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Groundbreaking ceremony for Veterans Vietnam Memorial



Group photo of ceremony attendees.

— Photos by Nora Doyle

By Norah Doyle

On Thursday, June 12, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Central Hill Veterans Vietnam and Korean Wars Memorial on the front lawn of Somerville High School.

The Central Hill Veterans Vietnam and Korean War Memorial Project was part of the new Somerville High School Campus design, which opened on March 4, 2021. The first phase of this project is reinstalling the Vietnam and Korean War memorials in front of the high school, which will be part of a memorial walk with spaces that chronologically honor veterans dating back to the Revolutionary War. Belko Landscaping was awarded the construction of this project.

"Today marks the beginning of" *Continued on page 4*

Somerville 4th of July Celebration on Wednesday, June 25

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite community members to the annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Trum Field (541 Broadway) on Wednesday, June 25, starting at 5:30 p.m. (rain date: Friday, June 27, 5:30 p.m.).

This year's celebration begins with a special program presented in collaboration with the Department of Racial and Social Justice and the Somerville Museum featuring a public reading of Frederick Douglass' famous speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

Festivities will continue at 6:30 p.m. and will feature music by DJ Desy and funk band Search Party. Food vendors this year include Italian Wizard, Dos Manos Kitchen, and more. At approximately 9 p.m., Mayor Ballantyne will welcome and address the crowd and then start the *Continued on page 15*



The city's annual 4th of July Celebration will take place on June 25 at Trum Field.

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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.

RSJ is partnering with the City of Medford and Tufts University to provide additional Juneteenth programming during the month of June. Join Tufts University and the Cities of Medford and Somerville for a morning program that includes breakfast, a session on the history of Juneteenth, and workshops based around the theme of Expressions of Black Joy as a Form of Resistance at Tufts University, Wednesday, June 18, 8:15 to 11:30 a.m., at the Joyce Cummings Center at Tufts University (177 College Ave., Medford) More event info at: www.diversity.tufts.edu/events/juneteenth2025/








Finance Committee review of the FY 2026 Budget will take place tonight, Wednesday, June 18, at 6 p.m. They will post an audio recording, audio-video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of these proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting on the City of Somerville website and local cable access government channels. Copy nd paste the following link into your internet browser to view this meeting live: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_p9Pvu88qTEqbfXQHahvcGQ.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: We wish a very happy birthday to a great person and longtime resident of Somerville, Paula LeBlanc. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to a good guy, Jonathan Buck, who celebrates this week. Happy Birthday to Andrew Stanwicks, who is turning 26 on

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 18 – June 24 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday June 18	Rain	80°/67°	39%	9%	SW 12 mph
 Thursday June 19	Partly Cloudy	87°/68°	24%	17%	W 15 mph
 Friday June 20	Sunny	80°/64°	23%	16%	NW 12 mph
 Saturday June 21	Sunny	83°/67°	4%	2%	WSW 9 mph
 Sunday June 22	Partly Cloudy	80°/66°	22%	11%	SW 12 mph
 Monday June 23	Sunny	90°/75°	7%	4%	SW 11 mph
 Tuesday June 24	Sunny	96°/76°	5%	2%	W 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: BHN celebrates grand opening of Somerville Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Program

GS says:
I feel like this is a much better approach to drug addiction treatment and harm reduction than Safe Injection Centers. Good job!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Celebrate Pride in Somerville
at Big Gay Dance Party

Get ready to dance, celebrate, and show your Pride. Mayor Ballantyne and the Somerville Arts Council invite you for the return of Big Gay Dance Party in Union Square Plaza on Saturday, June 21, from 5 to 8:00 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, June 22).

This all-ages celebration will feature music by the one and only DJ Live, plus dazzling drag performances by Amanda Playwith, Lilly Rose Valore, and this year’s special guest, Drag King Tommy Boss.

The theme this year is “Halloween in June”. Whether it’s spooky, silly, or somewhere in between—bring your best costume and hit the dance floor in style.

Local organizations will be tabling to provide information and resources. They include Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA)’s Sexual Reproductive Health Department, the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, Somerville Public Schools’ Genders and Sexualities Alliance (GSAs), RESPOND, Inc., and more. The Big Gay Dance Party is open to all members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies. For more information, visit somervilleartscouncil.org.

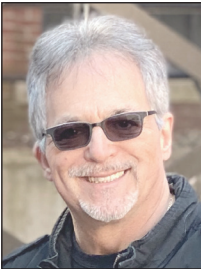
Life in the

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.

Somer-Songs



I peeped into a colleague’s office to say hi, and we got on the subject of the songs of 1966. We were both 13 years old back then, and we couldn’t believe all the great songs that came out that year.

As we all know, hearing a song unleashes thoughts, feelings, and memories that cannot be described but send us someplace very special. Here are just a few of the songs of 1966: 96 Tears, Summer In The City, See You In September, Gloria, Black is Black, Yellow Submarine, The Sounds of Silence, Barbara Ann, Time Won’t Let Me, 19th Nervous Breakdown, Shapes of Things, Wipe Out, Dirty Water, Ain’t Too Proud To Beg, Homeward Bound and many more classic hits. Google “top songs of 1966” and you will be blown away. That is, if you are in that special age group that will

appreciate it.

A great memory is a summer day long ago and three friends in my backyard with guitars plucking out Gloria’s three chords, E, D, and A. Summer In The City will always remind me of just that. The nights listening to our transistor radios while trying to ignore the rattling of those metal fans that merely blew hot air in your face.

It brings me back to the days of “buck buck,” bicycles, and dad whistling for us to come in at night. Sometimes I refer to those special days as “back when everyone was still alive.” 1965 was a good year, too. It was when Petula Clark’s hit Downtown was the very first song I ever learned on the guitar. Downtown also reminds me of taking the bus into Boston with my father. The buses back then had those thick, comfortable, overstuffed seats. They were replaced by those annoying hard plastic jobs.

Later in 1969, the song Cherry Hill Park came out, and it always

Continued on page 15



Cheers to 30 years!

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

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All information is kept completely confidential.

Somerville Police Dept Crime Log June 3 – 9

Arrest

25030911: On 6/3/25 at approximately 9:35 p.m., Somerville Police responded to Elm St. for a check condition. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the male, who stated he was suffering from complications from his dialysis treatments. Officers began walking with him to the bus station and were then approached by another male party who spat on the male and the officer. Officers stopped the suspect, and he was placed under arrest.

Assault

25031641: On 6/6/25 at approximately 10:16 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business in Davis Sq. for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated he confronted a male party for shoplifting and was then punched by the male.

Arrest

25032031: On 6/8/25 at approximately 6:21 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a business on Foley St. for an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party, who pointed to a male and stated he was screaming at people and threw a drink at a bartender. Officers then placed the male suspect under arrest.

Other Crimes: 2 MV thefts + 2 MV vandalism + 5 Car breaks + 2 Bike thefts

— Somerville Police Department



Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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Groundbreaking ceremony for Veterans Vietnam Memorial

CONT. FROM PG 1

the reinstallation of the Somerville Korean and Vietnam War Memorials- too often called 'the forgotten wars,'" said Ballantyne. "These memorials represent sacrifice, service, and legacy. They are dedicated to the men and women from Somerville and Cambridge who gave their lives in two of our country's most difficult wars."

Ballantyne ended her welcome on a personal note, wishing her recently passed father, a veteran of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, were there to witness the ceremony.

Following the mayor's remarks, Jerome Thomas, Director of Veteran Services, addressed the crowd.

"The Korean War – often called the forgotten war – will not be forgotten here. We remember the cold, the fierce resistance, and the young Americans from Somerville and Cambridge who gave everything," said Thomas.

"The Vietnam War tested our nation's fabric. Many who returned had their service met with misunderstanding. Today, we say clearly to our Vietnam veterans: we see you, we honor you, we remember you," he finished.

Tom Gorman of the Veterans Commission on Monuments also attended the groundbreaking ceremony. As a veteran who served in the United States Army and deployed to Kuwait for the first wave of

the War in Iraq, Gorman felt passionate about this project.

"It's important to me and an issue I'm passionate about. These people gave their lives. They went to these high schools and walked these streets, and their lives will be cut short, defending our freedoms," said Gorman. "We can't forget them."

After remarks from the mayor, Thomas, and Gorman, the crowd, which included Korean and Vietnam War veterans, was invited up to take a group photo with the shovels. As school is still in session, no actual ground was broken. Construction will begin once students are out for the summer.

Somerville resident Claude J. Barsotti,

who served in the Vietnam War, was among the veterans in attendance. Barsotti expressed his gratitude that veterans of the two "forgotten wars" were officially being recognized.

"Finally!" Barsotti said when asked how he felt about the memorials being reinstalled. "I've been pushing for this for a long time."

For veterans like Barsotti, this memorial is more than an engraved stone; it is a physical manifestation of their hard work and sacrifice. This memorial will help rid these two wars of their nickname "the forgotten wars," not only for Somerville residents but also for all who visit.



Jerome Thomas addresses the crowd.



Tom Gorman addresses the crowd.



Attendees listening to Mayor Ballantyne's remarks.

Somerville’s Indivisible chapter mobilizes; Good Trouble Brass Band members join BABAM at ‘No Kings’ protest

By The Times Staff

“No Kings” day brought participants from Somerville and around the area to Boston’s Pride Parade on Saturday, June 14, to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and protest against authoritarian overreach in a nationwide day of defiance.

“We are trying to preserve democracy,” said Reebee Garofalo, a musician from the Good Trouble Brass Band and a member of the Organizing Committee for the Somerville HONK! Festival. “We are trying to tell the current administration to respect the rule of law.”

The Indivisible Project is a key organizer of “No Kings” events, and in Somerville, the Indivisible chapter began mobilizing its operation, joining in solidarity with Indivisible Massachusetts, just days before the protest.

Somerville Indivisible has over 100

members and is growing. Roughly a third of the members marched with the group at Saturday’s parade, explained Elaine Almquist, a Somerville Indivisible member.

