



Inside:



Pot shops

page 3



A groundbreaking at Dilboy Field

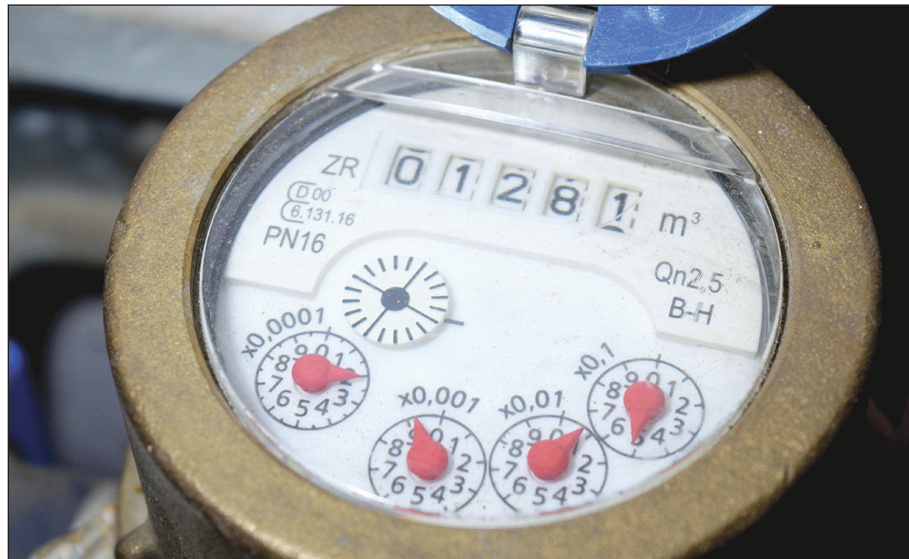
page 4



Patriot's Day Colonial Fair

pages 16-17

Sky high water bills in Somerville leave residents confused



Somerville residents were caught off guard when they received much higher than expected water bills following the city's metering upgrades.

By Jim Clark

A large number of Somerville residents are steamed up over the water bills they received recently. Many have reported figures in the thousands of dollars – some even in the tens of thousands.

It seems that as the Somerville Water and Sewer Department replaces older water meters as part of its City Wide Water Meter Replacement Project the billing becomes more accurate, and as a result certain residents are getting significantly higher bills than they used to.

According to the department, the older meters were measuring water usage accurately but they were not transmitting the data correctly, hence the program to replace the older devices with new ones. The accompanying sticker shock *Continued on page 4*

Upcoming art show: 'Kaleidoscope Queer Visions'

The upcoming queer community art initiative, *Kaleidoscope: Queer Visions*, sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council, Somerville Local Cultural Commission, and the Boston Figurative Art Center, will take place from May 6 to May 11 at the Boston Figurative Art Center, 285 Washington St., Somerville.

Kaleidoscope is focused on asking and answering the questions, what does a queer, liberated, collective future look like? What does a queer timeline feel like? What are the moments you have missed as a queer person, that you would like to give yourself a version of?

For those who have come into their queerness later in life, or perhaps those who are not yet, or may never be ready, to come out at all, there is a particular kind of grief to carry. *Kaleidoscope: Queer Visions* honors that grief, and presents a *Continued on page 12*



The *Kaleidoscope Queer Visions* art initiative will take place from May 6 to May 11 at the Boston Figurative Art Center in Somerville

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Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville’s Inspectional Services Department announced Somerville’s 2024 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. Aimed at enhancing rodent management efforts, the updated plan incorporates Integrated Pest Management principles to effectively address rodent issues across residential, public, and commercial areas within the city. The detailed presentation of the City of Somerville’s Integrated Pest Management will take place at the city’s Board of Health meeting on Thursday, April 18, at 6:00 p.m. Community members, stakeholders, and interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be hosted on Zoom, and participate in discussions surrounding rodent management strategies. Interested attendees can join the meeting here: somervillema.gov/events/2024/04/18/board-health-meeting.

A reminder that yard waste pickup has begun. 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 311updates@somervillema.gov.

To those celebrating their birthdays this week: A big happy birthday to Mayor Katjana Ballantyne who is celebrating today. We hope she has enjoys her day. Happy birthday to *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 17 – April 23 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday April 17	Sunny	59°/42°	3%	1%	NNE 10 mph
Thursday April 18	Partly Cloudy	52°/42°	14%	11%	E 12 mph
Friday April 19	Cloudy	57°/45°	23%	17%	SE 10 mph
Saturday April 20	Rain	60°/42°	34%	28%	W 12 mph
Sunday April 21	Partly Cloudy	55°/37°	21%	14%	W 13 mph
Monday April 22	Partly Cloudy	56°/40°	14%	10%	NW 11 mph
Tuesday April 23	Sunny	57°/42°	1%	1%	NE 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Ayanna Pressley secures \$850,000 for Highland Avenue Streetscape Project

Slaw says:

This is great news. Hopefully it moves forward more quickly now and hopefully those separated bicycle facilities are guaranteed and Somerville doesn't try to withdraw them after receiving federal funding to build them like Boston is doing on BHA.

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – April 10

Jacques Fleury-Author says:

I have been waiting for a poem like this...in a way, most of us stroll the streets while scrolling our phones as if we are deaf to the wonders around us, like construction workers with sound blockers on while drilling the streets with jackhammers. The poet's unassuming acknowledgment and endearing awareness of nature's pulchritudinous is pure, simple and engaging. Lines depicting her pocketed phone wanting to "burn a hole through" and wanting "to be held" yet she yields to nature's "beckoning" deeming her to be a better "listener" who "doesn't interrupt" with social media notifications chiming for attention like that of her pocketed phone..she is content to "laugh" by the sea and listen to crashing waves...She takes comfort in the assurances of the infinity of nature even long after phones have crashed and burried "beneath the earth." The take away for me from this young poetic voice is STOP SCROLLING YOUR PHONES AND BE PRESENT in your environment! Listen to nature, listen to your souls and listen to each other. Amidst the chaos of a highly mechanized world replete with iPads and iPhones and internet connections, remember to take the time to disconnect from the "internet" to connect to your "inner-net" and be present with the wonder that is NATURE,...—Jacques Fleury, Author of the prose and poet

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

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Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Molly Rains, Fernando Cervantes Jr., Ryan DiLellio, Kyle Dante

Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte, Dorothy Dimarzo, Joe Creason, Bob Doherty, Ross Blouin
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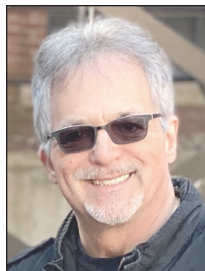
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Pot shops



Recreational marijuana stores are popping up all over the city. Ball Square, Davis Square and East Somerville to name a few. I surveyed people from around the city on their feelings toward this. Each new comment is in quotes.

“No different than bars and liquor stores being all those places, only difference is alcohol kills people marijuana doesn’t”

“If you have a medical Marijuana card then they waive the tax I believe. From some good sources, the weed is a better grade than the stuff on the street plus they sell other products like gummies, drinks, tinctures, balms etc.”

“Margie MacDonald a smoke shop (Blue Moon Smoke Shop, Teele Sq) is different than a recreational dispensary (Blue River Terps, Ball Sq). Actually, in Ball Sq, Blue River is right across the street from Ball Square Smoke Shop. They sell different items.”

“Growing up there we gave directions by the bar room or Dunkin donuts. This is just another way of doing it.”

“I’d say you were crazy if you ever told me that someday buying reefer would be as easy to get as a loaf of bread.”

Looks like the pot shops are spreading like weeds.”

“I’d put a Pizza Parlor next to every one of them. Munchies.”

“Not even used for medical in sc yet.”
“Here’s my question? What’s the sales tax on a purchase? I’m asking because I’m getting many answers.”

“20% and it’s because it’s essentially a sin tax that gets passed through to the consumer.”

“If it were solely medicinal in nature and covered by insurance, it would cost you next to nothing. But this is essentially recreational use, so it’s taxed like cigarettes and booze.”



SustainaVille Week 2024: Celebrate Climate Action in Somerville

Join Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment for a series of free and family friendly events and interactive activities to celebrate SustainaVille Week, April 20-27, an annual celebration of climate action in Somerville during the week of Earth Day. See the full schedule of events online here: www.somervillema.gov/sustainavilleweek.

“Whether it’s planting a pollinator garden, advocating to decarbonize new construction in our area, recycling, or invest-

ing in sustainability initiatives, every day the City and Somerville community work together to help protect our planet,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “This year’s SustainaVille Week is especially exciting as community members can review the city’s updated Climate Forward plan that will help us maintain a strong, healthy community in the face of climate change while simultaneously reducing climate pollution and our dependence on fossil fuels. I look forward to seeing everyone to celebrate what we have achieved and inspire the hard

work ahead of us as we continue fighting climate change.”

The 2024 SustainaVille Week lineup features a community celebration for the updated community climate action plan, the Climate Forward plan.

Check out highlights of the schedule below:

Pollinators, Plants, and Possibilities, Saturday, April 20

+ 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Groundwork Somerville’s South Street Farm (138 South Street)

+ 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.: Somerville Community Growing Center (22 Vinal Ave)

Join us for a fun day of family friendly activities, including seed plantings, composting demos, arts and crafts, and live music. Language support will be available for Spanish and Portuguese, and other languages upon request.

Youth Led Bike Clinic, Monday, April 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., The Dojo @ Somerville (15 Properzi Way). Bring your bike and get it tuned up by the Groundwork Somerville Bike Team.

Pollinator Action Table at West Branch, Tuesday, April 23, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., West Branch Library (40 College Ave.). Learn

about the Pollinator Action Plan and ways to explore the biodiversity in your neighborhood at this information table.

