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After five years, the remediation process concludes at Conway Park



After a five-year closure due to soil contamination, the newly restored Conway Park reopened to the public last week for recreational activities.
— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Beatriz Leite

Last Thursday evening, the City of Somerville gathered through Zoom for the last community meeting to conclude the remediation process at Conway Park. The park and the adjective splash pad officially reopened on May 27 after being closed since 2018 after research revealed soil contamination.

Since the closure in 2018, the city of Somerville's administration has worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has removed 8,700 tons of contaminated soil, to remediate the park to reach state and federal environmental standards.

The meeting focused on informing the citizens of Somerville of the progress made *Continued on page 4*

Curl Bar Anniversary Block Party

The Curl Bar located on 76 Cross Street celebrated their two-year anniversary by hosting a wonderful block party on Flint Street on Sunday, May 21. Toriah Mimms, owner of the Curl Bar, used the block party to highlight other small, minority-owned businesses during the event. The Curl Bar celebrates curly hair and all hair textures are welcomed and celebrated in a safe and judgement free curly space.

It was wonderful to see Flint Street filled with people enjoying the day with their neighbors and enjoying shopping and food. Thank you to the Curl Bar for sponsoring activities for the community like a bouncy house, cornhole, giant jenga, and Curl Bar pink-themed cotton candy that was freshly prepared by Puffy Clouds. Rincon Mexicano, Neighborhood Kitchen, and Tipping Cow Ice Cream were just a few of the vendors serving food. Rose Bar served up beautiful pink Curl Bar mocktails for the occasion.

Complementary hair services *Continued on page 4*



— Photos by Devon Moos

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The Somerville City Council Traffic and Parking Committee will hold a virtual (online) public hearing on **Wednesday, May 31**, on the **City of Somerville Bike Network Plan**. The hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. Community members may submit testimony either at the hearing or in writing. The hearing will offer an opportunity for community members to share thoughts, ideas, and concerns about the Bike Network Plan. The plan was developed via a one-and-a-half-year public engagement, research, and analysis process. Visit the city’s website to learn more about the plan and how to attend or submit testimony at www.somervillema.gov.

For the 13th year, **SomerStreets: Carnaval** is back. For this free event, bring the family for many activities and entertainment including: **Let's Get Truckin'**, **Esh Circus**, **Dunk Tank** and get to know your local non-profits and community organizations. Shop **30+ artisan vendors** and dance along with **Grooversity** and many more live acts. Thanks to partners **East Somerville Main Streets** for organizing this event. And a warm shoutout to **Dave Ortega** for the vibrant poster design. **June 4, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.** (rain date June 11) **between McGrath and Franklin St.**

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 *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 31 – June 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>May 31</i>	Sunny	80°/54°	4%	2%	S 9 mph
 Thursday <i>June 1</i>	Sunny	87°/64°	3%	1%	S 11 mph
 Friday <i>June 2</i>	Sunny	88°/55°	22%	12%	N 11 mph
 Saturday <i>June 3</i>	Sunny	66°/47°	12%	7%	ENE 18 mph
 Sunday <i>June 4</i>	Sunny	75°/57°	1%	0%	NNE 12 mph
 Monday <i>June 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	79°/59°	32%	25%	N 14 mph
 Tuesday <i>June 6</i>	Sunny	80°/55°	21%	11%	NW 10 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: Bike Plan has merit, but not for Highland

Slaw says:

“steeped in tradition” Speaking of that Highland ave used to have two trolleys running down it (88 & 90) and of course was first built without cars in mind. Adding bike lanes to “a major spine for the City” is both exactly where bike lanes should be and an appropriate nod to that tradition of car free travel. It is the desire to preserve car parking that is out of step with the tradition of the street. “We need to remember that Somervision 2040, while bullish on improving and expanding bike riding, was just as bullish on balancing equities for small businesses, minority populations, persons with disabilities, the elderly and young families – many of whom will not be using bikes in their daily Somerville lives.” Except they do. Bikes are without saying significantly cheaper than cars and expand the distance you can comfortably and quickly travel without one tremendously. Elderly people and people with disabilities often ride bikes for exactly those reasons and there are all kinds of bikes that cater to various specific needs. The proliferation of e-bikes also makes that argument more and more out of touch with reality as well. You simply don’t live in somerville if you don’t see young families on bikes constantly; families riding together, kids on the back of bikes, kids riding in cargo bikes, etc. They are a constant feature of the city and should be able to access the schools, daycares, libraries, hospitals, shops and other services on Highland safely. On top of all that Numerous studies indicate people on bikes and on foot are more likely to support small businesses than people driving by in cars and are more frequent customers, with the consistent finding that bike lanes are a net benefit to the businesses on the streets they run along. This is a misguided and poorly informed article. In a climate crisis parking spaces are not ever worthy of “conservation” and it is absolutely laughable to suggest they should be.

Response to: Among the windows to Heaven

Bosco says:

Do you think the new development will erect a monument to the legendary Jimmy “Buddy” McLean near the entrance way to star market on the broadway Star market side ? That’s the spot where he met his demise. He was a legend in Somerville.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Parade



When I was a kid me and my buddies used to march with the Italian American war veterans in the Memorial Day parade. We wore oversized helmets, leggings and stuff like that. We thought it was the greatest thing in the world. We were so proud to march and then go to the party at the club's headquarters afterwards

There was a shortened version of the Memorial Day parade on Sunday. It's a good thing they didn't have to march on Highland Avenue up at the high school because the road is horrible. I'm not quite sure why they used a shortened version this year but it could be because of the condition of the roads. I did not go to the parade myself but my Facebook friends chimed in with their opinions of this year's parade. Each person's comment is in quotations.

"You cannot walk on Highland Ave. It's so bad. This is not a parade it's a walk up the street, it used to be the best parade!"

"My father was a Somerville cop when we lived there in the 70's and we lived on Highland Ave. That parade was forever. So sad it's that small now!"

"No parade, people complain. Parade happens, people complain. Do a large parade that people want, and people



complain about the inconvenience and expense."

"Although it was only about 15 minutes long it was still a good parade for a great cause to honor our war heroes that have passed."

"It was very enjoyable!"

"The route was short, but I think that once Highland Ave. is re-done it will return to its original length. The thing I'm dreading is Highland Ave. being drastically and radically altered to conform with the new standards in urban roadway idiocy with granite bump-outs and so on that we've seen around town (and elsewhere) in the recent past.

We can't forget the most important part of Memorial Day, and that is our fallen heroes. Thank you to all who participated.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Serial shoplifter caught at last

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the Marshall's store at McGrath Hwy. last Saturday on reports of a shoplifter.

While en route to Marshalls, Somerville Police Dispatch informed the officers that the shoplifter had just made threats to employees of the store that he was going to shoot up the store.

Upon arrival, the officers were met by the Assistant Store Manager and victim of the threats, who led the officers to the alleged shoplifter, later identified as

Richard Payne, of Everett.

The officers observed Payne putting Nike sneakers into a suit case. They approached Payne and asked to speak with him. He reportedly made two fists and got close to an officer. Payne was asked several times to back up before the officer had to push him back.

Payne was asked what his name was, but he did not answer. He then went to take the suitcase that he was filling up and attempted to leave in the

opposite direction, where he was met by one of the responding police officers.

When Payne was told he was not taking the suitcase, he tried to get around the officers. He was then placed into handcuffs. The officers were then able to locate an ID on Payne's person.

While trying to explain to Payne what the store employee was alleging, he was reportedly yelling. He continued to tell police that he would be out of jail in less than an hour. He then stated

to the officers that they should just trespass him.

The Assistant Store Manager stated that she noticed Payne from past interactions. She stated that he has shoplifted in the past. Today she was helping a customer, when Payne saw her and reportedly said, "You better not bring that bitch near me. I'm going to come back and shoot up the place." That is when she called the Somerville Police.

The Assistant Store Manager

then scanned all items that Payne was attempting to shoplift. The total was \$353.86.

Based on the facts, Payne was placed under arrest on charges of shoplifting over \$250 by concealing merchandise and threat to commit a crime.

According to police accounts, Payne has been caught shoplifting from Target in the past few weeks. He also reportedly shoplifted at Marshalls on May 20, but was gone before the arrival of the Somerville Police.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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After five years, Conway Park finally reopens CONT. FROM PG 1

with the repairs as a way to ensure that they will now have a safe park to attend.

George Nastas gave context on the history of the site, which dates back to 1852. At that time a Bleachery and Dye Works establishment operated in the area and

operated until the early 1930s. The field was created in the 40s and renovated in 1975, and once again in 2001.

After collecting over 700 soil samples from approximately 110 sampling locations researchers found PCB chemicals that were

banned in the U.S. in 1979 because these chemicals harm human and environmental health.

The remedial plan started with a meeting with MassDEP and EPA and negotiating and analyzing the risk. The project had four phases. The site preparation was

the first, involving traffic management and access. The second phase was the EPA remediation, where the PCB-contaminated soil was removed from the site. The area was then backfilled with soil that met state and federal health standards (less than 50

ppm PCBs). The third phase was the park reconstruction and renovation. The final phase consisted of restoration and tree planting.

After five years of cleaning and restoration, Conway Park is back and healthy for all Somerville residents.

Curl Bar Anniversary Block Party CONT. FROM PG 1

were offered during the block party for children. Haircuts were provided by Syrus Aiguier (Sy) and Guillotine Cut (Gilly) for kids 15 and under and there were several small children getting haircuts, and there was at least one first time haircut happening. Hair braiding was a big hit, which featured hair

specialists Jawz, Annie B., Prismic LLC, and Thalia. Victoria from Love Always Vic provided a complimentary 30-minute nutritional seminar.

Some of the vendors in attendance were Little Regalia, Tooth-Fairy Mass, Preciously Polished, Horizon Vert Naturals, Bare Skin & Beauty, Embellish'd by Zee,

O'vaehs Creation, Transitions, Well Done, IAm Apparel, Lathered Soap, Rebound Juice Co., Woven Royal, The Glow Up Effect, Love Always Vic, Flowers & Vibe, Divine Fibers, and Doobie.

You can learn more about the Curl Bar Boston on their website here: <https://www.thecurlbarboston.com>.



Urban Peace Institute discusses violence reduction plans with Anti-Violence Working Group

By Cassidy Beek

Somerville’s Anti-Violence Working Group held a webinar on Thursday, May 25, to discuss the work that it will be doing in collaboration with the Urban Peace Institute (UPI). Denise Molina Capers, the Director of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ), hosted the informational session alongside two representatives from UPI, Eric Lam, the Program Director, and Saul Garcia, the Technical Assistance Coordinator.

The mission of the newly formed working group is to bring together the broad voices and lived experiences of the city of Somerville to develop a socially equitable community by implementing policies that promote peace. “In all the work that the Anti-Violence Working Group will do, they will value peace, collaboration, empathy, dignity and respect,” said Capers.

