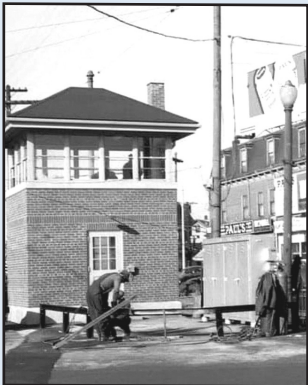




Inside:



The Davis Square Tower

page 3



COA Summer luncheon

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Spring Sports Roundup

pages 16-17

Central Street Studios enters new chapter of preserved affordability



The preservation of Central Street Studios as an art space was recently celebrated with a ribbon-cutting celebration. — Photos by Madalyn Jimiera

By Madalyn Jimiera

After an 18-month-long preservation campaign, the artists and stakeholders of Central Street Studios [1] gathered on the front porch of the building last week to snip the red ribbon tied across the stoop, celebrating the preservation of the affordable artist workspaces long-term.

“We’re not just commemorating the preservation of a building, but we’re talking about a community of artists, and future generations of artists who are going to be able to use this space,” said Ethan Dus-sault, volunteer with the Art Stays Here Coalition [2], a non-profit organization geared towards combating artist displacement.

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston purchased the building [3] at 57 *Continued on page 4*

Somerville Mobile Farmers Market Returns July 9

The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market is hitting the road once again, returning on Thursday, July 9, for the 2026 season. The market brings fresh, affordable, local produce to four city locations on Thursdays through Saturdays and runs through October 31.

All produce is sourced from local farms and priced affordably to make healthy, fresh food accessible to all. The mobile market accepts cash, debit and credit cards, SNAP, Fresh Connect, WIC Farmers Market Coupons, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons. All are welcome.

Market Locations and Times:

- Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m.
- o Clarendon Hill Towers, 1372 Broadway
- Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- o Council on Aging, 167

Continued on page 11



This summer, the Somerville Mobile Farmers Market rolls again, providing fresh, affordable produce throughout the city. — Photo courtesy of The Somerville Food Coalition

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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.

Ward 2 Slice of the City will take place on **Wednesday, June 24**, 5 – 7 p.m., **Lincoln Park**, 290 Washington St. Slice of the city is an early evening, drop-in style meetup at green spaces in each of Somerville’s wards. The **mayor, City Council, and city staff** will be present to mingle with residents. Join in to celebrate Somerville’s open spaces, engage with the city outside of formal meetings, and of course – enjoy some pizza. For more information and rain locations, visit: <https://www.somervillema.gov/slice>

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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to our **former mayor, Joe Curtatone**. We hope he has a great birthday. A big Happy Birthday to **Paula LeBlanc**, who is celebrating this week. We wish her the very best day and year to come. We wish all our Facebook friends, such as **Hugo A Volpe, John O'Rourke, Diane Dee-Dee Smith, Mark Anthony Anderson,** *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 24 – June 23 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>June 24</i>	Sunny	82°/60°	4%	1%	WNW 12 mph
Thursday <i>June 25</i>	Partly Cloudy	85°/63°	2%	1%	SW 9 mph
Friday <i>June 26</i>	Rain	80°/64°	50%	35%	SW 10 mph
Saturday <i>June 27</i>	Rain	75°/62°	38%	23%	NE 8 mph
Sunday <i>June 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	79°/63°	12%	6%	NNE 7 mph
Monday <i>June 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	83°/63°	13%	7%	SW 9 mph
Tuesday <i>June 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	80°/64°	23%	12%	SW 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Somerville boycott ordinance introduction*

Dylan says:

Strezo went on and on about how passing this would lead to lawsuits but left out who would be doing the suing. The ADL (Apartheid Defense League) just put out a letter threatening to do just that.

In America anyone may sue anyone for any reason. If Strezo actually feared a lawsuit, she would chastise her fellow zionists to not interfere with how we as taxpayers chose to use our taxes.

As is, this ordinance asks the mayor to cease business with certain Americans companies that aid in Israel’s criminal activities. Whether that can practically be enacted remains to be seen.

What is clear to most Americans see a need to end our support for Israel. This is particularly strong among the youth, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

Trump now sits with egg on his face over a disastrous her was dumb enough to be goaded into fighting on behalf of Israel. Let it be a lesson to all of us that supporting Israel hurts us as a country, and conflating that nation with the Jewish identity hurts Jews everywhere.

Daniel M Kimmel says:

The hate expressed by this group and this commenter is beyond astounding. Where is the resolution boycotting businesses that deal with China? One can criticize the rightwing Netanyahu regime — which will hopefully lose power in this fall’s election — without being obsessed with vilifying Israel. The people supporting this resolution shame themselves and shame Somerville.

Dylan says:

Daniel if you clutch those pearls any harder they’re liable to break.

And I agree, let’s end our military aid to China too. We shouldn’t fight wars for them either.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

news@thesomervilletimes.com

www.thesomervilletimes.com

Phone: 857-488-5138



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Writers: Jim Clark, Harry Kane,
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Contributors: Jimmy Del Ponte,
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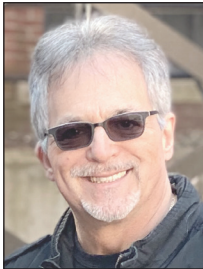
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

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

The Davis Square Tower



They say a picture is worth a thousand words. I posted a picture of the railroad tower that used to be in Davis Square years ago on my Facebook page. My friend Gary D posted a color photo of the tower on The Pride of Somerville Facebook page.

Those photos sparked so many memories of Davis, the forgotten square. I say forgotten because it seems the city has put our beloved square on the back burner as other mega projects are prioritized. But rather than dragging politics and policies into it, let's just hear our fellow Somerville neighbors' memories about the photos of the railroad tower that used to be a landmark in old Davis Square.

My friend John P had a relative who actually worked in that tower: "My uncle John D went from the crossing shack across the street to this tower in Davis. After he left Davis Sq. tower, he finished

his career at Cameron Ave." The tower on Cameron Ave. was converted and today houses a law firm.

We see a billboard advertising Cain's products. There was a Cain's factory on Revere Beach Parkway in Medford, and a neighbor shares a bit of history with us: "I worked in the Cains chip factory for a year in high school. 3-11. Dirty, greasy job. Salt ate my sneakers. But free chips, pistachios & peanuts. Didn't eat chips for years after that." (now I'm dying for some potato chips!)

"We used to walk the tracks to get there to go to the movies on Saturdays."

"You can see The Railside Restaurant on Holland St. in the background."

"Wow! Bring me back when living was the best time of life ... wish I could be back then."

"Looks like a prison tower."

"The guys in the tower would yell at us kids for hanging onto the crossing gates."

"I remember the Goodwill Store was

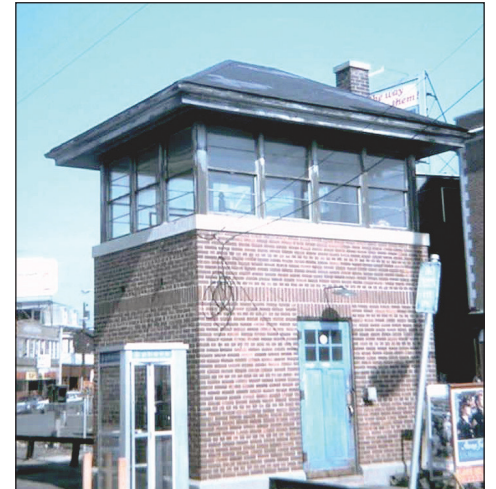
there. Then the Store 24 (where 7-11 is now). The Quick Shop before that."

Author: It looks like there was a Liquor store where JP Licks is now. From liquor to Licks. On the corner is a tailor business called Paul's.

Old photos sure bring back memories. When I was a paperboy in the late 60's, the square was a great place to hang around. There were places to eat, like The Waldorf, where Mike's is now, and a donut shop where we ate warm honey dip donuts. I remember how uncomfortable it was sitting on that metal thing that surrounded the tower.

Many of us have forgotten landmarks that have long gone. Thankfully, we have photos and generous folks who share them with us.

Many of my photos are my own, and a lot of them are from Facebook. Say what you will about social networks, but it's a great source for keeping our memories alive. During the pandemic, many of us found solace in keeping in touch with



old friends and making new friends in social networks. Special thanks to Matt H, Gary D, Ron B, Brad H, and John R for their historic and informative posts and photos.

The last comment on one of these two photos was from someone who said, "I see my house."

If you'd like to see more great old photos and historic commentary, check out The Pride of Somerville Facebook page.

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Money Map Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

Q: I thought retirement accounts locked up my money until retirement. Can I ever withdraw money from a Roth IRA without taxes or penalties?

A: Surprisingly, yes!

One of the lesser-known features of a Roth IRA is that your original contributions can generally be withdrawn at any time without tax or penalty.

Think of a Roth IRA as having two buckets:

♦ **Bucket #1: Your contributions.**

Because Roth IRA contributions are made with after-tax dollars, you can generally

withdraw the amount you contributed at any time without additional tax or penalty.

♦ **Bucket #2: Investment earnings.**

The growth and earnings inside the account are generally subject to additional rules before they can be withdrawn tax-free.

♦ **This creates flexibility.**

Many people hesitate to contribute to a Roth IRA because they worry the money will be completely inaccessible until retirement. While retirement savings should generally be left invested whenever possible, Roth IRA contributions can provide more flexibility than many people realize.

Bottom Line:

A Roth IRA remains one of the most pow-

erful retirement savings vehicles available. While the goal is usually to leave the money invested for the long term, it's helpful to know that your original contributions are generally available if life throws you an unexpected curveball.

