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Somerville marks 'Start by Believing Day' to support survivors



"Start by Believing Day" recently received recognition from the City of Somerville following Mayor Wilson's proclamation of support. — Photo courtesy of City of Somerville

Mayor Jake Wilson has signed a proclamation supporting the city's annual observance of "Start by Believing Day" in Somerville on the first Wednesday in April, recognizing the importance of believing survivors of sexual violence and strengthening community response.

The proclamation highlights the critical role that friends, family members, and community members play when survivors first come forward, noting that victims are far more likely to disclose assaults to someone they know rather than law enforcement. It also underscores the need for compassionate, informed responses that connect survivors to support and resources.

The "Start By Believing" campaign is a global initiative led by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) to transform *Continued on page 2*

Winter Hill Brewing Company celebrates 10 years

By The Times Staff

Come visit the Winter Hill Brewing Company this Saturday, April 11, from 12 p.m. to closing. The taproom will be hosting a party to celebrate 10 years in business.

The brewery, located at 328 Broadway, will have a couple of beer releases, food specials, fun merchandise, great vibes, and will feature folk-rock band, the NightBlinders, from Manchester, New Hampshire, at 8 p.m.

"I hope people recognize us as a neighborhood spot with a strong sense of community," said Bert Holdredge, co-owner of WHBC. "People come in here regularly and get to know each other."

WHBC offers a wide selection of food, beer, and coffee. The taproom brews *Continued on page 4*



The Winter Hill Brewing Company will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary this coming Saturday, and all are invited to join in. — Photo by Bobbie Toner



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

On April 10 at 10 a.m., 167 Holland St., Somerville’s Fair Housing Commission and Council on Aging invite you to learn about voucher incentive programs, city assistance for aging-in-place and home improvement, and dispelling common myths and misconceptions around fair housing. Breakfast will be provided. RSVP to Debby at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as Steve MacEachern, Linda Camiel Butler, Patricia Garrity, Warren *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 8 – April 14 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday April 8	Sunny	45°/32°	1%	0%	ENE 10 mph
Thursday April 9	Sunny	55°/37°	7%	3%	S 13 mph
Friday April 10	Sunny	68°/48°	8%	4%	SW 12 mph
Saturday April 11	Partly Cloudy	59°/37°	19%	11%	NNW 12 mph
Sunday April 12	Sunny	57°/45°	2%	1%	SW 11 mph
Monday April 13	Cloudy	71°/60°	3%	1%	SW 15 mph
Tuesday April 14	Partly Cloudy	80°/58°	10%	6%	SSW 13 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: Obituary: Robert Halpin, owned Rudy’s Cafe in Somerville for decades

Tim Halpin says:

Rob – Catch you on the other side. God Speed.
Blessings,
Tim Halpin

Chuck says:

Rudy’s was ground breaking for the community. There were very few Mexican restaurants in the areas in the late 80s and Rudy’s was THE place to go. I remember waiting in line to get in. Thanks to Rob for his vision and commitment to the community. He created a special place with lots for memories for many of us. Condolences to his loving family for losing him far too soon.

Courtney O’Keefe says:

Rob was a class act who would frequently visit tables personally when he was in Rudy’s. May he rest in peace.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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‘Start by Believing Day’

CONT. FROM PG 1

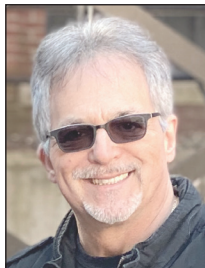
the way society responds to sexual assault. In Somerville, City departments and community organizations are joining together to take the pledge and support a cultural shift that prioritizes survivor support.

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

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

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

Little League memories



Did you play Little League Baseball? I tried out, but I stunk. At least my sons got to play.

It's baseball season again. A lot of my friends played Little League Baseball back in the day. Here are some of our Somerville friends' memories about Little League.

"Cedar Asphalt, Tony Dicicco was our coach, Trum Field."

"Sure did! Somerset Savings Bank out of Dilboy Field."

"Conway, I played every day, starting in late March Somerville Buick, '56 - '59!"

"My brothers did, but we played softball and loved it. The girls' softball team in Somerville was incredible. Some teams were definitely better than others, but we always loved it."

"Everyone used to come out to watch the teams play. Sherlock Holmes Pub."

"My sister was on a girls' team."

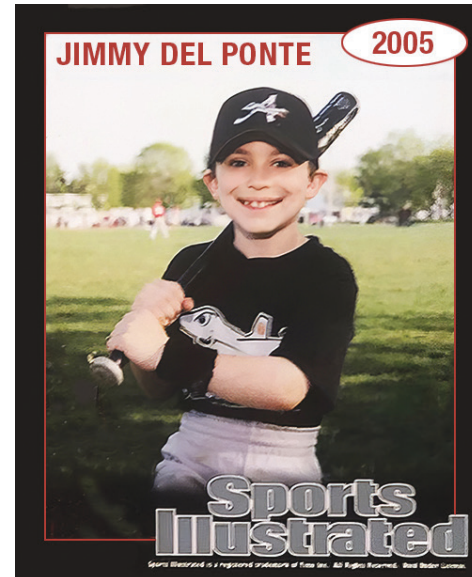
"Yeah, I played for five years. I was pretty good, too. I played for Post 388, and I made the all-star teams. I'm a lefty, so you know I played the outfield, first base to the little picture, had a pretty good stick, and

about 400. Yeah, never made the playoffs, though my dad coached my last year I played. Yeah, my brother was good too. He was a couple of years younger than me, but yeah, yeah, yeah."

"You should have played at Foss Park! I stink, but played second base for Baltimore Post and then DePinto Fuel. I loved it, even though I stunk."

Check with Somerville Recreation online for more info about baseball in the city.

I only took part in one sport. I joined the wrestling team at Emerson College. That fiasco lasted about two weeks. Go, Red Sox!



Final act of Opening the Box: There is room for all of us

If you enjoy digital art, projections, music, photography and some snacks stop by.

There is room for all, our final art of: Future is already. They will be presenting the media materials and diverse pieces of art by artist @nxnandres, enjoy an afternoon of creativity and media.

Connexion (149 Broadway) from 1-4 pm, Saturday April 11, 2026. (free event)



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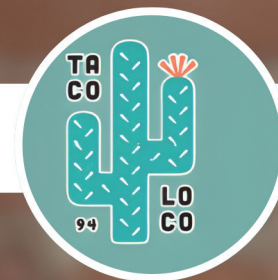
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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What are “Trump Accounts” — and how can they help me with my taxes?

A: “Trump Accounts” are a new type of investment account for children created under the 2025 tax law. While they offer some tax benefits, their primary value is not immediate tax savings — it’s long-term investing.

These accounts can be opened for children under age 18 who have a Social Security number.

Here’s how they work:

- ♦ **Contributions are not tax-deductible.** Money added to a Trump Account is made with after-tax dollars, meaning there is no immediate tax benefit when contributing.
- ♦ **Growth is tax-deferred.**

Investments in the account grow without being taxed each year. This allows the funds to compound over time.

♦ **Withdrawals are taxed later.**

Once the child reaches adulthood (generally age 18), funds can be accessed — but withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, similar to a Traditional IRA.

♦ **There is a government-funded \$1,000 starter contribution.**

For children born between 2025 and 2028, the government provides \$1,000 of seed money once the account is opened and eligibility is confirmed.

♦ **The account is designed for long-term use.**

Although funds become accessible at age 18, the structure encourages continued investment rather than immediate spending.

Bottom Line:

Trump Accounts aren’t a major tax break upfront — they’re a long-term investment tool for children. The real advantage comes from tax-deferred growth, early investing, and the \$1,000 government contribution, which together can create meaningful value over time.

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

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



Applications Now Open for Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program

Somerville teens (ages 14+) can now apply for the 2026 Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program, a six-week paid opportunity to earn money, build skills, and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the city runs. Each summer, local teens take on roles across more than 20 City departments — everything from helping with Parks and Recreation programs and supporting library events, to assisting with community outreach, and organizing city data. The program is open to Somerville teens ages 14 through the summer of high school graduation. Opportunities are designed to give teens early work experience while staying connected to their community.

