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## Somerville mayor introduces innovative Municipal Housing Voucher Program



Families in need of housing may be able to take advantage of the city's new Municipal Voucher Program currently coming into effect.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne has announced that the City of Somerville's Office of Housing Stability's (OHS) new Municipal Voucher Program that targets needed local support to families historically underserved by broader government housing programs.

"We know that families in need of housing help are falling through the gaps, and our new voucher program will help Somerville families that need it most secure stable, local, housing so they can continue to thrive here," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Our Housing Needs Assessment showed that households with young children and households including persons of color, especially Black and Latino persons, are disproportionately impacted by local affordable housing challenges. I'm happy to share that we have already secured housing for eight participating families, and want to

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## Las Cafeteras' tour visits the Crystal Ballroom, Somerville Theatre

As Las Cafeteras embarks on a three-month national tour supporting *A Night in Nепantla*, audiences will discover the boundaries of tradition and innovation, forging new connections in the spaces between worlds.

Las Cafeteras' original members Hector Flores, Denise Carlos, and Jose Cano lock arms and hearts on *A Night in Nепantla* by inviting audiences to explore the concept of "Nepantla," a Nahuatl word meaning "in-between" or "in the middle."

East Los Angeles' lauded band Las Cafeteras produces their third full-length studio album, *A Night in Nепantla*, featuring a synth-laden fusion of traditional Mexican folk and electronic dance beats for fans of Latinx music to enjoy.

Las Cafeteras enlists an array of celebrated collaborators and producers to masterfully

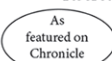
Continued on page 4



Las Cafeteras is embarking on a three-month national tour supporting *A Night in Nепantla*.

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

The city is partnering with **CultureHouse** and **Neighborways** to increase safety on **Glen and Otis Streets** by creating quick-build neighborways (think: planters, vertical plastic posts, paint markings, speed humps, etc.). These will be located on Glen Street between Tufts Street and Broadway, and on Otis Street between McGrath Highway and the **East Somerville Community School**. Join the city's **Mobility Division** for a block party on **Saturday, March 16**, at **East Somerville Community School** (50 Cross St.) from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to learn about the planned neighborways, and share your feedback on the upcoming safety improvements. Music, refreshments, and games will be provided. Learn more at <https://voice.somervillema.gov/glen-street-neighborway>.








\*\*\*\*\*

The **Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC)** is hosting two **Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Summits** in regards to **Rafi Properties' Somernova project**. The first, was on Tuesday March 12. The second meeting will be virtual on **Zoom on Saturday March 16** from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The USNC and the negotiating team to hear from the community about what priorities are for benefits from this proposed project. They encourage everyone, from direct abutters to this project to the wider community, to attend to have your voices heard about priorities for benefits for this proposed project. For any other questions or details please reach out to on their website or at our email address [unionsquareneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:unionsquareneighborhoodcouncil@gmail.com).

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# Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of March 13 – March 19 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> March 13	Partly Cloudy	54°/40°	9%	6%	ESE 8 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> March 14	Partly Cloudy	61°/42°	10%	7%	SW 9 mph
 <b>Friday</b> March 15	Rain	55°/39°	42%	23%	NW 12 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> March 16	Partly Cloudy	52°/41°	22%	16%	NE 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> March 17	Rain	53°/30°	19%	12%	SW 13 mph
 <b>Monday</b> March 18	Cloudy	51°/35°	21%	13%	NW 12 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> March 19	Partly Cloudy	43°/30°	22%	14%	NW 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 Board of Health updating tobacco and nicotine regulations

LowB says:

You can buy Crack and colorful tabs just behind Somerville High School and no one says anything while they concerned about a 70 year old showing ID to buy cigarettes. There are 100 easy ways to do this. And how is the data collected or scanned protected? These people have nothing to all day long.

### Response to: Rent Stabilization in Somerville 2

slaw says:

Replace “or” with “and” and do all three.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://thesomervilletimes.com) to leave your own comments

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## Spring sports registration is open

Students in grades 6-8 are invited to sign up for the outdoor track and field and flag football teams. The medical clearance event is March 21 and the season starts March 25.

Find information about registration on the Middle Grades Athletics webpage, along with opportunities for students to try out for several high school sports.



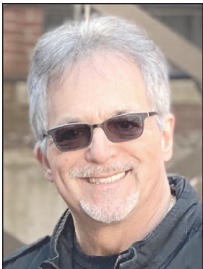


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Buddy's Diner



The small aluminum diner is at 113 Washington St. A deceased friend of mine lived next door and we met there for good eats. It was built in 1930 and is on the Somerville historical register. If you sit at the counter the seats are kind of low but work out well for me and my short legs! The decor is very vintage looking and welcoming. I asked my social media friends to share their comments about Buddy's diner.

"Absolutely, it's my favorite breakfast place of all time. I had breakfast there the morning of the blizzard of 78, I have been going there since around 1975."

"Best corned beef hash!"

"My husband went there a lot. He worked across at the railroad."

"It's been there a long time. I used to go

there as a kid. I'm 71."

"Should be a national landmark."

"Love it. Do they still display their menu items on hanging paper plates?" (yes!)

"Glad to see all these comments on how great the place is. My 2023 resolution is to try two new restaurants each month, Buddy's is on the list."

"Been going there since 1972 when it was run by John, his dad and brother. But shortly after John sold my eating habits changed. A really young lady bought it. Do they still offer the same menu and great burger?"

"Yes, had breakfast there last week."

"My Dad used to take me there when I would go out to plow snow with him. Good memories! Nice people there."

I can personally recommend the Eggs Benedict.

The quaint little diner is definitely one of Somerville's gems. I don't know the plans but it has been closed for a few months.



# Join the Glen and Otis Streets Neighborways Block Party

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward One Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, and City of Somerville staff are inviting all community members to a block party to share exciting upcoming safety improvements to Glen Street and Otis Street. The event will be held on Saturday, March 16, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the East Somerville Community School.

The City of Somerville is partnering with local non-profits CultureHouse and Neighborways Design to create Neighborways on Glen Street and Otis Street. Neighborways are designed to create safer

and more comfortable environments for pedestrians, cyclists, and residents, and are designed to prioritize the needs of local residents and emphasize a sense of community and livability.

This Neighborways project will use quick-build traffic-calming techniques and materials such as pavement markings, vertical plastic posts, and planters to improve safety on the street without major structural changes. Learn more about Neighborways in Somerville's Bicycle Network Plan. After hearing from community members through door-



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to-door outreach and cider socials, the team has developed potential designs for the street that they'll share as part of the block party.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to share their feedback on the proposals. Music, refreshments, and games will be provided. Information about proposed designs will also be made available on the project website following the

block party.

This project is made possible through American Rescue Plan Act funds intended to support collaborative and impactful partnerships between the City and local non-profits. To learn more about the city's current ARPA projects and funding parameters, visit [somer villema.gov/arpa](https://somer villema.gov/arpa).

Learn more about this project at [somer villema.gov/glenandotis](https://somer villema.gov/glenandotis).



## SPS Community Schools afterschool program

For families interested in the SPS Community Schools afterschool program, the registration period begins March 19 at 9:30 a.m. and runs until March 28.

This registration period is for all grades. Registration link: <https://www.ezchildtrack.com/csafterschool/parent/>. As in previous years, Community Schools uses a weighted lottery system that prioritizes applicants who register any time during the March 19 – March 28 registration period and returning families.

Please visit the Somerville Community Schools Afterschool webpage to learn about the program, fees, and registration support. <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/afterschool>.



## Mayor introduces innovative Municipal Housing Voucher Program

CONT. FROM PG 1

thank everyone from the city and our advocacy partners for the creative problem solving that made this program a reality.”

Housing voucher programs that subsidize housing costs are usually the domain of state and federal programs. But many families fall through the gaps or can only receive very minimal support. Somerville’s program introduces a new option for vouchers offered at the city level for the most vulnerable local families.

Under Somerville’s Municipal Voucher program, participating families’ rent and utility costs will be capped at 30% of their income, with the voucher covering remaining rental costs. This applies even if their net household income is zero. The voucher program will cover all remaining rent

and the security deposit.

The program is targeted to households paying at least 50% of income for rent and utilities, who are ineligible or poorly served by federal or state housing programs, and/or who are facing eviction or severe overcrowding. Families with children in the Somerville public schools or local daycare programs were prioritized. The pool of candidates were identified through a collaborative effort between the Somerville Public Schools (SPS), Somerville’s anti-poverty agency the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC), and the City’s Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) and its Office of Housing Stability (OHS). Twen-

ty-seven families were selected to receive a voucher via an internal lottery system and OHS is hoping to increase this number to 30.

“The devastating impact of involuntary displacement on children in our public schools who often have already experienced trauma led us to work as creatively and as doggedly as possible to find a solution for as many of these at-risk families as possible,” said Ellen Shachter, Director of Somerville’s Office of Housing Stability. “Seeing the first eight families move into their new homes was a priceless experience.”

The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) will oversee the logistics of voucher recipient placement. Somerville’s OHS team has secured 12 project units

for some of the selected families to move into, while the remaining families will work with CHA to use their vouchers to find new housing or stay in their current household with an MVP rent subsidy. Each family will be assigned a stabilization worker from CAAS to help them access government resources and maintain their stabilized housing.

The program has built-in incentives for participating landlords, including receiving a month’s rent as an incentive payment, the security deposit, and some funding for property repairs.

Recipient families will work with their CAAS stabilization worker and CHA to annually recertify their eligibility. Unlike most housing subsidy programs,

tenants’ rent will not increase between annual recertifications allowing them to benefit fully from increases in their income.

The program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) until December 2024, has received commitments from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the City to sustain operations through the calendar year 2026. The city has contributed \$1.8 million, matched by the Trust, with funds allocated through free cash.

If you are a landlord interested in participating in the program, or for more information, please contact Ellen Shachter, Director of the Office of Housing Stability by emailing [eshachter@somervillema.gov](mailto:eshachter@somervillema.gov) or calling (617) 625-6600 Ext. 2580.

## Las Cafeteras’ tour visits the Crystal Ballroom, Somerville Theatre

CONT. FROM PG 1

share their stories of longing and love while putting the spotlight on pressing issues affecting their communities. *A Night In Nepantla* features Las Cafeteras alongside David Garza (Fiona Apple), Moises Baquero (Los Abandoned), Sergio Mendoza (Natalia LaFourcade, Calxico, Mexican Institute of Sound) and LA-based DJ/Producer David Cardena.

Garnering global acclaim throughout their electrifying live performances across more than 40 states and accolades from NPR, *Latino USA*, GRAMMY.com, PBS, *LA Times*, and *Democracy Now!*

Las Cafeteras dives into themes of cultural hybridity and identity

from the writings of Gloria Anzaldúa and her book, *The Borderlands*. “Nepantla” serves as a metaphor for the lived experiences of people who exist at the intersections of multiple, often-conflicting cultural, ethnic, and social identities.

Frontman and singer Hector Flores, says, “As a band, we deeply resonate with the land of ‘Nepantla’ and feel that we live in the middle of multiple worlds, sounds and identities, and this album brings people together to sonically join us in our joy, grief, struggle, and liberation in Nepantla.”

Denise Carlos reflects, “We welcome our fans into a different world, and it’s a profound ex-

perience for all of us. We create a space where we can connect, share, and celebrate our common humanity.”

