



## Inside:



**Friends for life**  
page 3



**A 'Salute to Service'**  
pages 12-13



**Celebration at COA**  
page 17

## City Councilors advocate for single-stair reform



The Somerville City Council recently signaled support for Gov. Healey's executive order that favors single-stair residential construction.

By Harry Kane

City Councilors offered their support for Governor Maura Healey's Executive Order No. 651, which aims to facilitate safe and affordable single-stair multifamily residential buildings in the Commonwealth.

While fire professionals raised safety concerns, housing advocates strongly support single-stair, mid-rise buildings as a reform to ease housing shortages. A technical advisory group was established to examine data and provide recommendations.

"This is a resolution about single-stair buildings, which sounds like an incredibly boring topic, but is actually incredibly exciting," said Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen during the May 14 City Council meeting.

Continued on page 4

## Giving clothing a second chance

By Regina Arana

Choosing to repurpose something instead of throwing it away sounds simple, but in reality, we would prefer to toss an old shirt and buy a new one instead. This consumerist culture has become a big problem today.

Jessamy Shay Kilcollins understands. She's a textile artist and sustainable fashion designer from Somerville, Massachusetts, and her business is to give clothing a second life through her mending services, her amended upcycled clothing label, and the workshops she holds for people to learn how to do it themselves. It isn't only a matter of putting a hole in your jeans. It's a whole attitude of mind to how we relate to our possessions.

**The problem with how we treat clothes**

The truth is, 85 percent of all textile waste is sent to a landfill or incinerated. This amounted to approximately 17 million tons of

Continued on page 11



Jessamy Shay Kilcollins wants you to love your clothes, and she's getting you there one garment at a time.

— Photo courtesy of Jessamy Shay Kilcollins

**WINTER HILL BANK**  
CustomServe Banking  
*Today*

### BUSINESS BANKING

With a complete line of Online and Mobile Banking Services Business Banking is Better than Ever!

**Let's Do Business**

Contact Peter Majane at 781-443-5148  
or pamajane@winterhillbank.com

Learn more at [winterhillbank.com](http://winterhillbank.com)



**Mobile BANKING**  
CUSTOM LINKED  
You and Winter Hill Bank  
Take your bank with you!



**WINTER HILL BANK**  
617-666-8600 | 800-444-4300 | [winterhillbank.com](http://winterhillbank.com)  
A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906  
Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

## T.J. SILLARI, INC. Over 50 Years Experience

Plumbing • Heating • Gas Fitting • Industrial Work • Water Heater Replacement • Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

**625-9877**

Proud to be a Somerville resident

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106



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

Somerville's annual **Memorial Day remembrance ceremony** will be held at **Veterans Cemetery** on **Monday, May 25**, at 11 a.m. Community members, veterans, and city officials will gather to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in service to our country. The ceremony will include remarks from **Mayor Wilson** and the **Director of Veterans Services, Jerome Thomas**. Somerville Veterans Cemetery is located between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street. Temporary accessible parking spaces are available on the cemetery side of Broadway. This year's event timeline is a special observance of **Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day**, and the **250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence**. The Remembrance Ceremony will take place rain or shine.

\*\*\*\*\*

On **Saturday, May 30**, join the third annual **New England Hong Kong Festival** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **Seven Hills Park** in Somerville to celebrate the culture, food, and creativity of the Hong Kong community across the region. The event is free and open to all. Rain date is Sunday, May 31. Hosted during **Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month**, this year's festival brings together 40 local vendors, artists, and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities. Attendees can also enjoy live performances from bands, martial artists, and cultural performers, as well as free games, family-friendly activities, and photo ops, including a minibus cutout board, Hong Kong bus stop stands, and stamp stations inspired by *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 20 – May 26 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> May 20	Sunny	89°/55°	22%	11%	W 19 mph
<b>Thursday</b> May 21	Partly Cloudy	66°/48°	1%	0%	NW 10 mph
<b>Friday</b> May 22	Partly Cloudy	64°/53°	3%	1%	ENE 9 mph
<b>Saturday</b> May 23	Rain	62°/50°	43%	33%	E 11 mph
<b>Sunday</b> May 24	Rain	61°/53°	39%	27%	E 9 mph
<b>Monday</b> May 25	Rain	62°/56°	55%	44%	NE 10 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> May 26	Rain	70°/57°	36%	24%	NE 11 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: **Firefighters express qualms with traffic calming devices**

Ryan Long says:

If the city took up all those speed bumps, they'd probably have enough material to fill in all the potholes.

### Response to: **Poet/ Bartender Christopher Reilley has made many 'pour' decisions**

Ed Meek says:

Good bar poem, Chris!

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://TheSomervilleTimes.com) to leave your own comments

## The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

Editor – Jim Clark

Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner

Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane,  
and Cathleen Twardzik

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

The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

A proud member of the following newspaper organizations:



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

## Design a City with Future Lab This Summer

Knova Academy's Future Lab and DiscoverE's Future City Competition® partnered on an exciting two-week summer program open to rising 6-9th graders. Explore how cities come to life, take on hands-on engineering challenges, and design your own city of the future.

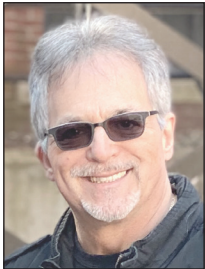
Along the way, you'll meet real engineers and collaborate with a team to build and pitch your ideas. The program is open to all Somerville students but is specially designed to support first-generation college-bound students and other groups that are underrepresented in higher education. The program runs from July 20–July 31 at the Kennedy School on Cherry Street.

Registration link: <https://students.arbitersports.com/organizations/somerville-public-schools-out-of-school-time-programs>. The deadline to register is May 22.

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

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

# Friends for life



I remember always being amazed at how many friends my father had. He was born in Somerville and loved living here. He used to march in the Memorial Day parade with the Italian American War Veterans every year. He was friends with a lot of politicians. Everywhere we went, he knew someone. He'd stop in the middle of traffic to start "gas bagging" with someone he knew.

My dad grew up in Somerville around Davis Square. Like me, he graduated from The Western Junior High School and Somerville High School. He was SHS 1938, and I was 1971. In 1940, he went off to serve four years in the Army, got married, raised a family, and retired from his job after almost 40 years.

Socializing with his many friends was one of his favorite things in life. He knew everyone. Aside from his brother and sisters, he had a wide variety of friends. He

also made more friends as an usher at St. Clement's Church for a few years, which meant free breakfast in the rectory.

My father had the same friends all his life. Most are now gone, but he kept in contact with a select few childhood friends throughout his entire life.

In 1956, I started making friends who weren't my cousins, although my cousins and siblings were my first friends. There were seven of us. The seven original cousins. We were my grandparents' pride and joy. We spent a lot of fun times together in the 1950's growing up in Somerville. Seven almost chronologically aged cousins.

The place to meet was usually in my grandparents' yard off Holland St. So many memories were made under my grandparents' grapevine in their yard. My grandpa was so happy and proud when all his children and their spouses were in his house and yard with the grandkids.

We always felt very special as kids, especially when aunts, uncles, and cousins would all meet at The Continental Restaurant on Somerville Ave. for dinner. We did

that every couple of months.

I can also honestly say that nothing compares to having an uncle who was a fireman. Sitting on the old Engine 7 at the Highland Ave. fire station and sliding down the pole is one of my all-time favorite memories. My brother, sister, and cousins truly felt privileged. My dad had a lot of friends who were firemen, starting with his little brother.

Kindergarten in 1958 at The Brown School broadened my friends list. Miss Colbert and Mrs. Chiulli were huge parts of my memories. All I really recall about kindergarten were their warm smiles and pleasant attitudes, and flat crayons. It took me a while to figure out that the crayons were flat so they wouldn't roll off our desks. I was privileged to DJ at Mrs. Chiulli's 100th birthday about ten years ago.

I still see a few of my kindergarten classmates around the city. I also see some of my Western Junior High School classmates every so often. Just Saturday, a guy crossed in front of McKinnon's to say hi to me. He told me his name and how he



knew me. He knew me from the ninth-grade Algebra class. Thanks for letting me copy your answers!

I was in Wegman's last month, and I felt someone's hands covering my eyes from behind. I remember thinking to myself, "This better be someone good!" And it was. It was a former waitress from The Embassy Lounge. We'd been friends since 1974. Her late husband was a bartender, and she handled the lounge patrons. It was great talking and catching up right there in the produce department. *Continued on page 4*

Wedding / Event  
Photography & Videography

*Harry Kane*

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



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



**Are You Sitting  
On A Fortune?**

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

617-764-4342

699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144



## PSYCHIC READINGS

*Insight. Guidance. Clarity.  
The answers you seek are within reach.*

**Running DISCOUNTED SPECIAL ON ALL MY READINGS**


Treat yourself to the clarity you deserve!

**Are you standing at a crossroads?**  
Want clarity on love, career, or your spiritual path?  
Let the universe speak—and let me translate its message for you.

**WHAT I OFFER**

- Tarot Readings
- Personalized Spiritual Guidance
- Past, Present & Future Insights
- Career & Life Direction Coaching
- Love & Relationship Guidance

**Ready for clarity?**  
Book your private reading today and uncover what your intuition has been trying to tell you.  
Your journey toward truth begins now.



### PSYCHIC RUBY

(617)-767-2573

OPEN HEART. OPEN MIND. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

*Trusted. Compassionate. Accurate.*

Walk in with questions. Leave with clarity.

Visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

# Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: For my income taxes, is there a way to tell whether I may have missed deductions that could have lowered my taxes?**

**A: Yes** — two excellent places to look are Schedule 1 and Schedule 1A of Form 1040.

Many taxpayers overlook valuable deductions listed there because they focus only on itemized deductions. But these schedules contain several “above-the-line” deductions that can reduce taxable income even if you do not itemize.

Here are a few important examples:

**From Schedule 1:**

♦ **Self-employed health insurance deduction.**

If you have net self-employment income, you may be able to deduct 100% of quali-

fy health, dental, vision, and long-term care insurance premiums.

♦ **Health Savings Account (HSA) deduction.**

Personal contributions to a qualifying HSA are generally deductible up to annual limits. HSAs offer tax-deductible contributions, tax-free growth, and tax-free withdrawals for qualified medical expenses.

**From Schedule 1A:**

♦ **“No tax on overtime” deduction.**

Recent tax law changes added deductions for qualifying overtime income — generally up to \$12,500 for single taxpayers and \$25,000 for married couples, subject to income limits.

♦ **“No tax on tips” deduction.**

Eligible taxpayers may also deduct up to \$25,000 of qualifying tip income under current law.

♦ **Enhanced deduction for qualifying seniors.**

Recent law changes also expanded deductions available to many older taxpayers.

