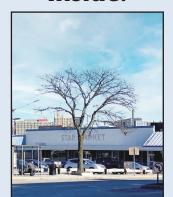
VOL. 11 NO. 21

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

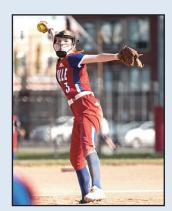
Inside:



Star Treatment page 3



Among the windows to Heaven page 6



Somerville High **School sports** page 18

Somerville opens Engagement Center to support unhoused community members



The city, in partnership with the Somerville Homeless Coalition, has established its Engagement Center, intended to expand on services available to the unhoused community.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, in partnership with the Somerville Homeless Coalition, has announced the recent opening of a new Engagement Center to support Somerville's unhoused residents.

The Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) will operate the Engagement Center with federal American Rescue Plan Act funding provided by the city. This facility, open during the day when shelters frequently are not, allows clients to drop in on an as-needed basis and also enables Homeless Coalition staff to invite unsheltered clients to meet privately indoors.

"The opening of Somerville's new daytime Engagement Center is a game changer, allowing us to provide more robust support services for some of our most vulnerable community members," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "Many Continued on page 4

George and Martha Washington share their stories at Somerville Museum

By Beatriz Leite

This past Sunday, May 21, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission gathered at the Somerville Museum to honor the history of George and Martha Washington for an afternoon with talks and tea.

In the month of May, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission partners with local organizations to host events in honor of Somerville's history, as May is the town's preservation month, dedicated to highlighting the historical assets that Somerville has to offer.

This particular event covered the ten facts most people don't know about Martha Washington, such as her previous marriage, her life in war - as she feared she and her children would be kidnapped, her life in Cambridge, and more. The speaker was dressed as the former's president's Continued on page 19



An afternoon of talk and tea focusing on the lives and legacies of George and Martha Washington took place last Sunday at the Somerville Museum. — Photos by Beatriz Leite





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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.

Join the community in honoring the service of our military heroes. Somerville's Memorial Day Parade will take place on Sunday, May 28, at 12:00 p.m. The parade will begin at the Davis Square Rotary (9/11 Memorial Granite Circle Site) up Holland Street then proceed to Broadway/Teele Square and end across from Veterans Cemetery. There will be a brief ceremony immediately following the parade at the Veterans' Cemetery. Rain date: May 29.

In 2018, Conway Park and the adjacent splash pad were closed after soil testing conducted in advance of proposed park renovations revealed contaminants. Five years of extensive soil testing and remediation followed, which included a Public Involvement Plan (PIP). The park reopened in its entirety on Friday, May 27, 2022. Mayor Ballantyne, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, and the city's Public Space and Urban Forestry Division invite you to a virtual public hearing on Thursday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. where city staff will present Activity Use Limitation and Permanent Solution Statement drafts as part of the final stage of the PIP process. Learn more and attend at somervillema.gov/conwaypip.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Mary Hart, the matriarch of the Hart family. She is a great to everyone around her and we wish her the very best of birthdays. Another special person to wish a happy birthday to, Chrissie Clark, our own Editor's wife. We hope they have big

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 24 – May 30 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
*	Wednesday May 24	Sunny	74°/48°	23%	14%	S 16 mph
	Thursday May 25	Partly Cloudy	64°/47°	5%	1%	NNE 13 mph
*	Friday May 26	Sunny	67°/49°	1%	0%	N 11 mph
	Saturday May 27	Partly Cloudy	71°/53°	18%	12%	ENE 12 mph
	Sunday May 28	Partly Cloudy	80°/60°	10%	7%	W 12 mph
	Monday May 29	Partly Cloudy	73°/57°	6%	3%	N 11 mph
S	Tuesday May 30	Partly Cloudy	74°/55°	19%	13%	ENE 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: Quo Vadis? or the flight of the millionaires

TheoNa says:

How much is enough? Over the last few years the state has added new revenue streams from gambling, marijuana, and increased tax rates. At the same time Massachusetts government spending continues to increase at rates higher than the average taxpayer's income increases. The proposed FY2024 \$56 billion budget is 7.1% higher than the previous year's budget.

It appears that the state has a spending problem and not a revenue problem. Rather than trying to develop solutions to make the state operate more efficiently, you opt for the same simple methods of just increasing the tax burden on the citizens. Since most Massachusetts residents already feel that they are overtaxed and now rebel with referendums to overturn excessive taxation at the ballot box, you are embarking on taking the low road of using class warfare to feed the undisciplined government even more money.

I'm not a multi-millionaire, nor do I have a \$1 million plus annual income. I'm knowledgeable enough though to realize that you can lose the goose that lays the golden eggs. Even before enactment of the millionaires' tax this year, the wealthy were leaving Massachusetts. Massachusetts' net loss of adjusted gross income to other states grew from \$2.5 billion in 2020 to \$4.3 billion in 2021, according to Internal Revenue Service data, with a net loss of 12,700 residents moving to New Hampshire and Florida alone. Overall, 60% of those who moved out of state from 2020 to 2021 had incomes above \$200,000. These are net totals from the IRS and not cherry-picked totals from a selected study to support a point of view. With remote work becoming the norm for large groups of workers

Massachusetts income taxes for couples filing jointly is already the highest in the nation, with couples paying 23.51% of their income in taxes. For higher incomes, according to IRS data, the top one percent paid 42.3% of the total federal income tax in 2020 while receiving 22.2% of total adjusted gross income. Again I ask, "How much is enough?"

So far in 2024 we have seen April tax revenues drop more than \$2.1 billion below collections for last April and more than \$1.4 billion below predictions for the month. I suspect Continued on page 3

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Star treatment



The Star Market and Brigham's on Winter Hill has been vacant for years. Everybody is wondering what the plans are for the large space, if any. I think it would be a

good place for Walmart and a KFC.

A story was found online with an artist's rendering of the planned project. The SSM, the Somerville Social Media, chimed in on their opinions about the upcoming plans.

Now, your comments:

"They released a plan for it supposedly a couple hundred units. I seen it somewhere a while back."

"Not luxury but some Market rate apartments with low-income housing. A community room and stores."

"The no parking is the issue I have with the development. I get why they don't want to do it - asbestos in the ground and would be very expensive to remove properly. That being said, the first level of whatever they put in could also be parking!"

"A parking lot. The parking in and around the neighborhood is a disgrace and the city loves to tag cars for the revenue. Now they are putting islands on Temple St. to screw thing up even more to go along with bus lanes and miserable speed bumps to bottom out cars and to slow things up



even more."

"I always thought it would be the perfect spot for a public safety building and

elderly housing. I know there is another spot. But pretty central and bus lines to

Some of my friends will be happy to hear that Winter Hill liquors will stay put. Special shout out to Ronnie Stevens.

Response to: Quo Vadis? or the flight of the millionaires CONT. FROM PG 2

that a significant amount of that was due to a drop in quarterly tax payments from people who have either left the state or are planning to leave the state this year. Projecting that quarterly total drop out for a year could mean an overall annual loss of up to \$8.4 billion.

Despite the reality of the numbers you see not only in Massachusetts, but also in other high tax rate states such as New York, Connecticut, and New York, you elect to pursue further increasing tax rates. Despite Massachusetts being one of just 12 states with an estate tax and having the lowest estate tax exemption threshold in the country, you are sponsoring a bill to increase the estate tax

to nearly 20% for all estates over \$2 million. If you don't believe this will accelerate the rate of the wealthy leaving Massachusetts then I have a bridge to sell you.

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By lim Clark

Out for a walk, knives at the ready

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Boston location last week in regards to an assault that occurred in Somerville. Boston Police officers were also on the scene.

Upon arrival, the Somerville Police officers were told that Boston Police received a call for an assault in the area of Cambridge St. When Boston Police arrived on the scene, they noticed one man chasing another man with a knife in his hands. The man who brandished the knife and was subsequently arrested was later identified as Angel Fletcher.

Boston Police stopped Fletcher in the area of Speedway on Cambridge Street and ordered the him to drop the knife, at which time he complied. It was discovered that Fletcher had another knife near his person, which police believed Fletcher tried to toss away.

Boston Police told the Somerville officers that after speaking with the victim, he realized that the assault originally occurred in Somerville at the Somerville No Touch Car Wash on Washington St.

The victim told the officers that he was smoking outside of the Cobble Hill Apartments in Somerville, near some bushes. When Fletcher walked by, he

reportedly became startled, got upset and said something to the effect of "What are you doing, are you trying to rob me?"

The victim told Fletcher that he wasn't trying to rob him and that he was just smoking. An argument ensued between both parties, at which point Fletcher allegedly brandished a knife.

Fletcher reportedly told the victim to meet him behind the nearby car wash so they could fight. The victim reported that he said something to the effect of "You're real tough with that knife in your hand."

The victim said that during the dispute, a witness was driving

down Washington St. and noticed the two men involved in the dispute. He yelled out to the victim yelled out to him and asked him if he needed help.

As this was happening, Fletcher reportedly ran down Washington St., which changes to Cambridge St. in Boston.

The victim told the witness that Fletcher threatened him with a knife. The witness let the victim into his vehicle and they followed Fletcher into Boston, then contacted the police.

