation of resident, business, and visitor parking and loading needs with a commitment to serve these needs in the context of the future street design.

To stay informed on the larger-scale redesign and reconstruction project please visit somervillema.gov/highlandave.

What is the Spring Hill Sewer Separation?

Much of Spring Hill is served by a combined sewer system that collects both wastewater and stormwater runoff in the same pipes. The City of Somerville is currently working to upgrade these systems by installing new storm drains that separate stormwater from the existing combined sewer. This measure is one in a series of actions the city is undertaking to reduce water pollution, mitigate flooding, and ultimately modernize our infrastructure.

In addition to the installation of a modern, separate sewer system, the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project includes:

- Green infrastructure to help manage stormwater by mimicking natural processes.
- 185 new trees to planted throughout the neighborhood.
- Improvements to the streetscape for people walking, wheeling, driving, or cycling.

City of Somerville reopening search for next Chief of Police

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing the reopening of Somerville's nationwide search for its next Chief of Police. The comprehensive search will be led by the city's Racial and Social Justice and Human Resources Departments. GovHR, a national public-sector executive recruitment firm, will continue to act as the city's external consultant to identify candidates with the requisite experience and principles to lead the Somerville Police Department.



Interested candidates will find more information and direct links to a detailed job brochure and the job posting at somervillema.gov/policechief.

The Police Chief Selection Committee will reconvene with updated membership and meet over the course of several months to review candidates and select finalists to submit to the Mayor and City Council for consideration. The meetings will be open to the public and the schedule will be shared via all City communications channels in the coming weeks.

The members of the selection committee include:

- Jake Wilson, City Councilor at Large
- Lieutenant Michael Capasso, Somerville Police Department
- Officer Christine Bork, Somerville Police Department
- Kevin Dickinson, Somerville Constituent
- Denise Lauers, Somerville Constituent
- Paula Magnelli, Somerville Constituent
- Lori Segall, Somerville Constituent
- Anne Gill, Director of Human Resources

For more information on the Police Chief Selection Committee and process, please email ChiefSearch@somervillema.gov.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Foundation wall... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

Why did the roofer go to the doctor?
He had shingles.

On This Day in History

January 31

1606 – Guy Fawkes is hanged, drawn and quartered for his part in the Gunpowder Plot, an attempt to blow up Parliament.

1620 – Virginia colony leaders write to the Virginia Company in England, asking for more orphaned apprentices for employment.

1835 – A man with two pistols misfires at President Andrew Jackson at the White House.

1865 – House of Representatives approves a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery.

1943 – The Battle of Stalingrad ends as small groups of German soldiers of the Sixth Army surrender to the victorious Red Army forces.

1966 – U.S. planes resume bombing of North Vietnam after a 37-day pause.

1968 – In Vietnam, the Tet Offensive begins as Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers attack strategic and civilian locations throughout South Vietnam.

