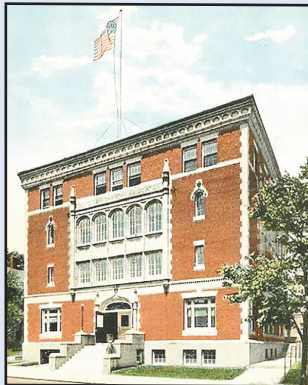




Inside:



Day camp at the Y

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A former mayor honored

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Memorial Day Parade 2024

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City employees and supporters rally for good jobs and quality services



Members of the Somerville Municipal Employees Association (SMEA) and sympathetic community members recently rallied for more support for city workers. — Photos courtesy of SMEA

Somerville residents rallied with municipal employees last week for quality public services and good jobs. Union members and supporters stood out in in Davis Sq. with protest signs calling on Mayor Bal-lantyne to give city employees raises and more con-sideration as valuable assets to the city.

A statement issued by union representatives reads as follows:

The Somerville Municipal Employees Associa-tion (SMEA) unites librarians, public works labor-ers, traffic officers and more.

Union members pointed out that because wages have fallen far behind that of employees in compara-ble positions, the city is losing many dedicated and skilled workers. Union members have been without a wage increase for over two years.

Organizers called on everyone *Continued on page 4*

Union Square Farmers Market birthday bash

Union Square Main Streets and the Union Square Farmers Market community proudly present a cel-ebration of 20 seasons of community-centered, open-air access to fresh, nutritious food in the heart of Union Square.

This free and family-friendly birthday party style bash blooms on Saturday, June 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Union Square Farmers Market on the Union Square Plaza, with special remarks com-memorating the occasion at 11:00 a.m.

“So many shoppers have shared memories about this weekly community tradition over the years that are precious to them,” said Jessica Eshleman, execu-tive director of Union Square Main Streets, “USFM is so much more than a convenient spot to score delicious, local food. It is a place to connect with neighbors, get to know local food *Continued on page 4*



The Union Square Farmers Market will be celebrating 20 seasons of operation with a big birthday bash blooms on Saturday, June 1.

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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 **FY25 Water and Sewer Rates Public Hearing**. Attend in-person or virtually to hear proposed **Fiscal Year 2025 water and sewer rates** on **Wednesday, May 29**, at 6:00 p.m. in the **Water and Sewer Department Conference Room** (17 Franey Rd.). Learn more about proposed rates, participate remotely, and get dial-in information at <https://www.somervillema.gov/>.

Join the city's **Mobility Division** and the **Somerville Bicycle Advisory Committee** to learn the basics of urban biking, map out your commuter route, and join a group ride. Ownership of a bike is not required - free BlueBike codes will be available. This event will be held on **Wednesday, May 29**, and **Thursday, June 13**, at the **Somerville Public Library Central Branch** (79 Highland Ave.) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4lqAOaxl_HH4vOEOsSr3lMeCL81k-2Ld-beDrIG_JN5lt4ozg/viewform?usp=sf_link Link can also be found on the city's website.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: 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 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 *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 29 – June 4 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday May 29	Thunderstorms	74°/55°	30%	22%	NW 8 mph
 Thursday May 30	Rain	64°/53°	52%	41%	NE 10 mph
 Friday May 31	Partly Cloudy	72°/53°	4%	1%	NNE 10 mph
 Saturday June 1	Sunny	73°/55°	2%	1%	NE 8 mph
 Sunday June 2	Partly Cloudy	77°/59°	13%	9%	SE 9 mph
 Monday June 3	Partly Cloudy	81°/62°	4%	1%	ENE 10 mph
 Tuesday June 4	Partly Cloudy	82°/63°	19%	12%	SE 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

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

Karen Klein says:

WOW!!! So informative. Thanks, Ian. Here's to beta lactim rings; long may they protect us.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Neighborhood Collage



This collage is an assemblage of photographs that were all taken within walking distance of my house, which is located near Davis Square.
— Hayward Zwerling

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

Day camp at the Y



Back in the 60's and 70's the Somerville YMCA offered a summer day camp program. I attended and it was a lot of fun. Mom would pack a nice lunch with bologna sandwiches, and

I'd get dropped off at the YMCA for the day. I remember visiting Hood's Cherry Hill farm with all the cows, etc. I asked our readers to share their memories of YMCA Day Camp with us.

"God, the memories. Bus songs, first kisses, second and third kisses lol. I remember a sleep out at Hopkinton, I got mosquito bites so bad. I didn't sleep a wink. Did your moms wrap your tonic cans in tin foil?? Gosh, what good times."

"My sister Gail and I used to go to Y day camp when we were young. We took the bus up highland Avenue to attend. They had 'gymswim and crafts' two days a week where we would take swimming lessons part of the day. Other days we took field trips – sometimes Tony was the bus driver for these outings. Tony would flicker the lights on the bus on and off when the campers sang 3 cheers got the bus driver. We had a great time and went to the beach – where we had to wear the dreaded yellow bathing caps so the counselors could keep track of us. Other trips were to the museum of science, transportation museum in Brookline, Lexington and Concord and other Boston landmarks. It was great and we

had a blast."

"Attended Y summer camp for 3-4 summers w/neighborhood friends. Remember getting lost at Breakheart during a thunderstorm!"

"Fishing at Spy Pond, field trip to the Hood Plant and the neat T shirt."

"It was so much fun! We even went to the police station had a tour of the station and watched a movie, had Hoodsies ice cream and one of the officers gave us a safety speech! It was great."

"I was a summer day camp counselor maybe 76-79. Had so much fun taking the kids to Salem willows, Hopkinton State Park the Aquarium etc. Had the age 5 to 7 group. What a handful! Was exhausted by the time I got home – lol."

"We went everywhere. Beaches, state parks, Wednesday's we'd stay at the Y and swim. If it rained, we went to the movies. We saw the fox and the hound one time – lol. That was '81 or '82 I think. Imagine what it would cost to get a bus load of kids in the movies today? I remember Hopkinton, Salem Willows, Wingersheek beach, Singing beach, a dozen more. I lived on Highland above Apple Orchard and I'd walk up every morning to camp then home after some good days. 3 summers I believe. I'm pretty sure they grouped all of by age. I remember juniors and seniors as groups. What a really fun time."

I can still taste the baloney sandwiches mom packed for me. I also remember waiting for the buses to take us to various venues. All in all, very pleasant memories of my days at YMCA day camp.



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Somerville Police update on the Pro-Palestine and Pro-Israel Protests at City Hall on May 20, 2024

The Somerville Police Department is thoroughly trained and committed to protecting both public safety and freedom of speech at protests for both protestors and bystanders and does so with full neutrality and a commitment to de-escalation.

Prior to the announced protest on Monday, May 20, 2024, at City Hall, police prepared a plan to station officers nearby but not directly at the protest location so as to be able to quickly respond if needed but not to intimidate, escalate, or over-police peaceful protest. The proximity of officers proved appropriate, as SPD was able to quickly move on scene with one and then two additional officers in order to maintain safety. This included maintaining access to City Hall, which was blocked at times by protestors. SPD also acted to maintain safety after counter protestors arrived.

Police on scene responded without force to restore and maintain access to the City Hall main entrance, as needed. Additionally, Officers intervened without force to separate and create physical distance between protestors and counter protestors. SPD also conducted crowd control inside the building to safeguard access for all. Always, SPD puts safety first while seeking not to escalate crowd behavior. No physical injuries were observed by officers, and none were reported to SPD.

With an increased risk of counter protest and increased tensions related to current issues, SPD will continue to keep officers prepared to focus on safety, de-escalation, and the universal protection of first amendment rights.

It is not within our control, but it is our hope that protestors on any side of an issue will choose to advocate peacefully. But when we are needed, we will fulfill our duty neutrally to safeguard protected protest and speech, and we will continue to evolve our efforts to reflect best practices for public safety and de-escalation as we do so.

— Somerville Police Department



City employees and supporters rally for good jobs and quality services

CONT. FROM PG 1

to attend a rally at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 30. The mayor is expected to present her FY 2025 budget at the City Council meeting immediately afterwards the rally.

"Mayor Ballantyne is wasting our tax dollars by overpaying contractors rather than paying our city employees fair wages," said Rand Wilson, a resident of Ward 6 and member of Somerville Stands Together. "It's resulting in qualified city workers leaving the city because in a tight labor market they can find better jobs elsewhere."

"When our water and sewer lines need to be fixed, Mayor Ballantyne is repeatedly choosing to contract that work out to Tim Zanelli Excavating (TZE) at a much higher cost rather than having our own skilled city employees do the work," said Daniel Wong, a leader in Carbon Free Somerville. "Instead, we should save tax dollars and have our own municipal workers do that work."

For more information visit: SupportSMEA.org.

— Somerville Municipal Employees Association (SMEA)



Union Square Farmers Market birthday bash

CONT. FROM PG 1

producers, learn about food security benefits, the food we eat, and community groups making our city a wonderful place. It is a place where all can take pride in Somerville."

Celebrate two decades of gathering with neighbors and your favorite farmers market vendors as USFM transforms for the market day with birthday decorations and activities offering fun for all ages, including chances to:

- Take a walk down memory lane by adding your market memories to USFM's scrapbook
- Discover market details by seeking out farmers market scavenger hunt treasures

• Pose with picture-worthy photo ops

• Read along to *The Salty Avocado* with Aaron Cohen, author and owner of Gracie's Ice Cream at 10:30 a.m.

• Flutter alongside special guests Flutterby Faeries from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• Hear the history behind USFM with special speakers at 11:00 a.m.

Donate to Union Square Farmers Market's Good Food For All campaign and enter to win raffle of three market different posters designed by Eli Epstein at Union Press.

