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Union Square revitalization: SRA progress update



An update on the next phase of the Union Square (USQ) revitalization plan was made at a recent meeting of the Somerville Redevelopment Authority.

By Harry Kane

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority held a meeting on Wednesday, March 4, to provide an overview of the Union Square (USQ) revitalization plan that is moving into the next phase.

President of the Union Square Station Associates (US2) Greg Karczewski spoke at length during a virtual meeting on March 4 about the past decade of public and private progress toward recreating a vibrant neighborhood.

“We’ve been able, over the course of this decade ... to work through a collaborative planning process to define the goals for the neighborhood ... to put zoning in place, to put agreements in place, that govern how the revitalization will be implemented,” said Karczewski.

Continued on page 4

Wellpoint celebrates Teacher of the Year Finalist Beatriz Thomas

Wellpoint, a health benefits company in Massachusetts, visited Somerville High School to honor social studies teacher Beatriz Thomas, a finalist for the 2026 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. Wellpoint awarded Thomas \$5,000 to further enhance the educational experience for her students. She intends to use the grant to strengthen students’ transition from 8th to 9th grade.

During the visit, Wellpoint representatives met with a panel of students to discuss the impact and value of an engaging and supportive learning environment, and observed Thomas’s classroom, experiencing firsthand the dynamic, engaging learning environment she creates for her students.

“Wellpoint is proud to recognize Ms. Thomas as a finalist for the 2026 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year,” said David Morales, *Continued on page 4*



Teacher of the Year Finalist Beatriz Thomas was recently honored by health benefits company Wellpoint during their visit to Somerville High School.

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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.

Somerville's 2026 high school graduates are invited to apply for City of Somerville Municipal Scholarships designed to help students launch their next steps, be that professional training, college, or a job in the trades. Selected applicants will receive \$2,000 to help with post-secondary education expenses, including tuition, professional programs and certifications, and union fees. The deadline to apply is March 27. To qualify for consideration, students must be in high school, a resident of the City of Somerville at the time the financial aid is awarded, and be accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution. Awards are granted both on the basis of merit and need. To apply, students must complete the online application at bit.ly/municipalschol26 by Friday, March 27, at midnight. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/scholarship or contact 311 (617-666-3311).

Somerville's Council on Aging St. Patrick's Day Luncheon takes place Tuesday, March 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. Join them for an afternoon of music, a lunch of corned beef and cabbage, and a performance by the Rebecca McGowan School of Irish Dance. \$10 per person. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: a big Happy birthday to Dennis Fishman. You can enjoy his book *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of March 11 – March 17 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday March 11	Cloudy	55°/49°	22%	15%	WSW 7 mph
Thursday March 12	Rain	54°/27°	41%	32%	NE 11 mph
Friday March 13	Partly Cloudy	42°/38°	11%	6%	NE 12 mph
Saturday March 14	Partly Cloudy	47°/29°	23%	14%	SSW 12 mph
Sunday March 15	Rain	40°/39°	45%	33%	W 11 mph
Monday March 16	Rain	49°/23°	60%	48%	SW 12 mph
Tuesday March 17	Partly Cloudy	31°/19°	20%	12%	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: Somerville community members launch People's Ordinance for Palestine

Dylan says:

Even more important now that we've been dragged into another middle east war by Israel.

fighting anti-Semitism in Somerville says:

There are many ways to support this misguided ordinance...but a comment that says supporting it is..."Even more important now that we've been dragged into another middle east war by Israel" is a sure sign that -whether "Dylan" himself even realizes it - he might as well have said "by those Jews" - instead of "by Israel."

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Tufts University Department of Music Presents Tufts Composers: Look What Happened Now #2 (I Had a Dream of Playing Stockhausen Together)

The Tufts University Department of Music presents *Tufts Composers: Look What Happened Now #2 (I Had a Dream of Playing Stockhausen Together)* in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Monday, March 30, at 5 p.m. Guest artists Na'ama Lion, baroque flute; Pablo Santiago Chin, composer and laptop; and Dalia Chin, flute playmusic by Chin, McDonald, and Stockhausen.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus.

For more information, please visit go.tufts.edu/musicevents or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679.

Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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 house



My first cousin, who is more like a sister to me, now owns our paternal grandparents' house off Holland St. between Teele Square and Davis Square.

Cha-Ching! Not so fast! We are a very passionate, nostalgic, and emotional bunch. Since her mom (my dad's sister), who lived there her entire life, passed away at 94 years young, decisions had to be made.

There has never been a non-family member living in that house since Grandpa Giuseppe purchased it in 1918. Legend has it that he paid around \$2,000. That's what I call a very good investment!

Very few expecting mothers back then went to hospitals to give birth. My dad, the oldest, and all but one of his siblings were born right in that house.

The yard, which was the happy scene of 100 years of kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids, remains almost exactly the same. Four generations enjoyed family

parties in the yard with Auntie hosting her famous pizza parties well into her 80's.

How lucky were my children, fourth generation, to be able to not only know my loving aunt but to be able to also enjoy their great-grandparents' backyard? Two of my three kids never knew either of my parents, as they passed before they were born, but were lucky enough to spend lots of quality time with their Auntie.

She was a lot like my dad and had a keen memory. We heard hundreds of touching and funny family stories about the early years. She kept the house going along with my uncle, her husband, who we lost in the 1990's.

Auntie was born in that house, and peacefully passed there, surrounded by the very adult nephew (me), great nephews, and especially close great niece, who she loved, entertained, and nurtured.

The grapevine and gooseberries that we enjoyed as kids are still intact and prospering in the yard.

So the house stays in the family. A million dollars is nothing compared to mil-



lions of warm and happy memories.

Gladly, my cousin has also inherited her mother's incredible memory and has hundreds of happy and serious stories to pass down. We remain incredibly close and speak several times a day, and do fun stuff a lot. We also still hang around with

all those kids I mentioned.

A fifth generation, my daughter's children, who knew and loved Auntie, will hear the wonderful stories and be able to visit the house where their great, great grandparents started it all. They can also try the grapes and gooseberries.

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Are there other benefits to filing my tax return on time besides avoiding penalties or getting my refund sooner?

A: Yes – and it's a benefit most taxpayers rarely hear about: filing on time starts the IRS audit clock.

The IRS only has a limited amount of time to review and challenge a tax return. Filing your return promptly helps ensure that this clock begins running as early as possible!

Here are the key rules:

- The standard audit window is three years. The IRS generally has three years to assess additional tax related to a return.

- The clock starts from the later of the filing date or the filing deadline. If you file early, the three-year period usually begins on the April 15 filing deadline, not the earlier filing date.

- Example: If you file your 2025 tax return in February 2026, the audit window generally runs until April 15, 2029.

- Large income omissions extend the window. If a return omits 25% or more of gross income, the statute of limitations extends to six years.

- Fraud removes the time limit entirely. If the IRS finds evidence of willful evasion, fraud, or intentional tax schemes, there is no statute of limitations – meaning the re-

turn could be audited at any time.

Bottom Line:

Filing on time doesn't just avoid penalties – it also starts the IRS audit clock. The sooner that clock begins, the sooner that tax year can be permanently closed.

Any questions? I'm Vincent Hicks, a CPA based in the Cambridge–Somerville area. Reach out at vincent@hickscpasolutions.com or (859) 553-0788.

Disclaimer: This column provides general financial information and should not be considered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.



Union Square revitalization: SRA progress update

CONT. FROM PG 1

US2's Union Square revitalization kickoff event was held back in October of 2014. "Progress happens over increments over time," he said, recalling the work that has been accomplished thus far on this transit-oriented employment district.

The USQ redevelopment project is delivering on the community-led SomerVision 2040 initiative from the Curtatone Administration.

The initial phase of the \$2 billion, 15-20-acre USQ development project is complete. These items of the master plan include the MBTA Green Line Station, major infrastructure investments such as Somerville Avenue and Eversource Mobility, Somerville's first community benefits agreement, the former scrapyard (D2 transformation) conversion into commercial, housing and open space, the meaningful fiscal impact of a one-time \$36 million benefit, approximately \$4 million per year in new taxes, and long-term institutional capital committed to Somerville.

"A key piece of that, of course, was the Green Line Station being delivered, back in 2022," he said. "We are four years into the use of the Green Line Station, and it has had a very significant impact."

Karczewski says the Green Line Station was an important piece of the broader goal

of the revitalization plan to evolve Union Square into a preferred commercial employment district.

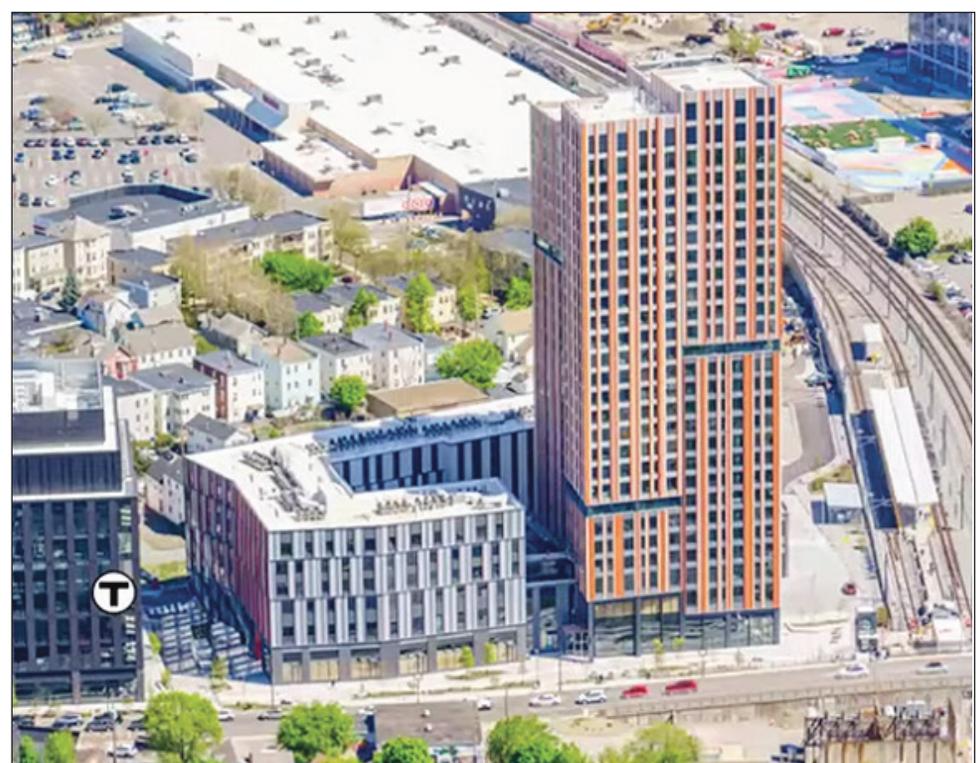
The next major accomplishment was the transformation of the scrapyard located at 10-50 Prospect Street, formerly known as D2. The 450-unit apartment community consists of a mid-rise building and a 25-story tower, called Prospect Union Square, located at 50 Prospect Street, and includes 20 percent affordable housing, retail, and shared parking.

The team is now working on attracting tenants at the vacant commercial lab/office building (196,500 rentable square feet) at 10 Prospect Street in the sectors of life sciences, AI, robotics, and climate tech.

"We really view this building as a catalyst for the commercial development and urban revitalization of the neighborhood," he said.