Imaging Climate Forward 2050, Wednesday, April 24, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Greentown Labs (444 Somerville Ave.). Step into Somerville in 2050 where we have succeeded in creating a climate forward community. Get inspired by interactive art that explores our shared climate resilient vision. Join the City of Somerville for the release of its updated community climate action plan – the Climate Forward plan. The event is open to all and is family friendly. The event will include interactive art, light refreshments, and live music.

Registration recommended but not required: greentownlabs.com/event/imaging-climate-forward-2050/

Miyawaki Forest Tour, Thursday, April 25, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Behind Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.) Come explore the Miyawaki forest seedlings and learn about the city’s urban tree canopy.

Civic Day, Saturday, April 27, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.). Learn about local government, programs, services, and ways to get involved.



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Dilboy Auxiliary Fields groundbreaking ceremony

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invited community members to attend a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, April 10, at the Dilboy Auxiliary Fields. Construction kicks off this spring to transform the Dilboy Auxiliary Fields into a state-of-the-art sports and recreational facility with natural turf fields. Highlights of the work include full reconstruction of the baseball and softball fields, installation of a sand-slit drainage system, new sports lighting, and more.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Sky high water bills in Somerville leave residents confused CONT. FROM PG 1

for consumers once the improved systems were in place was difficult for many to understand and to deal with.

The issue got the attention of the Somerville City Council and the its lates regular meeting on Thursday, April 11, Councilor At Large Kristen Strezo put forward an order that the Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations conduct a Committee of the Whole Public Hearing to hear how the increases in water and sewer rates are affecting Somerville residents, and that all relevant city departments be in attendance.

Speaking on the matter, Strezo said, "I'm sure you have all been hearing about the water bills and the influx of anxiety that every-

one's going through. I think that what's important is we have residents have a chance to speak on their experiences, and I think our constituents deserve to know that their city is listening to them in this capacity."

"You know where I've stood on this for years," Strezo continued. "Displacement comes in forms not just from a lack of affordable housing stock, lower income residents will feel the pain of the influx of water bills and sewage bills."

Strezo pointed out that that 85 percent of the new water meter reader installations have been completed, but she added, "We're still not there."

"While there are some bill payer assistance programs to address

water and sewer bills through the state, it is a high threshold to qualify, and it covers the water portion of the bill but it doesn't cover the sewer portion," said Strezo. "And in Somerville, less than 100 household are helped by the state's water bill assistance program. Less than 100 residents. We have over 16,000 water bill accounts here."

Strezo then reminded the Council that around 900 hundred residents are no longer receiving the ARPA funded low-income water bill assistance program to help them with their water and sewer bills, having expired on April 1 of this year.

"Those 900 residents without a plan," Strezo continued. "At the same time and influx of

retrograded bills were mailed out. I've heard from residents expressing this fear, worry about how they're going to pay the water actual estimated bill."

Strezo spoke of recent water bills coming to several thousand dollars after the meters were changed.

"We have some residents in affordable housing units whose lease requires that they pay their own water bills," Strezo said. "And that's about 425 residents in Somerville."

"My hope is that we apply what we here in this Equity Committee public hearing and act nimbly that the Administration gets the message loud and clear that we need to be acting faster, and can't just sit here and

twiddle our thumbs and wait and do as much as we can to help this influx of bills," said Strezo. "Years ago, I stated I would not support any kind of increases without a parallel plan that addressed some of the increases and help residents," she said.

Strezo expressed some frustration concerning how long a process would take to implement programs to help for residents who are having a hard time paying these bills and urged expedient action by the city.

Several Councilors expressed their support for seeking assistance for residents and also passed the call for a public hearing which has been scheduled for May 15, at City Hall with the public invited both in person and virtually.

A new 'haus' in town

By Joei Chan

Step into a brand-new restaurant, Lehrhaus. Located on 425 Washington Street in Somerville, this is not just a place to enjoy some Jewish delights; classes will also be available to teach anyone more about the Jewish culture of food, music, and even some history.

Meet Rabbi Charlie Schwartz, the co-founder and director at Lehrhaus. "My co-founder and I imagined a desire to meet people in person and have vibrant places to gather. And both of us are Jewish, and so we were thinking about what Jewish spaces might look like. We realized that there are synagogues, but there are not a lot of really accessible, vibrant places for people to engage with Jewish life and culture."

"So, after a bunch of conversations and dreaming, we came up with this idea of where people can encounter the best of the Jewish world. Whether its cocktails inspired by different Jewish communities from around the

world, from Ethiopia, to Iran, to Eastern Europe, or taking classes that teach about Jewish life. Or reading a book from the library of about 2,000 books from religious texts, it's a place where you can come and exhibit the best of the Jewish world, whether or not you are Jewish."

Dishes like Beet "Pastrami" Reuben, Spiced Red Lentil Stew, Haus Herring Tartine, Mac and Cheese Kugel, and Arctic Char Alberas are available to dine on. Schwartz mentions that these dishes were created by their incredible culinary team. "As we collaborated on what the menu looks like, we wanted to tell diverse Jewish stories through the food and drinks that we serve."

Upcoming classes will include "Creating the Jewish Community You Want and Need," "Passover and Passing Through: Celebrating Miracles Big And Small," "An Evening of New Yiddish Folklore, Papercut Crankie + Live Klezmer Music!"



Jewish-themed restaurant Lehrhaus is open for dining, drinks, and culture at 425 Washington Street in Somerville.



A membership option is also available. For \$36 a month or \$360 annually, visitors can experience Lehrhaus in a brand-new

way. Some benefits of the membership include two free tickets per month to classes, early access to special programs and events,

and even 1-on-1 learning with the educators at Lehrhaus.

For more information, go to: <https://www.lehr.haus/>

Annual Conditions for Learning (CFL) Survey

Each year, April 1-May 3 SPS families are invited to complete a survey that will help with informed decision-making both in our schools and at the district level. The annual Conditions for Learning (CFL) Survey and the data they collect will be helpful as they work toward setting long-term, meaningful goals to improve student learning and school and district climate and culture in the Somerville Public Schools.

The survey should take no more than 15 minutes.

Family survey link: https://somervillek12.qualtrics.com/.../SV_37zt2TRM-K3AlkTc

For the staff or student survey links, please visit the page: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/cfl>



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes on a roll call from the week of April 8-12. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

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

Senate 39-0. approved a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The \$375 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$175 million for several transportation-related grant programs. The House has already approved the bill and only final House and Senate passage are necessary before the measure goes to Gov. Healey for her signature.

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

"The annual authorization of the Chapter 90 program provides cities and towns with the state funding they need to most effectively address their transportation infrastructure needs," said Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Senate Chair of the Committee on Transportation. "This \$375 million total investment in both Chapter 90 and additional grant opportunities funds tangible improvements across our entire transportation network—including roads, bridges, access to mass transit and sidewalks."

"Getting around our communities is a fundamental part of everyone's day," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Whether the commute takes you on the sidewalk, through a bike lane, across a small bridge, onto your Regional Transit Authority or to the T, your journey should be quick and safe. By passing today's legislation, we are empowering our cities and towns with the funding to make improvements to the infrastructure our residents travel on, regardless of where they go and how."

"Our transportation infrastructure is so vitally important to the state's economy and this Chapter 90 funding addresses many outstanding issues in keeping the commonwealth's and public transportation system in peak operating condition," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "I'm pleased that over \$375 million has been allocated to municipal roadways, local streetscape improvements and enhancements to our mass transit system,"

We're grateful to see the House and Senate swiftly pass

the Chapter 90 bond bill with key investments in municipal roads and bridges," said Adam Chapdelaine, CEO of the Mass Municipal Association. "This quick action was essential with the construction season already underway. This year, we'll again be advocating for the Legislature to supplement these programs through dedicated funding via the new state surtax. Last year, supplemental Chapter 90 aid via the surtax provided an additional \$100 million for the 30,000 miles of municipal roads, which went to great use in communities all across the commonwealth."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PROPOSES \$57.9 BILLION FISCAL 2025 STATE BUDGET – The House fired the second shot in the long battle over the state budget for fiscal year 2025 that begins on July 1. Gov. Maura Healey fired the opening volley in January when she filed her version of the spending package. The House Ways and Means Committee last week unveiled its own \$57.9 billion version. It increases spending by \$1.9 billion, or 3.3 percent, over the current fiscal year 2024 budget. Debate on the House version is scheduled to begin soon.

After the full House approves a version of the package, the Senate will follow suit with its own draft, and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and sent to the governor.

TRAFFIC STOPS FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM – The state announced the implementation of the "Blue Envelope Program," designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. The voluntary program provides individuals on the autism spectrum with specially designed blue envelopes to carry their driver's licenses; vehicle registration; and a contact card which informs police officers about their diagnosis and other essential communication guidelines to ensure more effective and sensitive communication during the interaction.

In addition, information printed on the envelope's exterior identifies the operator as a person with autism spectrum disorder, provides instructions for a police officer on how to enhance communication with the driver; and how to reduce anxiety and stress the driver may be experiencing as a result of being stopped or involved in an incident. The envelope also lists guidelines for the driver, including what to expect during a traffic stop, and how to present the Blue

Envelope to the officer.

"In honor of Autism Acceptance Month, the Blue Envelope Program reflects our deep commitment to supporting programs that strengthen inclusivity and support law enforcement's ability to more effectively meet the needs of every community member," said Gov. Maura Healey. "We're grateful for the collaboration of our partners who brought this important public safety program to fruition."

"This new program provides an essential tool to enhance communication between police officers and drivers with autism while helping officers to recognize possible behaviors and more effectively engage individuals during traffic stops, motor vehicle accidents or mechanical breakdowns," said Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy.

