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## Land Use Committee reviews hiring of locals, veterans for Union Sq. development



Hiring of Somerville residents, members of minority groups, and military veterans for the ongoing Union Sq. development project took the focus at the latest Land Use Committee meeting.

By Jim Clark

At the latest meeting of the City Council of Somerville's Land Use Committee, an order was put forward requesting that the Director of Economic Development update this Council on the implementation of the Union Square Covenant, which includes local and veterans preference in hiring.

Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin sponsored the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development's Director of Economic Development Thomas Galligani to speak on the matter.

"As most folks know, the city entered into a covenant with the SRA's master developer and the city's master developer for the Union Square development project," Galligani began. "Way back in 2017, in conjunction with a rezoning of the Union Square district to allow for the

Continued on page 4

## Somerville PorchFest this Saturday

Have you ever sat on your porch and overheard a neighbor strumming a guitar? PorchFest takes this idea and multiplies it, creating a citywide event for all to share their love of playing and listening to music.

PorchFest began in 2011 and has been growing rapidly ever since. This coming Saturday, May 13, more than 200 musical acts will perform on porches, stoops, and front yards all over town. Genres range from cosmic Americana and killer blues to Afrobeat, acid folk, and space rock.

Acts in West Somerville (west of Willow Avenue) perform from noon to 2:00 p.m., bands in central Somerville (Willow Avenue to Central Street) perform from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and musicians in East Somerville (east of Central Street) perform from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

To learn more about the lineup and see a map of performances, go to [somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest).



The 2023 edition of PorchFest in Somerville will take place this coming Saturday afternoon.

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

The **City Charter** is somewhat like a local Constitution, it governs the structure and functions of our local government. Members of the Somerville community are encouraged to join the **virtual hearing on Wednesday, May 10**, at 6:00 p.m. to share their thoughts on proposed updates to the City Charter. All residents are invited to testify at the virtual public hearing or to submit written testimony. Register to attend at: <https://www.somervillema.gov> More information on the city's **Charter Review**, including prior meetings' minutes and agenda, can be found here: <https://bit.ly/CharterPublicHearing>

\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City of Somerville, and the Somerville Arts Council invite you to take part in this year's **PorchFest on Saturday, May 13** (rain date: May 14). Acts in West Somerville (west of Willow Avenue) perform from noon to 2:00 p.m., bands in central Somerville (Willow Avenue to Central Street) perform from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and musicians in East Somerville (east of Central Street) perform from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. To learn more about the lineup and see a map of performances, go to [somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest).








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To those celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to **Melissa Hurley**, who is celebrating this week. A nice person, we hope she has a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Donald Chamberlain**, we wish him the best. Happy birthday

Continued on page 7

# Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> May 10	Sunny	72°/55°	2%	1%	WNW 12 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> May 11	Sunny	80°/56°	22%	17%	WNW 13 mph
 <b>Friday</b> May 12	Cloudy	78°/61°	23%	16%	W 11 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> May 13	Partly Cloudy	78°/54°	12%	9%	N 11 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> May 14	Partly Cloudy	67°/50°	5%	2%	NNE 10 mph
 <b>Monday</b> May 15	Rain	60°/49°	54%	41%	N 10 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> May 16	Partly Cloudy	72°/60°	9%	5%	WNW 12 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: Assembly Grow

Christopher says:

Somerville is changing.

It continues to change.

Our city has always been changing. It has never been static since before it was Charlestown beyond-the-neck.

Dairy farms on Milk Row became foundries and slaughterhouses which became envelope factories and now are rock climbing gyms and green-tech incubators.

Waves of new residents and immigrants have made this city their home.

In transportation, horse-drawn trolleys were electrified, steam train stations were built and then removed, giant raised highways plowed through residential neighborhoods.

So the city is different than your memories, fine. But don't try to argue Somerville ever was or should be frozen in amber. It is the change and vibrancy that makes our city so amazing. Every change leaves its mark and those marks together are a kind of art.

The Slaw says:

"Exactly, but then they also plan to make all of these buildings inaccessible by car, and only by walking, bike or T. It's insane. Takes two hours to navigate Somerville by car. Fact!"

Fact? None of this is remotely true. As is also acknowledged in this same article "There's lots of parking at Assembly Row. It's in parking garages and parking lots." In fact it is pretty hostile to get to assembly by any means besides the car. If you take the bus you get stuck in the same traffic as cars do while taking a very indirect route and/or making a transfer at Sullivan Square. If you walk you have to cross under the highway with poorly timed signals. If you bike you face the same thing but with no continuous dedicated infrastructure.

You would also be hard pressed to take two hours to drive across somerville. Even a trip from the furthest apart points in somerville accessible by car (from Mystic valley parkway to the edge of Northpoint) takes about 30 min in rush hour traffic, and only 15 min without traffic.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

# The Somerville Times

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Sligo's Last Call



The owners of Sligo Pub announced that it will close its doors in early June after several decades of business. My dad drank there when it was Pat Connolly's.

Here are some comments regarding the closure:

"They are being pushed out because there's a new building coming whole new development only the Burren will survive"

"My uncle, Joe Branley, owned the Sligo Pub way back in the day!"

"Pat Connolly's was drinking there when I was 18 was a great place no fights."

"Sad. Davis Sq. is gonna look like Kendall Sq."

"They also give our dog treats as we pass by!"

"They used to have a jar of pickled eggs on the bar."

"99 year lease from The Burren down. I think that they're going to incorporate the

Burren into the new labs they're building, but everything else is going to be leveled. They're supposed to do the same to the two buildings that the post office and Starbucks are in."

"I always had a lot of fun the meeting new people and stopping by to have a cold one. It was a very comfortable place to be in and the staff was very friendly and I enjoyed going in there immensely."

"My father used to hang out there back in the day! Sad to see another landmark going out of business!"

"They are being pushed out because there's a new building coming whole new development only the Burren will survive."

"Consequence of the zoning passed which upzones corridors and near subways. All these buildings will be reincarnated with more stories."

The Mannion family who says, "Stop by and say goodbye to our staff and share memories."

Special thanks to Ronnie Stevens.



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Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the  
Somerville Historic Preservation Commission present

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## Historic Sites In Perspective

Tuesday, May 23, 6-7pm.  
"Burials, Restoration, & Civil War Monument Talk"  
at the Milk Row Cemetery,  
438 Somerville Ave.

Wednesday, May 24, 6-7pm.  
"Spark for the American Revolution – Raid on the Old Powder House" talk  
at intersection of Liberty Ave.  
& Powderhouse Terrace.

For more information visit [somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-events-and-education](https://somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-events-and-education)





Mayor Katjana Ballantyne  
City of Somerville

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 Adrienne Pomeroy in advance at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or [apomeroy@somervillema.gov](mailto:apomeroy@somervillema.gov).



# THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## Fugitive from ICE found out

On Wednesday of last week, Somerville Police officers in charge for the day shift at the Somerville Police Department received a call from a member of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, alerting them that one of their detainees who had been arrested

the previous night was wanted by them.

The officers informed the caller that they do not hold detainees for ICE and that he was being transported to the Somerville District Court to be arraigned on his pending charges for which he was arrested.

However, the name the ICE representative provided did not match anyone they had in custody. At the time, they had someone in custody whose fingerprint result revealed that his true name may be Felix G. Almandarez, not the name he provided when arrested.

It seemed that Almandarez was dishonest at booking for the purpose of concealing the fact that he had a removal order from ICE.

The records also indicate that Almandez had been previously detained by ICE, leading police to believe that he was aware of

the removal order.

The officers then asked the court that Almandez also be charged with furnishing false ID info to law enforcement, along with the warrant charges of no inspection sticker and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

## Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

### Help Keep Somerville Safe!

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

### Arrests:

**Felix Almandarez**, of Chelsea, May 2, 2:46 p.m., arrested at Mt. Vernon St. on a charge of

furnishing a false ID info to law enforcement, and on warrant charges of no inspection sticker and unlicensed operation of a

motor vehicle.

**Kelli Loranger**, May 7, 9:34 p.m., arrested at Myrtle St. on charges of resisting arrest, assault

and battery on a police officer, and violation of city ordinance possession of a dangerous weapon, and on warrant charges of resisting

arrest, alcohol from open container, operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, and failure to stop for police.

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## Land Use Committee reviews hiring of locals, veterans for Union Sq. development

CONT. FROM PG 1

developments that are contemplated."

Galligani went on to explain that the covenant has a number of different stipulations, most of which relate to development impact fees that the developer would contribute to the city, based on performance with each phase of the project.

