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Somerville residents voice concerns over new public safety building



A number of Somerville residents have raised concerns about the proposed inclusion of a police station as part of the new public safety building.

By Ryan DiLello

After sustained community pushback, The Somerville Redevelopment Authority has agreed to acknowledge public concern and policy debates around policing in the next version of the RFQ for plans to build a public safety building at 90 Washington Street.

The Board convened last Wednesday night for a virtual meeting to discuss, among other items, updates on plans to build a public safety building at 90 Washington Street Update. The new RFQ draft, up for review, proved the most contentious item of the night.

For nearly four years, the city has stalled on plans to build a public safety building at the 4-acre plot site. The new public safety building *Continued on page 6*

Nominations open for Somerville Arts Council Artist's of the Month

The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) is looking for the next Artist of the Month. Nominations for Artist of the Month are for Somerville based artists. They want to recognize creators of all artistic disciplines and types (artists, writers, dancers, musicians, etc.) in the community and to spread the word about who they are and what they do. Artists must live, work, or volunteer in Somerville, MA. Nominate someone whose work you admire.

Somerville is a land of talent. Since 2013, the Somerville Arts Council has been featuring a different creative Somervillian each month.

This series features a different creative Somervillian each month – painters, poets, song writers, you name it! The program is a way to celebrate the enormous wealth of talent in our city, by shining a spotlight on a different creative

Continued on page 5



Be a part of the selection process for the Somerville Arts Council's next Artist of the Month.

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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 city staff and the Gilman Square Civic Advisory Committee for a virtual meeting this **Wednesday, February 1**, at 6:00 p.m. to get updated on the newly published **Flood Mitigation and Water Quality Master Plan**, the status of the **Community Path**, and potential short-term activation of the site in the coming year. Learn more on the city's website. Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83497380624>, Meeting ID: 834 9738 0624

Join the city staff for a virtual community meeting to learn about the **intersection redesign plans and upcoming construction schedule** on **Wednesday, February 1**, via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/intersection-redesign>.

Due to the **expected cold** on **Saturday, February 4**, all **Somerville Parks and Recreation programs** are cancelled including intramural sports.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to **John Arvantis**, who is celebrating this week. Also, happy birthday to a good guy, **Jason Ribeiro**. We hope he has a great day this week. Happy birthday to our good friend and a great guy, **Bob McWatters**. We wish him the very best and hope he enjoys his day. Happy birthday to **Eleanor Pye**. We hope she has a great day. Also celebrating this week, **Steve DeCarlo, Director of** *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 1 – February 7 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>February 1</i>	Sunny	33°/22°	0%	1%	NW 9 mph
Thursday <i>February 2</i>	Partly Cloudy	40°/25°	0%	2%	SW 13 mph
Friday <i>February 3</i>	Partly Cloudy	29°/-3°	0%	2%	NW 20 mph
Saturday <i>February 4</i>	Sunny	17°/12°	1%	3%	NW 15 mph
Sunday <i>February 5</i>	Cloudy	44°/35°	20%	12%	SW 14 mph
Monday <i>February 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	45°/29°	19%	11%	WNW 11 mph
Tuesday <i>February 7</i>	Cloudy	50°/38°	6%	3%	SSW 12 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: *The Comic Cruelty of Inishiren*
(spoilers included)

Gaspar Fomento says:

Thank you for this clear analysis of the film. Could hardly stand it when I watched, but I understand its intent much better now. I still don't care for the offing of the donkey, but life – as they say – is not always fair.

Log onto *TheSomervilleTimes.com* to leave your own comments

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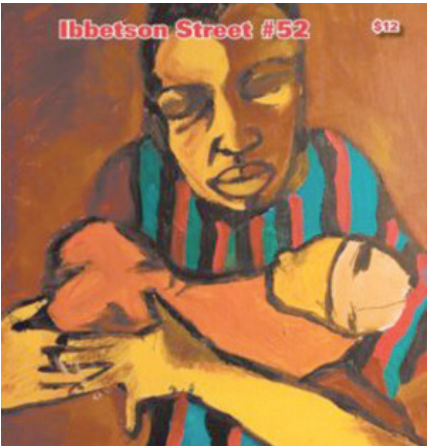
Ibbetson Street 52 Celebratory Reading–
Little Crepe Cafe

The Ibbetson Street Press, founded in 1998 in Somerville, Mass. by Doug Holder, Dianne Robitaille, and Richard Wilhem, will have a celebratory reading for the new issue of the literary journal, Friday, February 24, as well as for the 25th year anniversary of the Ibbetson Street Press. <http://www.ibbetsonpress.com>. Contributors are welcomed to read from their work.

The Little Crepe Cafe – <https://www.littlecrepecafe.com> – will open at 6:00 p.m. and close around 8:30 p.m. Enjoy their wonderful crepes and salads, and listen to great poetry. If time allows –there will be an open mic.

Ibbetson Street is affiliated with Endicott College.

The Little Crêpe Café, 102 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA



Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Big Squeeze



Is it my imagination or are they trying to squeeze all traffic from Somerville? Disappearing meters etc. here's what Somerville says:

"Notice how the curbs on the unnecessary islands and bottlenecks they're installing are extra high and extra sharp? They WANT you to get a flat. They want you to stop driving!"

"Funny you should mention that I got a flat just the other day! The roads are narrow at some street corners and I made a turn, thought I had cleared the curb but POOF there goes my tire!!! It was so bad It couldn't be repaired!!!"

"Here's what's going to happen. People will move out and take their cars with them. Gradually the city will see the fees for parking permits, excise tax, etc., will disappear. Then what? I'm more concerned with them pretending Memorial Day doesn't exist, and removing all of the monuments and memorials."

"I would like to know if the mayor rides a bike. Most bikes don't follow rules and can be very rude to drivers swearing and cursing. I would be scared to drive a bike. Lifelong resident. What a shame."

"Actually, it is a small % of car drivers, bike riders and pedestrians that break the rules, but unfortunately the city is listening to the people who want to break the rules instead of the people who follow them."



"I'm not even there. I was just up for 13 days for the Christmas holidays. Residents need to look and ask engineers if emergency response times were proactively looked at during these designs in the event of a serious need to transport by ground. I don't think so and bikers may get hurt."

"Walter King, you hit a chord regarding emergency response times ... I've wondered how ambulances can expedite a patient bouncing over high speed bumps, like the ones on Powderhouse Blvd.? Those bumps gotta be fun for plow drivers, 5-0 and FD too!"

Plastic pylons herding traffic in the name of safety. I say we should continue to strive for safe streets. But let's not get ridiculous.

Sunday: 11:45 a.m., sunny. Even at this early hour there seems to be a plethora of bikes and pedestrians all along my ride home one mile through the city. Let's hope the pylons are easy to get used to and we can all share the streets and sidewalks with Somerville. Patience everyone. Take a deep breath and stay in your lane.

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Joint statement and resources in response to the death of Tyre Nichols

We wish to express to Mr. Nichols' family and loved ones our absolute sympathy, our profound grief, and our support of the call for transparent justice.

