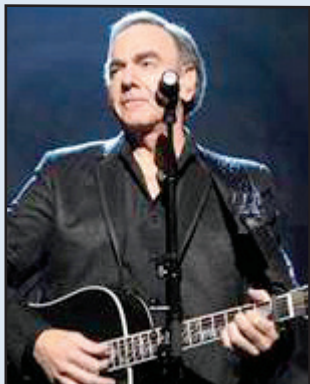




Inside:



So good, so good,
so good!

page 3



More power to
Somerville High

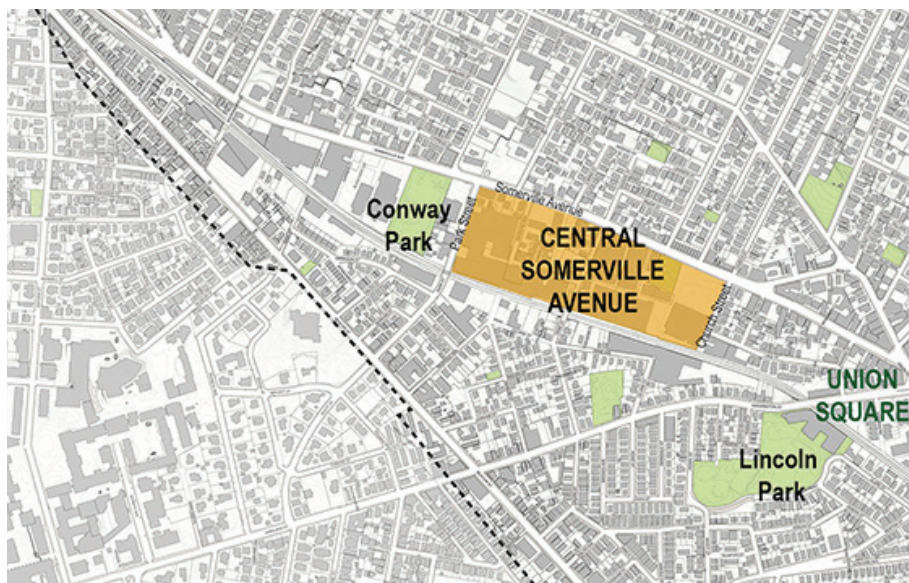
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SOMEDAY FEST
was the best

pages 16-17

Land Use Committee holds off on zoning changes



The city's Land-Use Committee postponed a vote on proposed changes at their latest meeting.

By Norah Doyle

On June 5, the Somerville Land-Use Committee met with the Planning Board virtually to discuss proposed changes to the city's zoning ordinance, many of which would impact Somernova, Somerville's innovation hub. After nearly four hours of discussion, the committee decided to table the vote and delay their decisions on the changes due to concerns about parking, traffic, and how the surrounding neighborhood would be impacted. The meeting included three different presentations.

Planning Board Presentation

The Planning Board laid out 3 key proposals in their presentation, which was presented by Dan Bartman. The first proposal from the Planning Board was to create a new research *Continued on page 4*

Amal Niccoli, hair and skin care salon, celebrates milestone

By Jeffrey Shwom

Long-time hair and skin care salon owner Lori Pino celebrates her 30-year anniversary in the heart of Ball Square and almost 40 years operating in Somerville, with no plans to close her shop, Amal Niccoli, anytime soon.

The business, which first opened as a hair salon in 1985 on Boston Ave., expanded to other health and self-care services over the years, and now that she has some "new blood," Lori is not "quitting them now!" A 1980 Somerville High graduate and lifelong learner, Lori operates Amal Niccoli and KenkoDo Clinic, an acupuncture, massage, and skin care clinic she opened right next door twelve years ago. When we caught up with her over the phone, she was traveling with her acupuncturist, *Continued on page 5*



Owner Lori Pino recounts the 30-year history of Amal Niccoli salon.

— Photo by Jeffrey Shwom

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








The Somerville Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the return of the Taste of Somerville Festival on Wednesday, June 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Boynton Yards to benefit your favorite nonprofit, the Somerville Homeless Coalition. Returning for its 27th year, Taste of Somerville is the premier all-you-can-eat culinary and creative arts festival of Somerville with over 50+ food and beverage vendors, local artisans, live entertainment, lawn games, and more – all in the heart of Union Square at Boynton Yards. For more information and tickets, visit <https://tasteofsomerville.org/>.

Community members are invited to attend a film screening and panel discussion to highlight the work of Somerville’s Anti-Displacement Task Force (ADTF) and continue the important conversation of displacement in Somerville. The event will be held on Thursday, June 12, at East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.), at 6 p.m. To learn more and review the ADTF reports, visit: www.voice.somervillema.gov/adtf

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. As always, we wish him the best. Happy birthday, Jack. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 11 – June 17 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>June 11</i>	Sunny	82°/69°	7%	3%	SW 13 mph
 Thursday <i>June 12</i>	Partly Cloudy	83°/59°	5%	2%	W 15 mph
 Friday <i>June 13</i>	Partly Cloudy	73°/59°	21%	16%	NW 8 mph
 Saturday <i>June 14</i>	Rain	60°/54°	38%	29%	ENE 9 mph
 Sunday <i>June 15</i>	Partly Cloudy	67°/54°	22%	15%	E 12 mph
 Monday <i>June 16</i>	Cloudy	73°/59°	20%	13%	SE 11 mph
 Tuesday <i>June 17</i>	Cloudy	73°/60°	23%	13%	SE 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com
Comments of the Week

Response to: Look Both Ways ... and Then Duck: A Visitor’s
Brush with Boston-Area Cyclists

Dave says:

I live nearby and have done the “infamous diagonal cross to Dali” many times without anything like the experience this letter describes. Like others, I don’t find the story credible—and bikes aren’t the problem.

In 2022, 7,522 pedestrians were killed by cars in the U.S.

Deaths caused by bicycles? Fewer than 10 to 20 per year nationwide.

It is clear. Cars are the far bigger danger. More bikes = safer streets

Maureen Bastardi says:

Response to: Letter to the Editor 6-4-25

I concur with everything said in this Letter to the Editor. I too have been nearly run over by cyclists. I have also nearly missed cyclists with my car because they were not following rules on the road. I just want them to follow the laws!

David says:

I have no sympathy for both drivers and cyclists that fail to yield to pedestrians (I have seen both modes ignore safety rules!!). I fully admit that I, as a cyclist, do not always come to a full stop at stop signs; but at the very least, I will always slow down, look both ways, and will always stop if someone is trying to cross. It disappoints me that many simply don’t follow the concept of yielding and right of way. I understand the frustration and lack of nuance that comes with the “Arrive at a full stop – for an empty intersection” rule, but you get a lot of awareness from the lack of enclosure around your bike, and responsible people should be using that visibility. I’d very much be in favor of more enforcement on egregious offenders. Ideally, that could be kept away from people who occasionally skirt rules but still have safety in mind.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.

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Arts Editor – Doug Holder

Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane, Jeffrey Shwom
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Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte,
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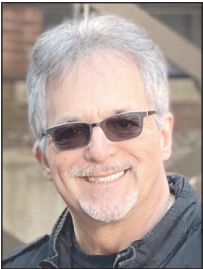
Life in the

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.

So good, so good, so good!



I usually write about the old days of Somerville in one shape or form. It's pretty simple because I can delve into actual proven history which is chronicled. Plus, I was usually there. It's rare for me to get a scoop, or an inside tip on a cool story. Well, the following is a hum dinger! I may have found the source of how and when the three extra "so goods" became part of the iconic Neil Diamond song *Sweet Caroline*.



cian/ front man Pat Benti, has been a friend and musical associate of mine for decades. He's also performed with many other Somerville musicians and has professional and personal relationships with countless superstars. Here's more about the man who says he started the extra "so goods" in *Sweet Caroline*.

Pat Benti has performed in most of the former popular Somerville nightclubs in their heyday, such as The Surrey Room (behind The Rosebud) and Johnny D's. Pat and his band Sha-Boom, were the last live band that played at Winter Hill's legendary Pal Joey's. I had to take a longer look at the man who claims he is responsible for altering and adding to one of the most popular tunes in the American songbook.

Pat Benti, (Pasquale Bentivegna) from East Boston, was the leader of the band Sha-Boom, a very popular Boston band in the '70's and 80's. Pat and Sha-Boom

opened for The Righteous Brothers and Roy Orbison to name a few. They also had a long run of warming up the huge Oldies 103 Concert Series audiences. They performed Celtic Pride Day, June, 10, 1986 (see color crowd photo).

2021 marks Pat's 50th year in the music business and he wanted to share this very special story about how he believes he started the popular "so good, so good, so good," in *Sweet Caroline*.

I conducted a few interviews and got Pat's lifelong friend Mike Capozzi, who was there, to share his recollection of the Pat Benti/ *Sweet Caroline* connection.

"Back in the late 80's, the city of Boston ran an event during Halloween season called the Monster Dash. This was a road race in which individuals and or teams dressed in costume and ran a race on the city streets. People would gather at City Hall Plaza at the end of the race to be entertained by Pat Benti and his Sha-Boom



Ben E. King of The Drifters with Pat Benti.

band, performing at a platform in the plaza. During the performance, the band got around to playing Neil Diamond's hit single *Sweet Caroline*. In the Benti version, Pat got the crowd into it with the "so good, so good, so good" refrain. As far as I know, this refrain was a brainstorm of Benti's, as I had never heard any

Continued on page 9

Cheers to 30 years!

Amal Niccoli Salon is celebrating 30 years at 731 Broadway, Ball Square, Somerville.

Haven't tried us yet? We offer 20% off services with our referral program. Let us know you were referred by The Somerville Times and get 20% off!

ASK ABOUT anniversary SPECIALS!

Amal Niccoli Salon 731 Broadway, Somerville 617.666.0722 <http://www.amalniccoli.com>

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Somerville Police Dept Crime Log May 27 – June 2

Arrest

25029680: On 5/29/25 at 12:29 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Statue Park for a dispute. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated a female party approached him and began yelling at him. The female then brandished a knife and lunged at the victim. No injuries were reported. Officers located the female suspect, and she was placed under arrest.