“We in the United States are winning against Trump’s march toward authoritarianism, because our resistance is unified, strategic, and non-violent,” said Almquist. “Local groups like Indivisible Somerville give us spaces to welcome new people to our fight for democracy, and that means we’re growing and getting stronger every day.”

Trudi Cohen, one of the founders and organizers of the HONK! Festival and member of the Good Trouble Brass Band, joined up with the Boston Area Brigade of Activist Musicians (BABAM) for the parade and protest.

“We musicians in this world of activist brass street bands believe that we have something to contribute to the move-



Somerville Indivisible members meet up at the MBTA Ball Square Station before heading to the parade. — Photo courtesy of Elaine Almquist



New members of Somerville Indivisible met on June 12 for a kickoff presentation and brainstorming session to reintroduce the Somerville Indivisible Chapter prior to the protest. — Photo courtesy of Elaine Almquist

ment...something that is loud and joyful and that helps amplify the messages we support,” said Cohen.

BABAM is an “ad hoc entity” that fights against injustice. Their group is loosely structured, allowing musicians from various brass bands, like those from Good Trouble, to join for a specific event when needed.

Cohen says brass bands are important to the progressive movement around the United States. This year’s theme for the parade and protest was “Here to Stay.”

“This is our modest power...that we can play tunes together, and when we’re all feeling very powerless, facing what is going on in our country, having that little bit of power...that I can bang on a bass drum...it’s good for me and hopefully people around me,” said Cohen

Cathleen Finn is a musician with BA-

BAM, who for the last few years has organized the group in the parade.

“The reason why BABAM exists is to be able to respond quickly when we need to show up to a protest,” said Finn.

Each year activists raise visibility to additional issues that people are grappling with, such as federal immigration raids. This year the “No Kings” group wanted to add their messaging to the mix, she explains.

The combined parade and protest began in Copley Square and ended in Boston Common with a festival that lasted until 6 p.m., and was the third organized by Boston Pride for the People.

“We are seeing a strong level of interest this year because the community is under threat and both the community members and our allies want to show up strong in our support,” said Finn.



Cathleen Finn of BABAM with a purple trombone at the Boston Pride Parade. — Photo courtesy of Cristiano Santos



— Photo courtesy of Cristiano Santos

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 senators’ votes on roll calls from recent sessions. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

HOUSING PRODUCTION (S 3)

Senate 40-0, approved an amendment that would commission a series of studies by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to explore new tools to jumpstart stalled housing projects.

The studies would include a potential construction sales tax exemption for multifamily housing developments delayed by federal tariffs or economic volatility; the use of third-party inspectors to fast-track permitting for manufactured, off-site and multifamily housing; and whether affordable housing projects should be exempt from Proposition 2½ tax levy limits -- a factor that often discourages local approvals.

“Together, these provisions are aimed at cutting red tape, lowering costs and accelerating the production of housing—particularly in high-need, geographically isolated regions like the Cape and Islands,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). “Massachusetts was averaging 30,000 new homes annually as recently as the 1980s, when our population was much smaller. That number currently sits at about half, despite the increased need. The amendment passed unanimously ... in a great show of bipartisan support.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would establish a Scientific Research Fund to provide research grants in the fields of science, medicine, public health, mental health and other biological or behavioral areas.

Amendment supporters said the amendment would provide at the state level the investments in scientific advancement that previously had been provided at the federal level by the National Institute of Health.

“Some of the best educational and research institutions in the world are located right here in Massachusetts, and their globally significant innovations drive our state and regional economies,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). “This Scientific Research Fund offers a critical opportunity for state government to support science and step up for research funding infrastructure as the federal government steps away. I am proud and grate-

ful that this amendment passed the Senate by unanimous vote, showing that scientific inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge are, and always should be, nonpartisan.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$800,000 FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for Boys and Girls Clubs by \$800,000 (from \$2.2 million to \$3 million.)

“This funding will support the Boys and Girls Club’s mission of assuring that success is within reach of every young person by providing a safe environment and social, academic and health services that club members may not otherwise receive,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Lowell).

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$800,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

SALES TAX HOLIDAY (S 2530 and H 4220) – The House and Senate approved measures designating Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10 as a sales tax holiday weekend for the Bay State, allowing consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 without paying the state’s 6.25 percent sales tax. State law currently calls for a 2-day sales tax holiday every year. This bill simply sets the specific dates.

“The sales tax holiday is a wonderful opportunity for our residents to get out into their communities, support local businesses, get their kids ready for school in fall or make a purchase that they’ve been putting off,” said co-sponsor Sen. Adam Gómez (D-Springfield), Senate Chair of the Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses. “I am glad that our leaders here in the Legislature have been able to work and get this done again for our residents this year, and I look forward to hearing how residents are able to make the most of the tax reprieve.”

“I was proud to sponsor the legislation establishing this year’s sales tax holiday that helps boost our economy and provides support and relief for our residents and small businesses,” said co-sponsor Rep. Carole Fiola (D-Fall River), House Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. “This is an important weekend that helps bolster our economy and I applaud my colleagues in passing this legislation to provide

individuals, families and businesses across the commonwealth with some relief.”

“Lowering costs for Massachusetts residents and supporting local businesses is critical for our communities in this time of economic uncertainty,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

“This year’s temporary suspension of the sales tax will bring consumers needed economic relief while boosting revenue for small businesses and retailers,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy).

AGE OF CONSENT (S 1104) – The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on legislation that would change the current law under which someone who just turned 16-years-old can be prosecuted for statutory rape for having a sexual relationship with someone just under 16.

The bill establishes a close-in-age exception (often called a “Romeo and Juliet” clause) for certain sexual offenses involving minors, ensuring that consensual relationships between teenagers close in age are not subject to severe criminal penalties. The bill amends laws on indecent assault and battery and statutory rape to prevent prosecution when the defendant is no more than two years older than a minor who is at least 13 years old. It also mandates that juvenile defendants be processed through the juvenile court system rather than adult court when applicable.

“In Massachusetts, someone who just turned 16-years-old can be prosecuted for statutory rape for having a sexual relationship with someone just under 16 years old,” said sponsor Sen. Dylan Fernandes (D-Falmouth). “While the intent of protecting young people is a good one, the way the law currently exists can cause unintended consequences for young people who are in love. Rather than arbitrarily lowering the age of consent, my bill creates a framework that looks at the nature of the age gap between young people and establishes a two-year age difference between the consenting young adults as the determinant of whether criminal charges can be brought.”

Fernandes continued, “Thus, if someone is one month shy of age 16 and has a sexual relationship with someone older, that older person cannot be charged criminally as long as they are no more than two years older than the younger partner – in this case, one month shy of age 18. My bill takes into account the current realities for young adults in Massachusetts and removes the extreme jeopardy of the law as currently written, which provides penalties of up to life imprisonment even for a 16-year-old, who has a sexual relationship with someone just under 16.”

Continued on page 16

COMMENTARY

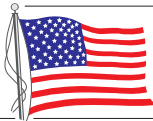
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Remembering the national flag’s special day.

Our View Of The Times



Alongside all the hubbub and hurrah of military parades, civil protests, and the sweetness of familial love that Father’s Day can bring, another event quietly slipped by last weekend.

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

emnly revere today.

President Harry S. Truman signed a Congressional act into law in 1949 recommending a voluntary observance of Flag Week. This year, Flag Week falls on June 8–14.

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

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

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

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Thursday. We wish him a very special day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Steven Mirabella, Pindi Singh, Donna M. Gilberti, Gail Chambers, Chris Marshall, Kathi Mullins, Marie Kearns, and Terra Yan a 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.

City buildings will be closed on Thursday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth. Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection will be delayed by one day beginning Thursday. No street sweeping on Thursday.

Community members are invited to visit the Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford on Juneteenth for free admission and a chance to explore this national historic landmark and learn more about one of the only remaining free-standing quarters where enslaved people lived and worked in the North. Thursday, June 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Royall House and Slave Quarters Museum, 15 George St., Medford.

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://somervillearts council.org/>.

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!

Juneteenth at Blessing of the Bay. Join the Somerville Museum

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#977

1. What U.S. state has the Union Jack on its flag?

2. What was the first animated film made by Disney?

3. What animal is shown before MGM films?

4. What singer was the first cloned sheep named after?

5. What is the national drink of Greece?

6. What is another name that fireflies are called?

7. Who is known as
- the "Father of Computers"?

8. What is the longest club in a golf set?

9. What is the chemical symbol for gold?

10. Who was Bart Simpson's teacher?

11. Who was Samantha's nosy neighbor in *Bewitched*?

12. What is the maximum number of clubs allowed in a golf bag?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The opposite sides of a die will always add up to seven.
2. Marie Curie's 100-year-old belongings are still radioactive.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
FOURTH OF JULY

- ACROSS
1. Croat, e.g.

5. Reverential respect mixed with wonder

8. Island near Java

12. From where to eternity?

13. "Land of the ____"

14. Rowed

15. Diabolical

16. Mideast bigwig

17. Unleashes

18. Star-spangled banner (2 words)

20. Type of ski lift

21. Day before Independence Day

22. Quilting party

23. Sherlock Holmes' confidant

26. Formal dinner

30. U.N. working-conditions agency

31. Sextet plus one

34. Cancel

35. Holey confection

37. Electric swimmer

38. Frame job

39. Comparison word

40. Type of deodorant

42. Skater's field

43. Like "America the Beautiful" skies

45. Covered with a ceiling

47. Tennis do-over

48. Surfer's stops

50. Not guilty, e.g.

52. Yankee Doodle's feather

55. "To Freedom!", e.g.

56. Tel ____, Israel

57. Bébé's mother

59. Pseudonym

60. Cup at a picnic

61. Do like exhaust pipe

62. Late George Wendt on "Cheers"

63. Give it a go

64. *Betsy of #18 Across-related fame
- DOWN
1. "He said, ____ said"

2. Russian left

3. Pomegranate seed

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

S	O	D	A			C	P	A			S	A	P	S
U	P	O	N			M	A	R	C		P	I	Q	U
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32. Lowly laborer
33. What lintel and mantel have in common
36. Personification of the U.S. (2 words)
38. Show contempt
40. Decompose
41. In eighth, book format
44. "The Second Coming" poet
46. Chemical cousin
48. Relish
49. In an unfriendly manner
50. Horseback sport
51. Bear's hang-out
52. Sail holder
53. "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" captain
54. Part of an eye
55. Sun kiss
58. "The Extra-Terrestrial"-inspired toys
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OPENAIR Circus classes registration open

You don't have to run away to join the circus!

