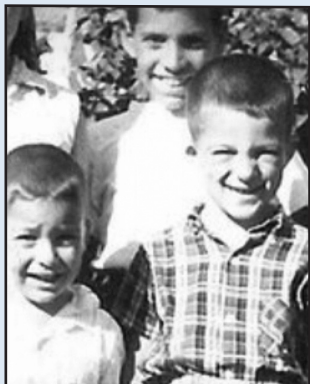




Inside:



Fixing a 60's bully

page 3



Memorial Day Parade

pages 12-13



Memorial Day remembrance

page 15

City of Somerville releases Armory Master Plan



The city's master plan for the Armory building has been finalized and released to the public.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

After an intensive community engagement process, the City of Somerville has now released its Master Plan for establishing its Armory building as a public community arts center, which would place Somerville among only a handful of communities nationwide with a public-owned arts and culture center.

The plan comes at a time when private arts spaces and studio costs are under increasing pressure in the Boston region and in Somerville. This cultural investment is fitting for a city known for its high concentration of artists, creative festivals, and steadfast support of the arts.

Ultimately, the community's vision is for a thriving, publicly secured arts hub offering performances, workshops, talks, and civic events as well as rehearsal, studio, gallery space, and more. To begin making this vision a reality, the city has

Continued on page 4

Somerville Theatre to screen rare silent film 'Forgotten Faces'

Released at the height of the Roaring '20s, it was intended to scandalize audiences who'd seen it all before. It was *Forgotten Faces* (1928), a late silent-era drama from Paramount Pictures that paved the way for the film noir genre of moviemaking.

The rarely screened film will be shown on Sunday, June 1, at 2 p.m. at the Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville, Mass. Admission \$17 adults; \$13 members; \$12 seniors/children. Tickets are available at somervilletheatre.com or at the door.

Live musical scoring will be provided by silent film accompanist Jeff Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based performer who specializes in music for silent film presentations.

The film, part of Somerville's "Silents, Please!" series, will be shown via DCP derived from an original nitrate print preserved by

Continued on page 6



An original lobby card promoting "Forgotten Faces" (1928).

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

Join **Somerville Cares About Prevention (SCAP)** for its 21st annual celebration. Learn and discuss prevention efforts in Somerville and celebrate accomplishments with our dedicated youth leaders and community partners. This virtual event will be held on **Thursday, May 29**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. online via Zoom. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87080851222?pwd=b61Re7QP7PpE6uYRBcJVEpoiIb9PZ9.1#success>.

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** is celebrating this week. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to State Rep. **Mike** Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 28 – June 3 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>May 28</i>	Cloudy	75°/56°	3%	1%	SW 12 mph
 Thursday <i>May 29</i>	Cloudy	70°/61°	25%	17%	SW 12 mph
 Friday <i>May 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	75°/61°	26%	19%	WSW 13 mph
 Saturday <i>May 31</i>	Rain	67°/53°	45%	36%	NW 11 mph
 Sunday <i>June 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	69°/53°	22%	12%	W 12 mph
 Monday <i>June 2</i>	Partly Cloudy	73°/59°	20%	16%	WSW 12 mph
 Tuesday <i>June 3</i>	Sunny	80°/62°	4%	2%	WNW 11 mph

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

Traditional Korean Festival of music and dance comes to Somerville



For the past few years, the Boston Academy of Korean Traditional Arts (BAKTA), based in Somerville, has been teaching both adults and children traditional Korean music and dance. After each series of classes, the students and teachers present a public performance of these arts, and their next show will happen in June.

Mina Cho, a professional musician who teaches at Emerson College and directs the BAKTA program, explains, “These performances present the kinds of music, dance, and drumming traditionally performed at Korean farmers’ celebrations for special events such as the Harvest Thanksgiving Festival and Lunar New Year.” In BAKTA’s upcoming show, colorfully costumed performers, including adults, children, and teens, will present solo and group music on traditional stringed instruments, play resonant percussion on large and small drums and gongs, and do solo and group dances, including the impressive Ribbon-Hat and Flower Dances.

Cho says, “Many of these traditional dances use circular movements. These express the cycles of life, and the connections between the three levels of heaven above us, the earth below us, and we human beings in between.”

The upcoming BAKTA show takes place Sunday, June 8, 4 pm, in the Fellowship Hall at the Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Avenue (2 blocks from Davis Square). All ages are welcome, and admission is free.

BAKTA also offers private and group lessons in Korean traditional music and dance for both children and adults (ages 5 and up). For more information, see www.igji.org/bakta.

The Somerville Times

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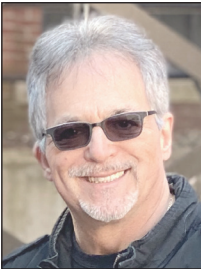
Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

Fixing a 60’s bully



In 1965, I was 12 years old. We were still the new family on my street, having moved there in 1960. My street was full of families with kids. On a typical summer night, there were at least 20 kids playing Buck Buck, Red Rover, or Relieve-E-O in someone’s driveway or right in the middle of the street. I was never taller than about 5 feet 7, so I learned early to befriend bigger and tougher friends.

There was one particular bully on my street who teased my little brother relentlessly. He referred to him as “fruity” which really ticked me off. He was obnoxious.

I had a cousin who was three years older than I and lived near the Western Junior High School. His parents always bought him the coolest jackets, belts, and most of all, black leather engineer boots. A lot of the stuff came from Micky Finn’s in Davis Square. When he outgrew those neat clothes, I got them. I had two pairs of his old engineer boots, and I loved them. We also got my cousin’s bikes when they got new ones. Another cool thing about having an older cousin was that he was pretty tough. He hung around with the black leather jacket-wearing kids with slicked back hair and pegged pants.

When that bully on my street (my mother gave him the perfect nickname of “Jerko!”) got out of hand, I had to call my cousin over. On the old Leave it to Beaver Show, when Wally talked about taking care of a kid that was bothering them, they’d use the term “fix.” Wally was going

to “fix” Eddie Haskell for picking on Beaver. Well, I had to call my cousin to come over and “fix” Jerko. And over he came! It was great!

My cousin challenged Jerko to a friendly wrestling match on our friend “Jello’s” front lawn. All the kids on my street gathered to watch my cousin fix Jerko. He flipped him to the ground three times. No punching, no kicking, no blood. Just a few flips, and a couple of gentle body slams. Like it was yesterday, I can still hear my cousin saying, “Come on! One more time for old time’s sake!” And I vividly remember Jerko saying, “No thanks” and backing away, all the way into his backyard. He never called my little brother fruity again, and he stopped bothering us. By the way, Jerko had at least 5 inches and 30 pounds on my cousin.

There was also the time I got into a beef with a guy on a flight from Bermuda to Logan Airport and my cousin was at the gate waiting for us. Thankfully, me and my airline enemy became friends during the flight back, but it was calming knowing my cousin showed up for me.

Fast forward to 1992, and my then-girlfriend and I were in Disney World in Orlando. Guess who we bumped into? None other than Jerko himself and his girlfriend. He pulled me aside and asked me not to mention to his two young kids (with whom we were friendly) that I saw him. File under, “Still Jerko after all these years!”

My cousin really took care of us back then. Although my older sister kept an eye on me and my brother, it was good to have my older, tougher cousin in my corner. Today, he’s a good dad and grandfather, and



we’re still in touch.

I still have many close friends who know we are always there for each other if needed. That’s my Somerville.

And this was just one story from the good old days growing up in Somerville.

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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log May 13 – 19

Assault

25026883: On 5/14/25 at 7:29 p.m., Somerville Police took a report of a past assault. The reporting party stated that on 4/23/25, her son was attacked in Assembly Row by a group of teenage males. The victim suffered multiple injuries. Assault

25026877: On 5/14/25 at 7:07 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Assembly Row for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he entered the business to use the bathroom and was refused. He was then pushed by two employees.

25027184: On 5/16/25 at 11:40 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Broadway for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated earlier that morning, he was approached by a male party known to him who struck him in the head with a bag of glass.

Arrest

25026955: On 5/15/25 at approximately 8:27 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Browning Rd for a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he recently purchased the property and when he arrived at the house, he observed a male party inside the house yelling at him. Officers located the male suspect and he was placed under arrest.

