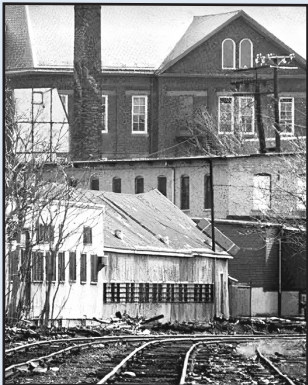




### Inside:



**Adventure land**  
page 3



**The administrative side of art**  
page 5



**Spring clean up time again**  
page 19

## City approves grassroots initiative to promote plant-based foods



The City Council passed a resolution in support of the Plant-Based Treaty, which addresses current food systems causing environmental destruction.

By Harry Kane

In the latest effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat the negative impacts of a climate crisis affecting the planet, Somerville approved a resolution in support of a global initiative that seeks to incentivize and promote a plant-based food system.

The Plant-Based Treaty urges individuals, groups, businesses, and cities to acknowledge the need for food system reform that will reduce food-based emissions and promote plant-based purchasing practices.

“This resolution calls on the mayor to incorporate plant-based solutions into Climate Forward,” said Ward 5 City Councilor Naima Sait, lead sponsor of the resolution, during the City Council meeting on April 9.

*Continued on page 4*

## Somerville Open Studios 2026 First Look Exhibit

The Somerville Museum reopens with Somerville Open Studios First Look Show. See a preview of participating artists' works at the First Look Show at the Museum. On view through May 9.

First Look is a stunning overview of Somerville Open Studios and a great way to plan your artist visits for SOS weekend! The museum becomes a space where visitors can see Somerville's diverse artist community on display. With more than 180 featured artists' pieces, you're sure to discover a new favorite.

Hours, before and after SOS: Thursdays 2– 7 p.m., Fridays 2 – 5 p.m., Saturdays 12 – 5 p.m. SOS weekend hours: Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (opening one hour before the rest of SOS).

For Somerville's Open Studio full schedule visit <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>  
One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA.



The Somerville Open Studios First Look exhibit runs from April 17 to May 9 at the Somerville Museum.

**WINTER HILL BANK**  
CustomServe Banking

*Today*

Member FDIC

Run Your Business on Clover

winterhillbank.com

Learn More

**HOME OWNERSHIP MADE EASY**

Competitive Fixed & Adjustable Rates • Jumbo Mortgages • Fast Approvals • 1st Time Homebuyer Programs • Free Preapprovals • Most Options • Best Advice

**WINTER HILL BANK** A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906.  
CustomServe Lending

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

NMLS #431641 | SUM | FDIC

**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.

Celebrate **Week of the Young Child** on **April 16**. Somerville families, educators, and caregivers are invited to a community celebration on **Thursday, April 16**, on the **Somerville High School concourse** (81 Highland Ave.) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The event will include family-friendly food, music, and activities. For more information regarding Somerville's child and youth programs or initiatives, please visit [www.somervillehub.org](http://www.somervillehub.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Patriot's Day Colonial Fair** will take place on **Monday, April 20**, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at **Foss Park**, 49 Fellsway West. Enjoy **History In The Park**. Join in for the **250th Patriots' Day Commemoration**. Enjoy colonial games and activities, delicious refreshments, and a chance to greet **Paul Revere**. Presented in collaboration with the **City of Somerville**. Admission is free.

\*\*\*\*\*

To those celebrating their birthdays this week: A big happy birthday to former **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne**, who is celebrating this week. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to former alderman and great guy, **Jack Connolly**. We hope he has a nice day. Happy birthday to **Jesse Moos**. We hope he enjoys his day. Happy birthday to a nice guy, **Blake Maddux**, who has written in the past for this us. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to **Julie Phelan Brady**. We hope she enjoys her day. Happy birthday to **Jim Cook**, who is celebrating this week. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends, such as Mark Hnl *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

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

| DAY                                 | CONDITIONS    | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><i>April 15</i> | Rain          | 68°/51°  | 47%           | 33%      | ENE 12 mph |
| <b>Thursday</b><br><i>April 16</i>  | Cloudy        | 72°/55°  | 20%           | 14%      | ESE 10 mph |
| <b>Friday</b><br><i>April 17</i>    | Thunderstorms | 69°/47°  | 75%           | 61%      | NE 11 mph  |
| <b>Saturday</b><br><i>April 18</i>  | Cloudy        | 55°/44°  | 22%           | 12%      | NE 12 mph  |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><i>April 19</i>    | Rain          | 59°/40°  | 60%           | 43%      | SW 14 mph  |
| <b>Monday</b><br><i>April 20</i>    | Partly Cloudy | 47°/31°  | 19%           | 10%      | NW 15 mph  |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><i>April 21</i>   | Sunny         | 50°/36°  | 1%            | 1%       | W 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: **Somerville's Housing Crisis Won't Wait – And Neither Should We**

Steve says:

The last thing Davis Square needs is a 26-story building with 500+ apartments and no parking.

Klaus says:

The area in question is Davis Square, which is the most convenient and probably the most expensive area of Somerville. However people feel about a high-rise in Davis, the idea that it will "gentrify" DAVIS SQUARE makes no sense. The inclusionary units in this proposal would likely represent the only meaningful subsidized housing at all in Davis.

### Response to: **Honoring two childcare champions in Somerville**

Sara Shortt says:

A memorial service for Joyce will be held at the CALA building (1060 Broadway) on May 24th at 2pm. Friends, colleagues and community members are welcome to attend.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://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, Harry Kane,  
and Cathleen Twardzik

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte,  
Dorothy Dimarzo, Bob Doherty  
Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



© 2026 The Somerville Times except where noted. All rights reserved.

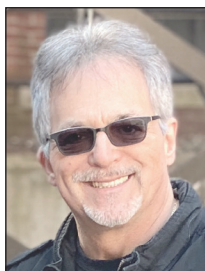
## Register for SPS summer programs

Registration open until May 22. Please visit our summer programs webpage to learn about free, open enrollment programs available in our schools. Programs include robotics, middle grades vocational programs, The Calculus Project and others. The summer webpage also lists programs that require the referral of an educator or administrator and links to fee-based programs.

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

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

# Adventure land



Before the bike path was built, trains rolled along there. Growing up in the 60's and 70's, the tracks were another playground for us. We had to be very

careful for trains, but there was always someone looking out. I asked my social media friends and Somerville to share their thoughts on the old train tracks.

"Anyone recall Pollywog Pond, near Cedar St.?"

"Royal White dry-cleaning building, now blue apartment bldg.? I recall catching tadpoles there."

"Yes, the tracks were like our adventure in the woods. Making bows and arrows out of branches and string."

"Looking for frogs and turtles and the occasional snake."

"As kids, we built so many forts in the banking along those tracks, and then as teenagers, we hung at the platform at the end of Warwick Street, and that was our

drinking spot. We even had one engineer on the 11 o'clock freight train that would slow down and let us run up and give him a beer."

"That was probably my father you were handing the beer to on the train, lol! I used to always say thank God those trains are on tracks when pops was driving them."

"We used to go down behind the little park at Trum Field and catch snakes and frogs."

"The forts were great and the trails made through the 'woods' too! Have a good memory of all the box trains that were stopped ... hmmm will leave that alone to the people that remember!"

"We used to swing on the tire hanging from the tree behind the H.S. that went almost over the train tracks! My father was an engineer for Boston and Maine, and he said he would kick our asses if he saw us swinging from that tire. Needless to say, we paid no attention, and we also hopped on the trains to see who could last the longest before it went under the bridge! Ahhh, the good old days!"



Wedding / Event  
Photography & Videography

*Harry Kane*

860-840-3737  
www.KaneFilms.net  
HarryKaneFilms@gmail.com



Photo & Video Services  
for events in  
MA, CT, NY, RI

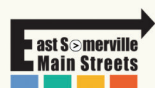


**Are You Sitting  
On A Fortune?**

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

**617-764-4342**

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

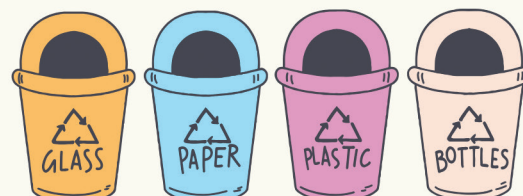


**ASSEMBLY ROW**

**Spring  
Cleanup**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25 2026**

10:00AM-12:00PM  
115 BROADWAY, EAST BRANCH LIBRARY



COME HELP US BEAUTIFY THE NEIGHBORHOOD!  
PASTRIES AND COFFEE PROVIDED BY OLA CAFE.

www.eastsomervillemainstreets.com

# Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: Can my employer contribute to my child's "Trump Account"?**

**A:** Yes — and this is one of the most overlooked features of these accounts!

Unlike contributions you make yourself — which are after-tax — employer contributions are pre-tax to you, similar to how a company might contribute to a retirement plan.

**Here's how it works:**

♦ **Employers can contribute up to \$2,500 per year.**

This limit is per employee (not per child), so the total employer contribution is capped annually regardless of how many children you have.

♦ **There is a total annual contribution cap of \$5,000.**

This includes both employer and personal contributions combined.

♦ **Contributions don't begin until July 4, 2026.**

Accounts may be opened earlier, but funding — including employer contributions — starts from this date.

♦ **State tax treatment may differ.**

While these contributions are tax-free federally, states like Massachusetts may still tax them.

♦ **Your employer must offer a formal program.**

Contributions can only be made through a structured Trump Account Contribution Program (TACP) — they're not

automatic.

**Bottom Line:**

If your employer offers this benefit, it can be one of the most tax-efficient ways to invest in your child's future. It's worth asking whether a Trump Account contribution program is available to you..

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

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



## City approves grassroots initiative to promote plant-based foods

CONT. FROM PG 1

Climate Forward is Somerville's community climate action plan that aims for net-zero emissions by 2050.

The Plant-Based Treaty was launched in August 2021 "to promote a shift towards a just, plant-based food system" and is a companion to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, according to their website.

By signing the Plant-Based Treaty, the city will be joining municipalities around the world in halting the expansion of animal agriculture in the hopes of mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis.

Research shows that plant-based diets have a fourth of the environmental impact of high-meat diets, according to the resolution. The initiative aims to improve health benefits for all citizens of Somerville, and it hopes to improve global sustainability by reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, preserving water resources, im-

proving soil health, and promoting more efficient land use.

Somerville's endorsement marks the 7th U.S. city and the 70th city to globally support the initiative. As part of the process for implementing the initiative, the resolution requests the city to promote "Somerville Plant-Based Restaurant Week" that will highlight local restaurants offering plant-based options.

"Supporting the Plant-Based Treaty will build on Somerville's broader climate goals; it will help raise awareness around environmental and health benefits," said Councilor Sait.

Three local advocates were sponsored and testified before the City Council in support of the initiative.

"The Plant-Based Treaty is a global grassroots initiative addressing the environmental impacts of our food systems

by working toward three main goals at the global level," said Veronika Potter, a member of the organization.

The three core principles of the treaty aim to redirect animal-based food systems to plant-based ones, relinquish the use of additional land for animal agriculture, and restore key ecosystems, she explained.

Potter says she hopes Somerville will reach these goals by encouraging plant-based foods as the default option at city events. She later stated, when questioned, that this resolution does not ask residents to abstain from eating meat, but instead looks to shift away from animal agriculture without imposing specific restrictions.

Ward 7 City Councilor Emily Hardt thanked the sponsored speakers from the Plant-Based Treaty organization and said she supported this effort.

"Over the past few decades, animal agri-

culture in the U.S. has become more and more concentrated and industrialized with the goal and effect of producing profits for some of the largest multinational corporations in the world," said Councilor Hardt.

To transfer to more sustainable food production and greater food security, Councilor Hardt said, the way forward is to consume less industrially farmed meat and eat more plant-based foods.

