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**That Taste of
Somerville**
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Somerville's Nicotine-Free generation policy begins



The Somerville Board of Health recently voted for the city to adopt a Nicotine-Free Generation policy.

This spring, Somerville's Board of Health (BOH) voted for the city to join a growing national movement to create a Nicotine-Free generation by adopting new public health regulations limiting the sale of nicotine products, which went into effect May 1.

The updated rules, adopted unanimously by the Somerville Board of Health on March 25, mark the start of a major local effort to prevent nicotine addiction, especially among youth.

Under the new regulations:

Somerville will begin implementing a Nicotine-Free Generation policy. Anyone born on or after January 1, 2005, will be permanently ineligible to purchase tobacco or nicotine products in the city, even once they turn 21.

Nicotine pouches can now only be sold in adult-only retail stores. Retailers *Continued on page 4*

Q's Nuts closing Somerville location in June, to be replaced by do-good bakery

Jeffrey Shwom

A local nut roaster, Q's Nuts, is transitioning operations more online and closing its brick-and-mortar near Davis Square in June, while bakery and pastry shop Hearth & Hug Bakery takes over the lease. "Somerville is an amazing community in terms of the people ... the customers and the fellow businesses that we've met," shared co-owner Beth Quinn. "The neighbors, the people that come in. We have a lot of regular customers, and for that, I'm sad."

Started as an event roaster in 2000 and known for their chocolate-covered and spicy nut flavors, Q's Nuts artisanal offerings have become a fixture in locally crafted food in Somerville. They have seen much growth and changing customer behavior. Before their retirement in a few years, *Continued on page 19*



Somerville nut roaster Q Nuts is closing its store in Davis Sq. and will be focusing on online sales in the future. — Photos by Jeffrey Shwom

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








Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Department of Veterans’ Services invite all community members to join in honoring local veterans and our nation’s fallen heroes at the city’s Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday, May 25, rain or shine. Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. The parade will proceed west from Davis Square on Holland Street through Teele Square and onto Broadway, ending at the Veterans Cemetery between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street. The Remembrance Ceremony takes place immediately following the parade at Somerville Veterans Cemetery (between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street).

Attend the FY26 Water and Sewer Rates Public Hearing. Attend in-person or virtually to hear proposed Fiscal Year 2026 water and sewer rates on Wednesday, May 28, at 6 p.m. at the Tufts Administration Building (TAB), located at 167 Holland St. Written feedback will be accepted until noon on Wednesday, May 28, and can be emailed to water@somervillema.gov or mailed to: Water and Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145. More information about proposed rates and how to participate remotely, including dial-in information, will be posted to the city website soon: visit www.somervillema.gov/calendar.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: We want to wish a very happy birthday to Magoun Sq. resident Pina *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 21 – May 27 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday May 21	Cloudy	51°/46°	19%	15%	NE 12 mph
 Thursday May 22	Rain	50°/46°	71%	54%	E 19 mph
 Friday May 23	Rain	57°/48°	44%	32%	N 13 mph
 Saturday May 24	Rain	56°/49°	48%	33%	NW 10 mph
 Sunday May 25	Partly Cloudy	65°/51°	11%	7%	NNW 12 mph
 Monday May 26	Partly Cloudy	69°/54°	8%	5%	NW 9 mph
 Tuesday May 27	Partly Cloudy	68°/52°	19%	12%	S 10 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: Strategic Plan vs. Harsh Reality: SPS Funding Shortchanges Students and Staff

Abby says:
This perfectly captures what was exposed during last week’s budget hearing. Our city can and must do better!!!

Shu Talun says:
Thank you Sam Steiner! This public expose is long overdue. There are so many points that confirm what I have suspected and experienced.
Unfortunately, IEP services are reactive, not proactive. We have been told to ‘wait and see’ how badly our child fails before additional services are provided. This sets up the child, the teachers and the school for failure. The performance gap widens as years go by and children who have not mastered foundational skills in math and reading comprehension by 3rd grade wander further into the land of diminishing returns. I cannot describe what it feels like to watch your child venture down that road.
Thank you to the brave teachers who spoke up publicly.

Molly H says:
Thank you for writing this! The Mayor, Superintendent, and other SPS Admin are failing our students. Something needs to change.

Georgia Eldridge says:
As a pediatrician and mom, thanks for sharing your voice. I echo these concerns – SPS needs to keep teachers and students in mind when developing policy and come up with real solutions to address these issues.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

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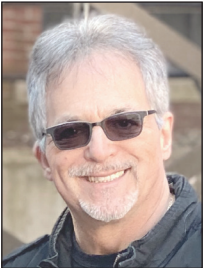
Life in the

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.

Memorial Day



Every Memorial Day is special. While we are enjoying parades (the largest one ever!) and cookouts and family gatherings this coming weekend, we will also remember all of the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

A friend of mine came up to my office at work and personally delivered a touching story to me. He is a Viet Nam vet and very active in the city’s veterans affairs. The story is sad, but it reminds us how war devastates families.

As we are spending time with our friends and loved ones this weekend, and watching the parade with all our patriotism on display, let’s say a prayer. Let’s ask whoever our higher power is to someday put an end to war. All we are saying is give peace a chance. But until then, men and women will bravely pick up arms and leave

their loved ones and their homes to defend our freedom as Americans.

God bless all the United States Veterans all over the world, both living, and those who have passed on. Thank you for fighting for our beloved United States of America. I don’t know who wrote the following, but it is a very powerful and heartfelt story.

Things You Didn’t Do

Remember the day I borrowed your brand new car and I dented it?

I thought you’d kill me, but you didn’t.

And remember the time I dragged you to the beach and you said it would rain and it did?

I thought you’d say, “I told you so,” but you didn’t.

Do you remember the time I flirted with all the guys to make you jealous, and you were?

I thought you’d leave me, but you didn’t.



Do you remember the time I spilled strawberry pie all over your car rug?

But you didn’t.

I thought you would freak out, but you didn’t.

Thank you to all the members of the many Veterans’ groups in Somerville. To them, every day is Memorial Day. They keep the spirit of those who fought for this country alive on a daily basis. As a proud American, I always say that you can’t have enough American flags on your car, house, golf cart, RV, jackets, or hats. Just look at the powerful and sacred symbol the flag is.

Our Veterans groups keep the memories of their fallen comrades alive every day of the year. Have a safe Memorial Day.

And remember the time I forgot to tell you that the dance was formal and you showed up in jeans?

I thought you’d drop me, but you didn’t.

Yes, there were lots of things you didn’t do, but you put up with me, and you loved me, and you protected me.

There were lots of things I wanted to make up to you when you came back from the war.



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Somerville Veterans and First Responders honored



The Veterans Department and the City of Somerville Veterans Commission for Monuments, Memorials, and Dedications honored the service of Somerville Veterans and First Responders with a Heroes Salute ceremony on Saturday, May 17. We thank all who were honored for their service.

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log May 6 -12



Residential Breaking and Entering

25025533: On 5/8/25 at approximately 9:36 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on North St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party who stated a group of teenagers broke into the basement and were smoking marijuana. Nothing was reported stolen.

Arrest

25025203: On 5/7/25 at approximately 6:33 p.m., Somerville Police responded to the area of Cross St. and Chester St. for a check condition. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a witness who stated a male party was acting erratically and kicking people on bicycles. He then approached two other individuals and punched one of them then threatened to kill him. Officers were able to locate the male suspect nearby and he was placed under arrest.

Robbery

25026329: On 5/12/25 at approximately 4:17 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Glen St. for an unarmed robbery. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was sitting in the area of the Capuano School and was approached by two males. The males began talking to him then one of them grabbed his necklace and both suspects fled the area.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25026340: On 5/12/25 at approximately 5:01 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Garden Court for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she observed her apartment door pried open then saw her living room in disarray. She reported multiple pieces of jewelry and gift cards were stolen.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25026354: On 5/12/25 at approximately 5:30 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Garden Court for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated her apartment was broken into and multiple pieces of jewelry and cash were stolen.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25025674: On 5/9/25 at approximately 2:03 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Franklin St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated his bicycle was stolen from inside his shed.

Residential Breaking and Entering

25026279: On 5/12/25 at approximately 12:19 PM, Somerville Police responded to a residence on Alpine St. for a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated his bicycle was stolen from his basement.