The UPI representatives shared an overview of their work and how they will support the Anti-Violence group in addressing violence in Somerville. UPI is a nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles that seeks to develop policy focused on violence reduction, public safety, and justice reform. They utilize community organizing strategies, litigation, policy advocacy, technical assistance and research training.

UPI works to reduce violence and promote community health and safety through three primary program areas. Training in technical assistance involves violence response strategy development, community safety assessments, and violence prevention reduction training in gun violence for intervention workers, residents and law enforcement. In the past, UPI has created a crisis response system and has examined quantitative data from surveys and qualitative data that included interviews with law enforcement. Their place-based initiatives invest in building and strengthening community capacity and voice through local campaign development. Lastly, the smart justice program builds, develops and coordinates coalitions to advocate for systems reform centering those most impacted by violence.

Capers opened a community Q&A for constituents with questions regarding UPI’s approach to working with communities.

When asked to offer insight into UPI’s approach to addressing the root causes of violence, Lam explained how the causes manifest violence differently and emphasized the need to examine what violence looks like in varying communities. “We are not here to impose a strategy on any community, instead, we are here to partner with you all, taking a seat at your table. We are here to listen, to learn and to share and recommend the best practices, and to support your thinking about violence reduction and prevention. It is our intention that all voices are uplifted in the process,” said Lam.

Lam explained the specific training resources UPI offers to communities. Their recommendations are tailored to the community depending on what the need is. In the past, UPI has trained teachers on mental health and the impact of violence in communities. Stakeholder meetings were also held to develop a community-led gun response system to combat gun violence in gang-involved populations.

When asked about the importance of working directly with community members, especially those most influenced by violent acts, Garcia pointed to the residents as being most familiar with community dynamics. “The point of bringing them in is so the experts aren’t working on them but with them. As we’ve seen in the past when community members are not involved, it’s not done the right way, and the community members are the ones that suffer,” said Garcia.

UPI aims to create a safe space where people feel it is okay to be vulnerable and discuss the violence within their city. Gaining the trust of the community gradually and not forcing people to share for the greater objective is something they value. For future meetings centered around difficult conversations, they will send out a survey at the end of each meeting if members feel uncomfortable sharing in that specific space.

The representatives closed out the Q&A by communicating their excitement for future work with Somerville.

They expressed their eagerness to see the growth that Somerville wishes to achieve and view the new collaboration as an opportunity for both parties to learn



from one another while working toward a shared goal of peace.

Capers also looks forward to the collaboration as she wishes to alleviate the concerns of the community in regard to violence within Somerville. “This is a pinnacle moment for us because we are going to put action to an issue that our constituents have highlighted as one of their public safety concerns,” said Capers.

The Anti-Violence working group will be hosting future webinars with UPI as well as listening sessions within the coming months.

For more information about the collaboration between Somerville’s Anti-Violence working group and UPI please visit their websites at <https://www.somervillema.gov/rsj> and <https://www.urbanpeaceinstitute.org>.



FOUR (4) INCOME-RESTRICTED CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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(2-Bedroom @ 110% AMI)	\$333,974	\$10,010	\$76/month

Annual Gross Income Limits	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people
Tier P1 (maximums):					
80% AMI:	\$78,300	\$89,500	\$100,700	\$111,850	\$120,800
Tier P2:					
81%-110% AMI:	\$78,301 - \$107,954	\$89,501 - \$123,376	\$100,701 - \$138,798	\$111,851 - \$154,220	\$120,801 - \$166,557

Asset Limit (excluding restricted accounts): \$75,000

INFORMATIONAL VIDEO: Visit [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](https://www.somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing)

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 to Friday, July 14, 2023

Online at: [somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing](https://www.somervillema.gov/inclusionaryhousing)

Hard copies and more information: Call: (617) 625-6600 X 2566 or email: inclusionary@somervillema.gov to request a hard copy

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday July 14, 2023 at 12 pm

Faxed to: 617-591-3235; Emailed to: inclusionary@somervillema.gov

Mailed/Dropped off to: City Hall Annex: 50 Evergreen Ave., Somerville, MA 02145;

OPEN HOUSES:

Sunday, June 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Friday, June 9 from 5 pm to 7 pm

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* Units are subject to Affordable Housing Restriction in perpetuity, other restrictions may apply

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City examines initiatives to manage rodent activity

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

This month's Rodent Issues Special Committee meets right in the middle of rat breeding season. The city's Environmental Health Coordinator, Colin Zeigler, brought the committee a presentation about the new and ongoing initiatives to manage rodent activity within the community.

215 captures occurred in 2023, according to Zeigler's presentation. 46 of these occurred at Davis Sq., 42 on the Bike path, 46 at MacArthur, 38 at Gilman, seven at Lincoln Park, and 36 at Union Sq. In 2022 there were a total of 186 captures during the period of March-May. Zeigler commented in his presentation that they

wanted to move less high-activity smart boxes to alternative, more high-need areas.

Several councilors expressed interest in a targeted focus toward the community of East Somerville. This was due to the number of complaints from residents about the especially active rodent activity in their area. Zeigler commented that he was aware of this and that the program was already looking into expanding into different high-need neighborhoods, including East Somerville.

Phase III of the SMART box program is tentatively expected to roll out in the spring of 2024. Phase III could include the new initiative of looking at dumpster

permits for commercial businesses and issuing those permits with an associated SMART box included due to commercial dumpsters being high-traffic areas for rodents.

Other updates included alterations to the Residential program, such as a switch to a 5-week format, improvements to data collection and reporting requirements by contractors, and the lack of cost efficiency regarding the utilization of dry ice or carbon monoxide to carry out rodenticide.

Zeigler was also excited to announce that the city was working towards the addition of another environmental health coordinator position to assist with case management.



Somerville residents petition for transparency in city's urban planning and development

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

Following the formal recognition of the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council, members and community members of the Union Square Neighborhood Council voiced their concerns regarding transparency in the city planning and development department.

Michele Hansen, a Union Square Neighborhood Council member, was the first to speak on the petition. Hansen expressed frustration and anger. She said that planning by the administration has not been for or by the people. She asked for a more inclusive and less performative

development process. A process that would represent and respect community members' inputs.

During the public hearing, several members of the public and concerned citizens elected to speak. One of them being Alison Shultz, who said, "Somerville's process silences residents." The Union Square Neighborhood Council co-chairs Tori Antonino, and Andy Greenspoon were among the speakers.

Antonino stepped up the podium and opened with the line, "These are my protest wings; I'm deadly serious right now." She carried on to discuss what had happened during the urban planning of Union Square and

how she and her community members had shared their hopes and dreams for the planning of the area but were ultimately disappointed when they were not implemented or taken into consideration at all.

Antonino continued on to discuss the emotional toll this has had on her. Attributing her strength to her wings which "were holding her up." She recalled the development of the Assembly area, saying, "Oh, maybe this will be different this time, and I believed that a year and a half ago, and now I'm just like I don't want any more charades that are just charades; I want real community profit." Later

adding "I'm not sure how we get that if the planners that we have now are the ones who have betrayed us in the first place."

Andy Greenspoon lamented that he was no longer a resident of Union Square but was there to support the cause all the same. "The planning staff are clearly overwhelmed with everything that's going on, but that doesn't give them the right to gaslight this community. If anything, they should be relying on the amazing experiences, wide expertise, and diversity of experiences of this community," Greenspoon said.

City Councilors were then given their chance to comment. Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan

stated, "I think that we should be hearing these folks loud and clear. I hope the mayor is hearing them loud and clear." Councilor Scott added, "It's important to come together and share those stories publicly because the movement is not dying. It is building, and I want to thank you all for your work on it."

Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin voted against the Union Square zoning ordinance a few years ago and commented that to know that people refused to quit and that the movement is even stronger makes him happy.

The issue was marked as placed on file by the end of the City Council meeting.

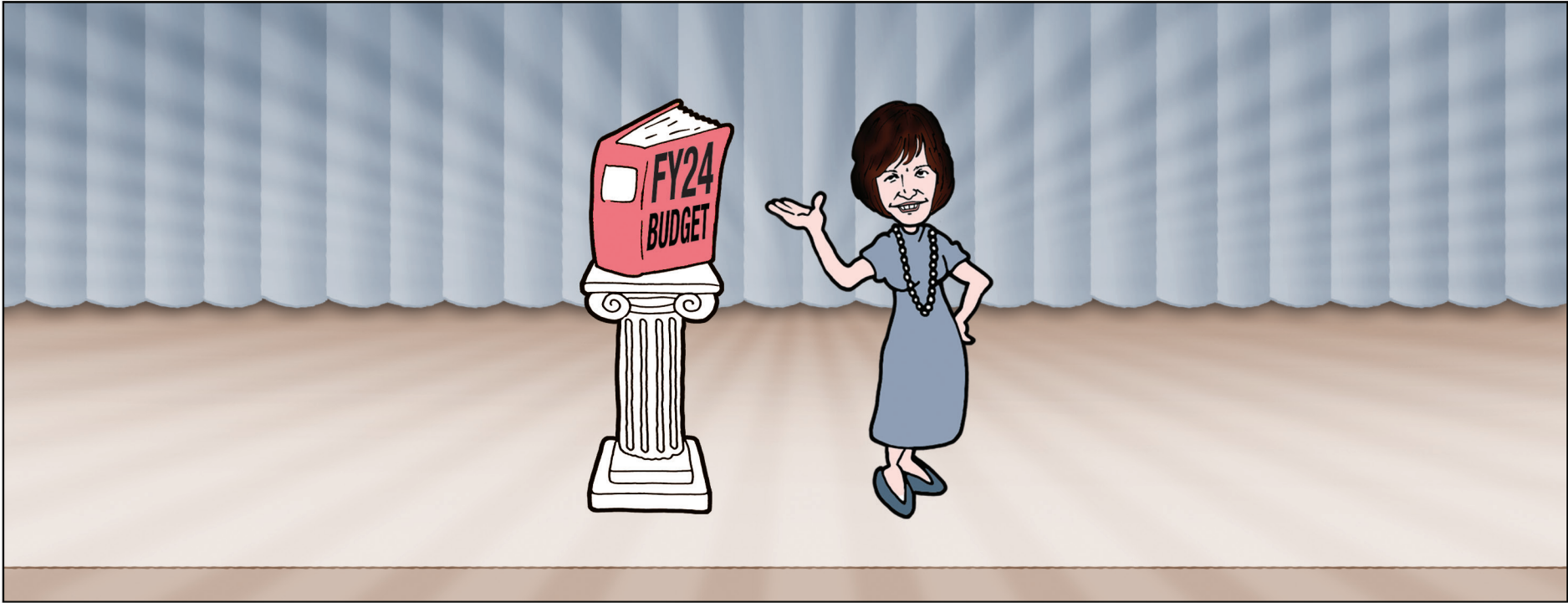
Ward 3 Democratic Committee to hold caucus to choose delegates to state convention

The Caucus will be held to choose up to 10 delegates and 4 alternates. On Saturday, September 23, delegates will gather at the Tsongas Center in Lowell to adopt a Party Agenda and/or Platform by a majority vote of Convention delegates present and voting based upon the recommendation, subject to amendments, of the Party Agenda or Platform Committee. Resolutions may be developed through a process beginning with caucuses of local Democrats. Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Somerville 16 years old by May 23, 2023 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting massdems.org/massdems-convention. The 2023 Convention will be in person at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell, MA on September 23. The caucus will be followed by a regular meeting of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee. An agenda will follow. Agenda items are welcome. Contact Ward 3 Chair, Michael Grunko at mgrunko1@gmail.com if you have any questions.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



The FY2024 Budget has arrived.