Any questions? I'm Vincent Hicks, a CPA based in the Cambridge-Somerville area. Reach out at vincent@hickscpasolutions.com or (859) 553-0788.

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



Central Street Studios enters new chapter of preserved affordability

CONT. FROM PG 1

Central Street from owners Paul and Karen Morse, Nancy Dutton, and David Benson, who had owned and operated the space as affordable studio space since 1983. When they decided they wanted to sell the building in 2021, the now-former owners realized they wanted to make sure the building's next owner upheld the value of the arts in Somerville.

"That was the best chance for the building, for the artists community, and for us," Paul Morse said. "It's a win, win, win for the city, for the artist, [and] for us."

To help support the Arts & Business Council's purchase of the 8,500 square foot studio space, the artists of Central Street Studios teamed up with Art Stays Here to form a tenants association and organize multiple fundraising efforts over the last 18 months.

During this campaign, some of the artists said the efforts drew them closer together, allowing them to share a common experience and goal despite their work, which some said could be isolating.

"We're accustomed to working one-on-one," said Zainab Sumu, a contemporary artist and tenant of Central Street Studios. "This is one time that everybody wanted to have something in common and wanted a space that we all can call home."

The City of Somerville provided a large portion of the funding to purchase the building alongside the funds gathered by the artists, private donors, the Mass Cultural Council, and the Cultural

Facilities Fund.

Other stakeholders gave remarks to a crowd of about 50 people during the ribbon-cutting ceremony, including Joanne Kaliontzis, the new chair of Central Street Studios, Ward Three City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, and Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson.

"... this feels like a miracle."

"This is making Somerville history," Ewen-Campen said. "At a time where we are seeing artists displaced left and right [and] art spaces under threat, this feels like a miracle."

Wilson emphasized the importance of the arts in powering Somerville's culture and economy, and said the preservation campaign, which was started during the tenure of former Somerville mayor Katjana Ballantyne, cements the role of the arts.

"Preserving this space is preserving the networks and the relationships that help our community thrive," Wilson said. "When we invest in the arts, we are investing in our future."

Paul Morse said he looks forward to



still having Central Street Studios in his life, no longer as an owner, but as a tenant, where he will practice woodworking.

While the Morses, Benson, and Dutton have owned the building for the last 40 years, the space has had its own legacy in the arts. In the 1850s, the building operated as a crafts guild hall, according to Paul Morse. The former owners emphasized their satisfaction that the building will continue to be a space for the arts for years to come.

"It's kinda like [being] a proud parent," Paul Morse said. "Our baby is grown up now."

For Jack Gruman, a Central Street Studios artist, the preservation campaign and

its results cement the studio space's legacy and reflect hopes for the future of art spaces in Somerville.

"I grew up in Somerville. I've seen a lot of places disappear, and I would say that in the course of my life, the urban landscape that I grew up in has been marked by a feeling of instability," Gruman said. "So, having one thing that we've been able to nail down as stable, as preserved in time, really feels great."

Links:

[1] <https://centralstreetstudios.org/>

[2] <https://www.artstayshere.org/>

[3] <https://artsandbusinesscouncil.org/central-street-studios/>

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports local representatives' and senators' votes on roll calls from the week of June 15-19.

LITERACY EDUCATION STANDARDS (H 5511)
House 153-0, Senate 39-0, approved and sent to Gov. Maura Healey a bill dealing with teacher preparation and student literacy. The measure would establish clear statewide standards for evidence-based reading instruction—requiring the teaching of phonics, ensuring access to high-quality K-3 curricula, enhancing educator training and support and creating new reporting and accountability systems.

The bill defines evidence-based early literacy as instruction featuring phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and phonemic awareness, and is demonstrated to produce significant and positive effects on student learning outcomes. It prohibits curricula that are not evidence-based and curricula that rely on implicit or incidental word reading strategies.

Another provision formalizes dyslexia and literacy screening requirements by requiring schools to develop protocols for identifying potential neurological learning disabilities, including dyslexia, and to report their screening practices annually.

“This is a pivotal moment for children across our state as we advance the critical legislation I filed to ensure every student gains essential literacy skills,” said sponsor Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). “We all recognize that teaching our kids to read and write is one of the most fundamental responsibilities we have, yet far too many students are still falling short of basic literacy benchmarks. As co-chair of the conference committee, I was proud to collaborate with many educators to craft evidence-based policies that will strengthen early literacy instruction and set our students on a path to lifelong success.”

“It is unacceptable that less than half of young students in Massachusetts are proficient in reading at their grade level,” said Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester), Senate chair of the Education Committee. “This important legislation ensures that educators use evidence-based early literacy curricula that are backed by science while leaving schools flexibility to decide what curriculum is best for their students and teachers. Strengthening student literacy through evidence-based instruction has decades of scientific research and improved outcomes backing it up. With the passage of this bill, the Massachusetts Legislature continues its commitment to providing a high-quality education for all students across

the commonwealth.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS (H 5510)

House 151-0, approved a \$3.5 billion bond bill that supporters said will modernize environmental laws, strengthen climate resilience, support agricultural and food systems, streamline permitting processes and improve the management of the state’s natural resources. They noted the bill advances a broad set of reforms designed to help communities prepare for the impacts of climate change, accelerate critical infrastructure projects, improve environmental protections and support Bay State cities and towns.

The Senate has already approved its own version of the bill, and a House-Senate conference committee will likely be appointed to hammer out a compromise version.

Provisions of the House bill include establishing a new Resilience Revolving Fund to help municipalities, tribal governments and public water and wastewater districts finance climate-resilient infrastructure projects and technical assistance; creating new commissions and advisory bodies focused on flood mitigation, air quality, coastal resilience and long-term climate preparedness; streamlining permitting and environmental review processes for priority housing developments, nature-based solutions projects, culvert replacements, wetland restoration efforts and other projects that advance climate resilience while maintaining environmental protections; expanding representation on the Massachusetts Food Policy Council; modernizing commercial feed regulations; strengthening enforcement tools for agricultural programs; and improving transparency for prospective homebuyers and tenants by requiring flood risk disclosures.

Funding includes \$385 million for the Water Pollution Abatement Trust to support wastewater, stormwater and drinking water projects; \$315 million for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program for cities and towns to assess climate risks; and \$308 million for the repair, construction and removal of state-owned dams and coastal infrastructure including seawalls, docks, culverts and salt marshes.

“There is perhaps no responsibility more fundamental to the role of government than ensuring that residents have

access to clean drinking water and are breathing clean air,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “This legislation is the latest example of Massachusetts’ ironclad commitment to protecting our environment and to leading the fight against climate change. At the same time, the bill takes steps to ensure that the commonwealth’s environmental regulations aren’t unnecessarily burdensome when issuing permits for new housing developments and other critical infrastructure projects.”

“Today, the House passed ... the largest state investment in climate resilience in our state’s history,” said Rep. Christine Barber (D-Somerville), House Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. “We aren’t just talking about protecting our environment against climate change, today we’re taking action. Our communities have real, immediate needs – clean drinking water free from PFAS contamination, protection from flooding and storm damage, accessible parks, restored beaches, rivers and coastlines and healthier forests. These investments we voted on today will fortify our environmental infrastructure and build a sustainably rich future for generations to come.”

(A “Yes” for the bill.)

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

PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS (S 3116)

Senate 35-4, approved and sent to the House legislation that supporters said would make it easier for Massachusetts residents to get a primary care doctor and an appointment with him or her. They noted the bill reduces the amount of time providers have to spend on administrative paperwork and aims to reduce health care costs.

Provisions include requiring health care providers and insurers to invest more heavily in primary care services; ensuring fairer compensation for community health centers, which serve as the frontline of primary care for many residents; and increasing the Massachusetts’ primary care workforce by unlocking matching federal funds to train and recruit more primary care doctors.

“Massachusetts has always led the way on health care, and today the Senate is doing it again,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “Too many of our residents are struggling to find a primary care doctor or putting off basic care because of the cost. That’s not acceptable, and it’s not sustainable. This legislation takes direct aim at the problem. It requires greater investment in primary care, lifts up the community health centers at *Continued on page 18*

COMMENTARY

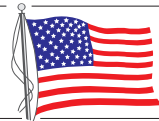
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville's water features make a splash during extremely hot weather days.

Our View Of The Times



It's been getting pretty darn hot lately. And it's looking like we'll be facing a good little stretch of even more hot weather in the days and – yes, even maybe – the weeks to come.

There's little to be done about it other than exercising a little common sense to minimize dangers of heat stroke. Watch your activity levels, get plenty of water, etc. Just be careful and do the right things.

You'll make it.

We love it when the winter thaws and the explosion of life in the natural world around us takes place in the springtime, and many of us love to lounge and loll in the vibrant warmth of a hot summer day. But it is important to keep in mind that moderation is the key to good health and personal safety.

Here are some ways you can stay cool:

+ Check out the Somerville Parks and Recreation Department for info about public access to swimming pools in the city: <https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>.

+ Many parks and playgrounds have water play features or sprinklers. To find a splash pad in your neighborhood, visit <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1EaOgn8UezO2Mlx->

[QIZXw-8EcmPoylPwIc&ll=42.394374631727295%2C-71.11074153435386&z=14](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1EaOgn8UezO2Mlx-QIZXw-8EcmPoylPwIc&ll=42.394374631727295%2C-71.11074153435386&z=14). For additional heat safety tips, visit <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/keeping-cool-hot-weather>.