Councilor Wilfred N. Mbah, co-sponsor of the resolution, said this initiative is a "no-brainer."

"Supporting the Plant-Based Treaty is about aligning our local actions with global urgency," said Councilor Mbah. "By promoting plant-based options, we are not asking for perfection. We are creating opportunities for residents, institutions, and businesses to make more sustainable choices that collectively have real impact."

## Citizen Self Service

View Real Estate Tax, Personal Property Tax, and Utility (Water/Sewer) Bills 24/7 on Somerville Website at "Services" Dropdown

The City of Somerville treasury & collection department provides a web-based look-up directly from official City records that enables access to bill information without the need to contact the treasury department. **Citizen Self Service (CSS) is the same official city records database treasury staff members use to answer your questions.** View real estate tax bills, water/sewer (utility) bills, and personal property tax bills online, in real time, 24/7. There is even a "payoff date calculation" option, simply change the date to a future one of your choice. Because CSS is in real time and live, when a payment posts in the office it shows on CSS immediately. Note that payments made on City Hall Systems, the city's online payment vendor, will appear on CSS the next business day after the payment file is loaded. CSS also links to City Hall Systems, enabling easy payment access that is safe, secure and free of charge if a checking account is used as the payment method.

Visit [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) "Services" dropdown menu for 24/7 Citizen Self Service look-up access. CSS is also available on the treasury webpage, [www.somervillema.gov/treasury](http://www.somervillema.gov/treasury). To pay a bill, use the "Payments" dropdown. Contact [treasury@somervillema.gov](mailto:treasury@somervillema.gov) or (617) 625-6600 x-3500 with questions, or for assistance.

# Somerville artist develops platform to support the administrative side of art

By Iris Martinez

Working as an artist is a unique mix of creativity, marketing and sales, and administrative work. From website hosting to tracking inventory, Somerville-based painter Liv Cappello noticed a lack of tools that could support artists' needs in one place — so she decided to use her experience in web development to create Gesso [1], a platform for artists.

Courtney Alan, an artist and educator based in New York, has been a beta tester for Gesso and wrote in an email statement that it “is what every artist needs; one place for all of the admin to make tracking work easy and streamlined,” and would be particularly helpful when filing taxes.

Alan also noted the accessibility and affordability of the platform, which Cappello notes was a focus of her platform.

“One of the goals of this was to make

something really affordable and work really well,” Capello said. “So, I’m only charging money for it, because I have to maintain the hosting fees and stuff, you know?”

Gesso offers two additional paid subscription plans alongside a free version. Depending on the tier, artists can have website hosting, inventory tracking, certificate of authenticity creation, and more. These services are based on Cappello’s personal experiences as an artist and on community feedback, much of which she received from fellow artists in Somerville.

“I put together a survey that I sent around just to, like, my studio building and people on Instagram and other artists I’ve met, and got a lot of good feedback on artists’ pain points and what they use for admin,” she said.

This survey highlighted some of the ways artists are losing opportunities due to the lack of a centralized *Continued on page 11*



Somerville artist, creator of Gesso, Liv Cappello.



## Paid Research Opportunities

Scan the code to sign up



At Crux, we regularly run exciting user studies and we’re always on the lookout for curious minds of all ages and backgrounds to take part. Whether you’re passionate about shaping the future of design or just love trying new things, we’d love to have you involved.

Location  
Boston, MA

We also perform remote studies.

### Earn from \$100 for your feedback!

Get in touch for more information

✉ [takepart@cruxproductdesign.com](mailto:takepart@cruxproductdesign.com)  
🌐 [cruxproductdesign.com/research-recruitment](https://cruxproductdesign.com/research-recruitment)

Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)



**LA POSADA**  
RESTAURANT & TEQUILA BAR

**New Hours:**  
Mon - Fri 4pm - 1 am  
Sat 12pm - 1am  
Sun 4pm - 10 pm

Craft Margs      Mexican Cuisine      Tace Tuesday Special!

505 Medford St. Somerville  
617-776-2049

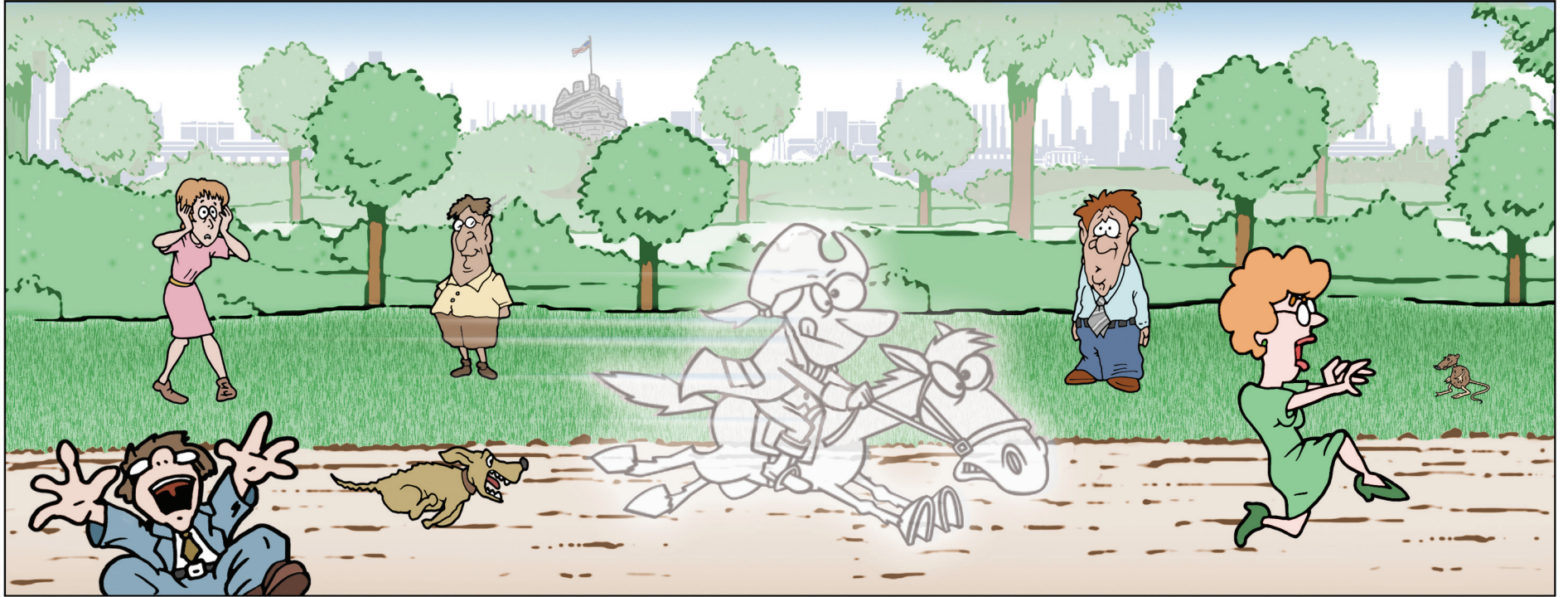
**Our Patio Is Back!**



# COMMENTARY

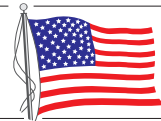
## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



What would the ghost of Paul Revere be warning us about today?

## Our View Of The Times



On each Patriots' Day, we look for ways to remember with reverence the exploits of the brave men and women who made the American Revolution the success it eventually became.

Locally, we especially honor those who fought the battles of Lexington and Concord, and of Menotomy. And, of course, the lauded "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" is a fundamental part of the

American saga.

Revere's fateful ride through Somerville, Medford, and Arlington, warning of the approach of British forces, thrills us and fills us with pride, knowing that we often tread the same paths that he did as we go about our own present-day lives.

It's interesting to imagine what the great man might wish to warn us about today, were he to suddenly appear amongst us,

tearing through the streets, proclaiming that which he felt we needed to know.

Would he be shocked by the political divisions that have been tearing at the very fabric of our Republic in recent years? Would he lament the increasing lack of civility and respectful discourse that has become so palpable and commonplace these days?

The brilliant cartoonist Walt Kelly

coined the phrase "We have met the enemy, and he is us" in his Pogo comic strip. It is doubtful that Mr. Revere would be shouting about the approach of the Redcoats in this day and age. But is it possible that he'd be shouting about us instead? Are we ourselves the enemy at our own gate?

It's up to each one of us to determine that very thing and act upon it. Too much to expect? Who's to say?

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Kaye, Eilen Langille, Karen Muti Standel, Missy JT, Olga Solomita, Joanne Veneziano Finnegan, Patricia Ferrelli, Carol Duffy, Jackie Coviello, Lee Erica Byron Palmer, and Benjamin Holmes, 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.

\*\*\*\*\*  
All city offices are closed on Patriots' Day, Monday, April 20. All city offices are closed. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day.  
\*\*\*\*\*

*We Create Diamonds* closing reception will take place on April 18, 6 p.m.- 8 p.m., 155 Powder House Blvd. *We Create Diamonds* is a call to the creative community in response to the widespread events sweeping the nation. With each day, we seem to be facing a new hardship – as well as pre-existing ones – that push us as a society to the limit of what we as a people can endure.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Somerville High School is currently accepting prom donations on behalf of our senior class. We welcome attire to help make this special night accessible for all students. Monetary gifts are appreciated;

however, we ask that cash donations not be given. Thank you for being so supportive in making prom a memorable experience for our seniors. All donations can be dropped off at the Somerville Police Station.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The city has been busy lately fixing potholes. Residents who spot a pothole, especially larger or more hazardous ones, are encouraged to submit a 311 report, which can be done via phone, email, app, web form, or social media. Phone: 311 (dial 617-666-3311 if calling from outside of Somerville) TTY/Hearing Impaired (only) dial 866-808-4851 or Email

311requests@somervillema.gov.

\*\*\*\*\*  
PorchFest in Somerville is back on Saturday, May 9. Rain or shine. West Zone 12 – 2 p.m. (West of Willow Ave), Central Zone, 2 – 4 p.m. (Willow Ave to Central St), East Zone 4 – 6 p.m. (East of Central St). Check out the map ahead of time to plan out which locations you want to visit. Somerville PorchFest is a community-powered music event where neighbors host musicians on porches across the city. Each year, thousands of residents and visitors walk, bike, and attend performances throughout the city. Severe weather and other emergencies can  
Continued on page 21

# FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1018

- |                                                                           |                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Why is Patriots' Day celebrated?                                       | 7. Who has won the most Masters Tournaments?                       |
| 2. What is the national bird of the U.S.?                                 | 8. In what U.S. state is the Masters Tournament held?              |
| 3. Which U.S. States celebrate Patriots' Day?                             | 9. Who is the youngest Masters champion?                           |
| 4. Why is there a Red Seat at Fenway Park?                                | 10. In what year did women finally get the right to vote?          |
| 5. On the Boston Marathon route, what area is known as the Scream Tunnel? | 11. Whose concert had 11 people trampled to death in Ohio in 1979? |
| 6. In what year did actor Will Ferrell run the Boston Marathon?           | 12. What is Actor Richard Gere's Middle name?                      |

Answers on page 14

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The sun makes up more than 99% of our solar system's mass.
2. Hummingbirds are the only animals that can fly backward.