Our View Of The Times



Mayor Ballantyne has submitted her proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024. City officials must now work together to hammer out a final budget, one that comes as close as possible to serving the wants and needs of as many of us as is practical and doable.

Naturally, a lot of debate and discussion will be in the picture as diverse interests push and pull their way into and back out

of the turbulent times ahead.

General government, public safety, culture and recreation, pension and fringe, debt service, schools, overlay reserve, state assessments, and other miscellaneous expenditures are all part of the big picture.

Serious issues face the city, and how we manage the financial resources we have is as important now as it ever was before. There are ongoing problems to

be confronted and public safety issues to be carefully considered. Adequate funding is needed for emergency management, fire, fire alarm, police/911, and police/animal control. How best should we allocate these funds for police and fire protection? For health and education? Any number of important issues that the city faces are in play as part of this budgeting process.

It's a massive, complicated job, seeking out the big picture, seeing it clearly and then applying good sense in whatever final plans may come from it. It is no simple or easy task.

Certainly, the average citizen should get into the process too. Go to some of the meetings. Voice your concerns and opinions, and demand responses. After all, whose money is it, really?

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

this week, we wish him a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Helen Mooney, Denise Pereira Barker, Mary Champagne Adamson, Richard DiPinto and Dell E. Fisher** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of **James J. Campano**. He was the founder and writer for the *West Ender Newsletter*, had a few TV shows on the Somerville Access Television Channel, worked for the democratic

party for 12 years and was also the co-founder of the **West End Museum**. He will be missed by many.

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

Congratulations to proud grandparents **Attorney Ed Smith** and his wife **Martha Friend** in welcoming their first grandchild, **John Henry Konicki IV**. We know where they will want to spend all the free

time they have. Congratulations!

Donate to the **MAMAS Free Store**. They are seeking gently used clothes of all sizes and ages, especially coats and boots. Free store is on **Sunday, June 4** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at **East Somerville Community School**. Email askyourmamas@gmail.com for drop off times at **Connexion**, 149 Broadway, and a location in West Somerville. They are also looking for volunteers to help out at the free store, and for drivers to help transport clothes. If you would like to make a monetary donation visit <http://opencollective.com/mamas>.

Congratulations to first-grader **Selah**, who was one of ten winners chosen in the **14th Annual My Ideal School** contest for her essay and poster. She will attend a ceremony at the State House. The My Ideal School contest, run by the **Massachusetts School Building Authority**, promotes discussion among students and teachers as to how thoughtful design and construction of schools supports student engagement and 21st century learning.

Medford St. behind the High School is **one-way** in order to accommodate a temporary **Community**

Continued on page 20

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#875

1. Where was the first public beach in the United States?

2. Where is the tallest sandcastle?

3. What do squirrels use to protect themselves from the sun?

4. Who created the patented Ice Pop popsicle?

5. Which U.S. city hosts an annual UFO festival in July?

6. Who recorded the song *Watermelon Sugar*?

7. Who is known as
- the Queen of Rock 'n' Roll?

8. What was Tina Turner's first solo #1 hit?

9. What character did Tina Turner play in The Who's movie *Tommy*?

10. "Call me Ishmael" is the first line from what classic novel?

11. From whom did the U.S. buy Florida?

12. In *Star Wars*, who built C-3PO?

Answers on page 11

Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Americans look at eight houses before buying one.
2. Most pandas in the world are on loan from China.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
AT THE MOVIES

- ACROSS
1. Mother Earth, to Ancient Greeks
5. Barrel, unit
8. Foot the bill
11. Quiet time
12. Nemo's forgetful friend
13. Horace's poem
15. One thing on a list
16. Ophthamologist's check-up, e.g.
17. Range of hills in England, pl.
18. Ticket booth (2 words)
20. "Odyssey," e.g.
21. Biased perspective
22. Azog or Bolg in Tolkien's *Moria*
23. Siskel or Ebert
26. To the degree
30. Brick and mortar carrier
31. Governing authority
34. Key component of a loan
35. Highly skilled
37. E in CE or BCE
38. "_____ a high note"
39. End of the line
40. Like certain yellowish hair color
42. Compass bearing
43. Ambled
45. Warhol or Samberg, formally
47. Churchill's sign
48. Anna Wintour's magazine
50. "Heat of the Moment" band
52. Like some seats
56. More slippery
57. Initial bet in poker
58. Popular dunking cookie
59. "Little _____ fact"
60. Simon and Gurfunkel, e.g.
61. Sentimental movie, or _____-jerker
62. Literary "even"
63. Shooting location
64. ESPN award

- DOWN
1. Not intellectually deep
2. _____pilot
3. Holly family
4. Kate Hudson's "_____ Famous" (2000)
5. Put someone in a bind (2 words)
6. Modified leaf
7. Tick-born disease
8. Ralph Lauren's inspiration
9. Puts two and two together
10. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
12. Vandalize
13. Pitchers
14. Tub contents
19. Behave like a coquette
22. Comes before first Mississippi
23. Bracelet add-on
24. Barrel racing meet
25. Think tank output, pl.
26. Widescreen cinematography abbreviation
27. Dimmer, e.g.
28. Do penance
29. Re-establish
32. Neuter
33. Investment option acronym
36. Movie ad
38. Boredom
40. Upcharge for an online ticket purchase, e.g.
41. Aerie baby
44. Pine
46. Indicate
48. Movie theater, e.g.
49. Set of eight
50. Teenager's breakout
51. Land of Israel
52. X-ray units
53. Wraths
54. Type of tide
55. Like a bloody horror movie
56. Short of Isaac

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Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Governor Healey welcomes next-gen Boston attraction at bricktastic opening ceremony



LEGO® Discovery Center Boston had its grand opening ribbon cutting today with an imagination and colorfulness matching the new next-gen attraction. Governor Healey, along with other local business and government leaders, were present to open and experience Northeast’s first LEGO Discovery Center and participated in a kid-led ceremonial ribbon cutting. With a giant LEGO® key, the doors were opened as guests blasted off into adventure with the new experiences Spaceship Build & Scan, DUPLO® Park, and more. LEGO Discovery Center Boston be opened to the public on May 25.

“It’s an honor to attend the opening of the newly renovated LEGO Discovery Center, which will offer exciting opportunities for creative learning, help future leaders develop their creativity and design skills, and bring new jobs and economic growth to Massachusetts. We are also thrilled to soon welcome LEGO’s new North American Headquarters to Massachusetts to drive our economic competitiveness and strengthen our standing as the innovation capital of the world.” Massachusetts Governor, Maura Healey said.

The bricktastic \$12 million dollar renovation and reimagining was announced nine months ago by Merlin Entertainments, a global leader in location-based entertainment with brands such as LEGO-LAND® Resorts, Madame Tussauds and SEA LIFE Aquariums. Visitors to Boston and locals alike can now experience this first of its kind attraction in the Northeast.

"Over the past few months, we've built LEGO Discovery Center Boston into the ultimate adventure for families to play, explore, create and have fun together. We are thrilled to see excited families as they enjoy all the new experiences!", General Manager Rachel Meissner, said.

LEGO Discovery Center brings fantasy and creativity together in its 43,000+ square feet of indoor adventure. Families can go on the ultimate LEGO adventure by creating and playing together as they make their way through 12 unique zones; from building adventures to an interactive ride.



The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #280

Somerville Firsts

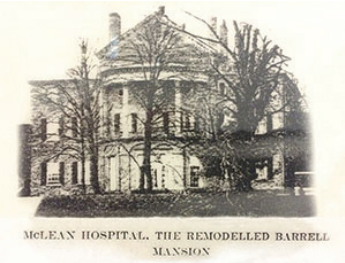
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Memorial Day is an American federal holiday which honors those who died while serving in the United States military. It always falls on the last Monday in May creating a three-day weekend and unofficially launches us into June and the beginning of summer.



This opens the season of warm sun and vacationing in Massachusetts. It commences with a break from studies for local students and those who come here from around the country and the world. There are more than fifty colleges and universities within the Boston and the Route 128 loop. Many students stay for the summer while numerous families visit and tour the area.

How would you boast of historic Somerville which is located adjacent to Boston, often referred to as the Hub of the Universe? Here are some brags, crows, swaggers and vaunts that you might want to bluster about our historic town.



1. The first ship built in Massachusetts, The Blessing of the Bay, was launched on the Fourth of July in 1631 and was the forerunner of our American Navy.

2. The first governor of Massachusetts was John Winthrop who lived on Ten Hills.

Continued on page 23

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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

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

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5541495054847015775>

Webinar ID: 602-485-235

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access Code: 901-838-281

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties

HPC.ALT 2023.20 – 192 Central Street

Applicant: Heladio Salgado

Owner: Guy Morillo

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

HPC.ALT 2023.21 – 59 Cross Street

Applicant: John Hecker, for Spencer Preservation Group

Owner: Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development

The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an existing structure.

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

HPC.DMO 2023.03 – 234 Pearl Street

Applicant: Barros Properties LLC

Owner: Stuart Pitchel, Trustee of 234 Pearl Street Realty Trust

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

HPC.DMO 2021.06 – 38 Laurel Street

Applicant: Shang Yang

Owner: Same as Applicant

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

Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>.

*Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

5/24/23, 5/31/23 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

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

5/24/23, 5/31/23 The Somerville Times



**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 14, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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 planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9146126278834338389>
Webinar ID: 292-126-171

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422

Access code: 644-577-258

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

14 Clyde Street Rajiv and Anupama Raman propose modifications to a nonconforming building type and the creation of a new nonconforming building type in the Neighborhood Residential (NR) zoning 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 Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

5/31/23 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Monday, June 12, 2023** at 6:00 PM, on a petition for a New Garage License.

New Garage License, Somerville Auto Center, 193 Somerville Avenue, 18 cars inside only, for autobody work and spray painting, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88094862023>

You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

5/31/23 The Somerville Times

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
CITY COUNCIL**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, on **Monday, June 5, 2023**, at 7:30 PM, on the Order of Finance Committee Chair Jake Wilson, for public input on the proposed FY 2024 municipal budget.

This meeting will be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83542769657>.

There will be access to and assistance for remote participation provided at the Council on Aging, Holland Street Center at 167 Holland St.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, 02143, or by email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

5/31/23 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Monday, June 12, 2023** at 6:00 PM, on a petition for a New Garage License.

