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New funding approved for Kennedy schoolyard improvements



Funding appropriations for the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project were approved at the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

By The Times Staff

The Somerville City Council meeting on February 26 included funding appropriations for the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project.

Mayor Wilson's request for the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Community Preservation Act Open Space Reserve for construction of improvements to the Kennedy schoolyard was voted on and approved by attending members of the City Council.

An additional request by the mayor for an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$2,000,000 in a bond for financing a portion of the Kennedy Schoolyard Renovation Project,

as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, was likewise approved.

Finance Committee Chairman *Continued on page 4*

Live music to support LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts

By Iris Martinez

On Saturday, March 7, at 7 p.m., Broken String Booking and Get to the Gig Boston will have a lineup of four bands at Warehouse XI in Somerville. The event features punk, pop punk, and emo bands 5Ever [1], Cinema Stare [2], Another One Down! [3], and Ring Pop! [4].

On an Instagram post promoting the event, Ring Pop! wrote that this was a "banger of a show" and highlighted the fundraising aspect.

"We are so excited for this lineup. With the help of Broken String Booking, we were able to book this show," Cinema Stare member Quinni said over email. "I remember brainstorming the lineup and thinking if we could make this bill come together, it would be an astronomically good *Continued on page 9*



Local band Ring Pop! Will be among the artists performing at Warehouse XI this coming Saturday in support of LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts.

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The 2026 Maple Boil Down takes place this Saturday, March 7, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Weather date: Saturday, March 14), at the Somerville Community Center, 22 Vinal Ave. Each February, a team of volunteers taps a swath of maple trees on the Tufts campus, collecting gallons of sap over a number of weeks. At the Maple Boil Down, they'll boil it down into real 100% hyper-local maple syrup. Youth and adults alike will have a chance to learn about tree anatomy and physiology and experience the process of making fresh maple syrup first-hand. Read more about the Somerville Maple Syrup Project at www.thegrowingcenter.org/maplesyrupproject.

Don't forget to set your clocks forward this weekend. On Sunday, March 8, Daylight Saving Time starts. Sunday, March 8, 2026, 2 a.m. clocks are turned forward 1 hour to Sunday, March 8, 2026, 3 a.m. local daylight time instead. There will be more light in the evening.

Happy birthday this week to the following: At the very top of the list of birthdays this week, we wish a very happy birthday to our own Editor, Jim Clark. We wish him a very happy year ahead, and we hope he enjoys his special day. He deserves it. Happy birthday to real estate agent and former Somerville resident John Pratti. We hope John has a great birthday. Happy Birthday to Donald Coutomas. We wish him the best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, Matt Smith, Barbara Ni Neac, Susan

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of March 4 – March 10 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday March 4	Partly Cloudy	49°/30°	21%	11%	WSW 7 mph
Thursday March 5	Rain	41°/34°	63%	45%	NE 11 mph
Friday March 6	Rain	37°/32°	69%	46%	NE 12 mph
Saturday March 7	Partly Cloudy	48°/46°	25%	13%	SSW 12 mph
Sunday March 8	Partly Cloudy	54°/40°	22%	9%	W 11 mph
Monday March 9	Partly Cloudy	62°/40°	17%	7%	SW 12 mph
Tuesday March 10	Partly Cloudy	61°/49°	6%	3%	SSW 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Somerville awarded \$500,000 in grants for the Complete Streets Funding Program

Tim.K. says:

Great! With all this money granted for improvements, can we start filling potholes and repaving the roads? Let's start with Highland, Bow, Walnut, and Webster. They're all in deplorable condition.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane,
and Cathleen Twardzik

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte,
Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty

Photographer: Claudia Ferro

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Women Veterans Wellness Day and Appreciation Event

To the women who serve and have served our country with courage and strength, we honor you. As a sincere thank you from the Somerville community and in celebration of Women's History Month, the city's Department of Veterans' Services invites women veterans to a Wellness and Appreciation Day on Thursday, March 5.

Attendees are invited to select from an array of free spa services, including manicures, facials, haircuts, and wash and styles.

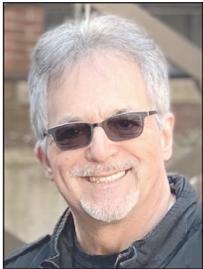
The event will be held at Somerville High School's Cosmetology Salon (81 Highland Ave.) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services provided by students in the SHS Cosmetology Program. Women Veterans Network (WVN) will be on-site with resources on state and federal benefits, peer support, health and wellness resources, employment assistance, and connections to local and statewide programming specific to women veterans.

To register for this event, visit bit.ly/womenvetwellness. For questions, email veterans@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

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

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

Our Somerville grandfathers



My grandfather (on my dad's side) was Giuseppe Del Ponte, and he was born in Abruzzi, Italy. He came to America on a ship called The Taormina from the port of Naples on March 17, 1914, when he was 23 years old.

He fought in World War I and lost a lung to poison gas. He went to Wentworth College and was a custodian at The Bingham School, and also at the Library on College Ave. here in Somerville.

Before coming to America, he spent time in South America working as a cowboy (that's what my dad used to tell us!). The only thing I really know about my mother's father is that he ran a small convenience store on Somerville Ave., and he had a very cool old car. I gathered the following stories about some of my fellow baby boomer friends' Somerville grandfathers.

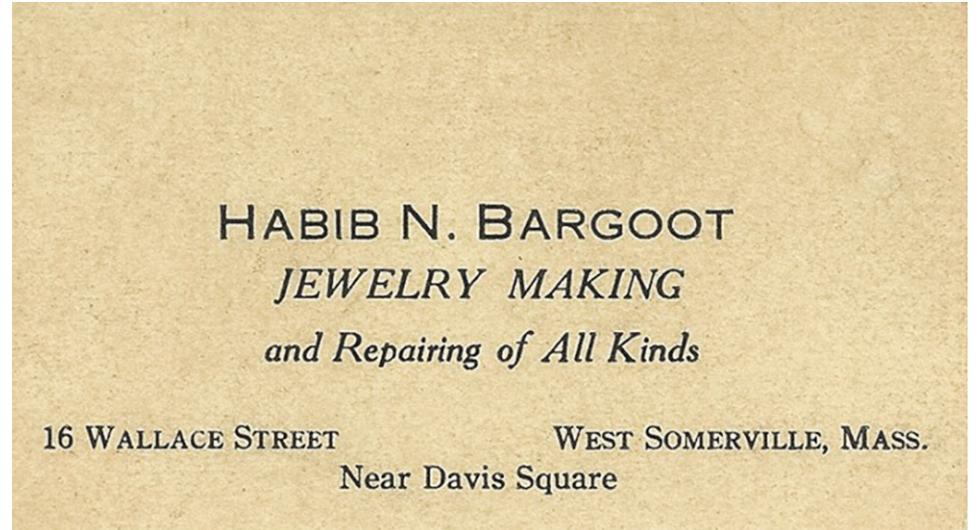
This first grandfather owned and operated a shoe store on Highland Ave. He

walked to work every day from Stoneham. The next grandpa came to America around 1912 from Greece on the ship Carpathia, which is famous for picking up the survivors of the Titanic disaster. He was also one of the first people to have an automobile in Somerville.

Grandfather #3 ran a barbershop in Magoon Square. He came here around 1900. An old pal tells me this about his granddad: "My Grandfather came here about 1916 from Syria. He was a goldsmith. He made jewelry. He originally had a store on Hudson St. in Boston. The jeweler that was in Davis Square for decades actually bought this man's equipment when he passed away."

Next is this great story: "My grandfather was a reverend who came from Alasata, Asia Minor (present-day Turkey), and was a founder and the first priest of the Dormition Greek Orthodox Church. He served the Somerville Greek community from 1916-20 and again from 1927-1935."

Here is another account: "My grandmother's parents had a little store in front of their house on Newbury St. They had



one of the only phones in the neighborhood. People would call there, and my great-grandparents would send my grandmother running to whoever's house it was to tell them they had a call."

Here's a good one: "My dad's father came from Gaeta in 1917. He made brooms in a barn at 13 Tufts St. The business went on for 50 years. His broth-

er sold TVs and appliances and penny candy at 220 Somerville Ave."

Next: "My grandfather grew up here. He worked as a mechanic for Jordan Marsh's trucks and then had his own business in his garage at home, fixing cars. He also worked as a cab driver. My other grandfather grew up in Boston and worked at Kennedy's in Boston as a

Continued on page 6

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Can technology make my tax filing safer?

