



Inside:



Proceed with caution

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Parking fees to increase

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'Slice of the City' experience

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Amplifying AAPI voices at SHS



Bhavika Kalia's presentation to the School Committee outlined an initiative for amplifying AAPI voices at Somerville High School.

By Harry Kane

Somerville Youth Leader Bhavika Kalia presented an overview of her community-action project that aims to amplify AAPI voices through implementing culturally inclusive and comprehensive lessons into the curriculum at Somerville High School.

For Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Kalia spoke about the initiative at the May 18 School Committee meeting.

"I really wanted to take on this role because there were a lot of times where I felt invisible," said Kalia.

The Asian American population at SHS is around 5 percent, she says, and Kalia decided it was important to recognize individuals with origins in the Far East, Southwest Asia, or the Indian subcontinent by expanding the curriculum at the high school.

Her original idea for this project was to craft a proposal to establish an Asian *Continued on page 4*

Help Save Buddy's Diner!

By The Times Staff

Help a buddy out, and donate to Buddy's Diner on their GoFundMe page so it can reopen.

The historic diner located at 113 Washington Street in East Somerville has been shuttered for more than three years, but a restored sense of optimism after a period of hardship has provided renewed hope in the community that the diner will be saved.

"The diner is the only thing I have," said Owner Nicole Bairos, who explains they have been out of business since 2023, with financial troubles following collapsed sewer pipes that wreaked havoc on the business.

She bought the diner some 20 years ago and poured her heart and soul into the business. But for the past few years, her life has been on hold.

"I feel like I'm starting from *Continued on page 6*



A GoFundMe campaign and support from Somerville's Community Preservation Act are helping to fund the reopening of Buddy's Diner.

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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.








Attend the **FY27 Water and Sewer Rates Public Hearing**. The City of Somerville Water and Sewer Department invites all community members to a hybrid public hearing to review **proposed Water and Sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2027** on **Thursday, May 28**, at 6 p.m. Join in person at the Highlander Forum located at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.). This is a change of location from Franey Road to the High School. Virtually via Zoom: us06web.zoom.us/j/87092143821, Webinar ID: 870 9214 3821. If you're unable to attend but would like to share feedback, please send comments by email: water@somervillema.gov with the subject line "RATE HEARING." Comments must be received by 12 p.m. on May 28 to be conveyed to the Department during the hearing.

On **Saturday, May 30**, join the **third annual New England Hong Kong Festival** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **Seven Hills Park** in Somerville to celebrate the culture, food, and creativity of the Hong Kong community across the region. The event is free and open to all. Rain date is Sunday, May 31. Hosted during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month, this year's festival brings together 40 local vendors, artists, and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities. For more information, including full event listings and vendor updates, visit newenglandhkfest.com and follow @newenglandhkfest on Instagram and Facebook.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 27 – June 2 as provided by the National Weather Service

| DAY | CONDITIONS | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND |
|---|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
|  Wednesday May 27 | Partly Cloudy | 89°/60° | 2% | 15% | W 16 mph |
|  Thursday May 28 | Partly Cloudy | 67°/51° | 22% | 71% | NNE 11 mph |
|  Friday May 29 | Partly Cloudy | 69°/55° | 23% | 62% | N 6 mph |
|  Saturday May 30 | Rain | 57°/45° | 33% | 4% | NNW 15 mph |
|  Sunday May 31 | Partly Cloudy | 68°/50° | 15% | 2% | N 12 mph |
|  Monday June 1 | Partly Cloudy | 64°/51° | 25% | 2% | NNE 11 mph |
|  Tuesday June 2 | Partly Cloudy | 66°/54° | 5% | 16% | 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: **5AM – Dunkin' Donuts – Somerville**

Susan Tepper says:

Enjoyed the perspective on life and donuts in the wee hours of morning.

Tim K. says:

I remember not too long ago when the Union Square Dunkin' was open 24 hours, but the other night I went by this place around 8:00 and the place was in darkness. Welcome to 2026.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

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Unveiling of dual dog-people water fountain at Nunziato Dog Park

The city has a 'paw-fect' reason to celebrate. Community members and their furry friends are invited to a ribbon cutting for a dual water fountain for dogs and people on Tuesday, June 2, at Nunziato Field and Dog Park (7 Putnam St.) from 1 to 2 p.m. Rain date: Wednesday, June 3, from 3 to 4 p.m. Somerville K9 Team dogs Fluff and Missy, will join the officials gathering with the community to mark the occasion.

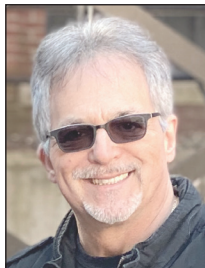
The event marks the debut of the park's newly installed dual drinking fountain, which includes separate spouts for dogs and people to keep both pups and their people refreshed through every game of fetch. Similar to other seasonal park fountains across the city, it will operate from May through September. We ask that dogs please be kept on a leash during the ceremony.

The water fountain is funded by Somerville's Community Preservation Act (CPA), which provides \$7 million in funding each year to support open space, recreation, historic preservation, and affordable housing projects. To learn more, visit somervillema.gov/cpa.

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

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

Proceed with caution



I used to love driving, but now I only drive when I have to.

I find myself staying in my house a lot lately. Oh yeah, winter just ended. That explains some of it, so I know the nice weather will force me to go out more.

Driving in the city is becoming too stressful for me. Actually, driving in general is on my list of things I'd just rather not do. I try to walk or use the T as much as I can, especially now that driving through the city has become more ... challenging.

I don't walk while looking down at my phone or while wearing headphones or earbuds. I also don't walk boldly and carelessly into a crosswalk, or pop out from behind a bush or parked car without acknowledging that any and all traffic, including bicyclists, notice me. I'm still very nervous walking because a lot of drivers are also looking at their phones, wearing

headphones or earbuds, or just preoccupied in general. You must be vigilant as you navigate through the chaos.