Over the last year, Karczewski says, the team has made a concerted effort to reach out to the innovation ecosystem by hosting nearly 30 events to position 10 Prospect Street as a place for industry connection growth, and "a place where leaders in the ecosystem can come and exchange ideas, and hear about what's shaping the future."

Floors 5 and 6 spec suites are available now, which offer established companies



Class-A R&D workspaces, ranging from 10.5K square feet to 31.5K square feet, according to the USQ website.

The D2 block is now in the leasing and occupancy stage and represents 25.3 percent of the master plan. The master project overview will likely include 17 building projects, 11 public open spaces, 3.6 acres of civic space and public realm, with approximately 60 percent zoned for commercial

use and 40 percent for residential use.

The next phase will begin with a 9-story commercial building at the 50 Webster Ave site. This is another R&D and office location, which is fully permitted, and is a "shovel-ready" project, waiting for commercial leasing conditions to improve, said Karczewski. The 280,000-square-foot building will represent another 11.7 percent of the master plan.

Wellpoint celebrates Teacher of the Year Finalist Beatriz Thomas

CONT. FROM PG 1

general manager of Wellpoint. "Seeing the powerful connections she builds with her students and the learning environment she fosters was truly inspiring. At Wellpoint, we believe supporting educators is essential to strengthening our communities and advancing the overall

well-being of students across the Commonwealth."

This year marks the second year Wellpoint has sponsored the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year program, demonstrating the company's commitment to recognizing the extraordi-

nary contributions of educators across the state. In addition to honoring Ms. Thomas, Wellpoint recently gave a \$10,000 grant to the 2026 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, Dr. Tara Goodhue, the science department head at Lowell High School, and \$5,000 to

the other finalists, Sarah Costello, a first grade teacher at South Row Elementary in Chelmsford, and Thomas Simmons, a middle school English and history/social studies at Mario Umana Academy, a dual-language school that is part of the Boston Public Schools.

New school public forum fields questions, provides answers

By Ewan Henrie

The City of Somerville welcomed residents to a forum on Tuesday, March 3, focusing on plans to build a new school at 115 Sycamore Street. The forum meeting took place inside Somerville High School, and featured appearances from Mayor Jake Wilson of Somerville, Superintendent Ruben Carmona, and project architects from Perkins Eastman. Also, in attendance were Councilors Lance Davis and Kristen Strezo.

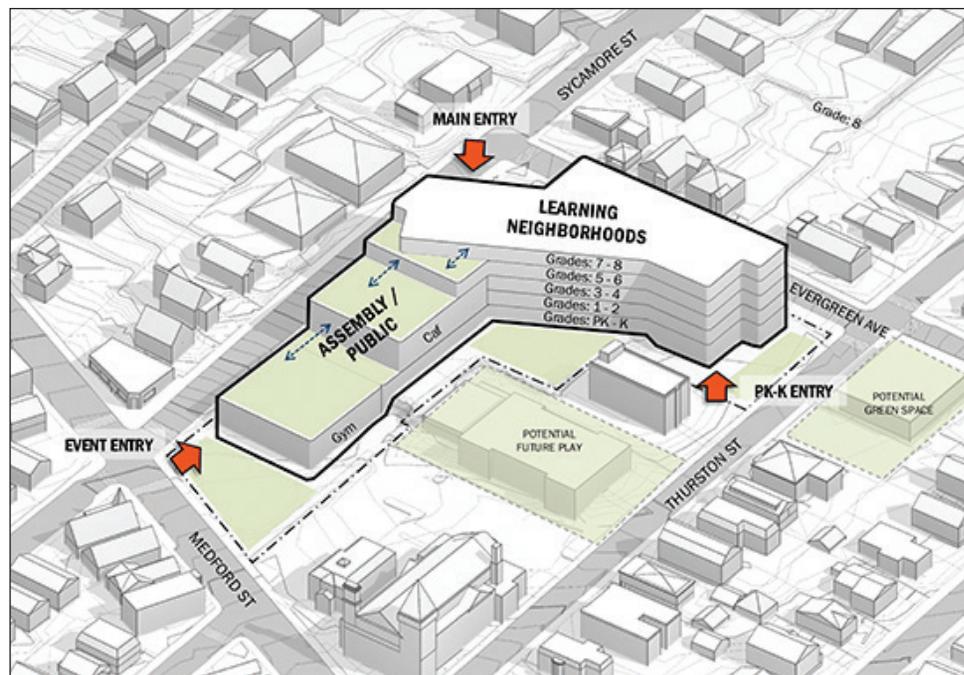
Mayor Wilson opened the meeting, providing an introduction to the project and stating that he understood the importance of providing a school for people's kids. "The path forward is clear," Wilson stated. "We agree with the CAG recommendation that serves 900+ students at 115 Sycamore." The large number of students is because the City of Somerville aims to have a school that

houses kids from Pre-K to senior year of high school.

A special focus for the planned school is providing a safe and welcoming environment for neurodivergent students. The architect discussed a connected cafeteria with quieter areas, tactile surfaces, and a sensory space for kids to enter, among the many ideas to make a neurodivergent-friendly school. Another planning proposal involved having a rooftop area for children to play in, providing a sense of fresh air and a unique environment for recess.

Dawn Guarriello, one of the lead architects of the project, then showed a selection of preliminary plans for the residents of Somerville to choose from. One plan in particular, 2B, had a "perfect solar orientation" for all of the academic spaces, providing daylight exposure. There would also be two grades for each story of the building.

In the Q&A section, the forum hosts



Construction option 2B for the new school building proposal.

were asked when demolition and construction could begin if the motion passed to build a new school on Sycamore Street.

The response was that the earliest date would be 2027, with the latest date being 2029.

Mayor Jake Wilson announces Executive Team

Mayor Jake Wilson recently announced the full slate of Executive Office appointments, an experienced team to deliver on his results-first agenda: improving core city services, increasing efficiency, strengthening communications and transparency, delivering accessibility and accountability, advancing equity, and building regional partnerships that benefit Somerville residents. While many have been on board since the inauguration, two new hires recently completed the team.

"I'm thrilled to announce our complete Mayor's Office team, a group of motivated public servants with a laser focus on making life better for all of our residents," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "The first step of doing the work we want to do is building the team. And these team members all have proven track records of delivering for people and a strong public-service mindset. I'm so happy to welcome them and deliver on the work."

Appointments

Chief Administrative Officer —

Kimberly Wells

Kimberly began serving the Somerville City Council in 2019 as Assistant Clerk of Committees and was appointed as City Clerk in 2021. Prior to joining the city, she led IT and analytics consulting for municipalities across Massachusetts with the

UMass Boston Collins Center for Public Management.

Kimberly holds an MPA and an MS in Political Science from Suffolk University, a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution from UMass Boston, a BS in Political Science from Saint Michael's College, and a Paralegal Certificate from Boston University. She is a PMP, Registered and Certified Parliamentarian, and Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official, and is pursuing an Ed.D. at Northeastern University.

Chief of Staff — Sarah Anders

Sarah Anders joins the Mayor's Office from the City of Boston, where she served as Chief of Staff for the 800+ person Streets Cabinet (Transportation and Public Works), delivering safety and state-of-good-repair projects while strengthening core services.

Previously, she was Communications Director for Mayor Michelle Wu's 2021 campaign and held communications roles for elected officials in New York City. She holds a BA and an MPA from the University of Vermont.

Intergovernmental Affairs Director — Amanda Nagim-Williams

Amanda is a versatile legal professional with broad public sector experience, spanning higher education, public interest ad-

vocacy, municipal government, and judicial chambers bringing a well-rounded perspective to complex legal and policy issues.

Amanda joined the City of Somerville in 2022, as the Coordinator for the Department of Racial and Social Justice. In 2024, she transitioned into her most recent role as the Director of the department where she has provided strategic visioning in identifying and implementing strategies that aim to make Somerville more equitable and inclusive.

Prior to Somerville, Amanda worked in higher education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education in the Professional Education department before serving as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Assignment Judge for New Jersey's largest vicinage.

Amanda holds a Juris Doctor degree from the Roger Williams University School of Law and a Bachelor's degree in Criminology with a dual minor in Sociology & Interdisciplinary Studies from Stonehill College. Amanda also holds a certification in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Human Resources from Cornell University.

Community Partnerships Liaison — Brenna Broderick

Brenna Broderick served as Co-Manager of the Wilson mayoral campaign and Chief of Staff to the transition. She brings



experience across government and non-profits with a focus on partnerships and community engagement.

Recent work includes a graduate consultancy designing gender-intentional frameworks for an agricultural impact fund, along with prior roles in development and communications for a local food-insecurity nonprofit and policy research at Boston City Hall. She holds a Master's in Global Development Practice from Harvard University, with certificates in Environmental Policy and Sustainable Food Systems, and a BA in Political Science from Saint Michael's College.

Mayor's Public Liaison — Jesse Moos

A 16-year Somerville public-service veteran, Jesse Moos most recently served as the City's first Construction Liaison and Compliance Manager

Continued on page 11

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports on local representatives' votes on two roll calls from prior sessions. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

Both roll calls are on amendments to legislation that supporters said would result in over \$9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next ten years. Opponents of the measure said it does not come close to its stated goal to make energy costs more affordable and represents a missed opportunity to deliver financial relief to ratepayers.

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (H 5151)

House 25-130, rejected an amendment that would reduce the mandated annual rate of growth of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) from 3 percent to 1 percent. The RPS is the percentage of the grid's provided energy supply that is derived from renewable sources.

"The reduction to 1 percent year-to-year growth of that mandated share of energy being generated by renewables would be more attainable while not preventing Massachusetts from exceeding that targeted rate of growth if the industry gains more momentum than expected," said amendment sponsor Rep. Joe McKenna (R-Sutton). "Setting unattainable goals is an attempt to will into existence more renewable energy production than can realistically be procured. This sets up an incentive for development to leverage the mandates to bring in a very expensive supply at non-competitive rates that drives up costs borne by consumers on their bills."

Rep. Mike Kushmerek (D-Fitchburg) opposed the amendment and said it would attempt to permanently reduce renewable energy targets and the Class 1 RPS by 15 percent by reducing it from 3 percent to 1 percent during the years from 2025 to 2029. He argued that the RPS is an important tool that helps the state comply with important climate laws and contributes to financing for clean energy projects.

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

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

AFFORDABILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS (H 5151)

House 25-130, rejected an amendment that would require all state agencies and authorities implementing energy or climate-related regulations to complete a formal affordability and competitiveness assessment before those

actions take effect. Agencies would be prohibited from advancing regulations tied to greenhouse gas limits or clean energy goals unless they determine the action will not impose unreasonable adverse impacts on residential ratepayers, including low- and fixed-income households, or on the operating costs and competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses.

The amendment mandates that the assessment must identify projected cost impacts across ratepayer classes, evaluate cumulative impacts, consult with ratepayers and business organizations and be made publicly available at least 30 days prior to implementation. If unreasonable impacts are identified, agencies must modify the proposal or adopt mitigation measures, and failure to comply would be subject to judicial review.

"If the goal of this legislation is affordability, then there must be a real backstop to protect ratepayers," said amendment sponsor Rep. Ken Swezey (R-Hanson). "The amendment ensures that new climate or energy mandates cannot move forward without a transparent review of their impact on household energy costs and business competitiveness. It guarantees that affordability is measured and enforced, not simply promised."