The witness said that they pulled into the Speedway and told Fletcher to stop and that they contacted the police. Fletcher then reportedly ran toward him with the knife, at which point he grabbed a brush to defend himself. and kept away from Fletcher until Boston Police arrived.

Fletcher was told that he was going to be placed under arrest by Somerville Police on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. Fletcher then reportedly exclaimed that he should not be the one being arrested, that the witness had a brush, which should be considered a dangerous weapon.

Fletcher was transported to the Somerville Police Department, where he was booked on the above stated charge.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine - All calls are confidential

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Arrests:

Kristyn McLean, May 16, 9:15 p.m., arrested at Elm St. on warrant charges of shoplifting by asportation, attempt to commit a crime, larceny by check over \$1200, malicious wanton defacement of property, possession of a burglarious instrument, possession of a class

B drug, and removal of theft of assault with a dangerous prevention device.

Angel Fletcher, of Boston, May 16, 10:30 p.m., arrested at Bicknell St., Boston, on a charge

Kenneth Happas, May 19, 12:17 p.m., arrested at Wellington Ave. on warrant charges of larceny from a building, assault with a dangerous weapon, and unarmed robbery.

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Somerville opens Engagement Center to support unhoused community members CONT. FROM PG 1

shelters in our area only operate at night, meaning unhoused individuals are not able to access any support services during daytime hours, a huge roadblock when looking for work and housing. I want to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly to make this center a reality, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our community."

The Engagement Center, located at 1 Davis Square, is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., during those hours the Center closes from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. During operating hours, clients can access a wide variety of resources including bathrooms, resting spaces, closets and lockers for personal belongings, mail pickup, and internet

access. Additionally, clients can receive support to complete applications for jobs and housing, receive supplies to help safely manage outdoor elements, and attend appointments with specialized service providers to help them establish housing stability and address other needs.

"Our most vulnerable neighbors who are living outside are so grateful to have a welcoming and supportive place where they can find hope each day," said Michael Libby, Executive Director of the Somerville Homeless Coalition. "For some, that support might be warming up on a freezing cold day, while for others it might be an opportunity to apply for public benefits and search for housing. Whatever the service is that our clients may need,

they all describe our program as a place they feel cared for, listened to, and where they feel like they truly belong."

For more information about the Engagement Center, or to learn more about how you can get involved, please email Hannah O'Halloran, SHC Emergency Services Program Manager hohalloran@shcinc.org, or call 617-623-6111

Union Square 'climatetech' incubator announces partnership with world's largest oil company

By Molly Rains

Greentown Labs, a climate-minded startup incubator based here in Somerville, last month revealed the identity of its newest partner: Aramco Americas, a subsidiary of the global oil giant Aramco.

Greentown, which describes itself as a "community of climate action pioneers," has worked with fuel companies before, with companies Shell, BP and Chevron already counted among the incubator's other partners. Aramco, however, is the largest of these, extracting an average of 13.6 million barrels of oil equivalent each day last year and reporting a record net income of \$161.1 billion in 2022.

Greentown is explicit about their focus on sustainability and climate-forward technology. How, then, can a partnership with the world's leading fossil-fuel extractor align with the organization's goals? Greentown's interim CEO and CFO, Kevin Taylor, suggested that Aramco's partnership will translate into funding, networking and pilot opportunities

for startups and entrepreneurs under the Greentown umbrella. Some benefits that Greentown's partners receive in return, as stated on the incubator's website, are a seat on the organization's advisory board and the opportunity to "demonstrate their climate commitments."

Whether these corporations' demonstrations are legitimate or merely greenwashing is up for debate. A recent study by thinktank InfluenceMap found that oil companies' professed commitment to climate is rarely matched in substance by their investments. Although Aramco was not among the companies included in that study, their \$1.5 billion "sustainability fund" - which some Greentown entrepreneurs likely hope to benefit from - represents less than 1% of the company's profits from 2022 alone.

Aramco also has developments in the works to expand their fossil fuel extraction capacity, which is already the largest in the world. This clashes with the advice of leading climate scientists, who emphasize that rich countries must phase out oil and



Greentown Labs, located in Somerville, recently announced that it will be partnering with Aramco Americas, a subsidiary of big oil company Aramco.

gas production within the next 12 years in order for our planet to evade the worst effects of climate change.

In a statement on their website, Greentown executives expressed enthusiasm

for the partnership. When asked about measures in place to safeguard against the misuse of influence by high-level partners, however, the incubator declined to comment.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



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— Photo by Denise Provost



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COMMENTARY

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

Among the windows to Heaven



By William C. Shelton

Last week the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Somerville's Greek Orthodox Church, celebrated another milestone in its century-long mission of communion and community. Although the Church has been planning a renovation for six years, a September 2021 a fire resulted in extensive smoke and water damage to the church's interior and its electrical system.

Church members, their pastor Father Tandilyan, and their real estate development team determined to transform the Church building. Results of their \$6 million investment were on glorious display Friday, when they mounted a Byzantine cupola and crowned it with the Cross. The cupola will serve as a bell tower, and as an elevator that will make all levels accesible.

In Father Anthony's words, "The most important thing is that the community came together. Historically the Christian community comes together around the cross to glorify God and to elevate his cross."

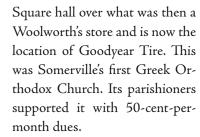
He went on to say, "The community is the Church. The community preserves the Church and the Church preserves the community."

Indeed, it has been so since the first Greek immigrants arrived in Somerville. They came from Alatsata, a town settled a millennium before Christ. Others followed from Filiatra, on the Mediterranean.

The Ottoman Empire had conquered Greece in the mid 15th Century. But in 1821 Greeks declared their independence. Many Europeans and Americans saw Greece as democracy's birthplace, and some joined the revolution. After eight years they liberated southern Greece's mainland and most of its islands.

The Greek people who initially came to Somerville were mostly men, driven here by a devastating agricultural depression and escaping conscription into the Ottoman army. They settled primarily in the Brickbottom neighborhood, but also in West Somerville. They found work in Boynton Yards' four meatpacking houses. Most intended to earn some money, send it back home, and return.

The Balkan wars of 1912 and the resulting persecution and expulsion of Greeks discouraged most from returning, while encouraging young Alatsatan men and women to immigrate here. In 1916 they rented a Union-



During that year a 20-yearold Somervillian from Alasata was serving with the U.S. Army after a stint as a freedom fighter. He returned to Somerville following his discharge, but months later rejoined the army to fight in World War I.

In Belleau Wood, he single-handedly attacked a German machine gun emplacement. With his right leg nearly severed, he forced the surviving machine-gun crew to retreat. He became the first Greek American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, and our city's largest athletic field is named for George Dilboy.

Warfare between Greeks and Turks in 1922, following the Armenian genocide conducted by the Ottoman Empire, spelled the end of many immigrant dreams of returning home. Instead, they made Brickbottom what the sociologist Herbert Gans called an "urban village."

When the meatpacking plants closed, workers' barracks became low-cost housing, kept spotless and well-repaired by their Greek American residents. Pushcart vendors and horse-drawn teams hawked fish, bread, vegetables, fruit, house wares, and clothing. Children playing, neighbors chatting, and festival celebrations filled the streets.

In 1923 the community built its first freestanding Church at 217 Somerville Avenue. It was the center of community life, organizing dances, musical bands, sewing classes, picnics, trips to the beach, games, July 4th bonfires, a Greek-language school, and citizenship classes.



When the Italian fascists invaded Greece in 1940 the community turned its focus to war-relief efforts, while sending 260 of its young men to fight. In 1947 the Church bought what was then the Elks Hall at 29 Central Street. It had originally been owned by Columbus Tyler, who had built a home there for his bride, the Mary of "Mary had a little lamb. In 1965 they razed the old Elks Hall and dedicated a beautiful new church.

From 1950 to 1970 Somerville's population declined by 36,000. The lure of the suburbs pulled many residents away. Factory closures pushed others. A new influx of Greek immigrants replaced some. They came primarily from the mainland, and particularly after the 1967 military coup.

Departing parishioners often became church leaders in Woburn, Arlington, Lexington, Andover, and other communities. The deep commitment and rich sense of community that they brought with them proved to be inspiring and infectious. Many of the faithful throughout New England consider Somerville to be their mother church.

And many were present Friday, along with clergy from the surrounding communities, led by Rev. Fr. Theodore J. Barbas,

Chancellor of the Boston Metropolis. They marveled over the brilliant new icons produced as part of the restoration. Parish Council President Diane Karavitis welcomed all honored guests, among whom were Greek Consul General Symeon Tegos and Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne.

Iconography depicting the holy family, saints, and biblical events flourished in the two centuries after Jesus walked the earth. Following the Eleventh-Century schism between the Roman and Greek Churches, Roman media emphasized statuary, which the Eastern Church associated with paganism. But the continued development of Orthodox iconography is on breathtaking display at the Dormition Church.

In addition to enhancing worship, Father Anthony sees the icons as a means of sustaining community and communion with God. Congregants were asked to choose which of their patron or favorite saints they wished to memorialize, and each was dedicated by a parishioner as an expression of their love and generosity.

They call them their "windows to Heaven." And I certainly felt closer to Heaven when I was among them.