Las Cafeteras’ lead single, *Cumbia de Mi Barrio*, from *A Night In Nepantla* is a hybrid of electro-pop, Afro-Colombian beats, and Peruvian Huayno-inspired Cumbia for an explosion of sounds, stories and memories that defines the eclectic soundscapes of their new album. From hypnotic dance rhythms of *Caravana*, which explores the humanity of migration, to the soulful melodies of *Esta Noche*, an offering of peace amidst the chaos of social justice work, each track on *A Night In Nepantla* is authentically personal. *Morena Morena*

pays homage to Mother Earth with an electronic feel mixed with rich traditional sounds, while *Tía Lucha* blends protest chants and ecstatic electro-pop vibes.

Rounding out the album are *Vivas Nos Queremos*, a poignant anthem addressing the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous, Latina, and Trans women, and the explosive final track, *Cumbia de Mi Barrio*.

As Las Cafeteras prepare to embark on a three-month national tour in support of *A Night In Nepantla*, audiences will discover the boundaries of tradition and innovation, forging new connections in the spaces between worlds.

Flores comments, “After 10 years, I think we finally made a

beautiful album that aligns with our ethos, energy on stage and what we want to see in the world ... it took some time, but I think it was well worth the wait!”

The first single, *Cumbia de Mi Barrio*, is out now. Watch the video <https://youtu.be/1-Uojvx-llV4>.

For a comprehensive list of Las Cafeteras’ forthcoming tour dates, please visit: [lascafeteras.com](http://lascafeteras.com).

March 19  
Crystal Ballroom at Somerville Theatre  
55 Davis Square  
Somerville, MA 02144  
For tickets and more information visit: <https://www.crystalballroomboston.com/>.



# MBTA/MassDOT recommend extending Silver Line 3 to Orange Line's Sullivan Square Station

The MBTA and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) today released the results of the Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis (SLXAA), which recommends extending Silver Line 3 (SL3) service from its current terminus in Chelsea to Sullivan Square Station on the Orange Line. The report can be found on the MBTA website at [mbta.com/SLX](https://mbta.com/SLX).

"We are beyond excited to be advancing plans to extend Silver Line service between Chelsea, Everett, and Sullivan Square in Boston's Charlestown neighborhood," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "This extension of service is exactly what we are talking about when we say the Administration is prioritizing public transportation investments which fill gaps in our system, increase access for residents in underserved communities, and make our transportation network more equitable."

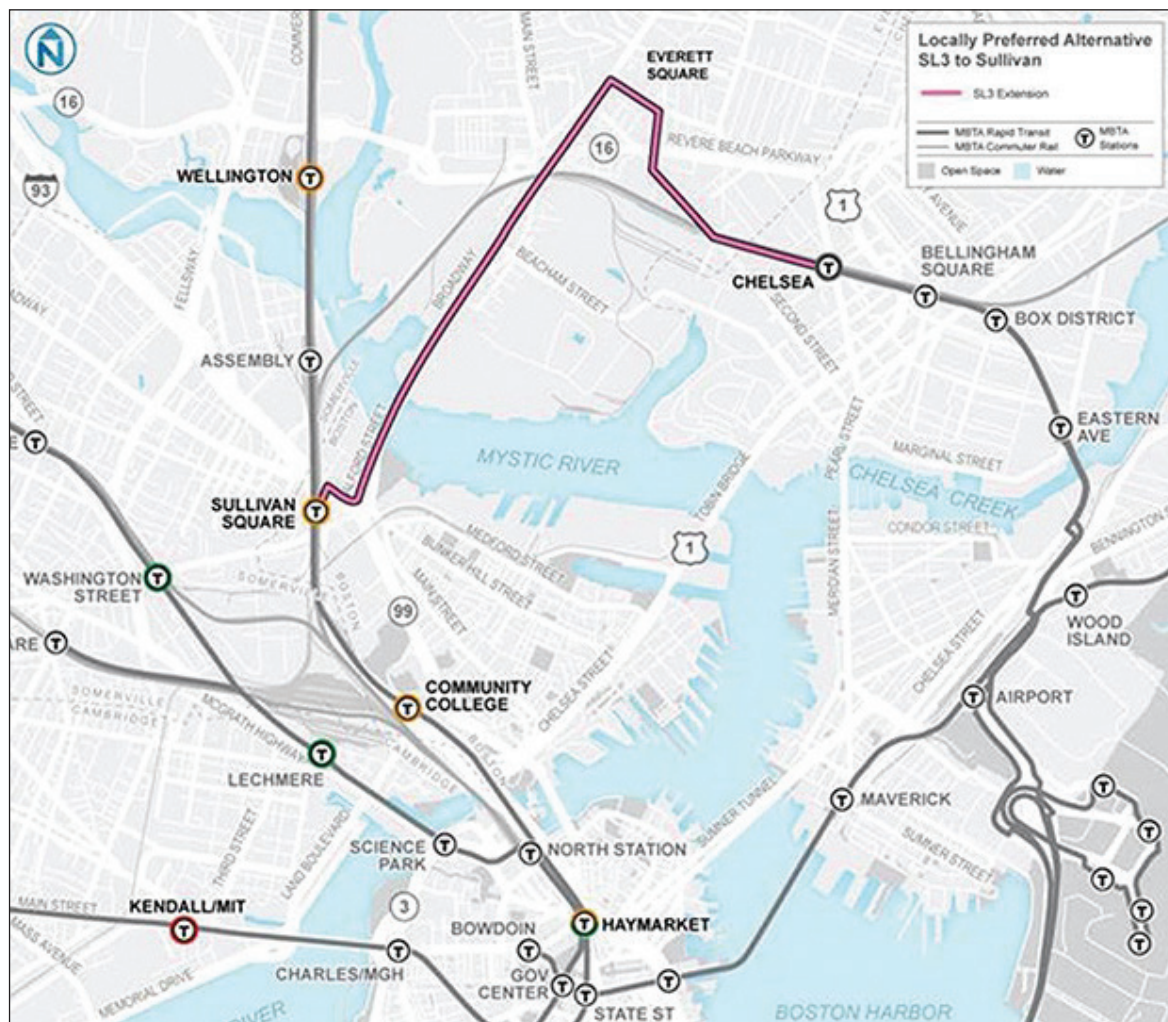
"Extending the SL3 to Sullivan Square will have a profound impact on thousands of riders, expanding access to our rapid transit system and a dozen more bus routes, amplifying more opportunities for jobs, education, and recreational activities," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "We appreciate the efforts of the MBTA team and our partners at MassDOT for their work on the Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis and look forward to reviewing the upcoming design."

"Public transportation provides enormous economic opportunity for residents of all income backgrounds and our economy, but

still so many of my community's residents lack access to any convenient public transit options," said Senator Sal DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts Senate. "These proposed investments in Silver Line expansions will reduce traffic, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and drastically improve lives and livelihoods for countless people throughout Chelsea, Everett, and beyond. I have advocated for these changes for years alongside municipal leaders and community members and am thrilled to see these proposed developments. I want to thank Governor Healey, MassDOT, and the MBTA for their leadership on expanding public transportation for people who have lived without it for far too long."

"The importance of the Silver Line's ability to increase access to jobs and educational opportunities for all Everett residents cannot be understated and I am proud to endorse this commitment from the MBTA," said City of Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria. "The Silver Line will also provide critical transit access that will support Everett's growth while reducing reliance on private vehicles."

Opening in 2018, the SL3 connects Chelsea with Logan Airport, East Boston, the Seaport District, and South Station, making quick, easy connections to many area bus routes, the Blue Line, the Red Line, and the Commuter Rail. The SLXAA's recommended extension to Sullivan Square would continue SL3 service through Everett and into Boston, connecting Chelsea directly with the Orange Line and a dozen more MBTA bus routes.



Approximately 80% of the six-mile-long extension through Chelsea, Everett, and Boston includes exclusive bus-only lanes, with the SL3 serving eight new stations. Bus routes that already operate in these areas would also have the added benefit of operating within these dedicated bus-only lanes for faster travel times outside of mixed traffic.

By extending SL3 service to Sullivan Square, Chelsea, and Everett, residents will benefit from increased service frequency outside of traditional morning and evening peak commuting hours and expanded access to 345,000 jobs via a 45-minute transit commute. Extending the SL3 is projected to increase daily SL3 ridership by over 15,000 riders.

The SLXAA also included an analysis of extending the SL3 beyond the Orange Line to Kendall Square or downtown Boston, ultimately determining that further study is required. Extending the SL3 to these locations would also require the MBTA to further expand its Silver Line vehicle fleet and maintenance facilities. In the near-term, the MBTA's Bus Network Redesign team plans to implement high-frequency bus service from Chelsea to the Orange Line and from Sullivan Square to Kendall Square, creating multiple new connections in service.

The MBTA and MassDOT partnered with area municipalities to determine the potential alternatives and benefits of extending the SL3, and the SLX-

AA follows previous recommendations by the Lower Mystic Regional Working Group and the Everett Transit Action Plan.

Following the release of the SLXAA, the MBTA and MassDOT are exploring funding opportunities to advance the SLX design and engineering phase. The preliminary cost to extend the SL3, including all associated roadway reconstruction, is anticipated to be approximately \$95 million.

For more information, please visit [mbta.com/SLX](https://mbta.com/SLX) or connect with the T on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA, Facebook /TheMBTA, Instagram @theMBTA, Threads @thembta, or TikTok @thembta.

— MBTA

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives’ votes on roll calls from the week of March 4-8. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

**SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INCLUDING \$245 MILLION FOR SHELTERS (H 4460)**

House 121-33, approved and sent to the Senate a supplemental budget that includes \$245 million for the Emergency Assistance Program that funds the emergency family shelter system which houses migrants.

The measure limits the maximum length of stay to nine consecutive months and an additional three months for those currently employed or enrolled in a job training program. The bill allows some families or individuals, including veterans, pregnant women, victims of domestic violence and people with a disability to be eligible for 12 consecutive months.

Other provisions keep in place some pandemic-era programs, set to expire, in place including allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails for take-out and expanding outdoor dining.

“Ensuring that people exit the shelter system in a timely manner is crucial to the emergency assistance program’s long-term viability,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “This is the current reality due to the status of the migrant crisis, the lack of federal support, the number of people on the waitlist and the revenue challenges facing Massachusetts. It’s also critical that we ensure that folks in the shelter system receive ample support aimed at helping them to successfully enter the workforce, which is exactly what this legislation does.”

“Since the beginning of the migrant crisis, we have attempted to uphold the commonwealth’s right to shelter law while also being mindful of the long-term fiscal sustainability of the program,” said House Ways and Means Chair Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston). “The reforms contained in this proposal will ensure that right to shelter is maintained by capping the length of stay while also refocusing the emphasis on workforce development. By concentrating on job training, we can focus on getting migrants the job skills they need while also enhancing the commonwealth’s economic output.”

“By committing an additional \$245 million in state funding to cover the ongoing costs of providing emergency housing to migrants, [the bill] does nothing but throw more taxpayer money at the problem without addressing the underlying causes driving up the program’s costs,” said House Republican Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “If you factor in the \$325 million that was in-

cluded in the fiscal year 2024 budget and the \$250 million added through the supplemental budget that was approved in December, the state has now committed over \$820 million to the Emergency Assistance Housing Program in fiscal year 2024 alone, with no end in sight. This money drain is already crowding out other priorities in the budget and has created a financial situation that is simply unsustainable without implementing meaningful reforms to the program.”

“To the credit of Democratic House leaders, the bill did propose several new limits to migrant housing stays in an effort to curtail expenses,” said Rep. Steve Xiarhos (R-Barnstable). “However, in my opinion, these new limits don’t go far enough and the bill is fiscally irresponsible. Our state very simply cannot afford to continue paying these ever-mounting expenses.”