Rep. Mike Kushmerek (D-Fitchburg) opposed the amendment and said that a nearly identical amendment was put forward in an earlier version of this bill, and during that process, the feedback he received was that while it was well intentioned, the amendment would effectively grind the state's clean energy industry to a halt. He noted that litigious parties would seek to exploit this provision to tie up the clean energy industry and programs in legal battles.

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

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

PREGNANCY (HD 5650) – The House sent to the Judiciary Committee a late-filed bill which would repeal a current law that provides that a parent who conceals the death of a child, "which if born alive would be a child born out of wedlock, so that it cannot be ascertained whether it was born alive or, if born alive, whether it was murdered, shall be punished by a fine of up to \$100 or by imprisonment for up to one year."

Sponsor Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa said the bill would repeal

archaic laws criminalizing pregnancy by removing an outdated statute that can be used to criminalize unmarried women during one of the most traumatic experiences a person may face: pregnancy loss.

"This legislation would repeal a concealment of birth law that is more than a century old, written at a time when women were not yet recognized as full rights-bearing people and when giving birth outside of marriage carried deep social stigma," said Sabadosa. "Today, the use of such laws to investigate or prosecute postpartum individuals is unjust and out of step with our modern understanding of reproductive health. There is no compelling reason for a statute like this to remain on the books."

DOG KENNELS (H 4849) – The Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government held a hearing on legislation that would make changes to current dog kennel laws. Supporters said the bill updates Massachusetts law on animal welfare, kennel licensing and dog identification and provides that fines from animal cruelty enforcement will now be deposited into the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund, which will expand to cover broader animal health and welfare measures.

They argued that the bill strengthens kennel oversight by prohibiting unlicensed dogs from being accepted; expands public license records to include inspection history and enforcement data; and allows health agents to conduct inspections alongside animal control officers. When transferring a dog, kennels must record and report detailed identifying information to local clerks within 30 days.

"Following the passage of Ollie's Law last session, municipalities and industry experts made clear that additional reforms were needed to close gaps in our existing animal welfare system," said sponsor Rep. Brian Ashe (D-Longmeadow). "This bill answers that call by strengthening kennel oversight, improving accountability and ensuring our laws better protect the animals and communities we serve."

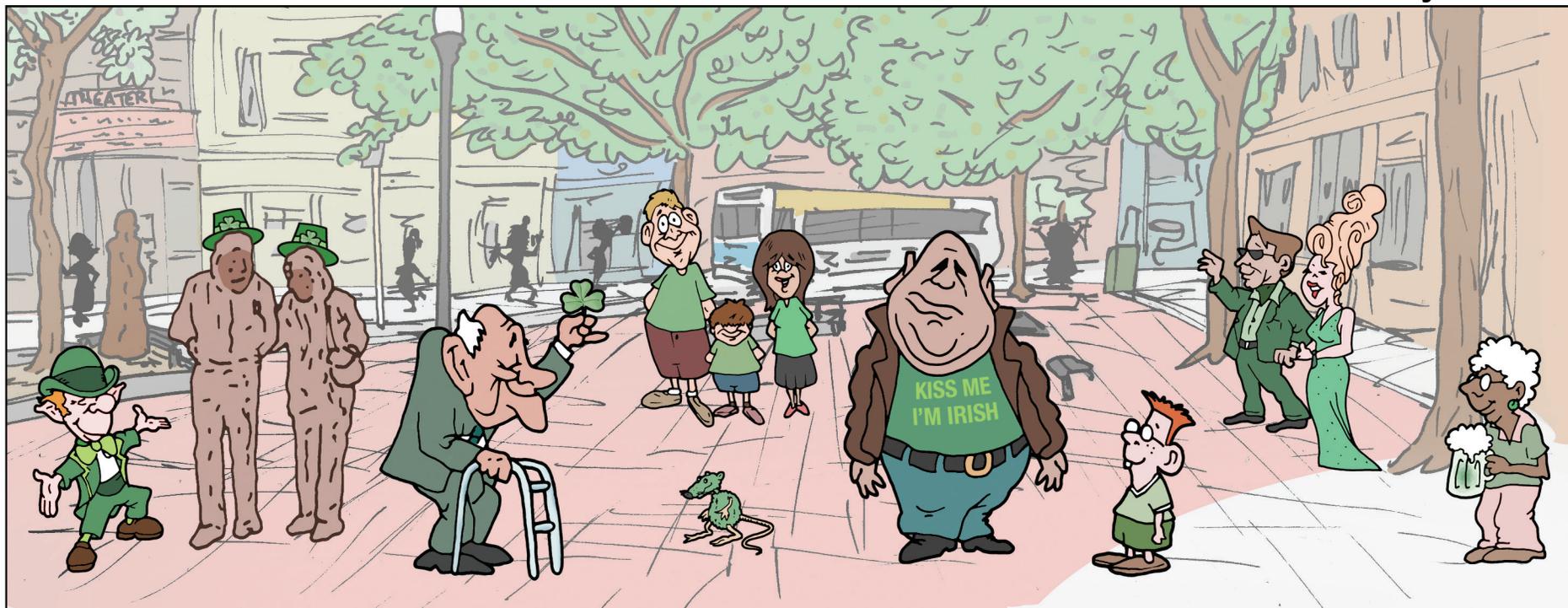
Ollie's Law, signed into law in 2024, established rules and regulations for dog kennels in the Bay State, to ensure animal welfare, protect consumers and keep kennel staff safe.

TRUMP AND IRAN – Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) and Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont) led the charge sending a letter to the U.S. Congress and Senate urging them to uphold the constitutional role of Congress in decisions that commit American service members to hostilities overseas. The duo, and 26 other senators, signed the letter commending the bipartisan group of U.S. senators and *Continued on page 15*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy St. Paddy's Day to one and all!

Our View Of The Times



It's a tradition that most of us have a lot of fun with. Whether one is of Irish lineage or not, St. Patrick's Day stands for recognition of Irish and Irish American culture, and in many ways, its resulting fusion.

The religious origins of the day have, for some, been obscured and often all but forgotten in favor of the prominent displays of the color green, eating and drinking, and numerous parades. The day has been cele-

brated on the North American continent since before the American Revolution, and is actually an official holiday in neighboring Suffolk County. Ask any of our Boston brethren, and they would – to a single soul – be aware of this fact.

And so, in Somerville, too, there are plenty of willing celebrants of diverse heritage. While it's true that there are a lot of Irish families in the city, and its history is

full of contributions by them, just about everyone likes to join in on the "wearing of the green" and all that comes with it.

Falling on a Tuesday this year, the occasion avoids the weekend and calls for a bit of moderation. Being on a weekday, it's a day when most of us need to return to work or school the next day.

Many restaurants and night spots in the city will be marking the occasion with spe-

cialty-themed fare and festivities. There will be many opportunities for celebration.

As the old Irish proverb says, "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going, and the insight to know when you have gone too far." So enjoy the corned beef and cabbage, the green beer, the fine Irish whiskey, and all the rest. But prudently, please.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

reviews published here in *The Times*. We hope Dennis has a wonderful birthday. Happy birthday to former Alderman and a great guy, **Jack Connolly**. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Patrick Callinan, Toni Vetrano, Jackie Levy Harrington, Donald Coutoumas, Kiette Murphy Jones, Jim Halloran, Okie Oconnell, Patrick Fitzgerald, and Kristin Gore** a very happy birthday. To all those who are also celebrating this week, we wish them a happy birthday.

The Rás na hÉireann USA 5K, takes place on **Sunday, March 15**, at 11

a.m. The race course is an accurately wheel-measured 5Km, beginning and ending in **Davis Square**. Rás na hÉireann is the most genuine Irish race this side of the Atlantic. Everyone is invited to Somerville, all runners and walkers, to celebrate life, the coming of spring, and to enjoy a memorable race and **St. Patrick's Day celebration**. The Ras na hÉireann U.S.A. 5Km is open to all, from beginners to international stars. To register, visit: <https://www.theraceofireland.com/>.

Liam Mannion and Bob McWatters invite the public to join them on **St. Patrick's Day, March 17**, at **Sally O'Brien's**,

335 Somerville Ave., to celebrate **Irish heritage** with music, corned beef cabbage, and a pint of Guinness. At **Sally O'Brien's** on St Patrick's Day, there will be plenty of laughter, libations, and many special guests coming by throughout the day to join in the festivities.

Book signing by Somerville author **Bansari Mitra**, author of *Ghosts From The Past: Gothic and Postcolonial Themes in 19th & 20th Century Novels*, Wilderness House Press. Lovestruck Books, 44 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. **March 22, 1 – 3 p.m.**

The **Somerville Recreation Adaptive Sports Clinic** is a welcoming, inclusive program designed for participants of all abilities to explore hockey, basketball, baseball, soccer, and football in a supportive and fun environment. With an emphasis on skill-building, teamwork, and confidence, this free clinic creates opportunities for athletes to move, play, and shine at their own pace. **Saturdays, March 14 – April 11**. Register online at www.somervillerec.com.

Somerville Media Center is hosting a special 3-part workshop series, **Women in Film**, on **March 15**, and *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio #1013

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- Is the correct spelling St. Patty or St. Paddy?
 - Where and when was the first St. Patrick's Day parade ever recorded?
 - What does the circle at the very center of a Celtic cross represent?
 - What sea creature is on Irish coins?
 - Where will you find the Blarney Stone?
 - How many leaves does a typical clover plant have?
 - What Irish band had a Billboard Top 10 hit with the 1968 song *The Unicorn*?
 - On what instrument do you play piobaireachd music?
 - Which renowned Irish poet won a Nobel Peace Prize for Literature in 1995?
 - Which new-age Celtic singer had a Top 10 hit for the song *Only Time*?
 - What movie stars Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson as two feuding Irish friends?
 - What popular Irish sport is cross between soccer, rugby and hurling?
- Answers on page 14*

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Pound cake originally included a pound of all of its ingredients.
- The chicken and the ostrich are the closest living relatives of T Rex.