Celebrate with cupcakes made

by USFM vendor Mama Jean using carrots sourced from Brookford Farm.

"Hutchins Farm has been attending the Union Square Farmers Market for the past 17 seasons and we have watched it grow into the amazing market it is today. Union Square has changed a lot in the last 20 years!" said Liza Bemis, owner of Hutchins Farm. "Farmers and USFM vendors are an important part of ensuring this space remains inclusive. We love attending this market and are grateful to our customers, neighbors, and fellow farmers for making this such a joyous part of our week!"

The Union Square Farmers



Market is made possible thanks to generous support from Boynton-Yards, a DLJ and Leggat McCall Project, its 2024 Season Sponsor; the City of Somerville; and donors who contribute to help make the SNAP Match possible.

About Union Square Main Streets, Inc.

Union Square Main Streets works to strengthen the dynamic

neighborhood of businesses and people in Union Square. We take a four-part approach: promoting and celebrating its unique and spirited character; advocating for and assisting local businesses; working to create welcoming public spaces; and fostering connection and collaboration among diverse stakeholders and partners. More information is available at www.unionsquaremain.org.

Former Somerville Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay honored by State Senate

Former Somerville Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay came to the State Senate last week and was honored by Senator Jehlen and Senator Creem.

At the meeting, Sen. Jehlen of Somerville said, "I am so happy to introduce Dorothy Kelly Gay. I served with Dorothy on the Somerville School Committee for six years before she moved on to serve with Leader Creem on the Governor's Council, later ran for lieutenant governor, and was the first woman mayor, first immigrant mayor, of Somerville. And each time she served in extremely challenging times, maybe they're always challenging. But as I remember it, in the School Committee from '86 to '92 we were facing many challenges and we were not the prosperous city we've become. I'll let Leader Creem talk about their work on the Council and how they got Gov. Weld to change commutation criteria."

"When she became mayor of Somerville in 1999," Jehlen continued. "We faced dramatic cuts in state aid and again we were not yet as strong financially as we are now. So, but then I want to say something else about retirement. Dorothy has never retired. She's always been a nurse and went to work for Hebrew Senior Life working with older people and

went on to work at Benchmark and she still works because I think apparently neither of us believe in jumping off a cliff when we end. She still works as a volunteer with older people and as a trustee of Somerville Museum. It is blossoming. I am so proud to introduce my former mayor, former colleague."

Sen. Creem of Newton said, "There's no problem with older women, it's only older men that seem to have a problem in politics. I can't tell you how much I love and admire Dorothy Kelly Gay. I wasn't there in the Council when Dorothy single-handedly changed the law for the Framingham Eight. Prior to that time, it's not a shock that a woman who was abused by someone, a partner or spouse, would get life in prison – they would not have ability to use the defense of self-protection. Women were serving in prison who had been abused. And Dorothy was on the Governor's Council. I was shocked to find out when I was on the Council that I could go into any prison – I didn't know that – they had to let me in because I was on the Council. Creem continued, "Dorothy made a surprise visit to Framingham and made an issue and brought it to the public. Dorothy has a way, she's very



Sen. Creem invited Dorothy Kelly Gay to sign the Senate Guest Book.

— Photo by Sean Fitzgerald

– not relentless but she knows what she wants and I saw her with former Gov. Weld, and he would just give up. Dorothy changed that for so many women and we ought to give her a round of applause."

Those assembled gave a standing round of applause.

"The League of Women Voters wanted to get rid of the Gover-

nor's Council" Creem continued, "But Dorothy and I voted against the governor so many times. I was never alone in feeling strong because Dorothy was there to lead me. I was new to state politics. We went to an event and I said I came from Middlesex County. Dorothy said Cork. She introduced me to a lot of things. She became mayor of Somerville and

what fun we had. We would drive to Somerville and listen to Irish music in an Irish bar. In so many ways, you have meant so much to me. This is such a wonderful opportunity. Thank you for all you have done, Dorothy."

Another standing round of applause was given.

— State House News Service (SHNS)

Morrison Avenue flood relief and water quality improvements open house

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis, Ward 5 Councilor Naima Sait, and the City of Somerville's Engineering Division are inviting the community to an open house on flood relief and water quality improvement efforts planned for Morrison Avenue (Cedar Street to Grove Street) and the surrounding neighborhood. The event will be held on Monday, June 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Baptist Church (31 College Avenue). There will not be a formal presentation. Instead, project staff will be available to review initial concept design plans for stormwater management infrastructure and streetscape improvements, answer questions, and collect feedback. Community members are encouraged to drop-in at any time during the event.

More About this Project

The City of Somerville is making substantial systemwide investments to modernize its sewer and stormwater infrastructure. As part of this effort, the city will be installing new drainage infrastructure and rehabilitating the existing sewer system along Morrison Avenue (between Cedar Street and Grove St.) as well as throughout the surrounding neighborhood.

This project will reduce flood risk in the surrounding area and help maintain the water quality of local rivers.

In addition to the underground utility improvements, this project will also include street safety improvements and green infrastructure (drainage features designed to mimic natural processes such as irrigated planting areas, bioretention basins with select soils and plants that catch and filter stormwater, and new trees) throughout the neighborhood. Final designs are currently anticipated to be completed by fall 2025. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as summer 2026. All schedules are preliminary and subject to change.

For more information about this project and to stay updated as work progresses visit Somervillema.gov/morrisonave.

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' and representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of May 20-24. All Senate roll calls were related to the Senate version of a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2025 state budget.

“BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE SENATE BUDGET DEBATE”

Of the 1,100 amendments filed by senators, only 41 came to a roll call vote. Many others were simply approved or rejected one at a time on voice votes, some with debate and some without debate.

To move things along even faster, the Senate also did its usual “bundling” of many amendments. Instead of acting on each amendment one at a time, hundreds of the proposed amendments are bundled and put into two piles—one pile that will be approved and the other that will be rejected, without a roll call, on voice votes where it is impossible to tell which way a senator votes.

Senate President Karen Spilka, or the senator who is filling in for her at the podium, orchestrates the approval and rejection of the bundled amendments with a simple: “All those in favor say ‘Aye,’ those opposed say ‘No.’ The Ayes have it and the amendments are approved.” Or: “All those in favor say ‘Aye,’ those opposed say ‘No.’ The No’s have it and the amendments are rejected.”

Senators don’t actually vote Yes or No, and, in fact, they don’t say a word. The outcome was predetermined earlier behind closed doors.

Supporters of the system say that any senator who sponsored an amendment that is in the “No” pile can bring it to the floor and ask for an up or down vote on the amendment itself. They say this system has worked well for many years.

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

VETERANS BENEFITS (H 4661)

House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a package designed to benefit veterans in the Bay State by broadening the definition of a veteran, increasing tax credits and state benefits for which they are eligible and modernizing the services on which they rely.

Provisions include providing a medical assistance benefit, behavioral health assistance benefit and dental benefit be-

yond other benefits available to veterans; increasing from \$2,000 to \$2,250 and then to \$2,500 the annuity for blind, paraplegic or veterans with disabilities; allowing municipalities to annually increase local property tax abatements for veterans in an amount equal to the increase in cost of living determined by the Consumer Price Index for the year; increasing from \$2,000 to \$2,500 the amount of a tax credit for each qualified veteran hired by an employer and for subsequent years of continued employment of each veteran; creating a working group to study and make recommendations on the use of psychedelics as an alternative therapy for mental health treatments for veterans; and allowing certain veteran’s organizations to be approved by the Gaming Commission and their local licensing authority for up to five slot machines on their premises.

“[The bill] is a transformative package of reforms that will make sure our veterans and their families have access to the benefits, resources and support they deserve,” said Gov. Maura Healey.

Rep. Gerard Cassidy (D-Brockton), House Chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, called the measure a historic piece of legislation that addresses critical quality of life issues faced every day by veterans. “It is important that we continue to honor those who served our country, and this bill highlights our commitment to their wellbeing,” said Cassidy.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

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

SENATE APPROVES \$57.999 BILLION FISCAL 2025 BUDGET (S 3)

Senate 40-0, approved a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2025 state budget after adding an estimated \$89.6 million in spending during three days of debate. The House has already approved a different version and a House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and sent to the governor.

“[The budget includes] universally free community college and record public higher education investments,” said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), Senate chair of the Committee on Higher Education. “Significant funding for rural roads and bridges, local public health, K-12 schools, Unrestricted Government Aid, Regional Transit Authorities, food security and more.”

“Today our chamber took a vote of confidence in every

Massachusetts resident going to school, raising a family and working to make ends meet,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Today we took a vote for an affordable, competitive and equitable commonwealth. This budget is an investment in our people, and it is an investment in our collective future.”

“The fiscal year 2025 budget overwhelmingly passed by the Senate makes transformative investments in education, regional equity and builds upon the commonwealth’s workforce economy,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “These historic measures enable residents to remain in the state, solidifying our economic future for generations to come. The budget is also a balanced and responsible plan, centered on sustainability and regional equity by maximizing revenues and building upon the progress we’ve already made in key sectors of the state economy. With a transparent and inclusive amendment process, we were able to improve our original budget and make even further strides in our education, economic development, environmental and health and human services priorities.”

Although no one voted against the budget, it wasn’t without its critics.

“The State Senate seems to have only one thing on their mind: spend more, reform less,” said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. The Senate President kicked off that theme when she proposed new ‘free’ community college, which would add an unstoppable ballooning mandate for future generations of taxpayers. The Senate’s questionable priorities were also reflected in the late hours of last night, as they adopted an amendment to spend \$250,000 on a new state seal and motto, when previous attempts proved unfruitful. What a colossal waste of taxpayer money. There’s no other way to view this.”

