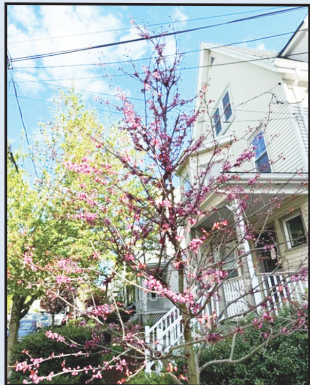




Inside:



Christine's tree
page 3



A mobilizing breakfast
page 5



A Somerville garden
page 20

Somerville tenants rally to demand action on tenant protections



Sargent Avenue tenants and those representing their interests rallied for protection measures to be implemented in favor of renters.

More than 70 residents gathered at 22 Sargent Avenue in Somerville last Monday to urge legislative action on pending tenant protection measures and demand that real estate investor and landlord Ryan Pinto negotiate in good faith with his tenants.

The tenants are facing the threat of eviction and displacement following 55-90% rent increases demanded by Pinto after purchasing the building in February of this year. The rally was organized in partnership with the Community Action Agency of Somerville.

As the tenants at 22 Sargent Ave fight to stay in their homes, multiple bills that could have prevented this situation are once again languishing in the State House. Out-of-state investors continue to utilize no-fault evictions and unmitigated rent increases to purchase buildings, evict current

Continued on page 4

Riverside Early Head Start to host free community baby shower

Riverside's Early Head Start (EHS) program prepares children to successfully enter preschool and helps families learn important parenting skills. To introduce families to the program, they are holding a free community baby shower on Wednesday, May 29, at 474 Broadway, Somerville, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Pregnant women and parents with infants up to three months old are invited to this unique event where they can form connections with other parents and community service agencies. Attendees will receive important resources, enjoy snacks, develop new parenting skills, and celebrate this transformative time in their lives.

Everyone at the baby shower will leave with a pregnancy-friendly nutritional goodie bag and other surprises. Call 781-468-6010 or

Continued on page 4



Expectant mothers in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford are invited to Riverside Early Head Start's free community baby shower on Wednesday, May 29.

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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.

Somerville's Memorial Parade will step off at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, May 26, from the Davis Square rotary. The parade will go up Holland Street and proceed through Teele Square, ending on Broadway and North Street. The annual Memorial Day remembrance ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Cemetery (on Broadway between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street) will follow on Monday, May 27, at 10:00 a.m. To learn more, visit somerville-ma.gov/memorialday. The ceremony will be livestreamed on the CityTV Facebook page (facebook.com/SomervilleCityTV) and broadcast after the event on GovTV (RCN channels 13 or 613; Comcast channel 22) and on the city's YouTube channel (youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV).

POP Presents: Somerville Youth Peace Conference. On Wednesday, May 22, at 6:00 pm, the Center for the Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., will host the 14th Annual Somerville Youth Peace Conference. The event will include theater, speeches, spoken word, and dance performances <https://artsatthearmory.org/events/pop-presents-somerville-youth-peace-conference/>.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: A big happy birthday to a special person who is celebrating this week, Chrissie Clark, our own Editor's wife. We wish her a very special day. We want to wish a very happy birthday to Magoun Sq. resident Pina Mingace. We hope she has a great day and a great year to *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 22 – May 28 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday May 22	Sunny	90°/64°	5%	3%	S 14 mph
Thursday May 23	Cloudy	88°/61°	22%	17%	WSW 12 mph
Friday May 24	Partly Cloudy	84°/59°	21%	15%	W 11 mph
Saturday May 25	Partly Cloudy	78°/60°	15%	11%	SE 11 mph
Sunday May 26	Partly Cloudy	77°/59°	22%	13%	S 9 mph
Monday May 27	Rain	68°/58°	45%	36%	SE 12 mph
Tuesday May 28	Rain	70°/55°	55%	41%	NE 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: This week's 'Slice of the City' spring meet-up series

Brad Bortner says:

The slice of the city meetings are a great idea. it would be good, however, if the city would announce things like ward 5 being cancelled before folks show up to see the sign that says it is cancelled.

Response to: Somernova files scaled back zoning for campus expansion

Slaw says:

Still way too much parking.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Students are encouraged to look around their schools for posters about mental health (like the image below), listen to morning announcements for activity suggestions to support their mental health, and look out for staff and adults wearing green ribbons to support mental health awareness.

Everyone is invited to wear green on May 24 to highlight mental health awareness. As always, students struggling with mental health issues are encouraged to connect with their school counselor to find resources. Thanks to the Somerville Public Schools Student Services Department for coordinating this campaign.



Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Christine's tree



My sister Christine (Somerville High class of 1970) planted an evergreen tree in the front yard

in 1969. It eventually grew too big to avoid hitting up against the house. It couldn't maintain its traditional symmetry so we had to have it removed in 1983.

The space was empty until we planted another tree there in 1997. We called it Christine's tree. It was a beautiful flowering tree that graced our property until 2023 when the tree

fell victim to a disease. The tree would have to be dug up and disposed of.

But the guys upstairs picked out a similar blossoming tree that was planted in Christine's spot. I'm happy to say that the new tree is healthy and thriving. We had some beautiful blossoms.

My sister Christine passed away in 1992 and I'm sure she

looks down at her new tree.

I'd like to thank my upstairs neighbors for taking the initiative to replace the tree. It will be a while until the tree catches up with my mother's dogwood tree on the other side of the front yard.

The beautiful trees will always remind us of our loved ones especially when they are in bloom.



2024 SomerStreets Festival Season to kick off with Carnaval Celebration

Somerville is invited to get their dancing shoes on as the 2024 SomerStreets: Carnaval returns Sunday, June 2, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date Sunday, June 9) to kick off the 2024 SomerStreets season, which will include a series of four neighborhood street festivals across Somerville.

SomerStreets: Carnaval celebrates the East Broadway Business District and community with food, music, and activities from around the world. Programming will extend along East Broadway from Kensington Avenue to Pennsylvania Ave.

The event will kick off at 2:00 p.m. with a parade starting at Garfield and Broadway. Attendees can shop more than 30 artisan vendors, view performances from Grooversity and Sinha Capoeira, enjoy food from 18 neighborhood restaurants and join an interactive dance class with Samba Viva! There will also be plenty of family friendly fun including Somerville's Let's Get Truckin', Parkour, and other activities.

SomerStreets: Carnaval is organized by East Somerville Main Streets in collaboration with the Somerville Arts Council. SomerStreets is the City of Somerville's take on the Open Streets concept, closing busy city streets to vehicles, and opening them up for walking, dancing, and other activities.

Road Closures and Bus Detours for Somerstreets: Carnaval:

To ensure public safety at the event, several road closures and parking bans will be in effect on Broadway between McGrath Highway and Pennsylvania Avenue: For more information about road closures contact 311 (617-666-3311).

Broadway between McGrath Highway and Pennsylvania Avenue closed to all vehicular traffic.

No parking on either side of the street from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Residents who live on the west side of Broadway will be detoured onto Broadway at Pennsylvania Ave. Residents who live on the east side of Broadway will be detoured onto Pearl St.

MBTA buses will be rerouted from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. For full detour information, visit mbta.com.

For information on how to participate in any of the SomerStreets events, go to somervilleartscouncil.org/somerstreets or contact Iaritz Menjivar, Events Coordinator, at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2998 or imenjivar@somervillema.gov.



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Somerville Police investigating shots fired on Memorial Rd.

On Sunday, May 12, at approximately 2:58 a.m. Somerville Police responded to Memorial Rd. for reports of shots fired. Officers located a victim suffering from two non-fatal gunshot wounds who was then transported to the hospital.

Ten spent shell casings were recovered from the scene. A residence, an administration building, and a vehicle all sustained ballistic damage from stray bullets but there were no other injuries.

This is an active police investigation and anyone who has information is asked to contact the Somerville Police Department at 617-625-1600 ext.7236 or 617-308-0730.



Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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Somerville tenants rally to demand action on tenant protections

CONT. FROM PG 1

tenants, and re-rent properties at significantly higher rates.

The situation at 22 Sargent Ave is emblematic of Massachusetts' failure to protect tenants, and our local residents and economies that are bearing the brunt of the costs: A quarter of young professionals are planning to leave the Boston region within the next five years, with over 80% of respondents citing high cost of rent as an important factor in their decision.

Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan spoke at the tenants' rally. "As a city councilor, it's often difficult to explain to people that most of what we do is dictated by the state of Massachusetts," Clingan said. "This is what will continue to happen until we have meaningful rent stabilization or rent control policies in place."

Clingan was joined in speaking by three tenants from the building, including Michael Prentky,

a local musician; Carlos Brum, a single father who immigrated to Massachusetts from Brazil and lives at 22 Sargent with his son; and Gary Rogers.

Other speakers included Elizabeth Delfino, a member of the Somerville Renters Committee, who also faced displacement from her Somerville home of 29 years; Katie Fustich, the lawyer from De Novo Legal Services representing the tenants in their fight against Pinto; and Rehema Banks, who was previously evicted from her home in Wakefield by Pinto.

"It's infuriating that we have gone through 6 months of instability and immense emotional stress because an outside investor from San Diego is depending on some low-income folks in Somerville to pay his mortgage," said Prentky. "An eviction will permanently mark [my partner] and my record as

tenants for the rest of our lives. That's potentially decades as future tenants with this eviction on our records making it even harder to find housing."

Prentky, who studied at the New England Conservatory and works as a music instructor and freelance trombonist, spoke only days after Somerville's annual Porchfest event. Drawing on the talent of local musicians, the event draws thousands of attendees each year and generates significant revenue for local restaurants and businesses. As the threat of eviction and rising rent mounts across the state, the city may be witnessing the displacement of the very same artists it relies on for the event.