Please be careful while you're out there, and also exercise a little caution while you're indoors. The heat is everywhere, but we can beat it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Dave Bertocchi, Peter Tsairidie, Kristina Ann, and Leslie Phelan, a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

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

Plaza (90 Union Square). <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/>.

Join the City of Somerville for the annual Fireworks celebration on Tuesday, June 30, 5 – 10 p.m., Trum Field, 541 Broadway. Enjoy an evening of music, community, food vendors, and fireworks. Opening performance by Pluto's Return, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., DJ Live spinning tunes and emceeing the evening, 7:30 p.m., live performance by Search Party, 9 p.m., Mayor's Remarks, National Anthem by Britney Flores, and Fireworks Countdown. The 2026 Somerville Fireworks program will now include a special read-

ing of the Declaration of Independence by First Lieutenant Robert V. Collins of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts in recognition of Independence Day. The reading will take place from 6:25 to 6:40 p.m. For more info and road closures, visit <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/fireworks/>.

The World Cup is here. Celebrate with fellow fans in Somerville. Visit www.somervillema.gov/worldcup throughout the tournament to find upcoming matches and where to watch locally.

Somerville is hosting the SomerCup

2026 community soccer tournament for kids and adults, and all are invited to participate. Games will take place in July at Dilboy Stadium (110 Alewife Brook Parkway). Sign up for yourself or build a team of neighbors, colleagues, and friends. Schedule is as follows: Sunday, July 12, 12 to 5 p.m.: Kindergarten to Grade 4. Monday, July 13, 5 to 10 p.m.: Adults (ages 18 and up). Friday, July 17, 1:30 to 5 p.m.: Grades 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. Players of all skill levels are welcome to participate. Register individually or as a team (8 to 10 players) now through Friday, June 26, at www.somervillema.gov/worldcup.

Continued on page 21

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#1028

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What month is National Ice Cream Month? | youngest winner of the Grammys' four main categories? |
| 2. What is the most popular flavor of ice cream in the United States? | 8. What does Michael Scott eat for lunch on <i>The Office</i> that makes him fall asleep? |
| 3. Who invented the first hand-cranked ice cream machine? | 9. Who was Samantha's nosy neighbor in <i>Bewitched</i> ? |
| 4. Which hard seltzer did America face a shortage of in 2019? | 10. What is the name given to a screwdriver with a four pointed pattern? |
| 5. 15 Years after <i>Friends</i> ended, Jennifer Aniston made her return to TV on what show? | 11. Which item of clothing is also the name of a breed of cow and a traffic barrier? |
| 6. Taylor Swift made her acting debut in which movie? | 12. What pet did detective Sonny Crockett own on <i>Miami Vice</i> ? |
| 7. Which artist made history in 2020 as the | |

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. There's a city called "Rome" on every continent except Antarctica.
2. The opposite sides of a die will always add up to seven.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

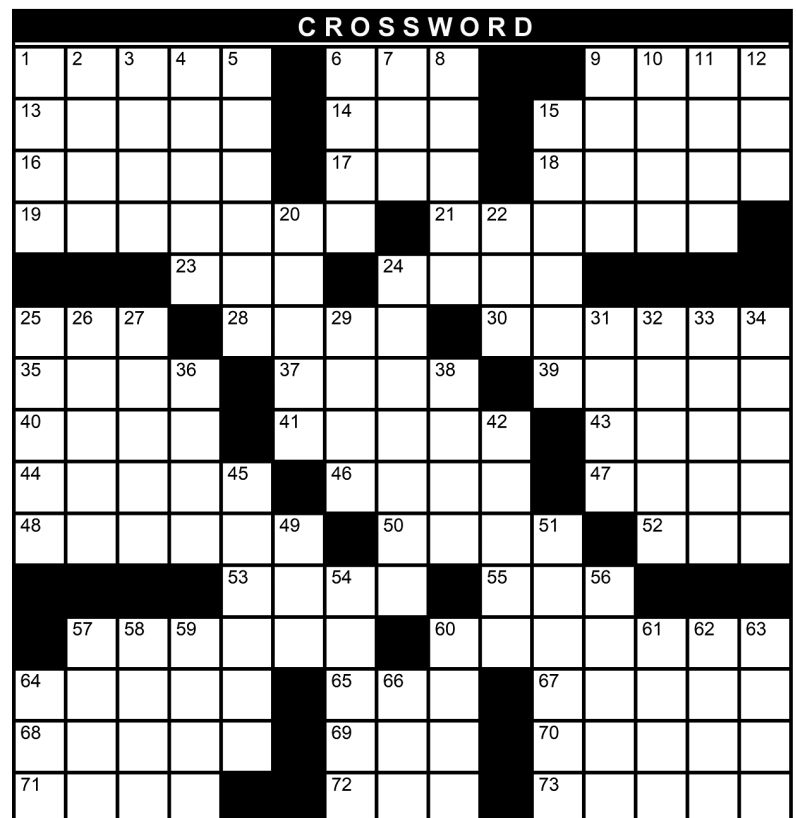
THE 4TH OF JULY

ACROSS

1. Dagger's partner
6. Elephant party, acr.
9. Do like volcano
13. Fire (2 words)
14. Pro football org.
15. Jonas Salk's conquest
16. Like a Harvard building?
17. ET carrier
18. Bedeck
19. Tasty Fourth of July outings
21. Float processions
23. Black gunk
24. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
25. The Jackson 5's 1970 hit
28. Caffeine source
30. TV classic "____ Heroes"
35. Folio page
37. Abel's big brother
39. Fortune teller's card
40. Rank in British peerage
41. Archipelago parts
43. Head for (2 words)
44. Beseech
46. Impermanent employee
47. Prayer's end
48. Gardener's trimmer
50. Part of speech
52. Am is to I as ____ is to we
53. Calista Flockhart's husband
55. Likewise
57. Salad tuber
60. ____ Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest
64. Nonsense
65. Female gametes
67. "A Doll's House" playwright
68. Cuckoo
69. Opposite of guzzle
70. Cuckoo for what puffs?
71. Eyelid affliction
72. Driver's aid
73. Giving a once-over

DOWN

1. Hair holder
2. First name in jeans
3. Auricular
4. ____ provocateur
5. Island off Alaskan coast
6. Wildebeests
7. For most, the 4th is a day ____
8. Onomatopoeia for splash
9. Drink at a barbecue
10. Weary walk
11. Ireland, once
12. Patriots ____ over Loyalists
15. Long John Silver's pet
20. Crocus, pl.
22. Ooh partner
24. Last part (2 words)
25. 1st letter of Hebrew alphabet
26. Famous Memphis street
27. Felt concern
29. "...twilight's ____ gleaming"
31. Lady of "A Star is Born"
32. Smell
33. Post-it user
34. "Born on the Fourth of July" director
36. Popular July 4th decoration
38. Captain of Nautilus
42. Phlegms
45. Sully one's reputation
49. Go bad
51. Public announcement
54. Fowl perch
56. Exclamation of delight or dismay
57. Bridge, in Paris
58. Colloquial approval
59. Ditty
60. Back of neck
61. Ascus, pl.
62. Ne
63. Glitch
64. Part of O.H.M.S.
66. Strive



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



Soultion in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Mobility Division showcases potential improvements to safety on East Washington St.

By Ewan Henrie

The Mobility Division of Somerville held a meeting on June 17 where it announced a project designed to improve the safety of East Washington Street.

The aim of the project is to advance mobility for people moving between Tufts Street and the city line of Boston. This project was designed to connect with the Somerville Bike Network Plan and to meet the goals of the Somerville Safe Streets Ordinance.

The first topic discussed was the implementation of protected bike lanes in both directions of Washington Street. This will be achieved by moving the bike lanes next to the curb and also installing new areas that are buffered with barriers between the parking and vehicle lanes.

The next topic covered was increasing visibility for people us-



ing the sidewalks. The decision was made to restrict adjacent parking to clear corners of the crosswalk in all intersections of East Washington St.

The experience of bus riders will also be enhanced, due to evaluations of stops for potential relocation to reduce delay and improve accessibility. Another delay being shortened is the tran-

sit delay, as bus lanes will also be evaluated for relocation and possible expansion.

Finally, the Mobility Division discussed working with the citizens of Somerville and its businesses to discover where parking regulations on the street can be updated. Side streets will also be updated for the benefit of customers and residents.

Progressive and labor organizations endorse Ben Ewen-Campen for State Rep

Key endorsements from progressive and labor organizations bolster Ewen-Campen's campaign in Ben Ewen-Campen's campaign announced today the endorsement of key progressive and labor organizations in Massachusetts, including Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund, Progressive Mass, the AFL-CIO of Massachusetts, and Mass Alliance. The campaign also announced a first round of endorsements from a wide array of labor unions representing workers across Somerville and Massachusetts: Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 509, United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) 1445, International Union of Painters and Tapers (IUPAT) DC 35, and the Boston Teachers Union (BTU).

President of the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of

Massachusetts, Dominique Lee, wrote: "At a time when federal attacks on Planned Parenthood health centers, patients, and providers have skyrocketed, state-level leadership and action matters as we seek to ensure Massachusetts remains a beacon for reproductive freedom and a safe place for people of all identities to live and access care. The Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund is proud to endorse Ben Ewen-Campen, a community-driven leader with a proven record of fighting for every person's right to make decisions about their health, body, and future."

"Ben Ewen-Campen is a progressive champion with a proven track record of organizing and winning," said Jonathan Cohn, Executive Director of Progressive Mass. "Whether by leading the passage of Somerville's af-

fordable housing overlay, making Somerville the second city in the US to prohibit the usage of facial recognition technology, and spearheading the work for Somerville's rent control and transfer fee home rule petitions, Ben has worked to build coalitions to advance agenda-setting policy. This combination of progressive values, organizing mindset, and community engagement is exactly what we need at the State House."