Officials have called the brutality of that fatal police traffic stop a shocking use of excessive force. We unite with our community and denounce the brutality that was suffered by Tyre Nichols. We know that words are not enough. We must be, and we remain committed to, continuing the hard work of seeking real and meaningful change. We will not be complacent while so many continue to lose their lives to reckless violence and systems of oppression.

Acts of police violence not only affect those involved but entire communities. Each of these incidents has caused profound grief, loss, trauma, and anger. It aggravates racial disparities, breeds mistrust, and causes disproportionate physical and mental stress to people of color. All too frequently, communities across the country are forced to continue processing unimaginable grief and trauma, and it is important that we know where to find supports and resources to help ourselves and one another as we navigate these feelings.

The accumulation of tragedies in recent weeks make it all the more important to take care of yourselves and check on others. Needing to talk to someone or seeking help is normal and OK. Please reach out to friends and family or consider contacting an anonymous, free, 24/7 support line to speak to a trained volunteer (call or text the Samaritans Helpline with just three numbers: 988). School-based support is also being offered directly to students and families by the Somerville Public Schools.

We've also included some links below for guidance on how to navigate traumatic events for yourselves and loved ones. We encourage everyone to please use these resources, and/or to reach out to your school counselors or to the City's Office of Health and Human Services to access supports anytime you need them.

We also encourage you to transform your grief and anger into action for progress, and reflect upon ways in which we can highlight our humanity. The City of Somerville, the Department of Racial and Social Justice, and the Somerville Police Department, in partnership with the City Council, are currently engaged in multiple community-driven initiatives to help advance equity, transparency, accountability, and social justice. We are determined to achieve Public Safety for All in Somerville – a shared vision of community that extends justice to all, regardless of economic class, age, gender, race, ethnicity, or identity.

Resources are being invested, including opportunities for learning, dialogue, healing, and transformation. We ask you to join us with determination and solidarity in collectively enacting change.

Sincerely,

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Interim Somerville Police Chief Charlie Femino, Director of Racial and Social Justice Denise Molina-Capers, Somerville Public Schools Interim Director of Equity and Excellence Caeli Gallitano

Resource Guides from Local Provider Riverside Community Care

- How to Talk to Children About Traumatic Events: bit.ly/TalkingToChildrenAboutTraumaticEvents
- Reactions to Highly Stressful or Traumatic Events: bit.ly/ReactionsToHighlyStressfulOrTraumaticEvents
- Practicing Self-Care After Traumatic Events : Bit.ly/PracticingSelfCareAfterTraumaticEvents
- Additional resource guides and videos from Riverside: bit.ly/RiversideDigitalResourceLibrary

Parent and Guardian Self-Care Resources

- Resources to Support Talking to Kids About Race: bit.ly/talkingtokidsonrace
- Having 'The Talk': Expert Guidance on Preparing Kids for Police Interactions: bit.ly/3JqZSqV
- Supporting Students, Staff, Families, and Communities Impacted by Violence: bit.ly/3wEofcL
- Assisting Parents/Caregivers in Coping with Collective Traumas: bit.ly/3XSl6lQ
- How Caregivers Can Foster Resilience: bit.ly/3HEs5If
- Supporting Children's Mental Wellness: bit.ly/3Rgqg8s

Mental Wellness & Well-Being and General Resources

- Coping After a Traumatic Event: bit.ly/3DqpVdA
- Self-Care Tips for Black People Who Are Struggling With This Very Painful Week: bit.ly/VICEselfcaretips
- Black People Need Stronger White Allies - Here's How You Can Be One: r29.co/3wGH1R2
- 4 Self-Care Resources for Days When the World is Terrible: bit.ly/3XQxsuH
- New York Times Op-ed by Roxanne Gay: nyti.ms/3wMtO8Z
- Grief Sheet: bit.ly/3Dmue9N
- Youth Mental Health Project: bit.ly/3JrH2Qk
- Massachusetts 24/7 Behavioral Health Helpline: bit.ly/40df1Ss
- Celebrating Black Joy as an Alternative Form of Resistance and Reclaiming of Humanity: <https://voiceofoc.org/2021/02/celebrating-black-joy-as-an-alternative-form-of-resistance-and-reclaiming-of-humanity/>
- We need more 'trauma-free Blackness.' Here's a start - CNN Style: <https://www.cnn.com/style/article/trauma-free-blackness-culture-queue/index.html>

Learn About, Get Involved with the Work of the Department of Racial and Social Justice

- Visit the RSJ webpages at somervillema.gov/rsj
- Take the Public Safety for All Survey (available in multiple languages) somervillema.gov/rsj
- Learn about and consider applying to join the Civilian Oversight Task Force at bit.ly/CivOTaskForce
- Learn about and consider applying to join the Public Safety for All Task Force at bit.ly/PSFATaskForce

TikTok trend that encourages car theft hits Somerville

By Ryan DiLello

A TikTok trend called the “Kia Challenge” is encouraging teens to steal certain makes of cars with a USB cord, and to document it on the social media platform.

On the morning of Wednesday, January 26, Christina Longo of Somerville, was getting ready to drop her dog at daycare

and head to work when she noticed her car, which she had parked around the corner from her home, was gone.

After calling the towing company and the non-emergency police line, Longo did not find any record of a tow. Police recommended she visit the station to file a report for a stolen car. Before leaving the station, an officer informed Longo of a recent Tik-