For 39 years, children, teens, and adults have learned circus skills from the OPENAIR Circus of Greater Somerville. Everyone is welcome to learn new skills and join the circus community.

Classes this year include Baton Twirling*, Devil Sticks*, Diabolo*, Hula Hoops*, Juggling*, Poi*, Stilt-ing*, Tiny Tots Trio, and Yo-yo.

Classes with asterisks are offered at the beginning and intermediate levels. All classes are an hour, except Tiny Tots, which is 30 minutes.

Classes will begin June 24 and run through July 23, with performances on August 1-3. Classes will be 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at Prospect Hill and Wednesdays at Powderhouse Park.

Registration is free. A donation of \$30 per child, \$50 per family is suggested but not required, and includes as many classes as the student wants.

Equipment loans can be requested during registration.

For more information, including schedule, COVID restrictions, and registration, go to www.openaircircus.org.



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

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The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #331

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

A Banner Weekend

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

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



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

This past weekend was quiet in Somerville, even though it celebrated three holidays. These were Father's Day, Flag Day, and the 250th birthday of our Army.

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



♦ Sunday, June 14, was Father's Day. It honors all fathers past and present, including George Washington, the first commander of our army and "the father of our country."

♦ Wednesday, June 17, celebrates the Battle of Bunker Hill and the flag the Patriots fought under. The night before

the battle 250 years ago, the Americans *Continued on page 10*

LEGAL NOTICES

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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, 6/18/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES (PCS) DEPARTMENT
RFS 25-80

The City of Somerville, through its PCS Department, invites sealed responses for:

Designer Services
for the Design and Construction of the
New PreK-8 Winter Hill Community Innovation School (WHCIS)

The City seeks services of a qualified Designer as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 7C, Sections 44-58 and as further defined by the provisions of this Request for Services (RFS), to provide design for the construction of the Winter Hill Community Innovation School in Somerville, Massachusetts ("Project").

The Designer will provide project design services during the feasibility study and schematic design phases of the project initially. Subject to the approval of the Project by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "MSBA") and further subject to continued funding authorized by the City, the contract between the City and the Designer may be amended to include continued Designer Services through design development, construction documents, bid and award, construction and final closeout of the potential Project. A potential approved Project may include a renovation of the existing school, a renovation and addition of the existing school and/or new construction. The estimated construction costs of an approved potential Project may range from \$175 million to \$215 million depending upon the solution that is agreed upon by the City and the MSBA and that is ultimately approved by a vote of the MSBA.

The RFS may be obtained on the PCS Department's webpage: <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services> on or after **Wednesday, June 18, 2025**. There will be a briefing session at the WHCIS at 115 Sycamore Street in Somerville on **Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.** Please confirm the time and location with the PCS Department by consulting the above referenced webpage 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Responses will be received at the above office until **Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.** More details are available in the RFS. 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 direct questions to Angela M. Allen, Chief Procurement Officer amallen@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 3400.

6/18/25 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB #25-81

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

Capuano Schoolyard Asphalt Surface, Graphics
and Shade Shelter Installation

An Invitation for Bid (IFB) 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 **Wednesday, June 18, 2025**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **2:00PM Wednesday, July 9, 2025**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

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

5% Bid Deposit required. Massachusetts Prevailing Wages apply.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

6/18/25 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L.c.131§40, the **SOMERVILLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION** will hold a Public Meeting on **Monday, June 30th, 2025**, at 7:00 p.m. to review the Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) on behalf of the Applicant, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MDOT). This Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) application and supporting materials pertains to the sampling efforts for the construction of a pier-supported bicycle and pedestrian bridge that will span the Mystic River between Somerville and Everett. Sediment and soil sampling is needed for analysis to construct the Bridge's piers. The Applicants have prepared a Sediment Sampling Plan for the collection of a total of 19 samples from locations in the River and on land in both Somerville and Everett. Twelve of these samples are in Somerville, including 10 sediment samples and two water quality samples.

Copies of the application can be viewed at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA. Contact Malik Drayton, Conservation Agent, at 617-625-6600 x2514, or send an email to mdrayton@somervillema.gov for more information.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, **this public meeting will be conducted via remote participation.**

TO USE A COMPUTER

Webinar ID
810 9985 4585

Registration URL

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_6g3bPqwmR3uE2HJ4eHmCBA

6/18/25 The Somerville Times

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

had stealthily marched through Somerville into Charlestown. After battling the next day and until their gunpowder was exhausted, they withdrew to Prospect Hill under the Pine Tree Flag to begin the siege of Boston.

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

The British flag, or the Union Jack, represented the unification of England and Scotland. It consisted of England's red cross of Saint George, the dragon killer, and Scotland's blue diagonal cross of Saint Andrew, the martyred brother of Saint Peter. Today's United Kingdom banner includes a third cross honoring Ireland's Saint Patrick.

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



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From America to Guatemala: How Mil Milagros shows that women can uplift other women

By Alaa Al Ramahi

In Guatemala, the average number of years that an Indigenous woman has an education is three. Mil Milagros, a Somerville non-profit organization, has been supporting women in Guatemala to change that and become leaders in their communities.

Founded in 2007, Mil Milagros works to implement programs for leadership, early childhood development, health, and education. Through these programs, women are learning valuable and long-lasting knowledge, like how to become leaders in their communities, how to create a healthy environment for children, public health campaigns, and the significance of literacy. After finishing these programs, these women will, in turn, teach other women, creating a cycle of change in their community.

Current executive director, Carolyn Daly, started working with Mil Milagros in 2013. She worked in Sololá, Guatemala, as a Peace Corps volunteer, which is when she first heard of Mil Milagros. At that point, the non-profit was only working with kids in schools and new moms. Since then, the program has grown to include all women and children.

The non-profit has a three-year structure. In the first year, women are inspired to make decisions for themselves and let men in their lives make the decisions. The second year is where women learn about different types of contraceptives and choose what happens to their bodies. They are also given the chance to work with a medical partner to help guide them. In year three, women learn about child development and how to support children in growing and learning.

Once this three-year process is completed, women who participated in the program are given the opportunity to join as staff members to be Community Coordinators. As Community Coordinators, they use the skills and knowledge they learned to inspire and empower the change they want to see in their communities.

They use these opportunities to train other women and run different kinds of campaigns in Guatemala.

"Some of these women did not graduate from elementary school, and yet they are on our staff now," Daly said.

An example of what Community Coordinators did was initiate an evaluation process in schools. This was pushed by the fact that 40% of third-graders in Guatemala read on grade level. The evaluation was meant to see what teachers are doing and what students are learning to give them feedback. Now, 79% of students in this program were reading on grade level because of the plan that mothers were carrying out for classrooms.

"The average number of years of education that an indigenous woman has is three and yet these same indigenous women are training the teachers in their schools to implement these different educational programs," Daly said. "It's absolutely incredible."

Mil Milagros also helped fund books and supplies that schools may need to further promote literacy for their students and a strong educational environment. They ensured that 100% of children at local schools have access to clean water and hygiene supplies.

"Our job as kind of the leadership staff is to just absolutely show them that this is something that they can do," she said, "If it were me or some of the other leadership staff just doing everything on our own and telling them what to do, they probably wouldn't get up the nerve to do it."

Mil Milagros strives to inspire and teach women what they are capable of doing so they may inspire other women to do the same. Daly believes that taking care of other women and children is like second nature to women, and Mil Milagros just gives women the tools to do it on a larger scale.

"It's kind of that mix of you just showing them that they know what to do and they already know what to do," Daly said. "And we are going to give you some classroom training to help build up your skills."

Daly remembers a particular mom from her early days of the program whom she calls Rosa. Rosa never went to school but was still able to become the biggest leader in her community. She would help Mil Milagros spend the money from fundraisers to provide fresh meals for students and would convince other women to help make the food. Being an outsider from the



Somerville-based non-profit Mil Milagros has been helping Guatemalan women to become leaders in their communities. — Photos courtesy of Mil Milagros

US, Daly noticed that the way to help create change in Guatemala is to simply make the ingredients needed for change more accessible for women.

"Being somebody from the U.S. in Guatemala making these changes, it's not sustainable," Daly commented.

Because Rosa didn't go to school, she had some friction with teachers at first. She convinced the teachers by telling them that these were her children and she wanted to create better learning conditions for them by working with the teachers.

There are currently only three staff members in the U.S., two in Somerville and one in D.C. The majority of the work that gets done is done in Guatemala. The staff in the US are responsible for fundraising for supplies and raising more awareness.

"It's not me imposing my will and whatever I want to have happen in Guatemala," Daly said. "It's Guatemalans doing what they think is best and me trying like heck to raise funds for it."

This year, Mil Milagros plans on doing a match campaign this year for their annual fundraiser, focusing on two women, Vilma and Beverly, who experienced the program and eventually became staff members. They were planning on migrating to the US for a new life because they felt like they had no other choice. However, Mil Milagros helped them find a new future for themselves in their hometowns. The money from donors will help show indigenous women of Guatemala that they do have a choice to stay in Guatemala and create a better life for themselves.

"Personally, it helped me so much because they always, always focused on the

value of a woman--a woman is capable, a woman is worthy -- and because of that, I started to say: 'It's true that we can do things,'" Vilma said. "Each time I returned from a session, I felt happy and I said to myself, 'I'm going to keep participating, I'll keep going.' And I felt that I started to see a change in myself, in my motivation."

Vilma was not alone in this. Beverly noticed that before joining Mil Milagros, she was very shy and kept to herself. Afterwards, she began expressing herself and believing in herself more, especially when she realized she was not alone. Becoming more confident, Beverly learnt more about how to become a leader and be there for other women in her communities.

