



### Inside:



**Somerville Lumber**  
page 3



**Women's History Month celebration**  
page 13



**Somerville Songwriter Sessions**  
page 15

## Ayanna Pressley secures \$850,000 for Highland Avenue Streetscape Project



The City of Somerville's Highland Avenue Streetscape Project will benefit to the tune of \$850,000, thanks to the efforts of Rep. Ayanna Pressley.

Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley announced \$13,009,444 in federal Community Project Funding for 15 total projects across the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY2024). Out of the 15 projects, the City of Somerville will receive \$850,000 for the Highland Avenue Streetscape Project.

The projects, which Pressley has championed throughout the FY2024 appropriations process, would support affordable housing for LGBTQ+ seniors, childcare, economic development, accessible and resilient infrastructure, coastal flood mitigation, waterfront green space, life sciences, and more.

With this funding, Congresswoman Pressley has secured a total of approximately \$35 million in federal community project funding for the Massachusetts 7th since FY2022.

*Continued on page 4*

## Somerville Open Studios (SOS): First Look Exhibit

Every year the Somerville Museum and Somerville Open Studios (SOS) hosts the First Look Exhibit in the Museum's gallery spaces. This show is open to all artists who register with Somerville Open Studios, and will be open from April 11 through May 11, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

It's a great opportunity for visitors to view artists work and plan their open studios weekend visits. Somerville Museum, One Westwood Rd, free admission is sponsored by Somerville Open Studios.

For the first time in five years, SOS will hold a fashion show, now called Artwear. The show will be held on Thursday, May 2, at the Crystal Ballroom in Davis Square. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., with the show starting at 7:00 p.m.

Somerville Open Studios 2024, 25th Anniversary, will take place on Saturday and

*Continued on page 11*



Get a "first look" at this year's Open Studios event at the Somerville Museum, starting on April 11. — Photo by eHawk

**BUSINESS BANKING**

With a Complete Line of Online and Mobile Banking Services Business Banking is... **Better Than Ever!**

**WINTER HILL BANK**  
Customize Banking Today

617-666-8600 | 1-800-444-4300 | winterhillbank.com

A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906. NYCE Member FDIC

**Bay State Skating School**

LEARN TO SKATE CLASSES for Recreational • Figure • Hockey Skating Skills

As featured on Chronicle

Over 50 Years Experience Children (4-18 years)

Boston Parents Family Favorite 2023 TOP 5

781-890-8480 • www.BayStateSkatingSchool.org

The safety of our customers and staff is our #1 priority!  
Cambridge, Brookline, Cleveland Circle, Medford, Newton-Brighton, Quincy, Somerville, Waltham, West Roxbury, Weymouth

**T.J. SILLARI, INC.** Over 50 Years Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial **625-9877**

Proud to be a Somerville resident Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld, and city staff invite community members to attend a groundbreaking ceremony **Wednesday, April 10**, at the **Dilboy Auxiliary Fields** (300 Alewife Brook Pkwy.) at 1:00 p.m. Construction kicks off this spring to transform the Dilboy Auxiliary Fields into a state-of-the-art sports and recreational facility with natural turf fields. Highlights of the work include full reconstruction of the baseball and softball fields, installation of a sand-slit drainage system, new sports lighting, and more

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Democratic City Committee** will meet virtually on **Wednesday, April 10**, at 7:30 p.m. to hold its reorganization, where they will elect Somerville Democratic City Committee **officers** for two year terms. Please visit this link to sign up and for more information: [https://www.somdems.org/april\\_sdcc\\_reorganization\\_meeting](https://www.somdems.org/april_sdcc_reorganization_meeting).

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as **Linda Camiel Butler, Patricia Garrity, Warren Goldstein-Gelb, Carmen Dolores Ferreira, Mark Hnl Kaye and Eileen Langille** who are all celebrating this week. To all the others we may have missed and, yes, we must admit there are a few more out there. We sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\* *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 10 – April 16 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>April 10</i>	Cloudy	55°/44°	25%	16%	SE 10 mph
<b>Thursday</b> <i>April 11</i>	Rain	50°/51°	40%	31%	N 22 mph
<b>Friday</b> <i>April 12</i>	Rain	62°/48°	25%	17%	N 14 mph
<b>Saturday</b> <i>April 13</i>	Cloudy	57°/42°	12%	8%	W 11 mph
<b>Sunday</b> <i>April 14</i>	Partly Cloudy	59°/49°	20%	13%	SE 13 mph
<b>Monday</b> <i>April 15</i>	Partly Cloudy	64°/46°	22%	14%	SW 11 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>April 16</i>	Sunny	60°/46°	4%	1%	NE 10 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: **Help Officer Ozzy Martinez with another chance to live: Urgently seeking kidney donor**

Ken Brociner says:

Ozzy is, really and truly, one of the nicest men I have ever known. I'm too old to donate a kidney, but I sure hope someone will be found who can!

### Response to: **Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting held in Somerville**

Jon says:

The magoun square intersection itself is visually hideous, totally dysfunctional for driving and is flaked on all sides by dilapidated or empty store fronts. There is nothing at all attractive about the public realm there and it's basically been left to rot by both cities. Maybe some serious public investment could help turn things around; a try would be very welcome.

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

## The Somerville Times

[news@thesomervilletimes.com](mailto:news@thesomervilletimes.com)

[www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://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, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr., Ryan DiLellio, Kyle Dante

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin  
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

*The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday*

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



© 2024 The Somerville Times except where noted. All rights reserved.

## New COVID-19 Guidelines

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health updated their COVID-19 guidelines.

Effective immediately, instead of a 5-day isolation period, students and staff with COVID-19 can now return to school 24 hours after fever subsides (without the use of fever-reducing medications such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen) and when symptoms are improving and with the recommendation that they wear a mask for five additional days. Learn more at: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/nursing-schools/coronavirus-information>

Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Somerville Lumber: Big store with a small store feel



*This article first appeared in the February 22, 2014 edition of The Somerville Times.*

“Before there was Home Depot or Lowe’s, my family always went to Somerville Lumber for any home project that needed to be done.” Somerville Lumber was located on McGrath Highway in the area where Stop & Shop is now. You may remember the huge American flag that flew over Somerville Lumber.

I can still see those red shirts that the employees wore. I can’t believe how many people I know who used to work at Somerville Lumber. Some of the best appliances I ever bought were from there, and lots of people have told me that they still have items purchased from Somerville Lumber. As a matter of fact, I’m on my second washing machine, and my tenants are still using the washer and dryer we bought at Somerville Lumber years ago! Many sheets of wood paneling that still adorn many Somerville homes were purchased there.

Somerville Lumber was owned by the Cohen family, and they were very well liked. At one time, it was the single largest single-site distributor of Armstrong floor products in the U.S. “We would

sell you your lumber, cut it up, load it and tie it onto your vehicle ... not just point you to a box of string and leave you to fend for yourself.”

A former employee recalls, “I worked there for 8 1/2 years and was a proud member of the “Red Eye Crew.” We used to actually call over the paging system for the “Crew” to come to the time clock so we could all go to Moriarty’s for liquid lunch and darts. What great times we had at Somerville Lumber. Good people.”

Another friend says, “I met my husband while working there. It was a great place to work ... we had a lot of fun.” Kids had fun causing a ruckus in the doorbell-display area and hiding and playing in the lumber yard.

“The staff was friendly and helpful and they felt like a family. The owner would actually send bouquets of flowers sometimes when an employee had a new baby.”

“I remember this one time, these guys came in and bought a ton of sheetrock and wanted it on top of their VW van -the old hippie kind with the rounded roof. As we’re loading it, the roundness of the roof starts to flatten out, and even though I’m telling them this ain’t cool, they say to keep going. We loaded it up and tied it down. They left with the roof flattened down and not much spring left in the suspension. It was a pretty funny sight. Lots of people would pull



out of there with their rear ends (dragging) down and their front wheels barely touching the ground.”

In the mid-70s, there was a fire. When it was rebuilt, it wasn’t the claustrophobic two-story building anymore. The new building sprawled along McGrath Highway with a parking lot, lumberyard and loading area.

There is still a store called Somerville Lumber in Bridgewater, N.J.!

Somerville Lumber was a family-run business, and it really was like a big family. Many friendships and relationships blossomed and endure today.

There was a reunion of employees in 2009, and many former Somerville Lumber employees still keep in touch. Someone “who was there” told us that Somerville Lumber closed its doors in October 1997, citing “the continuing weakness in the New England economy.”

The saga of Somerville Lumber takes its place in the city’s grand history of businesses gone by. You don’t have to look too far to find someone in the city who has something good to say about the old Somerville Lumber store.

**Want to write local Somerville stories?**

**Call 857-488-5138**

**and speak to the Assignment Editor**



**Are You Sitting On A Fortune?**

**Call Our Team at CRG To See What Your Home Is Worth.**

**617-764-4342**

**699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144**



## Conditions for Learning Survey for Families, April 1-May 3

Each year, Somerville Public Schools invites families to complete a survey that will help inform decision-making both in our schools and at the district level.

The annual Conditions for Learning (CFL) Survey and the data we collect will be helpful as we work toward setting long-term, meaningful goals to improve student learning and school and district climate and culture in the Somerville Public Schools.

They value you as a part of our learning community and want to ensure that you have an opportunity to share your ideas and opinions with us. Students and staff have also been asked to take a specific version of the survey.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes. If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Eligene, Director of Data Assessment and Accountability at [seligene@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:seligene@k12.somerville.ma.us) [undefined:seligene@k12.somerville.ma.us]



## Somerville Police Dept Crime Log March 26 – April 1

### Assault

On 3/30/24 at approximately 7:03 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Washington St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a witness who stated he observed a female party swinging a cane at another woman. He then stated that he saw a vehicle pull up to them and a male and female exited. The male party then brandished a knife at the woman swinging the cane. The other females and the male then fled the area in the vehicle. Officers located and identified the woman with the cane.

### Residential Breaking and Entering

On 3/29/24 at approximately 10:31 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Powder House Blvd. for report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated his garage door was ajar and a bicycle was missing.

**Other Crimes:** 5 Car Breaks; 2 Vandalisms; 2 MV Thefts; 3 MV Vandalisms; 2 Bike Thefts; 1 Package Theft



**Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210**  
 Help Keep Somerville Safe!

## Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

- 100% completely anonymous • Easy and secure
- Text messages can be sent from anywhere at any time

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

Powered by:



## Mystic River outfall and sewer separation community meeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and city staff invite you to join a virtual community meeting to learn about flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the surrounding neighborhood.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the project website at [somervillema.gov/mysticoutfall](http://somervillema.gov/mysticoutfall) to learn more and

attend the meeting. For those unable to attend, a recording of the presentation will be available on the project website, as well as on City YouTube and the City's GovTV channels.

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

The City of Somerville is making substantial systemwide investments to modernize its sewer and stormwater infrastructure. As part of this effort, the city will be rehabilitating the existing utilities in Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the neighborhood west of Foss Park. To support stormwater management in this area and beyond, the city is also installing new drainage infrastructure and constructing a new stormwater

outfall pipe that will discharge to the Mystic River. This project will reduce flood risk in the surrounding area and help maintain the water quality of local rivers.

In addition to the underground utility improvements, this project will also include street safety improvements and green infrastructure (drainage features designed to mimic natural processes such as irrigated planting areas, bioretention basins with select soils and

plants that catch and filter stormwater, new trees, etc.) throughout the neighborhood.

This project is one of a series of actions the city is undertaking to reduce water pollution, address flooding, and modernize Somerville's infrastructure. Preliminary designs are expected to be complete by Fall 2024. Final design is anticipated to be complete during 2025. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change.

## Rep. Pressley secures \$850,000 for Highland Avenue Streetscape Project

CONT. FROM PG 1

"We fought hard to get these resources over the finish line and they are essential to our work of building a more just and equitable Massachusetts 7th," said Rep. Pressley. "From affordable housing and child-care to climate resilience and accessible infrastructure, these federal dollars will help change

and save the lives of folks in our district, and I am proud to partner with municipalities and grassroots organizations in the Massachusetts 7th to continue delivering resources our communities deserve."

"The \$850,000 secured for Somerville's Highland Ave Streetscape Project will not only

revitalize one of our most traveled roads, but also enrich the lives of our residents, fostering connectivity, safety, and economic growth," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I want to extend my deepest thanks to Rep. Pressley for her unwavering support in championing initiatives that empower Somerville to be a

city that truly serves and uplifts its community."