With just over two months left in the formal session of the Massachusetts Legislature, the window for action from our legislators is closing. But while there's still time to act, the residents of



Somerville will continue to push for the long-awaited passage of tenant protections, including the Housing Opportunity and Mobility through Eviction Sealing (HOMES Act), the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), the passage of the Somerville Home Rule Petition for rent stabilization, and a lift of the statewide ban on rent con-

rol. They are in good company; just two days after the Sargent Ave action, SEIU 1199 and the statewide Homes For All coalition organized the "Raise My Wage, Cap My Rent" rally at the State House, which drew dozens of community groups from across MA and hundreds of attendees advocating for many of the same actions.

Riverside Early Head Start to host free community baby shower

CONT. FROM PG 1

text "SHOWER" to register.

The Early Head Start program promotes healthy child development by assisting families before and after a child is born. Services provided by

Riverside Early Head Start include:

- + Weekly home visits focused on child development and wellness
- + Parent-child playgroups and

socialization activities

- + Health, safety, and nutrition education
- + Pre-natal information and support
- + Parent workshops and train-

ing

+ Community events, including annual baby showers.

Early Head Start is a free home-visiting program for income-eligible families in

Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. Visit their website to learn more: <https://www.riversidecc.org/child-family-services/early-childhood-services/early-head-start/>.

Legislative Breakfast mobilizes local leaders, nonprofits

Last week, local nonprofit Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) welcomed more than 50 local legislators, city councilors, and nonprofit and healthcare leaders to its first annual Legislative Breakfast.

The event explored some of the pressing issues that older adults in the Commonwealth face, with an eye toward collaborative and policy-driven solutions. Featured speakers included Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Thomas Stanley, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, Mass Home Care Executive Director Betsey Crimmins and SCES clients and staff members.

In her opening remarks, SCES CEO Marta Corvelo noted that, “Each of us is aging, and Massachusetts has a rapidly growing older adult population. Soon, households in their 80s will be the fastest-growing age group. It is critical to ensure that older adults have access to the resources they need to live with dignity and security in the setting of their choice.”

To achieve that goal, SCES is working closely with fellow nonprofits and health care entities to establish strong partnerships and advocate for increased funding for services that benefit older adults and improve health outcomes and quality of life. Eighty percent of what affects health outcomes happens outside of the healthcare setting. There are many social factors that can impact one’s health, such as access to affordable housing and nutritious food.

“While screening, access to treatment, chronic disease management, and early detection are essential to improving one’s quality of life, we must address the structural barriers that influence healthy aging and healthy living,” Corvelo said.

Some solutions that would benefit older adults include the expansion of hospital-to-home services, accessible mental and behavioral health services, and investment in affordable housing.

To continue this important discussion, SCES is planning to



SCES CEO Marta Corvelo, Rep. Thomas Stanley, Sen. Patricia Jehlen, Mass Home Care Executive Director Betsey Crimmins.

host a forum in October, which will bring together thought leaders in the field of aging as we work toward a more equitable future. More details will be available soon. If you would like to receive emails about the forum,

please contact Rachel.Moore@eldercare.org.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is a nonprofit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older adults in Somerville

and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving, or disability, contact our Community Support Center at 617-628-2601, email info@eldercare.org, or visit our website eldercare.org.



Patricia Jehlen speaking at SCES' Legislative Breakfast.



Rep. Thomas Stanley speaking at SCES' Legislative Breakfast.

— Photos by Leise Jones Photography

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of May 13-17. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

The House gave near unanimous approval to two major bills – one making major investments in information technology (IT) upgrades, and the other aimed at restoring stability to the health care system, bolstering accountability within the industry and controlling health care spending.

Only two representatives voted against the IT bill – Reps. Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) and Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica). And only Boldyga voted against the health care measure.

Beacon Hill Roll Call asked Boldyga for a quote on why he voted against both bills. "It just feels good to vote the right way on these issues," he responded.

Beacon Hill Roll Call also asked Lombardo why he voted against the IT proposal. Nancy Cadigan, Lombardo's chief of staff, echoed Boldyga's response. "That sums it up. Sounds perfect," said Cadigan.

FUNDING FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (H 4642)

House 152-2, approved and sent to the Senate a bill to invest in information technology (IT) upgrades, improvements and new projects across state government. The measure authorizes \$1.23 billion in bonded spending and \$400 million in anticipated federal funds.

Provisions include \$750 million to improve service delivery to the public; \$200 million for technology and telecommunications infrastructure improvements and maintenance; \$200 million to support the security of the state's IT Infrastructure; and \$250 million for various strategic initiatives, improvements to business intelligence and modernization of governmental functions.

"The [bill] will make state government more accessible and more effective for everyone in Massachusetts by ensuring our IT systems are up-to-date, safe and secure and easy to use," said Gov. Maura Healey. "This will put Massachusetts in a stronger position to take advantage of new innovations, like applied AI, in ways that benefit our residents, businesses and economy."

"Ensuring that the commonwealth is investing heavily in our technology infrastructure is critical, as protecting against cybersecurity threats, and enabling state agencies to operate with an increased level of efficiency, are vital

aspects of our effort to make Massachusetts more safe, effective, and prepared in a world dominated by increasingly sophisticated technologies," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

"The passage of the [bill] marks a significant milestone in Massachusetts' journey towards technological advancement and growth, promising a safer, more connected future for all residents," said Rep. Michael Finn (D-West Springfield), House Chair of the Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

\$7.5 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING (H 4642)

House 152-2, approved an IT bill consolidated amendment that would add \$7.5 million, mostly to fund local projects, to the price tag of the measure.

Amendment supporters said these additional local projects are important to many cities and towns across the state. They argued the amendment would make the bill even better.

Not included in the consolidated amendment was a proposal by Rep. Mike Soter (R-Bellingham), that would ban the use or download of TikTok by public employees on state-owned electronic devices. Since it was not included, the proposal simply died and no further action was taken. Soter could have requested a separate roll call vote on his proposal, but he chose not to do so.

Soter did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on why he filed the proposal and why he didn't ask for debate and a separate roll call on it.

Most of the decisions on which representatives' proposals are included or not included in the IT bill are made behind closed doors. Of the 59 proposals, many of them were bundled into the single consolidated amendment.

The system works this way: Individual representatives file proposals. All members then pitch their proposals to Democratic leaders who draft a single consolidated amendment that includes some of the individual representatives' proposals while excluding others.

Supporters of the system say that any representative who

sponsored an excluded proposal can bring it to the floor and ask for debate and an up or down vote on the proposal itself. They say this system has worked well for many years.

Opponents say that rarely, if ever, does a member bring his or her proposal to the floor for an up-or-down vote because that is not the way the game is played. It is an "expected tradition" that you accept the fate of your amendment as determined by Democratic leaders.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$7.5 million. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

HEALTH CARE CHANGES (H 4643)

House 152-1, approved and sent to the Senate a 102-page bill that supporters said aims to "restore stability to the health care system, bolster accountability within the industry, and control health care spending to ensure that everyone in Massachusetts has access to quality, affordable health care."

According to the State House News Service, the measure "combines reforms intended to avert a repeat of the Steward Health Care crisis with changes designed to boost state oversight of facility expansions and closures, refine cost control tools to better account for fluctuations and increase funding for hospitals that typically serve high shares of low-income patients and people of color."

"This legislation looks to the past, present and future of health care in the commonwealth," said Rep. John Lawn (D-Watertown), House chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing. "It closes loopholes and shines a light on blind spots that allowed Steward to exploit Massachusetts patients for profit. It protects and preserves underpaid community hospitals that are the lifeblood of medicine in the commonwealth. And it plans for stable and affordable health care growth moving forward."

"This bill is the most significant health care market oversight and cost containment legislation in more than a decade and is a continuation of the commonwealth's long-standing effort to ensure that everyone in Massachusetts has access to quality, affordable health care," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

"This legislation will help stabilize our health care system and ensure accountability from all stakeholders, as we continue to recover from the aftereffects *Continued on page 11*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's all celebrate Memorial Day together, Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



It began as a way to memorialize the military casualties of the Civil War, and was originally termed Decoration Day.

Decorating the graves of the countless multitudes of fallen soldiers helped to console the grieving survivors of the debacle while uniting the once divided nation in a worthwhile common cause.

For many these days, Memorial Day represents the beginning of the summery

high season. Kids soon enjoy their vacations from school. Families and individuals go traveling, camping, surfing, and whatever else represents fun in the sun in the months to come.

This coming weekend, we will take a little more time to pay homage to those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country. Somerville Veterans Services has organized the city's Memorial Day Parade on

Sunday, May 26, taking off from the Davis Square rotary at 11:00 a.m. The Memorial Day Ceremony takes place on Monday, May 27, at 10:00 a.m. at Somerville Veterans Cemetery. Go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/memorialdayfor> for all the details.

Our heroes deserve recognition and thanks for the service they have given, and you may come away from the experience feeling a bit more enlightened and en-

riched than before.

Most of all, give some thought to what the brave men and women who laid down their lives mean to all of us today. How the freedom and quality of life we enjoy in America would not be possible without those selfless acts of courage and devotion.

Everyone loves a parade, but this one will undoubtedly include a bit more love than usual.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

come. 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** and **Danny McLaughlin** 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.

Somernova is hosting mobile office hours this week on **Wednesday, May 22**, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at **Conway Park**.

This is a great opportunity to provide feedback and have conversations related to the revised zoning proposal. More information can be found at <https://www.somernova.community/>. Additionally, those who would like to host a living room conversation regarding Somernova's expansion can contact Somernova at community@somernova.com. This is a great opportunity to gather five or more neighbors to discuss the proposal and have your questions answered.

Attend the **FY25 Water and Sewer Rates Public Hearing**. Attend in-person or virtually to hear proposed Fiscal Year 2025

water and sewer rates on **Wednesday, May 29**, at 6:00 p.m. in the **Water and Sewer Department Conference Room** (17 Franey Rd.). Written feedback will be accepted until noon on Wednesday, May 29, and can be emailed to water@somervillema.gov or mailed to: Water and Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145. Learn more about proposed rates, participate remotely, virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: Meeting Link: us06web.zoom.us/j/87205176724, Webinar ID: 872 0517 6724, To dial in: +1 309 205 3325.