When we were kids, we used to walk or bike everywhere. It wasn't as crazy out there back then as it is now. Very seldom were we chauffeured around by our parents, but we were always headed somewhere seeking food, fun, and friends. Nothing stopped us. We also had those old orange buses with the comfortable, thick, stuffed seats to get us around for a dime.

One of our favorite places to walk to was Kemp's Hamburgers on Mystic Ave. on the Somerville-Medford Line. With very little money, we could all get our fill of burgers, Cokes, and fries. Thinking back now, it wasn't that long of a walk from where we would all meet at Powder House Park, but we still had to be careful crossing the streets. I also had to keep an eye on my little brother. Our walks to Kemp's were always an enjoyable trip. It was safer walking back then because drivers weren't as distracted as they are nowadays.



We also used to walk to The Bal-A-Roue roller skating rink, also on Mystic Ave. If it was dark, we would get a ride from one of the moms or dads, but during the day, we would just hoof it. Not having wheels never stopped us from getting somewhere.

Before we got our licenses, we also used the T, formerly called the MTA. We used to take the Green Line into Boston and hang around the Combat Zone or put on

our headbands and hit the Boston Common. Often, we'd just walk around and check out the people and the stores. Cheap fun!

We would also take the Blue Line all the way to Revere Beach, where about four of my buddies and I got jobs working on the Dodge'Em cars. Under-aged, uninsured, and dangerous, but not as scary as trying to get in and out and

Continued on page 11

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Is GoFundMe actually a realistic way to raise money during a financial emergency or important life event?

A: For many people — yes, it can be.

GoFundMe has become one of the most widely used fundraising platforms in the country, helping people raise billions of dollars each year for medical expenses, funeral costs, disaster recovery, education, temporary financial hardship, and other important needs.

Here are a few important things to understand:

♦ **Small contributions can add up quickly.**

Many successful campaigns are built not on a few large donations, but on many smaller contributions from friends, family,

coworkers, and community members.

♦ **Clear storytelling matters.**

The strongest campaigns usually communicate a clear, honest story that helps people understand both the need and the impact of their support.

♦ **Sharing and updates are important.**

Campaigns often perform better when regularly shared through social media, text messages, and personal networks — especially when updates keep supporters informed.

♦ **GoFundMe is no longer limited to medical emergencies.**

People now use crowdfunding for a wide range of situations, including housing transitions, memorial expenses, education costs, community projects, and unexpected financial setbacks.

♦ **It's important to stay realistic — but also hopeful.**

While many campaigns do not fully reach their fundraising goals — and some raise only modest amounts — well-organized campaigns with strong community support can still provide meaningful financial help and reduce pressure during difficult situations.

Bottom Line:

GoFundMe should usually be viewed as one possible financial support tool — not a complete financial plan. But for many people, it has still become a meaningful way to bring together community support during difficult moments. Often, the strongest campaigns are not the most polished — they are simply the most honest and clear.



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

Disclaimer: This column provides general financial information and should not be considered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.

Public hearing on proposed FY27 water and sewer rates

The City of Somerville Water and Sewer Department invites all community members to a public hearing to review proposed Water and Sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2027. Water and sewer rates are typically adjusted each year. Proposed changes and items to be discussed include:

A 15% increase in revenues from water volumetric charges; A 15% increase in revenues from sewer volumetric charges; No changes to existing base charges for both water and sewer.

These rate increases are necessary to fund essential improvements to Somerville's water, sewer, and stormwater drainage infrastructure. The Water and Sewer Department's FY27 proposal includes higher rate increases than are typical in Somerville to help ensure the city can cover the costs of the federally mandated combined sewer overflow control plan and other flood mitigation efforts throughout the city while continuing to deliver reliable service to residents.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 28, at 6 p.m. Members of the public may attend in person or join virtually:

In person at the Highlander Forum located at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.). [Please note this is a change of location from Franey Road to the High School.]

Virtually via Zoom: us06web.zoom.us/j/87092143821

Webinar ID: 870 9214 3821

If you're unable to attend but would like to share feedback, please send comments by:

Email: water@somervillema.gov with the subject line "RATE HEARING"

U.S. Mail: Somerville Water & Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145

Comments must be received by 12 p.m. on May 28 to be conveyed to the Department during the hearing.

Amplifying AAPI voices at SHS CONT. FROM PG 1

American History/Experiences course to address the gaps in the curriculum, she explained, but soon realized it couldn't be done over the span of the school year. So instead, she decided to work to amplify AAPI voices within the existing curriculum at SHS.

Kalia collaborated directly with the SHS History Department as well as the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School History Department. Kalia says she met with some amazing people, including Ms. Jenny Chung, a highly regarded history educator at CRLS.

She attended workshops, including one led by the YURI Education Project, which focused on understanding the basics of

how to teach AAPI history.

"This was really helpful for me," she said, regarding the steps to success in understanding how to integrate AAPI history into schools.

Kalia worked closely with the 10th-grade SHS History Department and determined where AAPI-focused lessons could be integrated. She then created lessons, like Asian Americans & Birthright Citizenship and Cross-Racial Solidarity Movements.

The next steps include broadening impact and reach. Kalia is creating more AAPI-focused lessons about the Dotbusters Gang in New Jersey and the novel *Made in Asian America: A History for Young People*.

The future may include more courses to reach a larger population of students. "An English course could be a great way to incorporate AAPI authors or different art forms from AAPI leaders," said Kalia.

Additionally, Kalia hopes to continue working with the SHS History Department to spearhead the creation of an Asian American History and/or Experiences course.

At the School Committee meeting, Kalia ended her presentation by expressing her gratitude for the open-minded and receptive teachers at SHS. "I'm deeply grateful for all the support I got from the SHS History Department," she said. "I really couldn't do this without them. I just want-

ed to take the time to give them a special thank you for helping me throughout this work."