**Bottom Line:**

Schedule 1 and Schedule 1A can be two of the fastest ways to identify overlooked tax-saving opportunities. And if you later discover you missed a deduction, you may still be able to amend your return and recover a refund — provided you act within IRS amendment time limits.

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

*Disclaimer: This column provides general financial information and should not be*



*considered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.*

## City Councilors advocate for single-stair reform

CONT. FROM PG 1

Updating the building codes to allow single-stair multifamily residential buildings may “enable efficient use of land and support feasible mid-rise residential development,” according to the executive order.

The Commonwealth plans on adding over 220,000 new homes statewide within the next 10 years, and some 140-180,000 of those new homes would be in the Greater Boston area.

Currently, the building code in Massachusetts requires two exit staircases for all buildings above three stories, restricting “missing middle” apartment buildings on smaller lots, according to the executive order.

If policymakers can reform the building code, mid-rise residential buildings (up to 4-6 stories) would contain only one central staircase. Developers could then be capable of creating more compact buildings on smaller urban lots with reduced construction costs.

An October 2024 study from the Boston Indicators group — Legalizing Mid-Rise Single-Stair Housing in Massachu-

setts — concluded single-stair construction could unlock 130,000 new units in Greater Boston.

The study refers to the status quo double-loaded podium buildings as “antiquated” and points to single-stair residential buildings that are also referred to as Point Access Blocks (PABs), as a collection of building types that don’t require dimly lit interior hallways and can create “more livable” units with direct sunlight and cross ventilation.

PABs “are well suited to small and medium scale parcels, and with one less stair, and way less hallway, can achieve much higher floor plan efficiencies than their double-loaded counterparts,” according to the study.

The extra staircase adds \$200,000 -- \$500,000 in construction costs, the study says, and can account for 10 percent of the total floor area in typical six-story complexes on 3,000 – \$5,000-square-foot parcels.

Advocates of single-stair buildings are

growing in number, pointing to sustainable housing models that maximize space and reduce construction costs to address housing shortages. But firefighters have deep concerns, citing compromised evacuation rescue operations due to a loss of the critical life safety feature.

Ewen-Campen acknowledged concerns about fire safety during his briefing. “I know that many firefighters, including here in Somerville, are really concerned about the idea of single-stair buildings,” he said. “I very much respect that.”

On May 8, Somerville Firefighters Local 76 wrote on Facebook that they “stand against legislation that would allow new construction in Massachusetts to be built with only one means of egress.”

Ewen-Campen provided a response to concerns, saying, “There is also a lot of evidence that this code was written before the invention of a lot of modern fire suppression technology that has made single-stair, some argue, just as safe.”

Governor Healey’s executive order, signed

on February 12, includes the formation of a technical advisory group to conduct an analysis, recommend updates to the Massachusetts Building Code (780 CMR), and mitigate health or safety impacts.

The final report will reflect the recommendations of the technical advisory group within 12 months of the executive order.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing whether this is something that can get traction in Massachusetts,” said Ewen-Campen. “I think it could make a real difference.”

City Councilor-at-Large Ben Wheeler expressed confidence in the technical advisory group’s expertise, but added, “I want to recognize that some firefighter groups, including Somerville firefighters Local 76, oppose single-stair design.”

A letter of support from local architect Sean Selby was submitted along with the resolution. Selby says single-stair buildings would be safe and would bring smaller, local developers into the community on sites that would otherwise sit dormant.

## Friends for life

CONT. FROM PG 3

We went down the usual list of people. “How’s so and so doing? Have you seen Johnny?” We caught up and said goodbye.

Living in a city your entire life keeps you busy. Someone pulls up beside you in traffic and toots their horn. Your first thought is “What does this nut want?” Then you realize it’s your old pal who used to set up the stage for our Somerfest (SomersStreets’

distant relative) concerts back in the 70’s! Next thing you know, people are beeping at us to move. Now that’s a honk fest. I just realized that every day in Somerville, traffic is a honk fest! In a city where there is a lot of horn beeping, it may just be a friend saying hello instead of a driver wanting you to drive faster!

I used to have a friend who was a Medford cop. He thought it was hilari-

ous to pull me over every now and then, flashing blues and sirens and the whole ten yards. Today, it may give me a heart episode.

Our first friends were our brothers and sisters and our cousins. Unfortunately, I lost my brother and sister years ago, but I’m lucky to still have a few close cousins and a city full of lifelong acquaintances. We talk and laugh every day. And as we

circle life’s drain, we learn to hold our remaining family members and real friends much closer nowadays. Though the list gets thinner every year, we grow closer to the people we have left.

Living in the same city for your entire life is awesome, as the kids say. But it has its downside. Everywhere you go, you’re bound to run into someone who knows you, so be nice.

## Somerville Police issue overdose warning



The Somerville Police Department is investigating a fatal overdose that occurred over the weekend. Additionally, law enforcement partners in other jurisdictions have reported an uptick in overdoses recently. This spike in overdoses could indicate the presence of an unusually potent batch of drugs (likely fentanyl) being distributed locally. While Fentanyl is suspected, it is not confirmed at this time as the investigation is ongoing.

Please remember to take precautions:

Call 911 immediately if you suspect an overdose.

Access free fentanyl test strip kits and Narcan available at Somerville Public Libraries ([somervillepubliclibrary.org](http://somervillepubliclibrary.org)) and also from 24/7 health vending machines located outside the West Branch Library (40 College Ave) and Project Soup (165 Broadway).

Find local recovery services and supports by visiting Somerville Hub at [somervillehub.org](http://somervillehub.org) (search on Recovery).  
— Somerville Police Dept.



**CREATION  
MEAT MARKET**

FRESH MEAT & LATIN PRODUCTS ALL IN ONE PLACE

- ✓ Fresh meats
- ✓ Central American, Colombian, Peruvian & Brazilian products
- ✓ Personal care items
- ✓ Money transfers (Vigo & Intercambio Express)

📍 166 Broadway, Somerville

☎ 781-558-7161

🕒 Mon–Sat: 6:00am – 10:00pm

Sun: 7:00am – 9:00pm

*Tomorrow's  
health care  
needs a strong  
foundation.*

Caring for our  
communities during  
one million visits a year.

Visit us at [challiance.org](http://challiance.org).



**CHA** Cambridge  
Health Alliance

A Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital

# Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 51 - Report No. 20 • May 11-15, 2026 • Copyright © 2026 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes on roll calls from recent sessions. There were no roll calls in the House or the Senate last week.

All three roll calls are on amendments to the Senate version of the PROTECT Act that supporters said would establish statewide standards governing interactions between state and local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement. Opponents of the bill said they voted against the measure for a number of reasons including because of a provision that prohibits local and state law enforcement from working with federal law enforcement to apprehend dangerous felons accused of committing violent crimes.

The House has already approved its own version of the measure and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually hammer out a compromise version.

## GIVE FEDERAL MONEY TO SHERIFFS AND CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT (S 3072)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would strike a section of the bill that provides that any payments made by the federal government to reimburse the Department of Correction for costs associated with executing its responsibilities, must be transferred to and then distributed by the Office for Refugees and Immigrants to designated non-profit organizations which would use the funds to increase access to legal representation for immigrants and refugees in the state.

Amendment supporters said that the amendment would ensure that this money stays with the sheriffs and the Department of Corrections which performed their duties and generated the federal funds rather than being unfairly diverted to nonprofits for a wholly different purpose.

"I voted 'No' because taxpayer reimbursement funds should remain focused on core state priorities rather than being automatically redirected to outside non-profit organizations," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "This amendment improves accountability and gives lawmakers greater flexibility in allocating public funds."

Amendment opponents said the money would be put to good use by nonprofits to increase access to legal representation for immigrants and refugees who cannot become legal immigrants because they don't have the money necessary to go through the lengthy and expensive process to do so.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the

amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him why he filed it.

Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), the chief opponent of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking her why she opposed it.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment which would require the federal funds to be used by sheriffs and the Department of Corrections. A "No" vote is against the amendment and supports the funds being used to help legal representation for immigrants and refugees.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## INCLUDE ALL CRIMINAL OFFENSES (S 3072)

Senate 7-32, rejected an amendment to a section of the bill that allows a law enforcement official to request information about a person's citizenship or immigration status when the officer has an articulable, case-specific reason to believe the person's citizenship or immigration status is directly material to a list of specific criminal offenses the person has committed. The amendment would allow more criminal offenses to be considered.

Amendment supporters said the amendment is a fair one that would broaden the provision and make it apply to all criminal offenses.

Amendment opponents said the bill applies to all felonies and said the amendment is not necessary.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him why he filed it.

Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), the chief opponent of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking her why she opposed it.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment that would broaden the provision and make it apply to all criminal offenses. A "No" vote is against the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## VERIFY THAT AID RECIPIENTS ARE IN THE COUNTRY LEGALLY (S 3072)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would require any agency, organization or other entity receiving public funds for the purpose of providing legal representation in matters involving federal immigration law, to develop and implement mechanisms to ensure that no funds are provided to help an individual not lawfully present in the

United States.

"I voted 'Yes' because state-funded legal aid programs should prioritize assistance for individuals who are legally present in the United States," said Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "This amendment adds an important verification safeguard to ensure public resources are used as intended and with transparency."

Amendment opponents said this would unfairly take away the ability for nonprofits to represent people who are lawfully here in the country but can't afford to pay a private lawyer to help them.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him why he filed it.

Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), the chief opponent of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking her why she opposed it.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment that would require recipients to prove that they are here legally. A "No" vote is against the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES (S 2694)** – The Revenue Committee held a hearing on legislation that supporters say would encourage the purchase of heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles (classes 3 through 8) - if purchased before January 1, 2035.

The measure directs that in calculating the motor vehicle excise tax and the state sales tax, the taxable value of the zero-emission vehicles be based on the lesser of the vehicle's actual list or sales price, or the median list or sales price of comparable internal combustion engine vehicles of the same class and year.

