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Changes to Somerville City Charter approved by Mayor, City Council



An update to the Somerville city charter has finally been agreed upon and awaits approval at the state level.

City charters serve as a city's local constitution, and after an intensive community process and collaborative work by the Ballantyne administration and the City Council, Somerville's charter is getting a significant update. The new charter now includes greater transparency, more opportunity for public engagement, important resources for the City Council, and a pathway to ranked choice voting, as well as other modernizations, like officially recognizing women as voters.

The new charter language was approved by a Council vote on charter legislation on Monday, May 5, and Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is signing in full support. The new and improved charter will now be sent to the State Legislature as a Home Rule Petition for review and approval.

The majority of changes are the *Continued on page 4*

Community connections at Union Square Farmers Market

Union Square Main Streets kicks off the 21st season of the Union Square Farmers Market in Somerville this Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. The market will be open rain or shine Saturdays through October 25, except September 20.

Since 2005, shoppers from all over Greater Boston have explored the 38th coolest neighborhood in the world by tasting culturally-relevant treats, chatting with community groups, and filling their reusable bags with high-quality, fresh foods at the Union Square Farmers Market. This annual neighborhood tradition continues to serve as a catalyst for vibrancy, economic opportunity, and community connection in Union Square, Somerville.

"Community is an important antidote to uncertainty," said Jessica Eshleman,

Continued on page 9



The Union Square Farmers Market starts its 21st season this Saturday, May 10.



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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.








Healing Together: Supporting Mental Health at Home, Wednesday, May 7. Join the **Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities** and the **Department of Racial and Social Justice** for a workshop to learn about mental health language. Featuring guest speaker **Christopher Willard**, Harvard Medical School faculty, author, and psychologist. This virtual event will be held on **Wednesday, May 7**, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. online via Zoom. Learn more and register.RSVP: bit.ly/HT_25

Support **Somerville High School dancers**. Join the **SHS Dance Concert** on **Wednesday, May 7**, at 5 p.m. and **Friday, May 9**, at 7 p.m. in the **SHS Auditorium**. Enjoy an evening of performances that celebrate movement and community, featuring pieces from **SHS Dance Classes, SHS Dance Company, Highlander Theatre Company**, and the **Multicultural Fair**. Ticket Link: <https://shsma.booktix.com/dept/main/e/DANCE25>. All proceeds go towards their dance offerings.

To those celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to **Melissa Hurley**, who is celebrating this week. We hope she has a great birthday. Happy birthday to local attorney **Neil Berman**. We hope Neil has a great celebration. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Millie L. McCarthy, Eileen Schofield, Jason Mackey, Cynthia Saltman, Jill Marie, Jim Breath, Karen Dupont, Lisa Dervishian, Janet McLaughlin, Paul** *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 30 – May 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>May 7</i>	Partly Cloudy	70°/54°	16%	11%	SW 14 mph
 Thursday <i>May 8</i>	Cloudy	73°/49°	9%	4%	N 9 mph
 Friday <i>May 9</i>	Rain	50°/48°	78%	61%	NE 13 mph
 Saturday <i>May 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	66°/52°	22%	11%	NW 14 mph
 Sunday <i>May 11</i>	Sunny	73°/49°	1%	0%	NW 10 mph
 Monday <i>May 12</i>	Sunny	74°/55°	2%	1%	SW 12 mph
 Tuesday <i>May 13</i>	Partly Cloudy	79°/60°	7%	3%	SW 13 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: **MassDems LGBTQIA+ Remember Pope Francis’s Legacy of Inclusion**

an inclusive progressive says:

With all due respect to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee and its “LGBTQIA+ Outreach”...come on! How many more letters of the alphabet are going to be added? – and that the rest of us will be expected to memorize in order to show our respect and sensitivity? I hate to say this...but I fear you have now crossed the line into becoming a parody (in this regard) and in doing so, play right into the hands of those reactionaries who are opposed to any and all minorities demanding equal rights.

Response to: **Healing Together: Let’s talk about mental health**

Ge’O-Vanna Smith says:

This article sheds much-needed light on the emotional and psychological challenges that often go unspoken in healthcare settings. It’s encouraging to see these important conversations gaining visibility, as they play a crucial role in reducing stigma and promoting early intervention. For those looking to explore structured support and expert guidance, platforms offering specialized behavior health services can be a valuable step toward long-term well-being.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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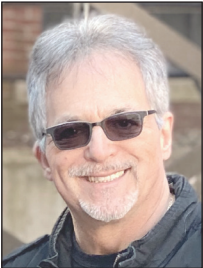
Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

Brushes with Greatness



We’ve all had a few brushes with greatness. One of mine went a little awry.

I did a character named Blanche on the radio back in the 90s. Soon, I was

dressing up like this colorful bingo-loving Kresge’s Basement shopper and doing appearances. We were doing a live broadcast in Downtown Boston, and none other than Captain Kangaroo was to be our guest. Instead of trying to find someplace to put on my costume, I arrived at the broadcast location fully dressed (wig, lipstick, housedress, and pumps). Hey, a gig is a gig. I was standing around waiting for the rest of the crew to show up, and lo and behold, there was the recently widowed Captain Kangaroo in the flesh.

I introduced myself as one of the show’s members, but I don’t think he got it. I think the lovable Captain thought I was a real little old lady, complete with a deep voice and a little stubble. He seemed to be a little smitten with me. I’ll never forget the strange look he gave me when I walked away. Maybe he knew – maybe he didn’t – who cares, I had just met Captain Kangaroo!

We have all met famous people, and it makes for great conversation.

It’s not bragging – it’s recounting a great experience. My father had a great story about the time he helped Frank Sinatra get

a flight on a transport plane during World War II. I could recite that story word for word. I have a friend who swears he drove singer James Taylor to Sullivan Station in the 70s.

Think about it for a minute – how many of your friends insist that they know an infamous tough guy and could call him for a favor at any time? Yes, we all love saying we’ve met someone famous.

Here’s a brush with greatness that a lot of Somerville Avenue people can back me up on.

Back around 1977 or so, NBC Football commentators Dick Enberg and Merlin Olson walked into the Embassy Lounge (now Sky Bar) on the Avenue. They were in town to call a Patriots game for TV, so they just decided to drop into a local joint. Olson even grabbed a bucket and filled up the ice cube bin. These two famous broadcasters just popped in, hung out with us, and had a few beers.

That’s not just a folk tale, because I was there. Even people who weren’t there that day were there, if you get my drift. Everyone seems to have a great story about a famous person whom they met. We love telling these stories, and we may even embellish a little to spice them up. After a lifetime of telling the Frank Sinatra story, my dad had changed it up to where Old Blue Eyes and he had a few beers, played poker, and sang love songs until the wee hours.

Sharing our stories about the famous people we’ve met, now, *That’s Life*.



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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log April 22 – 28

Attempted Commercial Breaking and Entering

25022364: On 4/24/25 at approximately 7:27 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Medford St for report of a past vandalism. Upon arrival, officers noticed that the business had a damaged window and observed a cinder block next to it.

Attempted Commercial Breaking and Entering

25022441: On 4/24/25 at approximately 12:33 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for report of a past vandalism. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the owner who stated a male party threw a stone at the window in an attempt to break in.

Assault

25022039: On 4/22/25 at approximately 6:07 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on McGrath Hwy for report of a past larceny and assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he observed a male party shoplifting. When he attempted to stop the male, the male punched him in the face and fled.

Shots Fired

25022981: On 4/27/25 at approximately 12:27 a.m. Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for multiple calls regarding a shooting. Upon arrival, officers spoke with an employee who stated someone fired a gun into the air. Officers recovered one 9mm shell casing. No injuries were reported.

Assault

25023442: On 4/29/25 at approximately 11:04 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Broadway for report of a past assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a female party entered and became upset about her food order. She then threw a vase at an employee.

Other Crimes: 1 Package theft + 9 Car breaks + 2 Bike thefts + 1 MV vandalism

— Somerville Police Department



Changes to Somerville City Charter approved by Mayor, City Council

CONT. FROM PG 1

direct outcome of recommendations by the Charter Review Committee, composed of residents and elected officials. The Council and City then worked to transform those proposals into new Charter language. Key updates include modernization of procedures and language, the right of the Council to hire Council staff and advisory legal counsel, and designated opportunities for community input on the City budget and capital investment planning that promote inclusive leadership.

The charter also puts two provisions into the hands of the community. Voters will now decide one key committee recommendation at the ballot box: an extension of the 2-year Mayoral term to 4 years. If passed, this would go into effect no earlier than the 2028 term. The Charter also states that a committee will be created to develop a plan to implement ranked choice voting, which allows voters to rank multiple candidates rather than vote for only one.

“With these reforms, we are delivering on key priorities for Somerville. We are increasing transparency, strengthening democracy, supporting the City Council in their work, and ensuring that our charter reflects the values of justice and equity that define our community. It also builds in a key priority of mine, which is inclusive leadership that supports our community

members helping to shape our future,” said Mayor Ballantyne.

“I want to thank the Charter Review Committee for their diligent work, recognize Councilor McLaughlin for championing this effort throughout, and thank the Council for collaborating with my administration to finally deliver on this decades-long goal,” added Ballantyne. “From start to finish, this process has prioritized community voices and a shared vision for Somerville’s future, and we can all be proud of that.”

