

Somerville's  
original  
independent  
newspaper

# The Somerville Times

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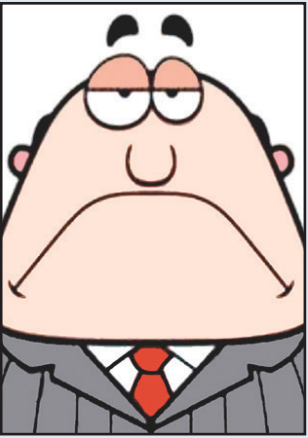


VOL. 10 NO. 5

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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## Fit to a T: How the local community is making Gilman Square suitable for everyone



Gilman Square's Green Line T-stop is bringing the local community together to discuss its optimal use and ensure the common good for all who may be affected by its presence.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Eliza Billingham

Imagining the subway like a river, most people think of a subway stop like a small, sudden clearing on the bank; an easy point of access and transition. But the wise know that a subway stop is more like a water wheel, a point of power and productivity for those who control it. The issue then becomes who harnesses the power for whom.

Somerville and its residents are wise to the power that the Green Line Extension (GLX) is bringing to their city. Gilman Square is a new Green Line stop being built in the heart of Somerville, an area previously underserved by public transportation. The new stop will be right next to Somerville High School, the public library and city hall. It is being built next to city-owned land with unique zoning opportunities. If harnessed well, Gilman Square can be transformed from a single

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## The first @blackownedbos pop-up of 2022 arrives at Bow Market

In 2006, after working at a Boylston St. firm, @tafariwraps founder Imani desired to heal herself and her community and founded the design house House of Tafari Collection.

Imani toured the libraries in Boston and New York, local YMCAs, medical centers and community clinics, and colleges from Boston to Georgia sharing Tafari Wraps and the art of head wrapping. In 2017, Imani was joined by her daughter Delmeshia and the two run @tafariwraps today.

Tafari Wraps is a design house offering luxury head wraps and hair accessories as a non-invasive beauty solution, home décor, apparel, and immersive educational workshops honoring African culture. The goal is to uplift and restore dignity through bold, vibrant designs showcasing African textiles.

Imani and Delmeshia of @tafariwraps want customers to feel the warmth and creativity of Black people, the healing offered by bold colors and the love stitched into their

Continued on page 5



Imani and her daughter Delmeshia invite you to come and check out their line of luxury head wraps at their Bow Market pop-up location from now until March 2022.

## Bring business back to your business!

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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.

The **CHA Somerville Vaccine Center** is now accepting walk-ins, as supply allows. The Center is open to all, five days a week and some Saturdays. You can get booster shots for ages 12+ and initial vaccines for ages 5+. The vaccines are free, regardless of immigration or health insurance status, and you don't need to show ID. Full hours and details are here: [challiance.org/vaccine](http://challiance.org/vaccine). You can still make an appointment at [tinyurl.com/metronorthvaccine](http://tinyurl.com/metronorthvaccine). If you're a CHA patient you can also make an appointment through **MyChart**: [challiance.org/mychart](http://challiance.org/mychart). If you need assistance finding a COVID-19 vaccine or booster, you can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville Baseball** registration is open for the **Spring 2022 season**. Somerville Baseball offers programming for youth ages 5 to 15. Registrations runs until **March 1**. Visit [www.somervillelittleleague.org](http://www.somervillelittleleague.org) to learn more about Somerville Baseball, and click on the registration tab to register.

\*\*\*\*\*








Massachusetts has established a temporary program requiring employers make **paid leave time available for employees impacted by COVID** or who have side effects from vaccination. Learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-temporary-emergency-paid-sick-leave-program>

\*\*\*\*\*

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 best and hope he has a great day. Also celebrating this week, **Steve DeCarlo**, who serves the city so well as its **Director of City Cable Operations**. Happy birthday to **Eleanor Pye**. We hope she has a great day as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such **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 *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 2 – February 8 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>February 2</i>	Cloudy	40°/36°	18%	12%	SW 5 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>February 3</i>	Rain	43°/35°	54%	47%	WSW 9 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>February 4</i>	Rain	36°/12°	83%	71%	NW 14 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>February 5</i>	Sunny	23°/9°	10%	5%	NW 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>February 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	32°/22°	9%	4%	WSW 9 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>February 7</i>	Partly Cloudy	40°/27°	25%	17%	W 8 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>February 8</i>	Partly Cloudy	34°/22°	41%	32%	NW 13 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: **Somerville declares snow emergency effective Friday, January 28, at 4:00 p.m.**

Tommy Point says:

Will the plow drivers actually plow to the curb this time, or will it be the usual cluster we have seen in previous years?

### Response to: **The e-car charging station quandary**

El says:

a well written and informative article

### Response to: **Vaccine mandate voted down by Board of Health**

Steve says:

Diana Ploss should stick to trying to control Peabody and keep her nose out of Somerville affairs.

Villinous says:

A stunning failure to show backbone by the Board of Health. Pure cowardice on their part.

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

## The Somerville Times

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*The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday*

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## City of Somerville Diversity Catalog

Somerville believes it is important to highlight and support local minority and women-owned businesses, as it displays the beautiful mix of people and cultures that make Somerville such a vibrant city. Diversity is strength, and by supporting our diverse businesses, we are strengthening our community. Somerville cares about supporting its businesses, as well as its immigrant and minority communities.



These are small business owners and entrepreneurs who have chosen to call Somerville home. This project allows us to showcase business run by people who have overcome historic barriers, and to help those businesses thrive.

Businesses within the catalog will be marked with a + when featured in news articles.

Show your support for diversity through your dollars by patronizing these businesses. For the full list, go to: <https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/diversity-catalog.pdf>.

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Horrible bosses



Drunk with power defines some bosses. I asked my Somerville social media friends this question. What's the worst thing your worst boss ever did or said to you?

One of my radio bosses was pretty cantankerous. I got an offer from another radio station while working at one station as an intern. I had the chance to go to a station and make some money and when I told the boss about it this is what he said, "If you go to that station I'll go on the air and tell all the listeners that you died of a terrible disease in a Somerville Hospital. Nice guy, huh? I've had some good bosses, but I'll tell you I had some real doozies too.

Here's what some of my friends shared. Copy and paste time! Lol.

"He docked my pay for attending my grandfather's funeral. I grew up in the same house as my grandfather but he didn't consider him immediate family." Wow! Heartless!

As was this: "Keep your personal life at the door," when my mother was dying and my coworkers were comforting me."

"When I told my boss I was going to nursing school at age 28 he told me I didn't have what it takes to be a nurse." Idiot!

This one kills me: "Don't talk to the doc about your dying relative at your desk, we don't want to hear your personal business." Creep!

A friend added: "You're fired!" Two years of hell under him, 1984-1986."

Here's an outright nasty remark: "He told me that I didn't sound like I came from Somerville." To me that's a compliment, but in a bad way.

Here's a direct lack of boundaries: "I told my nephew you would organize and type his college thesis for him.' It went downhill from there."

This one is downright chauvinistic: "Why do you want to be here? Don't you want to get married and have babies? Have a nice house and nice kitchen?" Yikes!

This next one is unbelievable: "Servants should treat their earthly masters as you would God,' with his two hands on my head standing behind me at my desk. My immediate response was I don't even treat my husband like my God."

Here's a good one: "After attending a sensitivity meeting, my boss whispered in my ear if I did one more thing wrong, he would transfer me to the farthest store. I turned in my retirement papers the next day!"