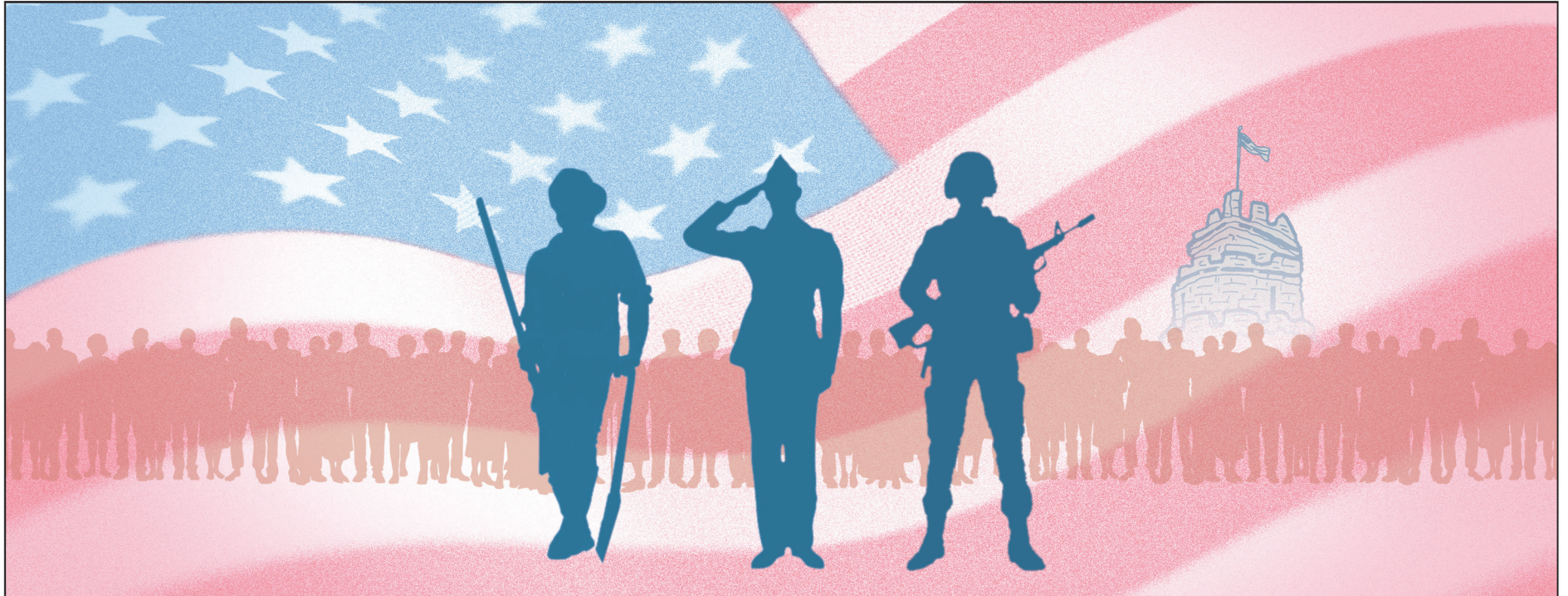
Supporters say that the proposal would encourage the purchase of zero-emission vehicles and ensure that they are not subject to disproportionately higher taxes due to higher upfront costs. They note the bill would guarantee that the state's fiscal policy aligns its clean transportation goals.

Sens. Paul Mark (D-Becket), Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) and Joan Lovely (D-Salem), the co-sponsors of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking them why they filed the measure. *Continued on page 17*

# COMMENTARY

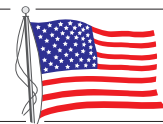
## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville proudly observes Memorial Day.

## Our View Of The Times



It began as a way to memorialize the military casualties of the Civil War, and was originally termed Decoration Day. Decorating the graves of the countless multitudes of fallen soldiers helped to console the grieving survivors of the debacle while uniting the once-divided nation in a worthwhile common cause.

On Monday of next week, we will take some time to pay homage to those

who made the supreme sacrifice for their country. For us all. It is good to have that sense of appreciation throughout the entire year as well.

The colorful parade that we usually enjoy took place this past weekend. It is always inspirational and a great place to meet old friends and perhaps make some new ones. It is an opportunity to take some time to meet and get to know a vet-

eran that we may encounter during this special celebration.

These heroes deserve recognition and thanks for the service they have given, and we always come away from the experience feeling a bit more enlightened and enriched than before. Even though the usual means of recognition and admiration continue this year, we hold them ever closer in our hearts and minds as

time passes by.

So, give some thought to what the brave men and women who laid down their lives mean to all of us today. The quality of life we enjoy in America would not be possible without those selfless acts of courage and devotion. It is good to have that sense of appreciation, no matter what we ourselves may be going through at the present time.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Hong Kong public transit. For more information, including full event listings and vendor updates, visit [newenglandhkfest.com](http://newenglandhkfest.com) and follow @newenglandhkfest on Instagram and Facebook.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: We want to wish a very happy birthday to Magoun Square resident **Pina Mingace**. We wish her a special, fun day. We send another special birthday wish to **Shannon Henry**, who is also celebrating her birthday this week. We hope she has a wonderful birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Karen Keenan, Rick Driscoll, Shirley Valentine, Deir-**

**dre Grace, Dennis Kacoyanis, Iona O'Brien, Danielle Scrima, Breanna Lungo-Koehn, and Danny McLaughlin**, we wish them the very best of birthdays.

\*\*\*\*\*

Attend the **FY27 Water and Sewer Rates Public Hearing**. Attend in-person to hear proposed Fiscal Year 2027 water and sewer rates on **Wednesday, May 28**, at 6 p.m. at the **Water and Sewer Building**, 1st Floor Conference Room at 15 Franey Road, or virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: Webinar ID: 870 9214 3821, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87092143821>.

Written comments will be accepted until noon on **Wednesday, May 28**, and can be emailed to [water@somervillema.gov](mailto:water@somervillema.gov) or mailed to: Water and Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville's **Elections Department** recently sent its second round of census forms to residents. Annual participation in the census is essential for keeping an accurate population count, and it updates or maintains your status as an active voter for upcoming elections. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope in-

cluded in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to [census@somervillema.gov](mailto:census@somervillema.gov), or in person at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Please call 311 (617-666-3311) with questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

The family of Vietnam veteran, **Leo Mingace**, would like to thank **Mayor Wilson** and Somerville's **Veteran Services Department** for the honor of being **Grand Marshall** in this year's **Memorial Day parade** held last weekend. They would like to thank all the veterans in Somerville and beyond, Somerville Fire and Police and all first responders for their service and sacrifice.

*Continued on page 21*

# FUN & GAMES

## Ms. Cam's Olio #1023

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What was Memorial Day originally called?
2. Which U.S. president signed the law creating the National Moment of Remembrance?
3. When is the National Moment of Remembrance?
4. What is flag etiquette on Memorial Day?
5. Where would you see this phrase "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God"?
6. Who maintains a twenty-four-hour watch over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?
7. What northern state was the first to observe Memorial Day?
8. Which medal, first created during the Civil War, honors valor and sacrifice?
9. When was the first Indy 500 race held?
10. What is the official song of the U.S. Army?
11. What flower is traditionally worn to honor fallen soldiers on Memorial Day?
12. Which U.S. President was linked with the "Star Wars" policy?

Answers on page 14

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Finland has the most metal bands per capita.
2. Massachusetts is home to Busta Rhymes Island.

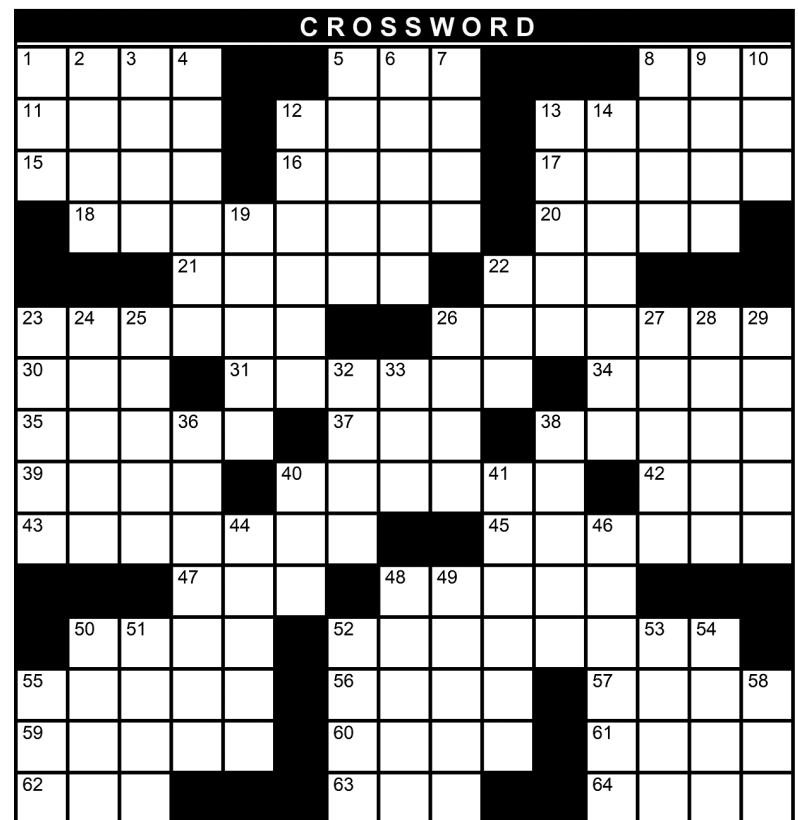
#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES

##### ACROSS

1. Throat-clearing sound
5. Like a fiddle?
8. Chicago baseballer
11. Cyberattack target
12. Opposite of pizzicato, in music
13. Bullying, e.g.
15. Pharmacy ware
16. Wedding cake layer
17. Mythological part woman, part bird
18. Part man, part bull
20. Means justifiers
21. Seize the throne
22. Found at the pump
23. Part man, part fish
26. Julianne Moore or Lucille Ball, e.g.
30. Schiller's address to joy
31. Popular pet rodent
34. Bono's bandmate, with The
35. Chunk of iceberg
37. Pointy-eared humanoid
38. Knight's breastplate
39. Independent chieftan
40. Pay, in casino (2 words)
42. Bugling ungulate
43. Like sun
45. Mother-of-pearl, pl.
47. Public health org.
48. Manila hemp
50. Vegan's protein choice
52. Three-headed dog
55. African antelope, pl.
56. Not written
57. Arch above eye
59. Actor's rep
60. Sommelier's domain
61. Large and hideous humanoid
62. Giant bird of prey
63. Bulb type
64. Abominable humanoid

##### DOWN

1. Tally
2. Stay out of its way!
3. Small ladies' handbag
4. Extra large wine bottle



**SWITCH & GET \$25**

**Off First Month of New Service!**  
USE PROMO CODE: **GZ590**

**Consumer Cellular**

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR **888-804-0913**

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

© StatePoint Media

### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

R	A	S	H			P	A	L			M	E	M	O					
U	N	T	O			B	L	U	E		A	A	R	O	N				
S	T	E	T			E	A	R	N		M	U	N	R	O				
H	I	M	A	L	A	Y	A	S			I	N	S	T					
				I	O	T	A	S			D	N	A						
S	A	C	R	A	L					T	O	O	K	A	I	M			
O	O	H				D	E	F	E	A	T			E	U	R	O		
D	R	A	M	S				U	R	L			N	A	T	A	L		
O	T	I	C			E	J	E	C	T	A			O	T	T			
M	A	N	K	I	N	I					A	B	U	S	E	S			
				I	T	D					B	A	R	O	N				
				M	A	N	A				M	O	N	T	B	L	A	N	C
Y	O	U	L	L				E	D	D	A			O	B	O	E		
O	N	K	E	Y				T	E	E	N			A	L	P	S		
N	O	S	Y					A	D	S				D	Y	E	S		