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 Sunday, 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 and Ceremony as a tribute to those who lost their lives defending the United States. The parade draws more than 80 groups and is followed by the City of Somerville Memorial Day Ceremony. Go to https://www.somervillema.gov/content/somerville-memorial-day-parade-and-ceremony 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 enriched 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.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

plans to celebrate her birthday and 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 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 Iona O'Brien, Danielle Scrima, Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Danny McLaughlin, Peggy Ryan Lookliss, Karen Ferullo, Tim Devin John Gore, Mary Champagne Adamson and Helen Mooney 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.

SHSSF's Annual \$10,000 Raffle was held last week but the Somerville High School Foundation is still accepting donations for this great scholarship program. To learn more visit www.shsscholarship.org.

Union Square Market Tours are back. Looking to learn more about Union Square's unique and diverse offerings? Come join us for a Union Square Market Tour. Union Square's numerous markets offer a wealth of culinary delights. These small markets are not only ethnically diverse – ranging from Brazilian to Bengali – they serve a surprisingly broad clientele, as well. Take a group tour with us and discover the delicious diversity of Union Square. Each group tour visits three markets. Tours are free but we highly encourage you to buy a few things during the tour. The next tour is next **Thursday, May 25**, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., starting at **Nibble Kitchen**, 1 Bow Mkt. Way, Somerville. To sign up use this link: https://forms.gle/1vmB6CwKG9kWZQ8y6

 and Parking Committee will hold a virtual (online) public hearing on Wednesday, May 31, on the City of Somerville Bike Network Plan. The hearing will start at 6 p.m. Community members may submit testimony either at the hearing or in writing. The hearing will offer an opportunity for community members to share thoughts, ideas, and concerns about the Bike Network Plan. The plan was developed via a one-and-a-half-year public engagement, research, and analysis process. Visit the city's website to learn more about the plan and how to attend or submit testimony at www.somervillema.gov.

Continued on page 20

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#875

- 1. What are students called before they graduate?
- original name for the Dick Tracy comic strip?
- 2. When did Memorial Day become a federal holiday?
- 8. What is the date of Superman's birthday?
- 3. What is the official birthplace of Memorial Day?
- 9. Bees communicate by touch, smell and what?
- 4. What is the original name for Memorial Day?
- 10. ho painted *The Persistence of Memory?*
- 5. When is National Cancer Survivor's Day?
- 11. Which berries are used to give gin is flavor?
- 6. When is World Bicycle Day?
- 12. What rock star was christened William Broad?

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Answers on page 14

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The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. Mulan has the highest kill-count of any Disney character.
 - 2. 3.6 cans of Spam are consumed each second.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD OUTDOOR FUN

ACROSS

- 1. Bryan of "Summer Of '69" fame
- 6. Lake in Provence
- 9. ____ good example
- 13. Hypotenuse/opposite side
- 14. Fuss, to Shakespeare
- 15. Pine
- 16. Filthy dough
- 17. Marxism or Taoism, e.g.
- 18. Skylit lobbies
- 19. Outdoor repast
- 21. Two-wheeling
- 23. Agreement word
- 24. Climbing turf
- 25. "I wish I _____, I wish I might..."
- 28. Cracked by yegg
- 30. Cowardly color
- 35. Slightly (2 words)
- 37. Matterhorn location
- 39. Charles III's ex
- 40. She played Carla on "Cheers"
- 41. Nev.'s neighbor
- 43. Rotisserie skewer
- 44. Indianapolis team
- 46. Underwater "nose'
- 47. Color of a bruise
- 48. Trying experience 50. "The Breakfast _____
- 52. p in mph
- 53. Ranee's husband
- 55. ____ de plume
- 57. Gather berries, e.g.
- 60. Water slaloming
- 63. Soft single in baseball
- 64. Sun "kiss"
- 66. Beau's and Jeff's acting dad
- 68. Cut-down sailing sheep
- 69. How many "if by sea?"
- 70. Have effect
- 71. Gibbons, e.g.
- 72. Coniferous tree
- 73. Rejuvenate or renovate

DOWN

- 1. Knee-related acronym
- 2. Make pretty (2 words)
- 3. Mushroom spore sacs
- 4. Shawn Mendes' 2016 hit

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CROSSWORD



- © StatePoint Media
- 5. Parts of a play
- 6. Secular
- 7. Commercial break clips
- 8. Fast food option
- 9. Looking for aliens org.
- 10. Get bacon?
- 11. H.S. math class
- 12. All Nippon Airways, acr.
- 15. Rattled on
- 20. Writer Asimov
- 22. Like icee
- 24. Not an original
- 24. Not an origina
- 25. Call to Polo
- 26. Opposite of adore
- 25. Spresse of autore
- 27. Triangular road sign
- 29. Capture it!
- 31. Speech defect
- 32. Drink like a cat (2 words)
- 33. Chilled (2 words)

- 34. Balloon filler
- 36. U.K. art gallery
- 38. Place for a house plant
- 42. Get an F
- 45. Serape, alt. sp.
- 49. Jet follower
- 51. Water-heating apparatus
- 54. Bulwark
- 56. Hundred Acre Wood creator
- $57.\,Wing\ motion$
- 58. Exude
- 59. Fish eggs, pl.
- 60. Winter precipitation
- 61. Person, place or thing
- 62. Swirling vortex
- 62 *D. ... C 1.:1.:.
- 63. *Part of a bikini
- 65. Leave speechless
- 67. Morning condensation
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Legislative Matters Committee meeting considers current matters of interest

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

The City of Somerville Legislative Matters Committee, met with five items on the agenda to discuss the following. The enforcement of annual reporting on the ordinance to safeguard vulnerable road users. As well as the code of ordinances being amended by requiring the mayor to annually submit a report on housing status to the Legislative Matters Committee.

Additionally, the Committee discussed amending Sections 7-41, 7-43, 7-44, and 7-47 of the Code of Ordinances related to

Fair Housing and amending the Code of Ordinances to include non-discrimination provisions based on relationship status. The last item for discussion was that the City Council and the City of Somerville formally recognize the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council.

Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, the Legislative Matters Committee chair, led most of the meeting's discussions, such as the discussion on the request to extend the non-discrimination policy to cover discrimination in a housing context to protect how individuals define their families from housing discrimination in Somerville.

Additionally, the enforcement of annual reporting on the ordinance to safeguard vulnerable road users was discussed in the meeting. The update provided was that there has now been an initiative for all city and city-contracted vehicles to have inspections and inspection stickers for vehicles. Thus, if a vehicle fails an inspection, the vendor would, in turn, have to correct the failed criteria and reschedule a reinspection at no cost to them. Those responsible for this initiative reported to the committee that they are currently working on generating the annual report for fiscal year 2023 in the near future.

Regarding the item sent for discussion about the code of ordinances being amended by requiring the mayor to annually submit a report on the status of housing to the Legislative Matters Committee: Representatives commented that the office has a vast majority of the information that had been requested, specifically information about affordable units of housing but are having a more challenging time accessing the

information on market rate unrestricted privately developed housing on which data was requested. But they are looking into the possibility of obtaining said information.

The issue was left in committee for further discussion at a later date. Chair Davis suggested that the request for the City Council and the City of Somerville to formally recognize the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council be moved to a public hearing format at the next city council meeting on May 25. The motion was approved with five voting in favor.

Dorothy's Corner

Steak Quesadilla

This recipe does require a little more time to make, but it's worth it in the end, especially since a majority of these items can be prepared in advance. Bursting with flavor from a bit of heat, a touch of sweetness and a tad of sourness or referred to as agrodolce in Italian, will surely have your taste buds craving more.

Flank Steak 1-1 1/4 lbs

Chimichurri Sauce

Fresh Cilantro (1 Cup Chopped)
Fresh Parsley (Flat Leaf 1 Cup Chopped)
Red Wine Vinegar (2-3 Tablespoons)
Extra Virgin Olive Oil (1/2 Cup)
Garlic (1 Clove, Finely Minced)
Serano Chili (Thinly Sliced)
Green Onion (Thinly Sliced)
1 Lime (Zested & Juiced)
Salt & Pepper to taste

Guacamole Recipe * see link below.

8 Corn Tortillas (Taco Size) Sweet Potato, Roasted (Peeled, Cubed into 1" pieces)

Orange (Peeled & Sectioned)

https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-section-citrus-fruits-2216975

Sour Cream 1/2 Cup Sriracha (1 Teaspoon)

Starting with the chimichurri sauce, place the chopped herbs, garlic, chili, green onion, and lime zest in a small bowl and blend well. Add the vinegar, lime juice and 1/2 of the olive oil and blend. Taste, if it's too acidic, add a little more olive oil until it meets your satisfaction. It may not take the whole amount of olive oil. Add a pinch of salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour or two, or make a day ahead.

Prepare the guacamole. Please see link to previously posted recipe. http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/75451

Prepare the orange. See above link on how to section/supreme an orange.

Set oven at 375°. Coat the sweet potato with a teaspoon of olive oil and a pinch of salt & pepper. Place on a lined baking sheet and bake until fork tender, about 10-12 minutes. This can also be done a day in advance.

Blend the sour cream and Sriracha in a small bowl and put aside.

