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Hop on the bus, Gus

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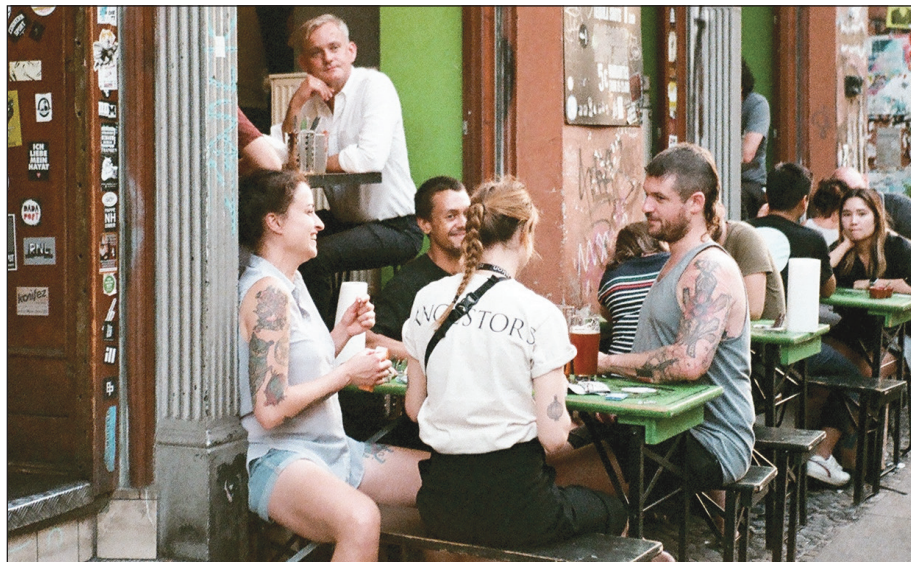


Cleaning up East Somerville

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Restaurateurs appeal to Board of Health for easing rules on restrooms

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.



Local restaurant operators have expressed a need for flexibility in the requirements for restroom capacity as they hope to carry on with outdoor seating arrangements for customers post-pandemic.

During the pandemic, many restaurants across Somerville added outdoor seating areas to accommodate patrons and keep social distancing. Now that we're past the days of COVID and social distancing, many want to bring back outside seating to their establishments, but there's one thing standing in the way: restrooms.

In this month's Somerville Board of Health meeting, representatives from three Somerville restaurants requested a variance or exemption from rules requiring a certain number of restrooms depending on the restaurant's occupancy.

According to Director of Inspectional Services, Nick Antanavica, these rules were not enforced during COVID to help restaurants. *Continued on page 4*

Somerville Open Studios 2023: Bounce!

Join in for Bounce, the 24th annual Somerville Open Studios, on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7, from noon to 6pm throughout the city. Visit more than 350 visual artists during one of the largest free open studios events in the nation.

The public is invited to bounce around the block to visit unique home and collective studios of Somerville's creative community. Or feel free to use the Free Trolleys provided during SOS weekend hours.

More than 350 visual artists in 90 locations invite the community into their spaces during one of the largest free open studios events in the nation. Free trolleys taking visitors to the open studios will circulate the city with artist-made trolley signs marking the stops. <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>

The First Look Show at the Somerville Museum will be this Thursday, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Friday, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (opening one hour before the rest of SOS).



Home Speakers Set by sculptor Hilary Ross, one of the hundreds of the city's artists participating in this year's Somerville Open Studios.

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Open Studios 2023 will take place on Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7. More than 300 artists across Somerville will open their studios to the public to display their latest work and meet visitors. The artist directory is now online, so you can find your favorite Somerville artists and preview this year’s event at any time. Physical maps will be available at a corner near you in Somerville. Somerville Open Studio 2023 weekend hours: Saturday and Sunday, May 6 – 7, noon-5:00 p.m. Visit www.somervilleopenstudios.org.

In May, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission partners with local organizations to host events honoring Somerville’s history and historic assets. Thursday, May 4, will be the launch of Docent Opening: Old Powder House at intersection of Liberty Ave. and Powderhouse Terrace, off Broadway. On Saturday, May 6, Jane’s Walk will take place. Celebrate Jane Jacobs, a world-renowned urban activist on a walk exploring “Boynton’s Changing Yards.” The walk will start at Union Sq. Dunkin’ Donuts and end at 101 South St./Portico Brewing. More about Jane’s Walks at janeswalk.org. All events are open to the public, ADA accessible, and rain or shine. For more information visit somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-events-and-education.

To those celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to Aida Sousa-Braga, who celebrates this week. Happy birthday this week to Linda Beebe, who is celebrating this week. Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 3 – May 9 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday May 3	Rain	57°/61°	5%	3%	S 15 mph
 Thursday May 4	Rain	50°/44°	2%	1%	NE 14 mph
 Friday May 5	Rain	51°/45°	59%	48%	E 12 mph
 Saturday May 6	Partly Cloudy	60°/47°	37%	26%	NNE 10 mph
 Sunday May 7	Sunny	70°/50°	5%	2%	NW 10 mph
 Monday May 8	Sunny	73°/53°	3%	1%	W 11 mph
 Tuesday May 9	Partly Cloudy	71°/59°	22%	17%	SSW 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com
Comments of the Week

Response to: Somerville Youth Leaders at the Statehouse

Steve Keenan says:

It is so nice to see our young people involved in something like this. They are the leaders of the future.

Charlotte Schofield says:

I was able to be a long-term substitute for this wonderful group and I could not be more proud! So amazing seeing the younger generations taking lead, great job to you all <3 Miss. C

Response to: Somerville PTAC discusses safe routes to school and transit pass pilot programs

SomerBreeze says:

So if this PTAC is so concerned about pedestrians—why has it NEVER addressed the long-standing violations to pedestrian public safety posed by the cyclists on Business District sidewalks? It’s been brought up with them before—but there reaction has always been, “Hunh? Whuzzat?” Meanwhile, the sidewalk No-Cycling Decals have faded out yet again—and E-Bikes and scooters now ply the Business District sidewalks. In this regard, pedestrian safety is off the radar for PTAC and City Hall.

Response to: Residents respond to Somerville’s Participatory Budget, the first of its kind

Bo Eland says:

Loved the article. Hats off to the Somerville city council for this inclusive governing idea. It works

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Hop on the bus, Gus



The old bus pictured here was the type we took back in the day. Riding to the high school in the late 60's and early 70's was a lot of fun. Remember the plush leather seats?

We would catch the bus at the corner of Bay State Avenue and Broadway near Ball Square in the morning. In the afternoon the bus would be waiting at the corner of School Street and Medford Street. The fare was a dime. I don't even know how much the bus costs today since I haven't taken one in years.

We had a lot of fun on the bus, especially on the way back from school, because it was all kids. On the way to school, we had to share the bus with people going to work, etc.

At 2:30 we would walk down the street to the waiting bus. It was pretty loud and rowdy. We were a bunch of kids that just got out of school for seven hours and we were pretty amped up. The bus was



packed with kids.

When we headed home, we would line up kids on each side of the bus. Then we would start to rock the bus back and forth as the bus driver yelled at us. He actually would pull the bus over and get out un-

til we calmed down. So, as we headed to Ball Square we started chanting, DO IT ON THE BRIDGE! DO IT ON THE BRIDGE! We started rocking the bus around Trum Field and when we went over the Ball Square bridge we were a

rocking and a rolling. The poor bus driver.

If I had to go to the high school today, I could walk to Davis Square, switch to the Green Line at Park St. and grab the train to the High School's Gilman Square stop. How cool is that?



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SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S FY2024 BUDGET
Thursday, May 4, 2023, AT 6:00 P.M.

In the EAST SOMERVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM – 50 Cross Street

To watch the Budget Hearing live from home
Use the following web address and *choose GovTv*: www.somervillema.gov/tv

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Andre Green, Chair Ilana Krepchin, Chair Jeff Curley
Somerville School Committee Finance and Facilities Subcommittee Interim Superintendent of Schools

For questions regarding the Budget Hearing, please contact your School Committee Ward Member:
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee>

Budget information will be posted on the Somerville Public School website prior to the Budget hearing here:
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/finance-and-facilities>

STATE-WIDE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL CONDUCT
A PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE PARTICIPATION
IN THE SCHOOLCHOICE PROGRAM FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

To watch the School Choice Public Hearing live from home
Use the following web address and *choose GovTv*: www.somervillema.gov/tv

USQ will open new housing and public space in Union Square this summer

90 New Affordable Units to be part of first phase

The first phase of USQ will come to life over the next few months as we open the doors to new residences at 20-50 Prospect Street. This is a significant milestone that highlights our shared commitment with the community and the City of Somerville for the revitalization of Union Square. The project will provide desperately needed housing, added commercial opportunities, new patrons for Union Square businesses and direct access to the Union Square T. We embrace the community's vision for Union Square and we hold tightly to our promise to deliver on that vision.

The opening of USQ's 20-50 Prospect Street addresses a pressing need for housing in Union Square and the region. It also represents an historic affordable housing achievement. Upon opening, the project will be home to 450 housing units. Ninety (90) of those units will be permanently affordable across three income tiers. It will be the largest delivery of inclusionary housing in the City's history. In addition to the onsite affordable units, US2 will contribute \$1.5 million to Somerville's Affordable Housing Trust.

Another key promise we made to the City of Somerville was to make Union Square more accessible by addressing transportation infrastructure. Thanks to the City of Somerville's dogged persistence, Green Line trolleys are now shuttling back and forth to Boston, making the neighborhood accessible to people of all income levels. For our part, US2 collaborated closely with the MBTA and the City as we directly funded the Union Square Station elevator, the Station's bicycle storage facility, an ADA accessible pathway, and an MBTA employee facility.

Additionally, US2 committed more than \$6 million to offset the City of Somerville's financial contribution to the GLX project and to support the City's efforts to expand mobility options within the neighborhood.

The creation of new public open space in Union Square has been a community priority since our collaboration started in 2014. Early this summer, we will complete the construction of Station Plaza, a pedestrian-first, public open space spanning almost half an acre. We will plant 19 new trees, to provide shade and comfort to more than 600 feet of planned public seating. To say that we are excited to see the community give this space 'life' would be an understatement. In total, we have planned 11 civic spaces within USQ.