Assault

25030243: On 5/31/25 at approximately 10:16 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Foss Park for a report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he was chased by an individual with a knife.

Assault

25030580: On 6/2/25 at approximately 3:10 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Medford St. for a report of a fight. Upon arrival, officers observed a large group of juveniles in the parking lot. Officers spoke with two juvenile males who stated they were in a fight against each other. Both parties then left the area.

Arrest

25030757: On 6/3/25 at approximately 10:18 a.m., Somerville Police responded to 14 McGrath Hwy. for a report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was driving through the parking lot and almost struck a male party. The male began yelling at the victim then spit on her and brandished a knife. He was placed under arrest.

Other Crimes: 2 MV thefts + 4 MV vandalisms + 1 Package theft + 1 Car break

— Somerville Police Department



Pride Month – BCBS celebrates with Proud Bikes

In celebration of Pride Month, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (“Blue Cross”), the title sponsor of Bluebikes, is bringing back its fleet of rainbow-wrapped “Proud Bikes” to support LGBTQIA+ health care across Greater Boston. A total of 100 Pride-themed bikes—50 classic and 50 ebikes—will be available throughout the Bluebikes system for the month of June.

For every ride taken on a “Proud Bike” from June 1–30, Blue Cross will donate \$1 to Fenway Health, a long-time partner and leading provider of affirming health care and services to the LGBTQIA+ community, up to \$10,000. Once that threshold is met, Lyft, the operator of Bluebikes, will

match the initiative with an additional \$1 per “Proud Bike” ride, contributing up to an additional \$10,000.

“We’re proud to celebrate Pride Month with the return of ‘Proud Bikes,’” said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. “As the state’s largest health plan, we’re committed to reflecting and supporting all the communities we serve. This initiative is one way we continue advancing health equity and we’re honored to once again partner with Fenway Health to help expand access to inclusive, affirming care.”

“We appreciate the meaningful steps

Blue Cross continues to take in support of the health and wellness of the LGBTQ+ community,” said Jordina Shanks, Fenway Health CEO. “This initiative will once again support our critical care, education and advocacy efforts. We’re thankful for our ongoing partnership with Blue Cross and hope that everyone takes a ride on a Pride-themed Bluebike during Pride month.”

Bluebikes is municipally owned by 13 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts and jointly managed by the Cities of Boston, Cambridge, Everett, Somerville, and the Town of Brookline. The system is operated by Lyft and has been supported by Blue Cross as the title sponsor since May 2018.



As the title sponsor, Blue Cross supports initiatives that expand access to active transportation and promote community health. To learn more or find a “Proud Bike” near you, visit bluebikes.com.

Land Use Committee holds off on zoning changes

CONT. FROM PG 1

and development (R&D) zoning district for research and innovation companies.

The second proposal was to update the Arts and Creative Enterprise (ACE) rules to make them more specific and better define what is actually allowed in the district. The last proposal from the Planning Board was to establish a new Arts and Innovation (AI) overlay district. This is a special area of Somernova that would have different laws regarding height, parking, and civic use.

Bartman explained that changes needed to be made because the current zoning laws do not support how Somernova and similar places operate currently. The proposed changes would avoid the constant need for special permit requests.

Mobility Division Presentation

Presented by members of the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, Brad Rawson (Director of Mobility) and Justin Schreiber (Senior Planner of Mobility), this presentation was intended to explain how the city manages traffic and parking impacts from new developments. In their presentation, they proposed that all large developments must submit a Transportation Impact Study, a Transportation Access Plan, as well as a Mobility Management Plan.

The division also proposed a requirement for new developments like the ones to Somernova, must limit solo car use to no more than 40% of all trips at the opening of the new developments, and should trickle down to 25% as time goes on. This

would help encourage people to walk, bike, carpool, and use public transit to get to places like Somernova.

RAFI Properties Developer Presentation

The third presentation was from RAFI Properties, the owner and developer of Somernova. The presentation included an explanation of how the proposed zoning changes would support redevelopment of Somernova, outlining a plan to add 750 parking spots to the Somernova complex in phases. This would include integrating new parking garages with future buildings instead of surface lots. These spaces, however, would only be added if the development meets the aforementioned transportation goals.

RAFI also mentioned a recently approved Community Benefits Agreement

(CBA) with the Union Square Neighborhood Council, which outlined specific commitments, such as reserving public civic space, supporting arts and cultural programming, as well as promoting local hiring. These commitments will be carried out if the Somernova zoning changes move forward.

Outcome

Despite the three detailed presentations, the committee decided to hold off on voting, stating they felt the proposals needed a fuller picture. They ultimately decided they wanted more time to review individual zoning changes, parking plans, and community agreements, and how they would all fit together before making any large, lasting, and impactful decisions.

Amal Niccoli, hair and skin care salon, celebrates milestone

CONT. FROM PG 1

Estella, to a sports medicine certification program for acupuncture in Virginia. Lori's interest in health and beauty keeps going forward.

Lori credits the success of the businesses to the "longevity" and "consistency" of her employees. "You keep the people and they stay. You are always building your clientele, they want to see the same faces. It is like 'coming to visit.' You have to keep people happy."

Most of her long-term staff are from the area and have worked at her shop for over ten years. Recently, she succeeded in bringing on two recent hires and was especially enthusiastic when talking about them.

Herself a graduate of the third ever cosmetology trade program, Lori "tried to work with Somerville High School to train them and bring" a cosmetologist and



other wellness staff into her place for years.

During COVID, she struggled with finding people to apply. Then, good fortune struck. "One day, I got lucky and got Brooklynn Higgins [1] from the high school. She worked in a salon when she was in school." Brooklyn has "blossomed" since starting a year ago, thanks to one-on-one training with Lori. Recently, thanks to a word-of-mouth referral, esthetician Juliana Scaramozzo started, and Lori has been doing skin care training with her, just like with Brooklynn. Now, she said, "We are moving and grooving."

Lori likes talking about local history and reminisced about the early days at the USTravel World building that overlooked the commuter rail tracks. "When we were at that building I used to hang out on the fire escape for fresh air and a (cigarette) butt, thinking about the train coming. The train would go by, and the whole building would shake."

Amal Niccoli, which is not a name of a person but rather the combination of two original owners' names, has not been negatively affected by the Green Line Extension, the Broadway Bridge closure before, and the changes in parking around Ball Square.

Though initially a bit skeptical of its positive impact, Lori admits that the Green Line extension "impacted me more than I expected to." She shared a story about a neighborhood meeting she hosted with city officials about parking changes. "When we had a meeting with (director of parking) Suzanne Rinfret, she said, 'Well, people will come from Union and come to Ball Square.' I said, I do not see anyone coming from Union. I don't see the train helping me."

Not one week later, Lori had to eat crow. "I got a bride who wanted to do trial hair and makeup. She was hopping on the train from Union Square. She got her hair colored. She was in a few times. She brought her mother in. You know what, you gotta admit when you are wrong. I was proven wrong and I accept that," she shared with a chuckle.

When asked jokingly if she would work for another 45 years or if she had plans to retire anytime soon, she was reflective. "I don't even know how to answer that question. I have no intentions of going anywhere soon. If I hit the lottery, maybe. I do like the Encore (casino)." I may hold my breath, as Lori is headed out of town soon on a cruise she won through that very



Amal Niccoli salon owner Lori Pino.
— Photo courtesy of Amal Niccoli

same casino in Everett.

Amal Niccoli, 731 Broadway, Ball Square. <https://www.amalniccoli.com/>.

Note: this interview has been edited and condensed for clarity and brevity.





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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of June 2-6. There were no roll calls in the Senate last week.

REGULATE CANNABIS (H 4187)

House 153-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that makes several changes to the state's cannabis laws that supporters say would allow the cannabis industry to continue growing responsibly. The bill makes changes to the structure of the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), increases the number of retail licenses that an entity may have, lowers the barrier to entry for medical marijuana retail, increases purchase limits for consumers and patients and addresses the selling of hemp products.

The bill creates an oversight structure for the importation, manufacture and sale of two forms of consumable federally legal hemp products: hemp beverages and consumable CBD products. Under the bill, both products may only be sold if registered with the CCC. The bill instructs the CCC to develop regulations for hemp product registration that aligns with regulations for marijuana products, including a prohibition on any product containing synthetic cannabinoids. The products may only be manufactured from concentrate that complies with federal potency limits on hemp.

Other provisions include increasing the purchase and possession limit from one to two ounces of marijuana; increasing from two ounces to three ounces the possession limit that would result in a civil penalty or drug awareness programming for those under 21; restructuring the CCC by making the governor the sole appointing authority – replacing current law which gives that authority to the trio of the governor, treasurer and attorney general; and requiring the chair of the CCC to serve coterminously with the governor.

The bill also incrementally raises from three to six the limit on the number of retail licenses any individual or entity may hold and requires that priority consideration for licenses be given to social equity businesses, minority businesses, woman businesses and veteran businesses.

"This legislation not only makes needed changes to the structure of the Cannabis CCC, it's also representative of the House's commitment to ensuring that the cannabis industry in Massachusetts is regulated in a manner that bolsters economic opportunity, especially for communities that were disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of marijuana," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

"[The bill] calls for restructuring the composition and appointing authority of the CCC, which has been seen for some time now as dysfunctional and, in the words of the Inspector General, 'rudderless' when it comes to who is responsible for overseeing its day-to-day operations," said House Minority Leader Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "The bill contains additional reforms by establishing standards for licensing, compliance and testing of intoxicating hemp-derived beverages and other consumable CBD products which can cause impairment but are widely available at many of the state's convenience stores and gas stations. I supported this bill because it will protect consumers and support businesses by strengthening the cannabis industry's regulatory framework."

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

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

OUT-OF-STATE TESTING LABORATORIES (H 4187)

House 154-0, approved an amendment to a section of the cannabis bill which requires out-of-state testing laboratories used by Massachusetts to meet certain standards, including being licensed in its home state to test hemp and cannabis. The amendment would add an additional provision that the testing laboratory must also be certified and in good standing with the Massachusetts CCC.