"So, working in the different communities, I feel empathy with them and from them, too. They also need to feel heard and understood. When we visit their homes, sometimes we arrive at a difficult moment for them, but they still open themselves up and express how they are."

Beverly said. "Maybe we don't know them well, but they still share what they're going through, and it makes me feel satisfied that I can help them. I think that is one of the goals that I have, to help others as I have been helped."

These women are only two of the many indigenous Guatemalan women who are contributing as active members and leaders in their communities. The women in Mil Milagros have reached over 40,000 women in rural Guatemala each year through programming.

"More than anything in the world, I think we need to be cheerleaders. We need to really support these women," Daly said.



SHS 2025 spring sports roundup

2025 GREATER BOSTON LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: Boys Tennis and Boys Outdoor Track & Field

30 Student-Athletes named Greater Boston League All-Stars.

2 GBL MVP's: Kerby Luxama (Track) and DJ Freeman (Boys Tennis)

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament Information (MIAA):

Girls Tennis: Lost 4-1 to Somerset Berkley Regional High School in a hard-fought match in the preliminary round of MIAA Tournament play.

Boys Tennis: Won 3-2 in the preliminary round of the MIAA Tournament vs Marshfield High School. The team advanced to the Round of 32 where they lost in a hard-fought match to Hingham High School.

Boys Volleyball: Lost 3-1 the preliminary round of the MIAA Tournament vs Greater Lowell Tech High School. The team battled hard and showed a lot of grit in every set.

Greater Boston League All-Stars and Team Records for the Spring Season

Baseball: (Record 8-12)

All-Stars: Colin Born and Preston Ardolino

The baseball team wrapped up a strong season, just narrowly missing a spot in the MIAA tournament. The team showed

growth and resilience throughout the year, with competitive play and solid teamwork. With only one senior graduating, the future looks bright for Highlander baseball as a talented and motivated core returns next season.

Softball: (Record 3-17)
All Stars: Kailey McWeeny and Lillian Fucile

With a young softball team, this season was all about growth and development. Our players gained valuable experience, and the future looks bright, especially with 8th grader, Lillian Fucile, earning league all-star honors. The team is excited to build on this foundation next year!

Girls Lacrosse: (Record 12-5)

All-Stars:
Julia Rafkind
Camila Plata
Rowan Buckley
Ava Davis

The girls' lacrosse team had another great season in the books! While we came up just short of defending the GBL title, the team earned a spot in the MIAA tournament for the third straight year—a testament to their hard work and consistency.

Boys Lacrosse: (Record 7-11)

All-Stars:
Zach Gordon
Sheamus Foley
Timmy Jones
Pasquale Candelino

The boys' lacrosse team finished second in the GBL and came just a few games short of qualifying for the tournament. They



played with grit and determination all season.

Girls Tennis: (Record 13-4)

All-Stars: Carmen Wheeler and Xinyi Zhu

Another strong season for the girls' tennis program, proving once again that they're a force in the GBL. The team finished second in the league and earned a spot in the MIAA tournament for the third consecutive year—an impressive run of consistency and success!

Boys Tennis: (Record 13-3)

League Co-MVP: DJ Freeman
All-Stars:

Ethan Cross
Nitish Kaushal
Milo Kochansky
DJ Freeman

Motivated and determined all year, the boys' tennis team earned the title of GBL Co-Champions alongside Malden. They qualified for the MIAA tournament, went on the road and won their first-round match in the preliminary round before falling to Hingham in the Round of 32. This team has shown growth every season.

Boys Volleyball: (Record 12-9)

All-Stars: Adam Hill and Ozzy Marks
This season was one to remember for our boys' volleyball program! After missing the tournament last year, the team came back determined and earned a spot in the MIAA tournament. They battled hard all year, and we're proud of everything they

accomplished.

Boys' Outdoor Track and Field: (Record 8-0)

League MVP: Kerby Luxama (3-time MVP including Indoor selection)

All Stars:
Kerby Luxama
Jackson Love
Thano Frantzis
Robert Leoni
Lucca Lauers
Mashruf Mahin

With a large number of 1st year athletes assisting with max effort, the Boys Outdoor Track and Field team finished the season undefeated and were crowned GBL Champions for the third consecutive undefeated year! An Impressive group is set to return next year!

Girls' Outdoor Track and Field: (Record 6-2)

All Stars:
Marissa Luxama
Olivia Scamman
Maggie Cotter
Eva Meli

Our girls' outdoor track and field team took a strong leap forward this year, improving from a gutsy 2-6 season in 2024 to pushing league champion, Revere, to the brink in an incredible year! With the return of a lot of underclasswomen in the coming year, the team will continue to have a strong presence in the GBL.



SHS 2025 spring sports roundup

CONT. FROM PG 12

Unified Outdoor Track & Field:
What an amazing and fun first season of unified outdoor track and field! Our athletes had a great time competing, supporting one another, and building community. We're proud of this inaugural season and already excited for next year!

Somerville High School Club Sports Highlights:

Girls Ultimate Frisbee:
The SHS Girls/Non-Binary Ultimate Frisbee team had a great 2025 season, with a record turnout of 23 players on the roster, running 2-7-0 in regular season games. This season players really shined in their tournament performance. Near the start of the season, the team played their first tournament in Winchester, braving the

Boys Ultimate Frisbee:
After losing an incredible senior class last year, Villen Ultimate went through a bit of a rebuilding season. There was still talent throughout the roster, which was showcased by a 3-1 record in the Winchester Round Robin Tournament early in the season. Varsity had a very tough regular season schedule and had some unlucky injuries, resulting in a 2-6-1 regular season record heading into PVI. Playing in the B Division, Varsity finished the tournament with a solid 3-3 record. This gave the Varsity team a boost heading into DII States, where they were seeded 4th overall. Going into the tournament with a heavily depleted roster, the 12 athletes who played did so admirably, winning their first 3 games and making the semifinals. Unfortunately,



tough competition. It will be exciting to see the growth into next year!

Crew:
The Somerville High School Crew team experienced a season of major transitions and remarkable achievements. Long-time coaches Stu Whitney and Katherine Faigen passed the torch to new head coaches Bryn Garrity and Kelsey Cooke, ushering in a new era for the program. Despite facing what may have been the most weather-disrupted season in recent memory, the team remained focused, determined, and resilient—qualities that defined their year on the water. Although the opening regatta was cancelled due to inclement weather, the team came out strong at the Mystic Mashup. Hosted at the Tufts Boathouse, Somerville welcomed four visiting teams and delivered some of the fastest times of the day,

setting the tone for a competitive season. Unfortunately, the Amber Zapata Regatta was cancelled entirely due to storm conditions, and delays at the Watuppa Sprints meant several Somerville boats were unable to compete. Still, the athletes made the most of their opportunities. Notable performances included Elle Gys finishing 4th in her single, and the Novice Girls 4 securing an impressive 2nd-place finish. The season culminated at the MPSRA State Championship, Somerville delivered its customary strong performances in the sweep events. The Novice Boys made it to the grand final, finishing 5th in a competitive field. The Novice Girls 4 rowed a gutsy race to edge out Shrewsbury High School at the line and take home the bronze medal. For the first time ever, the Girls Second Varsity 4 captured silver, while the Girls Varsity 4 also earned a silver medal—marking a historic day for the program.



cold and snow and pulled off an incredible 3-0-1 score, winning the tournament! The teams next stop was in May with the 2-day overnight Pioneer Valley Invitational. The Villens placed 5th in their division, with some really hard-fought games. In back-to-back style, the next weekend the team faced Division 1 States, playing 6 games total coming in 7th overall but 1st in Spirit of the Game! We are very proud of all the hard work our players put in this season and so excited to grow the program and show out next season. #villentonattys2026.

ly, fatigue caught up to them and they dropped the final 2, ending the season in 4th place. Varsity's overall record this season was 11-12-1. Villen Ultimate will be sending one player, Oliver Wicks, to the MA HS All-Star Game. He ended the season with 5 goals and 82 assists over 23 games. Villen's leading scorer this season was junior Steven Cutro, who scored 42 goals and added 9 assists in 23 games as well. Although it was a rebuilding year, this team outperformed their expectations and played incredibly well against some



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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

1. Hawaii

2. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

3. Lion

4. Dolly Parton

5. Ouzo

6. Lighting bugs

7. Charles Babbage

8. The driver

9. Au

10. Mrs. Krabappel

11. Gladys Kravitz

12. 14

Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: Does having a side hustle make sense for me financially– even if I’m just starting out?

A: Yes – especially if you’re already spending time and money on it! A side hustle can do more than earn extra income—it can help you lower your tax bill, particularly in the early years when startup costs may outweigh profits.

Here’s how it helps:

- Offset W-2 income – Business losses can reduce your taxable wages.
 - Turn everyday costs into write-offs – Supplies, mileage, home office space, and more.
 - Unlock smart tax moves – Like retirement plans and equipment write-offs.
 - Create long-term potential – What starts small can grow into something powerful.
- To count as a real business (not just a**

hobby), the IRS expects:

- A goal to make a profit
- Consistent time and effort
- Simple recordkeeping
- Efforts to grow or promote it
- Some separation from personal finances

Bottom line: If you’re putting in effort, a side hustle can turn your time – and your expenses – into long-term financial upside.

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.



Somerville 4th of July Celebration on Wednesday, June 25

CONT. FROM PG 1

countdown to the fireworks show. In the event of foul weather, watch the city website or contact 311 starting the day before to check on whether the rain date will be used. The website is at www.somerville-ma.gov, and you can call 311 at 617-666-3311.