A: Yes – significantly! Used correctly, technology reduces fraud risk, speeds refunds, and gives you more control over your tax record.

Here are four smart upgrades:

♦ **Use an IRS IP PIN.** A 6-digit Identity Protection PIN prevents anyone from filing a return using your Social Security number without it. Even if your data is stolen, the return can't be filed without your PIN.

♦ **E-file instead of mailing paper.** Electronic filing is faster, more secure, and far less prone to delays or lost mail. Paper returns can sit unprocessed for months.

♦ **Choose direct deposit over a paper check.** Direct deposit is faster and reduces refund theft risk. Paper checks are far more vulnerable to interception.

♦ **Create an IRS online account.** You can view balances, transcripts, notices, and payment history. Seeing what the IRS sees helps prevent small problems from turning into large ones. (Massachusetts residents can access similar tools through MassTaxConnect.)

Bottom Line:

Technology doesn't just make tax filing easier — it makes it safer. A few simple digital tools can dramatically reduce fraud, delays, and costly surprises.

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

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



New funding approved for Kennedy schoolyard improvements CONT. FROM PG 1

Councilor Ben Wheeler spoke of the appropriations as part of his report on the latest Committee meeting said, “We recommended approval for two distinct items for the Kennedy schoolyard, a \$1 million appropriation from the Community Preservation Committee and a \$2 million bond. The cost covers an expanded school yard that will have numerous elements of accessibility for the full student body of all the academic programs at the Kennedy, as well as an extensive stormwater parking lot and surface permeability work that will count towards the city’s overall burden of stormwater mitigation.”

Wheeler elaborated further on the funding, saying, “The intention is to solicit contractor bids for this project soon, and to complete a first phase of this work during the summer recess this year. I’m excited. And regarding public safety, we considered a series of items that involve grants. After consultation with city staff and discussion on the committee, the committee was satisfied that these grants are in line with the city’s values and the law.”

Also taking place that same evening, the Kennedy School Playground Renovations Community Meeting was held virtually, covering the project overview and key goals, proposed design and phasing activities, followed by questions and discussions involving anyone who joined the meeting.

Attending the presentation were City of Somerville Department of Public Space and Urban Forestry Senior Planner Jon Bronenkant, Ward 5 City Councilor Naima Sait, and Kennedy School Principal Steve Marshall. Representing CBA Landscaping Architects LLC were Principal-in-Charge D.J. Chagnon, Landscape Architect Preston Hollman, and Landscape Designer Chaitrali Doke.

In the presentation, the project was explicitly framed as Somerville’s first inclusive playground, going beyond ADA and universal design to full inclusive design. All ages, all abilities, all along social/communication spectrums. Shared play, not segregated “special” equipment.

Phasing for play

Phase 1 (Summer 2026):

Keeping most existing play space open, plus the addition of a new full basketball court in its permanent location, with temporary asphalt and line striping.

Phase 2 (Summer 2027):

Building of the fully inclusive playground with all permanent surfacing, equipment, fencing, and seating.

Final layout plans include:

A court placed at the bottom-right corner of the site to:

- ♦ Improve snow removal operations.
- ♦ Integrate drainage/rain garden more effectively.

Three hoops total:

- ♦ Two regulation-height full-court hoops.
- ♦ A third lower-height side hoop for younger players (exact height TBD).

Adjustable hoops:

Strong interest from the community was noted. The team was aid to be actively investigating durable, adjustable, or semi-adjustable options.

Treatment of the wall

Decision to fully “activate” the wall:

- ♦ Some sections have built-up topography (hills) against them.
- ♦ A climbing wall with handholds is added where it won't enable fence access.
- ♦ Space preserved for wall-ball, which children strongly requested.

Play equipment mix

Intentional mix of play styles:



John F. Kennedy School overall site plan.

— Graphic courtesy of CBA Landscape Architects LLC

♦ Ramped post-and-platform structures for fully accessible circulation.

♦ Net/rope climbers with small openings (easier to use, more inclusive).

♦ Ground-level/obstacle-course elements, monkey-bar/parkour type play.

♦ A ropes course, opened on one side so kids using mobility devices can enter the center and socialize with peers using the ropes.

♦ Consideration of possibly linking two main structures into one larger, ramp-connected system to maximize fully accessible routes.

Swings and motion

A decision was made not to install traditional swings (belt, adaptive, dish/friendship swings) due to:

- ♦ Large safety clearances.
- ♦ Space constraints in a schoolyard.
- ♦ Supervision and safety complexity.

Motion and vestibular play will be provided instead by:

- ♦ A wheelchair-accessible glider rocker

(by transfer), sized for many children.

Group spinner.

♦ A large inclusive seesaw with strong support for backs, feet, and hands.

♦ Hangout hammocks/wobble seating elements integrated into social spaces.

A 4-foot-high embankment mound with:

Ramped access along a gentle path with play events along the route.

♦ At least one tall slide (8 feet platform); another around 7 feet.

♦ “Dignity exits” at slide bottoms so kids using mobility devices have a waiting area while devices return to them.

♦ Rubber surfacing will be patterned with:

♦ Clear visual paths vs. active play zones vs. slopes.

♦ High-contrast color bands at edges, tops of slopes, and key transfer points.

Sensory and social inclusion

Planned inclusive/sensory elements include:

Continued on page 15

Somerville community members launch People's Ordinance for Palestine

On Thursday, February 26, at 6 p.m. during the holy month of Ramadan, dozens of Somerville community members launched the People's Ordinance for Palestine at a rally and letter delivery action at Somerville City Hall. Community members gathered to urge Somerville elected officials to introduce and pass an ordinance that would boycott companies that contract with the state of Israel. Members of the crowd entered singing a Palestinian lullaby and holding signs that read, "We voted. Now you enact," to remind the councilors that the majority of Somerville voters in the November 2025 election voted to instruct elected city leaders to boycott companies complicit in Israel's apartheid, genocide, and occupation of Palestine.

Before entering City Hall, Somerville for Palestine leaders addressed the crowd. Kaamil Lokhandwala began the rally by sharing that, after breaking his fast in observance of the holy month of Ramadan, he was thinking of Palestinian Muslims in Gaza who are fasting, and who continue to survive amidst some of the harshest conditions imposed by Israel's years-long blockade, apartheid rule, and, since October 2023, escalated bombing and starvation campaigns against Palestinians in Gaza. Lokhandwala compared Palestinian steadfastness with that of Somerville residents in their campaign for a boycott ordinance; "[Gazans] do not stop, so we do not stop."

Hala Jadallah, a Palestinian-American and long-time resident of Somerville, shared her perspective on the growing sol-

idarity she has witnessed in this moment. She reflected that, "I've seen more Palestinian flags over these past few years than in my life at Somerville."

"Our city fought for an end to South African apartheid," she reminded the crowd, referring to the City of Somerville's efforts to divest from apartheid South Africa in the 1980s. "Those same activists are here today asking for us to end our complicity in apartheid once more."

Anna Slager, a special education instructional aide at Somerville Public Schools and member of Somerville Educators Union (SEU), highlighted that "the least culpable population, the children of Palestine, have borne the brunt of our empire's war machine and Israel's genocidal regime." Slager also reminded the crowd that the majority of rank-and-file members of the SEU, which represents more than 750 Somerville Public Schools educators, voted to endorse ballot question 3. "The SEU's endorsement is a powerful reminder to our city councilors that YES on 3 is the will of the people and the will of Somerville educators." Speaking of the delivery of the draft ordinance and the call to city councilors to enact question 3, Slager continued, "Now is the time, when else? Why is Palestine the exception? Now it will no longer be."

Somerville City Councillors JT Scott, Ben Ewen-Campen, and Jon Link momentarily joined the rally to receive the mandate from their constituents. Somerville for Palestine members presented each city councilor present at City Hall,



Hala Jadallah, a long-time Palestinian Somerville resident, shares the increasing support she's witnessed for Palestine in her city. — Photos by Matt Abban

as well as Mayor Jake Wilson, with a copy of a draft boycott ordinance ("the People's Ordinance for Palestine"), the results of the November election, and a legal memo drafted by a volunteer legal team detailing the validity of the proposed ordinance.

Constituents walked into City Hall singing a bilingual version of the Palestinian lullaby, "Yamma Mweil il Hawa," led by Mia Haddad, a Palestinian-American leader of Somerville for Palestine. Haddad shared, "This song was sung to children from generation to generation, until it became a symbol of political protest in Palestine during the first intifada in 1987. This song is about freedom, living with dignity, and not under oppression and holding steadfast to your homeland."