Once you're ready to cook the steak,



season with salt & pepper. Using a grill pan or your regular grill, make sure you oil the surface and grill for 8-10 minutes per side (rare to medium rare). Once done, let it rest on a cutting board for about 15 minutes. In the meantime, char the corn tortillas on either the grill or grill pan. Just enough to get a little color onto both sides. Once done, thinly slice the steak against the grain on the bias. This will be a very tender piece of meat. You're now ready to assemble the quesadillas. On a plate, place

the tortilla in the middle, add about 4 slices of meat on top of the tortilla, add 2 teaspoons of the chimichurri sauce over the meat, add some sweet potato pieces, place the second tortilla over the top, add a scoop of guacamole on top and garnish with 2 pieces of orange and spoon some of the sour cream Sriracha sauce over the top. Garnish with sweet potato pieces and cilantro.

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

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City of Somerville **PLANNING BOARD**

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2413851766089736800

Webinar ID: 423-176-747

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052 Access code: 177-474-415

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

16 & 20 Medford Street

Somerville Living, LLC seeks approval of a Major Amendment to a previously approved general building in the MR4 zoning district (P&Z 21-057), which required Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit for Household

16 & 20 Medford Street

Somerville Living, LLC seeks a Special Permit for Parking Relief from the minimum parking requirements in the MR4 zoning district.

366 Broadway

Somerville Living, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story LEED Gold and Net-Zero Ready apartment building and establish a Household Living principle use for 58 dwelling units in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit for Household Living.

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

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov

5/17/23, 5/24/23 The Somerville Times

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: Draw 7 Park Redevelopment Project LOCATION: off Noonan Place, Somerville, MA

PROPONENT: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before _May 31,2023_

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-621). Conies of the ENF may be obtained from:

Mel Higgins - Weston & Sampson Engineers 55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100 Reading MA 01867 (978) 573-4156

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Somerville where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

5/24/23 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, June 20, 2023** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act. Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 - 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5541495054847015775

Webinar ID: 602-485-235

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8422 Access Code: 901-838-281

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HPC.ALT 2023.20 - 192 Central Street Applicant: Heladio Salgado

Owner: Guy Morllo

The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace wood gutters with aluminum gutters.

HPC.ALT 2023.21 - 59 Cross Street

Applicant: John Hecker, for Spencer Preservation Group Owner: Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an existing

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

HPC.DMO 2023.03 - 234 Pearl Street

Applicant: Barros Properties LLC

Owner: Stuart Pitchel, Trustee of 234 Pearl Street Realty Trust The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

HPC.DMO 2021.06 – 38 Laurel Street

Applicant: Shang Yang Owner: Same as Applicant

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

5/24/23 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via <u>www.storagetreasures.com</u> on 6/14/2023 at 12:00PM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Jamal Smith unit #344MZ; Melissa Ewer unit #4632. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

5/24/23 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING **PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Traffic and Parking on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 6:00 PM, on the proposed first-ever citywide Somerville Bike Network Plan.

Requesting approval of the Citywide Bicycle Network Plan.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
- https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4392561478585691221
 You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to <u>cityclerk@somervillema.gov</u>, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS. CITY CLERK CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

5/17/23, 5/24/23 The Somerville Times



CCITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT IFB #23-64

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

Emergency Tree Service

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpre https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after 05/24/2023. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: 06/08/2023 at 2PM EST. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more

5% Bid Deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

Felisa Garate Procurement Analyst 617-625-6600 x3406

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TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, **CONTACT US**

BY 12 PM MONDAY

PHONE: 857-488-5138

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for a Transfer and a Change of Location of a Wine and Malt ackage License, from Himgiri Enterprises Inc. d/b/a K-2 Beer and Wine, 500 Medford St. to Vatika Corporation d/b/a 350 Food Mart, 350

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWe-

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- 1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93
- Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.

 2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5351579706561687128. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
- 3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to <u>licensing@somervillema.gov</u>. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

5/24/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Private Patio Seating, for New England Neapolitan Assembly Row LLC, d/b/a Salt and Stone, 463 Assembly Row.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWe-

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- 1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- 2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5351579706561687128. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

5/24/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Flatbread Somerville, Inc. d/b/a Flatbread Company, 45 Day St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- 1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5351579706561687128. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Area Celeste LLC, d/b/a Celeste, 21 Bow St

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the Licensing Commission on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating and Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Thai J&J LLC, d/b/a Siam

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWe-

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5351579706561687128. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Cosecha Corp., d/b/a La Cosecha, 85 Broadway

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform

have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5351579706561687128. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, June 5, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating and Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Restaurante Turistico Machu Picchu, d/b/a Machu Picchu, 311 Somerville Ave.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, June 5, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating and Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Bow Street Charm Corp., d/b/a Fuki Japanese Cuisine, 16 Bow St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
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5/24/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, June 5, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an All Forms 7 Day Alcohol License — City Wide - Chapter 142 Acts of 2016 License and an Entertainment by Devices License Indoors, for Pinky Swear Inc. d/b/a Junebug, 251-251A Washington St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- 2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5351579706561687128. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, June 5, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):

Application for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Barra.Bars LLC, d/b/a Barra, 23A Bow St.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- 1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly
 as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting:
 https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5351579706561687128.
 You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will
 then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an
 email with instructions to join the webinar.
- 3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveved to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

5/24/23 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website:
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 06/18/2023

Pro Tech Towing notice to owners. The following abandoned motor vehicles will be privately sold unless claimed:

Car information	VIN#	Last registered owner	Address	
2008 Mercedes E Class	WDBUF87X48B244279	Alex Rosa Rodrigues	65 Garden Cir. # 4 Waltham, MA 02452	
2006 GMC C6500	1GDJ6C1396F411282	BKK Trucking Inc.	132 Pleasant St. Suite A Woburn, MA 01801	
			771 N. Gardenview Ter. Crystal River FL	
2008 Nissan Rogue	JN8AS58V58W132180	Angeleka Mae King	34429	
2009 Toyota Camry	4T4BE46K39R092271	Iouri Kapoustine	52 Troy Lane Waban, MA 02468	
2015 Dodge Dart	1C3CDFBB1FD422609	Paul E. Nelson	133 Pine St. Waltham, MA 02453	

Date of Sale **06/18//2023**. A 5-day notice to the Waltham Police Department Chief will be provided before sale. Location: Pro Tech Towing, 205 Willow St. Waltham, MA, Phone: 781-894-5058

5/24/23 The Somerville Times

Ward 3 Democratic Committee to hold caucus to choose delegates to state convention

The Caucus will be held to choose up to 10 delegates and 4 alternates.

On Saturday, September 23, delegates will gather at the Tsongas Center in Lowell to adopt a Party Agenda and/or Platform by a majority vote of Convention delegates present and voting based upon the recommendation, subject to amendments, of the Party Agenda or Platform Committee. Resolutions may be developed through a process beginning with caucuses of local Democrats.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Somerville 16 years old by May 23, 2023 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting massdems.org/massdems-convention. The 2023 Convention will be in person at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, MA on September 23.

The caucus will be followed by a regular meeting of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee. An agenda will follow. Agenda items are welcome.

Contact Ward 3 Chair, Michael Grunko at mgrunko1@gmail.com if you have any questions.

OBITUARY

Francis (Frank) X. McCann



Francis (Frank) Xavier Mc-Cann, 75, of Londonderry, NH passed away at home Wednesday May 17, 2023, surrounded by his caring family. Frank was born and raised in Somerville, MA and was a son of the late Dominic and Dorothy (McDonald) McCann. He was happily married for 54 years to his wife Cynthia (Day) McCann. They have been residents of Londonderry for the past 49 years.

Frank served in the US Army Reserve from 1967 to 1973. He became an electrician and was employed by Anheuser Busch in the maintenance department for 33 years, prior to his retirement in 2010. Frank was a retired member of Teamsters Local 633 of NH and a Life Member of the American Legion. Frank enjoyed his retirement. His most special experiences were traveling and being surrounded by his family and close friends.

In addition to his wife, Frank is survived by his daughter and her husband Patricia & Stephen Fennell of Raymond, NH, his son Francis X. Mc-Cann, Jr., of Thornton, NH, a son and his wife Timothy S. & Melissa McCann of Londonderry, six grandchildren, Rachel McCann, Kevin Fennell, Allison Fennell, David Anderson, Shayleigh McCann and Tricia McCann. His sisterin-law, Diane Parker of Watertown, MA, a niece, Lisa Tucker of Port Leyden, NY, Jeffrey McCann of SC., Thomas and James Parker of Il. In addition to his parents, Frank was predeceased by his brother Brian J McCann in 2003.

After cremation, there are no public services at this time. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: VNA of Manchester and Southern NH, 1070 Holt Avenue Suite 1400, Manchester, NH 03109.

Somerville's Memorial Day Parade returns this year



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Department of Veterans' Services are pleased to announce Somerville's Memorial Day parade will return this year on Sunday, May 28 (rain date: May 29).

This year's event will be the first time Somerville has hosted a parade on Memorial Day weekend since 2016. The city's annual remembrance ceremony will immediately follow at Veterans Cemetery to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country.

The parade will step off at noon from Davis Square, proceeding west on Holland Street through Teele Square and onto Broadway, ending at the Veterans Cemetery between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street.