“We have a 21st-century government operating under a 19th-century charter that doesn’t even acknowledge women voters. But this revised charter now reflects the times we live in and gives us a modern framework,” said Ward 1 Councilor Matt McLaughlin.

“This was a deeply democratic and inclusive process involving residents volunteering extensively and gathering input from thousands to draft this charter,” added McLaughlin. “After months of City Council deliberation and negotiations with two mayors, we’ve reached this point with overwhelming Council and Mayoral support to send it to the State House. It provides crucial improvements, from clear, modern language to addressing the balance of power between the Mayor and

City Council in areas like the budget and appointments. Ultimately, this approved charter is light years better.”

Key changes in the updated charter include:

Preamble and Values: A new preamble explicitly states the charter’s guiding values, such as justice, empowerment, ethical leadership, and equitable opportunity.

City Council Procedures: More detailed procedures for City Council operations enhance transparency and access to information.

Mayoral and Council Powers Regarding Appointments: The charter codifies the mayor’s role to appoint and the City Council’s role to confirm appointments.

Financial Transparency and Inclusion: A more structured budget process includes requirements for community input opportunities, public access to budget information, and a public hearing on and Council approval of the city’s Capital Investment Plan.

Expanded Council Provisions: Permits the City Council to hire its own advisory legal Counsel and also to hire Council staff.

Bringing an 1899 charter into the 21st century

The city’s charter was initially established in 1871, the same year Somerville was

incorporated as a city. Since a more substantial update in 1899, it has undergone only targeted revisions. More recently, charter review was launched in 2008. A 2018 City Council initiative modernized the name “Board of Aldermen” to “City Council.” In 2019, then Councilor Ballantyne initiated an update to shift oversight of the Committee Clerks from the Administration to the City Council to streamline management and improve workflows. In 2021, then Councilor Ballantyne also led the Council in submitting a special act to amend the charter to use gender-neutral language.

Full charter review began in 2020, when former Mayor Joe Curtatone and then City Council President Matt McLaughlin (now Ward 1 Councilor) jointly launched the latest comprehensive review. The Charter Review Committee, established as a result, met for 16 months and issued a range of recommendations in August 2022. The Ballantyne Administration and City Council then worked collaboratively to update the charter and ensure it met legal standards. The Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston provided critical expertise and support.

To view the charter language and more information, visit somervillema.gov/charterreview.

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Community ‘walk audit’ of Union Square

By Holly Simone

The Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC), in collaboration with the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), the Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS), and Groundwork Somerville, invited residents to participate in a community “walk audit” of Union Square. PTAC is a mayor-appointed body of volunteer community members who advise and collaborate with city staff to make walking and public transportation in Somerville safer, sustainable, equitable, and accessible.

The event was held on Tuesday, April 29, and started from the Union Square MBTA station and walked through the Square to gauge pedestrian safety and make recommendations to improve overall safety in a highly congested vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian thoroughfare. Among community members were Harriotte Ranvig, SCPD Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Pauline Downing, both white cane users who demonstrated how the safety needs of blind people need to be included in street design.

The group was led by PTAC Chair Alessandra Seiter, SCPD Chair (and candidate for City Council At Large) Holly Simone, Arah Schurr, and Karen Molloy from SASS, Kenzie Ballard, Director of Community Engagement and Climate Resilience and Em Plotkin, Director of Youth Programs and Engagement from Groundwork Somerville. The group plans to share its findings in the next PTAC public meeting.

“It was wonderful to see so many members of the Somerville community, from safe streets organizations to neighborhood groups to elected officials to individual residents, engage so genuinely and collaboratively with one another on an issue that affects their daily experiences. Union Square is clearly an area our community values deeply and would like to see made livable and accessible for all. What we identified last night were opportunities to improve safety and comfort for people walking in the short term, as well as feedback to incorporate into the longer-term vision for the Union Square streetscape. I am so grateful to all who made this event possible,” said Alessandra Seiter.



Somerville residents participated in a “walk audit” of Union Square recently with the aim of improving pedestrian safety. — Photos courtesy of PTAC



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All information is kept completely confidential.

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of April 28-May 2. 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 \$61.47 billion fiscal 2026 state budget.

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE "MAKING OF THE BUDGET"

Most of the decisions on which representatives' amendments are included or not included in the budget are made behind closed doors. Of the more than 1,650 budget amendments proposed last week, most of them were bundled into consolidated "mega" amendments. This year there were seven mega amendments and all were easily approved on roll call votes.

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 most members do not bring their 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.

HOUSE APPROVES \$61.47 BILLION FISCAL 2026 STATE BUDGET (H 4000)

House 151-6, approved and sent to the Senate a \$61.47 billion fiscal 2026 state budget after three days of debate. The House version now goes to the Senate which will approve its own version. A House-Senate conference committee will eventually craft a compromise plan that will be presented to the House and Senate for consideration and then sent to Gov. Maura Healey.

"The House's fiscal year 2026 budget makes key invest-

ments that better support Massachusetts students and families, that increase access to affordable health care and that provide for a safer and more reliable public transportation system – all without raising taxes," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "In a moment of incredible uncertainty at the federal level, our budget is proof that government can be both fiscally responsible and an agent of good, the kind of government that our residents deserve."

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

"The fiscal year 2026 budget is a bloated budget that is not attached to the reality of our fiscal situation, and there is a multitude of reasons I could not support it," said Rep. Ken Sweezey (R-Hanson). "Although there are many good aspects relating to municipal funding that I was happy to see included, it does not go far enough in that realm and continues to poorly prioritize funds. With the fiscal uncertainty relative to the federal government, it is reckless to pretend that this budget should be business as usual and support a budget increase of 7 percent year-over-year and nearly 50 percent in just six years."

"Beacon Hill has once again shown its commitment to secrecy over sound fiscal policy," said Paul Craney, executive director of the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "The House tacked on \$81 million in new spending over their original proposal. The last three days showed the House has no fiscal restraint. This was negotiated behind closed doors and rammed through massive, opaque consolidated amendments ... At a time when the state is facing declining tax revenues, increased outmigration and deep structural budget challenges, lawmakers should be tightening the belt, not throwing more money into a budget crafted in the shadows."

(A "Yes" vote is for the budget. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

MUNICIPAL TAX AMNESTY (H 4000)

House 25-132, rejected an amendment that would authorize cities and towns to conduct a municipal tax amnesty

program over a two-month period, as determined by the local legislative body, any time prior to June 30, 2027. It specifically authorizes communities to waive any or all penalties, fees, charges and accrued interest if the original overdue tax assessment is paid in full.

"This proposal would clear the way for the first municipal tax amnesty since 2003," said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "I filed this as a flexible local option for cities and towns to generate additional revenues by giving residents an incentive to pay their overdue property and excise taxes. This amnesty program would not only help communities but also would benefit individuals who have outstanding tax liabilities so they can wipe the slate clean by settling their original debt."

Rep. Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston) opposed the amendment and said there is uncertainty in the budget writing process that we're dealing with given the recent events in Washington, D.C. He said that the House drafted a budget taking into account current municipal collections in order to develop local aid and apportionments.

He noted that adopting this measure right now may undermine those efforts and require the House to reassess how much local aid will be needed to ensure cities and towns have the resources they need again, at a time when we don't know what holes will need to be plugged at the federal level.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

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

ALLOW DETAINMENT BY IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (H 4000)

House 25-131, rejected an amendment that would provide a mechanism for law enforcement and the courts to detain individuals for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) if the person poses a direct threat to public safety. It would specifically allow for the detainment of individuals for possible immigration violations for up to 12 hours upon receipt of a written request and warrant from ICE.

"This amendment is an attempt to respond to the 2017 Commonwealth v. Lunn decision, in which the Supreme Judicial Court determined the authority to honor ICE detainer requests is not expressly permitted under current statutes," said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "The amendment is a relatively modest proposal because the authorization is *Continued on page 16*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Have a happy Mother's Day, Somerville!

Our View Of The Times



Even in troubled times, even the worst of times, there is one particular beacon of goodness and light that pierces through the gloom to warm our hearts and lift our spirits – Mother’s Day.

While life as we know it has been far from normal in recent years, mainly due to political divisions and the like, this is one occasion that can restore a bit of normalcy and order for us as we pause to honor the

beloved matriarchs of our families.

Of course, some may have to celebrate in less than ordinary ways, due to the miles that may separate family members that by necessity are keeping many of us from gathering together. Whether by phone, internet, or snail mail, a lot of folks will have to make do with making contact in whatever alternative ways they can manage.

And then there are those who are fortunate enough to be able to give their moms a warm hug in person, and either enjoy some of their incomparable home cooking, or cook a fabulous meal for them for a change.

However, we manage to do it, let’s make sure that they know we are thinking of them and express our gratitude for all they have done for us throughout our lives.

Depending on their individual circumstance, they themselves may be going through some feelings of loneliness. Especially among the elderly. Let us make an effort to reassure and comfort them, and quell these feelings.

Let them know that you are doing well, and that you will do everything you can to see after them. Just as they would do for you.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Curley, Mary Ellen Myhr, and Ann Kane-Peters 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.