Ward 7 Vice Chair of the School Committee Leiran Biton thanked Kalia for her efforts. "I want to just reflect on something you said right at the beginning, which was that you felt invisible," said Biton. "That feels very powerful, and I just want to acknowledge that and extend my apology to you...and also just thank you for that vulnerability and for turning those feelings into action."

Last year, Kalia was named a 2025 Commonwealth Heroine by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW).

A very McWatters vacation



Former Somerville Alderman Bob McWatters enjoyed a great vacation in Puerto Vallarta with his son Bobby McWatters last week.



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City to raise parking permit and meter fees

The City of Somerville is updating residential and business parking permit fees, as well as parking meter rates, as part of an ongoing effort to maintain and operate the city's parking system amid rising costs and increasing demand for limited curb space. The new rates will take effect on Wednesday, July 1.

The city will continue waiving residential parking permit and visitor pass fees for residents age 65 and older and for residents with disability placards or plates who will receive those permits at no cost.

Why are parking rates going up?

Residential parking permit fees were last updated in 2016, and parking meter rates were last adjusted in 2019. Since that time, the cost of administering and maintaining the city's parking programs has increased

substantially, including expenses related to permit and ticket processing contracts, parking meter maintenance and repairs, technology and data services, postage, and staffing.

At the same time, Somerville continues to face growing pressure on its limited on-street parking supply as the most densely populated city in the Northeast.

To continue meeting the operational needs of Somerville's parking system, the city's Parking Department conducted a broader review of parking operations, including current fee structures, peer municipality rates, system operating costs, and long-term program sustainability, to help inform the new rates.

For more information, visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/parking-department>.



Parking permit and meter fees will soon be increased in order for the city to cover its related expenses.

Staffing update from Mayor Wilson

(The opinions and views expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times belong solely to the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of The Somerville Times, its staff, or publishers)

Friday, May 22, 2026

Layoffs are always a last resort. But like many communities across the Commonwealth and country, we have found ourselves facing a difficult budget season. For Somerville, that took the form of a \$5.4 million projected budget shortfall for the next fiscal year that needed to be addressed.

To close the gap, we worked first to raise revenues, pay down debt with reserves, and make strategic cuts to non-personnel costs citywide. While those measures made some headway, we were still left with needing to further reduce spending. That led to the very difficult decision to cut 29 positions from the City budget, including 16 vacant roles and 13 filled roles. An additional 5 positions were transferred to best apply that capacity to City needs.

Any layoff is painful for the employees affected, the colleagues they worked alongside, and the community that relies on their daily work. I've been laid off twice myself and have had coworkers laid off too, so I know how hard and awful it is. Affected individuals have been placed on paid administrative leave through the end of June, allowing them continued pay and benefits, and Human Resources will assist them through this transition.

I cannot say strongly enough that we cut positions, not people. Somerville is fortunate to have extraordinarily dedicated public servants. The employees impacted by these layoffs have served this community well, and I'm grateful for their work. As we move forward, we will be taking every operational step needed to ensure the work continues through new approaches and structures, so we can continue to serve the community well.

— Mayor Wilson



Help Save Buddy's Diner! CONT. FROM PG 1

scratch," she says. So far, Bairos has raised nearly \$23,000 of \$100,000 to help close the gap through her GoFundMe campaign.

In addition, Buddy's received a \$74,365 grant from Somerville's Community Preservation Act to cover the cost of the pipe

repairs and for an official assessment to make the diner a historical property.

"The project will stabilize and preserve a beloved historic resource in Somerville," according to the City of Somerville's website. "CPA funds will be used to repair damage caused when

utility work in front of the site crushed the sewer pipes, forcing the business to close. It will also support consultation with a historic preservation architect to identify the steps needed to restore the historic structure."

The 1929 Worcester Lunch Car is a

trolley-style diner that has been a Somerville landmark since 1951.

If you'd like to bring Buddy's back to life and restore the one-of-a-kind historic diner, donate to their GoFundMe campaign. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-buddys-diner>.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

COMMENTARY

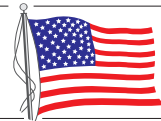
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



The summer season is right around the corner, Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



After months of back-and-forth weather conditions, we are clearly running head-long into the bright, sunny days of summer after Memorial Day weekend.

What is more delicious to the young mind than that savory and unrivaled treat, summer vacation? A well-deserved reward for all the hard work and irreplaceable time invested in the previous school year.

As adults, we can look back fondly on

those golden days with a warm sense of nostalgia and a longing to return to the carefree days that linger now only in our memories. And yet, we can live those times again vicariously as we engage with the present younger generation that will be making its own special memories.

Parents need to take as much time as they can to help make the summer break special and meaningful for their kids.

Planning and taking a family vacation, even a simple weekend camping trip, can forge stronger bonds and create everlasting memories that could never be bought or traded with gadgets, games, or videos. Community activities such as the upcoming SomerStreets events are valuable, too, in making vacation time a rich and rewarding experience for all.

Whether it is sports, arts activities,

taking up a new hobby, or any number of other options that kids are able to enjoy. They should be made aware of how precious this time is and urged to make the most of it.

It may be nearly impossible to convince them of how important this is, but it is still our duty to try to do so nonetheless. They will, without question, thank us for it in the years to come.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Celebrating their birthdays this week: A big happy birthday to a special person who is celebrating this week, **Chrissy Clark**, our own Editor's wife. We wish her the best and wish her a very special day. Happy birthday to a great guy, former City Councilor At-Large **Bill White**, who is celebrating this week. We wish him a very happy birthday. A big happy birthday to a wonderful person with a big heart, **Mary Kane Hart**. We wish her a special day, celebrating with her family and friends. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Karen Ferullo, Tim Devin, Jack Perenick, Patrick Courtney, John Gore, and Mary Champagne Ad-**

anson a great 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.