"The underlying bill ... sets a definition for what constitutes a qualified out-of-state testing laboratory to make sure it meets certain standards, including being licensed in its home state to test hemp and cannabis," said Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "This amendment adds a further provision that the testing laboratory also be certified and in good standing with the CCC to ensure that Massachusetts' testing standards are not compromised and consumers are fully protected."

Rep. Mike Day (D-Stoneham), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking him to comment on passage of his amendment.

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

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

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

DONUT SPARE TIRES (H 3694) – The Transportation Committee held a hearing on legislation that would prohibit vehicles operating on a "donut" spare tire from driving in the high-speed lane nearest to the left side of the road. A "donut" spare is a tire that is smaller than a conventional tire and takes up less room in the trunk of the car.

Supporters said that donuts are designed to only drive up to 50 miles at speeds of up to 50 mph.

"Driving at speeds higher than this with a donut spare, which the high-speed lanes normally run at, not only puts the driver at risk, but surrounding cars as well," said sponsor Rep. Steve Howitt (R-Seekonk).

ELECTRIC AND GAS RATES (S 2238) - The Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy held a hearing on a measure that would prohibit the Department of Public Utilities from approving any rate request that would result in a utility earning a higher profit than what is allowed in five neighboring states.

"Massachusetts ratepayers are experiencing some of the highest costs in the nation," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "Now is the time for an all-hands on deck effort focused on reducing costs to ratepayers. In recent years, DPU regulators have approved utility rates resulting in returns on equity for utilities that are higher than what utilities are allowed to earn in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. The result has been Massachusetts ratepayers paying millions more annually on their utility bills so that utilities can earn higher profits in Massachusetts than in surrounding states."

CAP HOSPITAL PROFITS AND SALARY OF HOSPITAL CEOS (H 1398) – The Health Care Financing Committee held a hearing on a legislation that would require that in any hospital which accepts state funding, if the CEO's annual compensation is greater than 50 times the lowest paid employee, the facility will be subject to a civil penalty equal to the amount by which the Chief Executive Officer's annual compensation exceeds 50 times the value of the lowest paid employee.

Another provision provides that any state-funded hospital whose annual operating margin (profit) is more than 8 percent will be subject to a civil penalty equal to the amount by which the annual operating margin exceeds 8 percent.

"[The bill] represents a necessary step to ensure that our state's burgeoning healthcare industry is *Continued on page 19*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Have a happy Father's Day, Somerville!

Our View Of The Times



For those of us who are fortunate enough to have had a strong, loving father figure in our lives, we have indeed been truly blessed.

They have served as our providers – along with mom, of course – our enablers, our staunch supporters, our coaches, our towers of strength.

Most of us love our dads year-round unconditionally, but we are immediately re-

mindful of just how much they mean to us whenever Father's Day rolls around in the month of June.

It suddenly becomes a high priority to pick out that perfect gift, to prepare a nice meal, or to just spend some meaningful quality time together.

And as stoic and unconcerned as they may want to appear, you can be sure that these gestures are deeply appreciated. Ev-

eryone likes to feel appreciated, whether a giver or receiver.

Some of us may be so separated from our fathers geographically that an in-person get together might not be possible this time around. We can still pick up the phone or buzz them on Zoom for a special talk that would surely lift dad's spirits.

Think of all the times he was there for you, for that important sports event at

school, for the wonderful summer vacations and holiday season sledding in the park. For graduations, weddings, births, and so many of life's most memorable events. He made sure to make time for you, no matter how busy his life was.

So, however it is we manage to celebrate our fathers this year, let's make sure they know how important and precious they are to us. They'll surely appreciate it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We hope you have a great day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Kevin Tortorella, Rand Wilson, Al Sharpe, Amanda Esteves, Donna Amenta, Stephanie Hirsch, Donna M. Quinn, Shawn M Lynch, Rebekah Gewirtz, Gretchen Ann Graham and Martin Janet 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.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, and the City of Somerville's Department of Veterans' Services and Public Space and

Urban Forestry Division invite members of the public to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Central Hill Veterans Vietnam and Korean War Memorial project. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. on the lawn in front of Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.). The Central Hill Veterans Memorials project was a component of the new Somerville High School campus design. Coming out of an extensive community process, the vision for the site includes a memorial walk with reflective spaces honoring veterans in chronological order. The first phase of the project includes the return of the Ko-

rean and Vietnam War Memorials to the lawn in front of Somerville High School. Belko Landscaping will begin installation work this summer. To learn more and for future project updates, visit www.voice.somervillema.gov/central-hill-memorials.

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 you please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact Bobbietoner@aol.com. We offer great discounts to try to help out our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

Blast off into summer with Small Mart, a pop-up marketplace for all things local, handmade, and one-of-a-kind. They are touching down at the Crystal Ballroom on Saturday, June 14, for a stellar afternoon of vintage

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's
Olio
#976

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Which rock band released the hit song *Living on a Prayer* in 1986?

2. Who created and hosted the TV show *The Joy of Painting* in the 1980s?

3. Which African-American man ran for the office of the President of the United States in 1984?

4. Who won the Best Actress Oscar in 1988 for her role in the movie *Moonstruck*?

5. What family of plants does quinoa belong to?

6. Broccoli is originally an Italian word that means what?
7. Who is considered the first long-distance driver?

8. Which British singer-songwriter released the hit album *21* in 2011?

9. What is widely regarded as the first affordable car?

10. How many pieces does each player start with in a game of checkers?

11. Who is the author of the **Game of Thrones** book series?

12. Which national park is home to the world's largest hot springs?
- Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
2. A city called "Rome" is on every continent except Antarctica.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
SUMMER VIBES

- ACROSS
1. Baking ingredient

5. Accounting pro

8. Depletes

12. ____ reflection

13. Painter Chagall

14. Feeling of resentment

15. Member of Germany's NSDAP

16. ____ lily

17. Light shade of blue

18. Summer thirst quencher

20. Same as tsar

21. Subside

22. Tierra ____ Fuego

23. Taken without consent

26. Even greener, as in fruit

30. Dot follower

31. Largest hot dessert

34. Australian palm

35. Evian, backwards

37. A in FANBOYS

38. Like a lightning bug

39. Prima donna

40. Midsummer's maypole dance, e.g.

42. William Blake's "To Summer," e.g.

43. Any voting citizen

45. Sun to ice cream

47. Feeling of veneration

48. Two-door

50. Beach bag, usually

52. Summer rays

55. Rock bottom

56. Altar location

57. Milk ____, candy

59. Small stream

60. Turned to the right, like a horse

61. Starchy tuber

62. It's knee-high by the 4th of July

63. Ctrl and Delete partner

64. Type of tide
- DOWN
1. ____-kissed

2. Birthstone after sapphire

3. Nod off

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
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43				44				45		46		
			47				48	49				
	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

- © StatePoint Media
4. Kind of instinct

5. Diamond weight unit

6. Bluenose

7. Climber's destination

8. Intensely hot

9. Greenish blue

10. Make like a cat

11. "Monkey ____, monkey do"

13. Sometime in the future

14. Indianapolis basketball player

19. With BMI over 30

22. Piece of evidence, acr.

23. Type of probe

24. Summer hiking path

25. Nose of a missile

26. Pakistani tongue

27. Sitcom trial

28. Lyric poem

29. Less experienced
32. Boat ____, don't care!

33. Uninvited picnic guest

36. Break from summer routine

38. First in Hebrew alphabet

40. Fish eggs

41. Entertained

44. Twist plus jerk

46. City in Netherlands

48. Precious metal extraction cup

49. Early stages

50. #61 Across cousin

51. ____-Eaters

52. Literary genre

53. In the buff

54. Collection of Norse mythology

55. Oldest of the "Big Three" TV networks

58. Dip into liquid
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Burrata, Tomato & Citrus Salad

This quick and easy salad will make a great lunch or a side for a small gathering. The textures, color combination, and unique flavors will definitely leave you craving more.

If you never tried Burrata, the outer layer is solid mozzarella and the inside is a combination of mozzarella and cream. Burrata has been around for a little over 100 years and is produced in southern Italy. Of course, it's also produced here in the United States, predominantly on the East Coast, by artisanal cheese makers and can be found in stores where they sell artisanal cheeses. Serves 4 people.

2 - 4oz Burrata cheese

1/2 pint assorted mini heirloom tomatoes (halved)

1 orange, (supremed)*see below

8 basil leaves, (chiffonade - thinly sliced)

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar (an aged vinegar has a more concentrated flavor)

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Pinch of finishing salt, like Gray Salt, (or any course granular sea salt)

On a plate of your choice, arrange the Burrata on the plate, add the tomatoes, orange segments, basil, balsamic vinegar, olive oil, then finish with salt. To supreme the orange, for full instructions please go to: <http://www.thejoykitchen.com/ingredients-techniques/how-supreme-citrus-fruits>.



preme-citrus-fruits.

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix>.

So good, so good, so good!

CONT. FROM PG 3

other band perform the song in this manner.

Years later, during the 2003 season of the Boston Red Sox, and under their still new ownership, I attended a late season game. During the break between the top half and bottom of the eighth inning, the music played over the loud speaker system was Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline*. Well, wouldn't you know it, the fans (as always, a mostly sold-out Fenway) spontaneously did the "so good, so good, so good" refrain. Could it actually be true that thousands of fans in Fenway that night might have learned the refrain from having attended the Monster Dash years earlier? I called

Pat Benti on his cell number from my seat in the (Fenway) park and told him that the crowd was doing his version of the song.

Finally, what goes around comes around. In the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013, as part of the healing process for Boston, its residents and fans, the Red Sox invited Neil Diamond to sing *Sweet Caroline* at a home game. And wouldn't you know, Neil did the Pat Benti version of his own song, getting the crowd going with the "so good, so good, so good" refrain. The following are Pat's own words:

"Basically, it was a medley, that began with *I'm A Believer*. At The Monster Dash, in front of around 15,000 costume

dressed people, I announced the composer, Neil Diamond. Then I went into, *Sweet Caroline*. Then I just started improvising by throwing in the "so good, so good, so good." The year was 1986. Yes, when the Sox were in the World Series."