"But there was one item that specifically mentions hiring several residents and veterans," Galligani continued. "And that is Section 5 of the covenant, and it basically says that the city should inform US2, our developer, and

instruct them and their contractors and subcontractors to do best efforts to hire workers that are local and then also workers that are veterans."

Galligani then introduced two others who were present at the meeting who would be speaking on the matter, Greg Karczewski, who is part of the development team from US2, as well as Jennifer Mancia, Economic Development Specialist at the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD), who coordinates all of the office's workforce development efforts.

Karczewski provided an overview of what US2 has been doing to develop a diverse workforce during the current phase of development. "What we found in the process of constructing these first buildings is that building up a workforce that include women, minorities, local residents and veterans takes diligence and commitment and resources, and we like to commend our contractor partners, community partners and labor partners, who have worked with us diligently throughout the process to build

the diverse and representative workforce," Karczewski said.

Karczewski went on to explain that US2 has stressed the importance of these efforts to its contractors and continues to do so. This includes hiring 20 percent of the workforce from qualified Somerville residents, 20 percent from people of color, and 8 percent from qualified women. Karczewski acknowledged the need to increase the number of veteran hires in the ongoing project developments.

Jennifer Mancia reviewed OSPCD's programming practices.

According to Mancia, the team oversees funding and programming that leads to foundational post-secondary support in the form of the adult high school diploma program, digital literacy, career navigation services, among others. The several specific industries that are served were mentioned. Mancia emphasized that none of the above-mentioned efforts could be achieved without partnerships.

The Committee thanked the participants and placed the item on the table marked work complete.



# Somerville mayor signs historic compact committing to diversity in real estate development

Mayors from Somerville, Cambridge, Lynn, and Salem today joined with leaders from the City of Boston and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll to sign the Commonwealth Development Compact, committing to historic 25 percent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) evaluation criteria in public real estate development projects within their municipalities, as well as groundbreaking DEI considerations in private real estate projects.

Minority-and women-owned businesses have been severely underrepresented in real estate development, comprising less than one percent of developers nationally and managing less than one percent of real estate assets across the Northeast. According to industry reports, expanding public-private diversity initiatives could create opportunities for close to 1,000 developers of color, resulting in nearly \$700 million in new revenue, and 17,000 new jobs in Massachusetts.

The mayors were joined by leaders from the Civic Action Project, Builders of Color Coalition, the Boston Society for Architecture, and Eastern Bank Foundation for the historic event today in Boston. By signing the Compact, the mayors committed to promote DEI considerations in both public and private real

estate development projects in their communities, as part of a pilot project.

The DEI standards can be met through any number of creative ways, including: contracting with minority and women-owned businesses, partnering with diverse equity investors, creating space for community use and retail, or creating diverse internships and talent pipelines. Results of this pilot project will be collected, evaluated, and discussed with other municipalities and Compact partners.

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll: "Governor Healey and I are proud to support the Commonwealth Development Compact and applaud our partners in local government for committing to this initiative," said Lt. Gov. Driscoll. "As a former mayor, I've seen firsthand the positive impact that intentional DEI strategies in real estate can have on our communities. Our administration is committed to partnering with municipalities to increase the representation of minority and women-owned businesses in real estate development across the state."

Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui: "Cambridge is known as an innovation hub, and it is our job to ensure that innovation will extend to the often-cloistered



Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne signs Commonwealth Development Compact.

field of real estate development," said Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui. "Our development projects must look like our people: diverse, creative and bold. I look forward to all the cities in the compact leading the way toward a more equitable industry."

Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson: "Lynn's communities of color are a cornerstone of our story and key leaders in our local development," said Mayor Nicholson. "My administration is committed to inclusive growth and equity-focused progress that is beneficial to all our residents. I am proud to sign onto the Commonwealth Development Compact, which will pave the way for the next generation of diverse leaders in development."

Salem Acting Mayor Bob McCarthy: "With our wealth of real estate development opportunities and diverse population, Salem is proud to sign onto the Commonwealth Development Compact," said Salem Acting Mayor Robert "Bob" McCarthy. "I'm confident the results of this endeavor will lead our neighboring cities and

towns to follow suit."

Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne: "Creating and expanding opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses in Somerville is one of the most important priorities of my administration," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "I am thrilled to join my fellow Mayors to sign the Commonwealth Development Compact, which will help create systemic change in our region for historically underserved small business owners."

City of Boston: "I am excited that the ongoing work of the BPDA will become the standard for this initial cohort of municipalities, and hope that it inspires other cities and towns to join this effort," said City of Boston Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison. "We look forward to working with our partner cities moving forward on how we can drive a greater impact toward economic advancement of historically underrepresented populations."

Eastern Bank Foundation: "As part of our strategic mission to advance the economic inclu-

sion and mobility of small businesses led by people of color and women, we are proud to be the investor and strategy partner in bringing this Compact to fruition," said Nancy Huntington Stager, President & CEO of Eastern Bank Foundation. "We are delighted to have Natalia Urtubey, Eastern Bank Foundation Fellow, leading the efforts with this coalition and look forward to the results and learnings coming from this unprecedented pilot that can serve as an innovative equity model that others can follow."

About the Commonwealth Development Compact: The Civic Action Project (CAP), the Boston Society for Architecture (BSA), the Builders of Color Coalition (BCC), and the Eastern Bank Foundation have partnered to create the Commonwealth Development Compact, designed to build economic opportunity for minority and women-owned firms, who have historically been vastly under-represented in private real estate development in Massachusetts.



From left, Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Boston Chief of Planning Arthur Jemison, Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson, and Salem Acting Mayor Bob McCarthy with signed Compact.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports on the percentage of times local representatives voted with their party’s leadership during the first four months of the 2023 session.

The votes of the 2023 membership of 24 Republicans were compared with those of GOP House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). The votes of the 2023 membership of 131 Democrats were compared to House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). Beacon Hill Roll Call uses 25 votes from the 2023 House session as the basis for this report. This includes all roll calls that were not quorum calls or votes on local issues.

Rep. Susannah Whipps (U-Athol) is unenrolled and not affiliated with either the Republican or Democratic party. We based her voting record on how many times she voted with Democratic House Speaker Ron Mariano.

**THE DEMOCRATS:** A total of 125 (95.4 percent) of the 131 Democrats voted with Mariano 100 percent of the time. There were only six Democratic representatives who voted differently than Mariano on any roll calls.

The three representative who voted the most times against Mariano were Reps. Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville); Russell Holmes (D-Boston); and Colleen Garry (D-Dra-cut). All three voted against Mariano twice. There were only three other representatives who voted against Mariano: Reps. Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge), Danillo Sena (D-Acton) and Jeff Turco (D-Winthrop). Each one voted against Mariano only once.

**THE REPUBLICANS:** One hundred percent of the 24 GOP members voted with Jones 100 percent of the time.

REPRESENTATIVES’ SUPPORT OF THEIR PARTY’S LEADERSHIP FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2023

The percentage next to the representatives’ name represents the percentage of times the representative supported his or her party’s leadership so far in 2023. The number in parentheses represents the number of times the representative opposed his or her party’s leadership.

Some representatives voted on all 25 roll call votes. Others missed one or more roll calls. The percentage for each representatives is calculated based on the number of roll calls on which he or she voted.

Rep. Christine Barber	100 percent (0)
Rep. Mike Connolly	96 percent (1)
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	91.3 percent (2)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**GROWING HEMP (S 40)** - The Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee heard testimony on a bill that would allow Massachusetts farmers to grow and sell hemp that is used to make products for commercial sale. Under current law, only industrial hemp (hemp used solely for industrial purposes) can be grown in the Bay State.

If the bill passes, many allowable products would be made from hemp including cosmetics, personal care and grooming products; animal and human products intended for consumption such as dietary supplements, foods and beverages; and products intended for other uses such as cloth, fiber, fuel, paint, paper, particleboard and plastics.

The measure allows land with hemp crops to be considered farmland for tax purposes and sets up a licensing system for hemp growers.

Sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) said she filed the bill to bring the state definition of hemp in line with the federal definition, to allow for the sale of edible CBD products from locally grown hemp in marijuana stores and to authorize the Department of Public Health to regulate CBD in food.

“Hemp is a valuable agricultural crop, with many uses, but the commonwealth currently does not allow farmers to sell this product in ways that maximize its full potential,” said Comerford. “You can buy CBD products in the state of Massachusetts but they won’t be made with Massachusetts-grown hemp. That does not make sense. The hemp industry and hemp farmers deserve sensible policies.”