25027953: On 5/19/25 at approximately 9:37 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a residence on Perkins St for an injured person. Upon arrival, officers observed a male party bleeding who stated he was stabbed with a knife by a male known to him. Officers entered the residence and located the male suspect; he was then placed under arrest.

Other Crimes: 2 MV Vandalisms + 5 Car breaks + 3 Bike thefts + 3 Package thefts + 1 MV theft

— Somerville Police Department



City of Somerville releases Armory Master Plan CONT. FROM PG 1

issued a call for a community-based Armory Advisory Board and will soon post a call for arts tenants (via RFP and open to current and new tenants).

“The community made their wishes clear: preserve and build on the great work and programming we have at the Armory now under the private model, and expand the mission to serve the full community under a public model. This plan delivers on those goals,” said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “It adds the security of public stewardship; establishes a mission to serve our full community of artists and residents equitably, accessibly, and innovatively; and creates a governance model that is both by and for Somervillians with a community-based board to guide the center’s mission. This plan now paves the way for a sustainable, inclusive, exciting arts center for all in our community, for years to come.”

Established as a cultural arts center by a private owner in 2008, the Armory has consistently faced financial challenges common to arts centers. The pandemic worsened matters. In 2021, the private arts center faced imminent closure. This, despite the former owner’s commitment, an active anchor tenant, Arts at the Armory, and sizable city Covid recovery grants. To prevent this loss, the city stepped in to acquire the Armory through eminent domain, preserving the space for the singular purpose of serving the community with arts, culture, and civic uses into the future.

Public ownership does, however, introduce new legal requirements for access, management, and fairness. For one, state procurement law demands that public

owners follow a regulated and open process for identifying tenants. To do so in a way that addressed past financial challenges, the city launched a process to establish a Master Plan for the site in 2022.

Somerville’s Economic Development Division and the city’s Somerville Arts Council conducted an extensive and inclusive community process to develop the Master Plan. The goal of the planning effort was twofold:

Establish guiding principles for maximizing the arts’ use of the building, to the widest possible benefit of both the arts community and the general public; and address the financial realities involved in operating the Armory as a public arts center.

“The community really stepped up here to undertake a thoughtful process to create the Master Plan,” said Somerville Arts Council Director Gregory Jenkins. “As a diverse community with a longstanding history of welcoming artists of all types, it’s inspiring to see artists and residents come together to work to preserve the Armory as our community hub for the arts. We want to thank the community for putting in many hours to ensure we have a bedrock commitment to meeting diverse community needs in this building.”

About the Plan

The Armory Master Plan directly reflects public feedback provided during multiple meetings, open feedback sessions, and direct outreach to help ensure that diverse voices shaped the plan. As a roadmap, it sets up clear priorities for use, a governance and programming structure that ensures community accountability;

measures to protect community interests, a fair and transparent process for selecting tenants and partners, and a financial model that best lays a foundation for long-term sustainability.

This Master Plan recognizes that there is likely to be a phased approach to establishing a successful future for the Armory. The first phase focuses on stabilizing the property by filling the building with tenants under multi-year leases and making continued improvements to the building and management. Read the Master Plan at voice.somervillema.gov.

Next Steps

Call for Somerville Armory Advisory Board members: Open

As a first step in realizing the Master Plan, the city is calling for applicants to apply to serve on a community-based Somerville Armory Advisory Board. The Board will advise the Mayor and City Council on tenant selection and building investments, as well as the overall mission. Applications are open and can be found at voice.somervillema.gov and somervillema.gov/besomerville, along with more information. The application period will remain open until the end of day Monday, July 14.

Call for tenants: Coming Soon

To establish a vibrant mix of arts tenants and abide by legal requirements for leasing public spaces fairly, the building will be leased through a new, open application process available to both current and new tenants. Tenants will be selected by the community-based Advisory Board and submitted for approval to the City Coun-

cil and Mayor.

For interested artisans and arts organizations, the city will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) process in the coming weeks. This will allow the city to work with the arts community to determine how best to utilize the Armory space and maximize its potential for both artisans and the community while preserving the Armory’s place in Somerville. Any current tenants who choose not to apply, are not arts entities, or are not selected will be offered comprehensive relocation support.

Assess priority maintenance investments in line with the long-term mission:

Always with an eye to the long-term mission, the Advisory Board will review building needs and develop a plan for building investments to be carried out by the city.

Somerville as an Arts Community

Somerville is known for its very high concentration of artists, often touted as having more artists per square foot than anywhere but New York City. Numerous artist buildings and arts organizations are found in the city. A highly active Somerville Arts Council, which is part of the city government, distributes grants and produces programming, including popular arts festivals, events, and activities, as well as an innovative culinary arts entrepreneur initiative and restaurant jointly called Nibble. As the Arts policy arm of the Administration, the Arts Council also actively develops initiatives to prevent artist displacement and grow resources for the arts, including via zoning initiatives with arts carve-outs.

Public health vending machines and youth staff receive finance sign-off

By Jeffrey Shwom

City health officials received approval by the City Council's Finance Committee for three positions that keep youth in safe, productive, and preventative environments, and a second public health vending machine aimed to offer harm reduction items that test for a sedative widely found in street drugs and an overdose reversal medication.

The \$228,000 in salaries and benefits is funded through the remaining medicinal marijuana stabilization fund and the vending machine through a \$30,000 matching grant from RIZE Massachusetts Foundation [1], a nonprofit dedicated to ending and reducing the impact of the opioid epidemic. Both items will now move up to the full city council for approval. Officials are still curating the potential items for the vending machine, Carroll noted, and are considering resources like xylazine test strips and Narcan.

The department received approval for the first machine that would stock things like winter hats, gloves, and socks during the colder months of the year and sunscreen, water, or first aid supplies during the summer, as noted by Councilor Jake Wilson. Carroll said it would be more or less three items at a time, and the data collection will inform what items will be cycled through the machine. The prevention team is "excited to be seeing this move forward in the next year," especially as it celebrated an April installation of a first-in-the-nation dual sharps disposal kiosk [2] on Seven Hill Park in Davis.

The department got the thumbs up for an out-of-school-time coordinator, a youth workplace learning coordinator, and a sub-

stance abuse prevention and intervention specialist. The out-of-school-time position makes sure all K-8 students, regardless of circumstances and their background, "have access to inclusive and culturally relevant" programs, director of health and human services Karin Carroll shared in a May 1 memo [3]. The learning coordinator will strive to expand the mayor's youth jobs initiative, summer jobs program, and school-year jobs programming, employing 18 youth.

The substance abuse position provides "support for students and staff with drug and alcohol education, prevention, intervention, and consultation." "Out-of-school time opportunities, youth employment, in-school substance misuse support, and structured, supervised activities all serve as vital buffers against increased exposure to substances and substance misuse."

At the May 21 meeting, officials reported feeling hopeful that these positions will be funded "adequately for a few years" before money runs out. Created by city council approval in 2018, the medicinal marijuana stabilization fund received three percent of gross sales from the approved marijuana dispensaries in the city and currently sits at \$3.5 million. It also got some American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 awarded during the COVID-19 pandemic, though the requirements for the fund have changed since its inception, so dispensaries are not contributing as much as before, if at all.

This is not the first time that cannabis stabilization funds have been used to fund health and human services positions. Since 2018 and reaffirmed in April, the department received continuation of funding for its prevention services coordinator position, which organizes youth substance



In addition to the already existing sharps container, a second public health vending machine has been approved for installation in Somerville by the city's Finance Committee. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

misuse prevention and education activities.

Links:

[1] <https://www.rizema.org/>

[2] <https://www.somervillema.gov/news/somerville-installs-nations-first-outdoor-dual-sharps-disposal-kiosk-seven-hills-park>

[3] <https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7373423&GUID=448CAD29-A0EF-421F-B84D-244E546687ED&Options=&Search=>

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



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

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COMMENTARY

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I'm running!

I'm pleased to announce my campaign for Somerville Councilor At-Large!

It has been an honor serving you and being re-elected to the Democratic State Committee. Together, we helped Democrats flip MAGA-held seats all over the country. Thanks again to those of you who volunteer with us every Sunday. This time, I'm asking for your support again, for my campaign for City Council:

As a biomedical researcher, I've helped develop new treatments for breast and gynecologic cancer, and I've worked on the next generation of COVID vaccines. As a climate advocate, I was part of the successful lobby to pass the Massachusetts Climate Law to reduce our carbon emissions. As a City Councilor, I will tackle our community's greatest challenges to build

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Thank you for your support and your commitment to a Healthier, Greener future!

