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## Somerville extends business hours for World Cup



At Large Councilor Will Mbah and Mayor Jake Wilson get ready for the World Cup. — Photo courtesy of City of Somerville.

Don't want to miss a second of the World Cup action? Head to Somerville, where the city is making it easier for local bars, cafés, restaurants, and other establishments to screen matches for the duration of the tournament. While the pros face off on-screen, all are also invited to lace up their cleats and join SomerCup 2026, the city's first-ever community soccer tournament.

"There's always a hum of energy in the air in Somerville during the World Cup, and with the tournament taking place so close to home, that excitement is only going to grow. We want to make sure our local businesses and community are a part of it," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "By making it easier to request extended operating hours, we're helping create more places for people to gather, cheer, commiserate, and enjoy the tournament together. *Continued on page 4*

## Somerville kicks off Pride Month with flag-raising ceremony

By Sean Perry

Somerville celebrated the start of Pride Month last Thursday with the annual Pride flag-raising ceremony. Mayor Wilson, Somerville students, and Somerville's LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator, Izzy Starr, spoke to the city's LGBTQ+ community, sharing messages of hope and resilience outside of City Hall.

Mayor Wilson spoke on the ongoing oppression faced by members of the LGBTQ+ community. "GLADD described last year as the most dangerous on record for the LGBTQIA+ community. This year alone, the ACLU is already tracking 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills across the country. Nearly 50 anti-trans bills have already passed," he explained. "That kind of hostility has a weight that settles."

"How can we look at what's *Continued on page 4*



Somerville's annual Pride flag-raising ceremony took place on Thursday, June 4, at the City Hall Concourse. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

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Due to the weather forecast last weekend, **SomerStreets: Carnival** was moved to the June 14 rain date. The festival will take place on **Sunday, June 14**, from 2–6 p.m. and will once again transform Broadway into a vibrant, walkable celebration of community and culture. The festival will stretch along Broadway, from McGrath Highway to Pennsylvania Avenue, creating a welcoming space for everyone to enjoy. <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/carnaval2026>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Taste of Somerville**, one of the region's signature community food festivals, returns on **Wednesday, June 10**, bringing together more than 50 restaurants, breweries, bakeries, beverage makers, and local food businesses for an evening celebrating Somerville's food scene. Taste of Somerville 2026, featuring 50+ restaurants, breweries, bakeries, beverage makers, and local food businesses. 5 – 8 p.m., **Boynton Yards**, Somerville. For more information and tickets, visit [www.tasteofsomerville.org](http://www.tasteofsomerville.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to **Steve Mirabella**. We wish him many more. Happy birthday to **Linda Spinosa**, who celebrates this week. We hope she enjoys her day. Happy birthday to former Somerville resident **Gail Chambers**, who is celebrating this week as well. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to one of our former writers, **Jack Nicas**. We hope he is doing well, and we wish him the best *Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 10 – June 16 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> June 10	Cloudy	86°/66°	5%	2%	SW 16 mph
<b>Thursday</b> June 11	Rain	88°/69°	41%	31%	WSW 10 mph
<b>Friday</b> June 12	Partly Cloudy	84°/65°	19%	9%	NE 8 mph
<b>Saturday</b> June 13	Rain	88°/64°	45%	36%	WNW 10 mph
<b>Sunday</b> June 14	Partly Cloudy	88°/63°	12%	2%	WSW 12 mph
<b>Monday</b> June 15	Cloudy	80°/61°	22%	13%	SW 10 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> June 2	Cloudy	77°/60°	23%	13%	ESE 10 mph

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

## MAPC awards scholarship to Somerville High student

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has just awarded a scholarship to Somerville High student Chahat Kalia. I've attached a photo of her receiving the award. <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/planning-our-communities-scholarship/>.

Kalia received the Planning Our Communities: Reimagining the Region Scholarship, created to support the next generation of planners advancing MAPC's mission to create a region that is equitable, sustainable, collaborative, and climate-resilient.

Chahat Kalia is a senior at Somerville High School who will be attending Columbia University in New York in the fall. Kalia is a founder and facilitator for Somerville Public School Climate Clubs, has served as a council member on the Governor's Youth Climate Council, and has pursued multiple opportunities in climate work locally and state-wide.

The \$1,000 scholarship goes to graduating high school seniors from a secondary school in any of the 101 cities and towns in the Greater Boston region who are committed to advancing a more equitable, sustainable, collaborative, and climate-friendly region through studies in any of the following fields: Climate; Community Engagement; Community, Housing, and Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Geographic Information System (GIS) and Spatial Analysis; Inclusive Mobility and Transportation; Municipal Governance; Planning; Public Health, Public Policy; Sustainable Development and Preservation.

From left to right in the photo is Lizzi Weyany, executive director of MAPC, Chahat Kalia, and Erin Wortman, president of MAPC.



## The Somerville Times

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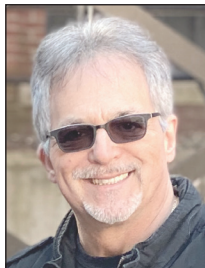


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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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.

# All that and a bag of chips!



It's summer in Somerville. The year is 1969. Most of my friends are around 16. One or two of the older kids already have their licenses, so four or five lucky kids at a time went off in their dads' car for the night. The rest of us were left to hang

around on the corner of Kidder Ave. and Bay State Ave.

There were usually at least 15-20 boys and girls leaning up against the fence or sitting on the curb. That's where we met and spent a lot of time. We were listening to Creedence Clearwater Revival, The Beatles, and Led Zeppelin. Our hair was getting long, and we wore bell-bottom dungarees. Yes, dungarees, not jeans. We also wore army surplus jackets and desert boots from Thom McAn. There were no laptops, no Netflix, no cell phones. If idle hands were the hands of the devil, then we were Satan's devious little workers.

Hanging out on the corner and smoking cigarettes, singing under the streetlight, and goofing around were what we did almost every night. Almost!

One Sunday morning, my mom and dad drove by after church, and I had to hide a lit cigarette in my pocket for a whole minute. My pocket briefly caught fire, but I didn't get "bagged."

We had creative activities to keep us one

step ahead of boredom and the cops. They would disperse us from the corner every hour or so, but we'd always return.

One of my pals created a game called "running over the roofs of parked cars." He would jump from one parked car to another, running up the trunk, onto the roof, then down the hood to the next car. It was purely reckless, idiotic, and destructive. But after a few Budweisers, it was quite the athletic event. One day, you guessed it, one of the cars was a convertible! It took three of us to pull him out of the car after he plunged through the ragtop. I hope that guy had insurance. It may be a little too late, but sorry, pal!

Another dumb game we played was going "sign banging." We'd run from stop sign to stop sign, banging it with a stick or, preferably, a baseball bat. Dumb, but fun and very noisy and annoying. Those poor neighbors.

One of the most creative, messy, enjoyable, and crazy things we did was "the Great Potato Chip Incident." My friends'



mother used to buy in bulk before it was fashionable to buy in bulk. Fast forward to four very bored teenagers on a warm July afternoon. My buddy comes out of his house with four huge bags of Lays potato chips. We ate our fill out of one bag and emptied the other three *Continued on page 9*



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## Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q:** Earlier this year, I received a large refund on my 2025 tax return. Is that a good thing?

**A:** A refund is generally better than facing a large tax bill, but a large refund is not the ideal outcome either.

In most cases, the goal is to avoid both extremes and have your tax payments come as close as possible to your actual tax liability.

Here's why:

• **Your refund is based on payments made during the year.**

Taxes are often paid throughout the year through paycheck withholding and esti-

mated tax payments. When those payments exceed the actual tax shown on your return, the difference is refunded.

• **A large refund means your tax payments during the year exceeded your actual tax liability.**

In other words, you paid more tax during the year than was ultimately required based on your tax return.

• **Tax law changes can affect refunds.**

For some taxpayers, provisions of the OBBBA reduced their 2025 tax liability, which may have contributed to larger refunds when their returns were filed.

• **The goal is usually to be reasonably close.**

Most taxpayers are best served by avoiding

both a large refund and a large balance due. The closer your payments are to your actual tax liability, the more control you have over your cash flow during the year.

**Bottom Line:**

If you received a large refund for 2025 and your income, family situation, and deductions have not changed significantly, it may be worth reviewing your withholding or estimated tax payments. A modest adjustment could increase your take-home pay throughout the year while still helping you avoid an unpleasant surprise at tax time.

**Any questions?** I'm Vincent Hicks, a CPA based in the Cambridge-Somerville area. Reach out at [vincent@hickscpasolutions.com](mailto:vincent@hickscpasolutions.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.*

## Somerville extends business hours for World Cup

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At the same time, SomerCup will bring neighbors on the field for some fun, friendly competition. No matter who you're rooting for, you'll be able to find your fellow fans in Somerville. As a huge fan of the beautiful game, I can't wait for this."

"Growing up in Cameroon, the World Cup was more than a tournament. It was a source of pride, joy, and national unity," said Councilor-At-Large Will Mbah. "Today, as an elected official, I see those same values reflected in our communities – people from every background coming together around a common purpose."

For information and future updates

about more World Cup events and watch parties in Somerville, visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/worldcup>. There, you can sign up for extra hours as a business, watch locally, or join the SomerCup games.

### SomerCup 2026

Hit the pitch this season and play with your neighbors in Somerville's community tournament for kids and adults. SomerCup is co-hosted by Somerville Recreation and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs. Games will take place in July at Dilboy Stadium (110 Alewife Brook Parkway). Sign up for yourself or build a team of neighbors, colleagues, and friends. The schedule is as follows. Be sure to register yourself or your team in advance of the

June 26 deadline:

Sunday, July 12, 12 to 5 p.m.: Kindergarten to Grade 4

Monday, July 13, 5 to 10 p.m.: Adults (ages 18 and up)

Friday, July 17, 1:30 to 5 p.m.: Grades 5 to 8 and 9 to 12

Players of all skill levels are welcome to participate. Register individually or as a team (8 to 10 players) now through Friday, June 26, at [bit.ly/somercup](http://bit.ly/somercup).

### Score Extra Time at Somerville Small Businesses to Watch Local

Between June 11 and July 19, 2026, currently licensed Somerville bars, cafes, and restaurants will be allowed extended operating hours. This approval is being given to

allow bars and restaurants to operate from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m., with alcohol service from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m., to accommodate patrons before and after games. Businesses may only serve alcohol if they already hold the required license.

Requests from businesses to extend operating hours must be submitted at least 24 hours in advance through the online form ([bit.ly/4o2sXuX](http://bit.ly/4o2sXuX)). There is no limit on the number of dates that can be requested. Once your watch party plans are confirmed, submit them online ([bit.ly/4x4NOBQ](http://bit.ly/4x4NOBQ)).

Check [somervillema.gov/worldcup](http://somervillema.gov/worldcup) regularly for updates on local watch parties.

— City of Somerville

## Somerville kicks off Pride Month with flag-raising ceremony

CONT. FROM PG 1

happening across this country and decide this fight has somehow become too complicated, too uncomfortable, or too politically inconvenient to engage in? How dare we say this is too hard right here in front of us as a community without the luxury of easy struggles?" Wilson said.

He went on to explain the power of government in relation to fighting the oppression of the LGBTQ+ community. "That kind of strength deserves institutions willing to stand by you when things get difficult. It deserves government willing to do more than issue statements once a year and then disappear when it gets uncomfortable," he explained. "And as mayor, I think that responsibility is serious."

Students from Somerville schools also spoke about the importance of Pride and supporting LGBTQ+ individuals.

"People should not be discriminated

against or pressured just because of who they are or who they love. Everybody should feel safe and welcome to be who they are and love who they love," said Lola, a Somerville student.

Starr mirrored Mayor Wilson's sentiments regarding the government's role in queer advocacy. "We want you to know that we know how bad it gets. While we can't single-handedly fix the federal government, we are dedicated to making the city of Somerville safer and more resourced," they explained.

"As the mayor said, it is necessary for people in positions of power to step up and shoulder the burden of the LGBTQIA+ community," they declared.