The final **Armory Master Plan meeting** held last week focused on "**Future Governance**". For those of you who were not able to attend this community meeting, you can view the recording of the two-hour meeting here: <https://artsatthearmory.org/about/armory-master-plan/> along with other information about the process and to participate in their ongoing survey.

Somerville community members are invited to the "**Slice of the City**" spring meet-up series. This new series of family-friendly pizza parties *Continued on page 21*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#924

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Where is the official birthplace of Memorial Day? | through New Orleans, LA? |
| 2. What poem inspired the tradition of wearing and planting poppy blossoms for Memorial Day? | 7. The first vaccine was for which disease? |
| 3. What act moved Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May each year? | 8. Pupusas are from what country? |
| 4. What 90s boy band member bought Myspace in 2011? | 9. What animal species has only the male getting pregnant? |
| 5. Who teamed up with Queen for Under Pressure? | 10. What is Arachibutyrophobia? |
| 6. What river passes | 11. Which member of The Clash died in 2002? |
| | 12. Who released an album called <i>Blondes Have More Fun</i> ? |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. On average, we eat about 11.9 pounds of cereal per year.
2. A life-size Barbie's measurements would be 39-29-33.

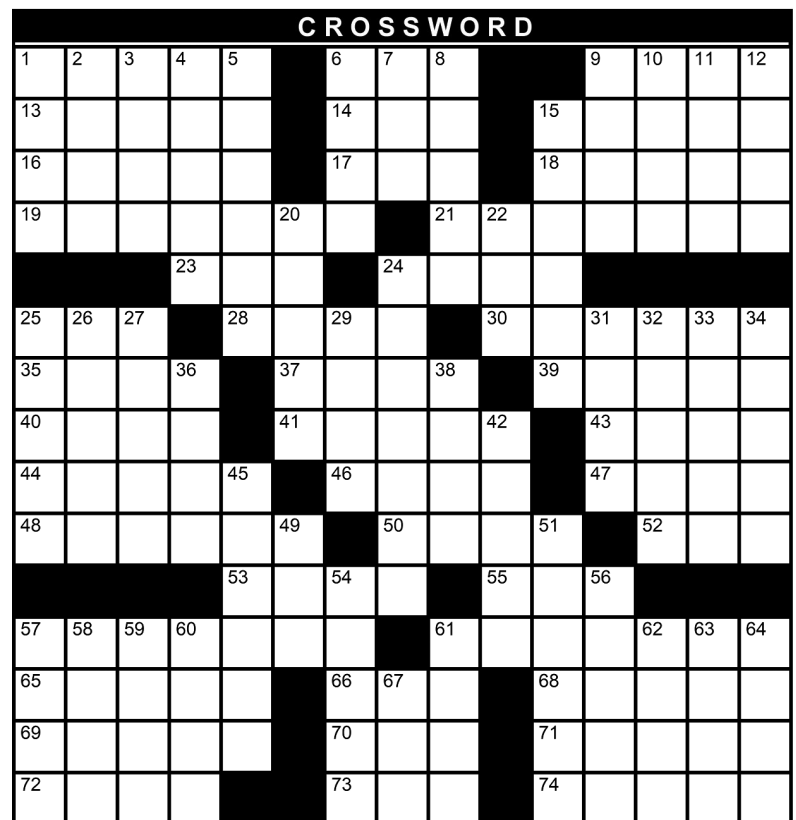
STATEPOINT CROSSWORD AT THE THEATER

ACROSS

1. Bottomless pit
6. Paper or plastic one
9. Mercantile establishment
13. *Ticket agent's cubicle
14. Kimono sash
15. Cautious gambler
16. Tidal bore
17. ____-been
18. Get together
19. Movie preview
21. Daytime attraction
23. Rubber substitute
24. 1960s ____ boots
25. Good times
28. No problem
30. Box ____
35. Deli side
37. Jerk, in Yiddish
39. Cell dweller
40. Common theater admonition
41. Blows a horn
43. Be inclined
44. Community spirit
46. Stuff for sale, sing.
47. Not manual
48. Traveling entertainer's helper
50. Cutting tools
52. "Reap what you ____"
53. Sail holder
55. Ostrich-like bird
57. Snack in a tub
61. Blast from the past venue
65. Bulb in produce aisle
66. Zoo's Primate House inhabitant
68. Telephone company portmanteau
69. Like an uncomfortable mattress
70. Not in good health
71. Alleviated
72. Law school prerequisite, acr.
73. Sodium hydroxide
74. Musher's ride, pl.

DOWN

1. Drive a getaway car, e.g.
2. Wild swine
3. Vinyasa workout
4. Landing road
5. Put on hold
6. Physicist Niels
7. Lawyers' grp.
8. Contraption
9. Adjective for #9 Across
10. Blood-related
11. Network of nerves
12. Standing pose in #3 Down
15. Postpone (2 words)
20. E-wallet content
22. Don McLean: "A long, long time ____"
24. Simone Biles, e.g.
25. Theater guide
26. Mickey Mouse's pet
27. Alexander, for short
29. Opera or movie
31. Sheep's milk cheese
32. Intestinal obstruction
33. What contortion and contour have in common
34. Furnish with a fund
36. Who would
38. Creole cuisine staple
42. Waste conduit
45. Bribery, to a church official
49. ENT's first concern?
51. Afflicts with a blow
54. Symbol of slowness
56. Relating to uvea
57. Gallup's inquiry
58. Burden
59. Type of cotton
60. Native Egyptian, in Roman times
61. Expunge
62. At concession stand: "Anything ____?"
63. Not hot, at a coffee shop
64. Nonverbal OKs
67. Layer



SWITCH & GET

\$25

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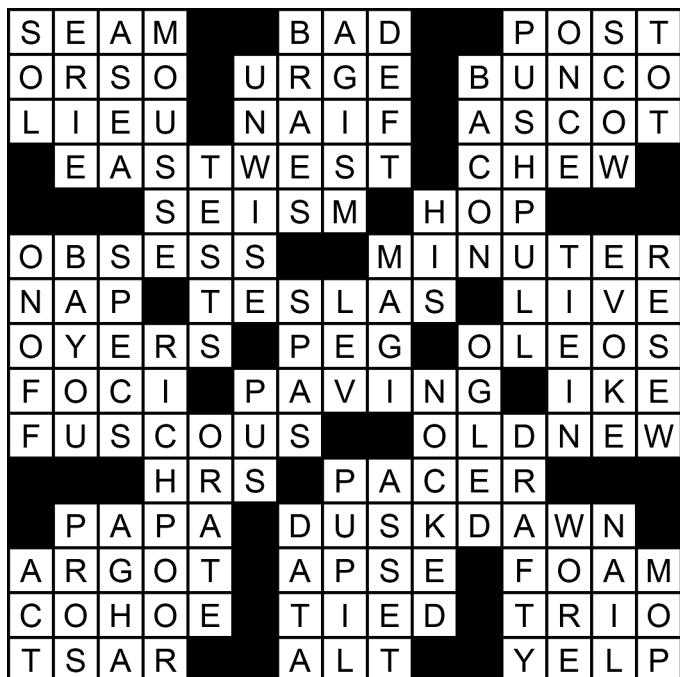
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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

PJ Dionne Company inspires future plumbers with Somerville High School field trip

PJ Dionne Company, a proud signatory to UA Plumbers Local 12 and the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association, recently organized a field trip for Somerville High School plumbing shop students to help inspire them as the next generation of plumbers.

The students explored the company's work relocating the Shattuck Hospital. This trip offered them real-world experiences with plumbing and the construction industry, showcasing the challenging and important work involved in large-scale projects.

The Shattuck Hospital relo-

cation has been a huge project involving several state departments, including the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Department of Corrections (DOC). With the help of PJ Dionne Co, and Gilbane as the general contractor, they are breathing new life into a vacant hospital to better serve the community.

For the Somerville High School students, the visit was

more than just a field trip. It was a chance to see what a plumbing professional's day looks like. They watched Local 12 plumbers install essential plumbing systems for the hospital's daily operations.

The students saw everything from basic water supply and drainage lines to specialized medical gas systems and waste management solutions. Nick Rio, from PJ Dionne Co, explained how the highest building standards and energy codes are used to ensure the hospital operates efficiently and takes the best care of patients.

The visit also highlighted the importance of precision and planning in plumbing work. The students learned advanced plumbing technologies designed to increase productivity and improve safety. They saw how each component must be carefully installed and tested to make sure it meets the



strict standards required in a medical facility.

Beyond the technical aspects, the field trip motivated students by showing them the real-world impact of their future careers. Seeing the direct connection between their classroom lessons and outside application reminded them of the critical role plumbers play in society. They learned that the skills they are developing can lead to a rewarding career that makes a difference in their com-

munities.

The PJ Dionne Company's efforts with Somerville High School students underscore the importance of hands-on learning experiences. As these aspiring plumbers return to class, they carry with them not just new knowledge, but also renewed inspiration. The field trip showed them that their chosen path is not only viable but essential, and their skills and dedication will lead to impactful careers.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Chimichurri

A refreshing sauce that adds multilayers of complex flavors to grilled skirt steak, flank steak and so much more. Just let your imagination run wild with this one!

I've tried a few variations of this recipe using different herbs and red pepper flakes for a little kick, but I found using the herbs listed below with the addition of scallions and the Sambal Oelek, an Indonesian chili paste comes out just right. The Sambal Oelek can be found in your local grocery store or any Asian market.