Craney continued, “Senate leadership had a great opportunity to do something beneficial for the state’s economic competitiveness, but they failed to act. The income surtax was advertised to the public as a tax just for high income earners making over \$1 million dollars. Then last year, the Legislature added a ‘marriage penalty’ to impose the \$1 million dollar income surtax for all ‘combined’ incomes for married couples. This change in the tax policy penalizes married couples just for being married and significantly lowers the threshold from what tax proponents campaigned on. At a time when Massachusetts is desperate to keep high income earners and productive taxpayers from moving out of state, the State Senate missed probably their most important opportunity to be helpful. They had a great opportunity to strike out the

Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



The summer season is right around the corner, Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



Despite the touch-and-go weather in recent weeks, we are clearly running headlong into the bright, sunny days of summer after Memorial Day weekend.

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

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

Parents need to take as much time as they can to help make the summer break

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

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

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

of our Facebook friends, such as **Patrick Courtney, John Gore, Helen Mooney** 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 **Friday, May 31**, **The Dojo** in partnership with the **Somerville Parks and Recreation's Teen Program**, is hosting the **Teen Summer Fair**. It's a great opportunity to find a summer job or meet organizations looking for volunteers. There will be games, a bouncy house, photo booth, live performances, food and much more. The event kicks off at 3:00

p.m. Immediately following the **Teen Summer Fair**, **Mystic Learning Center** is hosting its **Youth Party** at The Dojo to kick off the summer. The event will continue the fun of the Teen Summer Fair with carnival games, food, prizes and fun. Come down to The Dojo when it kicks off at 6:00 p.m. or come at 3:00 p.m. and enjoy both. These are great events for Somerville teens to celebrate the end of the school year and the start of summer. Both events will be held at 15 Properzi Way, Somerville.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne invites the Somerville community to join the **2024**

Nepali Cultural Festival on **Saturday, June 1**, from 3:30 to 9:00 p.m. (rain date June 8) in **Union Square**. Nepali Fest is a showcase of the rich and diverse Nepali culture and will feature dance performances, food, and more.

SomerStreets: Carnaval returns to East Somerville for its fourteenth year with free activities and entertainment on **Sunday, June 2**, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. (rain date: June 9). It starts off with an opening parade and will include interactive games and activities, an artisan market with 30+ vendors, live music on three stages, and food from many of your favorite neigh-

borhood restaurants. The event will take place on **Broadway between McGrath and Pennsylvania Ave.**

SCC is hosting its annual **Job Fair** at the **Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Stop by for the chance to connect with potential employers and find opportunities for growth. Click here to register: <https://SCCJob-Seekers.eventbrite.com>

The **Somerville High School Track Team** needs help to go to **Nike Nationals** this year in Oregon. There is a GoFundMe account organized *Continued on page 15*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#925

- Who is the winningest coach in NCAA women's basketball history?
- How many items are in a baker's dozen?
- What lake in Massachusetts has the longest name?
- Granny Smith is a popular type of which fruit?
- Houses of the Holy* is the fifth studio album by which rock band?
- What retired NBA player starred in the 1996 movie *Kazaam*?
- Who was the first player to win the NBA MVP award?
- Who holds the record for the most NBA MVP awards?
- How many seconds in a day?
- Which President is on the United States 1,000 dollar bill?
- Who is the man behind Darth Vader?
- Which girl group was Beyonce once a part of?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- You spend 92 days of your life on the toilet.
- On average, Americans' favorite smell is banana.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD FICTIONAL FATHERS

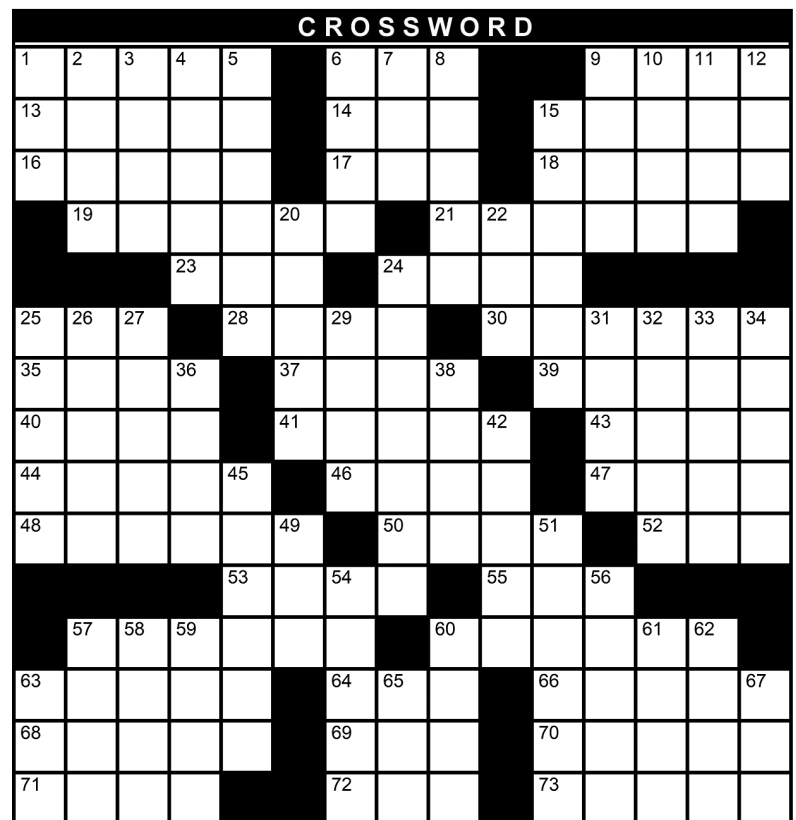
ACROSS

- Ice cream treat, pl.
- Albanian money
- Desertlike
- Like Bananas Foster
- Paleozoic ____
- O. Henry's specialty
- Printer brand
- Always, to a poet
- Extended family member
- "Breaking Bad" father
- "The Lion King" father
- Unit of length of yarn
- "____ Me Maybe"
- ____ Anderson, he knew best?
- The Supremes, e.g.
- Subject matter, pl.
- Same as ayah
- Plural of #14 Across
- Like less processed grain
- Kind of shark
- U.S. Airline
- Short for "and elsewhere"
- Opposite of digest
- Flabbergast
- Like Gulf Stream
- Most achy
- Not much (2 words)
- Reggae's cousin
- Rapunzel's abundance
- Maintenance closet staple
- ____ Rock of "Everybody Hates Chris"
- "Finding Nemo" father
- Golfer's sun protection
- Aloha prop
- Only daughter of Michael Jackson
- Not active
- Emergency Medical Services
- In the cooler (2 words)
- Opie's father
- Egyptian boy king, for short
- Button on electrical outlet

DOWN

- Nth degree
- Not many
- Turkish money
- Online troublemaker
- Mike Brady's children, e.g.
- Malicious look
- Before, in the olden days
- Culture Club 1983 hit "____ Chameleon"
- Solo at LaScala
- Fish eggs, pl.
- Cuzco valley empire
- Yellow #5, e.g.
- Stream of revenue
- Dog-____ pages
- Final, abbr.
- Medicated shampoo ingredient (2 words)
- ____ Evans Sr. of "Good Times"
- Idealized image
- "Prepare to meet your ____!"
- Wraths
- Exclamation in a stinky room
- Smidgins
- "National Lampoon" father
- 1965 march site
- Garden staple
- Half a ticket
- Carl Jung's inner self
- Casual top
- T, in Greek
- Lethargy
- Speck in the ocean
- Heathrow craft
- Same as genie
- Pre-owned
- Type of parrot
- Atomizer output
- Van Gogh's famous flower
- On Santa's gift list
- Roman road
- Down Under runner
- Group of dishes

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



2024 SomerStreets festival season to kick off with Carnaval Celebration



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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, August 4: SomerStreets: Strike up the Band along Highland Avenue

Saturday, September 4: SomerStreets: Gilman Arts and Music Festival

Sunday, October 20: 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 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Residents who live on the west side of Broadway will be detoured onto Broadway at Pennsylvania Ave. Residents who live on the east side of Broadway will be detoured onto Pearl St.

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

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

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #305

(This article was first published in the June 16 2021, edition of The Somerville Times)

The Faithful and the Fearless

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

While walking by, biking, or sitting in Winter Hill traffic, many people have noticed the names of Reilly and Brickley on the front of the city's fire headquarters and have casually dismissed them without a thought. On June 10, Somerville firefighters will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Arrow Paper Company fire where two of their fellow firefighters lost their lives and five were injured. Veteran firefighter, George Janus, was buried in the rubble and narrowly escaped with serious injuries. Four other firefighters were also injured trying to extricate him.



The early 1970's was a time of a large exodus from the ranks of the Somerville Fire Department. It marked the retirement of many of the 30-year career firefighters who had been appointed following World War II. In 1974, because of this exodus, the city had exhausted her hiring list and appointed sixteen out-of-town recruits from the state list to fill its vacant positions. Coming from Arlington, I was proud to be one of them. To my knowledge, it was the first and only time in its history that Somerville officially hired out-of-town recruits.



Everyone in the area remembers that night vividly when radio and television news reports flashed the incident. I was at my fiancée's birthday party when we heard the news. I left her house to go to the chaotic fire scene and met a Somerville police officer who had Brickley's boots in hand. He gave them to me, and I later brought them back to the firehouse still in disbelief. Bob was the first firefighter I met on the job.

Robert Brickley of Everett was one of *Continued on page 22*

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 5, 2024, at 6:00pm** through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4pwKAFtN0c2jAQSHYPk4aQ
Webinar ID: 850 2271 0008

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:

45 Mystic Ave Mystic 45 Development LLC seeks relief from the Master Plan Standards that requires at least twenty-five (25%) percentage of a development site to be provided as a Civic Space in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

6 Prescott Street Pioneer Architecture and Interiors seeks to construct a front stoop and rear projecting porch on a non-conforming building type in the Urban Residence (UR) district, which requires Special Permits.