Program Details

- ♦ Compensation: \$18.85/hour for all positions
- ♦ Time Commitment: Most positions are 20 hours per week and run from July 6 through August 14
- ♦ Eligibility:
 - ♦ Applicants must be 14 years old by May 4, 2026
 - ♦ Must be a Somerville resident or enrolled in a Somerville school

Deadline to Apply: Interested youth can apply now through Thursday, April 30, by completing the online application at somervillema.gov/summerjobs. All applicants will be interviewed in early May.

Participants are placed across a wide variety of city departments, including Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police and Fire, Libraries, and more. Limited positions will also be available in non-municipal, private businesses, and non-profits around Somerville. Schedules will vary by job site and placement. All positions require onboarding and orientation. For any questions, please email summerjobs@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).



Somerville’s newest officers are ready to lend a paw

The Somerville Police Department (SPD) is inviting residents to a family-friendly meet and greet with some of its newest (and cutest) officers — Fluff and Missy, the city’s K9 team. The event will take place on Saturday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 220 Washington St.

K-9 Fluff is a male 8-month-old Yellow Labrador Retriever and the department’s community comfort dog, currently in training through Hero Pups. He provides support to victims during difficult moments, assists with community outreach, and regularly visits schools and events. K-9 Missy, a 2-year-old female Goldador (Golden Retriever/Labrador mix), is trained as an Electronic Storage Detection (ESD) K-9. She specializes in locating hidden electronic devices such as cell phones, hard drives, and USB drives, making her a valuable asset in investigations involving digital evidence. In addition to her detection work, Missy also serves in a comfort role, helping reduce stress for victims and officers alike. “As a dog owner, I can tell you there’s nothing like the connection people feel when a dog walks into the room,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “Our K9 team does important work every day, but they’re also pretty good at making fast friends and lending a paw when it counts. I hope folks come out to meet them.”

During the event, attendees will be able to: Meet and interact with the K9s • Watch training exercises and demonstrations • Learn how K9 teams support policing efforts • Talk directly with officers and handlers

The Department’s K9s play an important role in everything from search operations to community engagement. This event is designed to give residents a closer look at that work in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Light refreshments and water will be available.



Somerville seeks artist for Know Your Rights campaign

The City of Somerville is putting out a call to artists to help turn critical Know Your Rights information into an inspiring, engaging, visual campaign.

Through the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA), the City is seeking an artist to create a bold, vibrant design that will anchor its 2026 Know Your Rights campaign — a citywide effort to make sure immigrant residents and all community members have clear, accessible information during a time when many residents are living with real fear and uncertainty and seeking to understand their rights.

The city is specifically inviting artists with immigrant backgrounds, and those with strong ties to Somerville, to apply. Artists will receive a \$4,000 stipend, with applications open now through April 21, 2026. The selected artist will be notified on April 24.

Artists can apply by submitting a concept, work samples, and a short

statement through somervillema.gov/KYRartists. AI-generated imagery will not be considered.

“Somerville is a city that shows up for each other,” said Mayor Jake Wilson. “That includes making sure all of us understand our rights and can access that information easily. These rights are enshrined in our Constitution and our laws, and everyone should be able to know and exercise them. This artwork will help make that real in people’s everyday lives.”

The selected artwork will appear across Somerville to raise awareness of Know Your Rights information directly in public spaces where people live, move, and gather.

“This campaign is about making sure everyone has access to information that can protect them — clearly, visibly, and in ways that resonate,” said María Teresa Nagel, SOIA Director. “We know many in our community are navigating fear and uncertainty right now. This artwork will



help us make rights visible, accessible, and rooted in the strength and dignity of our immigrant communities.”

Apply now: somervillema.gov/

KYRartists

For questions, contact the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs at soia@somervillema.gov or 617-666-3311.



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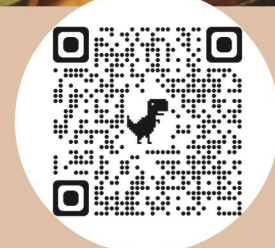
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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports on local senators' votes on roll calls from the week of March 30-April 3. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

THE FARM BILL (S 3029)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill titled "Fostering Agricultural Resilience in Massachusetts," nicknamed the FARM bill, that proponents said will support Massachusetts' 7,000 farms; make it easier for families to buy fresh and nutritious food; protect the state's food supply for the future; and continue the state's response to federal actions that threaten food access.

A key provision in the bill builds on tax policy designed to keep farms financially viable through the Chapter 61A program, which allows farmland to be taxed based on agricultural value rather than market value.

Other provisions include helping owners of small farms to grow their businesses by removing hurdles and making agritourism ventures possible, such as corn mazes and "pick your own" berry and fruit operations; supporting expanding farm operations with a local option property tax exemption for owners who build new agricultural structures; making permanent the Healthy Incentives Program to help families afford fresh produce and the Farm to School program to bring local ingredients into schools; and requiring regular reporting on the distribution of local produce through food assistance programs including food banks, universal school meals, Meals on Wheels and the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program.

"I'm proud to support the Senate's effort to build a more resilient and sustainable food system in the commonwealth," said Sen. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth), Senate Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries. "The FARM bill will expand access to fresh, locally grown food while putting more money into the hands of our farmers and fishermen. By reducing costs, strengthening supply chains and expanding reliable markets, this legislation makes strategic investments into an industry that is essential for our economy, environment and the health of our communities."

"Today, the Senate advanced urgently needed legislation to support the farms, producers and fisheries that are the foundation of our local and regional food systems," said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Senate vice chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries. "In Western and North Central Massachusetts, where agriculture is core to our economy and identity, we know that when we lose farmland, we lose far more than fields—we lose livelihoods, food security and community."

She continued, "This legislation reflects the recommendations of the Special Commission on Agriculture in the 21st Century—a body that I was proud to co-chair ... With the FARM Bill, Massachusetts is stepping up—investing in the next generation of farms and fisheries while ensuring more local, nutritious food reaches Massachusetts families."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

TAX EXEMPTIONS (S 3029)

Senate 38-0, approved an amendment that would allow cities and towns to give temporary property tax breaks to farmers for building new buildings and/or renovating structures that are essential to farming – including barns, storage facilities, worker housing structures and structures used as indoor arenas for training and exercising horses that are used to help on the farm. The tax exemption applies only to the added value from new or rebuilt buildings and is valid for five years. If the building is used for non-agricultural purposes prior to the 5-year period, the owner would be required to pay back the taxes that were exempt.

"This measure provides our farmers with the support they need to invest in their operations without being immediately burdened by higher property taxes," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "By offering targeted, temporary relief, we're helping to sustain local agriculture and protect working lands. This is a practical step toward strengthening food security and the economy."

Amendment sponsor Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on his amendment and its passage.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

STUDY OPENING MORE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS (S 3029)

Senate 37-0, approved an amendment that would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Department of Agricultural Resources, to conduct a study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing additional county agricultural schools in the Bay State. The bill requires that at least four public hearings be held on the matter and that an initial draft of the results be finished by December 31, 2016; and then following another public hearing on

the draft, the final version with recommendations must be filed with the House of Representatives by July 1, 2027.

The study would include assessing the statewide and regional demand for agricultural and agricultural technical education; evaluating the workforce needs across agricultural and other related sectors; and identifying potential sites or host districts for new or expanded agricultural schools.

"This is a huge step toward regional equity in education offerings for agricultural school districts across Central Massachusetts," said amendment sponsor Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). "School districts are spending hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars for out of district school placements. If Central Massachusetts had an agricultural school, we could save tremendous money on transportation costs while still offering competitive agricultural education to students who are interested."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

HEARING IMPAIRED (S 2120) – The House gave initial approval, on a voice vote without a roll call, to legislation that would remove the term "hearing impaired" from the Massachusetts General Laws and replace it with "deaf or hard of hearing."