Public Safety and Street Closures

To ensure public safety and pedestrian access to the event, traffic and parking restrictions will be in place as follows:

No Parking:

- Broadway East Bound from Charles E. Ryan Road to Cedar St. from 8 a.m. to midnight
- 8 a.m. to Midnight – Cedar St. (both sides) from Broadway to Murdock St. From 8 a.m. to midnight

- Charles E. Ryan Road (both sides) from Broadway to the end of the street from 8 a.m. to midnight
 - Franey Road, both sides from Cedar St. to Charles E. Ryan Road from 3 p.m. to midnight
 - Cedar St, both sides from Murdock St. to Morrison Ave. From 3 p.m. to midnight
 - Broadway, both sides, from Boston Ave to Medford St., from 4 p.m. to midnight
- Road Closures:**
- Franey Road is closed to vehicular, cyclist, and pedestrian traffic from 3 p.m. to midnight. Authorized personnel only.
 - Charles E. Ryan Road is closed to all except residents from Broadway to the end of the street from 4 to 6 p.m.
 - Cedar St. from Morrison Ave. to

- Broadway is closed to all except residents from 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- Broadway is closed to all vehicular traffic from Boston Ave to Medford St. from 5 p.m. to midnight
 - Hinckley St. from Fiske Ave to Broadway from 5 p.m. to midnight
 - Cedar Street Morrison to Broadway closed to ALL vehicular traffic (no resident traffic either) from 6 p.m. to midnight.
 - Charles E Ryan Road from Broadway to the end of the street closed to all vehicular traffic (no resident traffic either) from 6 p.m. to midnight.
 - Medford bordering Somerville:
 - 5 PM to Midnight - Williams Street at Winter Hill Road: no access to Broadway from 5 p.m. to midnight

- 5 PM to Midnight - Williams Street at Albion St.: no access to Winter Hill Road from 5 p.m. to midnight
- MBTA Buses 80 & 89 rerouted from 5 p.m. to midnight. See mbta.com for full detour information.
- For more information on specific street closures, visit: somervilleartscouncil.org/events/fireworks.
- Due to the large crowds and loud noise associated with the Fireworks Celebration, the City recommends that attendees leave pets at home and not bring unnecessary bags or backpacks. All bags and backpacks are subject to inspection. For more information, please call 311 (or 617-666-3311) or visit somerville-ma.gov.

Somer-Songs

CONT. FROM PG 3

reminded me of my friends from Belmont Park. *Born To Be Wild* by Steppenwolf came out in 1968 and instantly became the anthem for anyone with a motorcycle. But just the title was something my friends and I could relate to because we were, in fact, wild. We had hair down to our shoulders, we wore dungarees and dungaree jackets, and we were hippies. Several of my friends eventually bought motorcycles and still ride to this day.

By 1966, we were already neck deep in Beatlemania. As they used to say on the

radio ... and the hits just keep on coming! How can you describe what The Beatles did to us? They changed us forever. They provided the musical backdrop for our generation. Listen to *She Loves You* or *I Want To Hold Your Hand* and describe all the emotions that you experience. Then you can check out the 1966 contributions such as *We Can Work It Out*, *Paperback Writer*, and *Nowhere Man*.

Somerville was pretty cool back around 1966. There were a lot of local bands that had dreams of stardom. All the great mu-

sic of the era fueled our aspirations. Later, we would enjoy the success of local bands such as Aerosmith, The J Geils Band, The Cars, and Boston. Play any songs by those groups and you are sure to travel back to another time when you were younger, thinner, hairier, and perhaps single.

There are also many songs that make us sad by stirring up not-so-pleasant memories. *Abraham Martin and John* by Dion is one of these tunes. It immediately brings me back to the bus stop in front of Somerville High School in June of 1968. That is

where I heard the unbelievable and shocking news about the death of Robert F Kennedy. That song will always make me sad.

I know I have written about the heartbreaking *Alone Again Naturally* before in this column. That song reduces me to tears every time. As a matter of fact, I usually change the station if it comes on.

New Bedford’s own Tavares sang *Don’t Take Away The Music*. If you take away the music, you take away millions of memories. A song is like an airplane because it can take you to exciting and special places.

Beacon Hill Roll Call

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JUVENILE OFFENDERS AND THEIR VICTIMS

(H 1792) – Another measure before the Judiciary Committee would direct the state’s courts to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that victims of crimes perpetrated by juvenile offenders receive restitution, and that juvenile offenders be required to repair, replace or otherwise make restitution for any damage or loss caused by their crime. This bill also requires that the juvenile court make restitution a condition of release, placement or parole for the juvenile offender.

“Crime victims face many hardships, not only as they deal with the emotional toll of the crime itself, but also with the related financial repercussions,” said sponsor Rep. Brad Jones (R-North Reading). “We should not compound their suffering by adding to their financial burden but should instead make it easier for them to receive restitution, which is what [my bill] seeks to do.”

MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE HEARING

– The Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government held a hearing on several bills including:

EXEMPT LOCAL BILLS FROM REQUIRING THE LEGISLATURE’S APPROVAL (S 1471)

– Would remove the current requirement that the Legislature review and approve of routine home rule petitions, filed in the Legislature by local cities and towns, that have minimal or no statewide impact, such as liquor license increases, charter changes and individual personnel exemptions from the state civil service law.

“State legislative review of home rule petitions with limited to no statewide impact unnecessarily adds more red tape to established local processes,” said sponsor Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham). “It hinders our partners in municipal government from doing the jobs they were elected to do and restricts and confuses community members. Simply put, we just don’t need more confusion or longer wait times to implement what voters want in their own communities. My bill ... would streamline the routine home rule process by eliminating state legislative review, thereby uplifting local decision-making so the right solutions for each of our 351 municipalities can be timely implemented.”

REQUIRE TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF LOCAL CITY AND TOWNS BOARDS (S 1432)

– Would require mandatory, standardized annual training for new members of key local board in cities and towns including boards of health, conservation commissions, planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. The training programs would be developed in consultation with the Massachusetts Municipal Association and would require all new board and commission members to complete these trainings prior to beginning their service.

“I filed [the bill] because we rely on volunteers to make consequential decisions on local boards that shape ev-

erything from housing to public health, yet we don’t give them the training they need,” said sponsor Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). “This bill creates a simple, no-cost, standardized training so new board members understand the laws they’re upholding and can serve their communities effectively from day one.”

RAISE FINES FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY (H 2247)

– Would amend current law that imposes up to a 7-year prison sentence and/or \$5,000 fine for a first offense of animal cruelty and a 10-year prison sentence and/or \$10,000 fine for a second offense. The bill leaves the prison sentences as they are but raises the fines to \$5,500 for a first offense and \$11,000 for subsequent offenses. It also creates a special account where up to \$500 for a first offense and up to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses would go to fund improvements to animal shelters in the city or town in which the violations occurred.

The proposal received initial House approval in 2021 but then died in committee because of lack of further action by the House.

Sponsor Rep. Bruce Ayers (D-Quincy) said that Massachusetts in 2024 took a big step forward in animal rights and protection with the passage of Ollie’s law that established rules and regulations for dog kennels in the Bay State, to ensure animal welfare, protect consumers and keep kennel staff safe.

“This bill seeks to build on that momentum by increasing penalties for animal cruelty to further deter abuse and neglect, while directing any additional revenue generated from these increased fines towards financial support for local animal shelters where the violation occurred,” said Ayers.

LOCAL TREE WARDENS (H 2195)

– Would require that every city and town’s tree warden have sufficient training and certification; change the penalty paid to communities for someone who illegally removes shade trees from \$500 to the often higher value of actually replacing the tree; and update antiquated laws including the one that fines anyone who damages a tree or plant by driving an animal into it, but does not mention a car or truck because the current law was passed before the popular use of the automobile.

Supporters said that a well-maintained tree canopy can act as a buffer against climate change and protect public health. They noted that the U.S. Forest Service estimates that neighborhoods with well-shaded streets can be up to 10 degrees cooler and that tree canopies not only reduce energy costs but also mitigate the urban heat island effect, directly preventing heat-related illnesses and deaths.

“Public shade trees are a valuable resource in our fight against the impact of climate change,” said sponsor Rep. Steve Owens (D-Watertown). “The laws protecting them and empowering the tree wardens who care for them have

not been materially updated in more than a hundred years. This bill makes sure that wardens have the tools they need to protect and nurture our public shade trees.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“This year’s tax incentive awardees are advancing scientific innovation, strengthening our economy and improving lives across the globe with groundbreaking work. Their successes are a shining example of why Massachusetts continues to lead the nation in life sciences.” — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll on the Healey Administration announcing \$29.9 million in tax incentive awards, estimated to create 1,500 industry jobs, to 33 life sciences companies.*

“As summer temperatures get hotter, we are committed to ensuring that every Massachusetts resident has access to a beach or pool and to be able to learn the skills they need to have a safe and fun experience. Providing free swim lessons through the Learn to Swim program, as well as ensuring we have a full contingent of qualified lifeguards, is critical to promoting water safety throughout the summer season.” — *Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Brian Arrigo announcing that DCR will offer free swimming lessons to children aged four through 12 at 19 DCR pools across the state and that some lifeguard positions are still available.*

“Down payment assistance is a vital tool for empowering first-time homebuyers and advancing MassHousing’s commitment to expanding access to homeownership. By growing our leading down payment assistance program to reach more middle-income homebuyers statewide, we will grow consumer buying power and help ensure that homeownership remains accessible to working families across Massachusetts.” — ^

“Students and school districts deserve a less polluted environment than is currently the case with diesel bus fleets. The growing shift to electric buses represents a transformative opportunity to modernize transportation while cutting costs as well as creating a learning opportunity for students and communities.” — *Massachusetts Clean Energy Center CEO Dr. Emily Reichert, announcing \$9.5 million in funding to help communities replace diesel-powered school buses with electric alternatives.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature’s job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency

Continued on page 17

Somernova signs Community Benefits and Project Labor Agreements

Rafi Properties, owner and operator of the Somernova innovation campus, is proud to announce the official signing of the Somernova Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) and a first of its kind Project Labor Agreement (PLA) – marking a major step forward for arts and innovation ecosystem and equitable, community-driven development in Somerville’s Union Square.

Fueled by the Arts & Innovation Subarea zoning, Somernova’s expansion envisions 1.5 million square feet of cutting-edge R&D and commercial space and housing to support the next wave of climate and tough tech innovators. Integrated into a vibrant ecosystem of arts and music, local retail, housing, childcare, civic space, and a community center, this expansion will cement Somernova as a global launchpad for companies incubated at and emerging from trailblazers like Greentown Labs and The Engine – positioning Somerville at the forefront of solving the world’s toughest challenges.