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

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

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (H 4460)**

House 28-128, rejected an amendment that would change the state’s Right to Shelter Law which requires the state to provide shelter and other necessities to homeless parents with young children, pregnant women and recently the many migrant families arriving in the Bay State. Homeless individuals are not covered by the Right to Shelter law.

The amendment would require that people provide proof that they have lived in the state for at least six months to qualify for the program. It also exempts from the requirement a victim of domestic violence or a person whose living situation has been affected by a fire or other natural disaster that occurred in Massachusetts.

Amendment supporters said the current interpretation of residency in Massachusetts by the Healey administration is that the person can be in the state for a matter of minutes to qualify to get services.

“We’re a huge incentive for groups at our southern U.S. border to send folks here, directly here, because they know we’re going to take care of them, we’re going to give them shelter of some kind, food, health care and what have you,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Paul Frost (R-Auburn). “The solution is you can’t be eligible the day you show up. You just can’t. Let’s make it six months -- you have to be a resident of Massachusetts for six months before you can access the program. I think that’s fair and I think it’s reasonable.”

Some amendment opponents said the amendment might be unconstitutional. Others said people from around the world who are the victims of rape, violence and oppression are coming to Massachusetts and the state should not impose residency requirements on these suffering migrants.

(A “Yes” vote is for the 6-month requirement. A “No” vote is against it.)

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

**REQUIRE COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS FOR COMPANIES SUPPLYING FOOD (H 4460)**

House 154-0, approved an amendment that would require any funds spent for providing food for people through the program be subject to a competitive bidding process.

Amendment supporters said that according to news reports, the state is currently spending \$64 a day per person to feed people in the Emergency Assistance Housing Program under a six-month, \$10 million no-bid contract, including \$16 for breakfast, \$17 for lunch and \$31 for dinner.

“These meal costs far exceed the necessary funds to feed families in the Emergency Assistance Housing Program and go well beyond what most families in the commonwealth can afford to feed their own families,” said amendment sponsor House GOP Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “At a time when state revenues are declining, we must ensure that we spend responsibly and conserve our resources to best serve the residents of Massachusetts. By requiring a competitive bidding process, we can ensure that the state is getting the best price, and that spending is brought down to a more reasonable level.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

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

**TRAINING PROGRAMS (H 4460)**

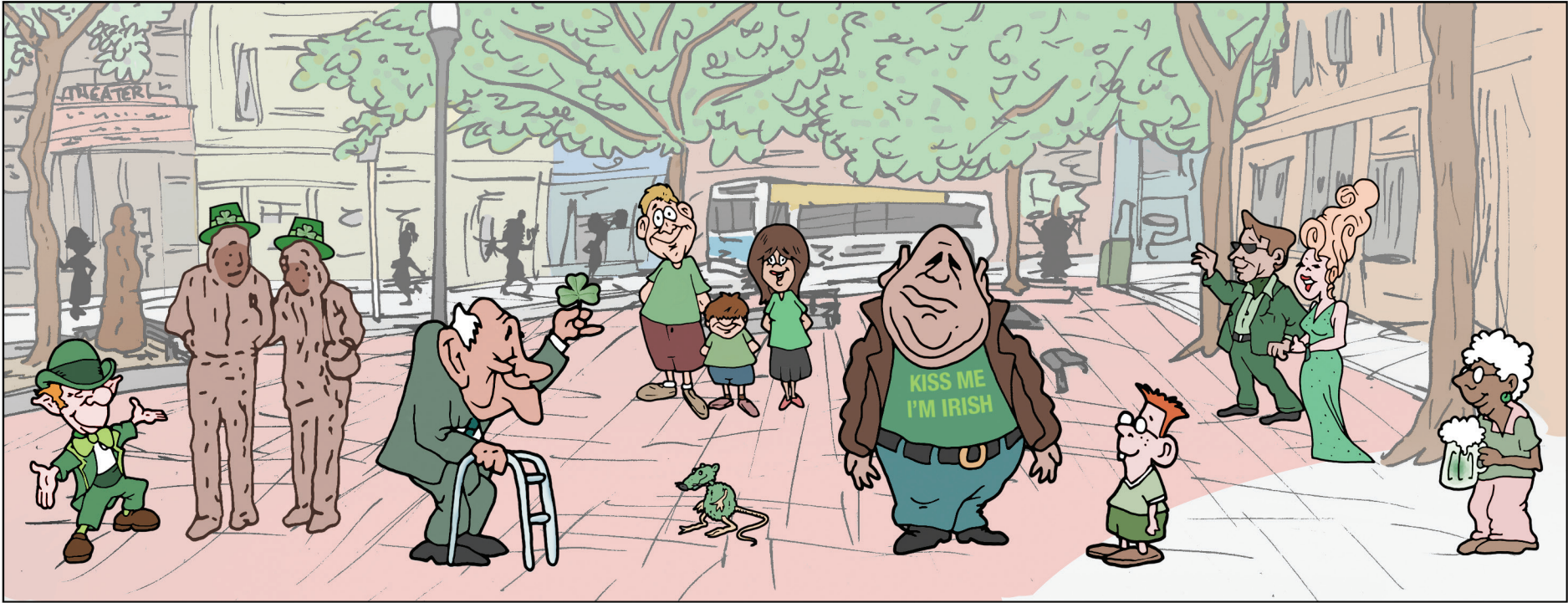
House 25-128, rejected an amendment that would expand eligibility for a program, created in the bill, which allows employers to offer training programs to assist individuals in the Emergency Assistance Housing Program in developing the skills needed to enter the workforce. Under the program, employers would be eligible for a tax credit of \$2,500 for each qualified trainee who receives training. The amendment would allow low-income Massachusetts residents to participate in these training *Continued on page 16*



COMMENTARY

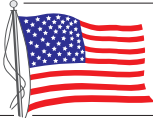
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy St. Patty's 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 a 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 celebrated 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 with 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 Sunday this year, the occasion runs straight into the weekend, which both heightens the revelry and calls for moderation. At least it's on a Sunday, a day when prudence is often observed.

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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to former alderman and great guy, **Jack Connolly**. We hope he has a great birthday. Happy Birthday to **Dennis Fishman**, you can enjoy his book reviews published here every other week. We hope Dennis has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends such as **Kiette Murphy Jones, Jim Halloran, Okie Oconnell, Patrick Fitzgerald, Kristin Gore, Maria Parziale Pacheco, and Sally Colman**, a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this week, we wish them a happy birthday.

\*\*\*\*\*

The annual **Ras na hEireann 5K road race** is back. It is the most genuine Irish race this side of the Atlantic. A celebration of spring in Somerville. This race was born in Ireland and named in honor of its famous sister race, the **Ras na hEireann International Cross Country** held in Termonfechin, County Louth, Republic of Ireland. The **Ras na hEireann U.S.A. 5Km** is open to all, from beginners to international stars (registration is now closed). The race kicks off at 11:00 a.m. **Sunday, March 24**, go by and cheer on the runners and see some of their very creative outfits. For more information and to register visit <https://www.theraceofireland.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Liam Mannion**, proprietor of **Sally O'Brien's**, and former **City Councilor Bob McWatters** invite the public to celebrate **Irish Heritage** and hoist a pint of Guinness on **St. Patrick's Day, March 17** at Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave. Sally's will be featuring an Irish fare of corned beef and cabbage, spirits, Irish music, and appearances of local and state elected officials. All are welcome to join the festivities.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't miss the **Highlander Theatre** production of **Digging Up Dessa**. Performances at **Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave** on: **Thursday, March 14**, at 7:00 p.m., **Friday, March 15**, at 5:00 p.m., **Saturday, March 16**, at 2:00 p.m., **Saturday, March 16**, at 7:00 p.m. Buy tickets: <https://www.highlandtheatre.org/dessa>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Embracing Cannabis** on Main Street takes place on **Thursday, March 21** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at **Bow Market** in Somerville. **The Goods** and **Massachusetts Cannabis Coalition** are teaming up to host a networking event and panel discussion featuring some of the state's top industry experts. Join **Ava Concepcion**, acting Massachusetts

Continued on page 22



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#914

1. Lucky the Leprechaun is the mascot of which NBA team?

2. What happened to Saint Patrick at age 16 before becoming a priest?

3. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, marking the anniversary of what?

4. When is the Ides of March?

5. Legend has it that if you kiss the Blarney Stone you will obtain what?

6. What is a boxty?
7. When is International Day of Happiness celebrated?

8. What type of creature is an alewife?

9. What is the capital city of Argentina?

10. What is the longest bridge in the U.S.?

11. What type of breed is Scooby Doo?

12. In the game of Scrabble, what is the point value of the letter "Z"?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Almonds are members of the peach family.
2. Footprints made on the moon will last for 100 million years.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
SPRING'S IN THE AIR

- ACROSS
1. College cadet program

5. Comedian Schumer

8. Not square

11. October birthstone

12. Dueling weapon

13. Flambé

15. Capital of Azerbaijan

16. Rugged rock

17. Actress Vergara

18. What many chicks are doing in spring

20. "Me and Bobby McGee" singer-songwriter

21. What the weather does in spring across the U.S.

22. Make a seam

23. Old name for 5-iron in golf

26. Facing

30. 20s dispenser

31. Bodily fluids

34. Steak choice

35. Dungeness and snow, e.g.

37. "Chapter" in history

38. African antelope

39. Republic of Ireland

40. Made a feline sound

42. 34th U.S. President

43. Knock-at-the-door onomatopoeia

45. \_\_\_\_ the Great, king of Persia

47. Give it a go

48. Fraternity K

50. Dr Pepper, e.g.

52. The Beach Boys: "Spring \_\_\_\_, good vibration"

55. Member of Nahuatl people

56. #23 Across, e.g.

57. Articulated

59. Salary increase

60. Umbilical connection

61. Volcano in Sicily

62. Robinson or Doubtfire

63. Bajillion years

64. One-horse carriage
- DOWN
1. What highwaymen do

2. Moonfish

3. Bangladeshi currency

4. Type of purse

CROSSWORD

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

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Simon & Garfunkel: "\_\_\_\_, come she will"

6. Wealth

7. Safecracker

8. High quality sound reproduction, for short

9. Purple flower that starts blooming in spring

10. Fairytale insomnia cause

12. Like repeating tunnel sound

13. Off kilter

14. "Spring \_\_\_\_, fall back"

19. Spring mattress filler

22. Acronym in a bottle

23. Ceremonial staff bearer

24. Skylit lobbies

25. "Designing Women" star Jean \_\_\_\_

26. Become soft, as in ground

27. Radices, sing.

28. "Way 2 Sexy" rapper

29. "Battle of the \_\_\_\_" movie
32. Swimming competition, e.g.

33. Not amateur

36. The \_\_\_\_: "Little darlin', it's been a long, cold, lonely winter"

38. Highly skilled

40. Official start of spring

41. Make bigger

44. Vanish without this?

46. Elevates

48. Dry plateau in South Africa

49. Oak nut

50. Same as tsar

51. "The Dock of the Bay" singer

52. Joe Biden, once

53. Solemn promise

54. Pinta and Santa Maria companion

55. Vegas bandit's body part

58. It gets longer
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



# Mayor Ballantyne and partners invite Somerville community to Women’s History Month celebration

Mayor Ballantyne, the Somerville Commission for Women, Somernova, and the city’s Department of Racial and Social Justice are announcing the city’s third annual Women’s History Month celebration. Members from the Somerville community are invited to join the celebration and share in honoring the many contributions of women throughout our history.