- 1 Bunch Parsley, finely chopped
- 1 Bunch Cilantro, finely chopped
- 3 Scallions, finely sliced
- 2 Garlic Cloves, use a garlic press or mince until a paste forms
- 1 Lime, zested and juiced

- 1/2 Teaspoon Cumin
- 1/2 Tsp. Kosher Salt
- 1/2 Tsp. Freshly Ground Black Pepper
- 1/4 Cup Red Wine Vinegar
- 2 Tsps. Sambal Oelek (Chili Paste)
- 1-1/4 Cups Extra Virgin Olive Oil, preferably a fruity one

In a medium sized mixing bowl, add all the ingredients, blend well and let sit at room temperature for an hour, allowing all the flavors to marry. If you don't want to do all that chopping by hand, a food processor works well. First add the garlic cloves and pulse until a paste forms. Add the rest of the ingredients except for the olive oil and pulse until the herbs are finely chopped. Add the olive oil slowly to the mixture. Transfer to a bowl until you're ready to serve.

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



Jump CONT. FROM PG 6

of the pandemic,” said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. “By strengthening oversight and making much needed reforms, this legislation will not only steady the industry, but will also help control costs for consumers.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
 Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
 Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

RAISE FINE FOR “RIGHT OF WAY” VIOLATIONS (H 3477)

– The House gave initial approval to a measure that would raise from \$35 to \$200 the fine for violating the traffic rule that provides when two vehicles approach or enter an intersection at approximately the same instant, the operator of the vehicle on the left must yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right. The proposal also imposes additional penalties and/or license revocation for up to six months for any of these violations that cause death, serious bodily harm or bodily harm.

Sponsor Rep. Steven Xiarhos (R-Barnstable) noted the bill is named “Cecelia’s Law” - in memory of Cecelia Finnegan Alldredge of Sagamore who was killed on September 6, 2020, when a car turned in front of her and caused a fatal crash.

“For the past three years, the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association, along with the Finnegan family and myself, have been tirelessly advocating for the passage of a bill aimed at increasing penalties for drivers responsible for accidents like the one that took Cecilia’s life,” said Xiarhos. “With motorcyclist fatalities reaching alarming levels nationwide, it is imperative that we take proactive measures to protect vulnerable road users.”

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS (H 3142)

– The House gave initial approval to a bill that would allow the Bay State’s 41 municipal light plants to provide services to other Massachusetts municipal and state plants, and plants in other states. Current law prohibits this practice.

Supporters said the bill will encourage more efficient services such as constructing, maintaining and repairing utility poles and traffic signals across the state and will also enable municipal light plants to sell, rent and lease merchandise.

“This bill will allow for an expansion of services offered by municipal light plants to surrounding communities,” said sponsor Rep. Jay Barrows (R-Mansfield). “This will be good for consumers as it ideally would enable more competitive services to be provided.”

MUST INFORM CUSTOMERS ABOUT INSURANCE AVAILABILITY FOR HEATING OIL

SPILLS (H 3686) – The House gave initial approval to a proposal that would require retail companies that sell home heating oil to annually inform all their customers of the opportunity to purchase insurance for heating oil spills.

Current law requires that insurance companies make coverage available for owners but supporters of this bill say that while coverage is available, there are many documented cases of insurance companies not making owners aware that the coverage is available. They said this often results in homeowners being unaware they do not have insurance coverage until after they experience a liquid fuel tank leak. They noted that the bill will provide an additional layer of customers being informed of the availability of the insurance.

Supporters said that some 100 homeowners experience an oil leak in Massachusetts every year. They noted that leaks can incur costly damage to the residence itself, but under Massachusetts law owners are responsible for environmental cleanup, which can rise to \$100,000 or more, to dispose of contaminated soil and mitigate the spread in surrounding areas.

Rep. Michael Day (D-Stoneham), the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on why he filed the bill and how he feels about its initial approval.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“It is an honor to be named the most sustainable state in the nation. State and local partnerships like the Green Communities program have propelled clean energy innovation across Massachusetts. We are grateful for the hard work being done by our cities and towns to address climate change and protect public health. Local action is vital to reducing Massachusetts’ carbon emissions.” — Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll reacting to Forbes Magazine ranking Massachusetts as the most environmentally-friendly state in the nation.

“Every day we offer shelter, services and support with funding that doesn’t come close to the need. Our state has been a national leader in the fight to end homelessness and we are here today because we intend to continue to lead. But we need the resources to do it.” — Lifebridge North Shore Vice President of Advocacy and Community Relations Gary Barrett advocating for funding for homeless programs, as members of the statewide Coalition for Homeless Individuals lobbied legislators on Beacon Hill for increased funding for homeless programs.

“We are wholeheartedly dedicated to empowering our servicemembers, veterans and their families with comprehensive support across Massachusetts. This funding strengthens the backbone of our veteran community by expanding crucial peer support networks and broadening our suicide prevention efforts, ensuring that we meet the

evolving needs of our veterans with precision and compassion.” — Jon Santiago, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, announcing \$2 million in grants through the Veterans Community Initiative Grant program for 15 community organizations to support informal and formal peer support efforts as well as fund innovative programming to address suicide prevention in the veteran and servicemember community in Massachusetts.

“Every day, but especially as we honor Mental Health Awareness Month, we work to reduce stigma associated with mental health challenges and suicidal thoughts. Through initiatives like suicide prevention services funding and the Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, it is our hope that anyone who struggles with their mental health know where to access services, and that it is OK to talk to someone and seek help.” — Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh announcing \$1.9 million in annual state funding over the next 11 years awarded to 19 community organizations to provide suicide prevention, intervention and postvention services across the state.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week May 13-17 the House met for a total of 13 hours and nine minutes and the Senate met for a total of nine minutes.

Mon. May 13	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:14 a.m. Senate 11:15 a.m. to 11:19 a.m.
Tues. May 14	No House session No Senate session
Wed. May 15	House 11:02 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. May 16	House 10:59 a.m. to 6:34 p.m. Senate 11:02 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.
Fri. May 17	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

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

Somernova: Round Two



By Chris Dwan

Rafi Properties [1] submitted a revised version of their proposed zoning overlay [2] to the City Council last Thursday and it may come as a surprise to some when I say *there's a lot to like about this one*. The development team has clearly been listening to the community, both in public sessions like the ones hosted by the Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC) [3] and also in smaller sessions in living rooms and meeting spaces around town.

This is my fifth piece about this proposal. The prior ones are SomerNova and Fabrication Districts [4], SomerNova [5], Keep No On the Table for SomerNova [6], and finally SomerNo [7]. My thinking has evolved through a lot of conversations — both online and face to face — with individuals, neighborhood and advocacy groups, and also with the developers themselves. The short form of where I've landed is that if we think that this neighborhood and region is going to continue to see heavy development in the coming decades, which I do, then this zoning and proposal are probably not a bad way to handle it.

The Changes Are Good

Perhaps the biggest change in the proposed new zoning is that

it now allows housing. Given the ongoing displacement and runaway un-affordability in the city, increasing the affordable fraction beyond the required minimum of 20% would make it even better. The omission of housing as an allowed use in the first proposal was an unforced error. I'm glad they've fixed it.

The updated design breaks up the massing, particularly along Park and Dane Streets and steps back the facades of the taller buildings as they rise. This keeps the street level to a more human scale and softens the edges of the campus against the surrounding neighborhoods. They have added 25,000 square feet dedicated to affordable workspaces for artists. This addresses a flaw in the underlying fabrication (FAB) zoning that left artists competing for space with software engineering and architecture firms, co-working spaces, and even venture capital incubators.

At 700 spaces (down from 1400), there is still way too much parking. The local roads can't handle the current volume of car traffic, much less thousands of additional trips per day. The team did remove the parking minimums and have been open to the idea of building less than the maximum in the later phases of the project if they find they can attract tenants without offering onsite parking. The design even includes space to support a hypothetical new transit stop at Dane Street, though of course providing the station itself remains in the hands of the MBTA.

The developers have also pro-



The updated design sketch for SomerNova.

posed significant infrastructure “mitigations,” improvements to the surrounding area that they will do as part of the project. They have committed to \$6.7M in utility and stormwater improvements, in part to address the flooding on Park Street, and an additional \$6M to improve the streets. That's nearly half the whole city's annual budget for water main rehabilitations, plus the entire annual budget for paving and street repair. Given the frequency with which Park and Dane have been opened up to address water issues over the last couple years — it's much needed.

The updated design is more thoughtful about the details too. The loading docks on Park Street are gone, which will help with traffic and also with wear and tear on the road. Deliveries are instead routed through the Market Basket lot and behind the buildings along the train tracks. The shuttles now offer a

much-needed connection to the nearby green, orange, and red line stations in addition to serving the Mystics. The community center and the various open / public areas have also come into clearer focus.

It's Still Big

There is a vocal community of folks, mostly online, who characterize pushback on any development anywhere as, in the world of one reddit user [8], “NIMBY bullshit.” [9] These same folks tend to dismiss the mere mention of building height (or honestly, any engagement with the details) as bad faith obstructionism, arguments from the status-quo, or worse. Which is to say that I know that I'm going to take heat for mentioning that this proposal, even reduced to 185 feet (from literally unlimited height in the prior version), remains wildly out of scale with anything currently near it. The proposed buildings are, on average, closer to the scale of Assembly row than nearby Union Square.

That difference in scale is neither good or bad — it's just a fact. It's a huge change, and we should talk about whether it's sensible for this location.

Our current zoning, even the 2019 revision, is incoherent and

piecemeal. I have argued previously that changing zoning on a developer-by-developer basis is a bad way to do city planning, but try as I might I have been unable to come up with a better one that actually works in the real world. It's clear to me that whatever we approve here will become the new de-facto standard for the buildings along the rail line — though it will happen in fits and starts. Once this is approved, any nearby owner will have a solid case that they should get approved for the same or similar.

The developers did include certain properties not currently under their control — Greentown Labs and Extra Space Storage. They remained sensibly hands off of local favorites like St. Anthony's Parish, ESH, and Market Basket. A more coherent overlay would include everything between two single story big-box grocery stores fronted by oversized surface parking lots (arguably the worst use of land in the city). It would include Star Market at Sacramento, Market Basket at Church Street, and everything in between.