1981 – Lech Walesa announces an accord in Poland, giving Saturdays off to laborers.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31				Clarendon Hill Housing		6:30 PM		School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips		8:00 AM		Talking Business: Night Life			
6:30 AM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2	12:00 AM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante	7:00 PM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing		8:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol						
8:30 AM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips		1:30 AM	Cultural Capacity Forum	8:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 12-12-23		9:01 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising						
9:00 AM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting		7:00 AM	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy	9:05 PM	Talking Business: Night Life		11:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait						
11:00 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising		7:30 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2	9:30 PM	Three Kings Day Celebration		11:30 AM	Three Kings Day Celebration						
1:00 PM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24		8:00 AM	Museum of Bad Art Tour	10:00 PM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura		12:00 PM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting						
5:00 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America		9:00 AM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24	10:30 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All		2:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24						
6:15 PM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023		1:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	11:00 PM	First Flag Raising 2024		4:06 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All						
7:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura		1:30 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4		4:30 PM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024							
8:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait		2:00 PM	Three Kings Day Celebration	12:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait		7:00 PM	School Committee Meeting - LIVE						
8:30 PM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante		2:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura	12:30 AM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24		10:30 PM	School Committee Update						
10:00 PM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024		3:00 PM	Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023	7:00 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV		11:00 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America						
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1		SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3	4:10 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All	8:00 AM	Museum of Bad Art Tour		TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6		12:06 AM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante				
12:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing		4:30 PM	COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel	9:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait		2:00 AM	Talking Business: Night Life						
1:00 AM	Three Kings Day Celebration		6:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24	9:30 AM	Talking Business: Night Life		7:00 AM	Chair Yoga w/Janine Duffy						
1:30 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising		8:06 PM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024	10:00 AM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting		7:30 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing						
6:30 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising		10:30 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24		8:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait		9:00 AM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante			
8:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol		11:00 PM	First Flag Raising 2024	2:06 PM	School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips		11:00 AM	School Committee Update						
9:01 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait		12:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol	3:00 PM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante		11:30 AM	Somerville Museum: Access for All						
9:30 AM	Three Kings Day Celebration		12:31 AM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting	4:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura		12:00 PM	Talking Business: Night Life						
10:00 AM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante		2:30 AM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America	5:00 PM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024		12:30 PM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing		1:30 PM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting			
11:30 AM	SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura		7:00 AM	2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24	7:00 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol		1:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait						
12:00 PM	First Flag Raising 2024		7:35 AM	Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating	7:31 PM	Talking Business: Night Life		8:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait						
1:00 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising		8:00 AM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023	8:00 PM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante		8:30 PM	Somerville Museum: Museo Inmigrante						
3:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24		8:40 AM	SPD Ride Along	10:00 PM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting		10:00 PM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting		5:30 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond			
5:15 PM	Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America		9:00 AM	City of Somerville Inauguration 2024	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5		6:40 PM	SPD Ride Along							
6:30 PM	Talking Business: Night Life		11:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing	12:00 AM	Talking Business: Night Life		7:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait						
7:00 PM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting		12:00 PM	SPS Capacity Study Community Presentation	12:30 AM	Three Kings Day Celebration		7:30 PM	School Committee Update						
9:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait		1:30 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	1:00 AM	Domestic Violence Vigil 2023		8:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 2-5-24						
9:30 PM	Three Kings Day Celebration		3:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	2:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of Clarendon Hill Housing		11:00 PM	Museum of Bad Art Tour						
10:00 PM	2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24		4:01 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24	6:30 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II		WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7			12:00 AM	City Council Meeting 1-25-24			
11:00 PM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference of					7:30 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1								

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31		FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2		11:30 PM		SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden		6:30 PM		Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert	
8:00 AM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24	12:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4		1:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	7:00 PM	Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert		
10:30 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett	2:00 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere	3:00 AM	3:00 AM	8:00 PM		WHCIS Kindergarten Winter Concert			
12:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug	8:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford 1-14	4:30 AM	4:30 AM	8:30 PM		SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden			
2:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly	9:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford - Tufts	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	10:00 PM		SHS Hockey vs Haverhill			
3:30 PM	Brown School Winter Concert	11:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Haverhill	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Whittier	11:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical		
4:30 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023	12:30 PM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6					
5:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 1-22-24	2:30 PM	Brown School Winter Concert	12:30 PM	12:30 PM	1:00 AM		SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn English			
7:06 PM	SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug	3:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden	1:30 PM	1:30 PM	8:00 AM		Brown School Winter Concert			
9:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden	5:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	3:00 PM	3:00 PM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert		
11:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly	7:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM	4:30 PM	4:30 PM	10:00 AM		Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert			
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1		8:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford - Tufts	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	10:30 AM		Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert			
12:30 AM	Brown School Winter Concert	10:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Haverhill & Somerville	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	11:30 AM		el Sistema Somerville Winter Concert			
1:30 AM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023	11:30 PM	Songs & Stories from Tbilisi & Somerville	9:00 PM	9:00 PM	12:00 PM	12:00 PM	12:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden		
8:00 AM	Brown School Winter Concert	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3		10:30 PM	10:30 PM	2:00 PM		SHS Hockey vs Medford			
9:00 AM	WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert	1:30 AM	Brown School Winter Concert	11:30 PM	11:30 PM	3:30 PM		SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical			
10:00 AM	Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert	2:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5		5:00 PM		SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea			
10:30 AM	Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert	4:00 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	1:00 AM	1:00 AM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	7:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert		
11:30 AM	el Sistema Somerville Winter Concert	8:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Haverhill	2:30 AM	2:30 AM	8:00 PM		WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert			
12:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden	9:30 AM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 PM		Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert			
2:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere	11:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM	10:10 AM	10:10 AM	9:30 PM		Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert			
3:15 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford 1-14	12:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden	11:00 AM		Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert		10:30 PM	el Sistema Somerville Winter Concert		
4:35 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea	2:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7		1:00 AM	10:00 PM	1:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Medford		
6:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert	4:00 PM	SHS Winter Concert	2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:30 AM		SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical			
7:00 PM	WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert	5:30 PM	SHS Hockey vs Methuen	3:30 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 AM		SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea			
8:00 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Malden	7:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Haverhill	5:00 PM	5:00 PM						
8:30 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert	8:30 PM	SHS Hockey vs Beverly								
9:30 PM	el Sistema Somerville Winter Concert	10:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Everett/REMM								
10:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical										



Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

B. Lynne Zika is a poet, essayist, photographer, and fiction writer currently living in Los Angeles. Her books *The Strange Case of Eddy Whitfield*, *The Longing*, and *Letters to Sappho: Putting Out the Fire* are available on Amazon and through other booksellers. In addition to editing poetry and nonfiction, she worked as a closed-captioning editor for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. She has received awards in short fiction, poetry, and photography. Her father, Yewell C. Lybrand, Jr., was a writer himself. Before his death at 34, he bequeathed her this wisdom and mission in life: Make every word count. Ms. Zika is grateful for what the arts have added to her life and for the many gifts exhibited by her children and grandchildren, especially their good will toward others.

The Art of Eggs

The first thing is to open the coop.
Then from the storage shed, gather
scoops of feed and grit.
Scatter them across the ground
in the chicken yard, calling,
“Here, chick, chick, chick.”
While the hens and chicks peck and scratch,
slip into the coop, freshen the water,
lift the basket from the nail,
and gather the eggs. Unwashed,
farm eggs don’t need refrigeration.

Your thievery can be offset
and the flock replenished
if periodically a hen is allowed to brood.

She will settle herself over the eggs
you’ve let be—one, two, three,
and counting—and the warmth of her body
and the shells her body made
will incubate the chicks. One day
that first telltale crack will appear.

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Uyghur Poems, ed.Aziz Isa Elkun,
trans.Aziz Isa Elkun & Others

Uyghur Poems, ed.Aziz Isa Elkun, trans.Aziz Isa Elkun & Others, Everyman Library Pocket Poets, Alfred A. Knopf: New York, London, Toronto, 2023

Reviewed by Karen Klein

This publication is significant as it is not only the first English language anthology of Uyghur poetry, but also an overview of the history, culture, and poetics of the Uyghur people, which is admirably provided in the introduction by poet, editor, and translator Aziz Isa Elkun. Most English-speaking persons in the West are only aware of the Uyghurs due to media reports of Chinese oppression and persecution of them.

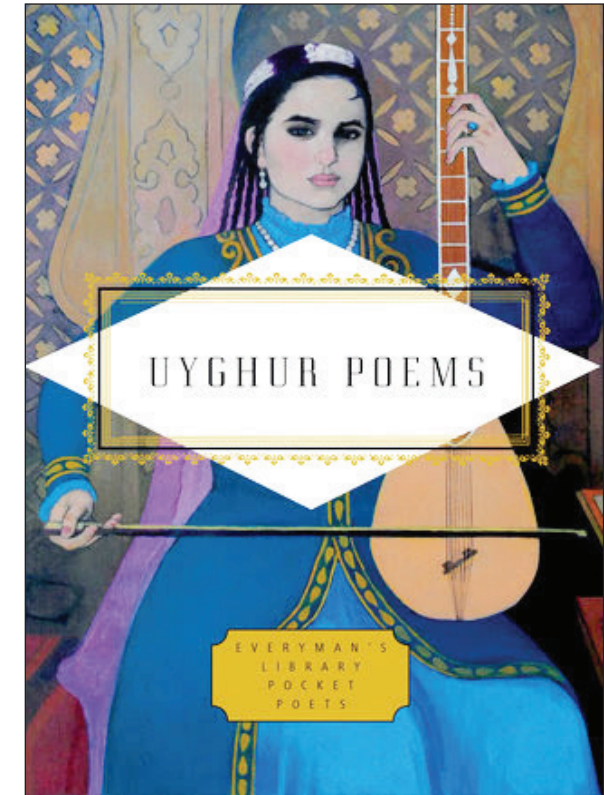
Confined to their native Xinjiang region, put in reeducation camps, their children taken from them to boarding schools, not allowed to practice Islam, their language and customs discouraged, they are subjected to forced assimilation. To open our minds to this Turkic group, once an empire in Central Asia through which the ancient Silk Road passed, carrying material goods and knowledge cross continents and cultures, and to expand our knowledge of their rich poetic tradition is this anthology’s gift.