Somerville's **Land Use Committee and Planning Board** are hosting a **virtual joint public hearing** on **Thursday, June 18**, at 6:30 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qFtvv6-zQLiBdy-IXqoHOA#/registration. Hearing items include a request to approve Urban Center Housing Tax Increment Financing and amendments to Somerville's current Zoning Ordinance regarding homeless shelters. Submit public comments for this

hearing to the **City Clerk's office** at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.) or via email at publiccomments@somervillema.gov by 4 p.m. on June 18.

The **Union Square Neighborhood Council** is excited to invite local organizations, nonprofits, artists, makers, volunteers, and neighbors to join them for their upcoming **Kickball Connect Community Event**. It happens on **Saturday, May 30**, at the **Lincoln Park softball field**, starting at 2:30 p.m., with the "first pitch" at 3 p.m. Register your team or register as an individual by **May 27** if you'd like to play. Tournament rules and schedule

released on **May 29**. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeclxPFW-pwwjHnSWWbq6kr-TZ55RudDIL-vF1zoGyRYNLrvNQ/viewform>.

Somerville's **Elections Department** recently sent its second round of **census forms** to residents. Annual participation in the census is essential for keeping an accurate population count, and it updates or maintains your status as an active voter for upcoming elections. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to census@somervillema.gov. *Continued on page 13*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1024

1. What pioneering English woman is considered the founder of modern nursing?
2. Which U.S. Constitution amendment provides for freedom of speech, religion and the press?
3. Who invented the cotton gin?
4. What is the only state in New England that does not border the Atlantic Ocean?
5. Dubbed the Black Death, what plague swept through Europe in the 1300s?
6. What is the state beverage of Maine?
7. In which city would you find the Blue Mosque?
8. Which city contains a palace called the Forbidden City?
9. Where would you find the pisiform bone?
10. Who created the character of Ziggy Stardust in his glam-rock period?
11. Which TV western series did James Drury star in?
12. Who spoke for the first time in the film *Anna Christie*?

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. There's a tiny home in Virginia called the Spite House.
2. An earthquake might have shrunk Mount Everest.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD CANDY

ACROSS

1. Family room staple
5. Refrigerator sound
8. One of original Life Savers flavors
12. Diabolical
13. Supernatural life force
14. Dust allergy trigger
15. Magnesium silicate
16. Thor's father
17. Audience's approval
18. Coconutty candy bar (2 words)
20. Baltimore player
21. Dip a _____ the water
22. Acronym, abbr.
23. "The Freshmaker" candy
26. Deck painter, often
30. Flight info
31. Russia's plain
34. Nat of Jazz
35. N in RN
37. Across, in verse
38. Inspired by "Willie Wonka"
39. Under the weather
40. Lipase or sucrase, e.g.
42. Part of a match
43. English traveling courts
45. Ones with title
47. _____ Aviv
48. Sign of life
50. Between Phi and Kappa
52. Once known as Chicken Feed (2 words)
56. Trollop, in the olden days
57. Eyeball rudely
58. "I _____ wed"
59. Opposite of fires
60. Bear's den
61. Gives a hand
62. Between ids and super-egos
63. Symbol of industriousness
64. Dad's _____ Beer Barrels candy

DOWN

1. _____ good example
2. Like West Wing's office
3. 35mm, e.g.
4. "Little Men" author
5. Mecca pilgrim
6. Teamsters group
7. "Out of _____, one"
8. Good & Plenty flavor
9. It will
10. Animal protein
11. Is, in France
13. Unassuming
14. Muhammad's birthplace
19. Gallows loop
22. Polished off candy, e.g.
23. High IQ society
24. Lady's pocketbook
25. Narcotics agents
26. Light on one's feet
27. Relating to Scandinavia
28. Village V.I.P.
29. Catches one's breath
32. Ages and ages
33. Pfefferminz, for short
36. "Taste the Rainbow" candies
38. Broadway's news boy
40. Ray-finned fish
41. Decompose
44. Ardors
46. Bee's favorite drink
48. Like a Druid
49. Without illumination
50. Place for mutinous sailor
51. France's currency
52. Other Rocket Fizz product
53. Kent State state
54. Do over
55. Hatchling's home
56. Café alternative

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

| CROSSWORD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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OSPCD proposes UCH-TIF zone and plan

By The Times Staff

The affordable housing crisis is a defining issue in Somerville. With the city facing acute shortages and high rental costs, Somerville is taking decisive action to increase its housing supply.

At the latest City Council meeting on May 14, the Wilson administration requested approval of an urban center housing tax increment financing (UCH-TIF) zone and plan to incentivize affordable housing development on vacant and undeveloped lots in Assembly Square and East Somerville.

The goal of this UCH-TIF plan “encourages the thoughtful redevelopment of vacant and underutilized sites into substantial new residential units and thriving commercial spaces, utilizing private investment to achieve public goals including improving neighborhood connectivity, access to civic and open spaces, and promoting anti-displacement actions,” according to the Assembly Square & East Somerville UCH-TIF zone and plan document.

The economic development division has completed the drafting of the UCH-TIF zone, where there is “potential to add mixed-use development with substantial housing production on a number of vacant and undeveloped lots,” according to a May 7 memo.

“We are proposing this tool for parts of East Somerville and Assembly Square,” said Katie Wiese, economic development planner with OSPCD, during the City Council meeting briefing.

According to the zone and plan document, “The Assembly Square and East Somerville UCH-TIF would address vacancy but also help connect people to businesses and housing opportunities on both sides of the highway.”

Furthermore, the UCH-TIF zone would advance city plans, including SomerVision 2040 and the Assembly Square Neighborhood Plan.

“The intention is to create affordable housing, and one of the ways that we can do that is to meet existing inclusionary zoning requirements, which in Somerville is 20 percent,” explained Wiese.