Passed through a neighborhood vote with overwhelming 71% of community support, the agreement ensures that Somernova’s proposed expansion will deliver lasting, tangible benefits to the residents, workers and businesses of Somerville. The CBA represents the result of over two years of deep collaboration between Rafi Properties and Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC), and was shaped by meaningful input from Arts Stays Here, Somernova tenants, The Dojo partners and Somerville youth, residents, artists, and local leaders. The CBA includes significant commitments such as:

- Over 100,000 square feet of arts and music space including three new independent music venues, affordable, purpose-built, long-term music rehearsal/recording studios, galleries and artists studios
- A fully funded, turnkey community center, The Dojo

- Union jobs, fair wages, equitable labor practices, and job training
- Green and open public space, including two new parks
- Housing (with affordability targets), and childcare facilities
- Financial contributions to local housing, jobs and small business organizations
- A shared vision for sustainability and inclusive innovation

At the same time, a Project Labor Agreement with the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, and Shawmut Design and Construction has been executed for Somernova. This marks a groundbreaking commitment to union labor, fair wages, local hiring, and equitable labor practices throughout the buildout of the 7.4-acre campus.

“These agreements reflect what’s possible when development is truly community-led,” said Kristin Phelan, VP of Real Estate at Rafi Properties/Somernova. “We’re grateful to the Union Square Neighborhood Council, the Building Trades, the Carpenters, Arts Stays Here and our tenants for their partnership and shared commitment to Somerville’s future. This is a blueprint for how we can help early stage and venture backed companies grow creatively, sustainably, and equitably– with artists, workers and residents at the center of it all.”

“The signing of the Project Labor Agreement and Community Benefits Agreement for Somernova is a historic occasion,” said Mayor of Somerville Katjana Ballantyne. “Somernova marks the first private development project in Somerville to secure consensus between the trades and a developer on a PLA. The CBA and PLA signify that Somernova’s proposed expansion will deliver lasting, tangible benefits to the residents, workers, and businesses of Somerville.”

“In Somerville, committing to union labor through a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) and Community Benefits Agree-



L-R: Rod Badaro, Business Agent, Greater Boston Labor Union; Matthias Rudolf, Co-Chair, USNC; Michele Hansen, Co-Chair, USNC; Collin Yip, Managing Director, Rafi Properties; Mike Kearns, COO, Shawmut Design and Construction.
— Photo courtesy of Somernova

ment (CBA) means investing in families, neighborhoods, and opportunity—but it doesn’t happen without the incredible solidarity and support between community, labor, government, and lifting up responsible business practices,” said Chaton Green, Business Agent, Greater Boston Building Trades Unions. “Together, we’re ensuring local hiring, fair wages, and real career pathways that strengthen our economy and create lasting benefits – supporting our community. This is how we build stronger, more equitable communities – with good union jobs and shared commitment.”

“This is a historic moment for community organizing and direct democracy in our city,” said Ethan Dussault and Emily Doran, of the Union Square Neighborhood Council’s CBA Negotiating Team. “This is about buying into our community. Where the city rules, regulations and requirements leave off, the CBA picks up, resulting in benefits that will serve the whole Somerville community. The Union Square Neighborhood Council is incredibly proud of this accomplishment.”

“Innovative thinking and a spirit of cooperation have resulted in a comprehensive way forward for this project and

this community,” said Mike Kearns, chief operating officer for Shawmut Design and Construction’s New England region. “Working with local community partners and labor will result in a more successful development here, and we’re proud to contribute to its future.”

“This is a gigantic win for arts and music in Somerville,” said Ami Bennitt, Volunteer Founder, Arts Stays Here. “And it’s also a gigantic win for Somerville, period. There’s arts, music, housing, parks, traffic mitigation, and the opportunity for Somerville to continue claiming investment in climate tech-- which is good for everyone.”

With the CBA and PLA now finalized, Somernova sets a bold precedent for how community, labor, and private enterprise can come together to deliver meaningful, future-focused urban development.

Somerville’s Land Use Committee is expected to vote on the Central Somerville Avenue zoning amendments, including the Arts & Innovation Subarea, at their upcoming meeting on June 17. If passed, the zoning amendments will then go before the Somerville City Council for a vote on June 26.

Beacon Hill Roll Call

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and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of June 9-13, the House met for a total of ten minutes while the Senate met for a total of two hours and one minute.

Mon. June 9

Tues. June 10

Wed. June 11

House 11:01 a.m. to 11:04 a.m.

Senate 11:10 a.m. to 11:35 a.m.

No House session.

No Senate session

No House session.

No Senate session

Thurs. June 12

Fri. June 13

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

House 11:04 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.

Senate 11:14 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

No House session

No Senate session

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Book Club – Friday, June 20th starting at 10:00 a.m. Join book club this month. You can attend in person at 167 Holland Street or via Zoom. This month we will be discussing *The Lioness of Boston* by Emily Franklin. Grab-n-Go lunch available upon request. Please RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Left, Center, Right – Friday, June 20th starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. \$1 per game. Grab-n-Go lunch available upon request. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

General Nutrition Classes – Monday, June 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.

Technology Workshop – 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 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.

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 – Tuesday, 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.

Veterans Group – Tuesday, June 24th at our Holland Street Center starting at 10:30 a.m. This group allows veterans to connect with their peers, discuss personal challenges and provide support. All Veterans are welcome. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby

at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Fireworks – Wednesday, June 25th with a rain date of June 27th at Trum Field. Join us for an evening of music, celebration and spectacular fireworks. If you would like to join the COA in our reserved seating area, please contact Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319. Limited transportation available, transportation must be requested by June 18th.

Bingo – Thursday, June 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.

Project Outlook – Thursday, June 26th at our Holland Street Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Project Outlook is a group for low vision and blind seniors to gather, socialize and enjoy dinner together. Free! RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Blood Pressure Screening – Thursday, June 26th, July 24th and August 28th from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center Conference Room. Celeste Gearhart, Director of Public Health Nursing, along with Ella Fernando, Public Health Nurse, will be at the SCOA the last Thursday of the month to take your blood pressure.

Technology Open Hours – Every Tuesday in June starting at 9:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or email Molly at mpagliuca@somervillema.gov.

Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program – PICK UP Thursday, June 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. For an application contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Movie Day – Friday, June 27th starting at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. This month's movie is *La Dolce Villa* starring Scott Foley and Violante Placido. A successful businessman travels to Italy to stop his daughter from spending all her money. Running time is 1 hour and 39 minutes. \$2 per person for a pizza lunch served after the movie. Grab-n-Go lunch available upon request. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2323 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Coffee & Conversation Groups – Every Monday in June from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. And every Thursday in June with the exception of the 19th at the Holland Street Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Join us for this staff-led discussion group which covers a range of topics thought up by participants. This is a friendly group, where all topics are discussed respectfully. Grab-n-Go lunch is available upon request. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen

at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

General Exercise classes are now on YouTube and City Cable – In addition to our general exercise classes offered in person at the Holland Street Center and the Ralph & Jenny Center and our virtual classes via Zoom, the COA is now offering general exercise classes shown on GovTV and YouTube. An easy way to find the YouTube videos is to go to the city website: somervillema.gov, scroll all the way down until you see SOMERVILLECITYTV. Click on Somervillema.gov/Video, click on GOVTV or YOUTUBE then select the COA General Exercise Video of your choice or check out some of the other popular videos that are posted. You can also check out the videos on GOVTV Comcast channel 22, Astound SD channel 13 and Astound HD channel 613. New exercise videos will be posted each month, we look forward to you exercising with us from the comfort of your own home, at a time that is convenient for you! For additional information regarding any of our fitness programs, please contact Michelle Deutsch at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

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.