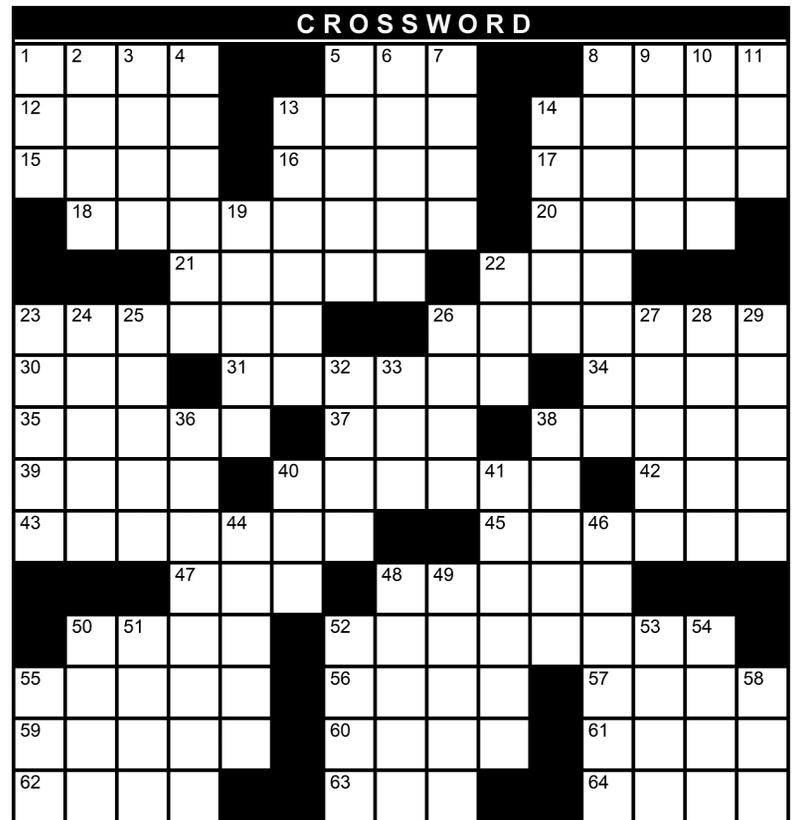
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD SUPERHEROES

ACROSS

- Abbreviation, abbr.
- Corvine bird's sound
- Aquarium dweller
- Sandwich shop
- Half human, half cobra in Hinduism
- Blatant
- Don't go
- Tony Stark, a.k.a. ____ Man
- High-quality black tea
- Leader of Guardians of the Galaxy
- Research facil.
- Words to live by
- Leo month
- ____ Tree National Park
- Period between linked activities (2 words)
- Not safe in baseball
- Drunk's speech?
- Sitar music
- Doughy snack of Jewish origin
- Rage
- Seize a throne
- Common hosiery shade
- Nom de guerre
- "Wow!"
- What emergency workers do
- Choice word
- Young newt
- Passport stamps
- Vomit
- Doctor Doom's frequent ally (2 words)
- Deserved consequence
- One of Great Lakes
- Iranian money
- Like Vitruvian Man, e.g.
- Prima donnas' problems
- Author Murdoch
- Like Regina George
- "____ My People Go"
- Sandman can transform his body into this

DOWN

- Pop-ups, e.g.
- Risky business, pl.
- Cry plaintively
- Capital of Saudi Arabia



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- Billiards bounce
- Ancient Greek marketplace
- Diagon Alley purchase
- Captain America's team
- Albanian monetary units
- Small cave
- What Pac-Man did to strawberry
- Largest Asian antelope
- Poppy seed derivative
- Just outside a fairway
- Inflation matter
- Batman's arch-nemesis
- 1/16th of a pound
- Not shakes, as in bartender
- ____ Titans, cyborgs' team
- L in LOL
- Acquiesce
- Rubbernecker
- Tough spot
- Leonardo to Michelangelo
- One from Krypton
- Inuit skin boat
- Size-changing ____-Man
- Yeses, alt. sp.
- Butcher's refuse
- Trouble, in Yiddish
- Threshold
- "Complete ____'s Guides"
- Bid, past tense
- Particular region
- Comes on a rod
- Turkish currency
- Been in bed
- ____ Possible
- Lysergic acid derivative, acr.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

James A. Roache



Thomas Roache, and Christina Butler. Loving great uncle of Hannah, Ryan, Timothy, James, Mary, Elizabeth, Mikey, Fiona, Gillian and Benjamin. A funeral procession will be held from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home on Tuesday, March 17th at 9:00AM. Followed by a funeral mass celebrated in St. Ann Church, 399 Medford St., Somerville at 10:00AM. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Calling Hours will be held on Monday March 16th from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Services will conclude with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery, Malden. Late U.S. Navy Veteran. To leave a message of condolence visit dohertyfuneralservice.com
George L Doherty Funeral Service, Inc.

Roache, James A. - 74, of Somerville, passed away at home on Saturday, March 7th. Beloved son of the late James F. and Lorraine L. (Flores) Roache. Devoted brother of Kevin T. Roache and his wife Christina of Marshfield, Lorraine Watson of Wilmington, the late Mark Roache and the late Maureen Roache. Cherished uncle of Mark Watson, Robert Watson, Kevin Roache,

Prospect Hill Academy makes Final Four



The Prospect Hill Academy Wizards upset #2 in the State, Hopedale, to get to the first Final Four in School History. On Wednesday, March 11, at 5 p.m. at UMass Boston, it's #7 Prospect Hill Academy vs. #6 Holbrook to go to the State championship this weekend at UMass Lowell. It is an exciting time in the athletic program and school community. It says a lot when alumni from 2002-2025 drive all the way to Douglas, MA, to support PHA. We are in the Final Four, but we want more! Brick by Brick, Day by Day!
— Coach Dennis Orellana

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



St. Patrick's Day Recipes

Here are a few recipes I shared over the years, all in one place! Whether you're looking to make shepherd's pie, soda bread, or colcannon, I've got you covered. Check out the links below. I know the traditional way of preparing the corned beef is to boil it, but I am sharing the way I prepare mine, in a not-so-traditional way, sous vide. It's the only way I prepare it now, and I get rave reviews from friends and family. I have also included information on how sous vide works in a link below.

*A note about sous vide. Reusable silicone bags can be used in place of plastic. I have also added a recipe link for Irish Brown Bread. I really liked this recipe for the depth of flavor. It's worth adding the Guinness and molasses!

Sous Vide Corned Beef

1 2-1/2-3 lb Uncured Corned Beef*

Remove the packaging and place the corned beef into a bowl of cold water.

Make sure it is fully submerged. Let it soak for 15 minutes. Drain the water and repeat. Pat dry and place in a sous vide bag, whether it's a reusable silicone bag or the more traditional food-grade approved bags. Add the spice pack to the bag, seal it, and place it in the water bath. I cook it at 140° for 48 hours. Once finished, remove from the bag, pat dry, slice, and serve. *I usually look for uncured corned beef, but if you use a cured corned beef, I highly recommend that you soak it in the refrigerator for 6 hours prior to cooking, changing the water 3 times. I find this necessary, so it's not too salty.

Shepherd's Pie

<https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/65836>

Irish Soda Bread

<https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/56820>

Colcannon

<https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/106700>



Sous Vide

<https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/79454>

Irish Brown Bread

<https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/food-cooking/recipes/a46913608/irish-brown-bread-recipe/>

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



**Somerville Housing Authority, MA
ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION – HIGHLAND GARDEN**

The **Somerville Housing Authority** (the “Authority”) invites sealed bids for the Elevator Modernization Project at the Highland Garden housing development in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared for this project.

The Work includes the full modernization of one (1) elevator located at 114 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 including demolition, replacement of elevator equipment and controls, and associated mechanical and electrical work.

This project is being electronically bid and hard copy bids will not be accepted. Electronic bids will be received at www.biddocs.com until **March 25, 2026 at 10:00am** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Filed Sub-Bids will be received until **March 18, 2026 at 10:00AM** for the following category of work:

- Division 14 – Elevators
- Division 23 - Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Division 26 - Electrical

Bid Documents will be available beginning **Wednesday March 4, 2026** at www.biddocs.com.

A non-mandatory pre-bid walkthrough will be held on **March 11, 2026 at 10:00am** beginning at 114 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 . Attendance is strongly recommended.

Prevailing wages as determined by the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards apply to this project. General Bidders must be DCAMM-certified as Prime in General Building Construction and all bidders must include an updated DCAMM Prime/Filed Sub-Bid Certificate and Update Statement with the bid.

A bid deposit equal to 5% of the total bid amount is required. The successful bidder will be required to furnish 100% Payment and Performance Bonds.

Questions will be received until **March 12, 2026 at 4:00PM** and may be addressed to: Ryan Cummysky, Modernization Coordinator, SHA, RyanC@sha-web.org and Holli Robinson, Senior Project Manager, NV5 holli.robinson@nv5.com.

The Authority reserves the right to waive informalities in the bidding process, reject any or all bids, and award the contract deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority.

3/4/26, 3/11/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JAKE WILSON
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, March 19th, 2026, at 6:30 pm**. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9Dsy3e4bS0eGI78UotqR0Q

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

- Mayor Wilson requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 8.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to provide for larger buildings, additional dimensional flexibility, and fewer use restrictions for affordable housing projects.
- Councilor Strezio, Councilor Mbah, Councilor Davis and Councilor Sait requesting an amendment to sections 2.1.1 and 3.1.12 of the Zoning Ordinances regarding Accessory Dwelling Units.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council’s online meeting calendar (<https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>) for the address or item number.

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 the Planning Board and the City Council at publiccomments@somervillema.gov. Comments must be received no later than 12 Noon the day of the Hearing to ensure they are conveyed to the Committee for inclusion with the hearing testimony. The Chair(s) may opt to extend the period for written comments, in which case additional comments will be accepted until the date indicated. This information can be found in the minutes of the meeting.

3/4/26, 3/11/26 The Somerville Times



**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, March 19, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of these proceedings can be found online here: [Agendas, Minutes, & More](#).

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5qCh3BQATweffHh4mc5lQ

TO CALL IN

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

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

- 222 Broadway** Mission Hill Donuts, LLC proposes to expand the hours of an existing nonconforming business in the Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) zoning district, which requires a 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 email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

3/4/26, 3/11/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 26-54**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

Digital Document Accessibility Services

The IFB package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville’s BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, 3/9/2026**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, March 25, 2026**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email procurement@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

3/11/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 26-29**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites proposals for:

**Personal Property Appraisal Software,
Data Collection and Valuation Services**

The IFB package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville’s BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, March 11th, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 pm, Wednesday, April 1st, 2026**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email tchukhsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

3/11/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP #26-27**

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

Lease of Building Space at 191 Highland Ave “Armory”

The City of Somerville, acting through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department invites sealed proposals from qualified artists, arts-oriented businesses, and arts-focused non-profit organizations for the lease of space in the City-owned Somerville Armory located at 191 Highland Ave, Somerville (the “Armory”), for the purpose of creating a multi-tenant arts and cultural center. The proposed uses must provide arts-related benefits to the broader Somerville community and/or arts ecosystem. The disposition by lease is subject to certain conditions set forth in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

The RFP and specifications 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. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 2:00PM**. 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 Felisa Gárate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Gárate
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

3/11/26 The Somerville Times

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Will Mbah's campaign for State Representative earns support from community leaders in Medford and Somerville

Will Mbah, candidate for State Representative serving the 34th Middlesex district and a four-term Somerville City Councilor, is honored to announce the support and endorsement of several community leaders in Medford and Somerville.

Jamie Eldridge is a State Senator representing the Middlesex and Worcester district. He is a respected leader in the Massachusetts Legislature, widely recognized for his unwavering commitment to equity, environmental stewardship, and transparent, accountable governance. Senator Eldridge's endorsement reflects a shared vision with Councilor Mbah for responsive, results-driven leadership on the issues that matter most to working people: economic stability, public education, environmental sustainability, and access to essential services for all.

"I am proud to endorse Will Mbah for State Representative for the 34th Middlesex District," said State Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough). "I believe that Will, a Somerville City Councilor, has the work ethic, commitment to helping others, progressive values, and know-how to successfully advocate on state policies and budgets that will improve the lives of the people of this district. Will has a powerful life story, born of struggle from his growing up in Cameroon, with impressive educational credentials, and lived the American Dream as an immigrant in Massachusetts. He is also one of the nicest people that I know, always ready to lend a hand to help people."

"Senator Eldridge's record of advancing thoughtful, community-centered policy-

making has set a strong example across the Commonwealth," said Councilor Mbah. "I look forward to building on that work and ensuring our district has a voice on Beacon Hill that is collaborative, principled, and focused on real results."