By early next year, you will see USQ open its next building, 10 Prospect Street, which will add more than 500 permanent life-science jobs to the neighborhood, creating invaluable daytime foot-traffic for area business, and providing economic mobility opportunities for local residents.

Behind the scenes, know that we are collaborating with local artists, supporting key community organizations, such as Union Square Main Streets, Somerville Homeless Coalition, and public schools, and joining in on fun events like the Farmer's Market and Fluff Fest that make Union Square as special as it is. We take a great deal of pride in being a part of this colorful, historic neighborhood, and we know that the future is even brighter. We are always willing to engage in conversation about our neighborhood. Our offices are located in the heart of Union Square (31 Union Square) and our door is always open to members of the community.

— Greg Karczewski, President, US2

Restaurateurs appeal to Board of Health for easing rules on restrooms

CONT. FROM PG 1

during the pandemic.

"Now that we're in year three and we are moving to a more permanent setup, these are things that we need to take into consideration," Antanavica said.

For most of these businesses, expanding their seating to include outdoor seating would cause them to not have enough restrooms according to the law. But after deliberating for over an hour, board members came to an agreement.

In a 2-1 vote, members approved a one-year variance for two of the three restaurants and allowed for a 50% seating capacity increase for the next year. This did come with caveats though as the restaurants were instructed to add more restroom facilities

in order to come into compliance within the next year.

Following this, the Board of Health discussed topics such as increased fees for summer camps in Somerville and tattoo permit fees. Afterward, the Board of Health heard an appeal from Abe Mansour, a representative from a local Sunoco gas station.

According to Bonny Carroll, Director of the Six City Tobacco Initiative, a member of staff sold cigarettes to an underage minor on March 7. During the meeting, Mansour appealed a cease-and-desist order given to the gas station.

"We've been in business since 1991, 32 years, we never had a violation. We do know that our employee made a mistake," Man-

sour said. "If you can reconsider the fine, we really would appreciate it. For the last three years, with the pandemic, things have been very tough."

Mansour also promised to have an agreement signed by his employees promising to not sell cigarettes to minors. The cease-and-desist order for first-time offenders given to the gas station consists of a \$1000 fine and a three-day ban on selling tobacco at the gas station.

Members of the board voted 3-0 to deny Mansour's appeal of the cease-and-desist order.

For more information on the Somerville Board of Health and to attend future meetings visit: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/board-of-health>.



Depavement event promoted as part of SustainaVille Week

By Emilia Wisniewski

A flatbed trailer was parked next to the home of the corner of Centre Street and Woodbine Street on the early morning of April 29. The homeowners, Sara Brunelle and her husband Antonio, requested Green & Open Somerville come depave their driveway, an effort the organization has been doing for years.

Residents flocked to the driveway, which was adorned with chalk drawings of flowers from the Brunelle's two-year-old daughter. With a crowd of 20 people, co-founder Renee Scott and advisor Leigh Meunier welcomed participants to the depaving event and explained what they would be doing that morning.

With tools propped against the fence and bags full of hard hats and gloves, Scott took the helpers through the process of depaving asphalt. She enlisted the help of senior volunteer Cadot Pricejones to show how to smash the ground with a sledgehammer, jam a crowbar into the ground and leverage the material up with a brick as support.

Brunelle met Meunier at a tabling event and contacted Green & Open Somerville immediately after hearing they can depave lots. She wanted to turn her two-car parking lot into green space.

"There's so much asphalt in our world and it feels like it's everywhere, and it felt really wrong to be all around our house," Brunelle said. "We love gardening. We want space for birds and insects as well as our family."

Meunier said depavement efforts started in 2010, initially doing two projects each year. As the organizing team and the interest in green spaces in Somerville grew, the number of depaving projects have increased alongside it, with around four events happening each year.

The event on Saturday was promoted by the City of Somerville as part of its SustainaVille week, helping to reduce the city's contribution to climate change.

"The understanding about climate

change, understanding about flooding, people's interest in wanting to transform the lands for more healthy green spaces, there's just more interest in these kinds of projects," Meunier said. "I'm interested in expanding depaving, so I'm more actively reaching out to groups to see who could help us expand these efforts in ways that also increase our capacity."

Community members worked for two hours to break apart the driveway and surrounding concrete border. Julie Corwin, one of the volunteers that day, lifted a large piece of asphalt to carry to the flatbed, and commented that it "looks like Montana." Her team gave a hearty laugh after that.

"For me, I don't have any pavement to repave so it's great to help other people," Corwin said. "Throughout the day, you can just ... feel the earth just breathing again. It's really nice to see it all come up."

Another participant, Sam Musher, said it felt satisfying to get rid of the stuff she "hates so much." She also commented on how others can learn about these efforts by just walking by.

"Neighbors come past who don't really understand what's going on and can learn a little bit about, 'oh, this stuff that somebody covered the world with doesn't actually have to be here,'" Musher said. "There's other things you can do with it."

Scott co-founded Green & Open Somerville and implemented the depaving efforts into the organization in 2014. One of the first projects she did was depaving her own driveway.

"It was amazing," Scott said. "We invited friends and neighbors, but most people there, working in the rain for four hours, were people I've never met before. They just came and it was just a labor of love."

With issues of runoff water and flooding basements plaguing her neighborhood, Brunelle said she believed the added green space will help start to alleviate the problem.

"My heart is so full," she said. "It's kind of amazing that people chose to give their energy to this and I am really grateful."



An asphalt depaving event took place at a Somerville residence last as part of the city's SustainaVille Week activities.
— Photos by Emilia Wisniewski

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Somerville's
Jane's Walk 2023
"Boynton's Changing Yards"



Photo by AB1DQ

Saturday, May 6; 10 am - noon FREE!

Led by community residents interested in the area's future as it transforms, resulting from both public policy and private investment.

Start: Dunkin' Donuts at 282 Somerville Avenue, Union Square

Stops include: Nissenbaum's Auto Parts, South Street Farm, 561 Windsor Street, Boynton Project

End: Portico Brewing at 101 South Street, Boynton Yards

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne



Jane's Walk is a global movement for neighbor-led walking tours inspired by urban activist Jane Jacobs. For more, see janewalk.org



Somerville Historic Preservation



@preservingsomerville

www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-events-and-education



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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. BHRC records local representatives votes on six roll calls from the week of April 24-28. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week. All roll calls in the House were on matters relating to House passage of a \$56.2 billion fiscal 2024 state budget.

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BUDGET “DEBATE”

Most of the decisions on which representatives' amendments are included or not included in the budget are made behind closed doors. Of the 1,573 budget amendments proposed, most of them were bundled into consolidated “mega” amendments. This year there were seven mega amendments and all but one, which had just one vote against it, were approved unanimously. There is no real “debate” on the House floor. Everyone who spoke on any of the consolidated amendments spoke in favor of them.

The system works as follows: Individual representatives file amendments on various topics. All members then pitch their amendments to Democratic leaders who draft consolidated amendments that include some of the individual representatives' amendments while excluding others.

The categories of consolidated amendments include many subjects including programs relating to public safety, judiciary energy, environmental affairs, housing, labor and economic development.

Supporters of the system say that any representative who sponsored an excluded amendment can bring it to the floor and ask for an up or down vote on the amendment itself. They say this system has worked well for many years.

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

Rep. Russell Holmes (D-Boston) was the only member who voted against one of the consolidated amendments - the one that added an estimated \$10.5 million in spending on Public Safety and the Judiciary.

HOUSE APPROVES \$56.2 BILLION FISCAL 2024 STATE BUDGET (H 3900)

House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$56.2 billion fiscal 2024 state budget after adding an estimated \$120 million in spending during three days of debate. The House version now goes to the Senate which will approve a different version. A House-Senate conference commit-

tee will eventually craft a plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and then sent to the governor.

“From critical investments in health care and workforce development, to funding for new initiatives that are designed to increase educational opportunities, better support working families, and provide for a safer and more reliable public transportation system, the House’s fiscal year 2024 budget will help to make Massachusetts more affordable for residents, while allocating support for the commonwealth’s most consequential institutions,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

“This budget builds off the successes of the last few years by prioritizing our residents. Whether it is greater investments into programs like housing stability, food security or early education, these initiatives are a reflection of our shared values,” said Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. “By reinvesting in the people of the commonwealth, we will continue to assist those recovering from this pandemic while making our economy more competitive and equitable for years to come.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the budget.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn't Vote

TAX REVENUE FROM MILLIONAIRE’S TAX (H 3900)

House 25-132, 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.

“There is no justification for excluding the Millionaire Tax revenues from the Chapter 62F calculations, as all other taxes including taxes constitutionally designated towards specific uses like the gas tax, are included in the current calculation, and tax rate increases have not been held aside from the formula previously,” said amendment sponsor GOP House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “Attempting to exclude these revenues is a slap in the face to the state’s taxpayers and the voters who supported this ballot question.”

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.

Revenue Committee House chair Mark Cusack (D-Brain-tree) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on why he urged representatives to vote against the amendment.

(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.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

CONSOLIDATED AMENDMENT ON LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (H 3900)

House 157-0, approved a \$31.5 million consolidated amendment that funds labor and economic development programs.

