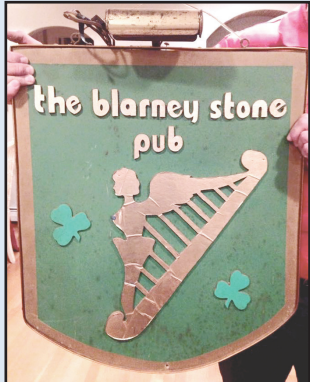




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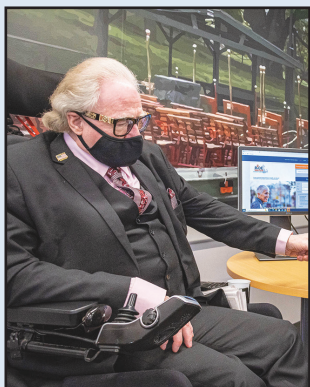
### Blarney Stoned

page 3



### A toolkit for artists

page 4



### More accessibility for public transit

page 5

## City council discusses housing and infrastructure



The Somerville City Council is responding to calls to establish rent control measures by introducing a Home Rule petition on the matter.  
— Photo courtesy of CAAS

By Emilia Wisniewski

Rent stabilization, affordable housing funds and this year's Capital Investment Plan were among the many agenda items in the weekly City Council meeting on March 9.

The meeting, lasting nearly four hours, began by introducing a Home Rule petition to establish rent control to combat the rising rent costs across the city. "We all know that for almost everyone who's been lucky enough to get an apartment in Somerville, when they get those [rent increase] letters, there is not another place in Somerville that they can find," said President Ben Ewen-Campen.

Ewen-Campen said the petition is being filed now because it would have been "killed" on the legislative floor but, after the success of

Continued on page 4

## Five Somerville Authors: Their Inspiration

By Mina Rose Morales

Somerville writers met at the public library on Saturday, March 11 to discuss the inspiration for their work.

The afternoon began with Dave Ortega. He is a cartoonist from El Paso, Texas who relocated to Massachusetts when he found a job in graphic design at Harvard Square. He read an excerpt from his graphic novel *Días de Consuelo*. Ortega's graphic novel was inspired by his grandmother who grew up during the Mexican Revolution.

After Ortega, poet Denise Provost read from her chapbook *Curious Peach* and her collection of poems *City of Stories*.

"I think this is a stupid poem, but my editor nominated it for a Pushcart prize, which

Continued on page 4



(L to R) Somerville authors Kevin M. McIntosh, Denise Provost, Lloyd Schwartz, Lesley Bannatyne and Dave Ortega.  
— Photos by Mina Rose Morales

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CAAS's monthly **Somerville Renters Meeting** will be tonight, **Wednesday, March 15**, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Extra SNAP has ended, but everyone should be able to have the food they need. Join them this month to learn about food resources in Somerville. Please register at this link: <http://bit.ly/Somerville-Renters>.

\*\*\*\*\*








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. this **Sunday, March 19**, go by and cheer on the runners and see some of their very creative outfits. For more information and to register visit [www.raceofireland.com](http://www.raceofireland.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to former alderman and great guy, **Jack Connolly**. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends such as **Frances Accorto Gayron, Jim Halloran, Okie Oconnell, Patrick Fitzgerald, Kristin Gore, Sally Colman, Maria Parziale Pacheco, Neil Gillis Sr., Alexander Levering Kern, and Carla Hunter Gates** a very happy birthday. To all those that are also *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of March 15 – March 21 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>March 15</i>	Cloudy	42°/32°	6%	5%	NW 20 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>March 16</i>	Cloudy	47°/34°	4%	2%	NW 11 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>March 17</i>	Cloudy	50°/43°	20%	16%	SE 10 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>March 18</i>	Rain	50°/30°	77%	61%	W 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>March 19</i>	Sunny	39°/25°	0%	0%	W 17 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>March 20</i>	Sunny	49°/30°	1%	2%	W 11 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>March 21</i>	Sunny	49°/35°	9%	6%	W 10 mph

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

Volunteers sought for Patriots' Day Celebration and Colonial Fair at Foss Park

Help celebrate Paul Revere's famous ride from Boston to Lexington and Somerville's revolutionary history by volunteering to be a part of Somerville's Patriot's Day festivities. The city is seeking volunteers to help publicize and support activities at the Colonial Fair on Monday, April 17, at Foss Park, which follows a reenactment of Revere's ride. Both adults and Somerville students are welcome to sign up. Volunteers of all ages are needed in several areas including:

- + Community Outreach
- + Working with youth to create drawings about the Colonial Fair
- + Educating youth and visitors on what Somerville was like during Colonial times

Volunteer opportunities at the Fair for Somerville youth include:

- + Reading aloud short poems
- + Showing visitors how to play Colonial period games

Volunteers will learn how to play historical games, including Bilbo catchers, cat's cradle, hoop rolling, and ring toss, and lead visitors in these Colonial pastimes. Volunteers are encouraged, but not required, to dress in Colonial era garb. A limited selection of historical clothing is available for volunteers to borrow. Additionally, simple make-your-own instructions and resources will be shared with volunteers including those below.

Make Your Own Paper Tricorner Hat or Neck Ruffle

Paper hat and neck ruffle patterns: You'll find a pattern sheet from the JFK Library for both a paper traditional tricorner hat and paper neck ruffle (known as a cravat). You'll need to download, print, cut-out, and either staple or tape. The patterns are at [bit.ly/ColonialCutOuts](http://bit.ly/ColonialCutOuts). Instructional video: A video showing how to use the tricorner hat pattern above is at [bit.ly/PaperTriCornHatVideo](http://bit.ly/PaperTriCornHatVideo). Internet and Printing access: Internet access and free printing of up to 20 black-and-white (or 10 color) sheets of paper is available at all three Somerville Public Libraries ([bit.ly/SPLInternetAccess](http://bit.ly/SPLInternetAccess)).

For more information or to volunteer, contact Historic Events and Education Coordinator Brandon Wilson via [bwilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:bwilson@somervillema.gov) or 617-776-3938.



The Somerville Times

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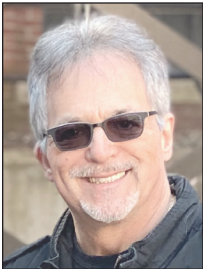


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Blarney Stoned



This article was first published in the March 11, 2020 edition of The Somerville Times.

St. Patrick's Day is one of my favorite times of the year. It's not just the boiled dinners and everyone wearing something green, it's more. It's the classic historic songs, the parades, and the general happy atmosphere that the day brings.

It's true that everyone's Irish on St. Pad-dy's Day. Even though I'm 100% Italian, I rank S.t Patrick's Day right up there with Christmas and Halloween. Somerville folks have always celebrated the wearing of the green in style.

Lots of places around the city will be having festivities on and around St. Pat-rick's Day. The list is long ranging from local breweries holding parties to family celebrations. How about a Millennium Age Party at Fenway Johnnies on Brook-line Ave. in Boston? No thanks. A Week-

end Disco Party at Florian Hall in Boston with a live band and ... Deney Terrio? Boy, nothing says St. Patty's Day like an aging disco icon and disco music.

Maybe you're in the mood for a St. Pat-rick's Day cruise on the Spirit of Boston? I'm sure lots of local Somerville establish-ments will be hosting events including The Burren in Davis Square.