5. Robin Hood's companion Tuck
6. Frost over (2 words)
7. Millimeter of mercury
8. Little Miss Muffet's morsel
9. Mail carrier, acr.
10. Beyoncé , a.k.a. Queen \_\_\_\_
12. Adjust
13. Beforehand
14. Wailing spirit
19. "Killers of the Flower Moon" location
22. Hair-raising product
23. Lawn trimmer
24. Organ swelling
25. Made over
26. Abundant
27. Landscaper's tool
28. Like an athlete
29. Office stations
32. Landlord's due
33. Acronym-named sandwich
36. \*Part lion, part eagle
38. Lickety-split
40. Nurses' org.
41. Incapable
44. Sunbaked, archaically speaking
46. Demijohn
48. Eagle's home
49. Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop
50. Not for here (2 words)
51. Barrel-counting org.
52. Type of hood
53. Restless desire
54. Database command
55. Roofing sealant
58. Yellow river tributary

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

## Somerville's new City Clerk



Somerville's new City Clerk, Courtney Henderson, was sworn in Monday by President of the City Council Lance Davis. Henderson has worked for the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs.



imagine the possibilities

### Bunker Hill Community College

With over 50 years of academic excellence, Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) is Massachusetts' largest community college, serving 16,000 students annually. BHCC's Campuses in Charlestown and Chelsea are complemented by instructional centers across Greater Boston. Our learning options include day, afternoon, evening, weekend, hybrid, and online courses. As one of Massachusetts' most affordable community colleges, BHCC offers a comprehensive array of more than 100 academic programs, encompassing associate degrees, certificates, and transfer programs to four-year universities. Our dedicated faculty and advisors are committed to guiding students towards their personal, educational, and career aspirations.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Bunker Hill Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, genetic information, maternity leave, and/or national origin in its education programs or employment pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 151B and 151C, Titles VI and VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder, 34 C.F.R. Part 100 (Title VI), Part 106 (Title IX) and Part 104 (Section 504). Inquiries concerning application of the above should be directed to Nahomi Carlisle, Esq., Associate Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator, at 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown Campus, Room A307, Boston, MA 02129, phone: 617-228-3311; email [nahomi.carlisle@bhcc.edu](mailto:nahomi.carlisle@bhcc.edu).

Bunker Hill Community College  
250 New Rutherford Avenue, Boston, MA 02129  
[bhcc.edu](http://bhcc.edu)

# Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



## Roasted Carrots and Cumin Yogurt

For this recipe I used tri-color carrots since that's what I received in my produce share. Feel free to use whatever carrots you have, or even parsnips. This is a great side dish that goes well with any protein of your choosing. It's even delicious served at room temperature.

I highly recommend using the pine nuts to add some texture and a nutty flavor. If you don't like pine nuts, use a nut of your choice. Serves 3-4 people.

- 1- 1/2 lbs. carrots, sliced on the bias 1/2" thick
- 2 tablespoons garlic honey \*see note
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 teaspoons cumin, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon ground coriander
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided

- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 4 large mint leaves, minced, plus garnish
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts, optional

Preheat oven to 400°. Add the sliced carrots to a large bowl and toss with 2 tablespoons of olive oil, and the garlic honey. \*If you don't have garlic infused honey, just add 1/2 teaspoon of garlic powder, 1-1/2 teaspoons of cumin, ground coriander, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and pepper. Toss well and add to a parchment covered sheet pan, making sure the carrots are single layered.

Place in the oven for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, place 1/2 cup of Greek yogurt in a small bowl, add 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika, and the mint. Mix well. Add the car-



rots to a serving bowl or small platter, dollop the yogurt in the center of the plate or on the side.

Drizzle the final tablespoon of olive oil around the carrots, spread the nuts

around, and add the mint garnish on the yogurt.

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

# LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AA0yA3VRDeu36fc8par8A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AA0yA3VRDeu36fc8par8A)

**TO CALL IN**

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

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

**Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties**

**56 Meacham Road** Applicant: Jackie Nice  
Owner: Sun Sasongko  
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing an existing rear deck with a smaller deck in the same location. The proposed deck is almost entirely screened by a cedar gate.

**158 Central Street** Applicant: Michael Pettit  
Owner: Michael Pettit and Nicole Black  
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by adding a shed to the backyard of the property visible from the public street.

**42 Spring Street** Applicant: Garth Goldstein  
Owner: Eleanor Schmidt  
The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by adding a basement canopy, rear dormer pediment, and install a new driveway.

**DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**

**282-284 McGrath Highway** Applicant: Law Office of Michael LaRosa LLC - Michael LaRosa  
Owner: Walter Tauro, Trustee of Brant Realty Trust  
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

5/13/26, 5/20/26 The Somerville Times



**Advertisement**

Miscellaneous Masonry Repairs to stairs and seat walls at Mystic River apartments located at 500 Mystic Ave Somerville. Project Walkthrough on Wednesday 5/20/26 at 11:00 AM at SHA Modernization Office located at 30 Memorial Road Rear Somerville, Ma. Walkthrough or appointment for walkthrough is mandatory. This is not a Bid. This is a Request for Quotes. Prevailing Wage Rates apply. Estimate \$ 35,000.00

5/13/26, 5/20/26 The Somerville Times

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Somerville  
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES  
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING**

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Friday, the 22nd day of May, 2026**, at **10:00 o'clock A.M.**, at **Treasury, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE for the City of **Somerville** the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

*Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.*

**LIST OF PARCELS TO BE TAKEN**

**Property Address:** 109 College Ave  
**Assessed Owner(s):** 109 College Ave LLC  
**Tax Year:** 2023  
**Parcel ID:** 020-F.00003-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 12384075  
**Square Footage:** 6,984 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 64167, Page: 376

Fiscal Year 2023 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 25,653.97  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 12,298.17  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 263.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 38,215.14

5/6/26, 5/13/26, 5/20/26 The Somerville Times

**Property Address:** 59 Bow Street  
**Assessed Owner(s):** 59-61 Bow Street LLC  
**Tax Year:** 2023  
**Parcel ID:** 063-C.00029-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 13445140  
**Square Footage:** 3,000 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 77404, Page: 408

Fiscal Year 2023 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 11,038.98  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 5,295.87  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 263.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 16,597.85

5/6/26, 5/13/26, 5/20/26 The Somerville Times

**Property Address:** 357 Somerville Avenue  
**Assessed Owner(s):** Manhar Rana and Priti Rana, Trustees, Rana Family Revocable Trust  
**Tax Year:** 2023  
**Parcel ID:** 074-C.00027-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 18563041  
**Square Footage:** 4,386 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 66814, Page: 442

Fiscal Year 2023 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 4,409.27  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 1,872.19  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 263.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 6,544.46

5/6/26, 5/13/26, 5/20/26 The Somerville Times

**Property Address:** 28 Cross Street  
**Assessed Owner(s):** 28 Cross Street LLC  
**Tax Year:** 2023  
**Parcel ID:** 090-D.00028-000000  
**Alternative Parcel ID:** 09200081  
**Square Footage:** 2,737 (more or less)  
**Title Reference:** Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 71770, Page: 451

Fiscal Year 2023 Taxes Remaining Unpaid: \$ 11,984.45  
Interest to Date of Taking: \$ 5,720.93  
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking: \$ 263.00  
Total for which Land will be Taken: \$ 17,968.38

5/6/26, 5/13/26, 5/20/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFP # 26-69**

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

**Youth Leadership and Advocacy Programs**

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, June 3, 2026**.

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

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

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

5/20/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
RFP # 26-68**

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

**Teen Programs**

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, May 20, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, June 3, 2026**.

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

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

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

5/20/26 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

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

## LEGAL NOTICES

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



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT  
JAKE WILSON  
MAYOR**

**WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUNDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2027 RATE PROPOSAL  
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing, regarding the Fiscal Year 2027 Water and Sewer rates, on **Thursday, May 28th, 2026, at 6:00PM**, on the proposed changes:

1. Up to a 20% increase in revenues from water volumetric charges;
2. Up to a 20% increase in revenues from sewer volumetric charges;
3. No changes to existing base charges for both water and sewer.

Pursuant to 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 Water & Sewer Building, 1st Floor Conference Room at **15 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145**.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform.  
Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:  
Webinar ID: 870 9214 3821  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87092143821>
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to [water@somervillema.gov](mailto: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.**

*Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact 311 (617-666-3311) in advance. The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at [somervillema.gov/ContactSomerviva](mailto:somervillema.gov/ContactSomerviva) or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.*

5/20/26 The Somerville Times



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

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3t0AmLhxTn69CkLXUXlwjvw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3t0AmLhxTn69CkLXUXlwjvw)

**TO CALL IN**

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

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

**39 Bartlett Street** Raymond and Barbara Estrella seek relief from SZO Section 10.2.1.e. for a shed not meeting set back requirements in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to [ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov](mailto:ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov).

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

5/20/26 The Somerville Times

## Webster Ave. groundbreaking ceremony



Just A Start, in partnership with public and private partners, celebrated the groundbreaking of 24 Webster Avenue, a new development creating 43 new affordable rental homes in Somerville.

The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2027. The six-story 45,000 square-foot building will include 13 studio apartments, 3 one-bedroom apartments, 14 two-bedroom apartments, and 13 three-bedroom apartments. 8 apartments will be supported by project-based Section 8 vouchers for households earning up to 30% of Area Median Income, with the remaining units affordable to households earning up to 60% of AMI.

The present administration and the previous administration were all on hand for the celebration.

## Giving clothing a second chance CONT. FROM PG 1

clothing and textiles in the USA alone in 2018 (US EPA). A lot of items that people purchase, use a few times, and then throw out.

This was worsened by fast fashion. Brands learned how to turn garments into such low-cost items that it was simpler to replace them than to repair them. The world is moving so fast that whatever you purchased six months ago seems old already. The entire system is designed to make it easy for you to purchase, rather than wear. But Jessamy wanted to make a change.

**What visible mending is all about.**

The idea of "fair mending" is a modern one. Traditionally, mending had one rule: you shouldn't be able to see it. The practice of "visible mending" is the exact opposite. It makes the repair (and repairing) the center of the action. A patch of color made by hand, embroidery over a hole, and darning threads in several colors through a hole in a sweater. The only thing that matters is to see the repair.

Jessamy patches denim with vintage quilt fabric and/or old tea towel pieces.