Starr reflected on the history of the LGBTQ+ community in America, explaining that "While our community has had many traumas and losses, we have also



— Photo by Sean Perry

dreamed and collaborated and fought for our rights.

"We are all here together. And it's imperative that we keep showing up with and for each other," they said.

Starr ended their speech on a hopeful note, reminding listeners to keep reaching out to the city. "Please share your ideas with LGBTQ+ Services, with the mayor's

office, with your teachers, and with your city officials. Your voices deserve to be heard, so please reach out. Your advocacy is a future part of what makes Somerville such an amazing place," they said.

One by one, Somerville students took turns raising the flag, bringing the ceremony to a close, and Pride Month to a triumphant start.

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# Mayor Wilson presents FY27 budget

Mayor Jake Wilson today presented the City of Somerville's proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget, a \$394 million spending plan built to deliver results, strengthen core services, and uphold the city's values through action.

"This budget was built for a difficult year and a strong future," said Mayor Wilson. "We faced real constraints and made tough decisions, but we stayed focused on what residents need from us: strong schools, reliable city services, safer streets, and more affordable housing. The result is a responsible, forward-looking plan that keeps Somerville moving forward and delivers for our community."

## Addressing a \$5.4 million shortfall

Like many municipalities across the Commonwealth and nation, Somerville entered FY27 facing a difficult budget year. The city began its process with a \$5.4 million shortfall driven by rising fixed costs, broader economic pressures, and slowing new growth revenue. Rather than rely on short-term fixes, the administration made structural changes aimed at building long-term financial stability.

To close the gap, the city pursued new revenue sources, applied stabilization funds to strategically reduce long-term debt obligations, and reduced non-personnel operating budgets by approximately five percent citywide. The city also reorganized select departments to streamline operations and took the difficult step of making a limited number of staffing reductions when all other options had been exhausted.

The proposed budget totals \$394,172,946 in personnel and operating expenses, investments, and obligations, representing a 3.3% increase over the prior year – consistent with a slightly below level-service budget adjusted for rising costs but without major new investments. Through reorganization of staffing and divisions and creative approaches, the budget delivers new initiatives without new costs.

## Strengthening core city services

Strong core services are the foundation of local government, and Somerville's FY27 budget reflects that, including this sampling of service investments:

- Continued and improved investment in capital projects, including municipal buildings and street and road maintenance
- Maintaining strong investment in rodent control, including increased use of Burrow RX to address hard-to-reach infestations and full implementation of humane rodent traps across city and

## School buildings

• A focus on shifting contracted work in-house, including Department of Public Works "in-sourcing" for sidewalk and ADA ramp repair and plumbing and electrical projects

• Care and maintenance of Somerville's more than 15,000 street and park trees

• New emergency response technology that will coordinate "green waves" of traffic signals along fire and EMS routes, reducing response times

• An overhaul of permitting systems to simplify and improve the process for local businesses, builders, and contractors, as well as homeowners

• Continued investment in 311 and constituent service systems to help residents get answers, report issues, and connect with city services 24/7

• Targeted website improvements supported by a state grant to better serve the more than 1.1 million annual visits to [somervillema.gov](http://somervillema.gov)

## Record investment in Somerville Public Schools

Even in a challenging budget year, Somerville is making the single-largest dollar investment increase in Somerville Public Schools in the history of the district – a commitment to students that stands in sharp contrast to the cuts happening in school districts across the state and nation.

The city budget also includes the maintenance of numerous youth and family investments from social services and recreation programs to a dedicated space for teen programs at the TAB. The \$122.5 million school budget, which fully funds the district's proposal, includes:

- Five new special education teachers
- Multiple new instructional coaches and math interventionists
- An additional \$600,000 investment in substitute staffing to ensure consistent classroom instruction

• The first substantial increase in years to the district's equity funding formula, directing funds to the schools that need them most

• Expansion of the Working on Womanhood program, which delivers positive impacts on young women's lives

• Free MBTA passes for all Somerville students in grades 7 through 12, year-round, including summer

"At a time when school budgets are being slashed across this state and this country, Somerville is going in the other direction," said Mayor Wilson. "These are commitments to families and youth who trust us

to get this right."

## Advancing community priorities

Even in a challenging fiscal year, Somerville's budget reflects the administration's commitment to turning community priorities into action, including:

• **Housing Justice and Legal Protections:** In response to the housing affordability crisis, the budget continues investments in city teams that are aggressively advancing leading-edge affordable housing creation projects, including Clarendon Hill Phase II, 299 Broadway, 24 Webster, and more. The city will also be positioned to generate the next wave of housing projects in the pipeline, delivering housing stability supports, tenant legal supports, and innovating new solutions to tackle displacement. Likewise, Somerville will continue to invest in strong immigrant services, including legal support, so residents know their rights and can better navigate an increasingly hostile immigration system.

• **Co-Response and Civilian Oversight:** The budget funds the first tangible results of the Public Safety for All initiative, including the launch of a co-response pilot program that places trained clinicians alongside first responders to better support residents in mental health crises, positioning the city for future expansion of this program. The budget also introduces a new position to launch – and run – a body tasked with police oversight and accountability.

• **Language Access and Equity:** Existing staff will form a new Language and Communications Access Office to strengthen services for residents across language and cognitive needs. The city's Racial and Social Justice Department will move from planning to direct action under a new name, Equity and Belonging, with a mission that will widen to include equity practices and training across all city departments and integrate community belonging into all aspects of city work.

• **Neighborhood Services:** A new Engagement and Neighborhood Services division formed with current equity and outreach staff will build on and force-multiply the already strong neighborhood outreach to residents and small businesses by city teams, including in the Somerville Office of Immigrant Advancement, the Economic Development Division, and Communications. Think mobile City Hall, delivering information, engagement, and services to the places where people gather.

• **Planning and Climate:** The Planning Department will advance the long-awaited



ed Davis Square Plan and a permitting overhaul to better serve residents and local businesses. The Office of Sustainability and Environment will continue climate action work, including green building upgrades, a new grant-funded youth climate leadership program, and advocacy to expand the state's fossil fuel-free building demonstration program.

## A fiscally sound path forward

Despite a challenging economy, Somerville's overall financial foundation remains stable—the product of years of careful fiscal management. Cost-cutting and structural changes made in this budget are intended to build long-term stability rather than defer difficult decisions to future years.

"This was not an easy budget, but it is a responsible one," said Mayor Wilson. "We protected core services, invested in our schools, and kept Somerville moving forward, while planning thoughtfully for our future."

The proposed FY27 budget will now move to the City Council for deliberation and public review.

Budget Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 10, 6 p.m.

The Budget Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 10, during the Finance Committee's virtual public hearing at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

To join the Public Hearing, visit [somervillema.legistar.com/calendar](http://somervillema.legistar.com/calendar) and select the Zoom link under 'Finance Committee.'

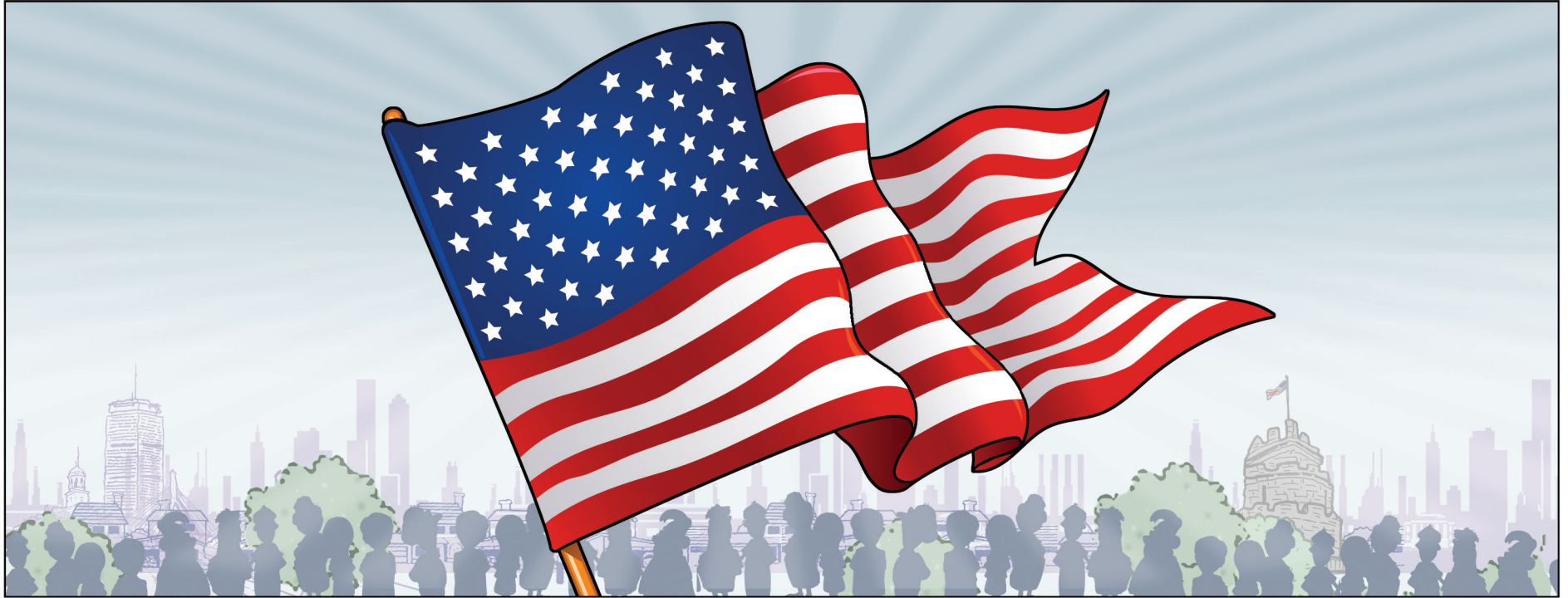
If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing but wish to be heard, submit public comments to the City Clerk at 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 or by email to [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov). Public comments must arrive no later than 4 p.m. on June 10.

For more information and to view the budget, visit [somervillema.gov/budget](http://somervillema.gov/budget). The video of the FY27 City Budget Submission presentation will be posted to [youtube.com/somervillecitytv](https://youtube.com/somervillecitytv) on Friday, June 5, and re-cablecast on [somervillema.gov/CityTV](http://somervillema.gov/CityTV).

# COMMENTARY

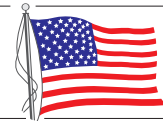
## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Remembering the national flag's special day.

### Our View Of The Times



Alongside all the hubbub and hurrah of military parades and the sweetness of familial love that Father's Day can bring, another special event should not be forgotten this time of year.

Flag Day is not an official federal or state holiday, but June 14 is the date designated by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson back in 1916 as a day to officially honor the stars and stripes that we sol-

emnly revere today. President Harry S. Truman signed a Congressional act into law in 1949 recommending a voluntary observance of Flag Week. As every year, Flag Week falls on June 8-14.

Of course, as most locals know, the Colonial Army led by General George Washington was formed on January 1, 1776, and its first flag, the Grand Union

Flag, was raised on Prospect Hill in what was then Charlestown, and is now part of Somerville.

Therefore, we can take pride in this special aspect of our civic heritage. As it is with so many other historic events and traditions born in this part of the country, the birth of our nation's colors can be added to the sprawling list of firsts established by our forebears.

While some place more importance on this occasion than others, it is an indisputable fact that the flag symbolizes patriotism and love of country. Many fought and died defending the ideology and values it represents. One thing is certain, among other things, it represents unity. Something so precious and fragile, and yet so vital for our very survival. Let us all pray for more unity in these times.

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Betty Casazza, Gavin House, Len Tower, Rand Wilson, Al Sharpe, Stephanie Hirsch, Donna Amenta, Amanda Esteves, Donna M. Quinn, Rebekah Gewirtz, and Shawn M. Lynch**, 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.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Festa Junina/ Brazilian Harvest Festival** will take place on **Saturday, June 13, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., 22 Vinal Ave.** (Rain Date: Saturday, June 20) Festa Junina is a traditional harvest celebration in Bra-

zil. This annual **Growing Center** event will include craft stations (root printing, lantern making, and making dance accessories), participatory Quadrilha dancing, traditional treats, and music. **Bumba Meu Boi**, combines music, dance, puppets, and costumes to symbolically resist social oppression and celebrate the cycle of life. This year, the festival will also feature corn as a key element of the Americas' indigenous agricultural tradition of the **Three Sisters**, in partnership with **Padres Latinos**.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Save the date for the **21st Annual What the Fluff? Festival, Saturday, September**

**19, 1 - 5 p.m. in Union Square.** Are you interested in being a vendor at this year's Festival? Go here to find out more: [union-square-main.org/fluffvendors](http://union-square-main.org/fluffvendors).