"Language matters, especially in our laws," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "This bill takes a simple but important step toward ensuring that the words we use reflect respect, accuracy and the preferences of the communities they describe. I was proud to sponsor this legislation to help modernize our statutes and affirm the dignity of deaf and hard of hearing individuals across Massachusetts."

Supporters said that by removing the outdated term "hearing impaired" and replacing it with more accurate, respectful language that reflects how the deaf and hard of hearing community identifies today, the bill ensures that state statutes align with modern standards of inclusion and dignity.

MEN'S HEALTH (SD 3556) – The Senate referred to the Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery a late-filed bill that would create a vehicle for the state to raise awareness of the existence of the MassMen Initiative that promotes wellness and

Continued on page 15

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1017

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. How many operational space shuttles were built for the U.S. Space Shuttle program? | polio vaccine? |
| 2. Which space shuttle launched the Hubble Space Telescope? | 8. Actors Jodie Foster and Kristen Stewart starred together in what 2002 thriller movie? |
| 3. How many missions did the Space Shuttle program conduct? | 9. Born Robert Weston Smith, a famous radio disc jockey in the 60s and 70s was more commonly known by what name? |
| 4. What is the maximum number of crew members that could be accommodated on a Space Shuttle? | 10. Audrey Hepburn plays what character in the movie <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> ? |
| 5. Where was the Apollo 11 Launched from? | 11. Who did the U.S. purchase the Louisiana Territory from? |
| 6. Whose speech in 1961 inspired the U.S. to send astronauts to the moon? | 12. Seltzer is made by dissolving what gas in water to make it bubbly or fizzy? |
| 7. Who developed the | |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Junk food is as addictive as drugs.
2. "Schoolmaster" is an anagram of "the classroom."

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

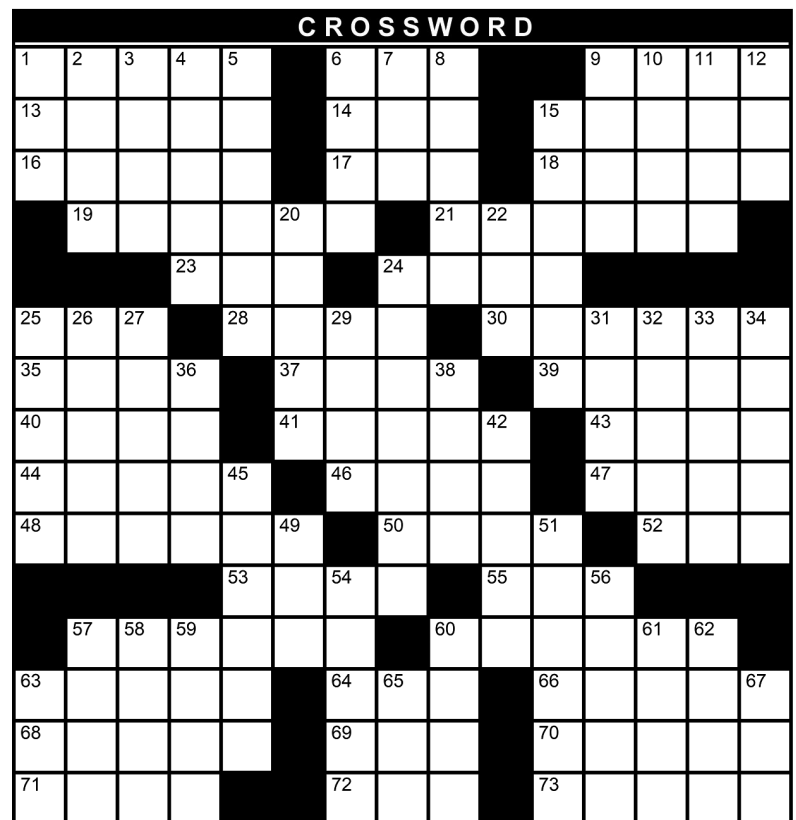
INSECTS

ACROSS

1. Ira ____ of NPR
6. Mr. Turkey
9. Gives the boot
13. Between octet and decet
14. Ginger one
15. Spherical bacteria
16. Popular ursine meme star
17. Public health org.
18. Mountaineer's tool (2 words)
19. Fly larva
21. World's noisiest insect
23. Comic book shriek
24. Like some excuses
25. Food safety org.
28. Man Ray's genre
30. Temporarily, legally speaking (2 words)
35. Like unpleasant awakening
37. 4th down kick
39. Quarter-round molding
40. Computer operating system
41. Metal bar
43. Mine passage
44. Antonym of exhume
46. Expert
47. Strip of wood
48. Throws
50. It will
52. Concurrence word
53. Silo contents
55. Romanian money
57. Bee's bounty
60. Boll weevil, e.g.
63. Aquarium scum
64. Lightning bug trap?
66. Brandish
68. Part of a flower
69. Bonanza find
70. Courtroom excuse
71. Whiskey grain, pl.
72. Coniferous tree
73. #52 Across, pl.

DOWN

1. Econ. measure
2. Good earth
3. Wintour of "Vogue" fame
4. Marsh plant
5. Not impromptu
6. Diplomat's asset
7. Antediluvian
8. Hajj destination
9. Cocaine plant
10. Got an A
11. March Madness org.
12. Number of legs on an insect
15. Famous Roman orator
20. Giraffe's striped-legged cousin
22. Mischief-maker
24. Opposite of energetic
25. ____ fly, first living creature sent to space
26. "I don't know," casually
27. #43 Across, pl.
29. ____ beetle, world's strongest insect
31. Shape of a ladybug or carpet beetle
32. Not tomorrow, not yesterday
33. Like basketball's final eight
34. Lepidoptera members, not butterflies
36. Demi Moore and Bruce Willis, e.g.
38. Reason for suit
42. Tutu fabric
45. Duran Duran's 1984 hit, with 'The
49. "Monkey ____, monkey do"
51. Wiggle room
54. "Have a great time!"
56. Useful
57. Performance with acts
58. Lecherous look
59. "Betcha Can't Eat Just One" brand
60. Tea or beer
61. Hawaiian flower garlands
62. Major European river
63. Acronym, abbr.
65. "Roses ____ red"
67. Bad-mouth, slangily



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

John J. Danieli



John's Italian heritage shined through in the kitchen. Cooking was one of his true passions, and he loved preparing delicious meals for his family. For John, sharing food was one of the many ways he expressed his love and care for those closest to him.

Beloved husband of 45 years to Marie A. (Sinkiewicz) Danieli. Devoted father of Carolyn Danieli and John Danieli and his wife Sarah. Cherished brother of Lawrence Danieli, Antonetta Bither and her late husband Scott, Grace Maidrand and her husband John and Josephine Baxter and her husband Michael. Also lovingly survived by many loving nieces, and nephews.

A prayer service will be conducted in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville on Wednesday, April 8th at 10 a.m.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Calling Hours will be held on Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Services will conclude with interment at Calvary Cemetery, Winchester.

John J. Danieli – A lifelong resident of Somerville, passed away on March 29, 2026.

Born, raised, and educated in Somerville, he was the beloved son of the late John and Carolina (Picardo) Danieli.

John was a devoted family man who cherished the time he spent with his loved ones. One of his favorite things to do was go shopping with his daughter and spending quality time and making fond memories.

John also had a wealth of knowledge about Star Trek. He loved watching the many reruns of the series and took great pride in his collection of memorabilia from the iconic show.

OBITUARY

Robert Halpin, owned Rudy's Cafe in Somerville for decades



of Halpins worked in the mill and where his mother from Boras, Sweden, settled after a summer adventure caring for the mill owners' children. From his father Robert (Buddy), he inherited his natural charisma, fun-loving personality, musical talent and strong sense of community. From his mother Britta, he inherited his international and socially-progressive outlook, and his love of learning and all things Swedish.