The ceremony will feature a wreath laying and remarks by Mayor Ballantyne, City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen, Director of Veterans' Services Ted Louis-Jacques, and several members of the local Veterans community.

Somerville officer responds to call for a choking baby while on detail



On May 18, Officer Thomas Lambert was on a construction detail when he heard a call on the radio for a choking baby. He ran to the location and was the first one on the scene. The baby was blue and not breathing when he got there. He immediately turned the baby over and started back thrusts until the baby spit up what appeared to be clumps of formula. He continued rubbing his back and the baby began breathing. Shortly after Somerville Fire arrived and put a breathing mask on the baby. The child was transported to a local hospital to be evaluated.

— Somerville Police Dept.

Lyndell's Bakery Sean Collier Memorial Scholarship Fund goal met

Lyndell's Bakery is extremely proud to announce that thanks to the generosity of its customers, the \$100,000 goal of the Sean Collier Memorial Scholarship Fund was met after this past Marathon weekend in April.

Once again, the bakery contributed \$1 for every half moon sold during the three day weekend, and this year's total pushed the grand total to over \$108,000.

"We're ecstatic," remarked Bill Galatis, owner of Lyndell's.

"We achieved our goal because customers still care about the ultimate sacrifice Sean Collier made when he was gunned down in 2013. His memory will live on through this permanent endowment at Somerville High School."

Although the goal was met, Lyndell's has decided to sponsor one last fundraiser next year during Marathon weekend 2024. Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the fundraising activities and give the fund a chance to grow to \$125,000.

The Sean Collier Memorial Scholarship Fund is a separate permanent endowment fund under the auspices of the Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation. Each year recipients of this fund are awarded \$1,000 scholarships.

For more information about Lyndell's Bakery, go to Lyndells.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.

Bike Plan has merit, but not for Highland

More public input and process is needed

By Howard E. Horton, Esq.

The City's new Bike Network Plan is comprehensive and, generally, well-thought out in its attempt to make biking safer – and, of course, the plan has had a lot of input from bike riders. More than 50 new miles of interior streets and roads will be impacted by new bike lanes, safety markings and related equipment. But, what is less apparent is how these changes will impact parking, automobiles and other users of our streets - as these new bikeable miles are all contained within Somerville's very small footprint of 4.2 square miles.

With a growing population which will approach 100,000 in the next decade (back to pre-93 days); a huge housing boon; and, the electrification of cars, we need to assure we have a balanced approach to all of our public ways. It is an admirable objective of the

new bike plan that "every resident" of Somerville should have free and ready access to a bike. The problem is that not every resident wants a bike, and many are actually unable to use a bike to get around the City (especially in cold months) to accomplish day to day objectives like shopping, banking, visiting neighbors and accessing professional offices.

Of particular concern is the Network Plan's design for Highland Avenue. A major spine for the City, and a street that is steeped in tradition, the plan to incorporate two bike lanes running in either direction is not tenable. This would cause substantial parking displacement at a time when both ends of Highland (the Central school campus and government center on the East – and Davis Square on the West) already have inadequate parking. Housing along Highland continues to grow, unabated, with no City requirements for onsite parking - but with the average household still holding on to an average of 1.1 cars. Unlike, Broadway, Highland is too narrow for bike paths - and it is not surprising it is one of the most frequently complained of street for bikers. Along Highland, we have many small businesses, churches and professional offices which rely on foot traffic and car parking to remain viable. Some are minority owned or centered, and many employ people of color. We cannot sacrifice these for the purpose of expanding biking when there are good alternatives.

We need to remember that Somervision 2040, while bullish on improving and expanding bike riding, was just as bullish on balancing equities for small businesses, minority populations, persons with disabilities, the elderly and young families – many of whom will not be using bikes in their daily Somerville

lives. But, an even more compelling reason to abandon the bike plan for Highland, is that just a few hundred yards away, we have the parallel Community Path, which is an excellent and even safer alternative for east/west biking in the City.

The advent of the Network Bike Plan also elucidates the need for more public process and public hearings about our public ways. Currently, it does not appear that the City has a standard requirement for public hearings when it comes to changes in the disposition of a public way. Even the Massachusetts Department of Transportation held public hearings when it redesigned some intersections of stateowned roads in Somerville. Why is the local process less deserving of the same? In fact, the City Council would be wise to amend the Charter to require that the Traffic and Parking Commission hold public hearings before changing the status of any street – whether for bikes, directionality, or fixed facilities and should have a requirement (as we do with Zoning) to provide advance notice to abutters of proposed changes – we don't need a municipal agency making these kinds of decisions about our streets in absentia.

Again, the Bike Network Plan is a very good piece of work – but, it should be considered a starting point for conversation—not the finish line. And, in the case of Highland Avenue, well.... some things in the City just merit conservation.

Howard Horton is a member of the Board of Directors of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce; He previously served as Co-Chair of Somervision 2040; as Chair of the Somerville Zoning Board; and in the respective Somerville administrations of Mayor Ralph and Mayor Brune.

Four new Firefighters graduate Academy



Four new Somerville firefighters successfully graduated from the Boston Fire Regional Academy on May 11, 2023. They have received their assignments and will report to fire companies this week. Pictured are (L to R) Zachary Avery, Joseph Nutile, Chief Charles Breen, Mark Scullari and Mark Atwater.

— Photo courtesy of Joseph Brooks

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



COMMENTARY

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Figuring Out the Sewer and Water Financing Package



By Wilfred Mbah Candidate for Somerville City Councilor at Large

We attended the May 15 hearing on the FY2024 Sewer and Water rates at which the city agencies proposed increases of 12% for water and 17.5% for sewer service. For an average household,

the combined annual bill would rise from \$900-\$1000 to \$1,030-\$1,250.

This will be a significant burden for many families and it exceeds the gradual annual cost growth that the Mayor and City Council approved in 2019 and 2021 in the Capital Improvement Plan and its accompanying financial/rate strategy.

We have begun to review the numbers and we think that there are adjustments that the city can make to minimize these rate hikes. We urge the City Council to consider some policy and financing adjustments.

1. What are the main revenue and cost projections for Sewer and Water services?

Back in 2021, the Mayor and City Council received a detailed feasibility and financial study of all sewer and water projects, which were planned over ten years. We considered the capacity of the city to manage and carry out this construction work, simultaneously with operating the systems.

The study reached the conclusion that an ambitious program of improvements – including the major work of separating drainage and sanitary sewers, could be done. It would require a steady increase of rates -- 10% water and 10.5% sewer -- each year. To mitigate the impact on rate-payers and even out the "spikes" in revenue and costs year to year, the City Council took four actions:

- For the lowest income households, we created a subsidy fund;
- For elderly residents, veterans and disabled individuals, we added a sewer/water discount to the existing property tax discount that these persons can claim;
- We created Water and Sewer Stabilization funds to receive any surplus rate revenues, "free cash" surplus from the city budget, and developer contributions, to be appropriated, as needed, for project costs;
- Last year the Council also directed into the stabilization funds money from COVID/ARPA.

Today, the Mayor and City Council must try to understand why the moderate annual rate strategy, put into place only three years ago, seems unable to stay on course.

What factors are now pushing sewer and water costs beyond the projections? Are shortfalls in revenue occurring? Can they make changes in the capital projects or financing to diminish the need for higher rates?

2. The major cost factors and possible ways to adjust them

Looking at the Sewer and Water budgets for the past three years, the numbers show the gradually growing revenue that was predicted, rising to a total in FY 2023 of \$17.5 million Water and \$29 million Sewer. Adding the proposed 12% and 17% rate increases would result in revenue of about \$19 million Water and \$33 million Sewer. This adds up to a combined increase of \$5 million, of which about \$2 million is the unplanned extra (the difference of 12% and 17.5% over the planned 10% and 10.5%).

Higher construction costs and interest rates are pushing up the total project costs of the city's main infrastructure work: (a) the on-going work of separating the sanitary and storm water mains, (b) the Poplar Street Pump Station, and (c) the smaller projects of metering, lead pipe and water main replacements. Long term these projects total over \$500 million.

The pump station will require a bond issue of \$89 million that (at current high interest rates) will add require \$5 million per year in debt service. In FY2024, it will also need \$13 million in direct spending (coming through the Stabilization fund). The other smaller projects will require a combined \$3.5 million.

Could some savings be realized by delaying some of smaller jobs or by stretching out the pump station bond issue over two or three years? This would probably be inefficient in the long run but could diminish the short-term revenue need. Slowing down the other smaller projects might also accumulate a few savings.

Higher assessment to the Metro Regional Water Authority will be required to pay for our water delivery from the reservoirs and our sewage outflow and treatment. The water assessment increase will be 0.25% in FY2024, and will add only about \$250,000 to the annual cost of \$10 million. The sewer assessment will be much larger – it will rise 5% over the total of \$16 million – that is, about \$808,000.

Possible alternative revenue sources should also be considered by the Mayor and City Council. In past years, they have been appropriating into the Stabilization funds some free cash surplus monies from the city operating budget, some developer contributions and COVID/ARPA grant funds. This can be seen in the following Chart which shows that last July three transfers of free cash and grant funding were made.