Other Crimes: 2 Package thefts + 1 Bike theft + 2 Vandalisms + 1 MV theft + 2 MV Vandalisms

— Somerville Police Department

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Officials asking for public’s help in Somerville fire investigation

Several fires in a former school building are being investigated as suspicious, and officials are asking for the public’s help, said Somerville Fire Chief Charles J. Breen Jr, Somerville Police Chief Shumeane Benford, and State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. The Somerville Fire Department responded to 115 Sycamore Street, the former site of the Winter Hill Community

School, at 8:47 pm on May 12. Firefighters made entry, searched the building, and fully extinguished a number of unconnected fires. They also observed other signs of vandalism on the premises. “This fire had the potential to grow and spread, increasing the danger and risk to responding firefighters,” said Chief Breen. Chief Benford, Chief Breen, and State

Fire Marshal Davine urged anyone with information on the fires to contact the Arson Watch Reward Program at 1-800-682-9229. The Arson Watch Reward Program is coordinated by the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association and offers rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that solves, detects, or prevents arson crimes.

“The most important thing right now is to prevent any additional fires that could leave someone injured or worse,” said Chief Benford. The fires remain under investigation by the Somerville Police Criminal Investigation Division, Somerville Fire Department, and State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office.

Somerville’s Nicotine-Free generation policy begins

CONT. FROM PG 1

who do not meet this standard must remove pouches from their shelves immediately. “The Nicotine-Free Generation policy isn’t about taking away rights, it’s about giving young people the freedom to grow up without the grip of nicotine,” said Bha-

vika Kalia, a member of Somerville Positive Forces. “It’s about bold action today to protect the well-being of those who will lead our communities tomorrow.” The Somerville Board of Health encourages retailers and community members to

familiarize themselves with the new rules. These changes reflect the City’s continued commitment to a healthier, addiction-free future for its residents. These regulations follow years of local and statewide efforts to reduce access to harmful products, in-

cluding Massachusetts’ 2024 ban on menthol-mimicking tobacco products. For more information, contact Six City Tobacco Control Director Bonny Carroll at bcarroll@somervillema.gov, or visit somervillema.gov/prevention.

This spring, garden like a pollinator pro in Somerville

With spring in full swing, the City of Somerville is reminding residents that the season of growth is also the season of pollinators. As you shop for plants to fill garden pots or garden beds, you can play a role in feeding and sheltering the insects that keep our global ecosystem functioning.

“Pollinators are looking for flowers to feed on, and this spring, one of the most powerful ways you can support biodiversity is by doing less,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “A few extra weeks of letting your lawn be a little wild feed the pollinators that help our whole ecosystem thrive. I’m so grateful to our Public Space and Urban Forestry team for developing a resource that makes it easy for all of us to take action. Together, we can fight local and global pollinator population decline right in our own yards, balconies, parks, and planter boxes.”

Somerville’s Pollinator Action Plan is your go-to guide for planting a beautiful garden and protecting the creatures that keep our environment blooming. Whether you’re a homeowner, renter, seasoned gardener, or total beginner, the Plan is full of practical steps and inspiring ideas to help create a vital habitat right here in the city.

Open it up and you’ll find:

- Why pollinators matter to Somerville and beyond
- The bees, butterflies, and other pollinators you’re likely to see here
- Specific garden designs and pollinator-friendly plant lists
- Landscaping tips for every kind of space

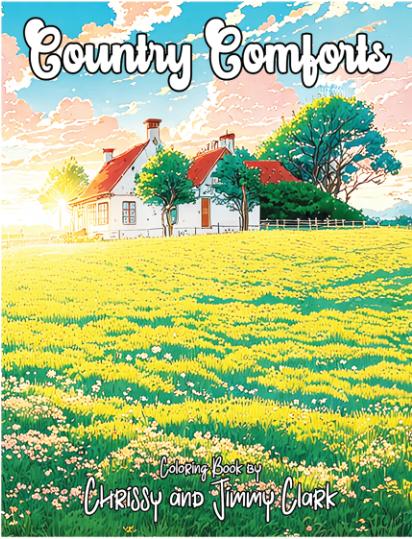
Actions for everyone, from renters to property owners, landscapers, schools, and kids

Check out the full Pollinator Action Plan at: voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan.



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

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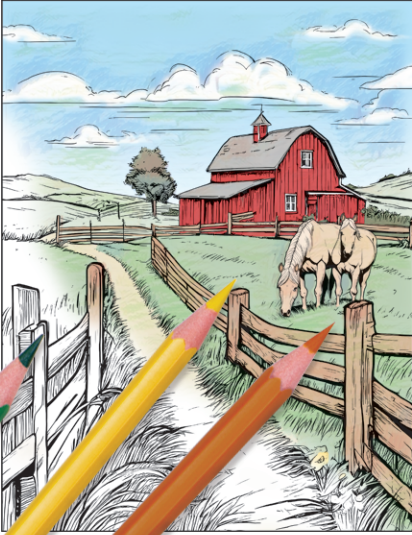
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Emily Hardt announces run for Somerville City Council

Teacher, former union organizer, and former nonprofit executive director Emily Hardt has announced her candidacy for Somerville City Council to represent Ward 7. An over 20 years Somerville resident, Emily is a long-time local climate justice advocate and parent leader in the Somerville Public Schools.

Hardt says she is running to ensure that Somerville is a place where anyone who wants to live, work, and raise a family can do so. “I have seen many friends and neighbors priced out of Somerville, whether as renters or homeowners. As city councilor, I will work to expand existing initiatives and find new creative solutions that allow people to stay in their homes and neighborhoods.”

For Hardt, that means every Somerville resident. Hardt will lead on addressing

issues stemming from the attacks by the Trump administration, including climate resilience, immigrant rights, helping local businesses weather the uncertainty of this moment, and supporting schools under attack from federal authorities. “As a long-time Somerville resident and parent in this community, I know the importance of strong and effective leadership to counter the horrible policies, massive budget cuts, and hate-filled attacks coming from the federal administration.”

An effective leader with years of experience in the Somerville area, Hardt has helped the Somerville Chapter of Mothers Out Front hold utilities accountable for gas leaks, resulting in improved air quality and replacing damaged green space. In her role as Executive Director of the Women’s Insti-

tute for Leadership Development (WILD), promoting women’s leadership in the Massachusetts labor movement, she doubled the organization’s budget, expanded multilingual programming, and built strong partnerships with unions and community groups. As a union organizer with UFCW, Emily organized frontline workers, helping hundreds gain union representation and workplace protections. “As a community activist, former union organizer, former nonprofit director and now teacher of public policy, I’ve spent the past 25+ years bringing people together to develop solutions to big problems,” Hardt says. “I can’t wait to put my leadership experience to work on behalf on my own community right here in Somerville.”

— Committee to Elect Emily Hardt



Ward 7 City Council candidate Emily Hardt

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

LTE Students Facing Homelessness and Now Fire at Winter Hill

Dear Editor,

One of the most acute stresses of human rights in our city – students facing homelessness--is seen as students cope with the enormous forces driving our housing crisis. Let me report startling numbers shared from the School Committee. Earlier this winter I learned that the school year in our district opened with 111 students facing housing instability. 79 K-8 students became 61 after the Holiday break as 18 moved to shelter or out of state.

And among the remaining 49 students in grades 9-12, 19 are unaccompanied minors. Deserved thanks for compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act goes to Regina Bertholdo and Jennifer Ochoa who work directly with our homeless families.

On top of the dislocation to the Edgerly Building following long neglected repair – now our Winter Hill School is literally on fire! Anyone could break-in Tuesday, with all the windows left open, necessarily, to let the smoke out of the building. Sycamore street neighbors at 10pm were approached for video in search of information that might lead to arrest.

But the danger to our community--the peril at the heart of the scare for me--is that our Winter Hill students are facing the most difficult situation in the School District. I should know, I have served as an intermittent substitute once in the fall and spring, working with students with Autism, Seventh and Eighth grade English Language Learners. My daughter is a Wildcat, my wife Emily Hankle serves on the PTA as co-vice president, and yes, I’m very well aware of the building committee frustration. But infrastructure is half the battle.

Attracting quality educators with meaningful work and a devoted caring commu-

nity is not the problem. But retaining them at sufficient salary levels is vital if we are to triage performance levels. As put to the School Committee in its budget meeting Wednesday May 7th, Mr. B, our Winter Hill Dean stated that according to MCAS scores – it confirms Winter Hill is in the most dire need of support.

Sincerely,

Christopher Ryan Spicer
Candidate for Councilor At-Large
Current Somerville Human Rights Commissioner

New England Hong Kong Festival returns to Somerville

On Saturday, May 31, join the second annual New England Hong Kong Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Seven Hills Park in Somerville to celebrate the vibrant culture, food, and creativity of Hongkongers across the region. The event is free and open to all. Rain date is Sunday, June 1.

Now in its second year, the community-run festival brings together more than 30 local vendors, artists, and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities. Attendees can also enjoy over 15 live performances from bands, martial artists, and cultural performers, as well as free games, family-friendly activities, and photo ops, including a newspaper stand set and stamp stations inspired by iconic Hong Kong streets.