After graduating from Tufts University in 1988, Robbie settled in the Greater Boston area with his friend and wife Ann and sons Eli and Caleb. Robbie maintained strong ties to friends and the music and restaurant scene in Cambridge and Somerville while living on a lakeside home in Natick. He managed, and then owned, Rudy's Cafe in Teele Square for decades, building many memorable moments and close-knit, long-term friendships there as he had in all spheres of his life. He em-

ployed people from across the globe—at least five of the seven continents—and took pride in the fact that nearly every employee—including himself—was an immigrant or child of an immigrant. He had a gift to connect with all on things funny and quirky or interesting and meaningful, instinctively bridging divides since he truly never saw any.

Robbie made this world a better place and lives in all of our hearts. He is survived by his wife Ann Clifford, sons Eli and Caleb, daughter-in-law Sofia, grandson Lucas, brother Peter, sister Maria Geryk, and a much larger loving extended family, all of whom he cherished.

Please join Robbie's family and friends this Saturday, April 4th, 2026 2:00 pm -5:00 pm at the John Bryant Funeral Home, 56 Pemberton Road, Wayland, MA, to be followed by a celebration of his life probably in June.

Rob Halpin was a natural. A quick wit, encyclopedic knowledge, and progressive outlook contributed to the magic that was Robbie and won him many life-long friends. But it was his genuine heart of gold and the open, easy-going, down-to-earth way about him that truly set him apart. These were his greatest gifts.

Robert Thomas Halpin II passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Born on August 24, 1966, Rob was raised in the rural town of Somers, CT, where several generations

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Wildgrain Bakehouse

I recently checked out Wildgrain and was really impressed with both their products and overall concept. They're best known as a mail-order service that delivers frozen, par-baked goods - everything from sourdough bread and pastries to pasta, vegan croissants, and gluten-free options. Each item comes with simple oven instructions, so you can enjoy fresh bakery-quality treats straight from your freezer anytime.

They've now opened a brick-and-mortar location across from Aeronautic Brewing. The space itself is bright and inviting, with a wall of freezers where you can browse and pick out items to take home. You can also try a selection of freshly baked goods on site, paired with a great cup of coffee.

Everything I've tried so far has been

clearly high quality and delicious. I was impressed with their vegan and gluten-free offerings. They really stand out in terms of taste and texture. The staff is friendly, welcoming, and happy to help with recommendations.

If you sign up for their rewards program, you'll get 15% off your order, which is a nice bonus. Whether you're stocking your freezer, planning a special occasion, or looking for a unique gift, Wildgrain offers plenty of options worth exploring. I highly recommend checking them out!

Open every day 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Wildgrain Bakehouse
29R Properzi Way
Somerville, MA 02143
wildgrain.com

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



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

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

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

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 04/10/2026 at 12:00PM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30§39M and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L.c.149 §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 **16 April 2026 at 11:00AM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

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

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

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

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

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 26-58**

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

McGrath Boulevard Planning Study

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 8, 2026**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, April 29, 2026**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

Felisa Gárate
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3406

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



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

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

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

Please join the FY26 Community Preservation Plan Public Hearing via Zoom Webinar:

<https://tinyurl.com/mdnh7vxn>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: (646) 931-3860
Access Code: 846 8290 0461

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

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

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Change of Hours and 2AM License for H and P Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine at 102 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEYI0w

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iVHNMhbQw20iWC7ALX3Hw

TO CALL IN

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

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

92R Orchard Street Bennie Ber, d/b/a NehKooDah seeks relief from SZO Section 10.2.2.d, regarding the number of cars permitted per carport, which requires a Hardship Variance.

92R Orchard Street Bennie Ber, d/b/a NehKooDah seeks relief from SZO Section 10.2.2.d.iii, carport height limitations, which requires a Hardship Variance.

92R Orchard Street Bennie Ber, d/b/a NehKooDah seeks relief from SZO Section 14.1.7.b.ii, regarding further reducing nonconforming landscape and permeable area, which requires a Hardship Variance.

56 Franklin Street The Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo on behalf of Victor Moreira proposes a Major Amendment to a previously issued Special Permit (ZBA 2018-46) in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, previously the Residence B (RB) zoning district.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

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

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Legal Notice

The following vehicles will be sold
Pursuit to M.G.L. 255 S.39A

2012 HONDA CIVIC VIN# 2HGFB2F58CH544119
2004 CHEVY EXPRESS VIN# 1GCEG15X341209231
2018 HONDA FIT VIN# 3HGCGK5H61JM707297
2015 HONDA ACCORD VIN# 1HGCR2F31FA187608
2007 NISSAN ALTIMA VIN# 1N4AL21E57C121171
2012 HONDA CIVIC VIN# 19XFB2F5XCE359726
2016 AUDI S4 VIN# WAUBGAFL9GA009986

To satisfy the debt owed to
Cityside Enterprises Inc.
617-776-6111

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from our website:
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

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



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Fwdhr8JSIG_7AVNqlpt-A

TO CALL IN

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

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

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

141-143 Walnut Street (garage) Applicant: Peter Quinn Architects
Owner: Walnut Street 141 Development LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish an accessory building on a Local Historic District (LHD) property.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to historic@somervillema.gov.

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

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE Annual Action Plan and Public Services RFP

The City of Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development has prepared a draft of the 2026-2027 Annual Action Plan, a requirement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City seeks input on the content of the plan.

- The City will hold a public hearing on **April 23rd at 6pm** to receive comments pertaining to the content of the 2026-2027 plan. Members of the public may attend this hearing in the **Flex Room at 20 Stephenson Aman St., Clarendon Hill**.
- Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should contact the ADA Coordinator in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov.
- The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact SomerVIVA at somerviva@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.
- Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments Annual Action Plan to Miranda Rubin (mrubin@somervillema.gov) at the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (167 Holland St.) All comments received by **April 30th 2026**, will be incorporated in the final application.

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices for Poke SDS LLC d/b/a Pokeworks at 261 Elm Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEY10w

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices for Somerville BBQ Inc d/b/a bb.q Chicken at 248 Elm Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEY10w

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LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JAKE WILSON
MAYOR**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's **Land Use Committee** and the **Somerville Planning Board** will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, April 16th, 2026** at 6:30 pm.

This meeting will be held in the Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, and by remote participation, using the Zoom platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue.
- Enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AhGlcqYpRUOHcn-JN-TNQQ
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 4:00 PM on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council and Planning Board for inclusion with the Hearing testimony.

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

- 26 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance sections 3.1.8c, 3.1.9c, 3.1.10c, 3.1.13k, 3.1.13l, 3.2.12l. and 3.2.12m.
- Union 2 Associates, LLC requesting a Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning district of 2 and 9 Union Square, 286, 290, and 298 Somerville Avenue from Commercial Core 5 (CC5) to Mid-Rise 6 (MR6).
- 29 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.
- 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend the Zoning Ordinance Section 3.1.12 Backyard Cottage.
- 14 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 12.2.2 regarding affordable dwelling units.
- 29 registered voters requesting a Zoning Text Amendment to amend Zoning Ordinance Section 15.7.2.d Zoning Board of Appeals Board Rules.

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

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. 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
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Entertainment by Devices, Patrons, and Performers for Life Drawing Boston LLC d/b/a Life Drawing Boston at 86 Joy Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEYI0w

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

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[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License for Indignant Brewing Co LLC d/b/a Winter Hill Brewing Co at 328 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEYI0w

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[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Alteration of Indoor and Outdoor Premises for Soba Ya, LLC d/b/a Sugidama at 234 Elm Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEYI0w

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4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons, Private Outdoor Patio, Sunday Hours, and 2AM License for Saint Brigid's Well LLC d/b/a Saint Brigid's Well at 525 Medford Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEYI0w

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[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of All Forms Alcohol License, Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, and Sunday Hours for Marinho's Brazilian Grill Corp d/b/a Marinho's Brazilian Grill at 85 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEYI0w

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

4/8/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application of Private Outdoor Dining for K-bok Korean Fried Chicken, LLC d/b/a K-bok Korean Fried Chicken, LLC at 249 Washington Street.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JYxLhNfQRfeK8tYCOEYI0w

You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

4/8/26 The Somerville Times

Mayor Wilson's first 100 days in office

By Christa Lee

Mayor Jake Wilson's 100th day in office is soon to arrive since his inauguration on January 2 of this year. His main accomplishment—building his team.