The People's Ordinance for Palestine was drafted by community members, with guidance from a group of volunteer lawyers, each acting in their individual capacity. Attorney Sammy Nabulsi, who specializes in municipal law and contracting, explained that cities and towns in Massachusetts frequently create laws or bylaws to set the terms of a qualified bidder for municipal contracts for goods and services. A city or town, Nabulsi explained, creates laws based on its bidders passing background checks, paying employees a living wage, not engaging in wage theft, or other qualifications a municipality finds important.

John Bonifaz, volunteer constitutional lawyer, shared, "The City of Somerville is well within its rights to decide that it does not want to contract with companies doing business with an apartheid and genocidal foreign government. That was the

case when local and state governments all across the country boycotted and divested from companies doing business with an apartheid South Africa, and that is the case today with the Israeli government."

Asad Khimani, another volunteer lawyer, commented that some municipalities in Massachusetts and around the country have also chosen not to engage in city business with governments such as Northern Ireland or Sudan. "Boycotting or divesting from Israel is no different from boycotting or divesting from companies that are contracting with nations that are committing human rights violations."

Somerville City Council resolved in December 2025 to work towards the implementation of the voters' demand within a year, and Somerville for Palestine has been meeting with councilors over the course of January and February to move the process forward. The Ordinance, as drafted, would prohibit the city from contracting with companies that do business with the government of Israel or in the illegal settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, determined through a self-attestation form in bid documents.

This mirrors language contained in the historical state and local measures to boycott South African apartheid in the late 1980s.

Neda Mustafa, Palestinian-American activist and a leader in Somerville for Palestine, spoke about the importance of Somerville leading the way on this novel type of local boycott ordinance. "We don't live in a bubble. Anything we do [in Somerville] has a global effect, including any boycotting measures" *Continued on page 15*



Adam Pease presented the People's Ordinance for Palestine to Ward 2 Councilor JT Scott. Scott has been a consistent supporter of Somerville for Palestine's efforts to enact local change for Palestine.

Three-term State Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven announces candidacy for Second Middlesex State Senate

Dozens of community members and supporters gathered at the Medford/Tufts Green Line MBTA Station on Monday morning as State Representative Erika Uytterhoeven announced her run for State Senate.

State Representative Erika Uytterhoeven announced her candidacy for State Senate in the Second Middlesex District, pledging to be an unabashed progressive voice in the Senate, one who leads with conviction, delivers results, and is committed to fighting for you, even when it's tough.

"We have delivered big wins by bringing our communities together. Doubling funding for local affordable housing by millions of dollars a year, taxing millionaires to fix the MBTA and fund our public schools," Uytterhoeven said. "Now we're going to open every door on Beacon Hill and build a Massachusetts where everyone truly belongs."

Uytterhoeven has a record of turning people-powered legislative pressure into results. In the fight for transparency, she made all committee votes public; this allowed for a recent energy bill, written by corporate polluters that would have raised families' utility bills and gutted our climate goals, to be blocked. She initiated the fight for the State House to bring forward legislation to get ICE out of Massachusetts. She is the only legislator to fight to protect residents' data with privacy protections in Governor Healey's contract to deploy OpenAI's ChatGPT across the state government.

"I have been inspired by Senator Jehlen's courage to fight for our values. For 20 years, she has been the progressive heart of the Massachusetts Senate, the voice that said what needed to be said, fought the fights no one else would take, and won," Uytterhoeven said. "That seat needs a leader who carries that same fire. That's the

kind of senator I will be."

Uytterhoeven is the daughter of immigrants raised by her single mom. She credits watching greedy investors attack her mom's flight attendant union and forcing aviation workers into abysmal wages and benefits for teaching her the need to take on the toughest fights.

"I learned from a young age that workers, immigrants, and strong women like my mom, we aren't going to win by asking nicely," said Uytterhoeven, "we need to organize to build a

people-powered movement to take on big special interests, which is what we need to pass bold legislation in the State House."

Uytterhoeven made the official announcement this morning at the Medford / Tufts MBTA station. She has already been endorsed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2222 who represent the State House Employees Union, Cambridge City Councilor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, and Somerville City Councilors JT Scott and Jon Link. In addition to endorsing organizations and elected officials, Uytterhoeven was joined by dozens of community members and supporters.

Proven Track Record on Beacon Hill

Last week on the House floor, Uytterhoeven exposed how utility companies secured a fast track to profit off of more infrastructure, while a billion dollars was cut from Mass Save, a program that helps families lower their energy bills. She filed an amendment requiring utilities to disclose executive compensation before raising residential rates, but only four representatives out of 160 stood to support it.

"Corporations get handouts at the expense of working families," Uytterhoeven



said. "The growing affordability crisis is a product of the state legislature prioritizing donors and companies over their constituents."

In her six-year tenure in the State House, Uytterhoeven has spearheaded legislation around protecting public sector workers' right to strike, establishing minimum pay for educators, and restoring voting rights for incarcerated people.

Unafraid of the Big Fights

Two weeks ago, Uytterhoeven published an investigation into Governor Healey's contract, deploying OpenAI's ChatGPT to up to 40,000 state employees, a deal recommended by an AI Task Force stacked with executives from Microsoft, Amazon, and Fidelity, each of whom has existing financial ties to OpenAI. Within 24 hours, seven senior administration officials called a meeting with one state representative from Somerville.

"They didn't call to release the documents," Uytterhoeven said. "They called to explain."

Uytterhoeven connected the technology fight directly to immigrant safety: OpenAI appears in the Department of Homeland Security's AI inventory, and ICE has nearly doubled its AI use cases in six months. She cited Somerville resident Rümeyza Öztürk, detained by masked federal agents, and mothers in the district delaying prenatal care out of fear that accessing health benefits will expose their families.

"People deserve to know what technology is being used on them and who profits from it," she said. "The legislature has that power. I intend to use it, not for you, but with you."

The Second Middlesex seat is being vacated by retiring Senator Pat Jehlen, who has represented Somerville, Medford, Cambridge, and Winchester for 20 years. The Democratic

Primary is September 1, 2026.

— Office of Erika Uytterhoeven
State Representative – 27th Middlesex District

Our Somerville grandfathers CONT. FROM PG 3

foreman on the loading dock."

And they keep on coming: "My grandfather used to go to Tip O'Neil's home on Orchard St. for tea back in the day. He worked for Boston Gas most of his life, and when he retired, he loved going to Davis Square."

And finally: "My Nonno went from It-

aly to Pennsylvania and then traveled to Somerville. He worked for years at the Parker House Hotel in Boston as an elevator operator."

Thanks to all my friends who contributed stories about their grandfathers. Wouldn't you love to be able to hang around with your grandpa again and hear

some stories firsthand? No one could hug you as your grandfather could. I'm looking forward to becoming a grandpa for the first time in November.

I still have the last bottle of homemade wine that my grandpa made from the grapes that still grow in the yard of his house (which is still in the family!).

It's in a Ballantine Ale bottle. My dad used to say, "By now it's either real good wine, or very bad vinegar!" And that was years ago!