**RAW OR UNPASTEURIZED MILK SALES (S 43)** – The Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture’s hearing also included legislation that would allow licensed raw milk farmers to deliver raw milk directly to the consumer. Current law allows only the on-farm sale of raw milk. The measure also allows raw milk farmers to sell raw milk from their farm stands even if the stand is not contiguous to their raw milk dairy.

The bill would also allow farmers to sell raw milk to consumers through third-party cooperative buying clubs. This would allow consumers to join together and have the milk delivered to a nearby location so each individual consumer does not have to travel miles to the few farms that sell on-site.

“Our farms and farmers struggle and allowing the sale of raw milk off farm premises, such as at a Farmers Market, not only helps farmers economically but makes it easier for consumers,” said sponsor Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer).

**CHOKING ON FOOD (H 2130)** – The Public Health Committee held a hearing on a proposal expanding the current law that requires restaurants with more than 25 seats to have on the premises an employee trained in manual procedures to remove food lodged in a customer’s throat.

The measure would make the requirements apply to all restaurants regardless of their seating capacity. The measure exempts take-out only restaurants and food trucks. It also eliminates the option of having a manual device on the premises for removing stuck food because critics say it has been determined that such devices are dangerous. Another provision prohibits any person who has been properly trained from being held liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions provided during the emergency assistance.

Supporters noted that Choke-Save classes are given by the American Red Cross and are inexpensive. They are also often offered by municipal Departments of Health and Human Services.

“[This bill], known as the ‘Choke Save’ bill, removes the 25-person threshold to require choke response training for restaurant employees because someone can choke as easily in a smaller venue as a larger one,” said sponsor Rep. Ruth Balser (D-Newton). “This bill will save lives by ensuring that restaurant employees will be able to respond to a choking emergency immediately, rather than delaying a response until emergency personnel might arrive.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Labor issues are still hindering employers, but that’s just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the number of problems small business owners face in Massachusetts. It is not the time to put the brakes on tax relief for small businesses, as estate tax reform is long overdue in Massachusetts.” – Christopher Carlozzi, the Massachusetts state director of the National Federation of Independent Business.

“The threat of tick-borne disease is not going away. In fact, Massachusetts has seen one of the fastest growing increases of tick-borne disease cases in the nation in the past 30 years. It is our duty as a Legislature to act. This bill would establish a special commission of field experts and legislators charged with leading the way in identifying the best practices for increasing Lyme Disease awareness, combatting its harmful spread and assisting those suffering from its long-term effects.” — Sen Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth) testifying in favor of his bill creating a special commission to help combat Lyme disease.

“Massachusetts is a leader in public education on the cutting edge of student development and

Continued on page 23



COMMENTARY

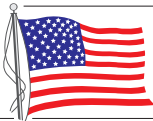
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Have a happy Mother's Day, Somerville!

# Our View Of The Times



In the midst of the darkness of these troubled times, there is one particular beacon of goodness and light that pierces through the gloom to warm our hearts and lift our spirits – Mother's Day.

While life as we know it has been far from normal in recent months, this is one occasion that can restore a bit of normalcy and order for us as we pause to honor the beloved matriarchs of our families.

Of course, some may have to celebrate in less than ordinary ways, due to the social distancing and shelter-in-place guidelines that by necessity are keeping many of us from gathering together. Whether by phone, internet, or snail mail, a lot of folks will have to make do with making contact in whatever alternative ways they can manage.

And then there are those who are fortunate enough to be able to give their moms a warm hug in person, and either enjoy some of their incomparable home cooking, or cook a fabulous meal for them for a change.

However, we manage to do it, let's make sure that they know we are thinking of them and express our gratitude for all they have done for us throughout our lives.

Depending on their individual circumstance, they themselves may be going through some feelings of anxiety during this stressful time. Especially among the elderly. Let us make an effort to reassure and comfort them, and quell their fears and concerns.

Let them know that you are doing well, and that you will do everything you can to see after them. Just as they would do for you.

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

to **Caroline Shea Rosas**, who is also celebrating this week. Happy birthday to local attorney **Neil Berman**. We hope Neil has a great birthday. To another great local attorney, **Edwin Smith**, we wish him nothing but the best as well. A great guy, and one of the best real estate attorneys here in Somerville. A big happy birthday to **Shannon Henry** who is celebrated this weekend. We wish her a very happy birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Karen Dupont**, **Lisa Dervishian**, **Janet McLaughlin-Hanscom**, **Paul Curley**, **Ann Kane-Peters**, **Mary Ellen Myhr**, **Jordan Harris**, **Diane Murphy Sullivan** and **Donny Caprigno** a very

happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **mural ride** is back. Join the **Cyclopolitan** and **ESMS** on **Sunday, May 21**, for the third annual mural bike tour through **East Somerville** and **Assembly Row**. This is a free event. Registration here: <https://forms.gle/8gzxznT-696s5Ho6Y7>.

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May is **Preservation Month**, and each year the **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission** partners with local

organizations to honor Somerville's history and historic assets. Celebrate with us all month long by attending an event. Choose from a series of docent tours, talks, and walking tours. All events can be found on the city's calendar at [somervillema.gov/calendar](https://www.somervillema.gov/calendar). To learn more about Somerville Historic Events and Education, visit: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-events-and-education>.

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Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Bob McGowan**. Bob was a great guy and will be missed by many.

\*\*\*\*\*

Stay in the loop with the latest news on **Somerville's art spaces**. Sign-up for the **Art Space Updates** from the Somerville Arts Council at [tinyurl.com/SACArtSpace](https://tinyurl.com/SACArtSpace). To read past updates go to our website: [somervilleartscouncil.org/artspace/updates](https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artspace/updates).

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On **May 23** join **East Somerville Main Streets** at **American Flatbread** in Davis Square, 45 Day St. for a night of bowling, pizza, and drinks. Portions of the evening's proceeds will be donated to East Somerville Main Streets.

\*\*\*\*\*



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#873

1. All of the clocks in which movie are stuck on 4:20?

2. Lee Marvin won the best actor Oscar for what 1965 film?

3. What is the oldest city in the world?

4. What is the rank of a Duke?

5. Name the only kind of parrot that cannot fly?

6. Who lost part of his ear to Mike Tyson In 1997?

7. Which is the the driest nonpolar desert in the world?
8. How many umpires are there in major league baseball?

9. Which song did Don McLean write about the death of Buddy Holly?

10. In what year did the USSR pull out of Hungary?

11. What colorless, odorless, tasteless gas is the most plentiful element in Earth's atmosphere?

12. Which war is the setting for M\*A\*S\*H\*?

Answers on page 17

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
2. Dragonflies have six legs but can't walk.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
AT THE AIRPORT

- ACROSS
1. Foundation

6. Dashboard acronym

9. Bonny one

13. Pleasant smell

14. Metal-bearing mineral

15. Salk's nemesis

16. Kidney-related

17. Christopher Lloyd's \_\_\_\_ Brown

18. Investigative report

19. Something to claim

21. Declaration station

23. Argonaut's propeller

24. C in TLC

25. Scot's woolen cap

28. Sushi restaurant soup

30. Exclusive accommodation

35. Was in the hole

37. Highest volcano in Europe

39. Angry growl

40. Dry riverbed

41. " \_\_\_\_ go!"

43. Adored one

44. Jong of "Fear of Flying" fame

46. Lowly laborer

47. Cone-shaped quarters

48. Time between classes

50. Dirty air

52. Hi- \_\_\_\_

53. Skiers' ride

55. Scheduled to arrive

57. " \_\_\_\_ for takeoff"

61. Frost removal

65. Luxurious sheet fabric

66. It would

68. Synagogue scroll

69. Barely sufficient

70. General Services Administration

71. Movie "Home \_\_\_\_"

72. Reason to cram

73. Negative vote

74. Washer setting

- DOWN
1. Prickle on a fence

2. Equal to pi times r squared

3. Cheap form of payment?

4. Insect in adult stage

5. Dar es \_\_\_\_, Tanzania

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19						20			21	22			
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35				36		37			38		39		
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44				45		46					47		
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63
64													
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

C	H	A	P	S		V	I	I			T	H	A	W
W	E	L	S	H		A	D	D			A	I	O	L
M	E	T	E	R		S	A	E			N	E	W	E
	L	O	U	I	S	E		S	H	I	R	L	E	Y
			D	N	A			I	T	E	M			
O	C	T		K	I	L	N		M	A	N	A	G	E
F	A	R	O		N	O	G	S			L	E	V	E
A	P	E	R		T	I	R	E	S			R	O	S
G	O	N	Z	O		S	O	P	H			D	I	S
E	N	D	O	R	A		U	T	A	H		D	O	E
			A	T	O	P			R	A	W			
L	O	R	E	L	A	I			V	I	V	I	A	N
S	T	I	L	L			L	E	A			E	L	L
A	T	O	M	Y			E	N	S			O	M	A
T	O	T	S				D	D	T			N	A	R
														S