(See Monster Mash crowd photo. Pat Benti is up front dressed in white as a mad scientist.)

To sum up the story, here are comments by longtime Sha-Boom bass guitarist Tony Baglio:

"Having performed with the Sha-Boom Band for many years, I can tell you, Pat Benti knows how to "read the room," whether it's a small club, concert hall or

huge event like the Monster Dash. While I can't swear he was the first to do the "so good, so good, so good" refrain, I can tell you the first time we performed at the Monster Dash was the first time I'd heard it, and knowing Pat's penchant for whipping up a crowd, I'm convinced he was and is the "so good, so good, so good" originator. So, there you are."

Was East Boston's Pat Benti actually the one who started the infamous tradition of adding the three "so goods" to *Sweet Caroline*? Sounds to me like a pretty solid case. Will we ever find out for sure? In Neil Diamond's own words, "Where it began, I can't begin to know when..."

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:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>

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BID ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites e-bids from DCAMM Certified Roofing Contractors for the Partial Roofing Replacement at the (200-2) Mystic River Apartments Development, 10 and 15 Memorial Road in Somerville, Massachusetts, 02145, in accordance with the documents prepared by SOCOTEC AE Consulting Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts.

The Project consists of: The replacement of existing low-sloped built-up roofing with a new modified bitumen roofing system over the existing precast concrete modular additions at designated buildings and locations.

The work is estimated to cost **\$ 285,000, including Alternates.**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

General bidders must be certified by DCAMM pursuant to M.G.L.c. 149 Section 44D. The General Bidder must be certified eligible in the DCAMM Prime/General category in **ROOFING**.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents are available online after **2:00PM, Wednesday, June 4, 2025** at www.Projectdog.com . Enter Project Code **869303** in the project locator box and select "Acquire Documents" to download documents. All plan holders must have an active online account on www.Projectdog.com to acquire documents and to receive project notifications.

Addenda, if issued, will be posted to the Projectdog website and shall be accompanied by e-mail notification to every individual or firm on record as having received the Contract Documents.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at www.Projectdog.com . Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. Tutorials and Instructions are available online at www.Projectdog.com . For assistance, contact Projectdog Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General Bids for this project will be accepted from eligible bidders until **2:00PM, Thursday, June 26, 2025** and will be publicly opened, forthwith online.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material (Payment) Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract sum. Bonds shall be obtained from a surety licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the form shall be satisfactory to the Somerville Housing Authority. The cost of such bonds shall be included in the bid price.

Attention is directed to the Davis-Bacon Act Wage Determinations, a copy of which is included in the Contract Documents, and will be made a part of the Contract.
The Awarding Authority is exempt from sales and federal excise tax to the extent permitted under law. Bidders should not include such taxes in figuring or in references to any bid.

Bidding procedures and award of the Contract and Subcontracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 149, Sections 44A through 44J inclusive, of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including all current amendments; and the guidelines established by the Deputy Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Capital Assets Management (DCAMM), dated June 30, 1981.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to waive any irregularities in or to reject any and all bids, if it be in the public interest to do so, and to act upon the bids and make its award in any lawful manner.

All questions and requests for interpretations must be submitted in writing via e-mail to gina.naik@socotec.us by the General Bidders until **Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 2:00 PM.**

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.

Address: 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145.
Meet at the main entrance of the Administration Building.

Attendance at this pre-bid conference is strongly recommended for parties submitting a bid

Brian Langton
Somerville Housing Authority

6/11/25 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, June 18, 2025**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_wp9s_3wfTDqn4HHfKZU51w
Webinar ID: 869 7879 6962

TO CALL IN

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

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

374A Medford Street Kero + Homemade Bite Brazilian Café LLC seeks to establish a Bakery, Café, or Coffee Shop in the Small Business (SB) Overlay Zoning District where the underlying zoning is Neighborhood Residence (NR), which requires a Special Permit.

142 Cross Street JAC Investments LLC seeks relief from the secondary front façade buildout requirement to construct an Apartment Building in the Mid-Rise 3 (MR-3) zoning district, which requires a Hardship Variance.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to ZoningBoard@somervillema.gov.

6/4/25, 6/11/25 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Flammables License and a New Garage License.

- New Flammables License, POAH Clarendon LLC, 20 Stephenson Aman Street, storing 1,000 gallons.
- New Garage License, 599 Somerville Ventures LLC, 599 Somerville Avenue, 33 vehicles inside, 0 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_6Sup2yhXScWXIYcfU9Rd3g
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to publiccomments@somervillema.gov, or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

6/11/25 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
WFD-26.1

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)

invites sealed proposals for **FabVille Lab Manager**

Funds for the FabVille Lab Manager are provided by the Economic Development Division of the City of Somerville Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development.

Bid Number WFD-26.1

Request for Proposal (RFP) package will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **10:00AM, Wednesday June 11, 2025** at www.somervillema.gov/wfd.
Print copies available upon request to WFD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to WFD@somervillema.gov and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **12:00 PM, Friday July 11, 2025** for responses to WFD-26.1 to the above email address.

Please contact the City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff, by email at WFD@somervillema.gov, for information and proposal packages.

Thomas F. Galligani Jr.,
Executive Director
617- 625-6600, x 2500

6/11/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #25-76

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

Replacement of Brown School Boilers

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **06/11/2025**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **6/25/2025 by 2PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Logan Carroll at lcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply. DCAMM Certification Required.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

6/11/25 The Somerville Times

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Notice of names of persons appearing to be owners of funds held by City of Somerville and deemed abandoned.

To claim funds, please go to www.somervillema.gov/treasury and complete the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form and send completed form together with required documentation to the City of Somerville treasury department by **August 11, 2025**. Mail to: City of Somerville Treasury, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 or email treasury@somervillema.gov. If you would like a printed copy of the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form mailed to you, please email treasury or call 617-625-6600 ext. 3500. Funds not claimed by **August 11, 2025** will be deemed abandoned.

19 FENWICK ST LLC
309 WASHINGTON ST LLC
377 WASHINGTON ST LLC
40 BOW STREET LLC
43 PRICHARD AVENUE LLC
47 OLIVER ST LLC
62 GOV WINTHROP REALTY LLC
74 MORELAND STREET LLC
7-9 CENTRAL ST
82 WILLOW AVE LLC
ABRAHAM, KIMBERLY
AGUSTE, NOEL
ALCIN, NAYALI
ALDRED, BRIAN F
ALFANO, DARIO
ALONSO MARJORI L TRUSTEE & ET
AMERAL, MICHAEL
ANDRADE, HANNAH
AQUINO KELLI
ARRUDA JANICE L.
ASSEKEN RAYMOND AND ATTORNEY
JEFFRE
BAKER ELISABETE M.
BALLOU KATHLEEN
BARCZI NATHAN A & LEANN N
BARROS, ETHAN
BARROS PROPERTIES LLC
BARTON, MATTHEW R.
BATISTA NICKOLAS D.
BEACON SALES CO
BEACON STREET CAFE INC
BECKER, MEGAN L
BELEW, GENEVIEVE
BENNETT NOAH & MAPA CLAUDINE
BERGAMOT LLC
BEVINGTON MILTON
BHAKTA JIGNESH D & AMOLA
SHERTUKDE
BIRD, OLIVIA
BIRMAN, ASHLEY C.
BLACKOWICZ, ANDON E
BOOKLIST PUBLICATIONS
BOON BRIAN & MARIETTA & DAVID
TRUSTEES
BORGES SOLANGE
BOSTON AREA SPANISH EXCHANGE
INC
BOUCHER BRETT
BOWERS-MCCLAIN JULIA B.
BOYTON YARDS LANDCO LLC
BREMIS JAMES & SOPHIE & STE-
PHEN J TRSTEE
BRENNAN CHRISTOPHER J
&TRUSTEE
BROWN, ANDREW O
BRUTON MARGARET & DANIEL B
TRUSTEES
BUCHANAN, CARROL R
BUCHANAN, ROBERT
BUCK LEE REAL ESTATE DEVELOP-
MENT LLC
BURGIO JOSEPH S JR
BUSY BEE JUMPERS PARENT CO
CAHILL, WILLIAM T
CAI WENYI
CAIEIRO JOSEPH D CAMARA ANN &
BUSWELL EMILY FOR LIFE
CAMARA ANN & BUSWELL EMILY
FOR LIFE
CAPOBIANCO ALESSANDRO &
SARITA
CARNIS JULIE
CAROLE CAFFERKY
CAROLINA DOS SANTOS
CARUSO, WILLIAM
CASA B LLC
CASH MAX PROPERTIES LLC
CARUSO, WILLIAM
CASSESSO, CHRISTOPHER
CEDAR STREET DEVELOPMENT LLC
CENTER FOR ARABIC CULTURE INC
CHAHINE JAD G
CHAILLE WARREN A
CHAPMAN CALLIE A.
CHARLESTOWN PAINTING INC