Democratically Yours,

Justin Klekota
Candidate for Councilor-at-Large
klekota@gmail.com



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Sublime Systems, I am writing to express our strong support for Somernova's campus expansion and the recently proposed Arts & Innovation Sub-Area Zoning. As a company at the forefront of innovative manufacturing technology, we have seen firsthand the critical role Somernova plays in fostering innovation, supporting startups, and enabling transformative solutions that address some of the world's greatest challenges.

Since establishing our presence in Somerville, Sublime Systems has experienced remarkable growth, made possible in no small part due to the resources, col-

laboration, and ecosystem that Somernova provides. The ability to operate alongside other cutting-edge companies in tough tech and cleantech has created an environment where we can tackle the urgent need for sustainable solutions while benefiting from shared knowledge, talent, and infrastructure. Somerville has the opportunity to strengthen its leadership as a hub for the companies solving tomorrow's problems, but this requires a commitment to policies and projects that support the next generation of Innovators.

The proposed Arts & Innovation Sub-Area Zoning is essential to ensuring that companies like ours can continue to grow, create jobs, and deliver solutions that have

global impact. Companies scaling novel manufacturing and industrial solutions require specialized infrastructure, flexible space, and a community that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration. Somernova has provided this, and its expansion will further strengthen Somerville's ability to attract and retain high-impact businesses that are not only creating economic growth but also addressing critical challenges such as decarbonization, energy security, and sustainable manufacturing.

Now, more than ever, we must invest in spaces that empower businesses working on solutions that will shape the future. We urge the City Council to support the expansion of Somernova and the Arts &

Innovation SubArea Zoning to ensure that Somerville continues to be a leader in innovation, economic resilience, and sustainability.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued efforts to shape policies that support a thriving future for our city. We welcome the opportunity to further discuss the importance of this initiative and look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Cayman Somerville
Director of Operations
Sublime Systems
cayman@sublime-systems.com

Somerville Theatre to screen rare silent film 'Forgotten Faces' CONT. FROM PG 1

the Library of Congress.

Forgotten Faces follows gentleman thief "Heliotrope" Harry Harlow, played by Clive Brook, as he tries to save his daughter (Mary Brian) from his vengeful wife, played by Russian actor Olga Baclanova.

The film also features William Powell in an unusual role as Heliotrope's partner

in crime, before he developed his suave Thin Man persona. Mary Brian, a popular actress of the silent era, played the role of Wendy in the original silent version of Peter Pan (1924).

The film was based on A Whiff of Heliotrope, a story by author Richard Washburn Child.

Director Victor Schertzinger brought an unusual background to the movie business. As a child musical prodigy on the violin, he performed with band leader John Philip Sousa. Schertzinger later directed the first two "Road" pictures starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby before his premature death in 1941.

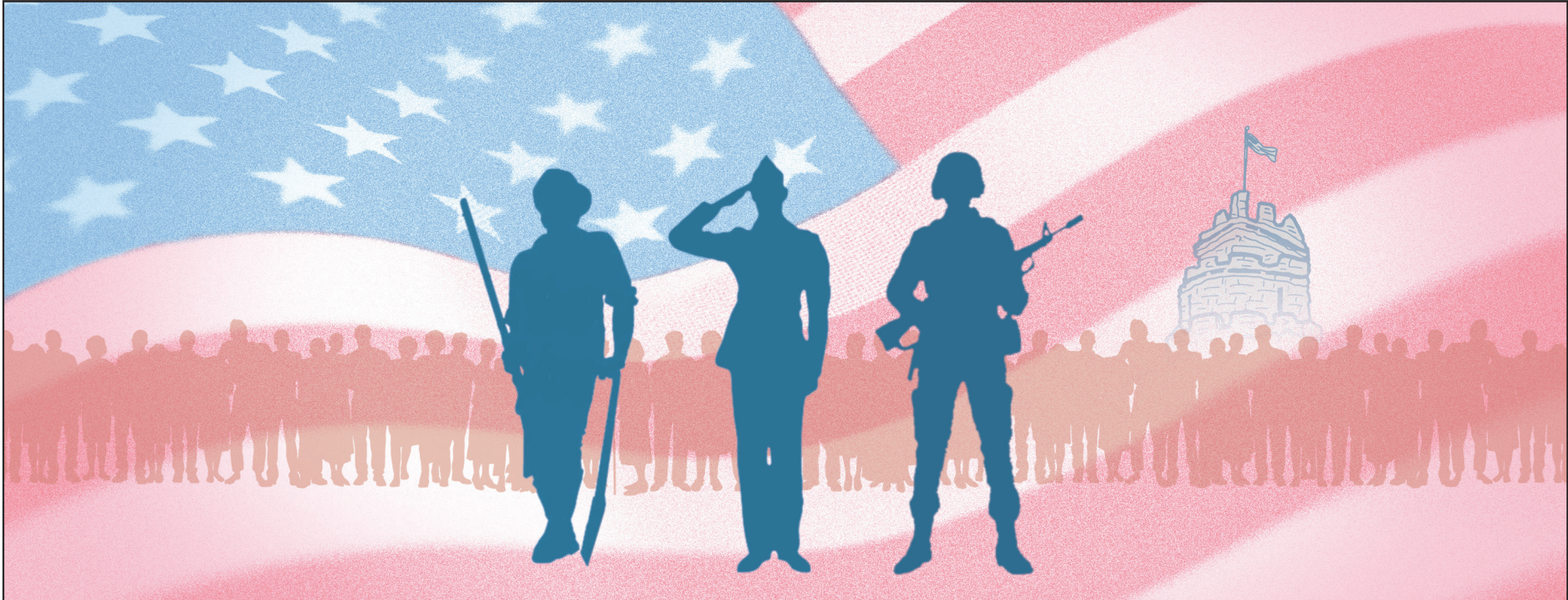
Rapsis said the Somerville Theatre screening, the latest in the venue's "Silents, Please!" series, is a rare chance to see Forgotten Faces as it was meant to be experienced on the big screen, with live music, and with an audience.

For more about the music, visit www.jeffrapsis.com.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville proudly observes Memorial Day.

Our View Of The Times



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

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.

Last Sunday we took a little time out to pay homage to those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country. The city's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony events honored those who risked or laid

down their lives protecting our freedoms.

Somerville Veterans Services organizes the city's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony annually as a tribute to those who lost their lives defending the United States and its allies across the globe.

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

riched than before.

Most of all, it is a time 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.

It is good to have that sense of appreciation throughout the entire year too.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Connolly, who is also celebrating this week. We wish him a great day. A big happy birthday to a wonderful person with a big heart, **Mary Kane Hart**. We wish her a special day, celebrated with her family and friends. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Patrick Courtney, John Gore** and **Mary Champagne Adamson**. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

On Saturday, May 31, join the second annual New England Hong Kong Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Seven Hills Park

in Somerville to celebrate the vibrant culture, food, and creativity of Hongkongers across the region. The event is free and open to all. The rain date is Sunday, June 1. Now in its second year, the community-run festival brings together more than 30 local vendors, artists, and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities. Attendees can also enjoy over 15 live performances from bands, martial artists, and cultural performers, as well as free games, family-friendly activities, and photo ops, including a newspaper stand set and stamp stations inspired by iconic Hong Kong streets. For more information, including full event listings and

vendor updates, visit www.newenglandhkfest.com and follow @newenglandhkfest on Instagram and Facebook.

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 you please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is

interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to try to help out our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

The Kalajian Brothers Square hero plaque honoring veterans Harry, Michael and Peter for their service during WWII will be dedicated at 9 am on Sunday, June 1 outside their childhood home at 258 Beacon St, Somerville at the corner of Beckwith Circle (close to Star Market). It would greatly please the Kalajian family if you could join them at this Heroes Square ceremony.

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#974

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Memorial Day was originally established to honor fallen soldiers of which war?