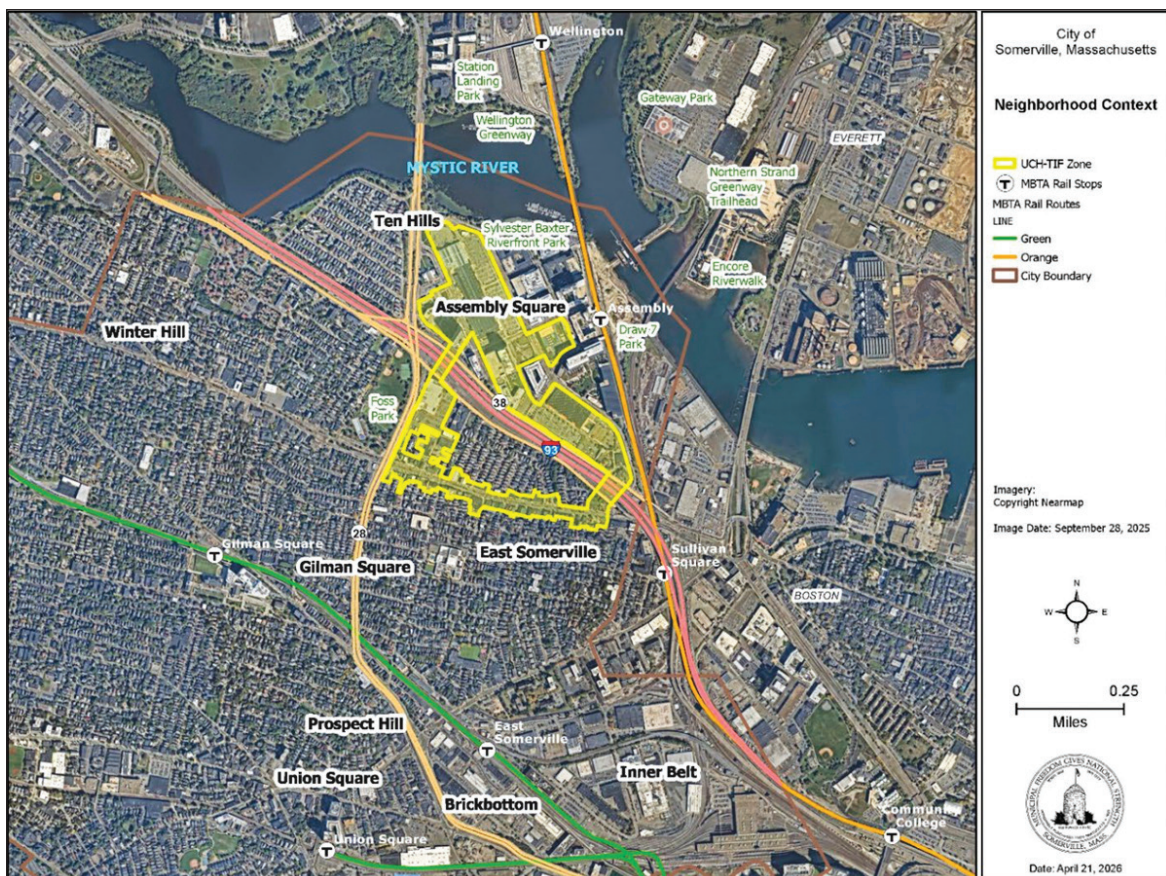
Approximately 13,000 units are required to meet the City of Somerville’s housing needs in the coming years, according to a 2025 housing needs assessment mentioned in the zone and plan document.

Executive Director of OSPCD, Tom Galligani, said on May 14 that the city is open to having discussions to “reach deeper levels of affordability” beyond what the existing inclusionary housing ordinance requires.

“To be very precise, yes, we’re looking to go a little bit deeper. That’s the mayor’s intention – to go a little bit deeper than our existing framework,” said Galligani.

The primary objective of the proposed UCH-TIF plan “is intended to spur the creation of new housing, including affordable units, in an area with strong transit access, employment opportunities, and capacity for greatly increased housing density,” according to the zone and plan document.

The item was referred to the Land Use Committee for recommendation.



The proposed UCH-TIF zone.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



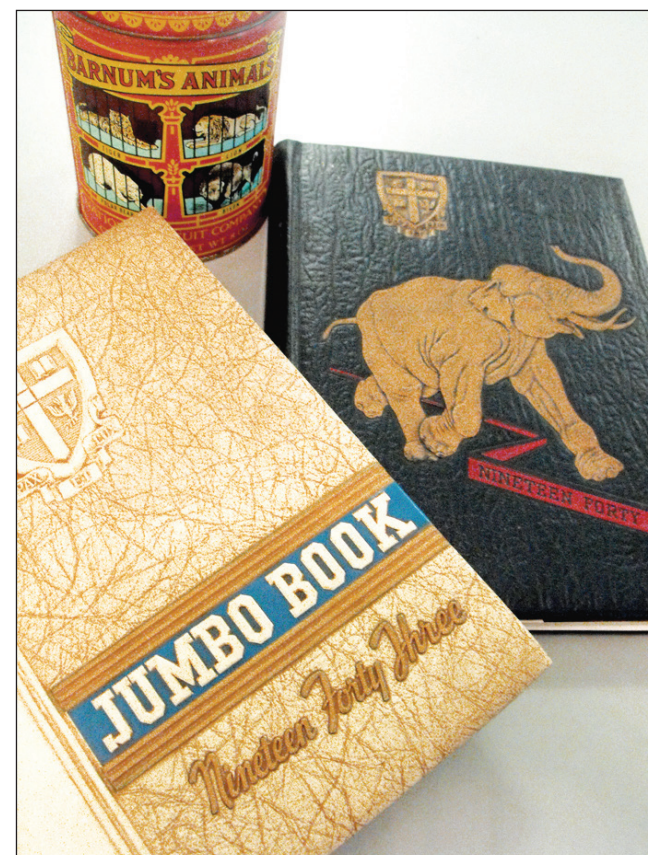
Eagle feathers #355

This article first appeared in the October 31, 2012, edition of The Somerville Times.