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18			
7:00 AM	COA: Eastern Flow Workout	8:00 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
7:30 AM	Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback	8:35 PM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
8:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	9:00 PM	School Construction Advisory Group Meeting #6
8:30 AM	SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal		
9:00 AM	Pride Flag Raising 2025	11:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol
9:30 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25	FRIDAY, JUNE 20	
10:30 AM	Hong Kong Festival 2025	12:00 AM	Pride Flag Raising 2025
11:00 AM	SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal	12:30 AM	Hong Kong Festival 2025
11:30 AM	School Committee Update: Leiran Biton	1:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley Jr.
12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-16-25	1:30 AM	SomerViva - Nepali
2:30 PM	Special City Council Meeting 5-29-25	7:00 AM	COA: Eastern Flow Workout
5:00 PM	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony	7:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
6:02 PM	SomerViva en Espanol	8:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25
6:31 PM	City Council Meeting 6-12-25	9:00 AM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
10:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	9:30 AM	Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025
11:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25	10:30 AM	School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
THURSDAY, JUNE 19			
12:00 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025	11:00 AM	City Council Meeting 6-12-25
12:35 AM	Start By Believing Proclamation	3:00 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
1:00 AM	School Committee Meeting 6-9-25	4:00 PM	SomerViva en Espanol
7:00 AM	COA: Function Junction Workout	4:30 PM	Porchfest 2025
7:30 AM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking	5:30 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Cosmetology
8:00 AM	Congressional Update	6:00 PM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
8:30 AM	SomerViva em Português	6:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol
9:00 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025	7:00 PM	Hong Kong Festival 2025
9:35 AM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking	7:30 PM	Porchfest 2025
10:00 AM	Hong Kong Festival 2025	8:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
10:30 AM	Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025	9:00 PM	Pride Flag Raising 2025
11:30 AM	Pride Flag Raising 2025	9:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol
12:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait	10:00 PM	Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025
12:30 PM	Porchfest 2025	11:00 PM	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
1:30 PM	SomerViva - Nepali	SATURDAY, JUNE 21	
2:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Automotive	12:05 AM	Hong Kong Festival 2025
2:30 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025	12:30 AM	Porchfest 2025
3:30 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol	1:30 AM	Pride Flag Raising 2025
4:00 PM	Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025	2:00 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
5:00 PM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley Jr.	7:00 AM	COA: General Seated Exercise
5:30 PM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking	7:30 AM	Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
6:00 PM	SomerViva em Português	8:00 AM	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
6:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25	9:02 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25
7:30 PM	Hong Kong Festival 2025	10:00 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
		11:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
		11:30 AM	SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
		12:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
		3:00 PM	School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
		3:30 PM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
		4:00 PM	City Council Meeting 6-12-25
		8:00 PM	Pride Flag Raising 2025
		8:30 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
		10:30 PM	School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
		11:00 PM	Haitian Flag Raising Celebration 2025
		SUNDAY, JUNE 22	
		12:00 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
		12:30 AM	City Council Meeting 6-12-25
		7:00 AM	Ayanna Pressley Townhall
		8:10 AM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
		8:30 AM	SomerViva em Português
		9:00 AM	Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
		9:30 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
		10:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
		11:00 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25
		12:00 PM	Pride Flag Raising 2025
		12:30 PM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
		1:00 PM	Hong Kong Festival 2025
		1:30 PM	School Construction Advisory Group Meeting #6
		4:00 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Automotive
		4:30 PM	SomerViva - Nepali
		5:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
		7:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol
		8:00 PM	Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
		8:30 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
		9:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
		10:00 PM	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
		11:02 PM	SomerViva em Português
		11:32 PM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
		MONDAY, JUNE 23	
		12:00 AM	Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
		12:30 AM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
		1:30 AM	School Construction Advisory Group Meeting #6
		7:00 AM	COA: Function Junction Workout
		7:30 AM	SomerViva - Nepali
		8:00 AM	Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
		8:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
		9:00 AM	School Committee Meeting 6-16-25
		11:30 AM	School Committee Update: Leiran Biton
		12:00 PM	Mental Health Matters: LGBTQ
		12:30 PM	Hong Kong Festival 2025
		1:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25
		3:00 PM	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
		4:02 PM	SomerViva an Kreyol
		4:31 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising 2025
		5:30 PM	SomerViva en Espanol
		6:00 PM	Somerville Immigrant Workers Rights Fair
		7:30 PM	Pride Flag Raising 2025
		8:00 PM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
		8:30 PM	COA: Eastern Flow Workout
		9:00 PM	SomerViva - Nepali
		9:30 PM	City Council Meeting 6-12-25
		TUESDAY, JUNE 24	
		1:30 AM	SomerViva an Kreyol
		2:00 AM	Vietnam & Korean War Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking
		7:00 AM	Chair Pilates & Cardio Throwback
		7:30 AM	SomerViva: Know Your Rights - Nepal
		8:00 AM	School Construction Advisory Group Meeting #6
		10:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
		11:00 AM	Hong Kong Festival 2025
		11:30 AM	City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley Jr.
		12:00 PM	Special City Council Meeting
		2:10 PM	Future In Focus-CTE at SHS: Automotive
		2:30 PM	Ayanna Pressley Townhall
		4:00 PM	Sanctuary Cities/Federal Challenge Announcement
		6:00 PM	Finance - Committee of the Whole - LIVE
		11:30 PM	City Council Spotlight: Naima Sait
		WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25	
		12:00 AM	Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony
		1:02 AM	Finance Committee Meeting 6-9-25
		2:00 AM	SomerViva - Nepali

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18			
8:00 AM	Argenziano PK-gr. 6 Spring Concert	9:00 PM	SCALE Graduation and Awards Night
8:30 AM	Kennedy School 4-8 Spring Concert	11:00 PM	El Sistema Spring Concert
9:30 AM	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert	FRIDAY, JUNE 20	
10:00 AM	SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles	12:00 AM	Argenziano Moving On Ceremony
11:00 AM	Winter Hill CIS K-3 Spring Concert	1:30 AM	SHS Baseball vs Lynn English
11:30 AM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship	8:00 AM	School Committee Meeting 6-9-25
12:30 PM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship	10:30 AM	Brown School Moving On
1:30 PM	ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring Concert	11:00 AM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship
2:30 PM	Brown School Spring Concert	12:00 PM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship
4:00 PM	Full Circle Graduation	1:00 PM	Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
6:00 PM	Argenziano PK-gr. 6 Spring Concert	2:00 PM	Healey 4-8 Ensembles Spring Concert
6:30 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Spring Concert	3:00 PM	Full Circle Graduation
7:30 PM	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert	5:00 PM	SHS Graduation
8:00 PM	SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles	6:30 PM	WSNS Juneteenth Flag Ceremony
9:00 PM	Winter Hill CIS K-3 Spring Concert	7:00 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-9-25
9:30 PM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship	9:30 PM	Brown School Moving On
10:30 PM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship	10:00 PM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship
11:30 PM	ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring Concert	11:00 PM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship
THURSDAY, JUNE 19			
12:30 AM	Brown School Spring Concert	SATURDAY, JUNE 21	
2:00 AM	Full Circle Graduation	12:00 AM	Winter Hill Moving On Ceremony
8:00 AM	Kennedy Moving On	1:00 AM	Healey 4-8 Ensembles Spring Concert
9:00 AM	Brown School Moving On	2:00 AM	Full Circle Graduation
9:30 AM	WSNS Juneteenth Flag Ceremony	4:00 AM	SHS Graduation
10:00 AM	Capuano Kindergarten Moving On	8:00 AM	Argenziano PK-gr. 6 Spring Concert
11:00 AM	SCALE Graduation and Awards Night	8:30 AM	Kennedy School 4-8 Spring Concert
1:00 PM	El Sistema Spring Concert	9:30 AM	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert
2:00 PM	Argenziano Moving On Ceremony	10:00 AM	SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles
3:30 PM	School Committee Meeting 6-9-25	11:00 AM	Winter Hill CIS K-3 Spring Concert
6:00 PM	Kennedy Moving On	11:30 AM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship
7:00 PM	Brown School Moving On	12:30 PM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship
7:30 PM	WSNS Juneteenth Flag Ceremony	1:30 PM	ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring Concert
8:00 PM	Capuano Kindergarten Moving On	2:30 PM	Brown School Spring Concert
		4:00 PM	Full Circle Graduation
		6:00 PM	Argenziano PK-gr. 6 Spring Concert
		6:30 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Spring Concert
		7:30 PM	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert
		8:00 PM	SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles
		9:00 PM	Winter Hill CIS K-3 Spring Concert
		9:30 PM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship
		10:30 PM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship
		11:30 PM	ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring Concert
		2:00 AM	Full Circle Graduation
		6:00 PM	Argenziano PK-gr. 6 Spring Concert
		6:30 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Spring Concert
		7:30 PM	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert
		8:00 PM	SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles
		9:00 PM	Winter Hill CIS K-3 Spring Concert
		9:30 PM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship
		10:30 PM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship
		11:30 PM	ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring Concert
		2:00 AM	Full Circle Graduation
		6:00 PM	Argenziano PK-gr. 6 Spring Concert
		6:30 PM	Kennedy School 4-8 Spring Concert
		7:30 PM	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert
		8:00 PM	SPS Jazz and Chamber Ensembles
		9:00 PM	Winter Hill CIS K-3 Spring Concert
		9:30 PM	Girls’ Intramural Basketball Championship
		10:30 PM	Boys Intramural Basketball Championship
		11:30 PM	ESCS Upper Grades Ensembles Spring Concert
		2:00 AM	Full Circle Graduation



Somerville Fair Housing Commission

Question of the week

Q: I want to increase the rent on a unit. What do I need to do?

A: If your tenant has a lease and you do not have an escalator clause in it, you must wait until the end of the lease and then may raise the rent by giving 30 days notice or signing a new lease. If your tenant is a tenant-at-will, you must give them at least 30 days notice before raising the rent.

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.



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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What crime was the cranky baby guilty of?
Resisting a-rest.

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Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Conquest of nature... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

June 18

1579 – Sir Francis Drake claims San Francisco Bay for England.
1775 – The British take Bunker Hill outside of Boston, after a costly battle.
1812 – The War of 1812 begins when the U.S. declares war against Great Britain.
1856 – The Republican Party opens its first national convention in Philadelphia.
1873 – Susan B. Anthony is fined \$100 for attempting to vote for president.
1928 – Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to cross the Atlantic by airplane.
1930 – The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill becomes law, placing the highest tariff on imports to the United States.
1950 – Surgeon Richard Lawler performs the first kidney transplant.
1972 – Five men are arrested for burglarizing Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.
1983 – Sally Ride becomes the first American woman in space.
1994 – O.J. Simpson drives his Ford Bronco through Los Angeles, followed by police.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

at the **Blessing of the Bay Boathouse** to enjoy Indigenous performances, storytelling, and dance honoring the stories and voices of African American and Indigenous communities. **Sunday, June 22**, 1 to 3 p.m. Blessing of the Bay Boathouse (32 Shore Dr.).

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>

The **Somerville Foundation (TSF)** is hosting a summer music series. Their first event is **Thursday, June 26**, at **Redbones Underbones**, 7 – 9 p.m., 55 Chester St. Bring your friends. Enjoy good music, and you can order drinks/BBQ too. Minimum donation for entry is \$10; students are free. Donations help TSF continue its activities to support youth, adults, and educators in the community. Read more at www.somerville-foundation.org.

The **Somerville Police Department** and the **Middlesex Sheriff’s Office** will partner to host the **Somerville gun buyback initiative Saturday, June 28**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will take place on **Franey Rd.** adjacent to the Somerville Department of Public Works yard, 1 Franey Rd. The regional initiative has included several communities in Middlesex County over the past couple of years. The focus is on providing residents with a safe and secure way of removing unwanted firearms from their homes.

The **Somerville Ward 7 Democratic Committee** will host their municipal candidates for **Ward 7 Councilor** and **School Committee** over Zoom on **Wednesday, June 18**, at 6:30 p.m. This is a public event open to all. The Ward 7 school committee race is uncontested, and three candidates contend for the position of Ward 7 Councilor. During the forum, candidates will be given the opportunity to make opening and closing statements and answer questions submitted by the

Ward Committee. A recording of the forum will be posted online as well. Go here to attend the live event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82963814088?pwd=0ta2Nv1QixgvtNgSaboe5Pay4B9LuQ.1>. Meeting ID: 829 6381 4088 Passcode: 068591. Following the forum, elected members of the Ward 7 Committee will vote on an endorsement in the Ward 7 Councilor race by online ballot.