The event will take place on Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Somernova, 29 Properzi Way. Registering for the event via RSVP is encouraged but not required. Attendance is open to all.



“It is so important that we gather as a community to celebrate the remarkable contributions and achievements of women who have shaped our community and beyond,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “As only the second female mayor in Somerville’s long history, I look forward to honoring the work of the women who have paved the way forward and hope our celebration will inspire our community to continue breaking barriers and never accept their gender identity as a roadblock to achieving their goals.”

This year’s celebration will feature keynote speakers, music from DJ L’Duke, and interactive games with prizes. Food and drink will also be provided during the event.

“In celebration of Women’s History Month, the Somerville Commission for Women hopes this event allows all of us to take a moment to reflect on our commitment to support women’s empowerment, uplift the women in our lives, celebrate our progress, and continue to build a community of equality and love,” shared the Somerville Commission for Women.

For more information about the event, please contact Latoya Saulters, Commissions Coordinator, at [lsaulters@somervillema.gov](mailto:lsaulters@somervillema.gov).

## 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.

#### Sous Vide Corned Beef

1 2-1/2-3 lbs. Uncured Corned Beef\*

Remove 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 in the water bath. I cook it at 140° for 48 hours. Once finished, remove from 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>



[com/archives/106700](https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/106700)

[com/archives/79454](https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/79454)

**Sous Vide**  
<https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/79454>

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



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn\\_roksxoaytlni890vpv8ja](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_roksxoaytlni890vpv8ja)

Webinar ID: 847 0427 2532

TO CALL IN

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

**ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**

**DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**

**HP24-000010 – 36 Munroe Street**

Applicant: Jilong Liu  
Owner: 36 Munroe Street LLC

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

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

3/13/24 The Somerville Times



Section 00 11 13  
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID  
MGL c.149 §50K to §150K w/ DCAMM Certification

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Lobby Mailroom Renovation at Bryant Manor (667-4) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **REVERSE ARCHITECTURE**.

The Project consists of but not limited to: Construct new mailroom in apartment building lobby including walls, resilient flooring, acoustical ceiling tiles, new mailboxes, counter, cabinetry, trim, and new lighting. Demolish existing mailroom walls and finishes.

The work is estimated to cost **\$58,000.00**.

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

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at [www.biddocs.com](http://www.biddocs.com) and received no later than the date and time specified.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENT: General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **22 March 2024 on 3:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at [www.biddocs.com](http://www.biddocs.com) (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled  
Date and Time: 03/12/2024 at 10:00AM EDT  
Address: 75 Myrtle St, Somerville, MA 02145  
Instructions: Meet at main lobby  
The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.  
433 Main Street  
Hudson, MA 01749  
978-568-1167

3/6/24, 3/13/24 The Somerville Times



Section 00 11 13  
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID  
MGL c.30 §39M Over \$50K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Concrete Walkway Site Improvements (Phase 2) at State Aided Development: Mystic River (200-2) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GCG ASSOCIATES, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to: Removal and reconstruction of concrete walkways, handicap ramps and railings, curbing, installation of stamped bituminous asphalt and all other work as specified throughout the development.

The work is estimated to cost **\$375,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 03/22/2024 at 9:00AM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30§39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com) and received no later than the date and time specified.

General Bids will be received until **28 March 2024 on 11:00AM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com) (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:  
Somerville Housing Authority  
Concrete Walkway Site Improvements (Phase 2)  
Project #274137

Nashoba Blue Inc.  
433 Main Street  
Hudson, MA 01749  
978-568-1167

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFP # 24-36

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

**Housing Needs Assessment and Financial Feasibility Analysis 2024**

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, March 13, 2024**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, April 10, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

Felisa Garate  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3406

3/13/24 The Somerville Times

Somerville Arts Council calling for all general talent for ArtBeat 2024

The Somerville Arts Council ArtBeat 2024 calls are now available-Submission Deadline April 15. — Photo courtesy of Somerville Arts Council

The Somerville Arts Council invites jugglers, roaming performers, circus artists, unicyclists, swing dancers, installation artists, buskers, and anyone else that has fun “Wild” creative energy. If this is you, we invite you to apply to participate at one of the region’s largest and most vibrant community art festivals.

They invite applicants to explore all themes related to “Wild.”


To learn more visit <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/> ... and apply!





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**City of Somerville, Massachusetts**  
**KATJANA BALLANTYNE**  
**MAYOR**

Contact: Roberta Cameron, Community Preservation Act Manager  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 5, 2024

**SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE TO HOLD A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN HEARING**  
Plan establishes the annual funding priorities for Community Preservation Act program

The Somerville Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is holding their annual Community Preservation Plan public hearing on **Wednesday, March 27** at 6:30 p.m. The Community Preservation Plan establishes the annual funding priorities and allocates money to the three categories that Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds can support.


**Please join the CPA Public Hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xWRhpDA1Q-yd18zqhS39Dw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xWRhpDA1Q-yd18zqhS39Dw)  
You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 646 931 3860  
**Webinar ID: 850 6884 3681**

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preservation Committee at the hearing and by submitting written comments by **Friday, March 31st** by email to [rcameron@somervillema.gov](mailto:rcameron@somervillema.gov). You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at [www.somervillema.gov/cpa](http://www.somervillema.gov/cpa).

For more information on the CPA and how to apply for CPA funds, visit the City's [website at www.somervillema.gov/cpa](http://www.somervillema.gov/cpa).

*with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or [ada@somervillema.gov](mailto:ada@somervillema.gov).*

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

City of Somerville  
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)  
WFD-24.5

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invites sealed proposals for Mental Health, Resilience, Trauma, and Trauma-Informed Approaches Training for Staff of Social Service Providers.

**Workforce Development Grant Programs.** Proposals must be for programs that assist in the creation and maintenance of employment and career opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Somerville. Funds for Mental Health, Resilience, Trauma, and Trauma-Informed Approaches Training programming are provided by the Job Creation and Retention Trust Fund.  
Bid Number WFD-24.5


Request for Proposal package will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **10:00AM, Wednesday, March 13, 2024** at [www.somervillema.gov/wfd](http://www.somervillema.gov/wfd).  
Print copies available upon request to [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov).

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov) and proposal packages must be submitted no later than  
**12:00 PM, Monday, May 13, 2024**  
for responses to WFD-24.5 to the above email address.

**Please contact the City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff,** by email at [WFD@somervillema.gov](mailto:WFD@somervillema.gov), for information and proposal packages.

Thomas F. Galligani Jr., Executive Director  
617- 625-6600, x 2500

3/13/24 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville**  
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bU9UYD0zQyahBAFawcmY-A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bU9UYD0zQyahBAFawcmY-A)  
Webinar ID: 867 4996 3486

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

**120-132 Middlesex Ave.** DWCH Assembly Row, LLC seeks relief from the Master Plan Standards that requires at least twenty-five (25%) percentage of a development site to be provided as a Civic Space in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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

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

3/6/24, 3/13/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE**  
**LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**, on petitions for two new licenses:

Lucky Strike, 325 Revolution Drive:

- New Extended Operating Hours License, opening Monday-Sunday until 2am for in-store service only; and
- New Billiards and Bowling License, for 5 billiard tables and 8 bowling lanes.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qqMmfpLGSEypWVvKnpbjLg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qqMmfpLGSEypWVvKnpbjLg). You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the Webinar.
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov), send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day of the Hearing in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK  
[CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV)

3/13/24 The Somerville Times

# 'Getting Off Gas: Solutions for a Just Transition'

A transition away from gas to heat our buildings is an important part of addressing climate change. But how do we accomplish that? Come and hear about local efforts and strategies, including key legislative initiatives and the exciting alternative of networked geothermal energy, and learn what you can do to support them.

Speakers are Audrey Schulman, co-founder and co-executive director of HEET, a nonprofit climate solutions incubator; Massachusetts State Representative Steven Owens, sponsor of the Future of Clean Heat bill; and Cambridge City Councilor Patricia Nolan.

This event is sponsored by Cambridge Mothers Out Front, 350



Event speakers Audrey Schulman, Steven Owens, and Patricia Nolan.

MA-Cambridge/Somerville, and the First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist, Environmental Justice Team. Cosponsored by Cambridge City Growers; Creation Justice Group of Old Cambridge Baptist Church; Elders Climate Action - Mass.; and First Church in Cambridge, Congregational UCC.

Child care will be available. Masking encouraged.

Attendance will also be available via Zoom for those who prefer to participate remotely.

RSVP at: <https://secure.everyaction.com/GHSBJwaM6Ui3cGEG-6fLgRw2>

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist, 1446 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138.

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# New Somerville School Building Committee seeking members

Are you interested in helping to provide technical and fiscal oversight for Somerville's next school construction project? Apply to join the Somerville School Building Committee by the deadline on Friday, April 5, 2024.

Based on the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA)'s recent vote to invite Somerville into their funding program, our next school construction project will address the school building needs of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and potentially the Benjamin G. Brown School. The School Building Committee (SBC) will provide oversight of the ultimate project. In addition to required members set by the MSBA, Somerville is seeking four community volunteers to serve on the SBC.

In addition to the School Building Committee, the city is also forming a Somerville School Construction Advisory Group. If you are less interested in technical oversight and more interested in delving into some core decisions about the project, such as the location of a new school or whether it will be just for Winter Hill or also for the Brown, you may wish to apply to join the Advisory Group, which will discuss these topics. A call for Advisory Group members will be issued later this spring. The Advisory Group will develop recommendations to be considered by the mayor.

## Why do we have a School Building Committee?

The Somerville Public Schools have been accepted into the first phase of the MSBA's grant program. The grant program could potentially provide significant state funding for the rebuilding or new construction of a new school. This state funding program requires that all applicants establish an SBC according to state guidelines.

## What is the School Building Committee?

The SBC will monitor and provide technical guidance and

fiscal oversight during planning, design, and construction of a new Somerville public school.

The SBC will work with City and Somerville Public Schools staff and consultants to oversee project management such as hiring project managers, architects, and construction contractors.

The SBC will also ensure that detailed plans and designs meet the needs of the school district within budget.

All SBC spending decisions will go to the mayor and then the City Council for approval.

Members will also monitor construction to assure adherence with the approved plans and budget.

For more information on the MSBA process for municipal funding for school construction, please visit [www.somervillema.gov/WHCIS](http://www.somervillema.gov/WHCIS).

What types of decisions will the School Building Committee make?

The SBC will make decisions that include but are not limited to:

- project costs
- contractors
- overall design
- additions not funded by the State such as athletics facilities
- building finishes and furnishings
- educational equipment purchases
- IT infrastructure
- sustainability features

The SBC will also contribute to decision-making on the location of the project, which will ultimately be decided by the mayor, who has committed to faithfully consider community input on this question.

## What will the School Building Committee NOT decide?

The SBC will NOT decide whether a final building project will accommodate just the Winter Hill community, or if it merges the Winter Hill and Brown Schools.

The SBC will be part of the decision-making process for the

location of a new school, but in Somerville, the authority to make the final decision on location rests with the mayor, who has committed to faithfully consider community input on this matter.

The SBC will make initial start-up and project management decisions during a general planning phase while a parallel community process will provide input into the merger and location questions. The SBC will then oversee the chosen project through to completion after the project scope and location is decided by the mayor following extensive community input and a recommendation by the School Construction Advisory Group.

