



Inside:



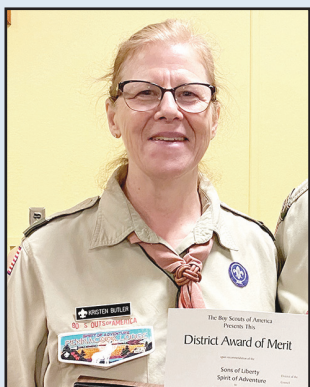
The submarine races

page 3



Porchfest 2024

pages 12-13



A true scout of merit

page 16

Water bill assistance program in the works



The City of Somerville is working with consulting firm Raftelis in hopes of finding viable options for lowering water and sewer bills for lower-income residents.

By Parker Garlough

The Somerville City Council's initial proposal for assisting residents with water bills is prohibited by an obscure Massachusetts state law, local government and utility management consulting firm Raftelis' Vice President Dave Fox said at last Thursday's City Council meeting. Raftelis recommended other solutions, and will continue to research their feasibility.

Somerville city officials have recently proposed water and sewer bill rate increases, due to factors including statewide increases by the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority as well as system improvements. They asked Raftelis to research ways to reduce the financial burden residents would incur under this proposed plan.

Some residents have recently *Continued on page 4*

First New England Hong Kong Festival comes to Union Square

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invites the Somerville community to join the first New England Hong Kong Festival on Saturday, May 18 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. (rain date May 19) at 90 Union Square. The event is organized by the volunteer-led New England Hong Kong Festival team in collaboration with the City of Somerville, Somerville Arts Council, and the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs.

The festival celebrates Hong Kong culture in honor of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. Event highlights include:

Free games and cultural activities including dragon boat display and demonstration, chess, shuttlecock, button-making, story-sharing.

Vendor booths offering Asian and Hong Kong-inspired, food, art, toys, books, and *Continued on page 4*



The first ever New England Hong Kong Festival will be taking place at 90 Union Square this coming Saturday.

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NEWSTALK

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.








David Ortiz, also known as **Big Papi**, is making an appearance at **Revolutionary Clinics** in Somerville today to promote his premium cannabis brand, "**Papi Cannabis**". Revolutionary Clinics is a vertically-integrated operator with a flagship medical and recreational dispensary located at 67 Broadway Street in Somerville. Big Papi will be greeting customers at the store from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15. The event is open to customers 21+ (and medical patients 18+ with a valid Massachusetts medical marijuana card). For more information, please visit www.revclinics.org.

There will be a **Public Hearing** before the **City Council's Committee on Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families, and Vulnerable Populations** regarding the following order: How increases in **water and sewer** rates are affecting Somerville residents. This meeting will be held in the **City Council 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: 1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. 2. To attend and be heard, 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_HjYINim_RG62H21wtDiyCA. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday May 15	Rain	73°/54°	42%	36%	SE 10 mph
 Thursday May 16	Rain	62°/52°	60%	41%	ENE 13 mph
 Friday May 17	Rain	61°/51°	45%	35%	NE 12 mph
 Saturday May 18	Rain	58°/52°	56%	42%	ENE 11 mph
 Sunday May 19	Cloudy	67°/53°	22%	15%	NE 12 mph
 Monday May 20	Partly Cloudy	66°/55°	20%	12%	ENE 12 mph
 Tuesday May 21	Cloudy	70°/54°	24%	16%	SE 12 mph

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

Fire Captain promotion



Lt. C. Darrel Richardson was promoted to the rank of Captain at the May 9th City Council meeting. Captain Richardson is a 22-year member of the Somerville Fire Department. Richardson is seen here with Chief Charles Breen following his promotion ceremony at City Hall on May 9, 2024.

— Photo courtesy of Somerville FD

The Somerville Times

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www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138

 @somervilletimes

 www.facebook.com/thesomervilletimes

Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

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Photographer: Claudia Ferro

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:

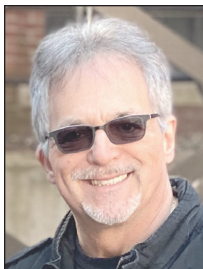


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Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

The submarine races



A quick drive to Medford's Mystic Lakes was a prime make out area. Parking there was nicknamed "watching the submarine races."

The cops were pretty laid-back dealing with all the cars. You never knew when that flashlight would shine in your face but it was worth the cat and mouse game. I have my own memories about parking down the lanes and here are more comments:

"Those were fun times. Running from the MDC police, swimming to the middle of the lake so they couldn't catch you."

"I do indeed. I used to go there in the afternoon and wax my car for the Saturday night races."

"Lol, haven't heard that line in ages" "We spent years searching. Never did see any, but I guess that we really didn't look that hard."

"We'd pull in at the boat club. But there was always this perv walking around looking in windows."

Having a place for a young couple to be alone was tough. The car was one of our only choices. Back in the 60's and 70's most cars had huge back seats and plenty of leg room.

It's funny how someone mentioned the Mystic Lakes and submarine races immediately popped into my mind. That's why it is so much fun thinking about the old days. We had no computers, no cell phones and no computers, yet we were always doing something fun. I am very glad I grew up in those awesome times.



Unique Porchfest performance

At Somerville's Porchfest this weekend, Sara Adkins performed a Live Coding music set, during which she wrote computer code that created music in real-time.



The performance drew a large crowd, as Sara and a couple of other performers who she hosted from the Live Code Boston organization used their laptops to create music and visuals, which were displayed across several old televisions.

Audience members were invited to play Super Smash Brothers on a Nintendo Wii that was in front of the performers, and the game they played was incorporated into the visuals displayed to the rest of the audience.

Visuals for different sets also included a camera feed of molten pewter being swirled in a pot by one of the performers, and a webcam feed of the audience that was processed in real-time using artificial intelligence.



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Middlesex District Attorney's Office and Police investigating death of Everett woman

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan and Somerville Chief of Police Charles Femino have confirmed the ongoing investigation into the death of an Everett woman and the hospitalization of a Somerville woman.

On Friday, May 10, 2024, Everett Police responded to a Bucknam Street home for a woman in medical distress. That woman, the 35-year-old resident of the home, was transported to CHA Everett where she was pronounced dead. The preliminary information suggests that the woman had a medical procedure done the prior day at a home in Somerville. Over the course of the investigation, it was learned that another woman had also undergone a medical procedure at the same location. That woman was transported to a Boston hospital where she remains. The investigation into the details of the alleged medical procedure and how the women's injuries were sustained is ongoing at this time.

This case has been referred to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and a ruling on the cause of death is pending.

This investigation is being conducted by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to the District Attorney's Office and Somerville Police.

Anyone with any information should contact Somerville Police at (617) 625-1600 or Massachusetts State Police Detectives at 781-897-6600.

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Water bill assistance program in the works CONT. FROM PG 1

experienced unusually large increases in their water bills as the city seeks to make up for underpaid bills in prior years, when faulty water meters reported lower-than-accurate rates of water usage. Raftelis' research was not focused on this issue – purely on the proposed upcoming rate changes.

The Somerville City Council had initially asked Raftelis to design a plan for implementing what Demetrios Vidalis, Somerville Director of Water and Sewer, referred to as a "standard rate assistance program." Under this program, residents below a certain income level would pay for water at a discounted rate. In

order to make up the missing revenue, rates for other residents would be increased slightly.

However, Massachusetts Department of Revenue rules do not permit this program. It is illegal to charge one group of customers more in order to charge another group of customers less.

Even if this law did not exist, Fox said, that type of program may not necessarily be viable, because it could result in only single-family home owners getting relief, and may not benefit tenants.

Instead, Raftelis suggests that the city should explore additional revenue sources in order to be able to lower rates for some residents.

One additional revenue source could be a fee for properties with water-intensive fire-suppression systems. This fee is very common in municipalities near Somerville. It would primarily affect commercial buildings such as hotels, who are more likely to have this type of system. It may also apply to some Somerville public housing buildings. Raftelis will conduct research to find out whether this is the case.

"As much of these fees as we can apply to commercial entities that may have more of a pool to draw from, I think would be in the best interest of our constituents," At Large City Councilor

Willie Burnley, Jr. said.

Another Raftelis suggestion was to implement stormwater fees based on the size of the land that would likely be affected. This would be beneficial to residents of tall, skinny buildings – including many multifamily homes in Somerville.

One structural change the city could make would be to alter its tiered system, which currently charges more per gallon to customers who use more water. Currently, that burden falls on hotels, businesses, and other commercial entities, as well as on apartments and public housing. By differentiating between property types,

the city could ease pressure on non-commercial customers.

To help with sticker shock, and increase ease of financial planning, Raftelis suggested Somerville switch to monthly billing rather than quarterly. This would not decrease the amount of money owed.

On Wednesday, May 15, there will be a public hearing of the Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families and Vulnerable Populations committee to discuss residents' experience with water and sewer bills. It will be held in person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, as well as on Zoom.

First New England Hong Kong Festival comes to Union Square CONT. FROM PG 1

crafts for purchase from small local businesses.

A lion dance performance by Woo Ching.

Musical performances by Golden Voices Music and Op-

era Club, Juksing, Barry and friends, and Nicole showcasing Cantonese opera, Cantopop covers, originals, and Cantonese classics.

Informational booths staffed

by the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs.

This event is part of the Somerville ArtsUnion series an initiative supported by the City

of Somerville to enhance the cultural economic development of Union Square.

For more information about the New England Hong Kong Festival, including updates on

vendors, activities and performances, visit www.newenglandhkfest.com or somervillema.gov/events/2024/05/18/new-england-hong-kong-festival, or call 311 (6017-666-3311).