\*\*\*\*\*  
Join the **Somerville Garden Club** on **Saturday, June 13, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** on the **Somerville Community Path at Highland Road**, across from Lexington Playground, to celebrate ten years of the bike path pollinator garden. Tours, native plant swap, Info on why they started planting natives, and their ten-year journey, partner organization info tables.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The **Somerville Museum** will host **Pat-**

**terns from the Collection**, a mini bowl painting workshop. **June 18, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 1 Westwood Rd.** Inspired by patterns found in the Somerville Museum's collection, participants will paint their own miniature ceramic bowl to hold tiny treasures, keepsakes, or everyday small objects. You'll look closely at historic designs, decorative borders, floral motifs, and color combinations, then use them as inspiration to create something personal and new. No painting experience is needed. This workshop is a relaxed, hands-on way to explore museum objects, pattern-making, and the joy of creating a small, beautiful object *Continued on page 21*

# FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1026

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What player had the most minutes played in FIFA World Cup History? | final losses?  |
| 2. Which country has hosted the World Cup the most times?             | 7. Which country hosted the inaugural FIFA World Cup?                            |
| 3. In which year was the FIFA World Cup first televised?              | 8. Who played Anita in the first Broadway production of <i>West Side Story</i> ? |
| 4. How often is the FIFA World Cup held?                              | 9. Which fashion brand is known for its double "G" logo?                         |
| 5. Who is the youngest player to play in a World Cup final match?     | 10. What is Bluey's dad's name?  |
| 6. Which nation has the record for the most World Cup                 | 11. Which band was originally called Starfish?                                   |
|   | 12. On what peninsula was Boston founded?  |

Answers on page 14

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. There are giant technicolor squirrels in India.
2. You would likely "mutate" in space without a spacesuit..

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

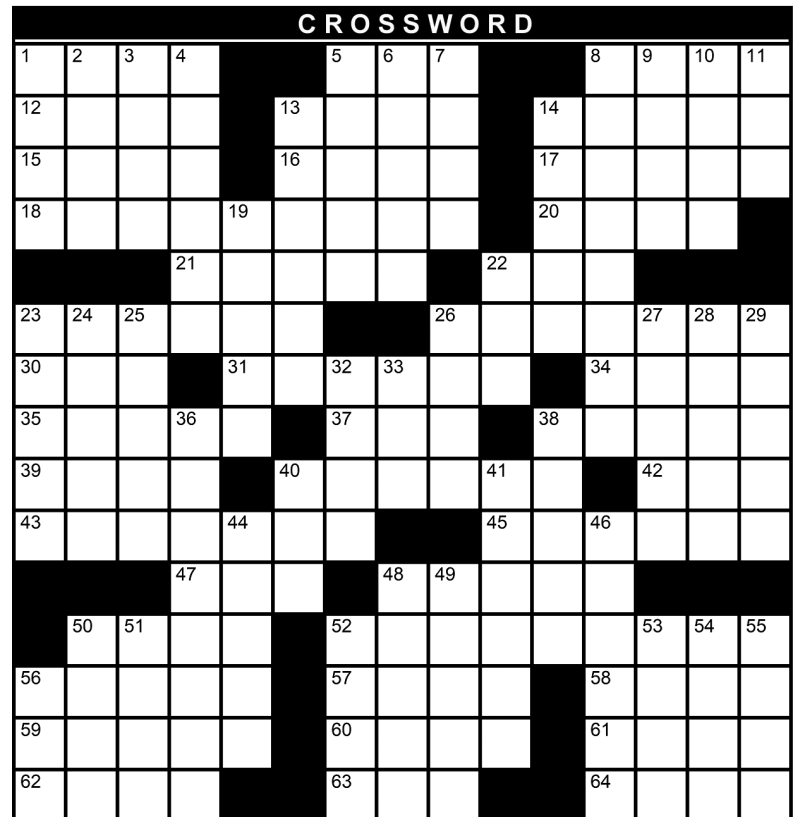
TV DADS

#### ACROSS

1. Calculus, e.g.
5. Emerald \_\_\_\_ borer
8. Web journal
12. Eurozone money
13. Ginger beer cocktail
14. Overabundance, pl.
15. Mike Brady's sons in "The Brady Bunch"
16. Taylor Swift's sixth tour, with The
17. Bob Marley, spiritually speaking
18. Howard Cunningham's TV show
20. Answer from a tunnel
21. Calms
22. Albanian currency
23. House that's mostly gable
26. Smallest
30. Ante-
31. Magi's gift, pl.
34. Of a particular kind
35. Like Scotch whisky, flavor-wise
37. "\_\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
38. Fred MacMurray in "My \_\_\_\_ Sons"
39. Nessie's hangout
40. Passport-giving organization, e.g.
42. A Beetle bride
43. Give right or privilege
45. 3.26 light-years
47. Sun, in Spain
48. The Gem State capital
50. London native, e.g.
52. Danny Tanner's show
56. Make awake
57. Popular sandwich cookie
58. Elephant trainer's poker
59. Loathing
60. Hot rum drink
61. Goodness gracious!
62. Yearnings
63. Letters of distress
64. Infamous Roman Emperor

#### DOWN

1. Crystal in the street
2. Atmosphere
3. Acid "journey"
4. Commotion



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### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5. Pertaining to ear                | 32. Johnny ____ of "Schitt's Creek" |
| 6. Kills a dragon                   | 33. High-____ image                 |
| 7. Hitler's deputy                  | 36. Jack Pearson's show             |
| 8. Dre Johnson's show               | 38. Spam destination                |
| 9. Verdant                          | 40. Not in good health              |
| 10. "The Simpsons" palindrome       | 41. Final words                     |
| 11. General Services Administration | 44. Native American emblem          |
| 13. Assortment                      | 46. Resume business                 |
| 14. Dr. Leonard ____ of "Friends"   | 48. Old West pack animal            |
| 19. Delectable                      | 49. Bread spreads                   |
| 22. Fleur-de-____                   | 50. Foretell                        |
| 23. Granny Smith, e.g.              | 51. Today's Colosseum, e.g.         |
| 24. Banned aerosol propellant       | 52. Driving hazard, pl.             |
| 25. Strike back, e.g.               | 53. Desire                          |
| 26. Through, for short              | 54. Fly like an eagle               |
| 27. #12 Across, pl.                 | 55. Taro plant                      |
| 28. Part of an act                  | 56. Logan ____ of "Succession"      |
| 29. Sandy Cohen's show              |                                     |

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

**OBITUARY**

**Jeanne Bonaventura Aiello**

**March 30, 1952 – May 21, 2026**

Jeanne Bonaventura Aiello of Somerville, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2026, at the age of 74, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on March 30, 1952, Jeanne was the cherished daughter of the late Lena and Joseph Bonaventura. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and public servant whose kindness, strength, and generosity touched countless lives.

Jeanne is survived by her three loving sons, Steven and his wife Joanna, and their children, Derek and Jordanna, Nicholas and his wife Callie, and their son Joey. Alex and his wife Shelly, and their children, Anthony, Teagan and Nicky. She was the proud and devoted mother and grandmother who brought immeasurable joy to her life and whom she loved beyond measure.

She is also survived by her beloved sister, Maria Bonaventura; her nephew, Michael Bonaventura, his wife Yerania, and their children, Aniello and Valentina.

Jeanne was predeceased by her brother, Joseph Bonaventura, and her sister, Dr. Margerhite Bonaventura. While their loss was felt deeply throughout the

years, her family finds comfort in knowing they are now reunited together in eternal peace.

A woman of remarkable character, Jeanne was known for being selfless, caring, strong, compassionate, and fiercely devoted to those she loved. She spent her life helping others and never expected anything in return. Whether through her service, her dedication to her family, or her unwavering support of friends in need, Jeanne's impact will continue to be felt for generations.

Jeanne's greatest pride and joy was her family. She cherished every moment spent with her children, grandchildren, extended family, and lifelong friends. Her home was always open, her advice was always sincere, and her love was unconditional.

Jeanne proudly served her community beginning as a Recreation Leader at Conway and Kelly Parks. She graduated from Somerville High School and later earned both her undergraduate and master's degrees from Salem State University. She went on to work for the Registry of Motor Vehicles before joining the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Sergeant with the Massachusetts State Police, where she served with distinc-

tion for more than 35 years.

Throughout her distinguished career, Jeanne dedicated herself to protecting and serving others with integrity, professionalism, and compassion. She was actively involved in the D.A.R.E. Program and the Domestic Violence Unit, making a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals and families. Her commitment to public service earned her numerous awards, recognitions, and the respect and admiration of her colleagues and community.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Aiello, Beraldi, Coleman, Medeiros, Mitropoulos, Rosa, Turco and Wilson families for their friendship, love, support, and kindness throughout Jeanne's life and during this difficult time.

Jeanne's legacy of love, service, strength, and generosity will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. Though she will be deeply missed, the values she instilled, the lives she touched, and the love she shared will never be forgotten.

**Funeral Services will be held at St. Catherine's Church, 185 Summer Street, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143, on June 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.**

**All that and a bag of chips!**

CONT. FROM PG 3

bags onto the street at the top of Bay State Ave. It's a pretty decent hill, so when the greasy chips were well stomped and ground onto the pavement, it became very slippery.

We ran, slipped, fell, and laughed our butts off sliding down the hill on the crushed potato chips. I remember it like it was yesterday. It was definitely a

highlight of the summer.

Soon the 70's came along. Somerfest, Somerville's program that brought live music to the streets, kept us busy as our band Shadowfax performed concerts on blocked-off streets. Our first cars also happened, and we were finally and triumphantly out of high school! Yay! A whole new era of piling into a

car and driving around all night was born.

There was also another activity that the boys took part in. It was basically trying to meet and hook up with girls. It was called "scooping." We'd put on our scooping clothes, and we'd go out hoping to meet girls. Sliding down the hill on smooshed potato chips was a lot easier!

**The Somerville Times  
Historical Fact of the Week**



**Eagle feathers #356**

*This article first appeared in the June 19, 2019, edition of The Somerville Times.*

**A Banner Weekend**

**By Bob (Monty) Doherty**

Somerville is the first location in America to celebrate its flag before the constellation of stars on it began to grow. After the Battle of Bunker Hill, Colonial troops withdrew to fortify Prospect Hill. It was there, during the next year, that America's union began to form. Prospect Hill became known as General Washington's Citadel, his command post during the siege of Boston.



The first banner to fly over the fort was General Putnam's flag. It honored Connecticut on one side with its armorial shield and Massachusetts on the other side with its "An Appeal to Heav-en" motto. Most of the next year would observe many signal flags and regimental flags from as far away as Virginia.

This coming weekend will be quiet in Somerville, even though it celebrates three holidays.



It begins on Sunday, June 14, with Flag Day, a day set aside to honor our American flag. The Continental Army was established on this date in 1775, and General Washington took command on the 15th. The suggestion to salute Flag Day was noted as early as 1861 during the Civil War. The holiday was proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and was recognized by Congress in 1949.

*Continued on page 18*

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# City presents concept design for Broadway Magoun Reconstruction Project

By The Times Staff

The Broadway Magoun Reconstruction Project presentation on May 26 provided an overview of the concept design made by the project team.

“The goal of this project is to improve safety, accessibility, transit operations, and the overall experience for everyone who uses the street, whether walking or rolling, biking, taking public transit, or driving,” said Lillian Worth, transportation planner at OSPCD.

This project is part of the city's Pavement and Sidewalk Management Program, which prioritizes streets for reconstruction based on safety, accessibility, and equity considerations, as well as the condition and function of the street.