In a sensible world, this zoning overlay would include Market Basket. Yeah, I said Market Basket. Between *Continued on page 13*

Mitigations	Existing Zoning	Proposed Campus Expansion
Utility & Stormwater Improvements	\$0	\$6,700,000
Public Street Improvements	\$0	\$6,000,000
Mobility TDM's	\$5,100,000	\$8,050,748
Total	\$5,100,000	\$20,750,748

Rafi's proposed mitigations are substantial.

Public hearing on proposed 2025 Water and Sewer rates

The City of Somerville Water and Sewer Department is inviting all members of the community to a public hearing that will share proposed Water and Sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2025. The proposed changes to be discussed include:

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

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 29, starting at 6:00 p.m. Community members can attend the meeting in-person or virtually:

In person at the Somerville Water and Sewer Department Conference Room, 15 Franey Rd, Somerville, MA 02145.

Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:

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

Community members unable to attend, but who would like to share their feedback can submit their questions or comments ahead of the hearing. Comments can be shared in advance two ways:

Email water@somervillema.gov with RATE HEARING as the subject.

Via U.S. mail to the Somerville Water and Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA, 02145.

Comments must arrive no later than 12:00 p.m. on May 29 to be sure they are conveyed to the Department of Water and Sewer.



Somernova: Round Two CONT. FROM PG 12

that and the size thing, I think I've probably managed to offend everybody.

The question for me, and for anybody still reading, is whether this is the direction we want for Somerville on the 50-year horizon. Do we want to encourage rapid growth that happens in large projects? If so, do we want to do it with something like this mix of housing, industrial, art space, and open space – or in some other way?

If we believe that Boston will remain prosperous and continue to grow, we will be under constant pressure to add height and density. Under that optimistic assumption, we could do a lot worse than this revised proposal. It's a healthy mix of residential, arts, green/open, and commercial space. The alternatives are monolithic single use buildings or incremental bump-ups, either being approved as one-offs with no particular plan. Anchoring this neighborhood on a single big development embraces notional future transit and leverages its scale to make some badly needed updates to our infrastructure and get some desirable amenities.

If you think that Boston is going to contract then we should be much more conservative. Con-

traction creates a risk of disused and incomplete buildings to add to our glut of vacant lab space. It is also reasonable to be skeptical of any large developer, but mere suspicion is not a good enough reason to reject a proposal. We are all wary after the lessons of Assembly Row, Brickbottom, Union Square, and even the seemingly stalled update to the Star Market on Winter Hill, but credit where credit is due: The Rafi team has done -way-more grassroots legwork than any of those others, at least so far as I'm aware.

The presentations last year were vague, relying heavily on reputation and trust. These days, they are bringing a much more fine-grained approach – digging into tables and spreadsheets. While we will still need to do as much as we can to turn these assurances into legally enforceable commitments, I am nowhere near as dubious as I was when I wrote "SomerNo."

In fact, as I said up top, I kinda like the new version – especially if they follow through on a recent verbal commitment to remove the by-right rooftop signage from the zoning.

What happens next?

As with the previous submission, the Land Use Committee



The zoning along the Fitchburg line is incoherent.

will hold a public hearing, discuss, and then make a recommendation. Given the size of the development and the intense public interest, there will almost certainly be additional discussion in a full council meeting prior to an up or down vote. All of that seems likely to take place in the shadow of what is shaping up to be a fractious budget season. I will be surprised if the final vote takes place before the council leaves for its summer recess.

Assuming the zoning is approved, the developer will then need to propose a master plan, negotiate community benefits with the Union Square Neighborhood Council, and submit detailed construction plans for each "block" as part of applying for the construction permits. The pro-

posal allows them to overlap the submission of the master plan with the detailed documents for the first block rather than waiting for one to be approved before starting on the other. I was initially skeptical of this overlap, but all it seems to do is allow the developer to proceed at their own risk, potentially gaining a few weeks or months of calendar time if the master plan gets approved without changes.

We're still a ways off, and there are certainly still some rough edges to be sanded off, but I think we're getting somewhere.

Links:

- [1] <https://rafiproperties.com/>
- [2] <https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6662485&GUID=C F21EB68-47C6-41BC-A234>

-F3F318C3F339&Options=&Search=

[3] <https://sites.google.com/view/usnc>

[4] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-and-fabrication-districts-1dccc94f1d7c>

[5] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-647784739f4c>

[6] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/keep-no-on-the-table-for-somernova-1da0779e1a47>

[7] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somerno-f74852b225ca>

[8] <https://www.reddit.com/user/sadjadeplant/>

[9] https://www.reddit.com/r/Somerville/comments/1aetizs/comment/kkc7cnx/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=web3x&utm_name=web3xcss&utm_term=1&utm_content=share_button

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Waterloo, New York | 7. Smallpox |
| 2. <i>In Flanders Fields</i> by John McCrae | 8. El Salvador |
| 3. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act | 9. Seahorses |
| 4. Justin Timberlake | 10. The fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth |
| 5. David Bowie | 11. Joe Strummer |
| 6. The Mississippi River | 12. Rod Stewart |

Dorothy Hodgkin's Stupendous X-Ray Vision and The Power of the Beta Lactam Ring



By Ian Halim

In biology, little things make big things happen. Take, for instance, the spike protein that projects from the virus that causes COVID-19. Despite a length measured in mere billionths of a meter, it is this spike that allows the virus to attach to our cells and infect them, much like a mosquito extending its long snout to prick us. The spike protein is also the target of the COVID vaccine. Indeed, the mRNA COVID vaccine gives our body instructions so that we can make copies of the protein, get to know it, and thereby recognize the peril when confronted with the actual virus. Virtually everything that happens in living things, in fact – the action of drugs, the genetic information encoded in our DNA, even the flexing of our muscles – is thanks to tiny machine-like structures within us. And the power of penicillin – the first antibiotic, and the subject of this essay – arises from its tiny patterned structure too.

One of the early explorers of the microscopic structures and shapes within us was the English chemist Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin. It was her fascination with complex patterns of all kinds, both in chemistry and art, that gave her the passion to uncover these tiny structures – including the penicillin molecule.

In the spring of 1928, as a young woman just about to start college, Hodgkin found herself amidst the magnificent ruins of an ancient city said to have been founded by Alexander the Great. She was visiting Jerash, in

Jordan, at the invitation of her archaeologist parents. In her unpublished memoirs, quoted by her biographer, she describes arriving at a “great triumphal arch on the open hillside” that looked down upon the ancient ruins, and finding it, “one of the most beautiful places on earth.”

In Jerash that summer, she became ensnared by the patterns in the mosaics on the floors of the Byzantine churches, volunteering for the painstaking work of drafting scaled-down copies, representing each tile with a dot of bright blue, pink, or green paint. From these points of color arise larger shapes and images, like in a pointillist painting, forming interlacing patterns of curves and angles, adorned with ancient Greek text – patterns she would later compare to intricate chemical structures.

Returning to study at Oxford, first as a college student, and later as a researcher with her own laboratory, Hodgkin grew more and more captivated by the complexity of microscopic structures. Ultimately, she devoted her work as a chemist to a method called X-ray crystallography – leading teams of scientists that uncovered key biomolecules, not just penicillin, but also cholesterol, insulin, and vitamin B12.

The science of X-ray crystallography is powerful, heady stuff. When an X-ray strikes a crystal, that crystal distorts the incoming radiant energy – a little like a glass prism bending visible light and breaking it into rays the colors of the rainbow. Those distortions in the X-ray beams can be captured in a kind of special photograph. And from those peculiar distortions, imprinted on that image, a scientist may back-calculate the tiny internal structure of the crystal that led to those distortions – almost as a shadow or silhouette betrays a person's shape. Tiny negatively charged particles called electrons within the crystal's microstructure cause these distortions, betraying

themselves and thus the crystal's inner composition.

Even as a girl, Hodgkin was fascinated by chemical puzzles, spending “many happy hours” analyzing minerals with a professional prospecting kit given to her by a family friend who was a soil scientist. Later, she would use X-ray crystallography to solve chemical puzzles of a much more demanding sort. In a 1974 interview, Hodgkin recalled that as a young student she had, “a somewhat fantastic dream, in which I imagined myself walking about among the trees and picking the atoms off the trees like great birds.” She was seeing, in her vision, how she would one day probe complex molecules, “of which the structures were still unknown.”

In 1942, during World War II, when the US and the UK were working together to mass produce penicillin for the war, Hodgkin obtained crystals of the drug. Penicillin had only been discovered in 1928, and scientists at the time were still debating its structure. She and her team used penicillin crystals based on three different metals, and then studied how each distorted X-rays differently.

Within any crystal, penicillin-based or otherwise, every microscopic unit is repeated in the same configuration over and over – like the flowers in a wallpaper pattern, but in three dimensions. Crystals of table salt, for instance, are made up of microscopic cubes. X-ray crystallography was a revolutionary force that broke open new frontiers in our understanding of such structures. Two of the first crystals resolved, both in 1913, using this method, were table salt and diamond. But penicillin is a much larger molecule with a more complex structure – and so a much more difficult problem.

That problem is a very consequential one too. The secret as to why penicillin works can only be answered from its micro-

structure. The drug's life-saving, bacterial-killing active ingredient is a loop of atoms known as the beta lactam ring. It is this ring that kills bacteria. And not just in penicillin. About half the antibiotics we use today kill bacteria in the same way, relying upon that same, tiny ring shape, embedded within the antibiotic's molecular structure. So, despite being less than one billionth of a meter wide, the beta lactam ring is a central part of the technology of modern medicine – the thing that makes many antibiotics go, like the transistor in a computer, or the engine in a car. Although, unlike the car engine or transistor, penicillin and its beta lactam ring are originally products of nature, made by the *Penicillium* mold for its own defense, and only later harnessed by scientists to make copy-cat antibiotics that imitate penicillin and work in the same way.