Table 5: Sewer and Water Capital Stabilization

	30 Sept 21	30 June 22	FY22 end add	31 Dec 22	31 Mar 23
Water Capital Stabilization	5,097,712.71	4,683,813.42	600,000	3,970,807	4,003,864
Sewer Capital Stabilization	8,634,038.00	11,120,569.47	2,400,000	11,219,961	11,311,164
•			1,300,000		

In the presentation on May 15, the city agencies said that they would draw \$5 million from the Sewer fund for the Poplar Pump Station, along with \$10 million ARPA and \$2.5 million other federal grant monies. This will allow the bond issue to be set at \$89 million, rather than the total \$102 million. The \$5 million withdrawal will leave \$6 million in the Sewer account and \$4 in the Water account, and it may be possible to find more free cash when the FY2023 city operating budget books are closed in July.

Another possible revenue source might be additional contributions from the developers, whose projects are in construction or in planning process. The city expects 2 to 3 million ft2 of new research/commercial space, along with some 700 new residential units. These will all be new sewer and water rate payers – thus increasing direct revenue.

They have also benefitted from the city's infrastructure expansion projects – which has made it possible to have larger buildings in more redevelopment zones. Thus, there could be justification for requiring each new development to make an additional contribution. This could take the form of a surcharge to the fees for a building permit, an occupancy permit or a utility hook up permit.

The city has already organized the mechanisms of tax increment financing – DIF and TIF – in three zones: Assembly Square, Union Square and Boynton Yards. Part of the general property tax revenue paid in these zones is diverted directly toward the sewer, water and other infrastructure financing. (The diversion will last for twenty years.) Similar mechanisms might be applied to other zones or to specific project categories (individual lab buildings).

Adding another schedule of water and sewer rates for large volume water users may be another revenue strategy. The city now calculates the sewer and water rates on two different tables -- one for residential and another for commercial/industrial buildings. It might be possible to create a third distinct rate schedules for buildings or uses that use more water – such as bio-tech labs (compared to office buildings) or restaurants (compared to retail shops). They would pay a somewhat higher rate given their larger volume needs.

These ideas suggest that the City Council could find some more ways to mitigate the higher sewer and water rates. We encourage them to make the effort.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. This week's report is on the latest fundraising and expenditure numbers for the state's 160 representatives' campaign committees from the latest filing period of April 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023. It also includes how much money each representative has on hand as of April 30, 2023. The numbers are from the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

To get more information and details on any representative's fundraising and expenditures, go to www.ocpf.us Click on "Filer listing" under "Browse candidates" and then type the name of your representative in the box that says "Filter by name" in the upper left-hand corner of the page.

MOST AMOUNT OF CASH ON HAND:

The representative with the most cash on hand is House Ways and Means Chair Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston) who currently has close to \$1 million (\$980,358.10) in his campaign account.

Rounding out the top 10 representatives with the most cash on hand are House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) \$498,253.62; Reps. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy) \$388,310,44; House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading) \$252,206.22; Tram Nguyen (D-Andover) \$233,438,43; Angelo Puppolo (D-Springfield) \$219,071.90; Jeffrey Roy (D-Franklin) \$196,404.88; Mike Moran (D-Brighton) \$194,346.38; Tony Cabral (D-New Bedford) \$174,282.71; and Bud Williams (D-Springfield) \$156,097.98.

LEAST AMOUNT OF CASH ON HAND:

The representative with the least cash on hand is Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) whose campaign account currently has a balance of \$124.01.

Rounding out the bottom ten representatives with the least cash on hand are Reps. Christopher Flanagan (D-Dennis) \$158.97; Samantha Montano (D-Boston) \$171.47; David Vieira (R-Falmouth) \$274.72; David Robertson (D-Tewksbury) \$476.58; Manny Cruz (D-Salem) \$487.41; Michelle DuBois (D-Brockton) \$689.83; Adrianne Ramos (D-North Andover) \$731.73; Paul Frost (R-Auburn) \$835.21; and Peter Durant (R-Spencer) \$828.38.

RAISED THE MOST MONEY:

The representative who raised the most money is Rep. Richard Haggerty (D-Woburn) who raised \$29,308.33.

Rounding out the top five representatives who raised the most money are Reps. Brad Jones (R-North Reading) \$24,178.93; Carole Fiola (D-Fall River) \$21,578.23;

Daniel Cahill (D-Lynn) \$20,560.91; and Jeff Roy (D-Franklin) \$19,119.12.

RAISED THE LEAST MONEY:

There are 51 representatives who raised \$0. each.

SPENT THE MOST MONEY:

The representative who spent the most money is Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston) who spent \$40,449.99.

Rounding out the top five representatives who spent the most money are House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy) \$11,693.98; Mike Moran (D-Brighton) \$11,386.95; Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester) \$10,203.94; and Kevin Honan (D-Boston) \$9,280.04.

SPENT THE LEAST MONEY:

Ten representatives spent \$0: Reps. Brian Murray (D-Milford); Vanna Howard (D-Lowell); Colleen Garry (D-Dracut); Carol Doherty (D-Taunton); Tom Walsh (D-Peabody); Susan Gifford (R-Wareham); Fred Barrows (R-Mansfield); Peter Durant (R-Spencer); Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica); and Alyson Sullivan (R-Abington).

TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF APRIL 30, 2023:

Here is the total amount of cash your local representatives have on hand.

Rep. Christine Barber \$86,454.24 Rep. Mike Connolly \$26,229.07 Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven \$35,902.81

TOTAL MONEY RAISED IN APRIL 2023:

Here is the total amount of money your local representatives raised in April 2023.

Rep. Christine Barber \$767.23 Rep. Mike Connolly \$0.00 Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven \$1,276.60

TOTAL MONEY SPENT IN APRIL 2023:

Here is the total amount of money your local representatives spent in April 2023.

Rep. Christine Barber \$399.64 Rep. Mike Connolly \$1,501.35 Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven \$519.56

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL – The following bills were the subject of public hearings this week:

AIRLANES AND LASER POINTERS (H 1287) -

Would impose a \$5,000 fine and/or five-year prison sentence on anyone who directs a laser pointer at an aircraft or operates an unmanned aerial vehicle within the flight path of an aircraft.

"Aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft is called lasing and can cause temporary blindness and confusion to pilots as they attempt to descend towards a landing strip," said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). "Statistics show that lasing is on the rise, with over 9,500 cases reported in 2022. With over 375,000 flights out of Logan Airport each year, carrying over 35 million passengers, lasing poses a serious public safety risk to pilots, passengers and the community below. With the passage of this bill, we can set a strong precedent that this dubious behavior will not be tolerated and will carry serious consequences."

ELIMINATE THE \$456 MINIMUM EXCISE TAX FOR CORPORATIONS (H 2842) – Would eliminate the \$456 minimum excise tax for business corporations.

"The corporate minimum excise tax holds small, newly created corporations to the same tax standards as large, multi-national corporations, regardless of whether they actually turn a profit," said House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "Eliminating the minimum excise tax would provide assistance to many small businesses and encourage business formation in the commonwealth, which would have a positive impact on the state's economy."

MEDICATION FOR MENTAL ILLNESS

Would prohibit health plans from requiring prior authorization or step therapy for drugs prescribed to treat a serious mental illness. Step therapy requires the patient to try less expensive options before "stepping up" to drugs that may work better but cost more.

Sponsor Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) said this legislation will reduce restrictions for patients with serious mental illness and avoid costs in hospital visits and incarceration. He noted that untreated or poorly treated serious mental illnesses can lead to increased risks of homelessness and interaction with the judicial, legal and police systems.

BURIAL FOR VETERANS (H 3517) – Would increase state reimbursement to families of veterans to cover the costs of burying the veterans.

"This current threshold has not been changed or updated for years," said sponsor Rep. Mike Kushmerek (D-Fitchburg). "The commonwealth of Massachusetts cares immensely about the treatment of veterans, as we are incredibly grateful for their service and Continued on page 17

Public Health and Safety Committee meeting addresses variety of current issues

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

On May 15, 2023, the City of Somerville Public Health and Safety Committee assembled to discuss updates on community engagement centers and the offering of basic need vending machines across the city. In addition, the meeting provided updates on creating a safe consumption/ overdose prevention site, the Taxi to Health program, and items sent for discussion by the chief of police.

Director Karin Carroll provided an update on the plans to establish community engagement centers in Somerville. The current engagement center is operated by The Somerville Homeless Coalition, which is pleased to announce that after a lot of challenges regarding the location of the center, they were able

to relocate their own offices and administrative offices to another building in order to allow for that space to serve as the engagement center instead.

The center is located in Davis Square on the lower level of the building containing the Boston Sports Club. Progress has reportedly been made on painting, basic furniture needs, internet access, and computer terminals. A highlight from the Coalition that was recently received was that one of their clients utilized the computer terminals provided to finish their housing application. The Coalition has now also offered a closet space and an area for coffee and snacks for clients.

The Coalition is still hiring staff and looking for a way to provide showers and laundry in the future due to the current challenge of the plumbing needing to be expanded to meet the center's needs.

"So, this is a huge need, and we are continuing to explore with them and the city and partners on how we can address this," said Director Caroll.