The roadway project will consist of reconstruction on Broadway from Winchester Street to Central Street. The reconstruction effort will include full sidewalk and curb reconstruction, repaving the roadway, adding tree plantings, adding new crosswalks, including raised crossings, traffic signal changes, protecting the existing bicycle infrastructure, making improvements to bus stops, intersection redesign, changes to sidewalk and lane widths, parking regulation changes, and adding new accessible parking spaces.

The city is still considering additional elements such as traffic calming on nearby streets, changes to directionality and operation of streets, and adding new planting and landscaped areas.

## Concept designs for Broadway

Winchester Street, which is the western limit of the project area, was reconfigured about five years ago to tighten up what was formerly a very wide intersection, she said. A pedestrian refuge island was added to the crosswalk to help people cross the street safely.

“Our project picks up here and proposes additional curb islands to shorten the pedestrian crossing and to help encourage slower vehicle speeds,” said Worth, recalling that community members had voiced concerns about vehicles speeding down the hill as they drove off the Ball Square Bridge.

Moving along eastward, the existing bike lanes will be protected with concrete curbing and the bike lane on the north side will be moved adjacent to the curb in between parked cars and the general travel lane.

Broadway is generally quite wide, so

parking will remain on both sides of the street for almost all the sections in the project area, she explained.

Moving along to Broadway and Cedar Street, there are several proposed changes.

“We’re proposing to move the bus stop on the north side to the far side of the intersection, which will help the bus get through faster since it will no longer have to stop twice,” said Worth.

This change will allow additional parking spaces, east of Alfred Street, outside the businesses.

The city is proposing floating bus stops, which are located off the curb with the bike lane passing behind. These floating bus stops have a number of benefits, including helping buses move faster since they no longer would have to pull in and out of traffic. This would then add more space for people to wait, she explained.

The bike lanes would be narrowed and would have a ramp up and down to slow the speeds for people biking in order to prioritize people using the bus stop. The bus stop on the south side of Broadway adjacent to Trum Field would also be a floating bus stop, according to the concept design.

In terms of signal operations, new signal equipment would separate out right turning traffic from people biking straight on Broadway. “We heard from a lot of community members that raised this safety issue since there are a lot of right turning cars from Broadway onto Cedar,” said Worth.

Additionally, the unsignalized crosswalk at Alfred Street will be narrower than it is today to reduce pedestrian exposure to turning traffic. “Right now, it’s a pretty long crosswalk and it can be pretty uncomfortable,” added Worth.

Continuing to move east, the proposed plan would also create curb extensions at William Street, similar to Alfred Street.

“The crosswalk here is very long and people driving can take very wide turns at high speeds,” said Worth. The proposed changes will shorten the crosswalk and will also add more pedestrian space.

At Charles E. Ryan Road – a street named to honor the World War 1 hero – the team is proposing to create a raised crosswalk with curb extensions to improve crossing experiences and slow vehicle speeds.

On the north side of Broadway, east of William Street, there is an opportunity



Concept designs for the Broadway Magoun Reconstruction Project were recently presented to the public. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

to significantly widen the sidewalk. “This area has the narrowest sidewalks around Magoun Square and also happens to have many businesses,” said Worth. “Since we are already significantly altering the curb line, we propose to fully raise the bike lane here and have a sidewalk level facility fully separated from the pedestrian space.”

Due to a variety of reasons, including cost, the project team is proposing street level bike lanes for large portions of the project area, but they are prioritizing sidewalk level facilities at key areas, including intersections, floating bus stops, and conflict points.

The project team is proposing to remove the bus stops by William Street and Charles E. Ryan Road. This change would improve bus speeds and is in line with the MBTA's preferred stop spacing.

“Additionally, this bus stop has the second lowest ridership of the entire project area with most people preferring to use the stop closer to the square,” she said. Changing this will also allow new parking to be added on the block between Charles E. Ryan Road and Hinkley Street.

On the other side of the intersection for Broadway heading up to Winter Hill, some community members asked for medians. But others preferred no medians, and asked that the space be reallocated to wider sidewalks. “This is a choice that will be made further along in the design process as we know more about what the intersection might look like,” said Worth.

The project team is proposing an entirely new raised crosswalk across Broadway at Norwood Avenue. Currently, the roadway cross-section at the top of the hill is

too narrow to allow two travel lanes, two parking lanes, two bike lanes, and two actual sidewalks.

“So, for this reason, we propose removing the parking along the north side so that the parking remains on the south side adjacent to residences,” she said. This space will also allow added protection to the bike lane, which is currently unprotected.

Currently, the bus stops in this area are far apart from each other, said Worth, so the team is proposing to relocate the bus stop on the north side to be closer to its pair at Bartlett Street.

Crosswalks at Bartlett Street and Glenwood Road will likely be raised crosswalks to help reduce speeds and make a safer crossing experience.

“We’re proposing a raised crosswalk across Broadway at Central Street, which was another location where we heard a lot of safety concerns in our first public outreach,” said Worth.

## Magoun Square intersection alternatives

The project team evaluated options and listened to feedback from the community, but they also took a look at the data.

“We recorded turning movements to understand where traffic moving through the intersection was coming and going from. And we also modeled traffic patterns in the wider area to understand the overall impacts on the neighborhood,” said Worth.

The first option is a modern roundabout. “The reason that it’s not a perfect circle is that the kind of unique shape of the intersection means it’s a lot easier for larger vehicles to get through with a sort of elongated almost like

Continued on page 22

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

## Please Amend the FY27 Budget to Fund the School Committee-Approved School Budget

Dear Mayor Wilson, Council President Davis and Members of the City Council, Members of the School Committee, Superintendent Carmona, and SPS CFO Robert Berretta:

I submit this letter in my individual capacity as a Somerville parent, resident, and disability advocate.

I am writing to ask that the FY27 budget be amended to fund the full School Committee-approved school budget of \$123,101,384.

Mayor Wilson, you have described the proposed school budget as “fully funded.” But that framing is misleading. At most, the budget fully funds the lower request submitted by Somerville Public Schools leadership. It does not fully fund the needs documented in the district’s own Special Education & Intervention Service Delivery Review, and it does not fund the additional special education inclusion and reading/math intervention positions the School Committee voted to support.

Calling the lower budget “fully funded” suggests the district asked for and received what students need. The evidence says otherwise.

Earlier this year, Somerville Public Schools brought in empowerED School Solutions to conduct a Special Education & Intervention Service Delivery Review for grades K–8. The report was prepared in March 2026 by Dr. Jenna Mancini Rufo and Megan Klementisz, based on site visits conducted in December 2025. It states that empowerED was asked to “gather data, observe, assess, and provide recommendations” regarding special education and intervention service delivery. The review examined data, achievement outcomes, placement patterns, classroom observations, district documents, and input from educators, administrators, and families. It included 98 classroom snapshot observations across seven community schools. [1]

The timing matters. The report was presented to the School Committee on May 18, 2026. Two days later, the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee of the Whole voted to recommend adding \$645,000 to

the district’s proposed budget for six positions: two special education inclusion classes, three reading interventionists, and one math interventionist. [2] That addition was a targeted response to needs that had just been publicly presented.

Mayor Wilson, your own budget remarks emphasized equity and values. You said the budget was designed to “deliver results,” “strengthen core services,” and “uphold the values of our community through direct action.” You also said the budget delivers on “strong core services and helping our most vulnerable.” [3] When asked to define equity, you said “all means all,” and that equity means people are not “left behind,” “overlooked,” or “not being taken into account.” [4]

I agree with those words — which is exactly why I am asking you to amend the budget.

Students with disabilities, students who need reading and math intervention, multilingual learners, and students who are already struggling are among Somerville’s most vulnerable residents. They cannot vote. Many cannot testify, organize campaigns, or explain in adult language what it means to be physically present in school but not meaningfully accessing instruction.

If “all means all,” then those students cannot be the ones left behind when the budget gets hard.

The problem is that the equity language does not match the budget decision. You stated that the school budget “fully funds the request put forward by the Somerville Public Schools leadership,” characterized the School Committee’s added positions as “six new interventionist positions that the district did not ask for,” and said the City “simply cannot sustain unrequested additions.” [5]

But “unrequested” does not mean “unneeded.” It means district leadership failed to request enough — or was operating within a budget target that was never designed to fully measure student need in the first place.

Mayor Wilson, the relevant question is not whether SPS leadership submitted a

budget that fit within the fiscal guidance they were given. The relevant question is whether anyone asked for, built, and submitted a budget designed to fully meet the needs documented in the district’s own review. Your own remarks described the budget as funding “the request put forward by the Somerville Public Schools leadership,” and stated that the proposal covered “the needs they identified for a level service budget” plus selected new staffing and resources. You then dismissed the School Committee’s additions as “unrequested additions.” [5]

That framing is misleading. A “level service” or “level service plus” budget is not the same as a needs-based budget. It starts from what the City is prepared to fund, not from what students require to meaningfully access education. If the budget process begins with the Mayor’s fiscal constraints and asks the district to fit within them, then the fact that additional positions were “unrequested” by district leadership says very little about whether those positions were needed by students.

The School Committee’s role is precisely to exercise independent judgment about what the schools need. When the School Committee added \$645,000 for special education inclusion and reading/math intervention, it was not ignoring district needs. It was responding to them.

The Mayor’s FY27 budget presentation also framed the budget around “Investing in Schools, Core Services, and Our Values,” “Upholding Our Values Through Action,” and “Grounding All of Our Work in Equity & Belonging.” [6] But equity cannot just be a slide in a budget presentation. Equity has to include children who are least able to advocate for themselves.

The Mayor’s presentation described this as “the largest dollar investment increase in Somerville Public Schools in the history of this district,” including five new special education teachers, a minimum of four and a half new instructional coaches and math interventionists, \$600,000 for substitute teachers, and expanded funding for the school equity formula. [7] Those investments are real and worth acknowl-

edging. But they do not answer the central question: whether the budget funds the additional capacity needed to respond to the district’s own special education and intervention review.

The district serves approximately 4,900 students. The report states that 19.7% of students receive special education services, 23.5% are English learners, 43.7% are low income, and 58% are high needs. In approximate terms, that means about 965 students receiving special education services, 1,150 English learners, 2,140 low-income students, and 2,840 high-needs students. As of March 11, 2026, the district reported 917 K–12 students receiving special education services within district programs. [8]

Somerville already has inclusion on paper. The report found that 77.5% of students with disabilities are educated in full inclusion settings, meaning they spend 80% or more of their day in a general education setting, exceeding the Massachusetts state target, while 12.8% are placed in substantially separate classrooms. [9] But placement data only tells us where students sit, not whether they are meaningfully supported, included, or making progress.

The report says that despite strong inclusion rates, students with disabilities experience “persistent and substantial academic gaps.” On 2025 MCAS, the percentage of students with disabilities meeting or exceeding expectations remained in the “single digits to low teens” across most grades in math and ELA, with gaps between students with disabilities and all students ranging from approximately 16 to 32 percentage points. [9]

That is why “fully funded” is so misleading. Somerville can have high inclusion numbers and still fail to provide meaningful access.

The district’s May 18 presentation made the same point, acknowledging that access to grade-level content, scaffolding, differentiation, and curriculum adaptation were not consistently evident across settings, and that achievement gaps remain despite strong inclusive structures. [17]

*Continued on page 13*

## Letter to the Editor

CONT. FROM PG 12

Councilor Wheeler, I appreciated your comments about your children previously attending a school with inclusionary classrooms, where roughly one-third of students had IEPs and there were two teachers in every classroom. That is exactly the kind of supported inclusion families want for Somerville students. You also asked whether the proposed budget would allow the inclusionary classroom pilot to move forward or whether it would require additional staffing; district leadership responded that the School Committee's recommendation was to add staffing for continuation of the pilot process, and later stated that whether Somerville can have an inclusion model is "a matter of finances." [10]

In principle, all Somerville schools should be "inclusion schools," and most students with disabilities are already educated in full inclusion settings. The problem is not the placement model; it is that the model is not consistently supported well enough to meet student needs. The report states that "the structures for inclusion are present, but the instructional strategies necessary to ensure meaningful access—such as scaffolding, differentiation, and curriculum adaptation—are not consistently implemented." [9]

Meaningful inclusion requires staffing, co-teaching capacity, intervention, specialized instruction, planning time, and supports that allow students to actually access instruction. The School Committee's added \$645,000 was an attempt to move Somerville closer to supported inclusion.