And we now understand very well how that beta lactam ring works. When bacteria are bombarded by penicillin, they confuse that tiny ring with the building material they use to make their cell walls. Without those cell walls, the tiny living organisms cannot survive, divide, or reproduce. Penicillin mucks up the works. Like a bricklayer reaching for something that looks like a brick only to find that it is a trick brick of foam that sticks to his fingers, the bacterial cells are confused, mistaking penicillin for their own cell-wall-building materials. Their tiny machinery for making cell walls is disturbed, leaving them unable to make or maintain their life-sustaining bacterial “skin” or shell. Once this cellular machinery has been disrupted, bacteria die.

The power of the beta lactam ring is that it imitates the precursors that bacteria use to make their cell walls. Bacteria use a special enzyme to turn these cell wall precursors into finished walls. But instead, penicillin tricks this

enzyme and binds to it, locking it up and making it useless. This ties up bacteria's wall-making kits, preventing them from maintaining and building their cell walls – like the imaginary bricklayers with trick-bricks stuck to their fingers that I described.

Without the ability to make and remake their cell walls, bacteria die. It's Armageddon for the little bugs trying to get us. The downside of antibiotics is that they usually kill off some of the good bacteria in our guts too, and they can also leave behind the bacteria that are most impervious to their powers – bacteria that are harder to control with antibiotics. This is the problem of antibiotic resistance.

But it is the delicate structure of the penicillin molecule that gives the drug its great power – the structure that Hodgkin helped uncover, with her stupendous X-ray vision. For her work on penicillin and other important biomolecules, in 1964 she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. At the Nobel banquet that year, she thanked the committee for “the great happiness” bestowed upon her. While she recognized it was not realistic to wish a Nobel for everyone in the banquet hall, she nevertheless expressed her hope that the scientists of the Swedish Academy, at least, should enjoy the same honor, recalling an Arabic saying she'd learned, to use when one is congratulated: “May this happen also to you.” It is a feature of great happiness that it yearns to be shared.

Physician-scribe and Bagel-Bard-at-large Ian Halim writes about how medicine relates to everything from ethics to botany – aiming to make science accessible to the widest possible audience. Ian earned his PhD in Greek & Latin literature and his MD, both at Columbia University in The City of New York. He now lives in Pittsburgh, where he will begin a sabbatical in July.

'Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood' celebrates love, pride, and sword fights

Theatre@First presents a comedic tale about being true to yourself – even while in disguise.

Theatre@First brings live theatre to Powderhouse Park this June 8-30 with a production of *Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood* by Adam Szymkowicz. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood, directed by Paulina Martz, is a joyful, diverse, heartfelt and hilarious play. It explores themes of gender-expression, and the experiences of those of marginalized genders, and how to find out who you are and who you love; all wonderfully juxtaposed within the familiar story of Robin Hood. This slapstick Monty-Python-esque farce is rife with sword fights, thumb-wrestling matches, characters in disguise, and endless surprises.

Theatre@First is home to the finest non-professional actors in the Boston theatre scene. The *Marian* cast includes a whopping 30 talented actors, including Kris Kim (*Marian/Robin*), Christine Strong (*Alanna Dale*), Patrick Neal (*Little John*), Addie Pates (*Will Scarlett*), Zack Murphy (*Prince John*), Sam Ingram (*Sheriff of Nottingham*), Jessica Harvey (*Lady Shirley*), Ted Overholt (*Friar Tuck*), Shannon Fay (*Much the Miller's Son*), Rosie Sentman (*Tommy of No Consequence*), Hannah Young (*Sir Theo the Punctual*), Karishma Chouhan (*Lucy*), and Dominic Valentino (*Tanner*). Amelia Smith, Samuel Zeiberg, Juan Jose Boschetti, Noelle Colant, Rachel Kang, and Tovah Lockwood comprise the amazing guards. Creating a performance of this magnitude would not be possible without the wonderful understudies: Dylan Merzenich, Emma Petracca, Joey Phoenix, Magdalena Poost, Devin Bachman, Atharva Nimbawar, Elyse Barber, Emily Duggan, Lucas Common-Miller, Jasmine Caamano, and Theresa Griffin.

Marian continues another exciting year of quality performances at Theatre@First. Upcoming in the 2024 schedule is Festival@First: Love is Love, a festival of one act plays written by local playwrights. Since its founding in 2003, Theatre@First has produced more than fifty mainstage shows, as well as cabarets, Shakespeare slams, charity play festivals, and a popular series of staged readings. A vital part of the thriving Somerville arts scene, T@F draws on the talent and support of individuals and organizations throughout our community to provide affordable, quality theatre in a variety of local venues. For tickets and more information about Theatre@First, please visit www.theatreatfirst.org.



PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 8, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 9, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8 15, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8 22, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 23, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 8 29, 6:00 p.m.*

Sunday, June 30, 6:00 p.m.*

*rain date – will only be used if prior performances need to be cancelled

Marian, Or The True Tale of Robin Hood will be presented at Nathan Tufts/Powderhouse Park, Somerville. Please bring blankets or chairs as needed.

General parking is available on College Ave, but cross-streets often require a permit. Please read signs carefully to avoid ticketing.

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SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

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

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

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

Knitting Group – Tuesday, May 28th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. During the month of May, the Somerville Council on Aging will be making cuff socks using circular needles. Needles and yarn will be provided. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

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

Project Outlook, Low Vision Group - Meets

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

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

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

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

Virtual General Exercise Class – Every Wednesday & Thursday in May with Michelle, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Michelle Deutsch at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov for the Zoom link.

LGBTQIA+ Exercise Class – Via Zoom every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in May except in person on May 9th starting at 6:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Please RSVP to Michelle Deutsch at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov if you plan on attending or for the Zoom link.

Bowling – Every Wednesday at Flatbread Company/Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. - Free - RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Yoga – Every Tuesday starting at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at

mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Walking Club – Every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. Weather Permitting – Meet at the Holland Street Center entrance. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Tai Chi – Fridays, May 24th & 31st, June 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th at 9:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Tai Chi is a practice that uses slow, gentle movements and postures to help improve mindfulness, balance and ease of motion. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

6:30 AM Finance Committee Meeting 5-7-24
 7:50 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 8:00 AM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 8:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 9:30 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 11:03 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 11:30 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 2:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 3:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 5-7-24
 4:16 PM Glen Park Ribbon Cutting
 4:30 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 5:00 PM Nepali Flag Raising Event
 6:00 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 7:40 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 8:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 8:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 9:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 10:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 10:30 PM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 11:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024

THURSDAY, MAY 23

12:33 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 1:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 2:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 2:30 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Public Results
 8:36 AM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 9:00 AM Hong Kong Festival
 9:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 10:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: What Being an Immigrant Means to Me
 11:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 1:00 PM City Council Meeting 5-9-24
 7:00 PM City Council Meeting – LIVE

FRIDAY, MAY 24

12:30 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health

1:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 2:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 8:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 10:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 11:35 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 12:00 PM Hong Kong Festival
 1:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 5-7-24
 2:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 3:00 PM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 6:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 7:06 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050
 7:30 PM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
 8:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 9:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 10:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:00 PM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

SATURDAY, MAY 25

12:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 1:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 2:33 AM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 9:03 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 9:30 AM Porchfest 2024
 10:30 AM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 11:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 12:00 PM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
 1:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 2:00 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 3:10 PM Glen Park Ribbon Cutting
 3:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 4:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 5:00 PM SomerViva em Português

5:30 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 7:00 PM SPD Chief Candidate 1 Interview
 7:34 PM SPD Chief Candidate 2 Interview
 7:50 PM SPD Chief Candidate 3 Interview
 8:30 PM Nepali Flag Raising Event
 9:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 10:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 11:00 PM Broadway Corridor Meeting Public Results

SUNDAY, MAY 26

12:06 AM City Council Meeting 5-23-24
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 9:00 AM Hong Kong Festival
 9:30 AM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 10:00 AM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 1:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 2:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 3:35 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 5:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 6:30 PM Hong Kong Festival
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 8:00 PM City Council Meeting 5-23-24

MONDAY, MAY 27

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 1:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 2:00 AM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 2:30 AM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
 8:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 9:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024

10:00 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 1:00 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 1:30 PM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 3:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration
 4:00 PM Haiti: Resilience Rising
 6:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 7:00 PM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
 8:00 PM Hong Kong Festival
 9:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 10:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:00 PM Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony

TUESDAY, MAY 28

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 2:30 AM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 7:00 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 8:10 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 8:30 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 9:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 9:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 10:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 11:00 AM Women's History Month Celebration
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 2:10 PM Glen Park Ribbon Cutting
 2:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Pineda Neufeld
 3:00 PM Nepali Flag Raising Event
 4:00 PM Patriots Day Celebration 2024
 5:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 5-7-24
 7:20 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 7:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 8:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 9:00 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 9:30 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 10:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 11:35 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2050

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

8:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 9:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 11:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 1:00 PM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 2:00 PM SHS Multicultural Fair
 2:30 PM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 4:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Chelsea
 6:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 7:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 9:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 11:00 PM All-City Middle School Spring Concert

THURSDAY, MAY 23

12:00 AM SHS Multicultural Fair
 12:30 AM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 2:30 AM SHS Volleyball vs Chelsea
 8:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 3:00 PM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 5:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden

7:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 9:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 11:00 PM SHS Softball vs Cambridge

FRIDAY, MAY 24

1:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 3:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 11:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 1:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 3:00 PM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 5:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Everett
 7:00 PM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 8:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 10:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show

SATURDAY, MAY 25

12:00 AM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 2:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 10:30 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 12:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 2:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 4:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 5:30 PM Week of the Young Child Celebration

6:00 PM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 8:30 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 10:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show

SUNDAY, MAY 26

12:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 2:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 3:30 AM Week of the Young Child Celebration
 8:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 9:30 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 11:30 AM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 12:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Everett
 2:00 PM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 3:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 5:00 PM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song
 6:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 7:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 8:30 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:30 PM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 11:00 PM SHS Volleyball vs Everett