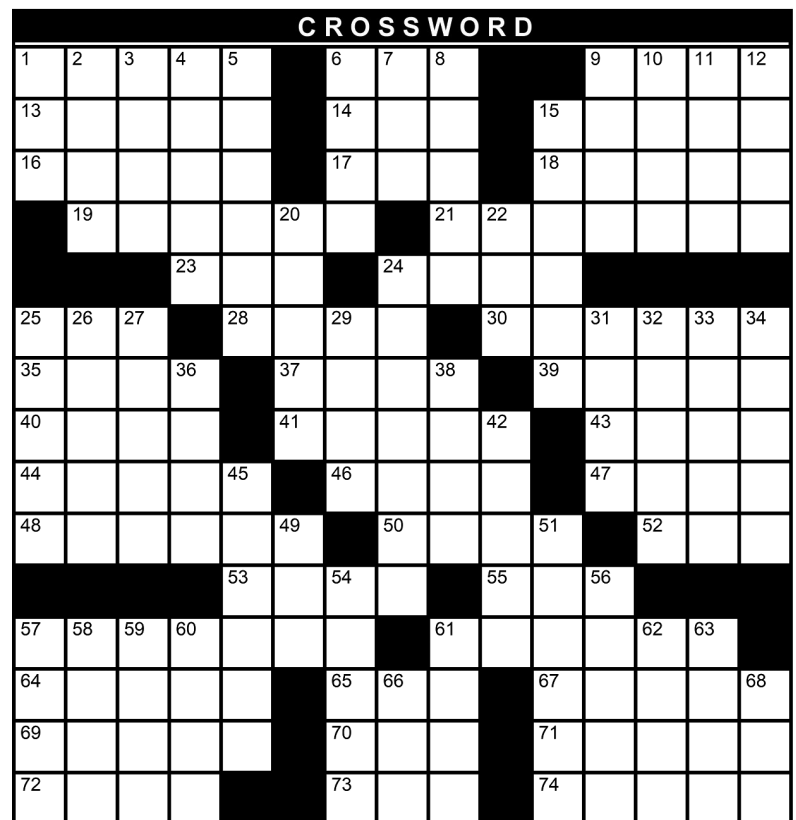
### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD LEGENDARY ATHLETES

#### ACROSS

1. Capital of Tibet
6. Templeton of "Charlotte's Web"
9. Maisie Williams on "Game of Thrones"
13. Poisonous plant
14. UN labor grp.
15. George Orwell to Eric Arthur Blair
16. Movie genre
17. Shark part
18. Ax mark
19. First Native American to win Olympic Gold
21. The Great One of hockey
23. Be indisposed
24. Disfigure
25. Du Bois' initials
28. Hoodwink
30. Baking soda
35. Bypass
37. "Breaking Bad" product
39. Spelunker
40. Orchestra member
41. Charles Dickens' "\_\_\_ House"
43. Family room staple
44. Like United States Capitol
46. "Cogito \_\_\_ sum"
47. Tongue-\_\_\_
48. Stockholm dwellers
50. Tiger Woods has won this award the most times
52. On the wagon
53. Silage
55. Almond-induced state?
57. Jordan or Phelps
61. Female player with most Open Era Grand Slams
64. Infant's woe
65. Seafood selection
67. Practical
69. Stopped sleeping
70. Pigeon sound
71. Most decorated gymnast
72. Red, or excessively bureaucratic, one
73. End of a fuse?
74. Balance sheet entry

#### DOWN

1. Drug in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"
2. John Mellencamp's "\_\_\_ So Good"
3. Nanny in East Asia



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:



4. Polynesian island country
5. Tick or mite
6. Abundant
7. Boxer a.k.a. The People's Champion
8. Kingdom in South Pacific
9. Loads (2 words)
10. Nabisco cracker
11. Noisy talk
12. Like Zombie's skin color
15. Low on hemoglobin
20. Perfectly vertical
22. Adam's body part
24. Measured, like electricity on utility bill
25. Tied for most PGA Tour wins
26. Curve like a bow
27. Biotic community
29. O Rei of soccer
31. Throw a line
32. Steer clear of
33. Send to a specialist, e.g.
34. NFL's 7-time Super Bowl champion
36. Got ready to drive
38. Old witches, usually
42. Small steep-sided hill, in Africa
45. Vandalize
49. Johnny Nash's "I Can \_\_\_ See Clearly Now"
51. West African people
54. Choose by vote
56. Abominable snowmen
57. Med. sch. requirement
58. Hall of Famer Bob Feller's home state
59. Hoofbeat sound
60. Nature walk
61. Narrow aperture
62. Zilches
63. Away from wind
66. Many, many moons
68. Approx.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

**OBITUARY**

*Anthony Caliri, Retired (1993-2007) - Human Resource Director of Somerville Public Schools*



**Anthony “Tony” Caliri**, 78, of Acton, Massachusetts, passed away on April 10, 2026.

Tony grew up in Somerville, Massachusetts, and spent much of his adult life in Tewksbury, Chelmsford, and Acton, as well as summering at Newfound Lake in New Hampshire. A lifelong educator and leader, he dedicated over 30 years to public education, leaving a lasting impact on generations of students and colleagues.

Tony began his career as a classroom teacher in Somerville, where he taught business and marketing for 22 years. He is credited with starting the DECA program at Somerville High School, supporting hundreds of students as they pursued their dreams in business

and marketing. After a period serving as Human Resources Director at Somerville Lumber, he returned to Somerville Public Schools, where he continued his work in human resources until his retirement. Throughout his career, Tony remained deeply committed to schools and students, always believing in the power of education to change the trajectory of young people’s lives.

As a proud Double-Eagle, Tony’s passion for all things Boston College Athletics was only matched by his lifelong love of sports. That passion made him a memorable presence in his community. He loved umpiring Little League baseball. It gave him the chance to be around kids, using his booming voice and large personality to have a little fun on the field and remind the kids even during the toughest times to smile. On the rare occasions when he wasn’t at Alumni Stadium watching a BC football game or playing cribbage with his friends and family, he spent his time coaching high school and youth sports, and serving as a public address announcer

for Highlanders football, basketball, and hockey games. Everyone knew Tony wherever he went. He had a presence that filled any room.

Above all, Tony was devoted to his family. He believed deeply in his role as a husband, father, and provider, and took great pride in the life he built with those he loved. Tony is survived by his wife, Janet; his son, Charlie, and daughter-in-law, Sarah; his daughter, Amy; and his three grandchildren, Matthew, Michael, and Emma. He will be remembered for his personality, his voice, his presence, his sarcastic wit and humor, and his unwavering commitment to both family and children.

In accordance with Tony’s wishes, there will be no wake or funeral services. A celebration of life may be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tony’s memory to Gateway Arts online at <https://gatewayarts.org/donate>; or by check at Vinfen/Gateway Arts c/o Nick Kane, 15 Station Street, Brookline, MA 02445.

To leave a message or share a memory please visit [www.kelly-cremation.com](http://www.kelly-cremation.com)

**Somerville to host drop-off sites for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

Keeping unused or expired medications at home can be unsafe for children, pets, and adults. Whether accidental poisoning or intentional misuse, you can prevent these potential harms by safely disposing of prescription drugs you no longer need. To provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, Somerville is hosting two staffed events for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, offering drop-off services and more.

On Saturday, April 25, Somerville residents are invited to participate by stopping at the drop-off locations. Staff from Somerville’s Community, Help, Outreach, and Recovery (COHR) unit of the Somerville Police Department and the city’s Prevention Services division will also be onsite to provide prevention information and resources, including free Narcan and fentanyl test strips.

Drop off or stop by at two locations from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

- Public Safety Headquarters at 220 Washington Street
- Teele Square Fire Station at 6 Newbury St.

For bottled medications, residents should remove or scratch out any personal information while leaving the name of the medication visible before disposing.

Year-round drop-off location:

In addition to this event, Somerville offers 24/7, year-round disposal for unneeded prescription medications at the Somerville Public Safety Building (220 Washington Street).

For more information, please contact Jennifer Korn at [jkorn@police.somerville.ma.us](mailto:jkorn@police.somerville.ma.us) or Prevention Services Director, Tina Los at [tlos@somervillema.gov](mailto:tlos@somervillema.gov).

**The Somerville Times  
Historical Fact of the Week**



**Eagle feathers #352**

*This article first appeared in the August 5, 2015, edition of The Somerville Times.*

**The Couriers**

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” These words were written over 2,500 years ago by Greek historian Herodotus and have become the unofficial motto of the United States Postal Service. The official mission statement of the post office is as follows: “The postal service shall have as its basic function, the obligation to provide postal services, to bind the nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide reliable and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities.”



The first mail deliveries out of Somerville, which was then Charlestown, went by ship. They were letters from Massachusetts’ first Governor, John Winthrop, and his fellow Puritans, telling their families in England of their safe arrival. Nine years later, in 1639, the nation’s first post office was established. Just three miles from Somerville, it was located in Boston’s Fairbanks Tavern, now 237 Washington Street. Today, America has over 40,000 postal offices, which handle over 212 billion pieces of mail each year.



Benjamin Franklin was born and raised in Boston and later became the first American Postmaster General. You can see him on our one-hundred-dollar bills. Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President, was a Postmaster at New Salem, Illinois,

for three years. Airmail Pilot, Charles Lindbergh, was the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in his airplane, the Spirit of Saint Louis. The list goes on. Notre Dame’s Coach Knute Rockne, actors Rock Hudson and Sherman Hems, alias “George” of The Jeffersons, Walt Disney, Bing Crosby, and President Harry Truman, were all former postal workers.

One hundred and sixty-one years ago *Continued on page 13*

# LEGAL NOTICES

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



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 Parking Lot Improvements - Hagan Manor at State Aided Development: Hagan Manor (689-2) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GCG ASSOCIATES, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to:  
Removing and reconstructing existing parking lot, installation of new dumpster pad, line striping, curbing and all other work as specified in the contract documents.

The work is estimated to cost **\$130,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 04/10/2026 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](http://biddocs.com) and received no later than the date and time specified.

General Bids will be received until **16 April 2026 at 11:00AM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

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

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

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at **6.9% for women** and **15.3% for minorities**. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

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

4/8/26, 4/15/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
IFB #26-64**

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

**Emergency Tree Service**

An Invitation for Bid 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 **4/15/2026**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **4/30/2026 at 2PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Logan Carroll at [Lcarroll@somervillema.gov](mailto:Lcarroll@somervillema.gov) for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

**Logan Carroll  
Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3407**

4/15/26 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
JAKE WILSON  
MAYOR**

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

The **Somerville Community Preservation Committee (CPC)** is holding their annual Community Preservation Plan public hearing on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026** at 6:30 p.m. The Community Preservation Plan establishes the annual funding priorities and allocates money to the three categories that Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds can support.

**Please join the FY26 Community Preservation Plan Public Hearing via Zoom Webinar:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/mdnh7vxm>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.** United States: (646) 931-3860  
**Access Code:** 846 8290 0461

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preservation Committee at the hearing and by submitting written comments by **Friday, April 17, 2026** by email to [rcameron@somervillema.gov](mailto:rcameron@somervillema.gov). You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at [www.somervillema.gov/cpa](http://www.somervillema.gov/cpa). For more information on Somerville's CPA Program and how to apply for CPA funds, visit the City's website at [www.somervillema.gov/cpa](http://www.somervillema.gov/cpa).

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact the ADA Coordinator at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [ADA@somervillema.gov](mailto:ADA@somervillema.gov).

4/8/26, 4/15/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFP # 26-62**

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

**Appraisal Services on As-Needed Basis**

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at [www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com), <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, April 29, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

**Felisa Gárate  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3406**

4/15/26 The Somerville Times

**Legal Notice**

The following vehicles will be sold Pursuit to M.G.L. 255 S.39A  
2012 HONDA CIVIC VIN# 2HGFB2F58CH544119  
2004 CHEVY EXPRESS VIN#1GCEG15X341209231  
2018 HONDA FIT VIN#3HGCG5H61JM707297  
2015 HONDA ACCORD VIN#1HGCR2F31FA187608  
2007 NISSAN ALTIMA VIN#1N4AL21E57C121171  
2012 HONDA CIVIC VIN#19XFB2F5XCE359726  
2016 AUDI S4 VIN#WAUBGAF99GA009986  
To satisfy the debt owed to Cityside Enterprises Inc.  
617-776-6111

4/1/26, 4/8/26, 4/15/26 The Somerville Times



**Advertising**

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is seeking competitive sealed Request for Proposals (RFP) for the procurement of a multiyear "Single Audit Contract", SHA Job No. P-AUD052026 in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The Contract term is for Three (3) years with a Two (2) 1-year option at the SHA's sole discretion.