"We will be completing our team in the Mayor's Office basically right on day one hundred, where we'll be filling the final piece of the puzzle," said Mayor Wilson. "The executive administrative assistant who's gonna do a lot of my scheduling."

Wilson emphasized the importance of building the kind of team that he can trust, finding the right internal processes to get the work done, and creating a culture of recognition in a "Somerville service award that we award to city staff who just go above and beyond for the people." The mayor's main goal in the first year is to complete a citywide restructuring that "allows us to go accomplish all our policy rules," including changes in staffing.

Somerville's arts community is recovering from Executive Director Greg Jenkins's departure from the Somerville Arts Council on March 6. "I have so much respect for Greg Jenkins and everything that Greg did for this community – over two and a half decades of really elevating the arts community here," said the mayor. When asked about the new direction he wants to take the arts, he said, "We're creating a new cab-

inet-level position. That'll be the Executive Director of Culture and Community. We want culture and community at the table in those cabinet meetings when we're making those big decisions." The mayor's team is currently "finalizing that job description," which has received input from the Arts Council Board and awaits input from Arts Council staff.

In a press release, he states his intention to "move full steam ahead supporting innovative initiatives like Nibble [Kitchen], SomArt performance programming at the Hive, and the Intercambio language and cultural exchange." Nibble Kitchen holds an entrepreneurship program that teaches and mentors future restaurant owners. SomArt space at the Hive is a new dance and performance arts space. And when asked about Intercambio, Mayor Wilson stated it's a way to "bring our city together as one city as opposed to having a city that's divided by language, by culture." The hope is that investing in these programs will continue to support the lively arts community in Somerville.

Wilson is also actively working to help the people experiencing homelessness in the Davis Square area with "community partners like the Somerville Homeless Coalition" and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in "pursuing



Mayor Wilson signing contract with SMEA Unit D within his first 100 days in office.

a housing first approach to this." "Housing first approach" is in reference to The Chelsea Hub, a process based on Saskatchewan's HUB model, which reaches out to those at high risk of harm occurring soon using preventative measures in collaboration with mental health services, addiction services, elderly and youth services, and housing supports, to name a few.

"We are being clear that there is behavior that is encouraged and accepted,

and then there's behavior that is not allowed," said the mayor. "And making sure that we hold people accountable. And that's everyone."

Mayor Jake Wilson is available for office hours on Thursdays and takes requests for meetings to hear what you have to say about anything from utility bills to policy discussions. To sign up and voice your concerns, you can go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/mayor>.

Somerville Redevelopment Authority hosts monthly meeting on projects and proposals

By Ewan Henrie

The Somerville Redevelopment Authority gathered on April 1 via Zoom for its monthly meeting.

The chairman first discussed a review of a draft for the 2025 Somerville Redevelopment Authority Annual Report. Most members had little to comment on, with no changes made to the draft except for suggestions by Christine Stone. Christine Stone merely wished to change the wording for the first sentence of the report. The language of the report was the main focus of moderation, with

softening certain words as well as trimming out words seen as unnecessary and wordy.

The other topic of discussion was the project plan to redevelop 90 Washington Street. The City of Somerville is still seeking proposals from a development team to create a multi-use project that will combine housing, green space, and retail.

Finally, the group discussed updates on recruitment for the Civic Advisory Committee and updates on the zoning proposal for Union Square. The group will meet next month to advance discussions on redevelopment in the city of Somerville.



Proposals for the redevelopment of the 90 Washington Street location are still being sought by the Somerville Redevelopment Authority.

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

1. Five: Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, and Endeavour
2. Discovery (STS-31 mission)
3. 135 missions
4. Typically seven crew members
5. Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A, on July 16, 1969
6. President John F. Kennedy
7. Jonas Salk
8. *Panic Room*
9. Wolfman Jack
10. Holly Golightly
11. France
12. Carbon Dioxide

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.

Somerville's Housing Crisis Won't Wait – And Neither Should We

Every year the cost of housing marches upward, driving families out of Somerville. In response, Mayor Wilson has promised to support the creation of subsidized affordable housing in Somerville, especially in transit-rich neighborhoods and in projects that exceed the 20% affordability minimum required by our Inclusionary Zoning rules. Right now, our community has a proposal for a building that combines transit access with greater affordability: Copper Mill's Davis Square project.

It promises 126 new subsidized Affordable homes, 25% of all homes on the site. That is more than the 117 newly built Affordable homes that we have managed to build through non-profits in the last decade. That is 126 more families that can remain in Somerville instead of being pushed out.

The builders have indicated through

their Mass Housing application that started the 40B process that they intend to use no public money. With a possible budgetary shortfall this year, it would be useful to not stress our fiscal position. Copper Mill is able to use only private money because of the comparatively higher rents of the other homes in the proposed building. Simpler financing means that the project can proceed quickly, which means getting those homes sooner.

Compare that to another active 40B project: 299 Broadway. It has taken almost 6 years for this particular iteration to reach its current demolition phase and likely another 2–3 years to build out the homes. That is almost a decade for just 132 Affordable homes. That project only happened because of complex financing, direct government funding, and tax relief from the city. We cannot keep moving that

slowly and earnestly claim to be solving our housing crisis.

Often, helping to solve our housing problem can induce some displacement of its own. For the Copper Mill project, no families are being displaced. The project team has also made an active effort to mitigate their commercial displacement by promising the Burren and Dragon Pizza a brand new home on the same site.

The Copper Mill proposal is by no means perfect, but we are excited by how good this proposal is. It will mean a lot of affordable homes for Somervillians on a shorter timeline. We need a city government that steps up to enable Affordable Housing. A city government that can efficiently get through the process and make the housing we need to keep our families here.

Above all, we should keep in mind that the housing shortage is urgent: people

need these homes as soon as possible, and housing delayed is housing denied.

Aaron Weber
Joshua Michel
Andre Comella
Beatrix Klebe
Matthew McMillan
Ben Lappen
Klaus Schultz
Jeff Byrnes
Ashish Shrestha
Ben Orenstein
Daniel Wong
Jonathan Cohen
Sienna Durbin
Scott Istvan
Elliot Borenstein
Michael Leukam
PJ Kim-Santos
Sara Oaklander
Somerville YIMBY

Winter Hill Brewing Company celebrates 10 years

CONT. FROM PG 1

unpretentious beers in small batches, offering a blend of German and American-style beers from juicy New England IPAs to crisp pilsners. Beers range from \$7 to \$9, depending on style and strength.

"I have two special beers that were brewed for the occasion," said Holdredge. The first beer, named Forever and Counting, is a barley wine – a full-bodied beer

with a high alcohol content of 10%. The second beer is called Decade of Domination, an 8% double IPA.

WHBC is a coffee shop by day, serving Broadsheet espresso, drip, and iced coffees, 7 days per week, and a restaurant with an in-house kitchen making seasonally inspired food with locally sourced ingredients.

The lunch and dinner menus are a collec-

tion of burgers, sandwiches, salads, and sides that pair well with beer. Breakfast sandwiches are available weekdays. On Sundays, they offer brunch from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Currently, WHBC serves 8 rotating beers, but may be expanding to 12 lines, he said. They have applied for a full alcohol license and hope to soon serve wine and cocktails.

"I think it will make us a lot more appealing to people within the neighborhood," said Holdredge.

The taproom is open Tuesday – Sunday, and the coffee bar is open every day. Head Chef Ian Ballantyne a.k.a. Brother Ian, caters events of over 15 people, offering an assortment of burgers, sandwiches, salads, and snacks.

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

empowers working-age men across the Bay State to take action to feel better emotionally, physically and spiritually.

The proposal would require state agencies that serve men with a higher risk of mental health conditions or suicide to display resources and communicate best practices derived from the MassMen Program internally. The bill further calls for a public relations campaign subject to budget appropriations.

Supporters said that many men struggle to maintain mental wellbeing and noted the MassMen initiative is a way for men to get connected to resources, so they don't have to struggle alone.