According to Pressley, "The funding would be used for streetscape improvements including safe, separated bicycle facilities; pedestrian safety measures (e.g., traffic calming, more frequent crossings, and wider, ADA-compliant sidewalks); and

MBTA bus improvements (e.g., upgraded traffic signals, extra wide bus stops. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will these improvements will improve safe access to neighborhood businesses, promote economic development, and lead to the creation of good paying jobs."

## COMMENTARY

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

## Taking on the housing crisis in Massachusetts

By State Representative  
Christine Barber

*We need more affordable housing.* This is something I hear over and over as State Representative throughout my district of Somerville and Medford. When speaking with a group of high school students from my district recently, I asked about their top priority - it was housing. Is this a typical concern for teenagers? This is where we are today.

The housing crisis has been decades in the making, and has been well-documented. The current crisis is due to too many communities building too little housing, to investors buying up affordable units and reselling them for much higher prices, to wages that have not grown in many sectors, and lack of ongoing investment in public housing and other permanently-affordable units. Where we are today is a lack of available housing at all income levels, but particularly for people with low incomes. As many in my district know, it is nearly impossible to afford housing when making

minimum wage. Recent changes like the MBTA Communities Law, which included a bill that I filed, have been in the news lately. Communities in the MBTA's service area are now required to allow zoning for multifamily housing, and some cities and towns are fighting the state's requirements. This law is a necessary and important step, but it is not enough.

There are no easy answers to addressing the housing crisis, but it demands action on a number of different fronts. There are currently thousands of homeless individuals and families throughout Massachusetts, including in Somerville and Medford. While the state is struggling to meet the need for emergency shelter, one solution is to move people from shelter into supportive housing. A program that I continue to champion is HomeBASE, a transitional housing program for families in shelters to help them find stable housing. I am continuing to fight for increased funding for HomeBASE in the state budget, and we have been able to strengthen this program to allow

families to stay longer until they are stabilized. As our homeless crisis has continued to expand, HomeBASE is a lifeline that gets families out of emergency shelters and into more stable housing. I am now working to make HomeBASE a permanent state program, and striving to establish more supports like case management to help families remain in safe housing.

But Massachusetts also needs many more housing units, particularly for low income people. An omnibus housing bill initially filed by the Governor, the Affordable Homes Act, is now moving through the House and Senate, and will address some of these needs. One of my top priorities for the Affordable Homes Act is to allow communities to enact a local option transfer fee. This would give cities and towns the option to pass a transfer fee, and the ability to raise funds from a small percentage of real estate transactions over one million dollars for affordable housing.

Importantly, the proposed Affordable Homes Act would also provide needed funding for pub-

lic housing. Massachusetts is one of the only states in the country that funds our own state-based public housing, on top of federal programs. This housing is a critical resource, but one that has often been neglected and fallen into disrepair due to the high costs of maintenance of old buildings. The Affordable Homes Act provides the opportunity for more initiatives like the redevelopment of Clarendon Hill in Somerville, which preserves existing public housing and adds new affordable units, as well as the proposed Walking Court project in Medford which will make public housing healthy, safe, and accessible for families, seniors and people with disabilities. Without additional funding, we will continue to lose critical state-funded affordable housing all over Massachusetts.

Families also need protections now. I am also working to include a policy I filed to create a Massachusetts Foreclosure Prevention Program, which would require lenders to engage in conferences with homeowners to review all available prevention options well



State Representative Christine Barber

before an impending foreclosure. Losing a home to foreclosure is devastating for a family, especially when alternatives might have been available but were not explored. This would provide protections for homeowners and go a long way to stopping unnecessary foreclosures.

A crisis of this magnitude requires a number of bold policy ideas. The housing crisis also requires us to work together as communities to support people in need of housing. I look forward to working with you as we continue to take on the housing crisis, in Somerville, Medford, and throughout Massachusetts.

### Local teens invited to apply for 2024 Mayor's Summer Jobs Program

Applications are now open for the City of Somerville Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne encourages all interested local teens to apply. Interested teens can apply online now at [somervillema.gov/summerjobs](http://somervillema.gov/summerjobs). Applications are due by Sunday, April 28. All applicants will be interviewed the week of May 13.

#### About the Mayor's Summer Job Program:

Every summer, the City of Somerville hires local teens to work with a variety of City departments, such as the Recreation Department, the Office of Sustainability, Parks and Open Space, the public libraries and more. Students are also placed with local businesses that partner with the program. The program encourages career exploration and skill development and fosters deeper connections with the Somerville community.

Applicants must be at least 14 years old by May 5, 2024, and either be enrolled in a Somerville school, or be a Somerville resident. The time commitment is approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks starting in July, though actual schedules will vary by job site placement. The program will require onboarding and orientation. All positions are paid. The hourly rate is \$17.72.

If you have any additional questions, please contact [summerjobs@somervillema.gov](mailto:summerjobs@somervillema.gov).



# Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 49 – Report No. 14 • April 1-5, 2024 • Copyright © 2024 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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 representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of April 1-5. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

## \$375 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4529)

House 155-0. approved and sent to the Senate a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The \$375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$175 million for several transportation-related grant programs.

The programs funded by the \$175 million include the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; and grants for municipalities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them.

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the commonwealth's public transportation, roads, and bridges is one of the most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for regional infrastructure that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for the purchasing of electric vehicles by transit authorities."

"The Legislature continues to be responsive to the transportation needs of our towns and cities," said Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), House Chair of the Transportation Committee. "This legislation demonstrates a commitment to funding for local transportation projects with again, our new program especially for funding to rural towns. I am pleased to support this important piece of legislation which provides more tools for towns to tackle their project backlog in time for the new fiscal year starting in July."

"The ... program is an important state-municipal partnership that provides a vital revenue source to help cities and towns maintain local roads and bridges," said House GOP Minority Leader Brad Jones. "With this funding, communities can address their local transportation infrastructure needs and priorities on an annual basis. The bill also provides funding for several municipal grant programs that offer additional resources to assist cities and towns in carrying out critical transportation-related initiatives."

Adam Chapdelaine, CEO of the Mass Municipal Association, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him if he supports the funding as

is or would like to have seen it increased. Ex-CEO Geoff Beckwith often urged the House and Senate to substantially increase the amount of funding.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$375 million package.)

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

## CHANGE ARCHAIC LANGUAGE REFERRING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (H 4396)

House 155-0. approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would modernize and remove archaic language in state laws to reflect the evolution of terminology relating to persons with disabilities.

Changes include replacing "handicapped persons" with "persons with disabilities," replacing "the mentally retarded" with "persons with an intellectual disability," replacing "retarded children" with "children with an intellectual disability" and replacing "disabled American veterans" with "American veterans with disabilities."

Supporters said the primary objective of the bill is to identify and eliminate outdated, archaic language from the General Laws of Massachusetts and replace it with more respectful, person-first language. They noted that once the archaic language was found, they contacted the relevant state agency or office to confirm that the bill would have no unforeseen consequences, such as impacting funding or access to services.

"Today with the passage of this legislation, the commonwealth is taking a critical step toward fostering inclusivity and upholding our long-held principles of dignity and respect for all who call the commonwealth home," said Rep. Mike Finn (D-West Springfield), a lead sponsor of the bill. "We can all celebrate that it is long past time for the commonwealth to update its General Laws, ensuring that no individual is subjected to negative and harmful language."

"Removing out-of-date, antiquated and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws to describe people with disabilities is an important step in ensuring that our values, as a commonwealth, are also reflected in statute," said Rep. Jay Livingstone (D-Boston), House Chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. "As legislators, it is our job to help make sure that people with intellectual or developmental disabilities feel included, accepted and embraced for who they are, and this is an important step in doing so."

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

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

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

### GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL APPROVES GOV. HEALEY'S PARDON OF MISDEMEANOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION

– The Governor's Council unanimously approved Gov. Maura Healey's executive order that pardons misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions that occurred in Massachusetts before March 14, 2024. The pardons will apply to thousands of people who were convicted of the offense which is no longer an offense. The Bay State decriminalized marijuana possession in 2008 and then legalized it on a ballot question in 2016.

In October 2022, President Biden issued a presidential proclamation that pardoned many federal and D.C. offenses for simple marijuana possession. In December 2023, he expanded that pardon to include more offenses and issued a call for governors to take action to pardon marijuana convictions in their states.

"Massachusetts made history today," said Gov. Maura Healey. "Thousands of Massachusetts residents will now see their records cleared of this charge, which will help lower the barriers they face when seeking housing, education or a job ... I'm proud that Massachusetts was able to answer his call to action in this momentous way. I hope that other states will follow our lead as we work together to make our communities more fair and equitable."

"People in every community across the state, especially Black and Brown people, who were disproportionately charged with marijuana-related crimes over the years will no longer be punished for something that is now legal in our state," said Carol Rose, executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts. "Let's be clear: Tens of thousands of people in Massachusetts will now get a second chance and will face fewer barriers to housing, jobs, education, student loans and stability."

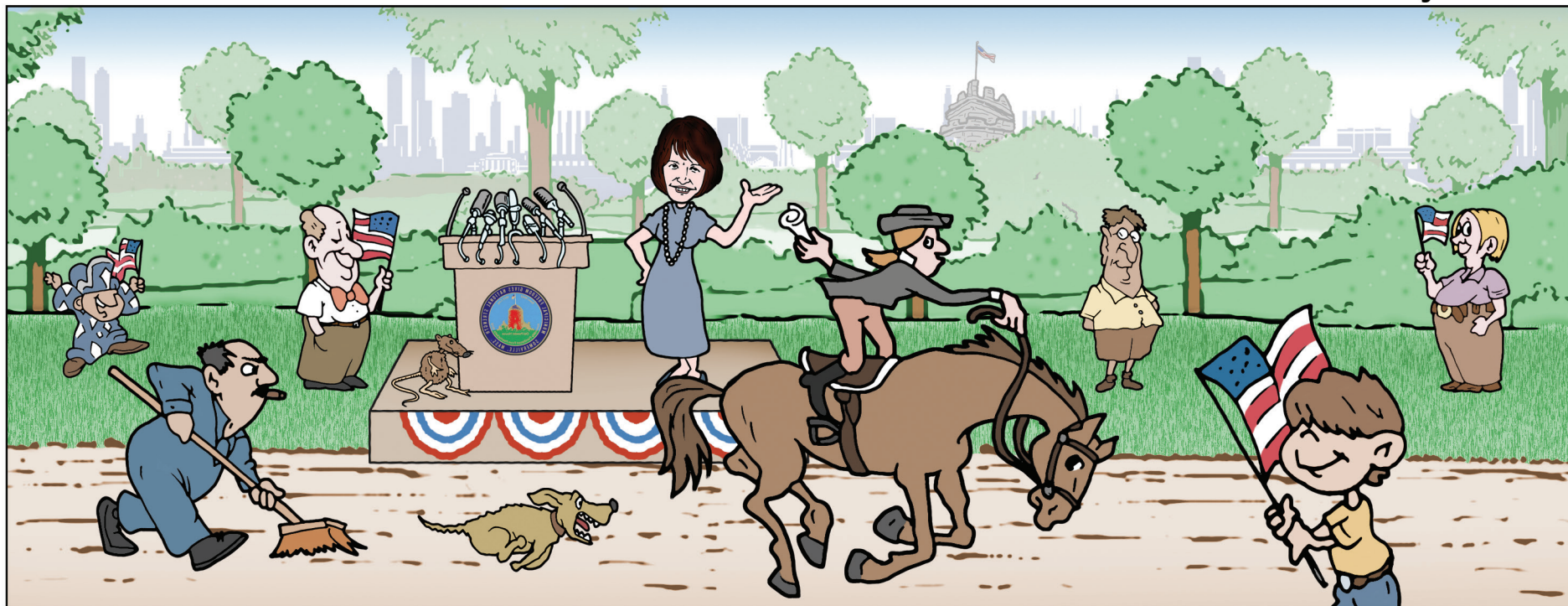
"Massachusetts changed state laws around marijuana possession and this proposal is based on the simple premise of fairness and equity that a person should not bear the mark of conviction for an offense that is no longer a state crime," said Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden

**ICE CREAM TRUCKS (H 3471)** – The House gave initial approval to legislation that would amend a four-decade old law that requires an amber dome light and the flashing orange lights on the back of ice cream trucks when the truck is parked and serving ice *Continued on page 19*

# COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Patriot's Day is just around the corner!

## Our View Of The Times



It's not just another three-day weekend, folks. It's a huge part of our national – and regional – heritage.

Patriots' Day was established over 100 years ago to commemorate the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. Re-enactments are staged and speeches are given, and a generally festive air of patriotic zeal pervades.