20 Fiske Ave Christopher Tesluk and Gray Brockett Horne seek relief from the maximum cumulative and face width requirements for shed dormers in the Neighborhood Residence (NR) district, which requires two (2) Hardship Variances.

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.

5/22/24, 5/29/24 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICE OF A COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING AND NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING REGARDING A MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSED BY HAZE OF SOMERVILLE, LLC

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting and Neighborhood Meeting for Haze of Somerville, LLC a proposed Marijuana Retail is scheduled for June 14th at 6pm via Zoom. The link is: tinyurl.com/HazeofSomerville The proposed Marijuana Retailer is anticipated to be located at 362-368 Mystic Ave, Somerville, MA 02145. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions at the end of the Zoom meeting.

5/29/24 The Somerville Times

NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION

**MBTA VMF
34 THIRD AVENUE, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
3-30048**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. On **MAY 16, 2024, MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY** recorded with the **Middlesex County Registry of Deeds** a **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** on the disposal site, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1070 through 40.1080.

The **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** will limit the following site activities and uses on the above property:

AUL Area 1 (Asbestos/TSCA PCB Remedy Portion of the Property):

- (i) Single- and multi-family residential use as well as other uses where children may be present frequently and may engage in high intensity activities including, but not limited to schools; parks; playgrounds; athletic fields; and daycare centers, unless exposure to soil is controlled through the use of exposure barriers (e.g., pavement, concrete, foundations, three feet of documented clean imported soil, etc.) or remedial action;
- (ii) Gardening of agricultural crops for human consumption using Site soils;
- (iii) Relocation of any soil from the Site to another location without LSP review and approval.

AUL Area 2 (Remainder of the Property):

- (i) Single- and multi-family residential use as well as other uses where children may be present frequently and may engage in high intensity activities including, but not limited to schools; parks; playgrounds; athletic fields; and daycare centers, unless exposure to soil is controlled through the use of exposure barriers (e.g., pavement, concrete, foundations, three feet of documented clean imported soil, etc.) or remedial action;
- (ii) Gardening of agricultural crops for human consumption using Site soils;
- (iii) Relocation of any soil from the Site to another location without LSP review and approval.

Any person interested in obtaining additional information about the **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** may contact **Janis Kearney, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 5720, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116, TELEPHONE NUMBER (617) 222-3200.**

The **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) **3-30048** at <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/SearchableSites2/Search.aspx> or at **MassDEP, NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE, 150 PRESIDENTIAL WAY, WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, 01801, TELEPHONE NUMBER (978) 694-3200.**

5/29/24 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **6/11/2024 at 12:00PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Maxine Brandeis unit #1692; Susan Robinson unit #279B; Carl Esperance unit #318B. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

5/22/24, 5/29/24 The Somerville Times

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NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION

**GREEN LINE EXTENSION PARCEL/
M.S. WALKER COMPANY PROPERTY
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
3-30048**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. On **MAY 16, 2024, MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY** recorded with the **Middlesex County Registry of Deeds** **TERMINATION** of a **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** on the disposal site, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1080 through 40.1084. The **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** was originally recorded and/or registered on **SEPTEMBER 3, 2015.**

The **TERMINATED NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) **3-30048** at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite> or at **MassDEP, NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE, 150 PRESIDENTIAL WAY, WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, 01801, TELEPHONE NUMBER (978) 694-3200.**

5/29/24 The Somerville Times

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION

**100 INNER BELT ROAD
SOMERVILLE
3-000974**

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. On **MAY 16, 2024, MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY** recorded with the **Middlesex County Registry of Deeds** **TERMINATION** of a **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** on the disposal site, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1080 through 40.1084. The **NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** was originally recorded and/or registered on **MARCH 12, 1997.**

The **TERMINATED NOTICE OF ACTIVITY AND USE LIMITATION** and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Number (RTN) **3-000974** at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#!/search/wastesite> or at **MassDEP, NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE, 150 PRESIDENTIAL WAY, WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, 01801, TELEPHONE NUMBER (978) 694-3200.**

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BCBS and City of Boston offer Bluebikes unlock credit for those affected by Orange Line closure

Residents can access free unlocks for pedal or ebikes now through Thursday, June 6. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (“Blue Cross”) and the City of Boston are providing Bluebikes unlock codes to help people move around the region and alleviate the impact of rapid transportation disruptions with the Orange Line closure. The unlocks are available to non-members of Bluebikes and can be redeemed for both traditional pedal bikes and the innovative ebikes (per minute fees apply). The unlocks are available for use only during the closure and while supplies lasts.



Blue Cross is the title sponsor of Bluebikes, which is a publicly-owned bike share system owned by the municipalities and operated by Lyft. Now through Thursday, June 6, 2024. Individuals can access the five free unlocks using code MBTAORANGEMAY through the Bluebikes app; these credits can be used across the system’s 13 municipalities: Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Revere, Salem, Somerville, and Watertown.

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.

To the Editors,

Without fanfare last week, a small but significant improvement was made to the East Somerville T-station. A new ramp was installed that allows Brickbottom residents and workers to enter and exit the station by a “back door” – eliminating a long walk to the Washington/Joy Street corner and double-back hike up the Community Path ramp.

This convenient “back door” ramp runs through the paved area, which fronts the intersection of Poplar and Joy Streets. It skirts the side of the Joy Street Studios building, turns behind and then passes through the fences onto the Community Path, leading into the T-station. The ramp is located on privately owned land but is mostly within the space of an MBTA easement, which has always been used by T and

Commuter Rail employees and vehicles but has not been a public easement before.

The ramp has been simply designed with scaffolding poles and an acrylic-type flooring. It is intended to be temporary and has no finish elements or landscaping, except for a bit of grass behind the 86 Joy Street building. It is functional and highly useful for the small number of residents and lab employees who rely on the T.

Significance in the planning process

The desirability and need for this “back door” has been discussed and recorded in all the infrastructure and neighborhood plans, since the original “visions” of GLX expansion and Brickbottom re-development. In the recent draft neighborhood plans, the idea has been elaborated with fantasy pictures of happy pedestrians and cyclists, moving past public art and sidewalk cafes.

Just last summer, the Mayor made application to the state MassWORKS grant program, asking for funding for a \$39 million pedestrian bridge for this location. It was shown as an over-the-rails bridge, connecting Brickbottom with Inner Belt and drawing T-riders and bikers from both sides into the station and Community Path. The present new ramp only serves the Brickbottom side.

Last November the City Council and Planning Board received an application for re-zoning the Inner Belt side, to permit a large increase in building sale and density. This would justify and help cross-subsidize the \$39 million public investment. The Board and Council Land Use Committee held a hearing in January and then put the rezoning application on hold.

In this context of city planning process, the accomplishment of a practical, no-frills

public improvement should be recognized as a welcome and significant action. It happened routinely, without the fol-de-rol of visionary plans, Somer-voice surveys, neighborhood meetings, etc. It got done relatively cheaply, quickly and simply. It undoubtedly required revision of the easement between the MBTA and the private owner as well as routine MBTA budgeting and project authorization. Probably no city permits or sign-off were needed but OSPCD and the Mayor’s office undoubtedly were involved.

Congratulations and thanks to our friends at OSPCD and city hall, to our neighbors the Chestnut/Joy Street landowners, and to the efficient guys and women at the MBTA.

Bill Valletta
Brickbottom resident (urban planner)

Washington Street Presents: Conversations

An Exhibition of Work by Jennifer Erbe and Carolyn Muskat

Jennifer Erbe and Carolyn Muskat have been friends for over 40 years. As artists, they have had thousands of conversations about their work and their ideas. They have both focused on expressing the world around them in visual ways – each from their own unique perspective. Their work sometimes overlaps and highlights parallel interests; sometimes it creates a discourse in opposition. This exhibition celebrates a selection of work that has been sparking recent conversations between them about content, media and the act of making images.

About Washington Street: Washington Street is a gallery and studio space for more than twenty visual artists, and presents exhibitions, concerts, film series, and other art initiatives. Washington Street participates in Somerville Open Studios each May, as well as other community events throughout the year.

Washington Street’s gallery and studios are at 321 Washington Street, Somerville, MA, between Union Square and Beacon Street, a five-minute walk from Union Square and a ten-minute walk from Harvard. Washington Street is near or on the following bus routes: 83, 85, 86, 87, 91, and CT2. Parking is free and ample.

OPENING RECEPTION: Friday, May 31, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **ON VIEW:** May 31 – June 30
Sat./Sun. 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., and by appointment.



Somerville community invited to immigrant workers’ rights fair

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville’s SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the Somerville Worker Center, in partnership with the Brazilian Worker Center and the Brazilian Women’s Group, are announcing a free immigrant workers’ rights fair on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Somerville Worker Center located at 530 Mystic Ave, Suite 111. The fair will feature two workers’ rights presentations, one at 11:30 a.m. in Spanish and one at 1:30 p.m. in Portuguese.

Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with staff from local workers’ rights organizations on a diverse array of topics including wage theft, safety at work, workers’ compensation, domestic workers’ rights, human trafficking, tax filing and deferred action. Advocacy groups currently expected to attend the Immigrant Workers’ Rights Fair include: Boston University Human Trafficking Unit, Brazilian Women’s Group, Brazilian Worker Center, Greater Boston Legal Services, Justice at Work, The Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, The Somerville Worker Center. Spanish and Portuguese interpretation will be available, and multilingual staff will be on-site. If you need interpretation in additional languages, please email somerviva@somervillema.gov or call 311 at 617-666-3311 at least seven days in advance of the date of the event. Registration is not required, but is encouraged at the following links: English: tinyurl.com/2kmkvpvx; Portuguese: tinyurl.com/4s58ee2s; Spanish: tinyurl.com/yeywxa4w. For more information or if you have questions, please contact somerviva@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Memorial Day Parade 2024

Somerville's Memorial Day Parade took place on Sunday, May 26, starting from the Davis Square rotary, continuing up Holland Street and proceeding through Teele Square, ending on Broadway and North Street. The annual Memorial Day remembrance ceremony took place at Veterans' Memorial Cemetery on Monday, May 27.