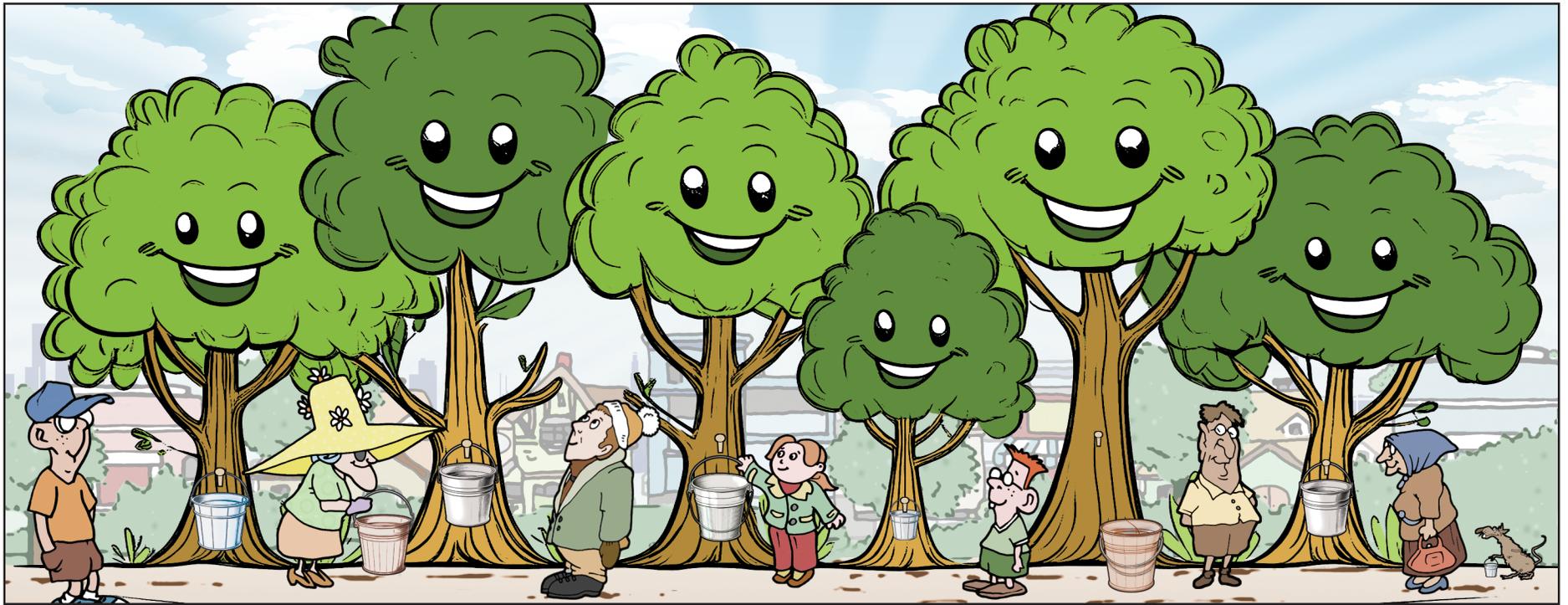
Check out www.ellisland.org to find out when your grandparents from abroad came to America. It's a free site, and it's great!

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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's everybody get sappy!

Our View Of The Times



The Annual Maple Boil Down has become a widely popular tradition here in the city, and the preceding collection of maple sap is currently underway.

As part of this project, a team of volunteers taps a swath of maple trees on the Tufts campus, collecting dozens of gallons of sap over a number of weeks.

At the Maple Boil Down event, taking place on Saturday, March 7, at the Somer-

ville Community Center, the sap is boiled down into real, true 100% hyper-local maple syrup.

At this fun and flavorful event, youth and adults alike have a chance to learn about tree anatomy and physiology and experience the process of making fresh maple syrup first-hand.

Participants watch first-hand as sap collected from sugar maple trees on the Tufts

Campus is boiled into syrup, and connect with others in the community.

The first tapping and boil-down was in March 2000. Volunteers tapped trees at the Growing Center and in the yard of Lisa Brukilacchio, the city's Green Space Coordinator, and that of her neighbor, and used a basic "furnace" made out of cinderblocks. The following year, they connected with Tufts University to tap trees on

campus, and students built from scratch a metal furnace that retained heat better than the cinderblock one.

Read more about the Somerville Maple Syrup Project at www.thegrowingcenter.org/maplesyrupproject.

Public Boil: Saturday, March 7, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 pm.. Somerville Growing Center, 22 Vinal Avenue

Weather Date: Saturday, March 14.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Mangherini Griffin, Betsy Bragg, Scott Naugler, David Rudolph, Bob Schofield, Karen Mancini, George Wood, and Shu Tai, a very happy birthday. To all those who are also celebrating this week, we wish a happy birthday.

A Public Hearing for Out of the Blue Gallery is happening at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, this Wednesday, March 4, at 6 p.m. in person in the City Council chamber or by Zoom. Join and share your thoughts in person or through Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rj1z-BvbbT6-hojI7a7YR_w. The City

Council will hold a public hearing on the petition submitted by 52 registered voters regarding Out of the Blue Community Arts Space at Arts at the Armory. The Out of the Blue Community Arts is a 501c3 Non-Profit that has existed for nearly 6 years as a living workspace and a Gallery space in the Armory. In addition to providing a low-cost, fully serviced performance space and building-wide art gallery, Out of the Blue Community Arts strives to create an inclusive environment for artists of all demographics, mediums, and experience. The non-profit art gallery has received many awards throughout Camberville

for its inclusionary practices and for creating platforms for youngsters, seniors, the disabled, and BIPOC participants. Its existence throughout Boston spans over 30 years.

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

March 14 – April 11. Register online at www.somervillerec.com.

Somerville Media Center is hosting a special 3-part workshop series, Women in Film, on March 8, 15, and 22. Sign up here: <https://app.amilia.com/store/en/smc/shop/activities/6682997>. Celebrate Women's History Month and learn about women's and nonbinary filmmaking history, get hands-on production and camera training, and create your own film project. All three classes are free for members and \$30 for non-members. Sign up at the link or email frontdesk@somervillemedia.org.
Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1012

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Seven stars that form a large ladle or spoon-shaped pattern in the sky are known as what? | League Baseball player wear on April 15? |
| 2. What bear can only be found in only cold, Arctic regions of the world? | 7. What day is celebrated internationally on March 8? |
| 3. In what year was the first "Batman" comic book published? | 8. The Treaty of Paris ended which war? |
| 4. Actor Nicolas Cage is the nephew of what famous director? | 9. Who is the author of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> ? |
| 5. What is the name of Sabrina's cat in <i>Sabrina the Teenage Witch</i> ? | 10. Which chess pieces can only move straight? |
| 6. Which number does every Major | 11. What song did Paul McCartney pen for John Lennon's son, Julian? |
| | 12. Which U.S. state is known as the Land of 10,000 Lakes? |

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Montpelier, VT, is the only U.S. capital without a McDonald's.
2. Americans, on average, eat 18 acres of pizza every day.

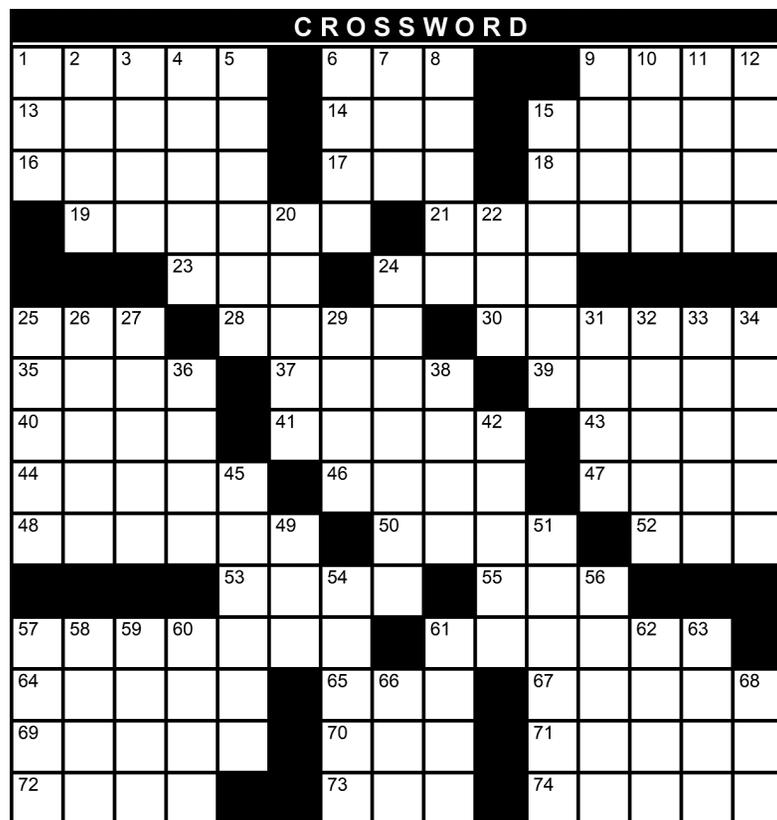
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD SINGERS & SONGWRITERS

ACROSS

1. Comprehend
6. It has no staying power?
9. Auditioner's hope
13. Prevention measure?
14. Ill temper
15. Poetic although
16. Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
17. Downhill equipment
18. Beau
19. "What Was I Made For?" singer
21. "Fast Car" singer
23. Part of URL
24. Peephole glance
25. Morning drops
28. 1920s art style
30. Reduce, as in standing
35. Big Bang's original matter
37. Lad's counterpart
39. Connection
40. Milton Bradley's game
41. Tea from certain region of India
43. Some bent pipes
44. Rose oil
46. Zeus' wife
47. Remove from a manuscript
48. What bird did, homewise
50. Hyperbolic sine
52. "____ and the City"
53. Prejudice
55. "Wow!"
57. "Song Sung Blue" singer
61. "I Just Called to Say I Love You" singer
64. Barrel racing meet
65. ____ Maria
67. Shockingly graphic
69. Not upright
70. Bathtub libation
71. Food contaminant
72. W on a light bulb
73. Consume
74. Ayes