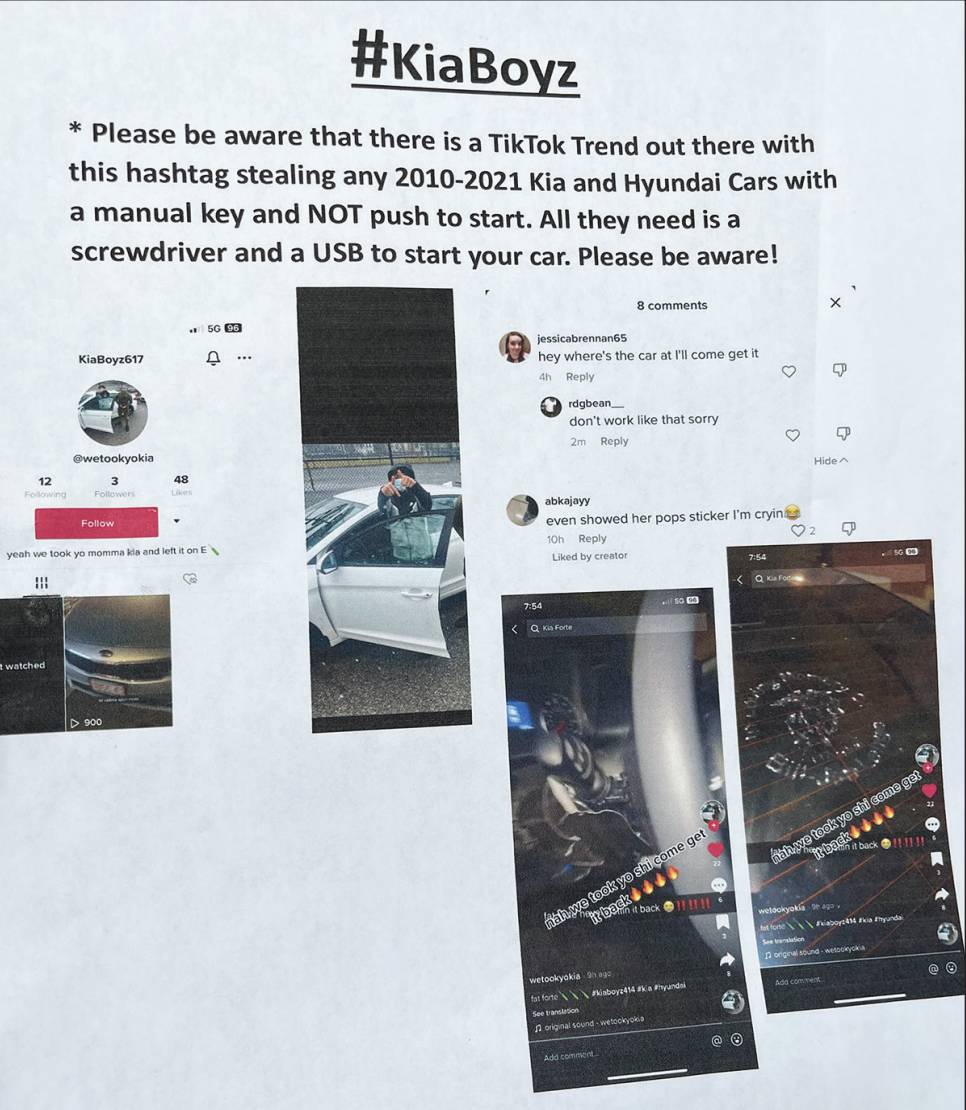
Tok trend, and conjectured it may have been the motivation behind the theft.

Longo returned home, made a TikTok account, and quickly found an account that had shared a video of her car. “I know it was my car because it had a distinctive sticker on the back, which they did not fully remove.”

Longo said the police have not assigned a

detective to the case in light of short-staffing issues. In the meantime, Longo printed out 100 flyers warning residents about the car theft trend, and displayed them on Kia (and Hyundai) cars around her neighborhood.

Somerville Police were not available to comment. If you have any further information on this event, or have been involved in a recent car theft, please reach out.



Car theft victim Christina Longo posted this flyer in hopes of thwarting future thefts.

Nominations open for Somerville Artist’s of the Month

CONT. FROM PG 1

Somervillian on a regular basis.

SAC features an interview with the Artist of the Month on their website, as well as images of their work. This series is inspired by the Nave Gallery’s “Featured Artist” program, which ran from 2005 to 2009.

Artists are chosen by a panel from a list of nominees. Many of the artists are nominated by the Somerville community through the Arts Council’s website. The nomination process is open year-round and artists are chosen in December and January for the year.

To nominate an artist, go online to <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artist-month/nominate>.

Commercial Painter wanted

5 years experience with commercial work. Individual transportation to and from job sites necessary. Drug screening mandatory. Please call Color Concepts Inc. 401-334-1852 x10

Cab to Health program

The City of Somerville is providing vouchers for free taxi rides to grocery stores and food pantries in Somerville, and to non-emergency medical appointments in Somerville and surrounding areas. You are eligible for the free taxi rides if you are a Somerville resident between the ages of 16–59, rely on public transit, and have limited income. You can sign up and check eligibility by filling out the form at <https://tinyurl.com/somervillecab> or by calling Alissa at 617-625-6600 x4321.

Residents 60 years and older can contact Connie two business days in advance at 617-625-6600 x2319. For language support, contact Somer Viva at somervillema.gov/ContactSomerViva or by calling 311 (617-666-3311).

This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding.

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

31 TUFTS STREET APARTMENTS Affordable Housing Lottery Opportunity 31 Tufts Street, Somerville MA 02145

31 Tufts Street is a new construction, 16-unit housing development.

# of Units Available	# of bedrooms	Rent	Maximum Income Limit (% AMI)	Minimum Income Requirement*
1	0 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A
2	0 BR	\$1,891	80%	\$45,384
5	0 BR	\$2,000	100%	\$48,000
1	1 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A
1	1 BR	\$2,010	80%	\$48,240
2	1 BR	\$2,150	100%	\$51,600
1	2 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A
1	2 BR	\$2,406	80%	\$57,744
1	2 BR	\$2,550	100%	\$61,200
1	3 BR	40% of net income**	50%	N/A

*Minimum Income Requirement does not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8 or MRVP.
**MRVP Tenants pay 40% of net income for rent if heat is included in rent.

Maximum Income per Household Size (2022 limits, provided by Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, HUD Metro Area)

HH size	50% AMI	80% AMI	100% AMI
1	\$49,100	\$78,300	\$98,200
2	\$56,100	\$89,500	\$112,200
3	\$63,100	\$100,700	\$126,200
4	\$70,100	\$111,850	\$140,200
5	\$75,750	N/A	N/A
6	\$81,350	N/A	NA

Applications available from March 6, 2023 until May 5, 2023 via:

- o In Person: Wingate Management- 7 Memorial Rd, Somerville MA 02145
- o In Person: Somerville Public Library East Branch- 115 Broadway, Somerville MA 02145
- o Email Requests to 31tufts@wingatecompanies.com
- o Call to request an application by mail 617.591.0577

The deadline for completed applications is **5 PM on May 5, 2023**.
Applications may be delivered in person or mailed and postmarked by that day.
Applications may also be submitted via email or fax to the address or number on the application.

Reasonable accommodations will be made. LEP services available. Equal Housing Opportunity.
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Public Online Information Session will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Via ZOOM. Please email 31tufts@wingatecompanies.com for a link.



For more information or reasonable accommodations,
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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 part of the housing crisis we don't talk about: Homelessness

By Marianne Walles

Somerville has been considered a leader in addressing the housing crisis that faces its residents. Policy makers and elected officials talk often about affordable housing, increasing the housing stock, tenant protections, and rent control. All of these are critical, important policies that will help ameliorate our housing crisis.

But less frequently remarked-upon tool to address our housing crisis is emergency shelters, and what the lack of con-

versation and attention has done is put stability out of reach for many families.

When they do happen, conversations about homelessness in Somerville tend to focus on people in Davis Square and are often framed in a dehumanizing way that emphasizes aesthetic blight over the dignity and the well-being of our neighbors.

One must first apply and prove that you are sufficiently low-income before you can even be accepted into our shelter system. It can take up to a month for the determination to occur. Once

accepted you can be placed anywhere in the Commonwealth. Folks are often placed at shelters that are not near their jobs, their children's schools, their health-care providers, or their social supports. If you decline a placement, you may be ineligible to reapply for a period of time.