2. Which esteemed medal for valor was first created during the Civil War?

3. Who is the only woman to ever be awarded the Medal of Honor?

4. What flower is worn in honor of Memorial Day?

5. Which historical monument was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1922?

6. The ancient Greeks marked one of the earliest displays of honoring fallen soldiers in which
- war?

7. How many baseball World Series Championships have the Boston Red Sox won?

8. Baseball legend Barry Bonds made his baseball debut for which team?

9. Dua Lipa's song *Dance the Night* is from which movie?

10. Which instrument did Louis Armstrong play?

11. Which month is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month?

12. When is World Milk Day?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The cheesiest pizza was topped with 154 types of cheese.
2. There are giant technicolor squirrels in India.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
SOCCER

- ACROSS
1. Heidi's footwear, pl.

6. ____ Hamm

9. Humorous anecdote

13. It doesn't take away tomorrow's troubles

14. Like Mother Hubbard

15. Popular pie nut

16. Hiker's path

17. Court

18. Makes better

19. Number of soccer players on field for each team

21. Winningest FIFA World Cup country

23. Common inquiries, acr.

24. Carmy Berzatto's restaurant, with The

25. Cul-de- ____

28. In the buff

30. Preacher's platform

35. Poking instrument

37. Smidge

39. Sashay

40. Bald eagle's nest

41. a.k.a. soccer field

43. Lice eggs

44. Located within

46. 3 squared

47. High rocky hills

48. Post-roller coaster ride state

50. Captain of Nautilus

52. ____ chi

53. Unforeseen obstacle

55. Acronym, abbr.

57. FIFA headquarters location

60. Soccer footwear

63. Uninterested

64. Hundred Acre Wood's wise resident

66. Parkinson's drug

68. Pool problem, pl.

69. Romanian money

70. Wooden ship caulking

71. Celt

72. Cotillion ball's main attraction

73. ____ Alexander-Arnold

- DOWN
1. 100 lbs.

2. Elders' teachings

3. Kind of history

4. Widower's feelings

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19				20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
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48					49		50			51		52		
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	57	58	59					60				61	62	
63						64	65			66				67
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

P	A	T	S			A	S	H			H	E	L	D		
O	G	R	E			A	C	H	E		H	A	D	O	N	
M	A	I	N			C	H	A	R		O	M	E	G	A	
P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R	S			V	I	N	E		
			A	M	U	S	E			T	E	L				
T	A	N	K	A	S				D	A	R	T	E	R	S	
A	G	O		M	E	T	E	O	R		O	R	E	O		
P	A	R	S	I		O	N	O			S	N	A	F	U	
P	I	M	A			A	N	D	R	E	W		S	I	T	
A	N	A	L	O	G	Y				D	A	L	E	T	H	
			E	R	E			B	A	I	Z	E				
	A	P	S	E				O	U	T	S	I	D	E	R	S
A	L	A	M	O				U	N	T	O		G	R	O	T
C	O	C	A	S				S	C	A	N		E	S	A	U
T	E	E	N					T	O	R			R	E	N	D

5. Forest spirit

6. Worked over with scythe

7. UN labor org.

8. Sun-dried brick

9. Exclamation, with Louise

10. Palm tree berry

11. ____ Mall, London

12. Ensign, for short

15. a.k.a. Lighthouse of Alexandria

20. Provide with shin guards, socks and uniform, e.g.

22. Drake's genre

24. Playing roulette

25. FIFA Women's World Cup current champion

26. Rome's Colosseum, e.g.

27. Singular of cornua

29. Kill (2 words)

31. "By ____ of" or "by means of"

32. "The ____," Dostoyevsky's novel
33. U in UV

34. Lionel ____

36. Coloring substances

38. Teenager's breakout

42. Relating to blood

45. Dwell

49. African National Congress

51. Central American wildcat

54. Get ____ of someone

56. Highway patrolman's gun

57. "Germinal" author mile ____

58. Desire

59. ____ Madrid

60. C in AFC Richmond

61. Puff of marijuana

62. Spin, past tense

63. The Herm s Kelly, e.g.

65. Itty-bitty

67. Invoice qty.
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Join the public hearing on Proposed FY2026 Water and Sewer Rates

The City of Somerville Water & Sewer Department invites all community members to a public hearing to review proposed Water and Sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2026. Water and Sewer rates are typically adjusted each year. This year’s higher-than-usual increase is due in part to the fact that no rate adjustments were approved last year. The Water and Sewer Department’s proposal this year aims to close that gap to ensure the city can continue funding essential infrastructure improvements and maintain reliable service. Proposed changes to be discussed include:



An 18% increase in water volumetric charges • A 12% increase in sewer volumetric charges • Changes to existing base charges for both water and sewer • Changes to the tiered rate structure for Residential accounts • Changes to existing bill schedules and billing frequency • Change from existing bi-monthly bills (every other month) to quarterly billing cycle (every three months) for Commercial accounts; and • Change from existing tri-annual bills (every four months) to quarterly billing cycle (every three months) for Residential accounts.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 28, at 6 p.m. Members of the public may attend in person or join virtually:
• In person at the Tufts Administration Building (TAB) 2nd Floor Conference Room, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA 02144 • Virtually via Zoom:web.zoom.us/j/84371662008 • Webinar ID: 843 7166 2008 • Passcode:773369

If you’re unable to attend but would like to share feedback, please send comments by:
• Emailing water@somervillema.gov with the subject line “RATE HEARING” • Sending U.S. Mail to: 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.

Please contact Kellie Hebert, Director of Finance and Administration at water@somervillema.gov with any questions.

Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



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>.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_Z9HISRYNSQyWw6kQxNoLNg
Webinar ID: 811 4538 7477

TO CALL IN

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

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

54 Albion St Susan and Terran Lane seek relief from S20 Section 3.1.7.b, regarding the minimum sum of side setbacks, which requires a Hardship Variance.

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

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

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

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

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

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

5/21/25, 5/28/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP# 25-74

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

On-Call Lead Paint Inspectors for Housing Improvement Program

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 28, 2025**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 pm, Wednesday, June 18, 2025**. 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 email Felisa Gárate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Gárate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

5/28/25 The Somerville Times



WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR 2026 RATE PROPOSAL

PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Water and Sewer rates, on **Wednesday, May 28th, 2025, at 6:00PM**, on the proposed changes:

1. An 18% increase in revenues from water volumetric charges;
2. A 12% increase in revenues from sewer volumetric charges;
3. Changes to existing base charges for both water and sewer;
4. Changes to the tiered rate structure for Residential accounts; and,
5. Changes to existing bill schedules and billing frequency:
 - a. Change from existing bi-monthly bills (every other month) to quarterly billing cycle (every three months) for Commercial accounts; and,
 - b. Change from existing tri-annual bills (every four months) to quarterly billing cycle (every three months) for Residential accounts.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be held by remote participation. You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person at the Tufts Administration ("TAB") Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room at **167 Holland Street, Somerville, MA 02144**.

2. Virtually through the Zoom platform.

Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
Webinar ID: 843 7166 2008

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84371662008?pwd=b5ouHgN6TM9AEIOM0FCZCLJmGczos.1>
Passcode: 773369

3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to water@somervillema.gov with RATE HEARING as the subject title or send them by US mail to the Water and Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA, 02145. Your comments must arrive **no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing** to be sure they are conveyed to the Department of Water and Sewer.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

Persons with disabilities who need ADA accommodations to access this program, please contact 311 (617-666-3311) in advance.

The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free.

To request an interpreter, please contact us at somervillema.gov/ ContactSomerviva or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.

5/28/25 The Somerville Times



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Removal of Public Shade Trees

City of Somerville

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.** using Zoom software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- 96 Cross Street – One honeylocust tree, 7" diameter, fair condition

Tree is proposed for removal in order to build an accessible curb ramp. More information on the project will be provided during the hearing.

The tree(s) identified above have been posted for public inspection. **In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal this tree must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing.** Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervilleMA.gov, or mailed to: Vanessa Boukili – OSPCD, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

Registration URL: <https://tinyurl.com/46t22mar>
Webinar ID: 889 5104 3206

5/28/25 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_MeMikAbSSRCunSGn0hIbgA
Webinar ID: 814 3778 6596

TO CALL IN

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

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

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

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

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

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

5/21/25, 5/28/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

REGISTER ONLINE

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_e7EILXbmTg6eTZ3elxAfVg

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

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

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

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

5/21/25, 5/28/25 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Syed Khalid Mustafa

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
The Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians

SUM-100

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

ELECTRONICALLY
FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

11/7/2024 11:44 AM

County of Tehama
Kevin Harrigan, Clerk of the Court

By Trisha Williams, Deputy
FILED

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.**

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Tehama County Superior Court
1740 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

CASE NUMBER:
(Número del Caso):

24CI-000290

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
McCarthy & Rubright, LLP, 100 Rio Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

DATE:
(Fecha)

11/7/2024 11:44 AM

Kevin Harrigan
Clerk of the Court


Clerk, by
(Secretario)

Trisha Williams

, Deputy
(Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)
(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

[SEAL]



NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1. ☐ as an individual defendant.