These endorsements follow years of collaboration on progressive legislation in Somerville. "I'm thrilled to have earned the support of such a powerful grassroots coalition. No individual at the State House can accomplish things by themselves, and I am incredibly proud of the strong and trusting relationships I've built with these *Continued on page 11*

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #357

This article first appeared in the May 23, 2012, edition of The Somerville Times.

Something to Root For!

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Summer is here, so grab a cold beer! Root beer, that is. You are probably aware that root beer is not truly a "beer" in the way that most people today think of "beer," which is the world's most widely consumed alcoholic beverage. So why is the word "beer" part of the name of a soft drink?



The answer can be traced back to one of our former Somerville residents. While there are various accounts regarding root beer's etymology, the most popular belief is the story of a young Philadelphia pharmacist named Charles Hires and his friend Russell Conwell.

Conwell, a Somerville citizen, was the founder of Temple University and father of Leon Conwell, the nineteenth Mayor of Somerville. Conwell Avenue, Conwell Street, and the former Conwell School are all named after the pair.



According to Hires' August 2, 1937, obituary, Conwell requested that his friend develop a drink that would appeal to the rough and tumble Pennsylvania miners. The drink would be a substitute for alcohol to appease the Temperance Movement members.

Hires did as his friend asked, and Conwell was very pleased when Hires returned with a beverage that he referred to as "herbal tea." Because Conwell intended the product to be marketed to the tough and laborious miners, he advised against the name "herbal tea." Conwell suggested that the name be changed to "root beer," which he believed was more appropriate for their target demographic.

In 1876, "root beer" was introduced to the world at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. That year was the nation's 100th birthday and the 100th birthday of the American Flag raising on Prospect Hill in Somerville. Today, people continue to enjoy Hires Root Beer all over the world. So, the next time you raise a non-alcoholic toast, you can toast to Russell Conwell.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.149 §50K to §150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Thermostat Replacement and Building Management System Modifications - Weston Manor at Weston Manor (31-7) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **C.A. CROWLEY ENGINEERING, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Replace existing thermostats with new thermostats in the building with new - total 163 thermostats. Backup existing BMS system points, schedules, and sequences and upgrade existing BMS to meet current standards as noted in the contract documents. Replacement of existing electric baseboard radiation with new in select locations (four).

The work is estimated to cost **\$110,000.00**.

All Bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 07/06/2026 at 2:00PM EDT for general bids.

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.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at www.biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General Bids will be received until **09 July 2026 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates), and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under §50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at www.biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled

Date and Time: 06/23/2026 at 11:00AM EDT

Address: 15 Weston Ave., Somerville, MA 02144

Instructions: Meet out in front of the building. Will tour the one of the units, the basement and review the existing BMS system.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

6/17/26, 6/24/26 The Somerville Times

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COBB COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

BLUE SKY ADVANCE LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNLOCK STAYS LLC and SHANTE DAVIS,

Defendants.

Civil Case No.: 26CV00923

To Unlock Stays LLC and Shante Davis, 1 College Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144, 3343 Peachtree Rd. NE. Ste. 145-1482, Atlanta, GA 30326, and 110 Stanley Oaks Place, Fayetteville, GA 30214, You are hereby notified that the above-styled action, A Complaint for Breach of Contract, Unjust Enrichment, and Attorney's Fees, seeking judgement in the amount of \$16,114.25 and \$17,200.72 was filed in the Superior Court of Cobb County, State of Georgia, on February 4, 2026, by the Plaintiff, Blue Sky Advance LLC, Service of the Summons, Complaint, and Affidavit of Damages upon you has been authorized by Order of the Court dated June 4, 2026, pursuant to O.C.G.A §9-11-4(f)(1)(A) due to Plaintiff's demonstrated inability to serve you personally after diligent efforts. You are required to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Cobb County, 70 Hayes Street, Marietta, Georgia 30090 and to Serve upon Plaintiff's Counsel, Melissa Barrett, Esq., M Barrett Law, 225 N. Jeff Davis Drive, Fayetteville, Georgia 30214, an Answer in writing within sixty (60) days of the date of the first publication of this notice. Failure to respond will result in a judgement by default being entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

6/17/26, 6/24/26 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 453 Somerville NT LLC to Crowd Lending Fund One, LLC, dated June 20, 2024 and recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds on June 20, 2024, in Book No. 82911, at Page 494, assigned to CC REIT SUB II, LLC by Assignment of Mortgage dated July 8, 2024 and recorded with said Deeds on July 19, 2024 in Book No. 83022, at Page 71, and assigned to CC REIT SUB II, LLC by Assignment of Mortgage dated March 16, 2026 and recorded with said Deeds on March 18, 2026 in Book No. 85355, at Page 289, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder CC REIT SUB II, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM, on July 21, 2026 on the mortgaged premises being known as 453-453A Somerville Avenue, Somerville, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

Two contiguous parcels of land with the buildings thereon situated in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, being numbered 453 Somerville Avenue and 453A Somerville Avenue, respectively, and bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL ONE

SOUTHWESTERLY: by Somerville Avenue, 41.85 feet; NORTHWESTERLY: by land of Breen heirs or devisees, 80.00 feet; NORTHEASTERLY: by Lot 30, as shown on the plan hereinafter referred to, 48.07 feet; SOUTHEASTERLY: by land of Sumares and Sumares, 80.22 feet. Containing 3597 square feet and being Lot No. 31 on a Plan of "Building Lots In Somerville, belonging to the Estate of Osgood Dane, deceased," by Charles D. Elliot, Engineer, dated June 9, 1880 and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, Plan Book 35, Plan 34.

PARCEL TWO

Starting at a point on the northwesterly side of the lot 63.28 feet southwesterly from Knapp Street, as shown on the Plan hereinafter mentioned, thence running southwesterly 28.72 feet; thence running southeasterly on Lot 31 hereinbefore described, 48.07 feet; thence turning and running northeasterly on land of Ireland, 25.27 feet; thence running northwesterly 49.71 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 1315 square feet of land more or less and being part of Lot No. 30 as shown on said Plan.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of Jack Saade, dated June 20, 2024, recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book No. 82911, at Page 491.

The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: June 9, 2026 (signed:) CC REIT SUB II, LLC
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By its Attorneys,
Barsh and Cohen, P.C.

Neil S. Cohen, Esquire
Attorney for the Mortgagee
500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021
(617) 332-4700

6/24/26 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 359 Lowell NT LLC to CC REIT SUB II, LLC, dated January 30, 2025 and recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds on January 31, 2025, in Book No. 83730, at Page 171, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder CC REIT SUB II, LLC, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 9:00 AM, on July 21, 2026 on the mortgaged premises being known as 359 Lowell Street, Somerville, MA, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Somerville, Middlesex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being a part of the land shown on a plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Somerville, Mass., owned by William Lears, et al," Charles Elliot, Engineer and Surveyor, dated August 5, 1922, and recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on August 12, 1922, in Plan Book 310, Plan 13, said parcel being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeasterly comer of said parcel on Lowell Street, in the Westerly side of the right of way shown on said plan; thence bounded

NORTHEASTERLY by said right of way, by two boundaries, sixty-three and 67/100 (63.67) feet and twenty-five and 54/100 (25.54) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY by said right of way, eight and 81/100 (8.81) feet; NORTHEASTERLY by said right of way, twenty-six and 71/100 (26.71) feet to land now or formerly of Maguire;

SOUTHEASTERLY by said Maguire land, seventeen and 45/100 (17.45) feet; SOUTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of Biller, one hundred and fourteen and 70/100 (114.70) feet to said Lowell Street; and NORTHWESTERLY by said Lowell Street, thirty (30.00) feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 3,514 square feet of land according to said plan.

There is appurtenant to the above described premises the right of passing, repassing and using as a driveway in common with the owner of the land shown as William Lears, et al. their heirs, successors and assigns over the right of way shown on said plan which was created in a grant from William Lears, et al, to Max Jacobson and Jacob Marcus, dated August 14, 1922, and recorded with said Deeds in Book 4551, Page 288.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of Magoun Square Development LLC, dated January 31, 2025, recorded at Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book No. 83730, at Page 166.

The above described premises will be sold **SUBJECT TO** and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, covenants, conditions, building and zoning laws, to any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, water and sewer charges, municipal or other public taxes, assessments or liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, if any.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be required to be made to the mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: June 9, 2026 (signed:) CC REIT SUB II, LLC
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By its Attorneys,
Barsh and Cohen, P.C.

Neil S. Cohen, Esquire
Attorney for the Mortgagee
500 Turnpike Street Suite 201, Canton, MA 02021
(617) 332-4700

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 2013 CHEVY SONIC VIN# 1G1JC5SH9D4111990
 2009 SUBARU FORESTER VIN# JF2SH64699H748488
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 2007 HONDA PILOT VIN# 5FNYP18467B019713
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Mobile Farmers Market

CONT. FROM PG 1

Holland Street

Fridays, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

- o Somerville Public Library – East Branch, 115 Broadway

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (noon)

- o Mystic Housing Development, 25B Memorial Road

For the full schedule, weekly produce updates, and more information about programs and events, visit the market's website at somervillemobilefarmersmarket.org.

Ben Ewan-Campen endorsemet

CONT. FROM PG 9

extraordinary progressive organizations. I look forward to working together to fight for progress on Beacon Hill," said Ewen-Campen, a five-term City Councilor in Somerville.