There used to be a great place to cele-brate St Patrick's Day right around the corner, within stumbling distance of my house. It was The Blarney Stone Pub in the basement of the old Woodbridge Inn on College Ave., where Ciampa Manor is now. Here are some remembrances:

"I saw my first pitcher of green beer at The Woodbridge Inn. It was in the down-stairs lounge known as The Blarney Stone Pub." Here is how one Somerville guy re-members the Blarney Stone: "It was The Blarney Stone that helped me through my early college years. Just a great place, and, if memory serves me, never once did I see an outbreak of problems (fights, etc.). We all went, sang along and drank

heartily. And those of us who were male patrons were grateful we never had to use the women's room after hearing the tale of Seven Old Ladies."

He is referring to the Irish sing-along that tells of the seven ladies who unfor-tunately got stuck in the lava'try. That was one of the many songs that Somer-ville legend Jim Plunkett used to have the packed crowds singing along with at the top of their lungs. He and his guitar got that place rocking. Another favorite was Charlie on the MTA. Did he ever return? No, he never returned and his fate is still unknown. He may ride for-ever 'neath the streets of Boston, he's the man who never returned."

I know a guy who remembers when some of the well lubed patrons would actually dance on the tables. Someone recalled being at the Pub with Plunkett and singing Irish songs the night Richard Nixon resigned. I'll have to do an entire a story on my friend Jim Plunkett someday. He is still performing around and he is as good as ever.

Some (retired) teachers from different schools around the city used to meet there on Friday afternoons after a long week. They were such good customers that they often got free appetizers. They also re-minded us that The Blarney Stone had one of the best jukeboxes evah!

Another friend says, "I worked upstairs and drank downstairs and then walked home. Those were the days!" A friend adds, "Sitting up front where the band was on a Friday night was the place to be in the day. Jerry ran a great place and we often talk about those days."

Many times patrons would get a true taste of Ireland if they tripped on that



last step and may have kissed the Blarney Stone's ... sidewalk. Gosh and Begorrah!

The Woodbridge was destroyed by fires in 1979 and 1980. There's a shocker! Sus-picious fires I might add. I guess it was cheaper than just bulldozing the old place.

Hardcore St. Patrick's Day party peo-ple insist on celebrating in Charlestown or Southie. I'll be singing and playing pi-ano at a few parties. Some of my favorite Irish ditties are Whiskey in the Jar, Clan-cy, and The Wild Rover ( "...for it's no, nay, never!") The following is a parody I wrote to the tune of Dear Old Donegal. An Irish/Italian tune.

"You know that I ain't Irish, I'm as Ital-ian as can be

I lived in the North End I used to work at Polcari's

But some of my friends are Irish, like Fitzie and OB,

And on St Patrick's Day my goombas and me we go down to Southie ... hey there are now!

There's Anthony, Vinnie, Salvatore, Joey, Carmen and Rocco, Frankie and Bo

Pasquale and Dominic, Lenny and Paulie

Vito and Gino and

Continued on page 9



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## Artists' Toolkit: The Business of Art

Artists' Toolkit: The Business of Art is a mini-professional development series presented by the Somerville Arts Council and the Somerville Museum. In collaboration with Somerville Open Studios, this program provides useful resources to the Somerville cultural community to elevate their artistic practice.

**"What's Your Story?" – Enhancing Your Digital Presence** – Location: Somerville Museum

Date: Tuesday, April 4 (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

To register, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/artists-toolkit>

What's your artistic narrative?

By nature, artists wear multiple hats – not only do they have to be creative in their studios, but creative in how they present their work to the world. The internet can be a vast pool of knowledge, filled with numerous ways to promote your art. However, the rapidly changing trends and platforms in social media and marketing can often be both daunting and overwhelming. How do you find your voice? How can you be your own cheerleader and say "Hey, World, look at my art"? To help navigate some of these questions, the Somerville Arts Council, Somerville Museum, and Somerville Open Studios will host "What's Your Story: Enhancing Your Digital Presence" event – an in-depth presentation that will demystify the many facets of the marketing process. Featuring panelists Dave Ortega and Christina Balch, this forum will provide some useful tips on social media, art apps, reels vs. posts, generating effective email lists for newsletters, and general Marketing 101 to help you get ready for Somerville Open Studios and beyond.

**The Price is Right: The Art of the Sale** – Location: Somerville Museum

Date: Tuesday, April 18 (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)

To register, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/artists-toolkit>

How should I price my work? As artists, this can be an all-too familiar phrase and cyclical scenario. Your painting is done, but what's next? Finding the value of a finished piece can feel like a challenge and be a difficult hurdle to navigate: What's my worth? Should I have flexibility in my pricing? How do I establish relationships with galleries, retail venues, etc.? In this panel discussion, studio director and gallery professionals, Lynn Gervens (MudFlat Pottery Studio) and Marie Craig (Fountain Gallery), will define best industry practices, answer frequently asked questions about the selling process, and provide strategies for generating appropriate pricing for your work.



## Five Somerville Authors: Their Inspiration CONT. FROM PG 1

it clearly did not win," said Provost when referring to one of her poems. The audience laughed with her.

Her collection of poems *City of Stories* book cover is a photograph of residential streets in Somerville.

Lloyd Schwartz, Somerville's poet laureate, read from *The View from Somerville: An Anthology of Student Poetry*, which he edited. The anthology is a collection of

student poetry from Somerville High School.

"I love to think it's Somerville's emblem," said Schwartz when referring to the book cover. The book cover is a photograph of the mural on the side of the Winter Hill post office. It's a mural of the old Winter Hill.

Writer Lesley Bannatyne read from her short story collection *Unaccustomed to Grace*. She is the author of five books

about Halloween.

"I love books because they are like letters," said Bannatyne.

The event ended with author and teacher Kevin M. McIntosh. He read from his novel *Class Dismissed*. His book highlights his experience as an urban teacher learning and teaching in his classroom.

"One of the best things about being in Somerville is being surrounded by other writers," said Schwartz.



Dave Ortega looking at his graphic novel *Días de Consuelo*.

## City council discusses housing and infrastructure CONT. FROM PG 1

Boston city council's passing of its own Home Rule petition on March 8, he believed Somerville could pass their own proposal as well.

In addition to the petition, there was also resounding support for the protection of Somerville tenants. Massachusetts State Representative Mike Connelly filed the Tenant Protection Act in 2021 and said he believes tenants who are at risk of eviction are the ones who are disproportionately affected by wealth and social inequalities.

"We've really come a long way and, nevertheless, it's still an uphill battle," Connelly said.

"I think about what we need to do and, ultimately, we need to make housing a human right."

Connelly added that Somerville's petition should "mirror" what Boston drafted. The Boston proposal – passing in an 11-2 majority – caps year-over-year rent increases to a maximum of 10%, according to the March 8 meeting.

The entire council backed the legislation, even councilor Beatriz Gomez Mouakad who was hesitant at first.

"I work in construction and understand the increasing cost of this industry with the challenges faced with ever-rising ma-

terial costs and potential shortage of labor," Mouakad said. "I know some are concerned that these costs can put a strain on our housing industry...but this industry is only one part of the larger economy."

A large part of the meeting was dedicated to a presentation of Somerville's updated Capital Investment Plan of the current year, shown by Rich Raiche, Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management.

The Capital Investment Plan, a roadmap that details what large investments the city can make into infrastructure like buildings and streets, has significantly in-

creased its financial capacity in the last two decades to allow for more projects to be undertaken. An online portal has also been developed on ClearGov to provide in-depth details of the projects and financial figures.