Photos by Claudia Ferro

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PROFESSIONAL/HELP WANTED

Curriculum Dev't Specialists sought by The Little Butterfly dba WorldSong Schools Winter Hill in Somerville, MA to coordinate the planning, design, and dev't of the curriculum for toddlers and preschoolers. Master's degree in Edu., Teaching, ECE or related, + 6 mon. full-time work exp. in the ECE field. Email resume to wenrui@whill.worldsongschools.com. Attn: Wenrui Li. Ref#CDS04.

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Tara VanDerveer | 7. Bob Pettit |
| 2. 13 | 8. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar |
| 3. Lake Chaubunagungamaug | 9. 86,400 |
| 4. Apple | 10. U.S. President Grover Cleveland |
| 5. Led Zeppelin | 11. David Prowse |
| 6. Shaquille O'Neal | 12. Destiny's Child |

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

by Marcus Odilon. The team has qualified for the nationals once again and would love to see their hard work pay off by performing nationally and representing the school. Go to: https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-somerville-tracks-trip-to-nationals.

The Somerville Council on Aging will be hosting a free Nutrition Check-UP. Listen to a guest lecture: Healthy Nutrition for Older Adults: Keeping Malnutrition at Bay. 167 Holland St., May 30, at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is served at noon. To make a reservation, call 617-625-6600 x 2323.

Visit the Arts at the Armory on June 1 and June 2 for Herbstalk 2024. Herbstalk brings together local herbalists, farmers, medicine makers, teachers, healers and artists who come to share their knowledge, products and passion with one another. For more info and tickets, see their website here: https://www.herbstalk.org/herbstalk-2024.html.

Around Hear: Season Finale Concert will be this Saturday, June 1, 3:30 p.m., 530 Mystic Ave. There will be new music for violin and electronics depicting the personal lives of planets beyond our galaxy, a hilarious tabletop puppet show with a Scrooge-like character and a flying cow, and music for piano and strings by Johannes Brahms to inspire dreaming, drawing, writing, and dancing.

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

Somernova is hosting mobile office hours this week on Tuesday, June 4, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Conway Park. This is a great opportunity to provide feedback and have conversations related to the revised zoning proposal. More information can be found at somernova.community. Additionally, those who would like to host a living room conversation regarding Somernova's expansion can contact

Somernova at community@somernova.com. This is a great opportunity to gather five or more neighbors to discuss the proposal and have your questions answered.

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

Union Square Main Streets and the Union Square Farmers Market community proudly present a celebration of 20 seasons of open-air access to fresh, nutritious food in the rear of Union Square. Shop your favorite market vendors and celebrate 20 years of gathering with your neighbors. Festivities will take place on Saturday, June 1, at the Union Square Plaza.

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

Attention all artists, makers, and more in the greater Somerville area! Somerville Public Library's Comix Con returns this July and they are looking for local artists

to sell their pins, prints, unique art objects and more. They are celebrating fandoms of all types and want you to be a part of our Con. Please fill out this form to be considered for a spot in their Artists Alley: tinyurl.com/splccvapp.

There are still lots of open spaces for students interested in the Summer Music program, the Middle Grades Robotics program, and the Career and Technical Education middle grades program. Rising 9th graders should check out the Summer Success program to get ready for high school. All programs are run by Somerville Public Schools and are free. Learn more and register: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summer.

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

A Docent Tour of Milk Row Cemetery will be held on Sunday, June 2, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Milk Row Cemetery, 439 Somerville Ave. From May through October, three historic sites in Somerville, Milk Row Cemetery (Somerville Avenue), Prospect Hill Tower (above Union Square), and Old Powder House (Nathan Tufts Park), are open to the public on certain days and evenings. Inclement weather cancels any event. For full schedule and more information on the Docent Program: https://www.somervillemuseum.org/docent-program

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville LGBTQ+ Services invite all community members to honor LGBTQ+ Pride Month by joining the annual Pride flag raising ceremony on Tuesday, June 4. The ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the City Hall Concourse and include remarks from Mayor Ballantyne, City of Somerville LGBTQ+ Liaison Izzy Starr, and representatives from Somerville LGBTQ+ community. The flag raising will also be recorded and made available for later viewing by the city's GovTV team. Watch on-demand with optional closed-captioning (select

the CC icon) on YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV. Or watch on cable TV at GovTV Comcast Ch. 22 and GovTV Astound (RCN) Ch. 13 & 613. For more information about LGBTQ+ programming, events, and information, please contact Izzy Starr at 617-625-6600 ext. 2404, istarr@somervillema.gov.

The Somerville Junior Police Academy is back. Hosted by SPD and Somerville Recreation, the program will include classroom training, hands on police tactics, physical training, and more. Registration is open at: https://somervillema.myrec.com/.

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

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

Call to Artists for Somerville Art Council's Inside-OUT Gallery. The ArtBeat 2024 Wild Exhibit deadline is June 20. Exhibit Theme: Wild. To view submission guidelines and apply, go to the Google Form Application here: https://forms.gle/CrsDHSagUFmrQ58a7 To accompany this year's ArtBeat 2024 festival, Somerville Art Council's Inside-Out Gallery in Davis Square invites Somerville based artists of all ages, Somerville residents, and/or artists maintaining work spaces in Somerville to submit work for a group exhibit that fits their interpretation of the word, 'WILD'.

Join Union Square Main Streets and 50+ of your favorite local food producers for the 20th Annual Union Square Farmers Market, 66-70 Union Square. Shop local on Saturdays through October 26, except September

Continued on page 21

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

marriage penalty, but instead, they chose to keep taxes high by penalizing families.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the budget.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

SALES TAX HOLIDAY (S 4)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would establish a 2-week sales tax holiday, from August 6, 2024 to August 19, 2024, allowing consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 without paying the state’s 6.25 percent sales tax. State law currently calls for a 2-day sales tax holiday every year.

“There is no doubt that Massachusetts residents and small businesses are feeling the weight of inflation,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “By giving a 2-week tax reprieve through an extended sales tax holiday, we provided families and individuals an opportunity to make purchases without the added burden of taxes which also helps small businesses.”

Amendment opponents said the Legislature has provided extensive tax relief in recent years and argued the 2-week holiday would cost \$210 million which the state cannot afford. They noted that current state law already provides a 2-day sales tax holiday annually. They noted that extending the holiday is more of a feel-good policy that does little to help families. They noted the extension would actually generate little additional revenue for stores because consumers typically buy the products even without the tax-free days.

(A “Yes” vote is for the 2-week sales tax holiday. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ABOLISH REQUIREMENT THAT COUPLES MUST FILE TAXES JOINTLY (S 4)

Senate 10-29, rejected an amendment that would abolish the current requirement that Massachusetts married couples who file income tax returns jointly at the federal level do the same at the state level.

Amendment supporters said that since these married couples are currently required to file jointly at the state level, their combined income can total more than \$1 million and the 4 percent surtax applies to them and many more filers which is not what the voters approved on the November 2022 ballot question imposing the 4 percent surtax.

“This amendment would have restored the original language of the surtax which would have allowed married couples in Massachusetts to file state taxes separately despite filing jointly for federal taxes,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “In doing so, couples in Massachusetts would have had the opportunity to keep more of their

hard-earned income versus sending it over to the state.”

Amendment opponents said requiring married couples who file jointly at the federal level to file jointly with the state is reasonable and is working well. They noted the surtax is raising more money than predicted and is allowing funding of some of the most important programs in the budgets including universal free school meals, breakfast and lunch, for every student; free community college; and increased scholarships – none of that would be possible without the surtax revenues.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment abolishing the joint filing requirement. A “No” vote is against the amendment and favors requiring joint filing.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

CAPITAL GAINS TAX (S 4)

Senate 4-35, rejected an amendment that would retain a current law that requires any excess revenue in capital gains revenue over \$1 billion to annually automatically be transferred as follows: 90 percent to the Rainy Day Fund; 5 percent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund; and 5 percent to the State Pension Liability Fund. The \$1 billion would remain in the General Fund and be spent by the Legislature with no restrictions.

The proposed Senate budget changes that for only fiscal 2025 by raising the threshold by \$375 million so that any excess over \$1.375 billion would automatically go to those three funds if the secretary of administration and finance makes a determination that the funds are needed to achieve balance for fiscal year 2025. The \$1.375 billion would remain in the General Fund to be spent on by the Legislature with no restrictions.

“This amendment would have restored the original language of the capital gains law that allows transfers of excess gains collections over \$1 billion in one fiscal year,” said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton). “Changing this language for one year ... would create a precedent that would mean less transparency year after year by allowing a greater amount of taxpayer money to be used outside of the intended purpose of the capital gains tax.”

Opponents said the additional \$375 million is needed in the General Fund this fiscal year to fund many useful new programs in the budget including the new free community college program. They noted that the state estimates that there will be \$513 million in excess capital gains this fiscal year which means that a total of \$138 million will still be deposited in the Rainy Day Fund and the two other retirement funds. They noted that a little less money for the Rainy Day Fund this year is acceptable because there is a healthy balance of \$8.4 billion currently in the Rainy Day Fund.

(A “Yes” vote is in favor of any excess capital gains revenue above \$1 billion going to the Rainy Day Fund and the two

retirement funds. A “No” vote is for raising the threshold to \$1.375 billion.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

CONTINUE SESSION BEYOND 8 P.M.