## Why isn't the School Building Committee making the decision on whether the new school will serve Winter Hill only or also the Brown?

The Ballantyne Administration is committed to broad, inclusive, and meaningful community engagement in decisions of importance to our community. The MSBA does not generally fund more than one school project at a time in a community. Therefore, an SBC can usually proceed without questions about what school is being built. However, Somerville is in a unique situation. The MSBA invited Somerville to apply to receive funding to help with the construction of only one new school, but the community was offered the option to apply to address the needs of two schools (Winter Hill and Brown) in that one project if the city decides to do so.

This one-or-two-school project decision is not part of the usual MSBA process and the authority in Somerville to make this decision lies with the mayor, who will faithfully weigh community input on this important question.

Given the wide range of technical responsibilities and long-term nature of the SBC, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne in partnership with Somerville Public Schools



have decided to offer a more robust community input process to inform this critical decision. This separate process will include an Advisory Group and a range of community engagement opportunities designed to provide greater community input specifically on the questions of whether to include the Brown school in the new school; if so, where it will be located, and if not, what the contingency options for Brown will be.

## Who can join the School Building Committee?

There are currently four open volunteer positions, one in each of the categories listed below:

- A community member with architecture, engineering, and/or construction experience
  - A community member with understanding of municipal finance and how spending impacts the total burden on tax- and rate-payers
  - A parent or guardian from the Winter Hill Community Innovation School
  - A parent or guardian from the Benjamin G. Brown School
- Who else will be on the School Building Committee?

Other positions on the SBC are mandated by the MSBA and will be appointed by the Mayor. They include:

- The mayor
- A member of the School Committee
- A member of the City Council

• The Superintendent and administrators from Somerville Public Schools

• City Department Directors for Finance, Infrastructure, and Public Works

What is the time commitment?

SBC members are asked to commit to the full length of the building project, as well as for approximately several years of follow-up work that will continue after the school opens and project punch lists and contract closeouts continue. In total, this is a 7- to 10-year commitment. During this time, members will be expected to prepare for and participate in meetings that will occur 1-2 times per month. This is usually a two-hour virtual meeting held in the evening. Work phases will include:

- planning
- design
- construction
- post-occupancy punch-list closeout, and
- various funding approval processes

## Do I have to commit to the entire project period?

While members may serve less than the entire 7- to 10-year period, applicants who express an intent and ability to serve for the entire project period will be preferred.

## How do I apply?

To apply, send a statement of interest and a resume or a list of your education, work, volunteer, and lived *Continued on page 13*



# Reel Rock 18 event at Boston Bouldering Project

On Friday, March 1, representatives from the Somernova team attended an event to view the Reel Rock 18 films. Reel Rock is the premier global platform for award-winning climbing films. The screening was the first in the New England region this year and featured four new films, a small vendor village, raffle prizes, and food/drink. — Photos by Andy Bernstein



## New Somerville School Building Committee seeking members CONT. FROM PG 12

experiences that are relevant to the position(s) requirements you believe you satisfy.

In your statement of interest, please include a brief explanation of why you would like to join the SBC and how you feel you can support its work. Email your application to [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov). Or mail or drop off your application to City Clerk, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143.

**When is the application deadline?**

Applications must be received by 12:30 p.m. Friday, April 5, 2024. If you are hand-delivering your application, please note that

City Hall closes early at 12:30 p.m. on Fridays, is open late until 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, and hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Wednesday.

**How is the School Building Committee Different from the Somerville School Construction Advisory Group, which will also call for members soon?**

The mission of the SBC is to manage technical, design, and financial details of the building project over the full length of the project, including post-opening closeout tasks, which is expected to run in total 7 to 10 years.

The Advisory Group will spend a period of approximately 18 months to develop a recom-

mendation on whether the project scope should focus solely on the Winter Hill School or if it should include the Brown School as well, and where a new school could be located.

A broader community process will invite the full school and Somerville Community to share feedback on both the questions of scope (whether to build only for Winter Hill or Winter Hill and Brown combined) and location, as well as the ongoing design and feature decisions that will continue throughout the project.

**Questions?**

We are happy to answer your questions. Please contact the

School Building Project Team via email at [SchoolBuildingCommittee@somervillema.gov](mailto:SchoolBuildingCommittee@somervillema.gov) or via phone at 617-625-6600 x5400.

**Next Steps**

All members are appointed by the mayor. All members must comply with and sign the City of Somerville's Code of Conduct for Board, Commission, and Committee Members.

**Accessibility**

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and

meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).

**SOIA Interpretation**

The city will make every attempt to provide interpretation into any language to facilitate participation in Somerville committees, boards, and commissions. Interpretation arrangements must be sought in advance (at least seven days in advance) by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at [somervillema.gov/ContactSomerViva](mailto:somervillema.gov/ContactSomerViva) or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.

— City of Somerville



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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. The Boston Celtics

2. He was abducted and brought to Northern Ireland as a slave

3. The day of Saint Patrick's death

4. March 15

5. The gift of the gab

6. An Irish potato pan-

cake

7. March 20

8. A fish

9. Buenos Aires

10. Lake Pontchartrain Causeway

11. Great Dane

12. 10



# Sh!t-faced Shakespeare's final production at The Rockwell Theater

Sh!t-faced Shakespeare® is announcing its final production at The Rockwell Theater, crowd favorite *Much Ado About Nothing*. After a 9-year successful run, Sh!t-faced Shakespeare is moving on. But before that, opening May 3 and running through June 22 at The Rockwell Theater at 7:00 p.m., *Much Ado About Nothing*. Old flames, new passions, more dancing, and the evilest villain in Sh!t-faced Shakespeare's canon! One entirely serious Shakespeare play blown apart by one entirely seriously drunken actor. Rediscover the chaos and hilarity as they say goodbye to old haunts and hello to new opportunities. Sh!t-faced Shakespeare would like to thank The Rockwell for hosting them lo these many years. They wish them the best as they embark on a new path. Fear not! Boston's favorite boozy Shakespearean Troupe will be announcing a new home soon! And remember to always enjoy Shakespeare responsibly! <https://www.shit-facedshakespeare.us/>. — Photos by Kayle Ebner





# Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

programs even if they are not in the Emergency Assistance Housing Program.

“The supplemental budget offers a pathway to entering the workforce by going through a job training program, but it is limited to those individuals who are already in the emergency shelter system,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “This amendment would open up these training programs by also giving low-income Massachusetts residents who are eager to work an opportunity to participate.”

Opponents said this funding is aimed at helping people in the emergency assistance program. They noted the state already has programs for low income residents and is developing even more of them.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment allowing low income residents to be eligible. A “No” vote is against allowing it.)

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

## VETERANS’ PREFERENCE (H 4460)

House 154-0, approved an amendment that would require that veterans in the shelter program are automatically given the maximum length of time to stay in the program, regardless of other factors.

“My amendment prioritizes veterans when it comes to our emergency shelter program,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth). “While other families will have restrictions on staying in the program based on employment and job training status, this amendment says that veterans in the shelter program are automatically given the maximum length of time to stay in the shelter program, regardless of other factors.

Fernandes continued, “Our state is one that recognizes the selflessness which veterans have served our commonwealth and country and we give priority to veterans in many other state programs. I believe they deserve priority when it comes to shelter and this amendment enshrines that priority.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment giving veterans preference.)

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

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**LEARNING DISABILITY SCREENING DAY (H 4210)** – The House gave initial approval to a bill designating October 2 as Learning Disability Screening Day, to raise awareness of the necessity of screening for reading disabilities.

“Former Duxbury Rep. Josh Cutler filed this legislation to promote awareness around dyslexia and other reading disabilities,” said Cole Angley, a Cutler spokesman. “Dyslexia affects an estimated 20 percent or one in every five people of the U.S. population. However only around one in 20 of the population are diagnosed. This legislation would help to promote awareness and screening across the commonwealth.”

Cutler resigned from the House on February 4 to become Gov. Maura Healey’s Undersecretary of Apprenticeship, Work-based Learning and Policy in the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

**LOCAL PLANNING BOARDS (H 3555)** – The House gave initial approval to a bill that allows associate members of local planning boards to act on any matter before a planning board, mirroring the current law that applies to associate members of Zoning Boards of Appeal. An associate planning board members is one that is appointed to act in place of regular members because of absence, conflict of interest or when a seat is vacant.

Supporters of the bill said that the attorney general has ruled that associate members may only act on a special permit application, and none of the other many functions of a planning board. They said that the attorney general’s ruling can handicap a planning board when trying to attain a quorum to open a meeting, or when voting on other matters and permits before them, such as site plans or subdivisions.

“Planning Boards have many responsibilities including but not limited to long range planning and permitting of special permits, site plans and subdivisions,” said sponsor Rep. Kristin Kassner (D-Hamilton). “This will help the Planning Boards in our communities keep permitting on track and move through the business in front of them. Amendments like this clear up confusion in the law and provide needed tools for community success.”

**\$22 MILLION TO EXPAND HIGH SPEED INTERNET IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING** - The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) at MassTech announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide program that will be used to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet.

“A substantial portion of public housing buildings are more than 50 years old,” said MBI Director Michael Baldino. “Low-income families in these buildings face barriers to accessing the speeds offered by broadband service if the wiring in their apartment pre-dates the internet age. The Retrofit Program will lead the charge to engage with property managers and then to engage internet service providers, who will work together to build out cutting-edge infrastructure that fully connects public and affordable housing units to high-speed internet.”

**HEALEY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES PLAN TO END VETERANS’ HOMELESSNESS** – Gov. Maura Healey announced a \$20 million campaign to end veterans’ homelessness in Massachusetts.

“Our administration is committed to making Massachusetts a national leader in veterans services,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “Today, we are proud to launch the largest investment in our state’s history to end veteran homelessness in Massachusetts. It is through this initiative that we will work to ensure that every veteran in our state has a safe and stable place to call home.”

“This campaign signifies a monumental commitment to addressing veteran homelessness in Massachusetts,” said Secretary of Veterans Services Jon Santiago. “Our mission is clear: bring veteran homelessness to functional zero and establish the necessary infrastructure to sustain this achievement.”

“No one who served our country should ever worry about having a roof over their heads,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “This campaign acts on our administration’s shared commitment to restore dignity, provide hope and keep a promise to our veterans that they will never be forgotten or left behind. As the daughter of a veteran, I appreciate the positive impact this initiative will have on all of Massachusetts’ veterans.”

For more information on the End Veteran Homeless Campaign, visit [mass.gov/endvethomelessness](https://mass.gov/endvethomelessness)

## QUOTABLE QUOTES – By the Numbers Edition

Research by AAA has found that vehicle crashes tend to increase in the days following moving the clocks ahead in the Spring as drivers get behind the wheel while sleep-deprived and with their circadian rhythms out of whack. Studies have outlined the risks associated with drowsy driving: drivers who slept for less than five hours the night before may have a crash risk comparable to driving drunk, and losing just a couple of hours of sleep can double the risk of a crash.

AAA says that official statistics on the prevalence of drowsy driving have long been underestimated since most drivers don’t admit to being drowsy after a collision. The group says that new research shows just how underreported these crashes are. According to a study, AAA estimates that drowsy driving is a factor in ten times as many traffic fatalities as traditional crash data indicates.

2,692 — Number of crashes in Massachusetts between 2021 and 2023 where police indicated that drowsiness, fatigue or a driver falling asleep was a contributing factor.

30,000 — Number of people nationwide who died between 2017 and 2021 as a result of a drowsy driver.