For more information, including full event listings and vendor updates, visit newenglandhk-fest.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.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Farmers markets season is kicking off in Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



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

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

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

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

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

run until October 25, and they proudly continue to offer their \$15 SNAP match.

The Davis Square Farmers Market kicks off on May 21, at the intersection of Day St. and Herbert St., every Wednesday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., ongoing until November 26. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. SNAP users can earn

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

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

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 **Rick Driscoll**, **Shirley Valentine**, **Deirdre Grace**, **Iona O'Brien**, **Danielle Scrima**, **Breanna Lungo-Koehn**, **Tim Devin**, **Danny McLaughlin**, **Karen Ferullo**, and **Peggy Ryan Lookliss** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Join the **virtual office hour** anytime be-

tween 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on **May 22** to talk to city staff about your thoughts, preferences, feedback, and questions on the proposed concept design options for the **Western Pearl Street Reconstruction**. For more details on the proposals, please check out the following materials available at www.somervillema.gov/westernpearl: Register in advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_6UHfzmhEScOTEIaLunkNgw.

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 affect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping you please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>, or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to try to help out our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

Events taking place at the **Somerville Community Growing Center**, 22 Vinal

Ave., this weekend: **Opera On Tap: Buzzing B's and High C's**, **Saturday, May 24**, 2 – 4 p.m. Rain Date: **Sunday, May 25**. The Somerville Pollinator Action Plan, a celebration of the creatures who bring us the fruits and flowers, this educational event combines information on nature's busiest bees and their friends with live performances of opera and musical theatre. Meet up with friends and learn about pollination and what we can do at home to assist our pollinator friends. To learn more, check out www.operaontapboston.com. **Bumba Meu Boi Dance and Music Workshop**, **Saturday, May 24**, 5 – 7 p.m. Rain date: **Sunday, May** *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#974

1. How many bones does a shark have?

2. What singer had the hit *Kiss From a Rose*?

3. Which Spice Girl was Mel B known as?

4. In the world of craps, what color are the dice?

5. What type of rice would you use to make risotto?

6. How much does it cost to buy a railway station in the Monopoly game?

7. Tennis star Serena
- Williams won which major tournament while pregnant with her first child?

8. Which author wrote the *Winnie-the-Pooh* books?

9. Which planet is the hottest in the solar system?

10. Which two U.S. states don't observe Daylight Saving Time?

11. Which Disney film features the song *When You Wish Upon a Star*?

12. What are espadrilles?
- Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. An earthquake might have shrunk Mount Everest.
2. Apple seeds contain cyanide.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
ON BROADWAY

- ACROSS
1. Benatar and Morita

5. Certain tray contents

8. In custody

12. Main character in "Shrek the Musical," based on 2001 flick

13. Soreness

14. Wore (2 words)

15. Street in Anytown, USA

16. Burn to a crisp

17. Opposite of alpha

18. Musical with most Tony Awards, with The

20. Grape holder

21. Entertain

22. ___ Aviv

23. Unrhymed Japanese poem, pl.

26. Snakebirds

30. Opposite of hence

31. Shooting star

34. Milk's favorite cookie

35. Zoroaster follower

37. A Beatle bride

38. Mix-up

39. Type of cotton

40. ___ Lloyd Webber

42. Dog command

43. Inference of similarity

45. 4th letter of Hebrew alphabet

47. But I heard him exclaim, ___ he drove out of sight..."

48. Pool table fabric

50. Altar location

52. Last year's Tony Award winner for Best Musical, with The

56. Santa Anna's target

57. To, archaic

58. Small cave

59. Cocaine-producing plant, pl.

60. Diagnostic test

61. Biblical Isaac's firstborn

62. Not quite an adult

63. Craggy peak

64. Tear

CROSSWORD														
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56						57					58			
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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

O	F	F	S			C	E	P			F	D	A		
P	A	R	T		S	A	L	E		S	P	I	E	S	
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Z	I	T					E	S	T			R	O	S	E

- DOWN
1. Circumstance's partner

- © StatePoint Media

2. Lab gel

3. Domingo, Pavarotti and Carreras, e.g.

4. "Where the Wild Things Are" author

5. Plural of #13 Across

6. Social media button

7. Not his

8. Musical with most Tony nominations

9. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"

10. Private box

11. Double helix-shaped structure

13. Emile Zola's "J'___..."

14. What helicopter parents do

19. Savory taste sensation

22. Black gunk

23. Tapa, alt. sp.

24. "Encore!"

25. ___ Jean, a.k.a. Marilyn Monroe

26. Don't let this hit you on the way out

27. Use the other end of a pencil

28. Re-equip
29. Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "___ Pa-cific"

32. Award nickname, short for Antoinette

33. Finish line

36. Arthur Miller's "Death of a ___"

38. Swaziland native

40. "___ of Aquarius," song from "Hair"

41. a.k.a. the Wizard of Menlo Park

44. Plural of #34 Across

46. Late actor Heath

48. Social dice game

49. Rose oil

50. Medicinal house plant

51. Tempo

52. Give a boot

53. Gaelic

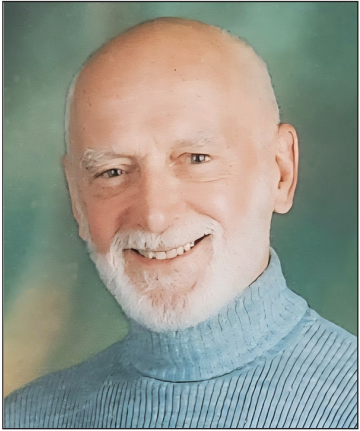
54. Multicolored horse

55. Wall support

56. Part of a play
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Lawrence Joseph “Larry” Balboni Jr.



settts he settled with his family in Lexington, MA with his wife Dorothy (Gardini), 2 stepsons Robert A. Gazza, Alfred E. Gazza, and 2 sons Lawrence A. Balboni and Bruce R. Balboni.

Larry worked as a Weapons Acquisition Manager for 30 years for the US Government at Hanscom Airforce Base, Lexington MA. He retired early in 1982 and became a full-time resident in Naples, ME. Larry was an avid skier his entire life, becoming a Senior Ski Patroller with The National Ski Patrol in both Vermont and Maine. There he worked as a CPR Instructor and a First Aid Instructor. He also enjoyed learning, he continued his education taking college courses, and also enjoyed reading, music, dancing, hiking, biking, and traveling the world in search of softer white capped mountains. He was a proud supporter and member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Audubon Society. While residing in Naples, Larry became an involved member of the community. He was the director of Lakes Environmental Association (L.E.A.) as well as a member of the town planning board, town budget committee, and a trustee of the Naples Public Library. Larry was very involved

and instrumental in their fund-raising and renovation efforts.

Larry lived a full life; he never let his age slow him down, he hiked well into his 80s and skied well into his 90s. He believed that knowledge is power, he was a man who was determined to enjoy every aspect of life and lived it to the fullest. He touched and brought joy to so many peoples’ lives and will be greatly missed by so many.

He is survived by his son Bruce R. Balboni of Lewiston, ME; his grandchildren, great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

On Friday 5-16-25 at 12PM there will be a graveside gathering at Mt Pleasant Cemetery, 70 Medford St. Arlington, MA 02474 and a Celebration of Life immediately following at The American Legion Post 39, 370 Massachusetts Ave. Arlington, MA 02474. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The American Legion Post 155, 26 Casco Rd. Naples ME 04055, The Audubon Society or The Appalachian Mountain Club.

Arrangements are in the care of the Hall Funeral Home, 165 Quaker Ridge Road, Casco, ME. Condolences and tributes may be shared at www.hallfuneralhome.net.


Lawrence Joseph “Larry” Balboni Jr., died Monday, May 5th, 2025, at his home in Naples, ME after living an amazing 100 years!

Larry was born in Cambridge, MA November 2, 1924, predeceased by his parents Lawrence J. & Rose (Porte) Balboni and siblings Ruth C. Balboni, Eleanor R. (Balboni) Ularich, and Robert A. Balboni.

After graduating from Somerville high school in 1942 Larry was eager to enlist in the army. During the Second World War he served with the 82nd Airborne, 508th Parachute Infantry as a Paratrooper. While serving in Europe he was wounded during combat and was medically discharged. Larry was awarded the purple heart, along with a bronze medal, a combat infantry badge, paratrooper wings, as well as many other accolades. Once he returned to Massachu-

Somerville to host annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Office of Health and Human Services are inviting all community members to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month at the annual Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the City Hall Concourse (93 Highland Ave.).