CHIARALUCI RAYMOND TRUSTEE
CHISHOLM WILLIAM N
CHIEHCHI KAO
CHOU, PENN
CIPRIANO JAINA
CLARKE, OLIVER
CLERGEAU, JAHVORY
COHEN ELLIOT & BRAVARD MAR-
JORY
COHEN, SARAH
COIT CAITLIN E. & SADOWNIK
JOSHUA M.
CONLEY SAMANTHA M.
CONNOR SAPAROFF FERGUSON
CONTE PATRICK WILLIAM
COOKE FINLAY S.
COOPER CORALIE L
CORO RICHARD
COSTA, DANIEL
COX JAMES CHRISTOPHER
CRAIG CARMINO ALBANO
CU LEASING CORP
CUMMINGS WILLIAM P & BIALIK
MAYA
CUNNINGHAM ANDREW
CURLEY, PAUL
DAHLIN, JULIA
DAIMLER TRUST
DAKOTA WOODS JENSON
DALY EMMA
DAMONE DARNELL STOKES
DANIEL J RILEY
DASILVA ELIZABETH
DAY, ROBERT J.
DE SOUZA, MARCOS FILIPE R
DEANDRADE NYEMMA C.
DEMARCO AURORA LIFE & DEMAR-
CO SHEILA TR
DENG OLIVIA
DEWIRE FAMILY TRUST
DIAS, EMMANUEL
DIAZ GUTIERREZ OSCAR D.
DICKSON KATELYN M.
DICKSON KELLEY
DINKA, KATERINA
DIXON JOSEPH S
DONEGAN, DANIEL
DONNELLAN, SHANNON
DONOVAN NORA
DOUGAN FIONA
DRISCOLL, MATTHEW K
DVORNIK, LUKA E
ECHICHOYA AMENKHIENAN
EDSON REALTY LLC
ELLIS LAUREN A.
ELM COURT LLC
ENGEL AND PROTHERO MARY
ENGVALL CHARLOTTE
ESCAMILLA GARCIA, DANIEL A
FASH BARBARA W.
FERAGNE RACHEL M.
FERNANDES, MARCELLO
FERRAINA LAUREN
FERRANTI ANN V
FISH JEFF J
FLUOR ENTERPRISES INC
FORTUNATO KATHRYN M & GOLDING
DAVID V.
FOSCAROTA, JOHN
FOUNTAIN AVE GROUP LLC
FRANCOIS FIDENDI
FRANCOIS, STAVE-BEEN
FRANCOTYP-POSTSALIA INC
GALIWANGO ALAN & SANDRA
GARAVAGLIA KATHERINE
GARCIA MARIA
GARG PRIYA & WANG JENNY
GAY BERTRAM A & DOROTHY A
GAUDREAU MICHAEL
GEIGER JESSICA L.
GEORGE DILBOY VFW POST 529
GERAGOSIAN, BRIAN
GIANOUKOS VASILEIOS
GORMLEY, PHILIP
GRAFFEO IRREVOCABLE FAMILY

TRUST
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GREGORY, JOHN MATHIEU
GREGORY PENELOPE
GROS LUIS P
GUEVARA, JOSE D
HABIB JAHAN Z.
HAHN-MACMILLAN MCKAYLA E.
HAMEL JOSEPH
HARDY, DANIEL G.
HARPER ADELE JOHNSON
HARRISON SCOTT
HAVERTY, DAVID
HAYLEY WALKER
HAZEL EVANS
HICKEY, CINDY
HIGGINS, ALISON
HODGDON MARY LOU
HOLMAN KIMBERLY
HOUDE TIMOTHY R
HYNES, JARED
ISRANI DIVYA & PATEL KEYUR KIRIT
IULEIDA RODRIGUE FERREIRA
JANILUINAS, KAYLA A
JOHNSTON, MYRNA
JOYCE V, THOMAS V , JR
JOSEPH, RONALDO S
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
JUDD IV JOHN W
KAO CHIEHCHI
KATZ PAULINE E.
KAUR JAGDISH
KAUR, MANJIT
KEALY MEGHANN MARIE MYERS
KEIPP, MADELINE M
KELLEY RICHTER
KENIA ELIZABETH ARBAIZA
KENNELLY MICHAEL F
KIGO KYLE F.
KIIHNE ROBERT S
KOCH CAROLINE E
KYLIE SORENSON
LAFEE BRANDON
LAFEE COLE
LANDAVERDE, JACQUELINE
LANSON SHANE
LAUREN E NOSEWORTHY
LAURION J THEODORE
LEAH CIRKER-STARK
LEBLANC LAUREN E
LEE YAN JENNY
LEE TE-YI
LEE YAN JENNY
LEE, ANDRIAN
LEIDE D.L. LOPES
LEMUS CARDOZA JULISSA A.
LEONE CARMEN
LEW RACHEL & EGE CURT
LEWCZYK JESSICA & COTE MAT-
THEW
LEWIS KATHLEEN DOREEN
LEWIS SARAH ANN
LI MINGLI & YUAN YIYANG
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
IFB #25-77

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

Replacement of DPW Boiler No. 2

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after 06/11/2025. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: 6/25/2025 by 3PM EST. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Logan Carroll at lgcarroll@somervillema.gov for more information.

5% Bid Deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply. DCAMM Certification Required.

Logan Carroll
Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3407

6/11/25 The Somerville Times

New solar panels at SHS

Last Monday, the city flipped the switch on the new solar panel array at Somerville High School. With nearly 17,000 square feet of solar panels, this array will produce around 7 million kilowatt hours during its lifetime. Not only is this solar array reducing carbon emissions, but it is going to generate over a million dollars in taxpayer savings. — City of Somerville



Somerville Kiwanis Club awards twelve scholarships



On Thursday, June 5, one of our most gratifying meetings of our year was held at the Burren Restaurant and Pub in Davis Square. Our annual scholarship awards meeting was held to celebrate and award twelve amazing Somerville High School graduates with a \$1000 scholarship each. Eleven of the twelve graduates were able to join us for the meeting.

The scholarships were awarded to:

1. The Gerry Donahoe Memorial Scholarship was presented to Jaylee Whalen.
2. The Paul O. Kelly Memorial Scholarship was presented to Ambika Bhardwaj.
3. The Larry Post Memorial Scholarship was presented to Kerby Luxama.
4. The Pauline D'Aurora Memorial Scholarship was presented to Fran-

cisco Santos Landaverde.

5. Giselle Altamiranda
6. Thiago Betti
7. Maria Costa
8. Elle Gys
9. Mashruf Mahin
10. Manjot Singh
11. Kaylie Wen
12. (Unable to attend)

These amazing graduates will be attending colleges and universities near and far, including Harvard University, Boston College, Northeastern University, University of Southern California, University of Massachusetts / Amherst, Fitchburg State University, Salem State University, and Bunker Hill Community College, among others.

Somerville Police Chief Shumeane Benford also attended and addressed the recipients.

These scholarships are made possi-

ble each year by the generous support of our members and friends through our Lucky K program, chaired by past president Charlie Ball, and grants from the Somerville Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation.

President Tom Austin and Co-President Dawn Austin thanked the committee for their diligent work selecting these twelve recipients from among fifty-one applicant essays. The committee, chaired by Past President Tony Ciccariello, included Distinguished Past President David O'Brien, Past President Isaac Machado, and Past President Charlie Ball.

To learn more about the Kiwanis Club of Somerville, visit our web page, www.somervillekiwanis.org, or like our Facebook page, Kiwanis Club of Somerville.

— Somerville Kiwanis

Central Hill Veterans Vietnam and Korean Wars Memorial groundbreaking ceremony

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, and the City of Somerville's Department of Veterans' Services and Public Space and Urban Forestry Division invite members of the public to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Central Hill Veterans Vietnam and Korean War Memorial project.

The ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. on the lawn in front of Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave.).

The Central Hill Veterans Memorials project was a component of the new Somerville High School campus design. Coming out of an extensive community process, the vision for the site includes a memorial walk with reflective spaces honoring veterans in chronological order. The first phase of the project includes the return of the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials to the lawn in front of Somerville High School. Belko Landscaping will begin installation work this summer.

To learn more and for future project updates, visit voice.somervillema.gov/central-hill-memorials.

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Answers

1. Bon Jovi

2. Bob Ross

3. Jesse Jackson

4. Cher

5. Amaranth family

6. The flowering crest of a cabbage

7. Bertha Benz

8. Adele

9. Ford Model T

10. 12

11. George R. R. Martin

12. Yellowstone National Park

Book review: ‘Quaker Silence’ by Irene Allen

By Dennis Fischman

It’s funny, I’ve recently read two different mysteries set in Cambridge, MA, around the environs of Harvard – this one and The Memorial Hall Murder [1]. The two books couldn’t be more different. Jane Langton [2] created quirky characters, some lovable (like Homer Kelly) and some so villainous you could almost hear them spit with every sentence.

In Quaker Silence [3], author Irene Allen [4] takes a more humane approach. Her people are flawed characters striving to be good, no matter what role they play in the story. Her detective, 66-year-old Elizabeth Elliot, can sometimes be self-righteous (and she knows it, and deplores it), and sometimes she bends corners

on ethical issues when she feels she hears a higher call out of the silence.

Elliot is the Clerk of the Quaker Meeting in Cambridge, and one of her members is murdered outside his own home shortly after he declares that soon, he’s going to give away the considerable fortune he’s made in business.

Is the murderer the homeless man who sometimes attends the Meeting to denounce the hypocrisy of rich people who declare allegiance to simplicity? Is it his gay nephew, who might be cut out of the will? Or is it another member of the Meeting? And where does conscience direct Elizabeth: toward neutrality and letting matters unfold, or toward actively investigating the murder – even if it involves lying to people who

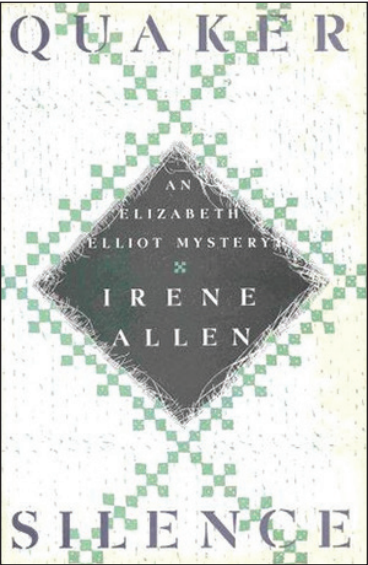
are supposed to trust her?

I will ask a friend of mine who attends Quaker meetings in Cambridge today whether the description of prayer and business meetings rings true. I suspect it does. (On the other hand, when Elizabeth’s niece Sarah is dating a Jewish guy and he says he “reads” Friday nights at Hillel, I have to shake my head and say, “Good try at cultural awareness, but not even close!”)

I would not want to be Elizabeth Elliot’s friend, let alone her Friend. I will want to spend more time in her company, however, by reading the next book in the series.

Links:

[1] https://goodreads.com/book/show/437436.The_Memorial_Hall_Murder__Homer_Kelly__3_



Quaker Silence by Irene Allen
Villard Books, 1992



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

[3] https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/126107.Quaker_Silence

[4] https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/72498.Irene_Allen

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: A close friend asked me to cosign a loan, but I’m not comfortable. Is there another way I can help?