The focus group findings make this even clearer. General education and multilingual staff reported concern "that, despite ongoing efforts to provide appropriate supports, some students may be present in classrooms primarily to meet service minute requirements rather than fully engaging in meaningful inclusive experiences within the general education setting. In these instances, students may participate at a surface level without consistent access to the curriculum or opportunities for deeper interaction." The report goes on to express concerns from educators that some students may be "slipping through the cracks when parents are not vocal." [11]

Special education staff similarly reported that "compliance with service delivery minutes may take precedence over other considerations." The report describes students with varied skill levels being "grouped based on scheduling needs, or where multiple service providers worked with a single student to fulfill service min-

utes, which sometimes affected instructional consistency." [12]

Parents reported that services may be delayed, students may have to show significant difficulty before additional supports are initiated, outside evaluations are "not always fully considered," and service or placement decisions may feel "predetermined." [13]

Those are not minor concerns. They are warnings from educators and families inside the system.

The report also makes clear that this is not only a special education issue. It is also about MTSS, or Multi-Tiered System of Supports — the general education system for identifying students who need academic, behavioral, or social-emotional support and providing escalating levels of intervention before students fall further behind. The report describes the district's DCAP, District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, as positioning MTSS as the "primary vehicle for strengthening general education, preventing unnecessary special education referrals, and ensuring timely, data-driven interventions." [14]

That is why the School Committee's added reading and math interventionists matter district-wide: they support students without IEPs, students at risk, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities. This is not "just special education" — it is the system that helps students before needs become crises.

But the report found that Somerville's MTSS framework is "well developed in documentation" but "implemented unevenly in practice," with interventions "not consistently matched to student need" — a point the district's own May 18 presentation echoed. [15]

The report also states that current reading and math interventions are "not consistently used across schools and grades, and implementation is based upon those who have been trained in the systems." The report also stated that "administrators expressed concern that, in certain cases, students who qualify for special education services may receive reading support that is less intensive and delivered by staff with less specialized training than the interventions they previously received during the pre-referral phase from a reading specialist." [16]

The report's recommendations are concrete. It recommends a "coordinated, multi-year professional learning plan" focused on "strengthening inclusive instructional practices"; refining MTSS to "prioritize strong Tier 1 instruction" and improve the

"consistency and effectiveness of targeted and intensive interventions"; developing "clear descriptions of programs and interventions"; strengthening "communication and transparency"; and analyzing resource room and related service staffing and expectations. [18], [19], [20]

These are not cosmetic recommendations; they are about implementation capacity.

The report's summary states that Somerville's "greatest opportunity lies in strengthening instructional practices, MTSS framework, and opportunities for students with low incidence disabilities so that structures translate into cohesive systems resulting in stronger outcomes for students with disabilities." [18] In other words, Somerville already has structures, but those structures are not yet translating into a coherent system that reliably produces stronger outcomes.

Superintendent Carmona told the Council that a budget is "more than just numbers" and that it "reveals our intentions and our commitments to the values we uphold." He also said SPS's "why" is creating conditions where every student is "seen, heard, acknowledged, challenged and celebrated," and that every investment should answer the question: "Does this strengthen the conditions for learning and improve outcomes for students?" [21]

That is the right question. But the answer cannot be "yes" if the district's own review documents inconsistent access, uneven MTSS implementation, persistent achievement gaps, and the need for stronger intervention systems — and district leadership fails to request the resources needed to respond.

The SPS CFO, Dr. Berretta, described the proposed budget as "a balance of fiscal prudence and also strategic investments" needed to make SPS "the premier district" families deserve. But he also explained that the proposal was "focused on continuity" and aimed to provide a "level service budget" so the district could serve the same number of students with the same proportion of resources as this year. [22]

That is precisely the concern. A "level-service" budget preserves the status quo, and a "level-service plus" budget only adds what fits within the administration's chosen fiscal frame. When an independent review identifies critical gaps—such as the need for stronger MTSS, consistent interventions, and equitable access to grade-level curriculum—"continuity" is insufficient. Somerville Public Schools is not yet the "premier district" families deserve, espe-

cially for students with disabilities, multilingual learners, low-income students, and those from marginalized backgrounds. To characterize this budget as a step toward that goal is dismissive of the families navigating these systemic inadequacies. True equity requires more than rhetorical commitments like "all means all"; it demands an honest admission that our current trajectory is falling short, and the courage to fund the fundamental changes required to fix it.

City Councilors also raised concerns that align with this issue. Councilor Mbah asked why expanding communication was being prioritized over "direct service delivery positions." The Mayor responded that engagement was "a key equity piece" intended to reach people who do not have the privilege to monitor email newsletters or social media. [23] That same equity principle applies here. Direct service capacity is equity work.

The budget materials show the difference clearly. The Mayor's proposed school budget is \$122,456,384. The School Committee-approved amount is \$123,101,384. The difference is \$645,000. [2], [24]

That \$645,000 is approximately 0.53% of the Mayor's proposed school budget. It is the difference between a 7.58% School Committee-approved increase. [2] It is also about 0.17% of the Mayor's \$376,778,493 FY27 General Fund Operating Budget request. [25]

In a budget of this size, the question is not whether Somerville can afford to acknowledge documented needs of students with disabilities and struggling learners. The question is whether the City is willing to prioritize them.

The administration described closing a \$5.4 million budget gap through a reserve strategy, revenue review, operating budget reviews, workforce restructuring, and reductions. [26] The School Committee's \$645,000 addition is about 12% of that budget gap. That is real money, but it should not be dismissed as excessive when it is tied to documented student access, intervention, and civil rights needs.

The proposed budget includes \$600,000 in additional substitute teacher funding, which the Mayor described as important because "consistency matters" and "our kids deserve a teacher in the room every single day." [7] The School Committee's entire additional request for special education inclusion and reading/math intervention was \$645,000 — only \$45,000 more than the additional substitute investment the Mayor highlighted. *Continued on page 16*

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

# Olío

Answers

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Lionel Messi with 2,315 minutes                | 6. Germany            |
| 2. Mexico   | 7. Uruguay            |
| 3. 1954 during the tournament held in Switzerland | 8. Chita Rivera       |
| 4. Every 4 years                                  | 9. Gucci              |
| 5. Pelé of Brazil                                 | 10. Bandit            |
|   | 11. Coldplay          |
|   | 12. Shawmut Peninsula |

## OBITUARY

## Susan T. Reid

February 1, 1967 – June 4, 2026



**Susan T. Reid**, a lifelong resident of Somerville, passed away unexpectedly on June 4, 2026. She was 59 years young.

Born in Cambridge and raised in Somerville, Susan was the beloved daughter of the late Mary (Fahy) Reid and George M. Reid.

First and foremost, Susan was a loving, caring and supportive mother to her son, Ryan, who was her pride and joy. She often said the years spent watching him in sports were the best of her life. Susan dedicated her life to caring for others through her long and successful career as a nurse. She was known not only for her professionalism and knowledge but also for the compassion she showed to every patient she encountered. Susan

believed that her patients were more than just part of her job; she treated them like family and was a fierce advocate for their care and well-being.

Susan was known for her kind heart, gentle demeanor, and warm spirit. She had a way of making people feel welcomed and valued, and her caring nature was evident in every relationship she formed. She cherished time spent in York and Plymouth with family and lifelong friends. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Susan also had a deep love for music. Among her favorite

artists were the legendary rock bands U2, Queen and their iconic frontman, Freddie Mercury. Their music brought her joy and was often the soundtrack to many happy moments throughout her life.

Beloved mother of Ryan McKenna. Devoted sister of Deb Reid of Somerville, Patty O'Brien of Billerica, and Nancy Fales and her husband Edward of Melrose. Susan also leaves her longtime partner John Conway. She was the cherished aunt of Tara O'Brien, Lauren Holland and her husband Michael, and Krista Kavanaugh and her

husband Matt. Loving great-aunt of Alexis, Olivia, Charlotte, Michael and Gabriella. She is also lovingly survived by many dear friends and extended family members.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Friday, June 12th from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Followed by a prayer service at 12:00PM.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

Burial will be private.

Memorial donations can be made to a charity of your choice.

## East Washington Safety Improvements Project kickoff meeting

Whether you are walking, taking the bus, driving, or riding a bike, you should feel safe using the city's streets. This is one of the principles guiding Somerville's ongoing work to create safer, more accessible streets across the city. With this principle in mind, the city has started planning and exploring options for improving safety along Washington Street between Tufts Street and the Boston city line.

To learn more about this work and share feedback, all are invited to join a virtual project kick-off meeting.

When? Wednesday, June 17, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Where? The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom. Visit [somervillema.gov/eastwashington](https://somervillema.gov/eastwashington) to attend.

At this meeting, city staff will introduce the project and provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences.

### Project Overview and Timeline

The East Washington Street Quick-Build Improvements project is intended to improve safety through a range of approaches, including installing protected bike lanes, increasing visibility and safety at crosswalks, improving bus rider experience, and evaluating existing parking regulations, including the potential removal of some parking to accommodate safety features.

The East Washington Street Safety Improvements project is a "quick-build project," which means that all of the work can be done without digging or making major structural changes to the street (such as moving sidewalk curbs or changing the height of the road). Instead, the city will use materials that are quicker to install, like signs, vertical plastic posts, and paint markings on the street. This approach allows us to deliver safety improvements faster and more affordably than full street reconstruction.

The city plans to engage community members and develop the new design between Spring 2026 and 2027. Installation of the new safety and mobility features is currently expected to take place in fall 2027.

### How to Get Involved

The city will offer a mix of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities throughout the design process, including:

- Online and in-person surveys
- Street outreach with neighborhood pop-ups and tabling at community events
- Direct outreach to local businesses
- Local stakeholder meetings with residents of Cobble Hill Apartments, seniors at the Ralph and Jenny Center, among other local community groups and businesses.

In addition to community feedback, this effort is informed by Somerville's commitment to Vision Zero (a plan to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries from our streets) and the City's Bicycle Network Plan (a roadmap for expanding bicycle safety and building a connected bicycle network across the city).

Questions and comments can be submitted at any point by emailing [transportation@somervillema.gov](mailto:transportation@somervillema.gov) and by calling 311 (617-666-3311). Visit [somervillema.gov/east-washington](https://somervillema.gov/east-washington) to learn more about the project and stay up to date.



Be sure to visit us online at [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

## Letter to the Editor CONT. FROM PG 13

Students also deserve the consistent specialized instruction, intervention, and inclusion support that make being in the room meaningful.

Our children's needs are not extras. IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities and ensures special education and related services; Section 504 also requires districts to provide a free appropriate public education to qualified students with disabilities. [27] When students are present in classrooms but not meaningfully accessing instruction, that is not a fully funded system. It is a system failing to meet a moral and legal obligation and raising serious civil rights concerns for our children.

The procedural posture makes the Mayor's responsibility even clearer. The June 4 City Council minutes show the Mayor's FY27 General Fund Operating Budget request, item 26-0950, was referred for recommendation; the Superintendent's School Department budget communication, item 26-0974, was placed on file; and the School Committee Chair's communication conveying the School Department budget approved by the School Committee Finance and Facilities Subcommittee on May 20, 2026, item 26-0975, was also placed on file. [25]

The City Council previously approved item 25-0905, adopting Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1987, "An Act Increasing Local Control Over The Annual School Budget." [28] Chapter 329 requires local acceptance and, in a city that is not Plan D or Plan E, approval by the Mayor before it takes effect. [29] My understanding is that the prior Mayor did not approve it before it became available for this budget cycle; in practical terms, it expired on her desk.