She fills in the worn areas with designs to make them look decorative. The completed work not only reminds us that it was fixed, but it looks like it got better. It's got a bit more personality to it than when it left the factory.

That's sort of the statement, right? If you see that something has been repaired, you are saying: "Yeah, that got worn down, and I cared enough to do something about it." It's not merely the purchase of new clothes that counts. It's a new way of thinking about clothes.

**She actually knows what she's doing**

Jessamy has a BFA in Fibers and a Certificate in Fashion Design from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. So this isn't just a hobby – she's trained. She knows machine darning, hand embroidery, seam repair, and vintage garment restoration (using the right buttons and zippers for the era, which is a cool detail). Whatever your garment needs, she's probably done it before.

She also makes her own one-of-a-kind pieces under the AMENDED label, creates

textile jewelry and fabric collages from leftover scraps – basically, nothing goes to waste. And she co-owns High Energy Vintage in Union Square, Somerville, which also serves as a drop-off spot for mending clients.

On top of all that, she teaches. She's run workshops at the Harvard Art Museums, the Farnsworth Art Museum, Patagonia, and the Boston and Cambridge Public Libraries. Because if you really want to make a dent in textile waste, you've got to get more people knowing how to fix their own stuff.

**Why it actually matters that you love your clothes**

The things that show up at Jessamy's mending table aren't just random garments. They're pieces people are attached to. The jeans that fit perfectly, the sweater you've had forever, the vintage find you were so excited about. These things mean something to the people bringing them in.

When she repairs one of those pieces, she's not just fixing fabric. She's helping someone hold onto something that matters to them. Fast fashion basically trained

us to think that's irrational — why fix it when you can just buy another one? But that question misses the point. The value of something isn't just what it costs to replace. It's also what it means to you and how long you've had it. She puts it pretty simply: "If you loved it enough to buy it, love it enough to keep it in your closet."

**The bigger picture**

Mending alone isn't going to solve the fashion industry's problems. The issues are big, systemic, and global. But what Jessamy does matters anyway — not just because it keeps clothes out of landfills, but because it shows people a different way of thinking.

You can have a relationship with the things you own. You can choose to fix instead of replace. You can value craft and skill and the story a garment carries. Those aren't radical ideas, but somehow they got buried under decades of cheap, disposable fashion. Jessamy is digging them back out, one mend at a time.

<https://jessamyshay.com/workshops-events/>

# Somerville's 'Salute to Service' parade

The City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services hosted Salute to Service, a parade honoring all who serve our country and our community and the nation's 250th anniversary as a free and independent democracy. The parade took place on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 16, pulling forward the annual Memorial Day parade observance and transforming this year's parade into a special observance of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and a recognition of all who serve our nation and in civic life locally.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



# CLASSIFIEDS

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

## AUTOS/MISC

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

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

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

Consumer Cellular - same reliable, nationwide coverage as large carriers. No long-term contract or hidden fees, free activation. All plans unlimited talk & text starting at just \$20/mo. 877-751-0866

Become a published author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publish-

ing trusted since 1920. Consultation, production, promotion & distribution. Free author's guide 877-729-4998 or [dorranceinfo.com/ads](http://dorranceinfo.com/ads)

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

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

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

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

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as 1-day. Limited time, waving all installation costs! Additional terms apply. Subject to change & vary by dealer. Ends soon. 844-501-3208

Pest control: Protect your home from pests safely. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders & more. Locally owned & affordable. For service or

inspection today! 833-860-0657 Have zip code ready!

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

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

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

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

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

Wesley Financial Group, LLC timeshare cancellation experts over \$50 million timeshare debt/fees cancelled in 2019. Free info package. Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. 833-308-1971

Bath & shower updates in as little as 1-day! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional

installs. Senior & military discounts available. 1-877-543-9189

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

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

Reader Advisory: The National Trade Association we belong to has purchased the above classifieds. Determining the value of their service or product is advised by

this publication. In order to avoid misunderstandings, some advertisers do not offer employment but rather supply the readers with manuals, directories and other materials designed to help their clients establish mail order selling and other businesses at home. Under NO circumstance should you send any money in advance or give the client your checking, license ID, or credit card numbers. Also beware of ads that claim to guarantee loans regardless of credit and note that if a credit repair company does business only over the phone it is illegal to request any money before delivering its service. All funds are based in US dollars. Toll free numbers may or may not reach Canada.

Ms. Cam's

*Olivo*

Answers

From page 8

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Decoration Day  | 6. 3rd United States Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) |
| 2. President Bill Clinton  | 7. The village of Waterloo, New York                   |
| 3. 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day – one minute to pause to remember those who have died in military service to the U.S. | 8. The Medal of Honor                                  |
| 4. The American flag is flown at half-staff until noon and then raised to full staff for the remainder of the day  | 9. Memorial Day weekend in 1911                        |
| 5. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier   | 10. The Army Goes Rolling Along                        |
|  | 11. Red poppy  |
|  | 12. Ronald Reagan                                      |

# How to give oral testimony, part 2 of 2

By David Dahlbacka

In Part 1, I described the structure of oral testimony to be given in a public hearing. In this part, I provide an example based on testimony I gave to the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization some years ago. I have annotated it with *italicized* notes indicating its structure. Key phrases are in **boldface**. I suggest that you read this testimony aloud with vigor to a person who has never heard it or read it before. Afterwards, ask them what they remember from it and whether they found the repetitions helpful or annoying. I am confident that they will remember the key points easily and that the repetitions added force to the testimony and were not at all annoying.

If you want practice in giving oral testimony or presentations, you might consider taking a course in public speaking or joining Toastmasters International, a nonprofit club whose purpose is to train people in public speaking.

## Introduction

Good evening. I am David Dahlbacka from Somerville. Thank you for allowing me to speak today, and thank you very

much for supporting the Green Line Extension to Medford and Somerville. As you consider the transit commitments of the Ozone State Implementation Plan, I ask you to consider the following points.

*Point #1. Key phrase: **health effects are local**, three repetitions*

First, **health effects are local**. Current measures of air quality are regional. “Hot spots” are areas downwind from major pollution sources like Interstate 93 and other arterial highways. Regional air quality measures combine these hot spots with cleaner, more remote suburban areas, producing a level lower than that found in the hot spots. But **health effects are local**. Studies in southern California show that people who live close to major arterial roadways are at much higher risk for lung disease than those living in more distant areas. Next to I-93 in East Somerville, students in the public schools experience a high incidence of asthma. East Somerville itself is a disadvantaged area falling under the Commonwealth’s Environmental Justice policy, which forbids overburdening impoverished areas with environmental hazards. Please take



this policy into account as you evaluate the Ozone SIP transit commitments. **Health effects are local.**

*Point #2. Key phrase: **air quality affects water quality**, two repetitions*

Second, **air quality affects water quality**. Current air quality regulations ignore effects on water quality, and vice versa. The “EPA Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of the Clean Air Act 1990-2010” showed that nitrates are major sources of water eutrophication in rivers, lakes, and oceans. Nitrates in the air derive from automobile exhaust. Degraded air quality is not the only consequence of traffic congestion; degraded water quality

is a consequence as well. Please take water quality into account as you evaluate the SIP transit commitments. **Air quality affects water quality.**

*Wrap-up. Points #1, #2: key phrases, final repetition*

If you remember nothing else from today’s presentations, please remember that **health effects are local**, and that **air quality affects water quality**. I am confident that through you, the Commonwealth will do the right thing as it evaluates the Ozone SIP transit commitments. Thank you.

To see part 1, go to: <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/147663>

# Overnight construction noise upsets residents

By The Times Staff

Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen requested that the Wilson administration work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to ensure that extremely loud construction does not occur overnight.

Workers from MassDOT drilled holes into the ground to collect soil and rock samples, referred to as “test borings,” for the McGrath Boulevard project, explained Ewen-Campen, during the May 14 City Council meeting.

These “incomprehensible” construction noises kept residents up at night who live nearby, he said.

The McGrath Boulevard project will replace the existing overpass with a street-level multimodal boulevard and is projected to cost approximately \$128 million with an anticipated completion date of 2032.

“You can’t do this kind of work at night,”

said Ewen-Campen. “It’s unbelievable to me. I mean, they’re clearly just taking advantage of the fact that we can’t do anything about it.”

MassDOT’s overnight hours prevented daytime traffic congestion and minimized commute disruptions, but it comes with trade-offs for residents who live nearby.

“There are kids that can’t sleep, little kids. It’s just completely outrageous,” said Ewen-Campen. “It blows my mind that they’re doing this in the middle of the night.”

Ewen-Campen said he wants to emphasize that this is not an acceptable option.

“Many of my friends who live in that area described how awful it was,” said Councilor-at-Large Jon Link. “Just to be clear, this isn’t just one terrible night. This was like 10 nights.”

Link said the noise caused “prolonged sleep deprivation” and had “measurable impacts on people physically and mentally.”

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott said he sympathized with the residents of Brick



The City of Somerville will coordinate with MassDOT in an effort to curtail excessive after-hours construction noise.

Bottom who endured midnight work on the GLX for a very long time, and added, “I’m hopeful that this administration

will be better at interfacing with the state than previous ones were to help spare our neighbors from some of these disruptions.”

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

## Third Annual New England Hong Kong Festival Returns to Somerville

On Saturday, May 30, join the third annual New England Hong Kong Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Seven Hills Park in Somerville to celebrate the culture, food, and creativity of the Hongkonger community across the region. The event is free and open to all. Rain date is Sunday, May 31.

Hosted during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month, this year's festival brings together 40 local vendors, artists, and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities. Attendees can also enjoy live performances from bands, martial artists, and cultural performers, as well as free games, family-friendly activities, and photo ops, including a minibuss cutout board, Hong Kong bus stop stands, and stamp stations inspired by Hong Kong public transit.

For more information, including full event listings and vendor updates, visit [newenglandhkfest.com](http://newenglandhkfest.com) and follow @newenglandhkfest on Instagram and Facebook.

### About the New England Hong Kong Festival

This year's festival is hosted by the New England Hong Kong Festival Planning Team and co-hosted by the City of Somerville and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs. The organizing team is made up of diasporic Hongkongers from Greater Boston who are passionate about community-building and cultural storytelling.



## Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan Public Meeting

The Cities of Cambridge and Somerville, together with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), are holding an informational meeting on their \$1.29 billion Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan, which is a legal requirement. A Combined Sewer Overflow is an overflow of stormwater and sewage into nearby rivers and streams that can happen during heavy rain. The draft plan, which is the first in the nation to account for long-range climate impacts, outlines a series of recommendations to protect local waterways from pollution by eliminating combined sewer overflows during a typical 2050 year, which climate models indicate will include heavier and more intense flooding and storms. Despite this larger capability to control overflows that would be the first in the nation to go beyond EPA guidance, atypical larger storms in 2050 are still predicted to result in CSOs within the proposed system.