The “Slice of the City” spring meet-up series is an opportunity to connect and engage with city leaders and staff as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville’s parks. All events run from 5 to 7 p.m. Pizza and refreshments will be served, and Somerville Recreation will have activities for children available. Wards 4 and 5 Slice of the city events have been postponed due to weather. These events will be rescheduled. Visit

www.somervillema.gov/slice to stay up to date. This coming week: **May 12, Ward 3, Prospect Hill Park**, 68 Munroe Street, and **May 13, Ward 6, Powderhouse Park**, Broadway and College Avenue.

The city’s **Mobility Division** has been collecting feedback for the **Western Pearl Street Reconstruction project**, part of **Somerville’s Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program** and an effort to increase safety for all. Now, preliminary design concepts are here. Community members are invited to an open house on **Wednesday, May 7, at Ed Leathers Park** (between Skilton Ave. and Walnut St.)

from 5 to 7:30 p.m. to learn more about the project, review concept design options, and share input. The event will feature multiple stations describing different aspects of the project, with staff ready to answer questions. Pizza will be provided. Learn more. Can’t attend the open house? Future opportunities to give feedback will be available after the open house at www.somervillema.gov/westernpearl.

The **Haitian Flag Festival** will take place on **May 17**, from 2 to 6 p.m., 93 Highland Ave, weather date May 18, a vibrant celebration of Haitian culture and heritage, marking the creation of the Haitian flag.

The event brings together the community to celebrate Haiti’s rich history, pride, and unity through music, food, art, and cultural performances. This special day honors the significance of the Haitian flag, which symbolizes freedom, resilience, and the spirit of independence.

LGBTTeen+ Book Club, May 9. Check out SPL’s newest book and social club. Join in for books and graphic novels, crafts, movies, and more. This book club is for teens in grades 7 to 12. This event will be held on Friday, May 9, at **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 3 to 4 p.m.

Continued on page 18

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#972

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Is Mother's Day celebrated on the same date every year?

2. In what year did Mother's Day become an official holiday?

3. What is the official flower of Mother's Day?

4. What is Harry Potter's mother's maiden name?

5. What is the mother's name in the Addams family?

6. What is the name of John Travolta's character in the 1977 film *Saturday Night Fever*?
7. What sport was featured on the first curved U.S. coin in 2014?

8. What are the names of Barbie's younger sisters?

9. Who was the first woman jockey to ever ride in the Kentucky Derby?

10. What day is known as Star Wars Day?

11. When is Cinco de Mayo?

12. Why is Cinco de Mayo celebrated?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. You spray 2.5 drops of saliva per word.
2. The tallest bamboo sculpture is more than 164-feet high.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
SOUNDTRACK SONGS

- ACROSS
1. Potato chip, in U.K.

6. ____ capita

9. " ____ the night before Christmas..."

13. Popular garden perennial

14. George Gershwin's brother

15. "Follow the Yellow ____ Road"

16. Brickowski of "The LEGO Movie"

17. Pick up a perpetrator

18. Hindu sage

19. "Flashdance... What a ____"

21. "Stayin' Alive" band

23. Actress Gasteyer

24. Windshield option

25. Undergarment

28. Teenager's woe

30. Solfège-themed "The Sound of Music" song

35. Capital of Latvia

37. Pilgrimage to Mecca

39. India bigwig

40. Fussess or stirs

41. Belted starman

43. Charged particles

44. Binturong's cousin

46. Type of salmon

47. Sol, or la, or ti

48. Eponymous 1978 Franki Valli song

50. To, archaic

52. Ryan Gosling's 2023 "I'm Just ____"

53. Part of a jousting outfit

55. Tax pro, acr.

57. "I Will Always Love You" of "The Bodyguard" singer

61. "(I've Had) ____ ____ of My Life" of "Dirty Dancing"

65. Desert wanderer's hope

66. Morning condensation

68. Waterwheel

69. Rosetta Stone, e.g.

70. U.N. working-conditions agcy.

71. Perform in a play

72. Through, to a poet

73. First responders's acronym

74. Force units

- DOWN
1. Carmy in "The Bear"

2. "Emily in Paris" new location

3. "This ____" of "The Greatest Showman"

4. #69 Across, alt. sp.

5. Green layer on copper

6. Contact on social media

7. E in B.C.E.

8. Torah teacher

9. H.S. math class

10. Solomon-like

11. Advil target

12. Sleigh runners

15. Poet and "Surrealist Manifesto" author André ____

20. Jack Black's *Libre*

22. Tight one, in football

24. Tiresome

25. Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame

26. Peter Fonda in 1969 role

27. In the past

29. DEA agent

31. Prince's "Purple ____"

32. Digital tome

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

33. ____ Carlo

34. "A Doll's House" playwright

36. Away from port

38. "The Lion King" composer

42. Ax mark

45. Sleeping sickness vector

49. Kind of trip

51. Not closed

54. Not mainstream

56. Lack of muscle tension

57. Terry Crews on "America's Got Talent"

58. The Hippocratic one

59. ____-friendly

60. Farmer's storage

61. Scarce bills

62. Formerly Persia

63. Three blind ones

64. Chows down

67. Freddy Krueger street
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Public notice of Somerville caucus elections to be held

The Somerville Democratic City will soon host our annual caucus elections for all Registered Democrats in the city to cast their ballots on who they want to represent them at this September's Democratic State Platform Convention in Springfield. Somerville will elect 62 delegates in total from among the 7 wards. This year's convention will be a Platform Convention, where delegates may propose and will vote on numerous amendments to the Massachusetts Democratic Party's platform and rules.



These elections will be held on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Somerville High School, and on-line via Zoom, voters are encouraged to pre-register for a ballot at SomervilleMassDems.org.

Interested Somerville voters can find more information on how to run or vote in these elections on-line at SomervilleMassDems.org or can attend on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. to register in person, registration will close at 6:45 p.m. The 2025 Massachusetts Democratic Party State Convention will be held on September 13, 2025, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

— Somerville Democratic Party Chairman Jack Perenick
Chair@SomervilleMassDems.org

Community connections at Union Square Farmers Market

CONT. FROM PG 1

executive director of Union Square Main Streets, the nonprofit that produces the market. "The Union Square Farmers Market is excited to return for its 21st year of seeding chances to come together as neighbors to source fresh food and info about many groups doing good work in Somerville. To better serve all, and thanks to our partners, we're proud to continue to provide SNAP Match interpretation services in Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish."

Thousands of shoppers, including award-winning chefs, local business leaders, and neighbors near and far make the Union Square Farmers Market a delectable destination each Saturday during the season. Returning for a 21st year, 60+ local farms and food producers welcome shoppers with open arms, outstanding goods, cooking tips, and recipe suggestions, creating a culinary community where all are welcome.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) shoppers are valued customers at Union Square Farmers Market. The market is proud to continue to serve a critical role in Somerville's food security system by offering a dollar-for-dollar SNAP match program. While providing SNAP customers with a match has been a priority for the market since it opened in 2005, it is thanks to a partnership with the City of Somerville and the Somerville Farmers Market Coalition (in collaboration with Mass Farmers Markets, Somerville Winter Farmers Market, and Somerville Mobile Farmers Market) and customers investing in their neighborhood through the annual Good Food For All campaign that has sustained this important

community resource year after year.

Union Square Farmers Market proudly boasts that businesses as local as Somerville itself round out the vendor roster. With businesses such as Somerville Arts Council's Nibble Kitchen, Chappy's Pickles, Del's Coffee Roasters, and Bangla Adda, customers can eat easily knowing their dollars will directly benefit Somerville's local economy.

While at the market, customers will be right at the doorsteps of some of the most historic, diverse, and popular businesses in Somerville and the Greater Boston Area. Customers are encouraged to grab a friend, family member, or pet to make each Saturday a "Shop the Square Saturday," and visit local businesses before or after they visit the market.

These elements in particular resonate with the 2025 Union Square Farmers Market Season Sponsor, Boynton-Yards, a DLJ and Leggat McCall Project.

"As developers deeply invested in Union Square's long-term success, Boynton Yards is proud to support a market that strengthens our local economy, food systems, and sense of community," said John Fenton, co-managing development director of Boynton Yards. "The Union Square Farmers Market is more than a place to shop – it's a vibrant gathering space that brings people together and reflects the resilience and creativity of this neighborhood."

The Union Square Farmers Market is made possible for a sixth year thanks to generous support from its 2025 Season Sponsor Boynton Yards, a project of DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners and Leggat McCall Properties; the City of Somerville; and donors who contribute to help make the SNAP Match possible.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #328

This article first appeared in the January 21, 2015, edition of The Somerville Times.

A Sporting Chance

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Somerville has always had a deep-seated history in sports, far deeper than most. Settled before Boston as part of Charlestown in 1628, the colony was subject to Puritan rule. By 1659, strict rules had outlawed card playing and dice. This was for fear of betting. Football, oddly enough, was allowed, unless played on forbidden streets or lanes.



Over a century later, in 1775, the Revolutionary War hero, Captain Nathan Hale, wrote to his mother from Winter Hill. He apologized to her for his fighting on the Sabbath. His Winter Hill wrestling team had meets against Prospect and Cobble Hill. Unlike the Saturday afternoon wrestling of today, they were military and practiced with weapons.

In 1777-1778, Hessian prisoners of war brought the sport of bowling or "keg-legging," as they called it, to Somerville's Winter Hill. Almost two centuries later, the first automatic candle-pin bowling machine in the nation was installed near the site of Leone's Pizza on Broadway.