A mascot

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Tufts University was founded in 1852, and its campus bridges the cities of both Medford and Somerville. Almost all of the original professors, as well as the university’s largest land donor and namesake, Mr. Charles Tufts, resided in Somerville.



Throughout their campus, you can find memorabilia in honor of the greatest animal attraction in U.S. History. P.T. Barnum’s six and a half ton elephant was so popular that his very name was transformed into an adjective referring to anything thought of as larger than large. You may not realize it, but jumbo eggs, jumbo shrimp, jumbo jets, jumbo mortgage rates, etc., are all referred to as such because of the namesake of a tremendously large and extremely loveable elephant.

In the French Sudan in the year 1861, the soon-to-be world-renowned Jumbo the elephant came into the world not so larger than life. At one point, the Paris Zoo sold this beautiful African Bush elephant to the London Zoo because he was so small and slow to grow. When the famous circus owner, P.T. Barnum, a Tufts University Trustee, came across him 17 years later after he had grown to full size, he purchased him immediately.

At the time of this exchange, Jumbo had already become beloved by all of England. The acquisition came much to the chagrin of Great Britain, especially

Continued on page 15

LEGAL NOTICES

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**, at 6:45pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z1TzXgpQq-1xEPPFr6-mQ

TO CALL IN

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

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

Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMO REVIEW PROCESS)

5 Wilton Street Applicant: Adam Dash and Associates
Owner: Robert J. Langill and Donna M. Langill
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

17 Clyde Street Applicant: Law Office of Richard G. DiGirolamo
Owner: PJJJ LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

54 Highland Avenue Applicant: Niranjn Gawli
Owner: 54 Highland Ave LLC
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to historic@somervillema.gov.

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

5/27/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 26-78

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

Emergency Management Online Platform

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, May 27th, 2026**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Wednesday, June 10th, 2026**.

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

Please email cmoriarty@somervillema.gov for more information.

Cameron Moriarty
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3403

5/27/26 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
IFB #26-77

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

McGrath Boulevard Water Main Upgrades

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **05/27/2026**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **06/11/2026 2:00 PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves 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 PCS at Lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
Lcarroll@somervillema.gov

5/27/26 The Somerville Times

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3t0AmLxTn69CkLXUliwjjw

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Ms. Cam's *From on page 8*
Olio
Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Florence Nightingale | 7. Istanbul |
| 2. The First Amendment | 8. Beijing |
| 3. Eli Whitney | 9. Wrist |
| 4. Vermont | 10. David Bowie |
| 5. The bubonic plague | 11. <i>The Virginian</i> |
| 6. Moxie | 12. Greta Garbo |

Trans Visibility Through Art: Tourmaline at Arts at the Armory

Tourmaline comes to Arts at the Armory on Thursday, May 28 for an evening of art, storytelling, and community connection. A Guggenheim Fellow, TIME100 Honoree, artist, filmmaker, and bestselling author, Tourmaline will discuss her acclaimed book *Marsha*— the definitive biography of revolutionary trans activist Marsha P. Johnson. Following the talk, Tourmaline will participate in a book signing, with copies available from Harvard Book Store.

Community partners include: Arts Connect International, Boston League of Wicked Wrestlers, City of Somerville LGBTQ Services, The Dance Complex, and Mutual Aid is Magic.

The evening will open with a performance by local DJ and drag queen Tara Dikhof, whose work has become a vibrant part of the region's queer nightlife and arts community. Doors open at 7 p.m., the event will start at 8 p.m. Arrive early to meet our community partners

— *The Center for Arts at the Armory*

The 'Slice of the City' Experience

By Ewan Henrie

The "Slice of the City" event on May 20 took place in the playground of Arthur D. Healey School. "Slice of the City" events are scheduled regularly, in which free pizza is provided from contributors such as Leone's Pizza, along with healthy snacks and water.

It is an occasion where the mayor serves food to the people of Somerville, and he, along with city staff, discusses issues of interest with the public.

Children who attended had lots of fun at the playground. They made use of the various playground features, enjoyed a slice of pizza, or watched the elementary school soccer team in a match on the soccer field nearby.

Overall, "Slice of the City" is recommended for those who want to have a chance to meet and hear the leader of our city, or to learn more about the various departments and their activities in Somerville.



Proceed with caution CONT. FROM PG 3

around a busy city nowadays. We spent a couple of memorable summers in the early 70's commuting back and forth to our extremely exciting illegal jobs at the beach. Once we got off the train, we walked around enjoying the enchanted rides, food spots, and games of chance that made up the Revere Beach of yesteryear. That's a story for another week.

As I walked to Davis Square last week, I was almost hit by a bicyclist while I was in a crosswalk. I also witnessed several drivers looking down at their phones while driving on College Ave., which has been treacherous to cross ever since we moved to the area in 1960.

So now I'm paranoid of driving and walking. Good thing I have options. I can

go out into the world to take care of my appointments and my errands, or stay home with my friends, Chandler and Joey, Andy and Gomer, Jack, Janet, and Chrissy, Lisa Douglas, and Arnold Ziffel.

Realistically, I have to still fulfill my commitments, which involve traffic and dealing with distracted, disgruntled drivers. Among those commitments are a one-

hour drive each way to see my grandkids, a few trips to Old Orchard Beach, and other very important destinations like Kane's Donuts on Route 1. Somehow, I'm sure I'll make it, hopefully in one piece with my sanity somewhat intact.

Anyone want to grab a burger and then go roller skating, topped off by a few rides on the Dodge'Em cars? If only.



Somerville Fair Housing Commission

Question of the week

Q: How much notice do I have to give before moving out?

A: If you are a tenant-at-will, you must give at least 30 days notice. If you have a lease, you are bound to stay for the length of the lease unless you and your landlord can come to a mutual agreement.