Jake Wilson is the newly-elected Mayor of Somerville and a former City Councilor At-Large. While on the Council, he chaired the Finance Committee, the Resident Issues Special Committee, and led on issues ranging from land use to open space and community engagement. He is recognized for his collaborative, transparent, and accountable leadership grounded in community engagement, data-informed decision making, and a deep commitment to equity and public service.

"Will's story reminds us what our country is all about," said Mayor Wilson. "He loves the human part of public service – joyfully connecting, listening, and helping. Will's commitment to ensuring everyone gets a fair shot is one of the things I admire most about him, and a major reason I'm excited about the prospect of calling him my state rep."

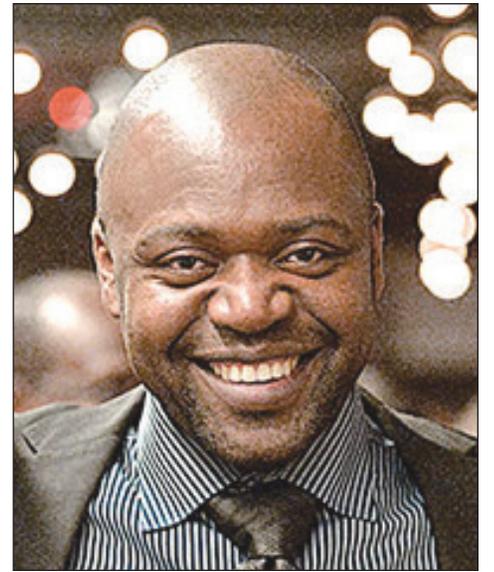
Councilor Mbah welcomed Mayor Wilson's endorsement, emphasizing the importance of strong collaboration between municipal and state leadership. "I am deeply honored to have the support of my former colleague, Mayor Jake Wilson," said Mbah. "His commitment to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and meaningful community engagement has set an important standard for public service. I look forward to working alongside him to advance policies that support work-

ing people, strengthen public education and workforce opportunities, preserve open space, and ensure that every resident has a fair opportunity to thrive."

Bob Massie is a nationally recognized activist, former candidate for Massachusetts governor, and acclaimed author. He is a lifelong champion of climate justice, economic fairness, and educational excellence. Massie's endorsement reflects his shared vision with Councilor Mbah for bold, values-driven leadership that puts people first. Together, Mbah and Massie are united around a vision that prioritizes affordability, climate action, worker protections, and a government responsive to all.

"I am honored to have the support of my friend, Bob Massie," said Councilor Mbah. "His lifelong commitment to justice, climate leadership, and transparent government is an inspiration. Together, we are building a movement that prioritizes people over politics and delivers real results for the communities we call home."

Anne Tate is a Professor at the Rhode Island School of Design, a lifelong activist, and a long-time Somerville resident. Professor Tate has dedicated her life to advancing architectural design that reimagines communities in harmony with nature. Throughout her distinguished career in academic, professional, and community work, she has consistently illustrated what cities can be when climate responsibility, thoughtful planning, and public policy are at the center. Her commitment to climate initiatives and sustainable development has made her



a respected voice in conversations about the future of urban communities.

"The support of my friend Anne Tate carries profound meaning," said Councilor Mbah. "Her life's work demonstrates that bold climate action and vibrant community design are not abstract ideas but practical necessities. I look forward to our partnership as we fight for a more sustainable and fairer Massachusetts."

The campaign's endorsements come as Councilor Mbah continues to engage residents across the 34th Middlesex District. His campaign is focused on affordability for working people, public safety for all, including our immigrant neighbors, climate justice, safe and reliable infrastructure, world-class public education, strong labor protections, and responsive governance and transparency.

For more information and to get involved, visit www.willmbah.com/.

— Mbah Committee

Mayor Jake Wilson announces Executive Team CONT. FROM PG 5

(Engineering) from 2018 to late 2025, where he provided a bridge between residents and contractors on major infrastructure projects, including SAUSI, Spring Hill Sewer Separation, PHAB, Holland Street, and multiple street projects. He also launched Somerville's infrastructure social channels to help residents get more timely construction updates.

Jesse began his service to the City in Constituent Services (311) and later coordinated Inspectional Services permitting (Citizenserve) for major projects in Assembly Row, Boynton Yards, and Union

Square. He has staffed the City's Memorialization Committee since 2020 and previously served 6 years on the Board of the Somerville Media Center.

Legislative Liaison — Yasmine Raddassi
Yasmine Raddassi has served as Somerville's Legislative Liaison since February 2025. Previously, she was Director of Policy, Research, and Budget for a Boston City Council office (District 5), and later Chief of Staff and Interim Deputy Director at Boston's Office of Police Accountability and Transparency, where she helped stand up the new agency.

She holds an MA in Public Policy and Public Administration and a BA in Political Science from Concordia University Montréal.

Executive Administrative Assistant — Karen Bridge

Karen Bridge brings more than 25 years of executive-level administrative experience across healthcare, defense, higher education, nonprofit leadership, and executive coaching.

Karen specializes in high-level executive support, process optimization, and organizational efficiency. In the Mayor's

Office, she will serve as a central point of coordination, managing workflow and office communications. She is a graduate of Regis College, where she was a Dean's Scholar.

Executive Administrative Assistant — Midalys Rosario

Midalys Rosario has provided executive services to the Mayor's Office since 2024 and brings her experience to support scheduling, office operations, event coordination, and constituent services as well as payroll and bill processing.

— City of Somerville

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

2025-2026 winter sports roundup

2025-2026 GREATER BOSTON LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: Girls Basketball, Girls Indoor Track & Field, Boys Indoor Track & Field

23 Student-Athletes named Greater Boston League All-Stars

2 Greater Boston League MVP's: Regan Antonelli (Girls Basketball) and Eva Meli (Indoor Track-Field MVP)

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament Information (MIAA):

Girls Basketball: Lost 41-52 to Milford High School in a hard-fought game in the preliminary round of MIAA Tournament play

Boys Basketball: Lost 33-55 to Minnechaug Regional High School in the preliminary round of the MIAA Tournament **Greater Boston League All-Stars and Team Records for the Winter Season**

Boys Basketball: (Record 13-7): The Boys Basketball team had another strong season, earning back-to-back MIAA Tournament appearances and continuing to build on the success of the

program. We are especially proud of our strong senior class and the leadership they provided throughout the season. Julian Goodridge and Jaycob Underwood-Roche were both recognized by the Boston Globe as Co-Players of the Week. Every player contributed in an impactful way, helping the team compete at a high level all season long.

A special milestone also came this year as Head Coach Mark Antonelli earned his 200th career win on January 16th vs. Revere, a testament to his dedication and leadership of the program.

GBL All-Star: Julian Goodridge and Jaycob Underwood-Roche

Girls Basketball (Record 15-5): The Varsity Girls Basketball team had an outstanding season, finishing 14-0 in the Greater Boston League (GBL) and capturing their second straight league championship. This marks the first undefeated GBL season for the program since 2000-01. The team also made back-to-back MIAA tournament appearances. Sophomore Regan Antonelli was *Continued on page 13*



2025–2026 winter sports roundup

CONT. FROM PG 12

recognized for her outstanding season, earning GBL MVP honors. With a young and talented core returning, the future of the program looks extremely bright.

GBL All-Stars: Ava Martin

GBL MVP: Regan Antonelli

♦ **Swim (Record 6-4):** This season, the swim team had many younger swimmers step into major roles and key events. They rose to the challenge and competed hard all season long. The team's focus was on staying competitive, improving at each meet, and building confidence. The team absolutely accomplished that.

GBL All-Stars Girls: Lillis Ekbladh, Tess O'Toole, Elizabeth Meisels, Abigail Raiche

GBL All-Stars Boys: Odin Evenhus, Van Easter, Demetri Raftelis

♦ **Ice Hockey (Record 3-17):** The Ice Hockey team showed determination and growth throughout the winter season. With a very young roster and only one graduating senior, many players gained

valuable varsity experience that will help the program moving forward. A strong junior class, along with talented younger players, the future looks bright, and we are excited for what's ahead for Highlander Hockey.

GBL All-Stars: Pasquale Candelino

♦ **Boys Indoor Track (Record 7-0) & Girls Indoor Track (Record 7-0):** For the first time since the year 2018, with record team depth and roster numbers, both teams (Girls & Boys) captured the league championship in the same season with undefeated season records and GBL Championships Meet (All-League) victories; marking 50 total league championships combined (Indoor & Spring) since 1987.

Winning individual league event championships were: Thano Frantzis- Long Jump, Marissa Luxama- Hurdles, Annabelle Schneider- Mile & Two Mile, Eva Meli- Shot Put, Isla Martin- 1000m & the 800m relay team of Marissa, Maryanne Bride, Olivia Scamman and



Samar Benkhayat.

In January, Sophomore Annabelle Schneider won the Mile event, Sophomore Olivia Scamman won the High Jump, and Freshman Isla Martin won a Silver Medal for 1000 meters in the Northeast regional Freshmen/Sophomore Championship meet, while Eva Meli won a medal for Shot Put in the MSTCA State Coaches Invitational.

Between the Boys & Girls, 25 athletes qualified to compete in the MIAA D3 State Championship Meet in February, where Sophomore Annabelle Schneider won an 8th place medal in the Mile in a new SHS Indoor Mile Record (5:21.27), while Junior Eva Meli won a 4th place medal for Shot Put.

GBL Boys All-Stars: Henry Omura, Lucca Lauers, Robert Leoni, and Thano Frantzis

GBL Girls All-Stars: Eva Meli (Field MVP), Annabelle Schneider, Annika Pearson, Isla Martin, Marissa Luxama, Maryanne Bride, Olivia Scamman, Samar Benkhayat

♦ **Cheer:** It was another great season of growth for the cheer program, with the Junior Varsity team having a very successful competition year. JV was able to increase their score each competition with amazing performances each time. The varsity team was able to take home back-to-back GBL title in the winter season. The team went on to place 3rd in a very competitive division at their regional competition. We are so proud of the work these girls put in every year!

♦ **Middle School Girls Basketball (Record 9-3):** The team made the playoffs for a fourth consecutive year and, this season, were crowned 2026 Champions. There is plenty of talent and strength on this team, and the future looks bright.

♦ **Middle School Boys Basketball (Record 4-6):** A strong and competitive season, finishing just shy of a playoff spot. The team worked hard and battled in every game.



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Home break-ins take less than 60 seconds. Don't wait! Protect your family, home, assets now for as little as 70¢/day! 833-890-1262

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Pest control: Protect your home from pests safely. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders & more. Locally owned & affordable. For service or inspection today! 833-860-0657 Have zip code ready!

MobileHelp America's premier mobile medical alert system. Home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No long term contracts, free brochure! 888-489-3936

Aging roof? New homeowner? Storm damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. 833-640-4753 Have zip code ready when calling!

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LLC timeshare cancellation experts over \$50 million timeshare debt/fees cancelled in 2019. Free info package. Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1-day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

Prepare for power outages today - Generac Home Standby Generator. Receive free 5-Year warranty w/qualifying purchase. 855-948-6176 to schedule free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. St. Paddy | 7. The Irish Rovers |
| 2. St. Augustine, Florida, in 1601 | 8. The bagpipe |
| 3. The sun | 9. Seamus Heaney |
| 4. A salmon | 10. Enya |
| 5. Blarney Village, near Cork | 11. The Banshees of Inisherin |
| 6. Three | 12. Gaelic football |

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

representatives who have introduced and are advocating for a war powers resolution that would require Congressional approval before the United States engages in further hostilities with Iran or expands current operations.