It is also the day when the Boston Marathon is run. Almost as venerable as the holiday itself, for many the event is a symbol of the resilience of the American spirit. And ever since the terrible events that transpired so many years ago, that spirit has been bolstered by the resolve by all of us to remain ever vigilant and "Boston strong."

It's also just a nice time to get outdoors and enjoy some of the fine early spring at-

mosphere. After the frosty winter we all went through, it serves as an opportunity to drink in the warmth and regenerative power of the season.

If you will be heading out to enjoy some of the Marathon activities then we hope you will bring along a little Somerville Pride with you and represent the home town spirit.

So be sure to give some consideration to

what the occasion is all about, and maybe join in the festivities at Foss Park on Monday morning. We can't guarantee it, but we'd bet dollars to teabags that a warm tingle of patriotic exuberance may wash over you. Especially if you willingly give yourself over to the moment.

If nothing else, you might snag a selfie with Paul Revere. Now, that will be something to show your grandchildren!

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

In recognition of **Week of the Young Child**, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville Public Schools, and Somerville's early childhood community invite parents, children and educators to enjoy music, pizza, and games at the **One Somerville, Every Child** celebration on **Thursday, April 11**, on the **Somerville High School** concourse (81 Highland Ave.) from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The City of Somerville will celebrate the **Nepali New Year** by raising the **National Flag of Nepal** at **City Hall** on **Friday, April 12**, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., 93 Highland Ave.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Municipal Scholarships** are available for **high school seniors**. Five \$1,000 municipal scholarships are available for high school seniors graduating in 2024 through the **City of Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee**. Applicants must be residents of Somerville who have been accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution. To apply visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/somerville-municipal-scholarship-2024>

\*\*\*\*\*

Join the **Somerville Museum** and the **City of Somerville** for the annual **Patriots' Day** celebration at **Foss Park** on

**Monday, April 15**, from 10:00 a.m to 11:30 a.m., 49 Fellsway West. Play colonial games and activities, enjoy refreshments, and greet Paul Revere.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **2024 street sweeping** season has resumed and will continue **through December 31**. Check signs in your neighborhood for sweeping days. Visit [somervillema.gov/sweeping](https://www.somervillema.gov/sweeping) for a full schedule and to sign up for complimentary street sweeping reminders by text, email, or phone. For more information on street sweeping procedures, visit [park-somerville.com](https://www.park-somerville.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

On **Friday, April 26**, **GLOWBALL** will transform the **Armory Performance Hall** into an immersive **Glow-in-the-Dark Rave** created by DJ Saucy Lady with hypnotic visuals by Jay Medina, all in support of **The Center for Arts at the Armory**. Visit their website for more information: <https://artsatthearmory.org>

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville's **Memorial Day** parade will return this year on **Sunday, May 26**, it will begin at 11:00 a.m. from the **Davis Square Rotary** (9/11 Memorial Granite Circle Site), and end at **Broadway and North Street**. The city's annual remembrance ceremony will

Continued on page 22

# FUN & GAMES

## Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#918

1. What are the three types of solar eclipses?
2. What is the height of the "Green Monster" at Fenway Park?
3. Which Red Sox player had the nickname "Laser Show"?
4. What baseball player has the most grand slams in MLB history?
5. Who is the youngest basketball player to score 10,000 points in the NBA?
6. The Chihuahua dog breed is named after?
7. What dog breed was Rin Tin Tin?
8. Which ingredient is responsible for giving chocolate ice cream its rich flavor?
9. Which singer is known for her hit song *Rolling in the Deep*?
10. What TV show was set in a Boston law firm and featured a character named Denny Crane?
11. Who starred as Steve Austin in the 1970s TV series *The Six Million Dollar Man*?
12. Which Red Sox pitcher threw a no-hitter in 2007?

Answers on page 14

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A piece of paper can be folded no more than 9 times.
2. The flea can jump 350 times its body length.

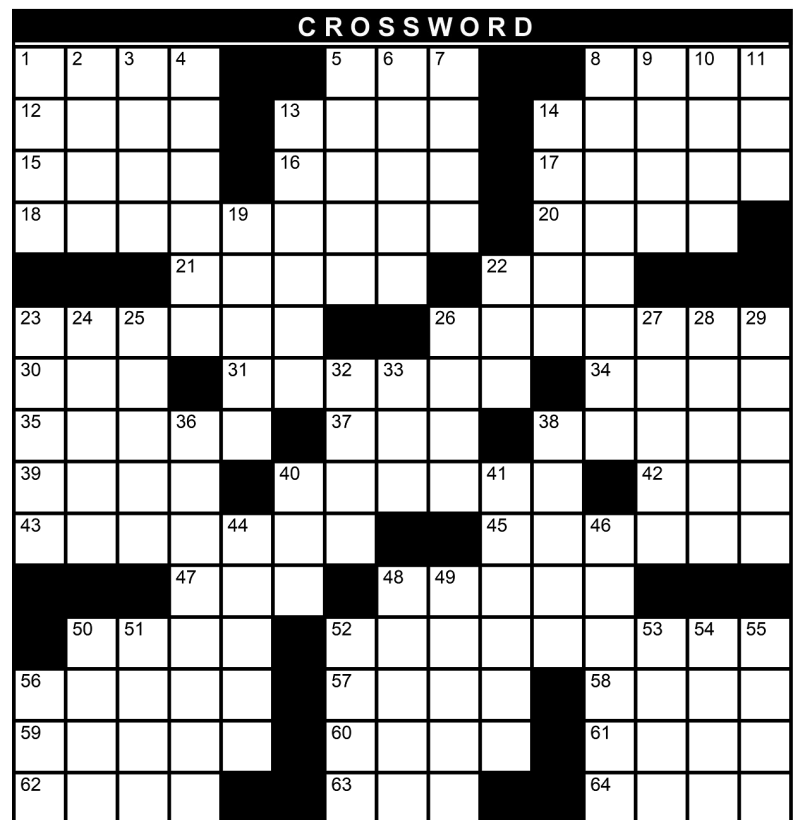
#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD NATIONAL PARKS

##### ACROSS

1. Rhymes with, and similar in meaning, to blob
5. Refrigerator sound
8. Action word
12. Left, in Russia
13. Departed
14. Locomotive hair
15. As opposed to St. in a city, pl.
16. French cordial flavoring
17. Type of lily, pl.
18. Voyageurs National Park location
20. Like Andersen's duckling
21. Poacher's ware
22. Unit of pressure
23. Volcanoes National Park location
26. Dionysus' female followers
30. U.N. labor agency
31. Camels' relatives
34. Pelvic bones
35. Smears
37. "\_\_\_\_ of the land"
38. Gertrude Stein's reception room
39. Sicilian rumbler
40. Strong influence
42. To sum
43. Blushes
45. Utah national park
47. What blanket and landing have in common
48. State before birth
50. Eastern European
52. Yosemite's famous monolith (2 words)
56. Cockamamie
57. Effect of pain?
58. First weekly news magazine in U.S.
59. South African currency, pl.
60. Tolstoy's Karenina
61. The 15th of March
62. King Kong and Koko, e.g.
63. Hot one in a bun
64. Copper coin

##### Down

1. Type of shot
2. Strauss of jeans fame
3. Often found under a range
4. Herzegovina's partner
5. Kind of roll, in school



**SWITCH & GET \$25**

**Off First Month of New Service!**  
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**

**Consumer Cellular**

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



6. Togetherness
7. \_\_\_\_ Verde National Park
8. Shenandoah National Park location
9. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
10. Frost-covered
11. Like certain relief
13. \_\_\_\_ is a byproduct of \_\_\_\_ (2 3-letter words)
14. "\_\_\_\_ for alarm"
19. See nor hear this? pl.
22. Faux \_\_\_\_
23. Opposite of seeker
24. Winged
25. One of Florence Nightingale's concerns
26. American Indians of Yucatan
27. Islam's Supreme Being
28. D in LED
29. White \_\_\_\_ National Park in NM
32. Financial help
33. Need one to navigate a National Park?
36. The Lakota called it "Mako Sica"
38. Razor sharpener
40. \*Old Faithful \_\_\_\_, lodging spot in Yellowstone
41. Poolside hut
44. Roof overhang
46. Rotten Tomatoes contributor
48. Latin American plain
49. Getting an A
50. Finger-produced sound
51. Muffin Man's Drury \_\_\_\_
52. "Goodness gracious!"
53. Ocean motion
54. Word of agreement
55. Bald Eagle's home in Acadia or Olympic National Parks
56. One of the Gershwins

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



## Annual Patriot's Day Colonial Fair



On Monday, April 15, the City of Somerville will be celebrating Patriots' Day outdoors and in person at Foss Park on Broadway from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. New this year, the city has given a grant to the Somerville Museum to host and organize this annual community event. Thank you, Somerville Museum!

The celebration will feature a reenactment of Paul Revere's famous ride from Boston to Lexington — which happened to pass right through Somerville! Attendees will enjoy period-appropriate refreshments and colonial games. Colonial clothing is encouraged (lots of instructions on the Internet for how to make your own tri-corner paper hats).

Interested in helping out with serving refreshments, overseeing games, and generally immersing yourself in the Revolutionary revelry? Email the Somerville Museum's Historic Events Manager, Grace Bryan, at [grace@somervillemuseum.org](mailto:grace@somervillemuseum.org) to throw your (tri-cornered) hat into the ring!

## Dorothy's Corner BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Roasted Peppers

This past week I found myself with 2 small bags of sweet peppers. When I have more peppers than what I know what to do with, I roast them and store in olive oil and garlic for a longer shelf life. They are great on sandwiches, in salads, frittatas, served along roasted chicken or any other dishes you like.

2 small bags of mixed sweet peppers or 2 red bell peppers  
 2 garlic cloves, finely minced  
 2 teaspoons olive oil, plus as much as needed to cover the peppers  
 1-2 glass jars with a lid, at least 8 oz. each

Preheat oven to 375°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil. Pour about 2 teaspoons of ol-

ive oil in the center of the baking sheet. Roll all the peppers and coat them in the olive oil. Spread them out on the baking sheet, and place in the oven.

Bake until the skin is blistered, about 40 minutes. Turn the peppers over about halfway through the cooking time. Once the peppers are roasted, place them in a bowl and cover them for about 20 minutes.

Once cool enough to handle, take off the stem and start peeling off the skin and remove the seeds. Do not rinse under water. If there are a few seeds still left on the peppers, it's fine. Add 1/3 of the minced garlic to the bottom of the jar.

Place 1/2 of the peppers into the jar and top with 1/2 of the remaining garlic. Then add the remainder of the peppers and the remaining garlic. Now top the jar with olive oil, making sure



the peppers and garlic are completely covered.

Store in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Panelboard and Transformer Replacement Phase 1 project at the Bryant Manor Development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Nangle Engineering Incorporated.

The Project consists of: Replacement of FPE panelboards and transformers with new.

The work is estimated to cost \$ 299,942.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

General Bids will be received until 2:00pm, Thursday, May 2, 2024 and publicly posted online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until 2:00pm, Thursday, April 25, 2024 and publicly posted online forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

SUBTRADES: Section 23.00.00 HVAC

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at www.Projectdog.com and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For EBid Tutorial and Instructions, download the Supplemental Instructions To Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects from www.Projectdog.com. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014

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

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available online and for purchase at www.Projectdog.com, project code 861212 on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$35.00 per set, payable to Projectdog, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

The existing building will be available for observation on the morning of Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 75 Myrtle Street, Somerville. Bidders must contact Nangle Engineering Inc. cvneunaber@nangleengineering.com or (617) 817-4973 prior to close of business on the Monday prior to schedule an appointment.

The inspection is an opportunity to visit and observe the site only. Any oral interpretations offered at the site inspection are non-binding. Any questions must be submitted in writing to the Designer, at the e-mail address on the Project Manual cover, no later than 4:00 PM on the Friday prior to the date stated above for the receipt of bids. Questions after that time may not be responded to, at the sole discretion of the designer.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

Diane Cohan, Executive Director April 10, 2024

4/10/24 The Somerville Times



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

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

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

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

All Bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 04/19/2024 at 12:00PM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30§39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

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

General Bids will be received until 25 April 2024 on 11:00AM EDT and publicly opened online, forthwith.

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

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Somerville Housing Authority Concrete Walkway Site Improvements (Phase 2) REBID Project #274137

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

4/10/24 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority invites quotes for SHA Project # P-MAN042024, Manholes and Drains Maintenance, in various State, and Federally aided elderly housing developments owned and operated by the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority's Purchasing Manager.