Somernova files scaled back zoning for campus expansion

Somernova has officially re-filed its zoning application with a revised Community Master Plan. The Somernova community blog page provided an overview of the major changes in the zoning:

In December of 2023, Somernova proposed a 1.9 million SF campus expansion project, which was withdrawn in February 2024 after receiving feedback from the Somerville community and Union Square Neighborhood Council. We've engaged in extensive conversations and, as a result, made significant changes to the previously withdrawn Climate & Equity Innovation Sub-Area Zoning Draft.

Since the withdrawal of the original version, our team has redesigned the proposed zoning amendment to retain much of the same impact, but better reflect what we heard from the community about how Somernova can best serve Somerville. Our revised proposal envisions a 1.6 million SF campus expansion project comprising R&D and commercial space for growing climate & tough tech companies, local & independent retail, a vibrant music and arts ecosystem, housing, daycare, greenspace & youth-driven community-center.

The proposed Somernova Innovation Sub-Area Zoning, a climate, arts & equity initiative, will allow companies currently incubating in Greentown Labs and in Somernova's innovation hub to grow into their next level

space and eventually company headquarters, R&D, light manufacturing, etc. The revised zoning is designed to help preserve and scale the City's music and arts ecosystem by creating affordable arts spaces such as music recording and rehearsal space, varying sized live music venues featuring local and independent operators

The climate, arts and equity initiative will also link the growing climate tech ecosystem with direct benefits to the community by delivering a state-of-the-art community center, support equitable pathways to jobs, local artists, small businesses, and other opportunities to be defined in line with the changing needs of the community.

Below is a brief synopsis of the changes made and reflected in the revised zoning draft:

SCALE

Community Feedback: The buildings are too tall.

Action Taken: The buildings have been scaled back to 6 to 9 stories (85 to 185 feet) from 9 to 14 stories (45 to 245 feet) with a range of step-backs and heights to best fit the neighborhood context. The project has been reduced to 1.6m SF from 1.9m SF.

MOBILITY

Community Feedback: The project has too much parking and is too car-centric.

Action Taken: Parking has been reduced by 40% to 748 spaces from 1250, representing a .43/1000 SF parking ratio—

the lowest commercial parking ratio to date in Somerville. Bike parking has been increased to 500 spots from 400 spots, a 25% increase.

Somernova is committed to future proofing the campus by ensuring block 3 is transit ready to connect directly to a potential MBTA train stop. The campus will include a multi-modal, mobility hub that prioritizes the pedestrian with services such as a North-South Connector shuttle, open to the public, designed with the goal of connecting Somernova to the Red, Green, and Orange Lines.

HOUSING

Community Feedback: Campus expansion should include housing.

Action Taken: The project now includes a six-story, 100-unit residential building with a minimum of 20% of units designated as affordable.

CIVIC SPACE

Community Feedback: Campus expansion does not have enough civic space.

Action Taken: We increased our civic space to 18% from 12%, including extensive civic outdoor space with a 37,000 SF Courtyard/Park, 7,200 SF "Daycare" Park, and 11,000 SF Park. This includes a new Public Room civic space type that would allow Somernova to create publicly accessible, indoor spaces that can further enhance the neighborhood's network of civic spaces.

ARTS & CREATIVE ECOSYSTEM

Community Feedback: Campus expansion lacks commitment to the local arts community.

Action Taken: Somernova has engaged in many conversations with the Somerville arts community, and we have collaborated on a plan for how Somernova's campus expansion could play a role in helping preserve and scale the City's music and arts ecosystem. Based on these conversations, we recognize that building ACE space alone is not enough,



The re-filing of Somernova's zoning application comes after extensive review of community feedback and suggestions. — Photo courtesy of Somernova

we must collaboratively work on an environment that is purpose-built, intentional, and funded in a larger creative ecosystem.

The Alley - An ecosystem and destination where art meets tech. It will be a place for local musicians to create, rehearse, write, record, perform, and learn. The Alley will include diversely-sized live music and performance venues, speakeasies, cafes, music/arts-focused retail, affordable music recording and rehearsal space, and more.

Somernova's Campus expansion will include

65,000 SF of ACE SPACE - 25,000 SF dedicated to affordable arts spaces such as music recording and rehearsal space, varying sized live music venues featuring local and independent operators. A 7,800 SF Affordable Artist Space building at 24 Dane and a significant arts and cultural component of The Dojo (community center).

A Curatorial Team of local artists and arts stakeholders to help guide curation, types of businesses, operators, etc., to ensure the plan is implemented authentically.

Large-Scale Building-Sized Art (Exterior, including Murals) - Somernova Innovation Sub Area will require public art per building designed to foster opportunities for local, regional, and internationally renowned artists.

Kristin Phelan, VP of Real

Estate Development for Rafi Properties and Somernova made a statement regarding the re-filing of Somernova's Zoning Proposal:

"Over the past several months, we've greatly appreciated the feedback we've received from the community. Your input has been crucial and has helped make Somernova an even better project. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration. Today, we are pleased to file a revised zoning proposal, the Somernova Innovation Sub-Area Zoning, a Climate, Arts, and Equity Initiative, which retains much of the same impact of our original proposal but better reflects what we heard from the community about how Somernova can best serve Somerville. Engagement and community feedback around Somernova's growth has and will always remain fluid. We look forward to continuing conversations and working collaboratively with our neighbors, the Union Square Neighborhood Council and the broader Somerville community to create a future for Somerville's Innovation Hub that is inclusive, creative and community driven."

The Somernova community blog page has the application and an overview of the major changes in the zoning, which can be found here: <https://www.somernova.community/blog/somernova-files-scaled-back-zoning-for-campus-expansion>.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 49 – Report No. 19 • May 6-10, 2024 • Copyright © 2024 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

The Senate has held 35 roll calls so far in the 2024 session. Beacon Hill Roll Call tabulates the number of roll calls on which each senator voted and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

Thirty-seven (92.5 percent) of the current 40 senators did not miss any roll calls and have 100 percent roll call attendance records.

The senator who missed the most roll calls is Sen. Mike Rush (D-West Roxbury) who missed nine roll calls resulting in a 74.2 percent roll call attendance record. All nine missed roll calls were held on April 25th.

“On April 25th, I was on orders with the United States Navy and as a result was unable to participate in roll call votes during that session,” Rush told Beacon Hill Roll Call. “On April 29th, I submitted a letter to the Clerk of the Senate to be included in the Senate Journal stating this fact and recording how I would have voted had I been present.”

The only other senator who missed any roll calls is Sen. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington) who missed two roll calls on January 11, resulting in a 94.2 percent roll call attendance record. Barrett did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him for a comment.

It is a Senate tradition that the Senate president only votes occasionally. Current Senate President Karen Spilka follows that tradition and only voted on six (17.1 percent) of the 35 roll calls while not voting on 29 (82.9 percent) of them.

SENATORS' 2024 ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS THROUGH MAY 10th, 2024

The percentage listed next to the senator's name is the percentage of roll call votes on which the senator voted. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that he or she missed.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen 100 percent (0)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PROPOSES \$57.9 BILLION FISCAL 2025 STATE BUDGET (S 4) – The Senate fired the next shot in the long battle over the state budget for fiscal year 2025 that

begins on July 1. The Senate Ways and Means Committee proposed its own version of the spending package.

Gov. Maura Healey fired the opening volley in January when she filed her version of the spending package. The House recently approved its own \$57.9 billion version. It increases spending by \$1.9 billion, or 3.3 percent, over the current fiscal year 2024 budget. The Senate will debate the budget the week of May 20 and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and sent to the governor.

BAN HOME EQUITY THEFT (H 4624) – The Revenue Committee has advanced a new version of a bill that would prohibit cities and towns that foreclose on properties on which the owner owes back property taxes, from keeping all of the profits when the city or town sells the property at auction. Current Massachusetts law allows this practice.

Last year, the United States Supreme Court ruled that cities and towns that foreclose on properties on which the owner owes back property taxes, cannot keep all of the profits when the city or town sells the property at auction. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, writing a unanimous decision about a similar Minnesota law, said that “a taxpayer who loses her \$40,000 house to the state to fulfill a \$15,000 tax debt has made a far greater contribution to the public fisc than she owed.”

Senate co-chair of the Revenue Committee Sen. Susan Moran (D-Falmouth) said she never imagined that cities and towns could keep the equity after a home was seized and a debt paid. “Because in all the consumer work that I did, or with respect to mortgages ... the individuals who owed the debt were able to retain their equity,” said Moran. “So I was not familiar that with municipal foreclosures, the municipality actually kept all of that equity. And I felt that it was incredibly unfair.”

BAN SENDING DEEPFAKE IMAGES 90 DAYS OR LESS PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY (S 2730) – The Election Laws Committee held a hearing on legislation that would prohibit a person from knowingly sending out deepfakes of a candidate or political party 90 days or less prior to an election without providing a disclaimer as follows: “This (image, video or audio) has been manipulated or generated by artificial intelligence.”

A deepfake is defined as an image, audio recording or video recording of a candidate's appearance, speech or conduct that has been intentionally manipulated through digital and other means to injure the reputation of the

candidate. It is designed to deceive a voter and appear to a reasonable person to depict a real individual saying or doing something that that individual did not say or do.

Supporters note that the 90-day period is used because 90 days or less before Election Day is crunch time, and at that late date, campaigns may not have time or resources to adequately respond to deepfakes and ensure voters know the material is non-authentic during this time fame.

The measure empowers aggrieved candidates to seek civil action up to a \$10,000 fine against the person who posted the deep fakes. The bill's provisions do not apply to news outlets or websites as long as the outlet acknowledges that the authenticity of the deep fake is in question.

“Voters deserve to make their decisions on accurate information – and deepfake media makes that difficult,” said sponsor Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover). “With artificial intelligence rapidly evolving, I am proud to have filed this proposal that will protect voters from the influence of deceptive and fraudulent media this election cycle.”