New Garage License, Zone Kar, 166 Boston Ave, 2 cars inside, 4 outside for mechanical repairs only, Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30pm, Sat & Sun closed.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88094862023>

You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.


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CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council’s **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Monday, June 12, 2023** at 6:00 PM, on a petition for a New Used Car Dealer License.

New Used Car Dealer License Class 2, John's Auto Sales, 166 Boston Avenue, 28 cars outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88094862023>


You can also find this link on the City Council’s calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

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**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council’s **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Monday, June 12, 2023** at 6:00 PM, on a petition for a New Flammables License.

New Flammables License, John's Auto Sales, 166 Boston Avenue, 7,000 gallons.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88094862023>


You can also find this link on the City Council’s calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

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

5/31/23 The Somerville Times



**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND PERMITS
PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council’s **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Monday, June 12, 2023** at 6:00 PM, on a petition for a New Billiards and Bowling License.

New Billiards and Bowling License, The Public, 563 Broadway, 2 pool tables.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. Virtually through the Zoom Webinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88094862023>

You can also find this link on the City Council’s calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

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

5/31/23 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 06/18/2023			
Pro Tech Towing notice to owners. The following abandoned motor vehicles will be privately sold unless claimed:			
Car information	VIN#	Last registered owner	Address
2008 Mercedes E Class	WDBUF87X48B244279	Alex Rosa Rodrigues	65 Garden Cir. # 4 Waltham, MA 02452
2006 GMC C6500	1GDJ6C1396F411282	BKK Trucking Inc.	132 Pleasant St. Suite A Woburn, MA 01801
2008 Nissan Rogue	JN8AS58V58W132180	Angeleka Mae King	771 N. Gardenview Ter. Crystal River FL 34429
2009 Toyota Camry	4T4BE46K39R092271	Iouri Kapoustine	52 Troy Lane Waban, MA 02468
2015 Dodge Dart	1C3CDFBB1FD422609	Paul E. Nelson	133 Pine St. Waltham, MA 02453
Date of Sale 06/18//2023 . A 5-day notice to the Waltham Police Department Chief will be provided before sale. Location: Pro Tech Towing, 205 Willow St. Waltham, MA, Phone: 781-894-5058			
5/24/23, 5/31/23 The Somerville Times			

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City of Somerville FY24 Budget Public Hearing, June 5

All interested community members are invited to attend and speak at the Budget Public Hearing before the Somerville City Council’s Committee on Finance on Monday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. for public input on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 municipal budget.

This meeting will be conducted via remote participation on Zoom. Spanish and Portuguese interpretation will be provided.

There are two ways to participate:

Join online: To attend and be heard, go to somervillema.gov/fy24budget and follow the link to register for the public hearing. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar when it starts.

Access to and assistance with remote participation will be provided for those who need at the Council on Aging Holland Street Center at 167 Holland St.

Write or email: If you are unable to participate in the hearing but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by U.S. mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Ave., 02143, or by email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov. Comments must arrive no later than noon on the day of the public hearing in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

Ms. Cam’s

From on page 8

Olio

Answers

1. Revere Beach, MA

2. Blokhuis, Denmark, built July 2, 2021

3. What do squirrels use to protect themselves from the sun

4. Francis William "Frank" Epperson

5. Roswell, NM

6. Harry Styles

7. Tina Turner

8. What’s Love Got to Do With It?

9. The Acid Queen

10. Moby Dick

11. Spain

12. Anakin Skywalker

Cambridge/Somerville nonprofit receives three years of funding from Cummings Foundation

Food For Free is one of 150 local nonprofits selected to receive funding from the Cummings Foundation \$30 Million Grants Program. The Cambridge and Somerville-based organization was selected from a total of 630 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$180,000 over three years.

Food For Free is the leading food rescue and redistribution nonprofit dedicated to providing reliable access to fresh and nutritious food to Eastern Massachusetts communities. The organization rescues food that would otherwise go to waste and creates new distribution channels to reach underserved populations in 27 communities across the region. Founded in 1981 as one of the nation's first food rescue organizations, Food For Free now serves more than 150,000 food insecure Massachusetts residents and distributes 7.5 million pounds of nutritious fresh and prepared foods annually.

"We were elated to receive the good news," shared Marena Burnett, Chief Development Officer. "This funding will enable Food For Free to continue to respond to the increase in hunger in our community through our innovative programs and partnerships. The need for our services is greater than ever and we are grateful for the financial support and recognition from the Cummings Foundation."

The Cummings \$30 Million Grant Program primarily supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation

aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"The way the local nonprofit sector perseveres, steps up, and pivots to meet the shifting needs of the community is most impressive," said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. "We are incredibly grateful for these tireless efforts to support people in the community and to increase equity and access to opportunities."

The majority of the grant decisions were made by about 90 volunteers. They worked across a variety of committees to review and discuss the proposals and then, together, determine which requests would be funded. Among these community volunteers were business and nonprofit leaders, mayors, college presidents, and experts in areas such as finance and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion).

"It would not be possible for the Foundation to hire the diversity and depth of expertise and insights that our volunteers bring to the process," said Vyriotes. "We so appreciate the substantial time and thought they dedicated toward ensuring that our democratized version of philanthropy results in equitable outcomes that will really move the needle on important issues in local communities."

The Foundation and volunteers first identified 150 organizations to receive three-year



L to R: Wayne Procope (Food For Free), Juan Camilo Saavedra (La Colaborativa), Marena Burnett, Mark O'Neal, Adrienne Dunlap (Food For Free).
— Photo courtesy of Food For Free.

grants of up to \$225,000 each. The winners included first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings grants. Twenty-five of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected by a volunteer panel to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million each.

This year's grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including housing and food insecurity, workforce development, immigrant services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 46 different cities and towns.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded \$480 million to

greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year's 150 grant winners, plus nearly 1,500 previous recipients, is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

About Food For Free

Food For Free is a Cambridge and Somerville-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Eastern Massachusetts with reliable access to fresh and nutritious food. Food For Free accomplishes its mission through food rescue, partnerships with schools, colleges, and community food programs, and our own direct service programs. In the last year, Food For Free distributed 7.5 million pounds of nutritious food to over 25 communities throughout East-

ern Massachusetts. To learn more, visit us at www.foodfor-free.org, or follow Food For Free on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @foodforfreeorg.

About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, MA and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn, and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

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Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Groundbreaking for Clarendon Hills Phase One

Last week, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Representative Christine Barber, Preservation of Affordable Housing, Somerville Community Corporation, Somerville Housing Authority, residents, funders and partners celebrated the groundbreaking for Clarendon Hill Apartments, Phase One.

The comprehensive redevelopment is a collaboration between Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) and partners to sustain and reinvigorate the Somerville community by building safe and affordable quality homes for current and future residents.

Phase One consists of a 168-unit new construction project that will initiate the multi-phase redevelopment on Powder House Boulevard. The development is a one-for-one replacement of the existing 216 affordable public housing units and when complete will provide 591 units of mixed-income housing on the redesigned site.

"I am thrilled to join the groundbreaking ceremony for Clarendon Hill Phase One, which marks a significant milestone in Somerville's commitment to affordable housing and inclusive community development," said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "The work that begins today is a transformative project that will create a vibrant, mixed-income neighborhood that fosters diversity, opportunity, and a sense of belonging. I want to extend my gratitude to POAH, our public

and private partners, including the state, local agencies, and dedicated developers for their tireless efforts in creating a more equitable and inclusive Somerville."

"The Phase One Clarendon Hill redevelopment groundbreaking is a landmark moment that demonstrates the Somerville community's commitment to affordable housing and diverse, inclusive communities," said Aaron Gornstein, POAH President and CEO.

Clarendon Hill was built in 1948 as housing for veterans returning from World War II. Over the years the buildings have become functionally obsolete and the current infrastructure fails to meet the needs of modern families.

The redeveloped Clarendon Hill community will provide residents with enhanced amenities such as green and open space, community space, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, establish more connectivity for the residents throughout the site and the surrounding neighborhood, and create an additional 80 permanently affordable homes to support a diverse and inclusive Somerville community. The redevelopment will also include improved infrastructure that meets LEED Platinum standards to ensure environmental sustainability.

"As we start this major renovation of the Clarendon Hill Apartments, we are happy for the residents who will see brand new apartment homes that will allow them to continue living affordably and thrive in Somerville," said MassHousing Execu-



tive Director Chrystal Kornegay. "Clarendon Hill is an important public housing resource that offers deep affordability, and this multiphase project will not only completely replace the existing distressed 216 units with modern, energy efficient housing, but will also add 375 new apartment homes to the site that will be available to households across a range of incomes."

The development will include 41 one-bedroom, 121 two-bedroom, and six three-bedroom apartments of which 22 units are reserved for families with incomes up to 30% area median income (AMI), 79 up to 50% of AMI, 29 up to 60% AMI, and 38 will be moderate-income units up to 80% AMI. Replacement public housing units will continue to have rent calculated

as a portion of income to ensure deep affordability.

"Our robust State Public Housing portfolio is an incredible asset, and we are thrilled to see the transformation of Clarendon Hill begin, thanks to the dedication of the Somerville Housing Authority, POAH, and community partners," said Housing and Community Development Undersecretary Jennifer Maddox. "Affordable housing that meets the needs of all our neighbors makes our communities more resilient and inclusive. We look forward to implementing this model of innovative, creative public-private partnership to revitalize more public housing across Massachusetts to ensure our low-income families, seniors, and adults have access to this vital

part of our safety net."

The project is funded under the Partnership to Expand Housing Opportunities (PEHO) program, and includes an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits, construction funding from Bank of America, funding from the City of Somerville, and approximately \$1 million in POAH financing. MassHousing is providing \$3 million of Workforce Housing Initiative funds and a \$1 million Capital Magnet Fund commitment. About POAH

Preservation of Affordable Housing is a Boston-based non-profit organization that owns and operates nearly 13,000 affordable homes at 130 properties in 11 states and the District of Columbia. For more information at www.poah.org.

Tufts Sunday Concert Series: Tufts Youth Philharmonic

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Tufts Sunday Concert Series: Tufts Youth Philharmonic at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Sunday, May 14, at 3:00pm. The Tufts Youth Philharmonic performs works by Saint-Saëns, featuring Kai Deshima, winner of the TYP Concerto Competition; Brahms, Marquez, Sibelius, Toby Fox under the direction of John Page.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. For more information, please visit as.tufts.edu/music/musiccenter or call the Granoff Music Center Box Office at 617.627.3679.

Due to university COVID regulations, live audience attendees at Tufts Music events must be prepared to present a Tufts ID or Covid Vaccination Card showing that they have been VACCINATED and BOOSTED.

Mayor Ballantyne submits Somerville's FY24 Budget

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne submitted Somerville's Fiscal Year 2024 budget proposal last week, directing \$337.4 million toward key investments in the provision of city services and programs and the advancement of community priorities. Expanding on last year's focus on building a foundation for progress, this budget prioritizes investments in the resources needed to serve all residents and meet the community's ambitious goals, from supporting youth, seniors, and vulnerable residents to advancing affordability, taking on infrastructure challenges, developing equity across all functions, and pursuing sustainability goals.