Through the years, many notable athletes were rooted in Somerville. They and thousands of others excelled in athletics or contributed to Somerville's sports lore. The list includes:

"Jake" Kilrain – World Heavyweight Champion Boxer and Amateur Rowing Champ.

Brother Gilbert Cairns – Discovered Babe Ruth. Attended St. Joseph's School in Union Square.

Harold Joseph "Pie" Traynor – Baseball Hall of Fame and Best Third Baseman for ten years straight. Learned to play ball at Trum Field, sometimes barehanded. *Continued on page 19*

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID
CAPEN COURT (667-1)
HVAC CONTROLS REPLACEMENT PROJECT
SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online.

GENERAL BIDS

The Somerville Housing Authority invites **HVAC Contractors** to submit Bid Proposals for the **HVAC Controls Replacement Project** at the **Capen Court (667-1) Senior Housing Development** in **Somerville, Massachusetts**. General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the **Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) category**. Bidders must include a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Update Statement.

The Project consists of: Removal and replacement of the existing control valves, actuators for all control valves serving existing fan coil units and replacement of all thermostats as noted on the plans with new.

General Bids will be received until **2:00 PM**, (local legal time) Thursday, **May 15, 2025** and publicly opened on-line, forthwith.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five percent (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount in the form of a bid bond, certified check, treasurer's check or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority. The Bid Deposit shall be satisfactory to the Awarding Authority and conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the Bid.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Construction costs are estimated to be **\$365,000.00**

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A pre-bid walkthrough shall be held at the site located at 1 Capen Court, Somerville, MA 02144 on Tuesday, **May 6, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**. Contractors shall meet at the site. Contractors shall meet all COVID-19 safety requirements.

BID DOCUMENTS AND DEPOSIT

All Bids shall be submitted electronically online at www.BidDocsOnline.com no later than the date & time specified above. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.BidDocsOnline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.BidDocsOnline.com (**may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested**) or at **Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167)**

There is a plan deposit of \$50 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs Online, Inc.

Deposits must be a certified or cashier's check, or money order. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise, the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **\$50.00**

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or **\$65.00** per set for UPS Overnight), payable to **BidDocs Online, Inc.** to cover mail handling costs.

Bids and the Contract are subject to: M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J and to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive, Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Equal Opportunity provisions of Executive Order 11246, Non-Discrimination provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Labor Standards of the Davis-Bacon Act and related acts and Contract Work Hours Standard Act, and prevailing wage determinations as issued by the U.S. Secretary of Labor. The work performed under this contract is funded in part through the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and is subject to all provisions and regulations issued pursuant to this act. This project is covered by Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

All Bids for the project are subject to the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws (Ter. Ed.), Chapter 149, Sections 44A to 44L inclusive as amended.

RIGHT OF THE AWARDING AUTHORITY TO REJECT BIDS

The right is reserved by the Somerville Housing Authority to reject any or all Bids, if it be in their interest to do so.

MINIMUM WAGE RATES

Bids are subject to the Federal Davis-Bacon wage rates and Related Acts.

4/30/25, 5/7/25 The Somerville Times



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5ZxAIFRMSi-ZDEC-XwRTbA
Webinar ID: 813 6889 3447

TO CALL IN

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

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PERSERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HP24-000122 - 128 Central Street
Applicant: Pro Touch Home Improvements INC – Nilton Dornelas
Owner: Nilton Dornelas
The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

*Case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

4/30/25, 5/7/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REBID IFB #25-59

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

Landscaping Services at Lincoln Park

An Invitation to Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:00PM Wednesday, May 21, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

5/7/25 The Somerville Times

Baby Sign Language Workshops


May 7, 14, 21, 28. 2–2:45 p.m. Parents and caregivers for pre-verbal children ages 4 months and up are invited to participate in a 4-part virtual program about communicating through sign language.

Register here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfA0gRB-f4quA8t0exnHTcU0qEvNhaLx4tU1obcwK155OndKPQ/viewform?pli=1>



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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):
Application of Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and Outdoor Private Dining License for Samay Warmipak LLC. d/b/a Zaruma Gold Coffee at 37 Woodbine Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom 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 Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4-hLaPu5T7Ws_8K4welZzQ

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.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

5/7/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):
Application of Common Victualer and Entertainment by Performers Indoors License for New Leaf Espresso LLC d/b/a New Leaf Espresso at 310 Highland Avenue.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom 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 Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4-hLaPu5T7Ws_8K4welZzQ

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.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

5/7/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
LICENSING COMMISSION**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **Licensing Commission** on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, on the following Application(s):
Application of Change of Category from Wine and Malt Alcohol License to All Forms Alcohol License for X & W Papa Inc d/b/a Papa Sushi at 499 Broadway.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting may be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the Zoom 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 Zoom platform. Enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4-hLaPu5T7Ws_8K4welZzQ


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.

ANDREA R. TORRES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
[LICENSING@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:licensing@somervillema.gov)

5/7/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, May 15th, 2025** at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_asZV7-kwSsGCru3TkLQBig


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

- Mayor Ballantyne requesting ordainment of an amendment to Article 2 and Article 10 of the Zoning Ordinance to revise definitions and the green score calculation of columnar trees.

Zoning amendments may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for the address or item number: <https://somervillema.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

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

4/30/25, 5/7/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE Annual Action Plan and
Section 108 Loan Application**

The City of Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development has prepared the draft of the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan, a requirement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). **The City seeks input on the final draft of the plan.** OSPCD has also submitted an application for a Section 108 Loan from HUD as gap financing for phase II of the Clarendon Hill redevelopment project. **The City will be answering questions about the terms of this proposed loan.**

- The City will hold a public hearing on May 22nd at 6pm to receive comments pertaining to the content of the 2025-2026 plan and the Section 108 Loan application. Members of the public may attend this hearing at the Somerville Public Library, Central Branch Auditorium at 79 Highland Ave.
- Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville should contact Adrienne Pomeroy, at APomeroy@somervillema.gov.
- The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact SomervIVA at somerviva@somervillema.gov or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.
- Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments regarding the Annual Action Plan or the Section 108 loan to Miranda Rubin (mrubin@somervillema.gov) at the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (City Hall, 3rd Floor). All comments received on the Annual Action Plan by **June 6th, 2025**, will be incorporated in the final application.

5/7/25 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
REBID IFB #25-60**

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

Somerville City-Wide Landscaping Services

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **3:00PM Wednesday, May 21, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

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Somerville Open Studios 2025

This past weekend, artists opened their doors for the annual Somerville Open Studios. This year’s event featured nearly 400 artists displaying their work at over 100 sites across the city of Somerville. If you missed the event or just want to follow up with an artist, visit their artist di-rectory at <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/>. It will remain online throughout the year. The SOS artist directory is the best place for finding information about visual artists working and living in Somerville. The following are photos taken at the studios of Hilary Scott, Martha Friend, and Mudflat.

Hilary Scott – Photos by Bobbie Toner



Martha Friend – Photos by Bobbie Toner



Mudflat Studios – Photos by Claudia Ferro



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Warm Weather Is Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

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YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS TIME-SHARE. Orange Lake, Florida. Near Disney. Weeks 8 & 9 (February) One floor living with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, full kitchen, laundry. Purchase both for \$19,000. Call 978.371.2442 or email carol@actionunlimited.com

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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. No, it is always on the second Sunday in May

2. On May 8, 1914

3. Carnations

4. Lily Evans

5. Morticia Addams

6. Tony Manero

7. Baseball to celebrate

the 75th anniversary of baseball's Hall of Fame

8. Skipper, Stacie, and Chelsea

9. Diane Crump

10. May 4

11. May 5

12. To celebrate Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla in 1862

The Somerville Artwear: SOS 2025 Fashion Show Review

By Suraya Whynott

The annual Somerville Artwear: SOS 2025 Fashion Show this past Saturday was a great success. Pieces by many outstanding artists and designers were showcased: Levon Delmonico, S.D. Amour, Grace Madonna, Mia Brillantes, Blue Flame Leather, Consuelo Perez, Jessamy Shay, Emma Fritshel, Martha Friend, Scope Apparel, Lexie Butterfly, and Eleanor Ramsay all presented their work in this year’s show.

I had the incredible opportunity to sit front row and truly admire the work being presented, and from my point of view, it is clear that these artists deeply care for their work, which is extremely refreshing to see in today’s fashion and design industry.

The show allowed artists to express their interest in or concern for numerous issues through their work. The beautiful pieces, such as dresses made from repurposed denim and vintage designs accompanied by clown wigs, show the prioritization of

self-expression and creativity in the show. The artists centered sustainability in their designs as well, which was seen through the reutilization of different garments and items to create fun new looks.

Throughout the show, I had the absolute pleasure of seeing these pieces and all of their intricate details up close. Every single piece caught my eye and performed exceptionally well. I was thoroughly impressed by the intentionality of every item showcased. The show is titled “Artwear” to encourage the submission of clothing that pushes fashion boundaries and prioritizes the designer’s vision, and I definitely believe that the show lived up to its name.

The Artwear: SOS 2025 Fashion Show was a show not to miss, and I remain impressed by the talent and creativity of Somerville artists and designers. Congratulations to all the designers who participated, and a special shout-out to the models and volunteers who worked hard to present a smooth and organized show.