These new endorsements come on the heels of endorsements of many current and former elected officials, including Mayor Jake Wilson, State Rep Mike Connolly, and City Councilors from across Somerville. The election is on September 1, with options for early voting at City Hall and vote-by-mail.

Somerville Public Schools approved as part of the state budget process



Somerville Public Schools is pleased to share that several local priorities have been approved by the Massachusetts State Senate as part of the state budget process. The approved items reflect continued investment in student opportunities, innovation, and enrichment across the district and community.

The Senate approved funding support for Career and Technical Education (CTE) equipment, technology for out-of-school learning, El Sistema, Somerville Theater Arts, and the Somerville Robotics Club. Each of these initiatives provides valuable opportunities for students to develop skills, explore interests, and engage in meaningful learning experiences beyond the traditional classroom.

We are grateful to Senator Patricia Jehlen for her advocacy and support of these investments in Somerville's students and families. The approvals passed with unanimous support from the State Senate and were then signed by Governor Healey. We look forward to continuing to build on these partnerships and expand opportunities for students across our community!

Join 'Slice of the City' this week: Ward 2

'Slice of the City' events are early evening, drop-in style meetups at green spaces in each of Somerville's wards. The mayor, City Council, and city staff will be present to mingle with residents. Celebrate Somerville's open spaces, engage with the city outside of formal meetings, and, of course, enjoy some pizza. Among other benefits, 'Slice of the City' will build in language access under the guidance of the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs, include seating and locations designed to ensure access and comfort for seniors or persons with mobility needs, and allow residents to address their top questions/concerns/ideas to electeds and staff in a welcoming setting.

Go for the pizza, stay for the conversation. 'Slice of the City' is an opportunity to connect and engage with city leaders and staff, as well as your neighbors, all while enjoying Somerville's parks

All events run from 5 to 7 p.m. Pizza and refreshments will be served, and Somerville Recreation will have activities for children available. 311 will also be available and taking service requests. In the event of inclement weather, events will be rescheduled.

Ward 2:
 Wednesday, June 24, 5 – 7 pm
 Lincoln Park
 290 Washington St

For more information and the full schedule, visit: <https://www.somervillema.gov/slice>

COA Hello Summer luncheon

On June 18, the Somerville Council on Aging held a luncheon for seniors as part of their Hello Summer series of events. They danced and enjoyed the sounds of Memphis, performed by Retro Polatin.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Are you or a loved one paying **HUGE** monthly fees?!

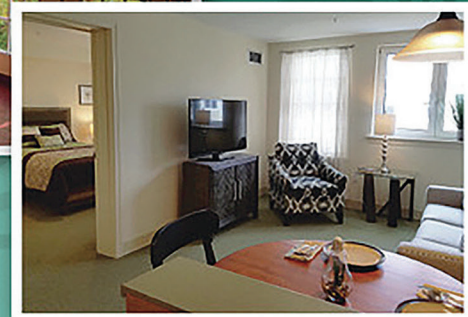


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Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From page 8

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. July | 7. Billie Eilish |
| 2. Vanilla | 8. A whole chicken pot pie |
| 3. Nancy Johnson | 9. Gladys Kravitz |
| 4. White Claw | 10. Phillips head |
| 5. <i>The Morning Show</i> | 11. Jersey |
| 6. <i>Valentine's Day</i> | 12. A pet alligator |

COMMENTARY

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

Look Past the Headlines: What's Really Being Debated?

You may hear that Somerville has proposed a "generous" school budget. Before accepting that claim, it's worth looking at what is actually being funded – and what isn't.

First, much of the budget increase is not new investment. It covers contractual salary increases, rising costs, and long-overdue funding for substitute coverage. These are important expenses, but they largely maintain existing operations rather than expand services for students.

The administration has also highlighted the addition of special education positions. But those positions are not educational enhancements or "extras." They are part of an effort to meet existing legal obligations and address longstanding staffing needs.

The administration is also proposing

additional math interventionists. That's a positive step. The question is whether it is enough. Recent MCAS results show that many Somerville students are still not meeting grade-level expectations in reading and math. In response to those results and other documented student needs, the School Committee voted to add six additional positions—interventionists and special education co-teachers.

Those positions were identified by the School Committee as necessary investments to improve student outcomes. Yet they are not included in the Mayor's budget.

This raises a larger question: who gets to decide what constitutes a sufficient school budget?

The School Committee is the elected

body charged with overseeing the school district. It exists to represent students, families, educators, and the educational needs of the community. If the School Committee determines that additional staffing is necessary to meet student needs, its judgment should carry significant weight.

Instead, under the current system, one person can effectively override that determination. This matters beyond any single budget year.

Taken together with recent debates over youth programming and teen spaces, many families are beginning to ask whether Somerville's priorities are becoming increasingly disconnected from the needs of children and young people.

You do not need to agree with every

budget request to see the concern. The issue is whether we are willing to accept a system where:

-Student outcome data points to significant need.

-The elected School Committee votes to address that need.

-The requested investment represents a relatively small share of the overall city budget.

And yet one person can decide those needs are not a priority.

That is not simply a school funding debate. It is a question about accountability, priorities, and whether Somerville's children have a meaningful voice in City Hall.

— Abby Hare

Somerville Public School Parent

Mayor Wilson joins Gov. Maura Healey, Mayor Michelle Wu calling for rent stabilization compromise

Somerville is in a housing crisis, and our residents need action. Today, I join Mayor Wu and Governor Healey in saying that I strongly support compromise legislation on rent stabilization so that we can finally see some results.

Too many renters live with the fear that one rent increase, one lease renewal, or one building sale could force them out of their home. We believe in helping tenants stay in their homes whenever possible - and reasonable rent regulation

is one critical tool in the toolkit to help make this happen.

Somerville has made important progress thanks to the vital work of the Anti-Displacement Task Force and many others. We filed S.22, a home rule petition seeking authorization to enact rent stabilization, and we've also supported enabling legislation S.1447/H2328 sponsored by Senator Pat Jehlen and Representative David Rogers. Now, I believe our best chance of achieving the key

goals of our Home Rule Petition and providing renters with necessary relief is this compromise proposal.

The proposal would finally give communities like Somerville the ability to adopt local rent stabilization that they so desperately need and puts forward an annual cap on rent increases of the consumer price index (CPI) plus 5%, up to a maximum of 10%. The compromise also allows landlords to set market rates when units are vacant. These adjustments could break the

stale-mate and move this urgent issue forward with immediacy. I am grateful to all who came to-gether in good faith to draft this compromise. In this time of great political polarization, dialogue is key.

I urge the Legislature to pass this compromise legislation and give communities like Somerville the tools we need to protect residents, prevent displacement, and keep Massachusetts home for the people who keep our cities and towns thriving.

— City of Somerville

SomerMovie Fest 2026 lineup

SomerMovie Fest is back, bringing six nights of free outdoor movies to Somerville parks this summer, with family favorites, cult classics, and plenty of reasons to stay out past dusk. Movies will be shown Thursday evenings from July 9 through August 13 at Lincoln Park and Seven Hills Park. Films begin at dusk, and showtimes may vary. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs, snacks, and whatever else they need to get comfortable. This year's schedule includes:

Lincoln Park, Perry Street entrance

Thursday, July 9: *A Minecraft Movie* (PG) 8:30 p.m. start time

Thursday, July 16: *School of Rock* (PG-13) 8:30 p.m. start time

Thursday, July 23: *Mean Girls* (PG-13) 8:15 p.m. start time

Seven Hills Park, Davis Square

Thursday, July 30: *Wayne's World* (PG-13) 8:15 p.m. start time

Thursday, August 6: *The Wiz* (G) 8 p.m. start time

Thursday, August 13: *Zootopia 2* (PG) 7:45 p.m. start time

For more information, visit somervillema.gov/moviefest.

2026 Spring Sports Roundup

2026 GREATER BOSTON LEAGUE CHAMPIONS: Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, and Boys Outdoor Track & Field (Co-GBL Champs)

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

4 GBL MVP's: Josie Mian (Girls Tennis), Ethan Cross (Boys Tennis), Pasquale Candelino (Co-MVP), and Athanasios Frantzis (Outdoor Track & Field)

5 teams made the MIAA State Tournament

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament Information (MIAA):

Girls Tennis: Won 3-2 in the preliminary round of the MIAA Tournament vs Medford High School. The team advanced to the Round of 32, where they lost in a tough match to Hingham High School

Boys Tennis: Lost 3-2 to Shepherd Hill Regional High School in a hard-fought match in the preliminary round of MIAA Tournament play.

Boys Volleyball: Huge 3-2 in the preliminary round of the MIAA Tournament vs Boston College High School. The team advanced to the Round of 32, where they lost 3-0 to Natick High School. The team battled hard and showed a lot of grit in every set.

Girls Lacrosse: Lost 15-5 to Masconomet Regional High School in the preliminary round of the MIAA Tournament

Baseball: Lost 7-5 to Billerica Memo-

rial High School in a hard-fought game in the preliminary round of the MIAA Tournament

Greater Boston League All-Stars and Team Records for the Spring Season: Baseball: (Record 13-6)

All-Stars:

Colin Born

Preston Ardolino

The Somerville High School baseball team finished the season with a 13-6 overall record and earned second place in the Greater Boston League (GBL), marking a significant improvement from last year's 8-12 campaign. The Highlanders qualified for the state tournament and battled competitively in the opening round before falling to Billerica, 7-5, in a hard-fought contest.

Softball: (Record 7-13)

All Stars:

Emily Joughlin

Lily Fucile

Much like last season, this softball season was all about growth and development. Led by captains and league all-stars Lily Fucile and Emily Joughlin, the team more than doubled its win total from the previous season and continued to make significant strides throughout the year. With no seniors on the roster, the entire team will return next season, bringing valuable experience as they look to continue their progress and compete for a spot in the state tournament.