The FY24 budget was developed through inclusive engagement with the community and City Council. The Administration evaluated all new investments based on four criteria: equity, sustainability, responsive government, and recommendations from the Work Better Task Force, an internal task force aimed at improving the work environment for staff as well as the productivity of the organization to ultimately best serve residents. This systematic review helped to ensure those values are incorporated across departments and investments.

"This budget delivers targeted investments to tackle our most pressing challenges while building the city's capacity to deliver high-quality services to all residents, no matter their circumstances. Last year, we set our foundation for progress for all; this year, we're focused on strategic growth that will advance our shared priorities," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We've also put forth a proposal that leads with our values – equity, sustainability, and responsive government – and embeds these non-negotiables across investments. This budget is built on collaboration and engagement, and I'm incredibly proud to share it with the community."

Investing in Our People

Investing in youth remains a top priority for the Ballantyne Ad-

ministration. The FY24 budget builds on last year's historic 10% increase in the Somerville Public Schools budget with a 7.8% increase this year, including \$500,000 for out-of-school-time programming by both the schools and the city. It also includes \$240,000 to continue running the city's two teen centers launched in 2022, as well as two new full-time staff positions to support teen center programming and operations.

To better serve Somerville's most vulnerable residents, this budget proposes several investments to bring essential services out of City Hall and into the community. A \$150,000 investment will establish a new Community Health group within Health and Human Services, with initial funding for three community health workers who will work in local neighborhoods to improve health outcomes. A \$120,000 investment will permanently fund a multilingual walking Equity Support Team within the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs to assist all departments citywide in increasing access and connecting residents across Somerville to information and services. Funding is also included for two permanent staff positions in the Council on Aging and expanded programming for older adults in technology, health, and wellness. This budget is also complemented by continued ARPA funding to expand on this year's successful overnight warming center for unhoused persons during extreme winter weather.

The FY24 budget also invests in programs and services focused on affordability, particularly for underserved communities and artists. Two new staff positions in the Office of Housing Stability will expand case management and outreach capacity, and a new Housing Counsel legal position will support affordable housing programs and investment. A new Food Access Coordinator will advance food-security initiatives across the city. Arts space to rehearse and produce is also an ur-

gent need. This budget includes funding to open a new dance/movement facility and to permanently fund a Space Coordinator within the Arts Council to help connect artists with space to work, practice, and perform.

Addressing Legacy Infrastructure Challenges

From City buildings and schools to roads and underground systems, Somerville's infrastructure suffers from decades of deferred investment. This budget addresses legacy challenges and prepares for the future by supporting the delivery of healthy, sustainable facilities and expanding systems for proactive maintenance. Among other investments, \$200,000 will support vital Infrastructure and Asset Management systems, which will create efficiencies and useful data to support both long-term projects and improved maintenance procedures. A new Building Systems Manager will oversee preventative maintenance of all facility and utility systems, refrigeration, HVAC, plumbing, emergency generators, fire protection, and electrical systems. A new Traffic Engineer will expand capacity for roadway reconstruction and safety improvements. This budget also includes \$375,000 to pave the eastern portion of Highland Avenue, one of Somerville's most traveled roadways that has long been in disrepair. A new ADA Field Associate will also add technical expertise to oversee Americans with Disabilities Act compliance across the city.

Supporting a Healthy, Resilient Environment

This budget aims to embed sustainability across services to advance the City's climate action efforts. A new Sustainability Planner will support citywide resiliency and building-decarbonization efforts and co-chair a new Resiliency Task Force. Another \$100,000 is allocated for two climate action feasibility studies. The first will help identify viable sites for a first-of-its-kind pilot project with Eversource to bridge the gap in electric capacity con-



nection between the electric grid and buildings. The second study will identify viable sites for vertical geothermal projects. This budget also proposes two new Environmental Health positions to support rodent mitigation efforts and biosafety. With the Green Line Extension fully operational, this budget also includes \$500,000 to provide yearlong MBTA passes for all City and Schools staff, supporting sustainable, equitable transit. (Further T-pass programs for Somerville Public School students, parents, and guardians, as well as low-income residents, are funded via the Schools budget and ARPA.)

Scaling City Services

To deliver on Somerville's ambitious goals and provide excellent core services, this year's budget makes a number of investments to build the staffing resources needed to advance this work. A new Deputy Chief Administrative Officer will support the Chief Administrative Officer in evaluating and improving operations across the organization. A number of new deputy and project management positions are also proposed to advance critical projects and allow senior staff to focus on strategy and leadership to enhance service and program delivery. A critical \$364,000 investment will support a suite of Information Technology upgrades that will increase efficiency. This budget also focuses on expanding and improving language access and accessibility across City services, with \$50,000 for ASL and CART services for public meetings, additional funding is also dedicated to improving and

expanding language and interpretation services, and the budget includes a new Language Justice Specialist position to advance the City's language justice plan.

Additional Investments

- Permanent funding for an Emergency Management Director
- Funding to design a Miyawaki Forest behind Somerville High School
- A pilot program to provide free personal sanitary products at City buildings
- A youth-focused needs assessment
- A pilot program to offer summer Sunday hours at the Somerville Public Library East Branch
- A new Human Resources Employee Engagement Specialist position
- A new Senior GIS Manager position
- Funding for bike lane markings and traffic signal redesign
- A new Senior Traffic Engineer position
- Funding to add closed-captioning to GovTV and EdTV programming
- Sensitivity training for city staff

Learn more, watch mayor's budget presentation, attend public hearing

The mayor will present the FY24 budget to the City Council on Thursday, June 1, at 7:00 p.m. The City Council will hold a Budget Public Hearing on Monday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. To see the proposed FY24 budget, watch the mayor's presentation, and participate in the public hearing, go to somervillema.gov/fy24budget.

Guardians of Wellness: an afternoon destigmatizing mental health with the Asian American community

By Beatriz Leite

This past Saturday afternoon, the Asian American community of Boston and Somerville gathered at the Somerville High School to learn how to destigmatize and understand the importance of caring for their mental health. This forum was a result of a partnership between Somerviva: Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Somerville Department of Health and Human Services, and the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC).

Held in Cantonese, with an instant Mandarin translation, the event catered to Asian immigrants and their families. The workshop focused on changing

the idea that mental health is taboo while educating on anxiety, and depression, and addressing gambling addiction and how that can affect a family's wellbeing.

According to The Mass General Hospital, only 8.6% of Asian Americans sought mental health services and resources. The University of Maryland conducted a study that examined the mental health needs of young Asian American adults. The results indicated that most participants had some issues, however, they refused to seek help due to the shame and embarrassment caused by the taboo in their communities.

BCNC's representative talked about the stigma that mental health carries within Asian



Destigmatizing mental health issues within the local Asian community took focus at Saturday's Somerviva forum.

— Photos by Beatriz Leite



communities.

"Our goal is to show that having anxiety and depression is ok, and it does not make you a crazy person," she said.

To change the perspective of the present families on mental health, the workshop invited Angel Chan, with a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She started with an explanation

of what mental health means. The speaker proceeded to explain how to identify depression and anxiety along with demystifying common misconceptions about the disorders. She also discussed how to be a non-judgmental listener to help others.

Another main topic discussed was the issue of gambling addiction and how it is larger than

casinos and how it does not only happen in adults. Chan described how this addiction compromises a family dynamic and gave tips on the need to seek help.

The associations hope that the instructions given in the talk will help the community to seek help if needed and recognize the need of others and help them get the treatment and support available.

Somerville residents: Help stop black swallow-wort this summer

The City of Somerville is partnering with community groups to raise awareness about black swallow-wort (BSW), a very aggressive and invasive, non-native weed that can be found throughout Somerville.

Why Black Swallow-Wort Is Unwelcome in Somerville

BSW displaces native plants and habitats, threatens butterflies and songbirds, and is toxic to deer.

It is especially harmful to the monarch butterfly population because it resembles milkweed, where monarchs lay their eggs, and once the monarch larvae hatch, they die from eating the toxic BSW leaves.

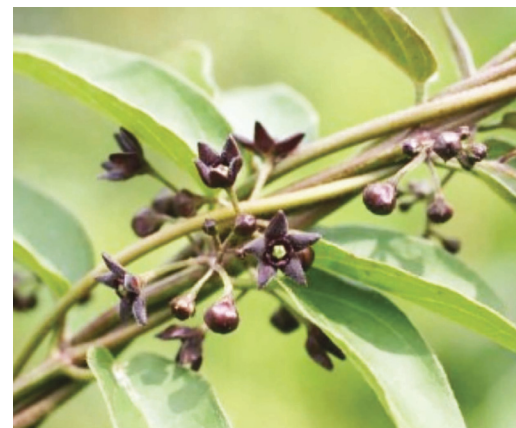
How to Spot and Remove Black Swallow-Wort

BSW pods start to appear in Somerville in late May and early June, and the city and community groups are asking residents to remove BSW when they see it.

The BSW plant has shiny green leaves that come in pairs along winding vines often found around fences and shrubs. It has thin green pods that are important to remove before they turn brown and disperse wind-borne seeds. BSW also has small, dark purple flowers that grow in clusters with five petals and a green center.

Whenever possible, BSW roots should be completely taken up and the pods should be removed. To dispose of the plant, be sure to place all of it in a sealed trash bag. Do not compost or place BSW in paper or yard waste bags because it will resprout.

To help spread the word, the city has created door hangers about BSW and how to remove it. Door hangers are available for pickup from May through mid-July at the Somerville City Hall Welcome Desk (93 Highland Avenue). Please pick some up and distribute them in Somerville.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes on roll calls from the week of May 22-26. All Senate roll calls are on proposed amendments to the Senate version of a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2024 state budget. There were no roll call votes in the House last week.

Of the 1,049 amendments filed by senators, only 31 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.

SENATE APPROVES \$55.9 BILLION FISCAL 2024 BUDGET (S 3)

Senate 40-0, approved a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2024 state budget after adding an estimated \$82.2 million in spending during four 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.

"I am so proud that this chamber voted resoundingly for a transformative budget built on the simple principle that our success as a commonwealth is tied to the success of every single person who calls Massachusetts home," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "Massachusetts will be competitive so long as people from all over the world can come here to fulfill their dreams – whether by going back to school, advancing their career, starting a business or finding affordable housing and childcare to raise a family. At a time when our world-class educational institutions are more needed now than ever, this budget adds a new chapter in Massachusetts' storied tradition of making education accessible to all through our Student Opportunity Plan."

"In my five years as chair of Ways and Means, I've never experienced a smoother or more democratic process than the fiscal year 2024 budget the Senate just approved here today," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport). "The chamber focused on an overarching goal to meet, and in many cases exceed, the pressing needs of our communities, and the commonwealth at large. This budget is a forward-thinking and responsive proposal that greatly facilitates our long-term economic health and expands access to opportunities to reinvigorate and reinvest in our workforce economy, lessen the wealth-income divide and empower our communities as we build an inclusive post-pandemic future that equitably benefits all."