The reality is that there are many families in Somerville, that don't have homes, but they too often go unnoticed for various reasons. Many sleep in the homes of friends or relatives. Some wait on affordable housing lists, sometimes for

years hoping for a place to call their own. Some live in a city and never speak up about their struggle because of the stigma of being homeless. Some don't vote because of the challenge of registering without a permanent address and associated documentation. Some fear even reaching out to emergency services (medical, fire, police) for fear their housing situation will be exposed. When they reach out for help the ability of some of the best housing advocates to help them is often limited.

Somerville used to have sev-

eral family shelters that greatly helped families stay in their community, maintain their employment, and provide educational stability for children. Yet when housing costs began rising, emergency shelters became extinct in our community.

It's time we ask ourselves and our elects about having an emergency shelter here in Somerville. I know that this is an issue that I'll be keenly focused on this election season. It is time we started looking at immediate solutions and not just the long-term solutions.

Two Somerville authors honored at State House

Massachusetts Center for the Book hosted Three Years of Massachusetts Book Awards last week (January 18) at the State House and two Somerville authors were honored.

Andrew Krivak was presented the 2021 Massachusetts Book Award in Fiction for *The Bear*. Buki Papillon received Honors in the 2022 Massachusetts Book Award Fiction category for *An Ordinary Wonder*.

For more information about the Mass Book Awards, see: <https://www.massbook.org/mass-book-awards>



Somerville residents voice concerns over new public safety building

CONT. FROM PG 1

would house a fire and police station, replacing the older public safety building on 220 Washington Street.

Upwards of 15 Somerville residents voiced their concerns about the inclusion of a police station within the building. Multiple residents cited the recent police shooting of Arif Sayed Faisal, a 20-year-old UMass Boston student, as a reason to invest more in mental health and social services, before the city's police department. Many residents wanted to

know why the latest draft of the RFQ omitted their views on this issue, especially given their persistence to voice their concerns in prior meetings.

SRA Board Member Patrick McCormick attempted to provide an answer to why this perspective was omitted in the RFQ. "As the redevelopment authority, we're focused on how development occurs. Still, these issues [pertaining to policing] become embedded in the public discussion of it. Whatever the future

is around policing in our community, the current public safety building is not sustainable. It's not a place for anyone to work. It's also a place for potential better use in the revitalization of Union Square. I think we cannot wait for the big policy decisions to be made, before we find a space for community workers and [first responder s]. While that policy debate continues, if it were completely resolved, perhaps that could be reflected in the architecture of the space," McCormick

said, noting the building will be designed to accommodate future changes in occupation, depending on policy decisions and community feedback.

McCormick noted that the Board has addressed other community concerns such as siren noise, parking availability, and neighborhood preservation. "What's been unaddressed is the future of our policing and I don't know if we can depend on that for the future of the RFQ," McCormick concluded.

Board Member William Gage argued that the RFQ should acknowledge the community's sentiments around policing. "I think any developer is going to come up against pushback, including the police issue"

The Board agreed to amend the RFQ with a general statement acknowledging the ongoing policy debate regarding policing. Shortly after, the Board voted unanimously to approve the RFQ for its next draft, which is slated for final release the week of January 30.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Groundhog Day...or what?

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

CityTV. We hope he has a great day as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Matt Sullivan, Karen Crane 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.

On **February 6**, the **Somerville Arts Council** will be hosting a **Volunteer Craft Night**, a themed activity where people can design handmade cards which will be sent to the seniors at the **Visiting Nurses Association** in Somerville. A

wonderful way to meet other volunteers, have a few refreshments, and create art. Craft supplies will be available. While you are not required to make a card, they encourage people use their artistic prowess to make something wonderful for those in need, or just simply stop in to say hello. They will also be collecting food donations for the **Somerville Homeless Coalition**. If interested, please bring a non-perishable item with you when you go. Since space is limited, please RSVP via the Eventbrite link <https://tinyurl.com/533mzzvm> **Monday, February 6**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., **MudFlat Pottery School**, 81 Broadway, Somerville.

The three finalists for the open **Superintendent of Schools** position have been announced. The **Somerville School Committee's Superintendent Search Screening Subcommittee** announced that it has narrowed the pool of 27 applicants down to three finalists: **Kevin McCaskill** (Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, Boston Public Schools), **Marisa Mendonsa**, (Deputy Superintendent, Pittsfield Public Schools), and **Jannell D. Pearson-Campbell** (Interim Superintendent, Northampton Public School). To read more about the finalists visit our website for the full press release

and interview schedule. <https://www.the-somervilletimes.com/>

Calling all artists! **USQ** is asking for your help in building on **USQ's** desire to celebrate and expand the role of **public art in the Union Square Neighborhood**. They have planned a 450-square-foot public-facing mural opportunity and are looking for your expertise and vision to bring it to life. All the details are available here: <https://bit.ly/usqmural>

The **Somerville Chamber of Commerce** will host **Virtually Somerville** with **City Council President Ben** *Continued on page 14*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#861

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What does it mean if the groundhog sees his shadow on February 2?

2. Who met the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil first as president of the United States?

3. In what year did groundhog Punxsutawney Phil wear a yellow ribbon?

4. Which U.S. state uses an armadillo to forecast the weather instead of a groundhog?

5. Who was the first man to appear on the cover of Playboy magazine?
6. What is the texting code for Marijuana?

7. What does the texting code BYTM mean?

8. Who owns Gillette Stadium?

9. What was the original name of Gillette Stadium?

10. What TV show did the Patriots' Tom Brady host in 2005?

11. What is the New England Patriots mascot?

12. What song does Lady Gaga credit her stage name to?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Edgar Allan Poe married his thirteen-year-old cousin.
2. Salt used to be a form of currency.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
VALENTINE'S DAY

- ACROSS
1. "Without further _____," pl.

5. Sweet 16 gift

8. Steps to the river, in India

12. Michael Bublé's "_____ the Last Dance for Me"

13. Bigger than big

14. Nonkosher

15. Big-ticket one

16. October birthstone

17. #5 Down's target

18. Reason to celebrate Lupercalia, Valentine's Day predecessor

20. Make over

21. Omit

22. Hexagonal fastener

23. December birthstone, pl.

26. Most gem, tlich

30. Ed.'s request

31. Two dots above a letter

34. Brussels org.

35. Church recesses

37. _____ or chicken?

38. Encourage (2 words)

39. What hoarders do

40. He crossed the Rubicon

42. Jet follower

43. English county courts, in the olden days

45. Gentlemen's gentlemen

47. Chop off

48. Paparazzo's quest

50. Port in Yemen

52. Heart-shaped box content

56. Range

57. Top notch

58. Baron Munchhausen, e.g.

59. Journalists and reporters

60. Speed unit

61. All is well that does this well

62. Bald eagle's nest

63. Ever, to a poet

64. Tinkerbell's powder
- DOWN
1. "Clueless" catch phrase

2. Get-together

3. End of a break-up phrase

4. Explosive of Czechoslovakian origin

5. Winged one

6. September stone

7. Bank on

8. _____ card

9. Not tails

10. '70s hairdo

11. Sylvester, to Tweety

13. Wholism, alt. sp.

14. Monotonous hum

19. Intestinal obstruction

22. "Wayne's World" catchphrase

23. Japanese port

24. Necklace clasp location, pl.

25. Affirmatives

26. Kisses' partners

27. National emblem

28. Type of weasel

29. BBQ tool

32. Pasturelands

33. Accompanies wisdom?

36. a.k.a. St. Valentine's Malady

38. Muse of love poetry

40. Large edible mushroom

41. Long-legged shore bird

44. Regions

46. Bummed about

48. Bell's invention

49. Laurels

50. Homesteader's measure

51. Active one

52. Soap block

53. Hokkaido language

54. Small amounts

55. Formerly, formerly

56. Romantic destination

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
			21					22				
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	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Upcoming events discussed at Human Rights Commission meeting

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

On Wednesday, January 25, the Racial and Social Justice Department Human Rights Commission of the City of Somerville met virtually to discuss the upcoming Boston Winter Walk, Spring into Action event, and Turtle Island project.