Craig Holman, a lobbyist for Public Citizen, the Washington D.C. consumer organization founded by Ralph Nader, testified and told the Election Laws Committee that 13 other states have already adopted similar legislation. He said that the upcoming election “is shaping up to be the first very serious deepfake election we've ever seen.”

“Artificial intelligence has been around for a while,” said Holman. “But only this year, this election cycle, we've seen startling new advances where artificial intelligence can depict a candidate saying or doing something that they never did. And it's almost impossible to tell the difference between what's real and what is just entirely computer fabricated.”

“It's not a ban,” continued Holman. “It exempts news media, it exempts broadcasters and even social media platforms that make a reasonable effort to discern whether a communication is a deepfake or not. And it provides the targeted candidate with injunctive relief to try to stop further dissemination of that type of deepfake ad.”

\$2.4 MILLION FOR SUPPORTIVE AND SOCIAL DAY PROGRAMS – Gov. Maura Healey announced that \$2.4 million in grants, ranging from \$15,000 to \$300,000, will go to 20 organizations and communities to broaden Supportive and Social Day Programs to help community organizations and municipalities expand or launch Supportive and Social Day Programs for older adults and individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in their community. *Continued on page 18*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Farmers markets season is kicking off in Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



It seems as though we cannot get enough of the farmers market scene in Somerville. They have become time-honored traditions and perennial mainstays of alternative commerce in the city.

There is something special about shopping for fresh produce, discovering unique arts and crafts vendors, and enjoying live entertainment in the open air. We feel a sense of camaraderie, too, as we gather to

take in the sights, sounds, flavors and aromas that permeate each market site.

The first markets of the season are beginning to open, and there is no better time to experience what they have to offer than in the high summer months to come.

The Union Square Farmers Market, operated by Union Square Main Streets, takes place every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Union Sq Plaza and will

run until October 26, and they proudly continue to offer their \$15 SNAP match.

The Davis Square Farmers Market kicks off on May 22, at the intersection of Day St. and Herbert St., every Wednesday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., ongoing until November 27. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. SNAP users can earn

additional benefits through the healthy incentives program (HIP) at the market! Spend \$40-\$80 per month (depending on household size) on fruits and vegetables at participating vendors and the money will be put back on your EBT card.

So you see, there is no shortage of good, old fashioned style trading available for all of us here in the city. Be sure to check them out and enjoy the feeling.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

U.S. mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. 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 Council.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy Birthday to local attorney **Ed Smith**. Ed is a great guy and we wish him the very best year ahead. Happy birthday to **Feargal O'Toole**. We wish him a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Vinny Vicente**. We wish him the best. Happy birthday to **Brian Roche**. We hope he enjoys his day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such **Don-**

ny Caprigno, Kevin D. Downey, Ken McIntyre and Karen Keenan McCann 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.

Attend the **Final City-led Armory Master Plan Meeting on Governance & Complete the Armory's Survey**. The final Armory Master Plan meeting will focus on "Future Governance" and is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 15**, at 6:00 p.m. at the **Community Baptist Church** on College Avenue, Somerville. Let your voice be heard in the future of

the Armory. Learn more about these meetings here: <https://artsatthearmory.org/about/armory-master-plan/>.

Somerville community members are invited to the "Slice of the City" spring meet-up series. This new series of family-friendly pizza parties in the park offers attendees a new way to connect and engage with city leaders and staff, local elected officials, as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks. Events in each of the city's seven wards will occur throughout the month of May from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information and to find all event locations, visit [\[villema.gov/slice\]\(http://villema.gov/slice\). Upcoming meetings: **Thursday, May 16: Ward 5 at Trum Field Playground**, One Franey Road at Cedar Street, **Monday, May 20: Ward 3 at Prospect Hill Park**, 68 Munroe Street, **Tuesday, May 28: Ward 2 at Lincoln Park**, 290 Washington Street \(near Argenziano School entrance\).](http://somer-</p>
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It's **prom season** and **The Community Affairs Unit** is collecting suits to help out **SHS students** in need. If anyone has suits that they no longer have use for, please reach out to edacosta@police.somerville.ma.us to arrange for pickup.

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#923

1. Which Celtics player scored 60 points in a single game?
2. Which Boston Celtic won five NBA Most Valuable Player Awards?
3. How long has the Boston Bruins been in existence?
4. What was first facility to host the Boston Bruins?
5. Who is the current president of the Boston Bruins?
6. What hockey player was awarded the vanity license plate "MR HOCKEY" by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?
7. What is a bombilla?
8. What shortbread cookie is named for the heroine of a nineteenth-century English novel?
9. Where does Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival take place?
10. In Happy Days, what was Fonzie's dog named?
11. What was used to erase lead pencil marks before rubber came into use?
12. In which Italian city would you find the Colosseum?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A lb. of potato chips costs 200X more than a lb. of potatoes.
2. We spend 6 months of our lives sitting at red lights.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

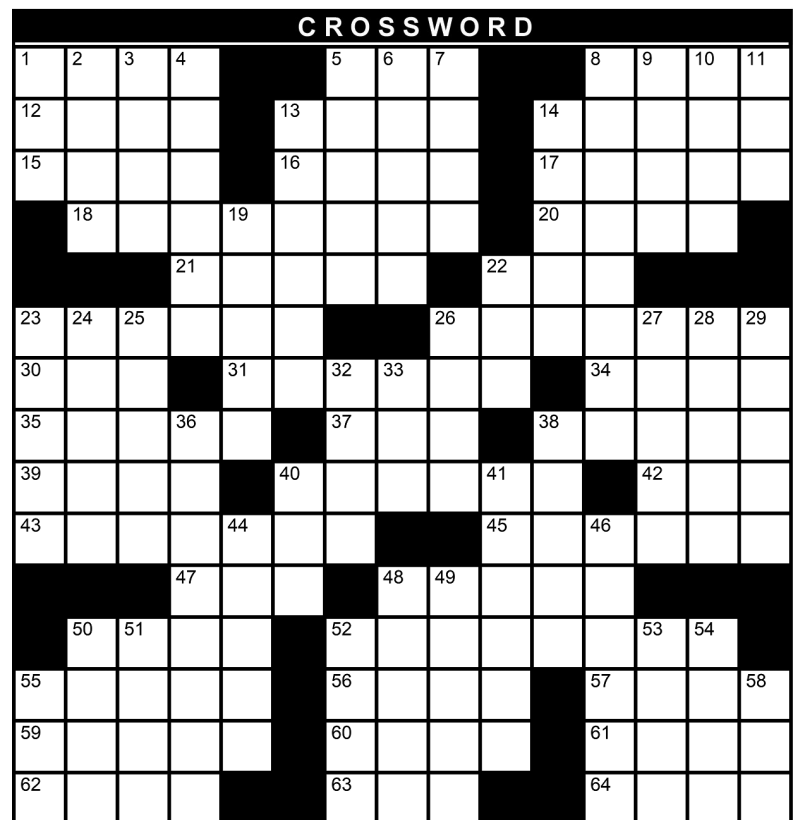
OPPOSITES

ACROSS

1. Clothing joint
5. Opposite of good
8. Pre-
12. Guesstimate (2 words)
13. Sudden impulse
14. Group dice game
15. Stead
16. Naive person
17. Fancy necktie
18. Compass point opposites (2 words)
20. A pinch between the cheeks
21. Earth tremor
22. Before skip and a jump
23. Constantly worry about something
26. More infinitesimal
30. Catch a wink
31. One weber per square meter, pl.
34. Pre-recorded
35. Deed hearings
37. Cribbage piece
38. Bread spreads
39. Plural of focus
40. Making the way, in a way
42. "I Like ___," 1952 campaign slogan
43. Of somber color
45. Like bride's accessories (2 words)
47. 60 mins., pl.
48. Indiana ball player
50. One of Three Bears
52. Day periods (2 words)
55. Vernacular
56. Part of church
57. Soap bubbles
59. Type of small salmon
60. Bound
61. Domingo, Pavarotti and Carreras, e.g.
62. Nicholas II of Russia, e.g.
63. Key next to spacebar
64. Where users review

DOWN

1. Fa follower
2. Between Ohio and Ontario
3. Opposite of on land
4. Fluffy dessert
5. Hillsides in Scotland
6. Anti-seniors sentiment
7. Opposite of awkward and clumsy
8. Door instruction (2 words)
9. Fairy tale opener
10. Flat-bottomed boat
11. Bambino
13. Not like #26 Down
14. Popular breakfast item
19. MCAT and LSAT, e.g.
22. Hers
23. Switch positions (2 words)
24. Louisiana swamp
25. Glasses, for short
26. Three biblical sages
27. A logical connection (2 words)
28. Extract a memory, e.g.
29. Stitch again
32. R&R spots
33. Tolstoy's given name, in Russian
36. Irwin Shaw's title opposites (2 words)
38. Checked out
40. Pimple fluid
41. Marked
44. Speak like Pericles
46. Not airtight
48. Teacher's pet, e.g.
49. Balance sheet entry
50. Cons
51. Muslim honorific
52. Facts
53. Donned
54. Nervous biter's victim
55. College assessment test, acr.
58. Janitor's tool



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Soultion in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Leonard J. Rigione



Leonard J. Rigione passed away at home on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the age of 82. Affectionately known as Lenny, or Papa to his grandkids, he proudly served in the Massachusetts Army National Guard. He retired after 20 years with veteran status.

Born in Cambridge, he was the son of the late Ralph Rigione and Celia (Repoza) Kersulis. Lenny loved his entire extended family and enjoyed spending time with all of them. His grandchildren were the apples of his eyes. When not spending time with his family he enjoyed drawing, painting, puzzles, word searches and woodworking. He was talented with his hands, to where you could always find him tinkering with something. Lenny was a master

wood craftsman who enjoyed creating new pieces that celebrated each holiday. For over 40 years, he enjoyed creating lively, and some motorized, wooden displays. Termed "Father Christmas" by the residents of Somerville, Lenny was recognized for the joy he shared with his community through his work. Particularly Christmas, which was his favorite holiday.