The Director further commented that other areas for expansion of services in the future might be medical support services for clients.

The Public Health and Safety Committee also discussed the option to explore the possibility of offering emergency contraceptive dispensers in designated city bathrooms as well as vending machines for other basic needs and Narcan. These supplies would be targeted toward low-income Somerville community members and youth.

The update provided by Legislative Liaison Neha Singh Singh

regarding safe consumption sites/ overdose prevention sites caused some questions within the committee from the Chair, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, and Ward 1 Councilor McLaughlin about the need for a concrete timeline to complete this project. The city council recently approved funding for modular units, but there continues to be a lack of timeline for the project.

McLaughlin expressed that the mayor in her midterm address stated that she would ensure the operation of safe consumption sites by the end of 2023 and that he was shocked when he heard that and hopes that her promise will follow through even though there is a current lack of a concrete timeline.

Lisa Robinson, the Director of Food Access and Healthy Communities, provided the committee with an update on the Taxi to Health program, which began because of residents' need for affordable food options in Somerville but no accessible way to get to these locations. Robinson noted that there was a high volume of requests for the service to be applied to non-emergency medical appointments, and the program could offer this. The committee chair asked Robinson why the program could not provide transportation to medical emergencies. Robinson remarked that the taxi company they currently partner with doesn't provide medical emergency transportation.

The items sent by the Chief of Police for discussion by the committee were kept in the committee for further discussion later due to further deliberation needed.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

sacrifices. For families with limited finances, this legislation would ensure that veterans are buried with the dignity and respect that they so deserve."

RAISE ALLOWANCE FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS (H 626) – Would raise the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for nursing home residents from the current \$72.80 monthly to \$100 monthly. It also would give the residents an annual cost of living increase. The PNA pays for expenses not covered by Medicaid for nursing home residents.

Supporters say that the money, half of which is reimbursed with federal dollars, helps residents pay for clothing, shoes, phone calls, medicine, transportation, haircuts and other personal needs which help them maintain their dignity and well-being. They noted the \$72.80 monthly allowance has not been raised in 20 years.

"Increasing the allowance to \$100 would modernize the policy and allow residents of long-term care facilities increased independence with this simple solution," said sponsor Rep. Sean Garballey (D-Arlington).

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The principle of 'Polluters Pay' is simple: Those who created the damage should clean it up." — Rep. Steve Owens (D-Watertown) on his bill establishing a climate change superfund and promoting polluter responsibility designed to raise \$75 billion from top greenhouse gas polluters over the

next 25 years.

"Voters are concerned about the influence of special interest political spending—and particularly concerned about foreign influence on our elections. Current law prohibits foreign governments and foreign citizens (except lawful permanent residents) from spending money in state elections. Yet a loophole allows foreign money to enter our politics through political spending by corporations. The ... bill will ... help to close this loophole for our Massachusetts state elections." — Common Cause Massachusetts Executive Director Geoff Foster testifying in favor of a bill that would limit political spending by foreign-influenced corporations.

"The Fiscal Alliance Foundation is very pleased to play a prominent role in defeating this latest attempt to limit speech before an election. The proponent's goal here is to protect elected officials in power by limiting the ability for the public to speak up. This was an attempt by an activist professor and several activist organizations to subvert our rights." — Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, in response to Supreme Judicial Court's ruling upholding a decision by Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell striking down a proposed ballot question that sought to limit to \$5,000 the amount of money that can be donated to a Super PAC.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and enate were in session each week. Many leg-

islators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of May 15-19, the House met for a total of 57 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 23 minutes.

Mon. May 15	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:27 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.
Tues. May 16	No House session No Senate session
Wed. May 17	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. May 18	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:33 a.m. Senate 11:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Fri. May 19	No House session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

No Senate session

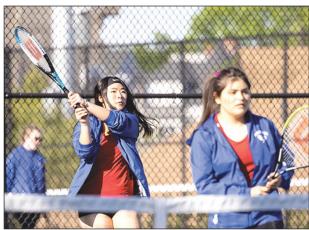
SHS Girls Tennis prevails over Revere

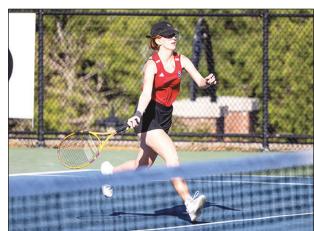
Somerville High School Girls Tennis took on Revere at Tufts on May 17. SHS honored their seniors as Girls Tennis finished their season with a 4-1 win over Revere.—Photos by Alex Fredette. To see more photos from this match visit: https://alexfredette.smugmug.com/Tennis/SHS-W-T-Revere/













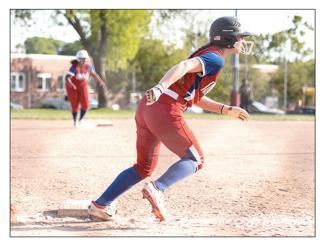
Somerville Girls Varsity Softball vs Matignon

SHS Girls Varsity Softball took on Matignon at Trum Field on May 18. It was an exciting, high scoring affair that came down to the wire. Somerville bats were alive in the bottom of the seventh but the Highlanders came up short, losing to Matignon 14-10. — Photos by Alex Fredette. To see more photos from this game visit: https://alexfredette.smugmug.com/Softball/SHS-SB-Matignon/













George and Martha Washington share their stories at Somerville Museum CONT. FROM PG 1

wife as she impersonated the historical figure by speaking on Martha's life events in a first-person narrative.

The crowd interacted with the speakers with more curiosity about the historical figure as she educated all on the relevance of Martha Washington to the nation and to the Greater Boston area. The second talk of the afternoon was about the exploits of George Washington around Massachusetts. The speaker was also dressed in character, as the former president, and gave his intel in first person as he developed on when and how the former president arrived in Boston in 1775. He highlighted how the Siege of

Boston was the opening phase of the American Evolution and how important this area was for the founding of the United States.

The events started at the beginning of the month, on May 4, and have been happening every two or three days since. The historical society has covered the Old Powder House, Milk Row Cemetery,

"Researching the History of Your Family & Old House" as well as the Prospect Hill Tower.

In the following week, there will be three events: "Burials, Restorations & Civil War Monument Talk", "Spark for the American Revolution – Raid on the Old Powder House" and finally, The Docent Opening of the

Powder House to close the preservation month festivities.

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission and the city of Somerville continue to highlight every year the historic importance of Somerville as a way to educate residents and indicate the great and rich history of the city.



















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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Medford St. behind the High School will be one-way starting as early as May 25, in order to accommodate a temporary Community Path detour. https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/green-line-extension

The 2023 Taste of Somerville takes place June 14, outside at Assembly Row, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Produced by the Somerville Chamber of Commerce Dining and Nightlife Group, the Taste of Somerville is a unique way to experience our dining and nightlife scene. For tickets and more information visit http://tasteofsomerville.org.

The City of Somerville's annual Water System Flushing Program has begun and will continue through late October. This annual program flushes 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. In most cases, residents will not notice any changes to their water service. However, some homes may experience a temporary, slight drop in water pressure and/or discolored water. 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. If any rust stains appear on wet laundry, it should not be dried in a dryer machine, and residents can call 311 (or 617-666-3311 from cell phones or outside the city) for a free bottle of rust remover. Residents will be notified via signage when their neighborhood will be affected by the flushing program. For more information, please contact the **Water Department** at water@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 5850.

Groups from all over Somerville will be testifying at City Hall on May 25, 7:00 p.m., at a City Council public hearing about their negative experiences with the city planning process for real estate development in their neighborhoods. At the hearing, residents and businesses will propose how to move forward to accomplish planning that is collaborative and development that minimizes displacement.

For the 13th year, SomerStreets: Carnaval is back. For this free event, bring the family for many activities and entertainment including: Let's Get Truckin', Esh Circus, Dunk Tank and get to know your local non-profits and community organizations. Shop 30+ artisan vendors and dance along with Grooversity and many

more live acts. Thanks to partners **East**Somerville Main Streets for organizing this event. And a warm shoutout to **Dave**Ortega for the vibrant poster design.

June 4, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. (rain date June 11) between McGrath and Franklin St.

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

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

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

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

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Boddy's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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On This Day in Kistery May 24

1543 - Nicolaus Copernicus publishes proof of a sun-centered solar system.

 $1607- Captain\ Christopher\ Newport\ and\ followers\ found\ the\ colony\ of\ Jamestown$

1610 – Sir Thomas Gates institutes "laws divine moral and marshal," a harsh civil code for Jamestown.

1624 – After years of unprofitable operation, Virginia's charter is revoked and it becomes a royal colony.

1764 – Boston lawyer James Otis denounces "taxation without representation," calling for the colonies to unite in opposition to Britain's new tax measures.

1844 - Samuel Morse taps out the first telegraph message.

1878 - The first American bicycle race is held in Boston.

1941 - The British battleship Hood is sunk by the German battleship Bismarck.

 $1951-\mbox{Willie}$ Mays begins playing for the New York Giants.

1961 - Civil rights activists are arrested in Jackson, Mississippi.

Sharing the Culture: Somerville's Asian Festival

By Beatriz Leite

For the second consecutive year, Somerville's Asian community gathered this past Friday, May 17, at the Aeronaut Brewing Company, for the Asian Festival to celebrate Asian arts and culture. The Asian & Asian American Family network of Somerville organized the event.