Girls Lacrosse: (Record 11-7)



All-Stars:

Camila Plata

Ava Davis

Regan Antonelli

Julia Rafkind

The girls' lacrosse team continued its recent success, finishing the season with an 11-6 record and qualifying for the MIAA Tournament for the fourth consecutive year. Camila Plata led the team offensively with 36 goals, while Julia Rafkind anchored the Highlanders in net with another standout season. With a lineup made up largely of seniors, the team's leadership and experience helped guide Somerville to another winning season and tournament appearance.

Boys Lacrosse: (Record 7-11)

League MVP: Pasquale Candelino (CO-MVP)

All-Stars:

Pasquale Candelino

Zach Gordon

Colin Rosas

Shane Doe

Damion Jackson

Breadyn Hart

The boys' lacrosse team was 7-11 once again this season and fell just short of the tournament; however stayed consistent in GBL standings and showed a lot of growth. We had 2 great seniors this year Pasquale Candelino and Zach Gordon who are going to be hard to replace next year. They have both started for us consistently for the last 2/3 seasons and played a huge role on our team. Zach had some huge games down the stretch against Lynn and Salem, and Pasquale set the record for most career points on his way to 100 goals,

along with a couple of other milestones for our program.

We were really Junior-heavy this season, which included some new faces who grew a lot, and the class of 2027 is looking strong, along with '28 and '29, who also came a long way. Overall, players, coaches, and families worked really hard this season. We may not have gotten all the results we wanted, but that is why we compete.

Girls Tennis: (Record 14-3)

Unanimous League MVP: Josie Mian

All-Stars:

Josie Mian

Carmen Wheeler

Eden Gwynn

Ava Posiko

Leila Kraves

Leslie Sanchez

SHS Girls' tennis had a 14-2 record. The team was an undefeated 12-0 in GBL play. A few math numbers to highlight the impressive season:

- 59-1 Sets won in the GBL matches.

- 4 players won singles matches

- 9 players WON doubles matches.

The team defeated Medford in the first-ever home tournament match before losing to highly ranked Hingham. The team was led by Senior Captains Eden Gwynn, Ava Posiko, Leslie Sanchez and Jr. Carmen Wheeler. The 15-win season was the most ever in program history.

Boys Tennis: (Record 12-2)

League MVP: Ethan Cross

All-Stars:

Ethan Cross

Magnus Anell

Milo Kochansky

Building on last year's *Continued on page 17*



2026 Spring Sports Roundup CONT. FROM PG 16

GBL Co-Championship, the boys' tennis team took the next step this season, capturing the GBL Championship outright with an undefeated league record. The Highlanders once again qualified for the MIAA Tournament and continued to establish themselves as one of the leading programs in the league.

Boys Volleyball: (Record 14-8)

All-Stars:

- Ozzy Marks
- Eli Tourlentes

Another successful season for our boys' volleyball program. The team once again earned a spot in the MIAA Tournament, continuing to build on the program's success. Led by a strong senior class, the Highlanders competed with determination and resilience throughout the season. We are grateful for the leadership and contributions of our seniors and look forward to seeing the foundation they helped build carry the program forward in the years to come.

Boys' Outdoor Track and Field: (Record 6-0-1)

GBL Co-Champions (w-Revere) and GBL Championship Meet Winner

League Field Event MVP: Athanasios Frantzis

GBL Event Champions: Athanasios Frantzis - 110mHH, Long Jump & Triple Jump, Nico Brain: Shot Put

All Stars:

- Kerry Alphonse
- Athanasios Frantzis
- Nico Brain
- Ronan Becker
- Harlan Gifford
- Lucca Lauers
- Ryan Louis
- Henry Omura

Athanasios Frantzis won 2nd place medal at the MIAA D3 State Championship Meet in the Triple Jump and will continue his season at the MIAA Meet of Champions and MSTCA Decathlon in the next week. Henry Omura placed

After a tough start in April, where the Revere Patriots came back to tie SHS in meet 1; with strength in numbers and max effort, the team developed chemistry and versatility throughout the season. The league meet was a solid crowning moment for the team with 137 points. Many great memories were forged for our 8 graduating seniors, along with our rising seniors, juniors, and sophomores, who are now looking to build on a terrific season, where the

Highlanders led the way with 21 medals at the GBL Championship Meet!

Girls' Outdoor Track and Field: (Record 6-1)

2nd place in GBL season with a 6-1 record, which was followed by a hugely successful win at the GBL Championship Meet

GBL Event Champions: Annabelle Schneider- Mile & 3200m relay, Aly Amin - 2 Mile & 320m relay, Marissa Luxama-100m Hurdles, Eva Meli- Shot Put & Discus, Laura Van Sleet-Annika Pearson & Bea Calvert- 3200m Relay

All Stars:

- Annabelle Schneider
- Aly Amin
- Eva Meli
- Bea Calvert
- Laura Van Sleet
- Annika Pearson
- Marissa Luxama
- Samar Benkhayat
- Olivia Scamman

A tough loss in the relay at meet 1 led to a resilient rebound throughout the season, where athletes gradually found their footing. The girls soared through the end of the season and won 17 medals at the GBL Championship Meet. With a strong group returning for the coming year, the future is bright for our girls' team, winner of the 2 GBL Championship meets in a row for 2026!

Unified Outdoor Track & Field:

The Unified Track and Field team had another great season competing against schools in the area! Our athletes shone in the 100-meter dash and field events while demonstrating good sportsmanship and building camaraderie. We are looking forward to our Unified Basketball season in the fall!

Somerville High School Club Sports Highlights:

Gx Ultimate Frisbee:

The SHS Gx Ultimate Frisbee had a breakout season this year. With a record-setting 26 players consistently coming to practice, they were able to split the program into an A and a B team to best match the needs of each player. The start of the season was incredibly strong, going 5-1 and really showing the potential this team has. The season culminates with two weekend tournaments where we face our toughest competition. One of the strengths of this team was their engagement and energy, on and off the field. Constant chanting, cheering, and chatter from this superb group! The performance



on the field was also very strong, and the team only ever lost to teams that are going to play at high school nationals. And even then, some of those games were quite close! We finished 5th in the D1 division of the state, tying an all-time best performance for the program. The future is bright for this young squad, and perhaps nationals are not quite so far away if their growth and spirit continue.

Boys Ultimate Frisbee:

After another wonderful year of Ultimate, Villen Boys had a smashing start to the season with a 1st place, 4-1 record at the Winchester Round Robin Tournament. The team had yet another tough journey after many injuries and unfortunate cancelled games, ending with a 2-4 record. However, that, coupled with our round robin finish, was enough to secure a spot in the D1 bracket at Pioneer Valley Invitation (PVI), an accomplishment in and of itself to be proud of.

Having played the 1 seed - and the eventual winners of PVI - in game 1, was not the only challenge the boys faced as the competition did not get easy as the tournament progressed, which resulted in a devastating last place finish in the D1 pool. Going into states the following weekend greeted the team with much of the same fate as we were once again placed in the D1. But this time, we learned from our mistakes and

secured a win in our final match. All in all, it was a season to be proud of and expand upon. Many accomplishments and milestones were reached, such as playing in the Division 1 pool at both PVI and States for the first time. It's going to be a blast to come back bigger and better next season!

Crew:

The Somerville High School Crew Team was able to enjoy a healthy amount of racing, in stark contrast to last season. Every subsequent weekend featured racing with varying degrees of success for Somerville. At the Amber Z Regatta in Lowell, the Boys Novice 2x took 3rd place, and the Varsity 2x won their petit final. Both Boys and Girls JV 4+ won their races, the boys in a photo finish!

The annual Mystic Mashup on May 17th is a fun annual race organized by Somerville. The races start per usual, with similar boats racing each other. However, the second half of racing is based purely on time, meaning a fast 2x could be racing a Novice 8+, Somerville's Novice Boys 1x beat a Varsity rower, and the Boys 4+ won in their afternoon races.

Lastly, at the MPSRA Spring Championship in Lowell, Somerville had a very successful day! The Boys Novice 2x and Girls Varsity 8+ brought home silver medals, while the Boys Varsity 2x and Novice 1x had strong races amongst a competitive field of boats.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

the heart of so many neighborhoods and grows the workforce our residents need. When we get primary care right, everything else in our health care system works better.”

“After an exhaustive and thorough analysis of our primary health care delivery system, the Senate today acted on a comprehensive package of provisions informed by recommendations from the Primary Care Task Force, improving access to primary care for all Massachusetts residents,” said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “This sweeping legislation supports residents of the commonwealth by incentivizing significant investments into primary care, grows our health care workforce, assists community health centers and cuts down on administrative bureaucracy.”

“With this nation-leading approach, the Massachusetts Senate is confronting the primary care crisis head-on with the thoughtfulness and urgency it deserves,” said Sen. Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), Senate Chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing. “For far too long, our health care system has put too much emphasis on costly medical interventions, rather than incentivizing preventive care delivered in our primary care practices and community health centers. The legislation passed today delivers an historic increase in primary care funding in Massachusetts by reprioritizing and shifting how we spend our health care dollars to support our primary care providers, increases access to value-based care and delivers better health outcomes for patients.”

Opponents said the bill has some good points but does not do enough to control skyrocketing medical costs. They supported a number of failed amendments that they said would improve the measure.

None of the four GOP senators who voted against the legislation responded to repeated requests by Beacon Hill Roll Call asking them why they opposed the measure. Those four senators are Sens. Kelly Dooner (R-Taunton), Peter Durant (R-Spencer), Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) and Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester).