The event will feature remarks from Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, City LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator Izzy Starr, and youth representatives from Somerville’s LGBTQ+ community. Live ASL interpretation will be available.

For more information about LGBTQ+ programming, events, and information, please visit somervillema.gov/lgbtq-services.

The Somerville Times

Historical Fact of the Week




Eagle feathers #329

This article first appeared in the April 5, 2017, edition of The Somerville Times.


The Mariners

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Lieutenant Colonel John Glover already had twenty-one years under his belt as the commander of Marblehead’s militia. Late in the afternoon of the battle of Lexington, his militia narrowly missed a chance to intercept the retreating British column.



It was close. The English barely escaped through the shallow waters of Charlestown Neck, the site of today’s Schrafft’s City Center, when hundreds of Marblehead mariners and Salem militia surged over Winter Hill. These Minutemen were unique because they were all sailors and fishermen.



For the next year, they joined in the blockade of Boston on land and sea. The men were already disciplined in receiving and carrying out orders. They were drilled, well armed, and hardened by life on and near the ocean. Because of this, General Washington made some of them his personal bodyguards. They were America’s first amphibious regiment, known as Glovers Guard.

At the beginning of the Siege of Boston, Washington had to create a naval blockade. Because of Glover’s nautical experience, he was chosen to encircle the city from the sea. Colonel Glover enlisted aid from private

Continued on page 22

LEGAL NOTICES

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GEpLousgQCqTBfk1UvfNw
Webinar ID: 819 0601 7789

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

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

HP25-000013 - 294 Lowell Street
Applicant: Adam Dash and Associates – Adam Dash
Owner: Yangqing Xu
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

5/14/25, 5/21/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 25-72

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

Investigative Services

The IFB package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, May 19, 2025**. Sealed bids 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 4, 2025**.

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

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Jordan Remy
617-625-6600 x3400

5/21/25 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, June 5, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planningboard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MeMkAbSSRCunSGn0hlgA
Webinar ID: 814 3778 6596

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

483 Broadway Babbitt Design proposes to develop a Commercial Building in the MR4 zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

483 Broadway Babbitt Design proposes alcohol sales use in the MR4 zoning district, which requires a Special Permit..

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 Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to PlanningBoard@somervillema.gov.

5/21/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, June 5th, 2025** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e7EILXbmTg6eTZ3elxAvVg

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

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Article 8 of the Zoning Ordinance to update Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) references.

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

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

5/21/25 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



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 4, 2025**, 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. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z9IISRYNSQyWw6k0xNoLNg
Webinar ID: 811 4538 7477

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:

54 Albion St Susan and Terran Lane seek relief from SZO Section 3.1.7.b, regarding the minimum sum of side setbacks, which requires a Hardship Variance.

100 Chestnut St (28 Fitchburg St) ADA Forsyth Institute, Inc. seeks to install a noncompliant sign in the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

28 Chestnut St ADA Forsyth Institute, Inc. seeks to install a noncompliant sign in the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

54 Elm Street Kupel's Bagels, represented by Adam Dash & Associates, seeks to establish a bakery, café, coffee shop business in the Neighborhood Residential (NR) district within the Small Business Overlay District, which will require a Special Permit.

230 Elm Street Classic Signs Inc. seeks to have an illuminated sign more than 10 feet from the principal entrance of a new commercial business in the Mid Rise 4 (MR4) district, which will require 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.

5/21/25 The Somerville Times

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT
OF THE TRIAL COURT

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2581CV1211

TO: Pedro F. Jimenez of Somerville, Middlesex County,
Massachusetts;

AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE-
MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 2003:

Eastern Bank, successor by merger to Century Bank and Trust Compa-
ny, a Massachusetts banking corporation with a usual place of busi-
ness in Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts;

claiming to be the holder of a mortgage covering property situated on or
near Unit 12B, 12-14 Knowlton Street, Somerville, Massachusetts;


given by Pedro F. Jimenez to Century Bank and Trust Company dated
August 19, 2013 and

recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book
62509, Page 503, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to
foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and pos-
session of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power
of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers' Civil
Relief Act of 2003 and you object to such foreclosure, you or your attor-
ney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Wo-
burn in said County on or before the 23rd day of June, 2025 or you may
be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under
said Act.


**Witness, Heidi E. Brieger, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this 16th
day of May, 2025.**

Clerk, Michael A. Sullivan



A True Attested Copy
Deputy Assistant Clerk

5/21/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

KATJANA BALLANTYNE

MAYOR

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on
Finance**, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, on **Tuesday, June 3,
2025**, at 6:00 PM, on the Order of Finance Committee Chair Jake Wilson,
for public input on the proposed FY 2026 municipal budget.

This meeting will be conducted via remote participation online in a we-
binar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into
your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6bxa2NZvSqy0oHCYyXIJ_A

There will be access to and assistance for remote participation provid-
ed at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, 2nd Floor Committee Room.


Interpretation in Spanish and Portugese will be available via Zoom
during the meeting.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written
comments by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, 02143, or
by email to publiccomments@somervillema.gov. Your comments must
arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be
sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

5/21/25 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
(OSPCD)
WFD-25.5

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and
Community Development (OSPCD)
invites sealed proposals for **Good Municipal Jobs Training Initiative**
Funds for the Good Municipal Jobs Training Initiative are provided by
the Somerville Job Creation and Retention Trust (JCRT) Fund.

Bid Number WFD-25.5


Request for Proposal package will be posted and available for down-
load on the City of Somerville website beginning at
10:00AM, Wednesday May 21, 2025 at www.somervillema.gov/wfd.
Print copies available upon request to WFD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email WFD@somervillema.gov
and proposal packages must be submitted no later than
12:00 PM, Friday August 15, 2025
for responses to WFD-25.5
to the above email address.

Please contact the City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff,
by email at WFD@somervillema.gov, for information and proposal
packages.

Thomas F. Galligani Jr.,
Executive Director
617- 625-6600, x 2500

5/21/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE

PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

IFB # 25-70

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


Citywide Holiday Plants and Decor

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at
<https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somer-
ville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress>
on or after: **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at
the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville,
MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, June 5, 2025**. The
Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if,
in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be
served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more in-
formation.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

5/21/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE

PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

RFP # 25-62

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


Crash Recovery Services

The RFP package may be obtained online at
<https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somer-
ville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on
or after: **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**. Sealed responses will be received
at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somer-
ville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Thursday, June 5, 2025**.
The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all pro-
posals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville
would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more in-
formation.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

5/21/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE

PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP 25-71

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

Family & Medical Leave Act Administration

The IFB package may be obtained online at
<https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somer-
ville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress>
on or after: **Monday, May 19, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at the
PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA,
02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, June 4, 2025**.

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

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Jordan Remy
617-625-6600 x3400

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and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

and follow us on X/Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

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and on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1**

Taste of Somerville Food and Arts Festival returns to Union Square

The Somerville Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce that tickets are now on sale for the 27th annual Taste of Somerville event, a vibrant festival celebrating the city’s rich culinary and creative arts scene.

This year’s festival, which will benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition, will take place on Wednesday, June 11, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM (rain date June 12) at The Block at Boynton Yards science and innovation campus by Union Square.

Taste of Somerville 2025 will feature more than 50 local food and beverage vendors offering an enticing array of tastes and sips. Beyond the delicious food, attendees can enjoy live music and entertainment, browse the work of local artisans, and partake in fun lawn games for the whole family.

“We are incredibly excited to bring the Taste of Somerville to the innovative Boynton Yards for the benefit of the Somerville Homeless Coalition,” said Wendy Dalwin, Executive Director of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce. “This festival truly showcases the incredible talent and vibrant spirit of our local culinary

and arts community, and we can’t wait for everyone to experience it.”

Boynton Yards, located at 101 South Street in Somerville, follows in Assembly Row’s footsteps as this year’s host. This exciting new location, complete with a green space, pickleball courts, and state-of-the-art life sciences facilities, provides a fantastic outdoor-indoor backdrop for the beloved community event.

Proceeds from this year will go to the Somerville Homeless Coalition, which provides support, services, and housing to over 7,400 individuals and households annually.

“We are so grateful to the Somerville Chamber of Commerce and the entire food, beverage, and art community for their support through the Taste of Somerville,” said Felicity Beal, Director of Development, Somerville Homeless Coalition. “The funds raised at this wonderful community event will support client pathways out of homelessness and food insecurity and support the stabilization of our community members in need.”