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR ILLEGAL/UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS (S 3)

Senate 3-37, rejected an amendment that would strike a section of the budget that would allow undocumented/illegal immigrants to qualify for the lower in-state tuition rate if they attended high school here for at least three years and graduated, or completed a GED. They would also be required to provide a college or university with a valid social security number or taxpayer identification number, an affidavit indicating they applied for citizenship or legal permanent residence, or plan to do so once eligible, and proof they registered for selective service if applicable.

"Extending in-state tuition to our undocumented students is not only a matter of fairness but a crucial step towards achieving educational equity and effectively addressing our workforce shortages," said Sen. Pavel Pavano (D-Lawrence). "It is imperative that we tap into the potential of all our citizens to maintain our state's competitive edge in the economy. Now is the time to rally behind this long-overdue policy change and guarantee that every aspiring student, irrespective of their immigration status, will actively contribute to the growth and prosperity of our commonwealth."

"In-state tuition for undocumented immigrants is an example of one of the upside-down priorities found in the Senate budget," said Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) who sponsored the amendment to remove the lower tuition provision. "Prioritizing the needs of our citizens of the commonwealth should be the focus of the Senate, including providing tax relief to legal residents, adequately funding our schools including help with surging special education costs and investing in our small businesses and infrastructure. Our residents are leaving the state because it's expensive and our elected leaders have the wrong priorities."

"The Senate's fiscal year 2024 budget focuses on expanding access to higher education—not restricting it," said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "The data is clear: Students who attend Massachusetts public colleges and universities remain in the commonwealth after graduation, where they contribute to our economy and society. We must not obstruct any student seeking to fulfill their academic, personal and professional potential."

Some senators said this new policy should not be rushed through the Legislature in the form of a budget amendment but should be the subject of a separate bill that has to go through the entire legislative process including public hearings.

(Please note what a "Yes" and "No" vote mean. The amendment was on striking the section that provides lower rates. Therefore, a "Yes" vote is for striking the section that offers the lower tuition and therefore is against the lower tuition. A "No" vote is against striking the section and favors the lower tuition.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

TAX REVENUE FROM MILLIONAIRE'S TAX (S 3)

Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would remove a section in the budget that exempts tax revenue generated from the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax from counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations, under Chapter 62F, which provides that whenever revenue collections in a fiscal year exceed an annual cap tied to wage and salary growth, the excess is returned to taxpayers.

Last year, \$3 billion in refunds were returned to taxpayers when the law was triggered for just the second time since its passage in 1986. The revenue from the Millionaire Tax is deposited into the new Education and Transportation Stabilization Fund.

"It's refreshing to see some lawmakers put the interests of the taxpayers at the forefront," said Paul Craney, a spokesperson for the Mass Fiscal Alliance which supported the amendment to remove the section. "Senate Republicans came to today's debate well prepared. They passionately spoke out in favor of their ideas to protect the taxpayers and preserve the very popular taxpayer protection voter approved law known as 62F. Senate Democrats want to break the will of the voters by excluding the new millionaire's tax revenue from the total calculation for rebates back to the taxpayers from 62F. That goes against the will of the voters as the law is written and today's debate by Senate Republicans made that point very clearly."

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the

Continued on page 18

PTAC discusses parking enforcement and a budget letter to the mayor

By Khoa Tong

The Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC) held their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 25, hosted by Alessandra Seiter, chair of PTAC. The primary focus this month was to present and discuss with the Somerville Traffic and Parking Department their plans for automated parking enforcement as well as reviewing the Committee's letter to the mayor and City Council on FY24 budget priorities.

Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Traffic and Parking for the city of Somerville as well as Jacqueline Stagnari, Project Analyst for the Traffic and Parking Department joined the meeting to present general information as well as plans for the implementation of MPS Safety Sticks across the city to automate the ticketing process for illegal parkers.

The MPS stick itself will be placed on sidewalks near illegal parking spots such as bus stops or fire hydrants. The device will take a picture of the vehicle's plate after three minutes. The goal with the MPS stick is to mitigate illegal parking to increase safety for buses and pedestrians, as well as covering more ground where Parking Control Officers (PCOs) may not be available.

After the MPS stick records a license plate, it will automatically upload the address, time period and duration of the violation to the Traffic and Parking Department. The information is then processed by the department to confirm that an actual parking violation has taken place, as opposed to a brief passenger pick up, a ticket will be mailed to the driver within five days for in-state and ten days for out of state plates along with the information gathered by MPS.

"Because the Parking Control Officers can't be at every bus stop as every minute of every day, we don't get every violation," said Rinfret. "There's so many violations in the city that we have to maintain, and we have to be everywhere but there's only so many officers."

Warning signs will be added alongside the MPS sticks to notify drivers that the area is under surveillance, with Rinfret explaining that educating the public and making them aware results in safer streets. "Just having signs and markings just helps to remind people, don't park here," she said.

The Traffic and Parking Department has already run a pilot for the MPS stick, catching four-hundred and twenty sessions of illegal parking with

the longest violation being an hour and eight minutes. Rinfret mentions that when they begin implementing the MPS sticks onto streets, the Traffic and Parking Department will start out with a small handful such as on Elm St. in front of Bfresh and any streets the public may have higher concern over.

Rinfret concluded the presentation by providing general information about the Traffic and Parking Department and how they operate. The department focuses on administering, enforcing and maintaining maintenance on the streets of Somerville, working closely alongside the Traffic Commission, City Council as well as the Somerville Police.

The members of PTAC were interested in the work done and services provided by the Traffic and Parking Department as well as the MPS sticks and discussed suggestions regarding improvements and future plans for the MPS. Rinfret and Stagnari addressed questions brought up by the committee and ensure that more research and planning is going into developing higher efficiency enforcement throughout the city.

After Rinfret and Stagnari ended their presentation, Seiter moved the topic to revising the budget priority letter they draft-



ed before it is sent to the mayor and City Council. The letter focuses on the planning process for a North/South connector as well as hiring a curb manager for Citywide Parking and Curb Use Study implementation

Seiter went on to explain that under the bus network redesign, MBTA shuttle buses are not going through certain areas because of the grades on the streets of North and South Somerville. Their hope is that the city could experiment with smaller vehicles with fixed routes that can carry people in those areas who need the commute to high demand areas such as Union Square.

In addition, the Citywide Parking and Curb Use Study aims to compile data to better comprehend the parking systems in Somerville and create policies

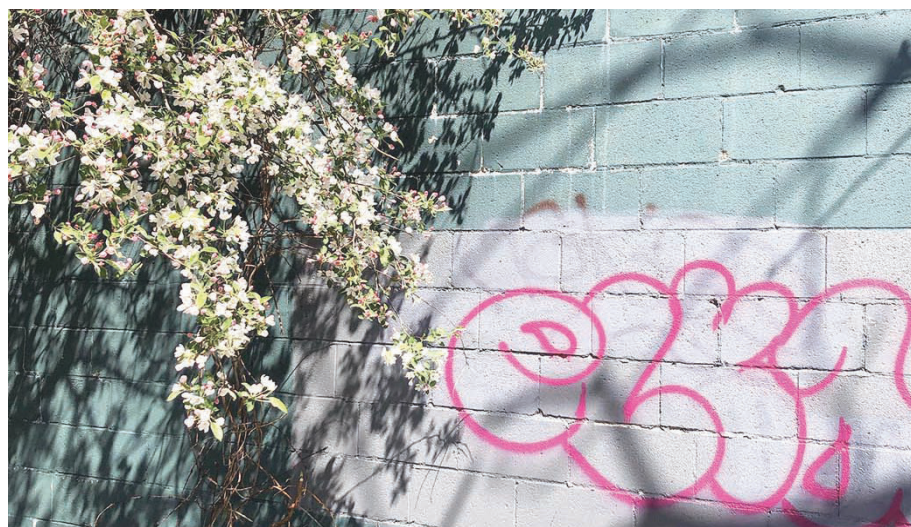
and regulations to better accommodate mobility and safety of the public. Seiter suggested in the letter to hire a curb manager to further support the study, stating that it has a lot of potential to influence travel within the city.

PTAC members briefly discussed the letter before coming to a full agreement to send it to the mayor on Friday, May 26.

More information on PTAC, the Traffic and Parking Department as well as the Citywide Parking and Curb Use Study can be found on their respective websites:

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/somerville-pedestrian-transit-advisory-committee-ptac>, <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/parking-department>, and <https://voice.somervillema.gov/parking-study>.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Somerville, city of Incongruities...

— Photo by Denise Provost

MIAA D3 State Championship results at Fitchburg State

For Somerville High School Track and Field:

200m William Parkes 23.66 and 100m-11.52; 400IH-Jackson Love 62.07 and Kerby Luxama 64.16; 400LH- Cindy Luxama 8th place medal-71.41 (#2 all time at SHS); 2-Mile-

5th place medal (4 points) Attikos Kaye 9:35.94

2 Mile Sam Buckley- 9:58.86 (16th); Mile-4:36.44; Triple Jump- Cindy Luxama 29'9.75"; Long Jump-Marcia Narh Botchway 16'0" (13th) 100m-13.58; TJ- Donju Felix 40'7.5" 6th place medal; Javelin -Ford Christie 138'4" 8th place medal; Attikos will compete at the MIAA Meet of Champions on Thursday 6/1 at Fitchburg; 6:00 p.m.



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sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his amendment.

Amendment opponents said the amendment will put the new revenue in jeopardy and argued this new revenue is earmarked for education and transportation and must be protected and treated differently than other tax revenue.

Senate Ways and Means Chair Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his opposition to the amendment.

(Please note what a “Yes” and “No” vote mean. The amendment was on striking the section that exempts tax revenue generated from the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax from counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations. A “Yes” vote is for the amendment that favors tax revenue generated from the recently voter-approved Millionaire Tax counting toward the allowable state tax revenue limitations. A “No” vote is against the amendment and supports exempting the revenue from the allowable state tax revenue limitations.)

Sen. Patricia JehlenNo

\$575 MILLION RESERVE FUND FOR TAX RELIEF (S 3)
Senate 4-35, rejected an amendment that would create a reserve fund of \$575 million to fund future tax relief.

Amendment supporters said this will ensure that a minimum of \$575 million is set aside and protected until the House, Senate and governor in the coming weeks can agree on the amount of money that will be returned to taxpayers this year. They noted several proposals with various amounts of tax relief are currently on the table and eventually one will be approved and this reserve fund creation will ensure the money is there for the tax cuts.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his amendment.

Amendment opponents said there is already a section in the budget that sets this money aside, a statement that amendment supporters disagree with and argued that the budget does not prevent the \$575 million from being spent on something other than tax relief.