“We are continuing to see positive data with jobs, unemployment rates and the labor market,” said Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury), House chair of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. “These datapoints tell us that the investments we’ve made in our workforce are having a positive impact. This House budget we approved ... continues this trajectory by investing more resources in our people.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the consolidated amendment.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn't Vote

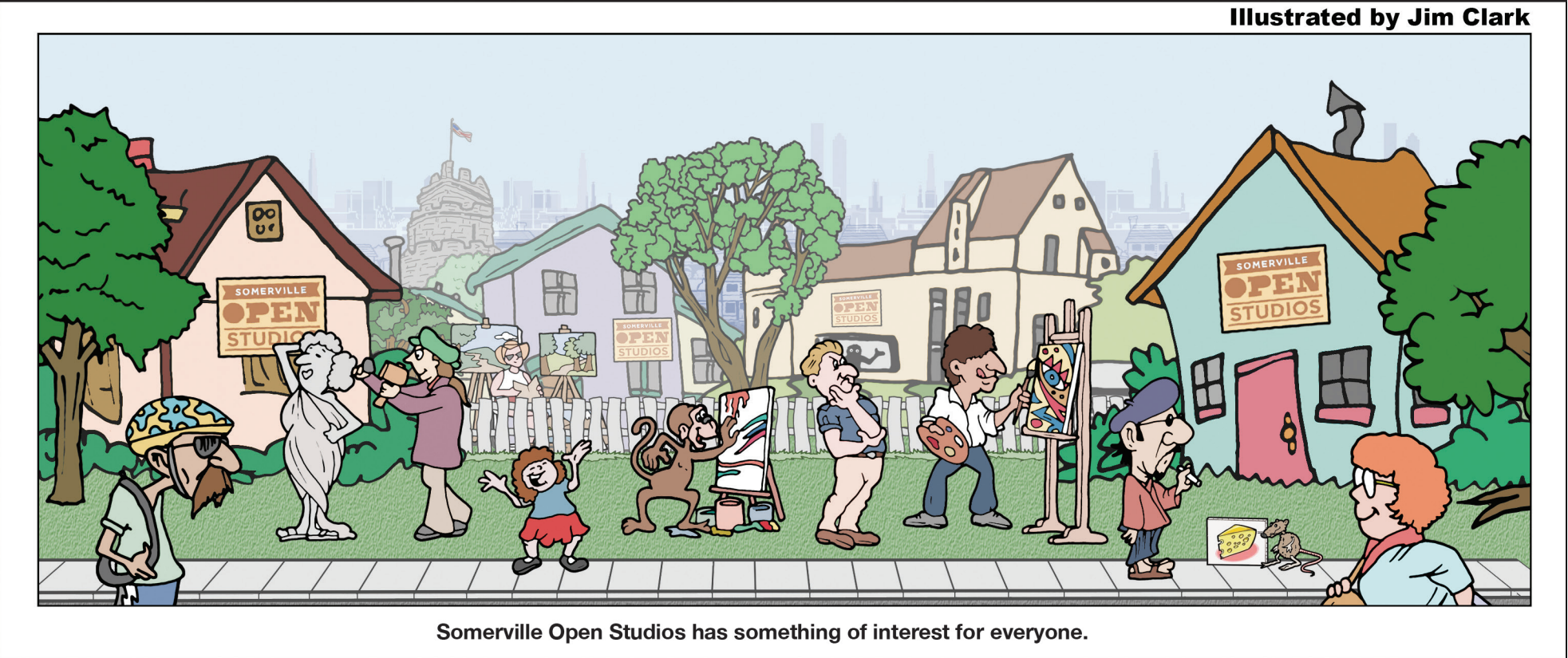
CONSOLIDATED AMENDMENT ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (H 3900)

House 158-0, approved a \$7.3 million consolidated amendment that funds energy, environmental affairs and housing programs.

“We are on the front lines of the climate crisis and if we are to minimize irreversible impacts, we must make unparalleled changes,” said State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. “The House budget and adopted energy and environmental amendment together commit 1.25

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Somerville Open Studios has something of interest for everyone.

Our View Of The Times

One thing can be said for sure about our great city: there is no want for creative energy and enterprise.

Consider all the wonderful artists who will be participating in this weekend’s Somerville Open Studios (SOS) event. Artisans and crafters of seemingly limitless disciplines and choice of media work and thrive right here among us humble, regular types who wouldn’t know a palette

knife from a chainsaw.

That’s the nicest part of it. Events like SOS give all of us an opportunity to peek in and observe how these creative types work and live. Whether one is knowledgeable or a newbie, there always seems to be a welcoming spirit that prevails throughout the course of the event.

And it’s not just about being a voyeur or casual observer either. There are also

plenty of opportunities to “get one’s hands dirty” while dabbling in a particular medium for the first time while taking part in an instructional demonstration.

And, of course, there is also the possibility of making an inspired purchase and add something new to one’s treasure trove of original artwork.

SOS represents the city at its best in many ways. Sharp, creative minds opening

up and reaching out to the community at large, while the people who make up that community reciprocate in kind, sharing their sense of appreciation for what these artists manage to accomplish.

Open Studios 2023 will take place on Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7, noon-5:00 p.m. Check out this year’s event at <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org>.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to **Beverly Childers** this week. We hope she has a great celebration. Happy birthday to **Dennis Sullivan**. We wish him a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Barb Balkwill**, **G. P. Redmond**, **Fred Parker**, **Eric Pedro Sr.**, **Johnny Ferola**, **Jack Costello**, **Karen Mancini**, **Millie L McCarthy**, **Cynthia Saltman**, **Jason Mackey**, **Jim Breath** and **Jill Mariea** 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.

Arts at the Armory’s Spotlight Series presents **David Wax Museum**, touring with their full ensemble in support of an exuberant new album, *You Must Change Your Life*. **Thursday, May 4, 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.**, 191 Highland Ave. Purchase your tickets at: <https://artsatthearmory.org/events/arts-at-the-armory-spotlight-series-presents-david-wax-museum/>.

Tufts Camp Kesem is holding their annual **Make the Magic** event. It is their annual fundraising event for children whose parents have cancer. You are cordially invited to **Camp Kesem’s Make the Magic Ball at Seaport** on **May 19** at 6:30 p.m.

at the **Omni Boston Hotel**. The evening will include a truly inspirational program, compelling speakers, and an opportunity to support children through and beyond their parent’s cancer. It will also be a chance for you to interact with other members of the community, such as dedicated healthcare professionals, some of the most esteemed professors at top institutions, and many others. To purchase tickets for the main event, please click on or paste into your browser the following link: <https://my.onecause.com/event/organizations/sf-0013c00001obpjKAAQ/events/vevt:8afe585a-373f-4c3f-ad90-4d98429e5e3e/home/story>.

Celebrate **CultureHouse’s** opening event on **May 5** at 20 Broadway from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Meet the team behind **CultureHouse East Somerville** and enjoy some tasty local treats as they usher in this new (but temporary) addition to the neighborhood. CultureHouse East Somerville will have its soft opening on **May 3** and will be open from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. **Wednesday through Sunday until June 3**. They are still looking for artists, creatives, non-profit organizations, and businesses in the East Somerville area to program the space throughout this month. Find the programming *Continued on page 23*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#873

1. Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican victory over which country in 1862?

2. When is National Cartoonists day celebrated?

3. When is National Nurses Day celebrated?

4. How many balls are on a pool table at the start of a standard game?

5. Who was the first face on a U.S. one dollar bill?

6. What is the nickname of the state of
- California?

7. 1989 is an album title for which pop singer?

8. Which villain is known for saying, "Why so serious"?

9. Who was *Saturday Night Live's* first celebrity host?

10. Which film features the line, "You talkin to me"?

11. A dog sweats through which part of its body?

12. Which animal can stand on its tail?
- Answers on page 20

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The world record for putting on T-shirts at once is 260.
2. A "jiffy" is about one trillionth of a second.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
TV MOMS

- ACROSS
1. Rodeo garb

6. Roman numeral 7

9. Spring occurrence

13. Like Corgi

14. Get a sum

15. Garlic mayo

16. Poet's concern

17. Mail-back request, acr.

18. Handrail post

19. Lionel Jefferson's mom

21. Keith and Laurie Partridge's mom

23. Watson's, Crick's and Franklin's concern, acr.

24. Big-ticket ____

25. #38 Down follower

28. Potter's oven

30. Get by

35. Wyatt Earp's card game

37. Wooden pegs

39. Measuring tool with a bubble

40. Copycat

41. All-season ____

43. Like certain people's glasses

44. The Great ____, Muppet

46. 1 year older than frosh

47. Treat without respect

48. Samantha Stephens' mom

50. Four Corners state

52. Unidentified Jane

53. Summit location

55. Like tuna tartare

57. Rory Gilmore's mom

61. Hilary and Carlton Banks' mom

64. Motionless

65. Actress Thompson

67. Island off Manhattan

69. Skeleton, archaic

70. Lt.'s subordinate

71. Yemeni's neighbor

72. Marines' toy recipients

73. Banned insecticide, acr.

74. Nostrils

- DOWN
1. Basin, without vowels

2. Last piece of a loaf

3. Lowest female singing voice

4. Evis's blue shoes

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
	19					20			21	22			
				23				24					
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35				36		37			38		39		
40						41			42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48						49		50			51		52
				53		54			55		56		
57	58	59	60					61				62	63
64						65	66			67			68
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

5. Harrison Ford or Jason Segel in "Shrinking"

6. Bud holder

7. Rhoda Morgenstern's mom

8. "That is" in Latin

9. Wedding cake layer

10. Famous Allen Ginsberg poem

11. Away from wind

12. Skilled in deception

15. G. Orwell's "____ Farm"

20. Valentine, e.g.

22. Bottom line?

24. Inner circle

25. Old enough (2 words)

26. Neutered rooster

27. Influencer's creation

29. Meg, Chris and Stewie Griffin's mo

31. Egghead

32. "____ like the plague"

33. Canvas primer
34. Alex and Mallory Keaton's mom

36. Pasta option

38. Virgo and Libra mo.

42. ____ Lewis, Lamb Chop puppeteer

45. By word of mouth

49. What catastrophe and ratatouille have in common

51. Wear (2 words)

54. Treated with EVOO

56. Pebbles Flintstone's mom

57. Law school entry requirement, acr.

58. First name palindrome

59. Civil disorder

60. They're on Freddy's street

61. Widespread

62. Relating to armpit

63. 3 squared

66. Tight one in football

68. Bro's counterpart
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Marcus Santos and Grooversity at COA

On Wednesday, April 26, Marcus Santos from Grooversity Global Drumming Network led a hands-on interactive, multicultural show, showcasing a friendly body movement adaptation of traditional rhythms and dances from different countries at the Somerville Council on Aging’s Holland Street Center. The audience became part of the show that included the use of body movement, technology and cultural diversity awareness. The group had everyone grooving in their chairs and dancing in the aisle to music from across Latin America during the Council’s April Cultural Event Series.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



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and follow us on Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #278

Home, Home on the Range

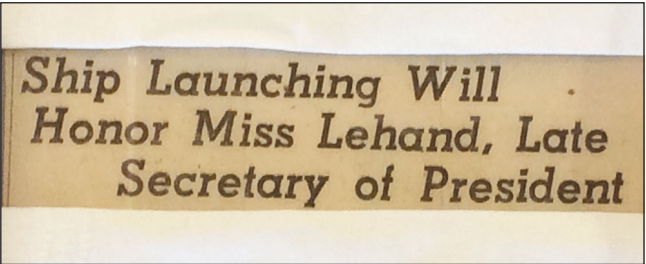
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Somerville has been a home on the range since 1628 when she was part of Charlestown. Before the European settlement of what is now her Mystic waterfront, nature ruled her shore. Rich green meadows of grass as tall as the observer first caught the explorer’s eye.