6. Traveled on a horse

7. Not amateur

8. Hajj destination

9. Like kittens' mittens

10. "The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises" by Hemingway

11. Thailand, once

12. Tofu bean, pl.

15. Walkways

20. "Peer Gynt" composer Edvard \_\_\_\_

22. Dot-com address

24. Wrestling match, e.g.

25. Air traffic control feature

26. Fully informed

27. Army doctor

29. Traffic sign

31. \_\_\_\_ of measurement

32. Rock bottom

33. Search blindly

34. Island off Manhattan
36. Vegas cube

38. H or O in H2O, e.g.

42. Opposite of cathode

45. Obliquely

49. Knightly title

51. Slash's instrument

54. Make believe

56. Cause for food recall

57. Attention-getting sound

58. Gym class test?

59. Captain's announcement, plural acronym

60. Porter order

61. June 6, 1944

62. Type of #14 Across

63. Grannies, in UK

64. Clarified butter

67. PreCheck org.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



OBITUARY

Robert S. McGowan



December 12, 1944 – May 5, 2023

**Robert S. McGowan** of Somerville. May 5, 2023. Beloved fiancé of Rosalee Zammuto. Loving father of Robert McGowan of Somerville and Darlene M. McGowan-Elder and her husband William of Nashua, NH.

Devoted grandfather of Donald E. LeBlanc. Brother of Donald McGowan and his wife Anna of Burlington, David McGowan and his wife Donna of Arlington, and Christine C. Costello of Methuen. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation on Thursday from 4-7 pm at the Keefe Funeral Home, 2175 Massachusetts Avenue, NORTH CAMBRIDGE. A funeral service will be held in the funeral home on Friday at 10 am. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Fund.

Information session and public hearing on FY 2024 Water and Sewer Rates

The City of Somerville will hold an information session and public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2024 water and sewer rates on Monday, May 15. The information session will start at 6:00 p.m. and the public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone who would like to testify is welcome to attend and will be heard. Additional Q&A time will be offered following the hearing if attendees have remaining topics of discussion.

Written testimony will also be accepted until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22. Written testimony can be emailed to [water@somervillema.gov](mailto:water@somervillema.gov) or mailed to: Water and Sewer Department, ATTN: Hearing, 17 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA 02145.

The information session and hearing will take place at the Central Library auditorium, 79 Highland Ave. Attendees can participate in person or remotely via Zoom or phone. To participate remotely, visit [somervillema.gov/fy24rates](http://somervillema.gov/fy24rates) for the meeting link and call-in information, or contact 311.

The information session and public hearing will be recorded and rebroadcast on GovTV (channel 13 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast) and on the City's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV](http://youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV).

The proposed rates will be submitted to the City Council during its meeting on Thursday, May 11, and can be viewed online at [somervillema.gov/fy24rates](http://somervillema.gov/fy24rates).

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Pickled Ramps

It's ramp season here in Massachusetts and this season will likely be shortened due to the warm weather we're experiencing this week. So, if you haven't ventured out to your local farmers market or grocery store yet, you may be out of luck. But if you're lucky enough to have some in your refrigerator and want to prolong their shelf life, pickling them will give you a few more weeks to enjoy these tasty wild leeks.

These wild leeks have a very unique, pungent garlicky onion flavor that I find to be quite satisfying and addictive. Ramps are only found in the wild and are becoming increasingly harder to find. I'm sure that was a factor for the substantial price increase this year. Just a couple of years ago, they were about \$15.00 per pound. This year they were pushing a jaw dropping \$30.00 per pound. For more information on foraging, harvesting, sustainability, and additional

information about storing and preserving, go to [www.wildedible.com](http://www.wildedible.com).

2- 4 oz. Jars (\*see note)  
10 ramps, bulbs and leaves separated  
2 garlic cloves roughly chopped, divided  
2 pinches of red chili flakes, divided  
1 teaspoon pickling spice, divided  
2/3 cups cider vinegar  
1/3 cups water  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon honey

Clean under cold water and dry with paper towels. I separated the leaves from the bulbs and cut off the roots. Place the bulbs, one chopped garlic clove, one pinch of red pepper flakes, and 1/2 teaspoon of pickling spice in one jar. In the other jar, place the leaves, the remaining garlic clove, red pepper flakes, and pickling spice. In a small saucepan, add the vinegar, water, salt and honey, and heat until the salt dissolves.

Pour the vinegar mixture in each jar and cover the contents. Cover, and let



sit on the counter for about a half hour, then place in the refrigerator. Let sit for a couple of days to fully infuse. Use in salads, on sandwiches, charcuterie board, or anything else you'd like.

(\*Note - instead of using 2 – 4 oz. jars, feel free to use 1 – 8 oz. jar. I just find it easier to have them in separate jars since I leave the leaves whole.)

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



## LEGAL NOTICES

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City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR

GContact: Saketh Varikoti,  
Program Compliance Officer  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2023

### LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF SOMERVILLE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

#### PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Somerville will hold a virtual public hearing on the 2023 - 2024 One-Year Action Plan Draft. The City of Somerville invites community input on priority needs related to affordable housing, community development, and homelessness for grants funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant Program, and the HOME Program.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2023, and will be accessible via the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6163782351823084380>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**You can also dial in using your phone.** United States: (415) 655-0052  
**Access Code:** 906-601-217

Interested persons may provide comments to the City of Somerville at the hearing and by submitting written comments by Monday, June 26th by email to [ospcd@somervillema.gov](mailto:ospcd@somervillema.gov) or via mail at:

City of Somerville  
Attn: Saketh Varikoti,  
Office of Community Development and Strategic Planning,  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02143

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2059 or [ada@somervillema.gov](mailto:ada@somervillema.gov).

5/10/23 The Somerville Times



#### Somerville Conservation Commission

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, and the City's **Public Space and Urban Forestry Division** invite you to join a virtual community meeting as part of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for site remediation at Conway Park. The meeting will take place **Thursday, May 25**, at 6:30 p.m. Visit [somervillema.gov/conwaypip](http://somervillema.gov/conwaypip) to register to attend.

Contact Jon Bronenkant, Public Space Planner, at (617) 625-2514 x2553, or send an email to [Jbronenkant@somervillema.gov](mailto:Jbronenkant@somervillema.gov) for more information.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, **this public meeting will be conducted via remote participation.**

#### To Use a Computer

When: May 25, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Conway Park Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88406329426?pwd=QldHWTBtUzhlZnBIRnZJTnhYNUU0OT09>

Passcode: 767059

Or Telephone: +1 309 205 3325 US

Webinar ID: 884 0632 9426

5/10/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
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, May 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm**. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

#### REGISTER ONLINE

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1194423001606779734>

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

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 12.2 of the Zoning Ordinances to reflect the recommendations in the 2022 Somerville Linkage Nexus Study.
- John Fragione and Agostino Feola, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from MR3 to MR5.
- Union Square One Development, LLC requesting the adoption of a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 8.17. g. iii to permit variations to build out regulations by special permit in the CC5 District, USQ sub-area.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 8.1, Affordable Housing, of the Zoning Ordinances to remove errant text and amend the dimensional standards.

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

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

5/3/23, 5/10/23 The Somerville Times



#### ADVERTISEMENT

The **Somerville Housing Authority** invites Request for Proposals for Laundry Equipment Kiosk Purchase, set -up, and Maintenance at various State and Federally aided elderly housing developments owned and operated by the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority's Purchasing Manager.

The contract term is 3 years and are subject to the provisions of M.G.L. c.30B, inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **11:00 A.M., May 24, 2023**

Bid forms and Contract Documents will be available for download from our web site [www.sha-web.org](http://www.sha-web.org) under our Bid opportunities tab. There will be no charge for these documents. If bidding, you must email/register with Anthony Crespo, at [tonyc@sha-web.org](mailto:tonyc@sha-web.org) and leave contact information. Identify the email as Laundry Equipment Kiosk RFP # P-RFP-LKIOSK23. Addendums will be posted on the website and will become part of the contract documents; the bidder shall be responsible to download and include in with bid.

Bids can be mailed, or dropped off to Somerville Housing Authority, Attn.: Anthony Crespo, Laundry Equipment Kiosk RFP

#P-RFP-LKIOSK23 at 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245 and must be received by the time and date specified.