More information about the Blue Envelope Program, including how to request an envelope online and how to prepare, carry and display them, is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/blue-envelope-program?auHash=2Z5Rbw9xlO3joxF-Qc3ODJ-OxVtUP5onqW4OPtjHjU#getting-your-blue-envelope->.

Blue envelopes are available at all Massachusetts State Police Barracks. And will soon be available at local police departments.

MUST NOTIFY OWNER OF GAS OR ELECTRIC SHUTOFFS (H 1370) – The House gave initial approval to legislation that would require gas and electric companies to contact landlords within 14 days of a tenant's bill becoming past due.

Supporters said the bill would allow for third party notifications as an extra measure of protection against having their gas or electric service shut off. Utility companies would be required to contact landlords within 14 days of a tenant's bill becoming past due. And if a tenant is out of town or overlooks the notice, the landlord will be notified and can give rectify the situation to protect their property from any damage due to a cessation of service.

"The purpose of this bill is to notify homeowners, particularly landlords, about a potential shut-off," said sponsor Rep. Jeff Roy (D-Franklin). "Currently, only the customer of record is given notice, which makes a landlord vulnerable to cessation of services which may harm their real property."

LOWER INTEREST RATE ON PROPERTY TAXES DEFERRED BY SENIORS (H 2919) – The House gave initial approval to a bill which would lower the current flat 16 percent interest rate on property taxes that are deferred under the Senior Citizen *Continued on page 15*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy Earth Day, Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



It began after a bad oil spill that took place in 1969 off the coast of California. A year later, the first annual Earth Day was celebrated to demonstrate universal support for environmental protection and responsible stewardship of the planet and its inhabitants.

Since then, public and official awareness of the negative impacts of human activity – such as air and water pollution – have

been raised to a level where concrete action is being demanded to mitigate those effects and heal the ills that have been inflicted on our world.

On this anniversary of the annual celebration taking place this Saturday, April 22, Groundwork Somerville, 138 South St., Somerville, will host a farm workday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., along with a community-wide celebration from 12:00

to 2:00 p.m. filled with hands-on educational activities, games, music, and more.

The occasion may represent an opportunity to reflect on how fragile our biological and environmental systems truly are, and the need for proper care and implementation of procedures that will ensure the optimal health of both the large and small on the only home we have, our precious planet Earth.

Similarly, the many factors affecting our environmental health demand that immediate and meaningful measures must be taken as soon as possible.

Cooperation between nations, corporations, informed experts and the common inhabitants of this world is clearly the best hope for saving us all.

May all of us gather together in the common cause of doing just that.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

former alderman and great guy, **Jack Connolly**. We hope he has a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Jesse Moos**, we hope he has a great 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 wish her a great day. Happy birthday to **Jim Cook**, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Bob DiGuardia**, who is also celebrating this week. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such **Karen Muti Standel**, **Jaqueline Meneguel**, **Missy JT**, **Olga Solomita**, **Joanne Veneziano Finnegan**, **Carol Duffy**, **Jackie Coviello**,

Patricia Ferrelli, **Lee Erica Byron Palmer**, **Rachel Strutt**, **Paul Stanford**, **Susanah Buzard**, **Jim Ospenson**, and **Celia Miller-Saltman**, 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.

Come out and meet other young artists at **Somerville Open Studios Kids and Teens Art Show**. Join in this **Thursday, April 18**, to create art for the upcoming exhibition. There will be art supplies available. Local artist and curator **Vicdan Şanlı** will be offering art instruction and

support. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., **Rooted Café at Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville. Stay afterward for bread and puppet theater. RSVP: <https://forms.gle/FMizDmSqu6ezwjD67>. Exhibition is **May 1 – 12**, open call for 2D work by artists under 18 living in Somerville, email: exhibits@artsatthearmory.org for drop off locations.

Join **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and the **City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment** for a series of free and family friendly events and interactive activities to celebrate **Sustaina Ville Week, April 20-27**, an annual celebration

of climate action in Somerville during the week of **Earth Day**. See the full schedule of events online at: www.somervillema.gov/sustainavilleweek.

Celebrate Somerville’s newly updated community climate action plan, **Climate Forward**. Step into Somerville in 2050, an inspiring community where our collective efforts have triumphed in creating a climate-forward society. Enjoy live music, refreshments, and interactive art installations that depict our shared vision of resilience in the face of climate change.

Wednesday, April 24, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Greentown Labs (444 *Continued on page 18*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#919

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who is credited with founding Earth Day? | brewing method? |
| 2. When was the first Earth Day celebrated? | 8. Which actor played the character of James Bond in the 1967 movie <i>Casino Royale</i> ? |
| 3. When is Record Store Day? | 9. Which planet is known as the "Blue Planet"? |
| 4. What is the tallest plant in the world? | 10. In the musical <i>The Lion King</i> , what type of animal is Rafiki? |
| 5. Which bestselling book warned of the effects of pesticides? | 11. What candy bar is named after a famous racehorse? |
| 6. Which literary work begins with the famous line, "April is the cruellest month"? | 12. What is the world record for the largest ice cream cone ever made? |
| 7. Which country is known for inventing the pour-over coffee | |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A donkey's eyes are placed so it can see all four feet at all times.
2. The name Wendy was made up for the book *Peter Pan*.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD GRADUATION

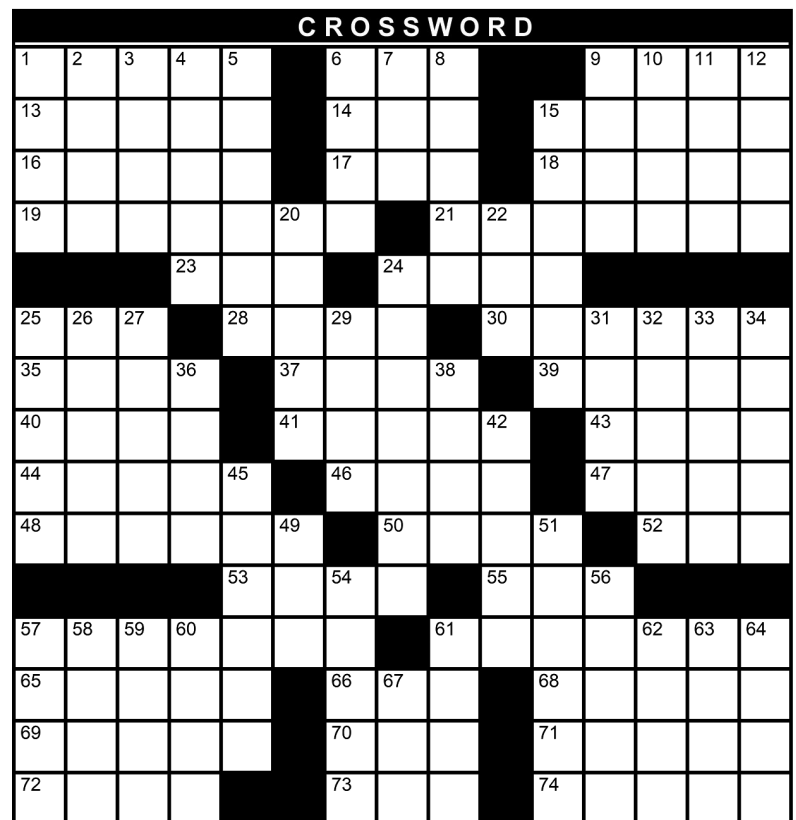
ACROSS

1. Accumulate
6. Popular pickup
9. Johnny Depp's 2001 biopic
13. Jousting pole
14. Mozart's "L____ del Cairo"
15. Figure of speech
16. Oak nut
17. Be off base
18. Less typical
19. Graduating class
21. S in BS
23. Graduating NCAA player's goal?
24. FedEx, verb
25. "I Want My ____," television channel
28. Daytime drama
30. Online business
35. Fleur-de-lis
37. Dart
39. Planktonic tunicate
40. Not naughty
41. Break of day
43. Last row
44. Verdi's opus
46. Lion's do
47. D.E.A. agent
48. Sell again
50. Penny
52. To the ____ degree
53. Prep for certain potatoes
55. Metered ride
57. Final reward

61. Academic ____, a.k.a. Cap and Gown
65. Gibson garnish
66. Rocks, to a bartender
68. Angry
69. Lieu
70. Not solid or liquid
71. Post-it user
72. Of two minds
73. Bldg unit
74. Opposite of friend

DOWN

1. "Oh, woe!"
2. Riot spray
3. At another time, archaic
4. Substitute for tender



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



5. Misters in Spain
6. Fish eggs, pl.
7. Acronym, abbr.
8. Wet land
9. Highlands hillside
10. Forsaken
11. Oil org.
12. "The Way We ____"
15. Finals at Cambridge University
20. Building toppers
22. El ____, Spain's national hero
24. Popeye's fuel
25. Major's partner
26. Beef ____, dim sum choice
27. Moral weaknesses
29. Grad
31. Mountain lake
32. As a whistle?
33. 1960s abstractionism
34. "Pomp and Circumstance," e.g.
36. Dried up
38. Adjust the pitch, with "up"
42. Previous VP
45. Marcona nut
49. Skedaddle
51. Moroccan spiced stew
54. Eurasian antelope
56. Sacha Cohen's middle name
57. Olden days "do," second person singular
58. Sean Penn's movie "____ the Wild"
59. Embarkation location
60. Student aid
61. Catch one's breath
62. Not on time
63. One on a list
64. Bald eagle's nest
67. Graduation garb topper

Solution in the next edition of *The Somerville Times*.