MONDAY, MAY 27

1:00 AM All-City Middle School Spring Concert
 2:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 4:00 AM SHS Chorus: Evening of Song

8:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 10:00 AM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 12:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert
 2:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 4:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 6:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 8:00 PM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 10:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert

TUESDAY, MAY 28

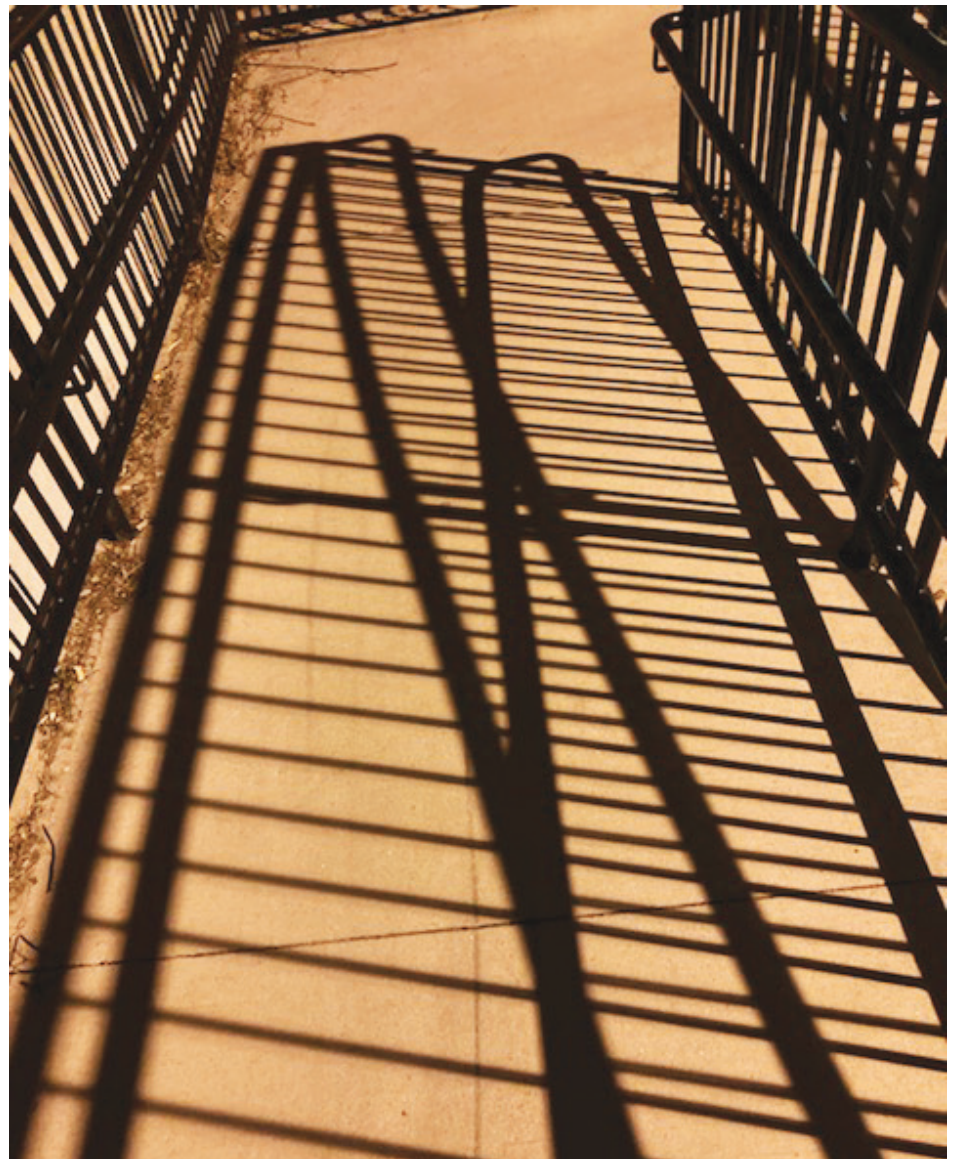
12:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 2:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
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 5:30 PM Week of the Young Child Celebration
 6:00 PM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 8:30 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 10:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 12:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 2:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 3:30 AM Week of the Young Child Celebration

Scenes from a Somerville garden



—Photos by Denise Provost

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Shadow walk... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did the duck say when it bought chapstick?
Put it on my bill.

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On This Day in History

May 22

- 1455 – King Henry VI is taken prisoner by the Yorkists at the Battle of St. Albans, during the War of the Roses.
- 1868 – The "Great Train Robbery" takes place as seven members of the Reno Gang make off with \$98,000 in cash from a train's safe in Indiana.
- 1872 – The Amnesty Act restores civil rights to Southerners.
- 1882 – The United States formally recognizes Korea.
- 1908 – The Wright brothers register their flying machine for a U.S. patent.
- 1939 – Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini sign a "Pact of Steel" forming the Axis powers.
- 1967 – The children's program Mister Rogers' Neighborhood premieres.
- 1985 – Baseball player Pete Rose passes Hank Aaron as National League run scoring leader with 2,108.
- 1992 – Johnny Carson's final appearance on The Tonight Show on NBC, after 30 years as the program's host.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

in the park offers attendees a new way to connect and engage with city leaders and staff, local elected officials, as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks. Events in each of the city's seven wards will occur throughout the month of May from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information and to find all event locations, visit somervillema.gov/slice. Upcoming meetings: Tuesday, May 28: Ward 2 at Lincoln Park, 290 Washington Street (near Argenziano School entrance). Ward 5 Slice of the City event has been postponed due to weather. The new date will be posted on the city's website once the meeting is rescheduled. Trum Field Playground 1 Franey Road (at Cedar St.)

The Curl Bar is celebrating their 3-year anniversary and 2nd anniversary of their Block Party. Come play games, enjoy entertainment, shop, eat and more on May 26. The Curl Bar Block Party is an annual event put on for the community with the goal being to connect different communities to other minority-owned businesses all while celebrating another year of business for The Curl Bar. This is a free event for the community aimed to provide a space for minority-owned businesses to thrive and network while also providing free entertainment and services to the community. Sunday, May 26, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m., 92 Cross St.

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

Somerville's annual Water System Flushing Program began on Thursday, May 16, and continues through late October. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will take place Mondays and Thursdays between 6:00 p.m. and midnight to minimize potential disruptions to water service. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink.

Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. Learn more at: somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Union Square Main Streets and the Union Square Farmers Market community proudly present a celebration of 20 seasons of open-air access to fresh, nutritious food in the rear of Union Square. Festivities will take place on Saturday, June 1, at the Union Square Plaza.

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

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

Arts at the Armory will host Groundwork Somerville's annual Grow Gala on Thursday, May 23, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., 191 Highland Ave. Join them in celebrating GWS's community, robust history, and exciting future. For more information visit https://artsatthearmory.org/events/groundwork-somerville-grow-gala/.

There are still lots of open spaces for students interested in the Summer Music program, the Middle Grades Robotics program, and the Career and Techni-

cal Education middle grades program. Rising 9th graders should check out the Summer Success program to get ready for high school. All programs are run by Somerville Public Schools and are free. Learn more and register: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summer.

On Friday, May 31, The Dojo in partnership with Somerville Parks and Recreation's Teen Program, is hosting the Teen Summer Fair. It's a great opportunity to find a summer job or meet organizations looking for volunteers. There will be games, a bouncy house, photo booth, live performances, food and much more. The event kicks off at 3:00 p.m. Immediately following the Teen Summer Fair, Mystic Learning Center is hosting its Youth Party at The Dojo to kick off the summer. The event will continue the fun of the Teen Summer Fair with carnival games, food, prizes and fun. Come down to The Dojo when it kicks off at 6:00 p.m. or come at 3:00 p.m. and enjoy both. Both events will be held at 15 Properzi Way, Somerville.

Join the Somerville Growing Center for a few of their upcoming events. Help prepare materials for the June 15 Festa Junina at the Growing Center. Just show up and have fun. Portuguese language-friendly activity. Contact: Yumi at yumisu65@gmail.com.

Rescheduled: Civil War Monuments, Burials, and Restoration at Milk Row (lecture) has a new date of Thursday, June 20, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Learn about the series of preservation measures that restored much of Milk Row Cemetery, including gravestone and tombstone rehabilitation, landscaping, and conservation of the Civil War monument at the center of the cemetery. To register visit www.somervillemuseum.org.

Save the date! SomerStreets Carnival is back on East Broadway, Sunday, June 2, with a rain date of Sunday, June 9. Enjoy a day filled with our best local vendors, businesses, and organizations. Enjoy fun activities for the whole family, live music, art, and much more.

The Somerville Junior Police Academy is back. Hosted by SPD and Somerville Recreation, the program will include Classroom Training, Hands on police tactics, physical training, and more. Reg-

istration is open at: https://somerville-ma.myrec.com/.

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

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

Celebrate the Nepali cultural community in Somerville at the Somerville Nepali Cultural Festival. Explore the rich culture and practices of Nepali culture join on Saturday, June 1, at 4:00 p.m. (rain date June 6) in Union Sq Plaza. For this event, they are collaborating with Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA NCC USA MA Chapter) and SomerVIVA: Office of Immigrant Affairs to showcase Nepali culture, cuisine, music, folk songs, cultural dances, arts and handicrafts to the community.