The editor has divided Uyghur poems into three time periods: Classic Poems (BCE to 1900), Modern Poems (1900 to 1960), Contemporary Poems (1960 to 2022) with the most famous in the period of Classic poems. Uyghur poetry, like that of most ancient cultures, begins in the epic poems of the oral tradition. Tales of rulers, wars, heroes and saints were recited publicly by bards and sung by musicians.

Carried down through generations, these poems carried Uyghur history. Script came in the Sixth Century BCE; by the Tenth Century CE, the epic *Oghuzname*, the exploits of Oghuz Khan, was preserved in Uyghur script. The Bard writes of a woman “as beautiful as a fairy” whom the hero marries and the ferocity of his warriors: “The grey wolf will be our battle spirit.” Similar themes of love and war dominate the Homeric epics. This anthology includes fragments of Oghuz story and that of Alp Er Tunga,

In the months, as a young woman,
my body housed children,
I did not once contemplate
what my purpose in life might be.

The painter lifts a brush and realizes herself.
The poet, a pen. The brooding hen



meaning Warrior Man Tiger, a mythical hero possibly historic, and several examples of wisdom poetry, similar to instruction for young noblemen, e.g., the *Mirror for Princes*, in Western Europe.

Uyghur acceptance of Islam in the Tenth Century CE brought new poetic subjects of spirituality and religion; script gradually became more widespread in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries, including the formerly oral folk poetry, now written in quatrains, a poetic form Uyghur poets of the Modern and Contemporary Periods continue to use.

Persian and Arabic traditions, including Arabic script, influenced Uyghur poets as did their adaptation in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries of the Sufi poetic tradition into Turkic language. Poems of the Central Asian poet of Uyghur descent, Ali-Shir Nava’i are still recited and he is venerated as among the best of their poets. Writing in the formal poetic style of the ghazal, the most common verse form in the Sufi tradition, a style contemporary American poets, for example Adrienne Rich, have used, limits the poet up to fifteen

employs her body for the act of creation,
each contentedly lost in making
while others scratch and peck
and cluck over the importance of Me.

— B. Lynne Zika

Somerville hiring polling place workers for 2024 Presidential Primary

The City of Somerville is hiring polling place workers for the upcoming 2024 Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. No experience is required to be an election inspector, you will receive \$200 for participating in this important civic activity. More information on election worker roles and payments please see below. Interested residents are encouraged to attend an information session on Tuesday, February 6, to learn more.

Information Session

The Elections Office is hosting two information sessions about becoming a poll worker on Tuesday, February 6 at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) in City Council Chambers on the second floor. An afternoon session will be held from 2 to 3 p.m. The evening session will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Register to attend at somervillema.gov/PollWorkerInfoSessions. If you are interested in learning more but not able to attend an information session, please contact the Elections Office at 617-625-6600 ext. 4200.

General Duties

Poll workers are encouraged to commit to working the entire day of the primary election: Tuesday, March 5. The workday starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends after the polls close at 8:00 p.m., with a two-hour break. Election inspectors check off names as voters check in, assist at the voting machine, or staff the demonstration table. Inspectors also help set up and break down the precinct. The compensation is \$200 per day.



Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

couplets with a rhyme scheme of AA, BA, CA, DA, EA, FA, GA, etc. The same end word in the two lines of the first couplet is repeated as the end word in each second line of the successive couplets. Formal limitations do not, however, limit the emotional impact of these poems of love, beauty, and loss or separation from the beloved. This loss can operate metaphorically – the beloved as a beautiful woman or the beloved as Divine love.

Fourteen ghazals by Ali-Shir Nava'i are included in this anthology, thirteen of them are translated from Uzbek by Dennis Daly and taken from his *Twenty-one Ghazals* by Alishir Navoiy (Cervena Barva Press, 2016). Daly, a well-known writer and poet, is admired by many friends and fellow poets in the Greater Boston area. His translations follow the ghazal form to the letter; the A words reflect the themes of these love poems: eyes, heart, face, fire, fate, night, beauty, heaven, one, beloved, pearl, joy, and pain. It is curious that only one of the thirteen ghazals has pain as its end word on all the lines when so many of these poems speak to the misery of the poet, often addressing himself:

Speak up, Navoiy, has love injured your very soul?
Do you bleed your love? Is there no help from heaven?