New firefighters and promotion

Six new Firefighters were appointed to the Somerville Fire Department at the April 11th City Council Meeting. The new Firefighters are: Derek Doane, Jack Haigis, John Tivinis, Nicholas Cantone, William Deeks and Sergio Rodriguez. In addition, District Chief Kenneth Silva was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief. — Photos courtesy of Somerville FD



L to R: Assistant Chief Sean Tierney, John Tivinis, Sergio Rodriguez, Nicholas Cantone, Derek Doane, William Deeks, Jack Haigis and Chief Charles Breen.



Newly promoted Deputy Chief Kenneth Silva has his badge pinned on by his son, John.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #302

(This article was first published in the April 19, 2021, edition of The Somerville Times)

One If By Land, Two If By Sea

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Somerville statesman Edward Everett first brought Paul Revere's ride to light in his 1825 speech at Concord. Thirty-five years later, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow solidified Revere's fame with his legendary 1860 poem, *Paul Revere's Ride*.



Longfellow wrote it with the hope of avoiding the bloodshed of a civil war. It inspired the whole nation but didn't prevent hostilities. A decade later, North Chelsea, Massachusetts, changed its name to Revere in honor of the patriot hero. The town named one of its schools and one of its main streets that runs to the ocean after him. Revere Beach is the first public beach in America.



Although Somerville never claimed Revere as its name, she can vaunt an historic trail of connections with the famous "Midnight Rider."

+ An old memorial and a brand new statue in front of the Somerville Holiday Inn on Washington Street pay homage to Paul Revere. On the eve of April 19, 1775, he came dangerously close to being captured here by British Cavalry.

+ The summit of Winter Hill was once the location of a revolutionary fort, and today is the site of Paul Revere Park, *Continued on page 13*

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ADVERTISEMENT

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

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

The work is estimated to cost \$ **299,942.00**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the category of Electrical.

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

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

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

SUBTRADES: Section 23.00.00 HVAC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Diane Cohan, Executive Director
April 10, 2024

4/10/24, 4/17/24 The Somerville Times



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

**THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_mB0G6A3qSRK_w6f5Q3GPsg
Webinar ID: 853 2506 6413

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)****HP24-000001 – 382 Broadway**

Applicant: Garrett Einis

Owner: 382 Broadway LLC

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

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>.

Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Note: Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov NO LATER THAN NOON one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND
CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 24-65**

64The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, is Requesting Proposals for:

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MONITORING SERVICES

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 PM, Tuesday, May 7th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro at scastro@somervillema.gov for more information.

Sonia Castro
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

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

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

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND
CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 24-64**

64The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, is Requesting Proposals for:

SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM MONITORING SERVICES

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 PM, Tuesday, May 7th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro at scastro@somervillema.gov for more information.

Sonia Castro
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

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LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 05/05/2024

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

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

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

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER M.G.L.c.183A:6

By virtue of Judgment and Order of the Somerville District Court (Docket No. 2310CV000329), in favor of TRUSTEES OF THE CUMBERLAND CONDOMINIUM TRUST against ESTATE OF PATRICIA RICARDO, ET. AL. establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L.c.183A:6 on the real estate known as UNIT #40-EIGHT, 40 HIGHLAND AVENUE, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS of THE CUMBERLAND CONDOMINIUM for the purposes of satisfying such lien, the real estate is scheduled for Public Auction at 11:00 O'CLOCK AM ON THE 6th DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2024, AT UNIT 40-EIGHT, 40 HIGHLAND AVENUE, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS. The premises to be sold are more particularly described as follows:

Unit No. 40-Eight of The Cumberland Condominium created by Master Deed dated July 29, 2005 and recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45862, Page 115, and The Cumberland Condominium Trust dated July 29, 2005 recorded with said Deeds in Book 45862, Page 128.

The Post Office Address of the Condominium is: 40 Highland Avenue, Unit Eight, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.

The unit conveyed is laid out as shown on a plan recorded herewith, which plan is a copy of a portion of the plans recorded with said Master Deed and to which is affixed a verified statement in the form provided in G.L. c. 183A, §9. It is subject to and with the benefit of the obligations, restrictions, rights and liabilities contained in G.L. c. 183A, the Master Deed and the By-Laws recorded therewith.

The Condominium and each of the units is intended for residential purposes and other uses permitted by the applicable Zoning Ordinances and as set forth in the Master Deed.

The undivided percentage interest of the unit conveyed hereunder in the common areas and facilities is 4.31%.

For Grantor's title see deed to PATRICIA RICARDO AND WILLIAM RICARDO dated February 6, 2007 and recorded with the Middlesex County Southern District Registry of Deeds in Book 49457, Page 579.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

- TERMS OF SALE:
1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or bank check in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the unit shall be payable at the Auction.
 2. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction.
 3. An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
 4. Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies, and occupants, if any.
 5. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and outstanding.
 6. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction.
 7. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record.
 8. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold "as is".
 9. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale.
 10. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller's counsel, Attorney Dean T. Lennon, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, PC, 45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107, Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000.

THE CUMBERLAND CONDOMINIUM TRUST,
For the Trustees,
By its Attorneys
MARCUS, ERRICO, EMMER
& BROOKS, PC

Dean T. Lennon, Esq.
BBO#668031
45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107
Braintree, MA 02184
(781) 843-5000

Dated: _____

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE 5-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The City of Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development is preparing its 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan as mandated by the federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This plan guides how the City will spend federal CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds over the next five years. **Additionally, the city will be amending the current Citizen Participation plan to include the authorization to seek Section 108 funding and related opportunities for public comment and procedures. The City seeks feedback on the draft plan and related Citizen Participation plan amendment, which will be available at <https://www.somervillema.gov/content/5-year-consolidated-plan-2024-2028> starting April 22, 2024.**

- The City will hold a virtual public hearing on May 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM to present the draft plan and receive comments. Members of the public may attend this hearing through the following link: <http://bit.ly/4aegnKT>
- Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Adrienne Pomeroy, at APomeroy@somervillema.gov.
- Interpretation into other languages may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311 at 617-666-3311.
- Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the draft Consolidated Plan to Miranda Rubin (mrubin@somervillema.gov) at the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (City Hall, 3rd Floor). All comments received by May 24, 2024, will be incorporated in the final Plan.

4/17/24 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS KATJANA BALLANTYNE MAYOR

The **Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee** and the **Somerville Planning Board** will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, May 2, 2024** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1kH234wXRvuVbddXmFQ9Sg

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

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Article 2, Article 3, Article 4, Article 5, Article 8, and Article 10 of the Zoning Ordinances to remove conflicts with the State Building Code.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's [online meeting calendar](#) for the address or item number.

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 24-66

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

Sewer Systems Repair and Maintenance

A request for bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**. Sealed Bids will be received at the above office until: **12:00 PM, Tuesday, May 7th, 2024**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Sonia Castro at scastro@somervillema.gov for more information.

Sonia Castro
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

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Afterschool Opportunities through local organizations

There are many high-quality, fee-based afterschool programs in Somerville through external organizations.

Learn about these programs on the Somerville Hub Connect website, run by the City of Somerville's SomerPromise department: <https://connect.somervillehub.org/>

Upcoming art show: 'Kaleidoscope Queer Visions'

CONT. FROM PG 1

space to catalyze it into something new.

Kaleidoscope extends an invitation to the members of the queer, creative community to set their imaginations free and imagine what they wish might have been, and in turn, create what might be.

The target audience for this is anyone who identifies with the queer and LGBTQIA+ community, across generations and cultures, with a focus on highlighting the experiences of QTBIPOC people. All allies are welcome + encouraged to dream as well.

The gallery will be open from Monday, May 6, through Saturday, May 11, 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. each day. A lot of amazing programming is planned for that week. All events are free and open to the public.

Two Somerville breweries earn recognition as green beverage producers

Somerville breweries Portico Brewing and Remnant Brewing have been recognized as "green beverage producers" by the recently launched BetterBev Recognition program. The distinctions are being awarded by the UMass Boston Green Brewery Project as part of a coalition of New England states receiving support from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pollution Prevention (P2) Grants. Just 50 or so of the region's more than 600 breweries have earned recognition so far.

Portico Brewing believes business should be a force for good, especially when it comes to the environment. The community-focused brewery's Environmental Handprint initiatives range from adopting dozens of newly planted neighborhood trees to working toward official bike-friendly business certification to raising money and awareness for its local watershed associations. In honor of Earth Month, Portico recently released Earth Hour Hazy Pale Ale, an environmentally conscious beer featuring 100% local ingredients that was thoughtfully brewed with a significantly lower carbon footprint than most other beers.

Remnant Brewing has undertaken a number of environmentally focused efforts as well, highlighted in its Malt Memoirs blog. In addition to recently brewing its own 100% local ingredient beer, an earthy Table Saison called Petite Pepite, its all-electric brewhouse produces significantly fewer Scope 1 emissions (those created on-site from fuel combustion, for example) than most breweries. The brewing staff has also decreased its use of caustic and acid cleaners and sanitizers through highly efficient SOPs, and its canned beer is packaged with rescued and reused can carriers as a result of the taproom's highly successful consumer take-back program.

BetterBev was created to help beverage producers fully understand their environmental practices, principles, and impact, with the goal of reducing production inefficiencies, improving health and safety, and conserving natural resources. Recognition



is earned after a beverage producer's state oversight organization works with them to perform an audit and assessment of their environmental practices and impact. The process covers criteria ranging from water use to energy efficiency and conservation to waste reduction and even environmental culture.

Together, through operational efficiencies and environmentally conscious decision making, the two Somerville breweries have decreased their hazardous chemical use by some 75 pounds and lowered their emissions by more than 30 Metric Tons of CO₂e annually. The former helps to lessen the load on Metro Boston's wastewater treatment facility while the latter equates to the amount of carbon sequestered by 35 acres of U.S. forests in one year.