At the Budget and Finance Committee meeting, councilors discussed that because Somerville has not adopted Chapter 329 in a way that is currently effective, the City Council may not be able to simply increase the school appropriation to the School Committee-approved amount. Councilor J.T. Scott stated that "there is no way for the city council to accept the recommendation of the school committee" through a simple increase, and that the only way to force a change may be to reject the entire budget or make a large enough reduction to cause resubmission. [30] Page 5

That means this is not simply a City Council decision. The Mayor has the power to resolve this.

It also means Somerville needs to fix this

process going forward. A School Committee-adopted budget should actually mean something. It should not be reduced to a communication placed on file while the Mayor submits a lower number and the City Council is left without a clear path to adopt the School Committee's recommendation.

Mayor Wilson, I am asking you directly: please amend or recommend the FY27 budget to include the full School Committee-approved school budget of \$123,101,384.

You said equity means "all means all." You said people should not be left behind or overlooked. You said the budget delivers for "our most vulnerable." Please apply those commitments to students with disabilities and students who need reading and math intervention.

Students' needs do not stop being urgent because meeting them is inconvenient or fiscally difficult. Equity does not mean "all" only when it is affordable, easy, or aligned with the budget request district leadership chose to submit. It is not enough to say Somerville is doing better than, or similarly to, neighboring districts that are also struggling, and it is not enough to point to slow improvement while students continue to go without meaningful access now. Equity means all students have the support they need to belong, participate, learn, and thrive.

Please also stop describing the lower amount as "fully funded." It may fully fund SPS leadership's request, but it does not fully fund the needs of our students documented in the Special Education & Intervention Service Delivery Review.

Superintendent Carmona and Dr. Beretta: please stop describing this budget as "fully funded" without acknowledging the unmet needs documented in the report. Your job is to identify what students and staff need, explain what remains unfunded, and support the budget adopted by the School Committee.

School Committee members: please insist that district leadership support and implement the budget adopted by the body elected by our residents and responsible for overseeing the schools.

City Councilors: please do not accept the "fully funded" framing without asking whether this budget fully funds student need or merely funds the lower request submitted by district leadership in response to the Mayor's request. Please continue making clear publicly that the Mayor can and should fix this by submitting or recommending the amended school budget.

I also urge the City Council to immediately re-adopt, or take whatever procedural action is required to adopt, Chapter 329, and I urge Mayor Wilson to approve it promptly. It may be too late for this budget season, but it is not too late to protect future budget cycles. Mayor Wilson supported Chapter 329 before, and he should support it now as Mayor. Our School Committee-adopted budget should actually mean something.

The School Committee was trying to respond to documented needs in the district's own report — not asking for extras.

When the Mayor and district leadership put a positive spin on the school budget and district performance without plainly acknowledging the unmet needs documented in the district's own review, they are not just defending a budget. They are dismissing the lived realities of some of Somerville's most vulnerable students.

In effect, they are telling families that "all means all" does not fully include the children who rely on adults to notice their needs, advocate for them, fund supports, and protect their access to education.

Equity cannot mean celebrating values in a budget presentation while refusing to fund a 0.53% school-budget correction for students who cannot vote, cannot lobby, and often cannot advocate for themselves.

A budget that leaves students without meaningful access is not fully funded.

Sincerely, Sam Steiner 50 Whitfield Rd Somerville, MA 02144 samantharsteiner@gmail.com

### Sources

[1] empowerED School Solutions, Special Education & Intervention Service Delivery Review, pp. 1, 6–7.

[2] SPS FY27 Budget Presentation to City Council, June 4, 2026, Budget Summary table (slide 29) and "Personnel Budget Overview, as voted by School Committee Finance and Facilities Subcommittee" (slide 23), showing the \$645,000 addition, two special education inclusion classes, four interventionists (three reading, one math), and the difference between the School Committee-approved total of \$123,101,384 and the Mayor's proposed total of \$122,456,384.

[3] June 4 City Council transcript, Mayor Wilson budget remarks on "deliver results," "uphold the values," and "helping our most vulnerable."

[4] June 4 City Council transcript, Councilor Strezo question and Mayor Wilson response defining equity as "all means all" and discussing people being

"left behind" or "overlooked."

[5] June 4 City Council transcript, Mayor Wilson remarks on "fully funds," "unrequested additions," and "simply cannot sustain."

[6] Mayor Wilson FY27 Budget Submission Presentation, June 4, 2026, agenda and values/equity slides.

[7] Mayor Wilson FY27 Budget Submission Presentation and June 4 transcript, school investment slides and remarks, including substitute funding, special education teachers, interventionists, and equity formula. The \$8,632,547 school increase and the 7.58% Mayor-proposed and 8.15% School Committee-approved increases appear in the SPS FY27 Budget Presentation to City Council, June 4, 2026, Budget Summary table (slide 29). The \$8,632,547 school increase, the total FY27 citywide budget increase of \$14,041,865, and the resulting ~61.5% school share are confirmed by the City of Somerville FY27 Budget Presentation, June 4, 2026, "Public Schools was the City's biggest investment in FY27" (slide 20).

[8] empowerED Review, demographics and special education eligibility sections, pp. 7–9.

[9] empowerED Review, executive summary and least restrictive environment / achievement findings, pp. 2–5, 20, 30.

[10] June 4 City Council transcript, Councilor Wheeler's question about inclusionary classrooms, IEPs, two teachers, and the district response about the pilot and finances.

[11] empowerED Review, general education and multilingual staff focus group findings, pp. 59–60.

[12] empowerED Review, special education staff focus group and service delivery concerns, pp. 62–63.

[13] empowerED Review, parent focus group findings, pp. 66–68.

[14] empowerED Review, MTSS discussion (describing the district's DCAP), p. 35.

[15] empowerED Review, executive summary and MTSS findings, pp. 2, 34–35; SPS May 18 presentation, p. 8.

[16] empowerED Review, reading/math intervention and administrator concern findings, pp. 35–36, 65–66.

[17] SPS Special Education School Committee Presentation, May 18, 2026, instructional practice and access findings, pp. 6–7.

[18] empowerED Review, recommendations and summary, pp. 4–5.

[19] empowerED Review, recommendations and suggested *Continued on page 18*

# #ARTSTAYSHERE opens new exhibition at Somerville Museum

By Madalyn Jimiera

With the goal of bringing attention to the causes and impacts of artist displacement, the Art Stays Here coalition [1] encapsulates its journey in the Somerville Museum's new exhibition, "Faces, Spaces, & Places." [2]

The exhibition opened on June 5, where Art Stays Here staff, partners, artists, and visitors gathered in the museum for the opening reception.

"It's not something people talk about over coffee at the breakfast table," said Ami Bennitt, the co-founder of Art Stays Here, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. "We wanted to tell the stories of how displacement impacts artists. The exhibition is teaching people about it so that we can prevent it."

Art Stays Here started in 2020, when, after 20 years of remaining an affordable artist workspace, Humphrey Street Studios in Dorchester was facing what was feared to be the end of its journey after the families of the late owners aimed to sell the building.

The 3-year-long preservation campaign that followed, called #ARTWORKSHERE, #ARTSTAYSHERE, led a new development company to purchase the building, which then allowed HSS artists to partly own and operate the space as affordable artists' workspaces.

Now, the original name of the preservation campaign hangs on two large yellow banners in the exhibition, a nod to the roots of the coalition and the mission ahead.

Around the main gallery space, visitors can read from six sculptural displays that showcase the stories of eight local artist workspaces in different stages of development. The exhibition also invites visitors to look up around the walls, where over five dozen portraits of creatives who work in the spaces hang.

In the smaller gallery, a recreation of an artist's studio invites visitors to understand what these spaces may look like in practice. Accompanying the room hangs original artwork by artists in Central Street Studios and Humphrey Street Studios that can be purchased.

Visitors can also become part of the exhibition by acting as an "activist." In the center of the main room, there is a table for visitors to decorate postcards and write messages to their local elected officials asking for the protection of art spaces. When they are finished, they can insert their postcards into the back of four of the sculptural displays, turning their art into a part of the exhibition. After the exhibition closes on Aug. 23, Art Stays Here will mail the postcards to the elected officials.

The opening of the exhibition comes shortly after the completion of the pres-

ervation campaign of Central Street Studios [3], a longtime artist workspace just across the street from the museum. When the owners wanted to retire and sell the building, Art Stays Here stepped in to help the tenants form a tenants association and organize a fundraising and advocacy campaign. After 18 months, stakeholders, including the City of Somerville, the Mass Cultural Council [4], and MASSCreative [5], helped fund the Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston's ability to purchase the building to keep it as an affordable artist workspace.

Artists Jack Gruman and Logan Puleikis, tenants of Central Street Studios, said the preservation of the studio space created a stronger sense of community between the tenants.

"We really came together around it, so now we all know each other in the building," said Gruman. "I feel really excited to work with the community now in a future-oriented way."

The completion of the preservation campaign, which will be celebrated with a ribbon-cutting on June 17, has also relieved some stress from the artists' shoulders.

"We know it's going to be a space where we can really set down roots ... because you know it's not going to just be another place you have to move from, so people feel optimistic that they can start to build something together," Puleikis said.

The exhibition will also host a number of community engagement events through August, including family-friendly workshops, lectures, and a documentary showing.

Towards the end of the reception, several representatives of some of the stakeholders in the advocacy projects gave speeches to emphasize the importance of advocacy work, including Mayor Jake Wilson, who said artists make up the fabric of the Somerville community.

"I know what type of city Somerville is, and the type of city we want to remain and build on, and that's a city that knows that creative space is part of the community infrastructure," he said.

Michèle Hansen, a longtime Somerville resident and board member of the Union Square Neighborhood Council, echoed Wilson's sentiment.

"The arts are part of Somerville's identity, its history, its ethos, and are significant drivers in its economy," Hansen said. "Artists need places to live, and we need art to live."

**Links:**

- [1] <https://www.artstayshere.org/>
- [2] <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/artstayshere>
- [3] <https://centralstreetstudios.org/>
- [4] <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>
- [5] <https://www.mass-creative.org/>

— Photos by Madalyn Jimiera



# Somerville sharing tips to identify and remove invasive Black Swallow-Wort Plant

Trowels at the ready: gardening season is here and the City of Somerville is asking community members to help stop the spread of black swallow-wort (BSW).

BSW is a fast-spreading, non-native plant that crowds out native species, disrupts natural habitats, and poses serious risks to butterflies, birds, deer, and even livestock. Pollinators like monarch butterflies are at great risk because they often mistake BSW for milkweed plants relied on for reproduction. When monarchs lay their eggs on BSW, their larvae hatch and feed on its toxic leaves, only to die shortly after.

## How to Identify BSW:

**Leaves:** Shiny, dark green, and arranged in pairs along twining vines—often seen wrapping around fences and shrubs.

**Flowers:** Small, dark purple blooms with five petals and a green center, appearing in early summer.

**Pods:** Slim, green seed pods begin forming in June. These **MUST** be removed before they turn brown and release seeds into the wind.

## Help Stop the Spread of BSW:

**Remove It:** If you spot BSW, pull up the entire plant by the roots, and dispose in a sealed trash bag. Do not compost or place in yard waste bags.