2. ☐ as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):

3. ☐ on behalf of (specify):
under: ☐ CCP 416.10 (corporation) ☐ CCP 416.60 (minor)
☐ CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) ☐ CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
☐ CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) ☐ CCP 416.90 (authorized person)
☐ other (specify):

4. ☐ by personal delivery on (date):

Form Adopted for Mandatory Use
Judicial Council of California
SUM-100 [Rev. July 1, 2009]

SUMMONS

Page 1 of 1
Code of Civil Procedure §§ 412.20, 465
www.courts.ca.gov

5/21/25, 5/28/25 The Somerville Times

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Memorial Day Parade

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Department of Veterans' Services invited all community members to join in honoring local veterans and our nation's fallen heroes at the city's Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday, May 25. The parade proceeded west from Davis Square on Holland Street through Teele Square and onto Broadway, ending at the Veterans Cemetery between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street. The Remembrance Ceremony took place immediately following the parade at Somerville Veterans Cemetery (photos on page 15).





Photos by Claudia Ferro



CLASSIFIEDS

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

AUTOS WANTED

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 1-866-258-6720

FINANCIAL

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FOR SALE

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

1. The Civil War	War
2. The Medal of Honor	7. 9
3. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker	8. Pittsburgh Pirates
4. The poppy	9. Barbie
5. The Lincoln Memorial	10. Trumpet
6. The Peloponnesian	11. June
	12. June 1

Memorial Day remembrance ceremony

The annual Remembrance Ceremony was held at the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Somerville following the parade.



Photos by Claudia Ferro

Join the new Somerville Armory Advisory Board

With the Armory Master Plan now complete, the city is embarking on an important first step in the community-driven plan. Community members are invited to apply to join the new volunteer Somerville Armory Advisory Board. This opportunity is for arts professionals and residents. If you're passionate about arts and culture for all, this is a great opportunity to make an impact. The deadline to apply is Monday, July 14.

What is the Somerville Armory Advisory Board (AAB)?

The Somerville Armory is the city-owned 34,000-square-foot public arts center located at 191 Highland Avenue. The AAB is dedicated to supporting the Armory's mission to serve as a thriving arts and cultural center for the full community. Board members will honor the goals of the Master Plan while providing recommendations to the mayor. They will advise on selecting Armory tenants, as well as on investment priorities for revenues and funds raised for building improvements and service upgrades.

Who Can Join?

The city is seeking three professional members of the local arts community and two residents, including one resident who resides in the Armory area.

Three (3) representatives of Somerville's arts community:

- ✦ This includes individuals who are producers, presenters, or curators; artists; staff or board members of local arts organizations or related nonprofits; teaching artists.
- ✦ Arts professionals do not need to be Somerville residents, but must be connected to the arts ecosystem in Somerville.
- ✦ Two (2) Somerville residents:
 - ✦ One resident of either Ward 3 or Ward 5
 - ✦ Not sure of your ward? You can look it up here: somervillema.gov/mysomerville
 - ✦ One resident of the city

Who is not eligible for this board?

- ✦ Somerville Arts Council board members
- ✦ Current and prospective tenants of the Armory
- ✦ Staff or board members of current or prospective tenants of the Armory
- ✦ Immediate abutters of the Armory

What knowledge would be helpful to the board?

- ✦ All are welcome to apply. The city seeks diverse perspectives. Any of the following knowledge would be helpful to the board's work, but is not required:
- ✦ Knowledge of arts organizations and the Somerville arts ecosystem
- ✦ Knowledge of the setting of the Armory within the Spring Hill neighborhood
- ✦ Knowledge of multi-tenant or shared-space building dynamics
- ✦ Knowledge of building systems and structural needs

What is the Time Commitment?

The Armory Advisory Board shall meet not less than quarterly. Meetings may need to be as frequent as weekly at times to efficiently make decisions when required. Meetings may be held in person or remotely via video conference or teleconference, but in all cases, all members must be able to participate in discussions and vote on agenda items.

What is the Appointment Process?

Members are volunteers appointed to a three-year term. Members will be appointed by the Mayor based on recommendations submitted by a review panel. The panel will include, but not be limited to, one member of the City Council and representatives of the Somerville Arts Council and Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. Members may reapply to be reappointed at the end of their term.

What is the Deadline to Apply?

Applications are due by the end of the day on Monday, July 14, 2025.

How Do I Apply?

Online:

Fill out the online form at <https://voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan>

Via U.S. Mail or Drop-Off to City Hall:

Request an application form from Ted Fields at tfields@somervillema.gov.

You can either drop off the form at the Welcome Desk as Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue or mail it to Ted Fields, OSPCD Economic Development Division, City Hall - 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02413.

Questions?

For more information, please contact city staff at armory@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600x2552



Chair of Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee receives citation

By Harry Kane

Somerville's City Councilors and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne commended Tom Lamar with a citation for his six years of service as the Chair of the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Lamar has advanced the city's goals of improving the safety of all road users, encouraging residents to travel by bike, and helping cyclists to build a culture of "safe streets activism" in the community.

"I'm really pleased to introduce this citation and thank Tom Lamar for his excellent service as Chair of the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee," said Mayor Ballantyne during the City Council meeting on May 22.

Lamar has served on the committee for the past 10 years and was elected to chair the committee in 2019. He will continue serving as a member of the committee.

An ordinance by the City Council, formerly the Board of Aldermen, established the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee on February 8, 2001, to improve safety conditions for bicyclists and promote and implement programming and policies.

"In Somerville, we are very lucky that we benefit from the time and energy of so many volunteers in our community," said Mayor Ballantyne.

During Lamar's tenure, Mayor Ballantyne says he has helped pedal forward Somerville's transportation policies for the benefit of future generations.

"He became Somerville's leading voice on state agency projects, challenging our partners at MassDOT to meet our community's demand and redesign state roads like Mystic Ave., McGrath Highway, and Alewife Brook Parkway."

Lamar helped build support among elected officials to grow in-house staff teams in several departments that work on safe streets issues, including the City Council-endorsed citywide bicycle network plan.

"I am tremendously proud of our work for the bike network plan and the safe streets ordinance," said Lamar. "There was a tremendous amount of community input that went into that."

Several City Councilors thanked Lamar for his advocacy in the community that aims to build collaboration among folks



At the City Council meeting on May 22, Tom Lamar spoke about his achievements after receiving a citation for his leadership as Chair of the Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee.

who care about street safety.

"You've really found a way to manage to channel that energy in a productive and constructive way," said City Councilor at Large Willie Burnley, Jr. "And to do so in a way that creates an environment where people feel that they can

speak, that they can engage, that they can debate without ever losing a sense of community."

Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen said that the leadership at the Bicycle Advisory Committee is "admirable" and "effective."

SomerStreets 2025 kicks off with Carnaval celebration

The Somerville community is invited to get their dancing shoes on as SomerStreets: Carnaval returns on Sunday, June 1, from 2 to 6 p.m. (rain date Sunday, June 8) to kick off the 2025 SomerStreets season, which will include a series of three neighborhood street festivals across Somerville. SomerStreets: Carnaval celebrates the East Broadway Business District and community with food, music, and activities from around the world. Programming will extend along East Broadway from McGrath Hwy. to Pennsylvania Ave.

The event will kick off at 2 p.m. with a parade starting at Garfield A venue. Attendees can shop more than 40 artisan vendors, view performances from Grooversity and Trio Champola, enjoy food from 13 neighborhood restaurants, and join an interactive activity like participatory art making, led by local artists Andres Duarte and Nate Devarie. There will also be plenty of family friendly fun including a Bouncy House, Parkour, Esh Circus, and other activities. SomerStreets: Carnaval is organized by East Somerville Main Streets in collaboration with the Somerville Arts Council. SomerStreets is the City of Somerville's take on the internationally renowned Open Streets concept, closing busy city streets to vehicles, and opening them up for walking, dancing, and other activities.