Participants in this year’s festival include Five Horses Tavern, Foundry on Elm, Pre-



miere on Broadway, Saloon, Shake Shack, Portico Brewing, The Smoke House BBQ, Tony C’s, Vera’s, Juliet, American Flatbread, Los Amigos Taqueria, Remnant Brewing, The Burren, Elm Street Taproom, Mamaleh’s Delicatessen, Cafe Saint Germain, Ball Square Fine Wines, The Independent, Mama Gina’s Pizzeria, Life Alive, Forge Ice Cream and Baking Company, Outback Steakhouse, Shanky’s

Whip, When Pigs Fly, Wild Child Chocolate, The Neighborhood Restaurant, Gufo, Puritan and Company, Himalayan Kitchen, Ebi Sushi, Josephine, Mimi’s Chūka Diner, Fuki’s Japanese Cuisine, Gerly’s Ice Cream, and many more.

A variety of ticket levels are available, including VIP options for an enhanced experience. Tickets can be purchased now at tasteofsomerville.org.

SOME presents: SOMEDAY FEST in Union Square

The Somerville Organization for Multimedia Experiences (SOME) is proud to present SOMEDAY FEST, a day-long festival at the Boston Figurative Art Center featuring Somerville artists and musicians.

With funding from the Mass Cultural Council, SOMEDAY FEST celebrates strictly Somerville-based talent with two stages (acoustic and amplified) and an array of local vendors and makers.

The festival will transform BFAC’s loading dock into an outdoor stage showcasing the city’s top indie acts, performing from 5 to 10 p.m. with dynamic projected visuals from Digital Awareness lighting up the building’s facade. The event will kick off at 2 p.m. with intimate, indoor performances from local folk-adjacent artists and vendor tables for visitors to shop around!

This is a day to celebrate Somerville’s local artists. SOME-

DAY FEST aims to fill the absence of NICE, a Fest, this year and is an inaugural attempt to place Somerville’s truly DIY scene on the map.

SOME Co-Founder and Editor Ryan DiLello comments, “Somerville deserves a truly local festival that showcases its bands, vendors, artists, small businesses, and organizations. This city is brimming with inspiration and I hope this day provides artists and arts supporters with new friends, ideas, and encouragement. Hopefully SOMEDAY FEST is just the first of many DIY festivals that will help enliven and cultivate the local arts community.”

RSVP at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/someday-fest-tickets-1359475139739?aff=oddtcreator>

About SOME

SOME is a monthly arts publication at thesomepublication.com.

com that connects artists and arts supporters across Somerville through the written word – and in-person events like SOMEDAY FEST. Led by journalists Ryan DiLello and Lily Robinson, it produces arts-focused feature stories, along with event recommendations, and calls for submissions. SOME is a project of the IRS 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit Somerville Media Fund and can be reached at info@somervillemedia.fund.

Event Overview

Where: Boston Figurative Arts Center, 285 Washington Street (Indoors and Loading Dock/Parking Lot)

When: Saturday June 7, 2 – 10 p.m.

Concept Statement: This is a free, grassroots music festival, featuring Somerville-based performers, vendors, and partners. The one-day event will uplift neighborhood voices, forge deep-



er interplay between artists and arts supporters, and provide a platform for arts activism.

Performances will occur inside BFAC, as well as on the loading dock, projecting through the parking lot.

Indoors (folk, bluegrass, and pop): Mozz, Mel Starr, Wallpaper, Dumbest Fella Alive, Shira Laucharoen

Outdoors (shoegaze, dream-pop, psychedelic, garage rock): Ohio State Fair, Intac, Not-

friends, Jonny Tex, Otis Shanty, Tiffany

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

1. 0, they have no bones	7. The Australian Open
2. Seal	8. A. A. Milne
3. Scary	9. Venus
4. Red	10. Arizona and Hawaii
5. Arborio	11. Pinocchio
6. \$200	12. Shoes

Book review: ‘A World of Curiosities’ by Louise Penny

By Dennis Fischman

Back in 2005, when Louise Penny published her first mystery featuring Inspector Gamache and the village of Three Pines, Still Life [1], an artist and a painting were central to the story. So, it’s amusing that in the eighteenth book of the series a different artist and a different painting are the focus.

Very different, and in a sinister way.

In Three Pines, a letter written by a long-dead stonemason is discovered. In it, the man describes his terror when bricking up an attic room somewhere in the village. When the room is found, the villagers decide to open it up, and there is a wall covered with a painting that includes clues to a murder.

What’s more, the proverbial stranger has come to town.

Two, in fact: A young man and woman have reappeared in the lives of Gamache, his second in command and son-in-law Beauvoir, and their team from the Sûreté du Québec after many years. The two were young children when their troubled mother was murdered, leaving them damaged.

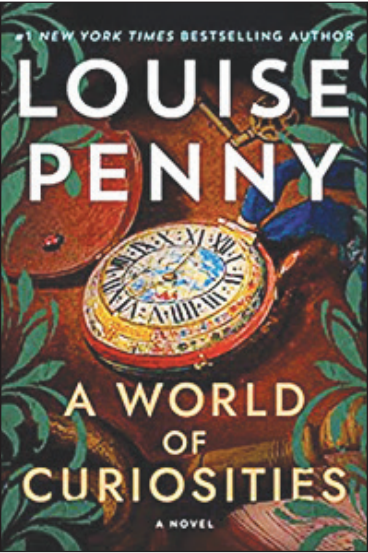
So, why have they come to Three Pines, and is it just coincidence that the artwork has been revealed at the same time? And what does it reveal?

Loyal fans of Three Pines will enjoy learning the backstories of some of their favorite characters (how Gamache became a policeman in the first place, how he met Beauvoir and saw his potential) and listening to all the characters make in-jokes with one another. (Warning to the longtime reader, though: this is a serial killer murder mystery involving at least one

psychopath, so if you prefer the cozier books in the series, you’re out of luck this time.)

Sadly, if you’re a first-time reader, you may find yourself wondering who these people are and why you should care about them. Yes, Penny does character sketches of her regulars, but they are so one-dimensional, their traits seem more like tics. Hearing about what they’ve been through is no substitute for having gone through it with them for the previous seventeen books.

One other thought, which should have occurred to me before: these books are very Catholic. I don’t mean preachy or proselytizing, but the whole worldview is about evil and good, sin and forgiveness, betrayal and redemption. The person who first recommended them to me, in fact, was a former Catholic nun turned Episcopal minister. I do enjoy the



A World of Curiosities by Louise Penny. Minotaur Books, 2022.



Dennis Fischman is a member of the Somerville Public Library’s Mystery Book Club and an inveterate reader.

to look forward to reading.

Links:
[1] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/338691.Still_Life
[2] <https://www.goodreads.com/series/42154-chief-inspector-armand-gamache>

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Want to save thousands of dollars in just an hour or two?

A: Yes?! Then take these three quick, high-impact steps:

- Re-shop your auto or home insurance Rates often increase over time, even without claims. Use The Zebra to compare quotes from top insurers in minutes– without triggering unwanted follow-up calls. Potential savings: \$300–\$1,000+/year
- Cancel unused subscriptions Many people pay for services they no longer use. Rocket Money helps identify and manage your subscriptions, allowing you to cancel unnecessary ones easily. Potential savings: \$180–\$480/year
- Negotiate your internet bill

Contact your provider and inquire about loyalty discounts or promotions. Mentioning competitor rates can often lead to better deals or added perks. Potential savings: \$240–\$720/year

Each of these steps takes about 20–30 minutes. Combined, they could save you over \$1,000 a year—with minimal effort and no lifestyle changes.

Any questions? I’d be happy to help. I’m Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vhicksconnect@gmail.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.



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Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Haitian Flag Festival 2025

The Haitian Flag Festival took place in Somerville on May 17. The event brought together the community to celebrate Haiti’s rich history, pride, and unity through music, food, art, and cultural performances. This special day honored the significance of the Haitian flag, which symbolizes freedom, resilience, and the spirit of independence.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Flamenco is Back – Wednesday, May 21st starting at 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Intro to Flamenco dance for adult beginners. Flamenco is a Spanish dance style, passionate and full of moments of joy. Finger and body movements make us feel free to express ourselves and a very characteristic rhythm stimulates our heartbeat. Let's get dancing and discover a new experience. RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somerville-ma.gov.

Blood Pressure Screening – Thursday, May 22nd, June 26th, July 24th and August 28th from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center – Conference Room. Celeste Gearhard, Director of Public Health Nursing, along with Ella Fernando, Public Health Nurse, will be at the SCOA the last Thursday of the month to take your blood pressure.