Senate 36-3, approved a motion to suspend Senate rules to allow the Senate budget debate session on May 22 to continue beyond 8 p.m. Under Senate rules, the Senate cannot meet after 8 p.m. unless the rule is suspended. The session lasted two hours and 15 minutes beyond 8 p.m. and adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Supporters of rule suspension said that the Senate has important work to continue on the fiscal 2025 budget and should stay in session to work on it.

Opponents of rule suspension said it is irresponsible for the Senate to debate and vote late at night when taxpayers are asleep.

(A “Yes” vote is for meeting beyond 8 p.m. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$350,000 MORE FOR YWCAs (S 4)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would increase funding for YWCAs by \$350,000 (from \$650,000 to \$1 million).

“For close to 150 years, YWCAs around the world and the nine YWCAs in Massachusetts have stood beside our young women as a pillar of support and empowerment and across the state they are working hard to expand outreach, staffing, programming and support services to hundreds of at-risk girls,” said Sen. Robyn Kennedy (D-Worcester), the sponsor of the amendment. “This \$350,000 amendment is critical to the continuance of our investment in gender specific youth violence prevention.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$350,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$1 MILLION MORE FOR CIVICS EDUCATION (S 4)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would increase funding for civics education in schools across the state by \$1 million (from \$1.5 to \$2.5 million).

“I am so proud to support our continued investments in civics education, which empowers young people and gives them the tools to make their voices heard as they advocate for social, racial, economic and environmental justice,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). “My amendment fully funds the Civics Project Trust Fund, boosting our school systems’ ability to implement civics education curricula and support student civics projects. I’ve met and corresponded with

Continued on page 17

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

hundreds of students about their civics projects, and I can say with confidence that our investments in civics education are paying off."

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1 million.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

BAN HOME EQUITY THEFT (S 4)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would prohibit cities and towns that foreclose on properties on which the owner owes back property taxes, from keeping all of the profits when the city or town sells the property at auction. Current Massachusetts law allows this practice. The bill would allow the city or town to keep only the amount owed in back taxes and send the remainder to the owner.

Last year, the United States Supreme Court ruled that cities and towns that foreclose on properties on which the owner owes back property taxes, cannot keep all of the profits when the city or town sells the property at auction. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, writing a unanimous decision about a similar Minnesota law, said that "a taxpayer who loses her \$40,000 house to the state to fulfill a \$15,000 tax debt has made a far greater contribution to the public fisc than she owed."

"For far too long my constituents, and homeowners across Massachusetts, have been robbed of their rightful equity by greedy profiteers and apathetic bureaucrats," said Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford), the sponsor of the amendment. "The Supreme Court's ruling last year, along with the Hampden Superior Court's decision last month, brought new hope that this thievery would finally come to an end. The Senate has taken the lead on ending this injustice in Massachusetts and I am proud to ensure that we've taken this opportunity to provide strong protections for struggling homeowners who are often facing incredible challenges in their lives. Homeowners deserve relief and any municipality who has engaged in this predatory process

should proactively refund the money to those aggrieved."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ELECTRONIC WAGE CARDS (H 1841) - The House gave initial approval to legislation designed to protect the rights and money of workers who receive their wages through electronic wage cards from their employers.

"I sponsored this bill in order to protect workers who receive their wages through electronic wage cards from their employers," said sponsor Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy). "Without this bill, employees are subject to unfair fees when trying to access their wages. This bill would help ensure that workers are protected, made aware of any fees associated with usage of their card and provided with a means of checking their balances without cost."

PROTECT FIREFIGHTERS (H 2339) - The House gave initial approval to a measure that would require a manufacturer or person that sells Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment to any person or government agency, to provide, beginning January 1, 2025, written notice to the buyer, at the time of sale, if the equipment contains toxic PSAs, as well as the reason such chemicals were added to the equipment. Beginning on January 1, 2027, the bill prohibits any person from manufacturing, knowingly selling or distributing any equipment containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals.

"Firefighters put their life on the line every day to protect the residents of Massachusetts," said sponsor Rep. Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro). "The gear used to protect them in the performance of their duties in fact contains PFAS which is contributing to the rates of occupational

cancer among Firefighters. [The proposal] will not only help identify turnout gear containing PFAS but phase out such forever chemicals from this gear going forward."

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week May 20-24 the House met for a total of six hours and 49 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 39 hours and 47 minutes.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Session Times for House and Senate.

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market provides visitors and residents with top-quality, fresh, and local produce at fair prices; encourages active lifestyle values; educates consumers about farming and locally sourced foods; and gives customers opportunities to interact directly with farmers. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2024-fmseason.

This Month, join the Somerville Public Library and the City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department to "Paint Your Pride!" in a joy-filled

series of community art events. For a list of upcoming "Paint Your Pride!" events visit https://somervillepubliclibrary.org.

The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, they will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appoint-

ments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

Through the generosity of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and from the direction of Mayor Ballantyne, the Council on Aging is now able to provide Durable Medical Equipment at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60, or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise

unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. They currently have available: Commodes, Bath Chairs, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies and Transport Wheelchairs (wheelchairs are intended for transport and are not self-propelling or self-breaking.) For additional information, or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

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

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

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

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

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

Walking Club – Every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. Weather Permitting – Meet at the Holland Street Center entrance. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600,

ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

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

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

June Body Composition Class – In June we will be having a class exploring the topics of body fat and muscle mass. To prepare us for class we will be offering individual appointments for body composition testing. Appointments will allow time for measurements and a short questionnaire. We will discuss how to interpret your results during our class in June. Please remember, body composition is just one factor to consider when measuring health. Please call to make your appointment with Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email Mary at headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

Free Nutrition Check-Up with SCES – Thursday, May 30th starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join us for this Food, Health and Nutrition Event. Nutrition screening questionnaire, raffle for participants and giveaways available. Lunch will be served at noon. To make a reservation, call 617-625-6600, ext. 2323. Presented by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services in partnership with Somerville Senior Center.

Healthy-Steps – A six-week program started on Tuesday, May 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Healthy-Steps is a movement program designed to help you thrive! This playful class is for everybody and can be done seated or standing. We will be focusing on improving strength and endurance, range of motion and providing an opportunity to work on your balance. Join us as we dance with props to eclectic music and have fun on the way to better health. RSVP please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

Bowling – Every Wednesday at Flatbread Company/Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square

from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. - Free - RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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

Day Trips

Ricky Nelson Remembered at the Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers, Mass. Thursday, May 23rd - \$126 per person. Enjoy the live music of Ricky Nelson performed by Ricky's own identical twin sons Matthew & Gunnar Nelson. Luncheon included. Refunds unavailable after April 23rd.

The Spirit of Boston – Tuesday, July 23rd - \$149 per person. Come aboard and enjoy the most entertaining experience in Boston featuring a Grand Luncheon Buffet and dancing on a two-hour cruise. Refunds unavailable after June 21st.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

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

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 8:35 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 8:45 AM Glen Park Ribbon Cutting
 9:00 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 9:30 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 11:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 12:00 PM City Council Meeting 5-23-24
 3:30 PM SomerViva em Português
 4:00 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 5:30 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 6:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 6:30 PM Memorial Day Ceremony
 7:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 8:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 9:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 10:33 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman

THURSDAY, MAY 30

12:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 1:04 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 7:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 8:05 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:00 AM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 10:00 AM SomerViva em Português
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 11:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 7:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting - LIVE
 8:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole - LIVE

FRIDAY, MAY 31

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 2:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 6:30 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 7:05 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:30 AM Phil Reavis: Highlander to Olympian & Beyond
 8:40 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking

9:00 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 10:00 AM Memorial Day Ceremony
 10:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 11:00 AM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 11:30 AM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 12:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 1:45 PM Glen Park Ribbon Cutting
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 5-23-24
 5:08 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 7:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 8:00 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2020
 8:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol
 9:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 11:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

12:00 AM Somerville Civic Day 2024
 12:30 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 1:30 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 7:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 9:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 10:00 AM Finance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 12:00 PM Porchfest 2024
 1:00 PM Women's History Month Celebration 2024
 2:00 PM SomerViva em Português
 2:30 PM Driver's License Info Session em Português
 4:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 6:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 8:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 9:33 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 10:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 11:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 11:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

12:00 AM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 7:00 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 8:50 AM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 9:00 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 9:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 10:00 AM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM City Council Meeting 5-23-24
 4:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 4:30 PM Porchfest 2024
 5:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 6:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 7:30 PM Memorial Day Ceremony
 8:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 10:00 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 10:30 PM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 11:34 PM Imagining Climate Forward 2020

MONDAY, JUNE 3

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AM SomerViva em Português
 1:00 AM Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony 2024
 2:04 AM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 6:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 7:00 AM Nepali Flag Raising Event
 8:00 AM Porchfest 2024
 9:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol
 9:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 10:00 AM Broadway Corridor Meeting Public Results
 11:06 AM Women's History Month Celebration 2024
 12:00 PM City Council - Special Meeting 5-30-24
 2:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 4:00 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 6:00 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 6:30 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 7:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol

8:00 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 8:30 PM Memorial Day Ceremony
 9:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 10:00 PM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 10:30 PM School Committee Update: Emily Ackman
 11:00 PM Nepali Flag Raising Event

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

12:00 AM Jane's Walk 2024
 1:33 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 2:00 AM Memorial Day Parade 2024
 7:00 AM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 7:30 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 8:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol
 8:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 9:00 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 9:30 AM Imagining Climate Forward 2020
 10:00 AM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing
 1:30 PM Finance Committee of the Whole 5-30-24
 3:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 4:00 PM Jane's Walk 2024
 5:35 PM Dilboy Auxiliary Field Ground Breaking
 5:45 PM SPD Ride Along
 6:00 PM People's History Walking Tour of Davis & Ball Squares
 8:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol
 8:30 PM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 8:30 PM Museo Inmigrante: Mental Health In the Latino Community
 10:10 PM Porchfest 2024
 11:00 PM SPS FY25 Superintendent's Budget Hearing