The next friend added: "After I had my first child and went back to work my boss told me I didn't belong there. He



said if I decided to have children, I needed to stay home and take care of them. This was in the early 70s and he didn't like my answer."

This one is unbelievable: "When I said I had a doctor's appointment in the morning and would be a little late he said, 'Who's the lucky guy who gets to poke and prod you tomorrow morning?'" Downright disgusting.

One grumpy old boss once made a joke of my son's serious ear surgery. Heartless.

I was totally thrown under the bus by one lousy boss. That was epic! I can't divulge the who and where to protect privacy.

But even though I had my share of terrible bosses, I've also had a lot of great ones. Some people get drunk with power while others can be good and fair. Thankfully, I'm retired so I'll never have a rotten boss again. Yay! One more thing, I still have reoccurring nightmares of the worst boss I ever had.

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## Police respond to jewelry store 'smash and grab'

On Tuesday, January 22, at approximately 3:34 a.m., Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Wagner Jewelers at 301 Somerville Ave. on reports that a breaking and entering had just occurred.

Upon arrival, the officers spoke with the reporting person who stated he heard an alarm at the business and then observed six individuals fleeing the area in a white sedan.

The officers reviewed surveillance footage which showed five individuals inside the business smashing display cases and stealing multiple pieces of jewelry. Detectives collected blood that was on a piece of broken glass.



Surveillance photo of "smash and grab" suspects. — Photo courtesy of Somerville Police Dept.

## ARPA Survey

Somerville is preparing to invest more than \$77 million dollars in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Ensuring an equitable and prosperous recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is the City's top priority. To do that, they need your help! Complete the first community survey for the City of Somerville's ARPA funding to share your priorities for Somerville. Survey link: [mapc.ma/somervillearpasurvey](https://mapc.ma/somervillearpasurvey)



# THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## Somebody was making a big mistake

Last Sunday evening, Somerville Police officers were dispatched to 78 Broadway, the location of Bairos Liquors, in response to a 9-1-1 call from a person saying that someone was trying to assault him.

While on the phone with the 9-1-1 operator, the reporting party said, "He is trying to take my phone, he hit me". The victim was heard asking people for help before the call was disconnected.

Upon arrival, the officers located several people standing outside the store and pointing at a man walking away from the scene. The man was detained and identified as Luciano Delira.

The victim stated he was approached by Delira outside a Mexican restaurant on lower Broadway and asked him for money. When the victim declined to give any money, Delira allegedly headbutted the victim in the chest.

The victim dialed 9-1-1, and while talking to the operator, Delira reportedly took his phone and threw it against the wall causing, damage to the screen, then punched the victim in the face. The victim then asked bystanders to call the police.

The officers noted a bruise on the victim's face consistent with being punched and the phone with the damaged screen.

While waiting for the prisoner transport vehicle, Delira reportedly told an officer that he was making a big mistake and that he will get a gun with a bigger caliber than the officer's duty weapon. While searching Delira before placing him in the prisoner transport vehicle, he headbutted the officer in the chest.

Delira has been charged with assault and battery on a police officer, witness intimidation, malicious wanton defacement of property, and assault and battery.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Do your part - Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential –Your Privacy is Assured.  
If you choose, you can leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned (not required).

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

<b>Arrests:</b>			
<b>Sean Everson</b> , January 24, 8:14 p.m., arrested at Middlesex Ave. on charges of shoplifting by asportation and	possession of a class B drug, and on warrant charges of trespassing, felony nighttime breaking and entering, and larceny under \$1200.	<b>Daniel Cunha</b> , January 25, 4:38 p.m., arrested at Assembly Row on charges of shoplifting by asportation and assault with a dangerous	weapon.
		<b>Luciano Delira</b> , January 30, 10:17 p.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of assault and battery on a police	officer, witness intimidation, malicious wanton defacement of property, and assault and battery.

## Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

- 100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure
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Simply text the phone number "TIP411" ( 847411 ) and put "617spd" at the beginning of your text message. If your message requires an emergency response PLEASE DO NOT TEXT and instead call 9-1-1.

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## Fit to a T: How the local community is making Gilman Square suitable for everyone

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transit stop into a neighborhood focal point that powers the entire community.

The new Gilman Square stop is being built between School Street and Medford Street, right next to the Reid and Murdock building site (also called the Homans building), which is owned by the city. Once the station is complete, this property is set to become a lucrative site for developers. As the owner of the plot, the city is in a powerful position to leverage developers into providing affordable housing, public amenities or green space near the T stop, should it decide to do so.

W. Gavin Robb is a Somerville resident, architect and educator. He has been carefully tracking Somerville's vision for the GLX. He will teach a course about the design process of Gilman Square for the 2022 spring semester at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Robb explains that at this specific stop, the city can make zoning restrictions that "incentivize development the way the city wants." If Somerville decides to sell the Reid and Murdock building, it can set its own ground rules when soliciting proposals from developers. Those ground rules, Robb argues, ought to be informed by the community's needs and requests.

"Neighborhood is so relevant," he says. "There is a way that these resources can help everyone."

To service everyone, the city needs to know what residents want.

In October 2021, Somerville announced the formation of a Civic Advisory Committee to "bring together a diverse group of Gilman Square neighborhood leaders" and "bring as many voices into the process as possible ... to synthesize community feedback," according to Somerville's Gilman Square Plan Implementation. A similar committee was created during the redevelopment in Union Square. As the council materializes, Robb hopes the city will take their concerns seriously.

This is the way that a community harnesses a T stop to power a neighborhood center. The city can change the zoning around the T stop, allowing for commercial development and creating a central hub. Residents are talking about attracting a grocery store or a theater. Previously, this area had "no sense of central space," Robb says, "but this train line will change that dynamic." The station provides an anchor spot for retail and housing, as well as streamlines the entire city's flow to the library and city hall.

Other residents are making sure the city advocates for accessible amenities as they consider new developments. Colin Killick, Executive Director of Disability Policy Consortium in Massachusetts noticed a staircase connecting the proposed Gilman Square stop to street level. It took showing up to city meetings again and again to explain the thoughtlessness of the stairs.

"There was no outreach to the disability community," Killick says. "I had to show up, I had to be loud."

Eventually, the city committed to making the T stop more accessible for people with disabilities. Then councilwoman, now Mayor-elect Katjana Ballantyne was one of the people who made a promise to provide more equitable access.

"To their credit, they made the commitment," Killick says. "But we won't know for sure until the station is open."

Amenities that are equitable, affordable and advantageous for the whole neighborhood take careful planning and diverse perspectives. Community involvement is slow and fraught with mistakes. Constructing Gilman Square to benefit the surrounding community is a test of Somerville's expressed commitment to "an accessible, mixed-income, multi-cultural city."

Robb, architect and educator, shares a borrowed metaphor that guides his thinking of development. He hopes it will guide Somerville's planning as well.

Said Robb, "If there's a lot of money coming into a community, it can happen two ways: it can come in like a big wave and wash everyone away, or it can come in and lift everybody up. The difference is how the flow is managed."



# Historic Preservation Commission discusses demos and the future of Lyndell's Bakery

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On Tuesday of last week, the Historic Preservation Commission held its monthly meeting. The meeting had an elevated level of importance as recently there have been rumors going around that local bakery Lyndell's was set to close after 135 years in operation. The bakery, which opened in 1887, has been a staple in the Somerville community for generations.

Rumors of the bakery's closing came after news of a development being built in the area where Lyndell's is currently situated on Broadway Ave. was widely reported.