Hip Hop Chair Dance Chair Exercise – Thursday, May 22nd starting at 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join Rondae Drafts, Ph.D. Abd, Executive Director of Music Dance Edu, for this one-hour class. Participants will take part in a chair, dance, warm-up and hip-hop class that begins and ends in the chair. Space is limited, RSVP required. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Project Outlook – Thursday, May 22nd 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 dinner together. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Somerville Senior Community Needs Assessment Results – May 23rd starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Hear from Dr. Caitlyn Coyle, Director of the Center for Social and Demographic Research on Aging, Gerontology Institute. Dr. Coyle will share the results and recommendations of the Somerville's Senior Needs Assessment. Grab-n-Go lunch available upon request. RSVP to Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Memorial Day Parade – Sunday, May 25th. Parade kicks off at 11:00 a.m. The Council on Aging will be traveling the parade route by trolley in the Somerville Memorial Day Parade. We hope you can join us on the trolley! Contact Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319 to reserve your spot on the trolley. All seniors and their families are welcome to join!

Knitting with Natasha – Tuesday, May 27th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Have you always wanted to learn how to knit or are you a knitter looking to find other friends who knit? Look no further than Knitting with Natasha. Join a supportive and fun group as we learn more about knitting while knitting together! Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at

nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Tuesday, May 27th at our Ralph & Jenny Center – starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Veteran's Group – Tuesday, May 27th at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:30 a.m. This group allows veterans to connect with their peers, discuss personal challenges and provide support. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Yoga with Louise – Tuesday, May 27th (no class on the 13th) starting at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Easy-to-follow programs let you stretch and relax. Yoga provides modified, low-impact moves and easy-to-follow pacing for a healthy, active lifestyle! RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Health & Wellness Fair – Wednesday, May 28th at our Holland Street Center. Visit vendors from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. Join us for the SCOA's annual health and wellness fair, featuring lots of health and wellness tips along with the opportunity to apply for a Senior Charlie Card with the MBTA, RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Bingo – Thursday, May 29th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

LGBTQIA+ Exercise Class – Thursday, May 29th via Zoom starting at 6:00 p.m. No class on May 1st. In person on May 8th at our Holland Street Center. Please email Michelle Deutsch at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov for the Zoom link or call Michelle at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

Emergency Preparedness with the Red Cross – Friday, May 30th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A disaster can strike at any moment, and it is important to be aware of how to prepare. RSVP to Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Bowling – Every Wednesday in May. Flatbread Company/Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square at 45 Day Street from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Free. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Walking Club – Every Thursday in May – weather permitting, the group will meet at the Holland Street Entrance at 9:00 a.m. Walks average about an hour in length at a moderate pace. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

General Exercise classes are now on YouTube and City Cable – In addition to our general exercise classes offered in person at the Holland Street Center and the Ralph & Jenny Center and our virtual classes via Zoom, the COA is now offering general exercise classes shown on GovTV and YouTube. An easy way to find the YouTube videos is to go to the city website: somerville-ma.gov, scroll all the way down until you see SOMERVILLECITYTV. Click on Somerville-ma.gov/Video, click on GOVTV or YOUTUBE then select the COA General Exercise Video of your choice or check out some of the other popular videos that are posted. You can also check out the videos on GOVTV – Comcast channel 22, Astound SD channel 13 and Astound HD channel 613. New exercise videos will be posted each month, we look forward to you exercising with us from the comfort of your own home, at a time that is convenient for you! For additional information regarding any of our fitness programs, please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

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.

MEAL PROGRAM

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Meal Program. All are welcome! Registration is required. You will need to register on a weekly basis. Each week, on Monday or Tuesday call the COA Reservation line on 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, to reserve your spot for the following week. Please leave your name, phone number and the day/days you would like to attend for the upcoming week. We will return your call to confirm your reservation by Wednesday afternoon. Lunches are provided by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services. Congregate Meal Program and catered by City Fresh. A suggested \$3 donation for lunches. Menu Subject to Change. Meals served at Noon.

Looking for a location to chat with your friends?

Come to the COA on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the senior center is open, and the coffee is on as we wait for the start of Bingo.

Somerville Kiwanis celebrates 100 years of community service

On Sunday, May 18, more than 80 Somerville Kiwanis Club members, friends, and guests gathered at the Cafe Escadrille in Burlington to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Somerville. The club charter was actually delivered on May 21, 1925.

A large screen monitor continuously displayed hundreds of photos of club members and activities dating back over fifty-plus years. Members past and present, along with friends and guests from other Kiwanis Clubs were treated to a

fabulous lunch.

President Tom Austin, himself a third-generation Kiwanis member, gave the official welcome before turning the program over to Master of Ceremonies Past President Charlie Ball, who provided his own humorous comments about our great members and the work that we continue to do.

Distinguished Past President /Past Secretary Paul Upton gave a summary of some of the major activities and milestones of the club over the past one hundred years. We



Somerville Kiwanis President Tom Austin and Co-President Dawn Austin.

were then entertained by world-renowned comedian and Somerville native Tony V.

It was a wonderful afternoon put together by President Tom and Past President/Distinguished Secretary Emeritus Bob Nissenbaum and the 100th celebration committee.

President Tom thanked all of the members, past and present, for their commitment and dedication to serving the community and the Kiwanis mission, "Improving the world one child and one community at a time."

— Somerville Kiwanis



Somerville Kiwanis members in attendance.

Q's Nuts closing Somerville location in June, to be replaced by do-good bakery

CONT. FROM PG 1

co-owners Beth and Brian "Q" Quinn are focused on transitioning operations to their son Aedan with plans to continue to grow their wholesale, Boston Public Market [1], and online businesses.

Q's Nuts shifted to wholesale roasting in the 2000s before opening its roasting, packaging, and retail facility on Highland Ave. at Cedar St. in 2012. Eight successful years later, COVID hit, and they noticed a "major shift in how people buy things ... people are shifting away from brick and mortar and they're shopping online."

As small business owners who have to decide when to pivot and change, she and Q decided that their business has to "shift with the times." Three years ago, Beth and Q bought a 5,000 square foot commercial kitchen and storage facility in Methuen, and with rising costs and changes to buying behavior, they do not need the Somerville location anymore for cooking and packaging. "Somerville is a very special place for us and we were attached to it too, but it's really..." Beth's voice trailed off.

Also, in their experience, the neighborhood has changed. There used to be more

college students in the area, and now there seem to be more "condos" around. They do "brisk" retail online, and they still operate a Boston Public Market retail stall, which is above the Haymarket green line station and has dollar-per-hour parking.

Plus, just because they are closing in Somerville does not mean people cannot buy their product, Beth wanted to make clear. Folks can buy case flavors online, and Beth is willing "to ship anything they bought in our store in Somerville...we're looking at ways to make it easy for people to maybe not stop in the store anymore, but still support us and still get the products that they love."

With two years left on the lease and good landlord relations, Q's referred pastry shop Hearth & Hug Bakery [2], to take over the space. The bakery, run by an alum of Flour Bakery, Modern Pastry, and Union Square Donuts, raises funds for charity every three months and donates 10 percent of the sales of a chosen pastry.

Their website shows coffee cakes, scones, croissants, and baked chocolate chip cookies, to name a few offerings. Beth and Na-



talie Hug met at the public market, and Natalie wanted to open a space beyond the public market. "We started to talk to her about our space. She came and looked at it. She really loved it. She's a really good person and runs a great business. So we felt the transition would be seamless, and we also felt we were kind of saving our landlords from uncertainty."


With one business graduating from

Somerville and another from Boston, it feels more certain that the corner will still be as sweet, savory, and local as before.

Note: this interview has been edited and condensed for clarity and brevity.

Links:

[1] <https://bostonpublicmarket.org/>
[2] <https://www.hearthandhugbakery.com/>



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: What can my landlord use my security deposit for?


A: The only things your landlord can use your security deposit for is any unpaid rent at the end of your lease or the cost of damages beyond normal wear and tear. Normal wear and tear includes the need for repainting, broom cleaning and replacing worn flooring. In addition, you should not be charged for the costs of repairs for normal wear and tear in common areas either. Your landlord should give you a receipt of every repair paid for by your security deposit within 30 days of the end of your lease.

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.


School Readiness Workshops

Mondays through June 16,
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Somerville
Public Library West Branch
at 40 College Avenue. Join a
free 6-week playgroup to meet
friends and practice school
readiness.

Register at <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/play-groups-and-parent-support>



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the soldier bring a pencil to the battlefield?

To draw his weapon.

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Poppy field... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

May 21

0996 – Sixteen year old Otto III is crowned the Roman Emperor.

1471 – King Henry VI is killed in the Tower of London. Edward IV takes the throne.

1506 – Christopher Columbus dies.

1536 – The Reformation is officially adopted in Geneva, Switzerland.

1620 – Present-day Martha's Vineyard is first sighted by Captain Bartholomew Gosnold.

1832 – The Democratic party holds its first national convention.