“Supporting this war powers resolution is a reaffirmation that national security is best preserved when military action is governed by constitutional principles and robust Congressional oversight,” read the letter. “We urge members of Congress to support this resolution, to return to session if necessary, and to vote in favor of restoring Congress’ rightful authority over decisions that could draw the United States into an expanded war.”

The other 26 senators who signed the letter are: Cynthia Creem (D-Newton); Nick Collins (D-Boston); Joanne Comerford (D-Northampton); Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn); John Cronin (D-Fitchburg); Julian Cyr (D-Truro); Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett); William Driscoll (D-Milton); Lydia Edwards (D-Boston); James Eldridge (D-Marlborough); Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough); Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth); Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington); Adam Gomez (D-Springfield); Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville); John Keenan (D-Quincy); Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester); Jason Lewis (D-Winchester); Joan Lovely (D-Salem); Paul Mark (D-Becket); Liz Miranda (D-Boston); Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford); Michael Moore (D-Millbury); Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow); Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence); Becca Rausch (D-Needham).

\$250,000 TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL FOOD ACCESS – The Healey Administration announced \$250,000 in Grants to strengthen local food access and support community food systems. Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the program supports emerging and established local food policy councils and food working groups as they build stronger, more resilient local food systems.

“None of our residents should struggle to put food on the table,” said Gov. Healey. “This funding is about making sure families can find fresh, affordable food in their own communities. Investing in local food systems means people get fed, farmers and small businesses are supported and our food supply is stronger.”

“Local food policy councils represent the best of Team Massachusetts in action – bringing together farmers, families, small businesses and advocates to improve quality of life in every corner of the state,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “These grants ensure communities have the tools and resources they need to expand access to local food and build stronger, more connected food systems.”

BUILDING TRADES RECOVERY WEEK (S 2110) – The House approved a Senate-approved bill designating the last week in April as Building Trades Recovery Week, for the Buildings Trades Employers Association to promote awareness of the dangers of opioids and substance misuse among workers in the construction industry. The

measure needs final approval in both branches before it goes to Gov. Healey for her signature.

“By establishing Building Trades Recovery Week, we can highlight the importance of prevention, recovery and support services for the men and women who are the foundation of driving economic development into our communities,” said sponsor Sen. Nick Collins (D-Boston). “This effort helps bring attention to an issue that affects many hardworking families and encourages open conversation, education and access to resources.”

MANDATORY RECESS FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS (H 543) - The House gave initial approval to a bill that would require that all elementary and middle school students receive at least 30 consecutive minutes of supervised, safe and unstructured free-play recess per school day -- outdoors whenever the weather and air quality permits. If recess is held indoors due to weather or air quality, schools must use an appropriate space that promotes physical activity.

Supporters said that studies have shown that students who have consistent recesses have improved memories and are more focused. They noted that recess is often taken away from a student as a punishment and ironically those students are precisely the kids who need it. They argued that students become better learners when they are able to get their energy out on the playground on a consistent basis.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Many of those taken into custody are long-standing members of our communities—parents, caregivers and workers whose sudden detention leaves their families in crisis. This has had far-reaching consequences for their children, families our communities and the state of Massachusetts.” — Gov. Healey demanding that ICE provide, in one week, complete and accurate information on every person arrested in Massachusetts since January 2025, including the identity of each individual, the legal basis for each arrest, case status, detention location, court jurisdiction and upcoming hearing dates.

“The Mass Cultural Council is proud to support our performing arts centers and the communities they serve. These organizations are vibrant cultural anchors and powerful economic drivers. This funding ensures they can continue to attract exceptional touring performances, expand access to high-quality arts experiences and strengthen local economies across Massachusetts.” — David Slatery, Acting Executive Director, Mass Cultural Council, announcing that 51 nonprofit and municipal performing arts centers across the state will receive a total of \$3.5 million through the fiscal year 2026 Gaming Mitigation Fund Grant Program.

“For too long, Kristi Noem has overseen a reckless, lawless and dangerous ICE agency under the guise of public safety. Accountability starts at the top, and Noem’s leadership – or lack thereof – has enabled agents to shoot ci-

vilians, hide behind masks and operate as though the law doesn’t apply to them. But make no mistake: putting Sen. Mullin, who has defended some of ICE’s most egregious conduct and criticized birthright citizenship, in charge raises serious concerns. My office will be watching closely, and if federal agents operate unlawfully in Massachusetts, we will hold them accountable.” — Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell on President Trump’s decision to remove Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem from her position and nominate Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin to replace her.

“Addressing the childcare challenge requires us to turn over every rock and look across benefits, workforce pathways and business supports. By working across state government, we’re delivering practical solutions that help providers grow, retain educators and serve families in every community.” — Acting Education Secretary and Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw, on the release of the progress report and outlook for the third year from Gov. Healey’s Inter-Agency Early Education and Child Care Task Force, highlighting significant progress taken to expand accessible, affordable and equitable high-quality childcare across Massachusetts.

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 February March 2-6, the House met for a total of 59 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 52 minutes.

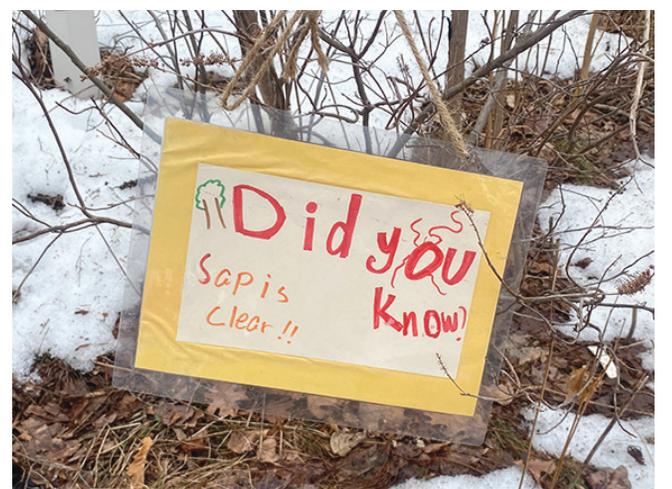
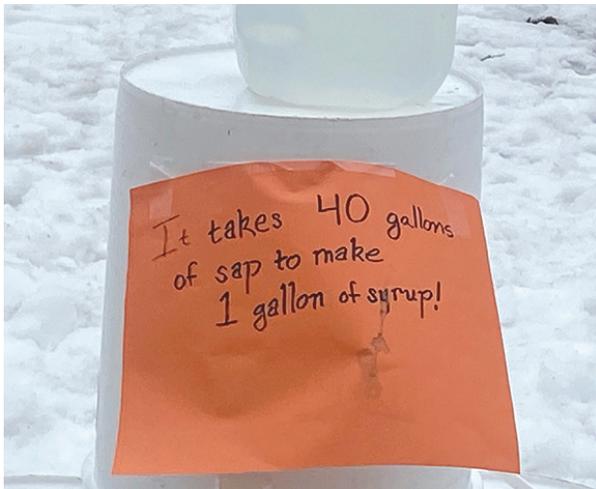
Mon. March 2	House 11:00 a.m.to 11:50 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m.to 11:23 a.m.
Tues. March 3	No House session No Senate session
Wed. March 4	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. March 5	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:09 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
Fri. March 6	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Community Growing Center's Maple Boil Down 2026

Somerville Community Growing Center's annual Maple Boil Down took place Saturday, March 7. As part of this project, volunteers collect dozens of gallons of maple sap from trees at Tufts. It was then boiled down into real maple syrup. Youth and adults had a chance to learn about tree anatomy and physiology and experience the process of making fresh maple syrup first-hand. This year's event included programming led by Indigenous storyteller Anna-Celestrya Carr, historic events manager at the Somerville Museum, who shared a "Maple Syrup Creation Story." This event plays a critical role in supporting their mission to engage the full population of Somerville while providing a welcoming space for community interactions, environmental education and awareness, engagement with nature, and culturally enriching experiences. If you were not able to attend this event, and if you have the means, consider making a donation to help sustain this type of programming budget, and every little bit helps. <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/>





Photos by Bobbie Toner



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS:

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon – Tuesday, March 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. Join us for an afternoon of music, a lunch of corned beef and cabbage, and a performance by the Rebecca McGowan School of Irish Dance. \$10 per person. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

Intergenerational Bingo – Thursday, March 26, at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:00 a.m. Join us for a fun morning of intergenerational Bingo followed by a pizza lunch with the students from St. Theresa's School. Cost is free for lunch and Bingo, with fun prizes to be won. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321; space is limited.

Spa Day at the Center – Friday, March 13, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium at the Holland Street Center. Please RSVP by March 6th to Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316.

Also on Friday, March 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium at the Holland Street Center. Please RSVP by March 20 to Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316. The Somerville High School Cosmetology Students will be joining us. Space is limited for both sessions.

Their services include:

Manicures (regular or gel) - \$5

Facials (basic & relaxing) - \$10

Haircuts (we can spray hair with a water bottle) - \$5

When RSVPing to Mary, please leave your name, phone number, and the service you wish to schedule. Mary will return your call to confirm your reservation.

Belly Dancing Program – Tuesday, March 31, starting at 1 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Come experience the art of belly dancing with Celia. This unique program features a dazzling performance and a mini-lesson. You will enjoy a variety of upbeat rhythms, learn about the history of belly dancing, and get the chance to try some fun beginner moves for yourself. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

FDIC: Money Smart / Financial Exploitation – Friday, March 13, at the Holland Street Center, starting at 11 a.m. Scammers are developing more sophisticated ways to obtain personal information about you and to use that information to steal your identity. Identity theft is on the rise, including medical identity theft. This month, representatives from Northern Bank will be discussing how to protect your information and how to avoid having your identity stolen. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Learn Crochet with Tufts Students – Wednesday, March 25, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Learn how to crochet with a collabora-

tion between the Council on Aging and Tufts Hooked Club. Tufts Hooked Club is an organization comprised of Tufts students who want to spread awareness of the mental health benefits of fiber arts like crochet. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Celebrate Nutrition Month with Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services – Thursday, March 19, Bingo at 10 a.m. followed by Food as Medicine Jeopardy at 11:30 a.m., and lunch will be served at noon. Join us for a community lunch and play a round of Food as Medicine -themed Jeopardy for a chance to win prizes. SCES nutrition staff will share useful information about using food to manage chronic disease and illness. Make sure to call the reservation line at 617-625-6600 ext. 2323 to sign up.

Mobility Informational Session – Friday, March 20, starting at 10 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. The City of Somerville's Mobility Division will be at the Holland Street Center to hear any mobility-related concerns and provide updates on transportation planning projects. You can find additional information at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/mobility> - email us at transportation@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Looking for a location to chat with your friends? Come to the COA on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the senior center is open, and the coffee is on as we wait for the start of Bingo.

Bingo Every Tuesday in March except for the 17th at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street, starting at 10 a.m. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, or emailing Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bingo every Thursday in March except for the 26th, starting at 10 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, or emailing Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

De-cluttering Group Beginners Group – Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on March 17, March 24, March 31, April 7, and April 14 at the Holland Street Center. Are you curious about de-cluttering but feel overwhelmed by the process of starting to sort through your items? The Somerville Council offers a support group to help build skills to make de-cluttering feel less daunting. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Advanced De-cluttering – Every Thursday in March from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Have you taken our beginners de-cluttering group, and are you looking to improve your de-cluttering skills in a group format? Are you a resident of Somerville or Cambridge and are over the age of 60? The Somerville Council on Aging has advanced de-cluttering group sessions to help support you as you continue to de-clutter. To RSVP, please contact

Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Portuguese Senior Coffee Social – Tuesday, March 17, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Come, drink coffee, see friends, and talk to our staff. Free to all. This group is in Portuguese. For more information, please contact Rafael Peruzo by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2123.