Apart from the matter of the bakery, other issues were discussed in the monthly meeting. The first of these matters was a request for demolition of a home on 38 Laurel St. The home built in 1910 was set to be demolished.

The request for the demolition of the site was withdrawn from consideration, and the commission unanimously voted to accept the withdrawal.

After this the Commission discussed Historical Preservation projects around the city, locations for these include sites at 59 Cross Street, 1 Westwood Road, 404 Broadway, and 277 Broadway.

The site on 277 Broadway is the Elizabeth Peabody House. According to city records, the site previously requested funding from the Historical Commission in order to restore the house's roof.

The most important matter discussed in the meeting was the slated demolition of the Lyndell's Bakery location.

According to Wendy Sczechowicz, Preservation Planner for the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, the demolition of the bakery cannot be discussed by the Com-



While the Historic Preservation Commission has no say over the fate of Lyndell's Bakery, representatives of the business say it will go on at an alternative location.

mission as the age of the structure is not more than 75 years.

"We've had access to old aerial photos of the area, and we determined that the building that is currently there was built somewhere in the mid to late-1950's. So, it does not meet the threshold to be before the Board for demolition review," Sczechowicz said.

After this statement, Anne Vigorito, an attorney from a firm at 424 Broadway, spoke about the redevelopment of the current location of Lyndell's Bakery and also gave a reassuring answer to residents regarding the future of Lyndell's Bakery.

"People get worried. Lyndell's is kind of a staple or a landmark we can call it down in Ball Square," Vigorito said. "They're not going anywhere. Any new construction will include them. In the process of that construction, they will have a new home. I believe right across the way."

After these remarks from the attorney, the Commission then heard from members of the public on the issue.

A couple of comments were offered on the matter to the Commission, both asking for clarification on the historical preservation procedures for the building.

Although Lyndell's Bakery was not eligible to be discussed by the Commission, a multi-family home next to the bakery at 722 Broadway was unanimously deemed historically significant by the Commission. The home was built in 1910, approximately 40 years before the Lyndell's building was constructed.

After this, the Commission discussed other matters such as the December meeting minutes. For more information on the commission and future meetings visit: <https://www.somerville-ma.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-preservation>.

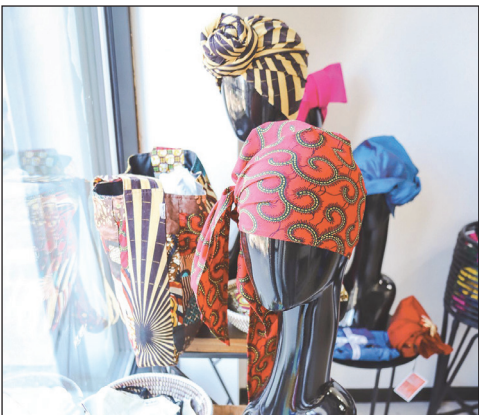
# The first @blackownedbos pop-up of 2022 arrives at Bow Market

CONT. FROM PG 1

home décor and hair accessories. They are excited to carry a rare collection of African textiles from Nigeria and Ghana. Either hand dyed, hand woven or hand stamped, these tapestries are true works of art. Come see all of their beautiful products at Bow until March.

On Wednesdays, @tafariwraps is offering headwrap tutorials by appointment at their Bow pop-up. Just send us an email [info@tafariwraps.com](mailto:info@tafariwraps.com) to book your experience with Imani.

Bow Market is located at 1 Bow Market Way in Somerville.



# The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

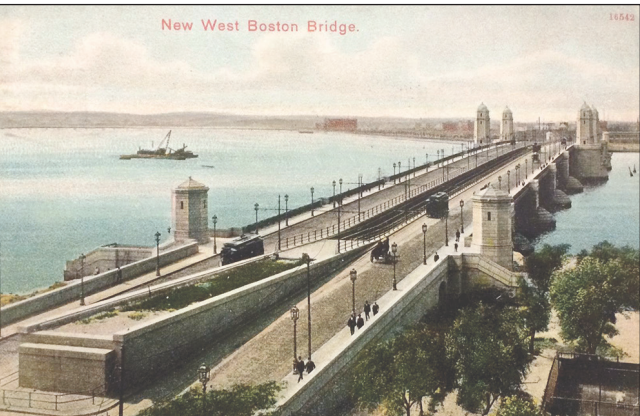


Eagle feathers #247

## The River Charles

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Before the arrival of Europeans to what is now the Charles River Basin and its eighty-mile winding river, nature governed its shores. There were mammals and birds that today are seldom seen east of Route 495. At that time, its riverside was a land of the small animal: otters, weasels, beavers, minks and porcupines.



It was also the harbor for moose, deer, wolves and bears. The area was bountiful with marine life. Native Americans hunted whales off the nearby Atlantic coast while lobsters were trapped off shore, and shellfish were easily harvested along the river's edge.

In 1614, Captain John Smith explored and named the river after England's Prince Charles I. The Town of Charlestown was named after him when he was King Charles. The previous indigenous name was Massachusetts. Its meaning is Blue Hills from the native tribe, Massachusetts, living in the region and the nearby 635-foot-blue granite elevations.



Six years later, John Winthrop arrived here with the Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter settling at Ten Hills, which was then Charlestown. Brackish water caused the Governor and his followers to cross the Charles for the Shawmut peninsula's pure, abundant water. The land was then named Boston after their English hometown. This beautiful flow of water, The Charles, has witnessed American history like no other.



• On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere crossed the Charles River from Boston to the Charlestown side before commencing his famous midnight ride through Somerville and on to Lexington.

• At the same early morning interval on April 18, British troops started their march to Concord and crossed the river to the Cambridge side. After their anguishing loss

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives’ and senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of January 24-28.

ELECTION LAW CHANGES (H 4359)

House 124-34, approved a bill making permanent the mail-in and early voting options used in Massachusetts in 2020. Other provisions include reducing the registration blackout period from 20 days prior to an election to 10 days; ensuring that non-felons who are incarcerated who are currently eligible to vote are provided with voting information and materials to exercise their right to vote; mandating that felons who are incarcerated but prohibited from voting are notified of their right to vote upon release and given the opportunity fill out a voter registration form; and requiring the secretary of state to conduct a comprehensive public awareness campaign to publicize the new voting and registration options.

The Senate has already approved a different version of the bill which includes same day registration that allows people to register to vote on the same day that they actually vote. The House version does not include that provision.

Rep. Dan Ryan (D-Boston), House chair of the Elections Laws Committee, led the charge on the House floor for the bill but did not respond to several requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on passage of the bill.

“With nationwide assaults on voting rights and upcoming elections in November, our democracy can’t be taken for granted,” said Carol Rose, executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. “It must be protected and strengthened, not just in Congress but in every state. Passage of [this bill] in the Massachusetts House represents important progress, and we are grateful that state lawmakers adopted reforms—from widespread mail-in voting to improved access for eligible incarcerated voters—that will address barriers to the ballot and expand the hard-won right to vote.”

“Speaker Ron Mariano and his leadership team passed a very partisan Democratic election bill,” said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. “It’s important for Republicans and common-sense Democrats to speak up and hold accountable the majority party when they try to change the rules in favor of their party’s electoral success.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

GET OPINION FROM SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT (H 4359)

House 30-128, rejected an amendment that would require the Supreme Judicial Court to rule on whether the election bill is unconstitutional and to delay the measure’s implementation until the court renders its opinion.

Amendment supporters said this is a very complicated bill and noted some analysts have said it might be unconstitutional.