A Non- Mandatory walk through is scheduled for **9:00 A.M., May 17, 2023**. All shall meet at SHA Administrative Offices, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245. Please contact Anthony Crespo at 617/625-1152 Extension 336 if you plan on attending.

5/10/23 The Somerville Times

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, June 6, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

#### TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6903872424703395674>

Webinar ID: 661-470-211

#### TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (914) 614-3221

Access Code: 700-697-704

#### ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

#### Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

##### HPC.DMO 2023.10 – 25 Warwick Street

Applicant: Alec Charles Peralta Scheerer  
Owner: Alec Charles Peralta Scheerer & Ann WC Peralta  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

##### HPC.DMO 2023.11 – 246 Broadway

Applicant: Amineni Construction LLC  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

#### Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

##### HPC.DMO 2022.05 – 23 Glenwood Road

Applicant: Grace Spellenberg Revocable Living Trust  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

*Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.*

5/10/23 The Somerville Times

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Section 00.11.39  
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from **Contractors** for the **Administration Building and Courtyard Site Improvements Project, Mystic River (200-2), DHCD Project #274151** in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GCG Associates, Inc.**

The Project consists of: Removal and reconstruction of the entire entrance way to the administration building. This includes removal and reconstruction of the following: Concrete sidewalks, handicap ramps, staircase, retaining walls, granite curbing, paving and landscaping. Removal of existing concrete walkways in a courtyard area and replacement with new concrete and stamped asphalt walkways.

The work is estimated to cost **\$294,000**.

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

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com). Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General Bids will be received until **11:00 AM on Thursday, 25 May 2023** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

All Bids should be submitted online at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com) and received no later than the date and time specified above.

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

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at [www.biddocsonline.com](http://www.biddocsonline.com) (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of **\$50.00** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **\$50.00**

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), non-refundable, payable to the BidDocs ONLINE Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: NONE SITE VISIT BY APPOINTMENT: NONE

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

<b>Somerville Housing Authority</b>	Nashoba Blue Inc.
30 Memorial Road	433 Main Street
Somerville, MA 02145	Hudson, MA 01749
617-625-1152	978-568-1167

5/10/23 The Somerville Times

Food For Free celebrates new refrigerated truck acquisition



Food For Free recently received a brand new 22' refrigerated Isuzu box truck to add to the nonprofit's fleet. The truck will augment Food For Free's overall food transportation capacity by up to 27,000 lbs. (the equivalent of 22,500 meals) per day, and increase the organization's engagement with Greater Boston Food Bank transportation partners (smaller agencies without their own vehicles) by over 50 percent. Since the vehicle is equipped with a liftgate, Food For Free can serve partners with or without loading docks, and it is just the right size to access certain locations that larger trucks cannot.

On Thursday, May 4, a celebration was held at Food For Free's Packing and Distribution Center in Somerville that included remarks from Ben Engle of Food For Free and Geeta Pradhan of Cambridge Community Foundation.

The 22' refrigerated Isuzu box truck purchase was made possible by a grant from the Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) thanks to a Massachusetts CDBG CV (CARES ACT) Food Insecurity Grant – a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Food For Free's collaboration with CCF will allow

Food For Free to serve more partners in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford as they expand their engagement in the shared fight against food insecurity in the surrounding communities.



Celebrate the NW / FC 50th Anniversary

May 18, 6:00-8:00p.m. Join a family-friendly celebration of Next Wave Junior High School and Full Circle Senior High School's 50th Anniversary at their new location in the Somerville High School building.

The event is an open house that will have food, t-shirts for sale, and slideshows of photos of NW / FC over the years. Next Wave / Full Circle is a tight-knit therapeutic school community that serves students in grades 6-12.

Give a Favorite Teacher a STAR

Celebrate teacher appreciation week by honoring a favorite teacher or staff member with a STAR certificate from the Somerville Education Foundation.

This fundraiser supports the Innovation in Education Grant Program, which provides teachers with grants for developing and implementing innovative instructional methods. Teachers and staff who are honored receive a certificate with their name and a personal message. Purchase a STAR certificate here: <http://www.somervilleedfoundation.org/store/p1/star.html#/>



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

## FOR SALE

**MONTPELIER, VT** 3.93 acre building lot for sale. Could be divided into up to 6 lots or up to 18 units of multi-unit housing with town water and sewer available. \$100,000. Contact Soren Pfeiffer at 802-249-0167 or [soren@centralvermontre.com](mailto:soren@centralvermontre.com)

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## 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.

## How Much Will Our Water Bills Go Up? A Chance to Speak Up



By Wilfred Mbah

On May 15, at 6pm, Somerville city officials will hold a public hearing on proposed hefty rate increases - water rates by 12.6% for water and 18.75% for sewerage. The hearing will be at the

Central Library, with a Zoom option.

Part of this increase is due to assessment increases by the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA), a public authority established by the state to provide clean water and non-polluting wastewater for 61 municipalities.

But in addition to the MWRA assessment, Somerville's Water Department is authorized to add increases for its operations, improvements, and expansion of services. It is important for us to find out the cost breakdown

for these double-digit increases. At a time when so many folks are struggling to afford increased costs for housing and food, this added expense will be a hardship for many.

Fortunately, there are options to minimize the local hikes, for instance:

**Ask for Developer Contributions.** Much of the demand for increased capacity - particularly for wastewater treatment - is driven by new development. Many cities require developers to pay special assessments to defray the costs of providing service to

new users. Does Somerville ask developers to pay assessments in the midst of our building boom?

**Establish a Residential Exemption.** Somerville already has the power to give homeowners a rate break. Former Councilor Bill White initiated a special law for Somerville, to authorize a residential exemption on water/sewer rates. The Legislature approved this measure and passed it into law. Applying this exemption would provide relief for Somerville homeowners.

**Enforcement of Unlawful Connections.** We have laws

which prohibit unlawful connections into public sewers, and discharges of storm water from roofs and water from sump pumps onto public ways. Yet walk around after a rainstorm, and you'll see gutters, downspouts, and pump-outs pouring water onto our sidewalks and streets. We need to find alternative ways to handle these discharges; they are a big part of what is driving the increase in MWRA assessments.

Attend (or tune into) the May 15 hearing, find out what's driving these cost increases, and let your voice be heard.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

We are members of Somerville's Charter Review Committee writing in response to Nate Clauser's letter to the editor dated May 3, 2023. While we share Mr. Clauser's desire to rebalance the powers of City Council in our local government, and in fact made transparency one of the key values of our charter recommendations, calling a roll call vote is unfortunately not likely to bring about the outcome we all would like to see.

Somerville needs a new charter. In addition to raising balance-of-power issues, the current charter is antiquated in many other important ways. It is confusing, and many of its provisions are outdated, overruled by state law, or outright offensive. Some -- like its proviso that wards should have no more than 1,000 male voters -- check all three boxes. It needs not just small tweaks, but a major revision. An overhaul of this type requires Somerville to follow the process for home rule petitions. In other words, after being approved by City Council and the Mayor, our proposed charter must be approved by the entire state legislature -- many members of which are less progressive and less trusting of local legislative bodies than we are here in Somerville.

Each of us entered the charter review process thinking that it would be a no-brainer

to include more budgetary power for the Council by giving them the ability to reallocate funds. Then we heard repeatedly from experts that there is absolutely zero chance that the legislature will approve that change. At best, the legislature would cut that provision, and we would be left with the state default budget rules, which are less favorable to the Council than what we are proposing. At worst, the legislature could tank our entire draft charter, sending us back to the drawing board.

Some might ask: what about Boston? Doesn't their council have the ability to reallocate money in the budget? The answer: yes, they do, but they went about it through a different process (G.L. c. 43b §10(b)) that runs through the Attorney General's office rather than the legislature. That process, however, only works for narrow changes to the charter. It is not feasible for us here, where we need a larger overhaul. However, it might be an option in the future if our current charter reform effort is successful.

Holding a roll call vote would jeopardize all of the very important progress we are trying to make by reforming our charter. This charter review process is not the only opportunity to rebalance budget power and we hope that city councilors who

campaign on this issue continue to use their platforms and power to strategically bring about the change Somerville's residents support. As the passage of budget power is unlikely through the legislature, we on the charter committee would like to see the more politically viable priorities of Somerville residents reflected in our city's founding document.

This revised charter simply must pass. It is a massive improvement over the old one, and includes numerous other important provisions to help address the imbalance of power between the Mayor and Council: it gives the Council an effective check on the hiring of department heads, allows the Council to time-limit temporary appointments of department heads and board and commission members (which under the current charter can stay in place indefinitely without Council approval), requires the Mayor to collaborate with the Council in the budget process, and makes changes to the budget timeline that are more favorable to the Council. The draft also provides for a comprehensive charter review every 10 years, and thus builds in opportunities to address structural problems that arise in the future. In order for this charter to succeed in the legislature, however, unanimous support from Council and the

Mayor will be required.