Drop by the East Branch Library for Saturday Lego Club. Create your own design or try a challenge card. Ideal for children 5 years and up. This event will be held on Saturday, May 25, at Somerville Public Library East Branch (115 Broadway) from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join Union Square Main Streets and 50+ of your favorite local food producers for the 20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market, 66-70 Union Square. Shop local Saturdays through October 26, except September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder



Interview with the late New England Poetry Club President: Diana Der-Hovanessian

For the last two years Denise Provost and I have been co-presidents of the New England Poetry Club, that is based in Somerville, Mass. The summer season has started and the New England Poetry Club, founded in 1915 by Amy Lowell, Robert Frost and Conrad Aiken, will have a full program of events. I decided to republish an interview I conducted with Der-Hovanessian in 2018. Here is a link to our events page <https://nepoetryclub.org/events/>

Recently, Diana Der-Hovanessian, the longtime president of the New England Poetry Club, passed away. She was a very influential person on the poetry scene. Here is an interview I conducted with her some years ago:

Diana Der-Hovanessian is the president of the venerable literary organization: The New England Poetry Club. Based in Cambridge, MA, it was founded by Amy Lowell, Robert Frost and Conrad Aiken almost ninety years ago. Lowell's vision was to bring well-known poets to large audiences.

In the 1960's through the 1980's the club became insular and provincial, with meetings held at the Brahmin enclaves of Beacon Hill and the Harvard Faculty Club. Der-Hovanessian changed this by inviting Russian poets such as: Andrei Voznesenky and Yevtushenko to read at the club. And since then scores of South American and Latin American Poets have visited and read there, as well as prominent American poets such as: Robert Creeley, X.J. Kennedy, Robert Pinsky, and many others.

I spoke to Diana Der-Hovanessian on my Somerville Community Access TV show *Poet To Poet/Writer To Writer*.

Doug Holder: How did you become involved with the club?

Diana Der-Hovanessian: I joined it when Victor Howes was running things. He asked me to be secretary. I said, "I don't do shorthand." (*laughs*) He said, "No, no. Not that kind of secretary." So for eight years he had me do programming. I became president in 1980. It's been a long time. We are due for another election!

DH: Amy Lowell started the club. She was quite an eccentric character, wasn't she?

DDH: When I first went into the club we had people who actually knew her. They had interesting stories about the early days. She started the club in 1915, when she came back from England. She was under the influence of Imagists, like Ezra Pound. But Robert Frost and a group of Formalist poets took it away from her. Frost, who was the second or third president, got into big fights with the Imagists in



Diana Der-Hovanessian (second from the right).

those days.

DH: Lowell's goal was to reach a large audience through poetry and poetry readings. Has this been your goal?

DDH: This vision of expansion had stopped for a while when I came around. I felt like we should expand. Now we bring in name poets to make it more exciting. We also have our own members read. We also have free workshops for members.

DH: What is the mission of the Club?

DDH: To expand poetry. To bring people into the art. To show off the best. To be a forum for an exchange of ideas.

DH: Can you talk a bit about the poets who have read for you over the years?

DDH: We had an Irish festival some years ago with the help of Seamus Heaney, who is on our board. He brought a lot of poets from Ireland, like Evan Boland. Some of the Club's other readers over the years have been Robert Lowell, Robert Creeley Stanley Kunitz, James Merrill, to name just a few.

DH: Did you have a relationship with the Beat poets?

DDH: We did sponsor a reading by Allen Ginsberg. Once I went to the airport to meet a visiting poet, and Ginsberg was there with him. Ginsberg was wearing a tie. He told me that he was dressed up for the Club. I told him that he didn't have to do it. He turned his tie over and said, "Brooks Brothers. I got it at Good Will."

DH: What do you think of the Slam poets and the Hip-Hoppers?

DDH: We had a program for them at the Boston Globe Book Festival. There was someone on the *Globe* who wanted it, Patricia Smith. I thought it was fun. I love the fact that they memorize their poems. I envy them. I could do that when I was young.

DH: You are a respected poet in *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Rich Murphy's collections *Susan Constant* by Cyberwit and *Inside Stories* by Resource Publications at Wipf and Stock were published in 2024. *First Aid* and *Footholds* were published in 2023 by Resource Publications and Cyberwit. *Meme Measure*, was published by Resource Publications in 2022. His poetry has won The Poetry Prize at Press Americana twice for *Americana* (2013) and *The Left Behind* (2021) and Gival Press Poetry Prize for *Voyeur* (2008). *Space Craft* by Resource Publications also came out in 2021. *Books Prophet Voice Now*, essays by *Common Ground Research Network* and *Practitioner Joy*, poetry by Resource Publications were published in 2020. He has published nine other collections of poetry.



Forgetting About It

Shifting baseline amnesia
begins with "good riddance"
muttered by the young
who riddle with cognitive quizzes
old feet on new terrain
that in response have nothing
to offer to justify remaining.
Routine moments celebrate
to patch for a tradition.
Personal stories plumb as historic,
and Custom Salvage sets down
a dumpster for attic and garage,
Nostalgic seizures that once seized
a brooch mother once wore embed
among a landfill mountain range.
An anthropologist apologizes
for the long wait on archeology
that defines for some future slouch
memorizing generations
that buried each other one-by-one.

— Rich Murphy

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

Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

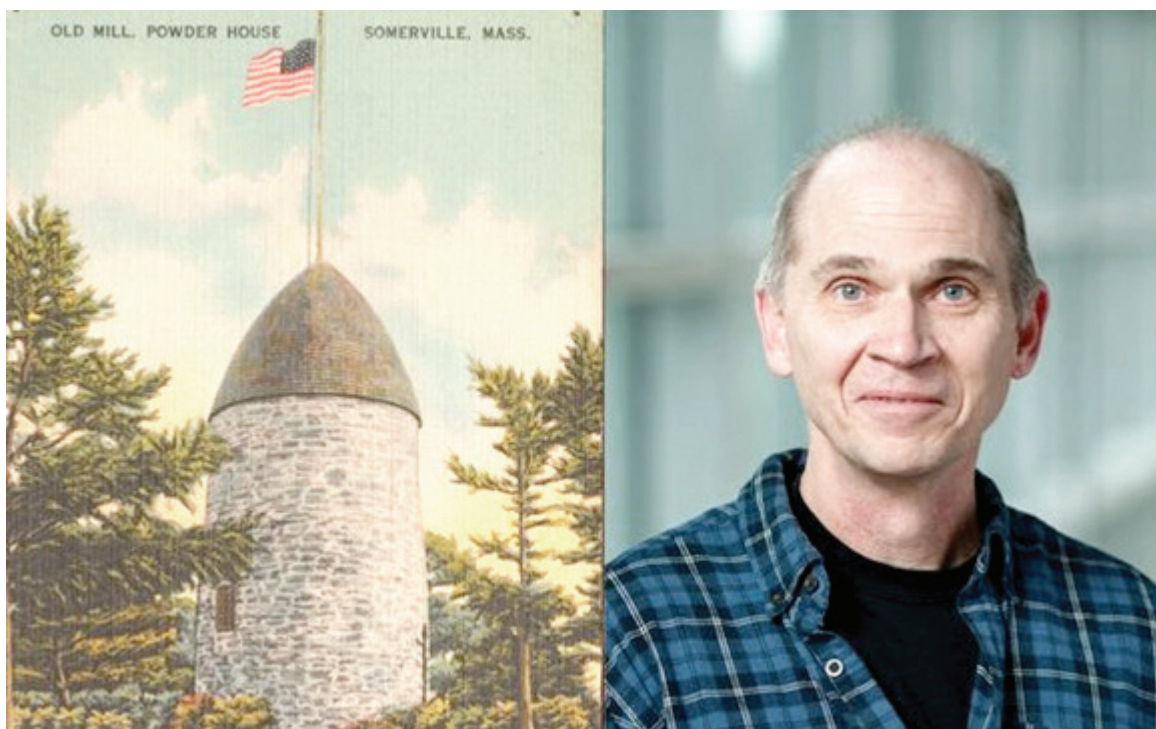
Somerville Museum presents: How to Lose an Empire: The Road to the Powder Alarm

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

Join the Somerville Museum for this free lecture featuring Dan Breen, Professor of Legal Studies at Brandeis University. Dan has a Ph.D. in History from Boston College, and is currently working on a book about the public monuments of Boston.

Thursday, May 23, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road Somerville, MA 02143 – www.somervillemuseum.org

Admission is free and registration is NOT required. However, if you would like to donate to the museum (a registered 501(3)(c) non-profit), you will be able to do so upon clicking "Get Tickets."



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

Square Farmers Market, visit union-squareremain.org/2024-fmseason.

Visit **ROOTED Armory Café** for their upcoming events: **Strummerville Ukelele Club, Wednesday, May 22**, at 6:30 p.m.

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

The **COA** is offering **free taxi rides** to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in

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

The **Somerville Museum** is looking for a new **Executive Director**. Do you live in the Somerville/Greater Boston area, have experience with non-profits, managing

staff/volunteers, and community programming? This might be the perfect fit for you. The application deadline is **May 29**. <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/careers>.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and from the direction of **Mayor Ballantyne**, the **Council on Aging** is now able to provide **Durable Medical Equipment** at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Chairs, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs

are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

your own right. I believe you are a Fulbright Scholar, and have written extensively about the Armenian Holocaust. Can you talk about your education, and early influences?

DDH: I've been a Fulbright Scholar twice. I went to Boston University as an undergraduate. I studied with Robert Lowell at Harvard. I took his last workshop. It was really great. They said he wouldn't show up. But he did. He was there every single week. It was one hour of teaching poetry, and one hour of going over student poems.

I completed nine volumes of translations from the Armenian. I have always been interested in the Armenian Holocaust. When the Turks started the genocide against the Armenians in 1915 they started by murdering the leaders. You wouldn't think that poets were the leaders. But they started out by killing two hundred poets.

DH: How did you start the Longfellow House readings in Cambridge?

DDH: Erica Mumford was a board member. She and

I were walking down Brattle St. We looked over at the Longfellow House and said, "Wouldn't this be a perfect place for a reading." We walked in and said, "Don't you want poetry too?" – they had concerts – and they replied, "Sure, if you want to do it." And that's how it started. It's been going on for almost twenty-five years now.

DH: Any plans for the 90th anniversary?

DDH: Depends on the funding. We want to bring our Golden Rose prize winners together for a big celebration. We are the oldest reading series in the country.

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