From now until September 30, 2026, community members, advocacy groups, and organizations are invited to review the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan and share feedback. To help inform the public feedback process, community members are invited to attend a public meeting to learn more about the plan and its recommendations for eliminating CSOs in the Mystic River, Charles River, and Alewife Brook in a typical 2050 year. This is an informational session only. Official public comment will be accepted via other methods. The plan will have long-ranging impacts on both the ecological health of the impacted waterways and the water and sewer customers of Somerville and Cambridge, as well as the 41 additional cities and towns served by the MWRA, which will see rate increases to cover the cost of the project.



### About the Meeting

Members of the project team will present an overview of the plan and the expected outcomes of the recommended work.

When: Tuesday, June 2, 6 p.m.

Where: The meeting will be held via Zoom. Register to attend at [tinyurl.com/CSOJune2026](https://tinyurl.com/CSOJune2026).

Community members will have the opportunity to ask questions during the meeting. Public comment will not be accepted at the meeting but rather through the methods detailed below.

### More About the Plan

The plan is the result of more than four years of detailed analysis, engineering evaluation, and broad public engagement. It recommends a set of projects -- including new storage tanks, sewer separation, and upgraded conveyance systems -- that together are projected to eliminate CSO discharges during a typical 2050 year in the Alewife Brook, Charles River, and the Mystic River. The plan is the first in the nation to go beyond EPA guidance and prepare for climate change. Learn more and see the full plan at [voice.somervillema.gov/joint-cso-planning](http://voice.somervillema.gov/joint-cso-planning).

### Public Feedback Period and How to Submit Comment

From now until September 30, 2026, community members, advocacy groups, and organizations are invited to review the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan and share feedback.

The public can provide feedback through:

An online comment portal

Email

Mail

Or verbally at two virtual public meetings to be held in September.

Visit [voice.somervillema.gov/joint-cso-planning](http://voice.somervillema.gov/joint-cso-planning) for details on how to submit comments and more information and additional details on the plan.

## Older Americans Month Celebration at COA

The Somerville Council on Aging held an Older Americans Month Celebration on Tuesday, May 12, at the George Dilboy Post. The 2026 theme, Champion Your Health, focused on prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It encouraged taking an active role in managing your own health, advocating for yourself, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



## Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

**STUDY THE DISTRIBUTION OF LOTTERY REVENUE (H 5160)** – Another proposal before the Revenue Committee would create a special commission to examine and study the distribution of Lottery revenues to cities and towns. The commission would examine the current distribution of Lottery revenues and provide recommendations to improve distributional equity of those revenues.

Supporters say that the current system does not work well and is unfair to many cities and towns. They argued that the study would also examine whether the revenue should be distributed to municipalities in proportion to the municipality's residents' spending on the Lottery.

Rep. Adam Scanlon (D-North Attleborough), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by

Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him why he sponsored the legislation.

**ENSURE SENIORS QUALIFY FOR SENIOR CIRCUIT BREAKER DISCOUNT (H 5298)** – Yet another bill that was heard by the Revenue Committee was one that supporters say would ensure that seniors are allowed to take the Seniors Circuit Breaker Discount even if they take advantage of a senior property tax deferral.

The Seniors Circuit Breaker Discount can be taken by seniors with homes valued at less than \$1,298,000 and who earn \$75,000 or less for a single individual who is not the head of a household; 94,000 for a head of household; and \$112,000 for married couples filing a joint return. To qualify as a homeowner, your property tax payments, together with half of your water and

sewer expense, must exceed 10 percent of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year. If you are a renter, 25 percent of your annual Massachusetts rent must exceed 10 percent of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year.

"Seniors on a fixed income are struggling to pay for food, electricity, gas and property taxes," said sponsor Rep. Kristin Kassner (D-Hamilton). "After passing home rule petitions in two of our towns to expand access to senior property tax deferral, we learned that if seniors take the deferral, they no longer qualify for the Senior Circuit Breaker discount on their state taxes. This bill would allow income-qualifying seniors to defer property taxes (with the taxes paid in full with interest upon the sale of their home) and still qualify for the Senior Circuit Breaker.

Continued on page 22

## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

### EVENTS:

**Coffee & Conversation Groups** – Every Monday in May except for the 25th from 10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Grab-n-Go lunch is available upon request. And every Thursday in May except for the 21st at the Holland Street Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Free! Join us for this staff-led discussion group, which covers a range of topics thought up by participants. This is a friendly group, where all topics are discussed respectfully. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335, or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

**Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program PICK UP** – Thursday, May 28, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application, contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317, or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

**Project Outlook** – Thursday, May 28, at our Holland Street Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Project Outlook is a group for low vision and blind seniors to gather, socialize, and enjoy a meal together. This month, Isabel Rosario, Outreach Specialist at The Carroll Center for the Blind, will be speaking about services and resources that the Center has to offer. Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318, or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register.

**LGBTQIA+ & Allies Social** – Thursday, May 28 (the 4th Thursday of every month) from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join us for a couple of slices of pizza & conversation with your peers. Free of charge! All are welcome! Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2335, or emailing Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov by Tuesday, May 26.

**Bowling** – Every Wednesday in May at the Flatbread Company/Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square at 45 Day Street from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free of Charge - RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321, or emailing Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Bingo** – Every Tuesday in May except for the 12th at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street starting at 10:00 a.m. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Bingo** – Every Thursday in May except for the 21st starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**Leather Art of the Silk Road Geometric Art & Coasters with Artist Qi & Hudson** – Friday, May 22nd from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Participants will explore the colors and patterns of the Silk Road through hands-on leather collage. Participants will learn to use vibrant leather pieces to design unique geometric artworks that can serve as coasters or decorative pieces. Its a wonderful way to experi-

ence how simple materials can inspire infinite creativity. Space is limited. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ,ext. 2321.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

**Cultural Series Event** – Thursday, May 21st starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Celebrate spring with Joel Light and Dan Moore for a joyful sing-along concert of history-making hits! Rediscover beloved "sunshine-pop" treasures and show-stopping classics like "Here Comes the Sun" and "Sweet Caroline." Join us for a heartwarming morning of music, storytelling, and renewal the perfect way to welcome the season." \$2 per person. Lunch will be served after the performance. Please reserve your spot by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

**Office of Emergency Management PARTNER Program Session 2** – Wednesday, May 27th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join us for a helpful talk with the Office of Emergency Management and Eversource. Learn about the Eversource Medical Priority System, ways to stay safe during extreme heat, and steps you can take to protect your health and well-being. Please contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov for more information or to register.

**Knitting with Natasha for Project Linus** – Every Tuesdays in May from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Project Linus is a national organization that provides children who are experiencing hardship with handmade blankets. Join Natasha and the rest of the SCOA knitters as we create blankets throughout the month of May to donate to project Linus. You can learn how to make a knit blanket through the month of May or work on your own knit or sewn blanket and drop them off with Natasha! Free of charge. Please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 if you have any questions or to RSVP.

**Technology Drop-In** – Every Tuesday in May except for the 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Have questions about technology? Come on by and work with the Technology Access Program. Free! No RSVP needed but if you have questions, please feel free to contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

**Virtual Reality Travel** – Friday, May 29th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

**Meditation with Yolanta** – Thursday, May 21st starting at 5:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Yolanta Kovalko will lead a Yoga Nidra Guided Meditation. This 45-minute session will help students improve posture and breathing while taking their mind on a journey toward deep relaxation. Singing bowls will be used to create a sound bath experience. The goal is to provide a safe, relaxed, and

inclusive environment where everyone feels good and supported. For more information or to RSVP contact Michelle Deutsch by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

**Mens Group** – Tuesday, May 12th at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. A confidential space where men are free to speak openly and honestly about their lives, and to support each other. New and returning members are welcome. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

**Veterans Group** – Tuesday, May 26th starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. This group allows veterans to connect with their peers, discuss personal challenges and provide support. All Veterans are welcome. Coffee & refreshments will be served. Free of Charge. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Zumba Gold** – Seven-week program on Wednesday, May 20th and June 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th starting at 11:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center, no class on May 27th. Zumba Gold uses Latin and international rhythms and is a lower intensity version of Zumba for active older adults. It uses easy-to follow moves that focus on balance, range of motion, and coordination. The class is designed to develop cardiovascular endurance, muscular conditioning and flexibility while helping relieve arthritic pain. Join the party and let the music move you! For more information or to RSVP contact Michelle Deutsch by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

**Friendly Caller Program** – We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

### 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.

## COMMENTARY

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

## Somerville Human Rights Commission Statement on Anti-Muslim Hate Incident at Somerville High School Grounds on January 20th, 2026

Dear Somerville Community,

On January 20th, 2026, during a student walk out for immigrant rights, there was a hostile anti-Muslim hate speech incident on Somerville High School grounds against a Muslim teacher, who was present to ensure the safety of our Somerville High School students. A video of this hostile incident was widely circulated on social media, including the perpetrator's public account (where more anti-muslim speech occurred) and the Somerville Community Facebook page. Anti-Muslim hate has no place in Somerville, and we, the Somerville Human Rights Commission, condemn all forms of anti-Muslim hate and anti-immigrant hate and its presence anywhere. We recognize how this anti-Muslim incident harmed our students, this teacher and our Muslim neighbors. We recognize the increase in anti-Muslim and anti-im-

migrant sentiments and actions in the last few years with this current federal administration. Furthermore, we acknowledge the intersection of anti-Muslim hate and anti-immigrant hate which is clear with the federal government targeting Muslim-majority countries and Muslim immigrants through travel bans, ICE activity, and other discriminatory policies and actions. In Somerville, we saw this with the abduction of Rümeyşa Öztürk, a Somerville resident and Muslim international Tufts student, by masked ICE agents on March 28th, 2025. We condemn ICE's activity in Somerville and all kidnappings of our neighbors.

The urgency around protecting our Somerville Muslim and immigrant communities, including our teachers and students, is more important than ever given the current federal administration's discriminatory actions and in-

crease of hostility against Muslims and immigrants that has arisen from this political climate. The Somerville Human Rights Commission pledges to hold a public training and education event on anti-Muslim hate this calendar year to educate our community on anti-Muslim hate and how to support our Muslim community in Somerville. Furthermore, the HRC has submitted a request to SHS to ban the identified individual, who committed this act of hate speech, from SHS grounds in order to ensure the safety of all Muslim and immigrant students, teachers, and staff. Additionally, the commission will continue outreach to engage in supportive collaboration with our local community organizations that are supporting our immigrant and Muslim neighbors. We are in direct contact with the City of Somerville Mayor's office, City Council, and Racial Social

Justice investigator regarding this incident and will continue to strongly advocate and push for concrete actions in ensuring the safety for our Muslim and immigrant communities.