Contract term is 3 is years.

The work is estimated to cost \$55,000.00 for 3 years.

Bids are subject to provisions of M.G.L. c.30B, and to the minimum wage rates required by M.G.L. c. 149§26-27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 11:00 A.M., April 25, 2024, and publicly opened forthwith, at the Offices of the Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Bldg., 30 Memorial Road- Rear, Somerville, MA 01245.

The RFB Documents will be available for download on Somerville Housing Authority's web site www.sha-web.org under Bids/RFP's - Bid opportunities tab after 11:00 a.m. April 10, 2024. There will be no charge for these documents. If you are making a bid, you must register with Anthony Crespo by email at tonyc@sha-web.org and leave contact information. Identify the email in the subject line as Manholes and Drains Maintenance Bid # P-MAN42024 Registration. If received, you will receive a reply that your email has been received. Bidders/Contractors are responsible for insuring that their email and bids are received. Addendums will be posted on the website and will become part of the contract documents; the bidder shall be responsible to download and include with bid.

Bids can be mailed, or dropped off to Somerville Housing Authority, Administrative Offices Attn. Anthony Crespo, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245 and must be received by 11:00 A.M., April 25, 2024. Faxed or emailed bids will not be accepted. SHA will not accept late or incomplete quotes.

A site visit is scheduled for April 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m. You are not required to attend. Attendees are required to provide notification that they will attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonyc@sha-web.org if you are attending. All interested parties will meet in front of Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Building, 30R Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

4/10/24 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, April 18, 2024, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planningboard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn\_rnzA5NrrQAWHnQW0yVf99Q Webinar ID: 859 9584 5895

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:

120-132 Middlesex Ave DWCH Assembly Row, LLC seeks to extend the validity of a previously issued Special Permit (MP#2020-0003) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospdc/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 planning@somervillema.gov.

4/3/24, 4/10/24 The Somerville Times

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Plymouth Probate and Family Court 52 Obery Street Suite 1130 Plymouth, MA 02360

PLYMOUTH Division Docket No. PL23D1459DR

DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

Reynold Destin vs. Josema Pierre

To Defendant:

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: Reynold Destin 78 Hillcrest Avenue Brockton, MA 02301

your answer, if any, on or before 04/29/2024. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

WITNESS, Hon. Patrick W. Stanton, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 21, 2024.

Matthew J. McDonough Register of Probate

4/10/24 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PHONE: 857-488-5138

# LEGAL NOTICES

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

### LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 05/05/2024

Pro Tech Towing notice to owner. The following abandoned motor vehicle will be privately sold unless claimed:

Car information	VIN#	Last registered owner	Address
2011 Dodge Durango	1D4SE4GT8BC594293	Hannah Marie Allain	655 Boston Post Rd. Apt. #1205 Sudbury, MA 01776
2002 Dodge Ram	1D7HU18N12J142289	Jeffrey Audette	109 Treys Way #D, Godley TX 76044
2018 Ford Focus	1FAD3F2XJL2244633	Steven Kapopoulos	42 Felton St., Hudson, MA 01749

Date of Sale **05/05/2024**. A 5-day notice to the Waltham Police Department Chief will be provided before sale. Location: Pro Tech Towing, 205 Willow St. Waltham, MA, Phone: 781-894-5058

4/10/24 The Somerville Times

### THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS City of Somerville OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Thursday, the 25th day of April, at 10:00 o'clock A.M.**, at **Treasury, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE for the City of **Somerville** the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and an incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same has been paid before that date.

Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **41 Raymond Avenue**  
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): Robert Pagliarulo  
PARCEL ID: **007100041000000** TAX ACCOUNT: **16519180**  
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 3,750 (more or less)  
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 55244, Page: 339

Fiscal Year <b>2021</b> Taxes Remaining Unpaid	<b>\$3,615.10</b>
Interest to Date of Taking	<b>\$968.20</b>
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Total for which Land will be Taken</b>	<b>\$4,808.30</b>

4/10/24 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **8 Beacon Street Unit 4**  
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): Runyu Wang and Tianchi Zhang  
PARCEL ID: **076F00018000004** TAX ACCOUNT: **20160210**  
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 0 (more or less)  
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Registered Land Book: 00130, Page: 030

Fiscal Year <b>2021</b> Taxes Remaining Unpaid	<b>\$3,233.94</b>
Interest to Date of Taking	<b>\$1,342.06</b>
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Total for which Land will be Taken</b>	<b>\$4,801.00</b>

4/10/24 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **15 Fenwick Street Unit 3**  
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): John Holmes and Irena Holmes  
PARCEL ID: **058D000270015-3** TAX ACCOUNT: **97000080**  
SQUARE FOOTAGE: 0 (more or less)  
TITLE REFERENCE: Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 55244, Page: 339

Fiscal Year <b>2021</b> Taxes Remaining Unpaid	<b>\$617.72</b>
Interest to Date of Taking	<b>\$250.27</b>
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	<b>\$225.00</b>
<b>Total for which Land will be Taken</b>	<b>\$1,092.99</b>

4/10/24 The Somerville Times



### CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT RFP # 24-63

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

#### Consolidated Inclusionary Rental Housing Waitlist – Phase III Implementation

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, April 10, 2024**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **1:00 pm, Wednesday, May 1, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

**Felisa Garate**  
Procurement Analyst  
617-625-6600 x3406

4/10/24 The Somerville Times



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

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

#### TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9JN3pX6WRKFsSS2H0sorMQH4Dg>  
Webinar ID: 869 5035 9782

#### TO CALL IN

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

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

- 483 Broadway** Tavis Babbitt seeks to extend the validity of a previously-issued Hardship Variance for minimum number of stories (P&Z 23-016) in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR-4) zoning district for a period of six (6) months.
- 483 Broadway** Tavis Babbitt seeks to extend the validity of a previously-issued Hardship Variance for story height (P&Z 23-016) in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR-4) zoning district for a period of six (6) months.

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 Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

4/3/24, 4/10/24 The Somerville Times

## Curbside yard waste pickup resumes week of April 15



Somerville's yard waste pickup begins for the season the week of April 15. That week's collection is on a one-day delay due to the Patriots' Day Holiday on Monday, April 15, so put all trash, recycling, and yard waste out one day later than you normally would. A full yard waste calendar is available at [somervillema.gov/yardwaste](http://somervillema.gov/yardwaste) and is also in the Environmental Service Guide mailed to all households this month.

Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day. Yard waste must either be in a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Stickers are available free of charge at the DPW Building, 1 Franey Road, or the entrance desk at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. To request a sticker be mailed to you, please call 311 or email [311updates@somervillema.gov](mailto:311updates@somervillema.gov).

For more information on yard waste pickup, visit [somervillema.gov/yardwaste](http://somervillema.gov/yardwaste) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

## 2024 Summer Camp and Activities Guide

Find an extensive list of local summer camps and activities for anyone planning a child, tween, or teen's summer in Somerville.

Many of these programs are fee-based. Thank you to the City of Somerville Somerpromise department for the guide.

Go to: <https://somervillehub.org/summer-and-after-school-activities-guide-2024>

## Somerville Open Studios (SOS): First Look Exhibit

CONT. FROM PG 1

Sunday, May 4–5, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. each day at artists' studios and homes throughout Somerville.

Meet the artists and check out the art at this free city-wide event. Over 350 artists in 90 locations will open their studios to the public. Map, artist, and trolley info at [www.somervilleopenstudios.org/](http://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

**Somerville Climate Forward**

April 9, 2024

Mayor Ballantyne and Director Blais,

In order to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change and create safe and healthy schools that reflect the community's values, Somerville must do all it can to reduce carbon emissions from its largest municipal source: school buildings. We applaud the City's work to update the Climate Forward plan, Somerville's plan to reduce carbon emissions in the city, and the aim for Somerville to be carbon net-negative by 2050. However, to be a serious plan that can achieve this goal, the Climate Forward update must have a bold, detailed, and clear timeline for the decarbonization of municipal buildings, especially school buildings. We implore you to listen to community feedback and include these strategies.

According to Somerville's 2016 and 2020 Greenhouse Gas Inventory reports, over 60% of citywide carbon emissions come from buildings, and 78% of municipal carbon emissions come from energy use in municipal buildings, two-thirds of which come from schools. With aging buildings and outdated heating/cooling systems, Somerville needs to demonstrate leadership and commit to decarbonizing and comprehensively retrofitting its school buildings in order to reduce our carbon emissions and create healthy indoor envi-

ronments for our students and educators to thrive. In addition to retrofitting existing buildings, the City must commit to the highest of environmental standards (such as PassiveHouse and LEED Platinum certification) for any new school building(s) and low embodied carbon materials in order to ensure that the replacement school(s) for the Winter Hill School and Brown School are carbon free. This can be accomplished without any delays in construction and with significant savings for the City through noncompetitive federal and state incentives and reduced operating costs.

Schools are Somerville's largest public consumers of energy. Transitioning them away from expensive, polluting fossil fuels will have a major positive impact on both our climate goals,

student health, and the city's operating budget. After teacher salaries, school building energy costs are the school district's next highest expenditure. Decarbonization of existing buildings and a highly efficient new school building would free up much of this spending to go toward additional local union jobs and educational programs for our youth.

Additionally, students spend the majority of their childhood inside school buildings and educational outcomes have been proven to dramatically increase in buildings due to improved student health from healthy ventilation and indoor air quality. As anyone who was in the Winter Hill School knows, exposed pipes and crumbling ceilings don't create healthy, life-long

learners. On top of these benefits, the work of decarbonization provides an excellent opportunity to create new union careers, with good pay and working conditions, for local residents in the energy-saving, climate-forward economy of the future.

We call on the city to commit to the highest environmental standards for any new building(s) and produce a clear timeline and binding commitment for comprehensive retrofits of all schools to be implemented within the next ten years. That includes creating airtight envelopes, electrifying all mechanical systems, installing energy recovery ventilators to provide filtered fresh air and installing more solar arrays. Public commitments to these goals must be included in the Climate Forward plan, followed by the significant funding and transparent reporting necessary to realize these commitments.

Somerville must show leadership in the climate crisis by reducing emissions by all means available and protecting the future of our youth. The children of Somerville deserve ambitious action. Please do not let them down.

Signed,

Somerville Carbon Free and Healthy Schools Coalition  
Green New Deal for Somerville Public Schools  
350 Mass - Cambridge/Somerville Node  
Somerville Mothers Out Front  
And:

- + Courtney Koslow
- + Bev Feldman
- + Alex Hershey
- + Kay Mammo
- + Corey Donahue
- + Malcolm Sherman-Godfrey
- + Cassie Walston
- + Lauren Gunther
- + Moritz Guenther
- + Madeline Thoms
- + Isaiah Oliver
- + Susan Mann
- + Emily Spicer Hankle
- + Emily Ann Lalka
- + Kathy McGilvray
- + Elisabeth Adams
- + Angelina Schultz
- + Semyon Feldman
- + Maura Vogel
- + Jake Wilson
- + Dana Guthrie
- + Naima Sait
- + Malcolm Cummings
- + Leigh Meunier
- + Lindsay Lucke
- + Claryce Evans
- + Emily Hardt
- + Ed Woll
- + Adrienne Agarwal
- + Anna Goldman
- + Abby Hare
- + Cate Mingoya
- + Ann(Toby) Woll
- + Amy Mertl
- + Anu Parikh
- + Kathleen Hornby
- + Tim Talun

**Fair Housing Month Discussion: Learn about tenants and landlords rights**

Housing continues to be the hot-button issue in Somerville. During Fair Housing Month, learn about your rights and best practices regarding housing. The SPL will host a hybrid (virtual + in-person) conversation with the Somerville Fair Housing Commission about rights with tenants and landlords. This meeting will focus on the best practices for tenant screenings. For landlords, know what practices can get you into hot water, based on recent changes to the laws and regulations regarding screenings. And tenants will be able to hear about their rights regarding finding housing.

Central Library 79 Highland Ave, Somerville, Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Register and indicate whether you will be attending in-person or on Zoom: <https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/fair-housing-month-discussion-tenants-and-landlords-rights/>

Questions? For more information, please contact Hanalei at [hsteinhart@somervillema.gov](mailto:hsteinhart@somervillema.gov). At the Library you can reach out to Kerry O'Donnell: [keodonnell@somervillema.gov](mailto:keodonnell@somervillema.gov). Separately, they will also be hosting a film screening and book discussion at the Central Library (79 Highland Ave) on issues and topics found in *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein later this month on April 27.