Mark your calendar for the next two SomerStreets festivals as well:

- Saturday, September 13: SomerStreets: Gilman Arts and Music Festival
- Sunday, October 19: SomerStreets: Monster Mash along Somerville Avenue

Road Closures and Bus Detours for SomerStreets: Carnaval:

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

- Broadway between McGrath Highway and Pennsylvania Avenue closed to all vehicular traffic.
- No parking on either side of the street from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents who live on the west side of Broadway will be detoured onto Broadway at Pennsylvania Ave. Residents who live on the east side of Broadway will be detoured onto Pearl St.
- MBTA buses will be rerouted from 11 to 8 p.m. For full detour information, visit [mbta.com/bus](https://www.mbta.com/bus)

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



USNC and Rafi Properties reach landmark Community Benefits Agreement on Somernova expansion

The Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC) and Rafi Properties are proud to announce a landmark Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) tied to the Somernova campus expansion in Union Square. This historic agreement, which now advances to the broader community for public vote, represents a transformative vision for inclusive innovation, job creation, arts and culture, sustainability, and equitable economic development in Somerville.

The CBA was developed through years of collaborative negotiation and community engagement. It ensures that a proposed development – pending approval of the City of Somerville’s Arts & Innovation SubArea zoning amendment – delivers a range of lasting benefits to Somerville residents.

Fueled by the Arts & Innovation Subarea zoning, Somernova’s expansion envisions 1.5 million square feet of cutting-edge R&D and commercial space to support the next wave of climate and tough tech innovators. Integrated into a vibrant ecosystem of arts and music, local retail, housing, childcare, civic space, and a turnkey community center, this expansion will further cement Somernova as a global launchpad for companies emerging from trailblazers like Greentown Labs and The Engine—positioning Somerville at the forefront of solving the world’s toughest challenges.

The Somernova CBA sets a bold new standard for arts-centered development, transforming the campus into a vibrant home for Somerville’s creative community. With over 100,000 square feet dedicated to Arts and Creative Enterprise (ACE), the CBA promises 60,000 square feet of permanently affordable, purpose-built spaces—from art exhibition and galleries to music rehearsal and recording studios. Three dynamic music venues, ranging in size and character, will anchor a cultural ecosystem designed to celebrate, elevate, and sustain local artists for generations to come.

As part of this progressive, unprecedented CBA, Rafi Properties has executed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters and Shawmut Design & Construction for the expansion of Somernova’s campus. This agreement, which will be made possible by the passing of the Arts & Innovation Subarea zoning. This milestone is a testament to what can be accomplished when vision, community, collaboration, and a commitment to progress, align. Rafi is committed to union jobs, fair wages, and local hiring throughout the project.

“The USNC is excited to announce this pivotal CBA, which will provide arts space, dedicated community spaces, and City’s first ever private developer Project Labor Agreement, while also advancing small businesses and sustainability in Somerville,” said Emily Doran of the Union Square Neighborhood Council. “We know the community has been waiting patiently, and we are unbelievably happy it is now in your hands.”

“Through hundreds of hours of collaborative work, we now have unprecedented benefits for everyone. What’s to come for the arts is truly game changing,” said Ami Bennitt, Volunteer Founder, Arts Stays Here. “We thank all artists, musicians & supporters who participated in this community process.”

“This CBA reflects what is possible when community voices are at the center of development,” said Kristin Phelan, Vice President of Real Estate for Rafi and Somernova. “It represents our deep commitment to Somerville’s future – where community, economic growth, arts, sustainability, and equity go hand in hand.”

Key Highlights of the Community Benefits Agreement

Arts & Creative Enterprise (ACE):

- A minimum of 8% of the overall commercial leasable space will be programmed for ACE uses (approx. 100,000 sq. ft; 40,000 for Arts Exhibition, 20,000 sq. ft. for Artist Studios and Creative Incubators).
- 50% of the ACE space will be affordable & purpose-built with long-term lease options for music recording, rehearsal and performance space.
- Three music venues with capacities ranging from 80 to 325 people.
- A minimum of 9,500 square feet of rehearsal/recording studio space.
- A Curatorial Advisory Team will be established with local artists to guide programming, tenant selection, and public art initiatives.

Community Spaces:

- 20,000 square feet of dedicated community space, including a fully funded, turnkey 12,500-square-foot Community Center – also-known-as The Dojo – with guaranteed 10-year operational support.
- An additional 7,500 square feet of flexible indoor space available for local groups, events, and intergenerational programming.

Jobs & Jobs Training:

- Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for construction jobs (first of its kind in the history of Somerville) guaranteeing prevailing wages, good benefits, and safe working conditions.
- As part of the PLA, the Greater Boston Labor Council will bring its Building Pathways apprenticeship training program, funded by Rafi, to provide a road for advancement to jobs with higher pay.
- \$375,000 over 10 years to support the First Source Jobs Program.
- Rafi commits to partnering with Somerville High School on vocational training, job-readiness and placement programs.
- 6,000 construction jobs and 4,000 permanent jobs.

Affordable Housing:

- \$500,000 in funding to the Somerville Community Land Trust over 10 years.
- 150 residential units will include a minimum of 20% affordable units, with a goal of 50%.
- At least 30% of these units will be 2-bedrooms or 3-bedrooms
- Prioritized housing access for artists and educators, and will work in consultation with Somerville Community Corporation on Affordable Dwelling Unit development.

Small Business & Equity:

- \$250,000 over 10 years to Union Square Main Streets to support local independently owned business and entrepreneurs.
- Retail preference for BIPOC-, women-, LGBTQIA+-, and locally-owned businesses.
- Commitment to cultivate a locally rooted and chain-free retail ecosystem that reflects Somerville’s creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurs.

Green & Open Space:

- Commitment to exceed civic space minimums with multiple civic spaces, each with at least 50% permeable surfaces, a combination of active and passive recreation, publicly accessible rooftop terraces as well as the redesign of The Alley @ Somernova, into a 14,000 SF plaza, between Market Basket & Dane St.

Continued on page 19

City Councilors propose new programming to enhance engagement among senior citizens

By Harry Kane

Senior citizens need all the help they can get, and that’s why some are saying there needs to be a senior advisory subcommittee in the Somerville City Council.

A resolution was put forward by City Councilors requesting the creation of a senior liaison position in the Ballantyne Administration and the addition of a senior advisory group to make recommendations on policies impacting seniors in the city.

The main purpose of this resolution is to address the needs of an aging population in the city, thus the proposal of two complementary initiatives, explained City Councilor at Large Wilfred N. Mbah during the May 22 City Council meeting.

“This is to enhance senior engagement

and services,” said Councilor Mbah.

The first part of this initiative would create a point of contact for seniors to ensure streamlined communications and program development tailored to their needs. Secondly, the advisory group would provide direct input from senior residents to ensure their perspective is reflected in the decision-making process.

“Together this effort aims to strengthen the city’s capacity to engage with and support its aging population, foster inclusivity and ensure seniors are meaningfully represented in civic planning and service delivery,” said Councilor Mbah.

Gregory Hill, a senior citizen and member of a statewide grassroots senior-run organization called Mass Senior Action Council, chimed in through a Zoom call during the City Council meeting to ex-

plain his frustration.

“Our voices have not been heard or recognized in the city,” Hill said.

According to Hill, the Somerville Council on Aging does not deal with policy issues that affect the livelihood of seniors in the city. Hill is requesting the addition of a senior advisory subcommittee in the Equity, Gender, Seniors, Families, and Vulnerable Populations Committee.

Fred Berman, former Co-Deputy Director of the Office of Housing Stability, explained that under Rule 25 of the Somerville City Council, a subcommittee can be authorized.

“I do want to emphasize just how valuable and important bringing forward senior voices are,” said City Councilor at Large Kristen E. Strezo. “We need to bring these voices forward; they are essential.”



City Councilor Kristen E. Strezo emphasizes the need for a senior advisory group to address the needs of the aging population in Somerville.

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: What are ETFs that I keep hearing about, and how can they help me with my finances?

A: ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) are one of the easiest, most affordable ways to invest in a mix of stocks or bonds—without picking them one by one.

Each ETF is like a basket of investments you can buy with one click. You get instant

diversification, and you can trade them like a stock throughout the day.