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT BANS INCOME TAX REDUCTION QUESTION FROM THE NOVEMBER 2026 BALLOT – The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruled that the ballot question reducing the state income tax from 5 percent to 4 percent over a three-year period, is ineligible to appear on the Nov. 3 ballot, with justices concluding Attorney General Andrea Campbell’s office provided a “significantly misleading” summary of the proposal that was likely to influence voters.

Opponents of the tax cut filed a lawsuit with the SJC in January contending that Campbell’s summary of the proposal is flawed and unfair because it fails to make clear that voter approval of the question would also automatically reduce the tax rate for long-term capital gains income, which under current law is tied to the income tax rate.

Campbell’s office had argued that her summary accurately summarized the proposal because the initiative “does not specifically propose to amend the statutes setting the rate of taxation for capital gain income.”

The court did not buy the argument by supporters of the ballot question that a reduction in the long-term capital gains tax rate is not guaranteed, because the Legislature could amend the current law before the election and untether the capital gains rate from the income tax rate. The court ruled that that possibility does not make the summary fair, noting that the court reviews the summary against the law as it exists, not based on speculation about a hypothetical future statute.

“The court has made its decision. I think what doesn’t change is the need for everyone to focus on driving down costs and making life more affordable for people in Massachusetts,” said Gov. Healey. “That’s been my top priority. That’s what I’ve been doing, you know, cutting co-pays and deductibles when it comes to healthcare, fighting utility rate increases, you know and doing the things that we need to do to make life more affordable, so that they can afford homes.”

“A \$5 billion annual loss in state revenue would’ve meant significant cuts to services and programs that Massachusetts residents rely on, while doing little to bolster competitiveness and address the affordability challenges facing the commonwealth,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). “I’m grateful that this irresponsible initiative petition won’t appear on the ballot in November.”

“The dark-money proponents of this reckless ballot initiative tried to hide an enormous give-away to the richest 1% within the appearance of a broad-based tax cut,” said Max Page, President of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. “It’s good that the court stood up for the principle that voters deserve to know what they’re voting on. However, the out-of-touch billionaires behind this initiative are continuing to push their revenue cap ballot initiative, which would cost the state billions of dollars over the coming years and force cuts to public schools, healthcare and other critical programs.”

“This is a disgraceful outcome for Massachusetts taxpayers and a direct result of the attorney general’s failure to do her job properly,” said Mass Fiscal Alliance executive director Paul Craney. “More than 100,000 residents signed petitions to put tax relief before the voters. They followed the process, did the work and earned a place on the ballot. Now, because the attorney general’s office

produced a summary the court found to be significantly misleading, voters are being denied the chance to decide for themselves whether Massachusetts should lower its income tax.”

The Pioneer Institute said, “Today’s ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court is a serious disappointment for commonwealth families struggling under one of the highest tax and cost burdens in the nation. The court’s decision rests on a drafting error in the attorney general’s summary of the petition — a matter entirely outside the control of voters and petition signers. As a result, the people of Massachusetts will be denied the opportunity to decide whether the commonwealth should reduce the income tax rate from 5% to 4%.”

PROTECT FIREFIGHTERS (H 5488) – The House and Senate, on a voice vote without a roll call, approved and sent to Gov. Healey legislation that would create a public database of violations of the state’s fire prevention laws and a public notification system to alert workers of violations.

The measure is designed to boost safety for firefighters and people conducting “hot work” including welding, plasma cutting and spark-producing construction. The proposed law has been ten years in the making and was first prompted by the March 2014 deaths of firefighters Edward Walsh and Michael Kennedy who perished while fighting a fire that was caused by welders, working without a city permit, on a building next door to the brownstone in which they died.

“I am grateful to the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts and Boston Firefighters Local 718, whose advocacy never wavered throughout this process,” said sponsor Sen. Nick Collins (D-South Boston). “In the wake of an unimaginable loss, they remained committed to ensuring that future firefighters, tradespeople and workers would be better protected. This legislation is the result of that commitment, as well as the collaborative work of my colleagues in the Senate and House. While it was born from tragedy, it leaves behind a lasting legacy, one that will help save lives and make workplaces safer for years to come.”

“This legislation is another important tool in protecting the safety of residents, firefighters and trades workers across the commonwealth,” said sponsor Rep. David Biele (D-Boston). “Collecting statewide data regarding fire code violations and non-compliance with fire prevention laws and hot works requirements in a publicly available database combined with an automated notification system for relevant property owners will increase public safety.”

“With this bill, we honor the memory of Lt. Edward Walsh and Firefighter Michael Kennedy by doing everything in our power to make sure no firefighter or tradesperson faces those conditions again, and no family has to experience that kind of heartbreak,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “This

Continued on page 22

Join the Davis Square Neighborhood Plan Technical Advisory Committee

The City of Somerville is inviting community members to help shape the future of Davis Square by applying to join the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Davis Square Neighborhood Plan.

“Davis Square is one of Somerville’s most important neighborhood centers, and its future should be shaped with the people who know it best,” said Mayor Jake Wilson.

“This planning process is an opportunity to think carefully about what makes Davis Square special, what needs to work better, and how we can support a vibrant, welcoming, and resilient neighborhood for years to come.”

The committee will include community members and subject-matter experts who will provide feedback and recommendations throughout the planning process. TAC members will help review data and analysis, inform project priorities, and support community engagement efforts including public meetings, surveys, pop-up events, and workshops.

“A neighborhood plan is a visioning document and a critical step in moving Davis Square forward while ensuring that our collective vision is represented as the community evolves,” said City Council President and Ward 7 Councilor Lance Davis. “I’m thrilled that the Davis Square Neighborhood Plan is back on the front burner, and I hope everyone will get involved and provide their input.”

Who Can Apply?

All interested community members are invited to apply for the Technical Advisory Committee. The Committee will be composed of at least seven, and up to 11, members and include both community advocacy groups as well as individuals from the Davis Square community, depending on interest.

What’s the Time Commitment?

Members of the Committee can expect to attend approximately three two-hour committee meetings aligning with important project milestones over approximately one year, once TAC meetings begin following project launch.

How Do I Apply?

Submissions may be completed online or on paper.

Online: Complete the online application at: bit.ly/DavisCommittee

By mail or drop-off: Download and print the application from the documents section of SomerVoice, then either

Mail to Planning Division, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 or

Drop off in-person at the front desk of the Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St.

Deadline: All applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2026.

About the Davis Square Neighborhood Plan

The Davis Square Neighborhood Plan will help guide future decisions about growth, public space, transportation, accessibility, infrastructure, housing, economic vitality, and climate resilience in Davis Square.

Key areas of focus will include:

- Strengthening Davis Square’s social, cultural, and commercial identity
- Supporting local businesses and neighborhood activity
- Identifying opportunities for more housing, with an emphasis on affordability
- Improving streets, sidewalks, public spaces, mobility, and accessibility
- Assessing infrastructure needs, including flooding, sewer capacity, and future development impacts
- Coordinating with the MBTA on transit access and station-area connections
- Integrating climate, sustainability, tree canopy, and heat mitigation goals
- Planning for construction and major public realm improvements in a way that minimizes disruption

The city will host multiple rounds of community engagement throughout the project, with TAC meetings and public meetings alternating to help maintain consistent feedback. Engagement opportunities will include both in-person and online options, including pop-up events, surveys, and community workshops.

The first phase of community engagement is expected to run from summer into fall.

To apply for the TAC, sign up for updates, or learn more about the Davis Square Neighborhood Plan, visit the project’s SomerVoice page at voice.somervillema.gov/davis-square-plan.

Questions may be directed to Amy Gonzalez, Planning Division Community Outreach Coordinator, at agonzalez@somervillema.gov.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1



Somerville Fair Housing Commission
Question of the week

Q: I think I've been discriminated against. What should I do?

A: Call Shannon Lawler at the City of Somerville's Housing Division, 617-625-6600 X2569. She will help you figure out your rights and how to get what's coming to you.

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

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

To donate visit:

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

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



I got a new pen that can write under water.
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**Somerville through
the eyes of Denise**



Hello summer... — Photo by Denise Provost

On This Day in History

June 24

- 217 – Carthaginian forces led by Hannibal destroy a Roman army under consul Gaius Flaminius in a battle at Lake Trasimene in central Italy.
- 1497 – Explorer John Cabot lands in North America in present-day Canada.
- 1647 – Margaret Brent, demands a voice and a vote for herself in the Maryland colonial assembly.
- 1664 – The colony of New Jersey, named after the Isle of Jersey, is founded.
- 1896 – Booker T. Washington becomes the first African American to receive an honorary MA degree from Harvard University.
- 1940 – France signs an armistice with Italy.
- 1948 – The Soviet Union begins the Berlin Blockade, America responds with the Berlin Airlift.
- 1953 – John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier announce their engagement.
- 1964 – The Federal Trade Commission announces that, starting in 1965, cigarette makers must include warning labels about the harmful effects of smoking.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Friends of District Attorney Marian Ryan will be holding a meet and greet and a fundraiser on **July 20** at **Sally O'Brien's**, 335 Somerville Ave., from 5 – 7 p.m. Seniors can attend for free. Suggested donations \$100, \$250 and \$500. All are welcome to attend to meet the District Attorney.

Save the date for the **21st Annual What the Fluff? Festival**, **Saturday, September 19**, 1 – 5 p.m. in **Union Square**. Are you interested in being a vendor at this year's Festival? Go here to find out more: union-squaremain.org/fluffvendors.