Sincerely,  
Somerville Human Rights Commission

*The Somerville Human Rights Commission was recently reactivated when a quorum of seats were filled in mid-2025. The Somerville Human Rights Commission endeavors to protect the constitutional, civil, and human rights of all people in Somerville. We strive to end discrimination and promote universal access to basic needs, improved quality of life, mutual understanding, and elevated public discourse. If you have any concerns regarding violations of human rights, we encourage you to reach out to the HRC via email at [somervillema.hrc@gmail.com](mailto:somervillema.hrc@gmail.com).*

## Will Mbah announces post-election plans

Will Mbah has announced that if elected State Representative for the 34th Middlesex District, he intends to resign his seat on the Somerville City Council in order to fully dedicate himself to serving community members at the State House.

The Somerville City Charter specifies that vacant at-large seats on City Council will be filled by the fifth-place candidate in the most recent local election. In this case, union leader and social worker Marianne Walles would fill Mbah's seat if vacated.

Mbah said he wanted to be transparent with community members about his intentions and expressed strong confidence in Walles' ability to serve the city.

"Marianne Walles is a union leader, a social worker, and a deeply committed advocate for working people," Mbah said. "She brings compassion, integrity, and a strong

understanding of the challenges facing families in our community."

Mbah also said the decision was rooted in his belief that public officials should give their full attention to the responsibilities voters entrust in them.

"Serving simultaneously as an at-large City Councilor and as State Representative for the 34th Middlesex District would create unnecessary distractions and competing demands," Mbah said. "The people of Somerville and Medford deserve a representative who is fully focused on the work at hand, and I believe this is the most responsible path forward."

Mbah emphasized that his campaign remains focused on affordability, housing, transportation, labor rights, public education, climate action, and building a more equitable future for the district and the Commonwealth.



Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1](https://www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1)



**Somerville Fair Housing Commission**  
*Question of the week*



**Q:** My tenant just moved out ... now what?

**A:** Within 30 days, you must do the following.

- Get a cost estimate for any repairs necessary in the unit beyond reasonable wear and tear.
- Return their security deposit plus interest (see above). If the unit requires any repairs, provide the tenant with an itemized list and receipt for these repairs and deduct the amount from their security deposit.
- If you collected last month's rent, return the interest accumulated on it.

If you fail to do these things, your tenant has the right to receive the full amount of their security deposit plus interest and you give up your right to deduct for damages. If you refuse to return the security deposit, your tenant can sue you in Small Claims Court for three times the original amount plus court costs. So, do the right thing!

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

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

To donate visit:

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

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

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

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

**BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER**

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the hamburger go to the gym?  
To get better buns.

The "Original"  
**All Types Vent Cleaning**  
Restaurant Hood Cleaning  
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning  
Power Washing  
Licensed and Insured  
in Massachusetts  
We travel all over  
Massachusetts  
Call today to find out  
our weekly specials!  
Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

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

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Under wraps... — Photo by Denise Provost

## On This Day in History

May 20

- 1520 – Hernando Cortes defeats Spanish troops sent against him in Mexico.
- 1775 – North Carolina becomes the first colony to declare its independence.
- 1799 – Napoleon Bonaparte withdraws from his siege of St. Jean d'Acre in Egypt.
- 1861 – North Carolina becomes the last state to secede from the Union.
- 1862 – President Abraham Lincoln signs the Homestead Act, providing 250 million acres of free land to settlers in the West.
- 1874 – Levi Strauss begins marketing blue jeans with copper rivets.
- 1902 – The U.S. military occupation of Cuba ends.
- 1927 – Charles Lindbergh takes off from New York for Paris.
- 1932 – Amelia Earhart lands near Londonderry, Ireland, to become the first woman fly solo across the Atlantic.
- 1939 – Pan American Airways starts regular passenger service across the Atlantic.
- 1961 – A white mob attacks civil rights activists in Montgomery, Alabama.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Somerville's **RSJ Fund** is making up to \$100,000 total in **community programming grants** available for residents, advocates, and local service providers working to advance racial and social justice work. Individual applicants may request between \$250 and \$9,999. Applications are open now until 11:59 p.m. on **Friday, May 29**. <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/department-racial-and-social-justice/rsj-fund>.

Join **Somerville Media Center** in honoring former Mayor **Joe Curtatone** with their **Public Service Award** on **Thursday, June 4**, from 7 to 9 p.m. at **Arts at the Armory**, 119 Highland Ave, in Somerville. The celebratory evening will feature cheeses and specialty bites provided by **Formaggio Kitchen** and more, tasty drinks from Arts at the Armory, live music by **Revolutionary Snake Ensemble**, raffles, and a special presentation honoring Joe Curtatone's longstanding advocacy for community media and Somerville Media Center. Proceeds from the event will directly support SMC programs. Tickets are available online: <https://tinyurl.com/joecurtatone>. Get your tickets in advance for this great event because they will cost more at the door! Advance ticket sales end on June 3.

Somerville's annual **Water System Flushing Program** began Monday, May 18, 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 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](https://www.somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing).

**Jane's Walk: Assembly Row - A Historical Perspective, Sunday, May 31**, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., **330 Canal Street, Assembly Row**. Join the Somerville Museum for a Jane's Walk through Assembly Square, exploring how this waterfront neighborhood has changed over time. Beginning at 330 Canal Street, the tour traces the area's evolution from early transportation routes and industrial sites to today's

vibrant mixed-use district, with stops highlighting the Ford Assembly Plant, the Mystic River, and the public spaces of Assembly Row. For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>

Make a splash this summer with **Somerville Parks and Recreation**. Their swim lessons have a class suitable for everyone of all ages and abilities to build skills and confidence in the water. Classes will run **from June 1 to July 9**, and class times will vary depending on the specific level. Non-Resident Registration will be at 10 a.m. on **Monday, May 25**. Check out the website for more information: [www.somervillerec.com](http://www.somervillerec.com).

Make Your Voice Heard! What does **REvolution** mean to you? The **Somerville Arts Council** is inviting the community to share short, original quotes or phrases that explore transformation, challenge the status quo, and spark new ways of thinking. Your words could become part of **ArtBeat 2026** - featured along the **Community Bike Path** and in an interactive experience at the festival. Whether it's a mini manifesto or just three powerful words, they want to hear it! Submit through the link here: <https://www.somervilleartscouncil.org/>

The **Gilman Square Neighborhood Council** has announced that **Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson** will be coming to Gilman Square next month to share his vision for the Homans Site. This is the empty city-owned lot at the T stop, at 352 Medford Street. Come hear about **plans for development**, bring your questions for the mayor about his vision for the site, and enjoy some early evening refreshments with your neighbors. The GSNC continues to advocate with the city for development of the site, so please feel free to reach out to the board with any feedback you would like included at [board@gilmansquarenc.org](mailto:board@gilmansquarenc.org). **Monday, June 8**, 5:30 p.m. at the **Homans Site, 352 Medford St**. Pizza Provided.

**Help Save Buddy's Diner!** Buddy's has received **Historic Preservation Committee approval** for a **\$75,000 grant** from Somerville's **Community Preservation Act funds**. This is mood-shifting news for us at Buddy's, but it's not enough to open our doors. They help close the gap of \$100,000. This is all they need to dish

out everyone's favorite diner fare once again. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-buddys-diner>.

**Kindness Rocks! Indigenous Stories & Painting Stones**. Join the **Somerville Museum** for a creative and meaningful gathering where participants will paint small stones with messages of kindness while listening to stories shared by a local Indigenous storyteller. Enjoy stories, creativity, and conversation while exploring how small acts of kindness can brighten someone's day. Painted stones can be taken home or left in public spaces for others to discover, a simple way to share art, encouragement, and community spirit. **Saturday, May 30**, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville. A hands-on, heart-centered program for all ages. For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

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 to 7 p.m. Next meeting will take place for **Ward 4, Wednesday, May 20**, 5 p.m. Join **Mayor Wilson, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, At-Large Councilors**, and **city staff** at **Healey Schoolyard** (5 Meacham St.). For more information, visit [www.somervillema.gov/slice](http://www.somervillema.gov/slice).

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

The **Davis Square Market** will reopen for the 2026 Season on **Wednesday, May 20**. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **from May 20 through November 25**, at **44 Day**

**St.**, Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

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

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

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

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

# Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 17

**AG CAMPBELL ANNOUNCES \$7.8 MILLION SETTLEMENT** - Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell announced a \$7.8 million settlement with American First Finance (AFF) resolving allegations that the company used unfair and deceptive business practices to mislead consumers with expensive lease-to-own contracts. The settlement requires AFF to pay \$2 million to the state which will then distribute it to impacted customers as restitution. The settlement also includes nearly \$5.8 million in credits to existing consumer accounts.

“Consumers making significant purchases deserve to be presented with clear, straightforward payment options,” said Campbell. “When companies mislead buyers and profit off the confusion they create, that violates our consumer protection laws and unfairly puts our residents at risk. My office will continue to hold companies that take advantage of consumers accountable, especially when they target our most vulnerable communities.”

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Through the Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF), we are proud to invest in the places that make arts and culture accessible across Massachusetts. These projects strengthen local economies, preserve our shared heritage and ensure that residents and visitors alike can experience the

full richness of our cultural sector for years to come.” — *David Slatery, Acting Executive Director of the Mass Cultural Council, announcing that 97 nonprofit and municipal cultural facilities will receive a total of \$8.6 million through the most recent CFF grants.*

“An order from the U.S. Supreme Court has extended providers' ability to mail mifepristone while this case continues. This decision is a relief for patients, who can continue to access the medication abortion method of their choice, and for providers to continue offering the highest standards of care.” — *Dominique Lee, CEO of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, on the U.S. Supreme Court extending a stay of the 5th Circuit's ruling in Louisiana et al. v. Food and Drug Administration allowing health care providers to continue mailing mifepristone, one of two common medications used for abortion and miscarriage management, while the case continues.*

### HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important

to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of May 11-15, the House met for a total of 18 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 25 minutes.

Mon. May 11	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 12:04 p.m. to 12:08 p.m.
Tues. May 12	No House session No Senate session
Wed. May 13	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. May 14	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 11:04 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.
Fri. May 15	No House session No Senate session

*Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com*

## The Somerville Times BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

### T. J. SILLARI, INC.

Over 50 Years Experience  
Proud to be a Somerville Business Resident



- Plumbing • Heating
- Gas Fitting • Industrial Work
- Water Heater Replacement
- Complete Drain Service

Residential - Industrial - Commercial

Master Plmb. Lic. #6106 **625-9877**

### The Law Offices of Richard G. Di Girolamo

**Richard G. Di Girolamo, Esquire**  
**Anne M. Vigorito, Esquire**  
**Breanna L. Rolland, Esquire**

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

- Real Estate Law
- Zoning
- Civil Litigation
- Criminal Defense
- Family Law
- Personal Injury

TELEPHONE: (617) 666-8200  
FAX: (617) 776-5435

EMAIL: digirolamolegal@verizon.net

424 BROADWAY, SOMERVILLE, MA 02145



Cleaning. Restoration. Construction.