Everyone around the city of Somerville looked forward to his brilliant yearly Christmas display. His house was one of the star attractions on the Somerville Illumination tours. He received many accolades in the news for his brilliant displays, ranging from newspaper stories to interviews on local news stations, including NECN and Channel 5.

His work was even showcased in the bonus feature "Deck the Halls" from the film Elf. Lenny enjoyed seeing the smiles he brought to others with his displays. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Beloved husband of 62 years to the late Yvone A. "Candy" Rigione who passed away in February 2023. Devoted step-son of the late Joseph Kersulis. Devoted father of

Leonard Rigione, Jr; Hope & Raymond Parsons; Vaughn & Sally Rigione; Ralph Rigione & Marty Garcia and Kathy Rigione. Loving grandfather of Crystal, Bryant, Nathan, Ben, Jude, Jenny and deceased grandson William. Lenny was the cherished great-grandfather of Nicholas, Sadielynn and Scarlett. Dear brother of Jo-Ann Johnston and the late Harry Johnston and his late twin sister Lee Millerick. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

At the family's request Lenny's funeral services are private.

Lenny's woodworking craft has been immortalized at the following sites:

- WCVB Channel 5 video from 2023, is located at: https://youtu.be/LmqJ_6o018o?si=pvky3O0LoHjs9Pxo

- Somerville Neighborhood News from 2018: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI-7HwY_0sRA

- Bonus feature, "Deck the Halls", for the New Line Home Entertainment feature film Elf (starring Will Ferrell).

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Leonard "Lenny" Rigione, please click here to visit our Sympathy Store.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #304

(This article was first published in the May 27, 2015, edition of The Somerville Times)

Decoration Day

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It was a day born out of the Civil War to honor the soldiers who had died during that terrible conflict. The official tradition began on the 30th of May, 1868 at the Arlington National Cemetery.



Decoration Day, later changed to Memorial Day, was designated for the placing of flowers, flags, and personal items of respect on the graves of the fallen veterans of that war and to honor them for their supreme sacrifices. The graves of these veterans numbered over 600,000, and they are found in thousands of their hometowns throughout the country.

After World War I, the observance day was changed to honor not only Civil War dead, but also all American veterans who lost their lives in all her wars.

Through the years, dozens of towns professed to have been the birthplace of Memorial Day. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson officially declared Waterloo, New York, as its place of origin. Waterloo was chosen because one hundred years earlier on May 5, 1866, the village was adorned with flags at half-mast and soldiers' graves were decorated. It was the first formal, village-wide annual observance of a day dedicated to honoring the Civil War dead.

There are two cemeteries in Somerville. The younger cemetery is located on Broadway near the Arlington line and is one of the only veterans "Killed In Action" cemeteries in the nation.



The older cemetery is located on Somerville Avenue opposite School Street. A fifteen-foot high, eagle-adorned monument stands prominently in its center and is dedicated to Somerville's slain Civil War soldiers. It is inscribed with the names of the deceased Somerville heroes and the quote, "Their warfare is over, they sleep well." This shaft is said to be the first stone erected and paid for by citizens as a public memorial to the memory of those who died in their country's service during

Continued on page 20

Somerville Museum May Preservation Month events

Throughout the month of May, the Somerville Museum will partner with the City of Somerville and members of the community to host events honoring Somerville's history. All events are open to the public, ADA accessible, and free to all. We hope you'll join us for some exciting special events this month! Location details and sign-up links will be posted in advance of each event at somervillemuseum.org/preservation-month.



Civil War Monuments, Burials, and Restoration at Milk Row (lecture): Thursday, May 16, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Learn about the series of preservation measures that restored much of Milk Row Cemetery, including gravestone and tombstone rehabilitation, landscaping, and conservation of the Civil War monument at the center of the cemetery.

How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm (lecture): Thursday, May 23, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Why did General Gage feel compelled to send British regulars up the Mystic *Continued on page 11*

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI/RRF)**

Date of Publication: May 15, 2024
Responsible Entities City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and
Community Development
93 Highland Avenue, 3rd floor,
Somerville, MA 02143
Tel: 617-625-6600, x. 2565

This combined notice is intended to satisfy two separate, but related, procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Somerville (The City), acting by and through the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD).

On or about May 29, 2024 The City will submit a request to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Boston Regional Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as the replacement of windows facing I-93 at 500 Mystic Ave. and 1-90 River Rd., Somerville, MA, for the purpose of removing asbestos from the existing windows and creating a more environmentally friendly space. Total project costs, including soft costs, is estimated at \$1,873,000. The City's share is also \$1,873,000 of federal funding.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City, via HUD sanctioned Environmental Review, determined that the project may have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, the posting of a Notice of Intent/Request for Release of Funds (NOI/RRF) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is required. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) documenting the environmental determinations for this project is on file at OSP-CD, 3rd floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at 3rd Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave. and may be examined and/or copied Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; and Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to The City at the address given above. All comments received by the end of the business day on May 29, 2024 will be considered by The City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City certifies to HUD/Boston that Alan Inacio, in his capacity as Director of Finance and Community Development and Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD/Boston's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows The City to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

(The City and DHCD are referred to generically in this paragraph as "RE", which stands for "Responsible Entity".) HUD/Boston will accept objections to its release of funds and The City's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officers of The City; (b) the The City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, or incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/Boston; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to: HUD/Office of Community Planning & Development, Thomas P. O'Neil Jr. Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02222-1092. Potential objectors should contact HUD/Boston (617-994-8200) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Alan Inacio, Director of Finance and Community Development, OSPCD
5/15/24 The Somerville Times



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

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

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, June 4, 2024** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 - 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Zu1wLX6zSriyl67-kq1MFq
Webinar ID: 868 8684 5522

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HP24-000032 – 57 Columbus Ave

Applicant: David Bell & Monique Cole
Owner: Same as Applicant
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter the exterior of an LHD property through the removal of existing exterior features and the installation of new exterior features.

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

5/15/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
IFB 24-78**

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

Calendar Scheduling Software Tool

The IFB package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, May 13, 2024**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, May 29, 2024**.

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

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

5/15/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND
CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #24-70**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, Invites Sealed Bids For:

**Maintenance and Repair of HVAC Controls for
Municipal Buildings and Schools**

A bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, May 15th, 2024**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2pm, Monday, June 3rd, 2024**.

The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Prebid walk can be arranged by request. Please email Sonia Castro scaastro@somervillema.gov.

DCAMM Required

Sonia Castro
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

5/15/24 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SEWER
FISCAL YEAR 2025 RATE PROPOSAL
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing, regarding the Fiscal Year 2025 Water and Sewer rates, on May 29th, 2024, at 6:00PM, on the proposed changes:

1. A 10% increase in water volumetric charges;
2. A 5% increase in sewer volumetric charges; and
3. No change to existing base charges for both water and sewer.

Pursuant to the Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be held by remote participation.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person at the Somerville Water and Sewer Department Conference Room, 15 Franey Rd, Somerville, MA 02145.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:

Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87205176724>
Webinar ID: 872 0517 6724
To dial in: +1 309 205 3325

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to water@somervillema.gov with RATE HEARING as the subject title or send them by US mail to the Water And Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA, 02145. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing to be sure they are conveyed to the Department of Water and Sewer.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

DEMETRIOS G. VIDALIS, DIRECTOR OF WATER AND SEWER
WATER@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Extended Operating Hours License.

New Extended Operating Hours License, Eat Greek Gyros, 215 Elm St, for in-store, take-out, and delivery services until 2am.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, 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_diJxeJPWT7C-sDcxJBESZ0
2. 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 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

5/15/24 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Extended Operating Hours License.

New Extended Operating Hours License, Papa John's, 622 Somerville Ave, opening Sun-Thur until 1am, Fri-Sat until 2am for takeout and delivery services.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, 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_diJxeJPWT7C-sDcxJBESZ0
2. 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 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

5/15/24 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Extended Operating Hours License.

New Garage License, BRE-BMR Assembly Innovation I LLC, 122 Assembly Park Drive, 306 vehicles inside, 0 vehicles outside for charging money to store vehicles and operating a tow, operating 7 days a week 24 hours.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, 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_diJxeJPWT7C-sDcxJBESZ0
2. 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 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

5/15/24 The Somerville Times



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Removal of Public Shade Trees

City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.** using Zoom software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- **217 Somerville Avenue on Rossmore Street**
 1. Two Callery pears- 10" in diameter, fair condition

Trees are proposed for removal as part of a Somerville Public Space and Urban Forestry (PSUF) park project. Both trees will be removed and replaced.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervillema.gov, or mailed to: 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA, 02145.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/mr364jhj>
Webinar ID: 814 2410 4857

TO JOIN VIA AUDIO

US +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325

5/8/24, 5/15/24 The Somerville Times

Somerville Museum May Preservation Month events

continued from page 9

River to seize the contents of the Powderhouse? There is no way to answer that question without considering the series of monumental mistakes committed first by the British ministry and then by Gage himself, in the months and weeks leading up to the events of September 1, 1774. This May is an appropriate time to review those mistakes, as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of Gage's fateful arrival in Boston.

Docent Program: May – October, 2024

Over a dozen Somervillians participate in the Docent Program each year, which offers guided tours and information about three of the city's historic sites:

- Milk Row Cemetery on Somerville Ave.
- Prospect Hill Tower
- The Powder House in Nathan Tufts Park

Docents are local residents who volunteer their time to teach neighbors and visitors about the city's rich history. In addition to the Docent Program, many of these volunteers also participate in other celebrations such as the First Flag Ceremony, Patriots' Day, and more.