Technology Drop-In Every Tuesday in March starting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Have questions about technology? Come on by and work with the Technology Access Program. Free. No RSVP needed but if you have questions, please feel free to contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Virtual Reality Friday – March 6 at 11 a.m. and Monday, March 23, at 2 p.m. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

Knitting with Natasha Every Tuesday in March except for the 31st from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Have you wanted to knit a sweater and are looking for support? Join knitting with Natasha. A supportive and fun group as we learn more about knitting while knitting together! Free of charge. Please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov if you have any questions.

Friendly Caller Program - We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - 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](https://www.instagram.com/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.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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 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 a name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dear Editor,
Once again, I am writing to thank the residents of Somerville for demonstrating their community spirit and commitment to sustainability by donating more than one million pounds of clothing and household goods to Morgan Memorial Good-

will Industries in 2025.
Goodwill is a community-based non-profit that relies on these donations to support its mission. Each year, it provides job training and career services to help thousands of individuals with barriers to self-sufficiency to achieve independence

and dignity through work.
The Somerville Goodwill store is located at 230 Elm Street, and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 7 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.
Everyone has items to donate and I am deeply grateful to each Somerville resident

who chooses to donate them to Goodwill. You make a difference.
Sincerely,
Joanne K. Hilferty
President and CEO
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries

CITIZEN SELF SERVICE An Online Look-up for Real Estate, Water, and Personal Property is Available on the Somerville Treasury Website

The City of Somerville treasury department has a feature on its website page called Citizen Self-Service (CSS) providing web-based look-up access to bill information directly from official City records. View real estate tax bills, water (utility) bills, and personal property tax bills online, in real time, 24/7. CSS enables access to official City records without the need to contact the treasury department. There is even a payoff date calculation option if you change the date to a future one.

Because it is in real time and live, when a payment posts in the office it shows on CSS immediately. Citizen Self Service is the same database the treasury staff members use to answer your questions. Note that payments made on City Hall Systems (city's online payment vendor) will appear on CSS the next business day after the payment file is loaded. CSS also links to City Hall Systems, enabling easy payment access that is safe, secure and free of charge if a checking account is used as the payment method.

Go to www.somervillema.gov/treasury for 24/7 CSS access. Do not hesitate to call or email treasury for CSS assistance (617) 625-6600 x-3500 or email treasury@somervillema.gov.

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Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: What kinds of questions CAN a landlord ask you if you are looking to rent from him or her?

A: You can be asked questions that will show whether you meet the requirements all applicants must meet. For example:

- Show that you will be able to pay the rent, including whether they have a Section 8 subsidy
- Show that you have a positive credit history
- Give prior landlord references
- In housing that is specifically reserved for persons with disabilities, verify your disability.

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. online. Call 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 for the login information.

A **GoFundMe** has been launched by our own **Doug Holder** to help keep **The Somerville Times** free and thriving. Every dollar helps us stay independent and serve our community.

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<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Lunch break... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

March 11

- 537 – The Goths lay siege to Rome.
- 1702 – *The Daily Courant*, the first regular English newspaper is published.
- 1811 – Ned Ludd leads a group of workers in a wild protest against mechanization.
- 1824 – The U.S. War Department creates the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- 1888 – A disastrous blizzard hits the northeastern U.S., killing some 400 people.
- 1905 – The Parisian subway is officially inaugurated.
- 1907 – President Roosevelt induces California to revoke its anti-Japanese legislation.
- 1941 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorizes the Lend-Lease Act.
- 1966 – Three men are convicted of the murder of Malcolm X.
- 1969 – Levi-Strauss starts to sell bell-bottomed jeans.
- 1973 – An FBI agent is shot at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.
- 1985 – Mikhail Gorbachev is named the new Soviet leader.
- 1990 – Lithuania declares its independence from the Soviet Union.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

22. Sign up here: <https://app.amilia.com/store/en/smc/shop/activities/6682997>. Celebrate **Women's History Month** and learn about women's and nonbinary filmmaking history, get hands-on production and camera training, and create your own film project. All three classes are free for members and \$30 for non-members. Sign up at the link or email frontdesk@somervillemedia.org.

Attend the next **SomerWrites** event at **Portico Brewing** on **March 17** at 7 p.m., featuring an open mic and guest talk with Somerville poet **David Blair**, moderated by **Somerville Arts Council Board member Sarah Beckmann**. These events are free and open to all, no matter your genre or background. Whether you have academic experience in a writing field or are simply curious to learn more about different types of writing, this space is an opportunity for you to share your work and/or network with local artists. Read more and stay updated: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org>.

East Somerville Main Streets is looking for artisans, craftspeople, and small business owners to join them for **Carnaval** on **June 7**, 2 – 6 p.m. Rain date: June 14. Interested in being part of one of East Somerville's most vibrant community events? Find more details and apply now: <https://forms.gle/oWgWoh6BN-Fmy32g57>.

Please join **Somerville Media Center** in honoring former Mayor **Joe Curtatone** with their **Public Service Award** on **Thursday, June 4**, from 7 to 9 p.m. at **Arts at the Armory**, 119 Highland Ave, in Somerville. The celebratory evening will feature cheeses and specialty bites provided by **Formaggio Kitchen** and more, tasty drinks from Arts at the Armory, live music by **Revolutionary Snake Ensemble**, raffles, and a special presentation honoring Joe Curtatone's long-standing advocacy for community media and Somerville Media Center. Proceeds from the event will directly support our programs and services. Tickets are available online: <https://tinyurl.com/joecurtatone>.

Uprooted / Transplanted – Stories of Displacement Call for Entry, Deadline: **March 30**. **The Nave Gallery**, in partner-

ship with the **Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC)**, invites artists to contribute to the curated exhibition. This exhibition will present images and stories of displacement, the forced movement of people from their homes due to conflict, violence, or natural disaster. Learn more at <https://navegallery.org/wp/uprooted-transplanted-call-for-art/>.

Please return your completed **City of Somerville Census**. Participation in the census is essential for keeping an accurate population count, and it updates or maintains your status as an active voter for upcoming elections. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to census@somervillema.gov, or in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Please call 311 (617-666-3311) with any questions.

Join the **Somerville Museum** for the closing reception of **Crafting the Mind**, an exhibition of contemporary fiber art that speaks to the early history of crafts as a therapeutic practice at **McLean Hospital**, the country's first psychiatric hospital. McLean patients created textiles and other crafts for therapeutic benefit as part of the hospital's "moral cure," an approach to treatment that emphasized compassionate care, access to nature, and patient activities. **Crafting the Mind** explores the evolving definitions of "care," "health," and "treatment" in different cultural contexts, as well as today's advocacy movement for mental healthcare equity. **Sunday, March 28**, 2 – 5 p.m. Somerville Museum, One Westwood Rd. <http://somervillemuseum.org>.

On **Friday, April 10**, **GLOWBALL** will transform the **Armory Performance Hall** into an **immersive Rave** created by **DJ WhySham** and visual projectionist **Jay Medina**, all in support of **The Center for Arts at the Armory**. **GLOWBALL** is an "anti-gala"—there will be no speeches, presentations, or auction. There will be pop-up performances by **Sean Bjerke** and **RHOUSE Dancers**; **The House of Nahdra**, **AfroFuture Fashion Portal**, and **Circus 617**. This year's honorees: **Ellen Waylonis**, Lifetime Achievement Award; **Willie Burnley**, Community Arts Advocate; and **Wendy Jehlen**, Out-

standing Artist. **GLOWBALL** tickets include complimentary international bites and glow-in-the-dark styling and face painting. This will surely be Somerville's most illuminating party of 2026. For tickets and more information, visit: <https://artsatthearmory.org/>

The **City of Somerville** opened an **overnight Winter Warming Center** during the coldest months of the year to provide a safe, warm place to sleep for our residents experiencing homelessness. Open 5 p.m. – 7:30 a.m. daily **through April 12**. For questions about the Warming Center, call 311. If you need assistance getting to the Warming Center or after-hours assistance, please call (339) 242-4744. Email warm-ingcenter@somervillema.gov. The **Cummings Building**, 42 Prescott St.

Join this year's **Guns & Hoses** with **Somerville Fire** and **Somerville Police**, **Saturday, March 21**, 5 – 7 p.m., **Loconte Memorial Rink**, 97 Locust St, Medford. **After Party** at **Public Tavern**, 565 Broadway, Somerville, 8 p.m. **Knock-Out 50/50**, \$100 each, cash only. All Proceeds to benefit the **Somerville Youth Hockey** and **SHS Hockey Programs**.

The **Irish Film Festival Boston** tickets are now on sale for their **March Screening Series** with the **Consulate General of Ireland, Boston**, on **March 20 and 21** at the **Somerville Theatre**. Visit their website for tickets and film details: <https://www.irishfilmfestival.com>.

For anyone **in need of food resources**, go to the **Somerville Food Coalition's website**: www.https://bit.ly/4ocJ6NB. Free local pantries, community meals, community fridges, and more. Find more information at <https://www.somervillema.gov/snap>. Here are some locations where you can find free food: **Somerville's Community Fridges** can be found at 35 Prospect St., **Elizabeth Peabody House**, 275-277 Broadway, **St. Clements**, across from 29 St. Clements Road. Donations are welcome at these locations.

Join the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** for a night of local love at **The Crystal Ballroom** featuring some of Somerville's best. Their **2026 Spring into Action** celebration on **March 26** brings together

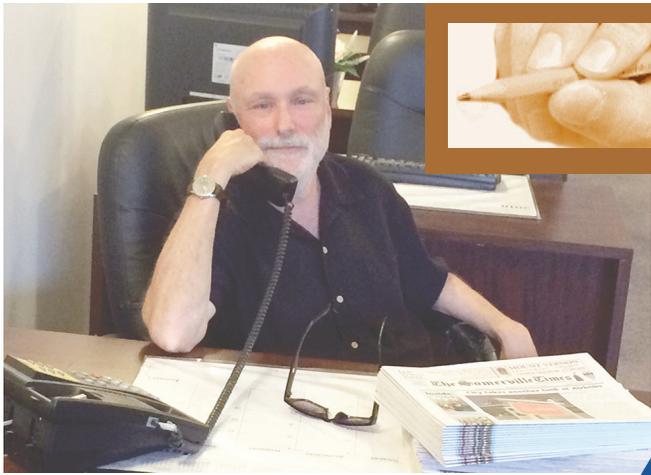
local flavors and fantastic live music from **West of Willow** and **The Loomers**. Be part of it and celebrate their community with them. For support or additional information, please contact mconlan@shcinc.org.

Take steps to protect yourself and loved ones against **COVID-19, the flu, and other illnesses** this winter. **Somerville's Health and Human Services Department** is hosting free vaccine clinics at locations across the city. For more information, visit: <https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations>. Next clinic will be **Thursday, March 12**, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., **Council on Aging**, 167 Holland Street.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe** campaign for **The Somerville Times**. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

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

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

Interview with X.J.
and Dorothy Kennedy

Poet X. J. Kennedy has passed recently, so I decided to reprint this interview I had with him and his wife in 2015. Introduction from X.J. Kennedy's website:

X.J. Kennedy was born in Dover, N. J., on August 21, 1929, shortly before the crash of the stock market. Irked by the hardship of having the name of Joseph Kennedy, he stuck the X on and has been stuck with it ever since.