DOWN

1. Former Portuguese colony in India
2. Deceptive maneuver
3. Naysayer's favorite prefix
4. Upbraid



SWITCH & GET

\$25

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5. 1/3rd of a hockey game | 34. English county |
| 6. Phish homophone | 36. Source of protein |
| 7. One of Indian's quests | 38. Delhi wrap |
| 8. Prepare for winter takeoff | 42. Popular lassi fruit |
| 9. Alka-Seltzer sound | 45. Restart computer |
| 10. Nucleus plus electrons | 49. Clamor |
| 11. Actress Perlman | 51. "The Boys of Summer" singer |
| 12. Tattered's partner | 54. "Bad news travels fast", e.g. |
| 15. Rouse | 56. Draw a conclusion |
| 20. Inscribed pillar | 57. Pull out a pistol |
| 22. He had | 58. Letter before kappa |
| 24. Own | 59. Type of mine passage |
| 25. "Hurricane" singer | 60. Cheesy sandwich |
| 26. Like March Madness' eight | 61. Hit the road |
| 27. Hair extensions | 62. Cupid's counterpart |
| 29. "Folsom Prison Blues" singer | 63. Rub the wrong way |
| 31. "Walk on the Wild Side" singer | 66. Road, in Rome |
| 32. Wheel shafts | 68. Bad-mouth, slangily |
| 33. Tutu fabric | |

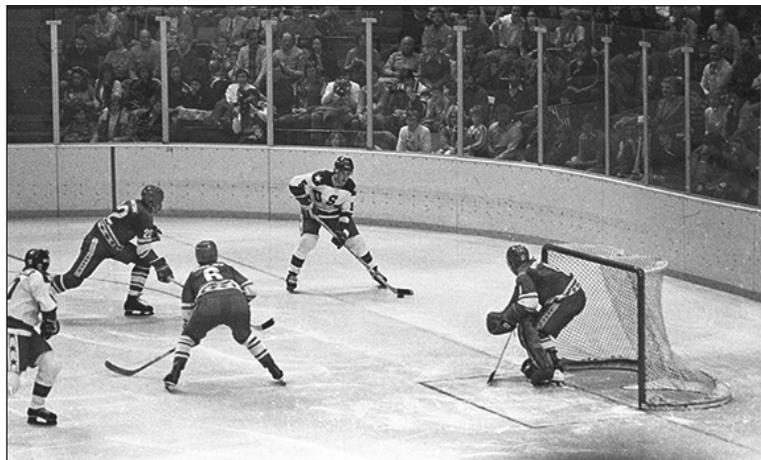
Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Gold winning hockey team has a Somerville connection

Hughes is a famous name in Hockey. Jack Hughes, a member of the United States team, scored the game-winning goal in overtime against Canada in the 2026 Winter Olympics for the U.S. to win Gold.

Though not related to the current Gold Medal winner, there are other locally famous Hugheses in hockey. The last player cut from the 1980 U.S. team was Jack Hughes. Jack grew up on Lowell St. in Somerville and, by all accounts, was robbed of an opportunity to be on the Miracle on Ice 1980 Men's Olympic Gold Medal champion team.

George Hughes, his brother, was instrumental in helping



U.S. vs. Soviet Union match, Winter Olympics 1980.

— Photo courtesy of Henry Zbyszynski

and developing the hockey skills of Gold Medal-winning Hillary Knight of the winning U.S. Women's Hockey team.

Jack and George Hughes had stellar hockey careers. They

both played on Malden Catholic's state championship in high school, and both went on to play hockey for Harvard College. Two Somerville players who are part of Olympic hockey history.

Live music to support LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts CONT. FROM PG 1

night of music."

A portion of the event proceeds will go to LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts [5]. 5Ever commented under Broken String Booking's flyer post on Instagram, "ICE OUT ... POP PUNK IN."

Another One Down! bassist Nolan McGovern said over email that they supported this fundraising because "we must do anything we can to materially oppose fascism and its violence towards our neighbors."

Kozol has booked fundraising events before, particularly for the Transgender Emergency Fund of Massachusetts, saying that "community is created by working with local orgs."

"I mean, look — with everything that's been going on in the news related to what's happening with ICE and how many people have been wrongfully arrested, it's necessary to make sure that,

at the very least, some type of organization can be sticking up for the little people," Kozol said regarding supporting LUCE.

Kozol has worked with Warehouse XI for over a year and does the sound for all Broken String Booking events at the venue, describing it as "legal DIY." Warehouse XI's industrial and modern setting adds to the DIY feeling.

"Having spaces like Warehouse being accessible for artists is really helping make the Boston music scene thrive a bit more," Kozol said.

The Somerville music scene is an "incredibly great community of rock n roll superstars," according to Quinni. Through accessible venues and community engagement, the scene is being given the space to grow.

"Engaging with it is the most important part, and engaging with your community also helps create safety for those that need

it," Kozol said about the Somerville music scene. "We need more people to be active in this scene, to be supportive of their neighbors and to make sure that everybody can feel safe."

Warehouse XI is located in Union Square at 11 Sanborn Court, Somerville, MA 02143. You can learn more about the event on Eventbrite [6].

Links:

- [1] <https://www.5everband.com/>
- [2] <https://www.instagram.com/cinemastare/>
- [3] <https://www.instagram.com/anotheronedownri/>
- [4] <https://ringpopband.com/home>
- [5] <https://www.lucemass.org/>
- [6] <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/luce-fundraiser-5ever-cinema-stare-another-one-down-ring-pop-tickets-1983141732306>

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #349

This article first appeared in the March 5, 2014, edition of The Somerville Times.

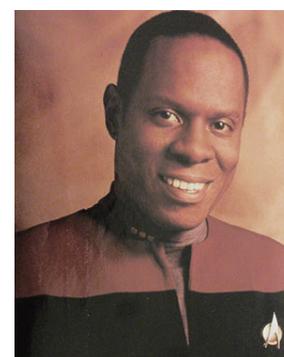
Somerville: For Hire

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Not too long ago, many newspapers agreed that Boston's answer to James Bond was Spenser. Spenser was a character born out of the brilliant and prolific mind of the late author, Robert B. Parker, who generated dozens of Spenser mystery novels and created the *Jesse Stone Series* (starring Tom Selleck). The Spenser stories were then developed into the well-known 1980's television series, *Spencer: For Hire*.



The episodes centered around a "rough and tumble" former state cop and boxer (played by Robert Urich, who also starred in the television series *Vega\$*). Because of his police background, his occupation evolved into private detective work. In gratitude, after once rescuing one of their own, Boston's firefighters gave Spenser access to an unused Beacon Hill firehouse for his lodging and an office. Later, he operated out of the Charlestown Naval Yard.



His vast neighborhood of operation was mainly Boston and its suburbs. He could handle most of the dangers his occupation served up. When he couldn't, he would enlist the help of his best friend, Hawk (played by Avery Brooks, also known for his role as Captain Benjamin Sisko in *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*). The two often worked out in the boxing ring together. Their personalities in boxing language would have described Spenser as "rough around the edges" (like Sylvester Stallone's *Rocky*), or a "shot and beer" type guy. Hawk was a more suave and classy type, like Muhammad Ali or a James Bond, "shaken but not stirred" breed.