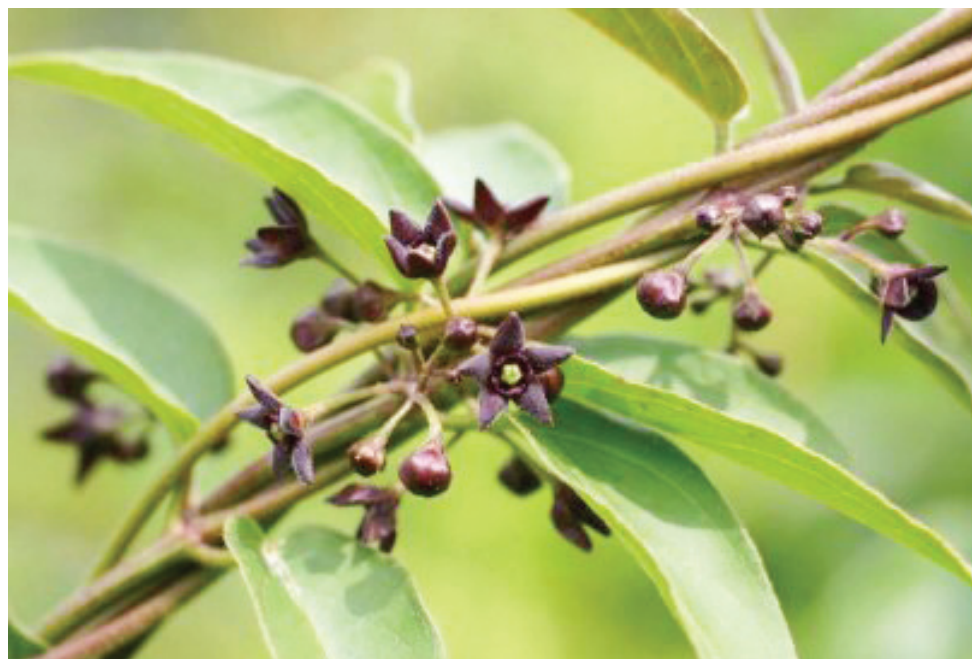
**Join a Removal Event:** Connect with local groups working to preserve local biodiversity:

- ♦ Mystic River Watershed Association ([mysticriver.org](http://mysticriver.org))
- ♦ Green & Open Somerville ([greenopensomerville.org](http://greenopensomerville.org))

**Get the Word Out:** Door hangers are available for pickup now through mid-July at the Somerville City Hall welcome desk (93 Highland Avenue). Please pick some up and distribute them in Somerville.

Want to learn how to do more for local pollinators? Somerville's Pollinator Action Plan provides simple, effective ways to support bees, butterflies, and other essential species in your yard and neighborhood. To review the plan, visit [voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan](http://voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan).

— City of Somerville



## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

♦ Sunday, June 21, is Father's Day. It honors all fathers, past and present, including George Washington, the first commander of our army and "the father of our country."

♦ Wednesday, June 17, celebrates the Battle of Bunker Hill and the flag the Patriots fought under. The night before the battle 244 years ago, the Americans had stealthily marched through Somerville into Charlestown. After battling the next day and until their gunpowder was exhausted, they withdrew to Prospect Hill under the Pine Tree Flag to begin the siege of Boston.

General Washington was present six months later, on January 1, 1776, at Somerville's Prospect Hill, commanding the first American-flag raising. This flag, the Grand Union Flag, was made up of the British ensign in its contour and thirteen stripes of red and white to represent the American colonies. This was our American flag at the beginning of the Revolution.

The British flag, or the Union Jack, represented the unification of England and Scotland. It consisted of England's red

cross of Saint George, the dragon killer, and Scotland's blue diagonal cross of Saint Andrew, the martyred brother of Saint Peter. Today's United Kingdom banner includes a third cross honoring Ireland's Saint Patrick.

After two years into the revolution, the British Union Jack, as it was called, was dropped from our flag and replaced with stars, thirteen radiant ones representing the thirteen colonies. To-day, she bespangles with fifty stars representing our fifty states ... the greatest banner of all!



## Letter to the Editor CONT. FROM PG 16

timeline, pp. 90–98.

[20] SPS Special Education School Committee Presentation, May 18, 2026, "Our Work Going Forward" / professional learning and access slides.

[21] June 4 City Council transcript, Superintendent Carmona remarks on the budget as "more than just numbers," the district "why," and strengthening conditions for learning and improving outcomes.

[22] June 4 City Council transcript, SPS CFO Dr. Bobby Beretta remarks on fiscal prudence, strategic investments, continuity, and level service.

[23] June 4 City Council transcript, Councilor Mbah question about communications versus direct service delivery positions and Mayor Wilson's response about engagement as an equity piece.

[24] Somerville Public Schools Finance

and Facilities budget process page.

[25] Somerville City Council Minutes, June 4, 2026, items 26-0950, 26-0974, and 26-0975, including the \$376,778,493 General Fund Operating Budget request.

[26] June 4 City Council transcript and City of Somerville FY27 Budget Presentation, June 4, 2026, "Closing a \$5.4 million budget gap" (slide 9), \$5.4 million budget gap and gap-closing tools.

[27] U.S. Department of Education

FAPE resources: IDEA (ed.gov, IDEA) and Section 504 FAPE (ed.gov, OCR Section 504 FAQ).

[28] Somerville City Council item #25-0905, adopting Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1987.

[29] Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1987, local acceptance requirement.

[30] Budget and Finance Committee transcript, Chapter 329 / Council authority discussion.

# Somerville Democrats negotiate the first successful 'People's Pledge' in a decade to endeavor to stop dark money spending

Earlier this year, the Somerville Democratic City Committee adopted a resolution calling on all Democratic candidates running to represent Somerville to take a "People's Pledge," an agreement between candidates designed to prevent the unlimited dark money spending from super PACs that the Citizens United decision resulted in. Senators Warren and Markey previously used similar agreements to successfully prevent the use of super PAC spending in their respective elections. The agreements operate by all candidates publicly calling on their supporters not to make independent expenditures on their behalf— and pledging to donate to charity a penalty of half of the amount of any independent expenditure, creating a strong and meaningful disincentive against any outside spending.

These agreements empower voters, candidates, parties, unions, and traditional PACs — who follow the strict limits set by the Massachusetts Campaign Finance Law that prohibits all corporate donations, individual contributions larger than \$500, and anonymous funding. They ensure that voters in Somerville, Medford, and Cambridge will decide the result of our elections—free from the interference

of unlimited dark money spending from super PACs.

We want to congratulate 34th Middlesex candidates: Paul Ruseau, Chris Oates, and Will Mbah, 27th Middlesex candidates: Ben Ewen-Campen and Olivia Gilligan-Corsetti, and 26th Middlesex candidates: Neil Miller and Mike Connolly for taking this step to give voters confidence that the candidates chosen in our primaries reflect our community's voice and are not beholden to unlimited dark money groups and donors.

The Somerville Democratic Party also attempted to negotiate the same agreement for the 2nd Middlesex Senate race, however we were only able to gain agreement from two of the five candidates; these agreements can only function where all candidates agree to prevent dark money spending in a race by unanimous participation. We are deeply grateful to Matthew McLaughlin and Christine Barber who were willing to participate, and regret that a People's Pledge will not be in effect for this race.

*In response to being notified that the pledge had come into effect upon all candidates signing it several candidates had remarks:*

**Ben Ewen-Campen**, running for the 27th Middlesex House seat said: "I'm proud to take the people's pledge — we don't need dark money in our elections."

**Olivia Gilligan Corsetti**, running for the 27th Middlesex House seat said "I am proud to join in signing the Somerville Democrats People's Primary Pledge. Somerville residents deserve an election that's about them, not external interests. Thank you to the Somerville Democratic City Committee, as well as my fellow candidate in this race, for joining me in this effort to strengthen trust in our electoral process. Together, we are helping ensure that this election remains focused on our community and its future."

**Chris Oates**, running for the 34th Middlesex House seat said: "As a first-time candidate, it's been depressing to see how much money matters, even in a local race. I'm glad that we can now focus more on connecting with voters about the issues that we care about, and not have to worry about big donors coming in without campaign approval to muddy the waters."

**Paul Ruseau**, running for the 34th Middlesex House seat said: "I am thrilled that every candidate in the 34th Middle-



sex State Representative race has pledged to keep the race focused on this district. Our community deserves to have its voice heard, and outside money has never been about our voices. Democracy thrives on competitive races where voters can weigh their options and make an informed choice at the ballot box. I hope to earn every vote in the district, but I respect that the voters decide— and whatever they choose, this district wins when the race is fought on our issues, not outside money."

— Somerville Democrats

## SomerStreets: Carnaval moved to June 14

**Update:** Due to the forecasted rain and potential thunderstorms during the event timeframe, SomerStreets: Carnaval will be held on its rain date of Sunday, June 14.

Carnaval is ready to transform Broadway once again into an open-air festival filled with music, movement, food, family activities, local vendors, and performances celebrating East Somerville.

Presented by the Somerville Arts Council and East Somerville Main Streets, SomerStreets: Carnaval will now take place on June 14, from 2-6 p.m. along Broadway, from Pennsylvania Avenue to McGrath Highway.

"SomerStreets: Carnaval is a celebration of the cultures, businesses, families, artists, and neighbors that make this community so dynamic," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "I'm grateful to East Somerville Main Streets, the City's Arts Council, and everyone helping bring Broadway to life for a day of joy, connection, and community pride."

The celebration will kick off with a Brazilian-style opening procession featuring Grooversity and Samba Viva, followed by a day full of live entertainment, delicious food vendors, and family-friendly programming.

SomerStreets is the City's annual series of free, family-friendly open streets events. Each event closes a major roadway to vehicle traffic and opens it for walking, biking, music, play, and community celebration.

More information is available at [somervillema.gov/somerstreets](http://somervillema.gov/somerstreets).





**Somerville Fair Housing Commission**  
*Question of the week*

**Q:** I'm moving out of my apartment. How can I ensure I get my full security deposit back?

**A:** When you move in, walk through the unit with the landlord and make a note of any damages already in the unit. This document is called a "Statement of Condition." When you are preparing to move out, do another walk-through, comparing lists. If there are any damages, you can repair these yourself before moving out, or the landlord will be able to deduct the cost of repair from your security deposit. Clean the unit thoroughly; all rooms should be swept and vacuumed, trash taken out and all items removed.

*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.*

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

To donate visit:

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



A lilac tree the size of Rhode Island... — Photo by Denise Provost

## On This Day in History

**June 10**

- 1692 – Bridget Bishop is hanged in Salem, MA, for witchcraft.
- 1776 – The Continental Congress appoints a committee to write a Declaration of Independence.
- 1854 – The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, holds its first graduation.
- 1898 – U.S. Marines land in Cuba.
- 1905 – Japan and Russia agree to peace talks brokered by President Roosevelt.
- 1916 – Mecca falls to the Arabs during the Great Arab Revolt.
- 1920 – The Republican convention in Chicago endorses women's suffrage.
- 1925 – Tennessee adopts a new biology text book denying the theory of evolution.
- 1943 – The Allies begin bombing Germany around the clock.
- 1948 – News that the sound barrier has been broken is finally released to the public.
- 1963 – Buddhist monk Ngo Quang Duc dies by self immolation in Saigon to protest persecution by the Diem government.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

to take home. For more information, visit <http://somervillemuseum.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Jake Wilson, Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, and city staff** invite you to a virtual community meeting on **Wednesday, June 17**, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. to discuss the quick build **safety improvements project** on Washington Street between Tufts Street and the city line. Hear an overview of the project, learn more about the opportunities in quick-build projects, and share your questions and feedback. Following the community meeting, they will launch an online survey to gather community input and host pop-ups along Washington Street. Please find more information about the event and other opportunities for engagement at [voice.somervillema.gov/eastwashington](http://voice.somervillema.gov/eastwashington).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville's Elections Department** recently sent its second round of **census forms** to residents. Annual participation in the census is essential for keeping an accurate population count, and it updates or maintains your status as an active voter for upcoming elections. Completed census forms can be returned via the postage-paid return envelope included in the mailing, by scanning the form and emailing it to [cen-sus@somervillema.gov](mailto:cen-sus@somervillema.gov), or in person at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.). Please call 311 (617-666-3311) with questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you an artist, musician or creative in Somerville? Join our **Community Arts Forum** on **Monday, June 15**, at **Warehouse XI**. Talk about what's working, what you're concerned about, and more. Community partners include **Union Square Neighborhood Council, Community Action Agency of Somerville, Somerville Community Corporation, Somerville Community Land Trust, Mystic Learning Center, and Green & Open Somerville.** #ARTSTAYSHERE. Free w/RSVP: <https://somervillecommunityartsforum.eventbrite.com>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Veterans Coffee Hour, June 17.** Local veterans, their families, and community members are invited to come together to

connect, share stories, and access veteran resources, all over a cup of coffee. This event will take place on **Wednesday, June 17**, from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m., at **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.).