— Photos by Denise Provost



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

limited to ICE detainer requests for individuals who pose a serious threat to public safety for engaging in, or being suspected of engaging in, specific crimes such as terrorism or espionage, criminal street gang activity, sexual abuse or exploitation, human trafficking, unlawful firearm possession and drug distribution or trafficking.”

Rep. Daniel Cahill (D-Lynn) opposed the amendment and said there are criminal detainees issued by ICE and there are civil detainees. He noted that as a former prosecutor, he understands that when there’s a criminal warrant for an ICE detainer from a defendant and they are in the custody of Massachusetts, there is a cooperation with ICE to ensure that upon release of that defendant, or sometimes while a case is pending, ICE is notified and they’re allowed to come pick up that defendant. What we’re talking about here would be for Massachusetts to cooperate with the federal government in civil detainees. The law says here in Massachusetts, we are not to detain someone a moment -- not 12 hours, not 12 seconds. When your case is concluded, you leave. What the federal government wants us to do is expend resources to hold people beyond that time. That’s a constitutional problem.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn’t Vote

RIGHT TO SHELTER (H 4000)

House 27-129, rejected an amendment that would place further restrictions on the state’s right to shelter law by limiting participation in the commonwealth’s emergency housing assistance program to U.S. citizens who have resided in Massachusetts for at least six months.

“Over the last two years, the state’s emergency shelter system has been plagued by cost overruns, fueled by the migrant crisis, which has led to waiting lists for services,” said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “This amendment would help restore the original intent of the right to shelter law by ensuring that Massachusetts residents in need have access to emergency shelter.”

Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley) opposed the amendment and said it would unfairly restrict eligibility for the emergency shelter program to citizens of the United States and make legal residents ineligible. She argued that it also raises constitutional questions around defined length of residency. She said that the state has put in a number of controls on this program and the number of people using it and seeking to use the program, is now down to 4,804 families.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Didn’t Vote

PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDING (H 4000)

House 28-128, rejected an amendment that would prohibit any city or town’s eligibility for public safety related grant funding from being contingent upon that municipality’s compliance with the MBTA Communities Act.

The MBTA Communities Act, according to the state’s website, requires that an MBTA community “must have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria” including minimum gross density of 15 units per acre; and a location not more than 1/2 mile from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station. No age restrictions can be applied and the district must be suitable for families with children.

“Earlier this year, the Healey Administration changed the rules for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program by denying grants to communities that are not in compliance with the MBTA Communities zoning law,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “Although the huge public outcry that followed led the governor to reverse course and restore this grant funding, it is important that we add language to the zoning law to ensure that this does not happen again. Tying public safety grant funding to compliance with the MBTA Communities Act is simply unacceptable, as it not only jeopardizes the public, but also the police, firefighters and other first responders who work to keep our communities safe.”

Rep. Richard Haggerty (D-Woburn) opposed the amendment and said it is not needed because the Healey Administration showed its flexibility and announced that these grants are no longer at risk for noncompliant communities.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment. A “No” vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Didn’t Vote

REQUIRE ID TO VOTE (H 4000)

House 25-131, rejected an amendment that would require voters to present a valid form of identification, such as a driver’s license or passport, when voting. It also directs the Secretary of State’s office to develop a program to make a Massachusetts photo identification card available free of charge for voting purposes.

“Establishing a voter ID requirement would help poll workers verify that an individual is properly registered to vote in Massachusetts,” said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “This amendment would also allow individuals who do not have an ID to secure one free of charge through a new program that would be run through the

Secretary of State’s office, which oversees elections.”

Rep. Daniel Hunt (D-Dorchester) opposed the amendment and said that in states that already require this, it’s often used as a tool, not a rule, and it’s used to disenfranchise voters. He noted that the Elections Law Committee has not yet held hearings on several bills that are being considered relative to voter ID and urged members not to rush this amendment through the House but rather wait until the committee holds a public hearing on the bills.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment. A “No” vote is against it.)

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

WHEELCHAIR REPAIRS (H 1278) – The Financial Services Committee held a hearing on a bill that would mandate a ten-business day deadline for the completion of motorized wheelchair repairs, with a couple of exceptions.

“The bill ... models a law recently passed in Connecticut,” said sponsor Rep. Jim O’Day (D-West Boylston). “This proposal requires the repair of a motorized wheelchair to be completed within ten days, differing from a bill filed in the Senate that aims to extend warranty provisions. While I believe the House bill is easier to understand for both consumers and providers, both approaches seek to target the same issue – a consolidated market for repairs that leaves persons with disabilities and wheelchair users stranded and without options. At the end of the day, the goal is to expand consumer protection and dramatically improve life for Massachusetts residents who use wheelchairs.”

HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN TRANSPARENCY (S 685) – Another measure heard by the Financial Services Committee would require health insurance plans that are regulated by the state to include the following statement on plan members’ identification cards: “This health plan is fully-insured, subject to all Massachusetts insurance laws.”

Supporters said that this simple requirement would make it much easier for patients to understand what rights they have and what treatments are covered under their health plans. They noted that roughly half of Massachusetts residents with employer-based health insurance are in “fully-insured” plans regulated under Massachusetts law, while the other half are in “self-funded” plans that are federally regulated. They noted that the distinction is important, because fully insured plans are subject to state mandates guaranteeing access to treatment for more than a dozen medical conditions and for mental health conditions generally; and self-funded plans are not subject to these mandates.

Somerville welcomes Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw

The City of Somerville and Somerville Public Schools welcome Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Commissioner Amy Kershaw to Somerville on May 13 to celebrate the work of the Somerville Partnership for Young Children (SPYC).

SPYC leads a network of licensed early education and care providers to expand access to early childhood education programs for Somerville families and improve the quality of Somerville's local early childhood education system. The resources and financial support from the EEC, through the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grant program, made the work of the SPYC possible.

SPYC is administered by the Somerville Early Education & Care Department and the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC), in collaboration with the City of Somerville SomerPromise Department.

"Somerville is proud to be home to a strong and collaborative early childhood ecosystem," said Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. "We're grateful for the support of the Department of Early Education and Care, and we look forward to showcasing the innovative work of the Somerville Partnership for Young Children during Commissioner Kershaw's visit."

SPYC exists to ensure inclusive, high-quality learning experiences for all

children and give families more choices for their children's early learning journey in Somerville. SPYC aligns curriculum across a network of providers, bolsters quality through educator training opportunities, and improves access through translation, interpretation, and wraparound services. In addition, SPYC's clinical specialists provide direct, on-site special education services to children with disabilities and intervention services for children needing additional support.

"We rely on the Somerville Partnership for Young Children to provide high-quality early childhood experiences that set the foundation for long-term academic and social-emotional success," said Superintendent Rubén Carmona. Thanks to the consistent and generous CPPI grant funding from the Department of Early Education and Care, Somerville is able to invest in innovative and collaborative early learning opportunities that benefit our entire community.

"This coordinated system for early childhood providers in the community really sets the stage for a deep collaboration between the city, the Schools, our community partners, and families," said Chris Hosman, Director of SomerPromise. "The results are increased access to high-quality early childhood experiences supported by a network of caring adults and increased reliability of systems of

care for working families."

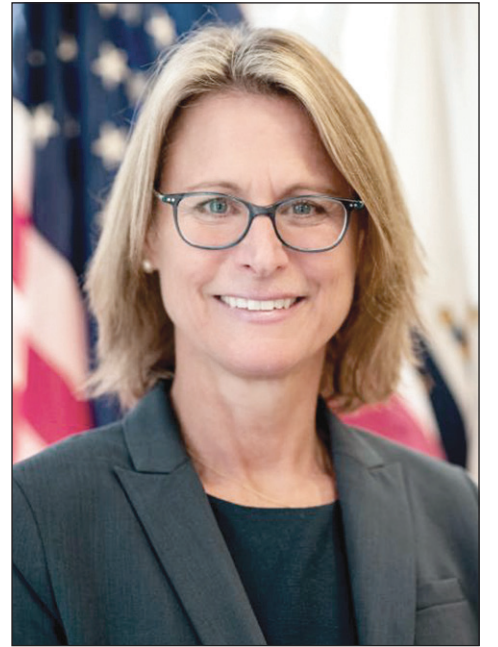
The City of Somerville has made significant investments in early childhood education, laying the groundwork for a strong system across the city. Beginning with early investments in prekindergarten and kindergarten, the city has strategically expanded access and quality through blended funding models, partnerships, and the establishment of the Somerville Partnership for Young Children.

Commissioner Kershaw will visit two Somerville flagship EEC providers

During the visit, Commissioner Kershaw will tour the Capuano Early Childhood Center (part of Somerville Public Schools) and local childcare provider, the Elizabeth Peabody House. These visits will be followed by a roundtable discussion with Commissioner Kershaw and various SPYC leaders from across the city.

"We are grateful to welcome Commissioner Kershaw to Somerville and for the opportunity to celebrate our young children, families, and the staff who support them," says Kathleen Bailer, Director of the Somerville Department of Early Education and Care. She continued, "accessible, affordable, high-quality childcare acts as a down payment for future success in a child. By working together, we ensure all children thrive every day, in every way, and are prepared for kindergarten."

The Commissioner's visit starts at the



Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Commissioner Amy Kershaw.

Capuano Early Childhood Center, 150 Glen Street, Somerville, MA 02145 at 9 a.m. and will continue with a tour of preschool classrooms at the Elizabeth Peabody House, and conclude with a roundtable discussion with local childcare center directors.