Amendment opponents said that the amendment is

simply a tactic to delay passage of the bill and will impede approval of the bill which is aimed at voter integrity and ballot access.

(A “Yes” vote is for getting the court’s opinion. A “No” vote is against getting it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

PRISON VOTING (H 4359)

House 153-5, approved an amendment that would require prison officials to provide information to non-felon prisoners on how to register and then vote in local, state and federal elections while in prison. Under current law, prisoners serving time for a felony are banned from voting until their release from prison. The amendment also requires prison officials to help these felons register to vote just before their release.

Amendment supporters said that lack of voting by prisoners, especially black and brown inmates, often occurs because they are not given sufficient information. They said this is a subtle form of voter suppression. They noted the amendment would force prison officials to provide the information.

“Currently, those few eligible incarcerated voters who are able to access a ballot application find their application unduly rejected,” said Kristina Mensik, Democracy Behind Bars Coalition co-chair. “What’s more, we include provisions to help ensure that no eligible voter behind the wall is disenfranchised because they were unhoused before being incarcerated.”

Amendment opponents offered no arguments on the House floor. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* made repeated attempts to get a comment from the five legislators who opposed the amendment but only one responded. “I felt it was too costly and placed an undue burden on correctional officials,” said Rep. Peter Durant (R-Spencer). The other four representatives who voted “No” and refused to comment are Reps Donald Berthiaume (R-Spencer), Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick), Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk), and Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica).

(A Yes” vote is for the amendment. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

SAME DAY REGISTRATION (H 4359)

House 93-64, approved an amendment to a measure that would implement same day registration (SDR) that allows people to register to vote at the polls on Election Day and on any of the early voting days prior to the election. The amendment would replace SDR with a requirement that Secretary of State Bill Galvin complete a study that would analyze the cost of the proposed policy to the state and cities and towns and what it would take for local city and town clerks to implement SDR. Under House rules, the approval of the study amendment prohibits a roll call vote on the straightforward establishment of SDR.

Supporters of SDR said that the study is simply a tactic

by SDR opponents to delay the implementation of SDR and also avoid a direct vote on SDR itself.

Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton), the sponsor of SDR, said it is an important tool that Massachusetts can use to increase voter access to the polls. “In 2021, we had one day of overlap when voters could vote early and register. There was not a flood of applications; just a few more people across the state who were able to exercise their civic duty. That small data point shows that this can work and [this roll call] vote shows that support for same day registration, already popular with voters, is growing amongst legislators as well.”

Some supporters of the amendment to replace SDR with the study by the secretary of state said the House should not implement SDR without having sufficient facts on its effects. Others expressed concerns about the ability of cities and towns to implement SDR rules without disruption.

(*Beacon Hill Roll Call* urges readers to read the following carefully and understand what a “Yes” and “No” vote mean on this roll call. The roll call was on replacing SDR with a study. Therefore, a “Yes” vote is in favor of the study of SDR. A “No” vote is against the study and in most cases in favor of SDR itself.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

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 24-28, the House met for a total of 11 hours and two minutes and the Senate met for a total of six hours and 12 minutes.

Mon. Jan. 24	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:07 a.m. Senate 11:28 a.m. to 11:34 a.m.
Tues. Jan. 25	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Jan. 26	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:52 a.m. Senate 12:01 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.
Thurs. Jan. 27	House 11:03 a.m. to 9:08 p.m. Senate 11:16 p.m. to 11:28 a.m.
Fri. Jan. 28	No House session No Senate session

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



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Shall we shovel?

Our View Of The Times



The first big snowfall of 2022 has come and gone, and with its arrival there also came the city's Sidewalk Snow Clearing Pilot program, targeting properties on Broadway and School St., with the intention of testing options to support safer travel.

During the pilot, the city increased enforcement of existing sidewalk snow removal rules, which can include issuing

fines when sidewalks are not shoveled properly or on time.

In addition, the city cleared more snow from bus stops, ramps, and other pedestrian features, as well as from sidewalks not shoveled by property owners on time.

To avoid fines according to regulations, home and business owners are expected clear snow from all sidewalks and ramps adjacent to their property within six day-

light hours of the end of snowfall. A path at least three feet wide and down to the pavement must be cleared. Snow should not be shoveled into bike lanes.

According to the city, safety is the goal, and Mayor Ballantyne and the City Council are working together to improve pedestrian safety including after snowfall.

Broadway and School St. were chosen for the pilot because they cross the city,

connect to bus, transit, and school routes, run through diverse neighborhoods, and offer a range of shoveling environments.

To review shoveling guidelines, safety tips, assistance programs and shoveling fines, you can go to [somervillema.gov/snow](http://somervillema.gov/snow) or contact 311 (617-666-3311).

It may be a pain in the ... back ... but keeping our sidewalks safe for everyone is more important than anything.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

If your **child or teen** is struggling with **stress or anxiety**, you can help by reaching out, listening, understanding, offering support, and connecting the student with key staff at school. Learn more about the **#SomervilleTogether campaign** for youth mental health at <http://bit.ly/3s5uMfu>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Order your **High Mowing Organic Seeds** by **February 7**. Your purchase helps support the activities of the **Friends of the Community Growing Center** in Somerville. Please use this form to place your order: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeM1.../viewform>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for a way to **practice social distancing** but still remain connected to other people? Look no further than the **Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program**. They have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has

you covered. Call **Natasha** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **City of Somerville's Memorialization Committee**, which names public assets like buildings, streets, and parks, is accepting applications to **fill one resident position**. The committee meets on an as-needed basis. Appointees will serve a two-year term and must be confirmed by the City Council. If you are interested in applying, please send a statement of interest to [memorial@somervillema.gov](mailto:memorial@somervillema.gov) by **Friday, February 19**. For more information on the Memorialization Committee please visit [bit.ly/MemorializationCommittee](http://bit.ly/MemorializationCommittee).

\*\*\*\*\*

Rent a space at the **Arts at the Armory's unique spaces**. Are you looking for a unique and memorable venue for an event? Their historic and spacious **Performance Hall**, intimate and charming **Café**, and comfortable and functional **B5 meeting/classroom/rehearsal space** are all available to rent. Learn more about our spaces here. For more information, please contact [events@artsatthearmory.org](mailto:events@artsatthearmory.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Healey School** is excited to host their **homegrown book fair** again **this March** with the mission of every child in the school going home with books to expand their home library. The Healey School is looking to collect a diverse selection of new and gently used books for their PreK-8th grade students. If you would like to donate books for this event, please bring books in good condition to bins at either the **Healey School main entrance vestibule** or any of the **Somerville Public Library children's rooms** (East, West, and Central.) Books in languages other than English are especially welcome. If you have any questions or would prefer book pick-up, please contact: **Debbie L.** at [schmidttopold@yahoo.com](mailto:schmidttopold@yahoo.com), **Nancy O.** at [nancyboconnor@gmail.com](mailto:nancyboconnor@gmail.com) or **Aprill B.** at [aprillhuddle@gmail.com](mailto:aprillhuddle@gmail.com).