"For too long, policy leaders have neglected the fact that men in America need help," said sponsor Sen. Dylan

Fernandes (D-Falmouth). "Men represent 80 percent of suicide deaths, 70 percent of drug overdose deaths, and live, on average, five years less than women -- a gap that is widening in large part due to untreated mental health and substance use crises. This legislation breaks down barriers to healthcare resources for men and helps expand access to care for this hidden epidemic that deserves urgent attention."

"GRAB-AND-GO" ALCOHOL SALES (S 225) – The Senate sent to a study committee a bill that would regulate alcohol sales at large entertainment venues that seat more than 4,900 people by establishing new restrictions on how alcoholic beverages are sold and served. Under the bill, alcoholic beverages would only be allowed to be sold and served at these large venues directly by employees who are licensed by the Alcoholic Beverage Con-

trol Commission (ABCC).

Bills sent to study committees are rarely actually studied and are essentially defeated. It is a way to kill a proposal without holding a vote on the bill itself.

Supporters said that currently some customers are allowed to purchase and pick up their drink without the involvement of any employee. They noted that the bill would require that an employee complete the sale and actually hand the buyer the beverage. Supporters continued that this makes it very difficult for employees to monitor alcohol consumption and intervene when they think a customer has been overserved.

"I am committed to workers' rights, which is why I filed [the bill]," said sponsor Sen. Lydia

Continued on page 23

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Bunny stopped by Foss Park on Saturday, April 4, 2026. Connexion and East Somerville Main Streets held their Annual Easter Egg Hunt for everyone to enjoy. The event was a free community celebration filled with family-fun activities.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



Honoring two childcare champions in Somerville

Week of the Young Child – April 2026

We write to honor the extraordinary legacies of Gale Morano and Joyce Shortt, two transformative leaders whose lifelong dedication to children, families, and community helped shape Somerville's early childhood landscape through advocacy, policy, and visionary leadership.

Gale Morano, who died in March 2025, served as Director of the Open Center for Children in Somerville from 1975 until her retirement in 2018 – more than four decades of steadfast leadership and deep commitment to early childhood education and care. Under her direction, the Open Center—one of Somerville's original childcare programs – became a model of equity, inclusion, and quality. Still located at 155 Powder House Boulevard within the Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church, it continues to provide generations of children and families with their first school experience in a nurturing, welcoming environment.

Gale was a fierce and tireless advocate for accessible, high-quality childcare. She worked to ensure that all children – regardless of race, income, language, or background – had access to enriching early learning opportunities. Through her leadership, she secured vital public funding, including subsidies, state contracts, and wraparound services, expanding access for families across the community.

Her influence extended far beyond the classroom. As founding co-chair of the Somerville Early Childhood Advisory Council, Gale played a central role in shaping early childhood policy at both the local and state levels. Her leadership within the Cambridge/Somerville Day Care Alliance, Somerville Community Partnerships for Children, and the Massachusetts Association of Day Care Agencies helped build a stronger, more equitable childcare system across the Commonwealth.

Joyce Shortt, who died in February 2026, followed a path to leadership in childcare and advocacy that was similarly grounded in a deep commitment to social justice, community, and the well-being of children. Her early experiences organizing a nursery school as a young parent and later directing a cooperative daycare center laid the foundation for a lifelong career in childcare advocacy and policy.

After moving to Somerville in 1990, Joyce became a powerful force in advancing systems that support children and families. Through her work with the Massachusetts Office for Children, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Promise the Children" campaign, and as Co-Director of the National Institute of Out-of-School Time at the Wellesley College Centers for Women, she helped shape policies and programs that strengthened childcare, out-of-



L to R: Gale Morano, Joyce Shortt.

school time, and family support systems at both the state and national levels.

In Somerville, Joyce's leadership was deeply rooted in the community. She worked tirelessly to build connections, advocate for equitable access to resources, and support families and children through both formal systems and grassroots organizing. Her service on the board of the Elizabeth Peabody House, her leadership in local civic initiatives, and her ongoing advocacy for social justice reflected her belief that strong communities are essential to the well-being of children.

Together, Gale Morano and Joyce Shortt helped define what it means to prioritize and uplift children, families, and equity in public life. Their work advanced policies that expanded access to childcare,

strengthened community-based programs, and ensured that early education systems were more inclusive, responsive, and educationally rich.

Their legacies live on in the generations of children and families who benefited from their leadership, in the educators and advocates they inspired, and in the systems they helped to build and transform. Their shared commitment to childcare as a cornerstone of community well-being continues to guide Somerville's ongoing efforts to support all children and families.

With deep gratitude, on behalf of the Somerville early childhood and child care community.

— Nomi Davidson, Honey Schnapp, and Mary Keber

Somerville celebrating Week of the Young Child with citywide events, family festival

Somerville families, educators, and caregivers are invited to take part in the Week of the Young Child, a citywide series of events from April 11 through April 17 celebrating early childhood and the people who support it every day.

"As a dad, I know how much it takes to raise a kid well – and how much it depends on the people around you," said Mayor Wilson. "This week is about celebrating the families, educators, and neighbors who show up for our kids every day and make Somerville the kind of place they can grow up strong."

Somerville's week of celebrations will include programming and activities across the city, family-friendly specials in local restaurants, and will culminate in a community-wide celebration on Thursday, April 16, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the Somerville High School concourse (81 Highland Ave). The event will include family-friendly music, food, and activities.

"Week of the Young Child is a great way to celebrate the long history of Early Childhood work in Somerville," said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Rubén Carmona. "In Somerville Public Schools, we're committed to making sure our youngest learners have access to high-quality learning opportunities and to providing inclusive, multilingual programming and wrap-around services for families, and we are grateful for strong partnerships between the Public Schools, the city, and multiple community partners."

About Week of the Young Child

Marking its 55th year, Week of the Young Child was designated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to focus public attention on the needs of young children, their families, and the communities that help them thrive.

City of Somerville Youth and Family Supports

The One Somerville, Every Child umbrella tagline reflects Somerville's commitment to equity and its collective approach to supporting all children and youth in our city.

The city's newest addition to support this goal is the Child Care Career Advancement Initiative, which focuses on supporting licensed family child-care providers, as well as residents interested in entering the field of early childhood education. This work is funded by the city's Jobs Creation and Retention Trust and managed by the SomerPromise Department.

For more information regarding Somerville's child and youth programs or initiatives, please visit somervillehub.org.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS:

Flu & COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic – Thursday, April 9th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center (Ages 18+) Appointments can be made by registering online at www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations or seniors can call the Council on Aging at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

April is Fair Housing Month / Small Landlord Resource Event – Friday, April 10th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Property owners and landlords can learn about incentive programs, City assistance for aging-in-place and home improvements, and dispel common myths and misconceptions around renting. Why attend? Learn about Landlord Dos and Donts, Responding to requests for reasonable accommodations and modifications, Incentives for landlords renting to Section 8 tenants and programs available to help homeowners on fixed incomes. Breakfast will be provided. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

FDIC: Money Smart / Planning for Unexpected Life Events – Friday, April 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 am. at the Holland Street Center. Representatives from Northern Bank will join us to discuss how to prepare for emergency situations.

Planning for the unexpected, such as natural disasters or an emergency hospital visit, can make an unfortunate event more bearable. This presentation will cover what important documents you need and the best place to store those documents. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Celebrate Earth Day – Wednesday, April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Celebrate Earth Day with the SCOA by learning how to repot plants with volunteer Alexandra! During this presentation we will learn when a plant needs to be repotted as well as the best techniques and tips on repotting. Plants will be provided as we practice our repotting skills together. To RSVP, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Arts & Crafts – Friday, April 24th from 11:00 a.m. to noon at our Holland Street Center. Join Somerville resident Alizah Raboin as she helps us make The Wisdom I Carry Keepsake Boxes. Space is limited. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or at mbastardi@somervillema.gov

Friendly Caller Program - We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a

call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>.