As volunteer members of the Charter Review Committee, we spent nearly two years reviewing every aspect of our local government. We did extensive community outreach, and heard public comment at the beginning of each of our biweekly meetings. We listened to all perspectives, and adopted a consensus-based approach to decision-making. At every turn, we were guided by the values of our city and made recommendations that we believe are in the best interest of our city.

Approving the revised charter currently before Council is in the best interest of our city.

Sincerely,

Jess Lieberman, Ward 6, Charter Review Committee Member  
 Laura Pitone, Ward 5, School Committee Representative to the Charter Review Committee  
 Beverly Schwartz, Ward 1, Charter Review Committee Member  
 Kat Rutkin, Ward 1, Charter Review Committee Member  
 Zoe Iacovino, Ward 5, Charter Review Committee Member  
 Ona Ferguson, Ward 5, Charter Review Committee Member



# Somerville Open Studios 2023

Somerville Open Studios (SOS) took place on May 6 -7, 2023. SOS is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of producing an annual open studio and related events in Somerville, Massachusetts. Through its programming, SOS gives access to the work of visual artists living and working in the city of Somerville. They provide opportunities to view art made within the community; to interact with local artists; and to have access to artists' working spaces. Their goal is to broaden the public's exposure to, and appreciation of, finished works of art as well as the art-making process. This exposure both educates the community and raises awareness of the diverse artistic experience available in Somerville.







Photos by Claudia Ferro,  
Denise Provost,  
and Monica Calvo



**GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613**

12:01 AM School Committee - Personnel Meeting of the Whole 4-10-23  
2:00 AM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards  
6:30 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I  
7:05 AM Senior Circuit - Climate Change  
7:30 AM COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel  
8:45 AM SPD Ride Along  
9:00 AM School Committee - Personnel Meeting of the Whole 4-10-23  
11:00 AM Greek Independence Day 2023  
12:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change  
12:30 PMSchool Committee Meeting 5-8-23  
3:30 PM School Committee Update: Laura Pitone  
4:01 PMFit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1  
4:30 PMSPS Superintendent's FY 2024 Budget Presentation  
6:00 PM Connecting Communities - Accessibility  
6:30 PMCity Council Spotlight: Kristen Strezo  
7:00 PM Senior Circuit - Climate Change  
7:30 PM COHR and SPD: Discussion Panel  
9:00 PM School Committee - Personnel Meeting of the Whole 4-10-23  
11:00 PMSomerville Museum: Sanctuary City

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17**

12:00 AM Senior Circuit - Climate Change  
12:30 AM Jane's Walk: Boynton Yards

# EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

1:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Medford  
3:30 AM Week of the Young Child Celebration



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

**Wildwood, NJ** – Monday, May 15 to Friday, May 19, 5 days and 4 nights accommodations at a beautiful oceanfront hotel, tour historic Cape May, an afternoon at Atlantic City and more. All trips are non-refundable. Payments accepted by check only, made payable to SCOA; single room \$669; double room \$529 per person. For more information, or to RSVP to this trip please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

**Beginner’s De-Cluttering Support Group** – May 15 and June 5 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This six-week group is open to residents of Somerville & Cambridge over the age of 60. RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

**Travel Training Seminar** – Wednesday, May 31 – 10:00 a.m. to noon at our Holland Street Center. Has it been a while since you’ve been on a bus or train? If you are looking to become more comfortable using the MBTA look no further. For more information or to RSVP call Natasha Naim at 617-626-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov

**Let’s Celebrate Older American’s Month** – Tuesday, May 11 starting at 11:00 a.m. at George Dilboy Post, 351 Summer Street. Join us for an afternoon of fun as we celebrate growing older and wiser. \$10 per person. Please RSVP to Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

**Project Outlook, Low Vision Group** - 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro at 857-237-1801.

**Book Club** – Meets the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Group meets in person and concurrently via Zoom. Please RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

**Music & Munch Program** – Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This 45- minute session will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some “oldies but goodies,” a smidgen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville Resident, Laura Zoll, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a life-long love of all things musical. Learn a little, sing-along, relax and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov You will then receive your

email invitation to join the program via Zoom.

**Men’s Group** – Meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Holland Street Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**In-person Fit-4-Life Exercise Classes at the Holland Street Center** – every Monday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Phelan Howell at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Phelan at phowell@somervillema.gov.

**Tai Chi Returns** – Fridays at 10:00 a.m., May 12, 19 & 26 Join Tarsha Bethel-Stacke in this six-week Tai Chi program as she leads coordinated movements, breathing and meditation. Stemming from Chinese medicine, philosophy and martial arts. All levels are welcome. RSVP Phelan Howell at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Phelan at phowell@somervillema.gov

**Friendly Caller Program** - Looking for a way to practice social distancing but remain connected to other people? Look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone 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.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



One of Somerville’s secret gardens...  
— Photo by Denise Provost

HIGHLANDER FRINGE 2023

May 11 and 12. Don't miss the Highlander Theatre Company's student-produced performances at the Highlander Fringe Festival.

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Answers

- |                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Pulp Fiction                     | 7. Atacama Desert |
| 2. Cat Ballou                       | 8. 4              |
| 3. Jericho, West Bank               | 9. American Pie   |
| 4. Ranks directly below the monarch | 10. 1991          |
| 5. Kakapo                           | 11. Nitrogen      |
| 6. Evander Holyfield                | 12. Korean War    |

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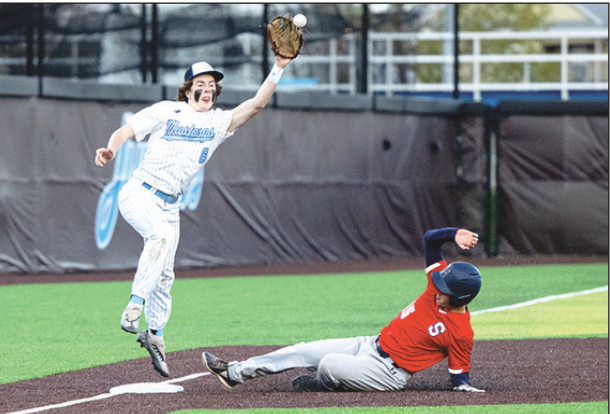
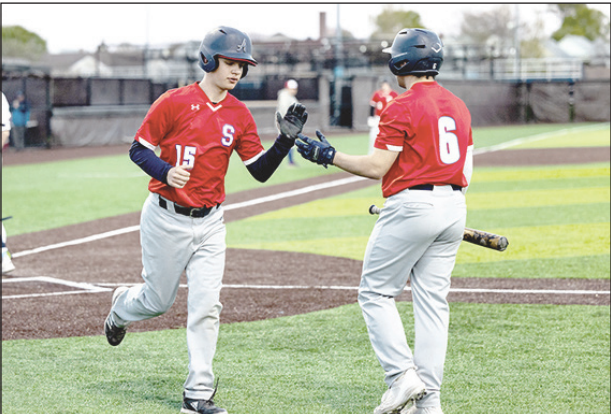
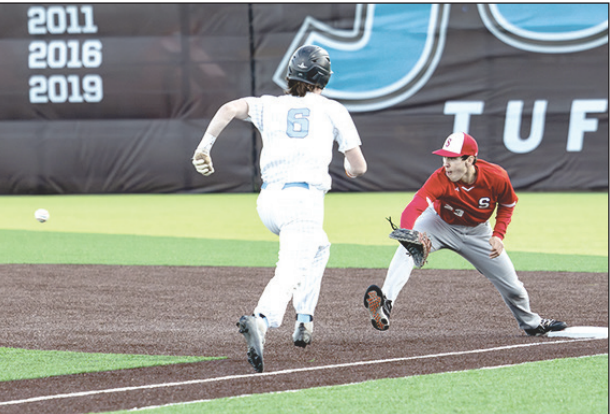
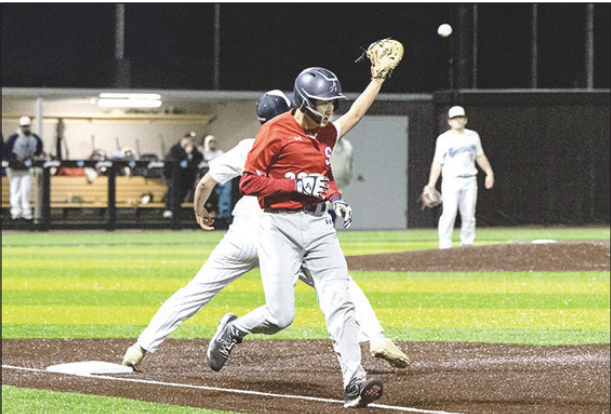
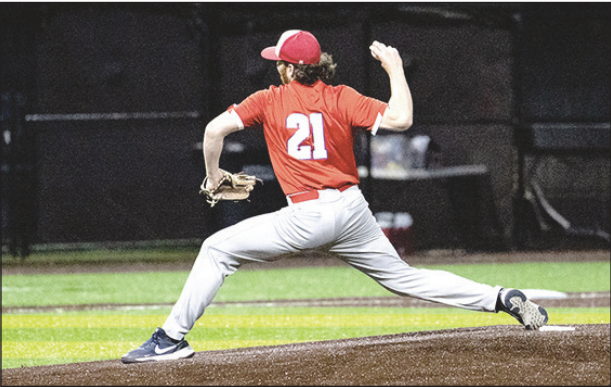