Documents will be posted by **11:00 A.M., April 21, 2026**.

Responses will be received until **2:30 P.M., May 5, 2026**.

Download of RFP Documents will be available for download on SHA's Web site, [www.sha-web.org](http://www.sha-web.org) under our Bid opportunities tab at **11:00 a.m., April 21, 2026**. If bidding, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at [Tonyc@sha-web.org](mailto:Tonyc@sha-web.org) and register/leave contact information including an email. You will receive a reply that your email has been received. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that their email and bids are received. Addendum's will be posted on the website and shall be the bidder's responsibility to include in bid.

4/15/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 26-59**

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

**111F Case Management and Billing**

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:30 pm, Wednesday, April 29, 2026**.

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

Please email [tcukhatsang@somervillema.gov](mailto:tcukhatsang@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400**

4/15/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP# 26-60**

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

**Benefits Consulting and Brokerage Services**

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, April 30, 2026**.

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

Please email [tcukhatsang@somervillema.gov](mailto:tcukhatsang@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang  
Senior Procurement Manager  
617-625-6600 x3400**

4/15/26 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

**THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT  
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S FY2027 BUDGET**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

**In the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM-50 Cross Street**

**To watch the Budget Hearing live from home:**

Use the following web address and choose GOVTV: [www.somervillema.gov/tv](http://www.somervillema.gov/tv)

**THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND**

**Dr. Emily Ackman, Chair  
Somerville School Committee**

**Leiran Biton, Vice Chair  
Finance and Facilities Subcommittee**

**Dr. Rubén Carmona  
Superintendent of Schools**

For questions regarding the Budget Hearing, please contact your School Committee Ward Member:  
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee>

Budget information will be posted on the Somerville Public School website prior to the Budget hearing here:  
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/finance-and-facilities>

**STATE-WIDE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL  
CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING TO  
DETERMINE PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL  
CHOICE PROGRAM FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR  
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

4/15/26 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 6:45pm through Zoom.**

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UtLDQRczSiW8eA2N\\_roYiA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UtLDQRczSiW8eA2N_roYiA)

**TO CALL IN**

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

The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the following pursuant to the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

**54 Highland Avenue** Applicant: Niranjn Gawli  
Owner: 54 Highland Ave LLC  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [ADA@somervillema.gov](mailto:ADA@somervillema.gov).

4/15/26 The Somerville Times

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

**Somerville artist develops platform to support the administrative side of art** CONT. FROM PG 5

service. Cappello found one of the more notable examples of this loss when an artist explained how they relied on Post-it notes to keep track of things and lost one with a highly interested potential buyer.

“It was a lot of stories of people losing track of work, and not being able to recover from kind of small things like that,” Cappello said.

The platform is still open for community feedback, which has led to ways for Somerville artists to connect through Gesso. For example, Cappello is publicly launching Gesso on May 1, which is one day before Somerville Open Studios [2], so she’s including a section for local artists to create checklists to prepare.

“Because I’m an artist here, I get to build directly toward what I think people in the community will use, and people can tell me what would be helpful for them,” Cappello said.

**Links:**

[1] <https://www.gesso.work/>

[2] <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>



Cappello's "Bag o' Sunflower Seeds" – 2026, oil on cradled panel.



**LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF SOMERVILLE CABLE TELEVISION  
LICENSE RENEWAL PUBLIC HEARING**

The City of Somerville, by the Mayor as the statutory Cable License Issuing Authority, or her duly delegated Hearing Officer, will hold a cable license renewal public hearing on **April 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** as part of the City's RCN Cable Telecom Services of Massachusetts (a/k/a As-tound Broadband) license renewal process. The purpose of the hearing will be to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the performance of the cable television operator, RCN, during its current license term and to hear testimony on future cable-related needs and interests of the Somerville community. Please note that this public hearing will be virtual and can be attended by desktop, laptop, tablet or phone via the following link or number(s):

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/23918221163604?p=RbWTik4gXAzqYvknF>

Meeting ID: 239 182 211 636 04

Passcode: MB6ji2ya

Copies of City license renewal documents, if any, may be made available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk or by contacting Steve DeCarlo, Office of Cable Communications, c/o City Hall or Municipal Cable Counsel, William August (617-548-3735). By order of the Mayor as statutory License Issuing Authority.

4/15/26 The Somerville Times

# Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 51 - Report No. 15 • April 6-10, 2026 • Copyright © 2026 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* reports on local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of April 6-10.

**CANNABIS REGULATION CHANGES (H 5350)**  
House 155-0, Senate 33-6, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a conference committee version of a bill that would restructure the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) – dissolving it and downsizing its membership from five members to three. It also gives all the power to the governor to make the three appointments, replacing the current law which gives that power to the governor, the attorney general and treasurer. The House and Senate had approved different versions of the measure and a conference committee was appointed in December 2025 and took more than three months to hammer out this compromise version.

Other provisions include making it clear that the CCC chair is responsible for personnel and administrative matters and the executive director reports directly to the chair; an increase from one ounce to two ounces in the amount of marijuana that an adult can purchase or possess for recreational use; increasing from three to six the number of licenses a business owner can hold; allowing medical marijuana operators to specialize in cultivation, manufacturing or retail sales by eliminating current costly requirements; directing the CCC to study and make recommendations for the regulation of intoxicating hemp, which has grown in prevalence over recent years and will effectively be banned under federal law this fall unless the U.S. Congress takes action; and giving the CCC the ability to allow retailers to advertise sales, discounts and customer loyalty programs inside the store and via opt-in email, both of which are currently not permitted.

“Massachusetts has one of the most established cannabis industries in the country, and our laws need to evolve with that reality,” said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), Senate Chair of the Committee on Cannabis Policy and co-chair of the conference committee. “This legislation strengthens oversight of the Cannabis Control Commission while making smart updates that support small businesses, improve accountability and ensure consumers can access cannabis safely and legally. By modernizing license caps, clarifying delivery and advertising rules and increasing transparency across the industry, we are building a more stable, equitable and responsible cannabis marketplace for the commonwealth.”

“This bill takes clear steps towards a safer and more equitable cannabis industry across the commonwealth,” said Rep. Daniel Donahue (D-Worcester), House Chair of the Committee on Cannabis Policy and co-chair of the

conference committee. “It also restructures and clarifies roles within the CCC to promote a more effective and accountable regulating body. This action demonstrates that the House and Legislature remain committed to ensuring that the rapidly changing Massachusetts cannabis industry continues to thrive.”

“This bill ensures that as the cannabis industry grows in Massachusetts, it expands opportunity and reflects our values,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “It opens doors for those long left out, modernizes access to safe and legal cannabis and brings our laws in line with a maturing industry. The result is a more stable, fair and equitable marketplace that keeps public health and safety front and center.”

“We should work to ensure the cannabis industry operates responsibly and safely,” said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy) who voted against the measure. “I would have liked to see [the bill] put greater emphasis on creating sufficient guardrails to mitigate the potential negative public health outcomes related to a sharp increase in cannabis accessibility. I also advocated for more education on public and mental health risks of cannabis consumption. Constituents have shared with me how cannabis has negatively impacted their lives. With them in mind, I voted against the bill.”

None of the other five senators who voted against the bill responded to repeated attempts by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to comment on the bill’s passage and to explain why they voted against it. Those five senators are Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton); Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton); Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford), Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth) and Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester).

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Rep. Christine Barber   | Yes |
| Rep. Mike Connolly      | Yes |
| Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven | Yes |
| Sen. Patricia Jehlen    | Yes |

## KIDS AND SOCIAL MEDIA AND CELL PHONES (H 5349)

House 129-25, approved a bill that would prohibit the use of cell phones by students from the time they arrive in school until dismissal. School districts would be required to notify parents of this policy and ensure that parents still have the ability to contact their children during the school day and vice versa.

Other provisions require the secure storage of personal electronic devices; allow the use of technology that ren-

ders personal electronic devices inoperable; require school districts to make accommodations and exceptions as necessary for documented medical needs, language access and translation needs for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or disabilities that require the use of personal electronic devices; and in cases of an emergency.

The bill also restricts the use of social media by children. Provisions include requiring social media companies to implement an age verification system based on the best technology available in order to reasonably and accurately identify a current or prospective user’s age; banning minors under the age of 14 from social media platforms, by requiring platforms to terminate users under that age and delete associated personal information effective October 1, 2026; requiring social media platforms to acquire verifiable parental consent for 14- and 15-year-old users of their platforms; prohibiting social media platforms from sharing information about a minor’s LGBTQ+ status or other characteristics protected under state law; and fining platforms which violate any of these provisions.

The Senate has already approved a different version of the cell phone ban without the social media restrictions. A House-Senate conference committee will hammer out a compromise version.

“A bell-to-bell prohibition on cell phones and similar devices has long been a priority of mine,” said Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley). “I believe this measure, combined with age restrictions on social media, will support learning, personal growth and meaningful human connection. A social media ban for children under 14 is not extreme, it is responsible. Technology will continue to play a powerful role in our society, but it must not come at the expense of our children’s ability to learn, to connect with others and to develop into healthy adults.”

“Social media is robbing our teenagers of their time, their education and most importantly their health,” said Rep. Bill MacGregor (D-Boston). “By removing addictive social media feeds for users under 15 years old, we’ll be making major strides towards protecting our kids, and helping them build healthy habits online before they’re addicted. I supported this amendment to protect all the kids that have been or will be online, and the parents like me that have a hard time saying no to their little ones but worry about an unregulated and safe Internet. With this legislation, we’re one step closer to a safer and more healthy world for our kids to grow up in.”

“Today the House took an important step in helping protect the children of the commonwealth from predatory social media platforms,” said Rep. Aaron *Continued on page 16*

# City Councilors propose policy changes to protect civil liberties

By Harry Kane

Lawmakers have proposed a series of amendments to a city ordinance to further enhance civil rights protections in Somerville.

City Councilors discussed the urgent need to update the Somerville Welcoming Community Ordinance during the City Council meeting on April 9.

“We are living through a completely unprecedented time of federal assault on our constitutional rights,” said Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. “We are just seeing an all-out attempt to terrorize immigrants, sending militarized federal agents into cities across the country.”

Local residents have reached out to City Councilors to determine if the city is being “bullied” or “co-opted” into being a “tool” for these federal efforts. Councilor Ewen-Campen explained that Somerville is not going to participate in any “federal attacks” considered to be “constitutionally protected activities.”

Gideon Epstein, a Technology for Liberty Policy Counsel at ACLU of Massachusetts, was sponsored by Councilor Ewen-Campen to speak in support of the proposed amendments to the ordinance that will be discussed over the coming weeks in the Legislative Matters Committee.

“The amendments before the Council today strengthen Somerville’s commitment to being a true welcoming city, not just in name, but also in law,” said Epstein.

The amendments will “close critical

gaps,” he explained. City employees, including the police department, would be explicitly prohibited from assisting federal or out-of-state agencies conducting civil immigration enforcement, except where required by federal law or by a court order, according to the proposed amendments.

“Somerville taxpayer dollars should not be used as tools of federal immigration enforcement,” said Epstein.

Another key addition would prohibit cooperation with any federal operation targeting people for First Amendment-protected activity.

“This matters now more than ever,” said Epstein. “We see federal agents targeting activists, protesters, and organizers.”

Before any city contract is awarded or renewed, according to the amendments, the law department would have to review new agreements for compliance with the Somerville Welcoming Community Ordinance.