For a list of the oversight organizations responsible for managing the BetterBev program in each of the

New England states visit the BetterBev website: <https://betterbev.org/>

About Portico Brewing

Portico Brewing is inspired by architecture and design of all kinds, and its approachable beers are made for everyone to enjoy. Its focus is to rethink traditional styles and create beers with classic ingredients and careful technique. Formerly a contract brand, Portico debuted its own brewery and community focused taproom near the Somerville-Cambridge line in Massachusetts in spring of 2023.

About Remnant Brewing

Inspired by the history of Somerville's Union Square, as well the history of the craft beer industry, Remnant Brewing builds on precedent by creating a variety of unique and flavorful offerings to share with its guests. Their inclusive space in Bow Market strives for both excellent product, beer and coffee, as well as excellent service.

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.

That Ratio



By Chris Dwan

Budget season in Somerville is starting off with a cool tone that approaches austerity. The School Committee has been told to expect a budget that will fail to cover mandatory increases like seniority-based pay raises. The City Council heard last Thursday that any new initiatives will need to fit in less than \$15M.

This is a bit jarring, given that we are sitting on unprecedented amounts of cash. Our various stabilization funds, the accounts we use to carry money forward from year to year, hold more than \$100M – a sixfold increase over the \$15M we had in the bank just 10 years ago. We also seem likely to end the year with record levels of free cash, money received in excess of expenses within a fiscal year. Last year’s free cash was \$32M, down from the \$38M we had at the end of 2022, but more than threefold the \$10M we averaged in 2011–2017.

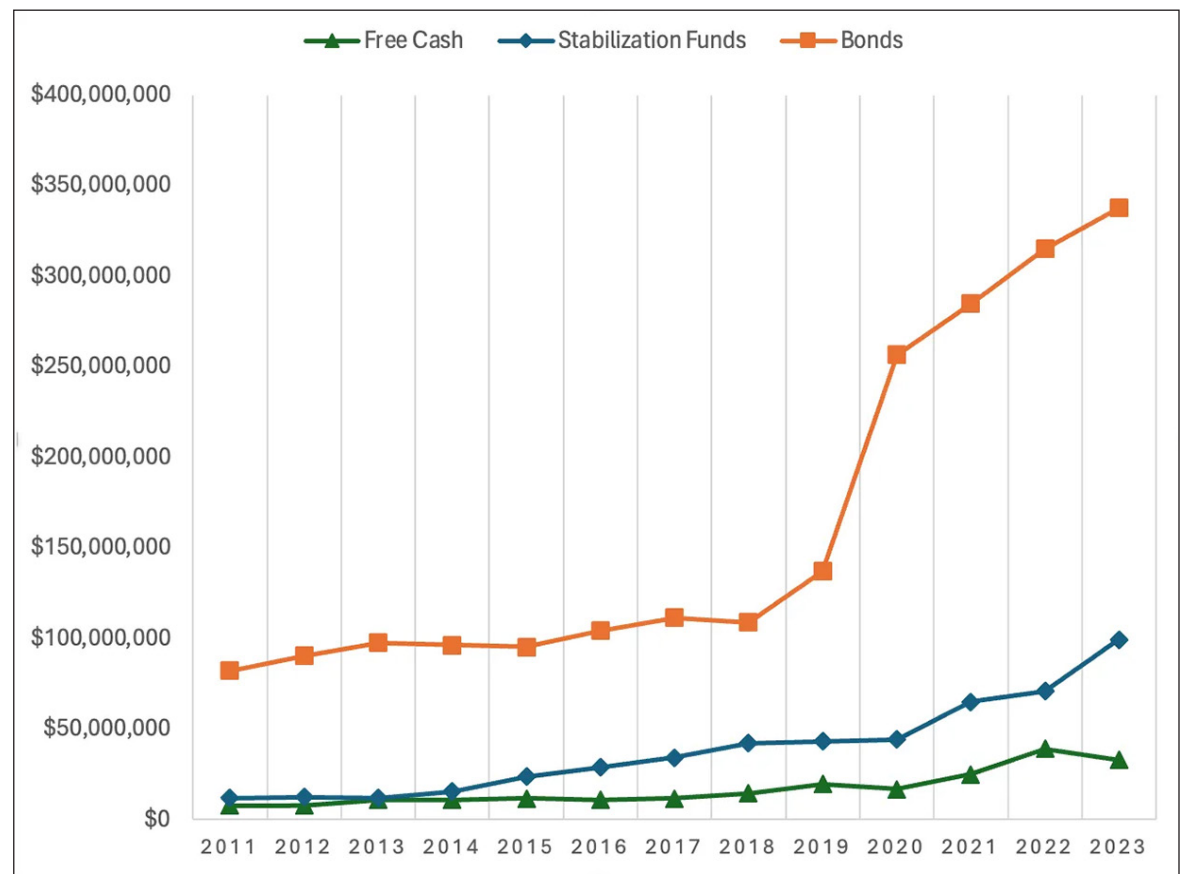
The city has been awash in cash for the last decade, both in absolute terms and also year over year, but we seem stuck with deferred maintenance and general belt-tightening while money piles up unused. I took a dive into the

last ten years of Comprehensive Financial Reports [1] (on the Finance Department’s website [2]) to try to understand why.

One thing that’s going on is that we’ve incurred a huge amount of debt over the last decade. Somerville’s municipal bond obligations rose from \$96M to \$337M from 2014 to 2023. A bit over half of that increase was attributable to the high school. We need a correspondingly huge amount of cash on hand to maintain the “debt ratio,” that drives our credit rating. Mayors Curtatone and Ballantyne have squirreled money into stabilization funds just as fast as they possibly could in a (successful) effort to maintain the city’s ability to borrow money on the very best terms.

This is in no way bad or nefarious. In fact, it was probably the best move available to either administration. It is, however, frustrating to see desperately needed infrastructure work, pay increases for staff, and hiring pushed back years at a time when we have a hundred million dollars in the bank.

Proposition 2.5 [3] is another constraint on the city’s finances. This is a statewide rule that caps the amount that cities in Massachusetts can increase their total property tax levy to 2.5% per year, excluding new construction. With real property values in Somerville growing far faster than that year over year, Proposition 2.5 has created a huge and growing gap between real and assessed property values.



Somerville’s debt has grown by a quarter of a billion dollars in the last ten years.

Owners who think of property primarily in terms of investment, rather than as a place to live or to run a business, can leverage the gap between taxable and market price to accumulate value tax-free. This “land banking” is one of the reasons that we have so many vacant properties throughout the city despite a run-up in demand that seems like it should have encouraged owners to sell and investors to develop.

I am not aware of any simple solution to these challenges, at least in the short term. We have a lot of debt, so we need to either hoard cash to protect our credit rating or empty the coffers to pay

it down ahead of schedule. Proposition 2.5 constrains our operating budget, and land banking discourages the new construction that would let us get around it. We will likely need to incur still more debt in coming years to repair our crumbling schools, roads, and other infrastructure, all while cutting operating funds and pushing back on pay increases for staff to support the debt ratio. Creative ideas like best-use taxation, fines and fees on vacant properties, and so on always look great on paper but seem to get bogged down in implementation.

Understanding the root causes

of a problem is usually an important first step in solving it. That’s why I thought it would be good to take a moment to, as we say on social media, admire the ratio [4]. Links:

- [1] <https://s3.amazonaws.com/somervillema-live/s3fs-public/annual-comprehensive-finance-report.pdf>
- [2] <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance>
- [3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1980_Massachusetts_Proposition_2%C2%BD
- [4] <https://www.howtogeek.com/721651/what-does-ratio-mean-on-social-media/>

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

which is the smallest federal park in the nation. Three apartment buildings historically circle the area, notably named The Concord, The Lexington and The Paul Revere. In 1910, President William Howard Taft visited and honored the location.

his dear friend, Doctor and General Joseph Warren, martyr of Bunker Hill. After the battle, Warren’s body was identified by Revere who had performed dental work on him. Revere’s next born son was named after Warren, and Somerville was almost named after him.

✦ The first Prospect Hill flag raising took place on Revere’s 40th birthday, January 1, 1776. After the American victory at Saratoga, 4,000 British and Hessian prisoners were brought to Prospect Hill and Winter Hill under guard of Colonel Revere.

✦ One of Revere’s grandsons,

Edward Revere Curtis, made Somerville his home. He was born on George Washington’s birthday, February 22, when Boston became a city. He was a popular businessman and alderman. Curtis Street in Teele Square was named after him. Out of the 776 buildings that were lost in the

Great Boston Fire of 1872, his was the last.

✦ On the eve of April 19, 1775, on a daring ride through Somerville and beyond, Revere triggered American history. That night he rode a steed with no name, but we will never forget its rider and his name ... Paul Revere!

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson | 7. Germany, by Melitta Bentz |
| 2. April 22, 1970 | 8. David Niven |
| 3. April 20 | 9. Neptune |
| 4. Coast redwood (<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>) | 10. Baboon |
| 5. Rachel Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> | 11. Snickers |
| 6. <i>The Waste Land</i> by T. S. Eliot | 12. 10 feet 1.26 inches, achieved by Hennig-Olsen Is AS and Trond L Wøien |

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.

Davis Sq. merchants get double dose of distressing news



By Jack Connolly
Jackconnolly422@gmail.com

Somerville City officials attended a meeting called for by Davis Sq. merchants last week to discuss the unhoused people, addicts frequenting Davis Sq. on a daily basis, and their open drug use and drug dealing happening in area parks, including the plaza next to 7/11. Much mention was made about disturbances apparently arising from patrons of the Brightview clinic on Highland Avenue, acting up throughout Davis Sq. Before and after visits to the Brightview office.

In addition, some merchants mentioned issues with people overdosing, or being generally incapacitated in front of, or in bathrooms of Davis Sq. businesses, causing extra distress for already busy staff.