"Our city departments engaged in defining these projects and investments are, like the constituents we serve, agents of change in rapidly evolving times," Raiche said. "Some needs and solutions are more clear than others, particularly as we strive to be on the progressive cutting edge."

The council further discussed repurposing and transferring \$3.5 million from the COVID-19

Stabilization Fund into affordable housing opportunities for low-income residents. Director of Housing Michael Feloney said funds should particularly go into the rehabilitation of Somerville Community Corporation's units, which had a fire incident in 2021.

"I don't think anybody on this council understands better how protracted the process of rebuilding after a house fire can be," said councilor J.T. Scott. "It's still just shocking to have [those] units completely off the market for affordable housing for that period of time, so glad we're fixing that."

Both requests were approved unanimously.



# Virtual town hall highlights MBTA and MCB’s efforts to make public transit more accessible

By Morgan Gaffney

The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind’s virtual town hall meeting on Friday marked a stride to further accessibility for those living with disabilities in the Boston area and beyond. The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), in collaboration with Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), discussed the services provided by MCB’s Orientation and Mobility Team, as well as MBTA’s Mobility Center, first opened in July 2022.

MCB’s Orientation and Mobility director, Ally Bull, described how the program helps the visually impaired learn to be able to navigate any environment safely and with confidence. Assistant general manager of the

MBTA’s Department of System Wide Accessibility, Laura Brelsford, detailed the new Mobility Center as a “one-stop shop filled with resources regarding accessible transportation options.”

The two initiatives have been working closely together to improve the traveling conditions of those who are blind or vision impaired.

The Orientation and Mobility team is made up of specialists who help visually impaired individuals develop skills to adjust to their environments using non-visual and auditory tactics, cane techniques, technology training, and any other skills clients may need. Clients begin with a consultation to establish goals with their Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS). They then undergo however many sessions

to achieve the goals and skills they have set for themselves with their COMS. Lessons can take place at homes, prisons, colleges, nursing homes, or any place the Orientation and Mobility team’s services are needed.

The MBTA’s Mobility Center focuses on directly making public transit more accessible to those with disabilities and elderly folks. They take on roles such as providing training for frontline employees like station ambassadors, group training for riders and staff, closely monitoring and responding to any feedback given about accessibility, 1:1 Individualized Travel Training, trip planning assistance, help with reduced fare applications, among many other services.

“Previously it was the Eligibility Center, but now the MBTA



has taken a more holistic approach in the way we provide services,” says Bianca Lightfoot, manager for Travel Training at the Mobility Center.

All services and trainings provided by the Mobility Center are free. 1:1 Travel Training, similar to MCB’s Orientation and Mobility Training, begins

with a pre-training assessment to set goals for trainees. Trainees then work together with trainers to help acquaint them with different routes and stations, and how to navigate them with their disability.

Transit Access 101 is a one-hour class held at the MBTA Emergency

*Continued on page 11*

## 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)

#### Sous Vide

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

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



# Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes on roll calls from the week of March 6-10. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

## \$368 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (S 23)

Senate 40-0, approved a \$368 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget. The House has already approved its own version of a \$363 million package. A House-Senate conference committee will work out a compromise package.

Provisions include \$7 million for coordinated wrap-around services for incoming immigrants and refugees; \$2 million for the reimbursement of SNAP benefits for victims of benefit theft; \$1.25 million for Family and Adolescent Health Services; \$44.9 for million Emergency Assistance Family Shelters and Services; \$65 million for the School Breakfast Program; \$7 million to address the needs of newly arrived immigrants and refugees; and \$1 million for a public awareness campaign to educate providers and the public about crisis pregnancy centers and pregnancy resource centers and the centers' lack of medical services. A total of \$250,000 of the \$1 million would be earmarked for Reproductive Equity Now's free abortion-related legal hotline.

The package also extends some pandemic-era programs, set to expire, including allowing public corporations and nonprofits to hold meetings by means of remote communication; extending the power of municipalities to allow outdoor dining services; and extending the ability of public bodies to allow remote participation by members in public meetings.

"This supplemental budget ensures that our commonwealth continues to support the most vulnerable among us while also building on the lessons we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "I'm proud to say that this body has proven once again that it has the courage to chart a course that leaves no place or person in the commonwealth behind. As I have said since the start of the pandemic, we must go 'back to better,' not 'back to normal.'"

"As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, the Legislature has taken the necessary steps to keep the economy of the commonwealth on a firm footing," said Senate Ways and Means Committee chair Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport). "The passage of this supplemental budget today utilizes robust tax revenues to its fullest effect, making substantial investments in economic development, housing, education and the social service safety net."

(A "Yes" vote is for the budget.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

### DIZOGLIO TO AUDIT THE LEGISLATURE

– State Auditor Diana DiZoglio announced she has launched an audit of the Massachusetts Legislature—something she promised in her campaign last year.

"As I committed, my office has begun an audit of the state Legislature," said DiZoglio. "We hope this will increase transparency, accountability and equity in an area of state government that has been completely ignored. Historically, the Legislature has been a closed-door operation, where committee votes have been hidden from the general public and legislation has been voted on in the dark of night."

"Taxpayers deserve more—they deserve the opportunity to weigh in on legislative, budgetary and regulatory matters that are important to them," continued DiZoglio. "Everyone should have equitable and transparent access to and information about all state-funded agencies, including the Legislature. Unfortunately, the Legislature has not been audited [by the state auditor] since 1922, while Massachusetts ranks as one of the least transparent and least accessible state governments in the nation. It is my hope that the Legislature welcomes the opportunity for an audit to uncover where we can, and must, do better as a state government. Our office looks forward to working with them."

"Under the Massachusetts Constitution, and as the separation of powers clause dictates, the Senate is required to manage its own business and set its own rules," said a spokesperson for Senate President Karen Spilka. "Those rules require that the Senate undergoes an audit every fiscal year by a certified public accounting firm experienced in auditing governmental entities and provides that audit to the public. Further, Senate business is made public through journals, calendars and recordings of each session, while payroll and other financial information is publicly available on the comptroller's website. If anyone wishes to view this information, it is available to the public."

"Massachusetts is the only state in the country in which all three branches of our state government—the executive, the judiciary and the Legislature—exempt themselves from public records laws," said Paul Craney, a spokesman for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "By most accounts we have possibly the least transparent state government in the country and it's a commonly held belief that the Legislature is where transparency and good governance principles go to die. If Auditor DiZoglio is actually able to make good on her promise to audit the Legislature, it will be a welcome check on the power of the most opaque state

government in the country and a victory for the people of the commonwealth."

Despite repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call, the following Democratic and Republican legislative leaders did not respond to a question asking them whether they support an audit of the Legislature by DiZoglio: House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy), House GOP Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading) and GOP Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester).

**AND THERE'S MORE** – Here are some more of the bills filed for consideration in the 2023-2024 Legislature:

### CHARGING ELECTRIC VEHICLE (SD 1165)

– Would direct the Department of Public Utilities to offer a rebate for consumers who choose to charge electric vehicles at off-peak hours when fewer people are likely to do so.

"We need to do more than just provide people the option of switching to more environmentally[-friendly] energy alternatives," said sponsor Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy). "We need to make sure those alternatives have a direct, positive impact on people's lives. This rebate program will make sure we're not just helping the planet. We're also helping the consumer while relieving undue stresses on our electrical infrastructure."

### AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (SD 2057)

– Would require that American Sign Language (ASL) is taught in all Bay State public elementary and secondary schools to increase interactions between hearing persons and deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, as well as children with autism. Current law allows but does not require schools to teach ASL.

"I sponsored the legislation to promote greater equity and inclusion in our public school systems," said Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow). "In recent years, it has become apparent that instruction in American Sign Language provides children with autism with increased opportunities for education and development. It is visually based, unaided and provides a mode of quick communication. American Sign Language is a language our students should get the opportunity to learn in our public school system, and it supports inclusion and involvement for all students."

### GRANTS TO SCHOOLS FOR ZERO-EMISSION SCHOOL BUSES (SD 2269)

– Would set up a program for the Education Department to provide grants to schools to encourage and incentivize the schools to purchase zero-emission school buses. The program would pay for the difference between the cost

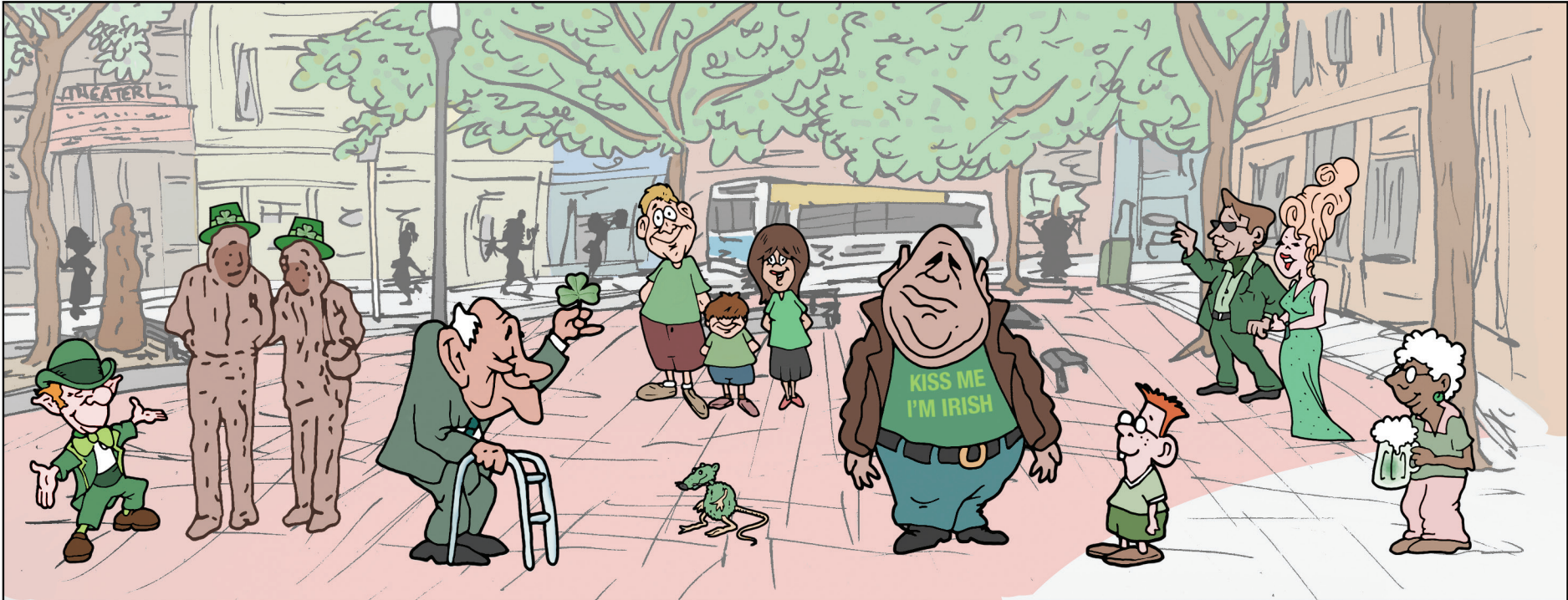
*Continued on page 15*



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 Friday this year, the occasion runs straight into the weekend, which both heightens the revelry and calls for moderation. At least it's Friday, a day when most people cut loose and celebrate the end of the work week.

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. We want everyone who celebrates to get through the weekend safely and in one piece once the party's over. After all, there's also next year.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

celebrating this week, we wish them a happy birthday.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Proactive maintenance is essential for

**healthy tree growth.** Now in its fourth year, the **city's Parks Tree Health Program** is currently underway, providing health assessments to 232 trees throughout seven parks this spring. To do this work, temporary park closures are required. Check park, closures before planning an outing to city parks at: <https://www.somervillema.gov/treehealth>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and **Ward 2 Councilor Jefferson Thomas Scott** invite the community to a virtual meeting on **Monday, March 27**, at 6:00 p.m. to learn about the city's construction of a **stormwater pump station at 10 Pop-**

**lar Street.** Work on the pump station is expected to begin this spring and to continue through 2025. Visit [somervillema.gov/poplarstreet](https://www.somervillema.gov/poplarstreet), or call the Engineering Division at 617-625-6600 x5400 to register to attend.

\*\*\*\*\*

After years of public pressure from **Safe Schools Somerville** members, the **Somerville School Committee** on **March 6** unanimously voted to adopt policy recommendations that would permanently **remove police from Somerville Public Schools.** The four recommendations came from the **Policing Subcommittee** and were: police will not be stationed in

the school building, the reasons for calling the police will be restricted to the states 2020 model MOU, police are precluded from relationship building with youth or intervening in student fights at school, and no school money will fund police.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Council of PTAs** is organizing an awesome **fundraising event** for the **Somerville High School Scholarship program.** Come to the **high school auditorium** on **March 31** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to cheer on SPS teachers and staff as they compete against teams from other Somerville schools in a "survey says" style game show. Tickets

Continued on page 12



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's  
**Olio**  
#867

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. How many people attended the first Academy Awards ceremony?

2. How long was the first Academy Awards ceremony?

3. How much did a ticket cost for the first Academy Awards ceremony?

4. When did the Academy Awards ceremony start to be broadcasted on radio?

5. What actor starred in the 1962 Oscar-winning movie Lawrence of Arabia?

6. What U.S. president was the first Irish Catholic to be elected to the
- office?

7. What's the oldest pub in Ireland?

8. Which U.S. city was the first to dye a river green in honor of St. Patrick's Day?

9. What's a leprechaun's occupation according to folklore?

10. What author was Grand Marshall for the New York St. Patrick's Day parade in 2011?

11. What was the tri-color Irish Flag hoped to symbolise?

12. What's a currach?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
2. Dolphins give each other names.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
THE 2010s

- ACROSS
1. Necktie alternative

6. Finish line

9. Show of appreciation

13. Biotic community

14. Hula dancer's necklace

15. House duty

16. Sofia Costanza Brigida Villani Scicolone's stage last name

17. International distress signal

18. Hogwarts professor, part werewolf

19. "Avengers: \_\_\_\_" second-highest grossing movie of all time

21. Annexed Black Sea peninsula

23. Santa \_\_\_\_, Orange County

24. Multicolored horse

25. Rand Paul's title, abbr.

28. Youngster

30. Type of spinner popular in the late 2010s

35. Between duet and quartet

37. Newspaper piece

39. Pope's court

40. Bohemian

41. Tonya and Harley Quinn to Margot Robbie, e.g.

43. Like Millie Bobby Brown and friends in "Stranger Things"

44. Prows

46. Vaulting prop

47. Fencer's blade

48. Animated story of Elsa and Anna

50. Greek salad ingredient

52. Make #26 Down

53. Look through a book

55. Good times

57. Global surveillance whistle-blower

61. Swedish audio streamer

65. BBQ spot

66. Words at the altar (2 words)

68. Beneficiary

69. Anti-seniors sentiment

70. Ides mo.

71. Bone hollow

72. Prepare potatoes

73. Tide's backward flow

74. City in France

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43			
44				45		46					47			
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