Copies of *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein will be available to order all month long from the Library's Catalog as well as digitally through the Hoopla and OverDrive/Libby apps.

Please contact the Library if you'd like help getting a copy: 617-623-5000, ext. 2955.

## Women's History Month celebration at Somernova

Somerville's Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the Somerville Commission for Women, Somernova, and the city's Department of Racial and Social Justice hosted a Women's History Month celebration on March 27 at Somervova.

The event featured keynote speaker Adrienne Smith who is a wide receiver for the Boston Renegades and the founder of Gridiron Queendom, an organization dedicated to creating more opportunities in football and professional sports for women and girls.

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

This year's celebration featured keynote speakers, music from DJ L'Duke, and interactive games with prizes. Food and drink were also provided during the event.

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



Wadson Michel and Adrienne Smith.



Renee Taylor, Somerville Community Corporation, Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Kristin Phelan, Somernova.



Kristen Strezo and Adrienne Smith.



Latoya Saulters and Adrienne Smith.

Visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)  
Facebook at [www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1](http://www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1)  
and follow us on X/Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

# CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

### AUTOS WANTED

**CASH FOR CARS!** We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 1-866-258-6720

### FINANCIAL

**WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC** Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free Consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-428-7954

### FOR RENT

**Warm Weather Is Year Round In Aruba.** The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

### FOR SALE

**YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS TIMESHARE.** Orange Lake, Florida. Near Disney. Weeks 8 & 9 (February) One floor living with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, laundry. Purchase both for \$19,000. Call 978.371.2442 or email carol@actionunlimited.com

### HEALTH & FITNESS

**VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL \$99.00. 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-445-5928 Hablamos Español

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not just a discount plan. Get your free Information Kit with details! 1-855-526-1060 www.dental50plus.com/ads #6258

Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

### HOME SERVICES

**Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage?** You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

**Water damage cleanup & restoration:** A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do

complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809

### MISCELLANEOUS

**4G LTE HOME INTERNET** Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-452-1183

**CARING FOR AN AGING LOVED ONE?** Wondering about options like senior-living communities and in-home care? Caring.com's Family Advisors are here to help take the guesswork out of senior care for you and your family. Call for your FREE, no-obligation consultation: 1-844-556-4158

**DISH NETWORK \$59.99** for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100. Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-833-800-0411

**DISHTV \$64.99** For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some Restrictions Apply. Promo Expires 01/31/2024. 1-877-494-7039

**ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER!** LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-723-0883

**FREE HIGH SPEED INTERNET** for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping and handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-877-559-8698

**HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET** Finally, no hard data limits! Call Today for speeds up to 25mbps as low as \$59.99/mo! \$75 gift card, terms apply. 1-877-459-1615

**SAFE STEP North America's #1 Walk-In Tub.** Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe-Step 1-844-610-9711

**SWITCH AND SAVE UP TO \$250/**

**YEAR on your talk, text and data.** No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer: get 50% off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-866-926-5071

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase\* Call 1-855-948-6176 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule free LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-833-610-1936

**BATH & SHOWER UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 855-761-1725

**Donate Your Car to Veterans Today!** Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

**HughesNet - Finally,** super-fast internet no matter where you live. 25 Mbps just \$59.99/mo! Unlimited Data is Here. Stream Video. Bundle TV & Internet. Free Installation. Call 866-499-0141

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Call for free author's guide 1-877-729-4998 or visit dorranceinfo.com/ads

**DISHTV \$64.99** For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 12/31/24. 1-866-479-1516

**Safe Step.** North America's #1 Walk-in tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our free shower package & \$1600 off - limited time! Financing available. 1-855-417-1306

**MobileHelp,** America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety & peace of mind. No

long term contracts! Free brochure! 1-888-489-3936

Free high speed internet if qualified. Govt. pgm for recipients of select pgms incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet. Android tablet free w/one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping. Call Maxsip Telecom! 1-833-758-3892

**Wesley Financial Group, LLC** Timeshare Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt & fees cancelled in 2019. Get free info package & learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

**DIRECTV Stream -** Carries the most local MLB Games! Choice Package \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/ Choice Package or higher.) No contract or hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-859-0405

Diagnosed with lung cancer & 65+? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help! Call 24/7 1-877-707-5707

Replace your roof w/the best looking & longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! 3 styles & multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a

lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off install + Additional 10% off install (military, health & 1st responders.) 1-833-370-1234

**Jacuzzi Bath Remodel** can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24 Call 1-844-501-3208

*Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.*

From page 8

## Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Answers

1. Total solar eclipse, partial solar eclipse and annular solar eclipse	Chihuahua
2. 37-foot-2-inch-high	7. German Shepard
3. Dustin Pedroia	8. Cocoa beans
4. Alex Rodriguez	9. Adele
5. LeBron James	10. Boston Legal
6. The Mexican state of	11. Lee Majors
	12. Clay Buchholz

# Mary Casiello, Jay Verchin, Rachel Marie at Somerville Armory

Somerville Songwriter Sessions at the Armory Cafe presents an evening of music on Saturday May 4 with songwriter/songwriters Mary Casiello, Jay Verchin and Rachel Marie.

The concert features a set by each artist, followed by a round robin song swap.

Somerville Songwriter Sessions at the Armory Cafe presents contemporary folk singer/songwriters in concert on the first Saturday of each month. The Armory Cafe features live music in an intimate setting, a menu featuring sandwiches, soups, desserts and coffees, and plenty of free parking. Our performers on May 4:

Mary Casiello is a Boston-area singer, songwriter, and pianist. She is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, where she was a voice principle and received a Bachelor's of Music in songwriting. Her solo material is creative, quirky, and cathartic, and has received favorable comparison to artists like Sara Bareilles, Billy Joel, Ben Folds, and Carole King. She has been a frequent face in the Boston-area music scene, having shared stage with Darlingside, Gretchen and the Pickpockets, Kristen Ford, Rachel Marie, Jessye DeSilva, Kris-

ten Ford, George Woods, Olivia Brownlee, Florie Namir, and many others. She is also a singer, songwriter and keyboardist for the energetic rock band Three At Home, who were 2019 New England Music Award nominees for Best in Massachusetts. The band have received critical acclaim from publications like Medium and features in Country Queer. "Mary should be a famous songwriter for Disney or Pixar ... Positive energy in spades ... a wonderful voice ... just plain likable." – Brian Carroll, Red Line Roots. More at [threeatomeband.com](http://threeatomeband.com).

Always colorful, Jay Verchin is an alto, tenor, songwriter, and conductor from Worcester, MA. Graduating from Clark University in 2021, Jay served for two seasons as the Assistant Conductor and Tenor Section Leader for the Clark University Concert and Chamber Choirs. They currently are a member of the Tutti Music Collective board and chorus, and sing weekly with St. John's Catholic Church professional Schola in Worcester. Formerly, Jay held section leader positions at All Saints Church in Worcester, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cambridge, and has appeared with Nightingale Vocal Ensemble, Magari



The May 4 edition of the Songwriter Sessions at the Armory will feature Mary Casiello, Jay Verchin and Rachel Marie.

Ensemble, and Jubilate Choir. Their most notable work was premiering Rachel Burckardt's *Mt. Auburn Requiem* in October 2022, and as the Bo'sun in the 21st Century Premiere of Gena Branscombe's Choral Drama, *Pilgrims of Destiny*. In addition to singing, Jay is a Jewish educator, and in 2021, released their first full length album, *Vessels*. More at [jayverchin.com](http://jayverchin.com).

Rachel Marie (she/they) follows in a tradition of unapologetically forthright women folk-singers, with songs that harken to "overstuffed lines of Tori Amos, philosophical turn of In-

digo Girls, and lilting vocals like Joni Mitchell" (Victoria Farmer, The Christian Humanist Podcast). The social awareness of folk meets the introspection, catharsis, and healing of the singer-songwriter tradition. "Add in a brilliantly woven, genuine, and sometimes silly banter and Rachel's unique show will stay with you a long time" (Tom Bianchi, 24 Hour Music). Boston-based and Pennsylvania-raised, Rachel has played at prestigious folk venues including the me & thee (MA), Club Passim (MA), the Burren (MA), and Godfrey Daniels (PA). Rachel's latest full-

length album, *False Foundations*, was released in May 2018, and a new album is in the works for 2024. More at [rachelmarie.com](http://rachelmarie.com).

The show begins at 7:00 p.m. with an open mic and the features begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 at the door. The Armory Cafe is at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, just a few blocks from the new Magoun Square Green Line T station. For more information call 617-718-2191 or visit [artsatthearmory.org](http://artsatthearmory.org) or [www.facebook.com/SomervilleSongwriterSessions](http://www.facebook.com/SomervilleSongwriterSessions). To sign up for the open mic email [SomervilleSongwriterSessions@gmail.com](mailto:SomervilleSongwriterSessions@gmail.com).

## SCC hosts their annual member event at Arts at the Armory on April 10

The Somerville Community Corporation is once again hosting its annual member appreciation event at the Center for Arts at the Armory on Highland Ave. This annual event welcomes community members, program participants, and residents to enjoy arepas from Carolicious, listen to music by the Joe Grogran Jazz Trio, and to come together in community. Join us to hear testimonials from participants in the residential first source jobs programming and to listen to updates from economic development director, state senator, and board members.

SCC invites all community members to join and celebrate their progress of the past twelve months in affordable housing, good jobs, equitable opportunity, and social justice. At the event, we'll hear from participants in the Women's Empowerment Group, learn about programming such as the Mobile Computer Lab, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice initiative, and the BIPOC Leadership roundtable. Join together with members of the 160 families who will reside in the new Clarendon Hill affordable public housing units, residents of the future rehabbed buildings at 657-659 Somerville Avenue, 27 Everett Avenue, and 29 Jackson Road, some of the 263 first time homebuyer course participants, and a few of the 304 job seekers who participated in the First Source program.

Join SCC on April 10, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue as they build on fifty years of history and begin to envision a Somerville where families and individuals from many diverse backgrounds and cultures enjoy equitable access to secure housing, economic stability, and opportunities for leadership and active engagement.

Low and moderate-income residents and those who have recently come from other countries and cultures, are included in the process of planning for and being involved in a more inclusive, equitable future for the city. Register at: [eventbrite.com/e/scc-2024-annual-meeting-tickets-851541191627](https://eventbrite.com/e/scc-2024-annual-meeting-tickets-851541191627)

For more information Contact Gonzalo Puigbo, CEO, [scc@somervillecdc.org](mailto:scc@somervillecdc.org), 617-410-9904

## MBTA announces improved bus stop signage pilot as part of phase 1 of Bus Network Redesign

Today the MBTA announced a pilot that began yesterday, April 8, and will continue through May 3, 2024, to redesign bus stop signs in an effort to improve their accessibility and findability. The MBTA will also host eight pop-up events at pilot bus stops to gather rider feedback. This bus stop signage pilot comes in advance of anticipated bus service changes to come as part of the Bus Network Redesign (BNR) Program. More information is available at [mbta.com/BusSigns](https://mbta.com/BusSigns).

“As we begin this pilot of new sign designs for buses that are intended to improve our riders’ experience and provide clear information at bus stops, we are asking for public feedback to best ensure we are meeting your expectations,” said MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng. “As we focus on delivering more reliable and frequent trips, information and communication is equally critical for both existing and future riders. Your input is invaluable as we embark on the first phase of Bus Network Redesign in December 2024. We look forward to seeing and hearing from everyone at any of the upcoming bus stop pop-up events.”

To prepare for the upcoming anticipated bus service changes as part of BNR, the new bus stop sign design is being piloted at various locations between April 8 and May 3. The signs will include the following:

- **Increased size:** The sign’s width will increase from 12 to 14 inches to improve visibility.
- **Double-sided:** The signs will be double-sided to make it easier to find bus information from both directions.
- **Improved legibility:** The signs will include larger two-inch text and numbers to make them easier to read.
- **Frequent bus route symbol:** The signs will include a clock symbol to indicate this bus stop serves one or more frequent bus routes.

The MBTA encourages riders and the public to send feedback to help the T finalize the design.