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

12:00 AM Senior Circuit: Mental Health
 12:30 AM School Committee Update: Ilana Krepchin
 1:00 AM New England Hong Kong Festival 2024
 1:30 AM City Council Spotlight: Jesse Clingan
 2:00 AM Memorial Day Ceremony

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

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

THURSDAY, MAY 30

12:00 AM SHS Multicultural Fair
 12:30 AM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 2:30 AM SHS Volleyball vs Chelsea
 8:00 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 12:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert
 1:30 PM WHCIS Spring Concert K-3
 2:00 PM WHCIS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 3:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 5:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 7:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 9:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 11:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert

FRIDAY, MAY 31

12:30 AM WHCIS Spring Concert K-3

1:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 3:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Malden
 8:00 AM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 9:30 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 11:30 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 1:05 PM WHCIS Spring Concert K-3
 1:30 PM WHCIS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 2:00 PM Kennedy School Spring (K-3) Concert
 3:00 PM Kennedy School Spring (4-8) Concert
 4:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 6:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 8:00 PM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 9:30 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

12:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 2:00 AM Kennedy School Spring (K-3) Concert
 3:00 AM Kennedy School Spring (4-8) Concert
 8:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 10:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Medford
 12:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 2:00 PM ESCS (3-8) Ensemble Spring Concert
 3:00 PM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 4:30 PM SHS Volleyball vs Everett
 6:30 PM WHCIS Spring Concert K-3
 7:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 9:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Medford

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

11:00 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 1:00 AM ESCS (3-8) Ensemble Spring Concert
 2:00 AM SHS Softball vs Cambridge
 3:30 AM SHS Volleyball vs Everett
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 5-20-24
 12:00 PM ESCS (3-8) Ensemble Spring Concert
 1:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 3:00 PM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 4:30 PM WSNS Spring Concert
 6:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 8:00 PM Intramural Boys' Basketball Championship
 9:00 PM Intramural Girls' Basketball Championship

MONDAY, JUNE 3

1:00 AM SHS Softball vs Chelsea
 2:30 AM WSNS Spring Concert
 4:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Revere
 8:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024
 10:30 AM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 12:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 1:00 PM Kennedy School Spring (4-8) Concert
 2:00 PM Kennedy School Spring (K-3) Concert

3:00 PM WSNS Spring Concert
 4:30 PM WHCIS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 5:00 PM Spring String Fling
 6:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 8:30 PM SHS Spring Concert & Art Show
 10:30 PM Capuano Kindergarten Informance
 11:00 PM Kennedy School Spring (4-8) Concert

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

12:00 AM Kennedy School Spring (K-3) Concert
 1:00 AM WSNS Spring Concert
 2:30 AM WHCIS Spring Concert gr. 4-8
 3:00 AM Spring String Fling
 8:00 AM Kennedy School Spring (4-8) Concert
 9:00 AM Spring String Fling
 10:00 AM ESCS (3-8) Ensemble Spring Concert
 11:00 AM SHS Baseball vs Lynn English
 1:00 PM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 3:00 PM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 5:00 PM SHS Class Day 2024
 7:00 PM Kennedy School Spring (4-8) Concert
 8:00 PM Spring String Fling
 9:00 PM ESCS (3-8) Ensemble Spring Concert
 10:00 PM SHS Baseball vs Lynn English
 12:00 AM SHS Boys' LAX vs Watertown
 2:00 AM SHS Girls' LAX vs Medford
 4:00 AM SHS Class Day 2024

Pride comedy-variety event at The Rockwell



Alexa Albanese is back at The Rockwell for the third year in a row to kick off Pride month! Don't miss her original comedy-variety show that she's almost as proud of as the fact that this will be "late-night comedy" at a reasonable hour.

Come be a part of the live studio audience for an evening filled with desk bits, music, and plenty of laughs. Versions of this show have been featured at The People's Improv Theater's Solocom festival in New York City and ImprovBoston's Best of Boston Sketch. Each performance is topical, so you'll never see the same show twice. Support local comedy, live comedy, and a late-night host whose name *is not* Jimmy!

The show will be on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m., in the heart of Davis Square, 255 Elm St, and featuring an all femme cast. This event is All Ages but suggested Age 18+. Valid ID required for alcohol. www.alexaalbanese.com

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Good advice... — Photo by Denise Provost

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why are pigs so bad at sports?
They always hog the ball.

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On This Day in History

May 29

- 1453 – Constantinople falls to Muhammad II, ending the Byzantine Empire.
- 1721 – South Carolina is formally incorporated as a royal colony of England.
- 1790 – Rhode Island becomes the last of the original thirteen colonies to ratify the Constitution.
- 1849 – A patent for lifting vessels is granted to Abraham Lincoln.
- 1911 – The Indianapolis 500 is run for the first time.
- 1913 – The premier of the ballet *Le Sacre du Printemps* (*The Rite of Spring*) in Paris causes rioting in the theater.
- 1916 – U.S. forces invade the Dominican Republic.
- 1953 – Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay become the first men to reach the top of Mount Everest.
- 1974 – President Richard Nixon agrees to turn over 1,200 pages of edited Watergate transcripts.
- 1990 – Boris Yeltsin is elected the president of Russia.

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.

90 Washington St. City Plan

Dear Chairman Ercolini,

On May 14th, Cobble Hill residents gathered in a community space to watch a Zoom webinar of the 90 Washington Street Civic Advisory Committee's (CAC) recommendations to the Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA). The presentation gave us a better understanding as to why Cobble Hill Apartments got disassembled in 2019 when the SRA voted to approve the 90 Washington Street Demonstration Project.

The CAC's presentation appeared to be very respectful of Cobble Hill's concerns. So much so, when OSPCD Senior Planner Ted Fields completed reporting their recommendations, the tenants erupted into spontaneous applause including Bill Mahaney, the sole Cobble Hill resident who served as a volunteer on the SRA's hand-picked Citizen Advisory Committee. Our only disappointment was the absence of any discourse on whether relocating upscale Union Square's public safety operations next to Somerville's largest concentration of affordable elders, with a projected 2,262 annual sirens, was insensitive if not discriminatory. Also lacking was any justification as to why the city was squandering the opportunity to maximize the State's Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities with plans to build a cost prohibitive public safety building at the doorstep of Somerville's newest MBTA subway stop.

From its inception in January 2023, the CAC was tasked to consider all viewpoints when evaluating development proposals. To achieve their goals, their work was organized within a professionally managed

process that successfully narrowed 78 potential developers down to 3 finalists. By all standards, the CAC did their job, as did Councilors McLaughlin and Wilson who were among the 12 committee members. We are told the CAC members attended over 14 monthly meetings, conducted on-site tours, and engaged in multiple discussions with development professionals and city planners alike before forming their conclusions. In the end, the CAC recommended to the SRA a template of selection criteria that was highly informed and deeply rooted in community process. Most impressively, their guidelines for 90 Washington Street included remedies to mitigate the thoughtless taking of Cobble Hill's alleyway for emergency vehicles/trash removal, a 37-space parking lot, and a lush green space that situates a grove of 38-mature trees. With clear specificity, the CAC produced "guardrail" recommendations that included the following:

- * Minimal site disruption – preserve as many existing trees and the raised "berm" in the middle of the site to the greatest extent possible.
- * Preserve Access to 84 Washington Street – existing parking lot and access to trash pickup and loading zones for 84 Washington Street.
- * Preserve existing parking lot – 37 parking spaces between 74 and 84 Washington Street, two subsidized apartment buildings abutting the site.

Cobble Hill's collective joy quickly soured however when one of the four attending SRA Board members voiced his disappointment with Mr. Fields' presentation. Taking exception with the recommendation that the preferred developer preserve access to 84 Washington Street and the existing 37-space parking lot between 84 & 74 Washington Street, he



then questioned the CAC's legitimacy when he asked, "who is on the CAC and who appointed them?" Thankfully, Mr. Fields was unyielding when he replied, "the selection committee is the Redevelopment Authority".

As Cobble Hill residents remain engaged in this conflict, it's hard to tell if we should celebrate the CAC's advice or brace for more SRA indifference to our grievances. On one hand, the recommendations of the twelve-member CAC Board were highly informed and derived from a meaningful cross section of the community. On the other hand, one SRA board member voiced his disapproval and their remains no indication of what the remaining five members are thinking. The contrast between the two SRA entities could not be starker.

As we see it, the CAC's developer selection criterion is the culmination of 17-months of examining all aspects of redeveloping 90 Washington Street's four-acre land parcel. In so doing, the CAC found Cobble Hill's grievances valid and then offered a remedy to mitigate the senseless disenfranchisement of our community.

Given the two possible competing outcomes, it is now very evident how the CAC's planning process contrasted greatly with the SRA's approach in 2019. Most notably, we can't find any public records that would indicate the six-member SRA Board knew the harm they were inflicting on 300 Cobble Hill affordable elders when they approved the 90 Washington Street

Demonstration Project Plan. In fact, the missing critical information cannot be found in the 992-page Demonstration Project Plan -- the same Demonstration Plan Project form of eminent domain that had never been used before in the city of Somerville and requires no community input. Nor have we heard from one City Councilor or SRA board member who can recall being told their vote to remove "blight" from 90 Washington Street also included their taking Cobble Hill's emergency access lane to 84 Washington Street, a parking lot (for residents, visiting nurses, home care providers and personal visitors) and a verdant berm with 38 mature trees. It is our long-held belief they don't recall because the former Administration withheld this information. And had the more traditional eminent domain process been utilized instead of a Demonstration Plan, Cobble Hill residents would have flagged this injustice at the earliest planning stages, not after the taking had been approved.