Don't forget: May is the beginning of the 2024 Docent Opening season. Public openings are offered twice a month, for two hours at a time, from May through October. Opening dates for the 2024 season are available at <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/docent-program>.

Questions? Contact Grace Bryan, Historic Events Manager, at grace@somervillemuseum.org.

— Photos courtesy of Cynthia Frawley and ConserveART LLC



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

Porchfest 2024

Somerville's porches, yards, and stoops once again presented free mini-concerts across the city last Saturday as part of the city's annual Porchfest, hosted by the Somerville Arts Council. This celebration of local, live, home-grown music offered something for everyone at drop-in home-based shows. Participants simply strolled from house to house to enjoy the open-air entertainment. More than 300 bands participated across wide-ranging musical genres from youth playing classical music to electronica groups, karaoke, and – a first this year – stand-up comedy.





Photos By Claudia Ferro



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PROFESSIONAL/HELP WANTED

Curriculum Dev't Specialists sought by The Little Butterfly dba WorldSong Schools Winter Hill in Somerville, MA to coordinate the planning, design, and dev't of the curriculum for toddlers and preschoolers. Master's degree in Edu., Teaching, ECE or related, + 6 mon. full-time work exp. in the ECE field. Email resume to wenrui@whill.worldsongschools.com. Attn: Wenrui Li. Ref#CDS04.

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Jayson Tatum and Larry Bird | drink mate (caffeine-rich infused drink) |
| 2. Bill Russell | 8. The Lorna Doone |
| 3. Since 1924 | 9. Empire Polo Club in Indio, California |
| 4. Boston Arena (today's Matthews Arena) | 10. Spunky |
| 5. Cam Neely | 11. Tablets of wax |
| 6. Eddie Shore | 12. Rome |
| 7. Drinking straw, used to | |

Mayor Ballantyne announces new Somerville School Building Committee Members

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing the members of the School Building Committee (SBC) who will provide oversight of the city's construction plans for a new school to meet the needs of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School and potentially the Benjamin G. Brown School.

The members will work with city and Somerville Public Schools staff and consultants to oversee construction project management such as hiring project managers, architects, and construction contractors, and ensure that detailed plans and designs meet the needs of the school district within budget.

Learn more about the SBC members, their roles and their areas of expertise below:

Emily Grandstaff-Rice will fill the role of: *Community member with architecture, engineering, and/or construction experience.*

Emily is a registered architect in Massachusetts who holds leadership positions in several state and national professional organizations and served on the City of Cambridge Getting to NetZero Energy Task Force. Emily has designed and managed dozens of academic building projects, including two successful MSBA-funded elementary schools and the first triple net zero (waste, water, and energy) charter school in Massachusetts. Emily holds an accreditation as a Learning Environment Planner and has direct experience with the full range of MSBA requirements.

Daniel Grayton will fill the role of: *Community member with understanding of municipal finance and how spending impacts the total burden on tax- and rate-payers.*

Daniel holds a B.A. in Politics & Government and served as City Councilor-at-Large in Methuen, responsible for approval and oversight of an annual \$150M

operating budget. Since 2017, Daniel has worked for the City of Amesbury where he served in progressively more responsible roles in administering the MSBA process from eligibility through the end of construction for the Sgt. Jordan Shay Memorial Lower Elementary School.

Courtney Koslow will fill the role of: *Parent or guardian from the Winter Hill Community Innovation School.*

Courtney is the parent of a rising 5th Grader at the WHCIS, has been an active member of and has received an endorsement by the Winter Hill PTA, and has served on the school's Governing Board advocating for building improvements. Courtney's community focus is evidenced by her prior service on the Community Preservation Committee and her current appointment to the Somerville Commission for Energy Use and Climate Change. In her professional life, Courtney oversees all facets of development for large-scale, affordable and mixed-income rental properties.

Richard Heidebrecht will fill the role of: *Parent or guardian from the Benjamin G. Brown School.*

This fall, Richard will have three children in the Brown and has received an endorsement from the Brown School PTA to serve as their representative on the SBC. In his work in the biotechnology space and having served on a condominium association for nearly 20 years, Richard has extensive experience navigating complex problems with diverse teams and reaching consensus.

Additionally, Mayor Ballantyne's call for School Committee volunteers resulted in an outstanding pool of applicants, each of which would contribute helpful experience and beneficial perspectives to the SBC.

In order to maximize the impact of the SBC, the mayor has



decided to include two additional at-large roles on the Committee:

Hanna Bao is a parent to two SPS students and is interested in contributing to the community. She co-owns a small local company that specializes in home renovations, understands how a project requires expertise from different fields and has experience working with a team to achieve common goals.

Suraj Rajbanshi is a parent to two SPS students and is passionate about education, especially building a new school that will serve the diverse needs of the City's future students. Suraj worked in the field of civil engineering for over 12 years before emigrating to the US in 2008, building significant experience in construction project management.

Background on the School Building Committee

The Somerville Public Schools have been accepted into the first phase of the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) grant program. The grant program could potentially provide significant state funding for the rebuilding or new construction of a

new school. This state funding program requires that all applicants establish an SBC according to state guidelines.

The full list of all members of the School Building Committee includes:

Name and SBC Role

Richard E. Raiche, Director of Infrastructure and Management, Interim Chair

SBC Member who is MCPPO Certified

Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor of Somerville

Local Chief Executive, Officer/Administrator, Representative of Office Authorized by Law to Construct School Buildings

Andre Green, Ward 4 School Committee Member

School Committee Member

Dr. Ruben Carmona, Superintendent of Schools

Jill Lathan, Commissioner of DPW

Local Official Responsible for Building Maintenance

Courtney Gosselin, WHCIS Principal

School Principal

Kathleen Seward, Coordinator for K-8 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Member knowledgeable in edu-

cational mission and function of faculty

Edward Bean, Finance Director/Auditor

Local Budget Official or Member of Local Finance Committee

Emily Grandstaff-Rice, Architect

Member of Community with Architecture, Engineering, and/or Construction Experience

Jesse Clingan, Somerville City Council

Ward 4 City Council Member

Shawn Maguire, Brown School Principal

School Principal

Courtney Koslow, WHCIS Parent

Richard Heidebrecht, Brown School Parent

Daniel Grayton, Resident with Municipal Finance Experience

Hanna Bao, Resident and SPS Parent with Development Experience

Suraj Rajbanshi, Resident and SPS Parent with Engineering Background

For more information on the Winter Hill Community Innovation School construction project, please visit somervillema.gov/WHCIS.

Expanded data sets and tools on city's Open Data Portal announced

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Police Department (SPD) are making it easier for residents to access police data in Somerville. In collaboration with the City's Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) and the SomerStat Office of Innovation and Analytics, SPD is now publishing four updated or expanded police data sets to the city's Open Data Portal. All data sets will now include new interactive data visualizations. These updates build on the administration's goals to modernize policing in Somerville and expand transparency with the Somerville Police Department.

Visitors to the Data Portal will find more data overall as well as more frequently updated crash data. The four data sets — Crime Reports, Computer Aided Dispatch, Traffic Citations, and Motor Vehicle

Crashes — will be continuously updated with new data daily, and the amount of data reported is expanding. Previously, only four property crime types were reported. Now, the new "Crime Reports" data set will expand to cover 48 types of crimes against property, persons, and society. Likewise, the "Calls for Service" data available was previously limited to 30 quality of life and traffic enforcement call types. The new "Calls for Service" data set now expands reporting to include 144 call types.

Access to motor vehicle crash data will also improve. Previously, the "Motor Vehicle Crashes" data set was a historical data set that ended in April 2018. The new "Motor Vehicle Crashes" data set will backfill data starting from May 2018 and will be continuously updated with current data going forward. The histori-

cal data set will remain viewable online.

"I want to thank our Police and Racial and Social Justice Departments especially for driving this initiative forward. As we work to build Public Safety for All and strive for the Vision Zero goal of no deaths or serious injuries on our streets, providing greater access to crime, traffic violation, and crash data, will allow our community to work alongside us to achieve our shared goals," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Greater transparency builds better community outcomes."

"The Somerville Police is committed not only to keeping our community safe but also to continually evolving our efforts to incorporate best practices. Transparency is an important best practice that advances our goals to keep the community informed of crimes and crashes in



their neighborhoods and police activity to address them. I want to thank the Racial and Social Justice, SomerStat, and SPD Crime Analysis departments for helping us get this data online and making it accessible," said Chief Charlie Femino.

Alongside the updates, each data set can now be explored with new interactive visualiza-

tions that include maps by census block. To increase understanding of the data, the data sets will also be accompanied by a unique "Data Dictionary" that provides background for each data set and defines specific terminology about each data field.

Visit the City of Somerville Open Data Portal at data.somervillema.gov.

Kristen Butler of Somerville receives District Award of Merit

Pack 3 and Troop 3 Somerville, serving youth as part of Scouting America (formerly the Boy Scouts of America), are proud to announce that Kristen Butler, Scoutmaster of Troop 3 and Committee Chair of Pack 3, has been named the recipient of the District Award of Merit for 2024. This award is given by the Sons of Liberty District of Scouting America, and recognizes exceptional service to Scouts and Scouting.

Kristen was recognized for her 15 years of extraordinary service to Scouting in Somerville and at the District level. In 2009, she worked with other Somerville families to restart Somerville Cub Scout Pack 3, which had lapsed for several years. Today, Somerville Pack 3 is thriving, with more

registered Cub Scouts and parent leaders than ever before.

Kristen is also the Scoutmaster of Troop 3 Somerville, one of the oldest in the country, continuously chartered with Scouting America since 1910. Since becoming Scoutmaster in 2018, she has grown the Troop in size, and today the Troop is the largest and most active it has been, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Kristen also serves at the District level, most notably on the Eagle Scout Board of Review, the committee that awards the Eagle Scout rank to youth, the highest award a Scout can achieve.