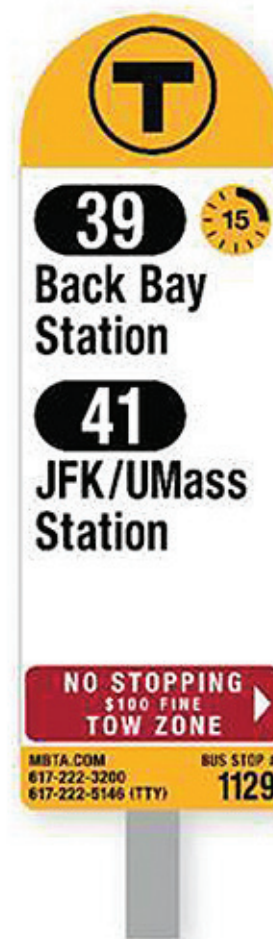
BNR is a complete reimagining of Greater Boston’s bus network that will better reflect the travel needs of the area and create a better experience for current and future bus riders. A new core network of frequent bus routes – operating every 15 minutes or better throughout the day—is the center of this redesign. The MBTA is implementing the new bus network in phases over the next five years.

In December 2024, the MBTA anticipates that Phase 1 bus service changes will be implemented throughout the communities of Chelsea, Everett, Revere, Malden, Somerville, Cambridge, and East Boston for Routes 86, 104, 109, 110, 116, and 117, including:

- Changing six bus routes, increasing service by 60% on the north side;
- Increasing service frequency for four routes (Routes 104, 109, 110, and 116) to 15 minutes or less, all day, every day; and
- New connections to the Red, Orange, Green, and Blue lines.

The MBTA will continue to communicate with riders about these upcoming anticipated changes in advance of December 2024 and encourages riders to share their questions and comments about BNR by emailing [BetterBusProject@mbta.com](mailto:BetterBusProject@mbta.com). Full details about these anticipated changes during Phase 1 and beyond are available at [mbta.com/BNR](https://mbta.com/BNR).

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



- ← New symbol for frequent bus routes
- ← Larger, easier-to-read text size (2")
- ← Wider sign (14")
- ← Double-sided

## Tufts University Department of Music Presents 'Opera Ensemble'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents “Opera Ensemble” in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Friday, April 25 and 26, at 8:00 p.m. Join Tufts Opera Ensemble for two mystical and mysterious one act operas: *The Medium* by Gian Carlo Menotti and *A Game of Chance* by Seymour Barab. Carol Mastrodome-nico, stage director; Thomas Stumpf, music director. This event will be livestreamed at [go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream](https://go.tufts.edu/musiclivestream).

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts’ Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit [go.tufts.edu/musicevents](https://go.tufts.edu/musicevents) or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679.



— MBTA



# Pest management plan to combat rodent issues announced

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville's Inspectional Services Department have announced Somerville's 2024 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, a comprehensive strategy crafted through collaborative efforts between various city departments and community stakeholders. Aimed at enhancing rodent management efforts, the updated plan incorporates Integrated Pest Management principles to effectively address rodent issues across residential, public, and commercial areas within the city.

Developed in partnership with the city's Health and Human Services, Inspectional Services, Public Works, SomerStat, Communications, and the Mayor's Office, the 2024 IPM plan emphasizes the importance of coordination between departments and the utilization of data-driven

approaches to inform rodent control strategies.

Key improvements outlined in the plan include:

- **Fine Structure Revision:** The plan proposes revisiting fine structures for repeat or significant violators of city ordinances, including adjustments to fee structures and the frequency of ticketing.

- **Annual Rodent Communications Plan:** Establishing an annual schedule of social media campaigns, mailers, community engagement events, training sessions, and visual media to raise awareness and educate the public about rodent control measures.

- **Enhanced Public Resources:** Improving the accessibility of resources and guides related to rodent management for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.

- **Expansion of Poison-Free Abatement Measures:** Introducing alternative poison-free abatement measures such as SMART Boxes, birth control methods, carbon monoxide pumps, and other emerging techniques to mitigate rodent populations.

- **Staffing Increases:** Increasing staffing dedicated to rodent and vector control to bolster efforts in addressing rodent issues effectively.

- **Linking Pest Control Requirements to Permits:** Strengthening regulations by linking pest control requirements to more permits, ensuring adherence to rodent management protocols across various activities.

- **Improved Data Collection:** Enhancing data collection methods to monitor secondary poisonings, diseases, and other impacts associated with rodent infestations.



The plan proposes revisiting fine structures for repeat or significant violators of city ordinances, including adjustments to fee structures and the frequency of ticketing.

The city will provide a detailed presentation on the IPM plan at a Special Issues Committee: Rodent Control meeting on Monday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Community members, stakeholders, and interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be hosted on

Zoom, and participate in discussions surrounding rodent management strategies. Those unable to attend the meeting will also be able to view the full plan online starting on April 22.

Attendees can register to join the meeting here: [bit.ly/rodent-controlmeeting](https://bit.ly/rodent-controlmeeting).

## Mayor announces 'New Small Business Vitality' grant program

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Economic Development Division announce the New Small Business Vitality grant program. Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the program is designed to foster the vitality and growth of small businesses, providing essential support to budding entrepreneurs. The New Small Business Vitality Grant offers up to 12 months of rental support for new physical storefronts up to a maximum of \$50,000.

"It's well known that the startup costs and initial challenges of opening a new small business are a precarious time for budding business owners, and we also know that small businesses are the lifeblood of our squares, main streets, and local economy. So, it's a win-win to support new businesses that create jobs and offer services to our community while also paying local taxes to fund city needs," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We've pumped more than \$4 Million into our local businesses since 2020 to help them get through the many challenges of the pandemic. This program now aims to put our newer businesses on strong footing as they come in to fill our vacant storefronts and support the vitality of our squares and main streets."

Eligibility is limited to newly established commercial storefronts, with a start date no earlier than January 2023. The application will be open from April 15 to May 15, 2024. The application is available in English and Spanish and support and outreach will be conducted in other languages.

The New Small Business Vitality Grant beneficiaries will receive reimbursements for both past and impending rent payments. To qualify, businesses must employ fewer than 20 full-time staff and engage in a lease agreement at the time of application. Grant amounts are tailored to individual needs, based on fair market rental prices. In return for this financial support, grant recipients are expected to prioritize hiring within the Somerville community, particularly focusing on individuals from low to moderate-income backgrounds when feasible and appropriate. Additionally, businesses are required to strive to maintain operational status for a minimum of one-year post-grant receipt. Please note, this program is exclusive to physical brick and mortar locations and funds are limited; home-based enterprises do not qualify.

"With past grants, Somerville was able to support many small businesses through the Covid pandemic. Our team in Economic Development is excited that we can now extend financial support to the new businesses that are joining our dynamic business districts. The squares of Somerville are alive with amazing small business experiences – we encourage everyone to come discover what new businesses have to offer and explore what's new in your longstanding favorites too," said Rachel Nadkarni, Director of Economic Development.

### How to Apply:

Visit [bit.ly/vitalitygrant](https://bit.ly/vitalitygrant) to apply by Wednesday, May 15, 2024. For more information, please email [SomervilleSBVGSsupport@iparametrics.com](mailto:SomervilleSBVGSsupport@iparametrics.com) or call 857-557-6002.



## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

### Upcoming events:

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

**Work Together Wednesday Intergenerational Event** – Wednesday, April 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Join Bright Horizon Early Education & Preschool and the Council on Aging as we paint rocks to create a beautiful Friendship Rock Garden which will be placed at the TAB Building. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Making Cents of Caregiving Costs** – An AARP Presentation – Friday, April 19th at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Caring for a loved one is not always easy, but in this session, Renee from AARP will introduce some essential information caregivers need to more easily manage the complex responsibilities of caregiving. You will be introduced to AARP's Financial Workshop for Family Caregivers, a practical guide focused on health, housing and money management. During the presentation, the workbook will be reviewed, you will learn how to incorporate financial tips into your caregiving and additional resources will be provided. RSVP by calling Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

**Senior Tax Work Off Program** – The City of Somerville offers a tax-work off program for qualified homeowners to reduce their property tax bill by up to \$1,500. by volunteering for a City Department. Volunteer hours can be completed between April and November 2024 and reductions will be reflected in your January 2025 tax bill. The Senior Citizens Tax Work Off is available to Somerville residents over the age of 60, who meet income criteria and who own and occupy the property for

which the taxes are paid. Active participants currently hold volunteer positions at: The Council on Aging, Library, Mobile Market, Schools and many more! For additional information, or for an application, contact the COA at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Spend the Morning at the Spa** – Wednesday, April 24th, Tuesday, May 7th & Friday, June 7th starting at 9:00 a.m. at Somerville High School. The Council on Aging is traveling to Somerville High School Cosmetology and Culinary Departments for a morning of spa treatments and a delicious lunch. Participants will be able to choose from: a hair wash & cut for \$5., a facial for \$10 or a manicure for \$5., paid directly to the Cosmetology Department. We will enjoy lunch prepared by the Somerville Culinary Department. Lunch will be \$7. paid at time of reservation. Transportation will leave the Holland Street Center at 9:00 a.m. To RSVP for one of the spa dates, please contact Connie Lorenti by calling at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

**CHA PACE** – Cambridge Health Alliance – Wednesday, April 24th starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. The Somerville Council on Aging welcomes the Cambridge Health Alliance as they present the Program of All-Inclusive Care for Edgerly (PACE) program. CHA PACE services are covered by Medicare and MassHealth. Private pay is also available. For more information and to register, contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

**Pottery Class** – Wednesday, April 24th starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. The COA welcomes back Fern, owner of Commonwealth Clayworks! During class we will learn how to make ceramic fortune cookies – you can slip in your own fortune after it is fired. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

**Movie Day** – Wednesday, April 17th at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month's movie is "And So It Goes" starring Michael Douglas, Diane Keaton & Sterling Jerins. A self-absorbed realtor enlists the help of his neighbor when he is suddenly left in charge of the granddaughter he never knew existed until his estranged son drops her off at his home. Rated PG-13 with a running time of 1 hour and 34 minutes. \$2 per person for a pizza lunch. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**LCR Game Day** – Friday, April 12th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center.

RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Bingo** – Every Tuesdays in April at our Ralph & Jenny Center – starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Bingo** – Thursday at our Holland Street Center – starting at 10:00 a.m. This month's dates include April 11th and 25th. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Men's Group** – Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month (April 9th) starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@Somervillema.gov.

**Veteran's Group** – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month (April 23rd) starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov. If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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

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

# Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

cream. The bill would provide that the law be enforced and would impose a \$50 fine for failure to have the lights. It would also require that the operation of the lights be included as part of the truck's annual inspection.

Supporters say that although these trucks that serve frozen desserts are required under current law to use these lights ... the requirement as written includes no enforcement mechanism. They said it is time to enforce this law which saves lives and prevents injuries.

Sponsor Rep. Tom Vitolo (D-Brookline) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on why he filed the bill and how he feels about its initial approval.

**INCREASE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS** - The House gave initial approval to a measure that adds a 7-day license suspension to the current \$250 fine for not stopping for a school bus with flashing lights as children get on and off the bus.

According to the American School Bus Council, an estimated more than 10 million drivers illegally pass school buses every year. In addition, one-third of children who are killed outside the school bus are between five and seven years old; nearly two-thirds of bus related fatalities of school-age children occur outside the school bus; and passing vehicles are responsible for two-thirds of school bus loading and unloading fatalities.

Sponsor Rep. Susannah Whipps (I-Athol) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking her to comment on why she filed the bill and how she feels about its initial approval.

**FREE PARKING FOR VETERANS (H 3533)** – The House gave initial approval to a bill that would allow cities and towns to restrict two parking spaces in off street parking lots, large retail parking lots and parking garages to parking for veterans only – as long as the lot has more than 1,000 parking spaces. Municipalities would be required to erect a sign that reads as follows: "Veteran parking Only. This space is reserved for those who have served. Unauthorized vehicles may be removed at the vehicle owner's expense."

Violators would be fined \$100 and cities and towns would be allowed to tow the offending vehicles at the owners' expense.

"Supporting veterans is a fundamental duty and reserving parking spaces for them through this bill is a modest way to show our gratitude" said sponsor Sen. Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). "It's a small step, but it reflects our ongoing commitment to honor their service."

**BAN COAL ROLLING (H 1698)** – The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would prohibit anyone driving a diesel-powered vehicle from releasing significant quantities of soot, smoke or other particular emissions that obstruct or obscure another driver's view

of the roadway. The measure also bans anyone from retrofitting a diesel-powered vehicle with a device, smoke-stack or other equipment that enhances the vehicle's capacity to emit these pollutants. Violators would be fined from \$100 to \$1,000.

"Coal rolling ... is the practice of deliberately emitting soot from the modified exhaust pipes of a diesel-powered truck that can be directed at other vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians and pose a serious danger as the black smoke can intentionally impair visibility" said sponsor Rep. Brian Murray (D-Milford). "It serves no useful purpose and is clearly harmful to the environment, as well as associated with known health risks and respiratory issues. This bill would make it unlawful to add equipment to a vehicle for coal rolling and subject those who may continue this practice to a penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000."