West Somerville born Somerville Police Capt. Jim Donovan and Somerville Police community outreach worker Patty Contente we're very sympathetic to the concerns of Davis Sq merchants; Donovan though very understanding, couldn't offer any additional police presence in Davis Sq, but could only increase daily patrols. He said budget cuts and fewer sworn police officers on the force were the primary reasons for not adding a Davis area patrol.

Ms. Contente offered to engage with the Somerville Homeless Coalition and Bright View staff regarding client behavior in and around Davis Sq. Somerville Police, Somerville Homeless Coalition, and the BrightView ad-

diction treatment office on Highland Ave., all have to coordinate with other local non-profits, especially those dealing with mental health issues, to get a handle on this growing problem.

Not exactly the news that the Davis Sq. merchants wanted to hear; To their credit, at least City staff and City police officials were there and we're both empathetic and sympathetic.

What was most upsetting to Davis Sq. merchants was what WASN'T said at the meeting: The pilot plan to remove more metered parking in Davis Sq.

Thanks to a vigilant Davis Sq. merchant who noticed the City's online Traffic Commission agenda for Thursday, April 11, (a few days after the April 8 meeting; The info was shared with fellow Davis Sq merchants) that was to introduce a 12-month pilot program for Elm Street in the heart of Davis Sq. that would remove much of the existing metered parking spaces on Elm St. in the

heart of Davis Sq. for new loading zones.

Why is it that the Davis Sq. merchants and Davis Sq. neighbors living nearby were not involved in this planning process?

Shop owners immediately emailed Ward Six Councilor Lance Davis, and requested that this agenda item for Elm Street be tabled since the Davis Sq. merchants and the neighborhood have not been involved in any of that planning.

It's clear that the Somerville bureaucrats in the planning department, mobility department, and traffic department somehow failed to mention this Elm St. pilot project several weeks earlier when well over 80 individuals crowded into the Somerville West branch library to hear about the so-called Davis Sq. plan.

If we're not for the vigilance of a Davis Sq. merchant, the Traffic Commission could have voted to implement this pilot plan with

virtually no public hearings or public meetings with Davis Sq. merchants and nearby neighbors.

Why?

Because technically they don't have to; Public hearings are not required to be held under Somerville Traffic Commission rules.

Davis Sq merchants' and the neighborhood residents have been shortchanged; Two city meetings in the last few months without mentioning this plan, borders on the bounds of neglect for community input and a total disregard for public process; Davis Sq. neighbors and businesses deserve better.

Let's hope the Mayor and the City Council take a good look at what isn't happening in Davis Sq. Someone needs to.

Jack Connolly is a native Somerville, a Davis Sq. resident and insurance agent. He is also a former Somerville Ward Six and At Large Alderman (known now as City Councilor).

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

Property Tax Deferral Program, which defers payment until the senior sells the property or passes away. The bill would lower the rate to the prime rate plus 2 percent. The current prime rate is 8.5 percent which would result in a 10.5 percent interest rate.

"This legislation establishes more reasonable interest rates on the property taxes deferred under the senior citizen property tax deferral program, enabling more senior citizens to take advantage of the program and freeing up money for important items such as medication, housing expenses and health care," said sponsor Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley).

OFFICIAL STATE JAZZ SONG (H 3105) – The House gave initial approval to a measure that would make the song "Massachusetts" the state's official jazz song.

Sponsor Rep. Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield) did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* to

comment on his bill and its passage.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"We are grateful for the many Department of Mental Health (DMH) providers who provide compassionate care for individuals experiencing serious and persistent mental illness each day. The MA Repay program is a way to show our gratitude and commitment to the work that people are doing day after day." — *Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh on the state awarding \$10 million in student loan repayment to 221 DMH direct care staff and clinicians across the state.*

"Supporting our performing arts centers is a strategic investment in the vitality of our communities. These organizations serve as hubs of creativity, offering transformative experiences that entertain, educate and inspire audiences of all ages. By supporting these institutions, we not only preserve our cultural heritage but also foster innovation,

economic growth and social cohesion, ensuring a vibrant and enriching future for generations to come." — *Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director, of the Mass Cultural Council announcing \$3.6 million being awarded to 58 performing arts centers across the Bay State.*

"Massachusetts has the best sports fans in the country. We are dedicated and determined. Especially Red Sox fans like those who continuously added their rallying call to end the curse to this sign. I'm excited to be joining the 2004 championship team, who broke the 86-year-curse for their fans, as we celebrate that history-making win and reunite them with this symbol of their fans who never gave up." — *Gov. Maura Healey, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Red Sox winning the 2004 World Series, showing off the famous "Reverse the Curse" road sign. It was originally a road sign that hung off the Longfellow Bridge on Storrow Drive warning drivers of a curve in the road ahead, but was famously repeatedly spray-painted by Red Sox fans to say "Reverse the Curse," in reference to the* *Continued on page 19*

Annual Patriot's Day Colonial Fair

On Monday, April 15, the City of Somerville celebrated Patriots' Day outdoors and in person at Foss. The celebration featured a reenactment of Paul Revere's famous ride from Boston to Lexington, which happened to pass right through Somerville! Attendees enjoyed period-appropriate refreshments and colonial games.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Somerville Ave). Registration recommended but not required: <https://greentownlabs.com/>

Municipal Scholarships are available for **high school seniors**. Five \$1,000 municipal scholarships are available for high school seniors graduating in 2024 through the **City of Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee**. Applicants must be residents of Somerville who have been accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution. To apply, students are asked to complete a profile and answer three short essay questions by **May 1**. Learn more at somervillema.gov/scholarship.

Enjoy, Meet Our Poets: Somerville Poets Reading Their Own Poems and Poems They Love, a free event on **April 28**. The poets include Jennifer Badot, Simeon Berry, David Blair, Zack Bond, Elizabeth Callahan, Parama Chattopadhyay, Jennifer Clarvoe, Linda Conte, Linda Haviland Conte, Donna Donna, Gary Duehr, Kirk Etherton, Michael Franco, Bridget Seley Galway, Seth Garcia, Doug Holder, Katherine Hollander, Lucy Holstedt, Gloria Mindock, Tam Lin Neville, Pat Peterson, Denise Provost, Andrea Read, Hilary Sallick, Lloyd Schwartz, Michael Steffen, Janaka Stucky, Patrick Sylvain, Gilmore Tamny, Christie Towers, Anna Warrock, and Dan Wuenschel. This free event, organized by **Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz** and the **Somerville Arts Council**, will take place at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Avenue, 1C, on **Sunday, April 28**, at 5:30 pm. This event is free and open to the public. <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/poetry2024>.

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

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

formation: <https://artsatthearmory.org>.

Somerville's Memorial Day parade will return this year on **Sunday, May 26**. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. from the **Davis Square Rotary** (9/11 Memorial Granite Circle Site), and end at **Broadway and North Street**. The city's annual remembrance ceremony will occur on **Monday, May 27**. Sign up to volunteer or participate and march along with local Veterans and first responders by contacting **Somerville VETS** at 617-625-6600 ext. 4700. Parade participants should register by **April 26**. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/memorialday.

Upcoming events at **Somernova** this week. **Wednesdays and Thursdays** from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., The Dojo at Somernova (15 Properzi Way, Somerville) hosts **Youth Hours**. This is a safe space to find community, work on some homework, spend time with friends, do an arts and crafts project, play video games, participate in city programming, and have a snack. Welcome to all Somerville youth. Upcoming Youth Hours **April 17 and April 18**. In partnership with **Riverside Community Care**, will offer health and wellness coaching and mindfulness activities on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Wellness Wednesdays** will include health and wellness coaching, peer mentoring, and self-care workshops. Upcoming Wellness Wednesdays: **April 17 and April 24**. **Parkour Generations Boston** is hosting a 3-day **ADAPT Instructor Course** at The Dojo over April break, free for Somerville teens. Students that attend this course can move onto becoming coaches over the summer and beyond. The course takes place April 17 to April 19 from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. each day. Located at 15 Properzi Way, Somerville.

The community is invited to **The Dojo** from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on **April 21** for a **Pop-up Shop**. The pop-up will feature local vendors as well as addition of games and performances. Located at 15 Properzi Way, Somerville.

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

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

Visit **CultureHouse Union Square**, 64 Union Square, Somerville, Wednesday – Sunday: 1:00 – 8:00 p.m. This week they will be hosting, **Improvised Music Performance, April 18**, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., **Japanese Paper Theater and Origami, April 19**, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., **Death Cafe, April 20**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., **LGBTQ+ Improv Comedy Community Meetup, April 21**, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Office Hours with Councilor Willie Burnley, Jr., April 21**, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Jill McCracken, full band/tiny room, April 21**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. For more information visit <https://culturehouse.cc/>.

Join a family oriented **Spanish immersion** for those who practice the language or for those who want to learn. The program includes bilingual storytelling, music and dance, dynamic games, and arts and crafts. In celebration of Mexican-American culture, hear **The Real Cinco de Mayo Story**. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/2spjprsy>. Questions? Contact **Keri** at kbradeen@somervillema.gov. **Central Library, April 28**. Ages 5 and up.