Deputy Director of Winter Walk Boston, Amanda Grant Rose, attended the meeting to discuss upcoming details regarding the event. The Winter Walk is an initiative to raise awareness, break stigma, and funds to help end homelessness. It is an annual two mile walk on February 12, the coldest month of the year.

Last year approximately 2300 participated, and this year 3000 participants are anticipated. Rose mentioned that those interested could register using the winter walk website: <https://winter-walk.org>. Rose said the walk is

open to all and is family and pet friendly.

Following the discussion of the Winter Walk, the agenda of the meeting shifted to speaking about the Spring into Action event, which will be returning to Somerville in 2023. All proceeds from the event will benefit Somerville Homeless Coalition clients facing homelessness, eviction, and food insecurity.

One of the final points on the agenda was the Turtle Island project budget and next steps. Present at the meeting was Jessica Boston Davis, who serves as the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Academics at the Somerville Public Schools. Davis provided insight into some of the next steps for the turtle Island project.

The Turtle Island Project is an art display showing North America as a turtle in honor of the indigenous tribes. Previously the \$500 budget for the project was



Winter Walk Boston, taking place on February 12, was among three upcoming events discussed at the recent meeting of the Somerville Human Rights Commission.

approved, and the project was seeking a group of pre-k or kindergarten students to help create

a mural for the project. Davis added that the logistics would be in the works until she receives a

formal description of the project, time, and location where the mural will be painted.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Oysters

Oysters are a low calorie, protein rich food that contains vitamins and key minerals that have important nutritional values that are proven beneficial for overall health. See key health benefits, nutritional facts, and risks of eating oysters here, <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/oysters>.

I enjoy eating oysters any time of year. Whether sitting by the ocean, or fireside, a tray of oysters in hand with a tall glass of ice-cold beer, or a flute of Cava, I'm in my happy place. I squeeze a little lemon over the oysters and then add a touch of mignonette sauce. This

sauce is a perfect accompaniment to the crisp brine of the oyster.

- Mignonette sauce
- 1 medium shallot, minced
 - 1/2 cup champagne vinegar
 - 1 tablespoon pink peppercorns, crushed

Mix the ingredients together and refrigerate for about 2 hours. When ready to serve, add about 1/8 cup of Cava or any other sparkling wine. Spoon over the oysters and enjoy!

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



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On Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

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LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF SOMERVILLE CABLE TELEVISION
LICENSE RENEWAL PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Somerville, by the Mayor as the statutory Cable License Issuing Authority, will hold a cable license renewal public hearing on **Monday, February 13, 2023**, at 6pm pertaining to Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC (Comcast) in connection with the possible issuance of a cable television renewal license to Comcast. Please note that this public hearing will be remote, via Zoom, and can be joined at the following link or by phone at the aforementioned time:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84617801153?pwd=Ym03Y2xYkldXRzcUNNQiEhHVUQT09>
Meeting ID: 846 1780 1153
Passcode: 323787

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84617801153?pwd=Ym03Y2xYkldXRzcUNNQiEhHVUQT09>

This proceeding is held as part of the license renewal process and possible final action to approve the license may be considered and taken by the Mayor as statutory Issuing Authority. Public comment is invited and shall be allowed by electronic video and audio conference platforms as set forth above. Copies of City license renewal documents may be made available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk or by contacting Steve DeCarlo, Office of Cable Communications, c/o City Hall.

By order of the Mayor as statutory License Issuing Authority.
1/25/23, 2/1/23 The Somerville Times



**POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT: 10 POPLAR STREET,
SOMERVILLE, MA**
S-06 Projectdog #853527: Stormwater Force Main & Related Utilities
**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONTRACTOR**

City of Somerville and its CMAR, MWH Constructors RFP for Contractor services procured in accordance with current MGL Chapter 30, § 39M for Public Works (Non-Building) Construction Contracts with Labor over \$50,000 inclusive of all amendments. Includes installation of 42" stormwater force main to connect downstream to existing MBTA Transition Structure. Includes installation of new flag gate and retrofit of structure to accept new force main. Includes upgrades to adjacent utilities along force main route, domestic water piping and appurtenances, storm drainage piping, manhole structures and new fiber optic duct bank from Poplar St. Pump Station downstream to outlet control structure adjacent to MSBA Railroad Corridor. Project subject to Mass Prevailing Wage Laws. A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 2, 2023** at 11:00AM. Meet at MWH on-site trailer, 10 Poplar St.

RFP will be available on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**. Project to be electronically bid via www.projectdog.com. Projectdog Code/Project #853527. Contractor RFP submissions will be due **Friday, February 17, 2023** at 2PM. Project contact: Jim Salerno, email: jim.salerno@mwhconstructors.com, Cell: 216-244-7012.

2/1/23 The Somerville Times

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LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 03/04/2023

Pro Tech Towing notice to owners. The following abandoned motor vehicles will be privately sold unless claimed:

Car information	VIN#	Last registered owner	Address
2008 Chevy Colorado	1GCDT13E288158245	Patrick Joseph Ward	97 Spring St. West Roxbury, MA 02132
2005 Chevy Cobalt	1G1AL52F257552018	Megan Elizabeth Fowle	4 Walk Hill St. #1 Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
2010 Kia Rio	KNADH5A38A6648679	Francisco Bento de Oliveira	244 Salem St. Malden, MA 02148
2004 Buick LeSabre	1G4HP52K944154792	Francis James Pratt	29 Central St. #2 Manchester BTS, MA 01944
2012 VW CC	VVWHP7AN6CE508143	Angel Savannah Casey	831 Main St. Woburn, MA 01801
2011 Chevy Malibu	1G1ZC5E11BF117561	Kimberly Ann Biggi	255 Russell St. Rear Everett, MA 02149
2004 Honda Accord	1HGCM56304A025157	Mark B. Rodrick	3 Armandale St. Worcester, MA 01603
2005 Toyota Corolla	2T1BR32E15C363462	Frances P. Roop	27 Middlesex Cir. #6 Waltham, MA 02452
2014 Jeep Cherokee	1C4PJMSD0EW132713	Nicholas Ohm Prizant	39 School St. Ashburnham, MA 01430
		Kelsey A. Stevens	15 Briarwood Cir. Douglas, MA 01516