- DOWN
1. Having the means

2. Land of Israel

3. \_\_\_\_-cutting, broadcast TV phenom-

- enon

4. Opposite of alpha

5. Not owner

6. Something \_\_\_\_

7. Opposite of paleo

8. "Saturday Night Fever" music

9. Pal

10. Between trot and gallop

11. Operatic solo

12. Actor Sean

15. Healthcare facility

20. Bill de Blasio, e.g.

22. England's airforce

24. Recite rapidly (2 words)

25. Walking stick

26. Fielding mistake

27. Part of TNT

29. BTS' genre

31. Home to Blue Devils, 2015 NCAA winners

32. Complain
33. Downy duck

34. Policeman's shocker

36. Court of law opener

38. Mark for omission

42. Frame job

45. Not often

49. Amal Clooney \_\_\_\_ Alamuddin

51. Naturally footless

54. Japanese cartoon art

56. Expressionless

57. Junk e-mail

58. Hindu serpent deity

59. Singer-songwriter Redding

60. Item on Santa's list

61. Acidic kind of apple

62. A fan of

63. Plant in 'Zach Galifianakis' 2019 movie

64. Those not opposed

67. Popular meme move
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



OBITUARY

David F. Fitzgerald



**FITZGERALD, David F.**, of Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA, formerly of Somerville, MA, passed away peacefully on January 17, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of 37 years to Diane (Karopoulos) Fitzgerald. Loving father of David Jr. and his wife Eva of San Diego, CA, Kara Fitzgerald and Evan Fitzgerald both of Encinitas, CA. Devoted brother of Linda (Fitzgerald) DeRoma of West Roxbury, MA, Paula Fitzgerald of West Roxbury, MA, Kathy (Fitzgerald) Yandle of Roslindale, MA, John Fitzgerald of Saugus, MA, and Robert Fitzgerald of Laguna Niguel, CA. He is predeceased by his parents, David A. Fitzgerald and Margaret A. (Connors) Fitzgerald. David

is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews. He attended St. John's Catholic Elementary School in Cambridge, MA, And Malden Catholic High School, graduating in 1975. He went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of Massachusetts. David began his career at Wang Laboratories in Boston, MA, and continued in the field of Software Technology after moving with his wife to California in 1986. He achieved tremendous success in the areas of Sales and Management in his 30+ years in technology, amassing countless awards, significant industry recognition, and a large group of lifelong friends. David lived life to the fullest with boundless energy and always enjoyed good times with his family and friends. His generosity knew no limits and he was proud to share his good fortune with his loved ones. A private family service will be held to honor David. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. <https://www.stjude.org/>

Community pop-up space to open in East Somerville

CultureHouse and East Somerville Main Streets has announced the development of CultureHouse East Somerville, a month-long pop-up community public space hosted in a vacant East Somerville storefront. The project, opening in May, is designed to reconnect the community of East Somerville in the wake of the continued impacts of the pandemic by creating an inclusive, shared public space that boosts the commercial vibrancy of the area. Through the community input phase starting today, community members will have the opportunity to join these efforts and help shape the future of their neighborhood.

CultureHouse East Somerville aligns with CultureHouse's mission to transform unused spaces in neighborhoods downtown into vibrant social infrastructures that highlight and build upon the historic and growing arts and culture footprint of communities across the region. For East Somerville Main Streets, it's about working with the neighborhood's small business community to cultivate a diverse and vibrant commercial district. The partnership will transform a vacant storefront on Broadway into a lively and welcoming center for public life using engaging designs and offering creative programming designed by the community.

"East Somerville is a lively neighborhood filled with passionate residents of many backgrounds," said Aaron Greiner, Executive Director for CultureHouse. "Unfortunately, the pandemic impacted the community hard, leaving fewer spaces to sustain public life. With a 20% commercial vacancy rate, which is among the highest in the re-



gion, we saw an opportunity to partner with East Somerville Main Streets to build upon CultureHouse's previous successes in Peabody and, most recently, in Salem, to create a pop-up that empowers the community to create spaces that welcome, represent, and ultimately, strengthen the diverse community of East Somerville in an equity-focused recovery effort."

"Through technical assistance and neighborhood placemaking projects, our team has been able to build investment, connection, and pride in our main street," said Lindsay Allen, Executive Director at East Somerville Main Streets. "And East Somerville is a unique and fantastic cultural hub and home to a community of diverse individuals with many opportunities. We're eager to partner with CultureHouse and excited to see the impact this newest placemaking project has on the future of East Somerville."

CultureHouse is working with an advisory group comprised of various stakeholders within the communities - including local residents, business owners, and institutions - providing project feedback and development. Cul-

tureHouse is also actively hiring a pop-up manager to run day-to-day activities while the pop-up is open and engage and gather visitor feedback to inform the project's impact.

Community input will be key in making this project a reality, capturing the essence of the East Somerville neighborhood. Starting today, CultureHouse is gathering community input through a multi-lingual community survey that will inform the design and programming of the pop-up public space. To take the survey in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, learn more about the pop-up manager position, and get project updates please visit [www.culturehouse.cc/projects/east-somerville](http://www.culturehouse.cc/projects/east-somerville).

About CultureHouse CultureHouse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving livability in local communities by transforming unused spaces into vibrant social infrastructure. They create lasting change through community engagement, building designs, operating experimental pop-up spaces, and impact reports detailing the project's next steps. Learn more at [www.culturehouse.cc/eastsomerville](http://www.culturehouse.cc/eastsomerville).

Blarney Stoned CONT. FROM PG 3

Big Angelo	Chubby and Guido and Tony	I'll sing a song of Ireland, I'll
Mario, Richie, Bo Bo and Itchy,	the Tongue	drink some Guinness too, then
Ricky and	I'll wear a green carnation on	I'll eat some green linguini,
Chickie and Nicky the Thumb	my Tellos shirt	corned beef and pasta fazool!"
No Nose and and Big Nose Pig	My girlfriend Mona wears a	Happy St. Patrick's Day. Please
Foot and One Ear	shamrock on her mini skirt.	celebrate safely.

Somerville Democratic City Committee Chair Van Eaton steps down

After three years of serving as a Chair for the Somerville Democratic City Committee, Anika Van Eaton has stepped down from her position. Van Eaton writes, "Somerville Democrats, thank you for the last three years of partnership. I appreciated working on campaigns with committee volunteers, seeing folks at virtual and in-person social events, and caucusing with you. I am stepping down from my position as Chair and will work with the Chair Pro-Tem to ensure a smooth transition. As first Vice Chair, Jim Vetter is now serving as Chair Pro-Tem. At the next SDCC citywide meeting, which will be held on Monday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m., an election will be held for SDCC Chair. We will also hear updates about SDCC-endorsed priorities from last year and learn about this current legislative session. Please visit [www.somdems.org](http://www.somdems.org) for more information."

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



## LEGAL NOTICES

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

**THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.**  
INTERIM 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 4, 2023** 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://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8575042136755012957>

Webinar ID: 209-927-307

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (415) 655-0060

Access Code: 136-457-548

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

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

**HPC.DMO 2023.05 – 23 Glenwood Road**

Applicant: Grace Spellenberg Revocable Living Trust  
Owner: Same as Applicant

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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.