At that time, there were mammals and birds which are seldom seen today east of Route 495. Because of extinction, there are some we will never see again i.e., the Great Auk, a large penguin-related bird, the Grey Wolf, and clouds of Passenger Pigeons which once flew blackening out the sun for hours.

The area was abundant with marine life. Whales were hunted in Massachusetts Bay, while lobsters were trapped off shore and shellfish were easily harvested along the Mystic’s shore line. Somerville was a land of the small animal – the otter, the weasel, the porcupine, the beaver and the mink. It was also a land of the large animal – the moose, the deer, the wolf and the bear.



The original roads built beyond the Charlestown/Somerville line resembled a turkey’s claw radiating in shape into:

- Today’s Washington Street or “The Road to Newtowne” which headed South West toward Harvard Square
- Somerville Avenue or “Milk Row” which headed West toward “Menotomy”/Arlington
- Broadway or “Winter Hill Road” which headed North West toward today’s Medford.

Continued on page 20

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm**. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1194423001606779734>

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

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 12.2 of the Zoning Ordinances to reflect the recommendations in the 2022 Somerville Linkage Nexus Study.
- John Fragione and Agostino Feola, requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Map to change the zoning district of 295-297 Medford Street and 93 Walnut Street from MR3 to MR5.
- Union Square One Development, LLC requesting the adoption of a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 8.17. g. iii to permit variations to build out regulations by special permit in the CC5 District, USQ sub-area.
- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Section 8.1, Affordable Housing, of the Zoning Ordinances to remove errant text and amend the dimensional standards.

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

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

5/3/23 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Special Committee on Charter Review, meeting as a Committee of the Whole on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023**, on proposed changes to the City Charter:

Charter Review Committee conveying its recommendations and proposed Charter text.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6828112774658855259>. You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to cityclerk@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

4/26/23, 5/3/23 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is requesting quotes from Electrical Contractors to perform electrical work including installations and repairs on an as needed basis. Proposals should include an hourly rate for electrical services.

Term: 12 months

Not to exceed \$49,999.99

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

Scope of work: The Contractor shall provide all labor and tools to provide the necessary work as directed for the completion of the electrical services at the SHA's various developments. The Contractor shall apply for and obtain permits and regulatory approvals as may be required. The SHA shall reimburse the contractor the amount paid. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

The Contractor shall be required on site within one week as scheduled by SHA.

Stock and Materials: The Contractor shall use SHA furnished fixtures and finishes unless otherwise authorized. Items purchased by the Contractor at the SHA's request shall be billed at no more than cost plus 15%. The Contractor will be required to present the original itemized invoice to the SHA. The cost shall be identified and included in the monthly invoice.

Payment Invoicing: Contractor's invoicing must be itemized to reflect contract pricing for each item.

Contractors who intend on bidding shall email Ryan Cummiskey at Ryan@sha-web.org after **11:00AM on Thursday, May 11th 2023** to request a bid package.

Proposals must be received by **2:00PM on Thursday, May 25th 2023**. Proposals can be emailed to Ryan@sha-web.org. Please contact Ryan Cummiskey at Ryan@sha-web.org with any questions.

5/3/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
REBID IFB 23-55

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

Restaurant Food Health Inspectors

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Monday, May 1, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **1:00 pm, May 17, 2023**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the IFB process, and accept the bid deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

5/3/23 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.storage-treasures.com on **5/10/2023 at 12:00 PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Ngin Workplace/NGIN Workplace unit #321B. 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.

4/26/23, 5/3/23 The Somerville Times

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI23P2133EA
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of:

Joseph	F	Clark
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

Also Known As: _____

Date of Death: **February 13, 2023**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner

Martin	R	Clark	of	Nanuet	NY
First Name	M.I.	Last Name		(City/Town)	(State)

[x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

[x]

Martin	R	Clark	of	Nanuet	NY
First Name	M.I.	Last Name		(City/Town)	(State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [] with [x] without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

5/3/23 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

The **Somerville Housing Authority** is requesting quotes from qualified contractors to furnish and install 20 countertops on an as needed basis for all SHA Developments.

Quotes are subject to M.G.L c.149 sec.44A (2)(A) and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

The Project consists of: Labor and material for the installation of corian solid surface kitchen counters and backsplashes with sinks on newly renovated apartments. The apartments will be a mix of handicap (ADA-compliant) and non-handicap units. General cabinet layouts are provided within the bid package.

Contractors who intend on providing a quote shall email Ryan Cummiskey at ryan@sha-web.org after **11:00AM on Thursday, May 11th 2023** to request a quote package.

Proposals must be received by **11:00AM on Thursday, May 25th 2023**. Proposals can be emailed to ryan@sha-web.org. Please contact Ryan Cummiskey at ryan@sha-web.org with any questions.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):
Application of a Transfer of a Wine and Malt Package License, from Himgiri Enterprises Inc. d/b/a K-2 Beer and Wine, 500 Medford St. to Vatika Corporation d/b/a 350 Food Mart, 350 Broadway

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9171796573385672791>. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the Executive Secretary at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143, or by email to licensing@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Commission.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):
Application of a New Wine and Malt 7-day Alcohol License, for X & W Papa Inc. d/b/a Papa Sushi, 499 Broadway

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):
Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating and Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Crispy Crepe, LLC d/b/a Mr. Crepe, 51 Davis Sq.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):
Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating and Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for SDH Corp. d/b/a Five Horses Tavern, 400 Highland Ave.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):
Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating and Outdoor Private Patio Seating, for Valles Inc. d/b/a Taqueria Montecristo, 144 Broadway.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s):
Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Restaurant Thai Hut Corp. d/b/a Thai Hut, 93 Beacon St.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Rei Da Picanha & Events Inc. d/b/a Rei Da Picanha, 129 Broadway

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Diesel Cafes Inc. d/b/a Diesel Café, 257 Elm St.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Ambisco Inc. d/b/a Redbones, 55 Chester St.

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

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9171796573385672791>. You can also find this link on the city website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
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THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

LORI JEAN BATZEK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

5/3/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for MD Associates LLC d/b/a Elm Street Taproom, 256 Elm St.

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There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Sally O'Brien's LLC d/b/a Sally O'Brien's, 335 Somerville Ave.

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There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for KB Investments Inc. d/b/a PJ Ryan's, 239-241 Holland St.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Premier Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Premier on Broadway, 519 Broadway

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LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Galwegan Inc. d/b/a The Burren, 247 Elm St.

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of a 2AM License, and an Entertainment by Performers Indoors and Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for Parla Mystic Corp. d/b/a Parla XXI, 631 Assembly Row

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There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Kaizen Corp. IV d/b/a Anna's Taqueria, 236 Elm St.

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

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LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for MKJD LLC d/b/a Spoke, 89 Holland St.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of a New Common Victualler License and Entertainment by Devices Indoors, for Tesnack Inc d/b/a/ Chow N Joy, 626 Somerville Ave.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of a New Wine and Malt 7-day Alcohol License, Common Victualler License and Entertainment by Devices Indoors for Ciao Artisanal Pasta LLC d/b/a/ Ciao Somerville, 688 Broadway

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

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of a Transfer of an All Forms Alcohol 7-day License from Callan Hospitality, Inc. d/b/a The Dark Horse Public House, 499 Broadway to Premier Restaurant Group d/b/a The Public, 563 Broadway and a Common Victualler License and an Entertainment by Devices License and Performers Indoors License at 563 Broadway

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SOMERVILLE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SEWER
FISCAL YEAR 2024 RATE PROPOSAL
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing, regarding the Fiscal Year 2024 Water and Sewer rates, on **May 15th, 2023**, at 6:00PM, on the proposed changes:

1. A 12.6% increase in water volumetric charges;
2. A 18.75% increase in sewer volumetric charges; and
3. No change to existing base charges for both water and sewer. Pursuant to the Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be held by remote participation.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. In person in the Central Library auditorium, 79 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143.
2. Virtually through the Zoom platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81330530599?pwd=K0gvdURWSVBwNVRBQUUp0bGVUTFZlXU09>.
3. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to water@somervillema.gov with RATE HEARING as the subject title, send them by US mail to the Water And Sewer Department, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall and they will be routed to our address. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing to be sure they are conveyed to the Department of Water and Sewer.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

DEMETRIOS G. VIDALIS, DIRECTOR OF WATER AND SEWER
WATER@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating and Outdoor Public Parklet Seating, for Terranova Inc. d/b/a Mike's Restaurant, 8-9 Davis Square

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There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Monday, May 15, 2023**, at 6:00 PM, on the following Application(s): Application of an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Public Sidewalk Seating, for Rincon Mexicano Inc. d/b/a Rincon Mexicano, 99 Broadway

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Deep in the Somerville Forest...

— Photo by Denise Provost

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COMMENTARY

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Caveat Emptor!



By State Senator Pat Jehlen

One of the main reasons given for cutting taxes is that we have a surplus. See, for example, the way Priorities for Progress framed its polling question:

Massachusetts currently has a large budget surplus. Governor Maura Healey has proposed using \$750 million of that surplus to provide tax relief to make Massachusetts more affordable, which would include tax breaks for families, renters, seniors, farmers, and commuters. It would also reduce the short term capital gains tax and raise the threshold for the estate tax. Do you support or oppose using the surplus for tax relief for Massachusetts residents?