We believe if the SRA Board knew this to be true in 2019, the taking of Cobble Hill's quality-of-life assets would never have happened. For this, we thank the Civic Advisory Committee for listening to our concerns and recommending appropriate remedies. We ask that the SRA support their recommendations as well.

Respectfully,

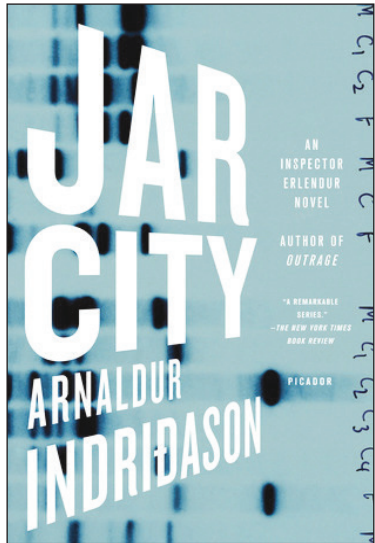
Evelyn Ortiz and the Cobble Hill Community



Book review: 'Jar City' by Arnaldur Indridason

By Dennis Fischman

It's strange that there's a whole genre of mystery we call the "Nordic noir." Scandinavia consists of six or eight different countries, after all, and we wouldn't lump Miss Marple, Sherlock Holmes, Guido Brunetti, and Jimmy Perez together and call them "European detectives."



Jar City by Arnaldur Indridason
Picador, 2000, 290 pages

Yet authors from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland have carved out their own swathe in the mystery landscape in the last few decades. It probably started with the Martin Beck series of novels by Maj Sjöwall [1] and Per Wahlöö [2], but American readers are more familiar with the later writers in the groove, like Jo Nesbø [3], Henning Mankell [4], Stieg Larsson [5] (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), and Camilla Läckberg [6] from Sweden; Jussi Adler-Olsen [7] from Denmark; and the one I just began reading, Arnaldur Indridason [8] from Iceland.

Jar City is a police procedural with a troubled middle-aged detective, Inspector Erlendur, whose grown-up children are both struggling with drug addiction. He's assisted by one male and one female police officer whose perspectives help him to see clues he might have missed (and who help us see his charac-

ter better).

The plot revolves around three mysteries:

Who killed Holberg, a man accused of raping at least one woman and maybe more? What did the note found at the scene mean, "I am him"?

Was there something suspicious about the death of a four-year-old girl, Audur, in 1968, and her mother's suicide a few years later? It was diagnosed as resulting from a brain tumor, but the drunk who made the diagnosis could have missed something important.

And why did the bride at a recent wedding run away, leaving a note that said, "HE'S A MONSTER WHAT HAVE I DONE"?

Content warning: This is a very dark mystery involving rape, incest, disease, suicide, and murder. In some ways, it's a modern book: no one would have known about genetic diseases at all be-

fore 1900, and not by that name before 1950. In other ways, it feels very old-fashioned, because a 19th-century novelist would have written the same story and ascribed it to a curse, or bad blood. Only the means of detecting it would have been different.

Jar City is the third book of the Reykjavik Thriller series featuring Inspector Ellendur. I will certainly read the next book in the series, *Silence of the Grave* [9], and I would go back and visit the earlier two if they were available in the library.

Links:

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maj_Sj%C3%B6wall

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Per_Wahl%C3%B6%C3%B6

[3] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jo_Nesb%C3%B8

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henning_Mankell

[5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stieg_Larsson

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camilla_L%C3%A4ckberg

[6] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jussi_Adler-Olsen

[7] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnaldur_Indri%C3%B0ason

[8] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/82991.Silence_of_the_Grave



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

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

the "Out of Towners" as we were later called. He was in tremendous shape. He was into sports and weight lifting, and was slated to win the Mr. New England Body Building competition. At that time, the new recruits traveled to the north shore Civil Defense barracks for their firefighter training. Sometimes when returning home from those classes, our carpool caravan would stop to eat and imbibe at the Hilltop Steak House. Bob was a stickler for training. He would surprise everyone by telling the

waitress: "Give me a hamburger, burn it, and hold the bread." He followed that with a tall glass of water, and he was done. He was in the best shape of all of us. He loved the fact that he was taking the place of a veteran, and was looking forward to being a career firefighter. His plans were never to be fulfilled. Only four months later on June 10, 1974, at age 32, his life and dream were cut short at the Arrow Paper Company fire.

Fifty-three-year-old Joseph Reilly, a 24-year veteran Somerville firefighter, was a World War

II veteran sailor. Joe served on the battleship U.S.S. Massachusetts from its birth in 1942 to the end of the war. Engaging in 16 battles, his ship fought in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres. His love for his ship didn't stop at the war's end. He was on the committee that created "Battleship Cove" in Fall River. The U.S.S. Massachusetts' rescue from the scrap heap was partially due to Joe's efforts, and there is a memorial on that ship honoring him for those efforts and recognizing his line-of-duty death on the Somerville Fire Department.

One hundred seventy-two years have passed since the Somerville Fire Department coined itself, "The Faithful and the Fearless." Scores of firefighters have been injured and eighteen of Somerville's bravest have made the supreme sacrifice backing up that motto.

The Faithful and The Fearless

A poem by Somerville Firefighter
Robert Doherty



June, 1999

Two men who gave their lives
Two men so we'd survive
One cadet and one a vet
Firefighters Tall

Men who worked from lofty heights
Coughed and choked in smoked filled sites
Men who suffered fire as their

fate
But never were they late

Men with families left alone
Mothers, children on their own
When whose city made the call
Gave their very all

Two men who gave their lives
Two men so we'd survive
One cadet and one a vet
Firefighters Tall





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Shakespeare Also Wrote Poetry' by Michael Todd Steffen

Article by Off the Shelf Correspondent Michael Steffen

To dot our i's and cross our t's, technically Shakespeare would be measured as the greatest dramatist of the English language. He has been vaulted to posterity, and in no small way, largely due to his plays, which are written in verse, but so are the plays of the great precedent cultures. Aristophanes and Sophocles wrote their plays in verse, yet it is Homer who wears the laurels as the father poet of Greece.

The same is true for Rome, with its popular literature from the playwrights Plautus and Terence (who exerted a great influence on Shakespeare's drama), while Virgil with his *Aeneid* is the eternal city's, and the early West's, fountain from the myrtle shades of literary inspiration. Molière and Racine wrote high neoclassical drama in masterly Alexandrine verse, but the French, very particular themselves about classification, would never call either of them "poets." Pierre de Ronsard of the High Renaissance monarchs Francis I and Henry II sits high on a pedestal as the voice of the Muses of recognizably modern French for educated francophones.

Even in Shakespeare's day, as Peter Ackroyd notes in his biography, "[t]here was no question ... of creating an eminent 'career' out of writing for the playhouses; these men were not established poets such as Samuel Daniel or Edmund Spenser, patronized by royalty and financed by nobility. They were journeymen or workmen. Whether Shakespeare considered himself in this light is an open question."

Sure Shakespeare wrote an edificial sonnet sequence, from which a good deal of the language's wisdom is quoted. Yet, great as that sequence is, promising eternity to his beloved (and making good on that promise), it would hardly constitute the ecstatic and



robust popularity Shakespeare holds to this day as The Bard, English of English terms for the culture's preeminent master of verses. America, our country, I think is chronologically as Democratic as it is demographically. Though we continue to remember and somewhat revere father Walt and mother Emily, there really is no notion of a greatest American poet, not in the sense England has celebrated Shakespeare or Italy enshrined Dante.

Yet Shakespeare also wrote substantial narrative poems, not meant for the stage. Two of these works in particular, *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*, are noteworthy literary oeuvres, which were the first of the poet's works to appear under his name in print in London and won him fame as England's proud example of a contemporary (1590s) dolce stil nuovo poet to rival the famous poets of Italy. Even though, observes the Arden Shakespeare Introduction to Shakespeare's Poems:

"[h]is claim to the continued attention of posterity rests essentially on the four 'great' tragedies [in which he explored the mysteries of good and evil], Hamlet, Othello, King Lear and Macbeth...this is not how Shakespeare was seen by his contemporaries. His literary reputation was quickly established in the mid-1590s on the strength of the two long poems, currently the most neglected items in the Shakespeare canon..."

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Joey Phoenix (they/them) is a Non-Binary, Neurodivergent Somerville poet and performer fascinated by moss, insects, and humans who live close to those things. They are releasing their debut chapbook of poetry *Unearthing* this June.



Wildfire

Wild things don't
Belong in glass jars

If you're going to
Love a wildfire

Make sure you're
Ready when the
Wind
Changes

— Joey Phoenix

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

Pride Flag Raising

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville LGBTQ+ Services invite all community members to honor LGBTQ+ Pride Month by joining the annual Pride flag raising ceremony on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.



The ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the City Hall Concourse and include remarks from Mayor Ballantyne, City of Somerville LGBTQ+ Liaison Izzy Starr, and representatives from Somerville LGBTQ+ community.

Celebrate Somerville's Nepali Cultural Community on Saturday, June 1

The Somerville community is invited to celebrate the city's Nepali community at a free festival showcasing Nepal's vibrant and dynamic culture on Saturday, June 1, starting at 4:00 p.m. (rain date Saturday, June 8) at Union Square Plaza.

Festival attendees will get an opportunity to explore the food, live music, art, and culture of Nepal via an exciting array of vendors from Somerville's local Nepali community.

The Nepali Cultural Festival is co-hosted by the Somerville Arts Council, SomerViva, and the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA NCC USA MA Chapter).



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