For three years, filming was done in many locations in and around Boston, including Somerville. Most Somerville locations were shot in the Prospect *Continued on page 13*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3/4/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Change of Hours and 2AM License for Na Perleras LLC d/b/a El Jalisco Mexican Grill & Bar at 145 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vjsijMrnRfOH0ZSvuPU2-g You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

3/4/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons for Tufts University d/b/a Hotung Cafe at 44 Professors Row.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vjsijMrnRfOH0ZSvuPU2-g You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

3/4/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Alteration of Premises for The Lawn Bar Inc d/b/a The Lawn Bar at 301 Assembly Row.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vjsijMrnRfOH0ZSvuPU2-g You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Change of Address for Union Leaf Inc d/b/a Cookies at 72 Union Square.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vjsijMrnRfOH0ZSvuPU2-g You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):

Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices for 617 Subs LLC d/b/a Jersey Mike's Subs at 365 Revolution Drive.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vjsijMrnRfOH0ZSvuPU2-g You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JAKE WILSON
MAYOR
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's **Land Use Committee** and the **Somerville Planning Board** will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, March 19th, 2026, at 6:30 pm**. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

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

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

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

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

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #26-53

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

On-Call Repairs to Irrigation and Water Features

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **3:00PM Wednesday, March 18, 2026**. 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 for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

3/4/26 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #26-55

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

Epoxy Floor Coating at Dilboy Pool House

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, March 4, 2026**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **3:00PM Monday, March 23, 2026**. 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 Logan Carroll at lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

3/4/26 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, March 19, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5qCh3BQATwefFhhf4mc5lQ

TO CALL IN

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

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

222 Broadway Mission Hill Donuts, LLC proposes to expand the hours of an existing nonconforming business in the Mid-Rise 5 (MR5) zoning district, which requires a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

3/4/26 The Somerville Times



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

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

Lease of Building Space at 191 Highland Ave "Armory"

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

The RFP and specifications may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 2:00PM**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Felisa Gárate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

3/4/26 The Somerville Times

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From on page 8

Ms. Cam's
Olio
 Answers

1. The Big Dipper	7. International Women's Day
2. Polar bear	8. The Revolutionary War
3. 1939	9. Emily Brontë
4. Francis Ford Coppola	10. Rooks
5. Salem	11. Hey Jude
6. 42	12. Minnesota

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: I want to increase the rent on a unit. What do I need to do?

A: If your tenant has a lease and you do not have an escalator clause in it, you must wait until the end of the lease and then may raise the rent by giving 30 days notice or signing a new lease. If your tenant is a tenant-at-will, you must give them at least 30 days notice before raising the rent.

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

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

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

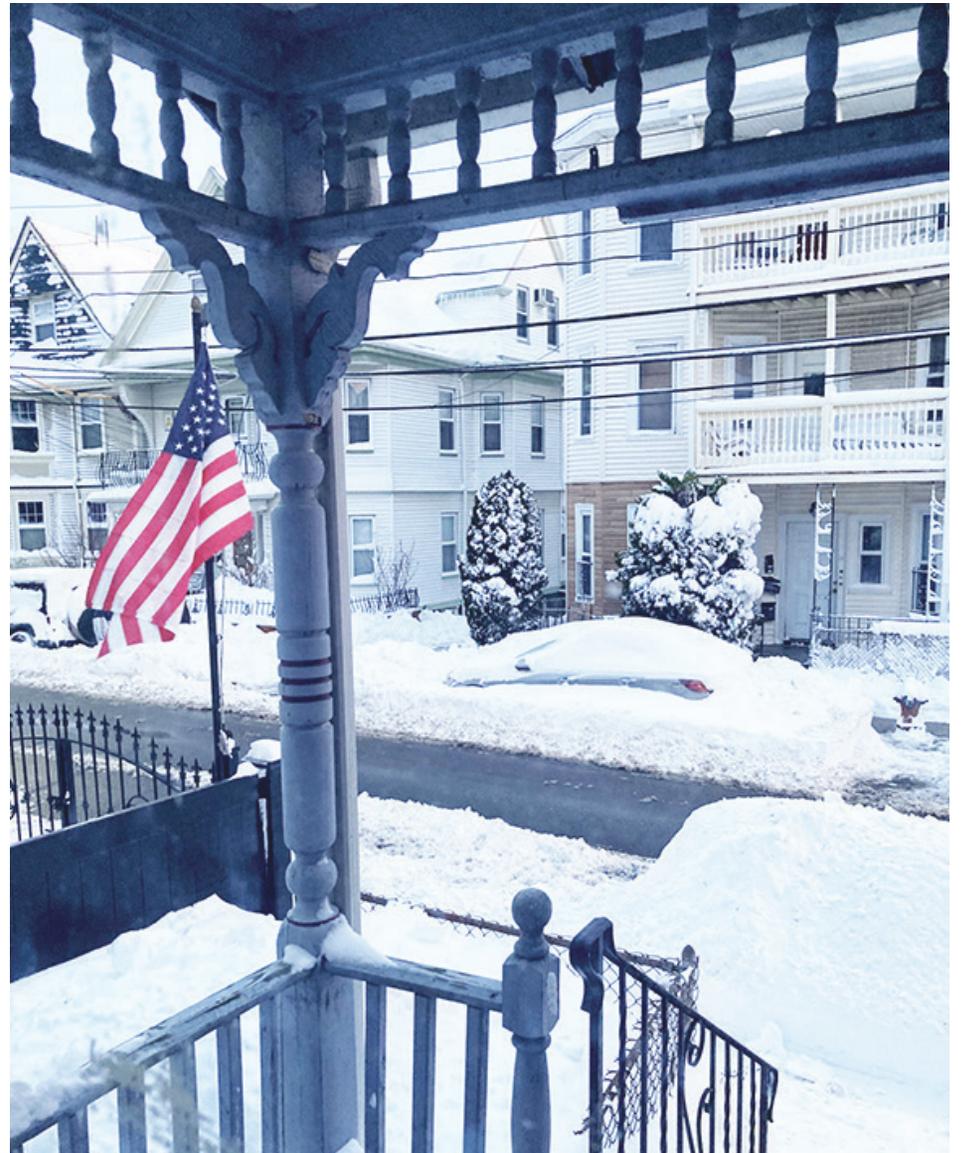


Why did the spider go to school?
He wanted to be a web designer.

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Bobbie Toner
857-488-5138

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



The morning after... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

March 4

- 1634 – Samuel Cole opens the first tavern in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1766 – The British Parliament repeals the Stamp Act.
- 1789 – The first Congress of the United States meets in New York and declares that the Constitution is in effect.
- 1793 – George Washington is inaugurated as President for the second time.
- 1797 – Vice-President John Adams, elected President on December 7, to replace George Washington, is sworn in.
- 1801 – Thomas Jefferson is the first President to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C.
- 1861 – The Confederate States of America adopt the "Stars and Bars" flag.
- 1877 – The Russian Imperial Ballet stages the first performance of *Swan Lake*.
- 1908 – The New York board of education bans the act of whipping students.
- 1914 – Doctor Fillatre of Paris, France successfully separates Siamese twins.
- 1975 – Queen Elizabeth II knights Charlie Chaplin.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Virtually join the **Small Business Office Hours**, Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Join in to talk to city staff from **Economic Development, Licensing, and ISD** to discuss any questions regarding permits, licenses, or your business. Attendees will be held in a waiting room and admitted to speak with staff in order of when they joined the call. This week's session will take place on **Thursday, March 5**. Use this link to join: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86006892005?pwd=U2xsT-2JvQmdTMmpoY2dtTk10SXNYZz09>

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

Due to the **recent snow days**, the school year has been **extended**, and the last day of school will be **Thursday, June 18**.

Uprooted / Transplanted – Stories of Displacement Call for Entry, Deadline: **March 30**. **The Nave Gallery**, in partnership with the **Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC)**, invites artists to contribute to the curated exhibition. This exhibition will present images and stories of displacement, the forced movement of people from their homes due to conflict, violence, or natural disaster. Learn more at <https://navegallery.org/wp/uprooted-transplanted-call-for-art/>.

Liam Mannion and **Bob McWatters** invite the public to join them on **St. Patrick's Day, March 17**, at **Sally O'Brien's**, 335 Somerville Ave., to celebrate Irish heritage with music, corned beef cabbage, and a pint of Guinness. At Sally O'Brien's on St Patrick's Day, there will be plenty of laughter, libations, and many special

guests coming by throughout the day to join in the festivities.

Join the **SomerPromise Department**, the **Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC)**, and **representatives from regional summer camps and organizations** for an evening of free pizza and information sharing. All families are welcome, and language interpretation will be available. **East Somerville Community School**, 50 Cross Street. **March 5, 5 – 7 p.m.**

On **Friday, April 10**, **GLOWBALL** will transform the **Armory Performance Hall** into an immersive Rave created by **DJ WhySham** and visual projectionist **Jay Medina**, all in support of **The Center for Arts at the Armory**. **GLOWBALL** is an "anti-gala"—there will be no speeches, presentations, or auction. There will be pop-up performances by **Sean Bjerke** and **RHOUSE Dancers**; **The House of Nahdra**, **AfroFuture Fashion Portal**, and **Circus 617**. This year's honorees: **Ellen Waylonis**, Lifetime Achievement Award; **Willie Burnley**, Community Arts Advocate; and **Wendy Jehlen**, Outstanding Artist. **GLOWBALL** tickets include complimentary international bites and glow-in-the-dark styling and face painting. This will surely be Somerville's most illuminating party of 2026. For tickets and more information, visit: <https://artsatthearmory.org/>

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

Some reminders for the 2025/2026 snow season: Snow emergency parking is on the **odd side of the street all winter**, unless posted signage says differently. Sign up for alerts or update your information at somerville-ma.gov/alerts. You can call 311 (617-666-3311) if you need assistance. For more information on the city's snow policies, visit somervillema.gov/snow.