3/15/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFP # 23-52**

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

**Consulting Services - "Somerville By Design"  
Neighborhood Planning Process on an As-Needed Basis**

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 15, 2023**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, April 5, 2023**. 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 Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406

3/15/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR**

Contact: Roberta Cameron,  
Community Preservation Acting Manager  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 23, 2023

**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 22** 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 FY23 CPP hearing from your computer, tablet or smart-phone.**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6891875651699456604>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: (415) 655-0052  
Access Code: 112-228-434

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).

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville 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).

3/8/23, 3/15/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #23-49**

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

**Construction of Somerville Junction Park**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **03/15/2023**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **04/06/2023; 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid deposit required.

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

3/15/23 The Somerville Times



**LEGAL NOTICE**

City of Somerville

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development  
(OSPCD)  
SB-23.1

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)  
invites sealed proposals for the USQ Community Benefits Fund Projects

**Small Business Grant Programs**

**Small Business Grant Programs.** Proposals must be for programs that assist with small business supports in the Union Square neighborhood.

Funds for Small Business Supports programming are provided by the USQ Community Benefits Fund Projects, City funds, or other available funds generated from development impact fees.  
Bid Number **SB23.1**

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at March 15, 2023 at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/assistance-businesses>  
Print copies available upon request to Adriana Fernandes at email [EconomicDevelopment@somervillema.gov](mailto:EconomicDevelopment@somervillema.gov)

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email address and proposal packages must be submitted no later than  
March 29, 2023 @ 4:30 PM  
for responses to SB23.1  
to the above email address.

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

Thomas Galligani, Acting Executive Director  
617- 625-6600, x 2500

3/15/23 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #23-47**

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

**Sewer Rehabilitation – East Somerville & Winter Hill**

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **03/15/2023**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **04/06/2023; 1:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid deposit required.

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

3/15/23 The Somerville Times

**TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN  
THE SOMERVILLE TIMES,  
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LEGAL NOTICE

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

RFP# 23-PS1 CD

RFP # 23-ESG CD

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)

invites sealed proposals for the 2023-2024 HUD Action Plan for the:  
**Community Development Block Grant Program  
Emergency Solutions Grant Program**

**Community Development Block Grant Program.** Proposals must be for programs that provide Public Services to the City of Somerville's low- and moderate-income residents. Bid Number RFP # 23-PS1 CD

**Emergency Solutions Grant Program.** Proposals must address the needs of homeless individuals and families in the City of Somerville. Funds for the Emergency Solutions Grant are provided by the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. Bid Number RFP # 23-ESG CD

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **8:30 A.M. Wednesday, March 15, 2023**, at

[www.somervillema.gov/CDBGGRFP](http://www.somervillema.gov/CDBGGRFP) and [www.somervillema.gov/ESGGRFP](http://www.somervillema.gov/ESGGRFP)

Print copies are available upon request to Julie Melgar at [OSPCD@somervillema.gov](mailto:OSPCD@somervillema.gov).

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to [OSPCD@somervillema.gov](mailto:OSPCD@somervillema.gov)

and proposal packages must be submitted no later than

**12:00 P.M. Friday, April 14, 2023**, for Emergency Solutions Grant

**12:30 P.M. Friday, April 14, 2023**, for CDBG Public Services to the above email address.

Please email Julie Melgar, Program Compliance Officer, at [Jmelgar@somervillema.gov](mailto:Jmelgar@somervillema.gov), for information and proposal packages.

Thomas Galligani, Acting Executive Director  
617- 625-6600, x 2531

3/15/23 The Somerville Times

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

Ms. Cam's

From on page 8

Olio  
Answers

- |                        |                                                   |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. 270                 | 8. Chicago dyed the Chicago River green in 1962   |
| 2. 15 minutes          |                                                   |
| 3. \$5                 | 9. Shoemaker                                      |
| 4. 2nd Awards ceremony | 10. Mary Higgins Clark                            |
| 5. Peter O'Toole       | 11. Union between Roman Catholics and Protestants |
| 6. John F. Kennedy     |                                                   |
| 7. Sean's Bar          | 12. Irish boat with a wooden frame                |

Legendary Sweet Honey in the Rock at Arts at the Armory

The Center Arts at the Armory is proud to present the acclaimed Sweet Honey in the Rock on March 25, 7:00 p.m., at the historic and intimate Armory Performance Hall as part of their signature Spotlight Series. And they have just announced that Boston Children's Chorus will be opening the show.

Sweet Honey in the Rock's potent and rich sound has garnered them a worldwide following. As they approach their 50-year anniversary, the Grammy Award® nominated ensemble has released their twenty-fourth recording, #LoveInEvolution, their latest in a celebrated legacy of elevated harmonies and arts-based activism that spans five decades.

Four founding members of Sweet Honey in the Rock are part of the current tour coming to Somerville: Nitanju Bolade Casel, Aisha Kahlil, Carol Maillard, and Louise Robinson.

The Armory has been working to create a special evening to receive both this extraordinary ensemble and their audience, including a global comfort food pop-up by Comfort Kitchen, voted Boston's best pop-up and one of the area's hottest new restaurants, with new brick and mortar digs in Dorchester.

Sweet Honey in the Rock has strong ties to the Deaf community and ensures all their live performances include a sign language interpreter. Helping to make it all possible, the ACLU of Massachusetts is proud to partner with Arts at the Armory to sponsor Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Secure your tickets today for this not-to-be-missed evening: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arts-at-the-armory-spotlight-series-presents-sweet-honey-in-the-rock-tickets-461941047107>

Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue Somerville, MA 02143.



Virtual town hall highlights MBTA and MCB's efforts to make public transit more accessible

CONT. FROM PG 5

Training Center covering the basics of the MBTA system, utilizing out-of-service Blue Line subway cars, Green Line trolleys, and buses for trainees to explore and familiarize themselves with. On-site group trainings run similarly, in which the class is held at the locations of interested organizations.

As for help with reduced fair applications, blind and visually impaired individuals are eligible for Bling Access Cards to use all MBTA. This card provides free travel to the individuals, as well as any sort of sighted guide accompanying them. Mobility Center staff help people apply with over the phone, online, or in-person assistance.

Casandra Xavier, an activist for deaf and blind communities who completed both MCB's Orientation and Mobility Training and the MBTA's Travel Training, was featured

in a testimonial video during the meeting. She shared her experience on how these trainings have helped her be able to utilize public transit in the Boston area.

"I've been able to do all kinds of things with the MBTA, and I've learned new methods of getting around," says Xavier.

The end of the meeting was dedicated to a question-and-answer portion, with a panel of several MCB and MBTA staff answering any community member's questions.

There were questions regarding getting on and off transportation with a shopping cart, good navigation apps for the visually impaired, and how to find ambassadors in the stations.

One community member who has Cerebral vision impairment asked if Boston would ever implement the

sunflower lanyard, a system used by many areas around the world to signify an invisible disability. She had a positive experience using it on the train system when she was in Sydney, Australia a few months prior.

"It's a good way to notify the workers and ambassadors that 'Hey, there's someone with disabilities. We don't know what, but they need help, and they might not want to be going up and asking.' But if they look confused, they can come over," she says. "It would really help visually impaired people that are not ready for the white cane, but still need that help."