Why ETFs are worth your attention:

- Lower fees than most mutual funds – ETFs are usually passively managed and don’t need expensive fund managers
- Often stronger performance – Many ETFs match or beat actively managed funds over time
- More flexibility – You can buy and sell ETFs anytime the market is open (mutual

funds only trade once per day)

- Clear diversification – Own dozens or hundreds of investments at once
- Transparency – You can usually see exactly what’s inside the fund

ETFs are available through platforms like Fidelity, Schwab, Vanguard, or even apps like Robinhood or SoFi. Just choose one that matches your goals—and let it grow quietly in the background.

Any questions? I’d be happy to help.

I’m Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vhicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

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

Continued from page 18

- Rebuild of streets and streetscapes on both sides of Park St. Properzi Way and Tyler St.
- Connections with nature will include rooftop gardens, green walls and roofs, winter gardens, 150+ new trees, 100% Native plants, rain gardens, and no-poison rat control.
- Net-zero-ready buildings with green infrastructure, rainwater reuse, and biophilic design.
- Commitment to LEED Platinum-certifiable commercial buildings and Passive House residential design.


Mobility & Traffic:

- Somerville’s most comprehensive and rigid Mobility Management Plan requirements to be developed in consultation with the community with Key Performance Indicators, monthly public reporting, transparent enforcement mechanisms and triggers connected to KPI violations resulting in delay of permit advancement.
- Vehicles traveling to and from Somernova will not increase traffic light queues by more than 18% at monitored intersections.
- Dynamic Parking Pricing will be established, where parking will rise annually until the parking demand meets the target levels. The extra revenue will be reinvested back into a mobility management fund to make ongoing improvements.
- Free community shuttles to transit hubs (and Mystic Learning Center, 750 bike parking spaces, car-sharing incentives, and dynamic parking pricing to reduce congestion.
- EV-ready infrastructure with 25% of parking spaces equipped for electric vehicles.

Monitoring & Compliance:

- A formal CBA Implementation Committee will track progress and ensure transparency and accountability.
 - Quarterly updates during construction and semi-annual reviews post-construction, with community reporting and compliance mechanisms in place.
- For more information, the Community Benefits Agreement is available to view [here](#).

This landmark CBA will be presented to the community for review at a public meeting on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 6:30pm at St. Anthony’s School, 480 Somerville Avenue, Somerville, MA. Following this meeting, a public vote will be held in-person on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, also at St. Anthony’s School, 480 Somerville Avenue, from 7:30 AM – 7:30 PM. Voting on the CBA is available to members of the USNC. Membership is open to anyone who has lived, worked, volunteered, owned property, or owned a business in the Union Square Neighborhood Council catchment area at any point within the last 12 months.



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

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

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

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

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


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

Teen Empowerment Event

May 31, 7:00 p.m. at 50 Cross Street, East Somerville Community School.
Teen Empowerment is hosting their annual Somerville Youth Peace Conference.

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris




Why do fish swim in saltwater?
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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



A pair of mourning doves... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

May 28

0585 – A solar eclipse interrupts a battle outside Sardis in western Turkey between Medes and Lydians. The battle ends in a draw.

1805 – Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned in Milan, Italy.

1830 – Congress authorizes Indian removal from all states to the western Prairie.

1859 – The French army launches a flanking attack on the Austrian army in Northern France.

1863 – The 54th Massachusetts, a regiment of African-American recruits, leaves Boston, headed for Hilton Head, South Carolina.

1871 – The Paris commune is suppressed by troops from Versailles.

1900 – Britain annexes the Orange Free State in South Africa.

1940 – Belgium surrenders to Germany.

1953 – Melody, the first animated 3-D cartoon in Technicolor, premieres.

1961 – Amnesty International, a human rights organization, is founded.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Celebrate **World Portuguese Language Day** with the **Somerville Public Library**. They have selected books and songs tailored to children up to 6 years old, but children of all ages are welcome, accompanied by their parents or caretakers. It's fun for the whole family. After the story-time and sing-along, there will be a tour to learn more about the library and everything it offers. Entry is first-come, first-served, until venue capacity is reached. Registration is recommended so that they can better serve you. This event will be held in Portuguese. **Saturday, May 31, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**, Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave. Registration is recommended. Please use this link to register: tinyurl.com/4ebebexv.

The Somerville community is invited to get their dancing shoes on as **SomerStreets: Carnaval** returns on **Sunday, June 1**, from 2 to 6 p.m. (rain date Sunday, June 8) to kick off the 2025 SomerStreets season, which will include a series of three neighborhood street festivals across Somerville. SomerStreets: Carnaval celebrates the East Broadway Business District and community with food, music, and activities from around the world. Programming will extend along **East Broadway** from McGrath Hwy. to Pennsylvania Ave.

The **Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities 3rd** is holding their **Annual Red Sox Event** on **Tuesday, June 3, 7:10 pm**. Somerville residents who self-identify as having a disability can reserve free tickets for themselves and one guest by emailing ADACommision@gmail.com. They are offering free transportation options, a classic Fenway Park meal during the game, and a Disability Pride Game Shirt courtesy of the Boston Red Sox.

Pop-up, Cuban artist **Janette Brossard Duhart**, Reception, **Friday, May 30, 2025, 4 – 8 p.m.**, **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood Road, Somerville. The world as a supermarket is an exhibition functioning as a large installation, composed of various independent pieces presented in groups. This exhibition stems from my interest in showcasing society as a stage, with the main actor being financial capital. It explores the notion that we are increasingly immersed in a culture of consumption, posing a real threat to humanity.

Jane's Walk Somerville: Lost Histories of Central Street takes place **Saturday, May 31, 2 – 3 pm**, **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood Road, Somerville. Discover nearly all of Somerville's history within a five-block radius. As development reshaped the landscape, much of Somerville's natural environment and historic architecture were lost. Uncover the city's rich, layered history through the stories of the families, historic homes, and pivotal moments that happened along and around Central Street. The tour will leave from the Museum at 2 pm. Leaves from the Somerville Museum, ends on Somerville Ave (must be able to walk up and down hills) <https://www.somerville-museum.org/>

In partnership with **Arts at the Armory**, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is thrilled to announce **SHC's Echos Exhibition**, a powerful showcase that features artwork created by clients from their **Engagement Center**. The exhibition will be on display **from May 13 to June 30** at the **Rooted Armory Café**, 191 Highland Ave. **Holly Simione**, candidate for City Council At Large, is having her **campaign kickoff Wednesday, June 4**, from 6 to 8 pm, at **Sally O'Brien's** in Union Square. Join **Gene Brune, Dorothy Kelly Gay, Bob McWatters**, and other very special guests as she officially launches her campaign. Complementary food, cash bar, and entertainment will be provided. All are welcome to attend.

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

With spring in full swing, the **City of Somerville** is reminding residents that the season of growth is also the season of pollinators. As you shop for plants to fill garden pots or garden beds, you can play a role in feeding and sheltering the insects that keep our global ecosystem functioning. Somerville's **Pollinator Action Plan** is your go-to guide for planting a beautiful garden and protecting the creatures that

keep our environment blooming. Whether you're a homeowner, renter, seasoned gardener, or total beginner, the Plan is full of practical steps and inspiring ideas to help create a vital habitat right here in the city. Check out the full Pollinator Action Plan at: www.voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan.

The **Slice of the City** spring meet-up series is an opportunity to connect and engage with city leaders and staff as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks. All events run from 5 to 7 p.m. Pizza and refreshments will be served, and Somerville Recreation will have activities for children available. Wards 4's Slice of the City event that was previously postponed due to weather will be held on **Tuesday, June 17**, at Healey Schoolyard, 5 Meacham Street. For more information, visit www.somervillema.gov/slice

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

The **Somerville Chamber of Commerce** is thrilled to announce the return of the **Taste of Somerville Festival** on **Wednesday, June 11**, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Boynton Yards to benefit your favorite nonprofit, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition**. Returning for its 27th year, Taste of Somerville is the premier all-you-can-eat culinary and creative arts festival of Somerville with over 50+ food and beverage vendors, local artisans, live entertainment, lawn games, and more – all in the heart of Union Square at **Boynton Yards**. For more information and tickets, visit <https://tasteofsomerville.org/>.