A: Cosigning makes you legally responsible if the borrower can’t pay—and even one missed payment can damage your credit. But you can still offer real support:

- Give a direct gift – A one-time contribution may be safer and more helpful than taking on their loan.
- Start or support a GoFundMe – If the need is urgent, help them raise funds and share their story.
- Connect them to a credit union or CDFI – These lenders often offer more flexible

loan options.

• Strategize together – Sometimes, sitting down to help them plan is the most meaningful support.

Bottom line: You can say no to cosigning—and still say yes to helping.

Any questions? I’d be happy to help.

I’m Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at vhicksconnect@gmail.com or (859) 553-0788.

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



Join Somerville Family Fun Day on June 28

Celebrate the start of summer and join the City of Somerville Parks and Recreation Department for the annual Family Fun Day event on Saturday, June 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Conway Park (550 Somerville Ave.).

In the event of inclement weather, activities will move indoors to Founders Memorial Rink (8 Garden Court).

There will be fun for kids of all ages including bounce houses, face painting, games, music, arts and crafts, and more.

To learn more, please visit somervillerec.com or call 617-625-6600 ext 2980.



Grassroots music festival provides platform for arts activism

By The Times Staff

SOMEDAY FEST finally happened. After months of planning, the Somerville Organization for Multimedia Experiences (SOME) presented their first-ever indie rock festival, SOMEDAY FEST, at the Boston Figurative Art Center in Union Square on Saturday, June 7.

The day-long festival started at 2 p.m. with intimate, indoor performances from local folk, bluegrass, and pop musicians and transitioned onto BFAC's loading dock, which became an outdoor stage, showcasing the city's top indie acts, performing from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. with dynamic projected visuals from Digital Awareness lighting up the building's façade.

"We contended with some pretty wild weather, but that just kind of added to the fun and chaos of it," said SOME Co-Founder and Editor Ryan DiLello about the 300+ fans who came to the show and rocked out in the wet weather.

SOME is a local monthly newsletter that contains a roundup of stories and events within our city's arts and culture community, connecting artists and communities through the word, but the organization is expanding into events such as this festival.

Operationally, the event went smoothly, DiLello said, whose band Otis Shanty was part of the festival. The celebration of the city's creative pulse was made possible with funding from the Mass Cultural Council in the amount of a \$2500 grant. Sponsors Judge Amps, Remnant Brewing, and Field & Vine picked up the tab for the remaining costs. Winter Hill Brewing Company was there, vending beers and selling swag.

"I was grateful to have a team of people who are really passionate about the local art scene and have a lot of experience in promoting events," DiLello said.

The free show featured Somerville-based performers, vendors, and partners and is an inaugural attempt to place Somerville's



The indie rock festival SOMEDAY FEST took place last Saturday at the Boston Figurative Art Center in Union Square.
— Photos courtesy of Tyler Lehren

truly DIY scene on the map.

Somerville performers at SOMEDAY FEST:

• Indoors (folk, bluegrass, and pop): Mozz, Mel Starr, Wallpaper, Dumbest

Fella Alive, Shira Laucharoen

• Outdoors (shoegaze, dream pop, psychedelic, garage rock): Ohio State Fair, Intac, Notfriends, Jonny Tex, Otis Shanty, Tiffany





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SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Bingo – Thursday, June 12th & 26th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

General Nutrition Classes – Mondays, June 16th and 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via Zoom and 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in person at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Wednesdays, June 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th our Holland Street Center from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. RSVP to Mary Marshall by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email Mary at Headtofitness10@yahoo.com.

Bingo – Tuesday, June 24th at our Ralph & Jenny Center, starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. \$1. per bingo card. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Knitting with Natasha – Tuesdays, 17th & 24th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Have you always wanted to learn how to knit or are you a knitter looking to find other friends who knit? Look no further than knitting with Natasha. Join a supportive and fun group as we learn more about knitting while knitting together! Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Technology Workshops – The Council on Aging continues to strive to close the technology gap by partnering with Somerville Cambridge Elder Services to bring technology workshops to the COA. Each session will focus on different topics related to internet use and safety. Sessions are from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center.

Monday, June 9th – Photographing Artwork: Ever wonder why the pictures you take at a museum do not come out good? Do you create art? Ever wonder how to take pictures of it? In this class we will discuss how to take quality pictures of your artwork and the artwork at museums and galleries.

Monday, June 16th – Photographing & Video: In this workshop we will discuss how you can use your device to take fun pictures both indoors and outdoors.

Monday, June 23rd – Free Online Classes: Who likes free stuff? We do and we bet you do too. We will show you where you can learn online for free!

Monday, June 30th – Gestures: Ever wonder if you are using gestures correctly on your device? In this workshop we will show you how to swipe and more.

If you have any questions or to RSVP contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Virtual Reality Experiences Travel Experience – Friday, June 13th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Mediation Experience Monday, June 23rd starting at 2:00 p.m. at our Holland

Street Center. Join us as we travel to different destinations and learn interesting facts about each place. Using ARPA funding directed to the Council on Aging by Mayor Ballantyne, the COA has partnered with Rendeever, a Somerville based company focusing on the benefits of virtual reality in older populations. Studies have found that virtual reality can help reduce stress, decrease isolation, reduce pain and lower fall risk. Virtual reality is a 3D, computer generated simulation that is accessed through wearing a headset. Space is limited, but you will have many opportunities to participate in this two-year pilot program. Free! Grab-n-Go lunch available upon request. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Planning for Medicare Seminar – Thursday, June 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Led by a representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, this presentation is tailored for individuals approaching Medicare eligibility. Topics include an explanation of Medicare, the Medicare enrollment timeline, Medigap and Medicare advantage plans and programs available to early retirees. This session is ideal for individuals in the community who may still be working and looking to transition. If you have any questions or to RSVP contact Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

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LGBTQIA+ Allies Social – Friday, June 13th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Meet with your peers and enjoy a continental breakfast. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

FDIC Money Smart: Scams that Target Veterans – Friday, June 13th starting at 11:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Representatives from Northern Bank will conduct a presentation from their ongoing FDIC Money Smart series. The focus of this month's presentation is on scams

that target Veterans. This presentation will outline how scammers target Veterans and gain access to their benefits or trick them into paying for services they do not need. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Portuguese Coffee Social – Tuesday, June 17th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Come for coffee, see friends and talk to our staff. This event will be held in Portuguese. For more information, please contact Rafael Peruzzo by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2123.

Music & Movement – Tuesday, June 17th at 1:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. RSVP by calling Michelle Deutsch 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Michelle at mdeutsch@somervillema.gov.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

Follow the Somerville Council on Aging on Instagram! You can find us under the Instagram handle: somervillecouncilonaging If you have any questions or need help following us, contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email her at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

MEAL PROGRAM

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 on 617-625-6600, ext. 2323, to reserve your spot for the following week. Please leave your name, phone number and the day/days you would like to attend for the upcoming week. We will return your call to confirm your reservation by Wednesday afternoon. Lunches are provided by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services. Congregate Meal Program and catered by City Fresh. A suggested \$3 donation for lunches. Menu Subject to Change. Meals served at Noon.

Looking for a location to chat with your friends? Come to the COA on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., the senior center is open, and the coffee is on as we wait for the start of Bingo.

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

guided by fairness and accountability,” said sponsor Rep. Jim O’Day (D-West Boylston). “As it stands, hospitals and licensed healthcare institutions are some of the most profitable entities in Massachusetts, with executive pay rivaling that of the highest-paid corporate CEOs. Meanwhile, safety-net hospitals – those serving low-income and underserved populations – often struggle to stay afloat. To address this inequity, the proposal introduces financial fairness standards by placing a cap on executive pay and redirecting excess revenue into the public, needs-based system.”

O’Day continued, “When hospitals prioritize profit over patient outcomes, treatments are delayed, emergency departments become understaffed and entire communities are left without critical care. As a result, this legislation is essential to safeguard public health.”

RESTRICT ABILITY OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS TO PROFIT FROM THEIR CRIME (H 1789) – The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on a bill that would restrict the ability of criminal offenders to profit financially by undertaking any ventures that capitalize on the infamy of their crime. The bill sets forth a procedure to determine if the criminal offender is attempting to make money from the notoriety surrounding their actions by allowing the Attorney General, by and through the Division of Victim Compensation, to investigate and monitor such profits, and to distribute these profits to victims who were victimized by the underlying crime.

“This bill seeks to protect victims of crime by making sure that incarcerated felons do not reap unexpected financial benefits from their wrongful actions,” said sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “It not only takes steps to ensure that criminals do not profit from their crimes while in jail but also establishes a process for using this money to compensate their victims as a form of restitution.”

ALLOW PETS IN PUBLIC STATE-FUNDED HOUSING (H 1476) – A bill heard by the Housing Committee would reinstate the elderly state-aided housing pet program which was inadvertently eliminated when the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities was established in 2023. The program allows elderly residents of public housing to have pets.

This bill would also expand the pet program to apply to all state-aided housing, without restrictions on a dog’s breed, size, weight or appearance. In addition, it would prevent state-aided public housing facilities from requiring pet declawing in line with Massachusetts law prohibiting this practice, requiring unreasonably expensive pet deposits or evicting a tenant because they own a pet. Another provision would create an advisory group to help develop and effectively implement pet-friendly policies in state-funded housing.

“Elderly residents should not have to choose between access to housing and keeping their pets,” said sponsor

Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy). “The provisions outlined in this bill are crucial for ensuring elderly residents in state-aided housing can remain with their pets safely and without unfair restrictions.”

FLY FLAG OUTSIDE CONDOS (H 1555) – Another proposal before the Housing Committee would prohibit any condominium association from denying a unit owner the right to fly or display the flag of the United States, the official flag of the United States Armed Forces or a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag in a window of the unit. The measure limits the size of the flag to 4.5 feet by 6 feet in size and prohibits any flag from obstructing the sightlines of other unit owners.

“This bill stems from a constituent several years ago being told they could not fly the American flag- which she vehemently disagreed with,” said sponsor Rep. Dave Muradian (R-Grafton).