\*\*\*\*\*

Every year, **ArtBeat** brings together local organizations, neighbors, artists, activists, educators, and community leaders to celebrate the incredible diversity and creativity of Somerville. If your organization serves, supports, educates, uplifts, or connects our community, **ArtBeat 2026**. They especially encourage booths with interactive activities, community engagement, or creative experiences for festival attendees. Application deadline: **Monday, June 15**. Apply here: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Community Baptist Church**, 31 College Avenue near Davis Square, will present a free **Vacation Bible School from Monday, August 10, through Friday, August 14**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All children, from age 4 up to 5th grade, are welcome to attend. This Rain-forest-themed program includes Bible stories, music, creative activities, games, and free snacks each day. For more information or to register your child, see [www.ILoveSCBC.org/events](http://www.ILoveSCBC.org/events).

\*\*\*\*\*

Use your voices to uplift and ignite others! Inspired by this year's **Art Beat Festival** theme: **REvolution**, the **Somerville Arts Council** is inviting community members to submit short, original quotes or phrases that inspire the spirit of transformation and explore ideas that challenge the status quo. Selected quotes may be shared leading up to and/or during the Art Beat Festival in one or more of the following ways: Highlighted on yard signs along the Community Bike Path leading up to the festival. Featured in an interactive telephone experience during Art Beat on July 18. Read aloud by a real-life Town Crier who will be roaming the Davis Square streets. Submit a written quote or submit a voice recording by **June 12**. For more information visit: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artbeat/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Big Gay Dance Party** takes place on **June 27**. Dance the night away in celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride. The theme: **Gender Euphoria**. Enjoy live music, drag performances, and more. All LGBTQ+ individuals and allies are welcome. This event will be held on Sunday, June 27, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. (rain date: June 28), at **Union Square Plaza** (90 Union Square). <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Nunziato dog park ribbon cutting** will take place on **June 16**. Community members and their furry friends are invited to a ribbon cutting for a dual water fountain for dogs and people on Tuesday, June 16, at **Nunziato Field and Dog Park** (7 Putnam St.) from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon). Rain date: Thursday, June 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Somerville K9 Team dogs Fluff and Missy** will join the officials gathering with the community to mark the occasion. Please keep dogs leashed during the ceremony.

\*\*\*\*\*

Join **Union Square Main Streets** and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the **22nd Annual Union Square Farmers Market**. Shop local Saturdays **through October 31**, except July 4 and September 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the **Union Square Plaza**. They continue to offer our SNAP matches. Check the market webpage for the latest info and to see which vendors accept SNAP. To get the latest updates about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit [www.unionsquaremain.org/2026-season](http://www.unionsquaremain.org/2026-season).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Meal Program.** All are welcome. Registration is required. You will need to register on a weekly basis. Each week, on

Monday or Tuesday, call the **COA Reservation line** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2323 to reserve your spot for the following week.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Davis Square Market** has opened for the 2026 Season. The market will run **every Wednesday** from 12 noon to 6 p.m., **through November 25**, at **44 Day St.**, Somerville. This long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

\*\*\*\*\*

A reminder that **yard waste pickup** began the week of April 13. Yard waste should be put out with your trash and recycling on your normal pickup day and be in either a paper bag or a trash barrel with a **"Yard Waste Only"** sticker. Get stickers free of charge at the **DPW building** (1 Franey Rd.), at the entrance desk at **City Hall** (93 Highland Ave.), or by emailing [311requests@somervillema.gov](mailto:311requests@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe** campaign for **The Somerville Times**. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact [Bobbietoner@aol.com](mailto:Bobbietoner@aol.com). We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Somerville Invited to 20th Annual Family Fun Day

Celebrate the start of summer at the City's 20th Annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 27, from 1-4 p.m. at Trum Field (541 Broadway). This free event, hosted by the Parks & Rec Department, invites families, neighbors, and community members of all ages to enjoy an afternoon of kid-friendly activities, entertainment, and summer fun. This year's activities include bounce houses, magic shows, face painting, live music, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and more. To learn more, please email ParksRec@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2980.

## Broadway Magoun Reconstruction Project CONT. FROM PG 11

an avocado or peanut shape," said Worth.

The roundabout would include raised crosswalks and flashing pedestrian beacons to make it easier to cross. It would also add separated bike lanes around the intersection. And there would be floating bus stops on the near side of the intersection to provide improved bus operations without gridlocking the intersection.

Some of the advantages include minimal traffic delay, shorter crossings, and fewer vehicle conflicts. However, there are some potential drawbacks, explained Worth. Some people walking and biking may feel less comfortable without traffic signals. Crosswalks would be set back a little further from the intersection than they would be under different options. And a lot of the reclaimed pedestrian space would be in the center of the roundabout. Plantings could be placed

in that area, she said, but it wouldn't be easy to access or functionally usable.

Design option two, the project team is calling "X." This option simplifies the intersection into a more traditional four-way layout. This design maintains traffic signals, but it removes extra travel lanes that aren't needed. It adds raised and protected bike lanes. It includes floating bus stops at the far side and expands pedestrian space at the corners.

The "X" plan also includes an exclusive pedestrian phase, so after the vehicle phases go, all traffic stops, and people can cross in any direction, the same as how things operate today, but with a much shorter wait, explained Worth.

Benefits include reduced crossing distances, improved pedestrian space, simpler traffic operations, and reduced delays overall.

There are some trade-offs though in terms of the operations of Dexter Street. Cars coming out of Dexter Street would be restricted to right turns only. It's completely removed from the signal. It doesn't have its own dedicated phase. And also, there is a little bit more exposure and interaction between bikes and vehicles, explained Worth. There are protected corners for people biking in this design.

The project team is calling the third alternative, the "T" because it tees off Medford Street into Broadway and reorganizes. This design provides the greatest separation between travel modes, said Worth. It includes protected bike lanes with dedicated bike signals. It maintains traffic signals, but it still simplifies the operations compared to existing conditions.

Benefits include shorter crossings, more

pedestrian space, particularly at the corners, and reduced overall delay for all users. Trade-offs would include some restricted turning movement. Similar to the "X" option, Dexter Street would be a right turn only, and for the "T" alternative, left turns from Broadway onto Medford Street would be prohibited.

There's also a slightly less direct path of travel for cyclists compared to other concepts, resulting in a slightly longer crossing distance, she explained.

The project team is continuing to gather community feedback on all these intersection alternatives and on the broader corridor design.

An 80 percent design is expected in the fall, and following that, the team will have an additional round of community engagement.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Unbecoming'  
by Suzette Bishop

*Unbecoming*  
By Suzette Bishop  
Published by Ethel, 2026

Reviewed by Sarah Stern

In Suzette Bishop's *Unbecoming*, the reader is reminded of this: "how thin the border is between health/ and illness." In her profoundly moving and deeply felt chapbook, Bishop makes art from her life with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS).

By braiding her own experiences of the disease, the often-negligent medical research and treatment options, and the fairy tale of Sleeping Beauty, Bishop gives us poems that ponder the body and what it can and can't do in the midst of what she calls "slowsand." There is rage here, but hope to. "Sleeping Beauty dreams of swinging in a hammock."

The placement of text and sharp line breaks heighten the limitations imposed by ME/CFS, activities that so many take for granted. As in the section titled Phase 2.

No baking No driving on highways, No pacing while lecturing, No walking at the park, No cleaning No cooking, No one over,

Physical  
Disruptions  
Bleed.

If only you could see energy flowing down the couch where I'm stuck or bent at the kitchen counter, leaning against the wall. If I drew, I'd draw that invisible energy

waterfalling out of ME. Identities are called into question, chronic sorrow, more loss of material possessions:

I can't ride a bike, so it's gone,  
my horseback-riding gear hung by the door, unused but still smells of horse,  
clothes that are too small, too young, too constrict-

a melted ice river  
on slated shell. Tattooed turtle, head pale,  
bulging neck sticking out,  
trickling raindrops I'd rather dodge  
than dance through.

Two years later, planning trip  
I pick out stalks in my size

Unbecoming



Suzette Bishop

ing, donated or sold, books I'll never get to that stay on the shelves; I can't part with them.

The physical space on the page between the last four lines of the quoted text mirrors the losses of the poet. As readers, that white space allows us to feel it too.

*Unbecoming* should be required reading for not only the poetry community but for those in the medical industrial complex. Here is a testament to what it is to suffer, to be misunderstood, to be questioned even by those who are near and dear and can't understand what is happening.

"the evil fairy appeared in the door,/ disappeared through the door./ The End: life as they knew it (or imagined it)."

This is a brave collection and a necessary one. Read it.

for a tie to hang from,  
berry vine surviving late winter,  
traveling far enough to see  
the new side of Sun.

I will paint my face with colors  
filling Father's hues.

— Chad Parenteau

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

Chad Parenteau hosts Boston's long-running Stone Soup Poetry series. His work has appeared in journals such as *Résonance*, *Molecule*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Pocket Lint*, *Cape Cod Poetry Review*, *Tell-Tale Inklings*, *Off The Coast*, *The Skinny Poetry Journal*, *The New Verse News*, *dadakuku*, *Nixes Mate Review*, and *The Ugly Monster*. He has also been published in anthologies such as *French Connections*, *Sounds of Wind*, *Reimagine America*, and *The Vagabond Lunar Collection*. His newest collections are *All's Well Isn't You* and *Cant Republic: Erasures and Blackouts*. He serves as Associate Editor of the online journal *Oddball Magazine* and co-organizer of the annual Boston Poetry Marathon. He lives and works in Boston.

Knots

Father gathered ties  
with butterfly collector's eyes,  
virtuoso choosing  
shades, fractals.

At 22, my ideal design  
cartoon faces. He would fit me  
from his doors of racks  
holding my student hands  
like a frustrated painter, my four-in-hand  
quick" young man's knot"  
vs. his time-taking half-Windsor.

Once knotting straight solids  
and false family crests, Dad  
chameleoned old with new,  
veteran gentleman's suit and swirls,  
Mardi Gras beads he never wore,  
introducing Mom to the stripper  
table dancing across New  
Orleans, Mom told her  
she was beautiful.

A month after Dad dies,  
my tie inherited

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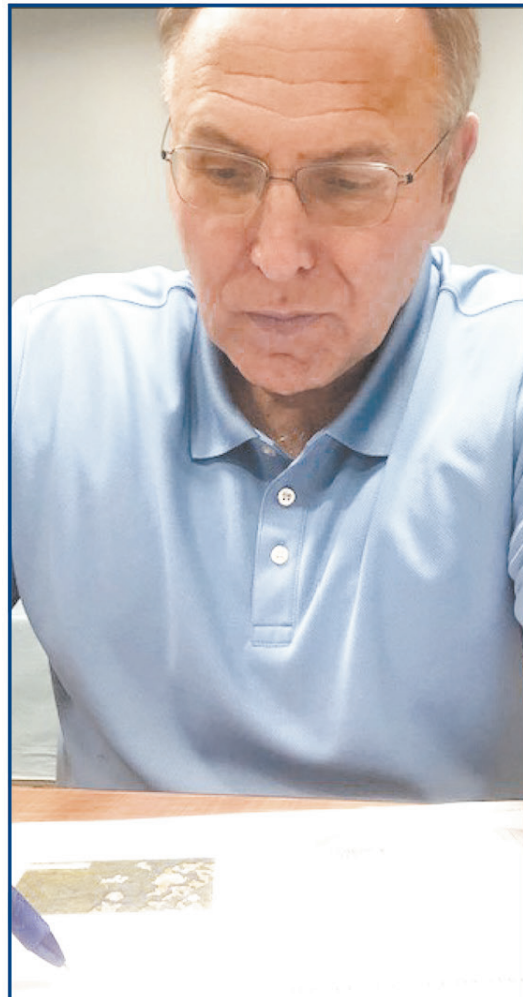
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financed by  
**WINTER HILL BANK**

**ARLINGTON**  
Construction Multi-Unit Condos  
**\$1,919,000**  
*Residential*  
First Mortgage Loan  
financed by  
**WINTER HILL BANK**

**SALEM, NH**  
Construction Industrial Condos  
**\$1,026,000**  
*Commercial*  
First Mortgage Loan  
financed by  
**WINTER HILL BANK**

**WELLESLEY**  
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