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

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

Join the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** for a night of local love at **The Crystal Ballroom** featuring some of Somerville's best. Their **2026 Spring into Action celebration** on **March 26** brings together local flavors and fantastic live music from **West of Willow** and **The Loomers**. Be part of it and celebrate their community with them. Save the date; tickets drop in February. For support or additional information, please contact mcon-lan@shcinc.org.

Take steps to protect yourself and loved ones against **COVID-19, the flu, and other illnesses** this winter. **Somerville's Health and Human Services Department** is hosting **free vaccine clinics** at

locations across the city. For more information, visit: <https://www.somerville-ma.gov/vaccinations>. Next clinic will be **Thursday, March 12, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**, Council on Aging, 167 Holland Street.

Apply today for **Creative Space at Somerville's Armory**. All creative disciplines are encouraged to apply for open spaces now **through March 11**. The city is now accepting **Requests for Proposals (RFPs)** from arts and creative enterprises interested in leasing space at the city-owned Armory at 191 Highland Ave. Last chance to see the Armory spaces before proposals are due. There will be a final walkthrough on **Thursday March 5, at 5 p.m.** This is your final opportunity to visit the spaces to prepare for your submission. Final questions are due **March 6**, and proposals are due **March 18**. More information, full RFP details, and updates are available on Somervoice: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan>

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

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

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

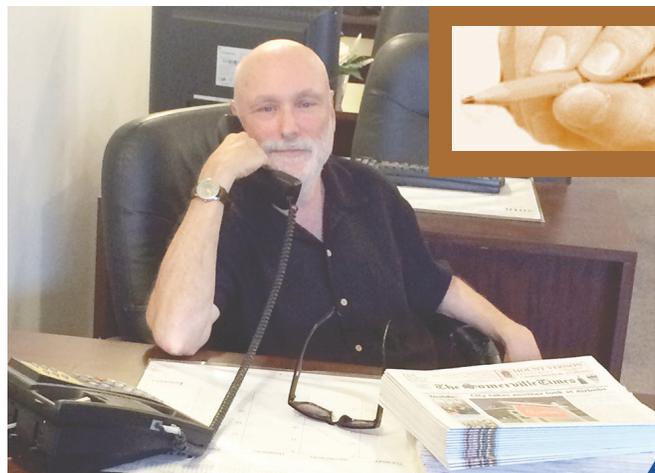
Hill, Union Square, and Spring Hill areas. Somerville fans would see movie stars, directors, and stage workers in their own neighborhoods. Avery, a sports-car enthusiast, could be seen at the Hawkins Street Garage admiring their foreign cars. Union Square churches and buildings provided centuries-old

backdrops that would be hard-pressed to recreate on Hollywood sets. A large, handsome Queen-Anne style house at the corner of Walnut and Munroe Streets was rented for a year and used for many episodes. One famous scene had to have a Somerville fire engine and its crew standing by while they filmed the

front door being blown apart. Another notable scene was a car chase through Elm Square and down Somerville Avenue into the Somerville Car Wash. The cars rushed through the entrance and continued on through with a high-speed soapy exit.

Through the years, the idea of

"Somerville for Hire" has provided film and fodder for other movies such as, *A Civil Action* and *The Social Network*. Because of Somerville's unique history, it would be great to see the wagon train of Hollywood's trucks and trailers through Somerville grow even longer.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Poet Ilan Mochari engages the world with his new book of poetry 'Playthings'

Recently, I caught up with Somerville poet and novelist Ilan Mochari to talk to him about his new book of poetry *Playthings*.

Poet Richard Hoffman writes of the collection:

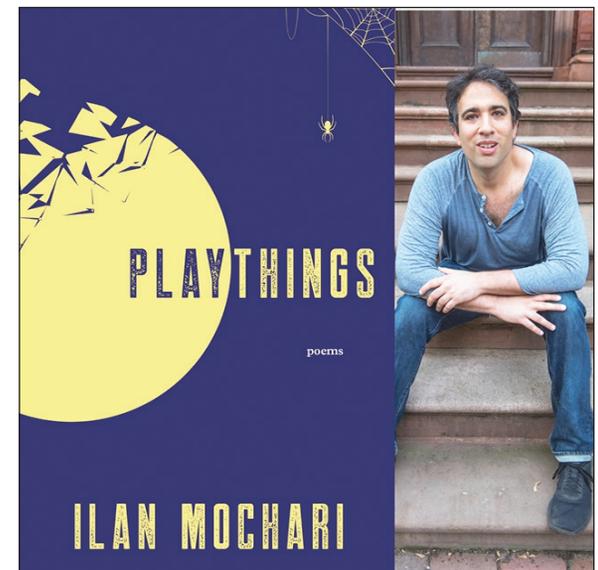
"Ilan Mochari's voice in *Playthings* is exquisite in its range, its responsiveness, its singing. These are poems to be savored and read many times. Whether he is writing about trees native to Mexico, spiders native to his bathroom, or memories native to boyhood, his engagement with the world delivers poems that praise and lament, remember and contemplate. Several are small masterpieces: *Playthings*, *Fiancé*, *Fiancée*, and *Weekday*. City are jewels. What a treasure. What a pleasure."

Doug Holder: Years ago, I interviewed you about your novel *Zinsky the Obscure*. Now, poetry seems to be a much more important part of your body of work. Explain.

Ilan Mochari: I've always enjoyed writing both fiction and poetry – and I remain ambitious in both genres. More than anything, it's just that *Playthings*, my new poetry collection, crossed the finishing line before my next novel was ready. But I hope over the next several years to have some new novels to share with the world, too.

DH: You write with great reverence about, of all things, spiders, rabbits, etc. I don't think most people would think about the lives of such creatures in their backyard or bathroom, but you do. What's wrong with you?

IM: Humans are amazing creatures, but I don't know if we produce anything as marvelous as spi-



der silk. Spiders have been on earth for 400 million years – they know how to survive! Lyrically speaking, I love using animals as nouns. Rabbit, armadillo, elephant, camel, raccoon—these words cast potent images and traits in a reader's mind.

DH: I have always thought that buses and trains give us great fodder for poetry. The photographer Walker Evans used a little camera under his raincoat to catch moments on the New York City subway. You have some brilliant poetic snapshots, too. Could you comment on this?

IM: Thank you! I respect the hell out of *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* (who doesn't?). As a daily rider of Boston's trains and buses – and New York's when I was growing up – I've always been amazed by what I saw, heard, felt, and smelled *Continued on page 15*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Poet Jason Youngclaus writes: "When I returned to the Boston area after living in NYC for 15 years, I moved into the heart of East Somerville. As you do when you move into an area, you look for "spots" that become routine. One morning I was walking along Washington Street, hungry, and I spied this tiny lunch-car diner. I went in and immediately felt at home. I ended up frequenting the joint and getting to know the regulars, the people that worked there, and as a result started learning about the history of the diner as an establishment once named Buddy's Truck Stop. But then suddenly, Buddy's had to close because of dire plumbing issues.



Fast forward a bit: On a whim back in November of last year I started writing this verse novella (I'm not sure what else you'd call it), remembering my time there and imagining what the place would have been like back in the day. Lo and behold, as I was writing this thing Buddy's owner has been launching a campaign to re-open the diner. And just this month there is a column in the *Boston Globe* about her campaign securing grants from the city and god knows what else.

Jason Youngclaus is the author of the poetry collection *Little Planet Raisins* (Spartan Press, 2020). His work has appeared in *Cathexis Northwest Press*, *Transcendent Zero Press*, and *From Whispers to Roars*, among others, and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

At the Counter at Buddy's: Movement 1

"Walking through the sliding door into the middle of any 1920s diner, the customer was struck instantly by the long marble counter. By now, all diners were configured with the counter running the length of the car"

— Richard G.S. Gutman, *American Diner: Then and Now*

Cláudio sits at the counter at Buddy's,
he's got one of those barely black eyes
that border between
fresh from too many hours
and spoiled from too many spills
off the supermoto.
He orders a single pancake with only butter,
"One wrong turn and you're dead,"
he utters, leaning forward into
the 200 mph turns round the track at

the Loudon Classic in Laconia.
Served a black coffee,
he sips it like a singer concluding a ballad
that could tear your heart out.