**USE OF BREAKDOWN LANE (H 3370)** – The House gave initial approval to legislation that would double fines for motor vehicles speeding in the far-right lane, or "breakdown" lane in areas where travel in that lane is permitted during peak commuting hours.

"While allowing travel in the far-right lane is essential on some highways in the commonwealth to temporarily provide traffic relief during peak hours, many motorists use this lane as a high-speed passing lane, risking the safety of disabled motor vehicles, emergency personnel and themselves," said sponsor Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick). "Numerous accidents and fatalities have occurred due to excessive speed in the breakdown lanes. This legislation will not only further protect those who dedicate their lives to our safety but will protect motorist safety as well."

A speeding ticket fine imposed on a driver is \$100 for any speed up to 10 miles per hour above the speed limit. An additional \$10 fine is added for each additional mile per hour above the first ten. The legislation doubles the total fine. For example, if you are traveling 25 miles above the speed limit, the fine would be \$250 (\$100 for the first ten miles above and \$150 for the additional 15 miles above).

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Our administration is deeply committed not only to preventing overdoses in our state, but also providing the incredible organizations doing the work in communities with the tools they need to improve health outcomes and save lives. By investing in these diverse organizations now, we are laying the foundation for them to have the resources they need to address the overdose crisis appropriately and quickly in the future." — Gov. Maura Healey announcing the awarding of \$2.9 million to 20 organizations led by Black, Indigenous and people of color to address substance use in the communities they serve, which continue to be disproportionately impacted by increases in overdoses.

"We see the impact of the overdose epidemic every day — thousands are dying every year in Massachusetts from preventable overdoses, and we need to utilize every tool

we have to address the crisis. Overdose prevention centers are proven, evidence-based facilities that can save lives and connect people to health care, treatment and recovery and their community." — Dave Foley, President of SEIU Local 509 announcing support for establishing overdose prevention centers in the Bay State.

"We urge everyone to be vigilant when performing transactions or providing information online for RMV-related services. Customers should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites claiming to assist with RMV services and inform their relatives and friends about this as well." — Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie.

"Solar power is clean, local and abundant and is already playing a leading role in Massachusetts' transition away from dirty energy sources. Gov. Healey's leadership in setting an ambitious yet achievable goal of 1 million solar roofs by 2030 will help turbocharge solar in Massachusetts." — Johanna Neumann, Acting Director of Environment Massachusetts, urging Healey and Climate Chief Hoffer to make solar energy a key part of Massachusetts' strategy to address climate change.

## HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of April 1-5, the House met for a total of six hour and ten minutes and the Senate met for a total of 42 minutes.

Mon. April 1	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:16 a.m. Senate 11:16 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Tues. April 2	No House session No Senate session
Wed. April 3	House 11:03 a.m. to 2:58 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. April 4	House 11:01 a.m. to 1:01 p.m. Senate 11:16 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.
Fri. April 5	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

## This weeks events at Somernova



♦ Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., the Somerville Bike Kitchen, a volunteer-run bicycle repair cooperative, hosts open-shop nights at The Dojo (15 Properzi Way, Somerville). Come maintain your bike or learn more about cycling. Upcoming Bike Kitchens: 4/11, 4/16, 4/18

♦ Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., The Dojo at Somernova (15 Properzi Way, Somerville) hosts Youth Hours. This is a safe space to find community, work on some homework, spend time with friends, do an arts and crafts project, play video games, participate in city programming, and have a snack. Welcome to all Somerville youth. Upcoming Youth Hours: 4/10, 4/11

♦ Come by for Wellness Wednesdays at The Dojo during Open Youth Hours. The Dojo @ Somernova, in partnership with Riverside Community Care, will offer health and wellness coaching and mindfulness activities on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 6:00 PM. Wellness Wednesdays will include health and wellness coaching, peer mentoring, and self-care workshops – come stop by. Upcoming Wellness Wednesdays: 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

## Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Highland Avenue, Sunday twilight...

— Photo by Denise Provost

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the marathon runner end up in jail?  
For resisting a rest.

The "Original"  
**All Types Vent Cleaning**  
Restaurant Hood Cleaning  
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning  
Power Washing  
Licensed and Insured  
in Massachusetts  
We travel all over  
Massachusetts  
Call today to find out  
our weekly specials!  
Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

To advertise in  
**The  
Somerville  
Times**  
call  
**Bobbie Toner**  
**857-488-5138**

## On This Day in History

### April 10

- 1790 – The U.S. patent system is established.
- 1809 – Austria declares war on France and her forces enter Bavaria.
- 1866 – The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is formed.
- 1912 – The Titanic begins her maiden voyage which will end in disaster.
- 1925 – F. Scott Fitzgerald publishes The Great Gatsby.
- 1930 – The first synthetic rubber is produced.
- 1945 – Allied troops liberate the Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald north of Weener, Germany.
- 1947 – Jackie Robinson becomes the first black to play major league baseball as he takes the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- 1971 – The American table tennis team arrives in China.
- 1974 – Yitzhak Rabin replaces resigning Israeli Prime Minister, Golda Meir.
- 1981 – Imprisoned Irish Republican Army hunger striker Bobby Sands is elected to the British Parliament.

## GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

7:00 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results  
 8:06 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 8:30 AM School Committee Update  
 9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld  
 9:30 AM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising  
 10:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole  
 12:02 PM SomerViva em Português  
 12:31 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
 2:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration  
 3:00 PM City Council Meeting 3-28-24  
 4:30 PM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy  
 5:00 PM Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting  
 6:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 8:00 PM School Committee Update  
 8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24  
 11:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life

### THURSDAY, APRIL 11

12:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration  
 1:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole  
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II  
 8:00 AM Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting  
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português  
 9:30 AM Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan  
 11:35 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit  
 12:30 PM City Council Meeting 3-28-24  
 2:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld  
 2:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration  
 3:30 PM School Committee Update  
 7:00 PM City Council Meeting - LIVE

### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

12:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me  
 1:30 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America

2:40 AM SomerViva em Português  
 7:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 8:40 AM SPD Ride Along  
 9:00 AM School Committee Update  
 9:30 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24  
 12:30 PM Haiti: Resilience Rising  
 2:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 3:00 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising  
 3:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner  
 5:00 PM SPS Capacity Study Presentation  
 6:30 PM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results  
 7:36 PM Talking Business: Night Life  
 8:00 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising  
 8:30 PM Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting  
 10:35 PM Talking Business: Night Life  
 11:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

12:00 AM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising  
 12:30 AM School Committee Update  
 1:00 AM Museum of Bad Art Tour  
 2:00 AM Union Sq. Walking Tour 2023  
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2  
 7:30 AM SomerViva em Português  
 8:00 AM Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting  
 9:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 11:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 11:30 AM SomerViva em Português  
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24  
 3:00 PM School Committee Update  
 3:30 PM Senior Circuit  
 4:00 PM Haiti: Resilience Rising  
 6:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 6:30 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising  
 7:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole  
 9:02 PM Talking Business: Night Life  
 9:30 PM Museum of Bad Art Tour

10:30 PM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results  
 11:40 PM SomerViva em Português

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 4-11-24  
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV  
 8:00 AM Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting  
 9:00 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking  
 9:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol  
 10:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 10:30 AM SomerViva em Português  
 11:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration  
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit  
 12:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 2:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me  
 4:00 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
 5:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration  
 6:30 PM Senior Circuit  
 7:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld  
 7:30 PM City Council Meeting 4-11-24

### MONDAY, APRIL 15

12:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld  
 12:30 AM Senior Circuit  
 1:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole  
 6:30 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy  
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2  
 7:30 AM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me  
 9:00 AM Senior Circuit  
 9:30 AM Women's History Month Celebration  
 10:30 AM School Committee Update  
 11:00 AM SomerViva em Português  
 11:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld  
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 4-11-24  
 4:00 PM Patriots Day 2023  
 4:30 PM Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting

6:35 PM Talking Business: Night Life  
 7:00 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking  
 7:30 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
 9:00 PM Patriots Day 2023  
 9:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration  
 10:30 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising  
 11:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld  
 11:30 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking

### TUESDAY, APRIL 16

12:00 AM School Committee Update  
 12:30 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24  
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy  
 7:30 AM Women's History Month Celebration 2024  
 8:30 AM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising  
 9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld  
 9:30 AM Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting  
 10:20 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results  
 11:30 AM SomerViva em Português  
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit  
 12:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community  
 2:10 PM SomerViva em Português  
 2:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life  
 3:00 PM City Council Meeting 4-11-24  
 6:30 PM School Committee Update  
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit  
 7:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole  
 9:32 PM Talking Business: Night Life  
 10:00 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking  
 10:30 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond  
 11:40 PM SomerViva em Português

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

12:00 AM Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan  
 2:05 AM Talking Business: Night Life  
 2:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld

## EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 10:00 AM School Committee Update  
 11:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24  
 2:00 PM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship  
 3:10 PM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 4:00 PM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship  
 5:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 7:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 9:00 PM School Committee Update  
 10:00 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24

### THURSDAY, APRIL 11

1:00 AM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship  
 2:10 AM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 3:00 AM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship  
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24  
 11:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 1:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 2:15 PM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 3:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 4:00 PM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 5:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 6:00 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24  
 9:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 11:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game

### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

12:15 AM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 1:00 AM Capuano Kindergarten Informance

2:00 AM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 3:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 8:00 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 9:30 AM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 10:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 12:00 PM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship  
 1:00 PM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship  
 2:30 PM School Committee Update  
 3:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 5:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 6:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 7:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 8:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 10:00 PM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship  
 11:00 PM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

12:30 AM School Committee Update  
 1:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 3:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 8:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 10:00 AM School Committee Update  
 11:00 AM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 12:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 2:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 2:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 4:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 5:00 PM SHS An Evening of Song  
 7:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 9:00 PM School Committee Update

10:00 PM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 11:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

1:00 AM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 1:30 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 3:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 4:00 AM SHS An Evening of Song  
 8:00 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 9:30 AM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 10:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 12:00 PM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship  
 1:00 PM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship  
 2:30 PM School Committee Update  
 3:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 5:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 6:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 7:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 8:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 10:00 PM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship  
 11:00 PM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship

### MONDAY, APRIL 15

12:30 AM School Committee Update  
 1:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 3:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 8:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 10:00 AM School Committee Update  
 11:00 AM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 12:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 2:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance

2:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 4:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 5:00 PM SHS An Evening of Song  
 7:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington  
 9:00 PM School Committee Update  
 10:00 PM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 11:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English

### TUESDAY, APRIL 16

1:00 AM SHS An Evening of Song  
 1:30 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 3:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 8:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 9:00 AM SHS An Evening of Song  
 11:00 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 12:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 1:00 PM School Committee Update  
 1:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 3:00 PM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship  
 4:10 PM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 5:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month  
 6:00 PM SHS An Evening of Song  
 8:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game  
 9:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance  
 10:00 PM School Committee Update  
 10:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English  
 12:00 AM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship  
 1:10 AM El Sistema Spring Concert  
 2:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Hopedale

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

occur on **Monday, May 27**. Sign up to volunteer or participate and march along with local Veterans and first responders by contacting **Somerville VETS** at 617-625-6600 ext. 4700. Parade participants should register by April 26. To learn more, visit [somerillema.gov/memorialday](https://somerillema.gov/memorialday).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld, and the City of Somerville Office of Mobility** are inviting the community to an open house to discuss proposed new designs for **Broadway between Clarendon Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway**. The event will be held on **Saturday, April 13**, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the **West Somerville Neighborhood School** (177 Powder House Blvd). Questions and comments can also be submitted by emailing [transportation@somerillema.gov](mailto:transportation@somerillema.gov) and by calling 311 (617-666-3311). Visit [somerillema.gov/westbroadway](https://somerillema.gov/westbroadway) to learn more about the project and stay up to date.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Blackout poetry kits** are available at all three **Somerville Public Library** locations, starting today, to celebrate April being National Poetry Month. Pick up one of these take-and-make crafts and impress us with your poetry. Visit <https://www.somerillepubliclibrary.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Around Hear** will be holding a free concert at the **Concert at the Mystic Activity Center** in Somerville on **April 20**, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., 530 Mystic Ave. Somerville. Free, open to the public, listeners of ages are welcome. Refreshments served, write, draw, move while you listen.