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If you are experiencing **symptoms of COVID-19** or were **exposed to someone with COVID-19**, you should **get tested**. Find a testing site near you or where to get an at-home test kit at [somervillema.gov/covidtesting](http://somervillema.gov/covidtesting). If you test positive: The **CDC** advises to isolate for at least five days.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Students at the Brown, Kennedy, and Winter Hill schools** participated in the national **Johnathan Jones Get Active Coding Challenge** using **Unruly Splats**, vying against schools across the country for top honors. The Brown school beat all other schools in the country to earn national recognition. A special celebration took place earlier this week and Brown School students had an opportunity to hear directly from Jones, a **New England Patriots** cornerback and two-time Super Bowl Champion. Learn more about this innovative event in this recent **Boston 25 news** video clip <https://www.boston25news.com/news/somerville-schools-win-national-stem-competition-sponsored-by-patriots-super-bowl-champ/d81246b5-c868-4a66-93b8-b2b624bf594d/>

\*\*\*\*\*

Prepare for the **2021/2022 snow season** by reviewing parking rules and signing up for alerts. Because this winter begins in an **odd-numbered year**, snow emergency parking will be on the **odd side of the street all winter**, unless posted signage says differently. Check streets signs in your neighborhood so you know where you can park ahead of winter weather. You can also

Continued on page 11



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#812

1. What two countries celebrate Groundhog Day every year on February 2?

2. Who is credited as the "father" who conceived the idea of Groundhog Day?

3. Where is the largest Groundhog Day celebration held?

4. Why was the 2021 Groundhog Day ceremony held behind closed indoors?

5. Who was the first player in the NFL history to be voted unanimous MVP?

6. In what year did the first Madden video game come out?

7. What was the first Madden video game called?

8. The Atlanta Falcons QB Matt Ryan came from what college?

9. Who was fired as head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs in December 2011?

10. Which band accused Led Zeppelin of stealing the opening riff of their hit *Stairway To Heaven* from them?

11. Which company owns Bugatti, Lamborghini, Audi, Porsche, and Ducati?

12. What was Hamlet's father's name?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. An enneahedron is solid with nine faces.

2. Chinese Crested dogs can get acne.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

1. Fantasy sports data

6. Accounting acronym

9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"

13. Branch of economics

14. All talk, no action type of service

15. Relating to symmetry, in geometry

16. Base-8 numeral system

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

18. Lots and lots

19. \*Actor Ryan of "Blue Valentine"

21. Desdemona's suspicious husband

23. Big fuss

24. Nose-in-the-air type

25. Uber alternative

28. One on a pedestal

30. Moderately wide

35. Eye layer

37. Twelfth month of Jewish year

39. Cheese-covered chip

40. Popped relief?

41. "Love, \_\_\_\_" movie

43. Splints site

44. Muhammad's teachings

46. Orchestra instrument

47. Past of heave

48. Avoids work, in British slang

50. Give off

52. Dose of sunshine

53. Back seat

55. Hair-raising product

57. \_\_\_\_ valentine, an opposite of love note

61. English author perhaps best known for "The Canterbury Tales"

65. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley

66. Pooh's "wise" friend

68. Bring to an end

69. Potassium nitrate

70. Farm sound

71. Arm bones

72. Back talk

73. Uniting conjunction

74. Imposter

DOWN

1. Smoke plus fog

2. Comes in hard or soft shell

3. Parts of a play

4. \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-la

5. Plural of solidus

6. Heidi's shoe

7. Sweetie follower

8. Cook's cover

9. Wheel holder

10. Cambodian money

11. Two-masted vessel

12. "The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises"

15. Trash can for fireplace (2 words)

20. Source of lymphocytes, pl.

22. Pull along

24. Dormant state

25. Famous archer

26. Dispatch boat

27. " \_\_\_\_ and whistles"

29. Hodgepodge

31. Mr. and Mrs. Incredible's son

32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology

33. Seven days postmortem

34. Hive-related endearment

36. Unfortunately, exclamation

38. Rumpelstiltskin machine

42. Stallion's cry

45. Business combination

49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway

51. Darjeeling server

54. Smell, usually pleasant

56. Calms

57. Ford Transit and such

58. Pelvic parts

59. Lice eggs

60. Augments

61. Oaf

62. Scoop holder

63. Biblical twin

64. Donna or Lou

67. Got a blue ribbon

CROSSWORD

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© StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

8

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

LAND

BOO

DOS

VIII

SICK

EJECT

INNS

PLEA

MALAY

TAMP

ABAY

EGIS

AARON

GNU

SATYRS

SEDATED

ADO

REDHOT

ROLE

DITSY

OAF

ASIDE

LEAP

EGGIER

LED

YULE

LOG

NOTERS

CAN

SEAMY

RAID

LOMBARDI

PAPAL

ABEL

AIDS

ANELE

MERE

NOEL

SIX

PRY

TRAY



# 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.

## Support gun violence prevention legislation in Massachusetts

By Rachel Walsh-Peterson

Gun violence prevention is crucial to the safety of our city, and the vocal support of Somerville residents is paramount in encouraging our elected representatives to prioritize this issue. Please help our state continue to be a national leader in the fight to prevent gun violence by urging our lawmakers to support

passage of the following bills this week:

1) H.2491 and H.2439: Combating the rising threat of untraceable and undetectable firearms (“ghost guns”) by ensuring all DIY firearms are marked with unique serial numbers, prohibiting 3-D printed firearms, and ensuring these weapons don’t end up in the hands of dangerous people.

2) H.2505 and S.1568: Protecting our democracy from the threat of armed extremism and intimidation by prohibiting firearms in polling places, on Capitol grounds, and at demonstrations in public buildings.

3) H.2486: Requiring successful completion of live-fire training by all firearm permit applications in the state, ensuring permit holders have demon-

strated their ability to safely handle and discharge firearms. This is a common-sense step that can have a significant impact.

4) H.2437 and S.1562: Helping law enforcement by expanding the reporting and analysis of crime gun data to create effective policies to prevent gun violence.

5) H.2519 and S.1552: Improving emergency responses

to situations not requiring an arrest or police presence by developing alternative dispatch programs. This will help ensure people have access to assistance they need and situations are not escalated unnecessarily.

You can find your legislator at <https://malegislature.gov/search/findmylegislator>

A quick call, email, tweet or postcard is all it takes!

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to [News@TheSomervilleTimes.com](mailto:News@TheSomervilleTimes.com) or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

To the editor:

Somerville is right to tackle the issue of access to EV charging stations for e-car owners. As the article points out, it’s unreasonable to expect tenants to install stations on property they don’t own. But access shouldn’t be limited to condo developments. All cities should be exploring how they can support e-car owners. Here are just two ways they can do it: cities can install car charging stations on public rights of way, including street curbs, and cities can work with owners of non-residential parking areas like parking garages, houses of worship, and businesses to install EV stations.

More ideas can be found in this study: [https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_evchargingaccess\\_updatedreport\\_final\\_11.18.20.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_evchargingaccess_updatedreport_final_11.18.20.pdf))

Our future is green, but only if we make it so.

Debora Hoffman

## Somerville on track as Metro Boston Homeland Security Region meets

By Kyle Dante

The Metro Boston Homeland Security Region met last Friday with nine officials from towns and cities across Massachusetts. Not having met since July of 2021 due to concerns over the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting featured Regional Planner Jillian Eweka leading the event on budget matters.

Concerning Somerville specifically, the city is deemed to be on the right track. The Jurisdiction Point of Contact (JPOC) mentions the city’s allocation at \$75,000 for this year and 2024. The amount will be \$50,000 in 2023. For 2022, Somerville is at a net gain of 0: it has used its grant and been reimbursed.

Somerville and its neighbors

must specifically outline their budget use. In addition, the budget must operate in conjunction with the Metro Boston Homeland Security Region’s strategies. The MBHSR has four radio channel groups responding to emergencies. Among the radio channels included: dispatch channels, public safety agencies, regional channels, and national interop-

erability systems.