Kristen has dedicated her Scouting career to ensuring that every young person who wants to be a Scout can be, whether or not they are from an experienced

scouting family, and regardless of ability to pay. From a warmer sleeping bag to a fishing pole to a bicycle, when a Scout needs to borrow a piece of equipment, there is a good chance Kristen has one in her legendary basement. We are grateful for Kristen's service to the youth of Somerville.

About Friends of Somerville Scouting

Friends of Somerville Scouting is the Chartered Organization for Troop 3 and Pack 3 Somerville. Our mission is to support all Somerville youth who want to be Scouts.

About Sons of Liberty District Sons of Liberty District is the local district of The Spirit of Adventure Council of Scouting America, serving the towns of Arlington, Belmont, Cam-



Kristen Butler (left) receives the District Award of Merit from John Tumblin, District Commissioner of the Sons of Liberty District, Scouting America.

bridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Revere, Somerville, Waltham, and Watertown.

Contact:
Donna Clark, Troop 3 Somerville
donna.marie.clark@gmail.com
(617) 794-6604

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Teamsters applaud City Council vote to stop misclassification of workers

Teamsters Local 25 praised the Somerville City Council today for its unanimous vote to pass a resolution aimed at stopping Uber, Lyft, Doordash and other so-called 'gig' companies from abusing drivers by misclassifying them as independent contractors.

The full City Council voted in favor of a resolution calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the Act, "Establishing Protections and Accountability for Transportation Network Company (TNC) and Delivery Network Company (DNC) Workers." The resolution was co-sponsored by City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen of Ward 3 and Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan and was passed by a vote of 11-0.

The Teamsters previously endorsed legislation (S.627/H.1158) authored by State Senator Lydia Edwards (D-Third Suffolk) and State Representative Andy Vargas (D-Third Essex) that would protect union members from having their compensation and benefits undercut by bad employers by extending collective bargaining rights to workers at app-based companies while simultaneously strengthening state and federal statutes that protect employees from being misclassified as independent contractors.

"Thank you to the Somerville City Council for standing up and fighting back against the abuse of the workers and taxpayers of Massachusetts," said Tom Mari, President of Teamsters Local 25. "Big Tech and billion-dollar companies like Uber and Lyft are denying their workforce fair wages, benefits, and job protections and externalizing their labor costs onto the public while reaping

enormous profits. They must be held accountable like every other company."

In its resolution, the Somerville City Council makes clear that TNC and DNC companies are currently misclassifying drivers as independent contractors and pointed to the lawsuit filed against these companies by the Massachusetts Attorney General for wage theft and misclassification because the drivers are employees. The resolution also notes that Uber, Lyft, Doordash and others are using misclassification to avoid contributing to social programs such as unemployment workers' compensation and the paid family medical leave funded by all other employers.

It also highlighted a recent financial assessment of TNCs which found that during a period of ten years, hundreds of millions of dollars were owed to Massachusetts benefit programs. In 2023 alone, Uber and Lyft earned \$1.4 Billion but contributed nothing to Massachusetts benefit programs, owing the Commonwealth \$47 Million.

Founded in 1903, Teamsters Local 25 represents over 12,500 workers in a wide variety of industries throughout the Greater Boston area. For more information, go to teamsterslocal25.com.

The full text of the resolution is as follows:

Resolution calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the Act Establishing Protections and Accountability for TNC and DNC Workers

Whereas, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) including Uber and Lyft, and Delivery Network Companies (DNCs) Doordash, and Instacart currently misclassify their



At Somerville City Hall tonight, left to right, Councilor At Large Willie Burnley, Jr, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Eastern Region Political Coordinator Gerald P. Leary III, Teamsters Local 25 member Paul Weiskell of Somerville, Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan, and Ward 3 City Councilor (President) Ben Ewen-Campen.

drivers as independent contractors; and

Whereas, TNC and DNC's drivers are employees of the app based companies;

Whereas, the Massachusetts Attorney General filed a lawsuit for wage theft and misclassification because the drivers are employees; and

Whereas, social programs such as unemployment, workers' compensation and the paid family medical leave are funded by all other employers; and

Whereas, the report on the financial assessment of TNCs evaluated a period of 10 years; found during the ten year span, \$105,150,172 was lost in workers compensation; \$124,973,567 was lost in unemployment insurance ; and \$36,292,576 was lost in Paid and Family Medical Leave

; totalling \$266,416,315 owed to the Massachusetts benefit programs from the period of 2013 to 2023; and

Whereas, Uber and Lyft earned \$1.4 Billion in 2023 alone and contributed nothing to Massachusetts benefit programs; owing the Commonwealth \$47 Million; and

Whereas, the lack of contribution was due to the misclassification of drivers; and

Whereas, existing well tested laws exist that can regulate TNCs and DNCs and protect consumers; and

Whereas, S.627/H.1158 "An Act Establishing Protections and Accountability for TNC and DNC Workers" combines those laws and prevents price gouging, requires panic buttons for both driver and passenger, and pro-

vides a pathway to unionization, all while maintaining employee status; and

Whereas, S.627/H.1158 also allows local control and flexibility with regards to the impact of TNCs and DNCs; and

Whereas, it is a priority of the City of Somerville to require fair contributions from corporations participating in labor and employment within the Commonwealth; be it

BE IT Resolved that the Somerville City Council expresses its support of the Act Establishing Protections and Accountability for TNC and DNC Workers (S.627/H1158), that would allow TNCs to sustain worker benefits and protections that maintain a level playing field across transportation industries.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

Advocates said that recognizing that historically under-represented communities lack access to Supportive and Social Day Programming, funding will be awarded to rural communities and Gateway Cities, and will focus on developing programs in Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Spanish and American Sign Language.

“We’re proud to support these organizations that are doing incredible work across our state to serve older adults, especially those who are suffering from Alzheimer’s and related dementias,” said Gov. Healey. “It’s important that our older adults and their loved ones can feel confident that they are receiving the best care possible. Our administration is proud to award this funding that will make Massachusetts more welcoming and livable for residents of all ages.”

“Social and Supportive Day programs are essential to support our most vulnerable aging adults,” said Secretary of Elder Affairs Elizabeth Chen. “These programs provide a safe space for those with Alzheimer’s and related dementias to gather, stimulate conversation and foster connections. A number of these programs shut down during the pandemic, leaving these residents without a place to go, so the creation and expansion of the awarded programs is so important for our communities’ post-pandemic.”

END VETERANS’ HOMELESSNESS – Secretary Jon Santiago of the Executive Office of Veterans Services and Secretary Ed Augustus of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities met with staff and residents of Brighton Marine to discuss the Healey administration’s goal of ending veterans’ homelessness by 2027. Brighton Marine, according to its website “supports uniformed services members, retirees, veterans and their families by providing US Family Health Plan, wrap around support services and case management for the greater Boston community.”

The Healey Administration said the End Veterans Homelessness campaign is a multi-pronged partnership to identify all homeless veterans in Massachusetts, develop and implement comprehensive and evidence-based strategies to prevent and intervene in veterans’ homelessness and bring it to functional zero. The campaign will coordinate efforts across federal, state and the non-profit sector to address veteran homelessness and support providers who are working daily to improve veteran care and housing.

“No veteran should ever be homeless,” said Secretary Ed Augustus. “Since Day One, Gov. Healey and Lt. Gov. Driscoll have prioritized housing. Our shared vision for an affordable Massachusetts means every veteran not only has a home but is getting the support services they deserve.”

MORE BICYCLE LANES (H 3350) - The House gave initial approval to a bill that would require that any city

or town that has received state funding for transportation development, conduct a study to expand the number of bicycle routes on its local public roadways. The measure mandates that the city or town report back to Legislature in six months with a report including its findings and proposals to increase the lanes.

Sponsor Rep. Daniel Hunt (D-Dorchester) did not respond to several requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on his proposal.

NO PENALTIES FOR CANCELLING AN AUTO INSURANCE POLICY (H 1102) – The House gave initial approval to legislation that would allow auto insurance policyholders, if they cancel a policy or change companies, to be entitled to a pro-rated rebate for the exact number of days paid for in the policy without any surcharge of expenses beyond the exact days the policy was in effect.

Rep. James Murphy (D-Weymouth), the bill’s sponsor, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on his proposal.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“It’s almost impossible for individuals and families to thrive and live healthy, productive lives when they are not adequately and safely housed. Affordable, accessible housing allows people to prioritize their health care needs and the needs of their families, while also creating vibrant, healthier, safer and more productive communities across Massachusetts.” — *Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh during a meeting with health care leaders to discuss the impact of the high housing costs on public health, as well as the industry’s ability to recruit and retain a talented workforce to provide care.*

“The countdown is on for REAL ID federal enforcement and the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, and its partner AAA Northeast, have successfully been issuing REAL ID credentials and are prepared for interested residents prior to the May 2025 deadline. We want Massachusetts residents to know they can upgrade to the REAL ID driver’s license or identification card during their normal renewal process for the same cost as a renewal.” — *Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie reminding residents that beginning May 7, 2025, anyone traveling by plane domestically or entering certain federal building areas will need a Registry-issued REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or ID or a valid passport.*

“As a fifth-generation dairy farmer, I understand how demanding and stressful farming can be. Our farmers have always been resilient and resourceful in tackling the challenges of their work, but it’s important we provide resources to prioritize their mental health. Our priority is letting our farmers know that there are people who care

and are ready to listen, and there is a network of farmers across Massachusetts available to discuss their challenges and work with them to improve their mental well-being.” — *Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle raising awareness of the Mass Grown Wellness Program that was launched in 2023 to promote mental health and well-being among members of the farming community.*

“We are committed to ensuring that every city and town has the most advanced tools to protect against cyberattacks. Given the enormous importance of cyber resiliency, we are working around the clock to empower local leaders, strengthen our workforce and upgrade technology to keep our communities safe.” — *Secretary Yvonne Hao of the Executive Office of Economic Development announcing the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program, a \$1.4 million initiative to help local governments improve their cyber defenses. The program will provide municipalities with grants to fund narrowly focused cybersecurity technology upgrades identified through vulnerability assessments.*

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 May 6-10, the House met for a total of 28 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 36 minutes.