Do we have a surplus?

I can't give a better answer than MassBudget in "When a Surplus is not Extra." [1]

Key Takeaways

- "Tax surplus" is the name for the difference between tax estimates at the beginning of the year and actual collections at the end.
- When there is a surplus it does not necessarily mean the current budget is meeting the needs of the Commonwealth's residents.
- Tax collections have been hard to forecast during the pandemic.
- Federal COVID relief has been critical for boosting the economy and temporarily boosting tax collections.
- Tax collections follow the ups and downs of the economy and will likely falter when a recession comes again.
- Permanent tax cuts for the wealthy are an unwise use of temporary "surplus" dollars.

A surplus means revenues were higher than predicted. If estimates in January are pessimistic, and returns are greater than expected - usually because people are more prosperous than projected - there is a "surplus." It doesn't mean we've funded all the things people want. Every day we receive requests from constituents and organizations for added funding for housing, health care, mental health ... House members filed 1500 amendments, mostly increasing spending in areas their constituents consider important.

We had more money last year, when House and Senate both approved about \$500 million in tax cuts. Those cuts were never finalized, after the discovery of the 1986 law, 62F. That law required sending refunds of \$3 billion to taxpayers. So now we have \$3 billion less available.

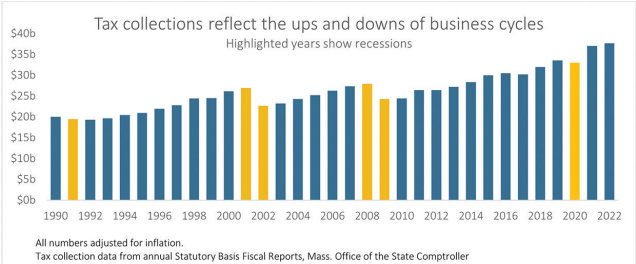
The big problem: Tax expenditures are immortal

Tax cuts credits and similar reductions in revenue are also called *tax expenditures*, because they commit state resources and you can't spend money twice.

But spending on programs, infrastructure, local aid, etc. have to be voted on every year, so every year we can - in most cases - increase or cut them.

However, *tax expenditures and tax reductions are mostly immortal*. Once approved, they continue forever unless we take the initiative to end them.

When we hit tough times, like a recession, the need for funds for food and housing assistance goes up. But revenue drops.



With inadequate revenue to maintain programs at their previous level, we're much more likely to cut spending (or increase it less than inflation) than to raise taxes. For example, adjusted for inflation, local aid has never recovered from cuts made in the recession of 2001. [2]

Is a recession possible or even likely?

Massive federal aid to individuals, the state, municipalities and businesses helped us survive the pandemic. But now, many people, including the Federal Reserve, expect a mild recession later this year. [3] In any case, it's unlikely we'll never have another.

Federal funds are running out and drying up

Aaron Michlewitz, chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, commented on the revenue estimate

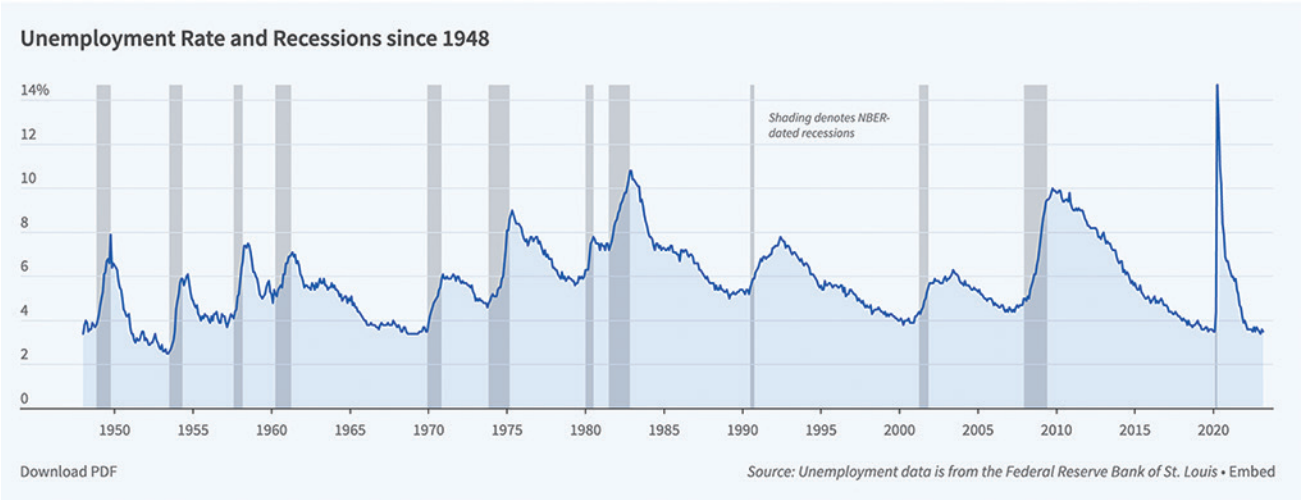
this year [4]:

"Throughout these unprecedented times, the commonwealth has seen historic highs in terms of our revenue numbers. One of the main drivers of this has been the unprecedented amount of assistance the federal government has given," Michlewitz said. "Unfortunately, *this level of support is not permanent and, going forward, we must keep that in mind as we plan for the future of the commonwealth.*" [italics added]

As always, I really appreciate your comments!

Links:

- [1] <https://massbudget.org/2022/06/16/when-a-surplus-is-not-extra/>
- [2] <https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/category/?c1=8&c2=23&id=Local+Aid&filename=index.php&hash=&b%5B%5D=224&b%5B%5D=124&b%5B%5D=23&b%5B%5D=22&b%5B%5D=21&b%5B%5D=20&b%5B%5D=19&b%5B%5D=18&b%5B%5D=17&b%5B%5D=16&b%5B%5D=15&b%5B%5D=14&b%5B%5D=13&b%5B%5D=12&b%5B%5D=11&b%5B%5D=10&b%5B%5D=9&b%5B%5D=8&b%5B%5D=7&b%5B%5D=6&b%5B%5D=5&b%5B%5D=4&b%5B%5D=3&b%5B%5D=2&b%5B%5D=1&inflation=cpi>
- [3] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/17/business/recession-talk-rattles-consumers/>
- [4] <https://www.masslive.com/politics/2021/12/massachusetts-state-tax-revenue-growth-rolling-along-analysts-say.html>



Metro Boston CIT TTAC complete Mental Health First Aid training

On Wednesday, April 26 2023, The Metro Boston CIT TTAC completed an 8 hour Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. This is a nationally recognized certificate training that gives participants the skills to assist someone facing a behavioral health crisis. Trainees learn strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

To learn more about Metro Boston CIT TTAC trainings visit their website at <https://www.metrobostoncit.org/> <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/> Boxford Police Department Georgetown Police MA Rowley Police Department Groveland Police Department Newbury Police Department



COMMENTARY

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

Somerville's New Charter Should Live Up to Campaign Promises

By Nate Clauser
Chair, Somerville Ward 5
Democratic Committee

Somerville's charter is like a constitution for the city, a blueprint for the structure of our local government. The current city charter, which dates to 1899 [2], specifies a strong mayor form of government in which the mayor must initiate the expenditure of funds, and the city council's only authority in this arena is to either approve or cut from the mayor's proposed appropriations. The council does not currently have the power to allocate funds on its own, nor does it even have the power to reallocate funds that it has cut from a proposed mayoral appropriation.

The city council and mayor are now in the final stages of a years-long process to review and rewrite Somerville's charter. Both prior to and during this process — which will likely conclude in the coming weeks with a proposed new charter that the city will send to the state government for approval — a big part of the public rationale offered for overhauling the charter was the need to shift the balance of power between the mayor and the city council, especially with regard to budgetary powers. As another resident recently noted [3], having a weak city council without the power to even reallocate funds “makes a mockery of advocacy, wastes community engagement, and threatens to dissipate the civic activism that is so foundational to Somerville's culture.”

The current mayor said that she shared the goal of shifting power to the city council. In a 2021 candidate questionnaire [4], Mayor Katjana Ballantyne committed to “supporting, in [her] first term, a home rule petition that would end Somerville's present strong mayor system of government in favor of a system that would shift substantial powers to the City Council.”

Indeed, she further noted in that questionnaire that she “would like to see the new charter give a more substantial role to the city council in matters such as the budgeting process.” And Mayor Ballantyne wasn't the only 2021 candidate who supported strengthening the powers of the city council in budgetary matters. Then-Council-President Matt McLaughlin, who has touted himself [5] as “the leader” on this issue, published a piece [6] in *The Somerville Times* in early 2021 in which he declared the following: “Any charter reform must address the inequality of the budget process ... If the Council votes to make cuts, that vote should be respected. If we decide by majority vote that funds should be spent differently, that should also be respected.”

While campaigning for office, other current city councilors made similar statements and commitments regarding the inclusion of increased budgetary powers for the Council in a new charter. Councilor Jake Wilson noted [7] that “the single biggest change that needs to be made is a better balancing of powers be-

tween the City Council and the Mayor's office by giving the council wider powers than the thumbs up or down on budgets and spending.” Councilor Judy Pineda Neufeld said [8] that she’d “like to see the budget process in the city mirror what happens at the state and federal level, with the City Council actively engaged with proposing changes, not just cuts.” Councilor Charlotte Kelly noted [9] that “Councilors in the City of Boston are currently exploring the possibility of giving the City Council the ability to reallocate funds within a budget instead of solely having the ability to cut, I believe Somerville should at the minimum change our budget process to do the same.” Councilor Beatriz Gomez Mouakad stated [10] that “the Charter reform should allow the City Council to have greater oversight of the city budget.” Councilor Lance Davis said [11] that “first and foremost, we must revise the Charter to provide the City Council more authority and autonomy. Our current system puts too much power in the hands of one person to the detriment of the more representative City Council.” Councilor Kristen Strezo said, [12] “I would like to see the City Council have more power in regard to the budget and city operations.” Councilor Willie Burnley Jr. said, “I'm hoping that the Charter Review balances power between our local executive and legislative branches.” Councilor Jesse Clingan stated [13] that “he'd like to see a more balanced power system between the exec-

utive branch and the legislative branch.” Councilor JT Scott said [14] that “the Legislative branch should ... secure direct budgetary power to establish and fund initiatives.” And current City Council President Ben Ewen-Campen called for [15] “improving and strengthening the City Council's independent authority and capacity to ... reallocate funds within the budget.”