The community started gathering in 2021, through Zoom to connect all Asian families from

the city of Somerville. Last year, it was the first time where the community gathered in person to create the first Asian Festival. They hope it can become a yearly event now that the pandemic is not an issue anymore.

This year's event had the presence of two local Asian photographers and photojournalists, Keiko Hiromi and Sophie Park, who shared their experiences in the industry and how their culture has influenced and affected

how they worked and experienced photography. After the conversation, they gave a workshop to the children on how to take portraits. The kids took portraits of one another as the photographers guided them through it.

For the event, families that integrated into the community were encouraged to submit portraits of their loved ones, which were exhibited at the festival. The theme was love and joy, which was portrayed in the pictures.

The community shared images of their daily lives, travels, special occasions, meals, pets, and everything they associated with the theme and their culture.

On the outside part of the event, volunteers shared parts of many Asian cultures with their booths, which had activities such as making origami and tulsi planting. Marteen and his daughter were responsible for instructing the guests how to make origami.

"I was on a flight, and I had just learned how to make a flower (in origami), and I gave one to this girl," Marteen said. "She gave it back to me as a crane, and I spent the whole flight dismantling it, so I would understand how she made it."

The event lasted two hours, and the families were happy to gather once again and share their love and pride for their culture with all the guests.

— Photos by Beatriz Leite



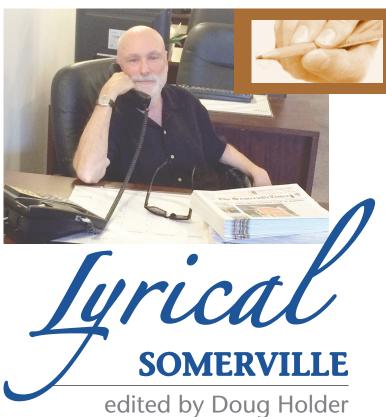












Meg Smith is a writer, journalist, dancer and events producer living in Lowell, Mass., and who spent part of her childhood in Somerville. In addition to The Somerville Times, her poetry has appeared recently in The Cafe Review, The Lowell Review, Muddy River Poetry Review, Poetry Bay, Acropolis Review, and



many more. She is author of five poetry books and a short fiction collection, *The Plague Confessor*. She welcomes visits to megsmithwriter.com.

Hudson Street House

Descending the steps from the Armory parking lot, I find my way through shadows to that nursery of ghosts, bright in their birth from green walls. They rise to the sound that stalks, even in dreams: crackling flames, but in fact, rain clasping the trees and sidewalks. And in that sleep, I learned: from bruises, and a broom spiraling from the sky, a child's only true witchery comes from the nearest fallen branch, to hold close, even in tears of flooding.

Angelus: The Namesake

Let me tell you about Irish lullabies
They are not tones so sweet and low
but the bells of prayer and war
carried over the waters that flow
through Dublin, the city
won back from the enslavers
who built it
and so, as her brother
takes his last breath in
his mouth full of blood,
my mother takes her first
and the cry of a new battle begins.

OFF THE SHELP

by Doug Holder

Somerville's Mila Cuda: A Weaver of a Web of Poetry

Recently, I caught up with Somerville poet Mila Cuda. A recent graduate of Wellesley College, she has weaved her poetry into film, slam performance, and other venues.

Doug Holder: You are from L.A. How has Somerville been for you as an artist, compared to the environs of California?

Mila Cuda: Somerville offers weather and walkability that Los Angeles simply cannot match. While I love Los Angeles, and am grateful to have been raised in the city of angels, it was time for a change. I was tired of planning my days around traffic, tired of the sparse landscape and – if you can believe it – the sunshine. As a poet who is inspired by nature and time, I love that Somerville allows me to experience the shifting of the seasons. I did not know the true meaning of winter until I moved to the East Coast. I did not know the shades of autumn or the joys of spring. The poetry scene in Los Angeles is vibrant and expansive, but I love how the city of Somerville encourages creativity within a closer community. I can attend The Moth, develop film, pick up fresh produce, return my library books and take a dance class all within a few blocks!

DH: You were lead poetry editor for the film *Summertime*. Tell us, how is it for a poet working in film?

MC: The film Summertime was an exciting collaboration unlike anything I had ever done. I worked with 25+ young poets to edit and weave our writing into a cohesive, cinematic narrative. The film was directed by Carlos López Estrada and premiered at Sundance 2020 before releasing in theaters nationwide the summer of 2021. I found that poetry and film are surprisingly alike; they have the ability to distill experiences and immense emotion down to their most essential images. While I have not continued to work in film, I hold this project close to my heart, primarily because I cherish the collaborative creative efforts that went into the making of Summertime, but also in part because it revealed to me the many ways poetry can evolve off the page.

DH: You studied at Wellesley College. Who were your mentors; who inspired you?

MC: Yes! I was lucky enough to study under three



wonderful poets: Frank Bidart, Dan Chiasson, and Octavio R. González. Each mentor offered a distinct and valuable insight. Bidart — whose poems I had memorized by heart, long before I knew he was a professor at Wellesley — taught me how a title can make or break a poem. Chiasson taught me to consider the shape of a poem, how enjambment can inform rhythm and setting. González taught me how to balance whimsy and rage. Other inspirations I hold close to my creative heart include Mary Oliver — of course —, Hanif Abdurraqib, Jamaal May, Naomi Shihab Nye, Imani Davis, Paul Tran, Tarik Dobbs, Richard Siken, Franny Choi … the list goes on and on and on.

DH: I noticed that you have been described as a Sapphic Slam poet. How would you describe that label?

MC: As a poet who came up in the spoken word scene, and whose queer identity is the heartbeat behind many poems, I have no qualms with the label, though I do feel I have evolved past "slam poet" as a descriptor. I don't perform often, let alone compete in poetry slams anymore. While that subculture is still alive – beautiful and thriving – Continued on page 23

Dear Joe

You're wearing your best beard, white, and thinned like winter hills, each strand for a child, now grown. You work lonely hours, but are still so loved. I'm looking to the woman asleep in the coffee shop while it rains. The night moves closer. I turn away from its darkening light.

— Meg Smith

Full Circle and Next Wave School 50th Anniversary celebration

Full Circle and Next Wave School celebrated their 50th Anniversary on Wednesday, May 18, with an open house at their new location, 81 Highland Ave. Started by concerned students, parents, and educators to meet the needs of students who left traditional schools, Full Circle and Next Wave faced many challenges in the early years. From gaining certification, to securing operating costs through non-profits and the contributions of individuals, to finding a place to call home, students, parents, educators, community groups and members, school committee members and mayors all played a role in getting the school to where it is today. Next Wave/Full Circle students graduate with the skill set needed to adapt to challenges and lead meaningful and productive lives.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



















Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

it has grown harder for me to find joy in performing. I say performing to distinguish from reading. I don't think I will ever tire of reading poems for an audience, letting the words speak for themselves without the added pressure and theatrics of slam poetry. Maybe one day I will find my way back, but for now I want to focus on cultivating a relationship between word and reader, experimenting with new forms and methods of expression.

DH: It seems you like all things spiders. Are you spinning a sort of web with your poems in order to capture the reader?

MC: I love this question, and I certainly do hope to capture the reader, in a non-threatening way – haha. The poem I have included below is titled Wordum Wrixlan, which is an expression that was used to describe the making of poetry in Old English. It means to weave together words. I learned this phrase in a class called The History of the English Language, a class I admittedly dropped out of as I struggled to find my footing - my sole takeaway being this concept of weaving words. Wordum Wrixlan reflects on my first year at Wellesley College, a time when my writing was heavy with sadness, a teenager struggling to find her place on this cold coast. Back then, I wrote out of necessity. Now, I write out of habit. Some weaver spiders eat their webs at dawn and construct new ones at night. I think of this action as a metaphor for my own writing. It is okay to write at night and delete it all at dawn, to remake and reinvent your art in the

name of efficiency, practice and joy.

DH: Tell us about your recent project with the Somerville Arts Council.

MC: Earlier this year, I was awarded a Literature Artist Fellowship from the Somerville Arts Council. For my community benefit project, I created mason jars full of poems – some my own, some by authors I admire – in honor of National Poetry Month, and placed them throughout Somerville, encouraging passersby to take a poem to keep with them. I wanted to find a way for folks to celebrate and engage with poetry, especially folks who maybe don't have the time to attend a workshop or read an entire collection. These jars can be found along the community path, by the new green line extension, on the Somerville library shelves. My hope is that people take a moment to pause and pocket a poem, carrying the words with them as encouragement or inspiration.

Wordum Wrixlan

At eighteen, impulse and daydream divided by silkscreen.

The commute to Cheever is two miles of blind spots, rounded up.

Each walk,
I want the wind
in the road to make ice

out of me stutter into stained glass.

I write to keep from spiraling, spinning, drifting, dancing into traffic.

At twenty-two, the urge to disappear disappears

& Oma asks where the poems have gone. I show her the steady weaver,

yanking sunlight from inside, scribbling threads to swallow at dawn.

Patient as an ocean brought to boil.
Still still.

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