City of Somerville SomerPromise Department supports the overall well-being of children and youth by connecting, aligning, and mobilizing community partners and resources to ensure every child in Somerville has the opportunity to thrive, from cradle to career.

Jon Link launches campaign for Somerville City Council At-Large

Longtime Somerville resident Jon Link has officially announced his candidacy for City Council At-Large, promising to focus on families, affordable housing, street safety, and climate resilience.

A Ward 3 parent with a history of community involvement, Link brings experience as an educator, artist, and technology professional to his campaign.

"I'm running because I'm a protector and planner at heart," said Link. "Somerville deserves collaborative leadership that listens to people and builds a city where we can all thrive. Our community faces critical challenges around housing costs, transportation, and cli-

mate preparedness — challenges that will only grow more difficult under our current national leadership. I'm running to bring collaborative problem-solving skills and a deep commitment to equity to these issues."

Jon's campaign is grounded in values of equity, safety, sustainability, and community. His priorities include:

- Creating truly safe streets where pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers can coexist.
- Fighting for housing policies that make Somerville more affordable and protect renters.
- Supporting local arts, small businesses, and families that make the city dynamic

and inclusive.

• Making Somerville greener by approving funding and policies to build a more beautiful, climate-resilient city.

"I plan to bring my diversity of experience to work for the city," Link added. "I'm a parent and a homeowner, but I've also been a renter here too. I've worked as a barista, librarian, unionized Budweiser factory worker, poet, teacher, academic director, software engineering manager, and project manager. I understand many of the challenges our community faces from many different perspectives."

For more information about Jon Link's campaign, visit jonforsomerville.com.



City Council At-Large candidate Jon Link.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Visit the **Somerville Community Growing Center**, Center22 Vinal Ave, on **May 11, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**, and slow down, observe, and connect with nature through **journaling**. Begin by crafting simple journals using paper and watercolors, then step into the natural world to capture what we see, hear, and feel through words, sketches, or color. Afterward, you'll gather as a group to share reflections over a soothing cup of herbal tea. This is a relaxed and supportive space for creative exploration, presence, and connection with like-minded individuals. For more info, visit **Libby Curtis Webb's** website: <https://libbycurtiswebb.com/>.

Pedestrians can now access the **East Somerville Green Line (GLX) station** via **Inner Belt Road**. You can find more information about projects and detours at <https://www.mbta.com/projects/green-line-extension-glx>

Mystic River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge in-person public meeting, **Monday, May 12, 7 p.m.** **Mass General Brigham**, 399 Revolution Drive, Somerville. The Mystic River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge will connect the **DCR Draw Seven Park** to the **Gateway Park** trail and public boardwalk at the **Encore Resort**. This bridge will provide a vital missing link over the Mystic River, connecting the communities of Everett and Somerville, linking mixed use paths with local amenities including Draw Seven Park, Assembly Row and the Lower Broadway District. <https://www.mass.gov/event/everett-somerville-mystic-river-bicycle-pedestrian-bridge-05-12-2025>.

On behalf of **SEPAC (Somerville Special Education Advisory Council)**, families are invited to an upcoming workshop: **Executive Functioning Workshop 8** at 7 p.m. This workshop will break down the specific skills that make up Executive Functioning and provide examples of observable behaviors parents and caregivers can look for to support understanding a child's unique **Executive Functioning profile**. Content will include specific home and community interventions to support skill-building toward independence. Contact: Somervillese-pac@gmail.com.

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and **60+ of your favorite local food producers** for the **21st Annual Union Square**

Farmers Market. Shop local Saturdays **from May 10 to October 25**, except September 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. Thanks to our partnership with the **City of Somerville** and the **Somerville Farmers Market Coalition**, they are proud to continue to offer our SNAP match. Check the market webpage for the latest info and to see which vendors accept SNAP. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2025-season.

The **City of Somerville's Office of Emergency Management and Health and Human Services Department** invite residents to attend a community listening session to discuss and provide feedback on the city's **2024 – 25 warming center** at the **Cummings School**. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, May 8**, at **Somerville High School** (81 Highland Ave.) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. City staff will be present to facilitate discussion and gather feedback, which will be used to improve future operations.

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

Join the **Arts at the Armory** for their monthly recurring music events in the **ROOTED Café**. Upcoming events for May include: **Songwriters in the Round**, **Wednesday, May 7 and 21**, at 7 p.m., **Pub Sing**, **Thursday, May 8**, at 7 p.m., **Tunefoolery Coffee House**, **Wednesday, May 14**, at 7 p.m., **Strummerville Ukelele**, **Tuesday, May 27**, at 6 p.m. More info available for each event on our website. <https://artsatthearmory.org/upcoming-events/>.

The **City of Somerville** is launching **Neighbors Talking to Neighbors (N2N)**, a new dialogue series designed to bring residents together for open, respectful conversations on important community topics. Led by the **Departments of Racial and Social Justice and Health and Human Services**, the series will focus on **Race, Immigration, LGBTQIA+ issues, and Interfaith Relations**. Each session is free, virtual, and

professionally facilitated, with separate times for youth and adults. Space is limited. Learn more and register, visit www.somervillema.gov/rsj.

Movie Day (Council on Aging), **Friday, May 9, 10 a.m.** at the **Holland Street Center**, 167 Holland Street, Somerville. The May movie is **Back in Action**. Pizza lunch is served after the movie. \$2 cost per person.

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

Help celebrate e-mobility during **Sustain-aVille Week**, returning **May 3 – 9**, with a full lineup of events celebrating sustainability and climate action in Somerville. Community members are invited to participate in an **E-Mobility Expo** to showcase their own electric rides – whether it's an e-bike, electric vehicle (EV), scooter, or some other electric transport. The expo will take place on **May 9** at the **Day Street Lot in Davis Square** (44 Day St.) from noon to 6 p.m.

This May, the **Union Square Neighborhood Council** is holding its bi-annual **election for the USNC board**. All members are invited to vote in the election, as well as run for a board seat. (If you have any questions about the USNC or what it means to be a member, please consult their website at: sites.google.com/view/usnc. The election will be held in person as follows: **Day 1: Saturday, May 17, 8 am – 12 p.m.**, **Argenziano School**, 290 Washington Street. **Day 2: Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.**, [TBA] Somerville.

Thinking about **running for local office**? Starting **May 5**, nomination papers for Mayor, Councilor at Large, Ward Councilor, and School Committee will be available to take out. To begin the process, make an appointment with the **Elections Department** to pick up your nomination papers. A separate appointment is required to return them. Appointments

are available **from May 5 through June 9**. Important deadlines: **June 9** at 5 p.m., last day to take out nomination papers. **June 11** at 5 p.m., deadline to submit completed papers to the **Board of Election Commissioners**. For more information, visit [somervillema.gov/elections](https://www.somervillema.gov/elections).

Attend a **School Committee Meeting**. Dates and times for school committee meetings are listed on the **SPS district website calendar**. Visit the **School Committee website** for information and find meeting details on the **City of Somerville Events page**: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/events/calendar>.

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off, Saturday, May 10: Next monthly **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day** at DPW, 1 Franey Rd., 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

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

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

SCES is teaming up with **City Fresh Foods** to offer a five-pack of frozen **home-delivered meals**. *Continued on page 21*

Somerville PorchFest returns

Somerville residents are once again readying their porches for a citywide day of homemade concerts for the city's annual Porchfest. Hosted by the City's Somerville Arts Council, PorchFest 2025 takes place on Saturday, May 10, from noon to 6 p.m., transforming porches and stoops across Somerville into mini music venues that showcase the city's incredible talent and creative spirit.

With just under 500 bands and musicians set to perform, participants can simply stroll from house to house to enjoy the open-air entertainment. There's something for everyone, with music styles ranging from electronic, indie, and punk to rock, pop, hip hop, classical, country, jazz, and more.

In the event of inclement weather, PorchFest will be held on Sunday, May 11. New safety initiatives this year include the option to sign up for safety alerts. And as always, visitors are encouraged to keep the event courteous, safe, and to leave to no trace.

Event Schedule

PorchFest takes place in three city zones in 2-hour time blocks, traveling from west to east:

12–2 p.m. West – performances west of Willow Ave.

2–4 p.m. Central – performances in central area of city from Central St. to Willow Ave.

4–6 p.m. East – performances east of Central St.

PorchFest 2025 Resources

Performance Map: <https://somer-villeartscouncil.org/porchfest/porch-fest-map/>

Participating Bands: <https://somer-villeartscouncil.org/porchfest/porch-fest-listing/>

Help keep PorchFest safe and fun for all (including neighbors not participating):

Be considerate to porch hosts, neighbors, and residents.

Avoid loitering on non-PorchFest yards or driveways.

Plan travel in advance, take public transport to lessen traffic/parking congestion.

Use sidewalks, not streets, so cars can pass.

Take advantage of the porta-johns installed for Porchfest if nature calls.

Leave no trace. Dispose of trash in public or host trash cans – or be prepared pack it out.

Safety and Event Updates for 2025: New this year, Sign up for event safety alerts

Sign up for Event Safety Alerts:

Text SOMPORCHFEST to 888777 to receive day-of emergency text alerts. This new service is only for event-related emergency information such as a severe weather or safety alert.