On **June 7**, the **Somerville Organization for Multimedia Experiences (SOME)** is proud to present **SOMEDAY FEST**, a day-long festival at the Boston Fig-

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

The **Powder House, Milk Row Cemetery** and **Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times **from May through October** as part of **History On The Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism's MA250** initiative and the **City of Somerville**. Next dates will be: **Milk Row Cemetery, Thursday, June 12, 6 – 8 p.m.**, **Prospect Hill Tower, Thursday, May 29, 6-8 p.m.** . For more dates and events visit <https://www.somerville-museum.org/historic-events-1>.

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

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

Continued on page 23



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville's Vie Ciné: Provides healing with the stroke of the brush

Recently, I caught up with Somerville artist and therapist Vie Ciné, the founder of the therapeutic arts organization Paint Your Truth.

Doug Holder: How has it been for you working your craft in Somerville?

Vie Ciné: I'm the founder and lead facilitator of Paint Your Truth, a mobile process painting workshop series I began in 2016 in response to the #Me-Too Movement, inspired by the work of Tarana Burke. Our mission is to prioritize self-care and healing for those most often excluded from traditional mental health services – especially survivors, BIPOC communities, and others at the margins.

My first workshop was held at the Hyde Park Library and was attended by Andrea Campbell, then Boston City Councilor, now Attorney General. Since then, Paint Your Truth has grown into a community-driven platform for emotional wellness through art.

I began facilitating workshops in Somerville in 2021 through the ArtBeat Festival, and I've loved building relationships here. There's something deeply moving about seeing familiar faces return year after year— proof that this work resonates and leaves a lasting impression. It affirms what I've always believed: that community-based art therapy is not only valid but vital.

In 2025, I'm hosting a five-part workshop series titled the Paint Your Truth Community Healing Series 2025, held at the West Branch and Central Branch of the Somerville Public Library and at Arts at the Armory Café. These free workshops are supported by the Somerville Arts Council, Mass Cultural Council, Blick Art Materials, and Arts at the Armory. I've attached the promotional flyer for Paint Your Truth Community Healing Series 2025 with the dates, location, and details for every workshop. I dreamed of expanding our reach in 2024—and now, to see that dream realized in a city I've grown to love, with support from local institutions, is a true gift.

DH: Your organization is a therapeutic arts organization. Explain.

VC: In a world where mental health care often remains out of reach, especially for communities facing systemic barriers, Paint Your Truth creates an alternative path – centered in art, community, and empathy.

Our therapeutic approach is grounded in process painting, where the emphasis is on expression rather than perfection. Participants are invited to explore their emotional landscapes with compassion and curiosity, without judgment or expectation. It's not about making "good art" – it's about being honest and



brave enough to show up as you are.

The Paint Your Truth Community Healing Series 2025 provides a safe, welcoming space where participants can reflect, release, and reconnect. We normalize the full range of emotional experiences – joy, sadness, grief, confusion, relief – and foster open dialogue around mental health. Our goal is to help people feel seen, supported, and empowered through creative expression.

DH: You wrote that some of your clients paint images of self-care. What does that look like?

VC: Self-care in our workshops looks different for everyone – and that's the beauty of it. One person might paint a quiet sunrise, a symbol of hope. Another might express rage in bold red strokes or grief in stormy grays. Some create affirmations. Others make abstract pieces that defy explanation but feel right.

What unites all these images is the intention: a moment of choosing oneself, honoring one's emotions, and making space for healing. The canvas becomes a mirror, a release valve, and a place of reclamation.

DH: You said you worked with Andrea Campbell, a then Boston City Councilor, on this project. How did she help?

VC: In 2016, I reached out to every Boston City Councilor to invite them to attend Paint Your Truth's inaugural workshop. Andrea Campbell was the only one who personally responded. Her presence and support were meaningful—not just because of her position, but because she showed up with sincerity.

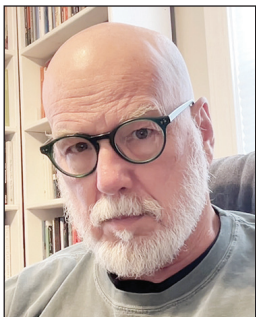
That day, I remember clearing my entire Saturday to do outreach. I sent over 20 emails and contacted staff to ensure the invitation was received. Andrea's willingness to engage gave the project early credibility and helped me believe in the importance of what I was creating.

Continued on page 23

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Richard Hoffman is the author of five books of poetry: *Without Paradise*; *Gold Star Road*, winner of The Barrow Street Press Poetry Prize and the Sheila Motton Book Award from The New England Poetry Club; *Emblem*; *Noon until Night*, which received the 2018 Massachusetts Book Award for Poetry, and his most recent, *People Once Real*. His other books include the memoirs, *Half the House* and *Love & Fury*; *Interference and Other Stories*, and the essay collection *Remembering the Alchemists*. He is Emeritus Writer in Residence at Emerson College and Nonfiction Editor of *Solstice: A Magazine of Diverse Voices*. He can be found on Facebook at richard.hoffman.718, and on Instagram at hoffman9422. His website is richardhoffman.org.



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Surely there will be
someone
for this heart

cleansed
slipped into a silken
pericardium

(is connected
right or re-
connected?)

shocked
it will begin
again

but if mine
is ineligible
too weak

rejected
I made
in that case

an effigy
in the shape
of this poem.

— Richard Hoffman

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
Doug Holder, 25 School St., Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

The **Davis Square Market** will reopen for the 2025 Season on **Wednesday, May 21**. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **from May 21 through November 26**, at 44 Day St., Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.mass-farmersmarkets.org/davis>.

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

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

Connect with **fellow parents of LGBTQ+ youth** at a supportive parent group. Participate in engaging discussions, share experiences, and have your questions answered by health educators from **Cambridge Health Alliance**. This

event will be held on **Monday, June 2**, at **West Branch Library** (40 College Ave.) from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn more and register. <https://somervillepubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/parenting-queer-youth-workshop-with-cha/>.

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

Join in on **Sunday, June 8, 5 – 7 p.m.** at **Portico Brewing**, 101 South Street in Union Square, to meet and mingle, share upcoming gigs, find a photographer, and get to know fellow creatives. Hosted by the **Somerville Arts Council**, Music Ambassador **Ajda Snyder**, and **#ARTSTAY-SHERE**. RSVP is appreciated: <https://somervillemusicmixer68.eventbrite.com>.

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

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

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

Street sweeping in Somerville resumed on **Tuesday, April 1**. Somerville’s street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. Signs indicate the time and date of no parking due to sweeping. The street sweeping season runs from April 1 until December 31 each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit www.somervillema.gov/ sweeper for more information.

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

interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

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

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

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

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

DH: What positive results have you seen from your work?

VC: The most powerful outcomes are the stories participants share with me:

“I haven’t felt this peaceful in years.”
“I didn’t know I needed to cry until I picked up the brush.”
“I felt seen.”

I’ve witnessed people reconnect with parts of themselves they thought were lost. I’ve seen friendships form among strangers. Some participants return year after year, bringing loved ones and spreading the word. The ripple effect is real – this work creates healing not just for individuals but for communities.

DH: How can people get involved with your organization?

VC: There are three key ways to support Paint Your Truth: Follow and share. Spreading the word helps us reach those who need this work the most. We’re active on: Instagram: [@PaintYourTruth_](https://www.instagram.com/PaintYourTruth_)
Threads: [@paintyourtruth_](https://www.threads.net/@paintyourtruth_)
Bluesky: [@PaintYourTruth.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/PaintYourTruth.bsky.social)
Facebook: Paint Your Truth
Twitter: [@PaintYourTruth](https://twitter.com/PaintYourTruth)
Or reach us directly at PaintYourTruth.Art@gmail.com for workshop inquiries.

Attend a workshop—and bring a friend. Whether it’s at ArtBeat, a library, or a pop-up in the park, our sessions

are always free, community-focused, and designed for all levels of artistic experience. Show up for yourself and let the art guide you.

Support us financially. Book a private process painting session: tailored workshops curated by me with a focus on sound therapy, emotional care, and community connection.

Make a donation to help us keep workshops free and accessible to all. Every contribution directly funds supplies, space rentals, and artist stipends.

Donate via PayPal here or use your device’s camera to scan the donation QR code on the promotional flyer for Paint Your Truth Community Healing Series 2025.

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