Despite what was an overwhelming consensus during their campaigns, the city councilors, with the mayor's apparent support, now seem poised to propose a new city charter that does not include a substantial shift in the budgetary powers of the city council. Even more disappointingly, no councilor has even called for a vote on a resolution to include budgetary reallocation powers for the city council in the draft charter. There is still time to change course, however, and I hope that the councilors will see fit to do so in light of their clear public statements and commitments on this issue when they were running for office. At the very least, the council should hold a vote on a proposal to include budgetary reallocation powers for the council in the draft charter. A recorded vote will let Somerville residents see who has stayed true to their commitments on this issue and then hold any elected officials accountable for their failure to do so.

Links:

[1] https://www.somdems.org/ward_5

[2] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/107207>

[3] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/the-role-of-the-city-council-in-somervilles-government-ae318e47b255>

[4] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pm_o46EsfW28AQf5vO_7Vp8yX0gx-t7CG/view

[5] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FgsqIEwJJWcGa_hf3-xryAZhfLfBzJz/view

[6] <https://www.thesomerville-times.com/archives/105720>

[7] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fOgqMRQZtCN-j2WEp16ITVpRGgUHH-JZQw/view>

[8] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_aqam77kZGm-BL1sT3x_FauvZ-mVADpXJ/view

[9] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nzrj5MfxjmG5B-wRPf-BH94buxbCbhaUP/view>

[10] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LZTI752vhY_Csa1qO1G3whvG1IWvYl6b/view

[11] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-b59ha3F5EIgHSdbfg-cldWyMizt1picY/view>

[12] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cwcTs2Bom-mtz0WH4cNfqR0h7X1r-cutCW/view>

[13] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EDBwOBdKWxw08y-ARcQQH9Ugabtca5ey/view>

[14] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d5Phmb5JOkWMtp-wT-T4C5kktFoBDN4G6/view>

[15] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sCe0n3SwLmQdhdcd4dV4pOtaQliwYVvQH/view>

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

East Somerville's Spring Clean Up

East Somerville Main Streets hosted East Somerville's Spring Clean Up this past Saturday. Ola Cafe supplied coffee and pastries. Boy Scouts, city officials and residents joined in to help beautify the neighborhood.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities seeks additional members

Somerville residents are invited to apply for three vacancies on the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities. Each vacancy must be filled by someone who identifies as having a disability.

The Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to ensuring equity and inclusion for all persons who live in, work in, and visit Somerville. The Commission works closely with the city's Department of Racial and Social Justice and ADA Coordinator to ensure people who live in, work in, and visit the Somerville community are welcomed.

After completing a first term, Commissioners may be considered for reappointment for an additional three years. Candidates must be able to commit to a minimum of five hours of monthly service in addition to attending regular Commission meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. These are volunteer positions.

The appointment process includes an interview with members of the Commission, followed by a recommendation from Mayor Ballantyne and appointment by the City Council.

Applications are due Wednesday, May 24. Interested Somerville residents should submit a personal statement of interest describing why they would like to join the Commission by email to ada@somervillema.gov, or by mail to Adrienne Pomeroy, ADA Coordinator, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. Please contact Adrienne at 617-625-6600 x2059 to apply by phone or with any questions about the Commission.



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

percent of the state’s total budget to implement the policies and strategies stemming from robust climate bills passed over the past few sessions.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the consolidated amendment.)

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

CONSOLIDATED AMENDMENT ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUDICIARY (H 3900)
House 157-1, approved a \$10.5 million consolidated amendment that funds Public Safety and Judiciary.

“The budget is a testament to our unwavering dedication towards criminal justice reform, reducing recidivism, providing access to justice and essential services for inmates, as well as improving police and fire departments in municipalities, and supporting directed patrols by the State Police,” said Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (D-Springfield), chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Rep. Russell Holmes (D-Boston) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on why he was the only representative who voted against the amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the consolidated amendment.)

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

CONSOLIDATED AMENDMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, STATE ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION (H 3900)
House 157-0, approved a \$5.2 million consolidated amendment that funds Constitutional Officers, State Administration and Transportation.

This amendment includes a \$9,000 pay raise, from \$36,025 to \$45,025, for the eight members of the Governor’s Council which provides advice and consent on gubernatorial appointments, pardons and prison sentence commutations.

Rep. John Lawn (D-Watertown) did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call to comment on why he proposed the section of the consolidated amendment that provides the 25 percent pay hike.

“The budgeting process at the Statehouse is completely broke,” said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. “This is just one example of how taxpayer dollars get thrown around with no account. There’s absolutely no excuse why the amendment sponsor or a member of the House leadership team couldn’t have made their case as to why they feel these pay increases are necessary. Why even bother having a House chamber if they’re going to conduct all of their debates in rooms that the press and public are barred from entering,” asked Craney.

(A “Yes” vote is for the consolidated amendment that includes the \$9,000 pay raise.)

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

LAURA’S LAW: NEW SIGNAGE, LIGHTING, SECURITY FEATURES NOW ORDERED FOR MASS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS – In 2021, former-Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law “Laura’s Law” that would require all hospitals to meet minimum criteria and standards that ensure safe, timely and accessible patient access to hospital emergency departments. The Department of Public Health has finally established a set of regulations for “Laura’s Law” that hospitals must comply with by Jan. 1, 2024.

“Laura’s Law” was named in memory of Laura Levis, a 34-year-old woman who, on September 16, 2016, went to CHA Somerville Hospital while suffering a fatal asthma attack, but was unable to get inside.” Peter DeMarco, Levis’s husband, has led the campaign for passage of the legislation. He is a journalist who wrote about Laura’s death almost five years ago for the “Boston Globe” in a story called “Losing Laura.”

According to DeMarco’s story, “Laura chose a locked door to try to access the emergency room because the correct door was not properly marked. Though Laura was on surveillance video, the hospital security desk was left unattended all night, so no one saw her. When a nurse from the emergency department eventually looked out the door for Laura, she did not see her, as the spot where Laura collapsed was in near darkness.” Laura had called 911 but by the time first responders found her, she had collapsed in cardiac arrest and died a few days later.

“I know Laura’s name is on these new regulations, but they are not just for the rare case of someone collapsing outside an emergency department door—far from it,” said DeMarco at a Statehouse news conference last week. “These new regulations will help all of us find and get inside emergency departments faster, and for some people the difference between getting to a doctor ten minutes faster or wasting ten minutes trying to find the emergency department due to poor signage, confusing layouts, going to the wrong door, could be life changing. It was for Laura.”

“I hope so much these new regulations serve as a stepping stone for other states to take a serious look at whether their residents could benefit by establishing rules for emergency department signage, lighting, wayfinding and security monitoring as well,” continued DeMarco. “Maybe that starts with every state in New England.”

“There is no way to change the past, but we have done our best to expect a future with optimal outcomes when any of us visits a hospital emergency department,” said Sen.

Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), co-sponsor of the legislation. “I continue to thank Peter, the Department of Public Health and other advocates committed to honoring Laura’s memory by collaborating on this new set of regulations that I believe will save lives.”

“After years of advocacy, I am grateful to Peter for his extensive research and willingness to share Laura’s story, which led to the passage of our bill, Laura’s Law, in early 2021,” said co-sponsor Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville). “After more than two years of additional work, new regulations and guidance from the Department of Public Health reflect a number of new requirements to ensure all hospitals in Massachusetts will follow appropriate safety measures on lighting, security and wayfinding. Particularly in an emergency situation, patients need clear and obvious information about how to get to care quickly, no matter where people are seeking emergency care.”

The rules are aimed at eliminating as much confusion as possible for patients in crisis who rush to an emergency department, and to provide fail safes should they have difficulty getting inside. They were finalized in early April, more than six years after Laura’s passing from an asthma attack on the doorstep of a Somerville emergency department where she was unable to get inside, in part because the hospital lacked a single “Emergency” sign above any door for her to have followed. The regulations now specifically require such signs.

Other regulations include requiring any prominent door that is locked at night, as well as a hospital’s main door and Emergency Department door and ambulance-bay door, has to have an audio-video intercom connecting a lost patient to a live operator as well as a duress alarm; requiring hospitals to set up directional signs to their emergency departments, starting the moment you reach the property, so that after you pass one sign another is already within your sight; requiring doors and patient drop-off and pick-up areas must be brightly lighted and on surveillance 24 hours a day; and requiring each emergency department to have its own GPS address for navigation purposes if its doors are not located at the hospital’s main address.

ALLOW JAILED FELONS TO VOTE (H 26) – The Election Laws Committee has recommended passage of a proposed constitutional amendment to restore the right to vote for incarcerated felons. Under a constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2000, these felons were stripped of the right to vote. “We’ve had this fundamental right in one of the oldest constitutions, the constitution that our U.S. constitution is based on, up until the 2000s,” said sponsor Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville). “And it was taken away in our lifetime. That didn’t fall out of the sky. It came from the context of the tough on crime era in the ‘90s as a response to civic engagement and organizing among people who are incarcerated, and civic engagement and the right to vote are fundamental human rights.”