Date of Sale **03/04/2023**. A 5-day notice to the Waltham Police Department Chief will be provided before sale.
Location: Pro Tech Towing, 205 Willow St. Waltham, MA, Phone: 781-894-5058

2/1/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #23-36**

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

Pavement Markings & Flex Posts

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **2/02/23**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **02/23/23 3:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

2/1/23 The Somerville Times



**POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT: 10 POPLAR STREET,
SOMERVILLE, MA**

S-02 Projectdog #845243: 4MG D115 Water Storage Tank

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONTRACTOR**

City of Somerville and its CMAR, MWH Constructors RFP for Contractor services procured in accordance with current MGL Chapter 30, § 39M for Public Works (Non-Building) Construction Contracts with Labor over \$50,000 inclusive of all amendments. Includes all equipment, labor and materials to design, F&I a 4MG precast storm water storage tank with CIP mat slab and tank roof topping. Project subject to Mass Prevailing Wage Laws. A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 31, 2023** at 11:00AM. Meet at MWH on-site trailer, 10 Poplar St.

RFP will be available on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**. Project to be electronically bid via www.projectdog.com. Projectdog Code/Project #845243. Contractor RFP submissions will be due **Wednesday, February 8, 2023** at 2PM. Project contact: Jim Salerno, email: jim.salerno@mwhconstructors.com, Cell: 216-244-7012.

2/1/23 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145**

The Somerville Housing Authority is seeking competitive sealed Request for Responses (RFR) for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Operational Support Services, SHA Job No. P-SECV in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The Term is for One (1) year with a One (1) year option at the SHA's sole discretion.

Documents will be posted at **11:00 A.M., February 2, 2023**.

Responses will be received until **11:00 A.M., February 16, 2023**.

The work is estimated to cost \$315,000.00 for 2 years.

Download of RFR Documents will be available for download on SHA's Web site, www.sha-web.org, under our Bid opportunities tab at **11:00 a.m., February 2, 2023**. If bidding, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org and register/leave contact information including an email. You will receive a reply that your email has been received. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received. Addendum's will be posted on the website and shall be the bidders responsibility to include in bid.

2/1/23 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFQ 23-37**

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

**Owner's Project Management Services for
Somerville Fire Department Master Plan**

An RFQ may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **2/02/23**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **02/23/23 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

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

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LEGAL NOTICES



POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT: 10 POPLAR STREET,
SOMERVILLE, MA
S-04 Projectdog #853526: 4MG Tank SOE & Mass Excavation
CITY OF SOMERVILLE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONTRACTOR

City of Somerville and its CMAR, MWH Constructors RFP for Contractor services procured in accordance with current MGL Chapter 30, § 39M for Public Works (Non-Building) Construction Contracts with Labor over \$50,000 inclusive of all amendments. Includes all equipment, labor and materials to F&I support of excavation systems and perform mass excavation for the 4MG precast water storage tank. Project subject to Mass Prevailing Wage Laws. A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 2, 2023** at 10:00AM. Meet at MWH on-site trailer, 10 Poplar St.

RFP will be available on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**. Project to be electronically bid via www.projectdog.com, Projectdog Code/Project #853526. Contractor RFP submissions will be due **Friday, February 17, 2023** at 2PM. Project contact: Jim Salerno, email: jim.salerno@mwhconstructors.com, Cell: 216-244-7012.

2/1/23 The Somerville Times



POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT: 10 POPLAR STREET,
SOMERVILLE, MA
S-03 Projectdog #845244: Site Preparation & Enabling
CITY OF SOMERVILLE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONTRACTOR

City of Somerville and its CMAR, MWH Constructors RFP for Contractor services procured in accordance with current MGL Chapter 30, § 39M for Public Works (Non-Building) Construction Contracts with Labor over \$50,000 inclusive of all amendments. Includes site prep for construction mobilization and on-site construction work to include site access & preparation, erosion controls, site electrical and lighting, geotechnical monitoring and instrumentation, site demobilization and restoration. Project subject to Mass Prevailing Wage Laws. A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 31, 2023** at 10:00AM. Meet at MWH on-site trailer, 10 Poplar St.

RFP will be available on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**. Project to be electronically bid via www.projectdog.com, Projectdog Code/Project #845244. Contractor RFP submissions will be due **Wednesday, February 15, 2023** at 2PM. Project contact: Jim Salerno, email: jim.salerno@mwhconstructors.com, Cell: 216-244-7012.

2/1/23 The Somerville Times

Community members sought for
Public Safety for All Task Force

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the city’s Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invites Somerville residents and workers to apply to fill three open community seats on the Public Safety for All Task Force. Task force members will review feedback from thousands of community members, as well as expert testimonials and independent data to craft public safety policy recommendations for the City of Somerville. Applications are available starting Monday, January 30, at 8:00 a.m. and must be received by Friday, February 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Along with these three community seats, the 13-member task force will consist of community advocates, subject matter experts, and City officials. All community member applicants must live or work in Somerville and must be at least 17 years of age.

Public Safety for All Task Force members will be compensated for their time. Members will be expected to attend meetings up to five hours per week over a period of no longer than eight months. The meetings will be hosted both virtually and in person with a hybrid option. Task Force members should also be prepared to attend potential additional meetings for subcommittees and independent work. The city will provide access and/or training for any community members who are interested in participating but are concerned that virtual meetings may create an access barrier.

In addition to drafting emergency response recommendations, Task Force members will also evaluate other public safety concerns in Somerville and recommend policies that help combat systemic racism and institutional barriers as they relate to public safety.

How to Apply: Deadline Friday, February 24

The Public Safety for All Task Force application will be available online starting Monday, January 30, at 8:30 a.m. on the city website at somervillema.gov, the RSJ website at somervillema.gov/RSJ, and will be shared via city and RSJ social media feeds. Community members can also pick up printed applications at the Somerville City Hall front desk or by calling the RSJ Department at 781-808-8344.

Applications are due by 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24. Applicants can fill out the online form, email their responses to rsj@somervillema.gov, or hand-deliver or mail them to Somerville City Hall, Attn: RSJ Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.

As part of RSJ’s ongoing initiatives, community members are encouraged to take the Public Safety for All Survey - a core component of the community feedback that the Public Safety for All Task Force will review and consider when making policy recommendations to the city.

RSJ is reachable for questions or more information at rsj@somervillema.gov.

\$240K Grant to fund high school student
internships with local STEM employers

The MassHire Metro North Workforce Board (MNWB) was awarded \$240,000 through the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education’s Connecting Activities grant to fund 160 high school students in high-quality STEM internships with local employers. Interns will be students from our partner high schools in Chelsea, Burlington, Malden, Reading, Revere, Somerville, and Woburn.

This initiative aims to expose students to STEM career fields and build partnerships where both employer and intern benefit. The MNWB Youth team will work with the employers and interns to ensure a mutually beneficial match. Employers can decide how many interns they host between February and September.