Bull acknowledged the ingenuity of the idea. She added that the cane is a good signifier, whether the individual is visually impaired or not, to anyone who can help disabled people in these situations.



## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

are required and are limited. Buy them at [bit.ly/PTA-Gameshow](https://bit.ly/PTA-Gameshow). On the website you'll also find a silent auction and the link to the GLX and Somerville Public Schools t-shirt sales that are all part of the scholarship fundraiser.

\*\*\*\*\*

Consider donating to the **Salvatore and Peter Albano Memorial Scholarship Fund**. This is a new award given annually to a deserving **Somerville High School student**, established in cooperation with the **Somerville High School Scholarship fund**. Contributions can be made at the event or by mail: c/o **Julie Abruzzio**, 10 Buttonwood Lane, Peabody, MA 01960.

\*\*\*\*\*

On **Sunday, March 19**, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. enjoy **Waterlines: Walking Tour** with **Hey There Kapplow**. Join in for a walking experience with artist, **Hey There Kapplow**, whose work *Seeking the Source* is currently on view at the **Somerville Museum** as part of the **Community Curator exhibition, Waterlines**, by **Arlinda Shtuni**. **Hey There** will give an artist tour of the installation in the gallery space and then facilitate a silent, intuitively-guided walking experience. The event will begin at the Museum with a discussion about the artist's work on display, then the group will explore the Museum's immediate neighborhood in silence, paying acute attention to how intuition offers guidance about when to

walk, when to pause, and how to keep the group together. You can learn more about **Waterlines** here: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/waterlineswww.somervillemuseum.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Call of Art for the Somerville Art Council's Inside-OUT Gallery SOS Artists Members showcase exhibit.** The submission deadline is **March 30**. To register, please submit via the Google Forms at <https://forms.gle/WTnBDny1MnoauSESA>. **Somerville Open Studios**, the **Somerville Arts Council** and the **Inside-OUT Gallery** once again welcome seasoned members and newcomers alike to submit pieces for the annual SOS members' exhibit. While all works will be considered, we do encourage applicants to respond to this year's theme. This is a closed call for current registered SOS artists. Please note that this is a juried exhibition and not all submitted work will be accepted. Applicants' work must be available **from April 18 to May 18**.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Powder House Blvd. detour** began this week at North St. to Alewife Brook Parkway. Vehicles travelling both eastbound and westbound on Powder House Blvd. between North St. and Alewife Brook Parkway will be detoured during construction hours (weekdays 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Westbound traffic will be directed south on North St., west on

Broadway to return to Alewife Brook Parkway. Eastbound traffic will be directed south on Alewife Brook Parkway, east on Broadway, north on North St. to return to Powder House Blvd. Anticipated detour duration: 3 months (weather permitting). For more information and updates visit [voice.somervillema.gov/intersection-redesign](https://voice.somervillema.gov/intersection-redesign).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville PorchFest 2023** will take place on **Saturday, May 13** (rain date May 14) 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://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Public Library** in partnership with the **St. Mark Community Education Program** is offering a free, 10-week **U.S. Citizenship Preparation class**. The class will prepare students for the citizenship interview including the 100 civics questions, the reading and writing sections, and interview questions based on the N-400 application. The class will be held in-person at the Central Library (79 Highland Avenue) on 10 Saturdays from 10:00

a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **from March 4 to May 6**. Requirements: Basic level of English and 5 years as a U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) or 3 years, if married to a U.S. citizen. Visit <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/ell-citizenship> to register.

\*\*\*\*\*

Free **COVID-19 test kits** also continue to be available by request at all **Somerville Public Libraries**, at **City Hall**, and at the **City Hall Annex**.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **City of Somerville** continues to host **weekly walk-in vaccination clinics** for residents **through the end of March**, with both flu vaccines and the bivalent Moderna COVID-19 booster available. Clinics will take place **each Wednesday** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the **City Hall Annex**, 50 Evergreen Ave., **through March 29**. Advance registration is recommended to save time but not required. Pre-register online at [somervillema.gov/vaccineclinics](https://somervillema.gov/vaccineclinics) or by calling 311 (617-666-3311). Flu vaccines and updated COVID-19 boosters are also available at many pharmacies and other locations. Find a provider at [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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## On This Day in History March 15

**0044** – Julius Caesar is assassinated by high-ranking Roman Senators.

**1493** – Christopher Columbus returns to Spain after his first voyage to the New World.

**1892** – New York State unveils the new automatic ballot voting machine.

**1901** – Emil von Behring becomes the first recipient of the Nobel Prize for medicine.

**1916** – General John Pershing and his 15,000 troops chase Pancho Villa into Mexico.

**1935** – Joseph Goebbels, German Minister of Propaganda bans four Berlin newspapers.

**1956** – The first performance of *My Fair Lady*, starring Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison, takes place on Broadway.

**1968** – The U.S. mint halts the practice of buying and selling gold.

**1991** – Four Los Angeles police officers are charged in the beating of Rodney King.



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## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Somerville's Greg Jukes:

A musician/performer who tangoes with his instruments

Recently, I caught up with Greg Jukes, the co-founder of the Somerville-based musical performance group, The Fourth Wall, that explores a new hybrid of the performing arts in which musicians are also dancers and actors. According to Jukes, his group "stretches the boundaries of instrumental performance. The Fourth Wall commissions new interdisciplinary works and reimagines established repertoire to make music that leaps off the stage!"

**Doug Holder:** How has it been for you as a performing artist to live and work in Somerville?

**Greg Jukes:** Living in Somerville is fun. It's a vibrant community with interesting things to do and easy access to the Greater Boston area. That said, it's an expensive city and as a performer, I barely do any local shows. Thanks to grants from the Somerville Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, my main trio, The Fourth Wall was able to self-produce a few shows at the Crystal Ballroom and the Center for Arts at the Armory in the past year.

We mostly perform away from home, having found a lot of success on the Fringe festival circuit around the US and Canada along with teaching/performance residencies at colleges and universities, shows on classical music concert series, and in-school performances in other parts of the state through Young Audiences of Massachusetts. Before the pandemic, we organized a series called The Fourth Wall Presents, where we brought in other artists we loved from the Fringe circuit to share a couple evenings of shows at The Lilypad in Inman and the Cambridge YMCA (RIP to their big, old theater as a local, affordable venue).

Sharing great performances with our community was wonderful and we had fabulous audience energy, but it always felt like an uphill battle trying to get the word out about the shows. Even at our best-selling events, we only ever barely covered venue rental fees plus expenses and an honorarium for our guest artists without paying ourselves. We became a nonprofit in 2020 which opened up new funding opportunities for us with local and state arts councils, without which we couldn't have put on the local shows we did this past year.

Grant support is huge, but money doesn't inherently solve our challenges in marketing our work and trying to build a local audience. Maybe we'll keep trying to establish a following for shows in Somerville, but as more national and international bookings come in for The Fourth Wall and other projects I'm involved with, my identity is probably going to remain as a performing artist who lives



— Photo by Mark Lee

here and works elsewhere.

**DH:** You are a co-founder of the Fourth Wall. On your website the you say the mission statement of your group is to "break down the barriers between serious art and serious fun." How do you do that?

**GJ:** We play classical music, but we do it while riding hoverboards, dancing, or hanging upside down! Rather than doing those things for the spectacle and novelty impact of ridiculous juxtapositions of "high art" and silly tricks, we build our shows and repertoire around a desire to give audiences a unique experience where everyone will have their own favorite moments and things that resonate with them.