In addition, the policy is in alignment with the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment. THIRA is a three-step procedure: identifying potential danger in a community, the impact of said danger, and what capabilities the community has in case of an occurrence. The goal is to produce a safe and accessible

city or town.

There is a call to immediate action. Somerville and its neighbors must submit their budget plan by the end of February. Furthermore, a follow-up Zoom meeting regarding more information will also take place in February. These plans are critical as the year goes forward, determining what will take place within the community.

## Sidewalk Snow Clearing Pilot underway

Properties on Broadway and School St. are part of the Winter 2022 Sidewalk Snow Clearing Pilot to test options to support safer travel. For the pilot, the city will:

- 1) increase enforcement of existing sidewalk snow removal rules, which can include issuing fines when sidewalks are not shoveled properly or on time;
- 2) clear more snow from bus stops, ramps, and other pedestrian features, and
- 3) clear snow from sidewalks not shoveled by property owners on time.

**What should I do?** To avoid fines, home and business owners must clear snow from all sidewalks and ramps adjacent to their property within 6 daylight hours of the end of snowfall. A path at least 3 feet wide and down to the pavement must be cleared. Do not shovel snow into bike lanes. For more information, please visit [somervillema.gov/snow](http://somervillema.gov/snow).

**What are the fines for not clearing snow from sidewalks?**

- Single-, two-, or three-family homes: 1st offense: \$100; 2nd offense: \$200; 3rd and subsequent offense: \$300
- Four or more dwelling units or commercial establishments: 1st offense: \$150; 2nd, 3rd, and subsequent offenses: \$300

**What is the goal of the pilot?** Safety is the goal. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City Council are working together to improve pedestrian safety including after snowfall. This pilot will test the feasibility of increasing City snow removal from sidewalks.


**When will ticketing and snow clearing by the city begin?** Ticketing can begin as early as six daylight hours after snow stops falling. City clearing of sidewalks that are not shoveled on time will commence as crews become available after sidewalk snow removal is complete in priority areas such as hospitals and assisted care facilities, schools and known daycares, and city buildings.

**For more information on the pilot please visit** [somervillema.gov/SidewalkClearing](http://somervillema.gov/SidewalkClearing). **To review shoveling guidelines, shoveling safety tips, and shoveling fines,** please visit [somervillema.gov/snow](http://somervillema.gov/snow) or contact 311 (617-666-3311). **For information on the city’s Snow Teen Shoveling Program for seniors and persons with disabilities,** visit [somervillema.gov/snow](http://somervillema.gov/snow). Please note that you must sign up for shoveling assistance well in advance of a storm.



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



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

**GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP**  
*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 15, 2022** 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 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8462951315215075088>

Webinar ID: 235-685-331

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (213) 929-4212

Access Code: 591-884-939

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

**Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**

**HPC.DMO 2022.01 – 51 Broadway**  
Applicant: Ben Rogan  
Owner: CDA Realty, LLC  
*Demolish principal structure*

**HPC.DMO 2022.02 – 53 Broadway**  
Applicant: Ben Rogan  
Owner: CDA Realty, LLC  
*Demolish principal structure*

**HPC.DMO 2022.03 – 11 Benedict Avenue**  
Applicant: Ben Rogan  
Owner: Christopher & Loren Galvin  
*Demolish principal structure*

**Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**

**HPC.DMO 2021.24 – 1252 Broadway**  
Applicant: Annette Thomas  
Owner: 1252 Broadway Somerville, LLC  
*Demolish principal structure*

*While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.*

1/26/22, 2/2/22 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE**  
**PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES**  
**IFB #22-31**

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

**Security Monitoring & Maintenance - Schools & City Buildings**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **02/03/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **03/03/2022 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.


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

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

2/2/22 The Somerville Times

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



**ADVERTISEMENT**

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **667-4 Bryant Manor Development** for the **Somerville Housing Authority** in **Somerville** Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by CBI Consulting, LLC.

The Project consists of: **Relocate the stairway adjacent to the loading dock and necessary concrete repairs to the existing loading dock.**

The work is estimated to cost \$100,000.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

**For projects with an estimated construction cost of over \$100,000**, by DHCD contractual requirement, General Bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), according to Article 2.1 in Section 00.21.00 Instructions to Bidders, in the category of: **General Building Construction**. No Filed Sub Bids are required.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 10, 2022** and publicly opened, forthwith.

All Bids should be submitted electronically online at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com) and received no later than the date and time specified above.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com). Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at:

After **2:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 26, 2022** at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com) (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of \$ **50.00** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocsONLINE Inc.

Deposits may be electronically paid or must be a check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **\$50.00**.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs ONLINE, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection **Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 10:00AM**. Meet at the entrance of the Bryant Manor located at 75 Myrtle Street, Somerville, MA.

For questions please call **Brian Langton, Director of Modernization, 617-625-1152 ext 331**.

1/26/22, 2/2/22 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE**  
**PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES**  
**IFB #22-32**

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

**On-Call Glass and Window Repairs**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **02/03/2022**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **02/24/2022 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.


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

5% Bid Deposit required.

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

2/2/22 The Somerville Times

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Removal of Public Shade Trees**  
**City of Somerville**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on February 10th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade trees:

1. **14 Avon Street** – 15-inch diameter Green Ash
2. **20 Avon Street** – 11-inch diameter Green Ash
3. **156 Highland Ave** on Central Street – 8-inch diameter Green Ash
4. **156 Highland Ave** on Central Street – 10-inch diameter Green Ash
5. **156 Highland Ave** on Gibbens Street – 12-inch diameter Green Ash
6. **22 Oxford Street** – 9-inch diameter Green Ash
7. **82 Oxford Street** – 13-inch diameter Green Ash
8. **98 Oxford Street** – 11-inch diameter Green Ash
9. **170 Summer Street on Harvard Street** – 10-inch diameter Green Ash
10. **172 Summer Street** – 12-inch diameter White Ash

The trees proposed for removal are all Ash trees in poor to fair condition. Ash trees in the City are under threat from the invasive pest Emerald Ash Borer. Due to the presence of this pest, the City of Somerville Urban Forest Management Plan recommends removing all Ash trees in poor condition, and Ash trees under 13 inches diameter in fair condition. The area will be replanted as part of the Spring Hill Sewer Separation project.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: [trees@somervillema.gov](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov), or mailed to: 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A video recording of this hearing will be available upon request to [trees@somervillema.gov](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**  
**Webinar ID:** 667-513-899  
**Registration URL:** <https://bit.ly/COS-TR-01>

**TO CALL IN**  
**UNITED STATES:** +1 (631) 992-3221  
**Access code:** 506-128-774

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, February 17, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7848967529678015499>  
Webinar ID: 177-830-099

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422  
Access code: 550-288-541

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

**600 Windsor Place** US RLP 600 Windsor Owner LLC proposes a Master Plan in the Boynton Yards sub area of the Master Planned Development overlay district, which requires a Master Plan Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

2/2/22 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application of a Marijuana Retailer License, for Botanica, LLC for 620 Broadway Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission  
Christopher Allen  
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.  
Jacques Thomas Jr.


**Attest: Lori Batzek**  
Administrative Assistant

2/2/22 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



**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 17, 2022** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1929682909962942987>


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

- **Broadway Somerville Apartments, LLC proposes a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 383 Broadway from UR to MR5.**
- **Michael E. Olson proposes a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 125 Lowell Street from NR to UR.**
- **Vivaldo Meneses Sr. proposes a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 86 Prospect Street from UR to MR5.**
- **Mayor Ballantyne proposes a zoning text amendment to Sections 3.1.14.a and 3.2.13.a Contextual Front Setbacks of the Neighborhood Residence and Urban Residence zoning districts.**

Zoning map amendments and Council Items may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for the address or item number. Other proposed amendments may be viewed online at [www.somervillezoning.com/amendments](http://www.somervillezoning.com/amendments).