Mon. May 6 House 11:01 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.
Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Tues. May 7 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. May 8 No House session
No Senate session

Thurs. May 9 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.
Senate 11:07 a.m. to 11:38 a.m.

Fri. May 10 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

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

Memorial Day Parade – Sunday, May 26th starting at 11:00 a.m. Join the Council on Aging while we travel the parade route by trolley in the Somerville Memorial Day Parade. Contact Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 to reserve your spot. All seniors and their families are welcome to join us.

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

Cultural Series Event - Ed the Wizard / Magic for Seniors – Thursday, May 16th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. "Magic for Seniors" is full of comedy and suspense as we read minds, vanish coins and even learn a few tricks to baffle the grandchildren. Lunch will be served at noon. Please reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. Portuguese lunch from J&J Restaurant and performance is brought to you at no cost by the Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Multicultural Meal Program, a City of Somerville ARPA funded program.

Knitting Group – Tuesdays, May 21st & 28th

from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. During the month of May, the Somerville Council on Aging will be making cuff socks using circular needles. Needles and yarn will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Movie Day –Wednesday, May 15th starting at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month's movie is Jerry & Marge Go Large starring: Bryan Cranston, Annette Bening & Rainn Wilson. Based on a true story about long-married couple, Jerry & Marge Selbee, who win the lottery and use the money to revive their small town. Rated PG-13 with a running time of 1 hour and 36 minutes. \$2 per person for a pizza lunch at 12:30 p.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

LCR Game Day – Wednesday, May 22nd starting at 9:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Veteran's Group – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month (May 28th) starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Project Outlook, Low Vision Group - Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (May 23rd) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie, socialization and enjoy a meal together. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. For more information and to RSVP please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Tech Course – Every Friday in May from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Sign up for a 5-week technology course for beginners. We will be covering the basics. Bring your phone, laptop or tablet, or borrow one from the COA! RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Tech Time – Drop-in Hours – Every Tuesday in May starting at 9:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Coffee & Conversation – Monday, May 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Ralph

& Jenny Center. Grab and Go lunch available. Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation and good coffee. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mabstardi@Somervillema.gov or call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

Book Club – Meets the 3rd Friday of each month (May 17th) starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. We will be discussing "The Maid" by Nita Prose. 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. RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov as space is limited.

Health and Wellness Fair - Wednesday, June 5th starting at 10:00 a.m. Optional lunch served at noon. Features: health screening, fitness & nutrition information, healthy snacks and recipes, and much more. For additional information or to RSVP please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

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

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

the Civil War. It was erected in the early summer of 1863, three years before the celebration at Waterloo's memorial cemeteries.

Somerville has had a tragic list of her sons who gave the supreme sacrifice for our liberty. It reads:

Civil War-98

WWI-148

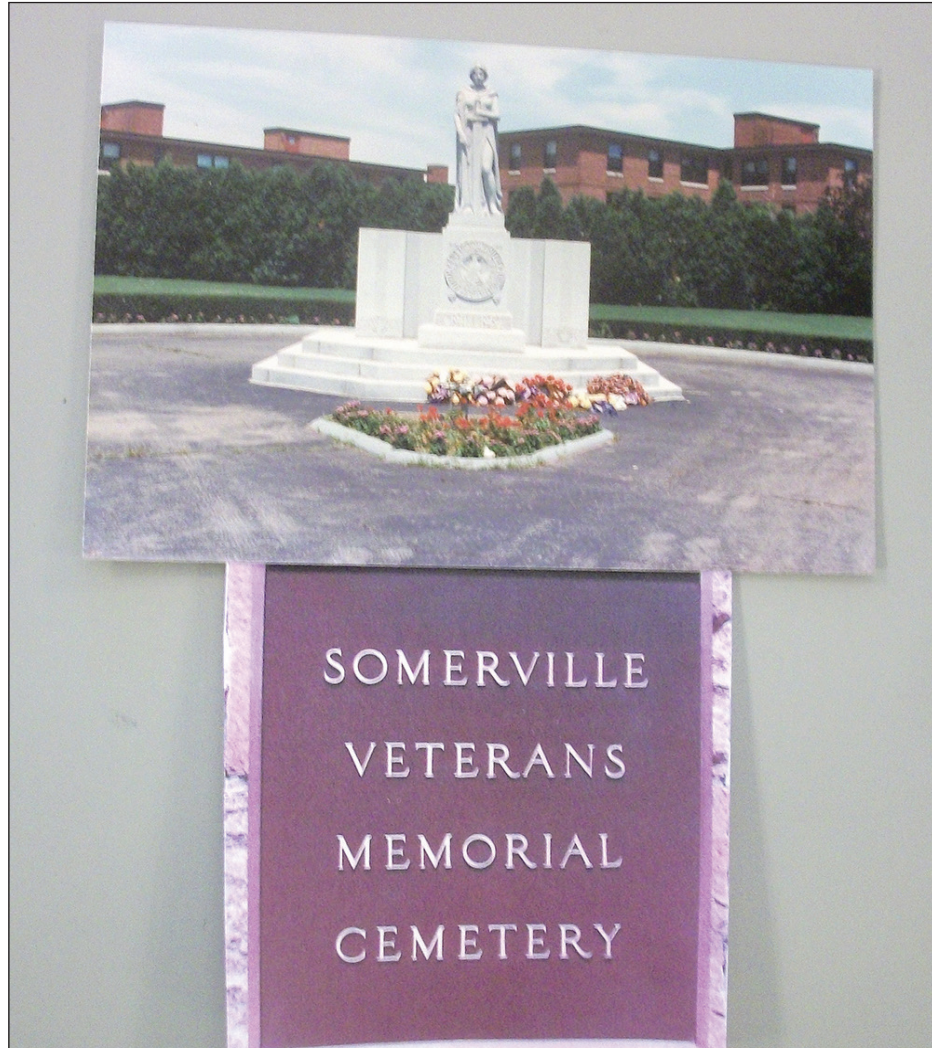
WWII-415

Korean War-30

Vietnam War- 33

Beirut, Lebanon-1

So think of them the next time a veteran gives you his form of decoration... the poppy.



Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Features floor walls roof yard. Only \$950. A month!... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why shouldn't you play poker in the jungle?
Too many cheetahs.

On This Day in History

May 15

- 0756 – Abd-al-Rahman is proclaimed emir of Cordoba, Spain.
- 1602 – English navigator Bartholomew Gosnold discovers Cape Cod.
- 1618 – Johannes Kepler discovers his harmonics law.
- 1820 – The U.S. Congress designates the slave trade a form of piracy.
- 1886 – Emily Dickinson dies in Amherst, Mass., where she had lived in seclusion for the previous 24 years.
- 1930 – Ellen Church becomes the first airline stewardess.
- 1942 – The United States begins rationing gasoline.
- 1958 – Sputnik III is launched by the Soviet Union.
- 1963 – The last Project Mercury space flight, carrying Gordon Cooper, is launched.
- 1972 – Gov. George Wallace is shot by Arthur Bremer in Laurel, Maryland.
- 1975 – The merchant ship Mayaguez is recaptured from Cambodia's Khmer Rouge.
- 1988 – Soviets forces begin their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

As the weather changes and we start to peel off jackets, hats, and gloves, essential items such as sunscreen, bug spray, and rain ponchos will become vital to keep the Somerville Homeless Coalition's most vulnerable clients safe and healthy while they're out in the unpredictable New England weather. Donations can be made through their Amazon wish list or by submitting a donation inquiry. For more information visit, Client Needs: https://bit.ly/SHClientNeeds.

Somerville's annual Water System Flushing Program begins Thursday, May 16, and continues through late October. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will take place Mondays and Thursdays between 6:00 p.m. and midnight to minimize potential disruptions to water service. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. Learn more at: somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Congratulations to Editor Gloria Mindock who is celebrating 19 years of success with Cervena Barva Press. They have published so many local writers, writers from the USA and writers from all Červená Barva Press over the world. We wish her and her staff many more years to come. You can see some of their work by visiting http://www.cervena-barvapress.com/.

Culture House is looking for artists, creatives, non-profit organizations, and businesses in and around Gilman Square to bring the Gilman Park to life through events from June through September 2024. They have funding available to compensate programming partners. Find more information about programming and how to apply visit culture-house.cc/projects/gilman-park. They are working with the City of Somerville to transform a vacant lot in Gilman Square, Homan's lot, into a three-month outdoor community space to open in June. Gilman Park will be a gathering space for local organizations, a hangout space for residents, and an opportunity for development for local businesses, artists, and creatives. The goal of this activation is to connect Gil-

man Square with the rest of Somerville, bring back vibrancy, and test out future uses for vacant sites in Somerville.

Attention all artists, makers, and more in the greater Somerville area! Somerville Public Library's Comix Con returns this July and they are looking for local artists to sell their pins, prints, unique art objects and more. They are celebrating fandoms of all types and want you to be a part of our Con. Please fill out this form to be considered for a spot in our Artists Alley: tinyurl.com/splccvapp.

The Somerville Recreation Department invites children in grades 1- 8 to participate in the annual Somerville City-Wide Swim Meet on May 17 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. https://somervillema.myrec.com.