Emergency Team:

A coordinated team will be on hand to



Porchfest returns to porches and driveways across the city on Saturday, May 10.

— Photo courtesy of Melodymatters

monitor and respond to safety concerns. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) will be stationed outside City Hall. The MEOC will be staffed by the Somerville Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, 311, Emergency Management, Communications, and the Arts Council, as well as state emergency staff.

PorchFest Ambassadors:

Ambassadors will be located at key hubs — including Davis Square's Statue Park, Cedar St. and the bike path, and Union Square Plaza — to provide information and assist attendees.

Concert Badges:

Official participants will have a PorchFest Porch Badge displayed at their locations to guide you to approved locations.

For all event information, visit: <https://somer-villeartscouncil.org/porchfest/>

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 9

Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson – New England Pool and Billiards Champ, Billiards Congress of America and Hall of Fame Inductee in 1999.

John Taylor – Owned and named the Boston Red Sox.

Charles Taylor – John Taylor's father and Somerville Alderman. He owned the *Boston Globe*, the Boston Red Sox and built Fenway Park.

Bobby Boris Pickett – Singer-songwriter of *The Monster Mash* and Captain of Somerville High School's Basketball team.

Olympia Dukakis – Actress and New England Women's Fencing Champ for three years in a row.

Howard "Howie" Long – Born in Somerville on January 6, 1960. Attended Milford High School (shot-put and football); Villanova University (boxing and football); professional football (Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders); National Football League Hall of Fame and sports analyst.

Anthony "Tony" Lavelli, Jr. – Somerville

High School and The College of the Holy Cross (basketball); Boston Celtics (player and musician) and a memorial to him at Conway Park.

Paul Wylie – Silver Medalist in Figure Skating at the 1992 Olympics. Huge banners adorned the Union Square Post Office proclaiming Teele Square as "Paul Wylie Square" for over a year.

Daniel "Danny" MacFayden – "Spectacled" (with his horn-rimmed glasses) baseball pitcher for both the Red Sox and the Yankees. Once struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig back to back.

Erin Warren – A member of the 1994 U.S. Olympic Luge team and was eliminated in an accident during one of her runs. She placed 6th in the 1998 Olympic competition.


John Nunziato – Honored three-sport athlete at Somerville High School and Boston University. He replaced the celebrated Harry Agganis, as quarterback at BU. Somerville High School football coach from 1958 to 1970 and led his



team to a Greater Boston League Title. Union Square's Nunziato Field is named after him.

It's been a long road. From backyard

peach-basket basketball and dusty fields, to over sixty beautiful parks of various types now embracing the city, Somerville has rewarded its athletes ... Proudly!



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

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

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

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

M.O.M.'s Run 5k: May 11


The Somerville Road Runners and the Pilotte Family will be hosting the 19th M.O.M.'s Run 5k on May 1 at the Dilboy VFW. In 2024, the race donated close to \$19,000 to charities, including Dana Farber and the American Cancer Society.

In addition to the 5k, participants will be a part of a great post-race party with food from many local businesses, including sponsors American Flatbread Pizza, The Burren, Redbones, Wegmans, and Harpoon.

Nellie's Wildflowers will again provide bouquets for the winners and carnations for every mom finishing the race! We are also fortunate to have Republic Gym and Picky Bars sponsor the event. We are all excited for this community event to happen for another year.

The race will start at 10 a.m. from the Dilboy VFW on Summer Street in Davis Square. Summer Street between Cutter Ave and Willow Ave will be closed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to accommodate the event, and during the race there will be rolling road closures to ensure the safety of all those involved. For more information about the event or to register, visit: <https://www.srr.org/moms-run>.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why was the mother firefly so happy?
Because her children were all so bright.

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



The light before the storm... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

May 7

0558 – The dome of the church of St. Sophia in Constantinople collapses.

1429 – Joan of Arc breaks the English siege of Orleans.

1525 – The German peasants' revolt is crushed by the ruling class and church.

1763 – Indian chief Pontiac begins his attack on a British fort in present-day Detroit.

1800 – Congress divides the Northwest Territory into two parts. The western part becomes the Indiana Territory and the eastern section the Northwest Territory.

1824 – Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" premieres in Vienna.

1847 – The American Medical Association is formed in Philadelphia.

1877 – Indian chief Sitting Bull enters Canada after the Battle of Little Bighorn.

1915 – The German submarine U-20 torpedoes the passenger ship Lusitania.

1942 – In the Battle of the Coral Sea, Japanese and American navies attack each other with carrier-launched warplanes.

1945 – Germany signs an unconditional surrender, ending World War II in Europe.

1960 – Leonid Brezhnev becomes president of the Soviet Union.

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Are there any simple budgeting tools that can have a big impact?

A: Yes– bartering!
Thanks to today’s technology, bartering has made a comeback through platforms like Buy Nothing and TrustedHouse-sitters. These services let you exchange goods or skills without spending money – helping you meet real needs while keeping expenses low.

Bartering can be a smart, flexible tool for anyone looking to save.

- Here’s why it works:**
- Cuts costs while still giving you access to valuable goods or services
 - Connects you with your community through local exchanges
 - Reduces waste and promotes reuse
 - Offers real savings – like free pet care or

travel lodging

- Makes budgeting more flexible, especially for families or small businesses

A quick word of caution:

- Always prioritize safety– use trusted platforms, communicate clearly, and check reviews

Bartering isn’t outdated– it’s a modern money-saving strategy with real benefits.

Any questions? I’d be happy to help.
I’m Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vhicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

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



Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 16

“I filed [the bill] to make it easier for patients, providers and advocates to understand what rights and coverage apply to a given health insurance plan,” said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). “Right now, it’s often unclear whether a plan is subject to Massachusetts law - which can mean the difference between getting essential health services covered or not. This bill would add a simple line to insurance cards to clarify that distinction, following the lead of at least a dozen other states, including Connecticut and New York.”

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE COMMITTEE HEARING
– The Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure held a hearing on several pieces of legislation including:

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 28-May 2, the House met for a total of 25 hours and 11 minutes while the Senate met for a total of three hours and 47 minutes.

Mon. April 28	House 11:05 a.m. to 8:22 p.m. Senate 11:19 a.m. to 1:59 p.m.
Tues. April 29	House 11:01 a.m. to 8:42 p.m. No Senate session.
Wed. April 30	House 11:01 a.m. to 5:10 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. May 1	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:04 a.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 12:17 p.m.
Fri. May 2	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Newstalk

CONT. FROM PG 19

This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.

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

Having trouble signing up? You can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311) for assistance.

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

ment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. For additional information or for an application, please contact **Debby Higgins** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

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



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Good Grief: Poet Steven Ratiner dances with 'Grief' in his new collection of poetry

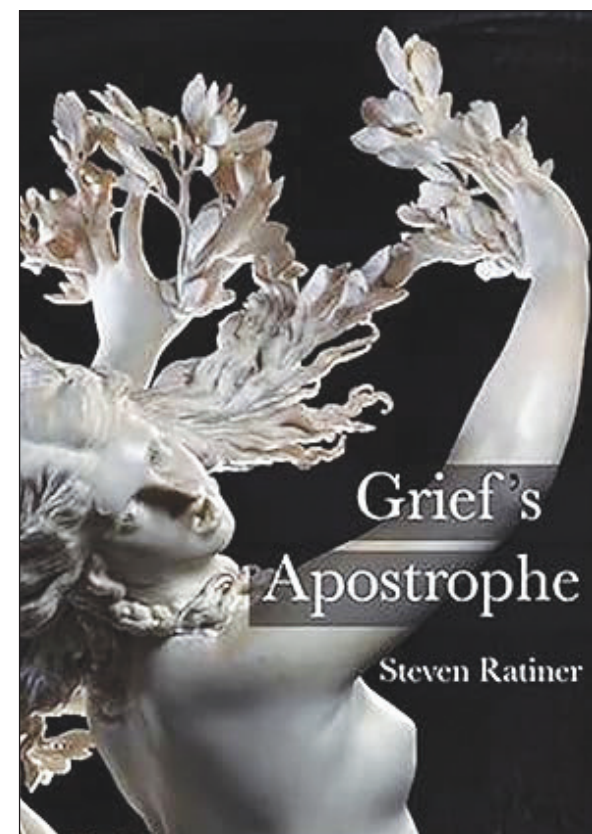
Interview conducted by Doug Holder

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the New England Poetry Club, so I was pleased to find out that our president Steve Ratiner has a new collection of poetry out titled *Grief's Apostrophe* (Beltway Editions 2025). I caught up with a very busy Ratiner, and he graciously agreed to answer my questions about his new book, etc.

The noted poet Martha Collins writes of Ratiner's collection: "In this heartbreakingly beautiful book, Steven Ratiner constructs a seamless fabric of grief, weaving threads of memory, keen observation of the natural world, variations on religious tradition, and an active awareness of language. Among the book's smaller pleasures are complex metaphors, varied syntax, and constant attention to the word: the poet is "marred by, married to this compulsive/ language and cannot shut it (shout it) out even in this house of silence." Which is fortunate for us who follow him as he moves from the personal before of witnessing illness and dementia, through a spiritually -deepened and globally-expanded exploration of death itself, to an after that finds solace in "love's continuance, grief's temporary reprieve," as well as the more permanent gift of art. Steven Ratiner has been championing other poets for many years. This gorgeous collection of his own fine work is long overdue."