Epstein said that cities can “unknowingly and often do enter into data sharing and surveillance agreements with companies that contract with ICE or DHS that violate the spirit of this ordinance.”

By adding the provisions to the ordinance, he says, there will be “accountability,” ensuring Somerville’s values are reflected in vendor relationships.

“The new language gives this ordinance teeth,” he said, explaining that the amendments are only as strong as their enforcement mechanisms. Violations would constitute a “legal injury” and residents would then be able to seek “injunctive or declara-



ACLU’s Gideon Epstein addressed the City Council, advocating for amendments that would strengthen civil liberties in the community.

tory relief in court.”

There are “whistleblower protections,” added for city employees to report potential violations “to ensure that people can speak up without fear of retaliation,” he said.

“The proposed policy changes before the Council this evening are some of the most consequential actions we can take at the local level to protect immigrants’ and residents’ civil liberties,” said Epstein.

City Councilor At Large Jon Link said he was thrilled to work on these amendments and reiterated the sentiment conveyed by other City Councilors. “We are not going to stand by while people’s rights

are suppressed.”

Ward 7 City Councilor Emily Hardt said, “We are united in wanting to defend democracy and ensure that everyone’s civil liberties are guarded and protected.”

She explained that amending the ordinance is an “important step” the city can take to restore trust.

“During this time, that is so scary and sobering, one of the things that gives me a lot of hope and inspiration is the way that we’ve seen neighbors helping one another, looking out for one another, and upholding the rule of law,” said Councilor Hardt.

The item was referred to the Legislative Matters Committee for discussion.

## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

this year, the Civil War, the war that split America in two, ended after over 600,000 Americans were lost. The colors of today’s United States Letter Carriers’ uniforms are blue, grey, and red. They commemorate the rejoining of the Northern blue, the Southern grey, and their red blood that was spilled.

Two of the three Somerville Post Offices lie on historic ground. The first is on Paul Revere’s path along Broadway over Winter Hill, where he delivered his most important message. For years, the post office honored Paul Revere with its courier shoulder patch. The second is located on April 19’s Battle Row Path through Union Square. This former post office houses the fa-

mous Prospect Hill’s Patriots’ Day mural. A nearby marker honors the last Minuteman to fall that day. He was Somerville’s 65-year-old James Miller, who stood his ground, asserting, “I’m too old to run.” In 1992, the Somerville postal workers honored Paul Wylie with a huge banner across the top of this building. The Newbury Street resident had brought the Olympic Silver Medal for Men’s Figure Skating to Somerville.

Postal workers are silent couriers to us all and deserve to be saluted. They merit special recognition for delivering our mail and packages during the record-breaking snowfall of 108.6 inches in 2014. The “mail must go through” ... and it does!



# CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOS/MISC

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

## REAL ESTATE

Own land. YourCheapLand.com. TX NM AZ OK CO. Homestead, tiny home, RV, camp, hunt, invest. ON26 for \$100 Off. YourCheapLand.com

## MISCELLANEOUS

TOP DOLLAR PAID for old vintage guitars! Gibson, Fender, Martin, Greesch, Rickenbacker, Epiphone, Etc. 1930's to 1980's. Call 866-433-8277

Reach millions of homes nationwide with one easy, affordable buy in the ADS Network! For more information [www.community-publishers.com/category/all-products](http://www.community-publishers.com/category/all-products)

Peace of mind & early detection - Now more than ever, it's important to get screened for Stroke & Cardiovascular Disease risk. Life Line Screening is simple & painless. 833-970-4172

Need cash quickly? We buy houses in any condition. Get a fair cash offer within 24 hours! Call today. Liz Buys Houses: 833-359-4707

Portable oxygen concentrator may be covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence & mobility w/ the compact design & long-lasting battery. Inogen One free info kit! 877-305-1535

Consumer Cellular - same reliable, nationwide coverage as large carriers. No long-term contract or hidden fees, free activation. All plans unlimited talk & text starting at just \$20/mo.

877-751-0866

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Free author's guide 877-729-4998 or [dorranceinfo.com/ads](http://dorranceinfo.com/ads)

No more cleaning gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter backed by no-clog guarantee & lifetime warranty. Call 1-833-610-1936 to schedule FREE inspection/estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Military & Seniors get additional 10% off. Limited time. Restrictions apply, see rep for details.

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. 833-370-1234

Inflation at 40-year highs. Interest rates are up. Credit cards, medical bills, car loans. Have \$10k+ in debt? Call National Debt Relief to find out how to pay off your debt for much less than you owe! Free quote: 844-955-4930

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. AmeriGlide 833-399-3595

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

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath

or shower in as little as 1-day. Limited time, waving all installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change & vary by dealer. Ends soon. 844-501-3208

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

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

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

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do repairs to protect your family & home value! 833-887-0117. Have zip code ready!

Professional lawn service: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration & mosquito control. Free quote. Ask about first application special! 833-860-0811

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the most local MLB games! Choice Pkg \$89.99/mo for 12 mos Stream on 20 devices. HBO Max included for 3 mos w/Choice Package or higher. No contract or hidden fees! Restrictions apply. IVS 866-859-0405

Wesley Financial Group, LLC timeshare cancellation experts over \$50 million timeshare debt/fees cancelled in 2019. Free info

package. Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

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

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

Dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. 400+ procedures. Real dental insurance - not a discount plan. Free info kit! 855-526-1060 [www.dental50plus.com/ads#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/ads#6258)

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.*

Ms. Cam's

**Olio**

Answers

From page 8

- |                                                                                            |         |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. To commemorate the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Menotomy                          | 3:56:12 | 7. Jack Nicklaus, 6 victories                    |
| 2. The Bald Eagle                                                                          |         | 8. Georgia                                       |
| 3. Massachusetts, Maine, Florida, Wisconsin, Connecticut, North Dakota, Tennessee and Utah |         | 9. Tiger Woods, 21 years old in 1997             |
| 4. Signifies the longest home run ever hit at Fenway, hit by Ted Williams                  |         | 10. 1920, with the passage of the 19th amendment |
| 5. Wellesley College                                                                       |         | 11. The Who                                      |
| 6. 2003, with a time of                                                                    |         | 12. Tiffany                                      |

## 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.

## Dancing at the Dilboys

By Ewan Henrie

Dancing Feats is a hotspot for those in Somerville looking to enter the world of swing dancing, particularly of the West Coast variety. Monthly dances and weekly lessons take place at the George Dilboy VFW Post at 351 Summer St.

I was initially introduced to dancing at the Dilboy by one of my teachers at

Lesley University. I was taking a class for West Coast Swing Dancing in my senior year at the university, and Professor Neal Klein told us we would be going to the Dilboy on Wednesdays for lessons taught by the Dancing Fools. This was one of the mandatory parts of the class, so I had no reason to back out of doing something social with my classmates. The Dancing Fools just so happens to have been a

dance group created by Neil Klein in the 1980s, and I was one of the students who attended the final lesson before they shut down in December 2025.

The Dilboy happened to be right by my house, and it was a lovely experience. You get to interact with all sorts of people, be they rookies or veterans. The teachers are very accommodating, and it's easy to learn the basic steps. I felt a

sense of community inside my town for the first time in my life.

I would highly suggest anyone getting into dancing to try lessons with the Dancing Feats, which I see as the successor to Dancing Fools. They do monthly lessons, a training camp, and private lessons.

To join, go to: <https://www.dancing-featswcs.com/>

## Somerville community invited to take first look at proposals for 90 Washington St.

Somerville community members are invited to take a first look and provide public comment on proposals to redevelop 90 Washington Street, a nearly four-acre site near the East Somerville Green Line station. At the public meeting of the 90 Washington Street Civic Advisory Committee (CAC) on Wednesday, April 22, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., CAC members will review and share input on the recently received proposals and will also welcome feedback on the proposals from members of the public.

"Decisions like this shape the future of our city for decades," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I'll be there, and I hope residents will join me. Come take a look at what's being proposed, ask questions, and tell us what matters to you. The more we hear from the community now, the better this project will be."

Following the April 10 proposal deadline, submitted concepts will begin moving through a public review process. The April 22 meeting is an early opportunity for community members to learn about proposals, ask questions, and help shape

the future of one of the city's largest redevelopment sites. Proposals are expected to be available to review on Friday, April 17, at [somervillema.gov/90-washington-redevelopment](http://somervillema.gov/90-washington-redevelopment).

### Meeting Details

What: 90 Washington Street Proposal Review Community Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 22, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Where: Zoom Webinar

About the 90 Washington St Request for Proposals (RFP)

The city is seeking a mixed-use project that delivers new housing, active ground-floor spaces, and publicly accessible open space, while helping recoup the City's approximately \$39 million public investment in the site. Proposals will be reviewed by the SRA, City Council, and the 90 Washington Street CAC, with a development partner expected to be selected in July.

### About the CAC

The 90 Washington Street CAC is a city-convened group composed of res-



— Photo by Bobbie Toner

idents, local employees, and neighborhood stakeholders that was established to provide structured community input throughout site planning and redevelop-

ment. This CAC structure is used across projects involving the SRA.

To learn more, visit [somervillema.gov/90-washington-redevelopment](http://somervillema.gov/90-washington-redevelopment).

## Davis Square Neighborhood Council Board elections

The Davis Square Neighborhood Council (DSNC) will be electing its Board of Directors at the end of April.

The DSNC started in January of 2024 and aims to give residents, business owners, and workers a stronger voice in Davis Square development and community priorities.

Neighborhood Councils are allowed by City of Somerville ordinance, and when approved by the Somerville City Council, have the exclusive ability to negotiate Community Benefits Agreements with developments within their geographical range.

The DSNC will be electing nine members to its board, including several officers. People who reside within ½ mile of the boundaries of the Davis Square neighborhood, or receive support services, are employed, operate a business, own real estate or regularly volunteer within the neighborhood boundaries are eligible to run for and serve on the board.

Election dates: April 13-27. Winners will be announced at the meeting on Monday April 27, 6 – 8 p.m.

# Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 12

Michlewitz (D-Boston), chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. "The science is clear that exposure to social media at a young age can have a harmful effect on a minor's development. By banning it for those 13 and under and allowing for parental consent for those who are 14 or 15, we will ensure that children are protected while giving them the ability to express themselves online at a safe and appropriate age."

"A vast majority of superintendents urged us to take the lead in restricting cell phone use from bell-to-bell in our schools," said Rep. Ken Gordon (D-Bedford), House chair of the Committee on Education. "This legislation will help ensure students stay focused in the classroom, are protected from bullying and other forms of distraction, while also encouraging them to engage with one another and be present during non-instructional time. Beyond limiting cell phone use, the bill takes important steps to protect children from the harmful effects of social media on their health and well-being."

"I support getting phones out of the classrooms, but a one size fits all law with no funding to help school districts implement those policies, I am against," said Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield) who voted against the measure. "I think the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education should develop a policy that removes cell phones from classrooms but gives the school district the flexibility on how that is done."

"Although marketed as a child protection law, this social media ban would force all social media users in Massachusetts, including adults, to submit biometric information to tech companies to prove that we are over 16," said Scotia Hille, executive director of the progressive group Act on Mass. "Allowing parents to request the social media activity of children under 16 puts LGBTQ+ youth and other marginalized teens at risk. At a time of mass surveillance and a crackdown on political speech, the privacy risks of this legislation are staggering."

"While I strongly support the ban on cellphones in schools and the intent and goal of limiting youth access to social media, I voted 'No' on the bill due to concerns with data privacy in the social media sections," said Rep. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge). "Age verification for minors means age verification for all users, and this raises big questions of data privacy and protection."