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

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**- PUBLIC NOTICE -**

**SOMERVILLE CABLE TELEVISION**

**PUBLIC ASCERTAINMENT HEARING**

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, as statutory Issuing Authority for the City of Somerville, has scheduled a cable television public ascertainment hearing to be held virtually via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/98903468823?pwd=dmMxbHczcGpaQmxpYmp1ank1ckoxUT09>

on **Wednesday, February 16, 2022** at 6:30 PM.

The purpose of the hearing will be to review the performance of the cable television operator, Comcast, during its current license term and to hear testimony on future cable-related needs and interests of the Somerville community. Interested parties are encouraged to attend remotely and offer testimony on any cable-related matters. Any applications and reports to be considered at the hearing are available for public inspection at the Somerville City Hall during regular business hours (advance appointments are required). For more information on the public hearing, please call the Mayor's Office at (617) 625-6600, extension 2100

1/26/22, 2/2/22 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, February 14, 2022** at **6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for Yafa Bakery & Cafe for a Common Victualler and Entertainment by Devices, Indoors at 594 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission  
Christopher Allen  
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.  
Jacques Thomas Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek**  
**Administrative Assistant**

2/2/22 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, February 14, 2022** at **6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for Indignant Brewing Co., LLC d/b/a Winter Hill Brewing for an Entertainment by Devices and Performers License Outdoors on Private Property at 325 Broadway, Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission  
Christopher Allen  
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.  
Jacques Thomas Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek**  
**Administrative Assistant**

2/2/22 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, February 14, 2022** at **6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for Vinal General, LLC d/b/a Vinal General Store for an Alteration of Premises at 220 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission  
Christopher Allen  
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.  
Jacques Thomas Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek**  
**Administrative Assistant**

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A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, February 14, 2022** at **6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application of a Marijuana Retailer License, for Holistic Industries, Inc. d/b/a Liberty for 304 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission  
Christopher Allen  
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.  
Jacques Thomas Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek**  
**Administrative Assistant**

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A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, February 14, 2022** at **6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for SKNM Corporation d/b/a Teele Square Liquors for Transfer of an All Forms Package Store License, a Pledge of License and a Pledge of Inventory License from Everest Mart Inc. d/b/a Teele Square Liquors at 1119 Broadway, to SKNM Corporation d/b/a Teele Square Liquors at 1119 Broadway Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission  
Christopher Allen  
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.  
Jacques Thomas Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek**  
**Administrative Assistant**

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A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, February 14, 2022** at **6:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for El K Group, LLC d/b/a La Bottega for an All Forms Alcohol Enhancement Area, a Common Victualler, an Entertainment by Devices, Indoors and Outdoors, an Outdoor Public Seating and Sunday Hours License at 251 Washington St. Ave., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying this public hearing go to the calendar at [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission  
Christopher Allen  
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.  
Jacques Thomas Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek**  
**Administrative Assistant**

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

learn more about the city's snow policies at [somervillema.gov/snow](http://somervillema.gov/snow).

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Public Library** invites you to an **intro to Dungeons and Dragons event** starting **February 5**. The event is open to anyone 12 years to adult and will be run by professional **Dungeon Master Danger Wizard**. Participants will get an overview of Dungeons and Dragons, create their character, and begin the campaign. The campaign continues on **February 12, 19, 26, March 5**, and concludes **March 12**. All meetings are from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the **Central Library Auditorium**. Space is limited, pre-registration is required. For more information or to sign up, email **Ellen** at [ejacobs@minlib.net](mailto:ejacobs@minlib.net) or call her at (617) 623-5000, x2936.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville's Winter Farmers Market** takes place **Saturdays, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m., through April 16**, at **Arts at the**

**Armory, 191 Highland Ave.** Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. Check out the schedule and map at [www.somwintermarket.org](http://www.somwintermarket.org). They accept SNAP/EBT & HIP, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$15 SNAP match for EBT customers.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Council on Aging** presents **Powers Music School, Thursday, February 10, 1:00 p.m.**, at the **Holland Street Center**. Enjoy an afternoon of live music. **Grab and Go Lunch** available after the performance. Please RSVP to **Debby** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or [DHiggins@Somervillema.gov](mailto:DHiggins@Somervillema.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville's **requirement to wear a**

**face covering in public indoor spaces** remains in effect. Make sure your mask covers your nose and mouth at all times when in public spaces and that it fits snugly around the sides of your face.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are **unable to access a COVID-19 vaccine** due to **transportation challenges**, but otherwise are able to leave your home, please call 3-1-1 to get connected to **transportation assistance**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Individuals who are homebound** are encouraged to schedule an **in-home COVID-19 vaccine appointment** through the state's **COVID-19 In-Home Vaccination Program**. The program is open to all individuals who are homebound, including 5- to 11-year-olds, and individuals seeking both initial or booster doses. To schedule an appointment, call the **In-Home Vaccination Central In-take Line** at (833) 983-0485. The Intake Line is open

Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Representatives are available in both English and Spanish, and also have access to translators for over 100 languages. Due to high demand, the current estimated wait time for an in-home vaccination appointment is 4-6 weeks.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville Council on Aging** hosts **Bingo, Tuesdays** at **Ralph & Jenny Center** and **Thursdays** at **Holland Street** starting at 10:00 a.m. **Grab and Go lunch** available following Bingo. RSVP to **Debby Higgins** by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email [Debby@DHiggins@Somervillema.gov](mailto:Debby@DHiggins@Somervillema.gov)

\*\*\*\*\*

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# Volunteer Spotlight: Chris the Technology Coach

**Name:** Chris Rucinski  
**Lives in:** Somerville  
**Occupation:** Software Litigation Expert Witness  
**SCES Volunteer since:** 2021  
**How Chris helps:** As a volunteer Technology Coach, Chris helps SCES clients get started with common smartphone and tablet applications.  
“I thought it was going to be pretty cookie cutter, but each case has been unique,” said Rucinski. “I had one client who has vision challenges, so we adjusted his device to make the text larger. I also helped him learn to use Uber to get to doctor’s appointments.”  
“Another client needed help enlarging the text on their phone and learning how to respond to texts, which was important because their doctor’s office would text and they needed to respond,” he added.  
The technology coaches often do a one-hour home visit with the client, followed by two follow-up calls, but each

case is different.  
“I focus on the easiest ways to improve people’s lives through technology, with the limited time we have,” said Rucinski.  
While the time is limited, Rucinski said building a rapport is an important part of the work.  
“The first meeting I try to take very slow,” he said. “I think an easy way to make it frustrating and not productive is to go too fast. It’s much better to guide people through the steps instead of doing it for them.”  
How Chris connected with SCES: “I was reaching out to places last spring, offering to help older adults get connected with the COVID vaccine,” said Rucinski. “SCES didn’t need help with that, but it did lead to a discussion about the Technology Coaches program. It appealed to me because understanding technology and explaining it well are important parts of my job.”  
“It’s a nice way to help people,” he added. “It’s very individual-



SCES volunteer Technology Coach, Chris Rucinski. — Photo courtesy of Clayton Raithel

ized, and that’s fulfilling on a personal level.”  
Technology Coaches is a free program that is available to SCES clients aged 60 and up. To learn more, contact the SCES Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 or info@eldercare.org.