1881 – The American Red Cross is founded by Clara Barton.

1927 – Charles Lindbergh lands in Paris completing the first solo air crossing of the Atlantic.

1961 – Governor John Patterson declares martial law in Montgomery, Alabama.

1970 – The U.S. National Guard mobilizes to quell disturbances at Ohio State University.

1991 – In Madras, India, a suicide bomber kills the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

25. Would you like to learn to play some traditional Brazilian music and dance with a large ox puppet? A Brazilian dancer/musician will run a workshop for everyone to learn to dance and play music along with an ox puppet called Bumba Meu Boi, a tradition from the northern and northeastern part of Brazil. This workshop is part of a preparation for the **Festa Junina (Brazilian Harvest Festival)** which will happen on **June 14** at the Somerville Growing Center.

On **Saturday, May 31**, join the second annual **New England Hong Kong Festival** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at **Seven Hills Park** in Somerville to celebrate the vibrant culture, food, and creativity of Hongkongers across the region. The event is free and open to all. Rain date is Sunday, June 1. Now in its second year, the community-run festival brings together more than 30 local vendors, artists, and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities. Attendees can also enjoy over 15 live performances from bands, martial artists, and cultural performers, as well as free games, family-friendly activities, and photo ops, including a newspaper stand set and stamp stations inspired by iconic Hong Kong streets. For more information, including full event listings and vendor updates, visit www.newenglandhkfest.com and follow @newenglandhkfest on Instagram and Facebook.

In partnership with **Arts at the Armory**, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is thrilled to announce **SHC’s Echos Exhibition**, a powerful showcase that features artwork created by clients from their **Engagement Center**. The exhibition will be on display **from May 13 to June 30** at the **Rooted Armory Café**, 191 Highland Ave.

The **Boston Academy for Korean Traditional Arts (BAKTA)** presents a **Korean Festival Showcase** featuring traditional Korean farmers’ festival music, dance, and drumming. **Sunday, June 8**, 4 p.m. at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church**, 31 College Avenue (2 blocks from the Davis Square T-station). Free admission, all ages welcome. For more information, see www.igji.org/bakta

With spring in full swing, the **City of Somerville** is reminding residents that the season of growth is also the season of

pollinators. As you shop for plants to fill garden pots or garden beds, you can play a role in feeding and sheltering the insects that keep our global ecosystem functioning. Somerville’s **Pollinator Action Plan** is your go-to guide for planting a beautiful garden and protecting the creatures that keep our environment blooming. Whether you’re a homeowner, renter, seasoned gardener, or total beginner, the Plan is full of practical steps and inspiring ideas to help create a vital habitat right here in the city. Check out the full Pollinator Action Plan at: www.voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan.

The **“Slice of the City” spring meet-up series** is an opportunity to connect and engage with city leaders and staff as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville’s parks. All events run from 5 to 7 p.m. Pizza and refreshments will be served, and **Somerville Recreation** will have activities for children available. Wards 4 and 5 Slice of the city events have been postponed due to weather. These events will be rescheduled. Visit www.somervillema.gov/slice to stay up to date. This coming week: **May 27, Ward 5, Trum Field Playground**, 1 Franey Road (at Cedar St.), **June 17, Ward 4, Healey Schoolyard**, 5 Meacham Street.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the **Somerville Office of Health and Human Services** are inviting all community members to celebrate **LGBTQ+ Pride Month** at the annual **Pride Flag Raising Ceremony** on **Thursday, June 5**, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.). The event will feature remarks from Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, city **LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator Izzy Starr**, and youth representatives from Somerville’s **LGBTQ+ community**. Live ASL interpretation will be available. For more information about **LGBTQ+ programming, events, and information**, please visit somervillema.gov/lgbtq-services.

The **Somerville Chamber of Commerce** is thrilled to announce the return of the **Taste of Somerville Festival** on **Wednesday, June 11**, from 5 to 8 p.m. at **Boylston Yards** to benefit your favorite nonprofit, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition**. Returning for its 27th year, Taste of Somerville is the premier all-you-can-eat culinary and creative arts festival of Somerville with over 50+ food and bever-

age vendors, local artisans, live entertainment, lawn games, and more – all in the heart of Union Square at Boynton Yards. For more information and tickets, visit <https://tasteofsomerville.org/>.

On **June 7**, the **Somerville Organization for Multimedia Experiences (SOME)** is proud to present **SOMEDAY FEST**, a day-long festival at the **Boston Figurative Art Center** featuring Somerville artists and musicians. With funding from the **Mass Cultural Council**, **SOMEDAY FEST** celebrates strictly Somerville-based talent with two stages (acoustic and amplified) and an array of local vendors and makers. The festival will transform **BFAC’s** loading dock into an outdoor stage showcasing the city’s top indie acts, performing from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. with dynamic projected visuals from **Digital Awareness** lighting up the building’s facade. The event will kick off at 2 p.m. with intimate, indoor performances from local folk-adjacent artists and vendor tables for visitors to shop around. **Boston Figurative Art Center**, 285 Washington St., Somerville. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/someday-fest-tickets-1359475139739?aff=oddtcreator>.

Pedestrians can now access the **East Somerville Green Line (GLX) station** via **Inner Belt Road**. You can find more information about projects and detours at <https://www.mbta.com/projects/green-line-extension-glx>.

The **Powder House**, **Milk Row Cemetery** and **Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times **from May through October** as part of **History On The Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism’s MA250 initiative** and the **City of Somerville**. Next dates will be: **The Powder House** on **May 22**, 6 – 8 p.m., **Milk Row Cemetery, Thursday, June 12**, 6 – 8 p.m., **Prospect Hill Tower, Saturday, May 24**, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. For more dates and events visit <https://www.somervillmuseum.org/historic-events-1>.

Somerville’s annual **Water System Flushing Program** began on **Thursday, May 15**, and continues **through late October**. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water qual-

ity. Flushing will take place **Mondays and Thursdays** between 6 p.m. and midnight to minimize potential disruptions to water service. For program information and future updates, visit somer-villema.gov/hydrantflushing.

The **Ginny Smithers Pool**, 5 Cherry St. is officially back open. For more information on spring pool hours for **Swim Lessons, Water Exercise, Lap Swim, Family Swim**, and **Open Swim**. Please visit their website, <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>, or email aquatics@somervillema.gov.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **21st Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local **Saturdays from May 10 to October 25**, except September 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. Thanks to our partnership with the City of Somerville and the Somerville Farmers Market Coalition, they are proud to continue to offer our **SNAP match**. Check the market webpage for the latest info and to see which vendors accept SNAP. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2025-season.

The **Davis Square Market** will reopen for the **2025 Season** on **Wednesday, May 21**. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **from May 21 through November 26**, 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.mass-farmersmarkets.org/davis>.

Join the **School Readiness Playgroup** for Somerville families with children 3 and 4 years old, who are brand-new to school. **Mondays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. from May 5 to June 16**, at the **Somerville Public Library, West Branch**, 40 College Avenue. Register using this link: tinyurl.com/SFLCsupportandplaygroups.

10,000 Maniacs take the stage at **Arts at the Armory** on

Continued on page 22

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

donors by asking for the use of their ships to be armed for the cause. This became Washington’s Navy with the first ship being christened the Hannah, after Glover’s wife. It was the first vessel of the United States Navy.

The most successful of Washington’s schooners, the Lee, was commanded by Captain Daniel Waters of Somerville and named after General Charles Lee, second in command of the newborn Colonial Army. His headquarters were at Winter Hill on today’s Sycamore Street. During the blockade, the Lee captured 27 enemy vessels.

After the Siege of Boston, the Americans moved south to protect New York and Long Island. General Glover and his troops saved 9,000 Continental soldiers and equipment during a rainy, nighttime

evacuation. Later, during the New York campaign, his regiment held fast against five-to-one odds during a British attack.

During the Christmas blizzard in 1776, Glover and his Marblehead mariners again proved their resilience and determination. They twice transported Washington’s Army with their horses, cannons, and gear across the Delaware River in the attack on Trenton, New Jersey.

The Marblehead Militia distinguished itself in the Battle of Saratoga, where 5,763 prisoners were taken. They were appointed to escort the captives to Massachusetts. Forty-two hundred of these prisoners were taken to Prospect and Winter Hills in Somerville where they would spend the next year.

Glover’s Guard then spent the terrible

winter of 1778 with Washington and his troops at Valley Forge. During the remainder of the war, his intrepid troops fought and carried out numerous amphibious operations.

The United States Navy named a modern ship after Glover, and his Marblehead home is a National Historic Landmark. The General Glover statue on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston honors him and his men for their accomplishments from the waters of Charlestown Neck to the waters of Yorktown, Virginia.