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: [somervillecouncilonaging](https://www.instagram.com/somervillecouncilonaging) If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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

If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week



Q: I own a two-family home in Somerville. I live upstairs and rent out the downstairs apartment. Do all the Fair Housing rules apply to me?

A: Some Fair Housing rules definitely do apply to you. There are no exemptions for discriminating on the basis of receiving public assistance (e.g., TAFDC, Medicaid) or receiving a housing subsidy (e.g., Section 8). If your tenants can pay the rent, it doesn't matter where the money is coming from.

About the other rules: "As written, the FHA covers most — but not all — housing. Some exemptions to coverage under the FHA include:

(a) owner-occupied buildings with no more than four units (which is commonly known as the Mrs. Murphy exemption);

(b) single family housing sold or rented without the use of a broker if the private individual owner does not own more than three such single family homes at one time; or

(c) housing operated by organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members."

(Source: Attorney Scott Badami)

Remember, though: you can choose NOT to discriminate whether or not the rules apply to you. Fair Housing makes Somerville a better place to live.

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

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

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Spring Colors... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

April 8

563 – Gautama Buddha, founder of Buddhism, is born.

1789 – The U.S. House of Representatives holds its first meeting.

1832 – Some 300 American troops leave Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, to confront the Sauk Indians in what would become known as the Black Hawk War.

1865 – General Robert E. Lee's retreat is cut off near Appomattox Court House.

1898 – British General Horatio Kitchener defeats the Khalifa at the Battle of Atbara.

1913 – The 17th Amendment is ratified, requiring direct election of senators.

1935 – The Works Progress Administration (WPA) is approved by Congress.

1952 – President Truman orders the seizure of U.S. steel mills to prevent a strike.

1962 – Bay of Pigs invaders get thirty years imprisonment in Cuba.

1974 – Hank Aaron hits his 715th home run, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

1975 – Frank Robinson of the Cleveland Indians becomes first black manager of a major league baseball team.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

flag-raising ceremony on **Sunday, April 12**, on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.) from 2 to 4 p.m. The event celebrates Somerville's vibrant Nepali community and welcomes **Nepali New Year 2083**, which occurs on **April 14**. Attendees will hear from **Mayor Jake Wilson, SOIA and NRNA staff**, and light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact 311 (617) 666-3311.

 Help shape our next **new school building** at 115 Sycamore Street by joining a collaborative workshop focused on sustainability on **April 13** at the **East Somerville Community School** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Work with the city's project team and architects to explore opportunities to incorporate the city's climate goals into the new school's design. Examples of topics covered will include energy-efficiency, outdoor play and gardens, healthy learning spaces, and building materials. No familiarity or prior experience with these topics is needed to participate. To learn more about the project visit www.somervillema.gov/newschool.

 Stop by for the last Saturday of the **Somerville Winter Farmers Market**, 191 Highland Ave. at the **Armory**. 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The market offers 65+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. <https://www.somwintermarket.org/>

Free Write Monday Night, April 13. Local and aspiring writers are invited to gather to write with their fellow community members. Follow a provided prompt or make up your own. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their work with the group. This program is intended for adults. This event will be held on **Monday, April 13**, at **East Branch Library** (115 Broadway) from 7 to 8:15 p.m.

Open Call For Artists: Know Your Rights Campaign Public Art and Outreach Initiative. The City of Somerville, the **Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA)** and a designated **Review Committee** invite artists with immigrant backgrounds to submit proposals for a vibrant, joyful, and Somerville-centered artwork to anchor our 2026 Know Your Rights campaign. Application Deadline:

April 21, 2026. Project Launch: June 2026, Artist Stipend: \$4,000. Learn more at somervillema.gov/KYRartists.

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

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

 Join the **Somerville Museum** for **Collage from the Collection** on April 9, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road. They will be sharing photos from their previous collage night, which was such a wonderful evening filled with creativity, conversation, and inspiration. Participants transformed materials from the museum's collection into unique works of art. Make something beautiful and explore the collection in a new way. For more information visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>

Somerville High School and the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation are proud to announce the formation of the **Somerville High School Alumni Newsletter**. Through this newsletter, they aim to strengthen the bonds of the SHS community by providing important updates, honoring the achievements

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

Resistance Through Community and Music takes place **Friday, April 10** at 7 p.m., **Nave Gallery**, 155 Powderhouse Blvd. A celebration of freedom and protest with Boston songwriters **Danielle Miraglia, Jen Kearney** and **Grace Givertz** – a benefit for the **Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (BIJAN)**. Hosted by **The Somerville Arts Council** in conjunction with the **"We Create Diamonds"** art exhibit at the Nave Gallery, curated by **Michael Talbot**. <https://navegallery.org/wp/we-create-diamonds/>

Attention, activist street bands! The applications for this year's **HONK! Festival** in Somerville are now open. If your band would like to be considered for this year's festival, just follow the application <https://honkfest.org/2026-festival/2026-band-application/>. This year's festival dates will be **October 8-11**.

Calling all artists age 2-18: Submit your work for the **Somerville Open Studios Kids & Teens Art Show**. Join an Open Studio to create your art on **Tuesday, April 14**, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., **West Branch Library**, 40 College Ave. Art will be displayed in the **West Branch Library Atrium April 27 – May 11**. Contact **Elena** with any questions: elenaclamenart@yahoo.com.

 The **Somerville Arts Council** invites musicians, dancers, street performers, installation artists, craft vendors, buskers, and creatives of all kinds to be part of **ArtBeat 2026**, Somerville's beloved summer

arts festival in Davis Square. This year's theme is **REvolution**, a celebration of transformation, creative energy, and the ideas that move us forward. **July 18, Davis Square**. Apply now and help bring this year's ArtBeat to life. Learn more and apply: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/calls>. Deadline is **Wednesday, April 15**.

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

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

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

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

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Quantity Theory of Morality' by Will Self

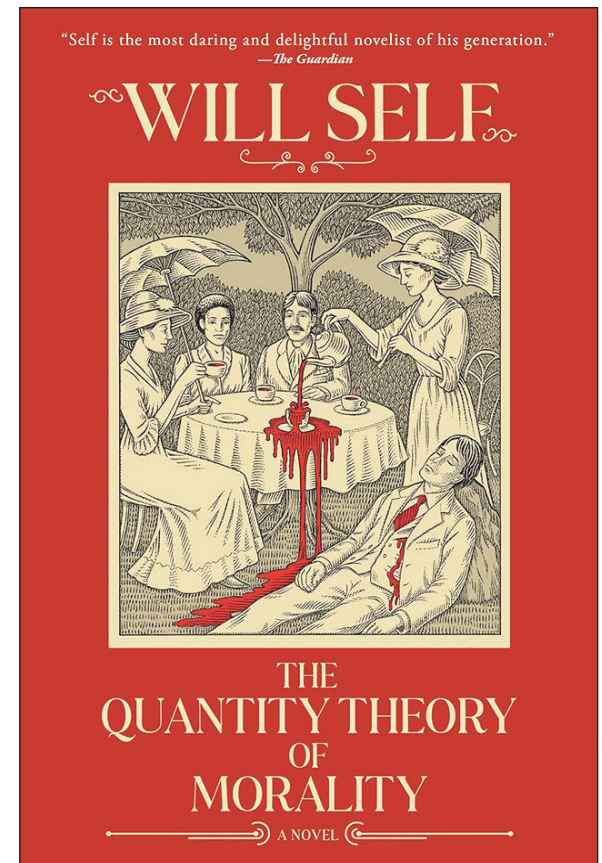
Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Ed Meek.

I'm late to reading Will Self, author of 22 works of fiction and 9 works of nonfiction, shortlisted for the Booker prize numerous times, ditto the Whitbread novel of the year, the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize. *The Quantity Theory of Morality* is a bookend to *The Quantity Theory of Insanity* written 35 years ago. The former claims there's a surfeit of insanity; his current novel brings back a character to argue there isn't enough morality in our age to keep us on track.