"While I support the underlying goals and intentions of both aspects of the bill passed, I have concerns with several aspects including First Amendment rights, personal data collection and storage for minors, and unintended unfunded mandates on our schools," said Rep. Joe McKenna (R-Sutton). "I believe that school districts already have the ability to craft and implement phone-free policies without needing a state law to mandate such."

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

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Rep. Christine Barber   | Yes |
| Rep. Mike Connolly      | No  |
| Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven | No  |

## NO UNFUNDED MANDATES (H 5349)

House 27-136 rejected an amendment that would exempt any school district from paying any additional costs for implementing the provisions of the social media/cell phone legislation approved by the House. The amendment would allow the districts to pay for the additional cost only if they want to do so.

Rep. Kevin Sweezey (R-Duxbury), the sponsor of the amendment, said it is important to note that when we give authority to agencies to create regulation for our cities and towns, it often comes with a cost. Even if it doesn't have dollars and cents in the line items, it can still end up costing municipal budgets. He argued that the amendment simply ensures that no policy made by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education incurs a cost for cities and towns and negatively impact our school districts.

"Cities and towns across the state are struggling with rising costs and increasing budget constraints, with more and more communities being forced to pursue Proposition 2 ½ overrides to preserve essential municipal services," said co-sponsor House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "Given the potential costs associated with implementing this bill, this amendment would help to ensure that we are not placing an additional financial burden on our cities and towns by imposing an unfunded mandate at the local level."

Rep. Ken Gordon (D-Bedford) opposed the amendment and said that nothing in the bill calls for a district to spend a penny. He noted that if a district wants to, it can tell the students to simply not bring their cell phones to school. There's no requirement they get the pouches or anything else and spend the money.

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

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

## \$1.57 BILLION FISCAL 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (S 3041)

Senate 35-4, approved a \$1.57 billion fiscal 2026 budget. Some of the funding will come from the \$1.3 billion generated by the 2022 voter-approved constitutional amendment, known by supporters as the Millionaire's Tax and the Fair Share Amendment, which imposes a surtax of an additional 4 percent income tax, in addition to the current flat 5 percent one, on taxpayers' earnings of more than \$1 million annually. Language in the constitutional amendment requires that "subject to appropriation, the revenue will go to fund quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation."

Provisions include \$1 million in legal defense services for immigrants; \$10 million for full-tuition scholarships for UMass Chan Medical School students pursuing family medicine if they commit to remaining in Massachusetts and serving populations in need for five years after graduation; \$100 million to ensure that Massachusetts' public universities are able to withstand reductions in federal research funding; a new \$32 million investment to provide immediate relief for strained municipal budgets by increasing special education reimbursement rates; \$150 million for high-quality and accessible early education and care; \$40 million for early literacy initiatives; \$18.3 million to expand financial assistance offered to Massachusetts students enrolled at state universities and UMass campuses; \$2.5 million to boost school-based mental health support; and \$1 million to help public schools pay for costs incurred to implement the ban on cell phones use by students during school hours.

Other provisions include a new targeted sales tax exemption for building materials to incentivize the construction of new affordable, moderate-income and middle-income housing units for certain housing projects; \$535 million in direct support for the MBTA for operational funding, commuter rail support and the low-income fare relief program; and \$535 million for the MBTA for operational funding, commuter rail support and the low-income fare relief program; \$20 million for the Home Energy Assistance Program to assist eligible low-income elders, working families and other households with assistance paying a portion of winter heating bills; and \$1 million to help public schools pay for costs incurred by cities and towns to implement the ban on cell phones use by students during school hours.

"By including innovative policy solutions with strong investments, we are going beyond just allocating funding in this budget," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "We are lowering taxes to spur housing, building our health care workforce and protecting our immigrant neighbors, on top of making generational investments in statewide transit and education."

"Today, the Senate passed a consolidated Fair Share supplemental budget that makes significant strides in educational initiatives and transportation infrastructure, while maintaining our focus on municipal relief and regional equity," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "The Senate continues to support special education, literacy growth and also establishes a primary care higher education scholarship pilot program at UMass Medical that will help fill the shortage of primary care physicians in the commonwealth. We also go big on transportation, investing Fair Share dollars to support the ongoing renovation and infrastructure improvements at the MBTA. This spending plan also addresses the harsh winter and historic blizzard of 2026, dedicating \$100 million for

Continued on page 17

# SustainaVille Week 2026: Celebrate climate, community, and connection in Somerville

Community members are invited to celebrate SustainaVille Week 2026, Somerville's annual week-long series of free events and workshops showcasing the city's climate progress, creativity, and goals, and sharing useful tips and information.

"Climate action thrives when we take it on together as a community," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "Whether you're a seasoned climate advocate, just discovering Somerville's climate initiatives, or looking to make a sustainable change at home, we look forward to celebrating, learning, and taking climate action with you."

2026 marks the ninth year of SustainaVille Week, with events coordinated by the Office of Sustainability and Environment.

**2026 Events:** All information on somervillema.gov/sustainavilleweek

## Block Party on Mossland St.

**Date/Time:** Saturday, May 2, 1-4 p.m.

**Where:** Mossland St.

**About:** Kick-off SustainaVille Week with City staff, commissions, and local climate organizations. Activities and refreshments will be available. The City's Mobility Division will also share updates on the

Elm-Beacon Connector project (somervillema.gov/elmbeacon) including a demonstration of the future Neighborway plan for Mossland Street.

## Energy Efficiency Home Tours

**Date/Time:** Sunday, May 3, 1-4 p.m.

**Where:** Visit somervillema.gov/sustainavilleweek for open house locations and suggested bike route

**About:** Hear directly from Somerville homeowners about their experiences with home electrification and retrofit projects and learn about opportunities available to you.

## SustainaVille Book Club

**Date/Time:** Monday, May 4, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** West Branch Library, 40 College Ave, Somerville, MA 02144

**About:** Book lovers are invited to meet OSE staff, neighbors, and author Cate Mimgoya-LaFortune to discuss her book, "Climate Action for Busy People"

## Compost Give Away

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, May 5, 1-5 p.m.

**Where:** Glen Park Community Garden, 150 Glen Street, Somerville, MA 02145



**About:** Pick up free, finished compost and learn about the City's free curbside food waste collection pilot program in East Somerville. Learn more at somervillema.gov/foodwaste.

## Energy Efficiency Tour of the Kennedy School

**Date/Time:** Thursday, May 7, 4-6 p.m.

**Where:** The Kennedy School, 5 Cherry Street, Somerville, MA 02144

**About:** Visit the Kennedy School to see recent energy efficiency upgrades at work: tour highlights include new chillers, pumps, and controls.

## Arbor Day Picnic in the Park

**Date/Time:** Friday, May 8, 3-6 p.m.

**Where:** Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street, Somerville, MA 02143

**About:** Celebrate Arbor Day and the end of SustainaVille Week. Activities

include: tree planting, climate carnival games, refreshments, and more.

Attending Somerville Open Studios? The event will feature RE NEW: Recycled Art Show, an SOS Locavore exhibition celebrating transformation, sustainability, and creative reinvention. This show explores how discarded and repurposed materials can be reimaged into compelling sculptural forms and textures that speak to environmental awareness and artistic innovation. View RE New from April 25 to May 17 at 62A Summer Street. Learn more at: somervilleopenstudios.org.

For a full schedule of events, please visit somervillema.gov/sustainavilleweek.

Sign up for the SustainaVille newsletter at somervillema.gov/subscribe for updates from OSE staff and news on the city's climate action initiatives.

## Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 16

municipal relief to beleaguered municipalities all across Massachusetts."

"The Senate found time to pass yet another massive supplemental budget that did not include any reforms to our broken welfare system, any tax relief for our small businesses and taxpayers and no relief for ratepayers," said Paul Craney, executive director of the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "The Massachusetts Legislature thinks it's their job to spend every penny they can extract from the taxpayers for their pet projects."

None of the four Republican senators who voted against the budget responded to repeated attempts by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them to comment on the bill's passage and to explain why they voted against it. Those four senators are Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton), Peter Durrant (R-Spencer), Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) and Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester).

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**DON'T MISS THIS EVENT - THE AI REVOLUTION IN MASSACHUSETTS: DISRUPTION,**

**RISK, OPPORTUNITY** - As Massachusetts looks to both lead and regulate the AI revolution, join leading legislators and thought leaders for a timely forum on AI's challenges and opportunities, hosted by the State House News Service and MASSterList. The timely policy forum is on Thursday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the MCLE Conference Center (Downtown Crossing), 10 Winter Place, Boston. Register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/massai>

**ALCOHOL DONATIONS FOR CHARITIES (H 442)** - The House approved and sent to the Senate legislation that would allow local licensing authorities to issue temporary licenses to charities in order for the charities to accept donations of wine, beer and alcohol for their charitable events. These licenses were previously allowed under 1997 legislation, but the authorization has since expired.

"Today, more than ever, nonprofits are in need of charitable donations to stay afloat," said sponsor Rep. Joan Meschino (D-Hull). "This bill would allow for safe and regulated alcohol licensure for nonprofits in order to raise revenue at charity events by partnering with alcohol manufacturers, wholesalers or retailers. This bill was brought to me by Deborah Goldberg, the Treasurer and Receiver General, and has her full support."

**PROTECT RIGHTS OF HOMELESS INDIVIDU-**

**ALS (H 4783)** - The Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on legislation that would prevent the punishment of individuals experiencing homelessness for conducting life-sustaining activities on public property when no shelter is available. The measure also prohibits discrimination in the use of public areas based solely on housing status and affirms rights such as the right to practice faith and the right against unreasonable search and seizure for individuals experiencing homelessness in public areas.

"I filed this bill in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2024 Johnson v. Grants Pass decision, which allowed communities to penalize people for life-sustaining activities in public when no alternatives exist," said sponsor Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton). "These policies effectively criminalize homelessness, impose burdensome fines and make it harder for people to secure stable housing, without improving public health or safety. Our approach prioritizes directing resources toward real public safety needs and lasting housing solutions."

**PROTECT MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VIOLATIONS (S 2976)** - The Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on a bill that supporters say will protect Bay State residents from direct actions by federal law enforcement that violate individual protections under the United States Constitution. Under the proposal, a *Continued on page 18*

## Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 17

person who subjects a resident of Massachusetts to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the constitution would be liable to the injured party.

“Over the past few weeks, federal agents have brutalized people on the streets of Minneapolis,” said sponsor Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont). “No police necessity can explain their excessive use of force, which has shocked and disgusted fair-minded people across the political spectrum. In the absence of a federal administration willing to hold its agents accountable when they depart from civil norms, states need to impose liability and make court-ordered relief available.”

“I co-sponsored this legislation because no one, regardless of their position or badge, should be above the Constitution,” said Sen. Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence). “When someone’s rights are violated, they deserve a clear and accessible path to accountability and justice. This bill ensures that Massachusetts residents have that protection, even when the harm comes from federal actors operating in our communities.”

“Our commonwealth has long been a place where civil rights are respected and protected,” said co-sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). “At a time when abuses by federal agents have caused fear and uncertainty among immigrant communities and protesters, this legislation makes clear that no one is above the law. By creating a pathway to hold federal agents accountable for civil rights violations, we are reinforcing our commitment to fairness, due process and the protection of our immigrant neighbors.”

**STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS** – The Healey Administration announced it is soliciting innovative ideas from educators, providers and community partners on how to strengthen mental health support for Bay State students, from birth through higher education.

The administration seeks this input while it is currently developing a framework that will guide a coordinated statewide strategy to strengthen mental health support in Massachusetts, improving alignment among early education providers, K-12 schools, higher education institutions, families and community-based service systems.

“This is an opportunity for practitioners, community organizations, researchers and educators to help shape the future of student mental health in Massachusetts,” said Education Secretary Stephen Zrike. “We are looking for bold, thoughtful ideas that are grounded in evidence, centered in equity and built to last.”