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

Will Mbah at The Buzzin Bean



Councilor Will Mbah hanging with the owners of The Buzzin Bean and SC, G! on Mother's Day. The Buzzin Bean hosted a Pop-up for a local woman-owned small business called Sakkath Con-gress, Guru! (SC, G!) which makes spiced peanuts and Vegan snacks from Karnataka, India. Will enjoyed the spiced peanuts and Vegan snacks and asked for more heat in the spiced peanuts next time.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Somerville at peace... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What word can you make shorter by adding two letters?
Short.

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

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Bobbie Toner
857-488-5138

On This Day in History

May 27

- 1647 – Achsah Young becomes the first woman to be executed as a witch in MA.
- 1668 – Three colonists are expelled from MA for being Baptists.
- 1907 – The Bubonic Plague breaks out in San Francisco.
- 1935 – The Supreme Court declares President Franklin Roosevelt's National Recovery Act unconstitutional.
- 1937 – San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge opens.
- 1941 – The German battleship Bismarck is sunk by British naval and air forces.
- 1944 – American General Douglas MacArthur lands on Biak Island in New Guinea.
- 1969 – Construction begins on Walt Disney World in Florida.
- 1972 – President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev sign an arms reduction agreement.
- 1999 – The international war crimes tribunal indicts Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic for war atrocities.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

or in person at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.). Please call 311 (617-666-3311) with questions.

Aspiring gardeners of all ages are invited to **workshops** led by **Green City Growers**. Learn when and what to plant and how to maintain, fertilize, and harvest successful crops. The next event in this series will be held on **Saturday, May 30**, on the **Central Library lawn** (79 Highland Ave.) from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Join the **Somerville Museum** for **Monuments, Burials & Restoration** at **Milk Row Cemetery** on **Thursday, May 28**, at 6 p.m., 439 Somerville Ave. Art Conservator **Barbara Mangum** will lead a special talk on Civil War monuments, burials, and restoration efforts at one of Somerville's oldest historic sites. Come learn more about the stories, preservation work, and local history held within Milk Row Cemetery. The event is free and open to the public.

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

#ARTSTAYSHERE's new exhibition, **Faces, Spaces & Places**, opens **Friday, June 5**, at the **Somerville Museum**, 6 – 8 p.m. One Westwood Rd. Faces, Spaces & Places is a visual exhibition exploring the causes, impact, and potential solutions to end artist displacement, offering a spatial justice view of the overlooked value of affordable artist workspaces across Massachusetts. Through photographs, maps, testimony, and community engagements, The **#ARTSTAYSHERE** Coalition shares insights into what's caused artist displacement over time and how their

volunteer advocacy organization, in partnership with community and other stakeholders, has turned the displacement trajectory around. RSVP: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>

Somerville's annual **Water System Flushing Program** began Monday, May 18, and continues through late October. This program consists of flushing pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will take place on **Mondays and Thursdays between 6 p.m. and midnight** to minimize potential disruptions to water service. Temporary drops in water pressure and/or discolored water can occur. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. Learn more at: somervillema.gov/hydrantflushing.

Jane's Walk: Assembly Row – A Historical Perspective, Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., **330 Canal Street, Assembly Row**. Join the Somerville Museum for a Jane's Walk through Assembly Square, exploring how this waterfront neighborhood has changed over time. Beginning at 330 Canal Street, the tour traces the area's evolution from early transportation routes and industrial sites to today's vibrant mixed-use district, with stops highlighting the Ford Assembly Plant, the Mystic River, and the public spaces of Assembly Row. For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

SomerStreets: Carnival is returning to East Somerville to kick off the 2026 SomerStreets season. The festival will take place on **Sunday, June 7**, from 2–6 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, June 14) and will once again transform Broadway into a vibrant, walkable celebration of community and culture. The festival will stretch along Broadway, from McGrath Highway to Pennsylvania Avenue, creating a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy. <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/carnaval2026>.

Taste of Somerville, one of the region's signature community food festivals, returns on **Wednesday, June 10**, bringing together more than 50 restaurants, breweries, bakeries, beverage makers, and local food businesses for an eve-

ning celebrating Somerville's food scene. Taste of Somerville 2026, featuring 50+ restaurants, breweries, bakeries, beverage makers, and local food businesses. 5 – 8 p.m., **Boynton Yards**, Somerville. For more information and tickets, visit www.tasteofsomerville.org.

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

Meet **Somerville's K9 Unit** at **Nunziato Dog Park Water Fountain Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, June 2**. Community members and their furry friends are invited to a ribbon cutting for a dual water fountain for dogs and people on Tuesday, June 2, at Nunziato Field and Dog Park (7 Putnam St.) from 1 to 2 p.m. Rain date: Wednesday, June 3, from 3 to 4 p.m. Somerville K9 Team dogs Fluff and Missy, will join the officials gathering with the community to mark the occasion. Please keep dogs leashed during the ceremony.

Somerville community members are invited to the **"Slice of the City"** spring meet-up series. This new series of family-friendly pizza parties in the park offers attendees a new way to connect and engage with city leaders and staff, local elected officials, as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks. The series continues on **Wednesday, June 3** in **Ward 3** at **Prospect Hill Park** (68 Munroe St.) from 5 to 7 p.m. Ward 3 includes northern Union Square, Prospect Hill, Spring Hill, Central Hill, and more. For more information, visit www.somervillema.gov/slice.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **22nd Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local Saturdays

through October 31, except July 4 and September 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. They continue to offer our SNAP matches. Check the market webpage for the latest info and to see which vendors accept SNAP. To get the latest updates about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit www.unionsquaremain.org/2026-season.

The **Davis Square Market** has opened for the 2026 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., through November 25**, at **44 Day St., Somerville**. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

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

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

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Lost in the Bardo'
by Carolynn Kingyens*Lost in the Bardo*

By Carolynn Kingyens.

Kelsay Books, American Fork, Utah, 2026.

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Ed Meek

Lost in the Bardo is Carolynn Kingyens' third book. I reviewed her previous book, *Coupling*. In her new volume, Kingyens continues to develop as a poet well worth reading. Full disclosure, Kingyens gave a positive review to my book, *Great Pond*.