18 percent — Percentage of nationwide Continued on page 16



# Congresswoman Pressley secures millions in Community Project Funding for Massachusetts 7th Congressional District

Projects included in latest spending bill will support accessible infrastructure, life sciences, clean drinking water, childcare, economic development, and more

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) applauded the enactment of a Fiscal Year 2024 government spending bill that includes \$10,036,031 in federal Community Project Funding for 11 projects across the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District. These projects will support investments to build a more just and equitable Massachusetts 7th by advancing accessible infrastructure, life sciences, clean drinking water, childcare, economic development, and more.

“In this moment of layered crises for our Commonwealth and country, it’s imperative that we advance policies and budgets that are as intersectional as the challenges our communities face,” said Rep. Pressley. “I’m proud to have secured these critical resources for municipalities and grassroots organizations in the Massachusetts 7th, which will help change the lives of our constituents and continue building the just and equitable district we deserve. Together, we’ll continue delivering for our communities.”

Rep. Pressley championed funding for these projects that will bring life-saving resources to her constituents by promoting the life sciences; investing in clean drinking water, childcare, and early education; modernizing greenspace, school, and roadway infrastructure; supporting young parents; promoting economic development; and more. The projects funded in the current appropriations bill include:

- \$963,000 for Nubian Square Life Sciences Community Laboratory (Northeastern University)
- \$959,752 for Tri-Town Water Treatment Plant Project (Town of Randolph)
- \$500,000 for Brooke House Village Center (2Life Communities)
- \$922,000 for Managing Trauma in Corrections (Roca, Inc.)
- \$1,000,000 for Center for Family Well-being (Children’s Services of Roxbury)
- \$425,000 for Early Education and Child Care Capital Renovations (Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center)
- \$1,000,000 for Franklin Field Modernization (Boston Housing Authority)
- \$850,000 for Highland Avenue Streetscape Project (City of Somerville)
- \$1,666,279 for Madison Park Technical Vocational High School Redesign and Renovation (Boston Public Schools)
- \$250,000 for Economic Mobility Hub at Rindge Commons (Just a Start, Inc.)
- \$1,500,000 for Young Parenting Living Program Renovations (St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children)

In the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations bill, Rep. Pressley secured nearly \$14 million for 15 community projects across the district. In the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bill, she secured over \$8 million for 10 community projects across the Massachusetts 7th, capping off years of advocacy by the Congresswoman and local leaders. Additional projects are anticipated in the second Fiscal Year 2024 government spending bill.

In January 2024, Rep. Pressley visited Somerville to celebrate the \$2.4 million in federal funding she secured to support the community-led transformation of the Clarendon Hill housing community, an ethnically, linguistically and economically diverse neighborhood.



## Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

accidents between 2017 and 2021 that involved drowsy driving.	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.	Mon. March 4	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:26 a.m. Senate 11:13 a.m. to 11:31 a.m.
95 percent — Percent of nationwide drivers who perceive drowsy driving to be very or extremely dangerous.		Tues. March 5	No House session No Senate session
18 percent — Of the 95 percent of drivers who perceive drowsy driving to be very or extremely dangerous, the percent who say they have engaged in drowsy driving in the past 30 days.		Wed. March 6	House 11:03 a.m. to 5:11 p.m. No Senate session
HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?		Thurs. March 7	House 11:08 a.m. to 11:51 a.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:51 a.m.
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	During the week of March 4-8 the House met for a total of seven hours and 17 minutes and the Senate met for a total of one hour and one minute.	Fri. March 8	No House session No Senate session
Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com			



## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

**Upcoming events:**

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

**St. Patrick's Day Luncheon** – Thursday, March 14th starting at 11:00 a.m. at The George Dilboy Post located at 351 Summer Street. \$10. Per person – Join us for an afternoon of music, a lunch of corned beef and cabbage and a performance by the Rebecca McGowan School of Irish Dance. Please RSVP by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Pioneering Women of Early Rock and Roll – Cultural Series Event** – Thursday, March 21st at our Holland Street Center. When it comes to the early days of rock 'n' roll some of the most pioneering and powerfully influential figures were women. This show will highlight women who were instrumental in making rock and roll what it is today. The Retro Polatin Duo, Jill Goldman and David Polatin, will sing, play, and discuss some of the women who defied the odds and changed the landscape of rock and roll. Portuguese Lunch from J&J Restaurant and performance is brought to you at no cost by Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Multicultural Meal Program, a City of Somerville, ARPA funded program. Please reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Intergenerational Poetry** – Mondays, March 25th, April 1st and 8th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. The Somerville Council on Aging, in collaboration with Harvard University's Poetry without Borders course, are hosting intergenerational sessions to learn about and celebrate poetry. Over three sessions, we will be discussing and writing works of poetry. No experience with poetry is required and creative writing will be optional. If you have any questions and to RSVP please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or email Natasha at

nnaim@somervillema.gov

**Beginner's De-Cluttering Group** – Thursday, March 14th from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Does the thought of spring cleaning overwhelm you? Have you tried to de-clutter only to find yourself stuck? If you are looking for tips and tricks on how to remove some of your belongings, look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging. The Somerville Council on Aging is running a Beginner's De-Cluttering support group. Using the Buried In Treasure curriculum, we will explore ways to reduce the amount of clutter in our homes as well as prevent clutter from accumulating. This six-week group is open to residents of Somerville and Cambridge over the age of 60. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov

**Cultural Musical Event** – Wednesday, March 27th starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Part lecture, part concert. Come explore the world through music, as vocalist and educator Tamara Jokic discusses the music of the Mediterranean, and performs songs in multiple languages, from Spanish and Hebrew to Serbian and Portuguese — while bringing their historical and cultural contexts to life via stories, images, and video. Tamara Jokic, an international educator, Sony Recording Artist, and winner of Berklee's Outstanding Vocalist Award, has performed across the world, from European operas to NYC's Carnegie Hall. Lunch will be provided by SCES at 12:00 p.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**Designing Your Retirement, A Path to a Happy, Healthy and Fulfilling Retirement** – Friday, March 22nd at 11:00 a.m. in our Holland Street Center. Many enter retirement with little planning, expecting retirement will be an endless vacation. Unfortunately, some will discover they have too much free time or are occasionally bored. Dr. Zwerling presents a process – based on scientific literature, expert opinion, and common sense – that will empower you to design a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement. It is never too late to build a better retirement! RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317. Grab and Go lunch available upon request.

**Nutrition Myths: Fact or Fiction** – Thursday, March 28th starting at 11:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join Somerville Cambridge Elder Services and the Somerville Council on Aging for a nutritious hot lunch and a discussion on Nutrition Myths. Celebrate March

Nutrition Month and our dedication to nutrition and wellness for local adults. Meet the dedicated Nutrition Staff from SCES and learn about their meal options and other available nutrition services. To RSVP call 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 (the COA Reservation Line.)

**General Nutrition Classes** – Mondays starting at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom and 12:30 p.m. in person at the Ralph & Jenny Center. Wednesday, March 21st and 28th starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. New and returning members are welcome! To RSVP, please call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

**LCR Game Day** – Wednesday, March 20th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Knitting Group** – Tuesday, March 19th & March 26th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Looking to learn or improve your knitting skills? Learn how to knit a hat with Natasha. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@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.

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

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



## MBTA makes further progress on expedited critical track work on Green Line

The MBTA announced the completion of critical track work on the Green Line, which removed 11 safety-related speed restrictions. Crews accomplished this critical work due to unencumbered access to track areas while Green Line service was suspended on the B branch between Copley and Babcock Street, on the C branch between Copley and Cleveland Circle, and on the D branch between Copley and Brookline Hills from February 20 to March 8.

Located near Ayr Road and Beacon Street in Brookline, one speed restriction removed during the suspension on the C branch was the oldest in the system at over 900 days old. Thanks to the MBTA team's coordination and work, removing this restriction this month means the MBTA does not need to suspend service on the C branch in the fall as previously planned.

Additionally, a thorough inspection confirms no relation exists between this Green Line work and the derailment that occurred on Saturday, March 9, near Kenmore Station. Prior to reopening the Green Line at 5 AM following the latest construction work, rigorous testing was conducted, including running multiple test trains. More than 70 Green Line trolleys had safely traveled through Kenmore Station prior to the incident. The post-derailment inspection corroborated the results from the post-diversion testing, confirming that the switches were functioning without any defects, that all track and switch replacement work was successfully accomplished, and that the replaced track and switches are performing well. The investigation into the cause of the derailment is now isolated to the incident car itself. The MBTA will continue to provide details as they are confirmed.

"The incredible amount of work that we accomplished, from tracks to signals to station work, during this 18-day shutdown is a testament to the dedicated workforce committed towards making meaningful improvements," said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. "We took full advantage of this outage and by closely coordinating internally and externally, we maximized the diversion opportunity, getting critical work done. It's important for all to know that following Saturday's derailment, we have determined that the track work was completed properly. This was verified prior to reopening the Green Line and recertified post incident. I'm proud of the work done to date to reverse years of disinvestment but mindful of the work still ahead. The public deserves a safe and reliable system and we thank them for their patience and support as we continue tackling the challenges ahead to rebuild and restore our infrastructure."

Infrastructure improvements were accomplished along the Green Line. Complimentary photo by the MBTA Customer and Employee Experience Department.

The important work accomplished on the Green Line means riders will experience a more reliable trip with fewer unplanned service disruptions related to older tracks, older infrastructure, signal issues, or power problems. Riders will also be provided with a safer ride as a result of this state of good repair work.

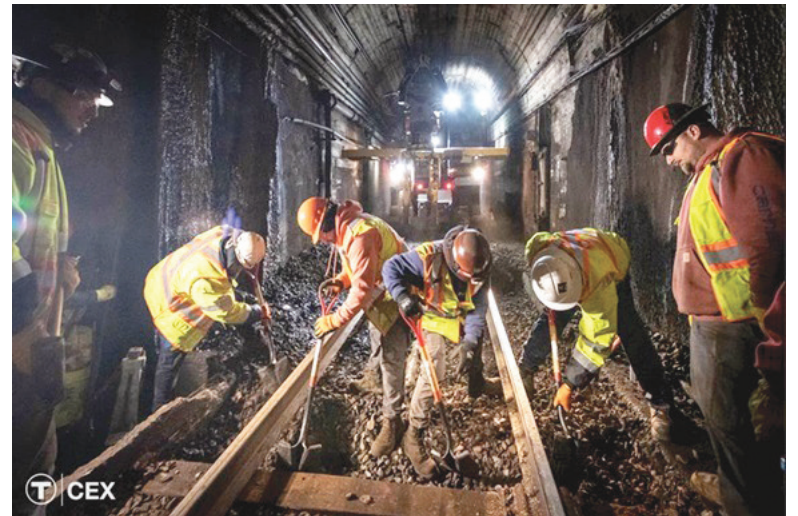
Crews performed overhead catenary wire work on the Green Line during the shutdown. The overhead wires provide power to the Green Line trolleys. Complimentary photo by the MBTA Customer and Employee Experience Department.

Crews continued to maximize the Green Line shutdown in a number of ways. With unencumbered access to Green Line stations, crews were able to accomplish station enhancements and amenity upgrades like new flooring and lighting, which further improved the customer experience. Additionally, through extensive planning and close coordination between contractor crews and multiple MBTA Operations departments, the MBTA was able to maximize the shutdown time by having numerous contractor crews and MBTA personnel working side-by-side and collaboratively within the very tight and confined underground Green Line tunnel area in order to be as efficient as possible during the shutdown in service.