“Supporting mental and behavioral health from the earliest years is essential to helping every learner thrive,” said Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw. “We know that strong early foundations are critical, and

we’re proud to be part of this statewide effort to align partners and systems. By working together and inviting new ideas, we can build a more connected, responsive approach that supports children, families and educators across Massachusetts.”

“This administration is committed to supporting the mental health of students of all ages,” said Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez. “Developing a statewide framework for mental and behavioral health will allow us to better align and integrate supports throughout students’ educational journey.”

“Strong mental health support should be a throughline in a student’s educational journey,” said Higher Education Commissioner Noe Ortega. “I look forward to the commonwealth establishing a cohesive approach that will support students’ mental health needs not only when they arrive at college, but well before.”

For more information and to learn how to submit an idea, go to [www.commbuys.com/bso/](http://www.commbuys.com/bso/)

**HEALTHCARE FOR STATE WORKERS (H 5348)** – The House and Senate approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill that would provide \$300 million for health insurance coverage for the 460,000 public employees, retirees and dependents who access health care through the state’s Group Insurance Commission. Supporters said that these additional funds are necessary because of higher-than-anticipated utilization and pharmaceutical expenses.

“Health care is a fundamental promise we make to the public employees, retirees and families who keep our commonwealth running,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Today the Legislature acted together to ensure that more than 460,000 people can continue to access the care they rely on without disruption.”

“Given that hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents access their health care through the Group Insurance Commission, ensuring that it is adequately funded is of vital importance,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano.”

“With the swift passage of this mini supplemental budget, the Legislature is prioritizing access to vital health care for state employees and doing our due diligence, paying providers on time for the health care services our residents depend on,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “I look forward to the governor’s quick and decisive action on this bill.”

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

“While state ethics rules forbid public officials from accepting gifts worth more than \$50, lobbyists are allowed to underwrite travel worth up to many thousands of dol-

ars. The recipients of these gifts have only to claim that the travel has a ‘legitimate public purpose’ to promote the interests of the commonwealth. No explanation or supporting documentation is required.” — *Jeff Klein, a retired local union president and a longtime member of Boston’s Ward 13 Democratic Committee, on why he supports S 2109 – a bill that would close a loophole which allows lobbyists to underwrite travel by public officials.*

“This was one of those once-in-a-generation storms, comparable to the Blizzard of ‘78 and 2015’s ‘Snowmagedon,’ that people remember for the rest of their lives. While the snow has melted, the financial impact of the tremendous state and local effort remains, which is why this Major Disaster Declaration is so important. It ensures that our communities can recover, rebuild and be reimbursed for the extraordinary work it took to keep people safe.” — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on the Healey Administration requesting a Major Disaster Declaration to obtain federal funds to support communities impacted by the February 22-23, 2026 blizzard, which brought whiteout conditions, record snowfall and hurricane-force wind gusts to much of eastern Massachusetts.*

### HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of April 6-10, the House met for a total of ten hours and nine minutes and the Senate met for a total of six hours and 44 minutes.

|                |                                                                   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon. April 6   | House 11:00 a.m. to 11:54 a.m.<br>Senate 11:16 a.m. to 11:57 a.m. |
| Tues. April 7  | No House session<br>No Senate session.                            |
| Wed. April 8   | House 11:02 a.m. to 7:17 p.m.<br>Senate 11:10 a.m. to 11:19 a.m.  |
| Thurs. April 9 | House 11:00 a.m. to noon.<br>Senate 11:14 a.m. to 5:08 p.m.       |
| Fri. April 10  | No House session<br>No Senate session                             |

*Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)*

# Somerville invites neighbors to roll up their sleeves for Spring Cleanups

Sometimes it's the *litter* things that can make a big difference. On Saturday, April 25, neighbors across Somerville are invited to come together for neighborhood Spring Cleanups — an easy way to spend a couple of hours outside, meet people nearby, and leave your street a little better than you found it.

On Saturday, April 25, community members across all seven wards can join their ward's Spring Cleanup, the first major activation of the City's Year of the Neighbor initiative, a yearlong push to strengthen connections, build community, and tap into each individual's ability to have a positive impact across Somerville.

"You don't need a big plan to make a difference," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "You get outside, you work side by side, and you leave your block better than you found it. It's simple, and it works. I'm looking forward to being out there and seeing neighbors across the city."

From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., residents can join their neighbors, local elected officials, and community groups to spruce up streets, parks, and public spaces — and to get to know the people they share them with. The city will provide supplies, and DPW crews will handle pickup — so residents can focus on the satisfying part: making their block a little better. Participants will also receive a City of Somerville water bottle or small thank-you item while supplies last.

"I am thrilled to have a coordinated

Spring Cleanup again in Somerville, said Ward One Councilor Matt McLaughlin. "Residents have been coordinating their own cleanups for several years. A coordinated city effort will bring neighbors together for a shared purpose of beautification and community building."

Cleanup locations will be hosted in each ward with the support of the City Council and School Committee:

- Ward 1: East Branch Library, 115 Broadway
- Ward 2: Union Square Plaza, 90 Union Square
- Ward 3: City Hall, 93 Highland Ave
- Ward 4: Corner of Temple Street and Broadway
- Ward 5: DPW Building, 1 Franey Rd
- Ward 6: Statue Park, Davis Square (the central plaza opposite One Davis Square)
- Ward 7: Corner of Holland Street and Broadway, Teele Square

Whether neighbors can stay for the full two hours or just stop by to lend a hand, the goal is the same: take care of your block and meet the people who make it home.

About Year of the Neighbor

This event marks the start of a broader Year of the Neighbor effort to create more opportunities for residents to connect, support one another, and take pride in their neighborhoods — from shared service projects to block parties and community events throughout the year.

To learn more visit [somervillema.gov/neighbor](http://somervillema.gov/neighbor).



## Project Bread's 58th annual Walk for Hunger opens registration

Registration is now open for Project Bread's Walk for Hunger, the organization's signature community fundraiser and one of Massachusetts' most enduring anti-hunger events, turning compassion into action. Set for Sunday, May 3 on the Boston Common, the one-day celebration will bring together thousands of walkers for a family-friendly 3-mile loop featuring food, entertainment, and activities for all ages.

Now in its 58th year, the Walk for Hunger remains a beacon of hope for local families, raising \$1 million to support Project Bread's proven, statewide approach to advancing food security and ensuring access to nutritious food for children and families across Massachusetts.

Like-minded anti-hunger organizations are also invited to participate through Project Bread's co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth. Participating nonprofits can form teams to raise funds for their own missions while contributing to Project Bread's broader statewide impact.

Ready to get involved? Register to walk in-person or virtually, start a personal or team fundraising page, or make a donation at [projectbread.org/walk](http://projectbread.org/walk). For more information, email [walk@projectbread.org](mailto:walk@projectbread.org).



## 'Segregated By Design' to be presented

On April 16 from 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m., Central Library, 79 Highland Ave, the Fair Housing Commission and Somerville Public Library invite you to a screening of *Segregated By Design*, based on the book *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein, followed by a community discussion around fair housing and discrimination and how these subjects impact us locally in Somerville.

Food and drinks will be provided.

Registration is required: [tinyurl.com/mp-n7mhut](https://tinyurl.com/mp-n7mhut).



## Somerville through the eyes of Denise



The blue hour... — Photo by Denise Provost

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

To donate visit:

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

Share with your friends and neighbors!  
Let's keep local news alive, together.

And to advertise in *The Times*, call **857-488-5138**

Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

### BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



"I'm sorry" and "I apologize" usually mean the same thing ... but not at a funeral.

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 15

- 1755 – English lexicographer Dr. Samuel Johnson publishes his Dictionary of the English Language.
- 1784 – The first balloon is flown in Ireland.
- 1861 – President Lincoln mobilizes the Federal army.
- 1865 – Abraham Lincoln dies from John Wilkes Booth's assassination bullet.
- 1871 – "Wild Bill" Hickok becomes the marshal of Abilene, Kansas.
- 1912 – With her band playing on the deck, the ocean liner Titanic sinks at 2:27 a.m. in the North Atlantic.
- 1945 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt is buried on the grounds of his home.
- 1947 – In 1947, at age 28, Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American in Major League Baseball, officially breaking the color barrier in the sport.
- 1955 – Ray Kroc starts the McDonald's chain of fast food restaurants.
- 1986 – U.S. warplanes attack Libya.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

happen. PorchFest attendees can sign up for day-of emergency text alerts for this year's event: text SOMPORCHES26 to 888777. Check out the website for updated information: [www.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/](http://www.somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest/)

**Fair Housing Month Film Screening and Discussion, April 16.** In recognition of Fair Housing Month, join in for a film screening and panel discussion of *Segregated by Design*, which will touch on fair housing, discrimination, and how it impacts us locally. This event will be held on **Thursday, April 16, at Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** is looking for donations of soup cans. Please save and donate your well-washed-out cans and milk jugs for upcoming lantern-making workshops for **Now Is Still Here**. They need soup cans (the size of a Progresso soup can is perfect), metal coffee cans (both smaller and larger sizes), and half-gallon milk jugs. Please drop off clean items in the designated bin at the Growing Center during future Open Hours or reach out to Tom King (Tom\_in\_Davis\_Square@comcast.net).

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **22nd Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local **Saturdays from May 9 to October 31**, except July 4 and September 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. They continue to offer our SNAP matches. Check the market webpage for the latest info and to see which vendors accept SNAP. To get the latest updates about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit [unionsquaremain.org/2026-season](http://unionsquaremain.org/2026-season).

Explore the intersection of climate action and art at **Somerville Open Studios** (May 2 – 3). **From April 25 to May 17**, visit **RE New/Recycled Art Locavore Show** (62A Summer Street). This exhibit celebrates transformation, sustainability, and creative reinvention. This show explores how discarded and repurposed materials can be re-imagined into compelling sculptural forms and textures that speak to environmental awareness and artistic innovation. Curated by @katpop72.

For more information, visit [www.somervilleopenstudios.org](http://www.somervilleopenstudios.org).

Want to sell your goods? Applications for 2026 are now open for the **Somerville Flea**. Join them in **Davis Square from August to October**. Apply now and be a part of the action. <https://www.the-somervilleflea.com/sell>

A reminder that **yard waste pickup** began the week of April 13. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Get stickers free of charge at the **DPW building** (1 Franey Rd.), at the entrance desk at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by emailing [311requests@somervillema.gov](mailto:311requests@somervillema.gov).

Regular **street sweeping schedules** resumed on **Wednesday, April 1**, and will continue **through December 31**. Community members should check street signs to know when parking is prohibited due to sweeping. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. Vehicles that do not move may be ticketed and towed. For more information on street sweeping, visit [somervillema.gov/streetsweeping](http://somervillema.gov/streetsweeping) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

**Somerville teens** (ages 14+) can now apply for the **2026 Mayor's Summer Jobs Program**, a six-week paid opportunity to earn money, build skills, and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the city runs. Interested youth can apply **now through Thursday, April 30**, by completing the online application at [somervillema.gov/summerjobs](http://somervillema.gov/summerjobs). All applicants will be interviewed in early May. Applicants must be Somerville residents or enrolled in a Somerville school and at least **14 years of age by May 4, 2026**. Summer jobs require approximately 20 hours per week, with most positions running **July 6 through August 14**. All positions are paid an hourly rate of \$18.85. All applicants will be interviewed in early May. For any questions, please email [summerjobs@somervillema.gov](mailto:summerjobs@somervillema.gov) or call 311 (617-666-3311).