To best serve the communities, STEM employer partners who can work with interns who speak Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, and Haitian Creole are highly encouraged to apply. We also seek employers who can match students from underrepresented backgrounds with mentors from similar backgrounds.

Interested STEM employers, please sign up here: <https://form.jotform.com/223136513606146>

For more information contact: Kate Armstrong, STEM Programs Manager, at KArmstrong@masshiremetro-north.org. MassHire Programs & Services are funded in part by US Department of Labor (USDOL) Employment and Training Administration grants. Additional details furnished upon request.

Ms. Cam’s

From on page 8

Olío

Answers

1. Six more weeks of cold

2. Ronald Reagan

3. 1981, in honor of the American hostages in Iran

4. Texas

5. Peter Sellers, April 1967

6. 420
7. Better you than me

8. The Kraft Group

9. CMGI Field

10. Saturday Night Live

11. Pat Patriot

12. Queen's Radio Ga Ga

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

February 1

1587 – Elizabeth I, Queen of England, signs the Warrant of Execution for Mary Queen of Scots.

1633 – The tobacco laws of Virginia are codified, limiting tobacco production to reduce dependence on a single-crop economy.

1861 – A furious Governor Sam Houston storms out of a legislative session upon learning that Texas has voted 167-7 to secede from the Union.

1909 – U.S. troops leave Cuba after installing Jose Miguel Gomez as president.

1951 – Three A-bomb tests are completed in the desert of Nevada.

1960 – Four black students stage a sit-in at a segregated Greensboro, N.C. lunch counter.

1965 – Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. and 770 others are arrested in protest against voter discrimination in Alabama.

1968 – South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu declares martial law.

SHS Boys Varsity Basketball stop Malden for a win

Jared Antonelli hits a free throw to put the Highlanders up 1 with 12 seconds left and the defense takes care of the rest, stopping Malden twice in the final seconds in Thursday's night game. SHS wins 40 – 39. Go to our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com for more SHS sports photos. — Photos by Alex Fredette



SHS Track & Field vs Everett

The official results for Everett at Somerville meet from January 27 are SHS 49.33-Everett 31.66/Girls and SHS 48-Everett 33/Boys. SHS Girls record is now 5-1 and the Boys record is 6-0 this Friday will be the GBL Championships Meet. There were max efforts and personal records seen in just about every event, the meet was a window to what SHS can be. The athletes stepped up their game and it was needed. The high jump alone resulted in the best jumps for both teams all season. The field events helped cover some early difficulty in running. The athletes back each other in all events. Boys hurdles had their best day all season. — Photos by Alex Fredette



SHS Boy's Hockey vs Cambridge Rindge and Latin

On January 30, Somerville came out fast and aggressive scoring 4 goals in the first period. Cambridge got within 2 towards the end of the third period, so they pulled their goalie as they went on the offensive. Richie Gaskin scored the empty netter to seal the deal for Somerville with 45 seconds left. SHS won 6-3. the Somerville Youth Hockey League had their "5 minutes of fame" between the first and second period with the Bruins mascot, Blades. — Photos by Alex Fredette



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Valentine's Day Luncheon – Thursday, February 16 starting at 11:00 a.m. at the George Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street - \$10 per person – Join us for an afternoon of music and a special meal. Please RSVP to Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Cultural Arts Series – Voices of a Continent – Wednesday, February 22 at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Maura Mendoza will be singing in English, Spanish and Portuguese with a multicultural and classic repertoire from Latin America. \$5. Per person for lunch. Please call Debby Higgins to RSVP at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Boston Red Sox Valentine's Day Luncheon and Dance – Tuesday, February 14 at noontime. The Red Sox have graciously provided us with a very limited number of seats. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. RSVPs will be accepted only on Tuesday, February 7 and Wednesday, February 8. All RSVPs will be entered into a raffle which will be drawn on Thursday, February 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Lucky winners will be notified by phone on February 9. This event is open to Somerville residents only. Transportation cost to Fenway Park will be provided by the Somerville Council on Aging.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon – Thursday, March 16 at 11:00 a.m. at the George Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. Join us for an afternoon of

music and a special meal. \$10 per person. RSVP, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Arts & Crafts – Wednesday, February 8 at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Starting at 10:00 a.m. – Come and join Judy for a variety of Valentine's Day craft projects including wooden treasure chest, heart mirrors and potpourri sachets. \$3 per person to cover supplies. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Tuesday, February 7, 14, 21 & 28 at Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, February 2, 9 & 23 at Holland Street starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Please note that the Council on Aging will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of President's Day.

As a reminder, when the snow starts to fly, we want to keep everyone safe. Therefore, when the Somerville Public Schools are closed, the Somerville Council on Aging will also cancel all programming. Once school is back in session, we will be back to our regular schedule.

Somerville City Cable
RCN = 13/Comcast = 22
The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m.

and 4:00 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby Higgins or Maureen Bastardi. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Ewen-Campen. Q&A with the new **Somerville City Council President.** February 7, 12:00 p.m. Join the Zoom meeting at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85876886079?pwd=WHRkSkk4Ym-tlQjJ6dnZZdWl2N1hLdz09#success>. Meeting ID: 858 7688 6079 The series is sponsored by **Winter Hill Bank.**

Arts at the Armory is thrilled to announce their **African Music Series** with **Kina Zoré** on **Sunday, February 5,** from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Author **Pacifique Irankunda** to open with book talk. Tickets are \$10 at the door. More info here: <https://artsatthearmory.org/pop/pop-african-music-nights>. This event is a part of the **Armory Performance Opportunity Program (POP)** series.

The **Somerville Public Library** will be hosting **Beat the Librarians Trivia, Monday, February 13** at **Remnant Brewing, 2 Bow Market Way.** Think you're smarter than the average librarian? Celebrate **National Library Lovers' Day** and test your knowledge against a team of SPL librarians. Teams (typically

up to six people) will be answering questions curated by Remnant Brewing's trivia host **Meredith.**

The search is on for **crossing guards** to help keep students safe on their walks to and from school. Apply: somervillema.gov/apply. More info: careers@somervillema.gov / 617-625-6600 extension 3300.

The **City of Somerville Department of Public Works** has distributed **sand** city-wide for residential use. Sand increases traction on icy surfaces and, since it is less corrosive than salt-based ice melt, helps maintain the conditions of our sidewalks and other infrastructure. For our full Winter guide, visit somervillema.gov/snow.

East Somerville Main Streets is hosting a meet and greet session for the community to get to know our small business owners and shop their specialties. **Saturday, March 4,** at 11:00 a.m. at **Connexion, 149 Broadway.**

Somerville Homeless Coalition's Spring Into Action Event will be returning to

The Somerville Theatre's Crystal Ballroom on **Thursday, March 23.** #Feel-GoodFriday. For more information and to purchase tickets go to: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/01Y6qw?vid=wre5o>

Kids 10-18 years old are invited to the **Half-Day Wednesday Video Game Hangout** at **Somerville Public Library (MA) Central Branch Teen Room** every **half day Wednesday.** Starts at 12:15 p.m. Hang out with peers, play multiplayer Nintendo Switch games on the big screen, try Super Smash Bros., Mario Kart, Rocket League or bring your own games.