\*\*\*\*\*

Visit **CultureHouse Union Square**, 64 Union Square, Somerville, **Wednesday – Sunday: 1:00 – 8:00 p.m.** This week they will be hosting, **Neighborhood Doc Night** presented by **Fableworks Studio**, **April 11, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**, **Saggy Jams Music and Art Showcase**, **April 13, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**, **Botanical Embroidery Workshop**, **April 15, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**, **Office Hours with Councilor Willie Burnley, Jr.**, **April 14, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.** For more information visit <https://culturehouse.cc/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lyndell's Sean Collier Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser** will be held **April 12 – 15**. Raffle tickets are available at

\$5.00 each. First Prize – 2 Red Sox Tickets Game TBA, Second Prize – \$200.00 Lyndell's Gift Card, Third Prize – \$100.00 Lyndell's Gift Card, Fourth Prize - \$50.00 Lyndell's Gift Card. Lyndell's, 720 Broadway.

\*\*\*\*\*

Interested in history, art, and culture? The **Somerville Museum** is seeking **volunteers** to help in a variety of areas, including historic events, museum programming/exhibitions/events, front desk coverage, collection care, grant writing, accessibility, and more. Fill out their volunteer form to indicate which opportunities you're interested in: <https://wfkf.ms/49im3cE>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church** and the **Somerville Garden Club** are hosting a plant swap in honor of **Earth Day, April 20, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**, 29 Central St. Stop by and share the plant love. You don't have to bring a plant/cutting/seeds to take something. While there, take a tour of the newly renovated church. Free coffee and pastries from **Lyndell's Bakery** will be served.

\*\*\*\*\*

**East Somerville Spring Community cleanup** will take place on **April 27, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Join in and make a difference in the East Somerville community. Meet at the **East Branch Library**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville PorchFest 2024** will take place on **Saturday, May 11**, (rain date May 12) from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Perhaps you've sat on your porch and overheard a neighbor strumming guitar on another porch? Porchfest takes this idea and multiplies it. This is not a festival per se but rather a community event where Somervilleans share their love of playing and listening to music ... from their porch, driveways, yards, etc. Registration is now open: <https://beta.somerilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/porchfest2024/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The COA is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident

of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

\*\*\*\*\*

The city is seeking adult and student volunteers to help with publicity, outreach, and day-of activities at the **Colonial Fair on Monday, April 15** (Patriots' Day). Volunteers are encouraged to dress in Colonial era garb - some clothing can be lent and 'make your own' instructions and resources are available. If you are interested in volunteering, visit: <https://wfkf.ms/49V2W8m>. Please be sure to select "Historic Events (across the city)."

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Welcome Project** welcomes back **YUM 2024: A Taste of Immigrant City** to an in-person event, **May 2**. After a five-year hiatus, they will be returning to the Arts at the Armory for a night of great food, music, and conversations about how the immigrant community continues to be an asset to Somerville and the U.S. For more information visit: <https://www.welcomeproject.org/yum2024.html>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you a member of **Somerville High School's class of 1974**? The **class of 2024** is looking for participants for this year's **Class Day festivities** which will take place on **Friday, May 31**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at **Somerville High School**. They are looking for 50 graduates in total from 1974 to participate. The Class of 2024 looks forward to seeing you. Email any questions to **Irma Calderon** at [icalderon@k12.somerille.ma.us](mailto:icalderon@k12.somerille.ma.us).

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't miss the in-person **Somerville Public Schools recruitment fair** on **April 11, 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.** at the **Kennedy School** (5 Cherry Street, Somerville, MA 02144). Bring your resumé, meet district staff, learn more about our district. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/42LJ3hT>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville Open Studios 2024, 25th Anniversary** will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, May 4–5**, from 12:00 to 6:00 pm each day, at artists' studios and homes throughout Somerville. Over 350 artists in 90 locations citywide will open their studios to the public. Map, artist,

and trolley info at <https://www.somerilleopenstudios.org/>. The **SOS First Look Show** at the **Somerville Museum** will be open from **April 11 through May 11**. For more information, map, artist, trolley and other events visit <https://www.somerilleopenstudios.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Carnival** will be here soon. If you are a vendor, make sure you submit an application soon, visit: <https://www.eastsomerillemainstreets.org/carnaval>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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



## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

# Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz rounds up poets for what may be a historic reading

## Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Our poet writes: My name is Casey Moritz and I am from Dallas, Texas. I go to Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, majoring in Psychology and minoring in criminal justice. I am a sophomore and currently play on the Women's Ice Hockey team at Endicott. I enjoy going to concerts, reading, and listening to music.



### Dead Weight

The sound of construction  
Surrounds the people on their phones.  
Do they notice?  
Do they hear the drilling and beeping?  
My phone, tucked away in my pocket  
Wants to burn a hole through,  
To be held by me.  
No human in sight,  
Just nature beckoning me to sit,  
Patting the rock.  
She asks what is wrong, how she can help.  
She's a good listener.  
She doesn't interrupt  
Or judge  
Or laugh  
She just sits there,  
Allowing me to cry on her shoulder,  
Allowing me to throw rocks at her.  
My tears become the sea.  
My laughs join the sounds of waves crashing.  
She's a good listener.  
But does she have someone to talk to?  
I ask, she responds with gulls squawking.  
I understand.  
She'll still be here after the phones are hidden beneath the earth.  
I am not the first to talk to her,  
But maybe I am the first to actually listen to her.

— Casey Moritz

Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz contacted me recently about a reading he has organized that will take place April 28, 2024, 5:30 p.m. at the Somerville Arts Armory in Somerville. I decided to interview him to bring attention to this important community event. The event is titled *Somerville Poets Reading Their Own Poems and Poems They Love*.

From the Somerville Arts Council website:

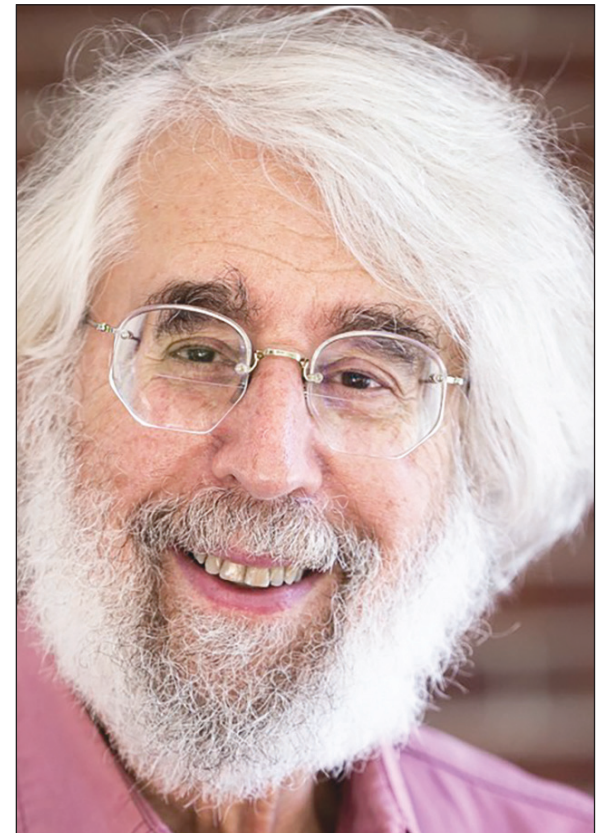
"This once-in-a-lifetime reading includes the largest array of Somerville poets ever assembled. More than 30 poets will each be reading one of their own poems and a poem they love by a poet of their choice. The poets include Jennifer Badot, Simeon Berry, David Blair, Zack Bond, Elizabeth Callahan, Paroma Chattopadhyay, Jennifer Clarvoe, Linda Conte, Linda Haviland Conte, Donna Donna, Gary Duehr, Kirk Etherton, Michael Franco, Bridget Seley Galway, Seth Garcia, Doug Holder, Katherine Hollander, Lucy Holstedt, Gloria Mindock, Tam Lin Neville, Pat Peterson, Denise Provost, Andrea Read, Hilary Sallick, Lloyd Schwartz, Michael Steffen, Janaka Stucky, Patrick Sylvain, Gilmore Tamny, Christie Towers, Anna Warrock, and Dan Wuenschel."

**Doug Holder:** This will be, according to you, the largest reading of Somerville poets ever presented. I think Somerville is unique, there are not many small cities and town that could pull this off. What makes us a unique city in your opinion, especially in regard to the arts?

**Lloyd Schwartz:** It is hard to imagine that a city as small as Somerville has so many artists of distinction. One of my first ambitions when I was appointed Somerville's poet laureate was to have a reading of as many of the resident published poets as I could find, to let everyone know that it's not just Boston or Cambridge that has such an extensive and diverse literary community. The pandemic interfered with my plan. But now it's finally coming to fruition.

**DH:** How did you make the choices of the poets? There is certainly a large swath to choose from.

**LS:** I invited every poet I could think of who lived in Somerville and has published or is about to publish at least one book, and asked my friends if they could suggest anyone I hadn't thought of. There would have been even more poets if some of them didn't have conflicts on the set date at the Armory (and I was disappointed that some of the poets I asked never responded to my invitation). I'm really thrilled with this list of readers. These are all poets whose individual readings I would be happy to attend. If there's someone around, I didn't ask, I apologize. It was not intentional. I wanted to be as inclu-



sive as possible. I think this will be the largest reading ever of Somerville poets.

**DH:** You decided to have the poets read their own work, as well as a favorite poem of their own. Why did you choose this format?

**LS:** Since there are so many readers, I had to limit the length of each poet's reading. So, they will each be reading only one of their own poems. A tempting sample. But I also wanted some indication of where each poet was coming from, their literary taste, how they fit in. In a way, I wanted to bring the whole word of poetry into this reading, to show that each poet was part of a larger context of poetry. I can't wait to hear which poems each of them chose, both of their own and which poems they love. It will be a surprise to me as well as to the rest of the audience.

**DH:** Why should the community attend this event?

**LS:** I think this will be a unique and gratifying occasion. I want to show off our literary community, and the audience – the readers and the listeners – play an extremely important role in that community. The audience is "the other half." It's really important for our artists to have the support of the community. But I also think it will be a marvelously enjoyable evening, with a wide range of feeling and full of surprises. Just what poetry is and should be. And it will be exciting just to discover who Somerville's poets are and whether they really have anything in common besides living in Somerville.

# The Somerville Times

To advertise in our Business Directory,  
call 857-488-5138.

Let your customers find you in  
Somerville's most widely read newspaper!

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## Monica Calvo Realtor®

Real Estate Professional  
Cell: 617-605-3308

Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com  
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

**RE/MAX**  
PARTNERS RELOCATION  
44 Park ST  
Andover MA 01810  
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



## The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire  
Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire  
Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Real Estate Law  
Zoning  
Civil Litigation  
Criminal Defense  
Family Law  
Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200  
FAX: (617) 776-5435  
EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net  
424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

Advertise your  
business here

call  
857-488-5138



Juscelia LoRusso  
617.686.8095


*Cakes for all occasions*

facebook.com/JusceliasCakes  
facebook.com/Juscelia.Lorusso



**MESSINA**  
REALTY COLLECTIVE

Bobbie Toner – Real Estate Consultant  
Bobbietoner@aol.com 857 488 5138



Closed Wednesday

**Alibrandi's Barber Shop**  
Men & Boys Haircuts

"Best Somerville Barber"

194 Holland St, Somerville, MA 02144  
617-628-4282



**VELNEY**  
DEVELOPMENT

**Josué Velney**  
President and CEO  
Velney Development  
VBE/MBE Certified

(617) 401-9339 | (617) 201-5769  
[www.velneydevelopment.com](http://www.velneydevelopment.com)



Martin B. Dropkin  
Nancy G. Matza  
Tel: 617-623-4600

Attorneys at Law  
Fax: 617-625-7315

**DROPKIN & MATZA LLP**  
Attorneys at Law

424 Broadway  
Somerville MA 02145

Bankruptcy  
Family Law  
Immigration  
Personal Injury  
Business Law  
Estate Planning and Probate  
Real Estate  
Elder Law  
Civil Litigation

[mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com](mailto:mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com)

**T. J. SILLARI, INC.**

Over 50 Years Experience  
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106 **625-9877**

Telephone: (617) 625-2244  
(617) 625-4344

Fax: (617) 625-4350

**EDWIN J. SMITH**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
**RUMERY & SMITH**

403 HIGHLAND AVENUE  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

[edsmithlaw@gmail.com](mailto:edsmithlaw@gmail.com)

To advertise in  
**The Somerville Times call**  
**Bobbie Toner: 857-488-5138**