For some, it might be the playfulness of hearing a Chopin waltz while watching the performers zoom around on hoverboards, other might appreciate the serenity of Florence Price's piano music performed in darkness with lights inside and on the ends of our instruments that evoke fireflies in the night sky, others still might be excited to get the inside joke that the lift we do while playing Stars and Stripes Forever is called a flag.

**DH:** Do you think a staid, older classical music aficionado could appreciate your hybrid approach to music?

**GJ:** I can say with confidence that they do! We've got voracious appetites when it comes to classical music and take pride in sharing a diverse spread of pieces in our shows including works by underrepresented composers, living composers, and arrangements that encourage our audiences to rethink what they consider so-called "classical" music.

We also take on iconic works from the classical cannon to offer newer listeners something familiar that they may have heard before. For many aficionados, these pieces have lost their sparkle after being overplayed in the public sphere, but our hybrid arts approach gives them new ways to

Continued on page 15

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Poet Phil Tobin, a poet from Somerville, writes, "The poem I'm sending comes about as the result of the death of a student of mine back along when I was a H.S. Latin teacher. She was sixteen and her boyfriend was driving drunk. If you think my poem is appropriate for your column, maybe it will give some of those predisposed to driving drunk a second thought."



## The Roses

The Roses that I gave her  
She never got to see  
And when the preacher said his prayer  
Their eyes were all on me.

Well, whiskey don't belong behind a steering wheel  
The Roses that I gave her  
Are dying in a field.

And when they laid her down to rest  
I said my last goodbye  
And on that day and in that way  
A cowboy learned to cry.

Well, whiskey don't belong behind a steering wheel  
The Roses that I gave her  
Are dying in a field.  
And if some day  
It goes away  
And time heals all the hurt,  
I'll never buy another Rose  
For anyone but her.

— Phil Tobin

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)



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

of a zero-emissions vehicle and a diesel-powered one.

“If we’re serious about environmental justice and achieving our state’s climate action goals in 2030 and 2050, then we must pursue every possible avenue to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution in our communities,” said sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). “Switching to zero-emission buses would cut those emissions by up to 35 percent annually, improving not only our environmental health but human health as well. Diesel fumes inhaled by our children are associated with asthma, heart disease and lung disease. This is a public health issue as much as it is a climate issue.”

**REQUIRE ARMCHAIRS IN RESTAURANTS (SD 2037)** – Would require all restaurants to have at least 5 percent of their seating options be armchairs. Or have armchairs on-site and available upon request.

“We must continue to make areas where members of the public frequent handicap accessible,” said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) who filed the bill at the request of a constituent. “Individuals with disabilities that hinder their mobility, muscle strength or coordination run the risk of slipping or falling off some types of chairs. Armchairs not only provide support for those who need assistance rising or sitting down, they also inhibit people from falling once seated. I am pleased to have filed [the bill] on behalf of my constituent to improve safety for our handicapped residents and ensure they can continue to enjoy social outings at food establishments.”

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 14

experience something they’ve maybe written off. Erik Satie’s *Gymnopédie No. 1* has become synonymous with “relaxing classical music” to the point that it feels like an innocuous waiting room track, but it’s really a spectacular piece with an interesting chord progression and a beautiful melody that weaves in and out of dissonance with the accompaniment.

Our interpretation rearranges the music from a piano solo to a flute and vibraphone duet in which Hilary (playing flute) and Neil (not playing bass trombone) dance a counterbalancing pas de deux that has Hilary hanging upside down on Neil’s back for the whole second half of the piece. The visual interest and acrobatic spectacle give folks who are over-acquainted with the music a new way to connect to a splendid piece that they might have abandoned after hearing it 10 too many times.

**DH:** You and your band of performers seem to be dance partners with your instruments. It is hard enough to play an instrument; how do you manage it when you are full flight?

**GJ:** Well, we start off by doing it very poorly! Some of our best pieces have been developed following the words “you know what’s a dumb idea?” One of my favorite things about our creative process in The Fourth Wall is that we give ourselves permission to explore the “dumb ideas,” knowing that behind something silly, we often find

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Everyone I talk to here in the Statehouse is really committed to continuing to address the trauma of gun violence to bring the numbers of deaths and injuries from gun violence down to zero. So I’m very optimistic.” — *Ruth Zakarin, executive director of the MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence.*

“Connecting veterans to critical housing, employment and other supportive services is a central focus for our team at Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans’ Services each and every day.” — *Newly appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jon Santiago on the Healey Administration’s proposed \$3.5 million in funding the New England Center and Home for Veterans.*

“Family caregivers play a vital role in Massachusetts health care system, whether they care for someone at home, coordinate home health care or help care for someone who lives in a nursing home. We want to make sure all family caregivers have the financial, emotional and social support they need, because the care they provide is invaluable both to those receiving it and to their community.” — *Mike Festa, AARP Massachusetts State Director on his support for legislation that would create a refundable \$1,500 tax credit to cover expenses incurred by a taxpayer for the care and support of a qualifying family member.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many leg-

islators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of March 6-10, the House met for a total of eight minutes while the Senate met for a total of four hours and 19 minutes.

Mon. March 6	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 12:01 p.m.
Tues. March 7	No House session No Senate session
Wed. March 8	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. March 9	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:04 a.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 2:33 p.m.
Fri. March 10	No House session No Senate session

*Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com*

something striking. It takes a lot of practice and patience to make sure a piece sounds great even when we’re doing a lift, upside down, or riding hoverboards, but that’s all part of our process and one of the greatest ways we connect with our audiences. Choreography often aids musical memory: by embodying the music, we give ourselves another way to connect to what we’re playing and give context to what happens when.

**DH:** I noticed a video where your ensemble performs in the middle of a highway. Can you tell us a bit about that?

**GJ:** Ha! That’s an oldie! As a gigging percussionist, I’ve spent many hours on the highways of America in my minivan. Sometimes I’d be the only car on the road late at night after a show and for years I thought it would be cool to do a photoshoot or short video in the middle of the road, but it never seemed practical or safe.

The perfect opportunity presented itself on I-80 in northern Indiana when traffic came to a full stop and was backed up for miles with no off ramp. We had just passed the turnoff for a rest area when everything came to a full stop. The car in front of us pulled across the grass median to use the facilities which left a perfect, protected stage space for our antics. It was pretty fun to fulfill that little fantasy. My phone ran out of space/battery during that tango, but we played a few more pieces after that since we were getting some supportive

honks and cheers from neighboring cars and folks in the rest area.

**DH:** You offer classes and workshops. How can Somerville folks access this?

**GJ:** The Fourth Wall’s classes and workshops primarily happen at schools, but what we teach about creativity, communication, leader/followership, and exploration can be great for anyone! College and university performing arts departments are our biggest market followed by grade schools, though these programs usually aren’t open to the public. Sorry to say that we don’t have any public programs near Somerville on the calendar as of now.

On a personal level, I teach private drum lessons online and out of my apartment near Davis. I also co-created an electronic bucket drumming workshop program called the Beat Bus that occasionally does public events at festivals and educational events at schools, summer camps, and field days. Folks can certainly reach out to me for bookings and lesson inquiries!

**DH:** What will people come away with after witnessing one of your performances?

**GJ:** Refreshed feelings of wonder and joy! That’s the goal, at least. We want our audiences to share a delightful experience with a community of others and leave with fun memories of pieces that made them say “How do they do that!” made them laugh, and touched their hearts.



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