ALLOW BUSINESSES TO CHARGE CUSTOMERS A FEE TO COVER CREDIT CARD FEES (S 194) – The Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure heard a bill that would allow Massachusetts businesses to charge customers a fee to cover the cost of the processing fees that the credit card companies charge the business, provided that the surcharge amount is not greater than the actual cost to the seller and is posted prominently on their premises and website.

“I filed this bill after hearing from a small business owner in my district whose auto repair shop is struggling to stay afloat under the weight of rapidly rising credit card processing fees,” said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “His experience is not unique. It reflects a growing challenge faced by small businesses across the commonwealth. Credit card fees add an unnecessary challenge to the operation of small businesses. Credit card companies and banks charge businesses for accepting credit cards by attaching a fee to transactions. These fees range from 2 to 4 percent of the transaction, despite the total cost of such transactions only being around 3.6 cents.”

Comerford continued, “Large companies have leverage to negotiate better rates with these credit card companies and banks. However, small businesses do not have this luxury and are forced to bear the cost. While other states allow businesses to pass this fee to the consumer through surcharges, Massachusetts is one of two states that prohibit this. Small businesses play a vital role in the economy of Massachusetts. In 2024, these businesses comprised 99.5 percent of businesses in the commonwealth and employed 43.9 percent of Massachusetts’ employees. However, a 2025 study from the UMass Donahue Institute reported that 51 percent of retailers are likely to close or sell their business in the next five years, citing high-cost business challenges as a main factor behind their decision.”

REGULATE BODY ART (H 321) – Another measure

heard by the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure would require the state to establish regulations and licensing for the body art and modification industry. Body art includes tattooing, piercing, branding and scarification and is currently regulated at the municipal level. Doctors who practice body art as a part of patient treatment and individuals who pierce only ears would be exempt from the bill.

The bill establishes standards for businesses conducting body art, including procedures, sterilization, equipment, facilities and instruments. An individual licensed to perform body modification or body art would be required to have taken a college-level course in both anatomy and physiology, a course on the prevention of disease transmission from bloodborne pathogens, hold a certification in basic first aid and have two years of experience in the practice of body art either as part of an apprenticeship or from working in the field outside of the state.


“Body art has grown in popularity, but the lack of consistent statewide standards puts both practitioners and clients at risk,” said sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy). “This bill ensures proper training, health safeguards, and oversight, so that every body art procedure in Massachusetts meets the highest standards of safety and professionalism.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Office to housing conversions are transformative for our main streets and downtowns. Building new housing from vacant buildings is a long-term investment in the community, providing more living options for residents, a renewed tax base and more customers for local businesses.” — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on the Healey Administration awarding \$7.4 million in for two office to housing conversion projects that will create nearly 200 new units in downtown Boston.*

“This program was inspired by my own journey as a public safety intern nearly three decades ago. Our goal is to give students the tools, relationships and real-world insight that can spark a lifelong career in public service. The passion and diversity this cohort brings makes me optimistic for the future of public safety in Massachusetts.” — *Public Safety and Security Secretary Terrence Reidy on the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security’s Internship Program which continues to serve as a pipeline for talented, mission-driven individuals interested in careers in public safety and government service.*

“This program is a great example of government being innovative and supporting people’s financial and career goals based on their needs and unique circumstances.” — *Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett) on the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities awarding more than \$1 million to local housing authorities and regional administering agencies this month to promote economic opportunity for public housing residents.*



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.

School Readiness Workshop

Monday, June 16, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Somerville Public Library West Branch at 40 College Avenue. Join a free 6-week playgroup to meet friends and practice school readiness. Register at <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/playgroups-and-parent-support>



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What did the cheerleader bring her dad for breakfast on Father’s Day? Cheerios.

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Pink... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

June 11

1346 – Charles IV of Luxembourg is elected Holy Roman Emperor.
1509 –Henry VIII of England marries Catherine of Aragon.
1770 – Captain James Cook runs aground on the Great Barrier Reef.
1798 – Napoleon Bonaparte takes the island of Malta.
1895 – Charles E. Duryea receives the first U.S. patent granted to an American inventor for a gasoline-driven automobile.
1927 – Charles Lindbergh, a captain in the US Army Air Corps Reserve, receives the first Distinguished Flying Cross ever awarded, for his solo trans-Atlantic flight.
1940 – The Italian Air Force bombs the British fortress at Malta in the Mediterranean.
1944 – U.S. carrier-based planes attack Japanese airfields on Guam , Rota, Saipan and Tinian islands, preparing for the invasion of Saipan.
1963 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is arrested in Florida for trying to integrate restaurants.
1987 – Margaret Thatcher wins her third consecutive term as Prime Minister.

treasures, original artwork, handcrafted goods, and cosmic creativity from 40+ small businesses. Located just steps from the Davis Square T stop, the Crystal Ballroom provides the perfect backdrop, and their bar will be open for beverages while you browse. Small Mart at Crystal Ballroom, **Saturday, June 14**, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., 55 Davis Square, Somerville. Free entry, all ages welcome.

Tour of the **Secret Quarries of Somerville** on **Saturday, June 14**, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Join Somerville resident **Robin Hazard Ray** on a walk through Somerville’s deep past, beginning and ending at the **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood. The rocks underlying our city date to a time before the dinosaurs. We will explore the forgotten traces of rock quarries and look at how our handsome bedrock – the Cambridge Argillite – was extracted, shaped, and used in the city’s 19th-century fabric. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring some water. The event is free, RSVP <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave, Somerville, will hold a **Festa Junina/Brazilian Harvest Festival** on **Saturday, June 14**, 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Rain Date: Sunday, June 15. Festa Junina is a traditional harvest celebration in Brazil. This annual Growing Center event will include craft stations (root printing, lantern making, and making dance accessories), participatory Quadrilha dancing, traditional treats, and music. This year, the festival will also feature Bumba Meu Boi, combining music, dance, puppets, and costumes to symbolically resist social oppression and celebrate the cycle of life. Visit www.thegrowingcenter.org/calendar for more information.

Union Comedy is now enrolling for its popular **Summer Improv Comedy Camps**, designed for teens (ages 13-17) looking to get creative, build confidence, and have a ton of fun. These week-long camps offer an exciting dive into long-form improvisation, guided by experienced instructors from Union Comedy’s year-round curriculum.: Ages 13-17, with or without prior experience. Week-long improv camp (Mon–Fri) with a final showcase. **July 21–24, August 4–8**, and **August 18–22**, Union Comedy, 593 Somerville Ave, Somerville. How to register: Visit www.tr.ee/unioncomedy-

camp.com. Spaces are limited and tend to fill quickly. Secure your spot today. Questions? Reach out to info@union-comedy.com.

Somerville’s **Big Gay Dance Party** takes place on **June 21**. Dance the night away in celebration of **LGBTQ+ Pride**. The theme: **Halloween in July**. Enjoy live music, drag performances, and more. All LGBTQ+ individuals and allies are welcome. Featuring: **Amanda Playwith**, **Lilly Rose Valore**, and **Tommy Boss**. Costumes are highly encouraged, so come dressed to slay. This event will be held on **Saturday, June 21**, from 5 to 8 p.m., at **Union Square Plaza** (90 Union Square). Details: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/>.

Join the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to learn about the proposed project consisting of a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing the Mystic River and connecting the path networks on the Somerville and Everett sides of the river at the **Mystic River Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge Public Meeting**. This meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 24**, at the **Highlander Forum** at **Somerville High School** (81 Highland Ave.) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Learn more <https://www.mass.gov/event/everett-somerville-mystic-river-bicycle-pedestrian-bridge-06-24-2025>.

Somerville Fireworks will be held on **Wednesday, June 25**, with a rain date of June 27 at **Trum Field**. Join the **Council On Aging (COA)** for an evening of music, celebration, and spectacular fireworks. If you would like to join the COA in their reserved seating area, please contact **Connie Lorenti** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319. Limited transportation available, transportation must be requested by June 18.

Mayor Ballantyne and the **City of Somerville’s Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ)** invite community members to attend the **Juneteenth flag raising ceremony** on **Monday, June 16**, on the **City Hall Concourse** (93 Highland Ave.) from noon to 1 pm. Alongside the flag raising, hear from local leaders and advocates, and free ice cream will be available. This event’s rain date is Tuesday, June 17, from 4 to 5 p.m. City buildings will be closed.

The next monthly **Household Hazard-**

ous Waste Drop-Off Day at DPW (1 Franey Rd., 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) is **Saturday, June 14**.

For the 8th year, **Union Square Main Streets** and local businesses <https://www.unionsquaremain.org/good-food-for-all> proudly present **Good Food for All**, a week-long community campaign to raise awareness and funds for the **Union Square Farmers Market’s local SNAP match**. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, previously Food Stamps) recipients often find fresh, local food at farmers markets inaccessible, yet these foods are vital for strong and healthy immune systems. To make your donation, visit : (<https://www.unionsquaremain.org/good-food-for-all>).

In partnership with **Arts at the Armory**, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is thrilled to announce **SHC’s Echos Exhibition**, a powerful showcase that features artwork created by clients from their **Engagement Center**. The exhibition will be on display **from May 13 to June 30** at the **Rooted Armory Café**, 191 Highland Ave.

The **Somerville Museum** presents **Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment through August 23**. Kaleidoscope: Reflecting the Moment is an immersive, multi-sensory exhibition by multidisciplinary artist **Flor Delgadillo** that invites us to reflect on shifting ideas of home, family, neighbors, and community in a rapidly changing world. Blending opportunities for pause and reflection with moments of interaction and creation, Kaleidoscope explores how light transforms space, how sound carries memory, and how collective experience deepens our sense of belonging, connection, and resilience. For more information, visit: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

With spring in full swing, the **City of Somerville** is reminding residents that the season of growth is also the **season of pollinators**. As you shop for plants to fill garden pots or garden beds, you can play a role in feeding and sheltering the insects that keep our global ecosystem functioning. **Somerville’s Pollinator Action Plan** is your go-to guide for planting a beautiful garden and protecting the creatures that keep our environment blooming. Whether you’re a homeowner, renter, seasoned gardener, or total beginner, the Plan is full

of practical steps and inspiring ideas to help create a vital habitat right here in the city. Check out the full Pollinator Action Plan at: www.voice.somervillema.gov/somerville-pollinator-action-plan.