There are still lots of open spaces for students interested in the Summer Music program, the Middle Grades Robotics program, and the Career and Technical Education middle grades program. Rising 9th graders should check out the Summer Success program to get ready for high school. All programs are run by Somerville Public Schools and are free. Learn more and register: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summer.

On Monday, May 20, at the West Branch Library (40 College Ave), there will be musical performances from Bad History Month, Oliva from Rong, and a special guest. Who is the special guest? They can't say yet. Nevertheless, if you like the two artists already listed, there is approximately a 100% chance that you will like the special guest. The show is free, but you must register (https://tinyurl.com/libgigmon) because space is limited.

George L. Doherty Funeral Service is seeking family members of Jeremiah O'Leary. Mr. Jeremiah O'Leary passed away on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the Cambridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Cambridge, he was 84. He was a former resident of Capen Court Senior Housing, 1 Capen Court Somerville, MA, before being admitted to the Cambridge Rehabilitation Center. He was born on April 10, 1940, unfortunately not much else is known on Mr. O'Leary. It is believed he has surviving siblings in the local area. If there is anyone who might be related to Mr. O'Leary, they need to speak with a blood relative, and

respectfully ask someone to please reach out to the funeral home at 617-625-4320.

Join the Somerville Growing Center for a few of their upcoming events. Festa Junina Prep @ CultureHouse, Sunday, May 19, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. For all ages. This crafting session will take place at the CultureHouse pop-up in Union Square, at 64 Union Square. Help prepare materials for the June 15 Festa Junina at the Growing Center. Just show up and have fun. Portuguese language-friendly activity. Contact: Yumi at yumiiisu65@gmail.com.

Somerville High School proudly presents the 2024 Music and Art Spring Showcase, Thursday, May 16. The Art Exhibit opens at 5:00 and the Concert begins at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy music performed by the Somerville High School Chorus, Orchestra, Band, World Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Guitar Class. Artwork from current High School art students and select 7th and 8th grade students will be on display. All staff, family, and friends of the Somerville Public Schools community are invited to join us for an evening celebrating the arts.

JoyFest will be a block party/festival in Somerville at Prospect Hill Park on Saturday, May 18, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date May 19). JoyFest is a celebration of local arts and culture, highlighting local artists and organizations that support artists and musicians and advocate for affordable spaces for living and playing. Five bands are lined up to perform, with an open mic hour and DJs between sets. Community organizations will be tabling at the event, and artists will be there to share and sell their work. A few local organizations are hosting some in-person workshops. They will have food available for folks throughout the day. For more information visit their event page https://partiful.com/e/o0C4VXs4IcCDKiGg2rIB, sign-up for open-mic, etc., here https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ohR6S4L2mZlPvQX-LyxmKcfkITtUm-mCWgA0EkAfi1mc/viewform?edit_requested=true.

On Sunday, May 19, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., the Somerville Bike Kitchen is hosting its annual Bike Pageant at Somernova in the Aeronaut Brewing Courtyard at 14 Tyler St., or, in case of rain, at The Dojo at 15 Properzi Way.

Somerville Bike Kitchen's Somerville Bike Pageant is a celebration of unique, fun, creative, colorful and/or otherwise one-of-a-kind bikes. The event will have a handful of prize categories, ranging from self-explanatory to entirely unse-rious. The pageant is an excuse to come out, meet people and look at other people's great, beloved, funny, wacky, rusty, stylish, mostly safe bikes. Anyone with a bike they want to share can enter it in the pageant. The event is free to attend and participate. For more information on categories, or to pre-register your bike, visit somervillebikekitchen.org.

A reminder that yard waste pickup has begun. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a "Yard Waste Only" sticker. Get stickers free of charge at the DPW Building (1 Franey Rd.), at the entrance desk at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), or by emailing 311updates@somervillema.gov.

Haitian Flag Day is the celebration of the Haitian flag. Raising the flag is an opportunity to celebrate and bring communities together to learn about the contribution of Haiti to freedom and human rights throughout the world. Join the celebration May 18, from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m., City Hall Plaza, 93 Highland Ave. to celebrate with the Haitian community and enjoy the wonderful history behind the Haitian flag.

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

The What the Fluff? Festival needs your design ideas. What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Innovation, a festival honoring the invention of Marshmallow Fluff, returns to Union Square in all its zany glory on Saturday, September 21. At this year's festival, Somerville Over the Rainbow: No Place Like Fluff, Fluff fans from far and wide will gather in the city's most magical square to celebrate Somerville's favorite

Continued on page 22

Bike Pageant at Somernova

On Sunday, May 19, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., the Somerville Bike Kitchen is hosting its annual Bike Pageant at Somernova in the Aeronaut Brewing Courtyard at 14 Tyler St., or, in case of rain, at The Dojo at 15 Properzi Way. Somerville Bike Kitchen's Somerville Bike Pageant is a celebration of unique, fun, creative, colorful and/or otherwise one-of-a-kind bikes.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

treat. **Union Square Main Streets** invites proposals for the most creative, fun, and funky design that honors the spirit of innovation in Union Square, as well as this year's theme in a compelling way. This design will be used on promotional items, all social media, and all collateral materials for this year's festival. Visit: <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/2024-design>. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of Somerville's wackiest and stickiest festival.

Somerville's **Memorial Day parade** will return this year on **Sunday, May 26**. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. from the **Davis Square Rotary** (9/11 Memorial Granite Circle Site), and end at **Broadway and North Street**. The city's **annual remembrance ceremony** will be held at 10:00 a.m., **Monday, May 27**, at the **Somerville Veterans' Memorial Cemetery** to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/memorialday.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **50+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market**, 66-70 Union Square. Shop local Saturdays through Octo-

ber 26, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. 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. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit [unionsquaremain.org/2024-fmseason](https://www.unionsquaremain.org/2024-fmseason).

Visit **ROOTED Armory Café** for their upcoming events: **Red Cross Blood Drive, Wednesday, May 15** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Make your appointment here: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>, **Strummerville Ukelele Club, Wednesday, May 22** at 6:30 p.m.

This May, join the **Somerville Public Library** and the **City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department** to "**Paint Your Pride!**" in a joy-filled series of community art events. For a list of upcoming "Paint Your Pride!" events visit <https://somervillepubliclibrary.org>.

The COA is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery

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

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

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from

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

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

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

From the classroom: I am mad as hell and I am not going to take it anymore...

So, I taught Ginsberg's poem *Howl* the other day. Out of 36 students in two classes, only one knew who he was. So, I was glad to talk a bit about Ginsberg and the Beat Generation, and my experience with him in Buffalo, NY, in 1975 (I tried to get him on my campus radio show *Idea Exchange*, to no avail).

So, we read the first stanza of the poem – which is over three pages – discussed it, and then I asked students to "Howl." There were only tepid Howls. I then let out a Howl, that any wolf would be proud of.

I told them that Ginsberg's *Howl* is a loud cry against the things that were going on in 1950s America, the conformity, the concept of the American dream, etc. So, I wanted them to write their own Howl poem. I wanted them to write about things that pissed them off, that made them Howl.

Before I started the exercise, I used a short clip from the movie *Network* in which a deranged anchor-



man screams to the screen, "I am mad as hell, and I am not going to take it anymore." He then goes into a litany of ills in society, and interestingly, they haven't much changed from today, even though the film is several decades old.

The students did write about a number of things that indeed got them as mad as hell. Hell, they Howled.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Ron A. Kalman is a poet who lives in the Boston area and has published widely. His poetry has been translated into multiple languages and has appeared in 10 countries. The poem below was first published in *Canto Planetario*, a global anthology out of Costa Rica about the state of our planet. It had participants from 110 countries, and Ron A. Kalman was one of five poets representing the United States. His chapbook, *Appearance of the Sun*, is available from Main Street Rag Publishing.



My Next Car

On a Saturday in May
temperatures are soaring
to record highs and I'm debating
what kind of car to buy –
electric of course
so I might throw in my lot
with the sane people of the world –
but elections are approaching
and I've just been reading
how ExxonMobil and their ilk
have managed to portray
climate change as a means
to take people's guns away –
naturally I'm concerned –
how will my electric car do in a flood?
will it short circuit and explode
or in that thundering night
will it gently float?

— Ron A. Kalman

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Somerville HS students visit CHA Cambridge Hospital

Cambridge Health Alliance, a community health system serving Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston's metro-north communities, recently hosted an exciting event for local students interested in healthcare careers. As part of CHA's Career Pathways Program, high school students from Somerville participated in a special Saturday Program at CHA Cambridge Hospital.



On Saturday, April 27, the students visited the CHA Cambridge Hospital Operating Room to learn more about CHA's Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery programs. This included hands-on experience in a simulated environment with CHA's DaVinci Xi surgical robot, Stryker Mako robot and other surgical devices used in the operating room.

Students met with surgical professionals, including representatives from Intuitive Surgical, Stryker and Medtronic, to learn various techniques and discover career options in the field.

CHA has hired 12 Somerville youth and young adults as Career Pathways Fellows who gain early career exposure, career readiness and workforce development skills, with mentorship as well as weekly professional development programming. All CPP Fellows have worksite placements across CHA in areas including pharmacy, radiology, in patient psychiatry, dentistry, and more. Through this program Fellows will earn certifications including Teen Mental Health First Aid, CPR, and other useful skills to advance their healthcare career knowledge and skills for employment.

"Opportunities like the Cambridge OR visit are among the rich experiences the CPP Fellows are accessing during their time at CHA that expand their career aspirations and where they can see themselves in the future," said Jaime Lederer, CHA's director of community health youth initiatives. "CHA is committed to expanding healthcare career access for residents in the communities we serve."

Cambridge Health Alliance would like to thank the multiple surgeons, nurses, vendors and community health staff who volunteered their time to make this day and special program possible.

The CHA Career Pathways Program received support from an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the City of Somerville and the Cummings Foundation.

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