Our condolences go to the family and friends of **Eleanor T. "Ellie" Blute**. As the **Title I Coordinator** for the **City of Somerville**, Ellie played a significant role in the development and growth of the department, helping to create opportunities and resources that benefited countless students and families throughout the city. Visit for the full obituary at <https://www.dohertyfuneralservice.com/obituary/eleanor-blute>.

Join **Somerville Emergency Management** for the upcoming workshop, **"Prepare Kids for a Safe Summer."** The workshop will be held at **Somerville Public Library's West Branch** (40 College Ave.) on **Thursday, June 25**, from 4 to 5 p.m. and will cover how to prepare kids for extreme heat, severe weather, and more. This workshop is child-friendly. All are welcome. This event is part of the **Preparedness and Resiliency through Neighborhood Engagement and Readiness (PARTNER) Program**. Sessions will be held throughout the year, covering different topics to help you build skills and confidence to prepare for emergencies. Learn more at somerville-ma.gov/em.

Take a special **walking tour** to explore the **hidden quarries of Somerville**. Join Somerville resident **Robin Hazard Ray** on a walk through Somerville's deep past, beginning and ending at the **Somerville Museum**. The rocks underlying our city date to a time before the dinosaurs. We will explore the forgotten traces of rock quarries and look at how our handsome bedrock, the Cambridge Argillite, was extracted, shaped, and used in the city's 19th-century fabric. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring some water. **The Secret Quarries of Somerville: A Walk-**

ing Tour of the City's Geological and Industrial Past. Saturday, June 27, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., **Somerville Museum**, One Westwood Road, Somerville. For tickets and more information, go to: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>.

The **Boston Academy of Korean Traditional Arts** is presenting a free concert on **Sunday, June 28**, at 3 p.m. at the **Somerville Community Baptist Church**, 31 College Ave. near Davis Square. Faculty and students will present both traditional performances and creative reimaginings of Korean folk songs, instrumental music, and dancing. This event will be fun for all ages. For more information, see www.BAKTABoston.com.

June's **Somerville Arts Council Artist of the Month: Ethan Dussault**. Ethan is a recording engineer, producer, musician, and co-owner of **New Alliance Studios** in Somerville. Inspired by the music and records that shaped his youth, Ethan built a career that blends technical expertise with creative collaboration. Find out more in his interview, here <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/aotm/ethan-dussault/>.

Parkour Generations Americas is proud to announce the return of **American Rendezvous (ARDV)**, one of North America's premier annual parkour gatherings, taking place **June 26 – 28**, across Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston. ARDV is hosted by **Parkour Generations Boston (PKGB)**, based in Somerville, and brings together more than 200 participants and 30 coaches, who are internationally renowned instructors from across the United States, Europe, and Asia, for a 3-day weekend of workshops, training, and community engagement. Registration is open to participants of all experience levels aged 14 and up, plus dedicated programming for younger children. Register for the limited number of spaces remaining via <https://www.americanrendezv>.

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

www.ILoveSCBC.org/events.

Connexion needs your support for a new projector. If you've been to an event at Connexion recently, you've probably noticed the projectors aren't doing well. They're dim, spotty, and there's a broken chip leaving a permanent blemish right in the middle of every image. After 12 years of faithful service, it's time for an upgrade. Connexion has received a **\$7,500 Together For Tomorrow grant**, and they need your help to match it. Every dollar you give is doubled. Whether you've celebrated a birthday there, grabbed a meal at **Come to the Table**, or attended a community meeting – help them make Connexion shine for everyone who walks through the doors. <https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/connexion>.

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

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

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services Meal Program. All are welcome. Registration is required. You will need to register on a weekly basis. Each week, on **Monday or Tuesday**, call the **COA Reservation line** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2323 to reserve your spot for the following week.

Assembly Row Farmers Market is being held at **375 Assembly Row, Somerville**, on **Fridays, 3-7 p.m.** The market will run **from June 12 to October 9**. (No market on July 3) Each week, you'll be able to find goods from nearly 30 New

England-based farmers and producers. Expect a great mix of seasonal produce, baked goods, dairy and eggs, meats and seafood, honey, jams, specialty foods, and more. It's the perfect place to stock up for the weekend, discover local favorites, or simply enjoy a fresh Friday visit to Assembly Row. <https://marketspread.com/market/37299/assembly-row-farmers-market/>.

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

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

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

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Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 18

legislation ensures that dangerous hot work violations are tracked, reported and acted upon, so we can prevent tragedies before they happen.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“We are heartbroken each year as we learn the stories of people walking who lose their lives in crashes that are often preventable. One factor continues to show up again and again: speed. Our streets are still designed in ways that allow people to drive too fast, making it harder for drivers to see and safely yield to people walking.” — *Brendan Kearney, executive director of WalkMassachusetts, commenting on a study that showed that in 2025, one in every five traffic deaths in Massachusetts involved a person walking.*

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and our communities, and many are still feeling the effects of the Blizzard of 2026. These loans will help businesses recover from lost revenue, keep their doors open and continue serving their communities. We encourage eligible businesses to apply. — *Gov. Healey announcing that low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million are available from the federal government for eligible businesses and nonprofit organizations in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Plymouth, Nantucket, Norfolk and Suffolk counties to help*

pay for working capital and operating expenses that could not be met because of the storm's economic impacts.

“We want Massachusetts to be the best place in the country to start, grow and scale innovative companies. This initiative will help lower barriers for entrepreneurs and researchers, strengthen our innovation ecosystem and create new pathways for students and workers to participate in this growing industry.” — *Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announcing that the state awarded nearly \$2 million through the Massachusetts Robotic Digital Twin Initiative to six organizations advancing robotics innovation across the state. The funding will help accelerate commercialization pathways for robotics hardware developers by expanding access to digital twin technologies.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does

not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of June 15-19, the House met for a total of 13 hours and 18 minutes and the Senate met for a total of seven hours and seven minutes.

Mon. June 15	House	11:00 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.
	Senate	11:08 a.m. to 11:39 a.m.
Tues. June 16		No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 17	House	11:00 a.m. to 11:17 p.m.
	Senate	No Senate session
Thurs. June 18	House	11:03 a.m. to 11:53 a.m.
	Senate	11:09 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Fri. June 19		No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Meg Pallis: A Communicator for a Vibrant Somerville

Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Meg Pallis works in communications/community outreach for the city of Somerville. She also freelance writes and has been published in local publications from *The Boston Compass* (interviews/community creative nonfiction) as well as for a local publication called the *Quinobequin Review*. She has two creative works that will be published in their May 2026 edition about being from Massachusetts, and the other about a portal inside the Market Basket parking lot.

Doug Holder: How has living in Somerville been for you as a writer?

Meg Pallis: Living in Somerville has been a vibrant and exciting experience for me as a creative! This city is a labyrinth of diverse art scenes, and the longer I live here, the more corners I find tucked away. Somerville is brimming with creative energy, serving as a melting pot of cultures, art forms, and brilliant minds. It offers a tapestry of stories and voices to explore. Engaging with local artists and participating in community projects has not only enriched my writing but has also allowed me to spotlight the diverse narratives that shape our creative community. Somerville's blend of culture and collaboration stimulates my mind and satisfies my creative itch, keeping me refreshed and engaged.

DH: Tell me about your role in communications/community outreach for the city of Somerville.

MP: I have a background in digital marketing and education, and I enjoy applying my skill set to enhance community engagement and communication around local programs and initiatives. I find it immensely rewarding to work alongside an intelligent group of like-minded individuals who genuinely care about our community. I have tremendous respect for my colleagues and the work they do, and I know we share a commitment to effective communication, responsible media engagement, and keeping our constituents informed and connected.

DH: You write for a number of publications. Did you study journalism?

MP: No, I did not study journalism, but I did earn a degree in graphic design and marketing from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. My studies there helped shape my understanding of effective communication and storytelling. I also grew up in a household that deeply valued reading and the written word—my mother was a librarian, and my father owns a printing press. As a result, the power of printed materials played a significant role in my upbringing.

DH: You are a prolific interviewer. What do you



think is the "art" of the interview?

MP: Thank you! I think I'm naturally curious and a little chatty, which often leads me to ask questions that genuinely resonate with me. I also place a high value on authenticity, and I believe that helps me connect with people and create a comfortable environment where they feel encouraged to share their stories openly. Over the years, I've conducted a handful of written interviews, as well as many live-recorded interviews through a YouTube channel for a community project I worked on called *Night Cap Radio*. That project was particularly interesting because it was my first experience interviewing people in a livestream format. Being recorded in real time requires me to be present, adaptable, and focused on creating an authentic conversation rather than a scripted exchange.

DH: You are a poet, as well. And you wrote a poem about a portal inside the parking lot of the Market Basket supermarket. Do you think Market Basket is a good place for the creative juices to flow?

MP: I guess maybe the parking lot, but really anywhere here with a nice slice of sky.

DH: How important do you think community journalism is, as many newspapers fold?

MP: It is so important, especially now, in an age of doomscrolling and being bombarded with untrustworthy news – to stay tapped into the conversations happening within your local community. Doing so not only supports independent local publications but also helps you develop a deeper understanding of your neighbors and maintain a stronger pulse on your city.

Kevin Gallagher is a political economist, poet and publisher living in Greater Boston with his wife Kelly, their children Theo and Estelle, and Rexroth, the family's German shepherd. Gallagher edits *spoKe*, a Boston-based annual of poetry and poetics, and works as a Professor of Global Development Policy at Boston University's Pardee School for Global Studies.



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His wife made it with her bare hands

to cover his face with shade every day.

— Kevin Gallagher

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