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

April is **National Fair Housing Month**. In recognition, the **Somerville Public Library (MA)** and **Somerville Fair Housing Commission** are co-hosting two events. First was a virtual and in-person discussion on **Tuesday, April 16**, then on **Saturday, April 27**, join a film screening of **Segregated by Design**, and discussion of **Richard Rothstein's** book, **The Color of Law**. For more information, contact **Kerry O'Donnell** at keodonnell@somervillema.gov, or **Hanalei Steinhart**

at hsteinhart@somervillema.gov. Registration is required. Learn more at somervillepubliclibrary.org/calendar.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and city staff invite you to join a virtual community meeting to learn about **flood relief and water quality improvement efforts** planned for Winter Hill, Ten Hills, and the surrounding neighborhood. The meeting will take place **Wednesday, April 24**, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Visit the project website at somervillema.gov/mysticoutfall to learn more and attend the meeting. For those unable to attend, a recording of the presentation will be available on the project website, as well as on **City YouTube** and the **City's Gov-TV channels**. At this meeting, city staff will introduce the project and share initial conceptual designs. Following the presentation, residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and provide feedback.

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

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

The COA is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, *Continued on page 19*

City hosts Broadway reconstruction open house

By Joei Chan

On April 13, the City of Somerville Office of Mobility, Ward 7 Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne hosted an open house for the entire Somerville community to discuss designs for Broadway between Clarendon Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway.

This open house is part of a series of events that hopefully can help the community get updated on the reconstruction of the sidewalks to make it safe for all people on the streets in Somerville, whether they are walking or wheeling, biking, taking the bus, or even driving. All of this is part of the city's Pavement and Sidewalk Man-

agement Program.

Some things that were discussed during the meeting included the Somerville Bicycle Network Plan, and the anticipated project timeline of when it should be completed. For now, the final design should be done within late 2024 to early 2025.

With virtual community meetings, a public input map, street outreach and community events, safety feedback and proposed design services, as well as direct engagement alongside communications on social media, the City of Somerville hopes to help make the streets safer.

Visit <https://voice.somervillema.gov/west-broadway-reconstruction> to learn more about the project.



The City of Somerville is hosting events such as last week's open house to keep the public informed about ongoing reconstruction projects currently underway.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

alleged curse that plagued the team after the sale of Babe Ruth and prevented them from winning the World Series from 1918 until 2003.

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 8-12, the House met for a total of one hour and ten minutes and the Senate met for a total of two hours and 31 minutes.

Mon. April 8 House 11:04 a.m. to 11:22 a.m.
Senate 11:07 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.

Tues. April 9 No House session
No Senate session
Wed. April 10 House 11:46 a.m. to 12:07 p.m.
Senate 11:16 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.
Thurs. April 11 House 11:02 a.m. to 11:33 a.m.
Senate 11:10 a.m. to 1:03 p.m.
Fri. April 12 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 18

please call **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding**.

April is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**. The **Somerville Police Department** is committed to supporting victims and survivors, and as a team, pledge to **Start By Believing**. Anyone with questions or a need for additional resources can reach out to the Advocate without the pressure to disclose. The Advocate can make advisements about what the process of reporting to law enforcement looks like, what local resources are available, and what rights are afforded to victims of crime in Massachusetts. **Mau-**

reen DiPaolo can be reached by email at mdipaolo@police.somerville.ma.us, by calling 617-625-1600 x7279, or by call or text at 857-270-8744.

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

Are you a member of **Somerville High School's class of 1974**? The **class of 2024** is looking for participants for this

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

Somerville Open Studios 2024, 25th Anniversary will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, May 4 – 5**, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. each day at artists' studios and homes throughout Somerville. Over 350 artists in 90 locations citywide will open their studios to the public. Map, artist, and trolley info at <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>. The **SOS First Look Show** at the **Somerville Museum**

opened on April 11 and will run **through May 11**. For more information, map, artist, trolley and other events visit <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>.

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

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.

OBITUARY

Martha MacLeish Fuller



Martha MacLeish Fuller, of Somerville, MA, and Prudence Island, RI, died on April 10, 2024, after an extended attempt to coexist with colon and pancreatic cancer.

She was the daughter of Kenneth MacLeish and Carolyn deChadenèdes. She leaves her beloved husband, Herbert Fuller; her sons, Drew Glazier and Levi Fuller (Meghan), and granddaughter, Rowan Loch Fuller. She also leaves her brother, A. Bruce MacLeish (Patricia), her sister, Ellen Zale, and her brother, Kenneth Ian MacLeish (Donna) and their children, as well as great-nieces and great-nephews.

After graduating from Radcliffe College, she spent most of her work-

ing life at Harvard University as a staff assistant to faculty members, which she found a good blend of interesting work with an ability to have a family life. She became involved in the Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, and after retiring from the University she worked for the union for several years as an organizer, inspired by the union's theme, "kindness and respect." She most enjoyed helping union members and supervisors to find that they had common ground, and could resolve their differences with mutual understanding.

Martha and Herb spent much of their time at their home on Prudence Island, a source of peace and renewal. Their friends there and on the mainland (in "America") have provided material and emotional support during her treatment for cancer. The physicians, nurses, and staff at Beth Israel Medical Center have been skilled, kind, and thoughtful, without exception.

She loved every day of her life, even the hardest ones, and was grateful for them all and for the beloved people who made them a joy.

A Graveside Service will be held for Martha at 10:45am on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Prudence Memorial Park, Prudence Island.

Additional information at www.memorialfuneralhome.com

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Magic mushrooms?...

— Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did the buffalo say to his son when he dropped him off at school? Bison.

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On This Day in History

April 17

- 1492 – Christopher Columbus signs a contract with Spain to find a western route to the Indies.
- 1524 – Present-day New York Harbor is discovered by Giovanni da Verrazzano.
- 1758 – Frances Williams, the first African-American to graduate from a college in the western hemisphere, publishes a collection of Latin poems.
- 1824 – Russia abandons all North American claims south of 54° 40'.
- 1929 – Baseball player Babe Ruth and Claire Hodgson, a former member of the Ziegfeld Follies, get married.
- 1947 – Jackie Robinson bunts for his first major league hit.
- 1961 – Some 1,400 Cuban exiles attack the Bay of Pigs in an attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro.
- 1969 – Sirhan Sirhan is convicted of assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy.
- 1970 – Apollo 13—originally scheduled to land on the moon—lands back safely on Earth after an accident.

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

7:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 8:40 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 9:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 10:00 AM City Council Meeting 4-11-24
 2:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 3:00 PM Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting
 3:45 PM Dilboy Field Ribbon Cutting
 4:00 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 4:30 PM School Committee Update
 5:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole
 7:03 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:30 PM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results
 8:40 PM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 10:00 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 10:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 11:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

12:30 AM School Committee Update
 1:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 6:30 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 7:05 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:30 AM Broadway Corridor Public Input Meeting
 8:15 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 9:00 AM Patriots Day 2024
 10:00 AM School Committee Update
 10:30 AM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 1:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 4-11-24
 6:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 6:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 8:00 PM Patriots Day 2024

8:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 9:30 PM School Committee Update
 10:00 PM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results
 11:06 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 11:30 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 11:40 PM SPD Ride Along

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

12:00 AM Patriots Day 2024
 12:30 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 2:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 8:00 AM Davis Sq. Commercial Area Meeting
 10:05 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 10:30 AM School Committee Update
 11:00 AM Broadway Corridor Public Meeting
 12:00 PM Patriots Day 2024
 12:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me
 2:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 3:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 3:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole
 5:32 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 6:00 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 6:30 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 9:30 PM School Committee Update
 10:00 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 11:10 PM Broadway Corridor Public Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 1:30 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results
 7:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 8:00 AM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 8:30 AM School Committee Update
 9:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 9:30 AM City Council Meeting 4-11-24
 1:30 PM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld

3:00 PM Davis Sq. Commercial Area Plan Meeting
 5:05 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 5:30 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 8:30 PM School Committee Update
 9:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 9:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 11:10 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 11:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 4-11-24
 7:00 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results
 8:06 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 9:00 AM Patriots Day 2024
 9:30 AM School Committee Update
 10:00 AM Broadway Corridor Public Meeting
 10:45 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 1:30 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 4:30 PM School Committee Update
 5:00 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 5:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 6:00 PM Museum of Bad Art Tour
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 8:00 PM Patriots Day 2024
 8:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 9:00 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 9:10 PM Finance Committee of the Whole
 11:15 PM SPD Ride Along
 11:30 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health

MONDAY, APRIL 22

12:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 12:30 AM Patriots Day 2024
 12:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 1:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 8:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 8:30 AM SomerViva em Português

9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 9:30 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 10:20 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 10:30 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results
 12:00 PM Patriots Day 2024
 12:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 2:30 PM School Committee Update
 3:00 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 7:00 PM School Committee Meeting – LIVE
 10:30 PM School Committee Update
 11:00 PM Patriots Day 2024

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

12:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 12:30 AM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 2:00 AM Spring Hill Walking Tour 2023
 7:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me
 8:30 AM School Committee Update
 9:00 AM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 9:30 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 10:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 10:30 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 11:45 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM City Council Meeting 4-11-24
 4:30 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 5:30 PM Patriots Day 2024
 6:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me
 7:30 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 8:00 PM School Committee Update
 8:30 PM School Committee Meeting 4-22-24
 11:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 1:30 AM Greek Independence Day Flag Raising
 2:00 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Results

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

12:30 AM El Sistema Spring Concert
 1:30 AM SHS Multicultural Fair
 8:00 AM School Committee Update
 9:00 AM SHS Multicultural Fair
 9:30 AM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington
 11:30 AM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 1:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 2:00 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 5:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 6:00 PM School Committee Update
 7:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 7:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington

9:30 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 11:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

12:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 1:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 11:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 12:00 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 1:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 3:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 3:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 4:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month
 5:00 PM El Sistema Spring Concert
 6:00 PM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 9:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 10:00 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 11:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

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

4:30 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 5:00 PM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 7:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month
 8:00 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 9:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 10:00 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 11:30 PM School Committee Update

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

12:00 AM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 2:00 AM SHS Multicultural Fair
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 11:00 AM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 12:30 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 1:00 PM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 3:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 3:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 5:00 PM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship
 6:00 PM Boys Intramural Futsal Championship
 7:30 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 9:00 PM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 11:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance

MONDAY, APRIL 22

12:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month
 1:00 AM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 8:00 AM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 9:00 AM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 10:30 AM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 12:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair

12:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 1:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month
 2:00 PM El Sistema Spring Concert
 3:00 PM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 5:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Arlington
 7:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Lynn English
 8:00 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 9:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 11:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 11:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

12:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month
 1:00 AM El Sistema Spring Concert
 2:00 AM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 4-1-24
 11:00 AM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 12:30 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 1:00 PM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 3:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 3:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 5:00 PM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship
 6:00 PM ESCS Music in Our School Month
 7:00 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 8:30 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 9:00 PM SHS Baseball vs L Classical
 11:00 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 11:30 PM SHS Staff vs Student Basketball Game
 1:00 AM Girls Intramural Futsal Championship
 2:00 AM ESCS Music in Our School Month

Somerville's Food For Free Walks to Fight Hunger

On May 5, Food For Free will be among over 3,500 participants to lace up for Project Bread's 56th annual Walk for Hunger. For the 6th consecutive year, the Somerville-based nonprofit will raise money to support statewide food security through the Commonwealth Program. The Commonwealth gives organizations addressing food insecurity 60% of all funds they raise to support their own hunger relief programs, with the remaining 40% applied to Project Bread's statewide food security effort. To date, Project Bread has awarded \$27,834 to Food For Free.

Beginning in 1969, as the first pledge walk in the nation, Project Bread's Walk for Hunger brings together a diverse community dedicated to creating change. The one-day event is set for Sunday, May 5 at 9 a.m. on the Boston Common and will feature family-friendly activities, programming, and games. Project Bread works year-round across policy initiatives, programs, and hunger prevention measures to ensure food access for all children and families across the Commonwealth.

"We have made incredible strides against hunger, from the passage of permanent free school meals in Massachusetts to increasing access to SNAP for immigrants facing food insecurity," says Erin McAleer, Project Bread's CEO. "But hunger is still a pervasive problem in our state, with 1 in 6 households and 1 in 5 households with children currently facing food insecurity. The work Food For Free does reflects what the Walk is all about - continuing to step up each year to make sure our neighbors in need can access and afford food. The Food For Free Walk team understands how we need to work together for statewide food security because our community is what makes us stronger."



Food For Free is the leading food rescue and distribution nonprofit dedicated to providing reliable access to fresh and nutritious food to eastern Massachusetts communities. The organization rescues food that would otherwise go to waste and creates new distribution channels to reach underserved populations in 25 communities across the region. Additional programs include School Markets, offering free produce and shelf-stable items to students and families, Just Eats, which provides fresh produce and pantry staples to food programs, Healthy Eats, serving Cambridge seniors and people with disabilities by bringing healthy food that meets dietary preferences right to their doorsteps, and Heat-n-Eats, which takes prepared food from corporate, university, and hospital dining services and turns it into balanced, single-serving meals that are distributed to people who lack access to kitchens. Funds raised from the Walk for Hunger will help Food For Free fund its general operating and program costs, which includes food purchases, packaging, facilities, transportation, volunteer support, and more.

"We love being part of such a collaborative effort to fight food insecurity in our community and throughout Massachusetts," says Eliza McDonough, Food For Free's Manager of Events and Special Initiatives. "The need remains high across the Commonwealth. As one of the nation's first food rescue programs, Food For Free now serves more than 150,000 Massachusetts residents who are food insecure and distributes 6.2 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually. Project Bread has been such an integral part of this shared mission, and we are honored to work alongside them to bring healthy and nutritious food to those in need."

Money raised through the Walk for Hunger is critical to Project Bread's statewide work for systemic change through the levers of policy, prevention, and partnerships to ensure people of all ages have reliable access to healthy food. Project Bread launched the joint-fundraising Commonwealth Program in 2019. In 2023, 34 nonprofits raised more than \$160,000 to support their own programs for statewide food security.

To register as a participant for Project Bread's Walk for Hunger, or to support a walker or team with a donation, visit projectbread.org/walk. Donate directly to Food For Free's Commonwealth team at give.projectbread.org/team/565094. There is no registration fee or fundraising minimum to participate, although a \$250 minimum goal is suggested. Participants who raise \$500 or more are recognized as Heart & Sole walkers and receive access to personalized fundraising support, exclusive event gear and invitations to events.

People experiencing food insecurity should call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline (1-800-645-8333), which provides confidential, free assistance getting connected to a variety of food resources in 180 languages and for the hearing impaired. Counselors can pre-screen families and help them to apply for SNAP. Learn more at www.projectbread.org/get-help.

About Project Bread

Project Bread is the leading statewide food security organization in Massachusetts. Beginning in 1969 with the first Walk for Hunger, the nonprofit focuses on driving systemic change to ensure people of all ages have reliable access to healthy food. Project Bread works collaboratively across sectors to create innovative solutions to end hunger and improve lives across the Commonwealth. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

About Food For Free

Food For Free is a Somerville-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing eastern Massachusetts with reliable access to fresh and nutritious food. Food For Free accomplishes its mission through food rescue, partnerships with schools, colleges, and community food programs, and our own direct service programs. In the last year, Food For Free distributed over 6.2 million pounds of nutritious food to over 25 communities throughout eastern Massachusetts. To learn more, visit us at www.foodforfree.org, or follow Food For Free on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @foodforfree.org.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Discipline' by Debra Spark

Discipline

By Debra Spark

Four Way Books, Tribeca

306 pages. \$19.95

Review by Off the Shelf correspondent Ed Meek

Debra Spark is the author of a number of novels and short story collections as well as a couple of anthologies. She teaches in the MFA Program at Warren Wilson College and at Colby College. Her novel *Discipline* is a mosaic of mysteries.

It begins with an art appraiser, Gracie, who is hired in 2018 to examine a collection of paintings owned by a collector, but when she arrives at the house in Maine where the art is stored, she finds that the work the artist is most famous for is missing, presumably stolen. Then the novel jumps back to 1978 and the point of view of an adolescent rebellious boy, Reggie, living with foster parents in a poor urban area. This occurs because Reggie has a history of "mouthing off" to authorities. When he insults the owners of a restaurant who refuse to serve him, they call the police and that leads to Reggie being called to the principal's office. From there, he is turned over to a man who takes him to a "therapeutic boarding school" in remote Maine where Reggie is to be rehabilitated.

The novel moves back and forth in time exploring various points of view including, in addition to Gracie and Reggie, the famous artist known for the missing painting, the daughter of the artist, the son of the daughter of the artist, a man who rides in a horse to rescue the daughter of the artist and the grown-up degenerate son of the daughter of the artist.

The novel is almost mathematical in the way all these stories are woven and brought together and the theme of discipline Spark focuses on is compelling. And who doesn't love an art heist? If you are from Boston, you know the story of the Isabella Stewart Gardner theft in 1990 in which thirteen works were stolen including a Vermeer, a number of paintings by Rembrandt, and a few by Degas. The case was never solved. There's still a ten-million-dollar reward!

Spark is adept at writing from the point of view of the women in the novel; artists and art lovers will enjoy the art talk. The other discipline in the novel concerns the boarding school. It is based on an actual boarding school called Elan that used a disreputable version of "attack" therapy to demean and break down troublesome boys and girls by doing things like making them sing "Mary had a little Lamb" in front of everyone, or dress up in a chicken costume as punishment, or engage in boxing match-



es with multiple opponents.

Although the portrait of the school is based on interviews the author did with adults who attended Elan, the novel runs into the problem Tim O'Brien brings up in *The Things They Carried* where he talks about the difference between a war story and what makes a good story. The retelling just doesn't feel right. Reggie, a sensitive young man who doesn't fight, drink or take drugs is somehow committed to this horrific school where he is degraded and severely beaten. It's a little over the top.

Here and a number of other places in the novel when a character asks, "Can you believe this really happened?" You might find yourself saying, "No, I can't." In addition, Spark makes use of Deus ex machina's to move the plot along. Reggie meets the daughter of the artist by jumping into a cab with her. A character actually shows up out of nowhere on a horse to rescue the daughter of the artist.

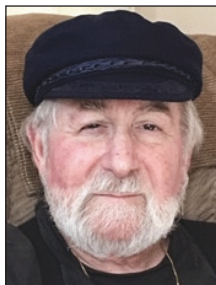
As Foucault says in his book *Discipline*, "truth isn't outside power." And "power produces knowledge." Whoever has power determines what the truth is. Debra Spark's *Discipline* touches on this and some intriguing issues that resonate in our current era when scandalous Indian Boarding Schools, lynching stories and questions about the atrocious behavior of people in the past are uncovered daily. Meanwhile, we are faced with questions about the role of art and the nature of truth, truthiness and alternate truths in our news and politics.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

María Del Castillo Sucerquia, born in Barranquilla, Colombia in 1997, is a bilingual poet proficient in both Spanish and English. She has translated poet Marc Goldinger's poem *WHAT I DO* into English.



WHAT I DO

for Brenda, but she never knew it

As she drives

she places the inhaler in her mouth, fires a puff deep, holds her breath

until she can breathe again. I still carry a Zippo, light her cigarettes, watch my heart melt in the shadow of the flame. It is an old

lighter. At a Rainbow Festival someone gave it to me for a six-pack of beer. I still carry it, light her cigarettes, fall in love, look into the dark

window of her car when she takes out the inhaler. There are things I can't change. So

I write poetry instead.

— Marc Goldinger

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Nancy G. Matza
Tel: 617-623-4600

Attorneys at Law
Fax: 617-625-7315

DROPKIN & MATZA LLP
Attorneys at Law

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