Senate Ways and Means Chair Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his opposition to the amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$575 reserve fund. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia JehlenNo

\$500,000 FOR FREE FEMININE HYGIENE

PRODUCTS (S 3)
Senate 39-0, approved an amendment providing \$500,000 to The “Free Period Project” to provide free feminine hygiene products to students and low-income workers across the state. This program currently serves only the South Shore and the additional funding would expand it statewide.

“It’s become apparent that Free Period’s work is needed throughout Massachusetts,” said sponsor Sen. Patrick O’Conner (R-Weymouth). “In a needs assessment conducted in 300 schools throughout the commonwealth, it was found that 92 percent of schools have inadequate funding for feminine hygiene products and many have no funding at all. Over 60 percent of schools rely on school nurses, teachers or parent teacher organizations to step up and provide these products. It’s time for the state to step up.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$500,000.)

Sen. Patricia JehlenYes

\$200,000 FOR YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM (S 3)
Senate 39-0, approved an amendment providing \$200,000 for The NAN Project to provide mental health awareness and suicide prevention programming in schools and communities.

According to its website, the NAN Project is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Nancy Cavanaugh, – an inspiring, caring young woman who took her life because she could not find the services, support or hope needed to defeat the pain of anxiety, depression, and OCD

“I am deeply proud my amendment supporting The NAN Project was adopted so this crucial organization can continue its important work amplifying the mental health needs of students across our commonwealth,” said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem).

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$200,000.)

Sen. Patricia JehlenYes

\$200,000 FOR WOMEN VETERANS’ OUTREACH (S 3)
Senate 39-0, approved an amendment providing \$200,000 for hiring additional staff for women veterans’ outreach, centralizing the administration of services and expanding transitional support for women veterans returning to the state.

“While women are the fastest growing population of veterans, veteran organizations and care have historically been geared towards men,” said sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). “An amendment of mine to the fiscal 2022 budget commissioned the study that outlined these discrepancies. This follow-up amendment authorizes the necessary funding to implement the study’s recommendations, including expanding outreach services to identi-

fy women veterans and inform them of the benefits they qualify for.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$200,000.)

Sen. Patricia JehlenYes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

COURT RULES AGAINST EQUITY THEFT –
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. Current Massachusetts law allows this practice.

Since 2019, Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) has sponsored a bill at the state level that would have outlawed the practice in the Bay State. He applauded the court’s decision.

“Permitting municipal officials and private, profit-driven companies to prey upon the misfortunes of homeowners, robbing them of every cent of their equity, is unconscionable,” said Montigny. “Homeowners must be provided with enhanced protections so that their residences are not stolen under the guise of a bureaucratic process, and that they have every opportunity to settle their debt. Pushing out senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those facing tremendous personal challenges is atrocious. Local officials who have allowed [this] must immediately reverse their decision and provide restitution to anyone who suffered from this predatory practice. Frankly, those officials are not worthy to serve the public. Prospectively, I hope my bill to protect homeowners will be expedited through the legislative process and signed by the governor so that we can put an end to this shameless profiteering and bring Massachusetts in line with constitutional requirements.”

REVIVE “HAPPY HOURS” (S 157) – The Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee held a hearing on legislation that would allow cities and towns to permit restaurants that are licensed to serve alcohol to offer discounted prices on alcoholic beverages during dates and time periods specified by the city or town. The measure prohibits any alcohol from being discounted after 10 p.m.

Under current law, passed in 1984, restaurants have been prohibited from holding “happy hours” during which some alcoholic drinks are free or the price is reduced. The 1984 law was sparked by the September 1983 death of Kathleen Barry, a 20-year-old from Weymouth, when Barry and her friend won free pitchers of beer at a Braintree Ground Round. After leaving the bar, Barry and a friend climbed on top of a drunk friend’s car for a ride around a Braintree parking lot and Barry fell under the car and was dragged 50 feet to her death.

“Much has changed in Massachusetts since a happy hour ban was enacted in 1984,” said sponsor

Continued on page 19

Water and Sewer Department presents budget increases to city

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

On May 23, Demetrios Vidalis, the Director of the Water and Sewer Department, and Stephen Haynes, the Director of Finance for the Water and Sewer Department, presented the finance committee with a rate proposal increase plan for fiscal year 2024.

The presentation cited the rate increases to be due to increases in the Massachusetts Water and Resource Authority fees, infrastructure improvements, inflation rates, and regulatory requirements. According to the presentation, water and sewer bill payments go towards infrastructure improvements, MWRA fees, maintenance, and operational costs.

The presentation showed the

current financial assistance program and an upcoming city assistance program to help the residents of Somerville pay these rate increases. Furthermore, the continued policy of no-water shut-offs for non-payment is still in place.

The proposed increase to the rates that were presented to the committee would be the following. A no change in rate for base charges, an 11% water rate increase, and a 15% sewer rate increase.

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott was the first to pose questions after the presentation. He asked what the expected fiscal year revenue for 2024 would be due to these hikes in cost. Haynes commented that the expected revenue would be almost \$19 million in water and \$34 million

in sewer revenue.

According to Scott, the revenue for water would be \$2.75 million more than in fiscal year 2023. Scott brought up the extraordinary number of job vacancies in the water and sewer departments.

Reportedly the finance committee has had a request for the last three months from a contractor the city works with and outsources work to for those very services that relate to the staffing vacancies.

Scott commented that the increase that is being asked for will land on folks in the community and that he was concerned that the administration for the water and sewer department was just "treading water due to the fact that the positions couldn't be filled and that this

entire rate increase is just flowing straight out the door to the excavation contractor the city is working with."

Vidalis commented that the personnel vacancies are something the Human Resources department and personnel department are currently working on, and there are some negotiations with the union right now, so they were unable to speak on details regarding that.

Vidalis later added that the work they hired these outside contractors to perform would not go away. It would only lessen even if they were fully staffed.

Councilor At-Large Charlotte Kelly asked if the budget would include additional money to help people enrolled in the assistance program pay their bills even with the rate increase.

The Director answered that an additional 1 million dollars would be budgeted to help people in the assistance program afford to pay.

With respect to a matter brought up regarding future changes to a separate meter for garden hose usage, the directors of water and sewers for Somerville responded that in the future, they are looking into the feasibility but that, as of now, the city is not currently situated to implement a separate meter for garden hose usage.

The main concern many councilors voiced was the need for more predictable forecasting on if rates would continue to rise and put a strain on residents. With one yes and four no, the measure failed and was not approved by the finance committee.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 16

Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "The drinking age has long been settled at 21, stiff penalties have been established to deter drunk driving and ride hailing apps have become a popular way to safely get around on a night out. While alcohol-related offenses decline across the country and little compelling evidence exists linking happy hour with higher rates of alcohol-related DUIs, Massachusetts remains the last state in the country to have an absolute ban on happy hour. In the aftermath of COVID-19 and advent of remote work, happy hour is a tool that can help revitalize main streets and downtowns struggling for foot traffic. This legislation empowers municipalities to determine if they want to allow local restaurants to offer happy hour specials and decide if it is the right choice for their community."

COLLEGE STUDENTS' TRANSCRIPTS (H 1277)

– The Higher Education Committee held a hearing on a measure that would prohibit public and private colleges from withholding a student's entire academic transcript if the student owes the school money for any loan payments, fines, fees, tuition or other expenses. The measure would allow schools to withhold from the transcript only any academic credits and grades for any specific course for which that student's tuition and mandatory course fees are not paid in full.

Supporters said currently schools can withhold a student's

entire transcript even though it might be just one course for which the student has not paid. They said this means that these students cannot use any credits to transfer to more affordable institutions or to obtain employment.

"Higher Education institutions are supposed to be vehicles of opportunity, economic mobility and promises of a better future," said sponsor Rep. David LeBoeuf (D-Worcester). "Continuing to foster adverse practices that disproportionately penalize low-income students go against these principles, and the principles of the commonwealth. It is our responsibility to make sure those who pursue higher education are not saddled with debt or denied advancement opportunities because of limited financial resources. This bill begins to address this issue by eliminating a counterintuitive practice that has no place in Massachusetts."

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 of May 22-26, the House met for a total of 20 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 34 hours and 25 minutes.

Mon. May 22	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:17 a.m. to 5:16 p.m.
Tues. May 23	No House session Senate 10:08 a.m. to 7:53 p.m.
Wed. May 24	No House session Senate 10:09 a.m. to 7:49 p.m.
Thurs. May 25	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:12 a.m. Senate 10:15 a.m. to 7:16 p.m.
Fri. May 26	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Path detour. <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/green-line-extension>.

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

The **City of Somerville's annual Water System Flushing Program** has begun and will continue through late October. This annual program flushes pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will take place **Mondays and Thursdays** between 6:00 p.m. and midnight to minimize potential disruptions to water service. In most cases, residents will not notice any changes to their water service. However, some homes may experience a temporary, slight drop in water pressure and/or discolored water. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. If any rust stains appear on wet laundry, it should not be dried in a dryer machine, and residents can call 311 (or 617-666-3311 from cell phones or outside the city) for a free bottle of rust remover. Residents will be noti-

fied via signage when their neighborhood will be affected by the flushing program. For more information, please contact the **Water Department** at water@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 5850.

The **Somerville YMCA** has announced their upcoming annual **golf fundraiser event**. Join in on **Monday, June 12**, at the **Wayland Country Club** for a day filled with friendly competition, networking, and supporting a great cause. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to combine your passion for golf with philanthropy. Register now to secure your spot and be part of this exciting event! Visit <https://lnkd.in/eJ8Af7fb> for more details and to reserve your place on the green.

Enjoy **two docent tours** this week. On **Thursday, June 1**, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., take a docent tour of **Old Powder House** and **Sunday, June 4**, - 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at **Milk Row Cemetery**, 439 Somerville Ave. Inclement weather cancels any event. Call 311 (617-666-3311) for updates and check the city's calendar: <https://www.somervillema.gov/events>. The events are sponsored by the **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission** and the **Somerville Museum**: www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation and <http://somervillemuseum.org>.

Stay in the loop with the latest news on

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

Please join **Mayor Katjana Ballantyne** and **Ward 1 City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin** for a **ribbon cutting** to officially open **ESCA Park** in East Somerville. Somerville's newest renovated park is a .37-acre green space with an adjoining shared-use path at the intersection of Cross Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place **Monday, June 5**, at 2:30 p.m. (rain date: Wednesday, June 7, at 2:00 p.m.).

The **Free Lockboxes for Seniors Program** is intended to provide **police, fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to police, fire or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. The program is targeted towards Somerville residents who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical issues at any age. Individuals

living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. For more information, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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

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

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.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

May 31

1433 – Sigismund is crowned emperor of Rome.

1862 – At the Battle of Fair Oaks, Union General George B. McClellan defeats Confederates outside of Richmond.

1879 – New York's Madison Square Garden opens its doors for the first time.

1889 – Johnstown, Pennsylvania is destroyed by a massive flood.

1900 – U.S. troops arrive in Peking to help put down the Boxer Rebellion.

1902 – The Boer War ends with the Treaty of Vereeniging.

1909 – The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) holds its first conference.