Part of Marblehead’s sacrifice was 448 widows and 968 orphans. Through the years, their militia was described as the Army regiment that gave birth to the United States Marines ... the “soldiers of the sea.”



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

Wednesday, May 28. Celebrating their 40th anniversary, the band continues to captivate audiences with the same independent spirit and storytelling that earned them a devoted following. It’s easy to see how their ability to make waves without bowing to the mainstream has developed into something of a cult-like legacy. Tickets are going fast, and with fewer than 100 remaining, they’re expecting a full house. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the music will start at 8 p.m. with a local opener <https://artsatthearmory.org/>.

The **Council on Aging’s Walking Club** meets **every Thursday** at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the entrance of **Holland Street Center**, 167 Holland St. Weather permitting,

The **City of Somerville** invites all residents to join **the waitlist**. Rental units become available at 50%, 80%, and 110% of the Area Median Income. For example, the income level is \$130,250 for a four-person household at 80% of AMI. If you would like to apply for the **Consolidated Inclusive Housing Waitlist**, visit them at one of our application events or go to www.somervillewaitlist.org and apply before **May 30**.

Join in on **Sunday, June 8**, 5 – 7 p.m. at **Portico Brewing**, 101 South Street in Union Square, to meet and mingle, share upcoming gigs, find a photographer, and get to know fellow creatives. Hosted by the **Somerville Arts Council**, **Music Ambassador Ajda Snyder**, and

#ARTSTAYSHERE. RSVP is appreciated: <https://somervillemusicmixer68.eventbrite.com>.

Thinking about **running for local office**? Starting **May 5**, nomination papers for **Mayor, Councilor at Large, Ward Councilor**, and **School Committee** will be available to take out. To begin the process, make an appointment with the **Elections Department** to pick up your nomination papers. A separate appointment is required to return them. Appointments are available **from May 5 through June 9**. Important deadlines: **June 9** at 5 p.m., last day to take out nomination papers. **June 11** at 5 p.m., deadline to submit completed papers to the **Board of Election Commissioners**. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/elections.

Street sweeping in Somerville resumed on **Tuesday, April 1**. Somerville’s street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. Signs indicate the time and date of no parking due to sweeping. The street sweeping season runs **from April 1 until December 31** each year. 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. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you

park and visit www.somervillema.gov/ or call 311 for more information.

Somerville Animal Control is in need of towels/blankets/linens. They can arrange a porch pickup if you message them on Facebook or they can be dropped off at the police station at any time.

You can download a helpful packet of **Know Your Rights resources** and information in the language of your choice below. **Somerville Public Schools** has also created a list of resources on the **One Somerville Resource page**, which can be found here <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/one-somerville-resources>.

SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a five-pack of **frozen home-delivered meals**. This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

City Alerts are a great way for those who live, work, or own a business in Somerville to receive important city information that affects your neighborhood. City Alerts provide information about emergencies (including snow emergencies), construction and road closures, water service interruptions, community news, and more. To sign up, visit somervillema.gov/alerts and click on the button for your preferred language. Step-by-step sign-up instructions are available at: somervillema.gov/alerts. Having trouble signing up? You can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311) for assistance.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** can provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

In ‘Shadows of the Seen’
Timothy Gager Offers a Raw,
Relentless Portrait of Inner
Lives on the Brink

Review By Off the Shelf Correspondent Charles Felster

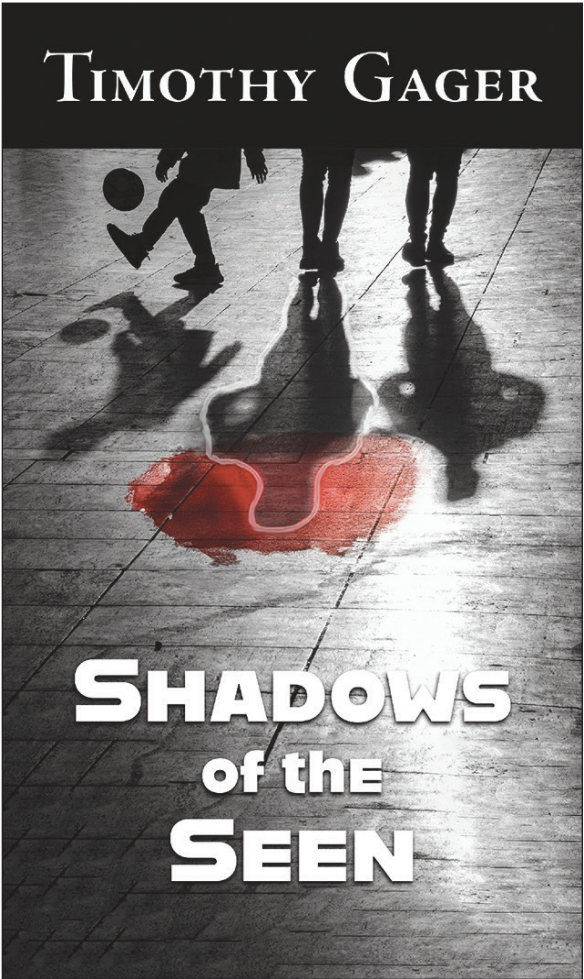
Timothy Gager has long been a fixture in Boston’s literary underground – a prolific writer, spoken-word regular, and a familiar face to anyone who’s spent time at the intersection of art and recovery in New England. With *Shadows of the Seen*, his latest and most ambitious novel to date, Gager steps fully into the national conversation with a work that confronts the psychic aftershocks of gun violence, addiction, and political hypocrisy in modern-day America.

Set in New Jersey and Tennessee, *Shadows of the Seen* follows four interwoven characters whose lives are quietly unraveling. The book opens with Candace, a politician whose well-curated image is shaken after a mass shooting forces her to reckon with both her platform and her past. Her storyline anchors the book, providing a moral throughline for a novel more interested in psychological depth than linear plot.

Gager, who has written candidly about his own struggles with depression and substance use, brings a clinician’s precision and a poet’s empathy into his work. Nowhere is that more evident than in the character of Lucky – a man ravaged by addiction and brain lesions, whose purpose reads not as hopelessness, but as unfiltered honesty. His chapters are not easy to read, but they are among the most affecting.

There’s also Peter, whose blackouts and panic attacks suggest a life teetering on the edge of violence. His sections simmer with dread, not because he’s a threat, but because Gager so effectively captures the experience of mental illness from the inside out – confused, circular, and terrifyingly isolating. Then there’s Bobby-Joe, a political opportunist, husband of Candace, whose self-interest serves as a foil to Candace’s late-breaking conscience. Though less nuanced than the others, he adds a necessary bite of satire to a book heavy with emotional weight.

This is not a novel that traffics in silver linings. Gager doesn’t resolve trauma, he dissects it. The structure is fragmented, the tone often bleak, and the emotional realism unflinching. That can make for a difficult read– but it’s also what makes the book feel honest. *Shadows of the Seen* doesn’t sensationalize



mental illness or addiction; it renders them with the flat affect of lived experience.

At times, Gager’s reach exceeds his grasp. The political themes, while timely, are occasionally over-explained, and the multiple narrative voices don’t always maintain the same level of complexity. But when the novel is at its best– which is often – it pierces. The writing is sharp, direct, and deeply felt.

For readers familiar with Gager’s poetry or his personal essays, *Shadows of the Seen* will feel like a culmination– an artist applying his hard-won insight to fiction that dares to look at what most of us try to avoid. For new readers, it’s a bracing introduction to a voice that doesn’t flinch. In a literary market full of polished detachment, Timothy Gager is doing something riskier: he’s telling the truth, no matter how raw it is.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Sandra Kolankiewicz’s poems and stories have appeared widely over the years. Her most recent chapbook is *Even the Cracks* from Finishing Line Press. More of her work can be found at sandrakolankiewicz.blogspot.com.



Grape Popsicle

After Christopher Wall’s “Grape Popsicle” on Spotify

There’s nothing sweet about
this one, so why the title?
I’m used to the minor key, but frankly,
you keep leaving me on the edge in my unease.
Such is the modern undercurrent,
such are the subway and the dirty river,
the empty basketball court,
the police cruiser at the end of the block.
I hear you trying to summon a breeze,
your right hand like the ringing off the wall
of a telephone from childhood,
the left just trying to keep a steady time,
for what else can you do when the air’s
full of smoke and the treat on a stick’s
melting faster than you can lick?
We can’t wait for the sun to set,
would even send it off if we could,
abandon our cities to become jungle
if we had anywhere to go,
which I hear in between your notes,
an agency not quite exit but resolved by the end.

— Sandra Kolankiewicz

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
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