SERVPRO® of Arlington,  
Somerville, Charlestown

**617-629-5331**

Independently owned and operated

**LEARN TO DRAW AND PAINT**  
Artist and art teacher Geoffrey Halverson



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

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

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

### Monica Calvo Realtor®

Real Estate Professional  
Cell: 617-605-3308

Email: mcalvo@relocationnewengland.com  
Web: remaxpartnersrelocation.com

**RE/MAX**  
PARTNERS RELOCATION  
44 Park ST  
Andover MA 01810

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



### Meet ELI the HANDYMAN

Tufts Student Handy in Somerville!

- ✓ Assembly
- ✓ Install
- ✓ Home Repair
- ✓ Hauling
- ✓ Yard-work
- ✓ Tech Help
- ✓ Dog-walking
- ✓ Much more!

\$40/hour rate.  
Schedule Me!



857-228-0925



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

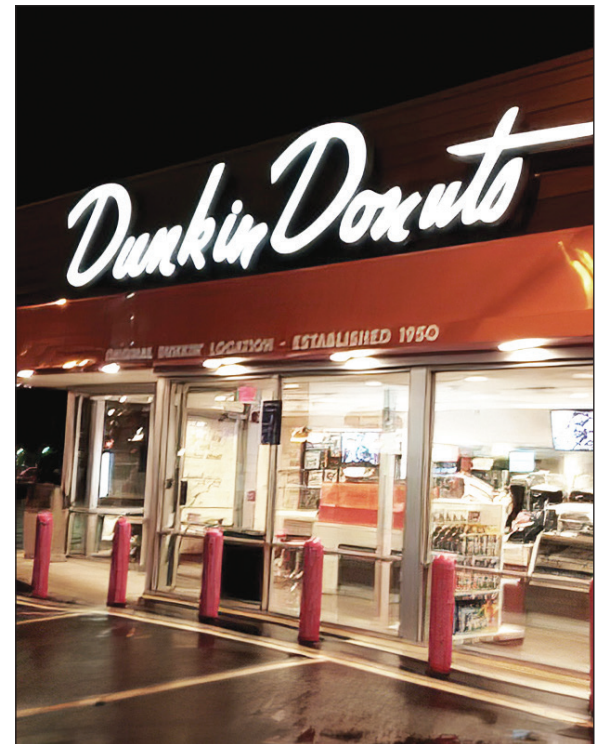
5AM – Dunkin' Donuts – Somerville

I wrote this piece in 2016, so I thought I would bring it back from the dusty archives...

At 62 it is a lot harder to get up for the class that I teach at Endicott College on the North Shore – especially in the winter. I like to do a lot of my prep at the office – so I bite the bullet – and get ready at 4 a.m. I meet the morning demands of my cat – Ketz – brush my crowned teeth, take a brush to the remains of my hair – and I am out the door. I am a man of ritual – my day starts at the Big D Tuesday and Thursday mornings--for almost a decade now – at the Dunkin' Donuts on Somerville Ave., adjacent to Central Street. Often, I am the first one there. My car is exhaling steam and so am I, often the moon is a vivid white, and the configuration of clouds and sky – a new breathtaking work of art. Before it opens, I hear the last minutes of talk radio with Bradley J on WBZ – all those insomniacs trying to fill their void, the voices from the city and the hinterlands – a Greek Chorus to the opening act of my day. In my own imagination, I have become an iconic figure there. If you can see my dark silhouette in the window, the brim of my baseball cap pointed to my java and my multi-grained bagel, then you know they are open for business. I must look like a figure from an Edward Hooper painting – in this early morning desolation.

There is a mini subculture here that I am part of. The people at this time are bone tired. For the most part, they are not the hipsters and young professionals that populate Union Square Donuts. The donuts and bagels are good, but they ain't "artisanal." The customers are not stranger to the elements; they have weathered a lot, and have that did that-done that sensibility displayed on their faces.

We all usually nod to each other, sometimes say hello – but we don't linger – we are tired and in a rush. The manager is a good 'ole girl who drives in from New Hampshire, and her cheerfulness is a much-needed bitch-slap to the gloom of the wee



hours. There is an industrious Asian woman behind the counter, looking like a Keystone Cop as she briskly walks back and forth to help things run smoothly. There is a Hispanic gentleman, maybe a little older than me, that I have seen for years. We always respectfully nod and smile at each other--and exchange the usual early morning cliches. He drinks his coffee and smokes his cigarette outside. He takes puffs and sips as he looks to the sky – it almost seems like he is having a spiritual experience. There are two women who arrive punctually at the same time. They seem to order coffee for their work crew. They are real Somerville types – not transplants – but I could be wrong. They croon the order with a rapid-fire cadence – a sort of song for our morning. They cackle with deep Boston accents with the manager, laughing at life – bemoaning what's worth bemoaning.

This is the Twilight Zone limbo after the dreams and nightmares of the night, and before the mad rush of the day. Our cars leave the parking lot – high beams leading us to our journey into the light.

Lyrical SOMERVILLE edited by Doug Holder

Valerie Quercia is a Massachusetts-based poet and storyteller. She is the author of *In Gratitude*, a chapbook published by Finishing Line Press in 2013 (written under the name Valerie Anne Prescott). Val loves literature, history, baseball, old movies, generous pots of tea, and, most of all, animals. She currently lives in Acton, MA, with four rescued pets, in a house built in 1844. Val calls their home "The Pink House" – for obvious reasons. But local historians say the color of the house is, was, and ever will be ... "Chippendale Rose."



Dream for a Winter's Morning

I wish we could stand  
 You and I  
 out  
 Today  
 alone together  
 just once more.  
 A world with so many edges  
 now softened  
 by the falling  
 snow  
 Flakes enormous  
 like spent dandelions  
 ready to seed  
 And catch them  
 on our tongues  
 laughing again

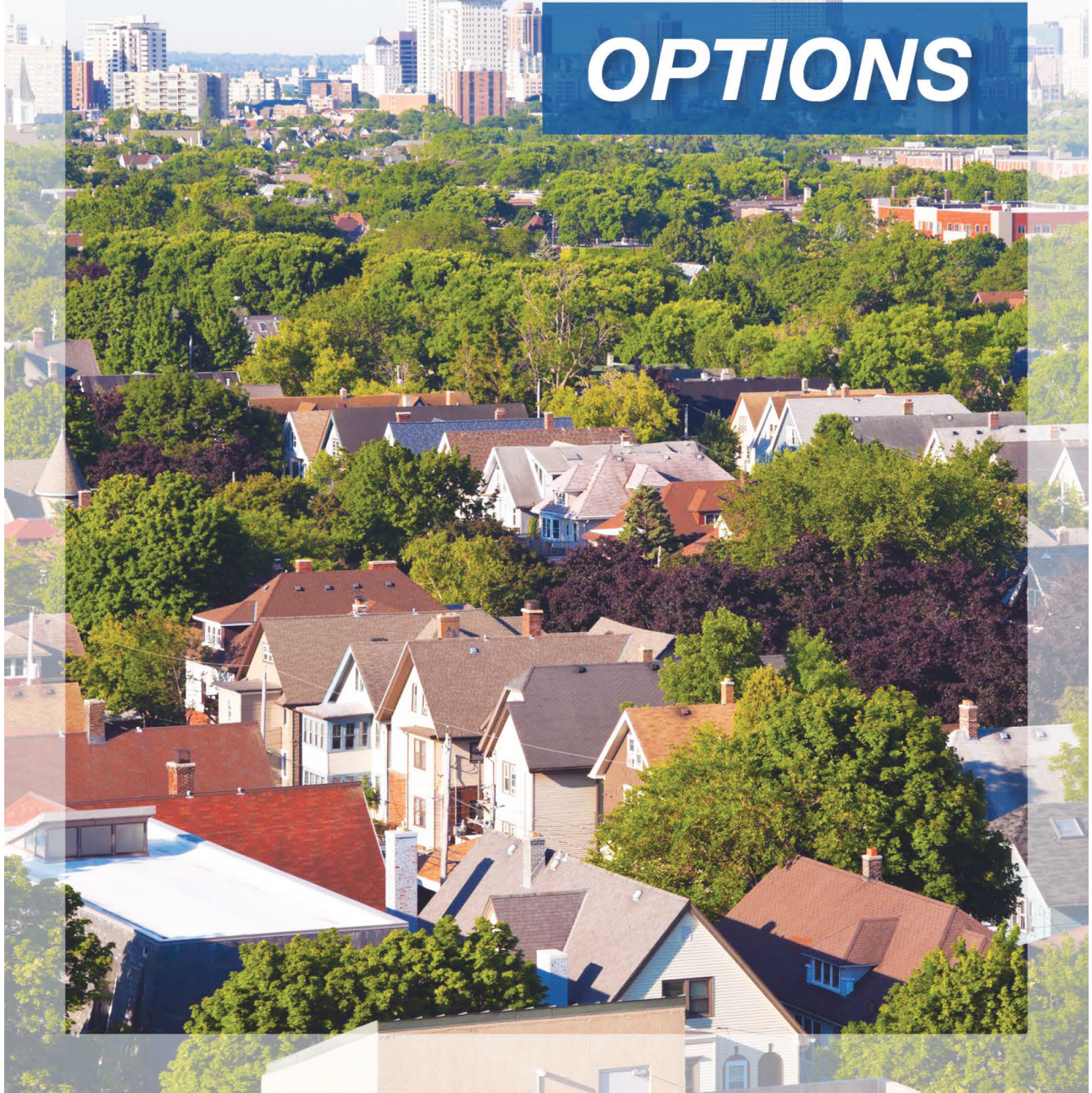
once more  
 Or that I could see  
 the exquisite flakes  
 fall  
 upon  
 your star-crossed lashes

and kiss your eyelids  
 miraculously  
 warm  
 again

— Valerie Quercia

# COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE

## OPTIONS



Local real estate investors, builders, and developers need commercial mortgage options and best rates. We've got both!

- Residential Apartment Buildings of 5 or More Units
- Mixed Use Properties
- Office/Retail Properties
- Construction & Permanent Financing
- Competitive Rates and Programs

**QUICK, LOCAL DECISIONS**

**CALL**

**VP Richard Brenner  
617-629-3349**

**WINTER HILL BANK**  
CustomServe Lending

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

A Mutual Bank Serving the Community Since 1906.