Kennedy grew up in Dover, went to Seton Hall (B.Sc. '50) and Columbia (M.A., '51), then spent four years in the Navy as an enlisted journalist, serving aboard destroyers. He studied at the Sorbonne in 1955-56, then devoted the next six years to failing to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. But he did meet Dorothy, his wife, and a noted children's literature author there.

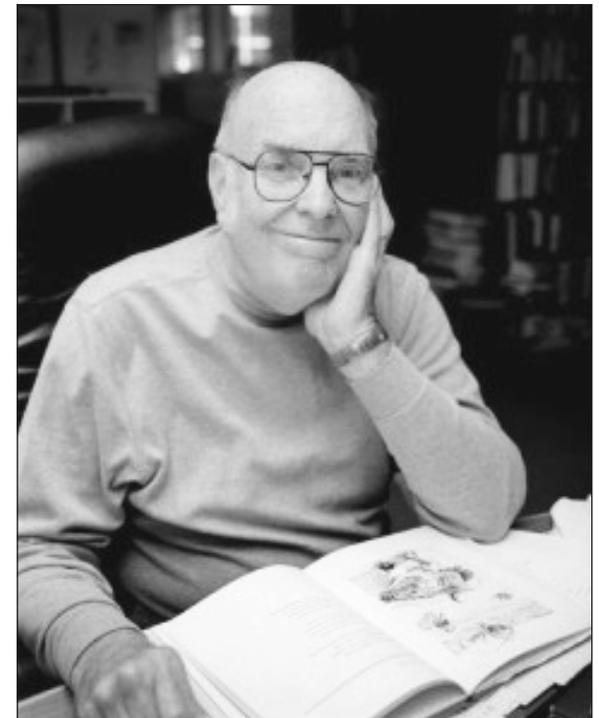
He has taught English at Michigan, at the Woman's College of the U. of North Carolina (now UNC Greensboro), and from 1963 through 1978 at Tufts, with visiting sojourns at Wellesley, U. of California, Irvine, and the U. of Leeds. In 1978, he became a free-lance writer.

Recognitions include the Lamont Award of the Academy of American Poets (for his first book, *Nude Descending a Staircase*, in 1961), the Los Angeles Book Award for poetry (for *Cross Ties: Selected Poems*, 1985), the Aiken-Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry (given by the University of the South and *The Sewanee Review*), Guggenheim and National Arts Council fellowships. In spring 2009, the Poetry Society of America gave him the Robert Frost Medal for lifetime service to poetry.

I had the pleasure to speak to X.J. and Dorothy Kennedy on my Somerville Community Access TV show *Poet to Poet: Writer to Writer*.

Doug Holder: X.J., you asked if you could introduce your wife. Please do.

X.J. Kennedy: Both Dorothy and I dropped out of PhD programs at Michigan, but she got further along than I did. She has been a writer in her own right and a collaborator with me for many years. She has written a number of children's books, including *Thought I'd Take My Rat to School*. This was the first



anthology of poems about school for children. She created a whole genre of imitators (*laugh*). We have both worked on a book of children's poems titled *Knock on a Star*. This has been in print for 32 years. We revised it around the turn of the new century. Dorothy has written textbooks. She is partly responsible for the *Bedford Reader*, that has been read by more than two million students.

DH: Dorothy, tell me about your work together on *Knock on a Star*.

DK: Both Joe and I had the idea that children might want to know how poems are put together. So we illustrated the book, and we mentioned ways that forms can be recognized and used in the conception of a poem.

DH: X.J., you were born right after the Crash of 1929. Do you think this influenced your work in any way?

XJ: I would be pressed to figure out how.

DH: Why did you drop out of the PhD program at the University of Michigan?

XJ: I had a tough job getting a topic approved for a dissertation. I wanted to write

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Tom Lyons wrote a lot of poetry in the 70's and 80's and had some success being published in a couple of poetry magazines. His jobs as an Auditor, a COO, and a Management Consultant kept him on the road for nearly 30 years. Fifteen years ago, he bought the New England Mobile Book Fair, at the time the largest independent brick-and-mortar book store in New England, where, among author events, he started hosting well-attended poetry readings. Inspired again to create, this led to forming a poetry group that meets twice a month. Some of his poems have appeared in the *Muddy River Review* and *Boston Literary Magazine*. He has appeared on Somerville and Milton local TV. Tom is also a member of the Bagel Bards. His first book of poetry, *Luna Moth*, has been well received, having sold more than 600 copies to date, and is going into its fifth printing. His new book, *The Beautiful Army*, is being compiled by Big Table Publishing and should be available shortly. One of the new poems is presented here.



Morning Prelude

Dawn approaches,
the lake more glass than water.
Breaking the silence, the purr
of the engine, the only sound
as I slowly ease away from the dock.
The bow pushes the stillness aside,
ripples disturb the water behind.
I aim for the heavy lake fog
A mile beyond, slowly, steadily.
I focus on the cloud ahead
until I'm enveloped by this morning vapor.
I must appear to have been swallowed up
to any distant on-lookers.
The engine cut, the boat settles.
The calm returns to the surrounds,
the lake again at rest.
I sit with no vantage point, no view

save the curtain of haze keeping company
I am alone, the world hidden—
It from me, me from it.
There is comfort in my solitude.
A perfect peace for a time.
A quiet lapping of water against the hull
accompanying my daydreams.

The lake dwellers begin to awaken
The mist slowly dissipates, the sunlight
displacing it.
The duties of life resume
and I must travel back to shore,
to the reality of living.

— Tom Lyons © 2026

Mina Cho Jazz Quartet presents 'Passion'



The Somerville-based world-fusion jazz ensemble The Mina Cho Quartet will present a performance titled *Passion*, that reflects on both the spiritual and personal meanings of passion. Quartet members are Mina Cho on piano and traditional Korean drum, Max Ridley on bass, Matthew Ryu on guitar, and George Lernis on percussion. The program features reimagined originals and new works created by Mina Cho. On Sunday, March 29, 4 p.m., at The Lily Pad, 1353 Cambridge Street, near Inman Square in Cambridge. Admission is \$15, or \$10 for students. For more information, see <http://www.minachojazz.com>.

Somerville Police issue weapon recovery announcement

As part of an ongoing criminal investigation, the Somerville Police Department served a search warrant in East Somerville on March 5, 2026. During the search, investigators located a .380 caliber Bersa Firestorm handgun along with two loaded magazines. Further investigation revealed that the firearm was possessed illegally and had been reported stolen in Texas. We thank our officers for their hard work and continued commitment to keeping our streets safe. This investigation remains active and ongoing. No further information will be made available at this time.



— Somerville Police Dept.

Be sure to visit us online at
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

about Emily Dickinson. By this time, I had a book of poems out. I looked at all the poets who were making it through without a PhD, teaching college as a writer. I decided I would try this.

DH: How do you view the academic life?

XJ: I have nothing against it. It has fed me and the family. People talk about academic poetry. Well, I never have been sure there is such a thing. These days, with all these MFA programs, there is a danger of a certain sameness. There is still enough variety that I don't see a problem. Nobody agrees what poetry is. Free Verse predominates, of course. I have always been an old grouch, with my rhyming, etc. I have tried to write free verse, but I got scared, and I wanted my security blanket of rhyme scheme back.

DH: Would you advise a young poet to get his or her MFA?

XJ: It won't get you a job. It might help you eventually teach Creative Writing if you have written something that anyone notices. The workshops that these programs provide give a young writer an audience. The writers are put in with people who are reading his or her work with more patience and sympathy than is usually the case.

DH: You are known for your light verse. But as you know, comedy and tragedy are closely aligned. But your poems aren't just for yucks. When you write a poem, do you have in mind darker themes?

X.J.: When I am writing a poem, I don't have a theme in mind. I am just trying to get some words down. Some poems shape up to nothing but a yuck. But others go deeper. I like that kind.

DH: You exhibit a ribald sense of humor in your work. Has anyone influenced you – your family, other poets?

XJ: Well, I guess it was my father. He was sort of the family poet. Families had poet laureates back then. They were expected to produce poems for anniversaries, weddings, etc. He did not have much schooling, but he did memorize poems he read in school. He could recite pages

of Whittier's *Snow Bound*, and many others. I guess all of this made a dent on me.

DH: We all have had a love affair with the Grolier Poetry Book Shop in Harvard Square. They are now publishing your book, *Fits of Concision: Collected Poems of Six or Fewer Lines*.

XJ: Ifeanyi Menkiti, the owner of the Grolier, started the poetry press. I am one of the authors in their "Established Poets Series." I have been writing for over 60 years, so I guess I am established. Tino Villanueva is another poet in the series. He authored *So Spoke Penelope*. I am happy to see the Grolier branching out to publishing. I am happy to find a publisher for such an odd book as this.

DH: Certainly, a poet with your reputation wouldn't have a hard time finding a publisher?

XJ: Many publishers would look at epigrams as vile bugs. But I have always liked the form. The book has Haiku, short lyrics, epitaphs. It is a challenge to write a poem tersely. I love the challenge.

DH: You have a novel coming out, right?

XJ: The book is titled: *A Hoarse Half-Human Cheer*. It was based on a Catholic college I went to that became under control of the Mafia. The college was being used as a front for a war surplus operation. I have only written novels for children, so this is a first.

DH: I noticed a poem you wrote dedicated to Allen Ginsberg. Were you two friends? Did you know him well?

XJ: I can't say I knew him well. We exchanged postcards, and I saw him at some social gatherings. I always felt a kinship to him, though. We both grew up in industrial New Jersey, and we both had fathers who were poets. Ginsberg's father, Louis, was a mediocre poet most of the time. He sent out a lot of poems, and he was very persistent. Out of every 100 poems or so he would have a good one. When I was an editor at the *Paris Review*, we published a poem of his.

But Allen Ginsberg and I both had Lionell Trilling as

teacher, and we both loved William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. We had some things in common.

DH: Well, since you are a strong proponent of meter and rhyme, do you agree with Robert Frost's statement that writing free verse is like playing tennis without a net?

XJ: Well, that is a nasty remark, but there is some truth to it. But I do admire people who can write in free verse. There is a small reactionary movement that is now radical who still adheres to rhyme, and I am part of it.

Reunion

Impassive, to a tuba chord,
Faces like blurry Photostats,
Enter the class of '34
In wheelchairs, coned with paper hats.
Discreet, between the first Scotch punch
And the last tot of buttered rum,
President Till works over each,
Fomenting his new stadium.
Fire in his eyes, the class tycoon,
Four hog-hairs bristling from his chin,
Into his neighbor's Sonotone
Confides his plan to corner tin.
His waitress with a piercing squeal
Wrestles a buttock from his grip.
Dropping the napkins a good deal,
She titters, puddling ox-tail soup.
Now all, cranked high, shrill voices raise
To quaver strains of purple hills
In Alma Mater's book of days.
Some dim sub-dean picks up the bills,
One last car door slam breaks a whine
Solicitous of someone's health,
And softly through the mezzanine
The night revives with punctual stealth.

— X. J. Kennedy



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