When José whips his pancake plate to 3:00 down the counter,
there are 3 unmistakable seconds
where the air smells like cooling rubber.
As that dissipates,
coffee reassumes its watch.
The place is now three quarters full,
which makes you wonder
who will fill it in
before José, who comes in and out
of conversations,
puts on one of his many symphonies of
greasebelt perfection
from behind the grill:

a Denver omelet well done to Manuel,
a spatula scrape and a flip—
fluffy pancakes to the family in the back,
French toast to Emily,
the way only she takes it,
a veggie omelet with avocado for me,
3 burgers cooked 3 different ways
for 3 hungover kids from BC,
questions from a masked Yelp couple out of Jersey—
you cash only, you got an ATM?—
A Buddy's special for Bruce—
hot on a plate and crackling,
a bacon-fueled cacophonous hum.
A fresh batch of homefries for everyone,
and maybe a trumpet solo,
or a string section
to provide a clinical counterpoint that,
like the hum of traffic to a hungry dog—
I feel before hearing.

New funding approved for Kennedy schoolyard improvements CONT. FROM PG 4

- + Accessible carousel/spinner.
- + Sensory play tunnel wide enough for mobility devices, with play panels along it.
- + Hillside climbing elements (rubber steps, handholds in surfacing).
- + Perimeter sensory and activity panels.
- + A small play hut / quiet self-regulation nook:
- + Tucked away from the most active zones.
- + Still designed with enough visibility for recess monitors.
- + Communication board and other visual supports (directionally committed; exact design TBD).

Seating, shade, and gathering

Modular seating blocks (“Lego” style, fixed in place):

- + Used throughout, with clusters under a grove of trees and around the rain garden.
 - + Configurable for back support, armrests, and companion seating for wheelchairs.
 - + Some walls at the rain garden built at seating height for informal gathering.
- Shade structures:
- + One entry shade structure attached/adjacent to the school:
 - + Aligns posts to existing columns.
 - + Clearly marks the main entrance.
 - + Shelters bike racks and fixed benches.
- One larger plaza shade canopy:
- + Oriented for school gatherings, PTA

events, and partial shade for 8th-grade graduation.

- + Designed to hold movable picnic tables but also allow clearing the space for events.

Stormwater and play environment

Use of light-colored coatings (e.g., white or light-toned under playground graphics) to:

- + Reduce heat island effects on hard courts and paved areas.
- + Sloped surfaces and planting designed to:
- + Protect the play area from icing (e.g., not draining roofs onto paths).
- + Direct water into rain gardens and subsurface systems instead.

Ongoing inclusive design process

Decision to continue working with:

- + CPAC
- + Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- + School staff and relevant city departments

Goal: refine final choices of equipment, surfacing patterns, communication supports, and detailed layouts so the playground functions equitably for all users once built.

Questions and discussion by those in attendance followed the presentation.

The full meeting can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOGVLDwdctU&t=1196s>.

Somerville community members launch People’s Ordinance for Palestine CONT. FROM PG 5

of any companies that aid in apartheid, oppression, occupation.” Mustafa reflected on the enormous efforts by hundreds of Somerville community members to get this far. “We gathered over 10,000 signatures, over double what was necessary to get the [nonbinding public policy] question on the ballot, and when the question was on the ballot, it passed overwhelmingly, really indicating how Somerville wants to divest and boycott from companies that have an active role in human rights violations. The people spoke, and now it’s just up to the councilors to listen to their constituents. It’s exactly why they were voted

into their positions in the first place.”

Commenting on how this ordinance would impact Palestinians in their homeland, Mustafa shared that companies that would be impacted by the People’s Ordinance are “multi-national companies that have provided services, products, and resources that go to providing surveillance technology that goes into every checkpoint, Palestinian neighborhood, and drones that are flown over Palestinian children. Everything that these companies do and provide for Israel is going to impact Palestinians on the ground, who have to live with the devastating consequences of this technology.”

Mustafa highlighted that Somerville elected leaders have taken action against ICE enforcement in Somerville, and that Palestine should not be an exception to enacting policies in the interest of human rights. “We are far too late in this country in condemning the crimes against humanity that Israel continues to commit against Palestinians. But now, since the people of Somerville have made their opinions quite clear, the councilors are required to act upon the will of their constituents. Somerville has a history of being on the right side of history and human rights, so why would we stop that now? It is crucial for Somer-

ville city councilors to introduce, vote, and hopefully pass this ordinance because, without good people taking a stand, the evil continues, and it multiplies. We’re seeing it in everyday life, not just abroad but also here at home. It is the democratic duty of our elected officials to heed our calls.”

Somerville for Palestine is an interracial, interfaith, and intergenerational community group formed in response to Israel’s escalated genocide against Palestinians. Somerville for Palestine seeks to enact local change in the service of Palestinian liberation.

— Somerville for Palestine

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

while commuting. Commutes are a window to the world of how we mortals live, think, and behave: perhaps the finest example of this in U.S. poetry is Walt Whitman’s *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry*. One of my poems in *Playthings*, *Station*, begins with the poem’s speaker positioning his camera in the weedy yard where a nameless city stores light rail trains. I’ve never taken such snapshots in real life, but I’ve always wanted to!

DH: Your poetry has a cornucopia of images. It has great range, from the banality of a bus to the high holy of the artist Georgia O’Keeffe. Could one say you are a “renaissance man” of a poet?

IM: It would be more accurate (if less flattering) to say, quoting Whitman, that I resist anything better than my own diversity. I’d be hard pressed to develop a collection of my poems (or my short stories for that matter) around a single, specific theme or subject. A broad theme like nature, sure: I can fit the world under that umbrella. But to your point, miscellany’s my thing: I have a difficult time writing about the same ostensible topic more than once,

unless years have passed between the efforts. My next novel is dramatically different from *Zinsky*; the poems I’m working on now are like nothing in *Playthings*. Incidentally, the O’Keeffe poem is also an homage to my mother, who’s a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Their best one, I might add.

DH: Why should we read your collection?

IM: Lusty escapism. *Playthings* probes the natural world and the thoughtless harm and joy of our imbalanced tryst with it. Beneath that admittedly broad rubric, you’ll find meditations on subjects ranging from moons to gum trees to outfield grass. What you won’t find are poems about current events or politics. That’s not my bag. Plenty of poets do it, and they do it much better than I ever could. I’ve never had a passion for the news or elected officials. But what you’ll find in *Playthings* is jubilation: a rolling around in earth’s muddy facts, the biological and astronomical truths that transcend trendiness and are thus, in themselves, the purest form of diversion from the puritanical shouts and screams

From the Faraway, Nearby

Take me, docent, to the surreal O’Keeffe,
Where a liminal desert & mountainous sands
Set a brown, jawless skull in abandoned relief.
Bones bloom like blessings from holier lands,
Antlers curl Godward like six withered hands
Or calligraphic Hebrew, draped in the sky,
Near cloud wisps stripped thin by symbolic demands.
As if centuries sidestepping questions of why
Left us only with deer horns to deify.

Docent, lead me to the O’Keeffe eternal,
Where the head of the cervid is floating on high,
As if lifted to heaven by forces maternal.
This canvas depicts, this title affirms
An art in the juxtaposed distance of terms.

— Ilan Mochari

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SHS 2025/26 Indoor Track End of season round-up

Boys Indoor Track & Field (Record 7-0), Girls Indoor Track & Field (Record 7-0)

For the first time since the year 2018, with record team depth and roster numbers, both teams (Girls & Boys) captured the league championship in the same season with undefeated season records and GBL Championships Meet (All-League) victories, marking 50 total league championships combined (Indoor and Spring) since 1987. Eva Meli/Field Events, Thano Frantzis/Track & Field, Annabelle Schneider/Track, and Marissa Luxama/Track & Field - are nominated for GBL Athlete of the Year (AOY).

Winning individual league event championships were: Thano Frantzis-Long Jump, Marissa Lux-ama-Hurdles, Annabelle Schneider-Mile and Two Mile, Eva Meli-Shot Put, Isla Martin-1000m & the 800m relay team of Marissa, Maryanne Bride, Olivia Scamman, and Samar Benkhayat. In addition to the league champions listed, the following athletes are nominated by GBL coaches for GBL All-Star status: Annika Pearson, Robert Leoni, Lucca Lauers, Henry Omura, Kerry Al-phonse, and Henry Zarecor.

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

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

Go Highlanders!



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