# SHS Boys Baseball vs Medford at Tufts University

On Monday, May 1, Somerville lost to Medford 7-8 in an exciting back and forth game. To see more photos from this game visit: <https://alexfredette.smugmug.com/Baseball/SHS-vs-Medford-at-Tufts/>

— Photos by Alex Fredette





# SHS Boys Lacrosse vs Mystic Valley Regional Charter School

SHS Boys Lacrosse bested MVRC at home at Dilboy Stadium 7-3 on Wednesday, May 3, in a game they controlled from the first face off. To see more photos from this game visit: <https://alexfredette.smugmug.com/Lacrosse/SHS-Lax-M-MVRC/> — Photos by Alex Fredette





Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

**Tufts Camp Kesem** is holding their annual **Make the Magic** event. It is their annual fundraising event for children whose parents have cancer. You are cordially invited to Camp Kesem's **Make the Magic Ball at Seaport** on **May 19** at 6:30 p.m. at the **Omni Boston Hotel**. The evening will include a truly inspirational program, compelling speakers, and an opportunity to support children through and beyond their parent's cancer. It will also be a chance for you to interact with other members of the community, such as dedicated healthcare professionals, some of the most esteemed professors at top institutions, and many others. To purchase tickets for the main event, please click on or paste into your browser the following link: <https://my.onecause.com/event/organizations/sf-0013c00001obpjKAAQ/events/vevt:8afe585a-373f-4c3f-ad90-4d98429e5e3e/home/story>.

Join **The Somerville Museum** and the **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission** for an engaging afternoon with **General George and Mrs. Washington**. Special afternoon tea will be served from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. Featuring **Sandy Spector, Historic Interpreter**, and **John Koopman III, Historic Re-enactor**. Learn the top 10 things you may not know about Martha Washington. Purchase a signed copy of John Koopman III's book Admission: \$5 for Somerville Museum members; \$12 for non-members RSVP:

Space is limited, and advance reservations are required. Reserve your spot by emailing Brandon Wilson at [bwilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:bwilson@somervillema.gov) **Sunday, May 21, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**, 1 Westwood Rd, Somerville.

The **Free Lockboxes for Seniors Program** is intended to provide police, fire and **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to police, fire or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. The program is targeted towards Somerville residents who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical issues at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. For more information, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at [dhiggins@somervillema.gov](mailto:dhiggins@somervillema.gov).

**Assembly Connect** is hosting a **Bike Breakfast** happening on **May 11** at their Assembly Connect Office, 330 Canal St., Assembly Row, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Assembly Connect is also establishing their first **Bicycle User's Group at Assembly**. Join the group to share your

ideas for bicycle amenities, services and roadway improvements you would like to see at Assembly, and to share your experiences as a rider.

Musicians, where do you rehearse and perform? As part of their ongoing art space initiatives, the **Somerville Arts Council (SAC)** is interested in understanding where musicians rehearse and perform. If you are a Somerville musician, please fill out this short questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/g/0iMCFX5fUR>.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **50+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **19th Annual Union Square Farmers Market**, a catalyst for vibrancy, healthy community, and economic vitality in Union Square. The Market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. **Shop the Square Saturdays** by picking up the freshest foods from your local farmers. Every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., May 13 – October 28, 66-70 Union Sq.

**Next Wave/Full Circle** is turning 50 this year and you are invited to the birthday celebration. Join the family-friendly event on **May 18** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. En-

joy food with friends, buy a T-shirt, and watch slideshows of NW/FC over the years. RSVP to [nwfc50thcelebration@gmail.com](mailto:nwfc50thcelebration@gmail.com).


**The Welcome Project** is excited to announce the **14th Annual YUM: A Taste of Immigrant City** on **June 7** at 6:30 pm. The event will be virtual. Please join in to celebrate the work of immigrants across the Boston area and highlight local restaurants that reflect the diverse and beautiful community Somerville has become. If you would like to be a sponsor of this event or purchase tickets, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/YUM2023>

Attend in-person or virtually to hear **proposed Fiscal Year 2024 water and sewer rates** on **Monday, May 15**. The information session will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Library auditorium (79 Highland Ave.). Written testimony will be accepted until 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 22**, and can be emailed to [water@somervillema.gov](mailto:water@somervillema.gov) or mailed to: **Water and Sewer Department**, ATTN: Hearing, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

May 10

1503 – Christopher Columbus discovers the Cayman Islands.

1773 – To keep the troubled East India Company afloat, Parliament passes the Tea Act, taxing all tea in the American colonies.

1775 – American troops capture Fort Ticonderoga from the British.

1840 – Mormon leader Joseph Smith moves his band of followers to Illinois to escape the hostilities they experienced in Missouri.

1865 – Union cavalry troops capture Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

1869 – The Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads meet in Promontory, Utah.

1872 – Victoria Woodhull becomes first the woman nominated for U.S. president.

1924 – J. Edgar Hoover is appointed head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

1928 – WGY-TV in Schenectady, NY, begins regular television programming.

1940 – Winston Churchill succeeds Neville Chamberlain as British Prime Minister.

1994 – Nelson Mandela is sworn in as South Africa's first black president.



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## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

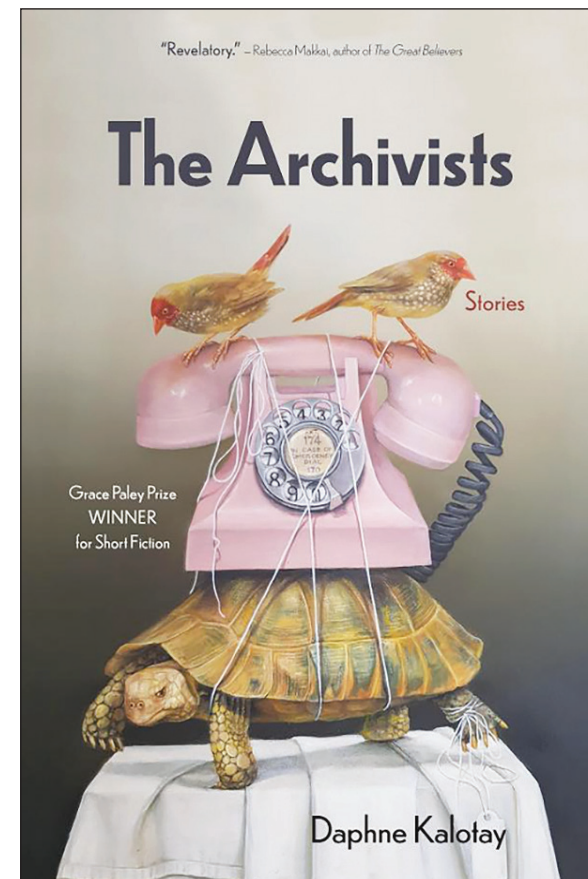
## Somerville Writer Daphne Kalotay brings us 'The Archivists'

I caught up with Somerville writer Daphne Kalotay, who has a new collection of short stories, *The Archivists*. Published in 20+ languages, Daphne Kalotay's books include the award-winning novels *Russian Winter*, *Sight Reading*, and *Blue Hours*, and two-story collections: *Calamity and Other Stories*, shortlisted for The Story Prize, and the Grace Paley Prize-winning *The Archivists*, forthcoming in April 2023. A recipient of fellowships from the Christopher Isherwood Foundation, MacDowell, and Yaddo, she lives in Somerville, Massachusetts.

**Doug Holder:** You are a Somerville writer and I see you have a story in your new collection that is based in Somerville. It is about the death of a woman who lived with cancer for nine years. It is, I believe it is about your late friend's life. Setting is so important in fiction. How is Somerville a character in this story?