The novel focuses on a group of upper middle class British friends, gathering together over a period of years. Self includes a character named after himself. Each chapter is written from the point of view of one of the characters. Self plays with their identity by having them straight, gay, and trans in different chapters. Through the novel he lampoons middle class professionals, psychiatrists, government workers, spies, lawyers, financiers, Jews, AI, funerals, mortality, etc. It is clear they're in a decadent era after the fall of the British empire—a fate we are soon headed for.

Self is a writer's writer. He's constantly pushing the limits of fiction. He knows and uses multiple languages and has an amazing word-hoard. The novel is packed with references. He knows his bible. Above all, he is laugh out loud funny and if someone else is in the room when you are reading him, you'll want to read passages aloud.

As to the title, "*The Quantity Theory of Morality*, Bettina, concerns the human propensity to do things they hold to be either right or wrong—to commit themselves to this exercise of justice, or injustice; and to allow either evil, or righteousness to enter into their being." This brings up a question many of us find ourselves asking these days. How can these



people running our country live with themselves? Self seems to think they are aware of what they are doing. His character, Dr. Busner, goes on to explain that if a group is immoral, their immorality causes others to also be bad. So, in a corrupt, immoral administration, the tone is set for bad behavior by characters like Noem and Patel and Witkoff (and the entire Trump family) by the President and his close associates. In the novel, moral laxity results in direct harmful consequences (as in the Epstein story).

Self's writing is a pleasure to read. "I remember it was dark out as I walked towards the Barbican through the sepulchral emptiness of Smithfield on a Sunday." The novel is replete with *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Elizabeth S. Wolf has published six books, including the *Rattle* chapbook *Did You Know?* Her latest book is a braided poetry collection, *Parenting in the Age of Columbine*. Her work appears in many journals and anthologies, including *Rattle*, *ONE ART*, *The Strategic Poet*, and *Ibbetson Street*, and is archived on the moon in the Lunar Codex. Elizabeth has received four Pushcart nominations and is featured in the April 2026 issue of *Boston Literary Magazine*.

**The Turning**

Sandy Hook Elementary School December 14, 2012

On the day the babies died
President Obama said to hug your children
And he cried.

On the day the babies died
My baby was in middle school,
Working as an intern at the
After School Program for grades
K- 6. When she arrived at work
Teachers were crying. They had
Twenty minutes to get ready.

That afternoon the school was in
Lockdown: Adult supervisors at the
Outside doors, college staff in the
Hallways, interns in a ring around the
Little kids, all gathered together
Inside a cleared- out cafeteria;
My 13-year-old's body
The last barrier between
These babies
And a bullet.

18 and Overseas

My daughter was taking a gap year at the time of the Parkland shooting. My daughter split her senior year of high school between community college classes and an internship working with the homeless; she spent Fridays and Saturdays serving sandwiches in the park and dinner at a café. My daughter bodysurfed at emo/screamo concerts. She sometimes said yes and sometimes said no. My daughter is 5'7" with vibrant dyed hair and a wolf tattooed on her left bicep. Her father is an addict and spent time in jail; her mother is a protester who

writes poetry. On Valentine's Day 2018 my daughter was an au pair in China, getting a 4-year-old to school on a motorbike through Shanghai morning rush hour. My daughter planned to go from there to volunteer at an orphanage in Accra Ghana. People asked me, do you think that she is safe? and I clapped back, honestly, do you think she is safe here?

freckle-faced boys
with AR-15s
American as apple pie

— Elizabeth S. Wolf

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 15

Edwards (D-Boston). “When over-service does occur, responsibility too often falls on our members, who are blamed for failing to do their jobs—when in reality, the issue stems from the design and implementation of these stands themselves.”

She continued, “I was aware that the bill was being sent to study and want to note that Unite Here Local 26 has secured a new contract for Fenway concession workers, protecting workers jobs. And I am still committed to protecting consumers.”

DISTRIBUTION OF 26,368 COMPUTERS AND OTHER INTERNET DEVICES – The Healey Administration announced the distribution of 26,368 Internet-enabled devices to organizations across the state through the Connected and Online Program to improve quality of life for Massachusetts residents by providing access to essential services and resources online. The devices include laptops, tablets and desktop computers. In addition, more than 20,000 pieces of supporting equipment including monitors, assistive technology and remote patient monitoring tools will be made accessible to more than 200 organizations statewide, including nonprofits, hospitals, libraries and elder and youth aid organizations. Devices will be used in public spaces such as schools, libraries and learning centers, or incorporated into free-to-borrow lending programs.

“Massachusetts residents rely on the Internet every day to find work, take classes, access health care and build stronger community ties,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “The Connected and Online Program helps residents improve their lives by equipping them with the capacity to directly access services and opportunities.”

“Access to digital tools is essential for connecting people to opportunity,” said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley. “The Connected and Online Program helps residents access jobs, training and essential services while supporting a stronger workforce across Massachusetts.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Providing affordable financing to our cities and towns

takes the pressure off local budgets and helps our communities move forward with critical infrastructure projects. State Revolving Funds create construction jobs and ensure safer, healthier communities.” — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on the Healey Administration announcing that 70 projects across Massachusetts are eligible to receive over \$1 billion in low-interest rate loans to upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and cut treatment plant energy use and costs.*

“This loan repayment program is a crucial part of efforts to strengthen our early educator workforce. By supporting our early educators, we’re supporting our economy and the educational journeys of our youngest learners.” — *Higher Education Commissioner Noe Ortega on the launch of a \$15 million program that is designed to support and retain the early education workforce by helping eligible educators reduce their student loan debt.*

“We are proud to be a longstanding partner of the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and co-founder of the Boston Tax Help Coalition. Last season, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) completed nearly 3,600 tax returns and brought more than \$7 million in federal and state refunds back to the community. For hardworking people who are struggling, seniors and those who live with disabilities, a potential tax refund makes a big difference.” — *ABCD President and CEO Sharon Scott-Chandler urging Greater Boston and Mystic Valley residents who earned \$69,000 or less in 2025, have disabilities or are limited English-speaking taxpayers to schedule a free in-person tax preparation appointment at one of its 12 neighborhood sites by calling 617-348-6329 or visiting bostonabcd.org/tax*

“A record of an eviction case, even if the case has been dismissed or was brought in retaliation for a tenant exercising their rights, can have devastating impacts on a person’s ability to obtain housing. I am proud to partner with these eight incredible organizations to support projects across the state helping residents seal their eviction records and open the door to stable housing for thousands of individuals.” — *Attorney General Andrea Campbell on awarding more than \$500,000 in grant funding to eight organizations across the state supporting the implementation of Massachu-*

setts’ eviction sealing law. The awards grant funding to organizations that will provide eviction sealing legal services, clinics, educational materials and more to ensure eligible residents are able to seal their records and have an opportunity for a fresh start.

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 March 30-April 3, the House met for a total of 20 minutes and the Senate met for a total of three hours and 46 minutes.

Mon. March 30	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:29 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Tues. March 31	No House session No Senate session
Wed. April 1	No House session Senate 10:07 a.m. to 1:22 p.m.
Thurs. April 2	House 10:59 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.
Fri. April 3	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

such sentences.

And what about the humor? “After all, we’ve all known each other for years, and we don’t have any real secrets, do we?” No, I thought to myself sardonically, except what we do for a living, how much we earn, how much we have overall, who were sleeping with, what we truly, in our innermost hearts believe, together with whatever we really think about someone ... and everyone.”

For satire to really bite it has to be true. I have no idea how much any of my friends are worth and I’ve known them for 60 years! And who knows what we really think in our hearts? Or how about this? “On and on she went: I suppose Joanie was attractive once, but I think she must have sampled her own breakfast pots too much; so that now she’s just another big, solid, pear-shaped English-woman of uncertain age, draped unsuitably in flower-pat-

terned cotton and with a face as red as a poppy.”

Lastly, each chapter is written in a different yet fully developed voice. If you are a reader hooked on detective novel plots or page turning thrillers, this is not the book for you. But if you love good writing and enjoy invention and satire, you will thoroughly enjoy *The Quantity Theory of Morality*. And, as is the case with all good satirists, Self gives us plenty to think about.

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