I don't read Uyghur, so can't comment on the accuracy of Daly's translations. But he has remained faithful to the form Ali-Shir Nava'i chose, and the translations work on their own as poems with wonderful, sometimes startling, images: Your eyelashes found a fatal spot in my heart, or the love song with the end word eyes where the image extends into a bizarre action, explicable only, perhaps, as the eye of heaven, the dark, infinite eyes, an exchange of spiritual love, a mystical exchange of tears, the beloved the image of Divine Love:

Your eyes
Burn into mine until brimmed with salt-spiked tears
Which flow, unburdened, into the channels of your eyes.

Navoiy's poems of yearning love, of joining Those who suffer, lovers all, are not always laments. In a couplet that poignantly universalizes an emotional state which ends one of the Love Songs, he again addresses himself: Navoiy, why do you complain of meetings and partings? Give

thanks for those long moments that still fill your heart. There are noticeable changes when moving from the poets in the large section of Classic Poems(BCE to 1900) to fewer poems in the Modern section(1900-1960). The strict ghazal form isn't used, but there are couplets and quatrains in the poems, many are political and speak of the resistance struggle of Uyghurs against the Chinese. Lutpulla Mutellip, poet and journalist, before Chinese police executed him at 22, wrote on a wall with his blood:

This bloodthirsty devil has turned the bloom of my youth into
a withered leaf...

Women appear not only as symbols of the earthly or Divine beloved, but also as fighters. A poem from 1943 is addressed To My Daughter, the War Nurse. She was Rizwange who died at 19 on the front lines rescuing wounded by the Chinese Nationalist Army. And the first woman poet included, Melike Ziyawudun, with a love poem from 1957in which she confesses I always read your poems, I learned your secrets from your poems, and teases that she might not only love his poems, but him as well.

Most of the anthologized poets are included in the largest section Contemporary Poems (1960 to 2022). These young poets, born in the Twentieth Century, are the continuance of an old culture, now under suppression. Many have fled or left for different countries. Mahmut Abduramanov speaks for so many, writes of their diaspora My Uyghurs, you are scattered all over the world, but the longing for their formerly immense Motherland for the river Tarim, the is intense: We are moths drawn to the fire of our homeland. In his famous poem, The World in the City of Kashgar, Abdul Tunyaz writes Every night in the Berlin sky/You see Uyghur eyes in every star and concludes his poem:

The homeless birds
Cry for the seasons, calling for their homeland
While the wandering wind carries
Leaves of its own.

The editor notes that in the last decades of the Twentieth Century, Uyghur poems show the influence of Rus-

sian poetry with modernism, post-modernism, free verse. Many women poets are included; their stories of fighting the Chinese, of persecution, of being taken away to re-education camps, of their deaths are heartbreaking. Some are like the Blue Shirt, whom Armet Igamberdi commemorated in his poem for the unknown heroine of the protest on July 5, 2009 when women came out to demand where family members were.

Like the Russian women poets they might have read, Akmatova, Tsveteva, they show resistance and love. Zeynure Isa writes: I wish to become the flagpole/Of a flag we wave for freedom; as the editor of a publishing house, Chemingul Awut was sent to a Chinese re-education camp in July 2018 and poet/activist Muyesser Abdul'ehed's debut novel depicts the detention camps. Rahile Kamal writes Because I miss you, I fall like rain. Teacher Risalet Merdan claims Today is a day to write poems, while Gunisa Imin Gulkhan, sentenced to seventeen years in prison for her "separatist" poetry writes of women prisoners: They don't want to shed their tears. They want to talk about it with someone on the outside.

Gunaz Saydullayeva's poem begins Mother cut her own umbilical cord because the strict Chinese policy of birth-control makes couples hide one too many. Since 2017, that policy has relaxed, but forced sterilization of Uyghur women has been reported.

The forms of these contemporary poems are stanzaic, mostly quatrains, but I must mention a single, perfect ghazal by Ekhmetian Osman that shows the persistence for love poetry of a traditional form and includes an image from the old battle poems: The wolf of life begins to howl each time I take you in my arms.

Editor Aziz Isa Elkun has done a commendable job in compiling this book, translating many of the poems, writing a splendid introduction, providing biographies for most of the poets and important facts from contemporary Uyghur history of resistance to Chinese attempts to deny them a state and to obliterate their cultural identity. He concludes the anthology with several of his own poems, so he should have the last word. The final poem, about the roses he planted, concludes:

My roses are blossoming with hope
Singing a song of freedom

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