Among this critical work:

- ✦ Approximately 13,000 feet of rail was installed by MBTA Maintenance of Way and contractor crews.
- ✦ Over 4,000 feet of restraining rail was replaced.
- ✦ Over 21,000 linear feet of track was tamped.
- ✦ Over 1,300 ties were replaced and 93 rail welds were performed.
- ✦ Nearly 1,500 feet of full depth track construction was performed.
- ✦ Over 1,800 tie plates and over 1,500 huck bolt assemblies, which connect the restraining rail to the running rail, were replaced.
- ✦ 2,850 feet of overhead catenary wire was replaced with additional wire inspections performed.
- ✦ Critical switch installation and replacement work was performed.
- ✦ Station inspections were performed.
- ✦ Hands-on tunnel inspections were performed with leak sealing as needed.
- ✦ Work to install more electronic E Ink signs and solar panels at street-level Green Line stops was accomplished.
- ✦ Signal fiber was installed near Fenway station.
- ✦ Critical overhead catenary wire work was accomplished near the Fenway station portal area.
- ✦ Security and emergency management enhancements were performed.

Crews performed track and tie replacement work along the Green Line tracks.



— MBTA



# Morrison Ave. flood relief and water quality improvements community meeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, and Ward 5 Councilor Naima Sait invite you to join a virtual community meeting to learn about flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Morrison Avenue (Cedar Street to Grove Street) and the surrounding neighborhood.



The meeting will take place Monday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. Visit [somerville-ma.gov/morrisonave](https://somerville-ma.gov/morrisonave) to learn more.

At this meeting, city staff will introduce the project and share initial concept designs. Following the presentation, residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and provide feedback.

The City of Somerville is making substantial systemwide investments to modernize its sewer and stormwater infrastructure. As part of this effort, the city will be installing new drainage infrastructure and rehabilitating the existing sewer system along Morrison Avenue (between Cedar Street and Grove St.) as well as throughout the surrounding neighborhood. This project will reduce flood risk in the surrounding area and help maintain the water quality of local rivers.

In addition to the underground utility improvements, this project will also include street safety improvements and green infrastructure (drainage features designed to mimic natural processes such as irrigated planting areas, bioretention basins with select soils and plants that catch and filter stormwater, and new trees) throughout the neighborhood.

This project is one of a series of actions the city is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville’s infrastructure. Final designs are currently anticipated to be completed by fall 2025. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as spring 2026. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change.

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Relics of last autumn... — Photo by Denise Provost

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why do Irish people recycle?  
They like to go green.

## On This Day in History March 13

- 0607 – The 12th recorded passage of Halley’s Comet occurs.
- 1519 – Hernando Cortez lands in what will become Mexico.
- 1660– A statute is passed limiting the sale of slaves in the colony of Virginia.
- 1781 – Astronomer William Herschel discovers the planet Uranus.
- 1793– Eli Whitney patents the cotton gin.
- 1861 – Jefferson Davis signs a bill authorizing slaves to be used as soldiers for the Confederacy.
- 1918 – Women are scheduled to march in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in New York due to a shortage of men.
- 1935 – A three-thousand-year-old archive is found in Jerusalem confirming biblical history.
- 1957 – The FBI arrests Jimmy Hoffa on bribery charges.
- 1991 – Exxon pays \$1 billion in fines for the clean-up of the Alaskan oil spill.

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GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13</b>		2:30 AM	SPS Capacity Study Presentation		em Português	6:30 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
6:30 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV	7:00 AM	Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II	2:00 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond	7:30 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/Phelan
7:15 AM	Museo Inmigrante	8:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference			8:00 AM	Museum of Bad Art Tour
9:00 AM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan	9:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol	3:30 PM	School Committee Update	9:00 AM	SomerViva em Portugues
11:05 AM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference	9:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	4:00 PM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan	9:30 AM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan
12:00 PM	City Council Meeting	10:00 AM	School Committee Update	6:05 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	11:35 AM	Talking Business: Night Life
1:00 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	10:30 AM	Museo Inmigrante	6:30 PM	School Committee Meeting	12:00 PM	City Council Meeting
3:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting	12:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	8:10 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All	4:00 PM	Museo Inmigrante
4:32 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	12:30 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All	8:30 PM	Museo Inmigrante	5:40 PM	Talking Business: Night Life
5:00 PM	SPS Capacity Study Presentation	1:00 PM	Cultural Capacity Forum	10:10 PM	School Committee Update	7:00 PM	School Committee Meeting - LIVE
6:20 PM	Museo Inmigrante	2:05 PM	SPS Capacity Study Presentation	10:40 PM	SPD Ride Along	10:00 PM	School Committee Update
8:00 PM	SomerViva em Portugues	3:30 PM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/Phelan	11:00 PM	Museum of Bad Art Tour	10:30 PM	Museo Inmigrante
8:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	4:00 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond	<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 17</b>		<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 19</b>	
9:00 PM	Museo Inmigrante	5:10 PM	SPD Ride Along	12:00 AM	City Council Meeting	12:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
10:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	5:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	7:00 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/Phelan	12:30 AM	City Council Meeting
11:00 PM	Museum of Bad Art Tour	6:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting	7:30 AM	School Committee Update	7:00 AM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 14</b>		7:32 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	8:00 AM	SomerViva em Portugues		
12:00 AM	School Committee Meeting	8:00 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	8:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	8:10 AM	Somerville Museum: Access for All
2:00 AM	School Committee Update	8:30 PM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	9:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol	8:30 AM	Senior Circuit - Climate Change
2:30 AM	Museo Inmigrante	10:30 PM	School Committee Update	9:30 AM	Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan	9:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
7:00 AM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/Phelan	11:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting	9:30 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising
7:30 AM	City Council Meeting	11:30 PM	Somerville Museum: Access for All	2:00 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	11:30 AM	Talking Business: Night Life
8:15 AM	SPD Ride Along	<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 16</b>		2:30 PM	Museo Inmigrante	12:00 PM	Greek Independence Day 2023
8:30 AM	Talking Business: Night Life	12:00 AM	Museo Inmigrante	4:15 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond	1:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
9:00 AM	SomerViva em Portugues	1:40 AM	Somerville Museum: Access for All	5:30 PM	Ayanna Pressley Press Conference	1:30 PM	Museo Inmigrante
9:30 AM	Haiti: Resilience Rising	2:00 AM	SomerViva en Espanol	6:30 PM	Talking Business: Night Life	3:00 PM	Somerville Museum
11:30 AM	School Committee Update	2:30 AM	Talking Business: Night Life	7:00 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	4:06 PM	Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/Phelan
12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting	7:00 AM	Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy	7:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	4:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
2:00 PM	SPS Capacity Study Presentation	7:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	8:00 PM	City Council Meeting 3-14-24	6:02 PM	Talking Business: Night Life
3:30 PM	School Committee Update	8:00 AM	SPS Capacity Study Presentation	<b>MONDAY, MARCH 18</b>		6:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol
7:00 PM	City Council Meeting	9:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	12:00 AM	SomerViva em Portugues	7:00 PM	Three Kings Day Celebration
<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 15</b>		10:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting	12:30 AM	Driver's License Info Session	7:30 PM	SomerViva em Portugues
12:00 AM	Talking Business: Night Life	11:32 AM	Talking Business: Night Life		em Português	8:00 PM	School Committee Update
12:30 AM	Museo Inmigrante	12:00 PM	SomerViva em Portugues	2:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting	8:30 PM	School Committee Meeting
2:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol	12:30 PM	Driver's License Info Session			11:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait

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<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13</b>		2:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs John Paul II	2:05 PM	SHS Baseball vs Medford	3:30 PM	School Committee Update
8:00 AM	Boston Debate League City Championships	3:30 PM	School Committee Update	4:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs E Boston	4:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs E Boston
		4:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs E Boston	6:00 PM	SHS Evening of Song	6:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert
10:15 AM	el Sistema Spring Concert	6:00 PM	Brown School Winter Concert	7:30 PM	SHS Hockey vs Hopedale	7:00 PM	School Committee Update
11:00 AM	B Team Intramural Soccer Championship	7:00 PM	School Committee Update	9:00 PM	SHS Winter Concert	7:30 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023
12:00 PM	Boys' Intramural Soccer Championship	7:30 PM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023	10:30 PM	SHS Girls' GLAX vs Matignon	8:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Hopedale
1:00 PM	Girls' Intramural Soccer Championship	8:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Hopedale	<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 17</b>		9:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge
		9:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Cambridge	12:00 AM	SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English	11:00 PM	WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert
2:00 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond	11:00 PM	WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert	1:30 AM	Boston Debate League City Championships	<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 19</b>	
3:30 PM	SHS Hockey vs Hopedale	<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 15</b>		7:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott	12:00 AM	School Committee Meeting
5:00 PM	Boston Debate League City Championships	12:00 AM	SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English	8:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea	8:00 AM	Boston Debate League City Championships
7:15 PM	el Sistema Spring Concert	1:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere	10:00 AM	School Committee Meeting	10:15 AM	el Sistema Spring Concert
8:00 PM	B Team Intramural Soccer Championship	8:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott	12:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs E Boston	11:00 AM	B Team Intramural Soccer Championship
9:00 PM	Boys' Intramural Soccer Championship	9:30 AM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea	2:00 PM	Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert	12:00 PM	Boys' Intramural Soccer Championship
10:00 PM	Girls' Intramural Soccer Championship	1:00 PM	Boston Debate League City Championships	3:00 PM	SHS Winter Concert	1:00 PM	Girls' Intramural Soccer Championship
11:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Hopedale	3:08 PM	Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert	4:30 PM	WHCIS Kindergarten Winter Concert	2:00 PM	Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 14</b>		4:00 PM	SHS Winter Concert	5:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott	3:30 PM	SHS Hockey vs Minnechaug
12:30 AM	SHS Baseball vs Cambridge	5:30 PM	WHCIS Kindergarten Winter Concert	6:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea	6:00 PM	Boston Debate League City Championships
2:00 AM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea	6:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs Swampscott	8:00 PM	School Committee Meeting	8:15 PM	el Sistema Spring Concert
8:00 AM	Brown School Winter Concert	7:30 PM	SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea	10:00 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs E Boston	9:00 PM	B Team Intramural Soccer Championship
9:00 AM	School Committee Update	9:00 PM	School Committee Meeting	<b>MONDAY, MARCH 18</b>			
9:30 AM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023	11:30 PM	SHS Girls Basketball vs E Boston	12:00 AM	SHS Baseball vs Cambridge	10:00 PM	Boys' Intramural Soccer Championship
10:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Lexington	<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 16</b>		1:30 AM	SHS Softball vs Chelsea	11:00 PM	Girls' Intramural Soccer Championship
11:30 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Revere	12:47 AM	SHS Hockey vs Hopedale	8:00 AM	Brown School Winter Concert		
1:00 PM	WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert	2:04 AM	SHS Volleyball Playoff vs GLT	9:00 AM	School Committee Update		
		8:00 AM	SHS Evening of Song	9:30 AM	Scrapheap Showdown 2023		
		10:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Hopedale	10:00 AM	SHS Hockey vs Lexington		
		11:30 AM	SHS Winter Concert	11:30 AM	SHS Girls Basketball vs Revere		
		1:00 PM	SHS Girls' GLAX vs Matignon	1:00 PM	WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert		
				2:00 PM	SHS Hockey vs John Paul II		



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Cannabis Control Commission (MCCC) Chair, **Ryan Dominguez**, founder and executive director of the Massachusetts Cannabis Coalition, **Sarah Patel**, Founder and Owner of **Kelia and Chris Vining**, Co-Founder and Owner of **The Goods**, **Nairobi Sanchez**, CEO of **Comunidad Consulting and Flower to the Podcast** host will moderate. Attendees can ask questions and participate in an all-access networking after the panel. To reserve a spot visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/embracing-cannabis-on-main-street-pb-mcc-the-goods-tickets-858695690927>.