“I think [this proposed amendment] fits *Continued on page 19*

COMMENTARY

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Courage in our community not reflected in our state lawmakers’ tax plan

By Nicole Eigbrett
CAAS Director of Community
Organizing and Somerville renter

After an arduous, multi-year process, Massachusetts voters made it clear when they approved the Fair Share Amendment in November 2022 that they wanted the state’s wealthiest residents to make greater contributions to the state’s budget. Communities spoke decisively on this issue during a time of unprecedented inequity. But right now, rather than making the investments needed for our Commonwealth to be thriving for all, state leaders are considering giving away hundreds of millions of dollars each year in tax cuts for the ultra-rich and large corporations. It’s inconceivable that lawmakers would be working on a giveaway for the ul-

tra-rich, while communities are in crisis from the unchecked rising costs of housing [1]. utilities, food, and transportation against stagnating wages. There’s no dollar figure we can place on a child experiencing the trauma of being pulled out of school because their family is priced out and evicted from a neighborhood they’ve called home for generations. There’s no dollar figure we can place on the time, exhaustion, and lost income from riding a collapsing public transit system [2]. There is a younger generation of voters coming of age who feel, and are, disenfranchised from our economy, seeing no future for themselves [3]. And that’s a bad thing for all of us. Declining to collect tax revenue from the largest estates, short-term capital gains, and corporate investor returns is the same

thing as giving this money away. The proposed tax plan also raises serious questions about who our state government is working for. Working class people, renters, people of color, and immigrants are drastically underrepresented [4]. To us, it shows a callous disregard for how our neighbors continue to struggle and suffer, especially in the wake of a global pandemic. If only our lawmakers put the same level of focus on the state’s most vulnerable residents and steadily shrinking middle class, as they are doing for the wealthiest 1%. As an organizer at the Community Action Agency of Somerville [5], every week I witness how my low-income neighbors use their power to speak up and lead campaigns that fight for the most oppressed and marginalized in our city. This is what real courage in the face of crisis looks like.

It’s time for our state lawmakers to live up to their oaths of office and do the same. Links: [1] <https://whdh.com/news/report-housing-affordability-problems-in-massachusetts-worsening/> [2] <https://www.bostonherald.com/2023/04/28/mbta-inspection-finds-283-track-defects-need-repairs-to-lift-slow-zones/> [3] https://apps.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/business/gen-z-cost-of-living-boston/main/?p1=Article_Inline_Text_Link [4] <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/21/metro/massachusetts-legislature-hostile-rent-control-includes-more-landlords-than-renters/> [5] <https://www.caasomerville.org/>

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 18

into what is becoming a recurring theme for this session, which is ‘we really don’t care what the voters do, we can do what we want,’” said House GOP Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading), one of three legislators on the committee who voted against the measure. He added that a majority of voters in all of the state’s counties voted for the measure in 2000. Jones continued, “During the period of your incarceration, because if you’re incarcerated then you’re separated from society, you should not necessarily be involved in electing the officials and crafting the laws that govern that society.” The proposed constitutional amendment needs the votes of a majority of the 200-member Legislature in the 2023 to 2024 session and the same in the 2025 to 2026 session in order to appear on the November 2026 ballot for voters to decide.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Thanks to a number of forward-thinking supporters and partners, Tech Goes Home has been working for more than 20 years to advance digital equity in Greater Boston and beyond and has a proven model for how to address the challenges facing individuals and families. Today’s announcement represents a major step forward in expanding our work across the commonwealth and bringing greater attention to the economic, educational, and health disparities that are connected to digital inequity.” — Dan Noyes, CEO of Tech Goes Home upon receiving a historic \$4.5 million dollar grant to expand its programming and help build stronger systems to equitably and sustainably close the digital divide.

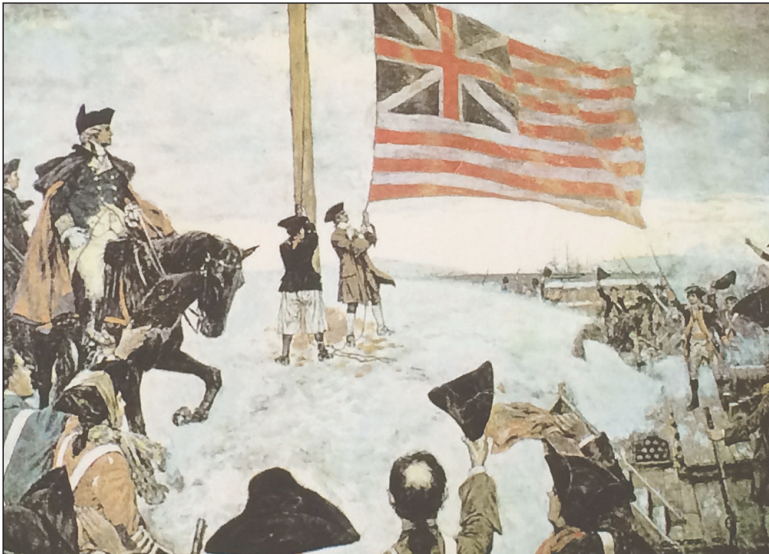
“The court’s decision today is welcome and important news, and it affirms what we already knew: the leaders and managers of facilities like the Soldiers’ Home share responsibility for the health and safety of their residents. Today’s decision allows us to focus once again on securing accountability for the tragic and preventable deaths at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke.” — Attorney General Andrea Campbell on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a criminal trial can proceed against two former Holyoke Soldiers’ Home officials accused of negligence that led to the deaths of elderly veteran residents early in the COVID-19 pandemic. “The dedicated men and women who keep our communities safe too often hide the significant stress and trauma they incur from the job. Every officer in the commonwealth must have access to quality mental health services and peer support to combat this stigma, improve policing, and enhance the lives of our police and their families.” — Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) on the program he created that this year will deliver \$1 million in grants that will provide police officers across Massachusetts access to mental health services, peer support and critical incident stress management. 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 April 24-28, the House met for a total of 26 hours and 30 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 38 minutes.

Mon. April 24	House 11:00 a.m. to 9:07 p.m. Senate 11:16 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.
Tues. April 25	House 11:02 a.m. to 8:37 p.m. No Senate session
Wed. April 26	House 12:02 p.m. to 6:21 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. April 27	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:31 a.m. Senate 11:18 a.m. to 11:48 a.m.
Fri. April 28	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9



In the late 1600's new settlers referred to the area between these roads as The Range. Paths or range ways as they were called, were staked out between these early roads into 1 1/4 mile lots separated into numbered range-ways. These matched the streets or avenues of today's Franklin, Cross, Walnut, School, Central, Lowell, Cedar, Willow, Curtis, and North. Into the late 1800's, many of these range ways were still simply ruts and hollows. This was early Somerville, the first "Home on the Range" and home of the "Rangers."

Colonel Thomas Knowlton, namesake of east Somerville's Knowlton Street and Knowlton's Rangers, was a veteran of

the French and Indian War and the Battle of Bunker Hill. He began the first American Army Ranger battalion of which heroic Nathan Hale was one of his captains. Hale is known for his famous statement, "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." The Rangers training was on Winter Hill, and General Washington drew on this unit which today is considered the forerunner of the American Special Forces.

After covering the retreat from the Battle of Bunker Hill, former Rogers Ranger Colonel John Stark remained in command at Winter Hill until the evacuation of the British in 1776. Seventeen months later,

under his command as a General, his troops won the Battle of Bennington in Vermont.

Somerville native Missy Le-Hand was Franklin Delano Roosevelt's private secretary for over 21 years. She respected and guarded him, and she knew his favorite song. It was the classic western, Home on the Range. Because of this, the song went widely popular during the 1930s, and it is said that when President Roosevelt died, the song was played on the radio much of the day.

In 1926 boxing promoter and president of the Madison Square Garden, George Lewis "Tex" Rickard, was granted a franchise from the National Hockey League for his team. This team went on to win the Stanley Cup three times in its first fourteen years. Because of his name, the press and media called this team Tex's Rangers. Some say his team was named after the tough Texas Rangers and the state he was raised in, but most think it was named after Tex himself. Either way, the New York Rangers were born. Two years later, Tex, New York's king of hockey, went on to build the Boston Garden, the home of our Boston Bruins.

In late 1775, John Paul Jones

hoisted the first United States ensign "The Grand Union Flag" ever displayed on an American Man-of-War at sea. After being promoted to Captain, he took charge of his new ship, the USS Ranger. It cruised around the British Isles, did great damage to British shipping, and dashed into British ports capturing five enemy vessels. It also defeated and captured the British Sloop-of-War Drake. Under different commanders, the

USS Ranger went on to capture 24 more prizes during the American revolution.

Through the years, Home on the Range has been recorded by dozens of noted artists and in 1947 it became the state song of Kansas, where its author, Dr. Brewster Higley, was born. Many call it the Unofficial Anthem of the West, but in Somerville, we can acknowledge it as the Unofficial Anthem of the East.

Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. France, Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla | 6. The Golden State |
| 2. May 5 | 7. Taylor Swift |
| 3. May 6 | 8. The Joker |
| 4. 16 | 9. George Carlin |
| 5. Salmon P. Chase, former Treasury Secretary | 10. Taxi Driver |
| | 11. Paws |
| | 12. Kanagroo |

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the math book look so sad?
Because of all of its problems.

On This Day in History

May 3

- 0495 – Pope Gelasius asserts that his authority is superior to Emperor Anastasius.
- 1568 – French forces in Florida slaughter hundreds of Spanish.
- 1855 – Macon B. Allen becomes the first African American to be admitted to the Bar in Massachusetts.
- 1865 – President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train arrives in Springfield, Illinois.
- 1859 – France declares war on Austria.
- 1948 – The Supreme Court rules that movie studios must sell off its theaters, breaking apart a huge monopoly forming within the film industry.
- 1952 – The first airplane lands at the geographic North Pole.
- 1971 – James Earl Ray, Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin, is caught in a jail break attempt.
- 1979 – Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman prime minister of Great Britain.
- 1982 – A British submarine sinks Argentina's only cruiser during the Falkland Islands War.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Sacrifice of Isaac:
A poem series'*The Sacrifice of Isaac: A poem series*

By Keith Tornheim

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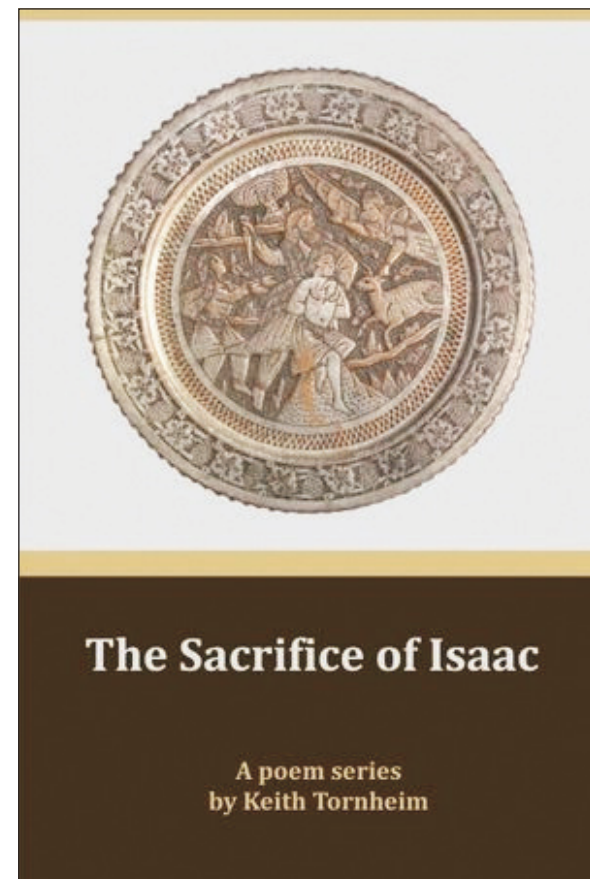
Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Ruth Hoberman.