1928 – The first flight over the Pacific takes off from Oakland.

1955 – The Supreme Court orders that states must end racial segregation "with all deliberate speed."

1969 – John Lennon and Yoko Ono record *Give Peace a Chance*.

1979 – Zimbabwe proclaims its independence.

2023 recipient of the 'Class of 1960 Scholarship'

Last week Somerville High held its Awards Night for the Class of 2023 where scholarships are awarded to the deserving students who have worked for, and won, these accolades.

The Class of 1960 has been a part of the Scholarship Foundation having donated through the years and awarding a scholarship in the amount of \$1960.00. They awarded one in 2016, three in 2020, (their 60th anniversary year,) and again, one each in 2021 and 2022. This year the recipient is Olivia Marujo.

Olivia is an honors student, graduating with a 4.15 GPA and a member of the National Honors Society. She has also participated in track and field, is involved in the school fashion club, and works after school as a receptionist. Last year she received the Spark Summer Scholarship which allowed her to participate in summer pre-college fashion merchandising at Marist College. She will be pursuing marketing as it aligns with what she would like to do for her career, which is fashion merchandising.

As an alternative major, she has chosen communication to aid her in her preferred field. Olivia has already been accepted at three of the universities to which she has applied.

The Class of 1960 has been extremely generous with their

donations through the years and hopes to continue the scholarship awards as long as the donations pour in. Diane Suffredini, representing the Class of 1960, presented Olivia her scholarship certificate at the Awards Night. And quoted: "We always remember the great education and guidance we received during our high school years and want to "pay it forward" with this Scholarship Fund. Here's hoping other past graduating classes may decide to "pick up the baton" and do the same."

Congratulations to Olivia, the recipients of the other scholarships, and all of the Class of 2023.



Olivia Marujo, SHS Class of 2023 Recipient of the "Class of 1960 Scholarship" with Diane Suffredini, representing the Class of 1960.


The Somerville Times

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Letters'
by Susan Sklan

The Letters
by Susan Sklan
Main Street Rag Publishing, 2023

Review by Off The Shelf Correspondent Lee Varon

It sounds cliché to say of a book that the author's words leapt off the page. Yet I can't think of a better expression to describe the feeling I had when reading the poems of Susan Sklan. The letters on which all of these poems are based, are actual letters written by Sklan's grandmother who lived in the Warsaw Ghetto before her presumed death in the Treblinka concentration camp. Most of the letters Sklan's grandmother wrote were to her son (Sklan's father) in England. He escaped Warsaw to England when he was seventeen, a few weeks before war began. After the war he immigrated to Australia, the only one of his immediate family to survive. These lucid and beautiful poems are reflections on the letters of her grandmother, and often contain her grandmother's own words.

Although Sklan never met her grandmother, she is obviously very much alive to the poet and becomes alive for us through her poetry.

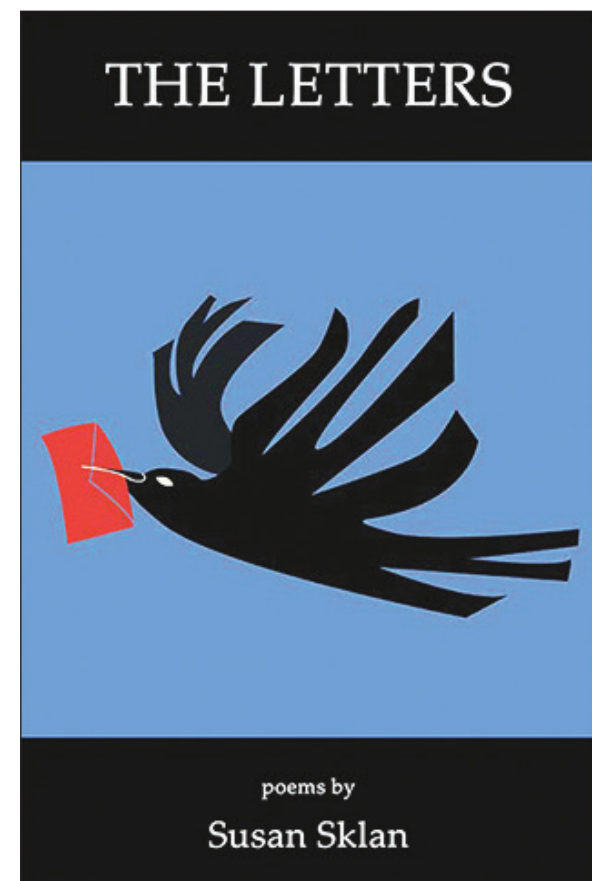
These poems particularly spoke to me since many of my own grandfather's Ukrainian Jewish family had perished in pogroms and later, the Holocaust. And like Sklan's father, my grandfather never spoke of the horrors he had witnessed.

Growing up, Sklan writes, "my sister and I understood intuitively that our father had suffered a terrible loss that was too terrible to talk about."

The poems in *The Letters* bear witness to this terrible segment in history. My stomach clenched when I read: "At day break there was/ a knock at the door. Did it wake you/ or were you already waiting? /How did you decide what to take/ and what to leave behind?"

Sklan's language is simple and clear with strikingly powerful images. The descriptions of the worsening conditions in the ghetto are gut wrenching: "Children run faster, faster. / Thin limbs fly over shadows/ suitcases, bundles of bedding, / around swollen corpses." And later in the same poem: "A man stuffs his thoughts in his hat/ and wedges it firmly on his head."

The poet, trying to understand what her grandparents' life was like, decides to google their street and finds: "Even the iconic holocaust photo of a young boy, / holding his hands above his head/ a submachine gun pointing to him, / the boy with eyes open with fear/ was marched along your street. / Did you



see him?"

In a poem entitled simply, *Then There Were No More Letters*, Sklan wonders how her grandmother met her fate: "Did you survive the march to the station/ and be rammed in a train to Treblinka?" And later in this poem this breathtaking line: "You had no choice how you left with your wide awake heart" This single line could be emblematic for all refugees who in the fullness of their lives, are suddenly uprooted, their lives destroyed.

The experience of Sklan's father was similar to the experience of other refugees. She writes of him: "a glimmer of hope/ under Sydney sun./ The graffiti scrawled on a Bondi Beach wall, Go Home Reffos/ never let him forget."

Incredibly, even as Sklan's grandmother was wasting away in the ghetto, she wrote endlessly hopeful, encouraging, and loving words to her beloved son who she would never see again.

Some of Sklan's poems are written as letters addressed directly to her departed grandmother as if she could read them beyond the grave. "Dearest Grandmother/ my father took the courage/ you sent him/ and clipped it to his heart." And later in this poem writing about her father to her departed grandmother: "I want to assure you/ that sometimes happiness found him."

Sklan speculates what her grandmother might have been like: "What was your

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Bestselling Author, Timothy Gager has published 18 books of fiction and poetry, which includes his latest novel, *Joe the Salamander*. He hosted the successful Dire Literary Series in Cambridge, MA from 2001 to 2018, and started a weekly virtual series in 2020. He has had over 1000 works of fiction and poetry published, 17 nominated for the Pushcart Prize. His work also has been nominated for a Massachusetts Book Award, The Best of the Web, The Best Small Fictions Anthology and has been read on National Public Radio. In 2023, Big Table Publishing published an anthology of twenty years of his selected work, with 150 pages of new material: *The Best of Timothy Gager*. Timothy was the Fiction Editor of *The Wilderness House Literary Review*, and the founding co-editor of *The Heat City Literary Review*. A graduate of the University of Delaware, Timothy lives in Dedham, MA.



Dog Years

The dog now takes more pills
than my father and
swims more than I do

Every day on this earth
she ages a week, a year
in about 7 of those.

my father's head is in clouds eternally
at least the dog in their nineties
can find a tree to pee on.

There are no rings of a bell, which sing
without the rings of a tree's
cross section

of time, never dissipating
when night darkens the dog,
the man no longer can see.

— Timothy Gager

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

Healey Schoolyard and Joe Mackey Field Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting

Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan, and Interim School Superintendent Jeff Curley, celebrated the official opening of the redesigned Healey Schoolyard and Joe Mackey Field on Friday, May 26, at the Healey School, located at 5 Meecham Street.

The Healey Schoolyard and Joe Mackey Field have been thoughtfully designed and developed to foster an environment that promotes learning, physical activity, and community engagement. This revitalized space offers state-of-the-art amenities, including modern play structures, a sports field, and inviting green spaces, dozens of new trees, and an accessible ramp connecting the schoolyard to the Mystic Housing Development.

The redesigned spaces are part of the City of Somerville’s ongoing commitment to creating more green space for community members to enjoy. Since 2010, nearly 21 new acres of open space have been created, representing about 20% progress toward the open space goals of SomerVision 2040. In addition to adding acreage, the City is focused on renovating existing parks and schoolyards. About 50 parks have been renovated to today’s standards since 2003. To learn more, please contact Arn Franzen, Director of Parks and Open Space by emailing Afranzen@somervillema.gov or calling (617) 625-6600 x2545.

— Photos courtesy of Somerville Youth Soccer



Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

3. The first governor of Connecticut was his son, John Winthrop, Jr., who brought iron making to America.

4. The first state hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, began on Cobble Hill.

5. The first mansion built by Charles Bulfinch was the Barrell Mansion on Cobble Hill.
6. The first Civil War Memorial in the country was built with public funds and was erected in the Somerville cemetery.

7. The first outside telephone line went from Court Street in Boston to the home of Charles Williams at One Arlington Street in Somerville.

8. America’s first millionaire,
- Elias Hasket Derby, lived on Temple Street and Derby Street honors him.

9. Somerville’s Marine Corps Sergeant Henry Hanson helped raise the first American flags at Iwo Jima.

10. The first Revolutionary forts used to oppose the British Army, seven in total, were built here.
11. The Battle of Lexington and Concord began at Lexington but ended in today’s Somerville.

12. Nathan Hale, America’s first intelligence officer-spy and one of the army’s first rangers, trained on Winter Hill.

13. Last of all on this partial list, but first in the eyes of our nation, honors a man who would
- lead America to freedom. General George Washington raised the first thirteen striped American Flag on Prospect Hill and years later won our country’s independence. He later became our first president.

George Washington ... first in war ... first in peace ... and first in the eyes of our countrymen.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

hair color?” and “Did you have brothers and sisters? / Who made you laugh? / At the end did you hope, despite the odds/ for more hope?” she asks in a poem entitled, *Just Gone*.

The poet feels that the letters have given her the gift of her grandmother’s voice and she has now brought us this gift of her poems.

One might assume this book about such a dark time in history would be unrelentingly depressing but, in fact, this is a book ultimately about hope, courage and fortitude. Of her grandmother Sklan writes: “You gather your coat of courage/ and wave your flowering spirit.” Her grandmother, Sklan writes: “rose to the light,/ despite the deadly pit/ you were forced in.”

I felt, in these words, the poet challenges us all, despite whatever darkness we may find ourselves in, and despite the sadness engulfing our world, to rise to the light.

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