Join **Councilor Lance Davis**, the **Green Soul Organics, LLC** team, and the **City of Somerville** for a **Neighborhood Meeting** under SZO Section 15.1.3 The meeting will be held via Zoom **Thursday March 14**, at 6:00 p.m. Join them to meet with the project applicant and discuss the plan for an **Adult Use Cannabis Retail Store** located at 23 Holland Street. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://bit.ly/49zIABV>.

**Somerville PorchFest 2024** will take place on **Saturday, May 11** (rain date May 12) from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Perhaps you've sat on your porch and overheard a neighbor strumming guitar on another porch? Porchfest takes this idea and multiplies it. This is not a festival per se but rather a community event where Somervillians share their love of playing and listening to music ... from their porch, driveways, yards, etc. Registration is now open: <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest-2024/>.

**Cambridge Mothers Out Front**, along with **350 MA-Cambridge/Somerville** and the **First Parish of Cambridge UU Environmental Justice Team**, is hosting a public forum on **March 20** about transitioning off gas to heat our buildings, including a presentation about networked geothermal energy, an innovative solution that is gaining momentum, and an update from **Mass. Representative Steven Owens** about state legislation currently in process. **Wednesday, March 20**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., **First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist**, 1446 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA.

**Somerville Little League 2024 Spring registration** is open. Go to [www.somervillelittleleague.org](http://www.somervillelittleleague.org) to register.

Are you a member of **Somerville High School's class of 1974**? The class of 2024 is looking for participants for this year's **Class Day festivities** which will take place on **Friday, May 31**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at **Somerville High School**. They are looking for 50 graduates in total from 1974 to participate. If you would like to take part in the festivities, visit SPS Facebook page and fill out the Google Form by **March 15**. The Class of 2024 looks forward to seeing you. Email any questions to **Irma Calderon** at [icalderon@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:icalderon@k12.somerville.ma.us).

The **Somerville High School club crew team** is looking for athletes to join their team. No experience necessary. The Somerville High School Rowing Team meets **Mondays through Fridays** from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the **Blessing of the Bay Boat House** on 32 Shore Drive in Somerville. Sign up today. <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sportsregistration>.

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition's Amazon Wish Lists** are updated monthly with the most requested items from their food pantry to meet the needs of their clients experiencing food insecurity. If you would like to learn more and donate through our wish lists, please see the link here: <https://bit.ly/SHCLinks>.

**Food For Free** announced their newest event, **Hoops for Hunger**. A 3 on 3 basketball tournament. People of all genders, ages 14 and older, are welcome to create a team of 4 and square up against other supporters of Food For Free. This will be a single elimination, 16 team tournament. Teams of 4 will compete to win the ultimate prize, and the first team to 21 points will move onto the next round. Teams will be allowed 3 timeouts per game and will adhere to traditional basketball rules monitored by a referee. Team registration deadline is **April 12**. Register your team here. <https://foodforfree.org/hoops-forhunger/>.

**Carnaval** will be here soon. If you are a vendor, make sure you submit an application soon. This will be in our stories as well: <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/carnaval>

**Somernova** has some new and exciting events coming up. **Wednesday, March 13**: Happening the second Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., The Dojo hosts an Open-Mic Teen Night. The event will feature fun games, food, and great music all night long. Hosted at The Dojo at 15 Properzi Way, Somerville. **Sunday, March 17**: Somerville Bike Kitchen, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, is hosting the next session of its Winter Workshops focused on Rim Brakes. Come maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. **Wednesday, March 27**: Each month, The Dojo hosts Gaming is Not a Crime by YouthStream. Come build community through playing your favorite games. The event features cash prizes and pizza and starts at 6:00 p.m. Hosted at **The Dojo** at 15 Properzi Way, Somerville. For more information visit Somernova at <https://somernova.com/>.

Looking to grow your **Portuguese language skills**? With **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds** awarded by the **City of Somerville, Lesley University** is offering a virtual Portuguese II course for Somerville community members that runs **March 18 through May 8 on Mondays and Wednesdays** from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. This course is intended for individuals with prior knowledge of Portuguese. Applicants must be a Somerville resident or an employee in the City of Somerville. Learn more and apply at [lesley.edu/arpa](https://lesley.edu/arpa).

**Mudflat and East Somerville Main Streets** are looking for a muralist to uniquely design and execute a painted mural for the left side, western-facing façade of the Mudflat building at 81 Broadway. The mural dimensions will be approximately 20 feet wide x 13 feet high. East Somerville Main Streets is accepting applications for the next **East Somerville Mural**. Applications will be accepted until **March 22**, you can find the application and mural details here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvEQM-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvEQM-dVTZ1CtprlsHRkmCRF3yUdA2irm-hoDD4oBwK9F48C6A/viewform)

[dVTZ1CtprlsHRkmCRF3yUdA2irm-hoDD4oBwK9F48C6A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvEQM-dVTZ1CtprlsHRkmCRF3yUdA2irm-hoDD4oBwK9F48C6A/viewform).

**Groundwork Somerville** is hiring. Seeking diverse candidates who are passionate about urban agriculture and addressing food access and insecurity issues in Somerville. Are you an experienced urban agriculture advocate who is interested in growing culturally relevant crops and sharing the abundance with the community. Find the full job description on their website [www.groundworksomerville.org](http://www.groundworksomerville.org).

The **Somerville Arts Council** also has a **call to all musicians for ArtBeat 2024**. Calls are now available. Submission **Deadline April 15**. To learn more visit <https://beta.somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/>. Now in its 38th year ArtBeat is one of their largest festivals of the season. They invite applicants to explore all themes related to "wild." Bands and musicians are invited to apply to play on two different stages. They seek music that lends itself to a festival environment, typically not classical or purely instrumental jazz for this setting.

The **City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Office**, and **Housing Families Inc.**, opened an **overnight warming center** for the remainder of the winter 2024 season. The warming center will operate seven nights a week from 6:45 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., on the second floor of the Armory (191 Highland Ave). Guests will have access to free hot and cold meals, water, bathrooms, yoga mats, and space to sleep. Learn more at [somervillema.gov/warmingcenter](https://somervillema.gov/warmingcenter).

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

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Emmy winner Gordon Clapp

to star in 'Robert Frost:

This Verse Business'

Article by Off the Shelf Correspondent Joanne Barrett  
Directed by Gus Kaikkonen  
One Week Only: April 23 - 28, 2024,  
at Calderwood Pavilion

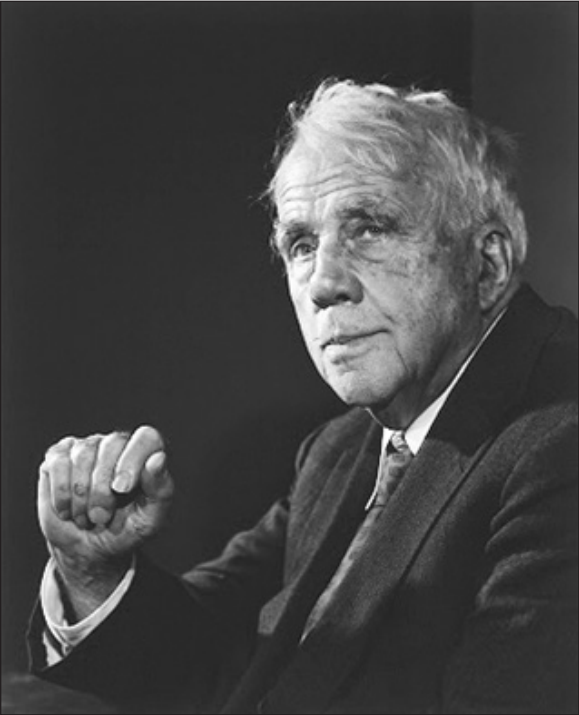
Emmy-winning actor Gordon Clapp (NYPD Blue) will bring his acclaimed portrayal of poet Robert Frost to Boston this Spring in the one-man show *Robert Frost: This Verse Business* by local playwright A.M. Dolan. It's an entertaining portrait of the great poet and platform legend whose public "talks" were hot tickets for nearly half a century and an illuminating glimpse of the old bard at home, aware of his fame and failures, with poems still to write and "promises to keep."

Directed by Gus Kaikkonen, performances will run from April 23-28, 2024, (Press Performance April 23 or 24) in the Roberts Studio Theatre at Boston's Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, Tuesday – Friday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75 – \$25. For more information, visit [bostontheatrescene.com](http://bostontheatrescene.com) or call 617-617 933 8600.

"The Boston performances reflect a homecoming of sorts for the poet, who had a home on Beacon Hill and then, for the last two decades, in Cambridge on Brewster St.," said Dolan. "He died in Boston, just weeks after giving his final 'talk' at the Ford Hall Forum. 2024 is the 150th anniversary of his birth, and April is 'Poetry Month.' The time felt right for the Boston premiere."

"Frost is a voice that we need in this century," Clapp said. "I feel like I'm bringing him into this time again."

In Clapp's acclaimed portrait, the flinty old poet shares his verse from memory, along with witty "wild surmises" on art, religion, science, "radicals," and "con-



servatives." Culled from actual recordings and Frost's writings, the production reveals in measured glances both the public and private faces of an American icon, whose poems about rural New England became a canvas for exploring deeper philosophical and social ideas. Included in the play are best-known poems such as *Birches*, *Mending Wall*, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, and *The Road Not Taken*.

Clapp said that when he performs, he can feel an aura of expectation from certain audience members, hard-core Frost fans whom he calls "Frostaceans" (like crustaceans). But he doesn't attribute this energy to his acting. "They're addicted to the poetry, and they're so moved by it," Clapp said. "I don't give myself a lot of credit for that. It's Frost himself right there."

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Marc Zegans has penned seven collections of poems, most recently, *Lyon Street* (Bamboo Dart Press, 2022) and *The Snow Dead* (Cervena Barva Press, 2020), two spoken word albums, several immersive theatrical productions, including *Sirens*, *Dreams and a Cat* (co-written with D. Lowell Wilder, 2020), and many poetry films. *Ghost Book* (Kite String Press, 2024), a collaboration with fine art photographer Tsar Fedorsky, will be released in April. Marc lives by the coast in Northern California.



Tikkun

It is my time to scrape the crust,  
  
remove the rust, repair the tears,  
  
pull the dents, sand, and sand again,  
  
paint and buff, paint, and buff, until  
  
my soul sings silent with the gloss  
  
and deep glow of a lacquer door  
  
swung open on a quiet hinge.

— Marc Zegans

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

To See a World in a Grain of Sand

The Tufts University Department of Music presents To See a World in a Grain of Sand at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Monday, March 25th, 2024, at 8:00pm. 23 short piano pieces by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Bartok, Julia Perry, Regina Harris Baiocchi, John McDonald, Kareem Roustom, and Yehudi Wyner.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit [as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter](http://as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter) or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617.627.2253.

Due to university COVID regulations, live audience attendees at Tufts Music events must be prepared to present a Tufts ID or Covid Vaccination Card showing that they have been VACCINATED and BOOSTED.



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