## Winter Hill Bank announces promotion

Winter Hill Bank is pleased to announce that Thomas P. Sullivan, Jr. has been promoted to Senior Vice President/ Lending Operations and Compliance by the Board of Directors at the bank’s annual meeting. With over 25 years of experience in banking and real estate lending, Tom brings a wealth of knowledge and involvement in the areas of audit, risk, operations, lending and regulatory compliance. Tom’s attributes include a strong background in product development, policy making, report writing and management. He provides outstanding analytical, organizational and creative skills to the betterment of Winter Hill Bank. In addition, as a member of the Bank’s Executive Management Team, he will work closely with senior leaders to focus on the strategic growth and other initiatives of the bank.  
“I’m confident in Tom’s ability to strengthen and contribute to the bank’s overall lending efforts and assist with the strategic direction of the bank. Since

joining Winter Hill Bank, his leadership has contributed to outstanding results in CRA, Compliance and achieving positive results with regulatory demands. Tom’s achievements and versatility is an influence to the staff and he has played a key role in the growth and development of our lending operations staff by cultivating a learning environment,” said Sandra L. McGoldrick, President and CEO.  
Mr. Sullivan earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Management Studies with Honors, Summa Cum Laude, from the New England College of Finance as well as attending the University of Massachusetts studying Mechanical Engineering. His professional affiliations include, Membership in the Eastern Massachusetts Compliance Network, the American Bankers Association and the Massachusetts Bankers Association. Mr. Sullivan’s community activities include participating at the Lowell Transitional Living Center by volunteering with meal



preparation and servicing the homeless, the Tewksbury Community Pantry where he volunteered with food collection and sorting of donated food and he took part in a 150 mile bicycle ride “The Great Mass Getaway for Multiple Sclerosis” raising money for MS research.  
**About Winter Hill Bank, F.S.B.** Winter Hill Bank is a mutual Federal Savings Bank. Established in 1906 in Somerville, the bank has served as a “community-oriented neighborhood bank”, concentrating on its traditional lines of business that include a wide array of retail and loan products and services.

### Center for Arts at the Armory receives \$5,000 grant



The Rockland Trust charitable foundation recently presented a check to The Center for Arts at the Armory for \$5,000 which will go towards funding the Somerville Winter Farmers Market. Pictured left to right: MacKenzie Shanahan, Relationship Banker at Rockland Trust; Neil Berman, Board Member for Center for the Arts at the Armory; Vincent Maganzini, Relationship Banker at Rockland Trust; Carson Bennett, Relationship Banker at Rockland Trust; Robert Smyth, Board Member for the Center for the Arts at the Armory; JJ Oberoi, Vice President and Somerville Davis Sq. Branch Manager at Rockland Trust

### Ms. Cam's *Olío* Answers

From page 8

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| 1. U.S. and Canada                                      | 7. John Madden Football |
| 2. Clymer Freas, City Editor at the Punxsutawney Spirit | 8. Boston College       |
| 3. Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania                           | 9. Todd Haley           |
| 4. COVID-19 pandemic                                    | 10. Spirit              |
| 5. Tom Brady  | 11. Volkswagen          |
| 6. 1988   | 12. Hamlet              |

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville’s Denise Penizzotto:

An artist of the 'sacred'

I met Somerville artist Denise Penizzotto at the Tattee cafe in Harvard Square. Penizzotto is new to this area and is studying for an advanced degree at the Harvard Divinity School. For a woman with an impressive and long resume she presents herself in a decidedly unaffected way, and has the sensibility of a serious, working artist ... with a good heart.

Penizzotto, who is originally from Minnesota, has lived in New York City for the past 30 years. Recently, she got a Mellon Foundation grant to explore what makes art sacred, with contemporary art and sacred space in mind. Penizzotto said, “Historically, art has expressed faith and religion. At times in history, when a lot of folks didn’t read, art provided the narrative and the message of the Bible, Koran, etc.”

Before our interview, I looked at her art on her website. One of the many pieces that interested me was a picture-based storytelling project that Penizzotto calls her *Chicken Book*. Penizzotto explains, “The book has watercolor paintings of a beautiful-looking chicken. This unfortunate bird eventually loses its feathers, and without her beautiful plumage, well ... the center does not hold, and the bird falls apart. This is an apt metaphor for a world that is losing its own ‘beautiful plumage’ to climate change, and other sins of our fathers, and our sins as a whole.”



Somerville artist Denise Penizzotto.

work *Daughters of Edward Darley Boit* (1882). She told me she simply wanted to feel what it was like to inhabit these flowing dresses, these undoubtedly corseted bodies, of these very privileged women.

Penizzotto, also told me she has worked at Riker’s Island, the notorious prison located in New York City. In her workshops there, with 17–21-year-old inmates. After a bit of trial and error she found success with her students by having them create portraits of each other. According to the artist, this made her classes far more interesting and fun for her charges. This is not to say that it was not a frightening environment. There were many scary things to encounter while working in a prison, such as the time the prison was locked down because of violence and Penizzotto had to wait for over six hours before she could leave. She reflected, “It was a very powerful and emotional time for me, but I am convinced that art can be a rehabilitating experience.”

An eclectic woman, Penizzotto has done work in the theater. She talked about her stints at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, where she worked as a set-designer for a joint project with England’s Old Vic Theater. She did set design for these Shakespeare productions and traveled around with the company. Later Penizzotto worked with BAM’s Harvey Theater, where she worked with the restoration of the plasterwork of its walls to give it, as she put it, “that oddly, romantic and decrepit feel.”

The artist told me she is also at work in the Hell’s Kitchen section of New York to restore the only Arnold Belkin mural in existence now, *Against Domestic Colonialism*.

Penizzotto told me that her main focus is finishing her studies at Harvard, and to also find studio space in Somerville. She also wants to connect with our rich motherlode of artists that live in our burg. We heartily welcome her!

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Thomas DeFreitas was born in 1969 in Boston. He was educated at the Boston Latin School, and attended the University of Massachusetts (Boston and Amherst) for two years. His poems have appeared in *Dappled Things*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Pensive*, *Plainsongs*, and elsewhere. Thomas’s first chapbook, *Winter in Halifax*, was published in 2021 by Kelsay Books. A resident of Arlington for the last twelve years, Thomas is a member of the Academy of American Poets, the New England Poetry Club, and Arlington’s Bee Hive Poets.



There Is Poetry

Tired and smiling,  
you stretch your stature  
across two cushions of your couch.  
I am sitting at one end.

You prop your bare feet in my lap.

With one hand,  
I explore.

My touch passes—  
delicate, deliberate—  
from your heel up to your toes  
and back down again.

I notice  
but do not linger on  
the vestige of a wound,  
ghost of a punched hole  
made by a metal rod  
which, as you had told me,  
the doctors had put in your leg  
and had measured badly—  
so they had to take it out.

There is poetry  
in the whispering friction  
between my skin  
and yours.

— Thomas DeFreitas



Penizzotto’s *12 Birds of Extinction*.

Pictured here is a beautifully, evocative painting by Pennizzotto titled *12 Birds of Extinction* that has in some ways a similar theme to the *Chicken Book*. The reader sees that behind all this floral fecundity, there lies the birds of extinction ... avian messengers of impending disaster.

Although Penizzotto has a definite social message in her art, sometimes ... well ... it is – what it is. In one intriguing painting, Penizzotto imposes her own expressive face in the John Singer Sargent

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