**Somerville High School** and the **Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation** are proud to announce the formation of the **Somerville High School Alumni Newsletter**. Through this newsletter, they aim to strengthen the bonds of the SHS community by providing important updates, honoring the achievements of their alumni through inspiring stories, assisting alumni with opportunities to engage in the SHS Community, and fostering the spirit of SHS pride and belonging that unites them all. The Somerville High School Alumni Newsletter will be published semi-annually in December/January and May/June. Subscribe to the Somerville High School Alumni Newsletter at <https://www.shsscholarship.org/shs-alumni-newsletter>, and they will email you the alumni newsletter when it comes out this spring. They are also in the process of creating an SHS Alumni Home Page that will be found on both the school's and foundation's websites. Make this your go-to place for all things SHS alumni-related. More information on this will be published in the upcoming SHS Alumni Newsletter.

Celebrate your love of music, vinyl, and independent record stores on **Record Store Day 2026 w/Vinyl Index at Bow Market**, 1 Bow Market Way in Somerville. On **Saturday, April 18**, Vinyl Index hosts our annual Record Store Day bash throughout all of Bow Market with DJ sets all day, music-inspired food, drinks, and merch from the Bow Market shops, including exclusive designs pressed live on tees and totes by **AntiDesigns**, and of course lots of records. There are no pre-orders/holds for Record Store Day titles; first-come, first-served, limit 1 per customer. See the full RSD list here - <https://recordstoreday.com/SpecialReleases>.

A **Somerville Tour of Mount Auburn Cemetery**. Join Mount Auburn docent and Somerville resident **Robin Hazard Ray** for a walking tour of America's first "garden" cemetery. Established in 1831, the Cemetery boasts not only a sublime landscape and abundant wildlife but also a formidable roster of former Somerville residents. We will visit the graves of university founder Charles Tufts, FDR chief of staff Marguerite (Missy) LeHand, and

composer Henry K. Hadley, among other notable spots. Please wear sturdy walking shoes. **Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.** Mt. Auburn Cemetery, 58 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA.

With **Fiscal Year 2027** approaching, the **Somerville Community Preservation Committee (CPC)** is once again inviting residents to help shape the next round of CPA-funded projects through the CPA survey ([www.bit.ly/cpasurvey2026](http://www.bit.ly/cpasurvey2026)) or by giving feedback at a virtual public hearing ([www.bit.ly/cpahearing2026](http://www.bit.ly/cpahearing2026)) on **April 22**.

The **Somerville Arts Council** is pleased to announce the **March Artist of the Month, Barbara Mangum**, an art conservator and long-time board member of the **Somerville Museum**. Read the full interview here: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/aotm/2026/barbara-mangum/>.

Sign up for the city's **Planning, Preservation, and Zoning (PPZ) Newsletter**. Stay informed on the updates shaping your neighborhood and city. Curated by PPZ staff, get quick updates on planning initiatives, efforts, and zoning updates. Sign up now and explore other cities and department newsletters at [www.somervillema.gov/subscribe](http://www.somervillema.gov/subscribe).

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

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



## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz brings a symphony to his work

I had the pleasure to interview Lloyd Schwartz about his latest book of poetry: *ARTUR SCHNABEL AND JOSEPH SZIGETI PLAY MOZART AT THE FRICK COLLECTION (APRIL 4, 1948) and other poems*. Schwartz's work is full of musicality and delicately gets the marrow of life.

From the Citation for the 2025 David Ferry and Ellen LaForge Annual Poetry Prize:

"A simultaneous delicacy and ferocity of introspection, interiority, and inhabiting of minds that is intoxicating ... lyrics that spiral into haunting snapshots of fractured lives..."

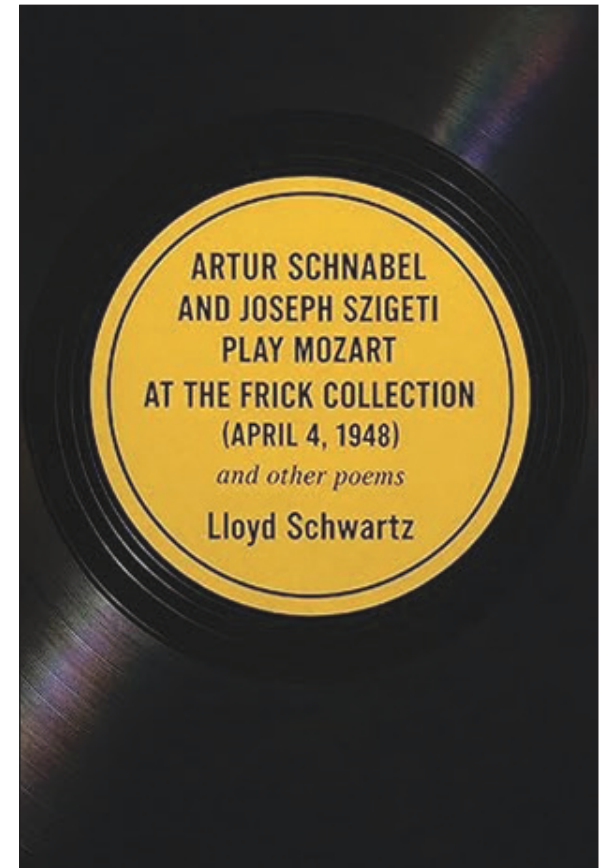
**Doug Holder:** You have written that you hope people will call your new poetry collection your best book.

**Lloyd Schwartz:** I think this is an odd but interesting and (I hope) entertaining and moving book about living in the world and how to respond to it. I love to overhear conversations and listen to people talking. I think plain speech can be as beautiful and moving as a more poetic diction. There's a poem in this book that's about what people were saying immediately after 9/11 and another poem about things I just happened to overhear that seemed hilarious or oracular. There's a section of quiet, intimate, personal poems based on Vermeer, or visiting a poet I loved (you have a poem in that same series), and it ends with a section of poems about making art – paintings, movies, music – and what that might mean to us, and questions how important that is to us. Art – engaging with it or making it – has been a central part of my life, has probably kept me alive. I think the poems in this book come closer to dealing with that question than the poems in any of my previous books.

**DH:** You dedicate your first poem to Attila József, the late great Hungarian poet. How does he speak to you? He was known as the "proletarian" poet. You have a working-class background.

**LS:** The poem is really a loose translation not an actual dedication. But you're absolutely right, He came from the working-class and lived a short painful life. But this marvelous poem spoke to me more because it reflected the way an artist responds to a terrifying world situation, as artists do now. Maybe the best we can do is write an elegy for a world we knew and loved, a world that seems no longer possible.

**DH:** The title of your book refers to a famous concert at the Frick Museum in New York when Artur Schnabel and Joseph Szigeti played Mozart. They



were very different in sensibility, but they gelled together at this event. Could you do this with a poet vastly different than yourself?

**LS:** Wow, I hope so! The poets I've been close to – Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Bishop from an earlier generation – Frank Bidart, Gail Mazur, Robert Pinsky from my own generation – Jill McDonough, Tara Skurtu, Andrea Cohen from a younger generation – seem very different from me. I could never write their poems. Yet I love their work and love reading together with them, and have even read their poems at readings, workshops, and discussions. How dull the arts would be if everyone worked in the same style. That's one of the ideas behind the Schnabel/Szigeti poem. It's one of the things that drives me crazy when I open a magazine and read poems that all sound like they were written for the same workshop.

**DH:** I noticed you have translated Victor Neborak's poem *Fish*. Compare this to Elizabeth Bishop's poem of the same name. He seems more political than Bishop was.

**LS:** Bishop could be very political, but in a sly, less overt way. For decades, *The Fish* was her most famous and popular poem. Now it's *One Art*. Neither is overtly political. But all three have to do with suffering. In *The Fish*, Bishop lets

Continued on page 23

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Braxton Crockett is an undergraduate at Endicott College in Beverly, MA.

### Disappearing

I learned the art of disappearing  
without ever leaving the room  
a quiet magic trick  
performed in daylight.  
I stand where the light falls cleanest,  
speak when spoken to,  
smile at the right angles,  
become exactly what is expected  
and nothing more.

It's easy, really  
people only see what they're looking for.  
So I give them outlines,  
a sketch instead of a story,  
a surface smooth enough  
to never invite questions.

Inside, I am louder  
a crowded hallway of thoughts,  
doors slamming, voices echoing,  
a thousand versions of myself  
reaching for the handle.

But out here,  
I am still water.  
Unbroken.  
Unread.

They pass by me every day  
and call it knowing.

And maybe that's the strangest part  
to be seen so often  
and never once  
be found.



— Braxton Crockett

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. [dougholder@post.harvard.edu](mailto:dougholder@post.harvard.edu)

## Tufts Opera Ensemble: Premiere of Thomas Stumpf's 'Half-hanged Mary'

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Opera Ensemble: Premiere of Thomas Stumpf's *Half-hanged Mary* in the Distler Performance Hall at the Granoff Music Center on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 8pm. The Tufts Opera Ensemble, directed by Carol Mastrodomenico and Thomas Stumpf, presents Stumpf's setting of Margaret Atwood's *Half-hanged Mary*, about a woman who was hanged as a witch but survived.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit [go.tufts.edu/musicevents](http://go.tufts.edu/musicevents) or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617-627-3679. Free; No tickets required.

## Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

the fish go when she identifies with its suffering. Could we read that as a political statement?

**DH:** As you are a Pulitzer Prize winning music credit, I am not surprised that you dedicated a poem to Paul Verlaine. Many composers put his work to music. Has your own work been put to music? Sometimes when I hear you read your poems, I am thinking they could be songs.

**LS:** Thank you! I knew that Verlaine poem because it's one of Debussy's greatest song-settings. Yes, a bunch of my poems have been set to music by composers I admire. It's so fascinating to hear how someone from a different artistic world responds to any of my poems. I once wrote a poem that I had hoped the wonderful composer John Harbison would use in the party scene of his opera *The Great Gatsby*. I heard it as a madcap 1920s fox trot. He set it as a sultry beguine. But he didn't use it in his opera.

### OFFICER AND LAUGHING GIRL

"Who is this man? I can barely make out his face in the window-glare. A fierce silhouette. The glowing edge of his floppy, broad-brimmed hat—the Devil with a halo! His red jacket on fire. An assault of maleness; a mystery . . .

Does he see my terror?

—Or is he staring at the map on the wall behind me? Or out the open window? His impatient hand on his hip, even sitting down. What does he keep staring at? What makes him stay?"

\*

"Why doesn't she just drink her wine and relax? She looks like she's about to cry. I can see the tears welling up. But no—her eye is clear. Her hands on the table, around her glass, palms up—ready to take whatever is given . . .

What do I have to give?

—I could travel past the edge of the known world, and never find a pearl worthy of this smile that sees right through me, sees my darkness—yet doesn't cease to smile."

## The Somerville Times BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

### 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**

### 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](mailto:digirolamolegal@verizon.net)

424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

SERVPRO® of Arlington,  
Somerville, Charlestown

**617-629-5331**

Independently owned and operated

LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT  
Artist and art teacher Geoffrey Halverson



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

Flexible Schedule - 2 hour classes  
Perfect for beginners and intermediate students  
Location of classes in North Cambridge (Huron Village)  
Call: 617-501-6217 • halverson12g@yahoo.com

### Monica Calvo Realtor®

Real Estate Professional  
Cell: 617-605-3308

Email: [mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com](mailto:mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com)  
Web: [remaxpartnersrelocation.com](http://remaxpartnersrelocation.com)

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



Advertise your  
business here

call 857-488-5138

Be sure to visit us online at  
[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)



Given the choice, choose  
**SIMPLE**

Because simple is always the smart choice!  
*SmartChoice* Checking at Winter Hill Bank is so much more than just a checking account.

- *Choose the advantage of NO monthly fee and NO minimum balance*
- *Choose to get free online banking, mobile banking, online bill payment, and eStatements*
- *Choose instant access to funds with a free debit card*

*Choose to find out right now. It's simple.*



617-666-8600 | 1-800-444-4300 | [winterhillbank.com](http://winterhillbank.com)

*A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906*