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/unioncomedycamp.com. Spaces are limited and tend to fill quickly. Secure your spot today. Questions? Reach out to info@unioncomedy.com.

ArtBeat 2025 is coming to **Davis Square** on **Saturday, July 19**, (rain date: Sunday, July 20). This year’s theme is **FREEZE** – think snowflakes, frozen moments, and glacial vibes on the hottest day of the year. Stay tuned for artist lineups, performances, and surprises. Find more details in our bio link or right here: <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/events/artbeat-freeze/>

Ye Olde Comix Con at Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Join the Somerville Public Library for their fifth annual all-day fan-themed event, with programming from your favorite fandoms, stalls with local artists and vendors, cosplaying, and more. Click here to find out more and register for reminders: <https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/comix-con>.

The **City of Somerville’s Fireworks Celebration** will be held on **Wednesday, June 25**, at **Trum Field** (inclement weather date is scheduled for Friday, June 27). Music, food, and a dazzling display in the sky, don’t miss this festive night for all ages. Please visit www.somervilleartscouncil.org/fireworks for details on the event, road closures, and

parking restrictions.

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, June 21 – June 28**, 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.

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 p.m., **Milk Row Cemetery, Saturday, July 26**, 10 a.m. - 12 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. For more information on spring pool hours for Swim Lessons, Water Exercise, Lap Swim, Family Swim, and Open Swim. Please visit their website, <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>, or email aquatics@somervillema.gov.

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.

Continued on page 23



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Interview with puppeteer
Faye Dupras

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Miriam Levine is the author of *Forget about Sleep*, her sixth poetry collection, winner of the 2023 Laura Boss Narrative Poetry Award. Another collection, *The Dark Opens*, was chosen for the Autumn House Poetry Prize. Other books include: *Devotion*, a memoir; *In Paterson*, a novel. Her work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Paris Review*, and *Ploughshares*. Levine, winner of a Pushcart Prize, is a fellow of the NEA and a grantee of the Massachusetts Artists Foundation. She lives in Florida and New Hampshire. For more information about her work, please go to miriamlevine.com.



High C

This spring your whole inner life is Little Richard.
You surrender to his octave-jumping high
notes as he shakes out the fringes of his
glittering coat. His boots glitter, too. How
narrow, those feet. And those wigs! How
full. "Is that your hair?" he's asked. "It's
mine. I bought it." Decade by decade,
you see him age but are convinced
he beats back time. And always his
beauty endures. Bare-chested under
his cape, he strolled through Heathrow.
"Man drop his cup of coffee when he see
me. I give him the peace sign." Now he's
streaming through earbuds into your brain,
And you know I'll always be your slave
Until I'm buried, buried in my grave . . .
Your step is easy as you walk south
on Meridian Avenue to your
allotment in the Victory Garden
and the blooming zinnia called
"Zowie," streaked crimson and gold.
You keep time with his time, and the blooms



Recently I caught up with Faye Dupras, a puppeteer based here in the Paris of New England. I asked her about her life and work.

Doug Holder: How has it been for you as an artist moving to and living in Somerville?

Faye Dupras: I moved to the U.S. in 2001 to pursue an MFA in puppetry arts at UConn. I planned to return to Montreal after my studies. However, during this period I met my now husband who is American.

It wasn't until I moved to Somerville in 2011 that I felt truly at home this side of the border. I recognized immediately that I could find like-minded people in terms of social action and in artistic practice. I also liked the cultural and economic diversity in the city.

Having said that, the demographics of the city have changed a lot since I came and many of my friends and peers have been priced out of the city.

I love how the city and the Somerville Arts Council works hard to try and support the arts and local artists.

A huge asset of living in Somerville is having access to Vernon Street studios. When I first moved to Somerville two Vernon Street studio artists allowed me to display my puppets in their studio during open studios. This was a great way to introduce myself to the community and kick started meeting other local artists and future collaborators, like longtime col-

laborator Jason Slavick of Liars and Believers. I now rent my own studio at Vernon which has accelerated my practice.

DH: The puppets you use are beautifully rendered. Their faces almost seem like texts from a story. Do you create your own puppets? If so, what is the process?

FD: I was drawn to puppetry because it's a multidisciplinary art form. I could be a visual artist, performer, script writer, and producer under one umbrella discipline. I started as a designer builder/builder but now I work more as a writer/producer.

DH: Who builds the puppets?

FD: The puppets on my fayedupras.com website are designed and built – or co-designed and built – by me.

The puppets on my cozyarts.org website are designed by Puppet Kitchen (a NY based company run by a friend of mine) My mentor, Noreen Young's, way of training an apprentice was to employ them. She hired me to costume puppets. They expanded to puppet props and puppet bodies.

She worked in television. I was grateful for the opportunities she gave me but decided to move to Montreal to go to Concordia and pursue a BFA in Drama in Human Development. This program combined my love of puppetry with my interest in the social applications of arts – drama

Continued on page 23

also seem to sway with the beat.
At night you see him preach about his Jesus;
and you watch his funeral. He believed
he would live forever with Jesus.
You confess you read the auction catalogue
of his things. You don't want his flaming

clothes but you covet his passport,
the photo of him with the impossibly
high pompadour and ink-line moustache,
page after page stamped with seals
of countries he entered and never left.

— From *Forget about Sleep* © Miriam Levine

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 21

Thanks to their partnership with the **City of Somerville** and the **Somerville Farmers Market Coalition**, they are proud to continue to offer our SNAP match. For more info, visit unionsquaremain.org/2025-season.

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 coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. Visit <https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis>.

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, **Somerville Animal Control** is in need of

towels/blankets/linens. They can arrange a porch pickup if you message them on Facebook, or they can be dropped off at the police station at any time.

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

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. 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.somerville-ma.gov/sweeper for more information.

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.

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 (including snow emergencies), construction and road closures, water service interruptions, community news, and more. To sign up, visit somervillema.gov/alerts and

click on the button for your preferred language. Step-by-step sign-up instructions are available at: somervillema.gov/alerts. Having trouble signing up? You can call 3-1-1 (617-666-3311) for assistance.

Through the generosity of the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**, and 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.

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

Off The Shelf

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in education, drama therapy, community-engaged theater. I was very influenced by my time living and working in Montreal. In the late nineties the arts scene was very interdisciplinary and experimental. I worked with dancers, instillation artists, and electro acoustic sound designers. It was an exciting time to be an artist! I was very attracted to the idea of imaged based theater as a vehicle for metaphor and the power of puppetry. Perhaps this is why you see the poetry in the puppets because they are designed in direct relationship to the story, the research, and/or the emotion we are trying to solicit in the audience.

DH: Is there a point in your art when you feel like a puppet, and the actual puppet is telling you what to do? I know in writing poetry, when you are in a groove the pen or pencil seems to take control, and you become a tool. **FD:** Once you’ve learned your puppet – i.e., how it moves, breaths, thinks, etc. – and your lines and/or blocking, it is easy to get into a groove where it can become unclear where you end and the puppet begins, or vice versa. This is especially true for me when performing more poetic puppetry forms with no spoken language. With language-based television puppets this can happen, but it’s often very silly and playful rather than poetic and surprising.

When devising image-based puppetry theater this often happens. The artist becomes a vessel for the story to emerge from. I should mention that by the time I am in the rehearsal room working on my feet to create the sto-

ry I’ve spent up to a year researching the project, writing about the project (grants) and working with a team of artists to think deeply after the project. The experience of letting go of self and being swept up in the creative process is fueled by equal parts inspiration and preparation.

I can relate to getting in a groove in your work. I very much relate to this sentiment when building puppets. When I was doing more design work, it was a common experience to look up after a couple of hours of work and discover I’d actually been sculpting for 6+ hours.

DH: My brother Donald Holder was the original lighting designer for *The Lion King* on Broadway. Was this play an inspiration for you?

FD: First of all, very cool! When I first discovered I wanted to be a puppeteer I read *Playing with Fire* by Julie Taymor and decided I wanted to be the next JT. I was also very influenced by Philippe Genty, Robert Lepage, and Ronnie Burkett

It was hard to figure out how to be a puppeteer in the 90s – no internet to find tutorials and only a handful of institutions around the world where you could study it. I was lucky to find a mentor.

The Lion King did a lot for us puppeteers in the late 90’s, early 2000’s. It opened up the general public’s understanding of the art form. Before then, when I told people I was a puppeteer people would say, “I love Jim Henson!” or “Can you perform at my kid’s birthday party.” It was hard on a young serious artist’s ego to have to explain that this isn’t what I do. Ironically, after years of creating metaphor im-

age-based stage work I am now branching into TV style puppetry – Cozy Arts project.

DH: Do you think puppets could pull off a meaningful performance of say, a Chekov play, or would they– pardon the pun– be too wooden?

FD: Puppets can enhance an audience’s ability to see past the text and tap into the heart of the meaning behind the words because of their uncanniness. The “uncanny valley” in puppetry refers to the unsettling feeling evoked when puppets or dolls appear almost human, but not quite, causing a sense of unease or even revulsion. This phenomenon, rooted in the psychological experience of something familiar yet unsettling, is closely related to Sigmund Freud’s concept of the uncanny. Puppets, with their blend of the animate and inanimate, can trigger this unsettling feeling, highlighting the human tendency to project our own desires and anxieties onto objects.

Because puppets can do things people can’t, like come apart into pieces, or appear in multiple places at once in a variety of sizes, they can be more effective than live actors.

DH: Tell us about your work with children. What do you explore?

FD: Our collective humanity, our resilience in the face of trials, and how we recognize and nurture our inherent capacity for love and justice. In my work with children, I mostly focus on the third question.

I explore this through the lens of “feelings, friendship, and fairness” and children’s capacity to contribute positively to community building.

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