The **Slice of the City** spring meet-up series is an opportunity to connect and engage with city leaders and staff as well as neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville’s parks. All events run from 5 to 7 p.m. Pizza and refreshments will be served, and Somerville Recreation will have activities for children available. **Ward 4’s Slice of the City event** that was previously postponed due to weather will be held on **Tuesday, June 17**, at **Healey Schoolyard**, 5 Meacham Street. For more information, visit www.somervillema.gov/slice.

Celebrate the start of summer and join the **City of Somerville Parks and Recreation Department** for the annual **Family Fun Day** event on **Saturday, June 28**, from 1 to 4 p.m. at **Conway Park** (550 Somerville Ave.). In the event of inclement weather, activities will move indoors to Founders Memorial Rink (8 Garden Court). There will be fun for kids of all ages, including bounce houses, face painting, games, music, arts and crafts, and more. To learn more, please visit www.somervillerec.com or call 617-625-6600 ext 2980.

National Night Out is back again. Celebrate bringing police and community together with fun activities for the whole family. Join in on **Tuesday, August 5**, at **Dilboy Stadium**, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway, from 5 to 8 p.m., for a fun night.

The **Powder House**, **Milk Row Cemetery** and **Prospect Hill Tower** will be open to the public on select dates and times **from May through October** as part of **History On The Line**, a series of exhibitions and programs organized by the **Somerville Museum** and funded by the **Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism’s MA250 initiative** and the **City of Somerville**. Next dates will be: **The Powder House** on **Saturday, June 28**, 10 a.m. – 12 pm, **Milk Row Cemetery**, **Thursday, June 12**, 6 – 8 p.m., **Prospect Hill Tower**, **Thursday, July 10**, 6 – 8 p.m. For more dates and events, visit <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/historic-events-1>.

The Ginny Smithers Pool, 5 Cherry St., is officially back open. *Continued on page 22*

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 19

“The data are clear. Lead was detected in most of the taps tested at schools and childcare centers across the state and we know children are the most impacted from exposure to lead. We need policies that get the lead out of faucets and fountains in our schools and childcare centers.” — <i>Deirdre Cummings, MASSPIRG legislative director, urging state lawmakers to pass a bill to get the lead out of drinking water at Massachusetts schools and childcare centers.</i>		note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.		Senate 11:13 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.	
HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?				Tues. June 3	No House session No Senate session
Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They		During the week of June 2-6, the House met for a total of six hours and 19 minutes while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 19 minutes.		Wed. June 4	House 11:01 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No Senate session
				Thurs. June 5	House 11:00 a.m. to 12:16 p.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 12:19 p.m.
				Fri. June 6	No House session No Senate session
		Mon. June 2	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:04 a.m.	Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com	

Newstalk

CONT. FROM PG 21

For more information on spring pool hours for Swim Lessons, Water Exercise, Lap Swim, Family Swim, and Open Swim. Please visit their website, https://somer-villema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx , or email aquatics@somervillema.gov .		pons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis .		of no parking due to sweeping. The street sweeping season runs from April 1 until December 31 each year. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Check the signs on the streets where you park and visit www.somervillema.gov/sweeper for more information.		(including snow emergencies), construction and road closures, water service interruptions, community news, and more. To sign up, visit somervillema.gov/alerts and click on the button for your preferred language. Step-by-step sign-up instructions are available at: somervillema.gov/alerts . Having trouble signing up? You can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311) for assistance.	
Join Union Square Main Streets and 60+ of your favorite local food producers for the 21st Annual Union Square Farmers Market . Shop local Saturdays from May 10 to October 25 , except September 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Union Square Plaza. Thanks to our partnership with the City of Somerville and the Somerville Farmers Market Coalition, they are proud to continue to offer our SNAP match. For more information about the Union Square Farmers Market, visit unionsquaremain.org/2025-season .		The Council On Aging’s Walking Club meets every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the entrance of Holland Street Center , 167 Holland St. Weather permitting,		SCES is teaming up with City Fresh Foods to offer a five-pack of frozen home-delivered meals . This new meal delivery option is ideal for consumers who want the convenience of home-delivered meals but are not able to be at home each weekday to receive deliveries. Meal recipients can choose which weekday they would like to receive the frozen meals, with up to five meals in each bulk delivery. Each meal comes with bread, milk, and a dessert. Current SCES clients who are interested in receiving meals should call their office at 617-628-2601 or contact their case manager for more information.		Through the generosity of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) , and under the direction of Mayor Ballantyne , the Council on Aging can provide Durable Medical Equipment at no cost to Somerville residents. Residents with a documented need for medical equipment must be over the age of 60 or have a permanent disability, and must be otherwise unable to afford or access needed medical equipment. We currently have available: Commodes, Bath Benches, Rollator Walkers, Incontinence Supplies, and Transport Wheelchairs. For additional information or for an application, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.	
The Davis Square Market is open for the 2025 Season. The market will run every Wednesday from 12 noon to 6 pm, from May 21 through November 26 , 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 cou-		Somerville Animal Control is in need of towels/blankets/linens. They can arrange a porch pickup if you message them on Facebook, or they can be dropped off at the police station at any time.		City Alerts are a great way for those who live, work, or own a business in Somerville to receive important city information that affects their neighborhood. City Alerts provide information about emergencies		Don’t forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a digital edition of our paper, go directly online to our website, over to the right side, and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.	
		You can download a helpful packet of Know Your Rights resources and information in the language of your choice below. Somerville Public Schools has also created a list of resources on the One Somerville Resource page , which can be found here https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-departments/somerville-family-learning-collaborative-sflc/one-somerville-resources .					
		Street sweeping in Somerville resumed on Tuesday, April 1. Somerville’s street cleaning program is an essential public works program that not only keeps our city cleaner but also reduces the risk of flooding and icing due to clogged storm drains. Signs indicate the time and date					



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville’s Laura Sanchez

Brings The Flamenco to

Motherhood and Caregiving

I recently caught up with Laura Sanchez, who will be performing her flamenco piece “Welcome to Holland!?” It deals with motherhood, and caregiving through expressive dancing, poetry, and ample doses of humor.

Doug Holder: How has Somerville been for you as a creative?

Laura Sanchez: Somerville has become my home, not only where my son went to school, but also where I found my community and my artistic voice. For over ten years, I’ve been bringing flamenco to Somerville through various community events, and now, for the first time, I’ll be presenting my own full-length show here. I’ve been fortunate to receive support from the Somerville Arts Council to share *Welcome to Holland!?*, and I’m deeply grateful to present this work in the very community that has supported and inspired me.

DH: Flamenco is an art form from southern Spain that combines singing, dancing, and guitar playing. Do you incorporate all these elements in your work?

LS: *Welcome to Holland!?* is a thought-provoking performance that brings traditional flamenco into a contemporary, multidisciplinary space. Flamenco music and dance are woven together with poetry, spoken word, metaphor, and film, creating a rich tapestry of expressive arts that speaks to the complexity of caregiving, identity, and resilience.

DH: Why do you focus on mothers and caregivers? This is not something that I would associate with the Flamenco.

LS: My work is deeply inspired by my journey as a flamenco artist, but also a mother of two, one of whom has multiple disabilities. This performance is an invitation to explore the often-invisible realities of motherhood and the unexpected journeys that shape us. Beyond raising awareness, *Welcome to Holland!?* also provides practical support through PlaySpace, a free, inclusive, multisensory experience for children of all abilities. While children play and engage, caregivers can fully experience the show. This piece isn’t just about caregivers, it’s for them.

ARTS AT THE ARMORY
SPOTLIGHT
SERIES

PERFORMANCES
Sat, June 28 @ 7pm
Sun, Jun 29 @ 12:30pm
Somerville, MA

TICKETS
artsatthearmory.org

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WELCOME TO HOLLAND!?

created and performed by LAURA SANCHEZ

a theatrical journey of Flamenco, Poetry and Humor
exploring unspoken realities of motherhood and caregiving

ARTS AT THE ARMORY

DH: You incorporate poetry into your performance. What poetry have you used in this project? What poets speak to you?

LS: *Welcome to Holland!?* was born from a series of personal poems I wrote when I metaphorically “landed” in a reality I never expected. Writing became my lifeline, a daily practice to navigate grief, process trauma, and reclaim my joy. Those poems eventually transformed into performance, through movement, voice, and story.

DH: Why should we view your event?

LS: Audiences say *Welcome to Holland!?* is a must-see show. It’s a one-of-a-kind performance that uplifts the stories of caregivers while inviting everyone into a more inclusive world. Through flamenco, film, spoken word, and theatrical dance, it invites viewers to feel, reflect, and connect. This piece doesn’t just entertain, it opens hearts and builds empathy.

Link to event:
<https://artsatthearmory.org/arts-at-the-armory-spotlight-series-presents-welcome-to-holland-by-laura-sanchez/>

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Jason O’Toole is a former Poet Laureate of North Andover, MA, author of three poetry collections and four chapbooks. His newest collection, *The Strange Misgivings of the Sadly Gifted*, has been published by Dead Man’s Press Ink (2025). He was co-founder of The Anne Bradstreet Poetry Contest and has served as a judge for other contests, including the Tom Nattell Peace Poetry Prize. His work is internationally published in magazines and anthologies, including *Love is for All of Us* and *The Rhysling Anthology*. He also performed as vocalist of the NY hardcore punk band Life’s Blood and has contributed to books on punk subculture. He serves as treasurer of Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco and works in elder advocacy in Massachusetts.



Our Destination

Looking for ourselves in others
must not be a ledger
in which we always come up short

The first step: look to the stars
and declare the dunghill
is not your home

Princes fulfilling a child’s dream,
building backyard rocketships
to reach the stars, come up short

by trillions of miles, 5.88
give or take
Don’t use their lives

as a yardstick for your own
Resentment is a ghoul
guarding treasures of the spirit

Looking for ourselves among the stars
is to see the stars amongst us,
and lift each one up and out

of the mire
Be not afraid of being left behind

This is the way to find yourself

among a constellation
brighter than Orion

— Jason O’Toole

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