When I think of the story of Abraham and Isaac, I think of a Rubik's cube – with its colored squares you're supposed to shift until each side of the cube is a single color. But shift one panel to make it right, and another shifts out of place. In the same way, that story about God and Abraham fails to make sense to me no matter how many times I turn it this way and that. I can admire Abraham's faith as long as I don't look at what God's asking him to do. I can admire God's provision of the ram, as long as I don't look at what he put Abraham and Isaac through first.

Keith Tornheim's recent collection of poems, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*, works the story as if it were Rubik's cube: turning it every which way, each poem giving voice to a different participant (not only God, Abraham, Isaac, Sarah, the servants, and the angel, but also the ram, the thicket, the rock). I found the juxtaposition of these viewpoints surprisingly moving, and surprisingly surprising: such an old story can still appear strange.

The thirty-one poems open with an account of a Persian plate the speaker's mother admired in a Boston antique shop, a plate depicting "Father Abraham with the knife/raised above Isaac his son,/whom he clasps against his chest." Tornheim bought the plate as a gift for her, then inherited it when she died, but found himself "uneasy as the heir/of this testament of her certainty and faith."

He's not the only uneasy one. How can a righteous God ask such a thing? How could a loving father do it? Kierkegaard, Leonard Cohen, and countless rabbis have asked the same question. Tornheim works very much within the Midrashic tradition of rabbinic



commentary; in fact, many of his poems have been read as part of High Holy Day services, when the "binding of Isaac" is the Torah portion for the day. "Who knows what really happened atop Mt. Moriah?" the speaker asks in the title poem. "All are dead, except God./Perhaps Abraham acted differently from what is written."

Or perhaps the rocks did. In *Memorial Stones*, those rocks which "by God's grace never tasted Isaac's blood" become the site of future suffering:

And afterward that angel of the Lord
carried the stones away one by one
and dropped them at designated points
in places in a distant land.

There they waited for four

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And gave my mind an escape from its endless worries.

In this quiet place I could escape into whatever world I chose by the way of the book,
For behind each cover was a journey for the mind.

I have recreated this ambiance in the corner of my tiny home.
There I enjoy the books that I have singled out to call my own,
Carefully chosen each one to the last for the feeling

and nourishment it has to offer.

Tucked among the many are the special books,
That have been received as a gift within a gift,
Special treasures to delight in over and again.

At the end of each journey I close the cover and sit it back upon the shelf,
Content in the knowledge that I may return at will,
To the love of the book.

— Susan Kubert

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Susan Kubert was born and raised in Central Massachusetts, and she traveled extensively as a military wife before settling down in the Albany NY area. Throughout her life, she used writing to cope with childhood pain and trauma. Writing was a powerful form of therapy and it continued to carry her through chronic illness, as well as great love and pain, later in life. To help others to heal their own trauma, Susan became an Energy Healing Practitioner, which includes many modalities such as Reiki, Emotional Freedom Technique, and Positive Affirmation Life Coaching. This passion to teach and help others through her writing and healing practice has become her true life's mission. Susan now enjoys a quiet life in rural Vermont where she now resides.



The Love of The Book

There is something deliciously tactile about a book that pleases all of my senses.

I revel in the process of enjoying each one I choose to possess.
Running my hands across the cover,
I feel its strength as its outer skin binds together all of its wonders.

Slowly I open it as if it were a great treasure box,
For held within its shell is a gift from an unselfish giver.
I fan its pages close to my face and inhale its true essence.

My favorite among the many are the special ones written for the innocent.

Simply spoken words that have easy meaning,
With color filled images that feed the eye of the soul.
Together they embrace me as they draw me deeper with the turn of each enchanting page.

As a child I loved to visit the place where books are housed.
I craved the stilling hush that was expected and could always be counted upon.

This serene place fed my need for peace and order,

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call here: <https://forms.gle/sfTjtXJe1A-0xx7vv9>.

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.

Join the conversation to kick off **arts and culture capacity planning** in Somerville. **Cultural Ambassadors** will host conversations with interest groups (i.e., music, dance, literary arts) and identity groups

(BIPOC, Immigrants, etc.) to explore how best to expand Somerville’s cultural capacity. Visit somervilleartscouncil.org for the complete list of conversations.

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 **Somerville Council of PTA’s** is asking families to fill out a brief survey about **School Photography Services**. The survey closes **Monday, May 8**. Find the form on SPS Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/SomervillePublicSchools>.

Next Wave/Full Circle is turning 50 this year and you are invited to the birthday celebration. Join the family-friendly event on **May 18** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Enjoy food with friends, buy a T-shirt, and watch slideshows of NW/FC over the years. RSVP to nwfc50thcelebration@gmail.com.

Upcoming **2023 Spring Community**

meetings: Ward 6: Mon., May 8, Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave. **Ward 1: Tues., May 9, East Somerville Community School Cafeteria**, 50 Cross St. **All Ward Meeting in Spanish: Weds., May 10, East Somerville Community School Cafeteria**, 50 Cross St. This meeting will also be livestreamed on the City of Somerville YouTube page, and shared on the Spanish language Facebook page fb.com/SomervilleCiudad. Meetings run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., with refreshments and meet-and-greets starting at 6:00 p.m. Unsure about which ward you live in? Find out with the **MySomerville** address lookup tool at www.somervillema.gov/mysomerville.

Somerville Council on Aging Music & Munch Program, **Wednesday, May 10** at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom meets the **second Wednesday of each month**. This 45-minute session will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some “oldies but goodies,” a smidgen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville resident **Laura Zoll**, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a life-long love of all things musical. Learn a little, sing-

along, relax and enjoy some music while you munch. Please RSVP to **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via Zoom.

The **Welcome Project** is excited to announce the **14th Annual YUM: A Taste of Immigrant City**. 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>

Join the **Center for Teen Empowerment** and the **Dojo at Somernova** for our **Block Party Friday, May 5**, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at **The Alley**, 24 Dane street in Somerville. There will be a bouncy house, music, prizes, food trucks and more.

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.

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thousand years
in Dachau, Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen...
until at last their thirst was quenched
in Buchenwald, Treblinka and the rest...
with blood of Isaac’s seed.

Tornheim’s poems have the stark, paratactic style Erich Auerbach’s Mimesis associates with Biblical narrative – we see only spotlit actions, with minimal context. But each poem shifts the spotlight, aligning us with contrasting, contradictory viewpoints. In the process the emphasis shifts from the story’s message to what it might have felt like to the individuals involved.

One poem, *Abraham’s Sacrifice*, points out that the story is more properly known as the “binding,” not the “sacrifice” of Isaac, since Isaac is not sacrificed. For many rabbis, this is the point: the story teaches us that human sacrifice is not acceptable. But surely the same point could have been made without causing so much pain. Because “Abraham sacrificed his son/in the depths of his heart” the poem suggests, “it was his heart/that Abraham gave to God:”

And Isaac knew it.
And Sarah knew it,
and it broke hers.
So it was that Abraham sacrificed
their hearts, too.

The poem ends blessing God (somewhat bitterly, it seems to me) as “King of the universe,/Receiver of hearts.” Because the human price seems so disproportionate to the lesson learned, Tornheim can’t rest with any single explanation. In *I Should Not Have Asked*, God decides it was all a mistake. Both “The Testing” and “Adonai-yireh” suggest that rather than God testing Abraham, perhaps Abraham was testing God:

And when I raised the knife,
God had to answer, to reveal Himself
as a God of life,
not one of the old gods of death.

Other poems suggest it was God’s test, but he failed to understand its consequences. Sarah’s heart, Abraham’s heart, Isaac’s heart: all are shattered by what they learn. “How long must I rock him in the night,” an angry Sarah asks Abraham on his return. “And then who will comfort me?”

But my favorite poem is *Borrowed*, in which no one’s heart gets broken. Even the sheep turns up unharmed, returned to its shepherd although “not so frisky as before,” and smelling of smoke. When the shepherd later journeys near an encampment “whose headman we were told worshipped/a strange and solitary god”:

... Abraham himself came out

to see that we were well provided for.
And when he saw our ram—
it was the strangest thing!—
he bowed his head in silent thanks,
and our ram nodded back at him.

In its simplicity, its refusal to explain, and in the stark beauty of its language (the assonance of “thing” and “him”; of “thanks” and “ram”; the defamiliarizing effect of Abraham as “headman”), *Borrowed* is typical of Tornheim’s best poems: their strange, evocative mix of understated mysticism and humanity.

Ultimately, *The Sacrifice of Abraham* suggests, we are the stories we tell. The book’s final poem, *Looking Back*, invokes history and collectivity – the “we” formed by shared stories:

Scars become legends,
legends become scripture;
a family becomes a people.

And the ram becomes “ancient smoke/that still swirls around us.” What all this says, finally, about God, violence, sacrifice, and humanity, I’m not sure. Maybe just that we need to think, when we read those old stories or even the newspaper, less of what the lesson is and more of whose heart is getting broken.

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