This year's **Black History Month** honors **Black Resistance** throughout history and today. Archivist, scholar, graphic novelist **Dr. Rebecca Hall** joins the **Somerville Public Library** virtually to discuss her groundbreaking graphic novel **Wake. Saturday, February 11** at 2:30 p.m. Visit the SPL website to register. www.somerville-publiclibrary.org.

The **Arts at the Armory's Performance Hall** is available to rent for weddings, par-

ties, and private work functions. With a new stage, aesthetic improvements to the space, and a capacity of 395, the Performance Hall is a versatile, conveniently located venue in the heart of Somerville's Spring Hill neighborhood. Did we mention there is ample off-street parking? Learn more at artsatthearmory.org, and fill out the **Event Contact Form** to book the Performance Hall.

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

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Atlantic fiction editor

C. Michael Curtis passes

I received word that Curtis has passed. Here is an interview I conducted with him some years ago

An afternoon with the Atlantic fiction editor

The Wilderness House Literary Retreat Hosts Atlantic fiction editor C. Michael Curtis.

On a sweltering early summer morning Somerville poet Linda Haviland Conte and I were ferried by golf cart up a long and winding forested hill to the “Wilderness House Literary Retreat,” in Littleton, Mass, to spend the day with C. Michael Curtis, the fiction editor of *The Atlantic* magazine. *The Atlantic* is moving from its long-time home in Boston to Washington, D.C. It will now be publishing its fiction and poetry in one large annual issue; rather than individual issues. C. Michael Curtis, who will edit this annual, gave the group in attendance a sneak preview of the issue and an illuminating discussion of his life in the rarefied environs of the literary world.

Curtis was peppered with many questions from an inquisitive audience. He was asked about his relationship with late poetry editor of *The Atlantic*, Peter Davison. Curtis met Davison in 1961 at Cornell University when Curtis was a student. It seems that Davison was in town for an Anne Sexton reading. Curtis managed to arrange a dinner meeting with Davison. He showed Davison a few of his poems, and the poetry editor took them back to Boston. Favorably impressed, Davison offered Curtis an intern or as it was called then a “summer reader,” position. This led to Curtis’ long affair with *The Atlantic*. He left Cornell just shy of his PhD, and never went back. Curtis remained friends with Davison over the years in spite of breaking Davison’s rib in a touch football game one Cambridge afternoon.

In his long career at the magazine Curtis has edited the works of many notable authors. On one rare occasion he had to tell John Updike that one of his pieces “didn’t work.” Fortunately, Updike was in agreement. A young John Sayles, (the noted indie filmmaker), was very offended by some minor changes Curtis made in his manuscript. It seems that Sayles had substituted dashes for quotations. Curtis naturally changed them back to standard quotes. Sayles took strong exception; telling Curtis that he does everything for a reason. Sayles was ready to withdraw his work. Curtis left the dashes in.

After a hearty lunch with retreat participants, Curtis



talked about what he looks for in a manuscript. Since *The Atlantic* gets up to 12,000 submissions a year, quick decisions must be made. Curtis said there are a few things that will undermine a writer’s chances. Misspelled words, bad grammar, adjectives in front of every noun, putting words in caps, overuse of the ellipsis, and the use of the present tense. Curtis feels that the use of the present often makes the work seem affected. Curtis said that in the cover letter that accompanies the manuscript the writer should never explain his story. This is a sure mark of an amateur. A good writer will realize the reader will discover this on his own. Oddly enough Curtis has received manuscripts that included a number of rejection slips from top shelf magazines. This, he said, is a poor advertisement for a writer’s work. Curtis also made it clear that he is not impressed by trendy writing. But he always likes to see well-constructed and coherent sentences. He also looks for an authentic voice and authentic dialogue in the work he reviews.

Curtis believes that an editor can make enormous improvements to a book. Curtis works on the grammar, syntax, and transitions in a story so it will flow. However, he is careful not to edit out the “voice” of the writer. He feels that it is possible we may never know the true voice of authors like Thomas Wolfe, who was heavily edited by Maxwell Perkins.

For the aspiring writer, Curtis is strongly in favor of MFA writing programs. He said, “A lot of the stuff we publish comes from writers in MFA programs. Writers in MFA programs are the ones who are going to stay with it.”

As Linda and I left the retreat, we were met by a group of wild turkeys that had roamed on to the grounds. Perhaps they heard about this literary talk. After all, I’ve heard it said more than once that “Literature is for the birds.”

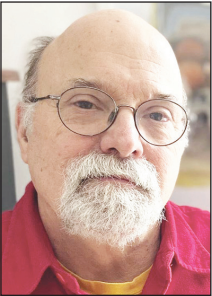
Of the street his family prefers, to have been an honest Christian man,
A good dad, a deer hunter, a faithful loving husband to boot,
Moderate with moonshine, funny, and a baseball coach as well,
And such a fan of country that we reportedly found Patsy Cline

Serenading him with “Sweet Dreams” from Nashville,
On WSM, 650 on his radio dial, when we wedged open the door
On the driver’s side of the cab with the jaws of life
To find him thrown across the console to the floor like a rag doll.

— Scott Ruescher

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

Scott Ruescher has been placing new poems in the *Common Ground Review*, the *Latin American Literary Review*, *Nine Mile*, *Pangyrus*, and other places, and working on a follow-up to his 2017 book, *Waiting for the Light to Change*. Retired from working at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and from teaching in the BU Prison Education Program, he writes publicity materials for The Neighborhood Developers in Chelsea and helps teach citizenship and ESOL classes at Immigrant Learning Center in Malden.



White Wooden Crosses

At one such shrine, at one such cluster of white wooden crosses,
At one such perilous hairpin turn in the steep Clinch Mountains,
I peered over the side of the cliff as my father steered to the right,
As my mother beside him in the passenger seat held on tight,
And as my sister behind him, to my left, lifted her bright
Eyes from her book, and imagined myself a medic pulling up
From the hospital in the valley, fifteen minutes after the accident,
In a white ambulance with the siren wailing, the red lights flashing.

Hopping out on the passenger’s side when my buddy puts it
In park, I line the orange caution cones across the narrow road
To keep the oncoming traffic from nudging us over the edge,
Strap on my backpack of emergency medical supplies,
And unload the gurney from the back, tying it to the rappelling rope.

Then we go unraveling down the mountain through the scree,
Kicking loose rock and small stones free, pocking puffs of dust,
And pushing off from the wall with our well-treaded boots
On a slope too dramatic, an incline too deep, to support
The vegetation that would keep it from eroding, taking the same
45-degree route that the driver down the mountain took,
That the casualties always take, the tourists, teenagers, and truckers
Who lose control of vehicles and plunge through the guardrail,
Until we come to rest on a broad flat outcropping of rock
Beside the crumpled cab of a trucker, a man who approached
The hairpin turn in his 18-wheeler at an inaccurate angle—

A man said by the preacher, at his funeral on the main street
Of Bristol, Tennessee, or Bristol, Virginia, depending which side

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