**Daphne Kalotay:** Yes, multiple stories in the book are set in Somerville, though the town is not named. In the one you refer to, *Heart-Scalded*, the entire story takes place at a party in one of the big old houses I particularly love here – in this case, one that hasn't yet been fixed up and sold off. The house is inhabited by a few thirty-somethings who rent rooms from the woman's friend, who also lives there. People at the party include former renters who have moved on – either managed to afford something on their own or taken a job in another state altogether. I think this situation is very real for many folks in Somerville, especially people in the arts, who want to live in town but can't afford their own place and may eventually have to move away to continue to be able to support themselves (or the more typical "adult" lifestyle we are taught to aspire to). That theme – precarious financial stability in a city that's been rapidly gentrifying – is a strong throughline in the other story, *Providence*, which addresses gentrification much more explicitly.

**DH:** I have always been fascinated with food in fiction. Proust had his little madeleine, and you have an obscure French appetizer in your short story *Egg in Aspic*. I remember in graduate school I did my thesis on food in the fiction of Henry Roth. At first my advisor thought my subject would be trivial, but I proved her wrong. How did you come up with the



idea of this morsel as a symbol for the story?

**DK:** I love that you chose that subject for your thesis! I imagine it was incredibly interesting to write and for your readers. In my case, the idea for this story first came to me through the setting, which then led me to the specific dish. A foodie friend and I had gone to a tiny cramped French restaurant much like the one in the story, and I found it comical that this somewhat physically uncomfortable situation was so coveted. Then, a wonderful artist and thinker living in Somerville at the time, Arlinda Shtuni, invited me to contribute a written component to an art exhibit she was curating for the French Library called *In Search of Lost Memory* – there's your Proust reference. The theme of the exhibit was how the internet might be affecting our memory, so I had a prompt, and the French tie-in and Proust reference caused me to recall the tiny French restaurant, which I'd always thought would make a great setting for a story. I felt that since the physical space was small, the story itself should be very brief, which would work well with Arlinda's parameters. I then

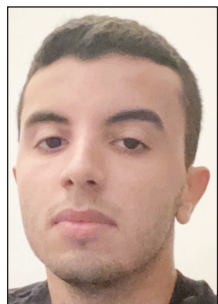
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# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Adam Khanboubi is a driven and ambitious Molecular and Medical Biology student at MCPHS. With a passion for research and a keen interest in exploring the boundaries of the medical field, Adam is set to embark on a new journey this summer as a researcher at MIT. Adam has always had an affinity for creative thinking and has found that poetry, in particular, has helped him to imagine the world outside of the ordinary. This has proven invaluable in his studies and has allowed him to approach medicine from a unique perspective, allowing him to better understand the intricate workings of the human body. Through his academic pursuits and his passion for poetry, Adam aspires to become a neurosurgeon, pushing the limits of what is possible in the field of medicine and making a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals.



## Live My Reality

She wants me to be someone that I'm not,  
To fit into a mold, that I cannot,  
To live up to her expectations and dreams,  
And ignore the voice, that inside me screams.

The pressure mounts, with each passing day,  
As I try to be, what she wants me to portray,  
But deep inside, I feel the chains,  
Of her expectations, causing me pains.

I yearn to break free, to live my truth,  
To be the person, I've always known to be proof,  
But fear holds me back, fear of her rejection,  
Fear of losing her, in my quest for self-perfection.

But I know deep down, that I can't go on,  
Living a life, where I don't belong,  
I need to break out, and live my reality,  
Even if it means, the end of our duality.

For a life lived true, is a life worth living,  
A life full of joy, and not one of misgiving,  
So I'll break out the chains, and set myself free,  
To live the life, that was always meant to be.

And though it may hurt, and it may be hard,  
I'll trust in myself, and play my own card,  
For in the end, it's my life to live,  
And my own journey, to love and give.

— Adam Khanboubi



# City of Somerville celebrates Drinking Water Week

Somerville recognizes the hard work of the City’s water professionals in ensuring the safety and quality of this vital resource

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the City of Somerville Water and Sewer Department invite community members to celebrate Drinking Water Week from May 7-13.

Drinking Water Week is designated by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to recognize the critical role water plays in supporting quality of life in communities across the country. Drinking Water Week in Somerville is marked with a Proclamation by Mayor Ballantyne affirming the City’s commitment to responsible stewardship of this vital natural resource.

“Safe drinking water is essential to public and environmental health,” said Mayor Ballantyne. “I want to recognize the hard work the city’s water professionals undertake to repair, maintain, and improve Somerville’s over 100 miles of water mains. Ensuring the safety and quality of drinking water is fundamental to the well-being of our city.”

Among other efforts to improve Somerville’s water infrastructure, the city’s Water and Sewer Department alongside the Division of Infrastructure and Asset Management has led a targeted initiative to remove all traces of lead from the city’s water infrastructure. Somerville is proud to be doing this work alongside a coalition of 120+ government agencies, local communities, and organizations from across the country as part of the inaugural cohort of the Biden-Harris Get the Lead Out Partnership.

In 2019, with funding from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) Lead Loan Program, the city launched its Lead Service Line Replacement Program to replace the full length of all lead service lines, including the portion owned by the property owner, at no cost to the owner.

At the time of the program’s launch, available records indicated 450 service lines, or about 3.6% of all service lines citywide, were known or suspected to contain lead. Since then, the city has successfully replaced 194 of those 450 service lines, prioritizing homes with young children and multi-unit properties. The city is on pace to remove all known or suspected lead pipes from its water infrastructure by 2025.

Learn more about Somerville’s water infrastructure and how the city’s Water and Sewer Department works to ensure high-quality and dependable service at [somervillema.gov/w&s](https://somervillema.gov/w&s).



## Beacon Hill Roll Call

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advancement. Despite these gains, many of our children attend school in older buildings, where outdated plumbing puts them at risk of lead ingestion. This cannot continue.” — *Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem) on the third edition of the MASSPIRG Education Fund report “Get The Lead Out” which gave Massachusetts a C- grade for its lack of a statewide requirement to prevent lead contamination of schools’ drinking water.*

“If we give away hundreds of millions of dollars each year in new tax breaks for the ultra-rich and large corporations, we won’t be able to make the investments in housing, childcare and transportation that are needed to make Massachusetts truly affordable, equitable and competitive.” — *Andrew Farnitano, spokesperson for Raise Up Massachusetts in response to new data showing that state tax revenues plummeted last month, falling \$2.2 billion below April 2022 collections.*

**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 May 1-5, the House and Senate each met for a total of 20 minutes.

Mon. May 1	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.
Tues. May 2	No House session No Senate session
Wed. May 3	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. May 4	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Senate 11:24 a.m. to 11:38 a.m.
Fri. May 5	No House session No Senate session

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

## Off The Shelf

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recalled a dish I’d eaten in France, the oeuf en gelée – or Egg in Aspic – and realized that this amazing concoction perfectly encapsulated what I wanted to say about life and death and our own ephemerality, the way it seems to preserve a tiny scene (with an egg so representative of life and birth) that is then destroyed, and that the people in the restaurant were their own little scene within their own little jellied egg, trying to preserve their moments of experience on their phones, etc. These themes – memory, archives, how we communicate our experience to one another, and what is lost – form much of the connective tissue of *The Archivists*.

**DH:** Of course, each life will eventually end – you be-

come off the table and out of the game, and then ... gone. But life goes on for the living, for the survivors. In your work you deal with absence, how it affects us, how it changes our perception – how we need it to truly feel.

**DK:** Yes, many of these stories concern survival and perseverance after loss. In some cases, I’m drawing on my own family’s decimation by the Holocaust and what I know of that history from the survivors in my family – what life looks like after. Each person’s way of interpreting the world and moving forward differs from another’s. But absence – whether it’s a namable loss (death, dementia) or just a sense of something missing (loneliness, lovelessness) – certainly has its own shape and effects how we interpret the world around us.

**DH:** If someone asked, “Why should I read this book?” What would be your reply?

**DK:** To take a break from life and phones and appointments and instead lose yourself in a good story – multiple stories –that will both entertain and move you. To see your familiar world from unfamiliar angles. To enter experiences and mindsets and lives not your own. To laugh and maybe even cry and be transported and nourished.

*Kalotay will be reading from her new book on Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. at Porter Square Books in Cambridge and Wednesday, May 31, 7:00 p.m. at Brookline Booksmith.*



# TODAY'S BANK

FOR TODAY'S ONLINE  
KIND OF LIFESTYLE



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