Doug Holder: Why write about grief? Don't we have enough of that these days? Is there a sort of ugly/beauty about it?

Steve Ratiner: Well, I agree that grief is one of the dominant emotional notes of our time. Personal grief, societal grief. There is a pervasive fear about the well-being of the planet, the endurance of our democracy, the vitality and diversity of our culture. But that, to my mind, is not a reason to avoid writing about it; perhaps that's a justification for focusing on that subject, because grieving is one of the central experiences of being human. One of the defining characteristics of being human: from infancy, we want, and then we have; and soon we learn to love what we have, even as the knowledge grows within us that eventually we have to let go of what all that fills our days. That sense of loss needs to be documented, shared, and perhaps even celebrated – and I think poetry is one of the important experiences where that can take place. I might disagree with you, though – I wouldn't call it "an ugly beauty." I think of it as possessing the dignity of the human experience. I think I tend to subscribe to what the poet Rilke said in describing Rodan's sculpture, some of which



were called "ugly" at the time. I'm paraphrasing, but the poet wrote that 'something that is true is beautiful, no matter how ugly it might appear to the eye; and something that is false is ugly, no matter how beautiful it might appear to the eye.' So my hope for the poems in my new collection is that they possess some truth about them, and I trust that will create an experience that is, at the very least, illuminating – and perhaps, at times, they are even beautiful.

DH: I have always written about food. I find it profound and evocative. And indeed, in your book food ain't chopped liver. I was reading a striking few lines in a poem where you bring a pastrami sandwich to the high holy. Can you talk a bit about this?

SR: Yes, indeed the poem you're talking about is called *Clockwork*. It's the opening poem in the first section of the book, and it's one of my favorites. It's largely written about my father, who died when I was very young, at age eight, though the other vignette you mention occurred with my stepfather Jack. The majority of the poems in the collection have autobiographical elements about them, but they are also woven through with the experiences of family members and friends. I think I've created a broader sense of we by doing this, and the speaker's experience becomes more encompassing. Because I was a child, looking back I regret that I was unable to offer much help to him as he faced the most challenging moment of his life: slowly the letting go of

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Keith Tornheim, a biochemistry professor at Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine, has six recent books, *The Sacrifice of Isaac*; *I Am Lilith*, *Dancer on the Wind*; *Spirit Boat: Poems of Crossing Over*; *Can You Say Kaddish for the Living?*; *Fireflies*; *Spoiled Fruit: Adam and Eve in Eden and Beyond*. His poems have appeared in *Ibbetson Street*, *The Somerville Times*, *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Muddy River Poetry Review* and *Poetica*.



Canine Communications

A human and his shepherd,
German or otherwise,
proceeded slowly up the sidewalk,
the one having to pause and stand around
while the other lifted a leg
to water that bush or that pole,
even a fire hydrant.
Another pair came running
up the other side of the street,
and that dog barked a greeting:
"My human's in a hurry,
I can't stop now for a sniff and chat.
So further up the block at the next tree,
pmail me."

— Keith Tornheim

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

Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 22

the world. Like most children, I was largely oblivious to what was taking place. So here, in this poem, I get to create an imagined world where, as an adult, I am rushing back home to be with my father. Through a series of small vignettes, you follow the speaker heading home, and all of time seems to play into that journey. In the section that you've mentioned, the hospice nurse comes to visit him and asks him what he desires. This experience was one I actually witnessed with my stepfather, Jack. And he jokingly replied: I'd like a hot pastrami sandwich on rye. But the next day, the nurse appeared with a hot pastrami sandwich. Since he had stomach cancer, he could not eat anything whatsoever, he was only getting nutrition intravenously. But she said no, it's not to eat: smell it, chew a bite, and then spit it out in my hand. He did just that, and you could see the tremendous pleasure it gave him. Witnessing this as a young man, I thought it was one of the most generous human acts I've ever seen. So, indeed, food has an important place in that poem, as well as others. If you'll remember, there's another poem about my mother visiting me, and I describe making corn muffins and coffee, so we could spend the afternoon talking. Food, eating and drinking together – these simple pleasures of life – these often end up being some of the most memorable times. It's not only those grand moments that earn a place in poetry.

DH: In your poem *Ballroom Dancing with the Bestial Dark*, the metaphor of dancing with death, and as you put it "I am not death's wallflower," is very striking. The dance isn't a foxtrot, is it? It seems something so visceral, I mean this is not going gently into the night ... here you rage, rage, rage!

SR: You're right to be thinking of that poem by Dylan Thomas – "do not go gentle into that good night." *Ballroom Dancing...* is a poem at the end of the first section of my book. This collection is divided into three sections, something like three musical movements. The first one centers largely on personal loss; the second one broadens out into familial, communal, societal grief; and the third one explores an attempt to metabolize our grief, to repair our wounds, to transform our emotions into some new experience which can allow us to continue growing. And often these attempts at healing involve writing and art-making, or at least the appreciation of the arts. *Ballroom Dancing...* is the very last poem in section 1, and it's an attempt at using metaphor to alter my understanding about death and loss. I imagine it here as a dance, an intimate interaction. I am no longer looking at death as a monster, as the young boy certainly did. I am older now and no longer being that "wallflower," observing from a safe distance. I'm finally willing to embrace its actuality, to participate in the way it is a continual presence as we age, to understand it on new term, perhaps to even find that beauty which we spoke of earlier. We are mortal; we have to surrender to small and great sacrifices, and still we seek to value our living experience, to perhaps cherish it all the more by knowing it to be fleeting.

DH: Your Jewish background is very evident in the collection. Would you ever call yourself a Jewish poet?

SR: No, I don't think I would call myself a "Jewish poet" only because, to my mind, I didn't have a really good religious education when I was young. I think of myself as a secular Jew, and certainly embrace my history and traditions. But I suffered a break with my religion, with



my childlike conception of God, an abruption triggered by my dad's death. It forced me to challenge so much of what I was being taught, the underlying belief system. But clearly the culture and history have stayed with me and do inform some of what appears in my poetry, especially throughout this collection. I think in these poems you see a man wrestling with his early world-view, testing what still feels valuable and what must be jettisoned or transformed. These are questions we all ask from time to time: What do we know? What do we believe? When life really challenges us, where do we find steady ground beneath our feet? And most importantly, how can this understanding help me to accomplish what feels most important to me in my life. I want to savor, to value so many experiences that my father was denied, dying as so young a man.

DH: Now that you are the President of the New England Poetry Club, how do you find time to write?

SR: I had something of a warning from a previous New England Poetry Club president. She felt a bit overwhelmed by the responsibilities and found that she did not write very much for the two years she assumed that leadership position. In fact, it made me hesitant at first to accept this position for that reason, because writing is integral to my day-to-day experience. I write many times each week and, in fact, if I go more than a day or two without writing, I feel very antsy, to say the least. So, I made a promise to myself that I was not going to surrender all of that writing time. And, as it turns out, it's not yet dampened my writing spirit. In some ways, maybe it's even amplified it, because I so appreciate whenever I have an hour to just read, revise, and perhaps write. There's a good deal of time where I'm attempting to do things to help the club and our members, but also poets more broadly, and the place poetry has in our communal life. I think it's important to remind people that especially now, in these really challenging times that we're facing, we've always found in poetry in art a place of refuge, a place to be fortified against difficulty, to develop new vision that might enlarge how we see the world, and as an occasion to simply not feel alone. So, I do think this is an essential mission, for NEPC and the arts in general. But still, it is my responsibility to carve out times in in each day for my own work. I tend to launch into writing

first thing in the morning, and often very late at night. But I've developed a discipline for the last 60-some odd years: when the first spark of the poem hits, that first phrase or image announcing itself in my mind, no matter what I'm doing or where I am, I take out my pocket notebook, and I'm going to follow where that poem leads. Many times, it won't turn out to be a strong poem, but you never know. So, when it calls, I respond, no excuses. So, I'm aiming at a balance, though I would not say I've achieved that as of yet. There are many weeks when I still feel overwhelmed, between the *Red Letter* project, which you know about, my poetry blasts that go out to a few thousand readers, featuring a new poets from all across the country, coupled with a brief commentary. And now my work to promote my new book and a brand new website, and of course the diverse projects working with the New England Poetry Club. It's typically a packed week, and I hope that, as time goes on, maybe I'll feel I've achieved a little better balance.

DH: Why should we read your book?

SR: It's hard for a poet to make that claim because, clearly, in its first manifestation, the poems of this book are an essential experience for the man with the pen in hand. But one of the reasons poets do what we do is because we feel our work may offer pleasure, perhaps insight, even to strangers. I do believe this this book has value for others because I have felt the enthusiastic reaction from audiences at readings. I feel that, in many ways, I'm voicing experiences, concerns, visions that many of us likely share. I'm speaking out loud things that, sometimes in our society, are allowed to go unspoken. There is almost a taboo about sharing our grief, but also our great joy, as if this is reserved only for a few intimate relationships. I don't think that makes for a particularly healthy world. My poems may be carving out a clearing in the busy work week, within the crowded thoughts of these tumultuous days, a clearing where we can stop and feel, even for a few moments, what is most essential in our personal, our family, our community lives. This is most certainly a book that accomplished that for me personally, but I have a hope that, for readers, for my community, others will find pleasure, surprise, and even solace in these poems. At least that that's my deepest hope.

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