"If anything, middle age offers perspective, however precarious," Kingyens tells us in her insightful new collection, *Lost in the Bardo*. The bardo is a Tibetan term for an intermediate or transitional state. Kingyens has applied this to middle-age and this is the realm Kingyens has chosen to explore and illuminate." In *Lost in the Bardo*, Kingyens frames personal narrative poems with short poems describing the bardo lending her book a thematic coherence.

Sometimes complicated emotions, too heavy to bear, require suspension, she tells us in *Time Bomb*. Later in the poem she refers to "our mid-century modern house where the floors are made entirely of eggshells." Although it may appear from the outside that everything is fine, inside the houses of our middle-class lives, we all have problems to deal with and work out.

Kingyens doesn't keep us hanging for long. Instead, she delves into painful emotions like a poet she refers to as "the patron saint of poetry," Sharon Olds. In *Hell*, a date tells her, "we are forced to watch as if held down/ by the hand of God/ our atrocities animated/ against loved ones." As in her other books, Kingyens uses references to religion in a manner that gives power to her perspectives. Like many of us, she grew up with religious beliefs that continue to influence us even though we question them.

In *Duper's Delight* she brings up the difficulty of getting at the truth. "A liar tells me/there is no such/ thing as truth... The liar says/ I am the victim here/ and no questions/ are asked..." Later in the poem: "She says truth is a shit show/ a dumpster fire/ in a

Dreams do not submerge us,
reeds do not bind us,
and island pools protect us.

Sloe Hill

After autumn, a syllable against the ice,
I am still, as I remain, dusk's own creature.



tin roof trailer park..." This is the world we inhabit in which victims are valued and what we see as truth has to be ugly.

What has become of the First Marriage explores one such truth. The way older couples holding hands and sitting side by side in restaurants are probably onto second or third marriages. Otherwise, they wouldn't be so affectionate.

Kingyens' present has, like the present of the rest of us, been shaped by her past. A poignant poem called *Nightswimming* perfectly depicts what we all miss, the excitement of being young.

It's the anticipation
you missed most,
those youthful days
when you didn't have
to will your weight thin,
wearing a black and white
polka dot bikini with ease

Continued on page 15

The path of snow rises to me, and light has quit
the white passage, the muted footprints.
The sun whispers as a tawny ghost through pine.
The blue presses darkly.
Such a place and in such places, the heart understands
no need for love, or words, or an unbroken dream.

— Meg Smith

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

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 Lyrical Somerville*, her poetry has appeared in *The Cafe Review*, *The Lowell Review*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Poetry Bay*, *Acropolis Review*, and many more. She is a 2025 nominee for the Stanley Kunitz poetry medal. Her journalism work has been honored by the New England Newspaper and Press Association, including with first-place awards for reporting on religion, race and ethnic issues and social issues. She is creator of *Poe* in Lowell, honoring Edgar Allan Poe's three visits to Lowell, and a board member of *Lowell Celebrates Kerouac*. She is author of six poetry books and a short fiction collection, *The Plague Confessor*. Her new short fiction collection, *Night's Wheel*, is due out from Emu Books. She welcomes visits to meg-smithwriter.com.

**The River Funcheon. Gleannúir, Co. Cork, Ireland**

As purple rushes in, an eddy grows,
and these stone steps of a castle's moss
can no longer carry anything like a sure
dream, or diplomat.

My ancestors stand on the other side
of the water, and between us,
the flock: white, grace in their composition,
and the pass, invisible. Night grows and grows,
bats dither, flowers recede.

The Dream Amid the Marshes

My love reflects the islands,
in winter's heart; no rushes bend,
no slate of ice disturbs us.
We are all exact in our blue.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

the Royal Family, whom had become accustomed to the elephant giving rides to London's children. In fact, Britain's vehement displeasure with Jumbo's departure, mixed with Barnum's marketing ability and willingness to capitalize on England's sour feelings, made Jumbo's American arrival explode with success the size of which was rivaled only by the

size of Jumbo himself. The elephant made Barnum a fortune before meeting an untimely death in a Canadian railroad accident. The remains of the immense animal were saved by a taxidermist and his hide was donated to the Barnum Museum on Tuft's campus, and his skeleton was donated to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Jumbo left his elephant tracks through Somerville in the way of the Jumbo Restaurant in Ball Square and the former Jumbo Lounge in Teele Square. Angelina's, also in Teele Square, prides itself on offering the three-foot-long Jumbo sub sandwich. Union Square's Target offers Jumbo sales with Jumbo points.

Boston College football has its Ea-

gles, Northeastern has its Huskies, Boston University has its Terriers, but biggest of all, Tufts University has its Jumbos, the biggest mascot in the country. They play their games in Somerville on Ellis Field.

Jumbo may have died long ago, but his memory lives on as a permanent and delightful piece of Tufts' history.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

during hot, humid nights
Nightswimming.
She talks about swimming in the dark, feeling
Someone's pulsating wrist
and that glorious anticipation
of a slippery wet grasp.
Here in the *Bardo part VI*, she brings her themes together.
I would always be
that sad girl

forever searching
for my father's love
in someone else's eyes—
dilated and high
in the backseat
of smoky Saabs
mouthing lyrics
to favorite songs
no longer on the radio.
Kingyens weaves references to pop culture throughout

her book. From *Rapper's Delight*, to R.E.M's *Night Swimming* to Yoko Ono and Barbie and Polka Dot Bikinis. Those references lighten the tone and bring us back.

In *Lost in the Bardo*, Kingyens invites us to take a closer look at our past and how it affects our current lives. Freud talks about "the watcher at the gates" who keeps most of us from examining our lives too closely, and how we need artists to get past the watcher and uncover the truths beneath the surface. Luckily, we have poets like Carolyn Kingyens who are brave enough to dive under the surface.

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